

Jeremiah 2:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also in thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents: I have not found it by secret search, but upon all these.

Analysis

God indicts Judah for social injustice intertwined with their religious apostasy. The 'blood of the souls of the poor innocents' likely refers to both literal violence and exploitation of the vulnerable. The phrase 'in thy skirts' suggests evidence so obvious that no investigation was needed—the guilt was openly displayed. This connects covenant unfaithfulness to its inevitable fruit: oppression of the weak. Reformed theology recognizes that true religion always manifests in justice and mercy toward the marginalized, while false religion allows or even promotes exploitation.

Historical Context

Prophetic literature consistently links idolatry with social injustice (see Amos, Isaiah). In ancient Near Eastern contexts, child sacrifice to Molech and economic exploitation were often connected to pagan religious practices.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does genuine faith in Christ produce concern for justice and mercy toward the vulnerable?
2. What forms of 'innocent blood' might be on the hands of our contemporary society?
3. In what ways can religious activity mask or even justify social injustice?

Interlinear Text

גַּם	בְּכִנְפֶיךָ	מִצְאָתִי	דָּם	נֶפֶשׁ וְ	אֲבִיוֹנִים		
H1571	Also in thy skirts	I have not found	the blood	of the souls	of the poor		
	H3671	H4672	H1818	H5315	H34		
נְקִיִּים	לֹא	בְּמַחְתָּר	מִצְאָתִי	כִּי	עַל	כָּל	אֱלֹהִים:
innocents	H3808	it by secret search	I have not found	H3588	H5921	H3605	H428
H5355		H4290	H4672				

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 21:16 (Blood): Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.

Jeremiah 19:4 (Blood): Because they have forsaken me, and have estranged this place, and have burned incense in it unto other gods, whom neither they nor their fathers have known, nor the kings of Judah, and have filled this place with the blood of innocents;

2 Kings 24:4 (Blood): And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon.

Exodus 22:2 (Blood): If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him.

