

Zechariah 11:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I will no more pity the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD: but, lo, I will deliver the men every one into his neighbour's hand, and into the hand of his king: and they shall smite the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver them.

Analysis

For I will no more pity the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD: but, lo, I will deliver the men every one into his neighbour's hand, and into the hand of his king: and they shall smite the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver them. This verse announces God's judgment on Israel for rejecting the Good Shepherd. **"I will no more pity"** (lo echmos, לֹא־אֶחְמֹס) uses the same verb (chamal) from verse 5—as the shepherds showed no pity, God will withdraw His pity.

"I will deliver the men every one into his neighbour's hand" describes civil strife and internal conflict. Josephus's account of Jerusalem's siege (AD 66-70) records horrific factional warfare among the Jews themselves—Zealots, Sicarii, and others fought each other even as Rome besieged the city. Families turned against each other; neighbor betrayed neighbor. Jesus prophesied this: "Brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son" (Mark 13:12).

"And into the hand of his king" refers to foreign domination—Rome's authority over Judea. **"They shall smite the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver them"** promises God will not intervene to save them from the consequences of rejecting His Shepherd. This is judicial abandonment—God giving them over to their choice. Paul describes similar divine judgment in Romans 1:24, 26, 28: "God gave them up."

Historical Context

This prophecy had devastating fulfillment in AD 66-70. Jewish revolt against Rome led to four years of horror. Josephus describes the siege: famine so severe that mothers ate their own children (fulfilling Deuteronomy 28:53-57), rival Jewish factions burning each other's food supplies while Rome besieged them, and ultimately over a million deaths and the temple's destruction. Titus ("his king"—the Roman commander) leveled Jerusalem so thoroughly that Jesus's prophecy was fulfilled literally: "There shall not be left here one stone upon another" (Matthew 24:2).

The tragedy is that this judgment was avoidable. Jesus wept: "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee" (Luke 19:42-43). They rejected the Prince of Peace and got war; they rejected the Good Shepherd and got slaughter; they rejected God's pity and received judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does this verse teach about the terrifying consequences of rejecting God's gracious provision?
2. How does God's withdrawal of pity relate to judicial abandonment—giving people over to the consequences of their persistent rebellion?
3. In what ways did Jesus offer Israel every opportunity to avoid this judgment, and what does their rejection teach us?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	לֹא	אֶחָמ וּלְ	עַל	עוֹד	יֹשְׁבֵי	הָאֶרֶץ
H3588	H3808	For I will no more pity	H5750	H5921	the inhabitants	of the land
		H2550			H3427	H776
נֹאֵם	יְהוָה ה'	וְהִנֵּה ה'	אֲנֹכִי	מִמָּחָר יֵא	אֶת	הָאֲדָמָה
saith	the LORD	H2009	H595	but lo I will deliver	H853	the men
H5002	H3068			H4672	H120	every one
						H376
מִדָּם:	רֵעֵהוּ	מִדָּם:	מֶלֶכְו			
and into the hand	into his neighbour's	and into the hand	of his king			
H3027	H7453	H3027	H4428			
וְכִתְּתוּ	אֶת	הָאֶרֶץ	וְלֹא	אֶצִּיל	מִדָּם:	
and they shall smite	H853	of the land	H3808	I will not deliver	and into the hand	
H3807		H776		H5337	H3027	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 13:14 (References Lord): And I will dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together, saith the LORD: I will not pity, nor spare, nor have mercy, but destroy them.

Matthew 22:7 (Kingdom): But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Micah 5:8 (Parallel theme): And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

Psalms 50:22 (Parallel theme): Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.