

Psalms 106:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance.

Analysis

This verse describes God's response to Israel's adultery. 'Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people' shows righteous anger. God's wrath isn't capricious but justified response to covenant-breaking. 'Insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance' uses taab (תָּאַב), meaning to abhor, loathe, or detest. The language is shocking—God 'abhorred' His own treasured possession. This doesn't mean God stopped loving Israel but that their sin made them abhorrent to His holiness. Just as a spouse's adultery makes them loathsome to the betrayed partner, Israel's spiritual prostitution made them detestable despite God's covenant love. This teaches that sin makes us abhorrent to God's holiness even while we remain objects of His covenant love.

Historical Context

God's 'abhorrence' led to judgment: oppression by enemies, exile, and covenant curses. Yet even in abhorrence, God didn't utterly forsake them (Leviticus 26:44). His discipline was redemptive, intended to turn them from sin. Similarly, God the Father's wrath fell on Christ (His beloved Son) when Christ bore our sin (Isaiah 53:10; Mark 15:34). God can 'abhor' sin even in those He loves, which necessitated the cross where wrath and love met.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How can God simultaneously love His people and abhor them because of sin?
2. What does God's abhorrence of sin teach about His holiness?
3. How does the Father's wrath toward Christ on the cross demonstrate both justice and love?

Interlinear Text

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|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| וַחַר | אֵף | יְהוָה | בְּעַמּוֹ |
| kindled | Therefore was the wrath | of the LORD | against his people |
| H2734 | H639 | H3068 | H5971 |
| וְיָתֵעַ בְּ | אֶת | נַחֲלָתוֹ: | |
| insomuch that he abhorred | H853 | his own inheritance | |
| H8581 | | H5159 | |

Additional Cross-References

Judges 2:14 (References Lord): And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

Deuteronomy 9:29 (Parallel theme): Yet they are thy people and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest out by thy mighty power and by thy stretched out arm.

Deuteronomy 32:19 (References Lord): And when the LORD saw it, he abhorred them, because of the provoking of his sons, and of his daughters.