

# 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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ל	א	בְּבָלִים	אָסָב	וְנִטְמֵן	אָתִי	לְאַ	תְּאַמְּרָה	וְאַיְ	אַיְ
H349	How canst thou say	H3808	I am not polluted	after	Baalim	H3808			
	H559		H2930	H310	H1168				
עָשָׂ	יָתָ	מֵה	דָּעַ	וְ	בְּגַ	אֵ	דְּבָרִים	רְאֵ	בְּלִ
I have not gone	see	her ways	in the valley	know	H4100	what thou hast done			כְּתִי
H1980	H7200	H1870	H1516	H3045	H6213				
דְּרָכִים	מְשֻׁךְ	כַּת	כָּל	הַ	בְּכָבֵב	ה			
dromedary	thou art a swift	traversing	her ways		H1072	H7031	H8308	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.