

Jeremiah 14:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O the hope of Israel, the saviour thereof in time of trouble,
why shouldest thou be as a stranger in the land, and as a
wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry for a night?

Analysis

The prayer continues with rich covenant titles: 'O the hope of Israel, the Saviour thereof in time of trouble, why shouldest thou be as a stranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry for a night?' The titles 'hope of Israel' and 'Saviour' appeal to God's covenant relationship. The questions protest God's seeming absence: He appears as a 'stranger' or 'wayfaring man' (temporary traveler) rather than permanent resident and covenant Lord. This bold prayer language demands God act consistently with His covenant identity. The Reformed tradition values such biblically-grounded, doctrinally-informed prayer.

Historical Context

Israel's history demonstrated God as Savior in times of trouble (Exodus, conquest, judges period). The complaint is that God now seems absent during crisis, contrary to His demonstrated character and covenant promises.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do God's covenant titles inform our prayers during times of apparent divine absence?
2. What does it mean to pray boldly based on God's character and promises?
3. How should we understand seasons when God seems like a 'stranger' or distant traveler?

Interlinear Text

תְּהִיאָה	לֹא	מִהָּ	צָבָה	בְּעֵת	מַוְשִׁיעַ	וּ	יְשָׁבָא	לְ	מִקְרָה
O the hope	of Israel	the saviour	thereof in time	of trouble					
H4723	H3478	H3467	H6256	H4100					H1961
וְקָאֵרֶב	בְּאֶרֶץ	בְּאֶרֶץ							
why shouldest thou be as a stranger	in the land	and as a wayfaring man							
H1616	H776	H732							
תָּבִיט	הַלְּלָא:								
that turneth aside	to tarry for a night								
H5186	H3885								

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 17:13 (Hope): O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.

Jeremiah 50:7 (Hope): All that found them have devoured them: and their adversaries said, We offend not, because they have sinned against the LORD, the habitation of justice, even the LORD, the hope of their fathers.

Isaiah 43:3 (Salvation): For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

Psalms 50:15 (Parallel theme): And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Isaiah 43:11 (Salvation): I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

Isaiah 45:21 (Salvation): Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.

Joel 3:16 (Hope): The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

Isaiah 45:15 (Salvation): Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour.

Acts 28:20 (Hope): For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.

Psalms 138:7 (Salvation): Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.