

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of 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

לְכָךְ	אַתָּה לִיבָּה הַ	כִּי	אָמַר	אָדָן יְ	הָיָה יְהֹוָה
H3651	Therefore O Aholibah	H3541	thus saith	the Lord	GOD
H172		H559		H136	H3069
					H2005
Behold I will raise up	אַתָּה מִעַד יְ	תְּלַקֵּעַ הַ	אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה עַל יְ	מִאֱכָב יְ	נִקְנַצְתָּ הַ
H5782	H853	H157	H5921	H853	H834
	thy lovers				is alienated
					H5361
against thee from whom thy mind	נִפְשַׁת נִ	מִמֶּנּוּ	וְיִקְבַּאת יְ	עַל יְ	
H5315	H1992	H935	H935	H5921	
	and I will bring				
מִסְבָּיבָה:					
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.