

Jeremiah 25:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They said, Turn ye again now every one from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD hath given unto you and to your fathers for ever and ever:

Analysis

They said, Turn ye again now every one from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings. The prophetic message centered on *shûb* (שוב, turn/return/repent), the fundamental Hebrew term for repentance involving both turning from sin and turning toward God. The phrase *mē-darkēkēm hārāʾâ* (מִדַּרְכְּכֶם הָרָאָא, from your evil way) refers to one's chosen path or lifestyle, while *mē-rōaʾ maʾalēlēm* (מִרְעַ מַעֲלֵלֵיכֶם, from the evil of your doings) points to specific actions. True repentance addresses both character and conduct.

And dwell in the land that the LORD hath given unto you and to your fathers for ever and ever—Continued possession of the promised land was conditional on covenant faithfulness. The phrase *ʿad-ʾôlām* (עַד-עוֹלָם, forever) doesn't mean unconditional permanence but 'as long as covenant conditions are maintained.' This principle appears throughout Deuteronomy: obedience brings blessing and land possession; disobedience brings curse and exile (Deuteronomy 28-30). The land was gift, but stewardship required faithfulness.

Historical Context

The promised land was central to Israel's covenant identity. God gave it to Abraham's descendants (Genesis 15:18-21), but possession depended on obedience

(Leviticus 26:3-39). By Jeremiah's time, Judah had violated every covenant stipulation—worshiping idols, oppressing the poor, profaning the Sabbath, rejecting God's law. The northern kingdom (Israel) had already been exiled by Assyria (722 BC) for identical sins. Judah refused to learn from this object lesson, assuming Jerusalem's temple guaranteed protection regardless of behavior.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does biblical repentance differ from mere regret or behavior modification, and what does genuine turning from evil require?
2. What does the conditional nature of land possession teach about the relationship between God's gifts and our stewardship responsibilities?
3. In what ways might we presume on God's blessings while neglecting the faithfulness those blessings require?

Interlinear Text

הָרָעָה	מִדֶּרֶךְ	אֵשׁ	נָא	שׁוּבוּ	לֵאמֹר
from his evil	way	now every one		Turn ye again	They said
H7451	H1870	H376	H4994	H7725	H559
אֲשֶׁר	הָאָדָמָה	עַל	וּשְׁבוּ	מַעֲלֵלֵיכֶם	וּמִן
H834	in the land	H5921	and dwell	of your doings	and from the evil
	H127		H3427	H4611	H7455
עוֹלָם:	לְמִן	וְלֹאֲבוֹתֵיכֶם	לָכֶם	יְהוָה	נָתַן
and ever	H4480	unto you and to your fathers	H0	that the LORD	hath given
H5769		H1		H3068	H5414
עוֹלָם:	לְמִן	וְלֹאֲבוֹתֵיכֶם	לָכֶם	יְהוָה	נָתַן
for	and ever				
H5704	H5769				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 7:7 (Parallel theme): Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever.

Jeremiah 17:25 (Parallel theme): Then shall there enter into the gates of this city kings and princes sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they, and their princes, the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: and this city shall remain for ever.

Genesis 17:8 (Parallel theme): And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

Jeremiah 35:15 (Evil): I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me.

Jeremiah 18:11 (Evil): Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.

Ezekiel 18:30 (References Lord): Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

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