

# Jeremiah 13:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing.

## Analysis

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This verse specifies the sins: 'This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing.' The indictment has three elements: refusing to hear (me'anim lishmoa), following stubborn hearts (sheriruth libbam), and serving other gods. These summarize covenant violation: rejecting revelation, following self, pursuing idols. The conclusion: 'shall be as this girdle'—worthless, ruined, discarded. Israel's potential intimacy with God becomes worthless corruption.

## Historical Context

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These three accusations appear throughout Jeremiah: refusing to hear (5:21, 7:13, 26), stubborn heart (3:17, 7:24, 9:14), and serving other gods (1:16, 5:19, 11:10). The three-fold description comprehensively covers their failure: rejecting God's word, following their own desires, worshipping idols. The outcome—uselessness—is the consequence of corrupted relationship.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

### Study Questions

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1. How do the three accusations—refusing to hear, stubborn heart, serving other gods—comprehensively describe covenant violation?
2. What makes corrupt relationship 'good for nothing' despite original potential?

### Interlinear Text

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וַיֵּלֶכְוּ	דְּבַר י	אֶת	לִשְׁמָוֹעַ	הַמֵּאֲנִי יִם	הָרָע	הַזֶּה הַ	הָעָם
which walk	my words		to hear	which refuse	This evil		people
H1980	H1697	H853	H8085	H3987	H7451	H2088	H5971
אֲחֵרִים	אֱלֹהֵי יִם	אַחֲרֵי	וַיֵּלֶכְוּ	לִבָּם	בְּשִׁרְרֹת		
other	gods	after	which walk	of their heart	in the imagination		
H312	H430	H310	H1980	H3820	H8307		
כְּאֵזוֹר	וַיְהִי	לָהֶם	וְלִהְיוּתָם	לְעַבְדָּם			
them shall even be as this girdle			them and to worship	to serve			
H232	H1961	H1992	H7812	H5647			
לְכָל:	יִצְלַח	לֹא	אֲשֶׁר	הַזֶּה הַ			
	which is good						
H3605	H6743	H3808	H834	H2088			

### Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 16:12** (Evil): And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me:

**Jeremiah 9:14** (Parallel theme): But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them:

**Numbers 14:11** (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?

**Acts 7:51** (Parallel theme): Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

**Jeremiah 3:17** (Evil): At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.

**Jeremiah 13:7** (Parallel theme): Then I went to Euphrates, and digged, and took the girdle from the place where I had hid it: and, behold, the girdle was marred, it was profitable for nothing.