

Ezekiel 14:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet, behold, therein shall be left a remnant that shall be brought forth, both sons and daughters: behold, they shall come forth unto you, and ye shall see their way and their doings: and ye shall be comforted concerning the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, even concerning all that I have brought upon it.

Analysis

God addresses Remnant brought forth in this verse. Survivors bear witness, 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. Survivors bear witness 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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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 Remnant brought forth illustrate the necessity of genuine conversion versus mere external religion?

Interlinear Text

וְהֵן הַ	נֹתְרָה	בְּ הַ	פְּלִטָּה	
H2009	Yet behold therein shall be left	H0	a remnant	
	H3498		H6413	
יֹצֵא יָם	בְּנֵי יָם	וּבָנוֹת	הֵנָּה	
behold they shall come forth	both sons	and daughters	H2009	
H3318	H1121	H1323		
יֹצֵא יָם	אֵלֶיךָ מִ	וּרְאִיתֶם	אֶת	דֶּרֶכָּם
behold they shall come forth	H413	unto you and ye shall see	H853	their way
H3318		H7200		H1870
וְאֵת	עֲלֵילוֹתָם	וְנִחְמָתָם	עַל	הַרְעָה
H853	and their doings	and ye shall be comforted	H5921	concerning the evil
	H5949	H5162		H7451
הֵב אִתִּי	עַל	יְרוּשָׁלַם	אֶת	כָּל
even concerning all that I have brought	H5921	upon Jerusalem	H853	H3605
H935		H3389		H834
הֵב אִתִּי	עָלֶיהָ:			
even concerning all that I have brought	H5921			
H935				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 12:16 (Parallel theme): But I will leave a few men of them from the sword, from the famine, and from the pestilence; that they may declare all their abominations among the heathen whither they come; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel 20:43 (Evil): And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed.

