

Ezekiel 24:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the bloody city! I will even make the pile for fire great.

Analysis

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the bloody city! repeats the charge with emphasis. I will even make the pile for fire great announces God's personal involvement in intensifying judgment. The pile for fire represents the siege works and fuel for destruction. God Himself will make the fire great—He isn't a distant observer but active participant in historical judgment. Divine sovereignty means God orchestrates even the mechanisms of judgment. He controls how intensely, how long, and through what means His judgments fall. Nothing in judgment is random or excessive; it's all divinely calibrated.

Historical Context

Nebuchadnezzar's siege employed massive resources: siege walls, ramps, battering rams, and complete encirclement (2 Kings 25:1; Ezekiel 4:2). The Babylonian Chronicles describe the siege's intensity. Ezekiel prophesies that God Himself makes the siege great—the historical events fulfill divine intention.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's active involvement in judgment affect our understanding of historical catastrophes?
2. What does it mean that God 'makes the fire great'?
3. How should we respond knowing God controls judgment's intensity and duration?

Interlinear Text

בָּקָרִים יְמִינֵךְ |
לְכָה כִּי אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֲדֹנֵינוּ וְאַתָּה אַתָּה עַדְיָךְ
H3651 H3541 Therefore thus saith the Lord H3068 Woe city to the bloody
H559 H136 H188 H5892 H1818

בְּמִדְבָּרְךָ אֶתְתָּה אַתָּה אֶתְתָּה אֶתְתָּה
בְּמִדְבָּרְךָ אֶתְתָּה אֶתְתָּה אֶתְתָּה
H1571 H589 for fire great I will even make the pile
H1431 H4071

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 30:33 (References Lord): For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.

Ezekiel 24:6 (Blood): Wherefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the bloody city, to the pot whose scum is therein, and whose scum is not gone out of it! bring it out piece by piece; let no lot fall upon it.

Habakkuk 2:12 (Blood): Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and establisheth a city by iniquity!