

# Jeremiah 9:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.

## Analysis

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This verse reveals Jeremiah's conflicted desire: 'Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men.' The Hebrew *malon orchim* (מִלּוֹן אֹרְחִים) is a travelers' lodge—a simple shelter in the desert. 'That I might leave my people, and go from them!' expresses desire to escape prophetic burden. The reason follows: 'for they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.' 'Adulterers' (*mena'aphim*, מְנַאֲפִים) applies both literally (sexual immorality) and spiritually (idolatry). 'Assembly of treacherous' (*atzeret bogedim*, אֶצְרֶת בּוֹגְדִים) describes a gathering of traitors—those who betrayed covenant with God and faithfulness to one another. Jeremiah wishes to flee corrupt society for solitary wilderness—yet his calling prevents escape.

## Historical Context

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Desert lodging places served travelers crossing wilderness regions, providing minimal shelter. Jeremiah's desire for such isolation reflects the psychological burden of living among people whose sin he must constantly denounce. Moses similarly expressed exhaustion with his people (Numbers 11:11-15). The combination of spiritual adultery (idolatry) with literal sexual immorality characterized Canaanite fertility religion that had corrupted Judah.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

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

## Study Questions

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1. What does Jeremiah's desire to escape reveal about the emotional toll of ministry in a corrupt culture?
2. How do we balance the legitimate need for rest and solitude with our calling to remain engaged in difficult ministry?

## Interlinear Text

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מִי H4310	יִהְיֶה נִי H5414	בַּמִּדְבָּר H4057	מְלוֹן H4411	אֲרֻחַ יָם H732		
	Oh that	I had in the wilderness	a lodging place	of wayfaring men		
וְאֶעְזָבָה H5800	אֶת H853	עַמִּי י H5971	וְאֵלֶיךָ ה H1980	מֵאֵתָם H853	כָּלִם H3605	פִּי י H3588
that I might leave		my people				
מִן־אֹפִי יָם H5003			עַצְרָתָם H6116		בְּגָדִים: H898	
from them! for they be all adulterers			an assembly		of treacherous men	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 23:10** (Parallel theme): For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force is not right.

**Hosea 4:2** (Parallel theme): By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

**Jeremiah 12:1** (Parallel theme): Righteous art thou, O LORD, when I plead with thee: yet let me talk with thee of thy judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? wherefore are all they happy that deal very treacherously?

**Jeremiah 12:6** (Parallel theme): For even thy brethren, and the house of thy father, even they have dealt treacherously with thee; yea, they have called a multitude after thee: believe them not, though they speak fair words unto thee.

**Hosea 7:4** (Parallel theme): They are all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, who ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened.