

Ezekiel 28:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I will send into her pestilence, and blood into her streets; and the wounded shall be judged in the midst of her by the sword upon her on every side; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Analysis

And there shall be no more a pricking brier unto the house of Israel, nor any grieving thorn—After judging Israel's oppressors (chapters 25-28), God promises deliverance. סִלּוֹן מַמְאִיר (sillôn mam'îr, 'pricking brier') and קוץ מַכְאִיב (qôṣ makh'îb, 'painful thorn') represent hostile neighbors who tormented Israel.

Of all that are round about them, that despised them—מְכַל־סְבִיבֹתָם הַשְּׂאֲטִים (mikkol-sēbîbôtām hashshā'îm 'ōtām, 'from all around them, those who despise them'). Nations surrounding Israel—Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia, Tyre, Sidon—had oppressed and mocked God's people. **And they shall know that I am the Lord GOD**—When these hostile neighbors are judged and Israel is restored, all will recognize YHWH's covenant faithfulness. The contrast is stark: Israel disciplined but preserved; hostile nations destroyed permanently. This demonstrates God's electing love (Deuteronomy 7:7-8) and introduces Israel's restoration (28:24-26).

Historical Context

Israel's neighbors perpetually harassed them: Philistines during Judges, Ammon under Saul, Edom during the exile, Phoenicians through idolatrous influence. Each had 'despised' Israel. After Babylon destroyed these nations (586-570 BC), they

never regained power. Meanwhile, Israel returned from exile (538 BC), rebuilt the temple (516 BC), and continued to the present—proof of God's electing preservation.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's judgment on Israel's oppressors reveal His protective love?
2. What does the 'pricking brier' and 'grieving thorn' metaphor teach about hostile influences?
3. How should Israel's preservation versus her neighbors' destruction affect our view of election?

Interlinear Text

וְשִׁלַּחְתִּי	בָּהּ	דָּבָר	וְדָם	בְּחַ וְצוֹת יְהוָה
For I will send	H0	into her pestilence	and blood	into her streets
H7971		H1698	H1818	H2351
וְנִפְּלָ לָ	וְהַלָּל	בְּתוֹכָהּ	בְּחַ רַב	עַל יְהוָה
shall be judged	and the wounded	in the midst	of her by the sword	H5921
H5307	H2491	H8432	H2719	
מִסָּבִיב יֵב	וְיָדְעוּ	כִּי	אֲנִי יְהוָה	
upon her on every side	and they shall know	H3588	H589	that I am the LORD
H5439	H3045			H3068

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 38:22 (Blood): And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

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