

Micah 7:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

Analysis

Continuing Micah's closing hymn: "He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." The verb shub ("turn again") emphasizes God's returning favor. "Have compassion" (yerachamenu) uses tender mercy language. "Subdue" (yikhbosh) means conquer—God doesn't excuse sin but defeats it. "Cast into sea's depths" (mashlich bi-metsulot yam) describes complete, irrecoverable removal. This anticipates Christ's substitutionary atonement where sins are remembered no more (Hebrews 8:12, 10:17). Our sins, laid on Christ, are removed "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12).

Historical Context

The image of casting sins into the sea resonated powerfully with an ancient people for whom the sea represented chaos, danger, and the unknowable deep (Exodus 15:1-10). What sinks to the ocean's depths is irretrievable, gone forever. This became the basis for the Jewish Tashlich ceremony on Rosh Hashanah when Jews symbolically cast breadcrumbs into water, representing sins being cast away. The prophecy found ultimate fulfillment in Christ who bore our sins away forever through His sacrifice.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise to cast sins into the sea's depths provide assurance against guilt and condemnation?
2. What does it mean that God "subdues" rather than excuses our iniquities?
3. How should the completeness of God's forgiveness affect our self-condemnation and accusations against others?

Interlinear Text

יֵשׁ וְבֹ	יִרְחֶמֶ נֹ	יִכְבֹּשׁ	עֲוֹנוֹתֵינוּ
He will turn again	he will have compassion	upon us he will subdue	our iniquities
H7725	H7355	H3533	H5771
וְתִשְׁלַח יָךְ	בְּמַצֵּל וְתֵ	יָם	כָּל חַטֹּאוֹתֵם:
and thou wilt cast	into the depths	of the sea	all their sins
H7993	H4688	H3220	H3605 H2403

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 38:17 (Sin): Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.

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.

Romans 6:14 (Sin): For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Isaiah 43:25 (Sin): I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

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.

Psalms 103:12 (Sin): As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Titus 2:14 (Sin): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

1 John 3:8 (Sin): He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Psalms 130:8 (Parallel theme): And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Romans 8:13 (Parallel theme): For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.