

Psalm 99:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou answeredst them, O LORD our God: thou wast a God that forgavest them, though thou tookest vengeance of their inventions.

Analysis

God being described as 'thou answeredst them' (anitam) while also being 'a God that forgavest them' (El nose) reveals the paradox of grace and judgment. The phrase 'though thou tookest vengeance' (noqem) on their 'inventions' (alilot—deeds, practices) shows that God disciplines His people while maintaining covenant relationship. This verse encapsulates the balance between mercy and justice—God forgives persons while judging sins. The discipline doesn't contradict the forgiveness but demonstrates covenant faithfulness.

Historical Context

Israel's history shows repeated cycles of sin, judgment, and restoration—Moses and Aaron themselves faced consequences for disobedience while remaining in relationship with God.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How have you experienced God's simultaneous forgiveness and discipline in your life?
2. What does this verse teach about the compatibility of God's love and His judgment?

Interlinear Text

אֱלֹהִים	אָתָּה	עָשָׂתָּם	אָתָּה	יְהֹוָה
them O LORD	our God	H859	Thou answeredst	thou wast a God
H3068	H430		H6030	H410
לְקַרְבָּן	לְקַרְבָּן	לְקַרְבָּן	לְקַרְבָּן	עַל
that forgavest	H1961	H1992	them though thou tookest vengeance	H5921
			H5358	
עַל־לִזְׁעָמָן				
of their inventions				
	H5949			

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 20:12 (References Lord): And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

Psalms 89:33 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.