

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

Psalms 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

מָה	תִּיטֵב בִּי	דַּרְכֶּיךָ:	לְבַקֵּשׁ	אֶהֱבֶה	לְכֵן	גַּם	אֶת
H4100	Why trimmest	thou thy way	to seek	love	H3651	H1571	H853
	H3190	H1870	H1245	H160			
הַרְעוּ	לִמֵּד דְּתִי	אֶת	דַּרְכֶּיךָ:				
the wicked ones	therefore hast thou also taught	H853	thou thy way				
H7451	H3925		H1870				

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