

Ezekiel 22:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then say thou, Thus saith the Lord GOD, The city sheddeth blood in the midst of it, that her time may come, and maketh idols against herself to defile herself.

Analysis

"Then say thou, Thus saith the Lord GOD, The city sheddeth blood in the midst of it, that her time may come, and maketh idols against herself to defile herself." Jerusalem's twin crimes—bloodshed and idolatry—bring judgment. "Sheddeth blood in the midst" (shofekhet dam be-tokha, שֹׁפֶכֶת דָּם בְּתוֹכָהּ) indicates violence at the city's heart, not periphery. "Maketh idols against herself" shows self-destructive folly—idolatry harms the worshiper. The phrase "that her time may come" (lavo ittah, לָבוֹא עִתָּהּ) indicates these sins hasten judgment's arrival.

Historical Context

Jerusalem's bloodshed included judicial murders, oppression of vulnerable populations, and child sacrifice (verses 6-12). The idolatry defiled the very temple meant for Yahweh worship (Ezekiel 8). These accumulated sins 'brought near' the day of judgment—sin accelerates its own consequences. When Babylon conquered, it was neither random nor disproportionate but precise response to specific, enumerated crimes.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does sin being 'against herself' illustrate its self-destructive nature?
2. What does hastening judgment's arrival teach about sin's role in accelerating consequences?
3. In what ways do bloodshed and idolatry remain connected sins in contemporary culture?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	כֹּה	אָמַר	אֲדֹנָי	יְהוָה	עִיר	שֹׁפֵךְ	דָּם
Then say	H3541	Then say	the Lord	GOD	The city	sheddeth	blood
H559		H559	H136	H3069	H5892	H8210	H1818
בְּתוֹךְ	לֵב	וָאֵל	עֵתָהּ	וַעֲשֶׂתָהּ	גִּלּוּלִים	עַל	יָהּ
in the midst	may come	of it that her time	and maketh	idols			H5921
H8432	H935	H6256	H6213	H1544			
לְטַמְּאָהּ:							
against herself to defile							
H2930							

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 22:27 (Blood): Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravaging the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain.