

Jeremiah 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now what hast thou to do in the way of Egypt, to drink the waters of Sihor? or what hast thou to do in the way of Assyria, to drink the waters of the river?

Analysis

Questioning Israel's political alliances with Egypt and Assyria/Babylon reveals the futility of seeking security through foreign powers rather than trusting God as the true source of protection and provision.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

מִצְבֵּחַ יִם
לְדֹבֶר
לֹא

H6258

H4100

H0

And now what hast thou to do in the way

H1870

מִצְבֵּחַ יִם

of Egypt

H4714

לְשַׁת וְתִ
לֹא

to drink

the waters

of Sihor

H4100

H0

H7883

לְדֹבֶר
לֹא

לְשַׁת וְתִ
מִ

And now what hast thou to do in the way of Assyria to drink the waters

H1870

H804

H8354

H4325

בָּרָר:
of the river

H5104

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 13:3 (References Egypt): From Sihor, which is before Egypt, even unto the borders of Ekron northward, which is counted to the Canaanite: five lords of the Philistines; the Gazathites, and the Ashdothites, the Eshkalonites, the Gittites, and the Ekonites; also the Avites:

Isaiah 31:1 (References Egypt): Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

Jeremiah 2:36 (References Egypt): Why gaddest thou about so much to change thy way? thou also shalt be ashamed of Egypt, as thou wast ashamed of Assyria.

Hosea 7:11 (References Egypt): Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart: they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria.