

Ezekiel 20:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, that ye say, We will be as the heathen, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone.

Analysis

'And that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, that ye say, We will be as the heathen, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone.' The exiles fantasized about abandoning Yahweh worship entirely and becoming like pagan nations. 'That which cometh into your mind' indicates deliberate consideration of apostasy. 'Serve wood and stone' describes idolatry with contempt. God declares this will 'not be at all'—He won't let them go. Though judgment comes, God will preserve a remnant and restore them. His covenant commitment outlasts their unfaithfulness.

Historical Context

Some exiles in Babylon evidently wanted to fully assimilate, abandoning distinctive covenant identity. This tension between assimilation and faithfulness appears throughout Jewish diaspora history. God's refusal to let them go completely anticipates restoration prophecies (Ezekiel 36-37) and New Covenant promises.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What temptations to spiritual compromise or assimilation do believers face?
2. How does God's commitment to preserve His people provide hope even in judgment?

Interlinear Text

וְהֵעֵלָה	עַל	ר וְחֶכֶם	נְהִי ה	ל א	נְהִי ה
And that which cometh		into your mind	We will be		We will be
H5927	H5921	H7307	H1961	H3808	H1961
אֶתְּ מ	אֲשֶׁר רַ	אֲמַר יִם	נְהִי ה	כְּגוֹיִם	
		shall not be at all that ye say	We will be	as the heathen	
H834	H859	H559	H1961	H1471	
כְּמִשְׁפַּח	וְהָאֲרָצֹת	לְשֶׁר ת	ע י	וְאֲבָן:	
as the families	of the countries	to serve	wood	and stone	
H4940	H776	H8334	H6086	H68	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 44:17 (Parallel theme): But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil.

Ezekiel 11:5 (Parallel theme): And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak; Thus saith the LORD; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them.

Revelation 9:20 (Parallel theme): And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

Deuteronomy 4:28 (Parallel theme): And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.

Daniel 5:4 (Parallel theme): They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

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