

Ezekiel 21:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seeing then that I will cut off from thee the righteous and the wicked, therefore shall my sword go forth out of his sheath against all flesh from the south to the north:

Analysis

"Seeing then that I will cut off from thee the righteous and the wicked, therefore shall my sword go forth out of his sheath against all flesh from the south to the north:" The comprehensive scope "from south to north" (mi-negev ad-tzafon, מִן־עֵדֶם-צָפוֹן) covers entire land—no region escapes. "Against all flesh" (el-kol-basar, אֶל־כָּל־בָּשָׂר) universalizes judgment. The drawn sword remains unsheathed until judgment completes—no premature mercy interrupts God's determined purpose. This totality ensures no one escapes through geography or strategy.

Historical Context

Babylon's conquest indeed affected the entire land from southern Negev to northern borders. Archaeological surveys document comprehensive destruction across Judah. No city or region avoided devastation. The totality fulfilled this prophecy—the drawn sword didn't return to its sheath until judgment was complete. This geographic comprehensiveness demonstrated that covenant violation brought universal consequences, not localized problems.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does geographic totality (south to north) illustrate judgment's inescapability?
2. What does the unsheathed sword (not returning until complete) teach about God's determined purposes?
3. In what ways does comprehensive judgment prevent presuming some areas are safe from divine discipline?

Interlinear Text

רֹאֵה	אֲשֶׁר	יֵלֵךְ	הַכָּבֹדִי	מִמֶּנִּי	צֵדִיק
Seeing	H834		then that I will cut off	H4480	from thee the righteous
H3282			H3772		H6662
וְהָיָה	לְכָל	אֲשֶׁר	יֵלֵךְ	חֶרֶב־י	מִתַּעֲקֵהוּ
and the wicked	H3651	go forth	therefore shall my sword	out of his sheath	H413
H7563		H3318	H2719	H8593	
כָּל	בָּשָׂר	מִן־הַ	צָפוֹן:		
H3605	against all flesh	from the south	to the north		
	H1320	H5045	H6828		

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 20:47 (Word): And say to the forest of the south, Hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will kindle a fire in thee, and it shall devour every green tree in thee, and every dry tree: the flaming flame shall not be quenched, and all faces from the south to the north shall be burned therein.

Ezekiel 7:2 (Parallel theme): Also, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD unto the land of Israel; An end, the end is come upon the four corners of the land.

