

Jeremiah 2:9-19 – A Bride with an Eye to the Flashy

Delitzsch, Calvin, HebrewLexicon, TSK, Clarke, Geneva, JFB, Armstrong, Trapp, Barnes, Poole, INT, Henry, Gill?

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: God charged **his bride with having defiled herself** with other gods! What a sad condition for a once pure bride!

How this must have hurt God to see her in this state!

But God, because he loved his bride, worked to **expose her sins and the danger of her sins** so she would **see her sins** and **return to him for pardon.**

This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

The Charges against the bride

The Consequences of sin on the bride

The Challenges to the bride

Our goals are: **That you will expose the bride's sins today (and her children's), show her what the consequences are, and call on her to confess her sins through Jesus Christ.**

The Charges against the Bride

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

1. God was going to bring charges against his bride, her children, and then her grandchildren.

This was a warning about the future. God was giving them time to repent. This was the same language God use for Israel before.

Micah 6:2 Hear, O you mountains, the LORD'S complaint, And you strong foundations of the earth; For **the LORD has a complaint against His people,** And He will contend with Israel.

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.**

2. Why would God bring charges on his bride, her children, and her grandchildren?

The bride loved money, so she was cruel to the poor and she ignored the Sabbath –spending time with her husband.

So she exchanged God (Glory) for gods that were more open to her desires. But those gods did not profit her anything!

Psalms 106:36 They served their idols, Which **became a snare to them.**

Other people, like those from the Mediterranean islands, like Cyprus, and Arabia (Kedar) never gave their gods up...but God's people did.

(Nebuchadnezzar's son went later to force the Arabians to change their gods, but he failed.)

The "Glory" was directly attached to the worship of God. You get the sense of the importance of worship.

1 Kings 8:11 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; **for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.**

The glory disappeared gradually as is told by Ezekiel. Look at what it became later:

Romans 1:23 and **changed the glory of the incorruptible God** into an image made like corruptible man —and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

12 **Be astonished, O heavens,** at this, and **be horribly afraid;** Be very desolate," says the LORD.

3. God would abandon his bride and leave her land desolate as a consequence to her spiritual adultery - her idolatry.

It would be so stunning, the heavens, with no sense of morality, would be shocked! Literally, **"be horribly afraid"** meant, **"Let your hair stand on end!"**

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.

4. Then God illustrated the sins of the bride in 2 ways –sins of omission and commission.

She forsook God who gave her waters of life.

She dug her own wells to get her own water...but it would all leak out.

"Broken" means "leaky."

Jonah 2:8 "Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own Mercy.

5. Lessons:

a. Have you noticed it is God's people who often compromise and change? We want to dress like the world, and talk like the world, and watch movies like the rest of the world, and obsess for things like the world? The world never says they will abandon their lifestyle and dress modestly, or clean up their language, their movies, and their lifestyle.

And what excuse could the church have to compromise, since it knows that God is the one true God? None!

b. God cannot stand sin because of his very nature. He cannot especially stand sins that ignore his purity...and corrupt his worship!

Like the stars of the heavens, you must have "holy indignation" of these sins. Let your hair stand on end when you sin.

c. It is madness to abandon serving the Lord and think you can do better with other gods! Who wants to give up serving the Lord who is not only glorious but is the Fountain of Life?

John 4:14 *"but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*

d. The church can sin worse than the world. Church membership or baptism does not preclude you from serious sins.

The Consequences of sin on the Bride

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

1. The bride became like a servant, a slave, and a person who was plundered, and one with no future.

It other words, **she lost her privileged position.** She was abused by others. It was as if her husband were dead. The sad thing was the bride sold herself into this position as a slave. **So instead of being protected, she became the prey!**

Let's change the analogy from God bride to God's son for a moment! The meaning is the same.

Exodus 4:22 "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: **"Israel is My son, My firstborn.**"

Genesis 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"

But the chosen son of Abraham, the one through whom the world would be blessed, the one God loved, was acting like a slave. He was selling, like Esau, his birthright for a pot of stew.

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.

2. The enemies, in another illustration of the consequences of the bride's sin, destroyed her and stripped her of her power. She became scared with the roaring and the growling of the lions.

Sargon II of Assyria was the lion who took away the northern 10½ tribes of Israel.

Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was the lion (the symbol of the empire was a lion) coming to take the remaining 1½ tribes away.

So the whole land was laid waste...cities destroyed with fire, the plants and animals destroyed, and the inhabitants were either killed or taken as slaves.

