

Ezekiel 35:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will even do according to thine anger, and according to thine envy which thou hast used out of thy hatred against them; and I will make myself known among them, when I have judged thee.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

לְכִּי H3651	חִי H2416	אֲנִי H589	נֹאֵם H5002	אֲדֹנָי H136	יְהוָה H3069	עָשׂוּ יָתֵהּ H6213
Therefore as I live			saith	the Lord	GOD	I will even do
כְּאַפִּי H639		וּכְקִנְיָתְךָ H7068		אֲשֶׁר H834		עָשׂוּ יָתֵהּ H6213
according to thine anger		and according to thine envy				I will even do
מִשְׂנְאֶתִי יְיָ H8135	בָּם H0	וְנֹדַעְתִּי עֲמֵתִי H3045			בָּם H0	כְּאַשְׁרֵי H834
out of thy hatred		against them and I will make myself known				
		אֲשַׁפְּטֵם H8199				
		among them when I have judged				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 9:16 (Judgment): The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgaion. Selah.

Matthew 7:2 (Judgment): For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Psalms 137:7 (References Lord): Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof.

Amos 1:11 (Judgment): Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he did pursue his brother with the sword, and did cast off all pity, and his anger did tear perpetually, and he kept his wrath for ever:

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