

Ezekiel 22:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will scatter thee among the heathen, and disperse thee in the countries, and will consume thy filthiness out of thee.

Analysis

And I will scatter thee among the heathen, and disperse thee in the countries—the Hebrew verbs *va'hafotzti* (וַהֲפֹצְתִי, "I will scatter") and *vehezairotiykha* (וְהִזְרֹתִיךָ, "I will disperse") describe violent expulsion, like seed thrown across a field. This was the covenant curse of Deuteronomy 28:64: "The LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other." Exile wasn't random tragedy but covenantal consequence.

And will consume thy filthiness out of thee. The word *ve'hitamoti tummatekh mimmekh* (וְהִתְמַחְתִּי טִמְאַתְךָ מִמֶּכָּךְ, "I will consume/purge your uncleanness from you") presents exile as refining fire. God's purpose in scattering wasn't mere punishment but purification—removing idolatry by removing access to the temple and land where syncretism flourished. Exile would 'burn away' the dross of false worship, preparing a remnant for restoration (Zechariah 13:9).

Historical Context

The Babylonian exile (586 BC) fulfilled this prophecy with devastating precision. Judah's population was scattered across the Babylonian Empire—Babylon itself, Egypt, surrounding nations. Archaeological evidence shows Jewish communities emerging in multiple regions. Remarkably, exile did 'consume their filthiness'—post-exilic Judaism never again fell into systematic idolatry.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How might God use circumstances that feel like scattering to purge idolatrous attachments from your life?
2. What 'filthiness' in your heart requires radical intervention to remove?

Interlinear Text

וְהִפְצֹתִי י	אוֹתְךָ	בְּגוֹיִם	וְזָרִיתִי יְךָ
And I will scatter	H853	thee among the heathen	and disperse
H6327		H1471	H2219
בְּאַרְצֵי וְ	וְהִתְמַתִּי י	טִמְאַתִּי יְךָ	מִמֶּךָ:
thee in the countries	and will consume	thy filthiness	H4480
H776	H8552	H2932	

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 1:8 (Parallel theme): Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:

Zechariah 7:14 (Parallel theme): But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate.

Deuteronomy 4:27 (Parallel theme): And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you.

Ezekiel 22:22 (Parallel theme): As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof; and ye shall know that I the LORD have poured out my fury upon you.

Ezekiel 36:19 (Parallel theme): And I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them.

Leviticus 26:33 (Parallel theme): And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.