

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, נָתַתִּי 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

So will I stretch out	H776	אֶת	יָדִי	עַלֵּיכֶם	וְיִתְּהַנֵּת	אֶת	
the land	H8077	my hand	H3027	upon them	H5414	and make	H853

desolate	H4923	שְׁמֻמָּה	וְשְׁמֻמָּה	רַבָּא	רַבָּא	מִמְּדֻבָּר	מִמְּדֻבָּר	תְּהִלָּה	תְּהִלָּה
the land	H776	the land	desolate	yea more desolate	than the wilderness	than the wilderness	toward Diblath	H1689	H4057

in all their habitations	H4186	וּמֹשְׁבּוֹתֵיהֶם	וּמֹשְׁבּוֹתֵיהֶם	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	וְיִדְעֻוּ	וְיִדְעֻוּ	וְיִדְעֻוּ	וְיִדְעֻוּ
and they shall know	H3045	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	וְיִדְעֻוּ	וְיִדְעֻוּ	וְיִדְעֻוּ	וְיִדְעֻוּ	וְיִדְעֻוּ	וְיִדְעֻוּ

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 carcases 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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org