

Ezekiel 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall know that I am the LORD, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them.

Analysis

And they shall know that I am the LORD, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them. The recognition formula reappears with addition: not only will they know God's identity but also His word's reliability—"I have not said in vain" (lo-chinam dibarti, לֹא־כִנָּאִם דִּבַּרְתִּי). Hebrew chinam means "for nothing, without cause, in vain." God's prophetic warnings weren't empty threats or exaggerated rhetoric but certain predictions that must be fulfilled. The phrase "this evil" (hara'ah hazot) refers to the comprehensive judgments just described. When prophecy becomes history, skeptics become believers. Fulfilled prediction vindicates both God's knowledge and His veracity.

Historical Context

For decades before exile, false prophets promised peace (Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11; 23:17; 28:2-4; Ezekiel 13:10), contradicting true prophets who warned of judgment. Many dismissed Jeremiah and Ezekiel as pessimistic extremists. But when Jerusalem fell exactly as predicted, survivors recognized that true prophets spoke God's word while false prophets spoke their own imagination. The fulfilled prophecy established Ezekiel's credibility for later messages of restoration—if judgment prophecies proved true, restoration promises would likewise be fulfilled. God's word never returns void (Isaiah 55:10-11).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does fulfilled prophecy vindicate Scripture's divine origin and reliability?
2. What does God's word 'not being in vain' teach about taking biblical warnings seriously?
3. How should the certainty of God's promises (both judgment and blessing) shape our lives?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּדְעוּ	כִּי	אֲנִי	יְהוָה	לֹא	אֶל־	חִנָּם
And they shall know	H3588	H589	that I am the LORD	H3808	H413	in vain
H3045			H3068			H2600
דָּבַר רַחֲמֵי	לֵאמֹר	לֹא־	הַרְעָה	הַזֹּאת:		
and that I have not said	that I would do	H0	this evil	H2063		
H1696	H6213		H7451			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 44:28 (Parallel theme): Yet a small number that escape the sword shall return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah, and all the remnant of Judah, that are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall know whose words shall stand, mine, or their's.

Daniel 9:12 (Evil): And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.

