

Ezekiel 14:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Or if I send a pestilence into that land, and pour out my fury upon it in blood, to cut off from it man and beast:

Analysis

God addresses Send pestilence in this verse. Disease as divine judgment, demonstrating that God sees hearts and motives, not just external religious practices. The scenario reveals the futility of seeking God while maintaining idolatry—true inquiry requires undivided allegiance. Attempting to consult God while harboring idols represents the divided heart God rejects.

The passage illustrates that religious externals without heart reality constitute hypocrisy God abhors. Mere consultation of prophets, attendance at worship, or performance of rituals means nothing if the heart remains idolatrous. God demands total allegiance, not partial commitment combined with idolatrous hedging. The call is to genuine repentance involving both turning from sin and turning to God.

From a Reformed perspective, this passage teaches the doctrine of regeneration's necessity. External religion without heart transformation cannot save. Only the Spirit's work creating new hearts produces genuine faith and repentance. Attempts to maintain both God and idols reveal unregenerate hearts needing divine recreation, not mere moral reformation.

Historical Context

The elders coming to Ezekiel (v. 1) represented Jerusalem's leadership or fellow exiles seeking prophetic guidance. However, God revealed their secret idolatry—

they maintained household gods or idolatrous practices while outwardly seeking Yahweh. This duplicity characterized pre-exilic Israel and necessitated judgment. Disease as divine judgment within this context of widespread syncretism where people attempted to hedge spiritual bets by worshiping both Yahweh and other deities. Archaeological discoveries of household figurines and foreign cult objects in Israelite homes confirm this pattern. The practice violated the Shema's demand for exclusive love and loyalty to Yahweh (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does this passage expose the futility of religious practices divorced from heart reality?
2. What modern idols do people attempt to maintain while still seeking God's blessing?
3. In what ways does Send pestilence illustrate the necessity of genuine conversion versus mere external religion?

Interlinear Text

וְשִׁפְכַּת־יְהֹוָה אֲלֹהֵי־אֶרְעָלָה כִּי־בְּרָאָה אֶל־אֶשְׁלָחָה
H176 a pestilence H413 Or if I send H1931 into that land H8210 and pour out
H1698 H7971 H776 H8210

מִמְּנָה לְפִיכְרִית בְּדַם עַל־יְהֹוָה אֲלֹהֵי־מִמְּנָה
H4480 H3772 H5921 H1818 my fury upon it in blood to cut off from it man
H2534 H120

וְבָהָמָה:
and beast
H929

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 38:22 (Blood): And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

Jeremiah 14:12 (Parallel theme): When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.

Ezekiel 7:8 (Parallel theme): Now will I shortly pour out my fury upon thee, and accomplish mine anger upon thee: and I will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense thee for all thine abominations.

Ezekiel 5:12 (Parallel theme): A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.

2 Samuel 24:15 (Parallel theme): So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beer-sheba seventy thousand men.

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