

# Jeremiah 16:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

## Analysis

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The indictment continues, addressing the current generation: '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.' Not only have they continued ancestral sins, they've exceeded them ('worse than your fathers'). The phrase 'imagination of his evil heart' identifies the source: internal corruption producing external rebellion. The result: 'that they may not hearken unto me'—willful deafness to God. The progression from fathers' sins to worse contemporary sins illustrates how resisted light increases darkness. Each generation that rejects truth becomes harder than the previous.

## Historical Context

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Despite Josiah's reforms and Jeremiah's decades of ministry, Judah quickly reverted to idolatry and injustice after Josiah's death, often exceeding previous generations' wickedness.

## Related Passages

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

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

1. How does each generation that rejects truth tend to become worse than predecessors?
2. What is the relationship between following evil heart-imaginings and deafness to God?
3. What responsibility do we bear not to exceed our fathers' sins but to repent of them?

וְהָיָה כִּי יֵלֶכְךָ וְהָיָה כִּי יֵלֶכְךָ H859	וְהָיָה כִּי יֵלֶכְךָ H7489	וְהָיָה כִּי יֵלֶכְךָ H6213	וְהָיָה כִּי יֵלֶכְךָ H1	וְהָיָה כִּי יֵלֶכְךָ H2005	וְהָיָה כִּי יֵלֶכְךָ H1980
וְהָיָה כִּי יֵלֶכְךָ H859	וְהָיָה כִּי יֵלֶכְךָ H7489	וְהָיָה כִּי יֵלֶכְךָ H6213	וְהָיָה כִּי יֵלֶכְךָ H1	וְהָיָה כִּי יֵלֶכְךָ H2005	וְהָיָה כִּי יֵלֶכְךָ H1980

**Jeremiah 7:26** (Parallel theme): Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers.

**Jeremiah 13:10** (Evil): 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.

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

**Ecclesiastes 9:3** (Evil): This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of

evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

**Jeremiah 7:24** (Evil): 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.

**Mark 7:21** (Evil): For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

**1 Samuel 15:23** (Parallel theme): For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

**Judges 2:19** (Parallel theme): 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.