

Psalms 78:60

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men;

Analysis

So that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men. The consequence clause **So that he forsook** (vayyitosh, וַיִּטֹּשׁ) describes God's shocking abandonment of His dwelling place. **The tabernacle of Shiloh** (mishkan Shiloh, מִשְׁכַּן שִׁלֹּה) refers to the sanctuary at Shiloh where the ark rested for over 300 years (Joshua 18:1, Judges 18:31).

Shiloh, whose name means 'place of rest' or 'tranquil,' became ironically a place of judgment. **The tent which he placed among men** (ohel shikken ba'adam, אֹהֶל שִׁכְנָן בְּאָדָם) emphasizes God's gracious condescension—He tabernacled with humanity. Yet Israel's sin drove God away from His own chosen dwelling. This foreshadows Ezekiel's vision of God's glory departing the temple (Ezekiel 10-11).

Jeremiah later used Shiloh as warning to complacent Judah: 'Go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh...and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel' (Jeremiah 7:12). God doesn't guarantee perpetual presence where sin reigns unchecked.

Historical Context

Around 1050 BC, the Philistines destroyed Shiloh (Jeremiah 26:6-9) after capturing the ark (1 Samuel 4). Archaeological excavations at Khirbet Seilun confirm massive destruction. Eli's corrupt sons and Israel's presumption that the ark guaranteed

victory provoked this judgment. The ark never returned to Shiloh—David later brought it to Jerusalem.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does God's willingness to abandon His own dwelling place teach about the seriousness of sin?
2. How might churches today presume on God's presence while tolerating sin, like Israel at Shiloh?
3. In what ways does Christ's promise 'I will never leave you' (Hebrews 13:5) differ from God's Old Testament dwelling in specific locations?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּטְשׁ	אֶת	הַמִּשְׁכָּן	וְהָאֹהֶל	אֲשֶׁר	
So that he forsook		the tabernacle	of Shiloh	the tent	which he placed
H5203		H4908	H7887	H168	H7931

בְּתוֹכָם
among men
H120

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 18:1 (Temple): And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. And the land was subdued before them.

1 Samuel 1:3 (Parallel theme): And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.

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