

# Jeremiah 2:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How canst thou say, I am not polluted, I have not gone after Baalim? see thy way in the valley, know what thou hast done: thou art a swift dromedary traversing her ways;

## Analysis

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Israel protests innocence despite evidence, but their actions in the valley (child sacrifice at Topheth) and restless pursuit of false gods like camels in heat expose their guilt and obsessive idolatry.

## Historical Context

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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

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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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

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אֵיךְ H349	תֹּאמַר י How canst thou say H559	לֹא H3808	נִטְמָה אֶתִּי I am not polluted H2930	אַחֲרַי after H310	הַבְּעָלִים Baalim H1168	לֹא H3808
הֵלַךְ כְּתִי I have not gone H1980	רָא י see H7200	דְּרָכֶיהָ: her ways H1870	בִּגְיָא in the valley H1516	יָדַע י know H3045	מָה הָיָה H4100	עָשָׂה יְת what thou hast done H6213
בִּכְרֹהֶה dromedary H1072	קָלָה הָ thou art a swift H7031	מְשַׁכְּרֶה traversing H8308	דְּרָכֶיהָ: her ways H1870			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 7:31** (Parallel theme): And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart.

**Proverbs 30:12** (Parallel theme): There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.