

Isaiah 27:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In measure, when it shooteth forth, thou wilt debate with it: he stayeth his rough wind in the day of the east wind.

Analysis

In measure, when it shooteth forth, thou wilt debate with it: he stayeth his rough wind in the day of the east wind. This difficult verse describes God's measured, calibrated discipline. The phrase **in measure** (bes'e'sah, בְּסֵסָה, literally "by seah by seah," a unit of measurement) emphasizes proportionate, controlled judgment—not excessive or destroying. **When it shooteth forth** (beshalchah, בְּשַׁלְחָה) means "when you send her away," referring to exile as divorce imagery found in Hosea and Jeremiah.

Thou wilt debate with it (terivennah, תְּרִיבָנָה) means contend, strive, bring to court—suggesting God's judicial process even in discipline. **He stayeth his rough wind in the day of the east wind** (hagah berucho haqashah beyom qadim, הָגָה בְּרֻחוֹ הַקָּשָׁה בַּיּוֹם קָדִים) uses meteorological imagery. The fierce east wind (qadim) from the desert was scorching and destructive (Exodus 10:13, Hosea 13:15), but God restrains (hagah, removed, stayed) its harshness. He doesn't unleash full fury but moderates judgment. Lamentations 3:22 captures this: "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed."

Historical Context

Exile to Babylon was devastating but limited—70 years (Jeremiah 25:11), not permanent. God measured even this severe judgment. Compare to Sodom and Gomorrah's total destruction or the Flood—Israel's discipline, though painful, was calibrated for restoration. For believers, 1 Corinthians 10:13 promises God won't

allow temptation/testing beyond what we can bear—He measures His discipline to our capacity, always providing a way through.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does knowing God disciplines 'in measure' (calibrated, proportionate) bring comfort during difficult seasons?
2. What does God's 'staying' of the rough east wind teach about His restraint of judgment?
3. How have you experienced God's measured discipline rather than His full fury you deserved?

Interlinear Text

בְּסָפָרָא הָ	בְּשַׁלַּח הָ	תְּרִיב בָּהּ	בְּגַת הָ	בְּרוּח וּ
In measure	when it shooteth forth	thou wilt debate	with it he stayeth	wind
H5432	H7971	H7378	H1898	H7307
בְּקָשׁ הָ	בְּיַמִּים:	בְּקָשׁ הָ		
his rough	in the day	of the east wind		
H7186	H3117	H6921		

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 10:24 (Parallel theme): O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.

Jeremiah 4:11 (Parallel theme): At that time shall it be said to this people and to Jerusalem, A dry wind of the high places in the wilderness toward the daughter of my people, not to fan, nor to cleanse,

Ezekiel 19:12 (Parallel theme): But she was plucked up in fury, she was cast down to the ground, and the east wind dried up her fruit: her strong rods were broken and withered; the fire consumed them.

Hosea 4:1 (Parallel theme): Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

Jeremiah 46:28 (Parallel theme): Fear thou not, O Jacob my servant, saith the LORD: for I am with thee; for I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have driven thee: but I will not make a full end of thee, but correct thee in measure; yet will I not leave thee wholly unpunished.

Jeremiah 30:11 (Parallel theme): For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

Jeremiah 4:27 (Parallel theme): For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.

Hosea 13:15 (Parallel theme): Though he be fruitful among his brethren, an east wind shall come, the wind of the LORD shall come up from the wilderness, and his spring shall become dry, and his fountain shall be dried up: he shall spoil the treasure of all pleasant vessels.

1 Peter 1:6 (Parallel theme): Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: