

Ezekiel 38:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;

Analysis

This prophetic word demonstrates God's sovereign control over history and nations. Even pagan empires and hostile coalitions serve God's purposes while remaining morally accountable for their actions. This Reformed understanding of providence affirms that nothing occurs outside God's decree, yet human agents bear full responsibility for their choices. The prophecy serves pastoral purposes: assuring God's people of His protection, warning enemies of certain judgment, and demonstrating that history moves toward God's appointed end. These prophecies find layered fulfillment—immediate historical, ongoing spiritual, and ultimate eschatological.

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 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

ל אֹם דְּבָרַתִּי עֲבֹרָתִי בְּאֵשׁ וּבְקָנָאתִי
For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken H518 H3808
H7068 H784 H5678 H1696

עַל יְמִינָה וְבִזְמָן שְׁקָדוּשָׁה כַּעֲשֵׂה
Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking H5921 H1419
H3117 H1931 H1961 H7494

בְּאָרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל: אָדָם תְּ
in the land of Israel H3478 H127

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 16:20 (Parallel theme): And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

Revelation 11:13 (Parallel theme): And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of

men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Revelation 16:18 (Parallel theme): And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

Hebrews 12:26 (Parallel theme): Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

Joel 3:16 (References Israel): The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

Ezekiel 5:13 (Parallel theme): Thus shall mine anger be accomplished, and I will cause my fury to rest upon them, and I will be comforted: and they shall know that I the LORD have spoken it in my zeal, when I have accomplished my fury in them.

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