

Ezekiel 22:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.

Analysis

Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath—This concluding verse of chapter 22 summarizes Jerusalem's fate. The Hebrew זעַם (za'am, 'indignation') and חֵמָה (hēmāh, 'wrath/burning anger') depict God's intense anger at systemic corruption detailed in verses 1-30.

Their own way have I recompensed upon their heads—The principle of poetic justice: זֶהָם בֶּרֶשֶׁם נָתַתִּי (darkām bērōshām nātattî, 'their way on their head I have placed'). They are punished according to their own evil path (Proverbs 1:31, Galatians 6:7). God's judgment is perfectly calibrated to the sin: prophets who saw false visions received true judgment; princes who shed blood had blood poured out; priests who profaned holy things saw the temple destroyed. This verse follows God's futile search for an intercessor (v. 30): finding none, judgment became inevitable.

Historical Context

Chapter 22 catalogs Jerusalem's comprehensive corruption circa 590 BC: bloodshed, idolatry, oppression, sexual immorality, dishonest gain, Sabbath violation, and prophetic lies. No social class was exempt—princes, priests, prophets, and people all participated. Jerusalem fell in 586 BC, four years after this prophecy.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's search for 'one intercessor' (v. 30) highlight the importance of faithful remnants?
2. What does 'their own way recompensed on their heads' teach about the nature of sin's consequences?
3. Are there systemic sins in our culture where God might be searching for intercessors?

Interlinear Text

וְאָשַׁפֵּךְ	עַלְיָם	צַעַם	בָּאָשָׁ
Therefore have I poured out	mine indignation	them with the fire	
H8210	H5921	H2195	H784
עַבְתָּתִי	כְּלִיתִים	דְּרָכֶם	בְּרָאשֵׁם
of my wrath	upon them I have consumed	their own way	upon their heads
H5678	H3615	H1870	H7218
נָתַתִּי	אָדָן	תָּאָמַן	יְהֹוָה:
have I recompensed	saith	the Lord	GOD
H5414	H5002	H136	H3069

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 16:43 (References God): Because thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, but hast fretted me in all these things; behold, therefore I also will recompense thy way upon thine head, saith the Lord GOD: and thou shalt not commit this lewdness above all thine abominations.

Ezekiel 9:10 (Parallel theme): And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head.

Ezekiel 7:3 (Judgment): Now is the end come upon thee, and I will send mine anger upon thee, and will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense upon thee all thine abominations.