

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. סילון מַמְאִיר (sillôn mam'îr, 'pricking brier') and קַוָּז מַקָּאָב (qôš makh'îb, 'painful thorn') represent hostile neighbors who tormented Israel.

Of all that are round about them, that despised them—מְכֹל-סֶבֶיבָתָם הַשְׁאָטִים (mikkol-sěbîbôtâm hashshâ'ṭîm 'ôtâm, '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

בְּחָ וְצֹאת יְהִי וְשָׁלַחֲתִי
For I will send H7971 into her pestilence H1698 and blood H1818 into her streets H2351

עַל יְהִי וְבָחָרְבָּה וְנִפְלֵל לְ
shall be judged and the wounded in the midst of her by the sword H5921
H5307 H2491 H8432 H2719

וְיַדְעֵוּ וְיִדְעֵוּ אֵת יְהִי
upon her on every side and they shall know H3588 H589 that I am the LORD H3068
H5439 H3045

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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