

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* (נָפַח, "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, בְּאַפִּי וּבְחַמָּתִי) 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

אֵל	וּבְדִיל	וְעוֹפֹרֶת	וּבְרִזְלִי	וְנְחֹשֶׁת	כֶּסֶף	קֹבֵץ צֵת
	and tin	and lead	and iron	and brass	silver	As they gather
	H913	H5777	H1270	H5178	H3701	H6910
כִּי	וְהִתְקַתִּי	אֵשׁ	עַל יוֹ	לִפְחֹת	כֹּר	תּוֹךְ
	upon it to melt	the fire	H5921	to blow	of the furnace	into the midst
	H5413	H784		H5301	H3564	H8432
וְהִתְקַתִּי	וְהִנַּחְתִּי	וּבְחִמָּתִי	בְּאַפִּי	אֶקְבֹּץ		
upon it to melt	and I will leave	and in my fury	you in mine anger	it so will I gather		
H5413	H3240	H2534	H639	H6908		
				אֶתְכֶם:		
				H853		

