

Jeremiah 2:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?

Analysis

God planted Israel as a noble vine of wholly right seed, yet they turned into a degenerate wild vine of a strange plant. This agricultural metaphor illustrates corruption despite divine cultivation.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

אַתָּה בְּעֵד כָּל הַשּׂוֹר כִּי תְּשַׁׁעַת יְהוָה וְאַנְכִּי
H595 Yet I had planted H5193 thee a noble vine H8321 H3605 seed H2233 wholly a right H571

אֵיךְ יָהָפֵךְ תְּלִבְתָּה סֹורֵךְ הַגְּבֵן
H349 how then art thou turned H2015 H0 into the degenerate plant H5494 vine H1612

תְּכַרְחֵה:
of a strange
H5237

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 5:4 (Parallel theme): What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?

Exodus 15:17 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.

Psalms 80:8 (Parallel theme): Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.

Psalms 44:2 (Parallel theme): How thou didst drive out the heathen with thy hand, and plantedst them; how thou didst afflict the people, and cast them out.

John 15:1 (Parallel theme): I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

Matthew 21:33 (Parallel theme): Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

Deuteronomy 4:37 (Parallel theme): And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt;

Deuteronomy 32:32 (Parallel theme): For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter:

Luke 20:9 (Parallel theme): Then began he to speak to the people this parable; A certain man planted a vineyard, and let it forth to husbandmen, and went into a far country for a long time.

Mark 12:1 (Parallel theme): And he began to speak unto them by parables. A certain man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about it, and digged a place for the winefat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country.