

Jeremiah 2:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Why trimmest thou thy way to seek love? therefore hast thou also taught the wicked ones thy ways.

Analysis

The prophet exposes Israel's calculated efforts to pursue foreign alliances and pagan practices. The verb 'trimmest' (Hebrew 'yatab') suggests deliberate beautification or improvement of one's path, indicating premeditated apostasy rather than mere spiritual drift. More gravely, Israel's covenant unfaithfulness has become a teaching example to pagan nations ('taught the wicked ones thy ways'), reversing their calling to be a light to the Gentiles. This illustrates how covenant breaking not only harms the individual but scandalizes God's name before the watching world.

Historical Context

This likely refers to Judah's political machinations with Egypt and Babylon during the late 7th century BC, attempting to secure military alliances through religious syncretism and diplomatic compromise.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How might your compromises with worldly values inadvertently 'teach' ungodly patterns to those observing your life?
2. What does it mean to 'trim your way' in pursuit of security apart from God's promises?
3. How should the church's witness to the nations inform our decisions about cultural engagement?

Interlinear Text

מַה תִּפְאַר בְּעֵינֶיךָ לְבַקֵּשׁ שְׁדָקָה אֶת גָּמָלְךָ

H4100 Why trimmest thou thy way to seek love H3651 H1571 H853

H3190

H1870

H1245

H160

אֶת גָּמָלְךָ לְכָל מַה

וְתִּבְרַע לִמְדָתְךָ אֶת שְׁדָקָה אֶת

the wicked ones therefore hast thou also taught thou thy way

H7451

H3925

H853

H1870

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