

Jeremiah 2:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying to a stock, Thou art my father; and to a stone, Thou hast brought me forth: for they have turned their back unto me, and not their face: but in the time of their trouble they will say, Arise, and save us.

Analysis

Israel treats created objects (trees and stones) as deity, telling wood "you are my father" and stone "you gave me birth." Yet in trouble they cry to God for salvation—turning backs in prosperity but faces in distress.

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 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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

אָתָּה	וְלֹא בֶן	אָתָּה	אָבִי	לֵעַץ	יֹאמַר וְ
	and to a stone	H859	Thou art my father	H6086	Saying
	H68		H1		H559
וְלֹא אֶל	עַל רֶגְלָם	כִּי	כָּנּוּ וְ	יִלְדָּתָּ נִי	
	their back	H413	for they have turned	H3205	Thou hast brought me forth
	H6203		H6437		
קוּמָה	יֹאמַר וְ	רַעְתָּם	וּבַיָּמֵינוּ	כָּנּוּ יָמֵינוּ	
Arise	Saying	of their trouble	but in the time	unto me and not their face	
H6965	H559	H7451	H6256	H6440	
וְהוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ:					
and save					
H3467					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 26:16 (Parallel theme): LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them.

Hosea 7:14 (Parallel theme): And they have not cried unto me with their heart, when they howled upon their beds: they assemble themselves for corn and wine, and they rebel against me.