

Jeremiah 13:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then I went to Euphrates, and digged, and took the girdle from the place where I had hid it: and, behold, the girdle was marred, it was profitable for nothing.

Analysis

This verse reveals decay: 'Then I went to Euphrates, and digged, and took the girdle from the place where I had hid it: and, behold, the girdle was marred; it profited for nothing.' 'Digged' (chapharathi) indicates excavation; 'took' (eqqach) retrieves the buried garment. 'Behold' (hinneh) creates dramatic revelation—'the girdle was marred' (nishchath ha'ezor). The Hebrew shachath (שָׁחַת) means ruined, corrupted, destroyed. 'It profited for nothing' (lo yitslach lekhol)—completely worthless, beyond repair or use. The intimate garment, once valuable and personal, has become garbage.

Historical Context

Linen buried in moisture would indeed decay, becoming moldy, rotted, falling apart. The visual of retrieving ruined fabric would be memorable and disturbing. What was meant for intimate closeness has become worthless refuse. The physical demonstration communicated more powerfully than words alone.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does the ruined condition of the girdle symbolize about Judah's spiritual state?
2. How does something meant for intimate relationship become worthless through corruption?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלָּהָ	כָּכָה	וְאֶחָפָּר	וְאָקַח	אֶת	הָאֵזֹר	מִן
H1980	to Euphrates	and dugged	and took	H853	it and behold the girdle	H4480
	H6578	H2658	H3947		H232	
מִמָּקוֹם	אֲשֶׁר	בְּמִתְּנוּי	שָׁמָּה	וְהָיָה	נֶשֶׁם	ת
from the place	H834	where I had hid	H8033	H2009	was marred	
H4725		H2934			H7843	
הָאֵזֹר	לֹא	יִצְלַח	לְכֹל:			
it and behold the girdle	H3808	it was profitable	H3605			
H232		H6743				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 64:6 (Parallel theme): But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Romans 3:12 (Parallel theme): They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.