

Ezekiel 45:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the Lord GOD; Let it suffice you, O princes of Israel: remove violence and spoil, and execute judgment and justice, take away your exactions from my people, saith the Lord GOD.

Analysis

God commands Israel's princes: 'Let it suffice you, O princes of Israel: remove violence and spoil, and execute judgment and justice.' The Hebrew דַּי (dai, 'suffice') means 'enough!'—a divine rebuke against royal exploitation. Leaders had abused power, practicing חָמָס (chamas, 'violence') and שָׁד (shod, 'spoil/plunder'), oppressing rather than protecting citizens. God demands מִשְׁפָּט (mishpat, 'judgment'—legal justice) and תְּשׁוּבָה (tsedaqah, 'justice/righteousness'). The command 'remove... and execute' requires both negative (cease evil) and positive (practice good) obedience. Reformed theology emphasizes that authority derives from God and must serve His purposes—protecting the weak, administering justice, promoting righteousness. Leaders who exploit rather than serve face divine judgment (Ezekiel 34:2-10). This principle applies to all authority: civil, ecclesiastical, familial—power must serve, not oppress.

Historical Context

Israel's kings frequently abused power: Ahab stealing Naboth's vineyard (1 Kings 21), Jehoiakim practicing forced labor and injustice (Jeremiah 22:13-19), leaders shedding innocent blood for gain (Ezekiel 22:27). The prophets consistently condemned royal oppression (Isaiah 1:23, 10:1-2; Jeremiah 22:3; Amos 5:11-12; Micah 3:1-3). The exile resulted partly from systemic injustice—leaders enriching

themselves while exploiting citizens. God's ideal for leadership appears in Deuteronomy 17:14-20: kings must not accumulate wealth, must copy and obey God's law, not exalt themselves above citizens. The future restoration requires righteous leadership. Whether this refers to restored Jewish monarchy, messianic kingdom, or symbolic principles of godly governance, the standard remains: leaders must execute justice, not exploitation. Christ exemplifies servant leadership (Mark 10:42-45).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What authority do you exercise—in family, church, workplace—and does it serve or exploit those under your care?
2. How seriously do you pursue justice for the oppressed versus merely avoiding personal wrongdoing?
3. When has God needed to say 'Let it suffice!' to your accumulation, consumption, or self-serving use of resources?

Interlinear Text

יִשְׂרָאֵל	לְנָשִׂיאַי	לָכֶם	רַב	יְהוָה:	אָדֹנָי	אָמַר	כֹּה
of Israel	you O princes	H0	Let it suffice	GOD	the Lord	saith	H3541
H3478	H5387		H7227	H3069	H136	H559	
יָקִימוּ	וְעָשׂוּ	וְצִדִּיקָה	וּמִשְׁפָּט	הִסְרִי	וְשָׂדֶה	חָמָס	וְ
take away	and execute	and justice	judgment	remove	and spoil	violence	
H7311	H6213	H6666	H4941	H5493	H7701	H2555	
יְהוָה:	אָדֹנָי	נָא	עַמִּי	מֵעַל	גְּרִשְׁתֵּיכֶם		
GOD	the Lord	Thus saith	from my people		your exactions		
H3069	H136	H5002	H5971		H1646		

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 8:16 (Judgment): These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:

Jeremiah 22:3 (Righteousness): Thus saith the LORD; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place.

Ezekiel 44:6 (References God): And thou shalt say to the rebellious, even to the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; O ye house of Israel, let it suffice you of all your abominations,

Isaiah 1:17 (Judgment): Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

1 Peter 4:3 (Parallel theme): For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: