

Ezekiel 7:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD unto the land of Israel; An end, the end is come upon the four corners of the land.

Analysis

Also, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD unto the land of Israel; An end, the end is come upon the four corners of the land. The double emphatic "An end, the end" (qets ha-qets ba, בָּאֵת קְצֵת קְצֵת) creates drumbeat effect emphasizing finality. Hebrew qets means termination, conclusion, or boundary—Israel's time has run out. "Upon the four corners of the land" (al-arba kanfot ha-aretz, עַל־אֶרֶבֶע בְּתֶפּוֹת הָאָרֶץ) indicates comprehensive, total judgment covering all territory. This announcement functions like death sentence—the verdict is final, execution imminent. The repetition throughout chapter 7 hammers home inevitability, stripping away all hope of escaping judgment through human effort.

Historical Context

For centuries, prophets warned of coming judgment (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Amos, Micah). Israel ignored these warnings, presuming God's patience was infinite or His threats empty. Ezekiel declares the accumulated delay has ended—God's forbearance is exhausted. The 'four corners' emphasizes no region escapes: northern Israel (fallen to Assyria 722 BC), southern Judah (about to fall to Babylon), and all territories between. The comprehensive scope meant nowhere in the land offered safety. Only exile beyond the land's borders might preserve a remnant.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the double emphasis 'the end, the end' challenge presumption on God's patience?
2. What does comprehensive judgment ('four corners') teach about the impossibility of partial obedience?
3. How should Christians balance confidence in God's grace with awareness that patience has limits?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה בְּנֵי אָדָם כִּי אָמַר כִּי אָדָם אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים
H859 Also thou son of man H3541 thus saith the Lord GOD
H1121 H120 H559 H136 H3069

לְאָדָם תַּלְכֵד יְשַׁבָּא לְאָדָם תַּלְכֵד
unto the land of Israel An end is come An end
H127 H3478 H7093 H935 H7093 H5921 H702

בְּאַרְצָה כָּנֶג וְתַּחַת
corners of the land
H3671 H776

Additional Cross-References

Amos 8:2 (References Lord): And he said, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A basket of summer fruit. Then said the LORD unto me, The end is come upon my people of Israel; I will not again pass by them any more.

Amos 8:10 (Parallel theme): And I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; and I will bring up sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day.

Ezekiel 7:3 (Parallel theme): Now is the end come upon thee, and I will send mine anger upon thee, and will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense upon thee all thine abominations.

1 Peter 4:7 (Parallel theme): But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

Ezekiel 11:13 (References God): And it came to pass, when I prophesied, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then fell I down upon my face, and cried with a loud voice, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel?

Lamentations 4:18 (Parallel theme): They hunt our steps, that we cannot go in our streets: our end is near, our days are fulfilled; for our end is come.