

Ezekiel 22:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, therefore I have smitten mine hand at thy dishonest gain which thou hast made, and at thy blood which hath been in the midst of thee.

Analysis

Behold, therefore I have smitten mine hand at thy dishonest gain which thou hast made, and at thy blood which hath been in the midst of thee. The phrase *hinneh hiketi khappe* (הִנֵּה הִכֵּיתִי כַפִּי), 'behold, I have struck my hand,' is a gesture of judicial determination—God claps hands in resolute judgment (Ezekiel 21:17).

Bits'ek (בִּצְעֶךָ), 'thy dishonest gain,' refers to unjust profit extracted through violence. *Damayik asher hayu be-tokhek* (דָּמַיִךְ אֲשֶׁר הָיוּ בְּתוֹכְךָ), 'thy blood which has been in thy midst,' emphasizes that violence wasn't external threat but internal corruption. God's hand-striking signals irreversible decision—the accumulated evidence demands verdict.

Historical Context

This verse concludes the indictment section (vv. 1-12) and introduces the sentence section (vv. 14-22). The 'hand-smiting' gesture appears in ancient Near Eastern treaty curses, signaling oath-execution. Jerusalem's economic crimes and bloodshed, cataloged with legal precision, now receive proportional response. Babylon becomes the instrument of covenant curse (Deuteronomy 28:47-57).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does God's physical gesture of striking hands reveal about the certainty and finality of moral judgment?
2. How does distinguishing 'dishonest gain' from legitimate profit provide boundaries for economic activity?

Interlinear Text

וְהִנֵּה

H2009

הֵכֵ יָדַי

H5221

Behold therefore I have smitten

כַּף יָדִי

mine hand

H3709

אֶל

H413

בְּצַעַךְ

at thy dishonest gain

H1215

אֲשֶׁר

H834

עָשִׂיתָ

which thou hast made

H6213

וְעַל

H5921

דָּמֶךָ

and at thy blood

H1818

הִיא

H834

H1961

בְּתוֹכָהּ:

which hath been in the midst

H8432

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 33:15 (Blood): He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;

Ezekiel 21:17 (Parallel theme): I will also smite mine hands together, and I will cause my fury to rest: I the LORD have said it.

Ezekiel 21:14 (Parallel theme): Thou therefore, son of man, prophesy, and smite thine hands together, and let the sword be doubled the third time, the sword of the slain: it is the sword of the great men that are slain, which entereth into their privy chambers.

Ezekiel 22:27 (Blood): Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain.

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