

Isaiah 9:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Manasseh, Ephraim; and Ephraim, Manasseh: and they together shall be against Judah. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Analysis

Tribal warfare erupts between Manasseh and Ephraim (both sons of Joseph, brother tribes), then they unite against Judah. This intra-family violence shows how sin destroys even closest relationships. Brother fights brother, then both fight their cousins—comprehensive civil war. The refrain returns for the fourth time: despite all this judgment, God's anger isn't satisfied and His hand remains extended in judgment. The repetition emphasizes Israel's hardness—no amount of suffering produces repentance without divine grace enabling it.

Historical Context

During Israel's collapse, tribal and factional warfare was common (2 Kings 15-17). The split between Ephraim (representing northern kingdom) and Judah (southern kingdom) had existed since Rehoboam (930 BC), but periods of cooperation alternated with conflict. In Israel's final days, internal divisions weakened them before Assyria's final blow. United they might have survived longer; divided, they fell quickly.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does sin divide even the closest relationships and communities?
2. What does persistent impenitence despite escalating judgment reveal about the need for gracious regeneration?
3. How can Christians maintain unity in the face of conflicts that threaten to divide us?

Interlinear Text

מְנַשֵּׁה הַ	אֶת	וְאֶפְרַיִם	וְאֶפְרַיִם	אֶת	מְנַשֵּׁה הַ	וְיַחְדָּם
Manasseh	H853	Ephraim	Ephraim	H853	Manasseh	and they together
H4519		H669	H669		H4519	H3162
עַל הַ מָּה		יְהוּדָה	בְּכָל	זֹאת	לֹא	שֶׁ בִּ
H1992	H5921	shall be against Judah	H3605	H2063	H3808	is not turned away
		H3063				H7725
אֵפֶּי	וְעוֹד	יָדוֹ	נְטוּיָהּ:			
For all this his anger	H5750	but his hand	is stretched out still			
H639		H3027	H5186			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 5:25 (Parallel theme): Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Isaiah 9:12 (Parallel theme): The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Galatians 5:15 (Parallel theme): But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

