

Psalm 55:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He hath put forth his hands against such as be at peace with him: he hath broken his covenant.

Analysis

The betrayer's covenant violation intensifies his guilt—'he hath put forth his hands against such as be at peace with him.' The Hebrew 'shalom' indicates covenantal wholeness. Profaning the covenant after enjoying its benefits demonstrates judicial hardening. This typologically anticipates Judas, who shared covenant meals with Christ yet violated sacred fellowship.

Historical Context

Covenant violation was considered the gravest sin in ancient Israel, warranting death (Leviticus 24:16). Ahithophel's betrayal after years of trusted counsel to David exemplified this treachery, warranting the judgment David pronounces.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does the seriousness of covenant violation teach about the nature of covenant relationship?

2. How should the church discipline those who profess Christ yet persistently violate covenant commitments?

Interlinear Text

שָׁלֵךְ חָלֵל
He hath put forth his hands against such as be at peace with him he hath broken
H7971 H3027 H7965 H2490

בְּרִיתָנוּ
his covenant
H1285

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 7:4 (Peace): If I have rewarded evil unto him that was at peace with me; (yea, I have delivered him that without cause is mine enemy:)

Psalms 89:34 (Covenant): My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

Acts 12:1 (Parallel theme): Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

Psalms 109:5 (Parallel theme): And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love.

Psalms 89:28 (Covenant): My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him.

Psalms 89:38 (Parallel theme): But thou hast cast off and abhorred, thou hast been wroth with thine anointed.

Ecclesiastes 8:2 (Parallel theme): I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard of the oath of God.