

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

עַל	יְדוּ יָדָיו	תֵּצֵא יָהּ	מֵאֵת גִּם
H5921	H3027	H3318	H1571 H853 H2088
	from him and thine hands	Yea thou shalt go forth	
וְלֹא	בְּמִבְטָחַי	יְהוָה	מֵאֵת סִי
H3808	H4009	H3068	H3588 H3988
	thy confidences	for the LORD	hath rejected
			upon thine head
			H7218
		לֹא תִצְלַח יְהוָה	
		H0	H6743
		and thou shalt not prosper	

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.