

# Jeremiah 9:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD saith, Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein;

## Analysis

This verse provides divine answer: 'And the LORD saith, Because they have forsaken my law.' The Hebrew azvu (אָזַע, forsaken, abandoned) with torati (תּוֹרָתִי, my Torah/instruction) identifies the fundamental problem—covenant law abandoned. 'Which I set before them' (natati liphneihem) recalls Deuteronomy's presentation of the covenant at Moab. 'And have not obeyed my voice' (shamu beqoli) echoes the Shema's demand for obedient hearing. 'Neither walked therein' (halku bah) uses the Hebrew verb for lifestyle, conduct—they didn't live according to Torah. The three-fold description—forsaking, not obeying, not walking—comprehensively describes covenant violation.

## Historical Context

This explanation would resonate with exiles familiar with Deuteronomy's covenant curses (Deuteronomy 28:15-68). The Torah had been 'set before them'—publicly read at covenant renewal ceremonies (Joshua 24, 2 Kings 23). They couldn't claim ignorance. The 'voice' of God came through prophets who repeatedly called for repentance. Their failure was willful, not inadvertent.

## Related Passages

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How do forsaking, not obeying, and not walking describe progressive stages of covenant unfaithfulness?
2. What does the emphasis on God's 'setting before them' His law suggest about human responsibility despite divine initiative?

## Interlinear Text

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תֹּאמֶר יְהוָה עַל יְצָרָם	saith And the LORD	H5921	Because they have forsaken	H853	תְּרוּתִי אֶת	my law	H8451
H559 H3068			H5800				
רָאשׁ רַקְבָּם נָתַתִּי לְפָנֶיךָ מִן	which I set before	H3808	them and have not obeyed	H8085	בְּקָול	my voice	H3808
H834 H5414 H6440							
בָּהִנְנָה לֹכֶד	neither walked	H0					
		H1980					

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Chronicles 7:19** (Word): But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them;

**Jeremiah 22:9** (References Lord): Then they shall answer, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God, and worshipped other gods, and served them.

**Ezra 9:10** (Word): And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments,

