

Jeremiah 11:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear my words; and they went after other gods to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers.

Analysis

This verse describes the conspiracy: 'They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear my words.' The Hebrew shuvu (שׁוּבוּ, turned back) indicates deliberate return to ancestral sins—not original rebellion but recapitulation. 'Forefathers' (avotham harishonim, their first/former fathers) refers to previous generations who broke covenant. 'And they went after other gods to serve them.' The phrase 'other gods' (elohim acherim) echoes the first commandment's prohibition (Exodus 20:3). 'The house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers.' Both kingdoms—northern Israel and southern Judah—violated the Sinai covenant. The verb 'broken' (hepheru) means to annul, invalidate, make void.

Historical Context

Northern Israel's apostasy under Jeroboam established Baal worship (1 Kings 12:25-33) that culminated in Assyrian exile (722 BC). Judah, despite witnessing Israel's fate, repeated the pattern under Manasseh (2 Kings 21). Josiah's reforms temporarily reversed the trend, but his successors returned to ancestral sins. The parallel mention of both kingdoms shows Judah learned nothing from Israel's destruction.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does 'turning back to ancestral iniquities' reveal about sin's generational patterns?
2. How did Judah's failure to learn from Israel's judgment compound their guilt?

Interlinear Text

שָׁבוּ	עַל	עוֹנֵי ת	אֲבוֹתָם:	הָרִאשֹׁנִים
They are turned back	H5921	to the iniquities	with their fathers	of their forefathers
H7725		H5771	H1	H7223

אֲשֶׁר	מָאֲנוּ	לִשְׁמָוֶֿעַ	אֶת	דְּבָרִי	וְהִמָּה	הֵלְכוּ ו
which refused	to hear	H853	my words	H1992	and they went	
H834	H3985	H8085	H1697		H1980	

אַחֲרַי	אֱלֹהֵי ים	אַחֲרֵי ים	לְעִבְדָם	הֵפְרוּ	וּבֵית
after	gods	other	to serve	have broken	and the house
H310	H430	H312	H5647	H6565	H1004

יִשְׂרָאֵל	וּבֵית	יְהוּדָה	אֶת	בְּרִיתִי	אֲשֶׁר	כָּרַמְתִּי
of Israel	and the house	of Judah	H853	my covenant	H834	which I made
H3478	H1004	H3063		H1285		H3772

אֶת	אֲבוֹתָם:
H854	with their fathers
	H1

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 31:16 (Covenant): And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.

Ezekiel 16:59 (Covenant): For thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even deal with thee as thou hast done, which hast despised the oath in breaking the covenant.

1 Samuel 15:11 (Word): It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

Judges 2:19 (References God): And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.

Judges 2:17 (Word): And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so.

Hebrews 8:9 (Covenant): Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

Psalms 78:57 (Parallel theme): But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow.

Deuteronomy 9:7 (References God): Remember, and forget not, how thou provokedst the LORD thy God to wrath in the wilderness: from the day that thou didst depart out of the land of Egypt, until ye came unto this place, ye have been rebellious against the LORD.

Ezekiel 44:7 (Covenant): In that ye have brought into my sanctuary strangers, uncircumcised in heart, and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in my sanctuary, to

pollute it, even my house, when ye offer my bread, the fat and the blood, and they have broken my covenant because of all your abominations.

Leviticus 26:15 (Covenant): And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant:

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