

Ezekiel 16:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, therefore I have stretched out my hand over thee, and have diminished thine ordinary food, and delivered thee unto the will of them that hate thee, the daughters of the Philistines, which are ashamed of thy lewd way.

Analysis

I have stretched out my hand over thee, and have diminished thine ordinary food—The Hebrew natah yad (נָתַח יָד, stretched out hand) signals covenant judgment. God's hand stretched out in blessing becomes outstretched in discipline. **Diminished thine ordinary food** (chok, חֹק, appointed portion) refers to reducing Jerusalem's territorial holdings and economic prosperity.

Delivered thee unto the will of them that hate thee, the daughters of the Philistines, which are ashamed of thy lewd way—Devastating irony: even pagans were scandalized by Jerusalem's apostasy. The Philistines (benoth Pelishtim, בָּנוֹת פְּלִשְׁתִּים, daughters of Philistines) represent Israel's ancient enemies, yet they exhibit more moral shame than covenant Jerusalem. When the world is shocked by the church's sin, judgment is imminent (1 Peter 4:17-18).

Historical Context

This likely refers to Philistine invasions during Ahaz's reign (2 Chronicles 28:18), when Judah lost territory and tribute. The Philistines, traditional enemies since Judges, seized Judean cities. That pagan nations found Israel's religious syncretism shameful highlights the depth of Judah's corruption—worse than surrounding idolaters.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Has your witness become so compromised that even non-Christians are scandalized by your behavior or the church's actions?
2. What does it reveal about church culture when secular society exhibits more moral outrage over injustice than believers?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּה

H2009

נָתַן

H5186

יָתַי

H3027

אֶל

יָדִי

H5921

Behold therefore I have stretched out my hand over thee and have diminished thine ordinary food and delivered thee unto the will

H1639

H2706

H5414

H5315

הַנְּכָלָם וְתַּשְׁנֹאותָם יָרֵךְ שְׁנָאוֹתָם יָרֵךְ
of them that hate thee the daughters of the Philistines which are ashamed

H8130

H1323

H6430

H3637

מְדֻרְךָךְ זָרָה:

way

of thy lewd

H1870

H2154

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 9:12 (Parallel theme): The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Ezekiel 16:57 (Parallel theme): Before thy wickedness was discovered, as at the time of thy reproach of the daughters of Syria, and all that are round about her, the daughters of the Philistines, which despise thee round about.

Ezekiel 16:37 (Parallel theme): Behold, therefore I will gather all thy lovers, with whom thou hast taken pleasure, and all them that thou hast loved, with all them that thou hast hated; I will even gather them round about against thee, and will discover thy nakedness unto them, that they may see all thy nakedness.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org