

Jeremiah Chapter Two

Year: 627 BC

Verses 2:2 and 2:4 Jeremiah says he is speaking the Word of the Lord

2:1-3 – the early days of the Exodus

Israel is asked to consider the choosing and exodus from Egypt. (Exodus 19-24; Hosea 2:15)

1. Israel willingly followed the Lord...these were the good days. There was some trouble (complaining, murmuring, rebellion, etc. by Israel) like any new marriage or relationship, but good days of God's provision, leadership, protection, instruction, etc.
2. Israel was holy (set apart for God) as firstfruits of his harvest of the nations. Israel was to be the light to the world. Israel was to lead many nations to God. Israel was chosen to be blessed and to serve God among the nations in order to bring the nations out of darkness.
3. Firstfruits indicate a future harvest yet to come.
4. God protected Israel from those who would interfere with this plan. (Ps. 37:12, 13, 20; Zech. 2:8; 2 Peter 3:3-11)

2:4-9 – the earlier rebellious days of Judges

"House of Jacob" is used 20x instead of "house of Israel," but both refer to all twelve tribes.

2:5 – What is Israel's Legal Charge Against God?

"fault" is " 'awel" and is a legal term from a court of law that means "injustice."

The Lord asks them to tell him the basis of their legal case against him?

"worthless" is "hebel" and means "wind" and "emptiness."

The people are "wind" and "empty" just like their empty gods. (Isaiah 41:21-24, 29)

They become like the object or philosophy that they worship (Psalm 115:8; Hosea 9:10)

2:6-7 – The People Fail

God did two things for them:

1. delivered them from the "darkness" which is the same word as "shadow of death" in Ps. 23:4
2. brought them to "fertile land."

The natural response would have been:

1. Thankfulness
2. Obedience

But, because of their rebellion it would appear that God has done something illegal to make Him unworthy of their devotion and obedience. What did God legally do wrong?

2:8 – The Leadership Fails

Three Levels of Leadership failed at different levels to help correct the "thankless" and "disobedient" people:

1. Priests – "deal with the Law" of God
 - a. They did not ask, "Where is the Lord?"
 - b. Those who had the Law (or, God's written revelation, His Word) did not know God.
2. Leaders "shepherds" – government officials established by God for the wellbeing of mankind
 - a. They rebelled against God's purpose and followed their own agenda
3. Prophets – those who received spiritual, mystical insight
 - a. Received mystical insight and revelation from demons.

2:9 – God Will Be the One Bringing a Legal Charge

“Charges” is “rib” (Hb.) and is a legal term for filing a law suit

Notice the court case and charges are going to extend into the next generation!

2:10 – Previous Cases between a Nation and their God

God appeals to other legal cases involving other nations and their gods:

1. The Kittim Case involving the island of Cyprus and their god Astarte (Aphrodite; Rome called her Venus). She was born on Cyprus and was the goddess of love, beauty, pleasure.
 - a. Josephus said: 'The name Kittim (Ceqi;m) given by the Hebrews to all the islands and to most of the countries near the sea' (Ant I:128). Jews of the Second temple period seemed to refer the name Kittim to every nation who came to Israel by sea because of their understanding of Ballam's prophecy in Numbers referring to Kittim eventually subjecting Ashur and Israel, but ultimately perishing.
2. The Kedar Case
 - a. Kedar (Cedar, Qedar) were the organized northern Arabian tribes of nomads.
 - b. Polytheistic with the tribes queen serving as a priestess who communicated with the goddesses (and, gods) such as Atarsamain, Nuha, Ruda, Daa, Abirillu, and Atarquruma.

These nations never change their gods.

2:11

The reaction of the “heavens” (universal reality? Or, angelic realm?). Either way, if it is natural law or spiritual reality, the reaction to leaving YHWH as a nation is:

1. Appall
2. Shudder
3. Great horror

2:13 – Two charges or sins

Israel has forsaken the Spring of Living Water, the source of all life to dig a cistern that leaks.

The Legal Charges:

1. Left a spring of water
2. Dug a leaking cistern

They have exchanged an abundant supply of cool, fresh, clear water for a leaking cistern that they have to work to collect water in and after it leaks out the best they have left is mud.

2:14-18 – The Current Problem

Israel is not naturally a slave, yet they are being plundered.

Israel humiliation at the hands of Egypt and Assyria puts them in the status of a slave.

1. Lions (Assyrians)
 - a. Roar
 - b. Growl
 - c. Lay waste
 - d. Burn

- e. Desert
- 2. Men of Memphis and Tahpanhes Egypt (Egyptians)
 - a. Shave crown of Israel's head which was done to slaves by their masters.

2:17-19 – Israel Turned to Assyria (Lion) and Egypt instead of God

Israel has caused these problems themselves by forsaking God and turning to Assyria and Egypt
 Israel is drinking from the Nile (Shihor) and Euphrates, instead of from their Living Spring.

The very fact they turn to other nations will result in their punishment
 Go to Isaiah 7:18-25

The Lord ends this chapter telling them they will be disappointed by Egypt, just like Assyria (2:37)

2:20-24

1. Israel was the servant of the Lord, but they shattered his yoke and refused to serve him
2. Israel was a choice vine made of good wood, but Israel changed its nature to become a corrupt wild vine

Israel could not put the genie back in the bottle or the toothpaste back in the tube or rebuilt the shattered yoke or revert back to being choice wood. They had been ruined. There was not a good enough soap to clean them. They had sinned.

Israel claims that they had not sinned.

Israel pursued other gods like an animal in heat.

2:25

God warned them but they said they could not be helped.

2:26-29

Again, the leadership is addressed and blamed:

1. King
2. Royal Government Officials
3. Priests
4. Prophets

These leaders were all established by God to help the people, assist the people, teach the people, lead the people. Instead, the leadership has done just the opposite. They have assisted the people in finding false gods and taught the people the false philosophies.

Notice what the leaders say to the false gods. They speak their false truths and false philosophies:

1. To wood: "You are my father."
2. To stone: "You gave me birth."

They have turned their backs to God and rejected him.

They turn their face away which means:

1. They do not see God
2. They do not look for God
3. They do not speak to God

2:30

God has punished them but their false theology makes it impossible for them to make the connections.

They say they are innocent (2:35)

2:31

God speaks to “This Generation”

The Lord was not a Desert or Darkness, but was an absolute necessity for their well-being.

How can people forget their necessities?

1. A maiden getting dressed doesn't forget to put her jewelry on!
2. A bride doesn't forget her wedding ornaments!
3. But for many, many days Israel has gotten up and forgot the Lord! People are more attentive to a non-necessity like jewelry than Israel is to an absolute need like water. (The point is not that jewelry is bad or that the people were busy putting on jewelry in the mornings instead having their daily devotions. The point is the women DO remember their jewelry, how can people forget about WATER, the water of life? The point is meant to say Israel is behaving very unacceptable.)

2:33-34

Skilled at pursuing love, yet you are cruel.

Point: If you want it you will find it. You can find love for yourself, but you cannot practice love towards others or follow after God's ways. Why? You do not want to.

2:35

Even though their corrupt behavior and selfish motivation is obvious, the people say they are innocent.

2:36-37

God warns them that their own self disillusionment will deceive them.

In the end they will be utterly disappointed.