

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

וְאֶעֱשֶׂה	לִמַּעַן	שְׁמִי יִ	לִבְלֹתִי יִ	הֵי ל
But I wrought	H4616	for my name's	H1115	sake that it should not be polluted
H6213		H8034		H2490
לְעֵינֵיהֶם	הַגּוֹיִם	אֲשֶׁר	הֵמָּה	בְּתוֹכָם
before	the heathen	H834	H1992	among
H5869	H1471			H834
				H8432
נֹדַעְתִּי	אֶלֵיהֶם	לְעֵינֵיהֶם	לְהוֹצִיאָם	
I made myself known	H413	before	unto them in bringing them forth	
H3045		H5869	H3318	
מֵאֶרֶץ	מִצְרָיִם:			
out of the land	of Egypt			
H776	H4714			

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.