

Ezekiel 22:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As they gather silver, and brass, and iron, and lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt it; so will I gather you in mine anger and in my fury, and I will leave you there, and melt you.

Analysis

As they gather silver, and brass, and iron, and lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt it; so will I gather you in mine anger and in my fury, and I will leave you there, and melt you. The extended simile draws direct parallels: smelter's action = God's judgment; mixed metals = Jerusalem's population; blowing fire = intensifying heat; melting = destruction. The Hebrew nafach (נְפַךְ, "blow") describes bellows intensifying furnace heat. God Himself will fan the flames of judgment—not passive permission but active intensification.

The phrase "**in mine anger and in my fury**" (be'appi uve'chamati, בְּאָפִי וּבְחָמָתִי) emphasizes divine wrath's intensity. This isn't reluctant discipline but fierce indignation at prolonged rebellion. "**I will leave you there, and melt you**" means no escape, no relief—complete consumption in judgment's furnace. The metallurgical imagery becomes horrifyingly literal: Jerusalem's destruction by fire would 'melt' the city and its inhabitants.

Historical Context

Nebuchadnezzar's siege tactics included surrounding the city, cutting off supplies, and eventually burning it (2 Kings 25:9). The Babylonian army 'blew upon' the city

with sustained assault, siege engines, and finally conflagration. Archaeological excavations in Jerusalem's City of David reveal destruction layers from 586 BC with ash, burnt debris, and arrowheads—physical evidence of the 'furnace' that consumed the city.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's active role in judgment ('I will gather...I will blow...I will melt') challenge modern views that minimize divine wrath?
2. What does this verse teach about the seriousness with which God views covenant unfaithfulness?

Interlinear Text

אָל וְבָדִיל	יעַופְ רַת	וּבְרִזְ ל	וְנַחֲשָׁת	כָ סָף	קָבְ צָת
As they gather	silver	and brass	and iron	and lead	and tin
H6910	H3701	H5178	H1270	H5777	H913
תֵ וּ	לְפִיחַת	עַל יְ	אֵשׁ	וְהַתְּכַת	כִ
into the midst	of the furnace	to blow	the fire	upon it to melt	H3651
H8432	H3564	H5301	H784	H5413	
אַקְבַּץ	בָאֵפְ	וּבְפִמְתַ	וְהַנִּחַת	וְהַתְּכַת	
it so will I gather	you in mine anger	and in my fury	and I will leave	upon it to melt	
H6908	H639	H2534	H3240	H5413	
אַתֶּכֶם:					
H853					

