

Ezekiel 22:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In thee have they set light by father and mother: in the midst of thee have they dealt by oppression with the stranger: in thee have they vexed the fatherless and the widow.

Analysis

"In thee have they set light by father and mother: in the midst of thee have they dealt by oppression with the stranger: in thee have they vexed the fatherless and the widow." This verse catalogs violated relationships: parents dishonored (violating fifth commandment), strangers oppressed (violating covenant commands protecting foreigners), and orphans/widows exploited (violating explicit divine protections, Exodus 22:21-24). The threefold "in thee" emphasizes these occurred in Jerusalem's midst—systematic violation at covenant community's heart.

Historical Context

The breakdown of basic social order—family respect, protection of vulnerable, justice for outsiders—indicated comprehensive moral collapse. These weren't isolated failures but endemic patterns. Archaeological evidence and prophetic texts confirm widespread oppression of poor, corruption of justice, and abuse of vulnerable populations throughout late monarchy. When society's foundational relationships collapse, judgment becomes necessary to restore order.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does violating family and social relationships indicate deeper spiritual corruption?
2. What does God's concern for stranger, orphan, and widow teach about His justice priorities?
3. In what ways should Christian communities protect the vulnerable as testimony to God's character?

Interlinear Text

בְּ אָב	וְאָם	בְּנֵי	לְגָרָן
by father	and mother	In thee have they set light	with the stranger
H1	H517	H7043	H1616
בְּעֵשֶׂב	בְּתֻמָּה	בְּתֻמָּה	בְּאַלְמָנָה
of thee have they dealt	by oppression	in the midst	the fatherless
H6213	H6233	H8432	H3490
בְּזִבְחָה			וְאֶתְמָלֵת
in thee have they vexed			and the widow
H3238			H490

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 27:16 (Light): Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Jeremiah 7:6 (Parallel theme): If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt:

Zechariah 7:10 (Parallel theme): And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.

Leviticus 20:9 (Parallel theme): For every one that curseth his father or his mother shall be surely put to death: he hath cursed his father or his mother; his blood shall be upon him.

Malachi 3:5 (Parallel theme): And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

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