

Jeremiah 44:1-30 **Queen of Heaven – Forbidden Idolatry – Judgment**

Idolatry brings destruction in foreign lands as well as in Judah and Jerusalem

1 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews who dwell in the land of Egypt, who dwell at Migdol, at Tahpanhes, at Noph, and in the country of Pathros, saying,

2 "Thus says Yahweh Tsebaavt Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel): 'You have seen all the calamity that I have brought on Jerusalem and on all the cities of Judah; and behold, this day they are a desolation, and no one dwells in them,

3 because of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke Me to anger, in that they went to burn incense and to serve other leelohiyim (gods) whom they did not know, they nor you nor your fathers.

4 However I have sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, "Oh, do not do this abominable thing that I hate!"

5 But they did not listen or incline their ear to turn from their wickedness, to burn no incense to other gods.

6 So My fury and My anger were poured out and kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are wasted and desolate, as it is this day.'

7 "Now therefore, thus says Yahweh Elohey Tsebaavt Elohey Yisrael (the Lord, the God of hosts, the God of Israel): 'Why do you commit this great evil against yourselves, to cut off from you man and woman, child and infant, out of Judah, leaving none to remain,

8 in that you provoke Me to wrath with the works of your hands, burning incense to other leelohiyim (gods) in the land of Egypt where you have gone to dwell, that you may cut yourselves off and be a curse and a reproach among all the nations of the earth?

9 Have you forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, the wickedness of the kings of Judah, the wickedness of their wives, your own wickedness, and the wickedness of your wives, which they committed in the land of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

10 They have not been humbled, to this day, nor have they feared; they have not walked in My law or in My statutes that I set before you and your fathers.'

11 "Therefore thus says Yahweh Tsebaavt Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel): 'Behold, I will set My face against you for catastrophe and for cutting off all Judah.

12 And I will take the remnant of Judah who have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to dwell there, and they shall all be consumed and fall in the land of Egypt. They shall be consumed by the sword and by famine. They shall die, from the least to the greatest, by the sword and by famine; and they shall be an oath, an astonishment, a curse and a reproach!

13 For I will punish those who dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence,

14 so that none of the remnant of Judah who have gone into the land of Egypt to dwell there shall escape or survive, lest they return to the land of Judah, to which they desire to return and dwell. For none shall return except those who escape.'"

15 Then all the men who knew that their wives had burned incense to other leelohiyim (gods), with all the women who stood by, a great multitude, and all the people who dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying:

16 "As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of Yahweh (the Lord), we will not listen to you!

17 But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to **burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her**, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble.

18 But **since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine.**"

19 The women also said, "**And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her, to worship her, and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands' permission?**"

Yahweh replies to the people and their rebellion

20 Then Jeremiah spoke to all the people — the men, the women, and all the people who had given him that answer — saying:

21 "The incense that you burned in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, you and your fathers, your kings and your princes, and the people of the land, did not Yahweh (the Lord) remember them, and did it not come into His mind?"

22 So Yahweh (the Lord) could no longer bear it, **because of the evil of your doings and because of the abominations which you committed. Therefore your land is a desolation, an astonishment, a curse, and without an inhabitant, as it is this day.**

23 Because you have burned incense and because you have sinned against Yahweh (the Lord), and have not obeyed the voice of Yahweh (the Lord) or walked in His law, in His statutes or in His testimonies, therefore this calamity has happened to you, as at this day."

24 Moreover Jeremiah said to all the people and to all the women, "Hear the word of Yahweh (the Lord), all Judah who are in the land of Egypt!"

25 Thus says Yahweh Tsebaavt Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel):, saying: 'You and your wives have spoken with your mouths and fulfilled with your hands, saying, "We will surely keep our vows that we have made, **to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her.**" You will surely keep your vows and perform your vows!'

26 Therefore hear the word of Yahweh (the Lord), all Judah who dwell in the land of Egypt: 'Behold, I have sworn by My great name,' says Yahweh (the Lord), 'that My name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, "Adoney Yahweh (The Lord God) lives."

27 Behold, I will watch over them for adversity and not for good. And all the men of Judah who are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, until there is an end to them.

28 Yet a small number who escape the sword shall return from the land of Egypt to the land of Judah; and all the remnant of Judah, who have gone to the land of Egypt to dwell there, shall know whose words will stand, Mine or theirs.

29 And this shall be a sign to you,' says Yahweh (the Lord), 'that I will punish you in this place, that you may know that My words will surely stand against you for adversity.'

30 "Thus says Yahweh (the Lord): 'Behold, I will give Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies and into the hand of those who seek his life, as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, his enemy who sought his life.'"

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Idolatry brings destruction of God's people in foreign lands as well as in Judah and Jerusalem

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews who dwell in the land of Egypt, who dwell at Migdol, at Tahpanhes, at Noph, and in the country of Pathros, saying, [\[Jeremiah 44:1\]](#)
- ✧ Jeremiah and his friend Baruch had been taken to Egypt by Johanan and the captains with him along with all the people left in the land of Judah under the care of Gedaliah whom Nebuchadnezzar had appointed as governor. [\[Jeremiah 43:5-6\]](#)
- ✧ The people were scattered to Migdol, Tahpanhes, and Noph, in the country of Pathros in the land of Egypt. [\[Jeremiah 44:1\]](#)
- ✧ Jeremiah received a message for the Jews in Egypt from Yahweh.
- ✧ "Thus says Yahweh Tsebaaoth Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel):
'You have seen all the calamity that I have brought on Jerusalem and on all the cities of Judah; and behold, this day they are a desolation, and no one dwells in them, **because** of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke Me to anger, in that they went to burn incense and to serve other lelohiym (gods) whom they did not know, they nor you nor your fathers.

However I have sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, "Oh, do not do this abominable thing that I hate!"

But they did not listen or incline their ear to turn from their wickedness, to burn no incense to other gods.

So My fury and My anger were poured out and kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are wasted and desolate, as it is this day.' [\[Jeremiah 44:2-6\]](#)

- ✧ Yahweh reminded them that they are personally witnesses to the calamity that befell Jerusalem and the cities of Judah.
- ✧ The calamity came from Yahweh as an expression of His anger toward them **because** of their wickedness.
- ✧ Their wickedness was connected with their idolatry in burning incense to and serving other gods.
- ✧ Yahweh had been faithful through it all by sending His prophets to call them to repentance.
- ✧ Their refusal to repent and return to Yahweh provoked Him to anger.
- ✧ The destruction, desolation, and waste of Jerusalem and the cities of Judah was the result of Yahweh's anger poured out against them as they have seen with their own eyes.
- ✧ "Now therefore, thus says Yahweh Elohey Tsebaaoth Elohey Yisrael (the Lord, the God of hosts, the God of Israel):
'Why do you commit this great evil against yourselves, to cut off from you man and woman, child and infant, out of Judah, leaving none to remain, in that you provoke Me to wrath with the works of your hands, burning incense to other elohiym (gods) in the land of Egypt where you have gone to dwell, that you may cut yourselves off and be a curse and a reproach among all the nations of the earth?
Have you forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, the wickedness of the kings of Judah, the wickedness of their wives, your own wickedness, and the wickedness of your wives, which they committed in the land of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?
They have not been humbled, to this day, nor have they feared; they have not walked in My law or in My statutes that I set before you and your fathers.' [\[Jeremiah 44:7-10\]](#)
- ✧ After the wrath of Yahweh was poured out in your own sight the question remains, "Why do you continue in the sins that caused His anger in the first place?"

- ✧ The only result in continuing to sin is to make yourselves a reproach to all the nations of the earth who will see you cut yourselves off by your own actions.
 - ✧ The people do not even see the wickedness of their fathers, their kings and their wives, their own wickedness and the wickedness of their own wives that they did in the land of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. How blind can they be?
 - ✧ With all the warnings God has sent to them, they have not been humbled even after the destruction that drove them from their own land.
 - ✧ There is no sign of repentance or return to the righteous Laws God originally gave them.
 - ✧ This is the nature of mankind even to our own time.
- ☆ "Therefore thus says Yahweh Tsebaavt Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel):

'Behold, I will set My face against you for catastrophe and for cutting off all Judah.

And I will take the remnant of Judah who have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to dwell there, and **they shall all be consumed and fall in the land of Egypt**. They shall be consumed by the sword and by famine. They shall die, from the least to the greatest, by the sword and by famine; and they shall be an oath, an astonishment, a curse and a reproach!

For I will punish those who dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, so that none of the remnant of Judah who have gone into the land of Egypt to dwell there shall escape or survive, lest they return to the land of Judah, to which they desire to return and dwell. For none shall return except those who escape."

[[Jeremiah 44:11-14](#)]

- ✧ The blind disobedience of the people will bring on the judgment of God Most High.
 - ✧ Yahweh will set His face against the Jews who fled to Egypt out of fear of the Chaldeans after Yahweh had instructed them to stay in the land of Judah where He would take care of them there and protect them from the Chaldeans.
 - ✧ They will be consumed in the land of Egypt just as their others were consumed in Judah and Jerusalem when Yahweh delivered them into the hands of the Chaldeans. Their fate in Egypt will be the same as it was in Judea and Jerusalem.
 - ✧ No-one will return to Judah except the ones who escape in Egypt.
- ☆ Then all the men who knew that their wives had burned incense to other leelohiym (gods), with all the women who stood by, a great multitude, and all the people who dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying:
- "As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of Yahweh (the Lord), **we will not listen to you!**

But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to **burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her**, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble.

But **since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine.**"

The women also said, "**And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her, to worship her, and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands' permission?**" [[Jeremiah 44:15-19](#)]

- ✧ The people clearly stated their choice to refuse to listen to Jeremiah as he related the Word of Yahweh to them. This is a clear rejection against the Word of Yahweh.

- ✧ Their reasoning was that before Yahweh poured out His anger on them they had been blessed with abundance and peace for which they gave credit to their idolatry.
- ✧ We also learn that the other gods they were worshipping that brought the wrath of Yahweh was their worship of the "Queen of Heaven."
- ✧ It is also interesting that the Catholics today have now exalted Mary the mother of Jesus to the position of Queen of Heaven seated between the Father God and His son Jesus Christ and their worship of her. Are they not following the same idolatry that brought judgment against the Jews?
- ✧ The husbands knew and approved of the worship of the Queen of Heaven.

Yahweh replies to the people and their rebellion

☆ 20 Then Jeremiah spoke to all the people — the men, the women, and all the people who had given him that answer — saying:

21 "The incense that you burned in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, you and your fathers, your kings and your princes, and the people of the land, did not Yahweh (the Lord) remember them, and did it not come into His mind?

22 So Yahweh (the Lord) could no longer bear it, **because of the evil of your doings and because of the abominations which you committed. Therefore your land is a desolation, an astonishment, a curse, and without an inhabitant, as it is this day.**

23 Because you have burned incense and because you have sinned against Yahweh (the Lord), and have not obeyed the voice of Yahweh (the Lord) or walked in His law, in His statutes or in His testimonies, therefore this calamity has happened to you, as at this day."

24 Moreover Jeremiah said to all the people and to all the women, "Hear the word of Yahweh (the Lord), all Judah who are in the land of Egypt!

25 Thus says Yahweh Tsebaaovt Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel):, saying: 'You and your wives have spoken with your mouths and fulfilled with your hands, saying, "We will surely keep our vows that we have made, **to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her.**" You will surely keep your vows and perform your vows!'

26 Therefore hear the word of Yahweh (the Lord), all Judah who dwell in the land of Egypt: 'Behold, I have sworn by My great name,' says Yahweh (the Lord), 'that My name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, "Adoney Yahweh (The Lord God) lives."

27 Behold, I will watch over them for adversity and not for good. And all the men of Judah who are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, until there is an end to them.

28 Yet a small number who escape the sword shall return from the land of Egypt to the land of Judah; and all the remnant of Judah, who have gone to the land of Egypt to dwell there, shall know whose words will stand, Mine or theirs.

29 And this shall be a sign to you,' says Yahweh (the Lord), 'that I will punish you in this place, that you may know that My words will surely stand against you for adversity.'

30 "Thus says Yahweh (the Lord): 'Behold, I will give Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies and into the hand of those who seek his life, as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, his enemy who sought his life.'"

[Jeremiah 44:20-30]

- ✧ Your present situation is the result of the pagan practices of yourselves, your fathers, your kings, and your princes and the people of the land, to burn incense in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem.
- ✧ All of this was in the mind of Yahweh before He poured out His anger against His people and His land.
- ✧ Yahweh waited to pour out His anger until He could no longer bear it.
- ✧ **Because of the evil of your doings and because of the abominations which you committed. Therefore your land is a desolation, an astonishment, a curse, and without an inhabitant, as it is this day.**
- ✧ **Because** you have burned incense and because you have sinned against Yahweh (the Lord), and have not obeyed the voice of Yahweh (the Lord) or walked in His law, in His statutes or in His testimonies, therefore this calamity has happened to you, as at this day."
- ✧ **Yahweh knows that you and your wives will continue to worship the Queen of Heaven as you are doing.**
- ✧ Therefore hear the word of Yahweh (the Lord), all Judah who dwell in the land of Egypt: 'Behold, I have sworn by My great name,' says Yahweh (the Lord), 'that My name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, "Adoney Yahweh (The Lord God) lives."
- ✧ Yahweh views the use of His Name by those who intentionally sin is an insult and causes His Name to be profaned before the Gentiles. [[Leviticus 19:12, 20:3, 22:31-32](#)]
- ✧ Yahweh will cause all the people who are in the land of Egypt to be consumed by sword, and famine.
- ✧ Only a small remnant of them will escape to return to Judah. Then those left in the land of Judah and those who escape from Egypt will know that Yahweh's Word prevails over the words of sinners.
- ✧ When Yahweh delivers Egypt into the hands of the Chaldeans like He has delivered Zedekiah king of Judah and Jerusalem into their hands is the sign that Yahweh's Word stands against those who rebel against Him.