

Ezekiel 21:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Go thee one way or other, either on the right hand, or on the left, whithersoever thy face is set.

Analysis

'Go thee one way or other, either on the right hand, or on the left, whithersoever thy face is set.' Addressed to the sword, this command depicts God directing judgment. 'One way or other...right hand...left' suggests comprehensive reach—no direction offers safety. The sword moves at God's direction, not randomly. Judgment appears as military invasion but ultimately accomplishes divine purposes.

Historical Context

Babylonian forces surrounded Jerusalem completely, cutting off escape routes (2 Kings 25:1-4). Some fled through gates under cover of night, but most were captured. The comprehensive siege fulfilled this imagery of judgment striking in every direction.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that 'secular' events (military invasions) accomplish God's purposes affect our view of history?
2. What does God's direction of the sword teach about His sovereignty over judgment?

Interlinear Text

וְתַאֲפֹךְ	הַמִּצְדָּךְ	בַּיָּמִין	בַּשְׁמִינִי	בְּשָׁמְמִינִי	אֵתָה
Go thee one way or other	the right hand	either on	or on the left	whithersoever	
H258	H3231	H7760	H8041		H575
מִשְׁׁמַרְתָּךְ	פָּנֶיךָ				
thy face	is set				
H6440	H3259				

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