

Ezekiel 7:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: I will recompense thee according to thy ways and thine abominations that are in the midst of thee; and ye shall know that I am the LORD that smiteth.

Analysis

And mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: I will recompense thee according to thy ways and thine abominations that are in the midst of thee; and ye shall know that I am the LORD that smiteth. This verse nearly repeats verse 4 with crucial addition: "I am the LORD that smiteth" (ki ani Yahweh makkeh, כִּי אֲנִי יְהוָה מַכֶּה). The participle makkeh means "the one striking/smiting"—Yahweh identifies Himself as the active agent of judgment. This prevents misattributing suffering to Babylon, fate, or bad luck. God Himself strikes His people for covenant violation. The recognition formula emphasizes that experiencing divine smiting teaches God's identity more clearly than experiencing blessing—sometimes only judgment pierces hardened hearts.

Historical Context

Throughout the siege and conquest, survivors needed to understand that Babylon was merely God's instrument, not an independent power defeating Yahweh. Isaiah called Assyria "the rod of my anger" (Isaiah 10:5); similarly, Babylon served as God's sword executing judgment. The phrase 'I am the LORD that smiteth' established divine agency, teaching that Jerusalem's fall vindicated rather than contradicted God's sovereignty. Post-exilic theology correctly interpreted exile as

God's disciplinary action, not His defeat, preparing for eventual restoration when discipline accomplished its purpose.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God identifying as 'the LORD that smiteth' prevent misattributing suffering to secondary causes?
2. What does this teach about God's active involvement in historical events we might call 'natural' or 'political'?
3. In what ways does recognizing God's hand in discipline shape our response to trials?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא	תַּח וְס	עֵינַי י	וְלֹא א	אֶחָם וְלֹא
H3808	shall not spare	And mine eye	H3808	neither will I have pity
	H2347	H5869		H2550
	כְּדָרְכֶיךָ יְיָ	עַל יְיָ	אֶת־	וְתוֹעֲבוֹתֶיךָ יְיָ
	thee according to thy ways	H5921	I will recompense	and thine abominations
	H1870		H5414	H8441
	בְּתוֹכִי	תֵּהִי יְיָ	וַיֵּדְעֶתְּ	אֲנִי יְיָ
	that are in the midst	H1961	of thee and ye shall know	H3588 H589
	H8432		H3045	
	יְהוָה	מִכָּה:		
	that I am the LORD	that smiteth		
	H3068	H5221		

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 20:13 (Parallel theme): And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org