

Jeremiah 44:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil.

Analysis

The remnant in Egypt explicitly chooses idolatry, vowing to worship 'the queen of heaven' (likely Ishtar/Astarte). Their rationale is pragmatic rather than theological - they prospered during idolatry but suffered after Josiah's reforms. This inverts cause and effect: they attribute judgment (due to idolatry) to reform, and past blessings (God's patience) to idol worship. Hardened hearts interpret all data to justify rebellion.

Historical Context

The 'queen of heaven' worship involved women making cakes and burning incense. This was widespread in Jeremiah's time (7:18) and proved the depth of Judah's apostasy.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do people misinterpret God's patience as approval of their sin?
2. What forms of 'queen of heaven' worship (substitutes for God) exist today?

Interlinear Text

כִּי H3588	עַשֵּׂי יְנוּ H6213	עַשֵּׂי יְנוּ H6213	כָּל אֶת H853 H3605	הַדָּבָר H1697
	But we will certainly	But we will certainly		whatsoever thing
אֲשֶׁר H834	יֵצֵא א H3318	מִפִּי יְנוּ H6310	לְקַטֵּר H6999	לְמַלְכֶת H4446
	goeth forth	out of our own mouth	to burn incense	unto the queen
הַשָּׁמַיִם H8064	וְהִסִּיר H5258	לָהּ H0	נֹסְכִים H5262	כַּאֲשֶׁר H834
of heaven	and to pour out		drink offerings	But we will certainly
				H6213
אֲנִי חֲנוּ H587	וְאֲבֹתֵי יְנוּ H1	מְלָכֵי יְנוּ H4428	וְשָׂרֵי יְנוּ H8269	בְּעָרֵי י H5892
	we and our fathers	our kings	and our princes	in the cities
				H3063
וּבְחָצוֹת H2351	יְרוּשָׁלַם H3389	וְנִשְׁבַּע H7646	לָהֶם H3899	וְנִהְיָה H1961
and in the streets	of Jerusalem	for then had we plenty	of victuals	
טוֹבֵי יָם H2896	וְכָעָה H7451	לֹא H3808	וַיֵּרְאוּ H7200	
and were well	no evil		and saw	

Additional Cross-References

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.

Nehemiah 9:34 (Kingdom): Neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, kept thy law, nor hearkened unto thy commandments and thy testimonies, wherewith thou didst testify against them.

Exodus 16:3 (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

Deuteronomy 23:23 (Sacrifice): That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform; even a freewill offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the LORD thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth.

Jeremiah 19:13 (Kingdom): 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 44:21 (Kingdom): The incense that ye burned in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, ye, and your fathers, your kings, and your princes, and the people of the land, did not the LORD remember them, and came it not into his mind?

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.

Ezekiel 20:8 (Parallel theme): But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

2 Kings 17:16 (Parallel theme): And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

Numbers 30:12 (Parallel theme): But if her husband hath utterly made them void on the day he heard them; then whatsoever proceeded out of her lips concerning

her vows, or concerning the bond of her soul, shall not stand: her husband hath made them void; and the LORD shall forgive her.

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