

Ezekiel 20:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

'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.' Despite Israel's rebellion (verse 8), God delivered them 'for my name's sake.' God's reputation among nations was at stake. Having publicly revealed Himself, failure to deliver would suggest weakness or unfaithfulness. God's glory motivates His actions even when His people are unfaithful.

Historical Context

Exodus narratives emphasize God acting 'that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD' (Exodus 7:5, 14:4, 18). God's name (reputation, character) would be vindicated through the exodus. This principle appears throughout Scripture—God acts for His own glory (Isaiah 48:9-11, Ezekiel 36:22-23).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that God acts for His glory change our view of salvation?
2. What comfort comes from knowing God's faithfulness depends on His character, not ours?

Interlinear Text

הַחַלְלָתִי	לְשֵׁם	לֹמַעַן	לֹא	עָשָׂה	לְבָלָתִי	לְשֵׁם	לֹמַעַן	לֹא	עָשָׂה
But I wrought	H4616	for my name's	H1115	sake that it should not be polluted	H2490				
H6213		H8034		H2490					
לֹא	יָנִיחַ	מִ	לְעֵדָה	בְּתוֹךְ	רָאשָׁה	מִ	הַ	מִהָּ	אֲשֶׁר
before	the heathen	H834	H1471	H1992	H8432	among	H834		
H5869						H8432			
לֹא	יָנִיחַ	מִ	אֲלִיכֶם	נָזַד	עַתִּי	לְהֹצִיאָה	מִ		
I made myself known	H413	before	H5869	unto them in bringing them forth	H3318				
H3045									
מִאָז	מִצְרָיִם	מִ	מִצְרָיִם	מִ	מִצְרָיִם	מִאָז	מִ	מִצְרָיִם	מִ
out of the land	of Egypt	H4714	H776			out of the land	of Egypt	H4714	H776

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 39:7 (Parallel theme): So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

Ezekiel 20:22 (Parallel theme): 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.

Exodus 32:12 (References Egypt): Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.

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.

Deuteronomy 9:28 (Parallel theme): Lest the land whence thou broughtest us out say, Because the LORD was not able to bring them into the land which he promised them, and because he hated them, he hath brought them out to slay them in the wilderness.

1 Samuel 12:22 (Parallel theme): For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

1 Samuel 4:8 (References Egypt): Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.