

Jeremiah 2:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, thou shalt go forth from him, and thine hands upon thine head: for the LORD hath rejected thy confidences, and thou shalt not prosper in them.

Analysis

The image of going forth with 'hands upon thine head' depicts mourning, shame, and captivity. God's rejection of their 'confidences' (plural, indicating multiple false securities) leads to futility in all their endeavors. This verse embodies the Reformed principle that apart from God's blessing, all human effort proves vain. The phrase 'thou shalt not prosper' recalls the covenant curses of Deuteronomy 28, where disobedience leads to frustration in every endeavor. Only God's sovereign election and covenant faithfulness can establish true success.

Historical Context

This prophecy was fulfilled when Babylon conquered Judah (586 BC), and the people were led into exile in shame, their Egyptian alliance having failed to save them.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does this verse illustrate the principle that 'unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain' (Psalm 127:1)?
2. What false confidences do you need to identify and renounce in order to trust God alone?
3. How should the certainty of God's judgment on misplaced trust affect our present choices?

Interlinear Text

וְתַּהֲרֵתָ מֵיָּדֶךָ יְתַצֵּא תַּחֲנוּן
H1571 H853 H2088 Yea thou shalt go forth from him and thine hands H3318 H3027 H5921

בְּרֵאשֵׁת רָאשְׁךָ מֵאַסֵּת יְהֹוָה בְּמַבְטֵחַ יְהֹוָה
upon thine head hath rejected for the LORD thy confidences H3588 H3988 H3068 H4009 H3808

תַּצְלִיחֵי לֹא
and thou shalt not prosper H6743 H0

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 13:19 (Parallel theme): And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colours that was on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying.

Jeremiah 17:5 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.