

Isaiah 47:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I was wroth with my people, I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand: thou didst shew them no mercy; upon the ancient hast thou very heavily laid thy yoke.

Analysis

God's statement 'I was wroth with my people' admits His agency in using Babylon to discipline Israel, yet 'thou didst shew them no mercy' condemns Babylon for exceeding her mandate with cruel oppression. This demonstrates that God can employ evil instruments for good purposes while still holding them accountable for their evil intentions (Genesis 50:20). Babylon's judgment arises from cruel pride, not mere obedience to God's disciplinary purposes.

Historical Context

Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of Jerusalem (586 BC) included temple desecration, mass slaughter, and deportation. While God ordained this judgment (Jeremiah 27:6), Babylon's excessive cruelty and mockery (Psalm 137:3) merited her own judgment.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How can God use evil to accomplish good purposes while still judging the evil agents?
2. When has God's discipline in your life been intensified by others' lack of mercy?

Interlinear Text

אָפּגֵיזְעַתִּי I was wroth H7107	עִלִּי H5921	עִמִּי י with my people H5971	חָלַלְתִּי I have polluted H2490	נַחֲלָתִי י mine inheritance H5159	וְאָתַנּוּ מִי and given H5414
בְּיָדָךְ them into thine hand H3027	לֹא H3808	שָׁ מָתָה thou didst shew H7760	לָהֶם H1992	רַחֲמֵי ים them no mercy H7356	עַל H5921
זֶקֶן upon the ancient H2205	הַקֶּבֶד דָּתָה heavily H3513	עַל יָךְ laid thy yoke H5923	מְאֹד: hast thou very H3966		

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 1:15 (Parallel theme): And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction.

Deuteronomy 28:50 (Parallel theme): A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:

2 Chronicles 28:9 (Parallel theme): But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name was Oded: and he went out before the host that came to Samaria, and said unto them, Behold, because the LORD God of your fathers was wroth with Judah, he hath delivered them into your hand, and ye have slain them in a rage that reacheth up unto heaven.

Obadiah 1:10 (Parallel theme): For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever.

James 2:13 (Grace): For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

Isaiah 10:6 (Parallel theme): I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

Isaiah 14:17 (Parallel theme): That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

Psalms 69:26 (Parallel theme): For they persecute him whom thou hast smitten; and they talk to the grief of those whom thou hast wounded.

Obadiah 1:16 (Parallel theme): For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been.

Isaiah 13:16 (Parallel theme): Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished.