

Jeremiah 14:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, the hind also calved in the field, and forsook it, because there was no grass.

Analysis

Even wildlife suffers: 'Yea, the hind also calved in the field, and forsook it, because there was no grass.' The hind (deer), known for devoted maternal care, abandons her newborn due to drought's severity. This demonstrates judgment's cosmic scope —innocent animals suffer due to human covenant breaking. The detail intensifies the tragedy: even strong maternal instincts yield to starvation. This recalls Romans 8:20-22, where creation groans under human sin's curse. Reformed theology recognizes that sin's consequences extend beyond sinners to affect all creation.

Historical Context

The hind was proverbially devoted to offspring (Job 39:1-4; Psalm 29:9). For such a creature to abandon its calf indicated extreme environmental stress, making the drought's severity vivid and undeniable.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does human sin's effect on innocent creatures demonstrate sin's cosmic scope?
2. What does creation's suffering under judgment teach about the seriousness of covenant breaking?
3. How should awareness that our sins affect others motivate righteous living?

Interlinear Text

בַּיּוֹם אֲזַרְתָּ הַעֲזֵז בְּשָׂדֶה יָלַד הַעֲזֵז וְבַעֲזֵב
H3588 H1571 Yea the hind in the field also calved and forsook H3588 H3808 H1961
H365 H7704 H3205 H5800

דְּשָׁא:

it because there was no grass

H1877

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 29:9 (Parallel theme): The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory.

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