

Micah 6:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore also will I make thee sick in smiting thee, in making thee desolate because of thy sins.

Analysis

Therefore also will I make thee sick in smiting thee, in making thee desolate because of thy sins. Having catalogued Jerusalem's economic injustice and pervasive lying (v. 9-12), God announces judgment. "**Therefore**" (וְגַם־אָתִי) literally "and also I"—emphasizes divine response to human sin. "**I will make thee sick**" (וְחִלַּלְתִּי הַפּוֹתֶךָ) uses חִלָּה (chalah), to be weak, sick, diseased. The imagery suggests wasting illness—Jerusalem will languish under judgment. "**In smiting thee**" (וְפּוֹתֶךָ) employs פּוֹתֶךָ (nakah), to strike, smite, defeat—military conquest.

"In making thee desolate because of thy sins" (בְּשִׁמְךָ עַל־חִטּוֹתֶךָ, hashem al-chattotekha) connects judgment to covenant violation. Shamem (desolate, devastated, appalled) describes the horror of post-conquest ruins. Deuteronomy 28:15-68 details covenant curses for disobedience: disease, defeat, deportation, desolation. Micah announces these curses are imminent. "**Because of thy sins**"—judgment isn't arbitrary but judicial, response to specific violations. Jeremiah later echoed: "Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you" (Jeremiah 5:25).

This challenges prosperity theology claiming God always blesses. Scripture teaches God disciplines His people. Hebrews 12:6 quotes Proverbs 3:12: "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Suffering often results from sin requiring repentance, not faith requiring more claims on blessing. When Israel ignored prophetic warnings, God executed

covenant curses. Believers should examine whether adversity signals divine discipline demanding repentance.

Historical Context

Micah prophesied desolation that came to pass in 586 BC when Babylon destroyed Jerusalem. Jeremiah witnessed the fulfillment: "How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow!" (Lamentations 1:1). The temple burned, walls demolished, population exiled. Why? Not because God lacked power to protect but because covenant violation forfeited protection. Second Chronicles 36:15-17 explains: God "sent to them by his messengers...because he had compassion on his people...But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy." Persistent rebellion exhausts divine patience, bringing judgment. The Church faces similar warnings: Christ threatens to remove the candlestick from unfaithful churches (Revelation 2:5).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that God disciplines His people "because of their sins" shape your response to personal and communal adversity?
2. What sins in your life or church might be inviting divine discipline, requiring repentance rather than mere prayer for relief?
3. How can you discern whether suffering represents general trials (common to humanity), specific discipline (for correction), or spiritual warfare (demonic opposition)?

Interlinear Text

אַנְךָ וְיַגְמֵן

H1571

H589

תְּחַלֵּת יְהִי

H2470

בְּכֹתֶת בָּ

H5221

מִשְׁמֵךְ

thee in making thee desolate

H8074

עַל

בְּטַאֲתֶךָ

H5921

because of thy sins

H2403

Additional Cross-References

Acts 12:23 (Parallel theme): And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

Leviticus 26:16 (Parallel theme): I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

Hosea 13:16 (Parallel theme): Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up.

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