

Jeremiah 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hast thou not procured this unto thyself, in that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, when he led thee by the way?

Analysis

God confronts Israel's responsibility—they procured disaster themselves by forsaking the LORD who led them. Divine judgment is justice for self-inflicted harm through rebellion, not arbitrary cruelty.

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 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of 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

זֶה אֵת הַלֹּאִי	תַּעֲשֶׂה	לְךָ				
H3808	H2063	H6213				
Hast thou not procured		H0				
עַדְבֶּךָ		אֶת	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	בְּעֵת	ת
H5800		H853	H3068	H430	H6256	
this unto thyself in that thou hast forsaken		the LORD	thy God	when		
מִלִּיךָ		בְּדַרְךָ:				
H1980		H1870				
thee by the way						

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 4:18 (Parallel theme): Thy way and thy doings have procured these things unto thee; this is thy wickedness, because it is bitter, because it reacheth unto thine heart.

Jeremiah 2:19 (References God): Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

Jeremiah 2:13 (Parallel theme): For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Psalms 77:20 (Parallel theme): Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Psalms 107:7 (Parallel theme): And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.

Hosea 13:9 (Parallel theme): O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org