

Ezekiel 20:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nevertheless mine eye spared them from destroying them,
neither did I make an end of them in the wilderness.

Analysis

'Nevertheless mine eye spared them from destroying them, neither did I make an end of them in the wilderness.' Despite deserving destruction, God spared them. 'Mine eye spared them' anthropomorphizes God's mercy. 'Neither did I make an end of them' shows restraint. Though individuals died for specific sins, the nation survived. God's covenant faithfulness preserved a remnant even when judgment was deserved.

Historical Context

Throughout the wilderness, God judged specific rebellions (Korah's company swallowed by earth, plague for Baal-Peor worship) while preserving the nation. The next generation—including Joshua's generation—entered the land. God's preservation ensured covenant continuity despite judgment on the unfaithful generation.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's mercy in preserving us despite deserving judgment demonstrate grace?
2. What is the relationship between individual judgment and corporate preservation in God's economy?

Interlinear Text

וְנִסְּ	עֵינִי י	עַלֵּיהֶם	מִשְׁחָתָם	וְלֹא
spared	Nevertheless mine eye	H5921	them from destroying	H3808
H2347	H5869		H7843	
עָשָׂה יְהוָה	אֹתָם	כָּל הַ	בְּמִדְבָּר:	
them neither did I make	H853	an end	of them in the wilderness	
H6213		H3617	H4057	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 11:13 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when I prophesied, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then fell I down upon my face, and cried with a loud voice, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel?

Jeremiah 4:27 (Parallel theme): For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.

Jeremiah 5:18 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless in those days, saith the LORD, I will not make a full end with you.