

# Jeremiah 32:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Chaldeans, that fight against this city, shall come and set fire on this city, and burn it with the houses, upon whose roofs they have offered incense unto Baal, and poured out drink offerings unto other gods, to provoke me to anger.

## Analysis

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**The Chaldeans...shall come and set fire on this city**—Literal fulfillment came in 587 BC when Babylon burned Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:9). God specifies why: **upon whose roofs they have offered incense unto Baal, and poured out drink offerings unto other gods**. Rooftop worship was common in ancient Israel (Jeremiah 19:13, Zephaniah 1:5), turning domestic space into idolatrous high places.

The phrase **to provoke me to anger** (לְהַכְעִסֵנִי, l'hakh'iseni) appears repeatedly in Jeremiah (7:18-19, 11:17, 25:6-7). The Hebrew ka'as denotes deliberate provocation, not accidental offense. Israel's syncretism—mixing Yahweh worship with Baal fertility rites—constituted spiritual adultery. The house fires represent poetic justice: places of false worship consumed by flames of judgment. Hebrews 10:31 warns, 'It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.'

## Historical Context

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Baal worship involved incense offerings and drink libations (wine poured out) to secure agricultural fertility. Rooftops provided semi-private worship spaces. Archaeological excavations in Jerusalem have uncovered rooftop altars from this period, confirming the biblical account.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What 'rooftop idols'—private sins hidden from public view—might you be harboring?
2. How does mixing Christian faith with secular values parallel Israel's Baal syncretism?
3. In what ways do we 'provoke' God while maintaining religious appearances?

## Interlinear Text

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וְבָאוּ	הַכַּשְׂדִּים	הַנִּלְחָמִים	עַל	הָעִיר	הַזֹּאת
shall come	And the Chaldeans	that fight	H5921	against this city	H2063
H935	H3778	H3898		H5892	
וְנָתַתִּי	אֶת	הָעִיר	הַזֹּאת	בְּאֵשׁ	וְשָׂרַפְתִּי
and set	H853	against this city	H2063	fire	and burn
H3341		H5892		H784	H854
				H8313	
הַבָּתִּים	אֲשֶׁר	קָטְרוּ	עַל	גַּגֹּתֶיהָ	וְעַל
it with the houses	H834	they have offered incense	H5921	upon whose roofs	
H1004		H6999		H1406	
לְבַב	וְהִסָּךְ	נִסְכִּים	לְאֱלֹהִים	אֲחֵרִים	לְמַעַן
unto Baal	and poured out	drink offerings	gods	unto other	H4616
H1168	H5258	H5262	H430	H312	
הַכְּעִסָּנִי:					
to provoke me to anger					
H3707					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 19:13** (Sacrifice): And the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses of the kings of Judah, shall be defiled as the place of Tophet, because of all the houses upon whose roofs they have burned incense unto all the host of heaven, and have poured out drink offerings unto other gods.

**Jeremiah 21:10** (Parallel theme): For I have set my face against this city for evil, and not for good, saith the LORD: it shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire.

**Jeremiah 52:13** (Parallel theme): And burned the house of the LORD, and the king's house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, and all the houses of the great men, burned he with fire:

**2 Chronicles 36:19** (References God): And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

**Jeremiah 44:25** (Sacrifice): Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying; Ye and your wives have both spoken with your mouths, and fulfilled with your hand, saying, We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her: ye will surely accomplish your vows, and surely perform your vows.

**Jeremiah 39:8** (Parallel theme): And the Chaldeans burned the king's house, and the houses of the people, with fire, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem.

**Jeremiah 7:18** (Sacrifice): The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.