

Ezekiel 22:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now, thou son of man, wilt thou judge, wilt thou judge the bloody city? yea, thou shalt shew her all her abominations.

Analysis

Now, thou son of man, wilt thou judge, wilt thou judge the bloody city? God commands Ezekiel with emphatic repetition (hatishpot hatishpot, הַתִּשְׁפֹּט הַתִּשְׁפֹּט) to 'judge, yes judge' the ir ha-damim (עיר הַדָּמִים), 'city of bloodshed.' This identical phrase appears in Nahum 3:1 for Nineveh, linking Jerusalem's guilt to pagan oppressor-nations.

Yea, thou shalt shew her all her abominations (to'evoteha, תֹּוֹעֲבֹתָה)—technical covenant term for violations so severe they provoke divine revulsion. Ezekiel must enumerate specific crimes, not vague accusations. The judicial process requires evidence, which verses 3-12 provide exhaustively.

Historical Context

Jerusalem earned the title 'bloody city' through judicial murders (v. 6), bribery for bloodshed (v. 12), and oppression of vulnerable populations (v. 7, 29). Archaeological evidence confirms extreme social stratification in 7th-century Jerusalem, with wealthy elites exploiting poor. The prophet must formally indict what everyone knew but none acknowledged.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why does God require Ezekiel to enumerate specific sins rather than make general accusations?
2. When Jerusalem resembles pagan Nineveh in guilt, what does this reveal about religious identity versus ethical practice?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה	בָּן	אֵיךְ	מִתְשָׁפֵט	בִּתְשָׁפֵט	אַתָּה	בָּנָי
H859	Now thou son	H120	wilt thou judge	wilt thou judge	H853	city
	H1121		H8199	H8199		H5892
בָּמִים	וְדַעַת	אֵת	כָּל	תֹּעֲבֹתֶיךָ:		
the bloody	yea thou shalt shew	H853	H3605	her all her abominations	H8441	
H1818	H3045					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 58:1 (Parallel theme): Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Nahum 3:1 (Blood): Woe to the bloody city! it is all full of lies and robbery; the prey departeth not;

Ezekiel 24:9 (Blood): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the bloody city! I will even make the pile for fire great.

Ezekiel 24:6 (Blood): Wherefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the bloody city, to the pot whose scum is therein, and whose scum is not gone out of it! bring it out piece by piece; let no lot fall upon it.

Ezekiel 20:4 (Judgment): Wilt thou judge them, son of man, wilt thou judge them? cause them to know the abominations of their fathers:

Acts 7:52 (Parallel theme): Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

Matthew 27:25 (Blood): Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

1 Timothy 5:20 (Parallel theme): Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

Hosea 4:2 (Blood): By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

2 Kings 21:16 (Blood): Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.