

Ezekiel 21:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end,

Analysis

And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end—God addresses Zedekiah, Judah's last king, with devastating epithets. The Hebrew chalal (חַלָּל, "profane") means desecrated or defiled, one who has violated sacred trust. Rasha (רָשָׁא, "wicked") denotes moral perversity and covenant rebellion. Zedekiah had sworn allegiance to Nebuchadnezzar by oath before Yahweh (2 Chronicles 36:13), then broke that oath—a double treachery violating both political treaty and divine name.

The phrase "**whose day is come**" (yom, יוֹם) marks the appointed time of judgment. Unlike previous warnings with opportunity for repentance, this pronouncement declares the terminus: "**when iniquity shall have an end**" (avon qetz, עֲוֹן קֶצֶת)—not that sin will cease but that its final reckoning has arrived. The measure of Judah's guilt was full. This echoes Genesis 15:16 where God told Abraham the Amorite iniquity was not yet complete. When a nation's wickedness reaches divine limits, judgment becomes inevitable and irreversible. Zedekiah's reign (597-586 BC) marked the end of the Davidic monarchy until Messiah.

Historical Context

Zedekiah became king in 597 BC after Babylon deported King Jehoiachin. Installed as a puppet ruler, he reigned during Jerusalem's final decade. Despite Jeremiah's warnings, he rebelled against Babylon (2 Kings 24:20), triggering the 18-month siege ending in 586 BC. Zedekiah witnessed his sons' execution before being

blinded and dragged to Babylon in chains (2 Kings 25:6-7)—the literal fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy. The 'profane wicked prince' designation reflects both his oath-breaking and his enablement of temple abominations (Ezekiel 8). His removal ended the Davidic dynasty's earthly throne for centuries, fulfilled only when Christ came as the true King.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Zedekiah's broken oath before God warn us about the seriousness of vows and commitments made in God's name?
2. What does the concept of iniquity reaching its 'end' teach about God's patience and the reality of final judgment?

Interlinear Text

בְּ אַשְׁר יִשְׁכָּא לְנֶשֶׁא אֶלְעָשָׂה וְאַתָּה כָּל לְעָשָׂה
H859 And thou profane H2491 wicked H7563 prince H5387 of Israel H3478
H834 is come H935

בְּעַת יּוֹם וְעַזְבָּן :
whose day when iniquity shall have an end
H3117 H6256 H5771 H7093

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 35:5 (Sin): Because thou hast had a perpetual hatred, and hast shed the blood of the children of Israel by the force of the sword in the time of their calamity, in the time that their iniquity had an end:

Jeremiah 52:2 (Evil): And he did that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.

Ezekiel 17:19 (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; As I live, surely mine oath that he hath despised, and my covenant that he hath broken, even it will I recompense upon his own head.

Ezekiel 21:29 (Sin): Whiles they see vanity unto thee, whiles they divine a lie unto thee, to bring thee upon the necks of them that are slain, of the wicked, whose day is come, when their iniquity shall have an end.

2 Chronicles 36:13 (References Israel): And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel.