

Numbers 33:56

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover it shall come to pass, that I shall do unto you, as I thought to do unto them.

Analysis

The warning that remaining Canaanites 'shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell' uses vivid imagery to describe the constant irritation and danger of compromising with sin. Pricks and thorns cause ongoing pain and damage. This teaches that tolerating sin creates perpetual problems, not peaceful coexistence. The Reformed understanding that sin not mortified will inevitably mortify us is powerfully illustrated. We cannot make peace with what God has condemned.

Historical Context

Israel's history validated this warning completely. The Canaanite peoples who remained continually seduced Israel into idolatry, intermarried with them, and corrupted their worship. The judges period records cycle after cycle of compromise, corruption, oppression, and deliverance. The thorns God warned about proved exactly as painful as He said. Compromise never brought peace, only ongoing trouble.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the imagery of thorns and pricks describe the ongoing pain of tolerating sin?
2. What does Israel's history of compromise teach about the impossibility of peaceful coexistence with sin?
3. In what ways does unmortified sin inevitably damage Christian life and witness?

Interlinear Text

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| וְהָיָה H1961 | כְּאֲשֶׁר H834 | דָּמַי יְתִי H1819 | אֲנִי הָאֵשׁ H6213 |
| | | unto you as I thought | Moreover it shall come to pass that I shall do |
| לָהּ H0 | | אֲנִי הָאֵשׁ H6213 | לָכֵן H0 |
| | Moreover it shall come to pass that I shall do | | |

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 28:63 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.