

Ezekiel 22:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou art become guilty in thy blood that thou hast shed; and hast defiled thyself in thine idols which thou hast made; and thou hast caused thy days to draw near, and art come even unto thy years: therefore have I made thee a reproach unto the heathen, and a mocking to all countries.

Analysis

"Thou art become guilty in thy blood that thou hast shed; and hast defiled thyself in thine idols which thou hast made; and thou hast caused thy days to draw near, and art come even unto thy years: therefore have I made thee a reproach unto the heathen, and a mocking to all countries." The accumulated guilt from bloodshed and idolatry brings twofold consequences: temporal (hastened judgment—"caused thy days to draw near") and reputational ("reproach unto the heathen"). International shame results from public judgment—surrounding nations mock Jerusalem's fall. This reverses Israel's intended role as light to nations; instead, they become warning example.

Historical Context

When Jerusalem fell (586 BC), surrounding nations indeed mocked (Lamentations 2:15-16; Psalm 79:4; Ezekiel 36:20). The city meant to display God's glory became object lesson of divine judgment. This public shame served pedagogical purposes—both Israel and watching nations learned that covenant violation brings deserved consequences. The reproach persisted for generations, shaping Jewish identity and theology through exile and post-exilic periods.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does public shame serve as part of divine judgment?
2. What does becoming a 'mocking to all countries' teach about corporate witness and failure?
3. In what ways should awareness of watching eyes shape Christian living and church practice?

Interlinear Text

בְּדַם יְיָ	אֲשֶׁר	שָׁפַךְ כְּתָ	אֲשֶׁר מָתָ	וּבִגְלוֹל יְיָ
in thy blood	H834	that thou hast shed	Thou art become guilty	thyself in thine idols
H1818		H8210	H816	H1544
אֲשֶׁר	עָשִׂיתָ	טָמֵאתָ	וַתִּקְרַב יְיָ	
H834	which thou hast made	and hast defiled	to draw near	
	H6213	H2930	H7126	
יָמֵי יְיָ	וַתָּבֹא וְאֵל	עַד	שְׁנוֹת יְיָ	עַל
and thou hast caused thy days	and art come	H5704	even unto thy years	H5921
H3117	H935		H8141	H3651
נָתַתִּי יְיָ	חֲרָפָה	לְגוֹיִם	וְקִלְסָה	לְכָל
therefore have I made	thee a reproach	unto the heathen	and a mocking	H3605
H5414	H2781	H1471	H7048	
הָאֲרָצוֹת:				
to all countries				
H776				

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 21:16 (Creation): Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.

Ezekiel 16:57 (Parallel theme): Before thy wickedness was discovered, as at the time of thy reproach of the daughters of Syria, and all that are round about her, the daughters of the Philistines, which despise thee round about.

Ezekiel 22:2 (Blood): Now, thou son of man, wilt thou judge, wilt thou judge the bloody city? yea, thou shalt shew her all her abominations.