

Jeremiah 14:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the dearth.

Analysis

This verse introduces a prophetic oracle concerning drought ('that which came to Jeremiah concerning the dearth'). The Hebrew 'battsar' refers to times of drought and famine, understood in covenant theology as divine judgment (Deuteronomy 28:23-24). Drought serves as both literal crisis and metaphor for spiritual barrenness when God withdraws blessing. The phrase 'the word of the LORD' emphasizes that even natural disasters carry divine message and purpose. Reformed theology sees God's sovereignty extending over weather and agricultural conditions, using them to call His people to repentance.

Historical Context

Palestine's agriculture depended entirely on seasonal rains. Drought brought economic collapse, famine, and death. Several droughts are mentioned in Jeremiah's ministry, interpreted as covenant curses for unfaithfulness.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How should believers understand natural disasters in light of God's providence and purposes?
2. What does drought as metaphor teach about spiritual barrenness when God's blessing is withdrawn?
3. How can physical deprivation drive people to seek God or alternatively, to blame Him?

Interlinear Text

עַל יְרֵמְיָהוּ אֵל יְהוָה דְּבַר יְהוָה אֵשׁ ר
H5921 H3414 H413 H3068 H1697 H1961 H834
The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah

הַבִּצָּרוֹת: דְּבַר י
H1226 H1697
The word the dearth

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 17:8 (Parallel theme): For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.