

Ezekiel 33:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Son of man, they that inhabit those wastes of the land of Israel speak, saying, Abraham was one, and he inherited the land: but we are many; the land is given us for inheritance.

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 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form 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

בָּן	אֶלְמָן	יְשִׁיבִי	וְשָׁבֵב	בְּלֹה	בָּאֵל	תַּתְמָדָע
Son	of man	they that inhabit	those wastes		H428	H5921
H1121	H120	H3427	H2723			H127
יְשָׁבֵל	אֶלְמָן	יְשִׁיבָה	וְשָׁבֵב	בְּלֹה	בָּאֵל	תַּתְמָדָע
of Israel	saying	saying	was one	in the	Abraham	and he inherited
H3478	H559	H559	H259	H1961	H85	H3423
אֶת	הַמִּזְרָחָה	בְּבִין	לְכָלְדָּיִם	לְכָלְדָּיִם	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי
H853	the land	H587	but we are many	H0	is given	the land
H776			H7227		H5414	H776
לְמַזְרַעַתָּה						
us for inheritance						
H4181						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 51:2 (References Abraham): Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.

Acts 7:5 (Parallel theme): And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.

Ezekiel 33:27 (Parallel theme): Say thou thus unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; As I live, surely they that are in the wastes shall fall by the sword, and him that is in the open field will I give to the beasts to be devoured, and they that be in the forts and in the caves shall die of the pestilence.

Jeremiah 40:7 (Parallel theme): Now when all the captains of the forces which were in the fields, even they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam governor in the land, and had committed unto him men, and women, and children, and of the poor of the land, of them that were not carried away captive to Babylon;

Luke 3:8 (References Abraham): Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Ezekiel 36:4 (References Israel): Therefore, ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus saith the Lord GOD to the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys, to the desolate wastes, and to the cities that are forsaken, which became a prey and derision to the residue of the heathen that are round about;

Jeremiah 39:10 (Parallel theme): But Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard left of the poor of the people, which had nothing, in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time.

Romans 4:12 (References Abraham): And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

Matthew 3:9 (References Abraham): And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Romans 9:7 (References Abraham): Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

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