

Ezekiel 23:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt be filled with drunkenness and sorrow, with the cup of astonishment and desolation, with the cup of thy sister Samaria.

Analysis

Thou shalt be filled with drunkenness and sorrow personalizes the experience. Drunkenness represents loss of control, dignity, and rationality under judgment's weight. Sorrow accompanies utter loss. With the cup of astonishment and desolation describes effects: horror (astonishment) and utter ruin (desolation). With the cup of thy sister Samaria reiterates that Judah's judgment mirrors Israel's. Repetition drives home inevitability. As Samaria fell, so will Jerusalem. History repeats when repentance doesn't intervene. The named example serves as warning: you've seen what happens; now it happens to you. Judgment is predictable, warned, and therefore just. No one can claim surprise when covenant curses are fulfilled after repeated warning.

Historical Context

Samaria's fall (722 BC) provided 136 years of warning before Jerusalem fell (586 BC). Multiple prophets—Isaiah, Micah, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Ezekiel—warned Judah would experience identical judgment unless she repented. The warning was clear, repeated, and urgent, making eventual judgment entirely just and completely anticipated by those paying attention.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Why do historical examples often fail to prevent repeated mistakes?
2. How does ample warning increase the justice of eventual judgment?
3. What contemporary warnings should we heed before experiencing judgment?

Interlinear Text

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|------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| שָׁכַר וְ | וְגַ וְ | תִמְלֵ אִי | כּ וֹס | שִׁמָּה ה |
| with drunkenness | and sorrow | Thou shalt be filled | with the cup | of astonishment |
| H7943 | H3015 | H4390 | H3563 | H8047 |
| וְשִׁמָּה ה | כּ וֹס | אֲחוֹתִי ה | שָׁמְרוֹן: | |
| and desolation | with the cup | of thy sister | Samaria | |
| H8077 | H3563 | H269 | H8111 | |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 51:17 (Parallel theme): Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem, which hast drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of his fury; thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling, and wrung them out.

Jeremiah 25:27 (Parallel theme): Therefore thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Drink ye, and be drunken, and spue, and fall, and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you.

Isaiah 51:22 (Parallel theme): Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again:

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