

Ezekiel 21:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

"Because it is a trial, and what if the sword condemn even the rod? it shall be no more, saith the Lord GOD." Judgment serves as divine trial or testing (bochan, בִּחָן). 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

1 John 4:8 — God is 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

כִּי	בְּחֵן	וְמָה	אֵם	גַּם	שֶׁ בֶּט
H3588	Because it is a trial	H4100	H518	H1571	even the rod
	H974				H7626
	מֵאָסָה	לֹא	יְהִי הָ	נֶאֱמַר	אֲדֹנָי
	and what if the sword contemn	H3808	H1961	it shall be no more saith	the Lord
	H3988			H5002	H136
יְהוָה:					
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.