

Jeremiah 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith the LORD, and with your children's children will I plead.

Analysis

God declares continued pursuit of justice: "Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith the LORD, and with your children's children will I plead." The verb "plead" (ariiv, אָרַיְתָּ, from riv, רִיב) means contend in court, bring lawsuit, argue a case—continuing the legal framework. Despite overwhelming evidence of guilt, God commits to ongoing engagement across generations ("your children's children"), demonstrating patience and giving opportunity for repentance. This isn't mere accusation but covenant lawsuit seeking acknowledgment and return. The phrase "saith the LORD" (neum-YHWH, נָאָמַר־יְהֹוָה) authenticates this as divine oath. God's willingness to continue pleading despite Israel's persistent unfaithfulness reveals His long-suffering nature and genuine desire for restoration rather than destruction. Even in judgment oracles, grace appears—God doesn't immediately execute sentence but continues calling His people to account, hoping for repentance.

Historical Context

This verse reveals the generational scope of covenant relationship and accountability. God's patience extended beyond one generation—He pleaded through multiple prophets over centuries (Jeremiah followed Isaiah, Micah, Zephaniah, and others). Yet each generation repeated its predecessors' sins. By Jeremiah's time, four centuries had passed since the kingdom divided under Rehoboam (930 BC), and idolatry had been endemic despite periodic reforms under Asa, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, and Josiah. God's continued pleading

demonstrated that judgment's delay wasn't divine weakness but patience (2 Peter 3:9), giving space for repentance. Yet this patience had limits—the generation witnessing Jeremiah's ministry would see Jerusalem destroyed. The New Testament shows similar pattern: God's patience with first-century Israel ended with 70 AD destruction, fulfilling Jesus' warnings (Luke 19:41-44, 21:20-24).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's commitment to "yet plead" across generations demonstrate both His patience and the seriousness of covenant accountability?
2. What does the generational scope ("your children's children") teach about corporate responsibility and the long-term consequences of spiritual unfaithfulness?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת יְהוָה נָאָם אַתָּה אֶתְכָּה אֶרְאֵב לְכָה עַד H3651 H5750 Wherefore I will yet plead H7378 H854 with you saith the LORD H5002 H3068 H854

אָרַב: בְּנֵיכֶם בְּנֵיכֶם בְּנֵיכֶם
and with your children's and with your children's Wherefore I will yet plead
H1121 H1121 H7378

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 2:35 (Parallel theme): Yet thou sayest, Because I am innocent, surely his anger shall turn from me. Behold, I will plead with thee, because thou sayest, I have not sinned.

Exodus 20:5 (References Lord): Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Micah 6:2 (References Lord): Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD'S controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel.

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