

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, חָלַלְתֶּם) 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

לֵךְ	אָמַר	בֵּית	יִשְׂרָאֵל	כֹּה		
H3651	Therefore say	not this for your sake	O house	of Israel		
	H559	H1004	H3478	H3541		
אָמַר	אֲדֹנָי	יְהוָה	לֹא	לְמַעַן	אֲנִי	עָשֵׂה
Therefore say	the Lord	GOD				I do
H559	H136	H3069	H3808	H4616	H589	H6213
בֵּית	יִשְׂרָאֵל	כֹּה	אִם	לְשֵׁם	קִדְשִׁי	
not this for your sake	O house	of Israel		name's	but for mine holy	
H1004	H3478	H3588	H518	H8034	H6944	
אֲשֶׁר	חִלַּלְתֶּם	בְּגוֹיִם	אֲשֶׁר	בָּאתֶם		
H834	sake which ye have profaned	among the heathen				
	H2490	H1471	H834	H935		
שֵׁם:						
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 sake do I this, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel.