

Judges 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I said unto you, I am the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice.

Analysis

The prophetic indictment climaxes: 'I said unto you, I am the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites.' The command combines positive and negative: worship Yahweh exclusively (first commandment) and refuse all idolatry (second commandment). The name Yahweh (Yahweh Eloheikhem, יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם, 'the LORD your God') emphasizes covenant relationship. The prohibition against fearing Amorite gods uses *tira'u* (תִּרְאֻ), 'fear/revere'), the same verb for worship-fear of Yahweh. The tragic verdict: 'but ye have not obeyed my voice' (ve^{lo} shema'tem bekoli, וְלֹא שָׁמַעְתֶם בְּקֹלִי). The verb *shema* (שָׁמַע) means both 'hear' and 'obey'—true hearing produces obedience.

Historical Context

Amorite gods included Baal (storm/fertility), Asherah (mother goddess), Molech (associated with child sacrifice), and various local deities. Archaeological discoveries at Canaanite religious sites reveal the syncretistic pressures Israel faced—attractive fertility cults promising agricultural bounty through ritual prostitution and seasonal festivals. The prophetic word identifies Israel's oppression as direct consequence of covenant violation, following Deuteronomy 28's covenant curses.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What modern 'gods' compete for the reverence and trust that belong to the LORD alone?
2. How does merely hearing God's Word without obeying demonstrate practical idolatry?
3. What connection exists between tolerating sin and experiencing its consequences in Christian life?

Interlinear Text

תִּירְאֹ לֹא אֱלֹהִים תְּאַמְּךָ הָנֶם אָנָּי יְהֹוָה הָנֶם אֱלֹהִים לֹא אֱלֹהִים תְּאַמְּךָ הָנֶם
And I said H0 H589 unto you I am the LORD not the gods H3068 H430 H3808 H3372 fear
H559

אַתָּה אֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהִים בְּאָמֹר אֶשְׁר אַתָּה מִזְבְּחֵם אַתָּה יְמִינְךָ בְּאָרֶץ
H853 not the gods of the Amorites H834 H859 H3427 H776 ye dwell in whose land
H430 H567

בְּקֹלִי שְׁמֻעָתְךָ לֹא אַתָּה
H3808 but ye have not obeyed my voice H8085 H6963

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 10:2 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

Jeremiah 9:13 (References Lord): And the LORD saith, Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein;

Jeremiah 43:7 (References Lord): So they came into the land of Egypt: for they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: thus came they even to Tahpanhes.

Jeremiah 3:13 (References God): Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 42:21 (References God): And now I have this day declared it to you; but ye have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God, nor any thing for the which he hath sent me unto you.

Jeremiah 43:4 (References Lord): So Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces, and all the people, obeyed not the voice of the LORD, to dwell in the land of Judah.

Jeremiah 3:25 (References God): We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.

Judges 2:2 (Parallel theme): And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?