

Ezekiel 23:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore, O Aholibah, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will raise up thy lovers against thee, from whom thy mind is alienated, and I will bring them against thee on every side;

Analysis

Therefore, O Oholibah, thus saith the Lord GOD transitions from accusation to sentence. Behold, I will raise up thy lovers against thee announces judgment's mechanism—her chosen allies become destroyers. From whom thy mind is alienated means those she now rejects will return as conquerors. I will bring them against thee on every side describes comprehensive encirclement. God orchestrates historical events as judicial punishment. Those Judah pursued for security, then rejected when disillusioned, will surround her for destruction. Divine irony: our idols become punishment, rejected lovers become executioners. This is *lex talionis* (law of retaliation) at cosmic scale—justice measured precisely to the crime. Sin carries its own judgment seeds.

Historical Context

Babylon, whom Judah initially courted then rebelled against, laid siege to Jerusalem from multiple directions. Nebuchadnezzar's army besieged Jerusalem twice (597 and 586 BC), with the final siege lasting 30 months (January 588 - July 586 BC), resulting in complete destruction, temple burning, and mass deportation.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do our betrayed alliances return as instruments of judgment?
2. What does it mean that God 'raises up' historical agents for His purposes?
3. How does punishment fitting the crime demonstrate divine justice?

Interlinear Text

לְכִּי	אֶהְיֶה הָ	כֹּה	אָמַר	אֲדַן י	יְהוָה	הַנִּנֵּי י
H3651	Therefore O Aholibah	H3541	thus saith	the Lord	GOD	H2005
	H172		H559	H136	H3069	
יֵמַע יר	אֶת	מְאַהֲבֵי יְיָ	עַל יְיָ	אֵת	אֲשֶׁר	נִקְעָה הָ
Behold I will raise up	H853	thy lovers	H5921	H853	H834	is alienated
H5782		H157				H5361
נִפְשִׁיךָ		מִיָּהָם	וְהֵבֵאתִי יָם	עַל יְיָ		
against thee from whom thy mind		H1992	and I will bring	H5921		
H5315			H935			
מִכָּל צִדֵּי:						
them against thee on every side						
H5439						

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 16:37 (Love): Behold, therefore I will gather all thy lovers, with whom thou hast taken pleasure, and all them that thou hast loved, with all them that thou hast hated; I will even gather them round about against thee, and will discover thy nakedness unto them, that they may see all thy nakedness.