

Jeremiah 2:14-25 - The First Indictment for Immorality
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CHIASM: IDENTIFYING THE TRUE CAUSE OF ISRAEL'S TROUBLES

The Cause

2:14a Is Israel a servant? is he a homeborn slave?

2:17 Hast thou not procured this unto thyself, in that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, when he led thee by the way? 2:18 And now what hast thou to do in the way of Egypt, to drink the waters of Sihor? or what hast thou to do in the way of Assyria, to drink the waters of the river?

The Effect

14b why is he spoiled?

2:15 The young lions roared upon him, and yelled, and they made his land waste: his cities are burned without inhabitant. 2:16 Also the children of Noph and Tahapanes have broken the crown of thy head.

ALTERNATION: ISRAEL'S SIN AGAINST GRACE

Israel cannot deny the problem

2:19a Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee:

2:22 For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord GOD. 2:23a How canst thou say, I am not polluted, I have not gone after Baalim?

"Know and See; See and Know"

19b know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, 19c that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

23b see thy way in the valley, know what thou hast done:

Israel pictured as a recalcitrant animal

2:20 For of old time [thou hast] broken thy yoke, and burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not [serve]; [for] upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot.

23c thou art a swift dromedary traversing her ways; 2:24 A wild ass used to the wilderness, that snuffeth up the wind at her pleasure; in her occasion who can turn her away? all they that seek her will not weary themselves; in her month they shall find her.

Rebelling against past and future blessing

2:21 Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?

2:25 Withhold thy foot from being unshod, and thy throat from thirst: but thou saidst, There is no hope: no; for I have loved strangers, and after them will I go.