

# Jeremiah 32:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have only done evil before me from their youth: for the children of Israel have only provoked me to anger with the work of their hands, saith the LORD.

## Analysis

**The children of Israel and the children of Judah have only done evil before me from their youth**—God indicts both the northern kingdom (Israel, exiled 722 BC) and southern kingdom (Judah). The phrase **from their youth** (מִנְעֻרָהֶם) recalls Israel's wilderness rebellion (Exodus 32, Numbers 14), not just recent apostasy. The adverb **only** (אֲחַד, akh) intensifies: exclusively, persistently, nothing but evil.

**Provoked me to anger with the work of their hands** (מַכְעִסִּים אֹתִי בַמַּעֲשֵׂה יְדֵיהֶם)—the 'work of their hands' denotes man-made idols (Deuteronomy 4:28, Psalm 115:4). God's grief isn't over trivial offenses but systematic idolatry. This total depravity theme anticipates Paul's Romans 3:10-12: 'There is none righteous, no, not one.' Only the New Covenant (announced in Jeremiah 31:31-34) can remedy this endemic heart corruption.

## Historical Context

Judah's religious history was cyclical—revival under reformer kings (Hezekiah, Josiah) followed by relapse (Manasseh, Jehoiakim). Despite prophetic warnings spanning centuries (Moses to Jeremiah), the nation persistently chose idolatry, proving human inability to achieve righteousness through law-keeping.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does corporate/generational sin ('from their youth') manifest in your family or church?
2. What 'works of your hands'—self-made righteousness or idols—compete for God's place?
3. Does this verse's severity drive you to despair or to Christ's sufficient grace?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי	הֵי ו	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּנֵי	יְהוּדָה	אֵל
H3588	H1961	<b>For the children</b>	<b>of Israel</b>	<b>For the children</b>	<b>of Judah</b>	H389
		H1121	H3478	H1121	H3063	
עָשׂוּ יָמָיו	הָרַע	בְּעֵינַי	מִנְעוּרֵיהֶם	כִּי	בְּנֵי	
<b>have only done</b>	<b>evil</b>	<b>before</b>	<b>me from their youth</b>	H3588	<b>For the children</b>	
H6213	H7451	H5869	H5271		H1121	
יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֵל	מִכְעָסִים יָמָיו	אֶת־	בְּמַעֲשֵׂה	הָ	
<b>of Israel</b>	H389	<b>have only provoked me to anger</b>	H854	<b>with the work</b>		
H3478		H3707		H4639		
יְדֵיהֶם	נֹאמַרְתָּ	יְהוָה:				
<b>of their hands</b>	<b>saith</b>	<b>the LORD</b>				
H3027	H5002	H3068				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 63:10** (Parallel theme): But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.

**Jeremiah 2:7** (Parallel theme): And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination.

**Jeremiah 22:21** (Parallel theme): I spake unto thee in thy prosperity; but thou saidst, I will not hear. This hath been thy manner from thy youth, that thou obeyedst not my voice.

**Jeremiah 3:25** (References Lord): We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.

**Jeremiah 25:7** (References Lord): 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.

**Genesis 8:21** (Evil): And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.