

Jeremiah 14:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for their good.

Analysis

God explicitly forbids intercession: 'Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for their good.' This stunning command reveals that judgment is now fixed. The prohibition against praying 'for their good' indicates that what is coming, though painful, serves God's righteous purposes. This raises profound questions about the limits of intercessory prayer when God has decreed judgment. The Reformed understanding of God's sovereignty includes recognition that His decrees, once established, will not be overturned even by prayer. This doesn't negate prayer's importance but acknowledges its proper boundaries.

Historical Context

This command appears three times in Jeremiah (7:16; 11:14; 14:11), marking stages where judgment became irreversible. Even great intercessors like Moses or Samuel couldn't avert it (Jeremiah 15:1).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do we understand prayer's relationship to God's sovereign decrees?
2. What does it mean when God forbids prayer for certain people or outcomes?
3. How should prophetic certainty about coming judgment affect intercessory prayer?

Interlinear Text

Then said	the LORD	H559	H3068	יְהֹוָה	יְהֹוָה	אָל	אָל	אָל	לְ	תְּמִלֵּל	בְּעֵד	בְּעֵד	כַּאֲמָר	כַּאֲמָר
		H413	H408							unto me	Pray	H1157	not for this	people

לְטוֹבָה: **בְּזַרְחָה**
H2088 for their good H2896

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 7:16 (Prayer): Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

Jeremiah 11:14 (Prayer): Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble.