

Jeremiah 2:1-37 **God's Case Against Israel**

1 Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

2 "Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says the Lord:

"I remember you, The kindness of your youth, The love of your betrothal, When you went after Me in the wilderness, In a land not sown.

3 Israel was holiness to the Lord, The firstfruits of His increase. All that devour him will offend; Disaster will come upon them," says the Lord."

4 Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob and all the families of the house of Israel.

5 Thus says the Lord:

"What injustice have your fathers found in Me, That they have gone far from Me, Have followed idols, And have become idolaters?

6 Neither did they say, 'Where is the Lord, Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, Who led us through the wilderness, Through a land of deserts and pits, Through a land of drought and the shadow of death, Through a land that no one crossed And where no one dwelt?'

7 I brought you into a bountiful country, To eat its fruit and its goodness. But when you entered, you defiled My land And made My heritage an abomination.

8 The priests did not say, 'Where is the Lord?' And those who handle the law did not know Me; The rulers also transgressed against Me; The prophets prophesied by Baal, And walked after things that do not profit.

9 "Therefore I will yet bring charges against you," says the Lord, "And against your children's children I will bring charges.

10 For pass beyond the coasts of Cyprus and see, Send to Kedar and consider diligently, And see if there has been such a thing.

11 Has a nation changed its gods, Which are not gods? But My people have changed their Glory For what does not profit.

12 Be astonished, O heavens, at this, And be horribly afraid; Be very desolate," says the Lord.

13 'For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns — broken cisterns that can hold no water.

14 "Is Israel a servant? Is he a homeborn slave? Why is he plundered?

15 The young lions roared at him, and growled; They made his land waste; His cities are burned, without inhabitant.

16 Also the people of Noph and Tahpanhes Have broken the crown of your head.

17 Have you not brought this on yourself, In that you have forsaken the Lord your God When He led you in the way?

18 And now why take the road to Egypt, To drink the waters of Sihor? Or why take the road to Assyria, To drink the waters of the River?

19 Your own wickedness will correct you, And your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing That you have forsaken the Lord your God, And the fear of

Me is not in you," Says the Lord God of hosts.

20 "For of old I have broken your yoke and burst your bonds; And you said, 'I will not transgress,'
When on every high hill and under every green tree You lay down, playing the harlot.

21 Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a seed of highest quality. How then have you turned before
Me Into the degenerate plant of an alien vine?

22 For though you wash yourself with lye, and use much soap, Yet your iniquity is marked before
Me," says the Lord God.

23 "How can you say, 'I am not polluted, I have not gone after the Baals'? See your way in the
valley; Know what you have done: You are a swift dromedary breaking loose in her ways, 24 A wild
donkey used to the wilderness, That sniffs at the wind in her desire; In her time of mating, who can
turn her away? All those who seek her will not weary themselves; In her month they will find her.

25 Withhold your foot from being unshod, and your throat from thirst. But you said, 'There is no
hope. No! For I have loved aliens, and after them I will go.'

26 "As the thief is ashamed when he is found out, So is the house of Israel ashamed; They and their
kings and their princes, and their priests and their prophets, 27 Saying to a tree, 'You are my father,'
And to a stone, 'You gave birth to me.' For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face.
But in the time of their trouble They will say, 'Arise and save us.'

28 But where are your gods that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, If they can save you
in the time of your trouble; For according to the number of your cities Are your gods, O Judah.

29 "Why will you plead with Me? You all have transgressed against Me," says the Lord.

30 'In vain I have chastened your children; They received no correction. Your sword has devoured
your prophets Like a destroying lion.

31 "O generation, see the word of the Lord! Have I been a wilderness to Israel, Or a land of
darkness? Why do My people say, 'We are lords; We will come no more to You'?

32 Can a virgin forget her ornaments, Or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days
without number.

33 "Why do you beautify your way to seek love? Therefore you have also taught The wicked women
your ways.

34 Also on your skirts is found The blood of the lives of the poor innocents. I have not found it by
secret search, But plainly on all these things.

35 Yet you say, 'Because I am innocent, Surely His anger shall turn from me.'

Behold, I will plead My case against you, Because you say, 'I have not sinned.'

36 Why do you gad about so much to change your way?

Also you shall be ashamed of Egypt as you were ashamed of Assyria.

37 Indeed you will go forth from him With your hands on your head; For the Lord has rejected your
trusted allies, And you will not prosper by them.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

God's Case Against Israel

- ✧ Moreover the word of Yahweh (the Lord) came to me, saying,
"Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says Yahweh (the Lord):
"I remember you, The kindness of your youth, The love of your betrothal, When you went
after Me in the wilderness, In a land not sown.
Israel was holiness to Yahweh (the Lord) , The firstfruits of His increase. All that devour him
will offend; Disaster will come upon them," says the Lord.'" [\[Jeremiah 2:1-3\]](#)
- ✧ Israel began well as they followed Yahweh into the wilderness from Egypt.
- ✧ Israel was holiness to Yahweh, the first fruits of His increase.
- ✧ All that came against Israel were defeated by Yahweh as He protected His people who
trusted in Him.
- ✧ Yahweh's promise to Abraham was "I will bless those who bless you and curse those who
curse you." [\[Genesis 12:3\]](#)

- ✧ Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob and all the families of the house of Israel.
Thus says Yahweh (the Lord):

"What injustice have your fathers found in Me, That they have gone far from Me, Have
followed idols, And have become idolaters?

Neither did they say, 'Where is Yahweh (the Lord), Who brought us up out of the land of
Egypt, Who led us through the wilderness, Through a land of deserts and pits, Through a land
of drought and the shadow of death, Through a land that no one crossed And where no one
dwelt?'

I brought you into a bountiful country, To eat its fruit and its goodness. But when you
entered, you defiled My land And made My heritage an abomination.

The priests did not say, 'Where is Yahweh (the Lord)?' And those who handle the law did not
know Me; The rulers also transgressed against Me; The prophets prophesied by Baal, And
walked after things that do not profit. [\[Jeremiah 2:4-8\]](#)

- ✧ Yahweh asked for their reason for leaving Him and His care to go into idolatry after He
had brought them out of slavery in Egypt showing them His ability and willingness to
provide for them in desolate places and brought them into the bountiful land to eat its fruit
and enjoy its goodness.
- ✧ When they entered the good land they defiled it and made the gift of God an abomination.
- ✧ The leaders of the people, priests, prophets, and rulers transgressed against Yahweh and
turned to idolatry following things that did not benefit them.
- ✧ The prophets prophesied by Baal.
- ✧ "Therefore I will yet bring charges against you," says Yahweh (the Lord), "And against your
children's children I will bring charges. [\[Jeremiah 2:9\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh will lay out His case against the Children of Israel.
- ✧ For pass beyond the coasts of Cyprus and see, Send to Kedar and consider diligently, And see
if there has been such a thing.
Has a nation changed its elohiym (gods), Which are not elohiym (gods)? But My people have
changed their Glory For what does not profit [\[Jeremiah 2:10-11\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh calls Israel to consider the pagan nations who do not depart from their pagan
gods.

- ✧ Yet Yahweh's people have turned from the One who has proven His love and ability to protect them to go after worthless idols that cannot do anything nor profit them at all.
- ✧ Be astonished, O heavens, at this, And be horribly afraid; Be very desolate," says Yahweh (the Lord).
 'For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns — broken cisterns that can hold no water.
 "Is Israel a servant? Is he a homeborn slave? Why is he plundered?
 The young lions roared at him, and growled; They made his land waste; His cities are burned, without inhabitant.
 Also the people of Noph and Tahpanhes Have broken the crown of your head.
 Have you not brought this on yourself, In that you have forsaken Yahweh Elohayik (the Lord your God) When He led you in the way? [\[Jeremiah 2:12-17\]](#)
- ✧ The Heavens are called to witness God's case against His people.
- ✧ They have forsaken Yahweh Who is the fountain of Living Waters.
- ✧ They have hewn themselves broken cisterns that can hold no water.
- ✧ Israel, redeemed from slavery in Egypt and given laws to keep them free, are being plundered by nations that come against them because of their idolatry.
- ✧ The reason Israel is plundered is the fact that they have forsaken Yahweh Elohayik who led them in the way of peace.
- ✧ And now why take the road to Egypt, To drink the waters of Sihor? Or why take the road to Assyria, To drink the waters of the River?
 Your own wickedness will correct you, And your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing That you have forsaken Yahweh Elohayik (the Lord your God), And the fear of Me is not in you," Says Adoney Yahweh Tsebavta (the Lord God of hosts). [\[Jeremiah 2:18-19\]](#)
- ✧ Now instead of trusting Yahweh for their security, Israel is turning to foreign nations around them, to Egypt and Assyria.
- ✧ Israel's own wickedness and backsliding is the cause of their danger from enemy nations.
- ✧ Israel's destruction proves the folly of turning away from Adoney Yahweh Tsebavta.
- ✧ "For of old I have broken your yoke and burst your bonds; And you said, 'I will not transgress,' When on every high hill and under every green tree You lay down, playing the harlot.
 Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a seed of highest quality. How then have you turned before Me Into the degenerate plant of an alien vine?
 For though you wash yourself with lye, and use much soap, Yet your iniquity is marked before Me," says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God). [\[Jeremiah 2:20-22\]](#)
- ✧ Again Yahweh reminds Israel of what He has done for them to prove Himself to be their loving God of provision, and of their promises to keep His Commandments. [\[Exodus 19:8\]](#)
- ✧ In the face of God's blessings Israel has played the harlot by their idolatry.
- ✧ Israel's promises to God have proven to be lies.
- ✧ No amount of soap and water washings can remove the defilement of their ways in the sight of Yahweh.
- ✧ "How can you say, 'I am not polluted, I have not gone after the Baals'? See your way in the valley; Know what you have done: You are a swift dromedary breaking loose in her ways, A wild donkey used to the wilderness, That sniffs at the wind in her desire; In her time of mating, who can turn her away? All those who seek her will not weary themselves; In her month they will find her. [\[Jeremiah 2:23-24\]](#)

- ✧ Israel claims to be innocent, but to God the smell is like that of a donkey in heat for mating.
- ✧ The scent draws her mates from afar.
- ✧ Withhold your foot from being unshod, and your throat from thirst. But you said, 'There is no hope. No! For I have loved aliens, and after them I will go.'
"As the thief is ashamed when he is found out, So is the house of Israel ashamed; They and their kings and their princes, and their priests and their prophets, Saying to a tree, 'You are my father,' And to a stone, 'You gave birth to me.' For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble They will say, 'Arise and save us.' [[Jeremiah 2:25-27](#)]
- ✧ Yahweh has called them to repent and return to Him.
- ✧ The people, their kings, their priests, and their prophets have stubbornly refused to repent and continue in their godless pursuit of pleasure turning their back on Yahweh.
- ✧ Then in times of trouble they want Yahweh to save them.
- ✧ But where are your Eloheyka (gods) that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, If they can save you in the time of your trouble; For according to the number of your cities Are your gods, O Judah. [[Jeremiah 2:28](#)]
- ✧ Now in time of Israel's trouble, Yahweh says for them to seek help from the idols they have chosen.
- ✧ "Why will you plead with Me? You all have transgressed against Me," says Yahweh (the Lord).
'In vain I have chastened your children; They received no correction. Your sword has devoured your prophets Like a destroying lion.

"O generation, see the word of Yahweh (the Lord)! Have I been a wilderness to Israel, Or a land of darkness? Why do My people say, 'We are lords; We will come no more to You'?"

Can a virgin forget her ornaments, Or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number.

"Why do you beautify your way to seek love? Therefore you have also taught The wicked women your ways.

Also on your skirts is found The blood of the lives of the poor innocents. I have not found it by secret search, But plainly on all these things.

Yet you say, 'Because I am innocent, Surely His anger shall turn from me.' [[Jeremiah 2:29-35](#)]

- ✧ Why should they turn for help to Yahweh whom they have rejected?
- ✧ Yahweh has called for repentance in all the troubles that have come upon the people.
- ✧ Yet through it all they have been unwilling to receive correction.
- ✧ Their own stubbornness in rebelling against Yahweh is the cause of their troubles.
- ✧ The people have killed their own prophets who were sent to call them to repentance with the sword.
- ✧ Yahweh asked for them to explain their reason for turning away from Him.
- ✧ The wicked behavior of the people has set an example of wickedness for the wicked women.
- ✧ Though they claim to be innocent expecting the anger of Yahweh to turn away, the wickedness of the people is not hidden, but it stands out like garments soaked with blood of the poor innocents.
- ✧ Behold, I will plead My case against you, Because you say, '**I have not sinned.**'
Why do you gad about so much to change your way?

Also you shall be ashamed of Egypt as you were ashamed of Assyria.

Indeed you will go forth from him With your hands on your head; For Yahweh (the Lord) has rejected your trusted allies, And you will not prosper by them. [\[Jeremiah 2:35-37\]](#)

- ✧ Yahweh sent this message because the people claim they have not sinned.
- ✧ I have heard that claim from so many who think they are OK with God while they live sinful lives in front of Him.
- ✧ Yahweh asked, Why the people go to so much effort to turn from the truth.
- ✧ In truth, Egypt will prove to be as useless an ally as did Assyria.
- ✧ Yahweh predicted that the people of Israel will leave Egypt with their hands on their heads going into captivity because God has rejected their trusted allies.
- ✧ Their hope in Egypt will not benefit them at all.