

Ezekiel 35:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt know that I am the LORD, and that I have heard all thy blasphemies which thou hast spoken against the mountains of Israel, saying, They are laid desolate, they are given us to consume.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וְיָדַעְתָּ	אֲנִי יְהוָה	שָׁמָעְתִּין	אֶת
And thou shalt know	that I am the LORD	and that I have heard	
H3045	H3068	H8085	H853
כָּל	נִאְצוֹתַי יָבִי	עַל	הָרֵי
H3605	H5007	H5921	H2022
all thy blasphemies	saying	against the mountains	
H834	H559		
יֵשְׁבָא ל	יֵאמַר רַן	שָׁמָע מֵה	לָנוּ
of Israel	saying	They are laid desolate	H0
H3478	H559	H8074	
		נִתְּנוּ ו	לֵאכְלָהּ:
		they are given	us to consume
		H5414	H402

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 36:2 (References Lord): Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because the enemy hath said against you, Aha, even the ancient high places are our's in possession:

Psalms 83:12 (Parallel theme): Who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession.

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