

Ezekiel 36:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

Analysis

This verse points toward God's gracious purposes of restoration despite Israel's persistent unfaithfulness. The Reformed emphasis on sovereign grace shines through—restoration doesn't depend on Israel's merit or ability but on God's covenant faithfulness and irrevocable purposes (Romans 11:29). This anticipates new covenant promises where God gives a new heart and His Spirit to enable obedience (Ezekiel 36:26-27). The pattern of judgment followed by grace-based restoration prefigures the gospel: humanity deserves condemnation but receives mercy through Christ's atoning work. God's restoration demonstrates His glory by showing grace triumphs over judgment.

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 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

הַגּוֹיִם הַזֵּלֶתָם וְלֹא שְׁמִי אֶת בְּהִקְדָּשִׁי
And I will sanctify ^{H853} name ^{H8034} my great ^{H1419} which was profaned ^{H2490} among the heathen ^{H1471}

כִּי הַגּוֹיִם הַזֵּלֶתָם בְּתוֹכָם וַיֵּדְעוּ
^{H834} which was profaned ^{H2490} in the midst ^{H8432} shall know ^{H3045} among the heathen ^{H1471} ^{H3588}

בְּךָ בְּהִקְדָּשִׁי יְהוָה אֵלֵינוּ נֹאמַר יְהוָה הִנֵּה אֲנִי
^{H589} that I am the LORD ^{H3068} saith ^{H5002} the Lord ^{H136} GOD ^{H3069} And I will sanctify ^{H6942} ^{H0}

לְעֵינֵיהֶם:
in you before their eyes ^{H5869}

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 20:41 (Holy): I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen.

Isaiah 5:16 (Holy): But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness.

Ezekiel 39:7 (Holy): So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

Psalms 46:10 (References God): Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Ezekiel 39:28 (References God): Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.

1 Peter 2:9 (Holy): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Ezekiel 28:22 (Holy): And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Zidon; and I will be glorified in the midst of thee: and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall have executed judgments in her, and shall be sanctified in her.

Daniel 2:47 (References God): The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

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