

Ezekiel 23:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will deliver thee into the hand of them whom thou hatest, into the hand of them from whom thy mind is alienated:

Analysis

For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will deliver thee into the hand of them whom thou hatest, into the hand of them from whom thy mind is alienated repeats verse 22's pronouncement with emphasis. Repetition underscores certainty and irrevocability. God will deliver (natan—give) indicates active divine causation, not passive permission. Judah's hatred and alienation from Babylon doesn't protect her—it intensifies judgment. The very people she came to despise will dominate her. Personal feelings don't alter divine justice. Our opinions about enemies don't influence whom God uses as instruments. This is sobering: God isn't constrained by our preferences or affections. He uses even those we hate to accomplish His purposes, demonstrating absolute sovereignty.

Historical Context

By siege time, Judah thoroughly hated Babylon—their oppressive vassal requirements, heavy tribute, and military threats made them despised enemies. Yet hatred couldn't prevent Babylonian conquest. Emotion doesn't alter historical necessity when God has decreed judgment. Zedekiah's rebellion expressed this hatred but only brought fiercer punishment.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why doesn't our hatred of enemies prevent God using them as His instruments?
2. How does God's sovereignty transcend our preferences and emotions?
3. What does this teach about the independence of divine justice from human opinion?

Interlinear Text

וְכֹה בָּאָמַר	יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים	הָנָנוּ	נָתַן גַּם
H3588 H3541 For thus saith the Lord	H559 H136	H3068 H2005	H5414 Behold I will deliver
into the hand	of them whom thou hatest	into the hand	is alienated
H3027 H834 H3027 H834	H8130		H5361
נִפְשַׁת גַּם	מִלְבָד		
of them from whom thy mind			
H5315	H1992		

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 34:20 (Parallel theme): I will even give them into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of them that seek their life: and their dead bodies shall be for meat unto the fowls of the heaven, and to the beasts of the earth.

Ezekiel 23:17 (Parallel theme): And the Babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their whoredom, and she was polluted with them, and her mind was alienated from them.

Ezekiel 16:37 (Parallel theme): 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.

Ezekiel 23:22 (References God): 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;

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