

Ezekiel 16:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.

Analysis

And they were haughty (גָּבַהּ, gavehu)—this word means exalted in pride, arrogant. Pride was Sodom's foundational sin (confirmed in v. 49). **And committed abomination before me** (תועבה, to'evah)—this term denotes covenant-breaking detestable practices, used of both sexual immorality (Leviticus 18:22) and idolatry (Deuteronomy 7:25). Genesis 19 details Sodom's attempted gang rape, but this verse contextualizes it within broader patterns of pride and social injustice (v. 49).

Therefore I took them away as I saw good (וְאָסִיר אֶתְּהֶן בְּאִשֶּׁר רָאִיתִי)—God's judgment on Sodom was both decisive ('took them away') and just ('as I saw good'). The passive construction emphasizes divine sovereignty in judgment. This establishes the precedent: if God judged Sodom for pride, prosperity without compassion, and sexual immorality, how much more Jerusalem with her greater light?

Historical Context

Sodom's destruction circa 2000 BC by 'fire and brimstone' (Genesis 19:24) became the archetypal divine judgment in biblical literature (Isaiah 1:9-10; Jeremiah 23:14; Amos 4:11; 2 Peter 2:6; Jude 7). Ezekiel 16:49 details Sodom's sins: pride, abundance of food, prosperous ease, and failure to help the poor and needy—alongside the sexual immorality of Genesis 19.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does pride—not just sexual sin—characterize Sodom's wickedness and ours?
2. What does 'as I saw good' reveal about God's sovereign justice in a world of unpunished evil?

Interlinear Text

וַתִּגְבְּהוּ יָנָה	וַתַּעַשׂ יָנָה	תוֹעֵבָה ה	לִפְנֵי י
And they were haughty	and committed	abomination	before
H1361	H6213	H8441	H6440
וְאֲנִי יָרָא	אֶתָּה	בָּאֵשׁ ר	כַּאֲשֶׁר רָאִיתִי:
me therefore I took them away	H853	H834	as I saw
H5493			H7200

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 18:20 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

Genesis 19:24 (Parallel theme): Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

Genesis 19:5 (Parallel theme): And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

Genesis 13:13 (Parallel theme): But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