Egypt, the greatest enemy before, had done the same. Noph and Tahpanhes (Memphis and Daphni) represented Egypt as they were two great cities there, had taken away all authority. Jehoiakim had an alliance with Pharaoh, but was betrayed.

These three empires were the bride's greatest enemies to date.

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

3. And the bride, because she caused this trouble on her own head, could not blame anyone for it!

She left God's protection and provisions and made unholy alliances with wicked nations, hoping to get their protection. As a result, the beautiful, **powerful bride had to sit in filth and shame with no protection!** Her lovers abandoned her. So she had to eat the fruit of her ways – getting exactly as she deserved.

4. Lessons:

a. To leave God is to enslave yourself! False gods never have your interest at heart! You will end up eating at a pig's trough. **The apple of God's eye can become the rotten fruit for pigs.** There is no good life apart from God.

b. You can't blame your sins on TV, or internet, or poverty, or your parents!

The church can't blame PM Trudeau or Premier Ford for her sins...or society! If she wants to see who is to be blamed for the church's sins, she must buy a mirror.

c. Sin is attractive, so be on guard so that you aren't lured into sin. So if you need a job, don't compromise to get it. If you need a spouse, don't abandon God's principles to get one. If you want to live in safety, don't sacrifice others to get it!

d. Keep in mind life can get into a sinful spiral when you covet. When you covet, you abandon God's laws and embrace gods that justify covetousness. Worshiping the true God goes out the window.

The Challenges to the Bride

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?

1. Bride, don't run to Egypt or Assyria for comfort because you won't get protection from them!

Egypt was the old enemy: Sihor is another name for The Nile. Egypt was a broken reed that could not support Judah.

Isaiah 31:1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many, and in horsemen because they are very strong, but who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the LORD!

More recently, King Hezekiah had made a devilish deal with the Assyrian bear, King Sennacherib, who kept coming back for more and more until Hezekiah had nothing more to give. That compromise haunted Judah for many years.

Both Egypt and Assyria were like leaking man-made cisterns. Their water did not last, though they looked good.

The bride knew the cause of the sickness, she had **the cure in the palm of her hands,** but **she threw it away and ran for something she knew could not fix her problem.** Shiny things!

And even though Egypt and Assyria, enslavers of God's bride, were gone, **the Babylonians were next!**

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.

2. Look, bride, at your sins and see how far you have fallen from God and let your compromise rebuke you!

See how seriously you sinned against God (evil and bitter thing), and how your love of God has disappeared.

3. Notice bride, God is not describing himself any longer as Yahweh – covenant God – to you, but as the Lord God of hosts, meaning he is the God of Armies, ready to destroy you.

God wasn't going to literally destroy his bride (that's hyperbole), but he was showing her exactly what she deserved as she was acting as his enemy.

4. Lessons:

a. Instead of looking to the attractive things of this world which will not ultimately satisfy the needs of the soul, learn to constantly drink of the Water of Life that comes from your heavenly Father. New things aren't always better. Good things are always better. God will tell you what is good!

b. What are some of those attractive things that pretend to satisfy your needs today? More money, a better job, more influence, a more attractive but less godly wife, a more "exciting" church, a flashy preacher, or "new" doctrines. Examine your own heart.

c. You are a worse sinner if you know God's grace and turn from it than a sinner who never knew God's grace at all!

d. God will not destroy his church, but he will remove parts of it...some denominations, some congregations, and some individuals! Let that be a warning! **Work hard to fix them.** God is holy. **Do you have a friend who has questionable doctrines?** Speak up! **God will fight to preserve his honor.**

Conclusion:

The charge on the bride was that she deliberately ignored the good waters from God's fountains and ran to foreign waters. She lusted. So she ran to and worshipped idols who didn't care about her lusts.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. We don't run to idols so we can justify our lusts as the Jews did, we simply make the things we lust for into our gods (we are wicked)! So we must search our hearts and our churches to see things which are pulling you away from God.

Find those idols and destroy them. **Return to God!**

2. Remember **God's love and how he meets all your true needs in Jesus.** Remember the cross. Jesus gives true satisfaction. He provides for your needs. He provides for your protection.

The attractive waters of his world have many water-borne diseases that kill. Money won't go to heaven with you...or even to hell!

3. Rejoice. Jesus will never abandon his church! You deserve to be abandoned, but he experienced abandonment and desolation for you on the cross and in the tomb.

Finally: Hear God's words: Isaiah 55:1 "*Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.*" If you want water so you can live, ask God. He gives it for free because Jesus paid for it.