

Ezra 9:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldest not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping?

Analysis

The climactic question: 'Should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldest not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping?' The word 'again' emphasizes repeating previously judged sins. The rhetorical question acknowledges that persistent covenant breaking invites complete destruction. The phrase 'till thou hadst consumed us' recognizes God's justice would warrant total annihilation. This isn't manipulation but sober recognition of what renewed sin deserves. The final phrase 'no remnant nor escaping' pictures complete destruction.

Historical Context

The question's logic: if exile was punishment for these sins, repeating them courts renewed and final judgment. The prophets warned that persistent covenant violation would bring complete destruction (Jeremiah 7:12-15). The acknowledgment shows Ezra understands that God's patience has limits. While God is merciful, presuming on mercy by deliberately sinning is folly. The community's survival depended on covenant faithfulness, not ethnic identity or past promises divorced from obedience. This theology challenged false security.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the question 'should we again break thy commandments?' demonstrate understanding that persistent sin courts ultimate judgment?
2. What does the phrase 'consumed us... no remnant nor escaping' teach about God's patience having limits despite His mercy?

Interlinear Text

הַנָּשׁוּב	לִהְיוֹת	מִצְוֹתֶיךָ	וּלְהִתְחַבֵּל	בְּעַמִּי
Should we again	break	thy commandments	and join in affinity	with the people
H7725	H6565	H4687	H2859	H5971
הַתְּעֵב	הֵא לָהּ	הֲלֹא	תִּאָּנֶפֶת	בְּנוֹ
of these abominations	H428	H3808	wouldest not thou be angry	H0
H8441			H599	
עַד	כָּל הַ	לֹא יִ	שָׂאֵר יֵת	
H5704	with us till thou hadst consumed	H369	us so that there should be no remnant	
	H3615		H7611	
וּפְלִיטָה:				
nor escaping				
H6413				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 9:8 (Parallel theme): Also in Horeb ye provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry with you to have destroyed you.

Deuteronomy 9:14 (Parallel theme): Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven: and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they.

Ezra 9:2 (Parallel theme): For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass.

Exodus 32:10 (Parallel theme): Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

Romans 6:1 (Parallel theme): What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

John 5:14 (Parallel theme): Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

Numbers 16:21 (Parallel theme): Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.

Numbers 16:45 (Parallel theme): Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them as in a moment. And they fell upon their faces.

Judges 2:2 (Parallel theme): And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?