

Ezekiel 21:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That all flesh may know that I the LORD have drawn forth my sword out of his sheath: it shall not return any more.

Analysis

"That all flesh may know that I the LORD have drawn forth my sword out of his sheath: it shall not return any more." The recognition formula appears with emphasis—"all flesh" (kol-basar, כָּל-בָּשָׂר) will know Yahweh drew the sword. Judgment serves pedagogical purposes—teaching divine reality, sovereignty, and justice. "It shall not return any more" (lo tashuv od, לֹא תָשׁוּב עוֹד) indicates irrevocable commitment to complete the judgment—no last-minute reversal occurs. The finality creates urgency for repentance before the sword strikes.

Historical Context

When Babylon conquered Jerusalem, surrounding nations witnessed and recognized Yahweh's hand (Ezekiel 5:14-15). The destruction didn't suggest God's weakness but vindicated His holiness—He judges His own people's sin severely. The irreversible nature was proven when no prophetic intercession or royal diplomacy prevented Jerusalem's fall. God's word, once decreed, cannot be reversed apart from genuine repentance (Jeremiah 18:7-10).

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does judgment teaching 'all flesh' serve witnessing purposes beyond Israel?
2. What does the sword's irreversible drawing teach about God's commitments?
3. In what ways should prophetic warnings create urgency while opportunity for repentance remains?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּדְעוּ may know H3045	כָּל H3605	בָּשָׂר That all flesh H1320	כִּי H3588	אֲנִי H589	יְהוָה that I the LORD H3068	הוֹצֵאתִי have drawn forth H3318
חֶרֶב־י my sword H2719	מִתְעַבֵּה out of his sheath H8593	לֹא H3808	תָּשׁוּב it shall not return H7725	עוֹד: H5750		

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 21:30 (Parallel theme): 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.

Nahum 1:9 (References Lord): What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.

Jeremiah 23:20 (References Lord): The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.

Ezekiel 20:48 (References Lord): And all flesh shall see that I the LORD have kindled it: it shall not be quenched.

1 Samuel 3:12 (Parallel theme): In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.