

Jeremiah 2:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Withhold thy foot from being unshod, and thy throat from thirst: but thou saidst, There is no hope: no; for I have loved strangers, and after them will I go.

Analysis

Warning against pursuing idols until worn out and thirsty, yet Israel refuses, declaring love for strangers and determination to follow them. Addiction to idolatry overrides reason and restraint.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וַתֹּאמֶר י	מִצְמָאָה	וּגְדֹרְךָ	מִיָּדִי	בְּגִלְךָ	מִנְעֵ י
but thou saidst	from thirst	and thy throat	from being unshod	thy foot	Withhold
H559	H6773	H1627	H3182	H7272	H4513
אֵלֶיךָ:	וְאַחֲרֵיהֶם	זָרִים	אֶה בְּתִי	כִּי	לֹא
	and after	strangers	no for I have loved		There is no hope
H1980	H310	H2114	H157	H3588	H2976
				H3808	

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 32:16 (Parallel theme): They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger.

Jeremiah 18:12 (Hope): And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.

Jeremiah 3:13 (Parallel theme): Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 2:6 (Parallel theme): Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers.

Isaiah 57:10 (Hope): Thou art wearied in the greatness of thy way; yet saidst thou not, There is no hope: thou hast found the life of thine hand; therefore thou wast not grieved.

Jeremiah 13:22 (Parallel theme): And if thou say in thine heart, Wherefore come these things upon me? For the greatness of thine iniquity are thy skirts discovered, and thy heels made bare.

Jeremiah 14:10 (Love): Thus saith the LORD unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet, therefore the LORD doth not accept them; he will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins.

Romans 8:24 (Hope): For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

Deuteronomy 28:48 (Parallel theme): Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

Lamentations 4:4 (Parallel theme): The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask bread, and no man breaketh it unto them.