

Ezekiel 21:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Shall I cause it to return into his sheath? I will judge thee in the place where thou wast created, in the land of thy nativity.

Analysis

Shall I cause it to return into his sheath?—A rhetorical question expecting 'No.' Once God's sword of judgment is drawn (v. 28), it will not be sheathed until the sentence is fully executed. This contrasts with potential repentance scenarios elsewhere (Jeremiah 18:7-8).

I will judge thee in the place where thou wast created, in the land of thy nativity—Ammon would not escape by fleeing; judgment would find them in their homeland east of Jordan. The Hebrew מְכוֹרֹתַיִךְ (mĕkôrôtayik, 'origins/nativity') and מוֹלַדְתְּךָ (môladetĕk, 'birthplace') emphasize that their ancestral land would become their graveyard. God judges nations where they sinned, removing any illusion of sanctuary. This principle appears throughout Scripture: judgment comes to the sinner's own territory (Obadiah 15-16).

Historical Context

Ammon's territory was roughly modern-day Amman, Jordan. After Nebuchadnezzar's 582 BC conquest, Ammonite identity largely disappeared from history. Archaeological evidence shows massive destruction of Ammonite cities in the early 6th century BC, confirming Ezekiel's prophecy.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does God's refusal to 'sheath the sword' teach about the certainty of judgment?
2. How does judging nations 'in their own land' demonstrate God's omnipresence?
3. Are there sins or situations you're trying to escape rather than face before God?

Interlinear Text

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|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------|
| הֲשִׁיב | אֶל | תַּעֲבֶהָ | בְּמָקוֹם | אֲשֶׁר |
| Shall I cause it to return | H413 | into his sheath | thee in the place | H834 |
| H7725 | | H8593 | H4725 | |
| נִבְרָאתָ | בְּאֶרֶץ | מְקוֹרְךָ | אֲשֶׁפֶּט | אֶתְּךָ: |
| where thou wast created | in the land | of thy nativity | I will judge | H853 |
| H1254 | H776 | H4351 | H8199 | |

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 15:14 (Judgment): And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

Ezekiel 16:38 (Judgment): And I will judge thee, as women that break wedlock and shed blood are judged; and I will give thee blood in fury and jealousy.