

Ezekiel 7:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity.

Analysis

They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity. This verse exposes the utter worthlessness of material wealth when facing divine judgment, a theme resonating throughout Scripture. What people trusted in for security becomes refuse in the day of wrath.

They shall cast their silver in the streets depicts throwing away what was most valued. Silver and gold were not just currency but security, status symbols, objects of trust. Casting them in streets shows they have become not just useless but burdensome—better discarded than carried. Their gold shall be removed may indicate looting by conquerors or religious purification from tainted wealth.

Shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD provides theological interpretation. Material wealth cannot purchase redemption from God judgment (Psalm 49:7-8, Proverbs 11:4, Zephaniah 1:18). They shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels emphasizes wealth inability to meet true human needs—spiritual satisfaction or even physical sustenance during siege

famine.

Because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity reveals the root problem. Their wealth had become an idol leading to sin—oppression of the poor, false security, trust in riches rather than God. From a Reformed perspective, this demonstrates that prosperity without faith produces spiritual death. It anticipates Jesus teaching that one cannot serve God and mammon (Matthew 6:24).

Historical Context

During the Babylonian siege and conquest, precious metals indeed became worthless for immediate survival needs. When famine gripped Jerusalem, no amount of silver could purchase food that did not exist. Archaeological evidence shows food prices skyrocketed during siege conditions (2 Kings 6:25 provides earlier example).

Babylon looted Jerusalem temple and palace treasures (2 Kings 25:13-17), carrying off gold and silver. Individual wealth provided no protection from deportation. Jeremiah 39:10 notes that the poorest people who owned nothing were left in the land while wealthy were exiled—wealth became liability rather than asset.

The phrase stumblingblock of their iniquity indicates how wealth had led to covenant violation. Pre-exilic prophets repeatedly condemned exploitation of poor, unjust economic practices, and trust in riches (Isaiah 5:8, Amos 2:6-7, Micah 2:1-2). The wealthy classes had used their prosperity oppressively and had become complacent.

This theme recurs in James 5:1-6 warning to rich who oppressed others, showing continuity in biblical teaching about wealth dangers. Ezekiel audience would have found this prophecy shocking but entirely accurate when it came to pass.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does the worthlessness of wealth in judgment teach about where true security is found?
2. How does material prosperity become a stumblingblock leading to spiritual ruin?
3. In what ways do people today cast silver in the streets when facing calamity?
4. What is the relationship between economic injustice and divine judgment in Scripture?
5. How does Christ provide the redemption that silver and gold cannot purchase (1 Peter 1:18-19)?

Interlinear Text

יְהִיָּה their silver H3701	בְּחוּצַ וְת in the streets H2351	יִשְׁלֵ יְכוּ They shall cast H7993	וְזָהָבָם and their gold H2091	לִנְדָּה shall be removed H5079	H1961
יְהִיָּה their silver H3701	וְזָהָבָם and their gold H2091	לֹא H3808	יֹכֵל shall not be able H3201	לְהַצִּילָם to deliver H5337	בְּיוֹם them in the day H3117
עֲבַרְתָּ of the wrath H5678	יְהוָה of the LORD H3068	נַפְשָׁם their souls H5315	לֹא H3808	יִשְׂבֹּעוּ they shall not satisfy H7646	וּמַעֲיָהֶם their bowels H4578
לֹא H3808	יִמְלֵאוּ neither fill H4390	כִּי H3588	מְכַשׁ וְלֹ because it is the stumblingblock H4383	עֲוֹנָם of their iniquity H5771	קָהָה H1961

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 11:4 (Judgment): Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Zephaniah 1:18 (Judgment): 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 14:7 (Sin): For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself:

Isaiah 2:20 (Parallel theme): In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats;

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (Parallel theme): He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

Matthew 16:26 (Parallel theme): For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Ezekiel 44:12 (Sin): Because they ministered unto them before their idols, and caused the house of Israel to fall into iniquity; therefore have I lifted up mine hand against them, saith the Lord GOD, and they shall bear their iniquity.

Isaiah 55:2 (Parallel theme): Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Isaiah 30:22 (Parallel theme): Ye shall defile also the covering of thy graven images of silver, and the ornament of thy molten images of gold: thou shalt cast them away as a menstruous cloth; thou shalt say unto it, Get thee hence.

Romans 11:9 (Parallel theme): And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: