

Jeremiah 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is Israel a servant? is he a homeborn slave? why is he spoiled?

Analysis

Rhetorical questions about Israel's status as servant or slave highlight the irony—God freed them from Egypt, yet they became plunder through voluntary apostasy. They enslaved themselves by forsaking divine protection.

Historical Context

This verse from Jeremiah 2 continues God's covenant lawsuit against Judah, delivered during the late 7th century BC as the nation spiraled toward Babylonian exile. The prophetic indictment addresses systematic idolatry, failed political alliances, and spiritual adultery that characterized Judah from Manasseh through Jehoiakim's reigns. Archaeological evidence confirms widespread syncretistic worship practices condemned here.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this accusation against ancient Israel reveal patterns of spiritual unfaithfulness that might appear in different forms today?

2. What does God's persistent lawsuit demonstrate about His desire for His people's return versus immediate judgment?

Interlinear Text

הַעֲבָד	לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	אִם	יֵלֵד	בֵּית	הָוָא	מִדָּוָע	הָהָא
a servant	Is Israel	H518	H3211	is he a homeborn	H1931	slave why	H1961
H5650	H3478			H1004		H4069	

לְבָז:
is he spoiled
H957

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 4:22 (References Israel): And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn:

Isaiah 50:1 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.

Ecclesiastes 2:7 (Parallel theme): I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:

Genesis 15:3 (Parallel theme): And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.