

Ezekiel 22:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt take thine inheritance in thyself in the sight of the heathen, and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.

Analysis

And thou shalt take thine inheritance in thyself in the sight of the heathen—this difficult phrase *ve'nechalti bakh le'einei goyim* (וְנִחַלְתִּי בְךָ לְעֵינֵי גוֹיִם) literally means "you will be profaned in yourself before the nations" or "you will take your inheritance in yourself." The ESV renders it: "you shall be profaned by your own doing in the sight of the nations." Jerusalem's public humiliation would demonstrate that her defilement came from within, not external forces.

And thou shalt know that I am the LORD. This refrain (*ve'yada'at ki ani YHWH*, וְיָדָעְתָּ כִּי אֲנִי יְהוָה) appears over 70 times in Ezekiel. The verb *yada* (יָדָע) means experiential knowledge, not mere information. Through judgment, Jerusalem would know Yahweh's sovereignty and holiness. This 'knowing' was the purpose of both judgment and redemption—recognition of God's unique deity and covenant faithfulness.

Historical Context

When Babylon razed Jerusalem in 586 BC and paraded captives before surrounding nations, Israel's shame was public and complete. The nations who had trusted in Jerusalem's invincibility (Jeremiah 7:4) witnessed her fall. Yet this humiliation also demonstrated Yahweh's justice and power—He, not Babylon's gods, controlled Israel's fate. This prepared for eventual restoration when nations would recognize Yahweh's sovereignty (Ezekiel 36-37).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does experiencing consequences of sin lead to deeper knowledge of God's character?
2. What does it mean to 'know that I am the LORD' beyond intellectual assent?

Interlinear Text

וְנָח לְךָ	בְּךָ	לְעֵינַי י	גוֹיִם
And thou shalt take thine inheritance	H0	in thyself in the sight	of the heathen
H2490		H5869	H1471
וְיָדָעְתָּ	כִּי	אֲנִי י	יְהוָה:
and thou shalt know	H3588	H589	that I am the LORD
H3045			H3068

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 6:7 (References Lord): And the slain shall fall in the midst of you, and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Psalms 83:18 (Parallel theme): That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.

Ezekiel 7:24 (Parallel theme): Wherefore I will bring the worst of the heathen, and they shall possess their houses: I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease; and their holy places shall be defiled.