

Amos 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore the flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not strengthen his force, neither shall the mighty deliver himself:

Analysis

After pronouncing judgment, Amos describes its inescapability: "Therefore the flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not strengthen his force, neither shall the mighty deliver himself." Speed, strength, and power—normally escape routes—will fail. Verse 15: "Neither shall he stand that handleth the bow; and he that is swift of foot shall not deliver himself: neither shall he that rideth the horse deliver himself." Archers, runners, cavalry—all military advantages become useless. Verse 16: "And he that is courageous among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day, saith the LORD." Even the bravest will flee in terror, abandoning armor. This teaches that no human resource can escape divine judgment. Psalm 33:16-17 says: "There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. An horse is vain thing for safety." Only God's mercy saves, accessed through genuine repentance and faith in Christ.

Historical Context

Within 30 years of Amos's prophecy, Assyria conquered Israel (722 BC). Samaria fell after three-year siege; 27,290 Israelites were deported according to Assyrian records. Israel's military couldn't prevent this—God's word came true exactly. The Reformed doctrine of irresistible grace teaches that God's saving purposes cannot be thwarted; similarly, His judicial purposes cannot be escaped apart from grace.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What human resources (strength, intelligence, wealth, status) do people trust instead of God?
2. How does recognizing that nothing can save us from divine judgment apart from God's mercy drive us to Christ?

Interlinear Text

לֹא יַחֲרֵךְ מִנְסָס מֵקֵל מִתְּרֵא יְהִי תְּהִלָּתָךְ
shall perish Therefore the flight from the swift and the strong H3808
H6 H4498 H7031 H2389

לֹא יִמְלַט יְמִלְשָׂוֹן כַּפְרֵה וְרִגְבָּר כַּפְרֵה וְרִגְבָּר
shall not strengthen his force neither shall the mighty deliver himself
H553 H3581 H1368 H3808 H4422 H5315

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 9:23 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

Psalms 33:16 (Parallel theme): There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength.

Ecclesiastes 9:11 (Parallel theme): I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

