

Ezekiel 28:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Son of man, set thy face against Zidon, and prophesy against it,

Analysis

And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Zidon—The covenant lawsuit formula: הִנֵּנִי עַלְּךָ (hinnēnî 'ālayik, 'behold, I am against you'). When God positions Himself as adversary, no defense avails.

And I will be glorified in the midst of thee—וְנִכְבְּדָתִי בְּתוֹכֶךָ (wēnikhbadtî bēthôkhēkh, 'and I will be glorified in your midst'). The verb קָבַד (kābad, 'to be heavy/weighty/glorious') shows God's glory manifested through judgment. **And they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall have executed judgments in her, and shall be sanctified in her**—The recognition formula coupled with וְנִקְדַּשְׁתִּי (wēniqdashtî, 'and I will show myself holy'). God's holiness and glory are vindicated when He judges sin. Sidon's judgment would demonstrate to watching nations that YHWH alone is God, and that holiness demands sin's punishment.

Historical Context

Sidon's judgment came in waves: Babylonian siege (586-573 BC period), Persian destruction (345 BC), and Alexander's conquest (333 BC). Each demonstrated God's sovereignty. The Persian period was particularly devastating—when revolt failed, Sidonians burned their city and themselves rather than surrender. Approximately 40,000 died. God was indeed 'glorified in their midst' through judgment.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How is God glorified through judgment as well as mercy?
2. What does 'I am against you' teach about the impossibility of standing before God's opposition?
3. How do God's judgments 'sanctify' His name before watching nations?

Interlinear Text

בָּן־בָּנִים־שָׁם־אֶל־פָּנֶיךָ־אֶל־צִדּוֹן־וְעַל־יְהוָה:
Son of man set thy face against Zidon and prophesy
H1121 H120 H7760 H6440 H413 H6721 H5012 H5921

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 6:2 (Prophecy): Son of man, set thy face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them,

Genesis 10:15 (Parallel theme): And Canaan begat Sidon his firstborn, and Heth,

Jeremiah 25:22 (Parallel theme): And all the kings of Tyrus, and all the kings of Zidon, and the kings of the isles which are beyond the sea,

Ezekiel 27:8 (Parallel theme): The inhabitants of Zidon and Arvad were thy mariners: thy wise men, O Tyrus, that were in thee, were thy pilots.

Ezekiel 25:2 (Prophecy): Son of man, set thy face against the Ammonites, and prophesy against them;