

Jeremiah 23:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal.

Analysis

Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams—the verb נָשַׁׁא (shakach, 'forget') appears twice. Current false prophets function like previous Baal-worshipers in erasing Yahweh's name (נֶשֶׁם, shem—character, reputation, covenant identity). The mechanism differs but the result is identical: God's people forget Him.

The phrase 'which they tell every man to his neighbour' describes grassroots dissemination—viral spread through personal testimony. Friendly neighbors sharing 'what God showed me' creates peer pressure more effective than formal teaching. The Baal comparison isn't hyperbolic—syncretism replacing God's true character with comfortable fictions is functional idolatry.

Historical Context

Israel's history featured repeated Baal syncretism—worshiping Yahweh while adopting Canaanite practices. Elijah confronted this (1 Kings 18). By Jeremiah's day, official Baal worship had diminished after Josiah's reforms, but theological corruption continued. False prophets redefined Yahweh to match what Baal offered—prosperity without righteousness.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How might you be forgetting God's name while using Christian vocabulary?
2. What modern equivalents exist to making people forget God through peer influence?
3. Does your vision of God resemble Baal (prosperity) more than Yahweh (holiness)?

Interlinear Text

בְּכָל וּמְתַּבֵּן שְׁמִי
Which think have forgotten H853 to cause my people my name by their dreams
H2803 H7911 H5971 H8034 H2472

שְׁכַח וְכָאֵשׁ רַבְעֵת הָאָשָׁר אֲשֶׁר
which they tell every man to his neighbour have forgotten
H834 H5608 H376 H7453 H834 H7911

בְּבָעֵל: שְׁמִי אֲבֹתָם אֲתָּה
as their fathers H853 my name for Baal
H1 H8034 H1168

Additional Cross-References

Judges 3:7 (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgat the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves.

Acts 13:8 (Parallel theme): But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

Jeremiah 29:8 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed.

2 Kings 21:3 (Parallel theme): For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.

Judges 10:6 (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him.

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