

Ezekiel 20:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all flesh shall see that I the LORD have kindled it: it shall not be quenched.

Analysis

All flesh shall see (וְרָא אֶת-בָּשָׂר, v'ra'u khol-basar)—universal visibility of God's judgment. **kol-basar** (kol-basar, all flesh) means all humanity, not just Israel. The surrounding nations would witness YHWH's power through Jerusalem's fall.

I the LORD have kindled it (אָנִי יְהוָה בָּעֲרָתִיכָּה, ani YHWH bi'artiha)—emphatic divine first-person. The verb **בָּעַר** (ba'ar, to kindle, burn) reinforces God's active agency. **It shall not be quenched** repeats 20:47's unstoppable judgment. This public demonstration of YHWH's sovereignty answers Israel's idolatry, which had profaned God's name among the nations (Ezekiel 36:20-23). The exile would prove YHWH alone is God.

Historical Context

The fall of Jerusalem shocked the ancient Near East. Judah's God had seemingly failed to protect His city and temple. But Ezekiel reframes this: YHWH Himself destroyed Jerusalem to vindicate His holiness. This paradoxical message—judgment as proof of God's reality—pervades Ezekiel's prophecy.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's public judgment serve to reveal His character to both believers and unbelievers?
2. In what ways do Christians today profane God's name before watching nations?

Interlinear Text

ל א בערת ית יהי ה אב י כ י כל יראו
shall see H3605 And all flesh H3588 H589 that I the LORD H3068 have kindled H3808
H7200 H1320 H1197

תְּכַבֵּה:

it it shall not be quenched

H3518

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