

Jeremiah 17:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O my mountain in the field, I will give thy substance and all thy treasures to the spoil, and thy high places for sin, throughout all thy borders.

Analysis

God's judgment is comprehensive and inescapable. The phrase "my mountain in the field" likely refers to the temple mount or Mount Zion, which God claims as His own despite Judah's defiling it with high places. The threatened loss of "substance and all thy treasures" encompasses both material wealth and spiritual inheritance—everything Judah possessed as covenant privileges.

The phrase "for sin, throughout all thy borders" emphasizes that judgment extends to every corner of the nation. The Hebrew *chatta'ah* (חַטָּאָה, "sin") appears as both cause and consequence—their sin brings about their ruin. This demonstrates the Reformed doctrine that sin carries inherent judgment; God's wrath is not arbitrary but the necessary response to covenant violation.

The spoliation described here anticipates the Babylonian conquest (586 BC) when Jerusalem's treasures were plundered and the people exiled. Yet this historical judgment also serves as a type of final judgment, when all who trust in earthly treasures rather than God will lose everything. Christ's warning about laying up treasures in heaven (Matt 6:19-21) echoes this prophetic principle.

Historical Context

Jeremiah prophesied during the final decades of the southern kingdom (c. 627-586 BC), when Judah repeatedly broke covenant with God through idolatry and

injustice. The reference to "high places" reflects the persistent Canaanite worship that Judah adopted despite repeated prophetic warnings. The threatened loss of national treasures was fulfilled when Nebuchadnezzar systematically plundered the temple and palace during the Babylonian sieges of 597 and 586 BC.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What 'treasures' in your life might be subject to God's judgment if they've become idols replacing trust in Him?
2. How does understanding that sin inherently leads to loss change our motivation for obedience?
3. In what ways does this comprehensive judgment point forward to the final day when all will give account before God?

Interlinear Text

הַרְרִי	בְּשָׂדֵה הַ	חֵילְךָ	כָּל	אוֹצְרוֹתַי יְיָ	לִבִּי זַ
O my mountain	in the field	thy substance	H3605	and all thy treasures	to the spoil
H2042	H7704	H2428		H214	H957
אֶת־	בְּמִתֵּי יְיָ	בְּחַטָּאת	בְּכָל	גְּבוּלֶיךָ:	
I will give	and thy high places	for sin	H3605	throughout all thy borders	
H5414	H1116	H2403		H1366	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 15:13 (Sin): Thy substance and thy treasures will I give to the spoil without price, and that for all thy sins, even in all thy borders.

Jeremiah 26:18 (Parallel theme): Micah the Morasthite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spake to all the people of Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Zion shall be plowed like a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest.

2 Kings 24:13 (Parallel theme): And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said.