

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, קְנִי אֲנִי מַקְהֶה). 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

אַחֲם וְלֹא עִינֵּי תַחַ וְסֵלָא
H3808 shall not spare H2347 And mine eye H5869 H3808 neither will I have pity H2550

וְתַעֲבֹתֶךָ יְהִי קְדֻבֵּךְ יְהִי אַתָּה וְלֹא
thee according to thy ways H1870 H5921 I will recompense H5414 and thine abominations H8441

אֵת יְהִי בְּתוּךְךָ תִּתְּהִלֵּךְ יְהִי
that are in the midst H8432 H1961 of thee and ye shall know H3045 H3588 H589

מֶלֶךְ הִתְּהִנֵּה
that I am the LORD H3068 that smiteth 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.

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