

Zechariah 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.

Analysis

Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone (אֶלְגָם שָׁמֵר)—the Hebrew shamir denotes the hardest known substance, harder than flint, used metaphorically for willful, incorrigible rebellion. Israel refused to hear **the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets**—God's Word came through the Spirit's agency via prophets like Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, and Micah, making rejection of prophetic preaching rejection of God Himself.

This hardness wasn't ignorance but deliberate resistance. **Therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts**—divine judgment was inevitable, not arbitrary. When hearts become adamantine against grace, only wrath remains. This anticipates the New Testament warning against grieving (Ephesians 4:30) and quenching (1 Thessalonians 5:19) the Spirit.

Historical Context

Written circa 520-518 BC during post-exilic restoration, Zechariah warned the returned remnant not to repeat the sins that brought their fathers into Babylonian captivity (586 BC). The 'former prophets' ministered before the exile, and their unheeded warnings had resulted in seventy years of desolation.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What spiritual practices or convictions might you be hardening your heart against through repeated exposure without response?
2. How does understanding that Scripture comes 'by the Spirit' through prophets affect your approach to biblical authority?
3. What connection exists between resisting God's Word and experiencing His wrath rather than blessing?

Interlinear Text

אַת	מִשְׁמֹעַ	שָׁמַע	יְרַשְׁתִּים	מִתְּמֻמָּה	וְלֹבֶם	מִתְּמֻמָּה	וְלֹבֶם	אַת
their hearts	Yea they made	as an adamant stone	lest they should hear					H853
H3820	H7760	H8068						H8085
אַת	מִתְּמֻמָּה	וְלֹבֶם	וְלֹבֶם	וְלֹבֶם	וְלֹבֶם	וְלֹבֶם	אַת	אַבְאֹתָה
the law	H853	and the words	H1697	H834	hath sent	from the LORD	H3068	of hosts
H8451				H7971				H6635
בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ
בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ
בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ
אַבְאֹתָה	אַבְאֹתָה	אַבְאֹתָה	אַבְאֹתָה	אַבְאֹתָה	אַבְאֹתָה	אַבְאֹתָה	אַבְאֹתָה	אַבְאֹתָה
therefore came a great	H1419	from the LORD	H3068	H853	of hosts	H6635		

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 11:19 (Spirit): And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

2 Chronicles 36:16 (Judgment): But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

Ezekiel 36:26 (Spirit): A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Isaiah 6:10 (Parallel theme): Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Acts 28:27 (Parallel theme): For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Mark 4:12 (Parallel theme): That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

Matthew 13:15 (Parallel theme): For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Ezekiel 2:4 (References Lord): For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD.