

Ezekiel 16:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters.

Analysis

As I live, saith the Lord GOD—the Hebrew oath formula chai-ani (חַי־אַנִּי) invokes God's own existence as guarantee of truth. This solemn oath introduces one of Scripture's most shocking statements: **Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters.**

This declaration would devastate Jerusalem's self-understanding. Sodom epitomized depravity worthy of fiery destruction (Genesis 19; Jude 7). For God to solemnly swear that Jerusalem exceeded Sodom's wickedness dismantles any claim to covenant immunity. The reference to 'daughters' (surrounding villages dependent on the main city) extends the indictment corporately. Jesus later echoed this principle, declaring Capernaum's judgment worse than Sodom's because of rejected light (Matthew 11:23-24).

Historical Context

Sodom's sins included violent gang rape (Genesis 19:4-9), pride, excess, and failure to help the poor (Ezekiel 16:49). Jerusalem committed temple prostitution, child sacrifice to Molech, shedding innocent blood, and exploiting the vulnerable—all while claiming covenant protection. The comparison would shock Ezekiel's audience, for whom Sodom represented irredeemable wickedness.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's use of Sodom in Matthew 11:20-24 reinforce this principle of proportionate judgment?
2. What privileges of biblical knowledge and worship do we possess that increase our accountability?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אָנָּי	נָאָמֵן	אָדָּן	הָאָדָּן	אָמַם	הָאָמַם	עָשָׂתָּה	עָשָׂתָּה	סָדוֹם
As I live	H589	saith	the Lord	GOD	H518	as thou hast done			Sodom
H2416		H5002	H136	H3069		H6213			H5467
תְּאַחֲתָה	תְּאַחֲתָה	בְּנֹתָהּ	בְּנֹתָהּ	כִּאֵשׁ	כִּאֵשׁ	עָשָׂתָּה	עָשָׂתָּה	אָתָּה	אָתָּה
thy sister	H1931	she nor her daughters		H834		as thou hast done		H859	
H269		H1323				H6213			
בְּנֹתָהּ									
she nor her daughters									
H1323									

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 10:15 (Parallel theme): Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

