

Ezekiel 7:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Violence is risen up into a rod of wickedness: none of them shall remain, nor of their multitude, nor of any of their's: neither shall there be wailing for them.

Analysis

Violence is risen up into a rod of wickedness: none of them shall remain, nor of their multitude, nor of any of theirs: neither shall there be wailing for them. This verse depicts violence personified as a rod of divine judgment against Israel wickedness. The Hebrew word for violence (hamas) indicates ruthless oppression and bloodshed that had become endemic in Judah society.

Violence is risen up into a rod connects the people sin directly to their punishment. The rod represents both the instrument of their sin and God means of judgment. The Babylonian invasion is portrayed not as arbitrary disaster but as the inevitable outworking of Israel covenant unfaithfulness. Their violence has become the very rod that will strike them.

None of them shall remain emphasizes totality of coming judgment. The repetition —their multitude, any of theirs—stresses that no class or group will escape. This is comprehensive divine retribution against a society corrupted at every level. Neither shall there be wailing for them indicates death will be so widespread that normal mourning rituals will be impossible. This echoes Jeremiah prophecies of judgment where the dead would be too numerous to bury or properly mourn.

From a Reformed perspective, this demonstrates God righteous response to persistent covenant breaking. When a society institutionalizes wickedness and

violence, divine judgment becomes inevitable. The passage also foreshadows Christ who bore the rod of God wrath on behalf of His people.

Historical Context

Ezekiel prophesied during the Babylonian exile (593-571 BC), specifically addressing the generation that witnessed Jerusalem destruction in 586 BC. This oracle dates to shortly before the final fall, when violence and social breakdown characterized Judean society.

Archaeological evidence from this period shows economic disparity, with wealthy elites oppressing the poor. Jeremiah contemporary prophecies confirm widespread injustice, corruption in courts, and exploitation of vulnerable populations. The violence mentioned here is both literal (bloodshed) and structural (systemic oppression).

The rod imagery would resonate with ancient Near Eastern treaty language where vassal kings who broke covenant faced the suzerain rod of discipline. Ezekiel applies this political metaphor theologically—Israel has violated covenant with their divine King and now faces His disciplinary rod executed through Babylon.

The inability to mourn properly was considered one of the worst calamities in ancient Israelite culture, where proper burial and mourning rites were essential for honoring the dead. This detail emphasizes the catastrophic scale of coming judgment.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God allow a society violence to become the instrument of its own judgment?
2. What does this passage teach about the relationship between social sin and divine judgment?
3. How should we understand God sovereignty in using pagan nations to discipline His people?
4. In what ways does widespread violence in a society indicate deeper spiritual decay?
5. How does Christ bearing the rod of God wrath provide hope in light of passages like this?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא מִתְּמַמָּה סִלְמָה בְּרִית לְמַטָּה כְּשַׁעַם לֹא מִתְּמַמָּה סִלְמָה

Violence is risen up into a rod of wickedness H3808 H1992 H3808

H2555 H6965 H4294 H7562

וְלֹא מִתְּמַמָּה סִלְמָה בְּרִית לְמַטָּה כְּשַׁעַם לֹא מִתְּמַמָּה סִלְמָה

none of them shall remain nor of their multitude H3808 H3808

H1995 H1991

וְלֹא מִתְּמַמָּה סִלְמָה בְּרִית לְמַטָּה כְּשַׁעַם לֹא מִתְּמַמָּה סִלְמָה

none of them shall remain nor of any H3808 H3808

H1995 H1991

בְּנֵי בְּנֵי בְּנֵי בְּנֵי

of theirs neither shall there be wailing

H5089 H0

Additional Cross-References

Zephaniah 1:18 (Parallel theme): Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

Ezekiel 7:23 (Parallel theme): Make a chain: for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence.

