

Ezekiel 23:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast forgotten me, and cast me behind thy back, therefore bear thou also thy lewdness and thy whoredoms.

Analysis

The covenant curse formula 'because thou hast forgotten me' identifies spiritual amnesia as the root of idolatry. Forgetting God doesn't mean intellectual doubt but practical neglect—living as if God's character, commands, and promises don't matter. 'Cast me behind thy back' depicts deliberate rejection, treating God's revelation as irrelevant. Such unfaithfulness brings inevitable judgment.

Historical Context

Despite possessing the Torah, temple worship, and prophetic ministry, Judah functionally abandoned Yahweh for Baal, Asherah, and foreign gods. The phrase 'bear thy lewdness' means experiencing the full consequences of sin without divine intervention.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. In what practical ways might you be 'forgetting' God while maintaining religious appearances?
2. How do regular spiritual disciplines help prevent the gradual drift toward practical atheism?

Interlinear Text

לְכָךְ	אָמַר	אֱלֹהִים	אָדָם	לְכָךְ	אָמַר	אֱלֹהִים	אָדָם	לְכָךְ	אָמַר	אֱלֹהִים	אָדָם
H3651	H3541	Therefore thus saith	H559	the Lord	H136	GOD	H3069	H3282			
שַׁכְּחָתָּה	אָוֹתִים	וְתַשֵּׁלְכִּי	אָוֹתִים	אָחָרִים	אָוֹתִים	וְתַשְׁלֵלְכִּי	אָחָרִים	בְּעֵדָךְ	אָחָרִים	אָוֹתִים	וְתַשְׁלֵלְכִּי
Because thou hast forgotten	H7911	H853	me and cast	H7993	H853	me behind	H310	thy back	H1458		
שָׁאָה	זָמַת	נָאָתָה	תְּנַזְּבָתִים								
therefore bear	H5375	H2154	thou also thy lewdness	H853	and thy whoredoms	H8457					

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 14:9 (References God): But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back:

Isaiah 17:10 (References God): Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips:

Jeremiah 3:21 (References God): A voice was heard upon the high places, weeping and supplications of the children of Israel: for they have perverted their way, and they have forgotten the LORD their God.

Jeremiah 32:33 (Parallel theme): And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction.

Ezekiel 22:12 (References God): In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD.

Jeremiah 2:32 (Parallel theme): Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number.

Hosea 13:6 (Parallel theme): According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten me.

Hosea 8:14 (Parallel theme): For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof.

Numbers 14:34 (Parallel theme): After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.