

Psalms 78:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence;

Analysis

He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence. Pālas (פָּלָשׁ, "made a way") means to level a path or prepare a road—God cleared the way for His anger to reach its target without obstruction. His wrath wasn't impulsive but directed, purposeful, like a highway constructed to its destination.

"Spared not their soul from death" uses nepēš (נֶפֶשׁ, "soul")—the whole living being. Dāber (דָּבֵר, "pestilence") refers to plague or epidemic, possibly anthrax or similar livestock disease that spread to humans. God didn't prevent death but deliberately handed them over to it—judicial language of abandonment to consequences.

This verse explains divine mechanics: God's anger doesn't randomly destroy but precisely targets. He "makes a way" for judgment like an engineer designing demolition. It's terrifying yet reveals God's sovereignty—nothing happens accidentally, and His wrath accomplishes its full purpose without collateral mercy for the unrepentant.

Historical Context

This likely refers to the livestock plague (Exodus 9:1-7) and possibly disease affecting Egyptians during the boils plague (Exodus 9:8-12). The cumulative effect

was mounting death toll, preparing Egypt for the final plague—death of the firstborn.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does God "making a way for His anger" teach about His sovereignty over judgment?
2. How should the reality of God not sparing souls from death affect evangelistic urgency?
3. In what sense does God "give people over" to their chosen path, and what does this reveal about His judgment?

Interlinear Text

נִפְשָׁה	מִתְּמִתָּה	בְּנֵת יִבְרָאֵל	לֹא	לֹא	פָּרָא	נִתְּמַתֵּן	יִפְלֵס
He made	a way	to his anger	H3808	he spared	from death	not their soul	
H6424	H5410	H639		H2820	H4194		H5315

לְךָ בֶּרֶךְ מִתְּמִירָה	to the pestilence	but gave
H2416	H1698	H5462

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:32 (Parallel theme): He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Ezekiel 7:4 (Parallel theme): And mine eye shall not spare thee, neither will I have pity: but I will recompense thy ways upon thee, and thine abominations shall be in the midst of thee: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

