

Ezekiel 36:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Surely in the fire of my jealousy have I spoken against the residue of the heathen, and against all Idumea, which have appointed my land into their possession with the joy of all their heart, with despiteful minds, to cast it out for a prey.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

לִּכְּ H3651	כֹּה H3541	אָמַר H559	אֲדָנִי יְהוָה H136	אֵם H3068	אֵל H518	ל H3808
Therefore thus saith the Lord						
בְּאֵשׁ H784	קִנְאָתִי H7068	דִּבַּרְתִּי H1696	עַל H5921	שְׂאֵר יֵת H7611		
Surely in the fire of my jealousy have I spoken against the residue						
הַגּוֹיִם H1471	וְעַל H5921	אֶדּוּמָא H123	כָּל אֲשֶׁר H3605	רָא H834		
of the heathen and against all Idumea						
נִתְּנוּ H5414	אֶת H853	אֶרְצִי H776	לְהֵם H1992	לְמַ וְכֶשֶׁה H4181	בְּשִׂמְחָה H8057	תְּ
which have appointed my land into their possession with the joy						
כָּל H3605	לִבָּב H3824	בְּשָׂא ט H7589	נֶפֶשׁ H5315	לִמַּ עַן H4616	מִגֵּרָשׁ הָ H4054	לְבַז: H957
of all their heart with despiteful minds to cast it out for a prey						

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 36:3 (References God): Therefore prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because they have made you desolate, and swallowed you up on every side, that ye might be a possession unto the residue of the heathen, and ye are taken up in the lips of talkers, and are an infamy of the people:

Micah 7:8 (References Lord): Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.

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.

Jeremiah 25:9 (References Lord): Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and

against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.

Zechariah 1:15 (Parallel theme): And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction.

Deuteronomy 4:24 (References God): For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.

Ezekiel 38:19 (Parallel theme): For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel;

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