

Isaiah 14:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth:
and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.

Analysis

'This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.' The specific judgments (Babylon, Assyria) illustrate a universal principle: God's purpose extends over 'the whole earth,' His hand over 'all the nations.' No nation escapes divine sovereignty; none exceeds divine jurisdiction. The 'stretched out hand' is covenant curse language (Exodus 9:15; Deuteronomy 28:20) now applied globally. This bridges from historical judgments to eschatological hope: God will judge all nations, establishing His universal kingdom. What He did to Assyria and Babylon, He will do to all opposition. This is both warning (to wicked nations) and comfort (to God's people).

Historical Context

Ancient peoples tended toward henotheism—believing their god ruled their land, other gods ruled other lands. Yahweh's claim to sovereignty over ALL nations, ALL the earth, was radical. This is ethical monotheism: one God rules all history, all geography, all peoples. History confirms this: empires rise and fall according to divine purposes (Daniel 2:21; 4:17). Assyria fell, Babylon fell, Persia fell, Greece fell, Rome fell. Every earthly kingdom proves temporary; only God's kingdom endures. This grounds Christian confidence in missions: Christ's authority extends over ALL nations (Matthew 28:18-20).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty over 'all the nations' ground confidence in the gospel's ultimate triumph worldwide?
2. What does the 'stretched out hand' over all nations teach about accountability to God regardless of acknowledgment of Him?

Interlinear Text

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| וְאַתָּה | וְאַתָּה | הַעֲצָה | הַעֲצָה | עַל | כָּל | כָּל | בְּאָרֶץ |
| H2063 | | This is the purpose | This is the purpose | H5921 | H3605 | | upon the whole earth |
| | H6098 | | H6098 | | | | H776 |
| וְאַתָּה | וְאַתָּה | פִּי | פִּי | עַל | כָּל | כָּל | בְּגָנִים: |
| H2063 | | and this is the hand | that is stretched out | H5921 | H3605 | | upon all the nations |
| | H3027 | | H5186 | | | | H1471 |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 23:9 (Parallel theme): The LORD of hosts hath purposed it, to stain the pride of all glory, and to bring into contempt all the honourable of the earth.

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