

Jeremiah 11:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD of hosts, that planted thee, hath pronounced evil against thee, for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done against themselves to provoke me to anger in offering incense unto Baal.

Analysis

This verse explains the fire: 'For the LORD of hosts, that planted thee, hath pronounced evil against thee, for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done against themselves to provoke me to anger in offering incense unto Baal.' God who 'planted' (nata) Israel now pronounces judgment (ra'ah). The phrase 'done against themselves' (le'hem, for themselves) indicates self-destructive sin—they harm themselves by provoking God. 'Offering incense unto Baal' (leqatter laBa'al) specifies the offense: idolatrous worship. The title 'LORD of hosts' (YHWH Tseva'oth) emphasizes divine military power to execute judgment. Both houses—Israel and Judah—share guilt for Baal worship spanning centuries.

Historical Context

The dual mention of Israel and Judah connects the northern kingdom's past judgment (722 BC) with Judah's approaching doom. Despite witnessing Israel's destruction for Baal worship, Judah persisted in the same sins. The phrase 'done against themselves' appears also in Jeremiah 7:19, emphasizing that sin is ultimately self-destructive—harming the sinner more than God.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How is sin simultaneously an offense against God and self-destructive harm to the sinner?
2. What does God's role as both Planter and Pronouncer of judgment reveal about His comprehensive sovereignty?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי הָ	צָבָאוֹת	הַנוֹטִיעַ	אוֹתָךְ	דָּבָר	עַל יְיָ
For the LORD	of hosts	that planted	H853	thee hath pronounced	H5921
H3068	H6635	H5193		H1696	
רָעַת	בְּגִלְלִי	רָעַת	וּבֵית	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וּבֵית
evil	against thee for	evil	and of the house	of Israel	and of the house
H7451	H1558	H7451	H1004	H3478	H1004
יְהוּדָה	אֲשֶׁר	עָשׂוּ	לָהֶם		
of Judah	H834	which they have done	H1992		
H3063		H6213			
	לְהַכְעִיסֵנִי	לְקַטֹּר	לְבַעַל		
	against themselves to provoke me to anger	in offering incense	unto Baal		
	H3707	H6999	H1168		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 5:2 (Parallel theme): And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also

made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

Jeremiah 2:21 (Parallel theme): Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?

Jeremiah 12:2 (Parallel theme): Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root: they grow, yea, they bring forth fruit: thou art near in their mouth, and far from their reins.

Jeremiah 19:15 (Evil): Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring upon this city and upon all her towns all the evil that I have pronounced against it, because they have hardened their necks, that they might not hear my words.