

Ezekiel 22:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, I will gather you, and blow upon you in the fire of my wrath, and ye shall be melted in the midst thereof.

Analysis

Yea, I will gather you, and blow upon you in the fire of my wrath, and ye shall be melted in the midst thereof. This verse intensifies verse 20 with emphatic repetition. The Hebrew *ve'khibbatzi* (וְקִיבְּחַתִּי, "I will gather") with *ve'nafachti* (וְנִפְחַתִּי, "I will blow") reinforces divine agency. The phrase "**fire of my wrath**" (*be'esh eberati*, בְּאֵשׁ עֲבָרָתִי) identifies Babylon's siege as instrument of God's fury, not mere geopolitical conflict.

"And ye shall be melted in the midst thereof" (*ve'nittatkhem betokah*, וְנִתְּתַקְּחָם בְּתוֹךְ—) the passive verb indicates helplessness. Jerusalem cannot resist or escape; the furnace will accomplish its purpose. Yet paradoxically, this 'melting' serves purification. Though judgment destroys the wicked, it refines the remnant. The same fire that consumes dross purges the faithful, preparing them for restoration (Zechariah 13:9, Malachi 3:3).

Historical Context

During the 586 BC siege, Jerusalem's suffering was unparalleled. Lamentations 4 describes mothers boiling their children for food, bodies piling in streets, nobles starving. When walls were breached, Babylonians torched the temple, palace, and houses. The 'melting' was literal—precious metals melted in the heat, stone cracked, wood burned. Yet a remnant survived, later returning under Ezra and Nehemiah.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How can recognizing God's hand in difficult circumstances (rather than blaming circumstances alone) lead to repentance and transformation?
2. What difference does it make whether trials are random or purposeful divine discipline?

Interlinear Text

בָּא שׁ	עָלֵיכָם	וְנִפְחַתְּתִּי	אַתֶּךָ מִ	וְכִנְסַתְּתִּי	
Yea I will gather	H853	you and blow	H5921	upon you in the fire	H784
H3664		H5301		H784	
עַבְתָּתִי	בְּתוּכָה:	וְנִמְכַתְּתִּי	בְּתוּכָה:	וְנִפְחַתְּתִּי	
of my wrath	and ye shall be melted	in the midst			
H5678	H5413	H8432			

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