

Jeremiah 2:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In vain have I smitten your children; they received no correction: your own sword hath devoured your prophets, like a destroying lion.

Analysis

Appealing to the current generation to consider God's treatment—has He been wilderness or land of darkness to them? Yet they claim autonomy, refusing to return despite His covenant faithfulness.

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

לְשׁוֹן	הֲכִי יָתִי	אֶת	בְּנֵיךְ מִ	מוֹסֵר	לֹא	לָקְחוּ
In vain	have I smitten	H853	your children	no correction	H3808	they received
H7723	H5221		H1121	H4148		H3947
אָכַל הֶ	חֶרֶבְךָ מִ	נְבִיאֶיךָ מִ	כְּאַרְיֵה הֶ	מְשֻׁחִית:		
hath devoured	your own sword	your prophets	lion	like a destroying		
H398	H2719	H5030	H738	H7843		

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 9:26 (Word): Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations.

Acts 7:52 (Prophecy): Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

1 Thessalonians 2:15 (Prophecy): Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

Isaiah 1:5 (Parallel theme): Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

Jeremiah 5:3 (Parallel theme): O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they

have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.

Isaiah 9:13 (Parallel theme): For the people turneth not unto him that smiteth them, neither do they seek the LORD of hosts.

Jeremiah 7:28 (Parallel theme): But thou shalt say unto them, This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth.

Matthew 23:29 (Prophecy): Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

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