

Jeremiah 2:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination.

Analysis

God contrasts His faithfulness with Israel's unfaithfulness: 'And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof.' The phrase 'plentiful country' (erets karmel, אֶרֶץ כַּרְמֶל) means a land of fruitful field or garden land—Canaan's fertility contrasted sharply with wilderness barrenness. God's purpose was blessing—to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof—Israel was to enjoy Canaan's abundance as God's gift. However, their response perverted God's blessing: 'but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination.' The verb 'defiled' (tame, טָמַא) means made ceremonially impure, polluted, corrupted—particularly through idolatry and moral corruption (Leviticus 18:24-28). The phrase 'my land' (artsi, אֶרְצִי) emphasizes divine ownership—Canaan belonged to God, given to Israel as stewards. 'Mine heritage' (nachalati, נַחֲלָתִי) refers to God's inherited possession, His treasured property. 'An abomination' (to'evah, תּוֹעֵבָה) is the strongest Hebrew term for something detestable to God, often associated with idolatry and sexual immorality. Instead of gratefully enjoying God's gift, Israel corrupted it through pagan worship and injustice. This pattern—receiving blessing, then corrupting it—characterizes human sin.

Historical Context

The conquest of Canaan under Joshua (c. 1406-1390 BC traditional dating) fulfilled God's promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:18-21). Canaan was indeed remarkably fertile—"a land flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:8)—with Mediterranean

climate, rainfall adequate for agriculture, diverse terrain allowing various crops, and strategic trade routes bringing prosperity. However, Canaanite culture practiced Baal worship involving ritual prostitution, child sacrifice, and syncretistic religion attempting to manipulate divine forces for agricultural fertility. Israel was commanded to destroy Canaanite religious practices entirely (Deuteronomy 7:1-5, 12:29-31) to avoid corruption. Yet Judges records Israel's failure—they assimilated Canaanite practices, worshipped at high places, intermarried, and adopted pagan worship. Archaeological discoveries of household idols, syncretistic altars, and figurines from Israelite sites confirm widespread religious corruption. By Jeremiah's time, even the Jerusalem temple had housed pagan altars and Asherah poles (2 Kings 21:3-7, 23:4-7). The land intended as showcase of covenant blessing became exhibition of covenant curse.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the pattern of receiving God's blessing then corrupting it reflect ongoing human temptation to take credit for what God provides?
2. What modern "defilements" might turn God's blessings (material prosperity, freedom, resources) into "abominations" through misuse or idolatry?

Interlinear Text

וּבָרַחְתִּי אֹתוֹ	אֶתְכֶם	אֶל	אֶרֶץ י	הַפְּרִי ל	לֶאֱכֹל	פְּרִי הַ
And I brought	H853	H413	country	you into a plentiful	to eat	the fruit
H935			H776	H3759	H398	H6529
וְטוֹב הָ	וּבָרַחְתִּי אֹתוֹ	וְתִטְמָא וְ	אֶת	אֶרֶץ י	וְנַחֲלָתִי י	
thereof and the goodness	And I brought	ye defiled	H853	country	mine heritage	
H2898	H935	H2930		H776	H5159	
וַיַּעַבְדוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים	וַיַּעַבְדוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים	וַיַּעַבְדוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים	וַיַּעַבְדוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים	וַיַּעַבְדוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים	וַיַּעַבְדוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים	וַיַּעַבְדוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים
and made	an abomination	and made	an abomination	and made	an abomination	an abomination
H7760	H8441	H7760	H8441	H7760	H8441	H8441

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 16:18 (Parallel theme): And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable things.

Numbers 13:27 (Parallel theme): And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.

Jeremiah 3:9 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.

Jeremiah 3:1 (Parallel theme): They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD.

Ezekiel 36:17 (Parallel theme): Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: their way was before me as the uncleanness of a removed woman.

