

# Jeremiah 35:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have any: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye be strangers.

## Analysis

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**Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard**—The mitzvah (command) of Jonadab ben Rechab prescribed radical non-settlement, rejecting agriculture (זרע zera', seed) and viticulture (קֶרֶם kerem, vineyard) as symbols of permanent settlement. **Dwell in tents** (אֶקְלִים ohalim) echoes Israel's wilderness pilgrimage, maintaining stranger-consciousness (גָּרִים gerim).

This ascetic vow wasn't arbitrary primitivism but theological protest: permanent settlement breeds spiritual complacency. The Rechabites embodied Hebrews 11:13—"strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Their obedience over 250+ years becomes God's indictment of Judah's covenant-breaking (v. 16). Where Judah possessed vineyards yet served idols, the Rechabites renounced vineyards to serve Yahweh.

## Historical Context

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Jonadab ben Rechab (2 Kings 10:15-23) allied with Jehu circa 841 BC, supporting the purge of Baal worship. His descendants maintained his separatist vows for over 250 years—from Jehu's era to Jeremiah's ministry (607-586 BC), an unprecedented faithfulness spanning ten generations through Israel's worst apostasy.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What forms of 'settlement' (comfort, security, possessions) might hinder your pilgrim identity as a sojourner for Christ?
2. How does the Rechabites' 250-year obedience to a human ancestor expose your inconsistency in obeying your heavenly Father?
3. In what ways does pursuing 'vineyard Christianity' (prosperity, roots, permanence) contradict the call to 'tent-dwelling' (sacrifice, pilgrimage, heavenly citizenship)?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא	וְבָנֶת	תְּבִנֵּה	לֹא	וְעֵבֶד	תְּזַבֵּחַ	לֹא	וְקָרְבָּן	תְּזַבֵּחַ	עֵזֶר	לֹא	וְקָרְבָּן	תְּזַבֵּחַ	עֵזֶר	
<b>house</b>	H3808	<b>Neither shall ye build</b>		<b>seed</b>	H3808	<b>nor sow</b>		<b>vineyard</b>	H3808					
H1004		H1129		H2233		H2232		H3754						
כֵּל	תְּשַׁבּוּ	בְּאֹהֶלְיוֹם	כִּי	לֹכֶד	מִיְהָיוּ הֵן	אֵל	אַתֶּן	תְּשַׁבּוּ	כֵּל	תְּשַׁבּוּ	בְּאֹהֶלְיוֹם	כֵּל	תְּשַׁבּוּ	
<b>nor plant</b>	H3808	H1961	H0	H3588		<b>in tents</b>	H168	<b>ye shall dwell</b>	H3605					
H5193						H168		H3427						
לְמַעַן	יְמִימִים	תְּחִי	וְ	יְמִימִים	בְּבִים	עַל	בְּאָדָם	הַפְּנִים	עַל	בְּאָדָם	הַפְּנִים	עַל	בְּאָדָם	
<b>days</b>	H4616	<b>that ye may live</b>		<b>days</b>	H5921	<b>in</b>	<b>the land</b>							
H3117		H2421		H3117	H7227	H6440	H127							
אַתֶּן	אַתֶּן	אַתֶּן	אַתֶּן	אַתֶּן	אַתֶּן	אַתֶּן	אַתֶּן	אַתֶּן	אַתֶּן	אַתֶּן	אַתֶּן	אַתֶּן	אַתֶּן	
H834	H859			<b>where ye be strangers</b>	H8033									
				H1481										

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 35:10** (Parallel theme): But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed, and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us.

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