

Ezekiel 36:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I have lifted up mine hand, Surely the heathen that are about you, they shall bear their shame.

Analysis

Divine Oath Formula: The phrase "I have lifted up mine hand" translates the Hebrew **נִשְׁאַתִּי אֶת־יָדִי** (nasati et-yadi), a solemn oath gesture signifying an irrevocable divine promise. This same formula appears in Numbers 14:30 and Deuteronomy 32:40, always indicating God's unbreakable commitment. **Reversal of Fortune:** The principle here is *lex talionis* (law of retaliation) on a national scale—the nations that shamed Israel will themselves bear shame.

The word **כָּלֹמה** (kelimah, "shame") appears twice in this passage (verses 6-7), emphasizing the theme of humiliation reversed. **Covenant Faithfulness:** Despite Israel's unfaithfulness leading to exile, God remains committed to His covenant people. The judgment on surrounding nations demonstrates that God's discipline of Israel did not mean abandonment.

Prophetic Context: This promise comes within Ezekiel's restoration oracles (chapters 34-37), offering hope to exiles in Babylon that their oppressors would face divine justice while Israel would be restored.

Historical Context

Babylonian Exile Setting: Ezekiel prophesied during Israel's exile in Babylon (593-571 BC). The surrounding nations—Edom, Moab, Ammon, and others—had rejoiced at Jerusalem's fall in 586 BC and taken advantage of Israel's weakness to

seize territory and mock their God.

Ancient Near Eastern Context: In the ancient world, a nation's defeat was interpreted as their god's weakness. The nations surrounding Israel believed Yahweh had been defeated by Babylon's gods. Ezekiel's prophecy declares that God will vindicate His name by judging these mockers. Historical records confirm that within decades, Babylon conquered most of these surrounding nations, fulfilling Ezekiel's prophecies of judgment.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What is the significance of God "lifting up His hand" as an oath formula, and how does this strengthen the certainty of His promise?
2. How does the principle of reversal (Israel's shakers will bear shame) reflect God's justice and covenant faithfulness?
3. Why was it important for exiled Israelites to hear that surrounding nations would face judgment?
4. How does this promise relate to God's concern for His own name and reputation among the nations?
5. In what ways can believers today take comfort from God's promises to vindicate His people and His name?

Interlinear Text

לְכָה	כִּי	אָמַר	אָדָן	אָנָה	אָתָּה
H3651	H3541	Therefore thus saith	the Lord	GOD	H589
		H559	H136	H3069	I have lifted up
מִנְחָה	לֹא	אָמַת	הָגָן	לְכָמָד	מִשְׁבֵּב
mine hand	H518	H3808	Surely the heathen	H1471	that are about
H3027				H834	H0
כָּלְמַתָּה	שְׁאוֹן				
their shame	I have lifted up				
H1992	H3639				H5439

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 20:5 (References God): And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day when I chose Israel, and lifted up mine hand unto the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known unto them in the land of Egypt, when I lifted up mine hand unto them, saying, I am the LORD your God;

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org