

Ezekiel 7:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And mine eye shall not spare thee, neither will I have pity: but I will recompense thy ways upon thee, and thine abominations shall be in the midst of thee: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Analysis

And mine eye shall not spare thee, neither will I have pity: but I will recompense thy ways upon thee, and thine abominations shall be in the midst of thee: and ye shall know that I am the LORD. God declares He will withhold mercy—"mine eye shall not spare" (lo-tachoss eini, לֹא-תַחֲסֹס עֵינִי) and "neither will I have pity" (velo echmol, וְלֹא אֶחְמֹל). This doesn't contradict God's merciful nature but reveals that persistent unrepentant sin exhausts patience. "Abominations shall be in the midst of thee" means they'll experience the full consequences of their detestable practices—sin will turn back on sinners. The recognition formula concludes: through unmixing judgment, they'll finally acknowledge "I am the LORD"—truth that blessing failed to teach.

Historical Context

For generations, God showed mercy despite continued rebellion: sending prophets, providing reforming kings (Hezekiah, Josiah), allowing repentance opportunities. But when mercy is despised and patience presumed upon, judgment without mitigation becomes necessary. Lamentations confirms this: 'The LORD has done what he purposed; he has carried out his word, which he commanded long ago; he has thrown down without pity' (Lamentations 2:17). The unsparing judgment

demonstrated God's holiness and taught that mercy can be exhausted by persistent rebellion, though never for those who genuinely repent.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God withholding mercy challenge sentimental views that minimize divine wrath?
2. What does 'abominations in the midst of thee' teach about sin's consequences returning on perpetrators?
3. In what ways does unmixed judgment teach truths that mixed mercy obscured?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא	תַּח וֹס	עֵינַי י	עַל יְיָ	וְלֹא א	אֶחָמ וְלֹא
H3808	shall not spare	And mine eye	H5921	H3808	thee neither will I have pity
	H2347	H5869			H2550
כִּי י	דְּרָכַי יְיָ	עַל יְיָ	אֶתְּ	וְתוֹעֲבוֹתַי יְיָ	
H3588	thy ways	H5921	but I will recompense	upon thee and thine abominations	
	H1870		H5414	H8441	
בְּתוֹכִי	תִּהְיֶינִי	וַיֵּדְעֶתְּ	אֲנִי י	כִּי	
shall be in the midst	H1961	of thee and ye shall know	H3588	H589	
H8432		H3045			
הִנֵּה:					
that I am the LORD					
H3068					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 6:7 (References Lord): And the slain shall fall in the midst of you, and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel 5:11 (References Lord): Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD; Surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity.

Ezekiel 11:21 (References Lord): But as for them whose heart walketh after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their way upon their own heads, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 6:14 (References Lord): 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.

Ezekiel 9:10 (Parallel theme): And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head.

Ezekiel 7:27 (References Lord): The king shall mourn, and the prince shall be clothed with desolation, and the hands of the people of the land shall be troubled: I will do unto them after their way, and according to their deserts will I judge them; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel 16:43 (References Lord): Because thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, but hast fretted me in all these things; behold, therefore I also will recompense thy way upon thine head, saith the Lord GOD: and thou shalt not commit this lewdness above all thine abominations.

Hosea 12:2 (References Lord): The LORD hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him.

Hosea 9:7 (Parallel theme): The days of visitation are come, the days of recompence are come; Israel shall know it: the prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad, for the multitude of thine iniquity, and the great hatred.