

Ezekiel 16:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

Analysis

"Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." Sodom's sin exceeded sexual immorality to include pride, luxury, and neglect of the poor. The threefold indictment—pride, satiation, idleness—depicts self-centered affluence ignoring others' suffering. This challenges assumptions that Sodom's sin was exclusively sexual. Comfortable prosperity combined with neglect of vulnerable exemplifies covenant violation. True religion requires both right worship and compassionate justice.

Historical Context

Ezekiel's indictment (589 BC) compared Jerusalem unfavorably to Sodom—shocking rhetoric designed to pierce complacency. Archaeological evidence confirms ancient Sodom's wealth and luxury before destruction. The prophets consistently linked prosperity with responsibility: wealth is stewardship requiring generosity and justice. Jerusalem's affluent class (before exile) exploited the poor while maintaining religious ceremonies—the same pattern that destroyed Sodom. The comparison warns wealthy societies that comfortable prosperity combined with indifference to suffering invites judgment.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does prosperity sometimes breed pride, satiation, and indifference to others' suffering?
2. What responsibility do affluent believers have toward the poor and needy?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּה	זֶה	הָיָה	עוֹן	סֹדֹם	אָחוֹתְךָ	גָּאֹן
H2009	H2088	H1961				
Behold this was the iniquity			Sodom	of thy sister	pride	
H5771			H5467	H269	H1347	

שְׂבִיעַת	לֶחֶם	וְשִׁלּוֹת	הַשֶּׁקֶט	הָיָה	לָהּ
H7653	H3899	H7962	H8252	H1961	H0
fulness	of bread	and abundance	of idleness		

וּלְבָנוֹתֶיהָ	יָד	עַנֵּי	וְאֶבְיֹן	לֹא
H1323	H3027	H6041	H34	H3808
was in her and in her daughters	the hand	of the poor	and needy	

הִחְזִיקָה:
neither did she strengthen
H2388

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 138:6 (Parallel theme): Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

Genesis 13:10 (Parallel theme): And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed

Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

Ezekiel 28:2 (Parallel theme): Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:

Isaiah 3:9 (Sin): The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.

Proverbs 18:12 (Parallel theme): Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

Luke 17:28 (Parallel theme): Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

Ezekiel 18:12 (Parallel theme): Hath oppressed the poor and needy, hath spoiled by violence, hath not restored the pledge, and hath lifted up his eyes to the idols, hath committed abomination,

Ezekiel 18:16 (Parallel theme): Neither hath oppressed any, hath not withholden the pledge, neither hath spoiled by violence, but hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment,

Daniel 5:23 (Parallel theme): But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:

Isaiah 16:6 (Parallel theme): We have heard of the pride of Moab; he is very proud: even of his haughtiness, and his pride, and his wrath: but his lies shall not be so.