

Isaiah 27:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged; and this is all the fruit to take away his sin; when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten in sunder, the groves and images shall not stand up.

Analysis

By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged; and this is all the fruit to take away his sin; when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten in sunder, the groves and images shall not stand up. This verse reveals the purpose of measured discipline: purging sin. **Iniquity...purged** (avon...yekupar, עוֹן...יְכַפֵּר) uses the Hebrew root for atonement/covering—discipline serves redemptive purposes. **This is all the fruit** indicates the complete result or purpose of God's dealings.

To take away his sin (hasir chattato, הָסִיר חַטָּאתוֹ) literally means "the removing of his sin"—the goal is sin's elimination, not mere punishment. The evidence of genuine repentance follows: **when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten in sunder**—destroying pagan altars so thoroughly they become like pulverized chalk. **The groves and images shall not stand up** (asherim vechamanim lo yaqumu, אֲשֵׁרִים וְחַמָּנִים לֹא יִקְמוּ)—no toleration of idolatrous asherim (wooden poles representing fertility goddess Asherah) or chamanim (incense altars/sun pillars). True repentance means radical rejection of false worship.

Historical Context

Throughout Israel's history, incomplete reforms left pagan elements standing (2 Kings 18:4 notes Hezekiah removed high places previous kings left). Post-exilic Judaism became fiercely monotheistic, having learned through exile's bitter lesson. Jesus similarly demands radical removal of sin (Matthew 5:29-30). The New Testament temple is believers' hearts (1 Corinthians 3:16), requiring purging of spiritual idols—anything receiving devotion belonging only to God (1 John 5:21).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does this verse teach about the purpose of God's discipline—is it primarily punitive or purifying?
2. How thorough must repentance be ('chalkstones beaten in sunder')—what half-measures is God calling you to eliminate?
3. What modern 'groves and images' (idols of the heart) need to be completely removed from your life?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	וְזֶה	יַעֲקֹב	עֹן	יִכָּפַר	בְּזָאת	לְךָ
H3605	H2088	H3290	H5771	H3722	H2063	H3651
		of Jacob	therefore shall the iniquity	be purged	By this	
כָּל	בְּשׁוּמ	וְ	חַטָּאת	וְ	הֵסֵר	פֶּרִי
H3605	H7760		H2403	H5493	H6529	
	when he maketh		his sin	to take away	and this is all the fruit	
מִנְפָּצֹת	וְ	גֵר	כָּאֲבָנֵי	מִזְבֵּחַ	כָּאֲבָנֵי	
H5310		H1615	H68	H4196	H68	
that are beaten in sunder		as chalkstones	all the stones	of the altar	all the stones	
וְ	חַמָּנִים:	אֲשֶׁר	יִמּוֹ	לֹא		
	H2553	H842	H6965	H3808		
	and images	the groves	shall not stand up			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 48:10 (Parallel theme): Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

Romans 11:27 (Sin): For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Isaiah 17:8 (Sacrifice): And he shall not look to the altars, the work of his hands, neither shall respect that which his fingers have made, either the groves, or the images.

Daniel 11:35 (Parallel theme): And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.