

Jeremiah 33:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.

Analysis

I will cleanse them from all their iniquity (וְטִיבְרָתִים מְכֻלָּעָנִים, vethartim mikol-avonam)—The priestly cleansing verb *taher* (used for ritual purification) applies to moral guilt (*avon*, iniquity/guilt). God acts as both Judge and Priest, cleansing what He condemned. This impossible juxtaposition resolves only at the cross, where Christ became sin-offering to cleanse sin.

I will pardon all their iniquities (וְסַלְחָתִי לְכָל-עֲוֹנֵתֶיךָ, vesalachti lekhhol-avonoteihem)—The verb *salach* (pardon, forgive) is used exclusively of God in the Old Testament—only YHWH can truly forgive. The threefold description—'sinned against me,' 'sinned,' 'transgressed against me'—covers all categories of rebellion. God promises total amnesty, the essence of the New Covenant: 'I will remember their sin no more' (Jeremiah 31:34).

Historical Context

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (the New Covenant promise) provides the theological foundation for this verse. Written to a people drowning in guilt from covenant-breaking, idolatry, and injustice, this promise of divine cleansing and pardon was revolutionary. It anticipates Ezekiel 36:25-27 (clean water, new heart, God's Spirit) and finds fulfillment in Christ's blood that cleanses all sin (1 John 1:7-9).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise to both cleanse and pardon address the dual problem of sin's pollution and guilt?
2. What does it mean that only God can 'pardon' (salach)—why can't we forgive ourselves or earn forgiveness?
3. How does this Old Testament promise of total cleansing prepare you to receive the New Covenant in Christ's blood?

Interlinear Text

מְכַל וְעַזְנֹתִים אֲשֶׁר עַזְנוֹתָיו
And I will cleanse all their iniquities whereby they have sinned

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לִפְנֵי וְעַזְנֹתִים אֲשֶׁר עַזְנוֹתָיו
against me and I will pardon all their iniquities

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עַזְנוֹתָיו אֲשֶׁר לִפְנֵי וְשָׁעָוָה
whereby they have sinned and whereby they have transgressed

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Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 13:1 (Sin): In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

Psalms 51:2 (Sin): Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Ezekiel 36:25 (Parallel theme): Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Revelation 1:5 (Sin): And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Jeremiah 31:34 (Sin): And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Ezekiel 36:33 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded.

Isaiah 44:22 (Sin): I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

Psalms 65:3 (Sin): Iniquities prevail against me: as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away.

Jeremiah 50:20 (Sin): In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.