

# Jeremiah 7:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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A detailed description of family idolatry follows: 'The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven.' This shows systematic, multigenerational involvement in pagan worship. The 'queen of heaven' (likely Ishtar/Astarte) received cakes and offerings. The phrase 'pour out drink offerings unto other gods' indicates comprehensive apostasy—not just neglecting Yahweh but actively worshiping false gods. The participation of children, fathers, and mothers shows how thoroughly idolatry permeated family life. This illustrates covenant breaking at the most basic unit of society.

## Historical Context

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Worship of the 'queen of heaven' was widespread in the ancient Near East. Jeremiah 44:15-19 reveals that after Jerusalem's fall, Jewish refugees in Egypt continued this practice, showing its deep-rooted nature.

## Related Passages

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

## Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

### Study Questions

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1. How does family-based idolatry demonstrate the importance of household discipleship and worship?
2. What modern equivalents of 'queen of heaven' worship compete for family devotion today?
3. What is the relationship between private family practices and public covenant faithfulness?

### Interlinear Text

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הַבָּנִים יִמְצְאוּ	וְהָאֲבֹתִים יִמְצְאוּ	וְהָאֲבֹתִים יִמְצְאוּ	וְהָאֲבֹתִים יִמְצְאוּ	וְהָאֲבֹתִים יִמְצְאוּ	וְהָאֲבֹתִים יִמְצְאוּ
<b>The children</b>	<b>gather</b>	<b>wood</b>	<b>and the fathers</b>	<b>kindle</b>	<b>the fire</b>
H1121	H3950	H6086	H1	H1197	H853 H784
וְהַנָּשִׁים יִמְצְאוּ	וְהַנָּשִׁים יִמְצְאוּ	וְהַנָּשִׁים יִמְצְאוּ	וְהַנָּשִׁים יִמְצְאוּ	וְהַנָּשִׁים יִמְצְאוּ	וְהַנָּשִׁים יִמְצְאוּ
<b>and the women</b>	<b>knead</b>	<b>their dough</b>	<b>to make</b>	<b>cakes</b>	<b>to the queen</b>
H802	H3888	H1217	H6213	H3561	H4446
וְהַשָּׁמַיִם יִמְצְאוּ	וְהַשָּׁמַיִם יִמְצְאוּ	וְהַשָּׁמַיִם יִמְצְאוּ	וְהַשָּׁמַיִם יִמְצְאוּ	וְהַשָּׁמַיִם יִמְצְאוּ	וְהַשָּׁמַיִם יִמְצְאוּ
<b>of heaven</b>	<b>and to pour out</b>	<b>drink offerings</b>	<b>gods</b>	<b>unto other</b>	
H8064	H5258	H5262	H430	H312	H4616
וְהַשָּׁמַיִם יִמְצְאוּ					
<b>that they may provoke me to anger</b>					
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.

**1 Kings 14:9** (References God): But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back:

**1 Corinthians 10:22** (Parallel theme): Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?

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