

Ezekiel 6:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So will I stretch out my hand upon them, and make the land desolate, yea, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblath, in all their habitations: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Analysis

So will I stretch out my hand upon them, and make the land desolate, yea, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblath, in all their habitations: and they shall know that I am the LORD. God's outstretched hand (natiti et-yadi, נָטִיתִי אֶת־יָדִי) symbolizes active intervention in judgment. The land will become "more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblath" (shimamah min-midbar Divlatah)—possibly referring to Riblah in Syria (2 Kings 25:6) or using Diblath as extreme example of barrenness. The comparison to wilderness emphasizes total uninhabitability—what once flowed with milk and honey will become desert waste. The chapter concludes with the recognition formula, driving home God's ultimate purpose: that people acknowledge His identity, sovereignty, and exclusive deity through witnessing judgment's fulfillment.

Historical Context

Babylon's systematic destruction created conditions matching this prophecy. Archaeological surveys document massive depopulation—settlements dropped from hundreds to dozens between pre-exilic and post-exilic periods. Much of Judah became virtually uninhabited wasteland for decades. The land's desolation served multiple purposes: punishment for sin, removal of idolatrous infrastructure, and Sabbath rest for land exploited through covenant violations (2 Chronicles 36:21;

Leviticus 26:34-35). The severity ensured survivors recognized Yahweh's hand, fulfilling the recognition formula's purpose. Ultimately, desolation prepared for restoration—God strips away corrupted systems to build anew (Ezekiel 36-37).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the land becoming 'more desolate than wilderness' illustrate sin's comprehensive destructive effects on creation?
2. What does God's outstretched hand teach about His active involvement in historical judgments?
3. In what ways does God use desolation to prepare for restoration and renewal?

Interlinear Text

אֶת	וְנָתַתִּי	עָלֵיהֶם	יְדִי	אֶת	וְנָתַתִּי
H853		H5921		H853	
upon them and make			my hand		So will I stretch out
H5414			H3027		H5186
דָּבַל תָּה	מִמֶּדְבָּר	וּמִשְׁמָה	שְׁמָהּ הָ	הָאָרֶץ	
H1689	H4057	H4923	H8077	H776	
toward Diblath	than the wilderness	yea more desolate	desolate	the land	
אֲנִי	כִּי	וְיָדְעוּ	מִשְׁבּוֹתֵיהֶם	בְּכָל	
H589	H3588			H3605	
		and they shall know	in all their habitations		
		H3045	H4186		
					יְהוָה:
					that I am the LORD
					H3068

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 5:25 (References Lord): Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Isaiah 9:12 (Parallel theme): The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

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