

Isaiah 14:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

Analysis

'For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?' Two rhetorical questions expecting the answer 'No one!' Who can nullify God's purpose? No one. Who can turn back His hand? No one. This is divine immutability and omnipotence: God's plans cannot be thwarted, His actions cannot be reversed. The questions challenge all human pride and power: try to stop God—you cannot. This provides assurance for believers (God's saving purposes cannot fail) and warning for rebels (God's judgment cannot be escaped). The verse caps the oracle against nations with absolute declaration of divine sovereignty.

Historical Context

Throughout history, nations and individuals have tried to resist God's purposes—Pharaoh refusing to release Israel, Sennacherib threatening Jerusalem, Herod killing babies to prevent Messiah, Saul persecuting Christians. All failed. God's purposes advance despite—even through—opposition. The crucifixion seemed to defeat God's plan; instead it fulfilled it (Acts 2:23). Reformed theology emphasizes divine sovereignty: God's decreative will cannot be frustrated. This doesn't eliminate human responsibility but grounds assurance—salvation, sanctification, and glorification all rest on God's unshakeable purpose, not fluctuating human will.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the impossibility of annulling God's purpose provide assurance regarding your salvation and eternal security?
2. What does the unanswerable question 'who shall turn it back?' teach about the futility of resisting God's will?

Interlinear Text

רַבָּה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה
רַבָּה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה
רַבָּה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה
רַבָּה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה
רַבָּה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה	וְתִּשְׁעַזְלָה

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 43:13 (Parallel theme): Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?

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.

2 Chronicles 20:6 (References Lord): And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?

Job 9:12 (Parallel theme): Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou?

Proverbs 21:30 (References Lord): There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.

Psalms 33:11 (References Lord): The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

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

Romans 8:28 (Parallel theme): And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:31 (Parallel theme): What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Isaiah 23:9 (References Lord): 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.