

Isaiah 14:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:

Analysis

'The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand.' Divine oath ('the LORD of hosts hath sworn') guarantees fulfillment. God's thought and purpose determine reality: what He thinks becomes what occurs; what He purposes stands firm. This is divine sovereignty at its clearest: history conforms to God's will, not vice versa. The parallelism ('thought/come to pass,' 'purposed/stand') emphasizes certainty. This applies to the immediate context (Assyria's judgment, next verse) but also universally: God's plans are never frustrated, never revised, never defeated. His sovereignty is absolute and His word utterly reliable.

Historical Context

This verse introduces a shift to judgment against Assyria (v.25), showing God's sovereign control over all nations—not just Babylon but also Assyria, the immediate threat to Isaiah's audience. The theological principle transcends specific historical fulfillments: whatever God decrees occurs. This is the foundation of prophetic reliability—God knows the future because He determines it. For Reformed theology, this grounds assurance: God's purposes in salvation, sanctification, and ultimate glorification cannot fail. If God purposed it, it stands. This also grounds holy fear: if God decreed judgment, it will surely come.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's absolute sovereignty ('as I have purposed, so shall it stand') provide comfort in a chaotic world?
2. What does divine sovereignty over history teach about trusting God's promises regarding personal salvation and future hope?

Interlinear Text

נִשְׁבַּעַ ע	יְהוָה	צָבָא וְת	לֵאמֹר	אִם	לֹא	כִּי־אֵשׁ ר
hath sworn	The LORD	of hosts	saying	H518	H3808	H834
H7650	H3068	H6635	H559			
דָּמָ יִתִּי	כִּי־אֵשׁ ר	הִי־תָה	יָיִן			
Surely as I have thought	H3651	H1961	H834			
H1819						
יַעַ צְרִי	הִי יֵא	תִּקְוָם:				
so shall it come to pass and as I have purposed	H1931	so shall it stand				
H3289		H6965				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 19:21 (References Lord): There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

Job 23:13 (Parallel theme): But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth.

Jeremiah 29:11 (References Lord): For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Ephesians 1:9 (Parallel theme): Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

Acts 4:28 (Parallel theme): For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

Matthew 11:25 (References Lord): At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

Amos 8:7 (References Lord): The LORD hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works.

Lamentations 3:37 (References Lord): Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?

Hebrews 4:3 (Parallel theme): For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Psalms 92:5 (References Lord): O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep.