

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' (hagānōḥ rāṣōaḥ wēnā'ōp wēhiššāḇēa' laššeqer wēqaṭṭēr labba'al wēhālōḵ 'aḥrē 'ēlōhīm 'āḥērīm 'āšer lō'-yēda'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'-yēda'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 קָרַ וְהִשָּׁבַ עַ	וְנָא רַ	רָצַח	הִגֵּנּוּ בּוֹ	
and swear	and commit adultery	murder	Will ye steal	
H7650	H5003	H7523	H1589	
אֲשֶׁר אֲחֵרִים	אֱלֹהֵי יְ	אַחֲרַי	וְהֵלֵךְ	לְבַ עַל
other	gods	after	and walk	unto Baal
H312	H430	H310	H1980	H1168
				וְקִטְרָה
				and burn incense
				H6999
				וְיִדְעֵתֶם:
				whom ye know
				H3045
				לֹא
				H3808

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.