

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

כָּבֹד שֶׁת	גָּנֵב	כִּי	יִמָּצֵא	הָבִישׁוּ	בֵּית
is ashamed	As the thief	H3588	when he is found	H3651	H954
H1322	H1590		H4672		H1004
לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	הָמֶלֶךְ	מְלִכֵּיהֶם	שָׂרֵיהֶם	וְלִכְהֹנֵיָם	
of Israel	H1992	they their kings	their princes	and their priests	
H3478		H4428	H8269	H3548	
וְנְבִיאֵיהֶם:					
and their prophets					
H5030					