

Ezekiel 22:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation.

Analysis

Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation. Following the furnace metaphor (verses 17-22), this introduces a new image: drought judgment. The Hebrew *eretz lo metoharah* (אֶרֶץ לֹא מְטוֹהָרָה, "land not cleansed") means ritually and morally impure. **"Nor rained upon in the day of indignation"** (לֹא גֶשְׁמָהּ בַּיּוֹם זֶה, *lo geshumah be'yom za'am*) withholds blessing during judgment.

Rain in Israel symbolized covenant blessing (Deuteronomy 28:12); drought signaled curse (Deuteronomy 28:23-24). To receive no rain 'in the day of indignation' means God withholds even ameliorating mercies during judgment. The land's uncleanness prevents blessing—moral pollution creates spiritual drought. This anticipates verses 25-29, which catalog how every class (prophets, priests, princes, people) has contributed to the defilement requiring such severe judgment.

Historical Context

Ezekiel prophesied during Judah's final years (591-586 BC) when both spiritual and agricultural conditions were dire. Jeremiah records similar drought judgments (Jeremiah 14:1-6). After exile, the land lay desolate for 70 years, fulfilling both Ezekiel's and Jeremiah's prophecies. Only after genuine repentance would God 'send rain in its season' (Zechariah 10:1) and restore the land.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does moral and spiritual impurity 'pollute' our lives, preventing the 'rain' of God's blessing?
2. What cleansing must occur before restoration and fruitfulness can return?

Interlinear Text

בֶּן	אָדָם	אָמַר	לָהּ	אַתָּה	אֶרֶץ	לֹא
Son	of man	say			unto her Thou art the land	
H1121	H120	H559	H0	H859	H776	H3808
	מְטֵהָ	יָא	לֹא	גֶשֶׁם	בִּיּוֹם	יָעַם:
	that is not cleansed			nor rained	upon in the day	of indignation
	H2891	H1931	H3808	H1656	H3117	H2195

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:5 (Parallel theme): Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

Isaiah 9:13 (Parallel theme): For the people turneth not unto him that smiteth them, neither do they seek the LORD of hosts.

Jeremiah 2:30 (Parallel theme): In vain have I smitten your children; they received no correction: your own sword hath devoured your prophets, like a destroying lion.

2 Chronicles 28:22 (Parallel theme): And in the time of his distress did he trespass yet more against the LORD: this is that king Ahaz.

