

Ezekiel 24:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Heap on wood, kindle the fire, consume the flesh, and spice it well, and let the bones be burned.

Analysis

Heap on wood, kindle the fire, consume the flesh, and spice it well, and let the bones be burned commands intensifying the fire. Spice it well is bitterly ironic—this isn't a meal to be enjoyed but complete destruction. Every element must be consumed. The repetition (wood, fire, flesh, bones) emphasizes thoroughness. Nothing will survive the fire of judgment. The bones being burned indicates even the structural foundation will be destroyed. Jerusalem won't be merely damaged but utterly ruined, requiring complete rebuilding (which occurred under Nehemiah and Ezra 142 years later). Total judgment anticipates total renewal.

Historical Context

When Nebuchadnezzar's forces finally breached Jerusalem's walls (July 586 BC), they systematically burned the city: temple, palace, houses of nobles, all significant buildings (2 Kings 25:9; Jeremiah 52:13). Archaeological excavations show destruction layers from this period across Jerusalem, confirming comprehensive burning and demolition.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Why does complete destruction sometimes precede renewal?
2. What does the thoroughness of judgment teach about God's hatred of sin?
3. How does knowing judgment will be complete affect how we approach repentance?

Interlinear Text

הַרְבֵּה הַ	הָעֵצִים	הַדֹּלֵק	שֶׁהָאֵשׁ	הֵתֵם	הַבָּשָׂר	וְהַרְקָח
Heap	on wood	kindle	the fire	consume	the flesh	and spice
H7235	H6086	H1814	H784	H8552	H1320	H7543
הַמְּרֻקָּה הַ	וְהַעֲצָם	וְהָרָא:				
it well	and let the bones	be burned				
H4841	H6106	H2787				

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