

JEREMIAH 2 vs 1

¹ Moreover **the word of the LORD** came to me, saying,

² **Go and cry** / proclaim... **in the ears of Jerusalem**, ...the Lord first sends Jeremiah to the capital... where all the civil and religious... well actually, the uncivil and irreligious—educated elites pompously parade around... as they create their own gods, and invent their manmade traditions; as they lay endless burdens... and level interminable taxes and dues and fees and tolls on the people,

saying, **Thus says the LORD;**

I remember you, the devotion of your youth, as the love of one married,

when you followed after Me in the wilderness, through a land not sown / through a deserted place not tilled and planted.

³ **Israel** / the ones **ruled by God** already exiled for 170 years taking with them the unconditional promises first given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob... then passed to **Ephraim**, Joseph's son... and then to **10 tribes of the north** which gathered around him. David was told: **Israel** will go to another place of their own.

Israel / the ones **ruled by God** was holy to the LORD, and the firstfruits of His harvest / they were like the early wave-offering on the 3rd day of the Lord; an example of things to come as they reached out to all the nations *from the rising to the setting of the sun*... with the good news of our great God:

all who devour will be guilty / all who enviously consume it to destroy it... **Jeremiah 5:17** elaborates on this Harvest of God, those who consume to destroy... the fruitful work of Israel's hands, not only their food, but also their sons and daughters, their flocks and herds, their vines and fig trees, their fortified cities;

evil will come upon them, said the LORD.

⁴ **Hear the word of the LORD, O household of Jacob** / remember, this ancient OT name recalls the unregenerate man going his own way; this name means: scoundrel, cheater, crooked deal-maker,

and all the families of the household of Israel / all 12 sons of Jacob; the Lord expects His people to learn lessons and grow up... to reflect what their new name means **isra = ruled + El = God**, in other words:

and all the families of the household ruled by God... not just the scoundrels going their own way, not just the crooked cheaters doing their own thing:

⁵ **Thus says the LORD, What iniquity** / what injustice and inequity, what inequality...

have your fathers found in Me,

that they are gone far from Me,

and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?

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O house of scoundrels and cheaters... who swear you are ruled by Me.

6 The people did **not** say,

Where is the LORD who brought us out of the land of Egypt / out of centuries of living in miserable slavery, who led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought, and of the shadow of death, through a land that no one passed through, and where no one dwelt?

7 And I brought you into a plentiful land, to eat its fruit and the goodness thereof;

but you entered and defiled My land, and My inheritance you made an abomination.

8 The priests did **not** say,

Where is the LORD who brought us up out of the land of Egypt? / They didn't ask either.

Those who handle the law did **not** know Me:

the *worthless, no-good* shepherds / pastors also transgressed against Me,

and the prophets prophesied by Baal – the Canaanite god of fertility... first among their pantheon of false gods and strange customs... including those who cut themselves, and who burned children in the fires to appease their demonic gods;

children's lives are still devalued in many countries 5,000 years later,

so the people... and priests... and pastors... and prophets... / every assignment given to teach and maintain orderly community,

every known progeny of **Israel** / **ruled by God**... walked after what does **not** profit.

9 Therefore I will yet contend with **you**, says the LORD, and with your children's children I will contend. / The LORD is a betting kind of Creator God; He knows what He created is very good... so getting this first part correct is of utmost importance. The LORD knows He has all eternity to take the next step and move creation forward... even if only one person responds; He said, *few there be who find it*. The LORD isn't changing, He is willing to wager to the nth generation... the value of what life He created... of love freely given... set against love that is coerced and therefore feigned.

Still speaking to **Israel** / the ones **ruled by God**...

10 Crossover to the isles of Chittim / modern Cypress... go West, go toward the sunset,

and see;

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and send to Kedar / Qatar, Arabia... go East, toward the sunrise,

and consider diligently, and see if there be such a thing / the LORD says, follow the sun to where it sets in the evening; or go to where it rises in the morning... and notice what people abandon their gods... the way Israel has abandoned the living God.

¹¹ Has a nation changed their gods (which are not gods)?

but **My people** / uniquely visited by Him... **have exchanged their glory for what does not profit.**

¹² Be astonished at this, O heavens; be horrified and very desolate,

says the LORD. / The LORD calls the citizens of heaven to reflect... later Paul would write of: *the mystery of Messiah, hid in God who created all things... hid from the rulers and authorities in the heavens*—**Ephesians 3.**

¹³ For My people have committed two evils;

[1] **they have forsaken Me—the fountain of living waters** / they abandoned the source of life,

and

[2] **they hewed out cisterns (broken cisterns), that hold no water** / a danger for God's people in every generation, including ours... is to offer our second best works of the flesh... rather than of the spirit, and boasting in our half-cracked creations. *God who is spirit, must be worshiped in spirit and truth.*

¹⁴ Is Israel a servant? is he a home-born slave? / Is Israel a purchased slave... or a 2nd generation slave born to a master? No! Israel is supposed to father God's adopted children.

Why is he spoiled? / Why is he become the captor's prey?

¹⁵ The young lions roar upon him, and growl, and they make his land waste:

his cities are burned and without dwellers. Assyria took captive the 10 northern tribes and resettled them in a buffer zone between Assyria and the Medes... at the foothills of the Caucasus Mountains.

¹⁶ Also the children of Noph / Memphis, ancient capital of lower Egypt...

and Tahapanes / this Egyptian name mentioned 6 times by Jeremiah in this chapter and in chapter 43...

have shaved the top of your head. / ...the meaning of this shameful action and humiliation... somehow is connected with Jeremiah's conservatorship... and the royal daughters of the House of Judah... who disappears from Biblical history... who later ended marrying into the ancient, royal family of Ireland.

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17 Have you / Israel... not done this to yourself, / the Lord says, you shaved your own head, your crown was exposed for the clown that you became...

in that you have forsaken the LORD your God, when He led you in the way?

18 And now what are you doing on the road to Egypt? What is the benefit of returning to slavery?

to drink the waters of Sihor? To imbibe from the tributaries of the Nile? Are they still dreaming of the leeks and garlic of Egypt? Or perhaps they are fantasizing of returning to the legendary land of Goshen? The problem is they were only welcome... because Joseph was in charge.

or what are you doing on the road to Assyria? What is the benefit of going there?

to drink the waters of the Euphrates river?

19 Your wickedness will correct you, and your faithless rebellion will reprove you / it will reveal what you are really made of:

So, know and see that it is an evil and bitter thing to forsake the LORD your God;

that the fear of Me is not in you, says the Lord GOD of hosts.

20 For long ago I broke your yoke, and tore off your bonds;

but you said, I will not freely serve;

and on every high hill and under every green tree you were as a harlot.

21 Yet I had planted you a noble vine, of a right seed / a choice stock:

how then are you turned from Me... into the degenerate plant of a foreign vine?

22 For though you wash yourself with lye, and you use much soap, yet the stain of your iniquity is before Me, says the Lord GOD.

23 How can you say, I am not polluted / I am not defiled?

I have not gone after Baalim / the many gods of Baal. / So, Israel has been telling the LORD a bunch of endless lies... as if the LORD doesn't know what is going on.

See your way in the valley, know what you have done:

You are like a swift camel running here and there;

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24 Or a wild jackass used to the wilderness that sniffs the wind in her pleasure / her passion; and when she is in heat, who can turn her away?

All who seek her need **not** grow weary; in her month they will find her.

25 You run with your feet unshod, and your throat is dry:

but you say, No / and like serial sex-addicts you say,

it is hopeless: I love strangers, and after them I will go.

26 As a thief is ashamed / let's learn the Hebrew: boshet...

As a thief is **boshet**... when he is caught,

so the **house of Israel** will be **ashamed** / in Hebrew: **bos**, a diminutive of **boshet**; so, who is **boshet**?

the people, their kings, their princes, and their priests, and their prophets.

27 who say to a pole, “my father” and to a stone, “my mother” / so these bos people, kings, princes, priests and prophets—freaky people who talk to poles and stones, they all have a faulty worldview:

for they turned their backs to Me, and **not** their faces:

but when trouble comes, they will cry “Arise, save us” / who do they cry to, a pole or a stone?

28 But where are all your gods that you made for yourself?

Let them arise, if they can save you in your time of trouble: for you have as many gods as you have towns, O **Judah**. / tragically, it is **boshet** rulers, and **boshet** priests, and **boshet** prophets who kept (and still keep) **the many good words and ways the Lord God spoke** to Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and the 12 other prophets of the Old Testament... from resonating in the minds and hearts of His people. Instead we often hear the accusatory: Where was God in the holocaust? It is the chosen people who created their own chosen holocaust as they chose to walk away from the living God; and all their **boshet** alliances with Rome from the we-have-no-king-but-caesar crowd only helps to make it worse.

29 Why will you contend with Me? You have all rebelled against Me, says the LORD.

30 In vain I spanked your children; yet they received no correction.

The sword has devoured your *false* prophets, like a destroying lion / just like Jeremiah said.

31 O generation, heed the word of the LORD. Have I been a wilderness to Israel? Or a land of darkness?

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Why do My people say, **We are free** / that sounds like the teenager who said: My car, My rules... and all her friends hopped into her car; and 5 minutes later they were all dead. My car, my rules! Strange rules. I wonder if her friends knew? At best my freedom ends where the next nose begins... and all the temporal laws governing us... have little effect our imaginative freedom; people of God are free to serve Him; and one day, due to His mercy... we will enjoy His presence forever;



Why do My people say, **We are free; we will not come to You?**

³² Can a virgin forget her adornments; or a bride her wedding attire?

yet My people have forgotten Me days without number / countless times, too dreary to recall.

³³ How skilled are your ways to seek love? You have taught the most wicked your ways.

³⁴ Also on your clothes is found the blood stain of the innocent poor:



though you did **not** catch them breaking in / they weren't the thieves; crooked deal makers were.

And despite all this *boshet*...

³⁵ You say, I am innocent, Surely His anger is turned from me / again these **bos** deists demonstrate their faulty worldview.

So, the LORD says... Behold, I will pass judgment on you, because you say, I have **not** sinned.

³⁶ Why do you go about so much changing your way? / drifting from the lane, shifting your course?

Egypt will ~~put to shame~~ **bos** you, as Assyria ~~shamed~~ **bos**-ed you.

³⁷ Yes, from this place you will go with your hands on your head: for the LORD has rejected your **bos** confidences / He vetoed those in whom you trust. The Eternal has rejected those whom you rely on in this place which He provided; so, as prisoners being led away by their victorious captors,

you will **not** prosper with them / you will gain nothing from them or by them.