

Ezekiel 21:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It is sharpened to make a sore slaughter; it is furbished that it may glitter: should we then make mirth? it contemneth the rod of my son, as every tree.

Analysis

"It is sharpened to make a sore slaughter; it is furbished that it may glitter: should we then make mirth? it contemneth the rod of my son, as every tree." The sword's purpose is explicit—"sore slaughter" (tevach tebach, טֵבַח טֵבַח), emphatic intensification meaning massive killing. "Should we then make mirth?" (o nasis, אוֹ נָשִׂים) suggests some were celebrating despite warnings—tragic denial of imminent danger. The obscure phrase about "rod of my son" likely refers to Judah's scepter (Genesis 49:10) being despised—royal authority rejected, making judgment inevitable.

Historical Context

Despite Ezekiel's repeated warnings, many exiles and Jerusalem residents continued normal life, celebrating festivals, conducting business, presuming safety. This denial persisted until Babylon's siege made judgment undeniable. The prophetic question 'should we make mirth?' indicts those celebrating when they should be repenting, revealing human capacity for self-deception even facing clear warnings.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1. How does 'making mirth' despite warnings illustrate spiritual denial and hardness?
2. What does the sharpened sword's purpose (slaughter) teach about judgment's terrible reality?
3. In what ways do people today celebrate or conduct business-as-usual despite clear biblical warnings?

לִּמְעַן H4616	טָבַח to make a sore H2874	טָבַח slaughter H2873	הוּחַ דָּה It is sharpened H2300	לִמְעַן H4616	קִיָּה H1961	לִי הִ H0
כִּי יִכָּרֶץ that it may glitter H1300	מִכָּטָה H4803	אִוֹ should H176	נִשְׂאֵי יֵשׁ we then make mirth H7797	יֵשׁ בָּט the rod H7626	בְּנֵי י of my son H1121	
מֵאָסָה it contemneth H3988	כָּל H3605	עֵץ: as every tree H6086				

Ezekiel 20:47 (Parallel theme): And say to the forest of the south, Hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will kindle a fire in thee, and it shall devour every green tree in thee, and every dry tree: the flaming flame shall not be quenched, and all faces from the south to the north shall be burned therein.

