

Jeremiah 2:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Israel's own wickedness and backslidings will correct and reprove them through inherent consequences. Forsaking God and lacking fear of Him produces bitter results—sin contains its own punishment.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

תְּשִׁיבֶךָ בְּעֵינֶיךָ וְמִשְׁבֹּתְךָ יְהִי תְּשִׁיבָתְךָ בְּעֵינֶיךָ

shall correct Thine own wickedness thee and thy backslidings shall reprove

H3256 H7451 H4878 H3198

וְיָדְעָתָךְ וְרָאֵי כִּי תְּשִׁיבֶךָ בְּעֵינֶיךָ תְּמִימָה וְבִטְבָּחָה

thee know therefore and see H3588 Thine own wickedness thing and bitter

H3045 H7200 H7451 H4751

פְּחִדָּתִי וְלֹא אַלְפָה יְהִי אֶתְּנִיתְךָ בְּעֵינֶיךָ יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים

and that my fear that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God and that my fear

H5800 H853 H3068 H430 H3808 H6345

אֲבָאוֹתָה יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים תָּאַמֵּן אַל יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים תָּאַמֵּן אַל יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים

of hosts the Lord GOD is not in thee saith the Lord GOD

H6635 H3069 H136 H5002 H413

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 3:9 (Evil): The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.

Psalms 36:1 (Evil): The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.

Jeremiah 2:17 (References God): Hast thou not procured this unto thyself, in that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, when he led thee by the way?

Jeremiah 4:18 (Evil): 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.

Hosea 5:5 (Parallel theme): And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them.

Jeremiah 5:6 (Parallel theme): Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, and a wolf of the evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backslidings are increased.

Amos 8:10 (Parallel theme): And I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; and I will bring up sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day.

Hosea 11:7 (Parallel theme): And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the most High, none at all would exalt him.

Jeremiah 8:5 (Parallel theme): Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return.

Romans 3:18 (References God): There is no fear of God before their eyes.