

Ezekiel 9:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

Analysis

God commands the executioners: "**Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity.**" After marking the righteous, judgment proceeds without mercy on the unmarked. The command "let not your eye spare" repeats divine statements from 7:4, 9, emphasizing unmixed wrath. This selective judgment demonstrates both God's justice (punishing the guilty) and His mercy (preserving the grieved remnant). The vision teaches that living among God's people doesn't guarantee safety—only genuine faith marked by grief over sin provides protection.

Historical Context

When Babylon destroyed Jerusalem, indiscriminate slaughter occurred (2 Kings 25:7-21; Lamentations 2:21). Yet some survived through various means. The vision explains this selective survival theologically—God knew and preserved His true people. The command to execute without pity reflects justice's demands when patience is exhausted. For years, prophets warned; now judgment executes without further delay or mercy for the impenitent.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does selective judgment (marking some, destroying others) demonstrate both justice and mercy?
2. What distinguishes those who receive the protective mark from those who face destruction?
3. In what ways should this passage create urgency in examining whether we truly grieve over sin?

Interlinear Text

בְּעֵד יְהֹוָה	עֹבֵר וְבָאֵזֶב	אָמַר רְאֵבָנִי	וְלֹא לְהֹ	בְּעֵד יְהֹוָה	עֹבֵר וְבָאֵזֶב	אָמַר רְאֵבָנִי	וְלֹא לְהֹ
And to the others	he said	in mine hearing		Go	him through the city		
H428	H559	H241		H5674	H5892		

תְּחִמְלָה:	אֵל	עִינָּכֶם	תַּחֲסֵר	עַל	וְיִבְכֵן	אַתָּה יְהֹוָה	תְּחִמְלָה:	אֵל	עִינָּכֶם	תַּחֲסֵר	עַל	וְיִבְכֵן	אַתָּה יְהֹוָה	
ye after	and smite	spare	let not your eye				neither have ye pity							
H310	H5221	H5921	H2347				H408							H2550

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 5:11 (Parallel theme): 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.