

Ezekiel 5:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So it shall be a reproach and a taunt, an instruction and an astonishment unto the nations that are round about thee, when I shall execute judgments in thee in anger and in fury and in furious rebukes. I the LORD have spoken it.

Analysis

So it shall be a reproach and a taunt, an instruction and an astonishment unto the nations that are round about thee, when I shall execute judgments in thee in anger and in fury and in furious rebukes. I the LORD have spoken it. This verse intensifies verse 14, piling up descriptions of Jerusalem's role: "reproach" (cherpah, חֶרְפָּה, scorn), "taunt" (gedufah, גְּדוּפָה, mockery), "instruction" (musar, מוֹצָר, discipline/warning), and "astonishment" (shamah, שֹׁמָה, horror). Nations would mock, learn from, and be stunned by Jerusalem's fate. The fourfold designation emphasizes comprehensive international impact.

"Instruction" (musar) is particularly significant—the same word describes corrective discipline (Proverbs 3:11; Hebrews 12:5-11). Jerusalem's judgment would teach surrounding nations that covenant violation brings divine wrath, that no people escapes accountability to God, and that religious privilege without faithfulness provides no protection. This pedagogical function makes judgment serve broader redemptive purposes—even God's wrath instructs.

The triple emphasis on divine anger—"in anger and in fury and in furious rebukes" (be-af uva-chemah uvo-tokhechot chemah)—accumulates intensity, emphasizing judgment's severity. The closing formula "I the LORD have spoken it" (ani Yahweh dibarti, אֲנִי יְהוָה דִּבַּרְתִּי) guarantees fulfillment. When Yahweh speaks, reality

conforms to His word. This certainty should drive us to Christ, who bore God's fury so we might receive His favor (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Historical Context

Surrounding nations indeed learned from Jerusalem's fall. Babylon's conquest of the holy city shocked the ancient world—could Yahweh's dwelling place be destroyed? The lesson was clear: covenant relationship without covenant obedience brings judgment, not protection. Even God's temple offers no magical immunity to His wrath against sin.

The 'instruction' (musar) functioned across subsequent generations. Post-exilic Jews learned to take God's word seriously, developing intensified devotion to Torah and strict separation from pagan practices. The trauma of exile taught hard lessons about the cost of idolatry and covenant violation. Synagogue worship, dietary laws, and Sabbath observance became central to preserving Jewish identity and preventing repeat apostasy.

Gentile nations also learned. The biblical narrative of Jerusalem's fall and restoration demonstrated Yahweh's sovereignty over history and His faithfulness to both threaten and promise. When the gospel spread in Acts, God-fearing Gentiles throughout the Roman world were prepared by knowledge of Israel's God gained partly through witnessing His judgment and restoration of His people.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's judgment serving as 'instruction' reveal His redemptive purposes even in wrath?
2. What lessons should contemporary believers learn from Jerusalem's role as international object lesson?
3. In what ways does the certainty of God's spoken word ('I the LORD have spoken') provide both warning and comfort?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה יָתָּה	חֶרֶפָּה הַ	וְגִדּוּפָה	מוֹסֵר ר	
H1961	So it shall be a reproach	and a taunt	an instruction	
	H2781	H1422	H4148	
וּמִשְׁמֶה הַ	לְגוֹיִם ׀	אֲשֶׁר ר	סְבִיבוֹתַי יְיָ	
and an astonishment	unto the nations	H834	that are round about	
H4923	H1471		H5439	
בְּעֲשׂוֹתִי	בְּךָ יָי	שְׁפָט יָי	בְּאַף ׀	חֵמָה הַ
thee when I shall execute	H0	judgments	in thee in anger	and in furious
H6213		H8201	H639	H2534
וּבְתִכַּח וְ	חֵמָה הַ	אֲנִי י	יְהוָה הַ	דִּבַּרְתִּי:
rebukes	and in furious	H589	I the LORD	have spoken
H8433	H2534		H3068	H1696

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 25:17 (References Lord): And I will execute great vengeance upon them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall lay my vengeance upon them.

Isaiah 26:9 (Judgment): With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

1 Corinthians 10:11 (Parallel theme): Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

1 Kings 9:7 (Parallel theme): Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people:

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