

Jeremiah 2:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As the thief is ashamed when he is found, so is the house of Israel ashamed; they, their kings, their princes, and their priests, and their prophets,

Analysis

Like a thief ashamed when caught, Israel will experience shame—kings, princes, priests, prophets, and people all guilty of idolatry, worshipping wood and stone as father and mother.

Historical Context

This verse from Jeremiah 2 continues God's covenant lawsuit against Judah, delivered during the late 7th century BC as the nation spiraled toward Babylonian exile. The prophetic indictment addresses systematic idolatry, failed political alliances, and spiritual adultery that characterized Judah from Manasseh through Jehoiakim's reigns. Archaeological evidence confirms widespread syncretistic worship practices condemned here.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does this accusation against ancient Israel reveal patterns of spiritual unfaithfulness that might appear in different forms today?
2. What does God's persistent lawsuit demonstrate about His desire for His people's return versus immediate judgment?

Interlinear Text

בְּ יְהֻנֵּם הַבָּשָׂר כִּי גַּם אֵיךְ כִּי שָׁתָּה
is ashamed As the thief when he is found so is the house
H1322 H1590 H3588 H3651 H954 H1004

וְכֹנְנִיכָּה מְשֻׁרְיתָה מְלָכִים מְשֻׁרְיתָה מְלָכִים
of Israel they their kings their princes and their priests
H3478 H1992 H4428 H8269 H3548

וְנִבְיאִים:
and their prophets
H5030

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