

Jeremiah 16:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shalt thou say unto them, Because your fathers have forsaken me, saith the LORD, and have walked after other gods, and have served them, and have worshipped them, and have forsaken me, and have not kept my law;

Analysis

God provides the answer Jeremiah should give: 'Then shalt thou say unto them, Because your fathers have forsaken me, saith the LORD, and have walked after other gods, and have served them, and have worshipped them, and have forsaken me, and have not kept my law.' The indictment lists specific sins:

1. forsook Yahweh
2. followed other gods
3. served them
4. worshipped them
5. forsook Yahweh (repeated for emphasis)
6. didn't keep the law.

The fourfold description of idolatry (walked after, served, worshipped, forsook) emphasizes comprehensive apostasy. The phrase 'your fathers' indicates generational pattern, though the current generation continues it (v. 12). This answer directly addresses their feigned ignorance with specific indictment.

Historical Context

Throughout the monarchy period, Israel and Judah repeatedly fell into idolatry despite covenant requirements and prophetic warnings. Each generation inherited and often intensified previous generations' apostasy.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does specific naming of sins counter spiritual blindness and denial?
2. What is the relationship between generational patterns of sin and individual responsibility?
3. How should awareness of our fathers' sins inform our self-examination without becoming excuse-making?

Interlinear Text

וְאָמַרְתָּ	מִן	עַל	אֲלֵיכֶם	עָזָבָה	בְּבוֹא	מִן	אָמַרְתָּ
Then shalt thou say		H413	H5921	H834	have forsaken	H5800	
		H559				H5800	
אֲבֹתֶיכֶם	מִן	אֲזֹתִי	נָאָמָת	הַיְהוּ	וַיֵּלֶךְ	אַחֲרֵי	
unto them Because your fathers	H1	H853	me saith	the LORD	H1980	after	
		H5002	H3068			H310	
אֱלֹהִים	מִן	עִשְׂבָּדָם	וְשִׁפְעָנוּ	וְלֹא			
gods	other	and have served	them and have worshipped	H0			
H430	H312	H5647	H7812				
וְאַתֶּם	בְּבוֹא	לֹא	תָּזְבִּיתִי	שִׁמְרָה			
H853	have forsaken	H853	my law	me and have not kept			
H5800		H8451	H3808	H8104			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 8:2 (Worship): And they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, and all the host of heaven, whom they have loved, and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped: they shall not be gathered, nor be buried; they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth.

Jeremiah 22:9 (Worship): Then they shall answer, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God, and worshipped other gods, and served them.

Ezekiel 11:21 (References God): But as for them whose heart walketh after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their way upon their own heads, saith the Lord GOD.

1 Kings 9:9 (Worship): And they shall answer, Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil.

1 Peter 4:3 (Parallel theme): For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

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