

Jeremiah 2:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O generation, see ye the word of the LORD. Have I been a wilderness unto Israel? a land of darkness? wherefore say my people, We are lords; we will come no more unto thee?

Analysis

As a bride remembers her ornaments and wedding attire, so God remembers His covenant. Yet Israel has forgotten Him for days without number—forgetting their true treasure for worthless vanities.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

בְּמִדְבָּר	רָא	וְאַתָּם	דָּבָר	יְהִי	הַ	בְּמִדְבָּר	רָא	וְאַתָּם	דָּבָר	יְהִי	הַ
O generation	H859	see	ye the word	of the LORD	Have I been a wilderness						
H1755		H7200	H1697	H3068	H4057						
unto Israel	H1961	a land	a land	of darkness	wherefore say						
H3478	H518	H776	H3991	H4069	H559						
עַמִּי	עַמִּי	בְּדָבָר	לֹא	אֵין	מִדְבָּר	אָמֵר	מִדְבָּר	לֹא	מִדְבָּר	אָמֵר	לֹא
my people	We are lords	H3808	we will come	H5750	H413						
H5971	H7300		H935								

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 32:15 (Parallel theme): But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.