

Ezekiel 23:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus will I make thy lewdness to cease from thee, and thy whoredom brought from the land of Egypt: so that thou shalt not lift up thine eyes unto them, nor remember Egypt any more.

Analysis

Thus will I make thy lewdness to cease from thee declares judgment's purpose: eradication of sin. And thy whoredom brought from the land of Egypt emphasizes ancient roots being destroyed. Judgment isn't merely punitive but remedial—it purges. So that thou shalt not lift up thine eyes unto them, nor remember Egypt any more indicates forced separation from idols. When all false hopes are destroyed, only God remains. This is severe mercy. Sometimes God must strip away every competing affection to win exclusive devotion. He burns chaff to purify gold. Exile would accomplish what prosperity couldn't: exclusive worship of Yahweh. After exile, Jews never returned to idolatry. Judgment succeeded where blessing failed.

Historical Context

Post-exilic Judaism became fiercely monotheistic. Second Temple Judaism's resistance to idolatry—even unto death under Antiochus Epiphanes (167-164 BC) and Roman persecution—demonstrates exile successfully purged idolatrous tendencies. The Maccabean martyrs and later Jewish resistance to emperor worship prove judgment achieved its purpose of producing exclusive Yahweh worship.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does judgment serve remedial purposes beyond mere punishment?
2. What competing affections must God strip away to win our exclusive devotion?
3. Why does prosperity sometimes fail where adversity succeeds spiritually?

Interlinear Text

וְהִשָּׁבַת י' to cease H7673	זַמֵּיתִךְ Thus will I make thy lewdness H2154	מִמֶּנִּי וְ H4480	אֶת H853
זְנוּתִי וְ from thee and thy whoredom H2184	מֵאֶרֶץ brought from the land H776	וּמִצֵּרְיִם Egypt H4714	אֶלָּא H3808
תִּשָּׂא י' so that thou shalt not lift up H5375	עֵינֶי יְיָ thine eyes H5869	אֶלֶיהָ מִ H413	וּמִצֵּרְיִם Egypt H4714
לֹא H3808	עוֹד: H5750	תִּזְכְּרֵי unto them nor remember H2142	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 16:41 (Parallel theme): And they shall burn thine houses with fire, and execute judgments upon thee in the sight of many women: and I will cause thee to cease from playing the harlot, and thou also shalt give no hire any more.

Ezekiel 23:19 (References Egypt): Yet she multiplied her whoredoms, in calling to remembrance the days of her youth, wherein she had played the harlot in the land of Egypt.

Ezekiel 23:3 (References Egypt): And they committed whoredoms in Egypt; they committed whoredoms in their youth: there were their breasts pressed, and there they bruised the teats of their virginity.

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