

Ezekiel 24:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Gather the pieces thereof into it, even every good piece, the thigh, and the shoulder; fill it with the choice bones.

Analysis

Gather the pieces thereof into it, even every good piece, the thigh, and the shoulder; fill it with the choice bones details the pot being loaded with choice meat—the best cuts. This represents Jerusalem's population, particularly the elite who remained after the 597 BC deportation. Fill it with the choice bones indicates the city full of valuable people. The imagery begins positively—a pot of good ingredients—but will turn dark as the cooking becomes burning. What seems favorable (a full pot) becomes judgment (contents destroyed by fire). Prosperity becomes the instrument of judgment when accompanied by unrepentance.

Historical Context

After the first deportation (597 BC), Jerusalem's remaining population included many nobles, priests, and craftsmen whom Nebuchadnezzar had left to maintain the land. Jeremiah and Ezekiel prophesied to both groups—exiles and those remaining—with different messages. Those in Jerusalem falsely thought themselves favored, the 'good figs' remaining in the land.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How can apparent favor become the context for judgment?
2. Why do we often misinterpret temporary prosperity as divine approval?
3. What does it mean that the choicest pieces are destroyed along with the rest?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|------------------|
| אָס' רַ | יְ תַח | אֶל יָהּ | כָּל | יְ תַח | ט וּב | יָר רַ |
| Gather | piece | | | piece | thereof into it even every good | the thigh |
| H622 | H5409 | H413 | H3605 | H5409 | H2896 | H3409 |
| וְכֵתֶר | מִבְּחַר | עֲצָמֹתַיִם | מִלֵּא: | | | |
| and the shoulder | it with the choice | bones | fill | | | |
| H3802 | H4005 | H6106 | H4390 | | | |

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