

Ezekiel 9:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.

Analysis

"Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary." Comprehensive slaughter spares no age or gender except the marked. The command "begin at my sanctuary" demonstrates that judgment starts with God's house (1 Peter 4:17). Those with greatest privilege face first accountability. The temple, center of covenant relationship, becomes ground zero for judgment. This reverses expectations—religious proximity doesn't protect but increases accountability when violated.

Historical Context

Babylon's conquest indeed killed across all demographics (Lamentations 2:21). The command to "begin at my sanctuary" found literal fulfillment—the temple was systematically destroyed, priests executed (2 Kings 25:18-21), and sacred vessels looted. Starting judgment at the sanctuary demonstrated that religious formalism without heart righteousness provides no protection. God judges His own house most severely when it harbors the greatest hypocrisy.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does judgment beginning at God's sanctuary challenge presumption based on religious proximity?
2. What does comprehensive judgment (all ages, genders) teach about sin's universal condemnation?
3. In what ways should church leaders and members examine themselves knowing judgment begins with God's house?

Interlinear Text

תְּהִרְגֵּ ۚ וְיִנְשֶׁ ۖ יְמָ ۖ בְּזִקְנָ ۖ יְמָ ۖ בְּחָ ۖ וּרָ ۖ וּבְתוּלָ ۖ וְבְתִּ ۖ יְמָ ۖ

תְּהִרְגֵּ ۚ וְיִנְשֶׁ ۖ יְמָ ۖ בְּזִקְנָ ۖ יְמָ ۖ בְּחָ ۖ וּרָ ۖ וּבְתוּלָ ۖ וְבְתִּ ۖ יְמָ ۖ

at the ancient and young both maids and little children and women Slay

H2205 H970 H1330 H2945 H802 H2026

בְּתִ ۖ עַל ۖ יְ ۖ אֲשֶׁר ۖ בְּאָנָשָׁ ۖ יְמָ ۖ יְתִ ۖ

בְּתִ ۖ עַל ۖ יְ ۖ אֲשֶׁר ۖ בְּאָנָשָׁ ۖ יְמָ ۖ יְתִ ۖ

utterly upon whom is the mark

H4889 H5921 H3605 H834 H5921 H8420

אַל ۖ תָּ ۖ שׁוֹ ۖ וּמִמִּזְבֵּחַ ۖ תְּ ۖ לְ ۖ יְ ۖ לְ ۖ

אַל ۖ תָּ ۖ שׁוֹ ۖ וּמִמִּזְבֵּחַ ۖ תְּ ۖ לְ ۖ יְ ۖ לְ ۖ

but come not near at my sanctuary Then they began Then they began

H408 H5066 H4720 H2490 H2490

בְּבַיִתְ ۖ לְפָנֵ ۖ אֲשֶׁר ۖ בְּזִקְנָ ۖ יְמָ ۖ בְּאָנָשָׁ ۖ יְמָ ۖ

בְּבַיִתְ ۖ לְפָנֵ ۖ אֲשֶׁר ۖ בְּזִקְנָ ۖ יְמָ ۖ בְּאָנָשָׁ ۖ יְמָ ۖ

any man at the ancient which were before the house

H376 H2205 H834 H6440 H1004

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 9:4 (Parallel theme): And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

Exodus 12:23 (Parallel theme): For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

2 Timothy 2:19 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Revelation 7:3 (Parallel theme): Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

Jeremiah 25:29 (Parallel theme): For, lo, I begin to bring evil on the city which is called by my name, and should ye be utterly unpunished? Ye shall not be unpunished: for I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth, saith the LORD of hosts.

Luke 12:47 (Parallel theme): And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

2 Chronicles 36:17 (Temple): Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.