

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

Psalms 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

וְעַתָּה ה	מֶה	לָךְ	לָדֹכֶךָ	מִצְרַיִם
H6258	H4100	H0	H1870	H4714
		And now what hast thou to do in the way		of Egypt
לִשְׁתּוֹת	מֵי	שִׁיחַ וֹר	וַיֵּמָה	לָךְ
H8354	H4325	H7883	H4100	H0
to drink	the waters	of Sihor		
לִשְׁתּוֹת	מֵי	לָדֹכֶךָ	אֲשׁוּר	לִשְׁתּוֹת
		H1870	H804	H8354
		And now what hast thou to do in the way	of Assyria	to drink
				the waters
				H4325
נָהָר:				
H5104				
of the river				

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 Ekronites; 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.

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