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Ezekiel and cultural resilience in exile: prophetic insights for sustainable development and global renewal

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Abstract:

Historical episodes are essential for teaching lessons applicable to future situations. In this study, the cultural resilience of the Jews is examined, and the message of Ezekiel to the exilic community is shown to offer crucial insights for sustainable development and global renewal. Set within the socio-historical context of the Babylonian exile, Ezekiel's prophecy addresses the disintegration of Israel's cultural and religious identity while presenting a vision of moral change and divine restoration. Through contextual analysis, the study explores how Ezekiel's focus on justice, personal responsibility, and divine presence served as tools for renewal for a displaced people. By comparing Ezekiel's prophetic vision with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this essay introduces a dialogue between ancient theological wisdom and modern development ethics, creating a renewal framework that provides a comprehensive view of development—integrating spiritual, moral, and socio-cultural dimensions of human life. The study concludes that Ezekiel's message remains relevant in understanding the best ways to tackle crises of identity, ecological harm, and social injustice. Moreover, Ezekiel's imagination offers a model of cultural resilience and sustainable living rooted in justice, covenantal faithfulness, and reverence for divine presence—principles that sustain both humanity and creation.

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