

Jeremiah 15:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast forsaken me, saith the LORD, thou art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand against thee, and destroy thee; I am weary with repenting.

Analysis

This verse expresses divine exhaustion: 'Thou hast forsaken me, saith the LORD, thou art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand against thee, and destroy thee; I am weary with repenting.' 'Forsaken me' (natash, נִטְשׁ) indicates abandonment; 'gone backward' (achor, אַחֲר) describes retreat from relationship. God's response: 'stretch out my hand' (natah yad) for destruction. The stunning phrase 'I am weary with repenting' (nil'ethi hinachem, נִלְאִתֵּי הַנְּחָמָם) indicates divine exhaustion with relenting from judgment. God has repeatedly held back punishment, but patience has ended. The divine reluctance to judge, expressed throughout prophetic literature, finally yields to exhausted necessity.

Historical Context

God's 'repenting' (nacham) of judgment appears throughout Israel's history—after the golden calf (Exodus 32:14), at Nineveh (Jonah 3:10), with David (2 Samuel 24:16). But Judah's persistent rebellion exhausted divine patience. The anthropomorphic language ('weary with repenting') expresses how human unfaithfulness tests even God's longsuffering. By Jeremiah's time, the accumulated centuries of rebellion exceeded what divine patience would further tolerate.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does God's 'weariness with repenting' reveal about the limits of divine patience?
2. How does this verse balance God's reluctance to judge with His determination to act?

Interlinear Text

תַּלְכֵדְךָ אֶת־נָטַע שְׁתַּיְתָה אֶת־נָאָם יְהִינָּה אֶת־וּרְכָבְךָ תַּלְכֵדְךָ
H859 Thou hast forsaken H853 me saith H5002 the LORD H268 backward H1980

עַל־יְהִינָּה אֶת־יְדֵךְ אֶת־נָאָס אֶשְׁחִית־ךָ אֶת־נָאָס
H5921 against thee and destroy H7843

נָאָמָת־תַּיְתָה אֶת־נָאָמָת־תַּיְתָה
thee I am weary with repenting H3811 H5162

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 7:24 (Parallel theme): But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

Zephaniah 1:4 (Parallel theme): I will also stretch out mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, and the name of the Chemarims with the priests;

Isaiah 1:4 (References Lord): Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

Zechariah 7:11 (Parallel theme): But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.

Hosea 11:7 (Parallel theme): And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the most High, none at all would exalt him.

Jeremiah 6:19 (Parallel theme): Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

Jeremiah 2:17 (References Lord): Hast thou not procured this unto thyself, in that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, when he led thee by the way?

Jeremiah 1:16 (Parallel theme): And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands.

Jeremiah 6:11 (References Lord): Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD; I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad, and upon the assembly of young men together: for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with him that is full of days.

Ezekiel 25:7 (References Lord): Behold, therefore I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and will deliver thee for a spoil to the heathen; and I will cut thee off from the people, and I will cause thee to perish out of the countries: I will destroy thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.