

Jeremiah 16:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcases of their detestable and abominable things.

Analysis

The reason for thorough judgment: 'For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes.' God's omniscience means comprehensive knowledge of all sins. The threefold emphasis (eyes upon ways, not hid from face, iniquity not hid from eyes) stresses divine awareness of all wrongdoing. This establishes accountability—no sin escapes divine notice. The phrase 'all their ways' indicates God observes total conduct, not just religious activities. This verse grounds judgment in God's perfect knowledge: He judges based on complete evidence, missing nothing. The Reformed doctrine of divine omniscience means accountability is absolute and inescapable.

Historical Context

Though Judah attempted to hide idolatrous practices or claimed innocence, God's perfect knowledge of all their ways meant judgment would be based on complete evidence with no possibility of concealment.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's omniscience establish perfect accountability for all actions?
2. What comfort and what terror does divine omniscience provide?
3. How should awareness that God sees 'all our ways' affect daily conduct?

Interlinear Text

עַל	וְחַטָּאתָם	עֲוֹנָם	מִשְׁנֵה הָ	רִאשׁוֹן הָ	וְשָׁלַמְתִּי
	and their sin	their iniquity	double	And first	I will recompense
H5921	H2403	H5771	H4932	H7223	H7999
שְׁקֻצֵיהֶם	בְּנִבְלֵת	אֶרֶץ יְ	אֶת	חָלָלָם	
of their detestable	with the carcasses	my land		because they have defiled	
H8251	H5038	H776	H853	H2490	
בְּחִלָּתִי	אֶת	מָלְא וְ	וְתוֹעֵב וְחֵיָּהּ		
mine inheritance		they have filled	and abominable things		
H5159	H853	H4390	H8441		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 40:2 (Sin): Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

Revelation 18:6 (Parallel theme): Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

Jeremiah 17:18 (Parallel theme): Let them be confounded that persecute me, but let not me be confounded: let them be dismayed, but let not me be dismayed: bring upon them the day of evil, and destroy them with double destruction.

Ezekiel 11:21 (Parallel theme): But as for them whose heart walketh after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their way upon their own heads, saith the Lord GOD.

Isaiah 61:7 (Parallel theme): For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them.

Jeremiah 2:7 (Parallel theme): And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination.

Jeremiah 3:9 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.

Ezekiel 11:18 (Parallel theme): And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.