

# Jeremiah 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel.

## Analysis

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God directs them to historical precedent: 'But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel' (kî-lěḵû-nā' 'el-měqômî 'ăšer běšîlô 'ăšer šikkantî šēmî šām bārîšônâ ûrě'û 'ēt 'ăšer-'āsîṭî lô mippěnê rā'aṭ 'ammî yiśrā'ēl). Shiloh housed the tabernacle and ark from Joshua's time through Eli's priesthood (Joshua 18:1, Judges 21:19, 1 Samuel 1-4). Despite being God's dwelling place where He 'set [His] name,' Shiloh was destroyed (likely by Philistines around 1050 BC after capturing the ark, 1 Samuel 4). Archaeological excavations at Khirbet Seilun confirm massive destruction in the 11th century BC. The lesson: God's presence doesn't guarantee protection for unfaithful people. Sacred sites aren't inviolable; persistent wickedness provokes divine judgment regardless of religious infrastructure. This historical precedent demolishes Jerusalem's false confidence that temple presence ensures security.

## Historical Context

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Shiloh served as Israel's religious center for over 300 years during the judges period. Yet when Eli's corrupt sons abused their priestly office and Israel treated the ark superstitiously (1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-25; 4:3-11), God allowed defeat and Shiloh's destruction. Psalm 78:60 confirms: 'he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men.' By Jeremiah's time, Shiloh lay in ruins, a silent witness to divine judgment on religious corruption. The parallel to Jerusalem

was clear: just as Shiloh's sacred status didn't prevent destruction, Jerusalem's temple won't save a rebellious people. Archaeological evidence shows Shiloh remained largely uninhabited after destruction, a visible warning Jeremiah's audience could verify. The prophecy proved accurate—Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and burned the temple within two decades. The principle applies universally: institutions and buildings don't save; only faithful covenant relationship with God provides security.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

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

## Study Questions

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1. What historical examples of divine judgment on religious institutions and unfaithful communities should warn contemporary Christianity?
2. How does Shiloh's example challenge any presumption that church history, buildings, or traditions guarantee God's blessing regardless of faithfulness?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶל	נָא	לְכוּ	כִּי	מְקוֹמִי	אֵשׁ	וְ	בְּשִׁיל
H413	H4994	H1980	H3588		H834		H7887
ye now unto my place					which was in Shiloh		
				H4725			
אֵשׁ	וְ	אֶת	וּרְאוּ	בְּרִאשׁוֹנָה	שְׁמִי	שָׁכַנְתִּי	אֵשׁ
H834		H853		H8033		H7931	H834
		and see		at the first	my name	where I set	
		H7200		H7223	H8034	H7931	
יִשְׂרָאֵל	עַמִּי	כַּעַתָּה	מִפְנֵי	לִי	עָשִׂיתִי		
H3478	H5971	H7451		H0	H6213		
Israel		of my people	the wickedness	to it for	what I did		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 26:6** (Parallel theme): Then will I make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth.

**Joshua 18:1** (References Israel): And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. And the land was subdued before them.

**1 Samuel 4:22** (References Israel): And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken.

**Judges 18:31** (Parallel theme): And they set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

**Deuteronomy 12:11** (Parallel theme): Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:

**1 Samuel 1:3** (Parallel theme): And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.