

# Jeremiah 10:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My tabernacle is spoiled, and all my cords are broken: my children are gone forth of me, and they are not: there is none to stretch forth my tent any more, and to set up my curtains.

## Analysis

This verse extends the lament: 'My tabernacle is spoiled, and all my cords are broken.' The Hebrew *ohel* (אֹהֶל, tent) uses nomadic imagery for dwelling place—Jerusalem or the entire nation portrayed as a destroyed tent. 'Cords broken' indicates the tent collapsing, protection removed. 'My children are gone forth of me, and they are not.' Exile has removed the next generation—absence produces desolation. 'There is none to stretch forth my tent any more, and to set up my curtains.' The tent cannot be re-erected; no one remains to restore the community. Complete devastation—dwelling destroyed, children absent, no hope of rebuilding.

## Historical Context

Tent imagery appears throughout Israel's history (Numbers 24:5, 2 Samuel 7:2). The tabernacle (mishkan) was Israel's original portable sanctuary. Using this imagery for Jerusalem's destruction connects back to wilderness origins while lamenting present collapse. The exile did scatter the population, removing the manpower needed to maintain community structures.

## Related Passages

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does tent imagery connect destruction to Israel's earlier nomadic identity and tabernacle worship?
2. What does the absence of anyone to 'stretch forth the tent' suggest about complete social collapse?

## Interlinear Text

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אָבֶל	בָּנִים	בָּנָה	מִתְבָּבָה	שָׁדֵךְ	וְכֹל	מִתְבָּבָה	נִתְבַּחַת	בָּנִים	בָּנָה
My tabernacle	is spoiled	H3605	and all my cords	H4340	are broken	H5423	my children	H1121	
H168	H7703			H5186					
are gone forth	אֵין	H369	אֵין	H369	of me and they are not there is none to stretch forth	H3407			
H3318									
וְעַד	אָבֶל	וְמִקְרָב	רִיעוֹתִים						
H5750	My tabernacle	any more and to set up	my curtains	H3407					
	H168	H6965							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 4:20** (Parallel theme): Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment.

**Jeremiah 31:15** (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.

**Isaiah 54:2** (Parallel theme): Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes;