

Ezekiel 33:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now the hand of the LORD was upon me in the evening, afore he that was escaped came; and had opened my mouth, until he came to me in the morning; and my mouth was opened, and I was no more dumb.

Analysis

This verse articulates God's righteous judgment against persistent sin and rebellion. From a Reformed perspective, this demonstrates God's holiness and justice—He cannot overlook sin but must judge it. The passage shows both the necessity of judgment (God's character demands it) and its purpose (to vindicate His holiness, demonstrate sin's seriousness, and turn people from destruction). Understanding divine judgment helps us grasp gospel grace: Christ bore the judgment we deserved, satisfying God's justice while extending mercy to all who trust in Him (Romans 3:25-26). God's judgment isn't arbitrary or cruel but righteous response to covenant violation and moral rebellion.

Historical Context

This passage was delivered during the Babylonian exile (c. 586-571 BCE) after Jerusalem's destruction. The exiled community grappled with theological and practical questions: Why had judgment come? Would restoration occur? How should they live in exile? The historical context of ancient Near Eastern covenant patterns, conquest and exile practices, and prophetic literature provides essential background. Archaeological discoveries from this period illuminate the exile's realities and the return's historical fulfillment. Yet Ezekiel's prophecies extend

beyond immediate historical context to find fuller realization in Christ and the church, with ultimate consummation in the new creation.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen your understanding of God's character, purposes, or ways of working in history?
2. What specific application does this passage call you to make in your current circumstances or spiritual life?
3. How does this Old Testament passage illuminate New Testament teaching about Christ, salvation, or the church?

Interlinear Text

יָד	יְהוָה	הַיָּד הַזֹּאת	אֵלַי	בֶּעָרָב	לִפְנֵי
Now the hand	of the LORD			was upon me in the evening	afore
H3027	H3068	H1961	H413	H6153	H6440
בָּאוּ	הַפֶּלֶט	וַיִּפְתַּח	אֶת	פִּי	עָדָּבָאוּ
came	he that was escaped	and had opened		and my mouth	came
H935	H6412	H6605	H853	H6310	H935
אֵלַי	בֹּבֶקֶר	וַיִּפְתַּח	פִּי	וְלֹא	
H413	to me in the morning	and had opened	and my mouth		
	H1242	H6605	H6310	H3808	
וְאֵלַי מְתִי	עוֹד:				
and I was no more dumb					
H481	H5750				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 1:3 (References Lord): The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.

Ezekiel 37:1 (References Lord): The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org