

Ezekiel 24:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

She hath wearied herself with lies, and her great scum went not forth out of her: her scum shall be in the fire.

Analysis

She hath wearied herself with lies shifts from pot to personification—Jerusalem is an exhausted liar. And her great scum went not forth out of her, her scum shall be in the fire declares that despite exhaustive efforts, the corruption remains. Therefore it must be burned out rather than scrubbed out. Moral effort cannot remove what only grace and judgment can purge. The lies refer to false prophecies, political deceptions, and self-deception about their spiritual state. Lies exhaust those who maintain them but don't deliver promised results. Truth liberates; lies enslave and exhaust.

Historical Context

Jerusalem's final years involved constant political deception: false prophets promising peace (Jeremiah 28), secret negotiations with Egypt (Ezekiel 17:15), broken oaths to Babylon (2 Kings 24:20), and self-deception about invulnerability (Jeremiah 7:4, 'The temple of the LORD'). These lies exhausted the nation but didn't save it.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do lies exhaust us while failing to deliver promised results?
2. What self-deceptions must be burned away rather than reasoned away?
3. Why can't moral effort remove what only grace can purge?

Interlinear Text

תָּאָנָה יָם	הִלָּאָה ת	וְלֹא	יָצָא	מִמֶּנָּה	רַבָּה ת
herself with lies	She hath wearied	H3808	went not forth	H4480	and her great
H8383	H3811		H3318		H7227
הִלָּאָהָהּ:	בָּא שׁ	הִלָּאָהָהּ:			
out of her her scum	shall be in the fire	out of her her scum			
H2457	H784	H2457			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 9:5 (Parallel theme): And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity.

Jeremiah 5:3 (Parallel theme): O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.

Jeremiah 51:58 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; and the people shall labour in vain, and the folk in the fire, and they shall be weary.

Jeremiah 2:13 (Parallel theme): For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Habakkuk 2:13 (Parallel theme): Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity?

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