

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

וְلֹא	מִשְׁפַּט	מִ	עַלְיָה	מִ	עִין	וְ	וְ	שָׁפֵךְ
spared	Nevertheless	mine	eye	H5921	them	from	destroying	H3808
H2347			H5869				H7843	

בְּמִדְבָּר:	עַשׂ	יְתִי	כִּל	ה	אֹתֶת	מִ	נָהָרָה	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.