

Jeremiah 25:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet ye have not hearkened unto me, saith the LORD; that ye might provoke me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt.

Analysis

Yet ye have not hearkened unto me, saith the LORD; that ye might provoke me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt. The phrase *lēma'an hak'îsēnî* (להמען הַקְעָסֶנִי, that you might provoke me to anger) reveals the perverse result of their rebellion. The Hebrew *lēma'an* typically denotes purpose, suggesting their persistent idolatry functioned as if intentionally designed to anger God. The phrase *lērā' lākem* (לְרֹעַ לְכֶם, to your own hurt) emphasizes the self-destructive nature of sin. Provoking God's anger doesn't harm God—it destroys the rebel.

This verse encapsulates the tragic irony of sin: people reject God's protective boundaries, thinking independence brings freedom, only to discover they've embraced their own destruction. Sin promises pleasure but delivers death (Romans 6:23). The idols Judah pursued couldn't save them when Babylon arrived; only the God they rejected could have delivered them. This pattern recurs throughout Scripture—the prodigal son pursuing 'freedom' in the far country (Luke 15:11-32), Israel demanding a king to be 'like other nations' only to suffer under tyranny (1 Samuel 8:10-18). We cannot sin with impunity; we reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7).

Historical Context

By 605 BC, Judah had experienced multiple warnings—Assyria's destruction of the northern kingdom (722 BC), near-destruction under Sennacherib (701 BC), and prophetic warnings spanning decades. Yet each generation renewed covenant unfaithfulness. King Jehoiakim exemplified this rebellion: he burned Jeremiah's scroll (36:23), murdered the prophet Uriah (26:20-23), and led the nation in idolatry. The people followed their leaders into apostasy, choosing immediate pleasures over eternal covenant blessings.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does sin function as self-inflicted harm rather than merely breaking divine rules, and what does this reveal about God's laws?
2. In what ways might we persist in behaviors that provoke God while claiming to love Him, and how can we identify such inconsistencies?
3. What does it mean that sin is ultimately 'to your own hurt,' and how should this reality shape our understanding of God's commands?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא

H3808

שְׁמַעַת מְ

שְׁמַעַת

Yet ye have not hearkened

H8085

אֵל ְ

H413

נָאָם

H5002

unto me saith

לְמַעַן יְהֹוָה הָ

the LORD

H4616

לְכָעֵן

that ye might provoke me to anger

H3707

בְּכָעֵסִי נִ

בְּמַעַשׂ הָ

with the works

H4639

יְדִיכָּה בְּמַעַשׂ הָ

of your hands

H3027

לְכָעֵן יְדִיכָּה בְּמַעַשׂ הָ

H7451

לְכָעֵן:

H0

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 21:15 (Parallel theme): Because they have done that which was evil in my sight, and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day.

Proverbs 8:36 (Parallel theme): But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

Deuteronomy 32:21 (Parallel theme): They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

2 Kings 17:17 (References Lord): And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.