

Ezekiel 20:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nevertheless I withdrew mine hand, and wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted in the sight of the heathen, in whose sight I brought them forth.

Analysis

'Nevertheless I withdrew mine hand, and wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted in the sight of the heathen, in whose sight I brought them forth.' God withdraws from judgment (again!) for His name's sake. The threefold repetition of this principle (verses 9, 14, 22) emphasizes its importance. God's reputation among nations consistently motivates His forbearance. His covenant faithfulness doesn't depend on Israel's worthiness but on His character.

Historical Context

This persistent pattern of rebellion followed by divine forbearance characterizes Israel's entire history. God's long-suffering patience repeatedly delayed deserved judgment. Romans 2:4 asks, 'despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?'

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How should God's patience and forbearance lead us to repentance rather than presumption?
2. What does God's concern for His reputation teach about the missionary nature of His covenant people?

Interlinear Text

שָׁם־ לְמַעַן תֵּאַשֵּׁת יְדֵךְ וְנִשְׁבַּב תִּי
Nevertheless I withdrew H853 mine hand H3027 and wrought H6213 for my name's H8034

אֲשֶׁר הַגּוֹן מִלְעֵינֵיכֶם לְעֵינֵיכֶם הַחַל לְבָלַת
H834 of the heathen H1471 in the sight H5869 sake that it should not be polluted H2490

אֲתִי אֶתְּנָא מִלְעֵינֵיכֶם לְעֵינֵיכֶם הַוֹּצֵא אֶתְּנָא
H3318 I brought them forth H853 in the sight H5869

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 20:14 (Parallel theme): But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, in whose sight I brought them out.

Ezekiel 20:9 (Parallel theme): But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, among whom they were, in whose sight I made myself known unto them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt.

Psalms 78:38 (Parallel theme): But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

Jeremiah 14:21 (Parallel theme): Do not abhor us, for thy name's sake, do not disgrace the throne of thy glory: remember, break not thy covenant with us.

Job 13:21 (Parallel theme): Withdraw thine hand far from me: and let not thy dread make me afraid.

Jeremiah 14:7 (Parallel theme): O LORD, though our iniquities testify against us, do thou it for thy name's sake: for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against thee.

Ezekiel 20:17 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless mine eye spared them from destroying them, neither did I make an end of them in the wilderness.

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