

Isaiah 57:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou art wearied in the greatness of thy way; yet saidst thou not, There is no hope: thou hast found the life of thine hand; therefore thou wast not grieved.

Analysis

This verse penetrates to the psychology of persistent rebellion. "Wearied in the greatness of thy way" acknowledges that pursuing false gods and foreign alliances is exhausting and futile. Yet the sinner refuses to admit defeat: "yet saidst thou not, There is no hope." The Hebrew noash means to despair or give up. Despite exhaustion and failure, pride prevents repentance. "Thou hast found the life of thine hand" is ambiguous—possibly meaning they found just enough success to continue trusting their own efforts, or that they renewed their strength (chayyat yadech) through temporary relief. "Therefore thou wast not grieved" shows the absence of godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10). Reformed theology recognizes this as the bondage of the will: sinners in their natural state cannot truly repent apart from regenerating grace. The heart is so hardened that even exhaustion and failure don't lead to repentance, only to renewed self-effort. This describes the futility of self-righteousness—an endless, wearying cycle without genuine rest (Matthew 11:28-30).

Historical Context

This perfectly describes Judah's pattern throughout the divided monarchy era: repeatedly trusting in political alliances and military strength despite repeated failures and prophetic warnings. Each disaster brought temporary reform followed by renewed apostasy (2 Kings 17:13-15). The people experienced the emptiness of idolatry and foreign alliances yet persistently returned to these broken cisterns

(Jeremiah 2:13). This pattern continued until the Babylonian exile finally broke Judah of its idolatrous tendencies, though it developed new forms of self-righteousness (legalism) in the post-exilic period.

Related Passages

John 3:16 – God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 – God is love

Study Questions

1. What patterns of sin do we persist in despite their proven futility and weariness?
2. How does pride prevent us from admitting spiritual bankruptcy and seeking God's grace?
3. Where do we seek temporary relief that prevents us from finding true rest in Christ?

Interlinear Text

בָּרְכָּה יְהִי עַתָּה לְאַמְرָתֶךָ בָּרְכָּה
in the greatness of thy way Thou art wearied yet saidst
H7230 H1870 H3021 H3808 H559

וְאֵשׁ	חַיִת	יָדֶךָ	מִצְאָת	עַל	בָּ
thou not There is no hope	the life	of thine hand	thou hast found	H5921	H3651
H2976	H2416	H3027	H4672		

ל א פָּלִיתָנָה
H3808 therefore thou wast not grieved
H2470

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 2:25 (Hope): Withhold thy foot from being unshod, and thy throat from thirst: but thou saidst, There is no hope: no; for I have loved strangers, and after them will I go.

Jeremiah 18:12 (Hope): And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.

Jeremiah 5:3 (Parallel theme): O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.

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