

Ezekiel 36:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.

Analysis

God explains His motivation for restoration: 'Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.' The emphatic 'not for your sakes... but for mine holy name's sake' removes any grounds for merit-based thinking. Israel's restoration flows from God's concern for His own reputation, not Israel's worthiness. The phrase 'which ye have profaned' (challaltem, חַלְלָתֶם) shows Israel brought dishonor to God's name among nations. When God's people fail, His name suffers—pagans conclude either He lacks power or doesn't care. God restores to vindicate His holy name and demonstrate His faithfulness to covenant promises. This teaches that salvation is ultimately about God's glory, not human merit.

Historical Context

Israel's exile led pagans to conclude that Yahweh was weak or defeated—just another tribal deity whose people were conquered. This profaned (made common, defiled) God's holy name. For God's glory to be rightly acknowledged, He must demonstrate His power and faithfulness by restoring Israel despite their unworthiness. The theological principle—salvation for God's name's sake—saturates Scripture (Psalm 23:3, 106:8, Isaiah 48:9-11, Ephesians 1:6). The New

Testament applies this to church redemption—God saves sinners to display His glory and grace (Ephesians 2:7, Romans 9:23). Recognizing that redemption serves God's glory produces humility (we're undeserving) and assurance (it depends on His character, not ours).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that salvation is 'for His name's sake' rather than your worthiness affect your security and humility?
2. In what ways might your life profane or vindicate God's holy name among unbelievers?

Interlinear Text

כִּי יִשְׁרָאֵל לְכָךְ | אָמַר בְּ יְהִי אָמַר

H3651 Therefore say not this for your sakes O house of Israel H3541

H559 H1004 H3478

עֲשֵׂה אָנָּי לְמַעֲנָךְ מִלְאָדָנִי אָמַר

Therefore say the Lord GOD I do

H559 H136 H3069 H6213

לְשֵׁם אָמָּן כִּי יִשְׁרָאֵל בְּ יְהִי קָדוֹשִׁי

not this for your sakes O house of Israel name's but for mine holy

H1004 H3478 H3588 H518 H8034 H6944

אָשָׁר בְּגֹוי מִן חֲלַלְתָּם בְּ אַתֶּם אָשָׁר

H834 sake which ye have profaned among the heathen whither ye went

H2490 H1471 H834 H935

שְׁמָן

H8033

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 106:8 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.

Ezekiel 36:32 (References God): Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel.