

Ezekiel 24:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people said unto me, Wilt thou not tell us what these things are to us, that thou doest so?

Analysis

Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will profane my sanctuary begins explaining the sign. Profaning the sanctuary—allowing it to be destroyed and defiled—was unthinkable to Jewish theology. The temple was God's dwelling; how could He allow its defilement? The excellency of your strength (the temple was their pride and military confidence), the desire of your eyes (they loved the temple), and that which your soul pitieth (the temple was precious) characterizes the temple's centrality to Jewish identity. Your sons and your daughters whom ye have left behind shall fall by the sword prophesies that their children remaining in Jerusalem will be killed, adding personal anguish to national catastrophe.

Historical Context

The temple's destruction (August 586 BC) shattered Jewish theology and identity. How could God allow His house to be burned? Ezekiel and Jeremiah explained: God Himself profaned it because of sin. The temple's destruction forced reconceptualizing divine presence and worship, ultimately producing synagogue-based Judaism and preparing for Christ as the true temple (John 2:19-21).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What comforts or structures might God remove to teach deeper dependence on Him?
2. How does losing what we treasure most reveal what we truly worship?
3. What did temple destruction teach about divine presence that previous theology missed?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵלֹהִים	וְהָעָם	וְהָאֵל	תִּגֵּיד	לְנוֹ	מָה	
said	H413	And the people	H3808	unto me	Wilt thou not tell	H0	H4100
H559		H5971		H5046			
לָהֶם	וְלָנוּ	כִּי	אֵת	הַנֶּשֶׁה:			
H428	H0	H3588	H859	us what these things are to us that thou doest			
				H6213			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 12:9 (Parallel theme): Son of man, hath not the house of Israel, the rebellious house, said unto thee, What doest thou?

Ezekiel 37:18 (Parallel theme): And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these?