

Jeremiah 6:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

Analysis

The rhetorical question expects a negative answer: they are not ashamed of their abominations. The phrase 'neither could they blush' indicates such deep corruption that natural moral sense is deadened. Therefore, judgment is certain: 'they shall fall among them that fall' and 'be cast down' at the time of divine visitation. This illustrates the Reformed doctrine of the seared conscience (1 Timothy 4:2)—persistent sin hardens the heart until shame itself disappears. The inability to blush represents complete moral corruption. Such shamelessness removes the last restraint, making judgment inevitable.

Historical Context

By Jeremiah's time, practices that should have horrified covenant people (child sacrifice, temple prostitution, syncretism) were practiced openly without shame. This moral numbness preceded national collapse.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What are signs that a culture or individual has lost the capacity for moral shame?
2. How does persistent sin gradually erode natural moral sensibility and conscience?
3. What role does shame play in God's design for recognizing and turning from sin?

Interlinear Text

הֲבָ יָשׁוּ	כִּי	תוֹעֵבָה	עָשׂוּ	גַּם	יָב וָשׁוּ
Were they ashamed	H3588	abomination	when they had committed	nay	ashamed
H3001		H8441	H6213	H1571	H954
לֹא	יָב וָשׁוּ	גַּם	הַכִּלִּים	לֹא	יָד עוֹלָם
H3808	ashamed	nay	they blush	H3808	could
H954	H1571	H3637	H3045	H3651	among them that fall
					H5307
בִּנְפֹלִים	בְּעֵת	פָּקַדְתִּי	יִכְשְׁלוּ	אָמַר	
among them that fall	at the time	that I visit	them they shall be cast down	saith	
H5307	H6256	H6485	H3782	H559	
יְהוָה:					
the LORD					
H3068					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 8:12 (References Lord): Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush:

therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 3:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

Matthew 15:14 (Parallel theme): Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

Philippians 3:19 (Parallel theme): Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

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