

Ezekiel 21:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because it is a trial, and what if the sword contemn even the rod? it shall be no more, saith the Lord GOD.

Analysis

"Because it is a trial, and what if the sword contemn even the rod? it shall be no more, saith the Lord GOD." Judgment serves as divine trial or testing (bochan, בּוּחָן). The rhetorical question asks what happens when the sword (Babylon) despises the rod (Judah's scepter)—answer: the scepter ends ("it shall be no more"). This predicts Davidic monarchy's cessation through Babylonian conquest, fulfilled when Zedekiah's sons were executed and he was exiled (2 Kings 25:7). Yet God promised David's line would endure (2 Samuel 7:16), fulfilled ultimately in Christ, the eternal King.

Historical Context

Zedekiah was the last Davidic king in the pre-exilic period. His removal ended the monarchy for centuries. The 'scepter being no more' seemed to contradict God's promises to David, creating theological crisis resolved through messianic hope. Post-exilic Judaism developed expectation of coming Davidic king who would restore the throne. Jesus' genealogy (Matthew 1; Luke 3) and messianic claims fulfilled this hope—the scepter that ended in 586 BC was restored eternally in Christ.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the rod/scepter's ending create tension with divine promises to David?
2. What does this apparent contradiction teach about waiting for messianic fulfillment?
3. In what ways does Christ's eternal kingship fulfill and surpass Davidic monarchy?

Interlinear Text

בַּיּוֹם כִּי בְּתִי שְׁבָט
H3588 Because it is a trial H974 H4100 H518 H1571 even the rod H7626

מִאָסָת לְאַלְמָנָה אֵת אָמֵן אֶלְכָה
and what if the sword contemn H3988 H3808 H1961 it shall be no more saith H5002 the Lord H136

הָאֱלֹהִים
GOD
H3069

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 21:10 (Parallel theme): 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.