

# Jeremiah 8:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the LORD.

## Analysis

This verse introduces a powerful nature contrast: 'Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times.' The Hebrew chasidah (חַסִּידָה, stork) derives from chesed (חֶסֶד), emphasizing the bird's faithful, loyal nature in following migratory patterns. 'The turtle, and the crane, and the swallow observe the time of their coming' (tor, agur, sis)—three more migratory birds instinctively following God's natural order. 'But my people know not the judgment of the LORD' creates devastating contrast. Birds possess natural instinct (yada, יָדָע, know) to follow divine order; God's covenant people, with Scripture, temple, prophets, and direct revelation, fail to recognize (yada) God's mishpat (מִשְׁפָּט, judgment, ordinance, way). Creatures without reason obey their Creator more faithfully than rational beings with revelation.

## Historical Context

Palestine lies on major migratory bird routes between Africa and Europe. Ancient Israelites observed these seasonal patterns closely. The stork's Hebrew name reflects its perceived loyal family behavior. These observations became wisdom tradition metaphors, appearing also in Job 39:26. Jeremiah's contemporary audience would immediately grasp the shaming comparison—irrational creatures surpass them in responding to their Creator.

## Related Passages

---

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

---

1. How does the example of migratory birds obeying natural law shame our failure to obey revealed spiritual law?
2. What 'appointed times' and divine ordinances should characterize Christian faithfulness today?

## Interlinear Text

---

גַּם	חֲסִידָה	בַּשָּׁמַיִם	יָדַע וְ	מִוֶּעֶד יְהוָה	וְתִרְ
H1571	Yea the stork	in the heaven	know	her appointed times	and the turtle
	H2624	H8064	H3045	H4150	H8449
וְסוֹס	וְעָג וְ	שָׁמַר וְ	אֶת	עַתָּה	בָּא נָה
and the crane	and the swallow	observe	H853	the time	of their coming
H5483	H5693	H8104		H6256	H935
וְעַמִּי	לֹא	יָדַע וְ	אֵת	מִשְׁפַּט	יְהוָה:
but my people	H3808	know	H853	not the judgment	of the LORD
H5971		H3045		H4941	H3068

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Isaiah 1:3** (Parallel theme): The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

**Isaiah 5:12** (References Lord): And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands.

**Song of Solomon 2:12:** The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)