

Ezekiel 23:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast walked in the way of thy sister; therefore will I give her cup into thine hand.

Analysis

Thou hast walked in the way of thy sister restates Judah's imitation of Israel's sin. Therefore will I give her cup into thine hand introduces the metaphor of the cup of wrath—a common biblical image for divine judgment (Psalm 75:8; Isaiah 51:17; Jeremiah 25:15-28; Revelation 14:10). The cup contains concentrated divine anger against sin. What Israel drank, Judah must drink. Both sisters share the same judgment because they committed the same sins. The cup metaphor becomes Christologically significant: Jesus prayed, 'O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me' (Matthew 26:39). The cup He drank was our judgment. The wrath we deserve, He consumed. Every Old Testament cup of wrath points forward to Golgotha.

Historical Context

Israel's destruction (722 BC) prefigured Judah's (586 BC). Both experienced conquest, deportation, loss of sovereignty, and cultural devastation. The same divine justice operated in both judgments, demonstrating God's impartiality and consistency. Similar sins produce similar judgments regardless of tribal identity or privilege.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does the 'cup of wrath' metaphor reveal about divine judgment?
2. How does Christ drinking the cup on our behalf change everything?
3. What should we feel knowing Jesus consumed the wrath we deserved?

Interlinear Text

בְּדַרְךָ	אֶחָתֶת	בָּל	כָּתַת	יִתְתַּתִּי	כִּסְף	הַ
in the way	of thy sister	Thou hast walked	therefore will I give		her cup	
H1870	H269	H1980		H5414		H3563
בְּדַרְךָ:						
into thine hand						

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 21:13 (Parallel theme): And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab: and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down.