

Jeremiah 7:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;

Analysis

God catalogs Judah's covenant violations: 'Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not' (hagānōb rāšōah wěnā'ōp wěhiššābēa' laššequer wěqaṭṭēr labba' al wěhālōk 'ahārē 'ělōhîm 'āhērîm 'āšer lō'-yěda'tem). This list systematically violates the Ten Commandments: stealing (8th), murder (6th), adultery (7th), false oaths (3rd/9th), and idolatry (1st/2nd). The progression from social sins to religious apostasy shows comprehensive covenant breaking. The phrase 'whom ye know not' ('āšer lō'-yěda'tem) emphasizes the absurdity—abandoning the covenant God who revealed Himself and delivered them for unknown foreign deities. This catalog demonstrates that their sin isn't ignorance or weakness but deliberate, comprehensive rebellion against known covenant obligations. Such flagrant violation exposes the hypocrisy of expecting religious ritual to provide security.

Historical Context

Each violation was rampant in Judah. Theft through exploitation and corrupt courts (Jeremiah 5:26-28, 22:13); murder including child sacrifice and political assassinations (Jeremiah 19:4-5, 26:20-23); adultery both literal and metaphorical (spiritual unfaithfulness, Jeremiah 3:8-9, 5:7-8); false oaths breaking covenant integrity (Jeremiah 5:2); and Baal worship despite Josiah's reforms (Jeremiah 2:8, 23, 7:9, 11:13, 19:5). Archaeological discoveries confirm widespread syncretistic worship combining Yahwism with pagan elements. The comprehensive nature of

covenant violation made judgment inevitable—they had violated every major covenant requirement yet expected temple worship to save them. This demonstrates that ritual religion without moral transformation is worthless, a principle Jesus emphasized throughout His ministry (Matthew 5:7, 23).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does systematic evaluation of your life against God's commandments expose areas where you maintain religious practice while tolerating known sin?
2. In what ways might modern Christianity fall into similar hypocrisy—maintaining worship services while tolerating covenant violations?

Interlinear Text

לֹשׁ קְרַב וְהַשְׁבֵּעַ בְּגַנְּבָה
Will ye steal murder and commit adultery and swear falsely
H1589 H7523 H5003 H7650 H8267

אֲשֶׁר אַחֲרֵיכֶם אֱלֹהִים אֶחָרִים וְבַל הַלְּבָב עַל וְקַרְבָּן ר
and burn incense unto Baal and walk after gods other H834
H6999 H1168 H1980 H310 H430 H312

לֹא יְדַעַתֶּם:
H3808 whom ye know
H3045

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 7:6 (References God): If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt:

Exodus 20:3 (References God): Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Jeremiah 11:17 (Parallel theme): For the LORD of hosts, that planted thee, hath pronounced evil against thee, for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done against themselves to provoke me to anger in offering incense unto Baal.

Jeremiah 11:13 (References God): For according to the number of thy cities were thy gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem have ye set up altars to that shameful thing, even altars to burn incense unto Baal.

Revelation 22:15 (Parallel theme): For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

1 Kings 18:21 (References God): And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.