

מכון הדר

MECHON HADAR

Why Jeremiah Hated Religion (And Maybe We Should Too)

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2015 Summer Kick Off

Jeremiah 7

ירמיה ז

¹The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ²Stand at the gate of the House of the Lord, and there proclaim this word: Hear the word of the Lord, all you of Judah who enter these gates to worship the Lord!

¹הַדְבָר אֲשֶׁר הָיָה אֶל־יְרֵמְיָהוּ מֵאֵת יְקֹנָק לֵאמֹר:
²עֲמֹד בַּשַּׁעַר בַּיַּת יְקֹנָק וְקִרְאתָ שָׁם אֶת־הַדְבָר
הַזֶּה וְאָמַרְתָּ שְׁמִעוּ דְבַר־יְקֹנָק כָּל־יְהוּדָה הַבָּאִים
בַּשַּׁעֲרִים הָאֵלֶּה לְהַשְׁתַּחֲוֹת לַיְקֹנָק:

³Thus said the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel: Mend your ways and your actions, and I will let you dwell in this place. ⁴Don't put your trust in illusions and say, "The Temple of the Lord, the Temple of the Lord, the Temple of the Lord are these [buildings]." ⁵No, if you really mend your ways and your actions; if you execute justice between one man and another; ⁶if you do not oppress the stranger, the orphan, and the widow; if you do not shed the blood of the innocent in this place; if you do not follow other gods, to your own hurt—⁷then only will I let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers for all time. ⁸See, you are relying on illusions that are of no avail. ⁹Will you steal and murder and commit adultery and swear falsely, and sacrifice to Baal, and follow other gods whom you have not experienced, ¹⁰and then come and stand before Me in this House which bears My name and say, "We are safe"?—[Safe] to do all these abhorrent things! ¹¹Do you

³כֹּה־אָמַר יְקֹנָק צְבָאוֹת אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הַיְטִיבוּ
דַרְכֵיכֶם וּמַעַלְלֵיכֶם וְאִשְׁפְּנָה אֶתְכֶם בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה:
⁴אֶל־תִּבְטְחוּ לְכֶם אֶל־דְּבַר־יְשָׁקָר לֵאמֹר הֵיכַל
יְקֹנָק הֵיכַל יְקֹנָק הֵיכַל יְקֹנָק הֵמָּה: ⁵כִּי
אִם־הַיְטִיב תִּיטִיבוּ אֶת־דַרְכֵיכֶם וְאֶת־מַעַלְלֵיכֶם
אִם־עָשׂוּ תַעֲשׂוּ מִשְׁפָּט בֵּין אִישׁ וּבֵין רֵעֵהוּ: ⁶גֵּר
יְתוֹם וְאַלְמָנָה לֹא תַעֲשׂוּ וְדָם נָקִי אֶל־תִּשְׁפְּכוּ
בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה וְאַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אַחֲרִים לֹא תִלְכוּ
לְרַע לְכֶם: ⁷וְשִׁפְנֹתִי אֶתְכֶם בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה בְּאֶרֶץ
אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לְאַבֹתֵיכֶם לְמִן־עוֹלָם וְעַד־עוֹלָם: ⁸
הִנֵּה אַתֶּם בֹּטְחִים לְכֶם עַל־דְּבַר־יְשָׁקָר לְבִלְתִּי
הוֹעִיל: ⁹הֲגָב | רָצַח וְנָאֵף וְהִשָּׁבַע לְשָׁקָר וְקָטַר
לְכַעַל וְהִלֵּךְ אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אַחֲרִים אֲשֶׁר
לֹא־יַדְעֶתֶם: ¹⁰וּבָאתֶם וְעַמַּדְתֶּם לְפָנַי בַּבַּיִת הַזֶּה
אֲשֶׁר נִקְרָא־שְׁמִי עָלָיו וְאָמַרְתֶּם נִצְלָנוּ לְמַעַן
עָשׂוֹת אֵת כָּל־הַתּוֹעֲבוֹת הָאֵלֶּה: ¹¹הֲמַעֲרַת

consider this House, which bears My name, to be a den of thieves?
As for Me, I have been watching—declares the Lord.

¹²Just go to My place at Shiloh, where I had established My name
formerly, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of My
people Israel. ¹³And now, because you do all these
things—declares the Lord—and though I spoke to you persistently,
you would not listen; and though I called to you, you would not
respond—¹⁴therefore I will do to the House which bears My name,
on which you rely, and to the place which I gave you and your
fathers, just what I did to Shiloh. ¹⁵And I will cast you out of My
presence as I cast out your brothers, the whole brood of Ephraim.

¹⁶As for you, do not pray for this people, do not raise a cry of
prayer on their behalf, do not plead with Me; for I will not listen to
you. ¹⁷Don't you see what they are doing in the towns of Judah
and in the streets of Jerusalem? ¹⁸The children gather sticks, the
fathers build the fire, and the mothers knead dough, to make cakes
for the Queen of Heaven, and they pour libations to other gods, to
vex Me. ¹⁹Is it Me they are vexing?—says the Lord. It is rather
themselves, to their own disgrace. ²⁰Assuredly, thus said the Lord
God: My wrath and My fury will be poured out upon this place, on
man and on beast, on the trees of the field and the fruit of the soil.
It shall burn, with none to quench it.

²¹Thus said the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel: Add your burnt
offerings to your other sacrifices and eat the meat! ²²For when I
freed your fathers from the land of Egypt, I did not speak with
them or command them concerning burnt offerings or sacrifice.
²³But this is what I commanded them: Do My bidding, that I may
be your God and you may be My people; walk only in the way that
I enjoin upon you, that it may go well with you. ²⁴Yet they did not

פָּרְצִים הִיָּה הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר־נִקְרָא־שְׁמִי עָלָיו
בְּעֵינֵיכֶם גַּם אֲנִי הִנֵּה רֹאֵתִי נְאֻם־יְקֹנֶק:
¹²כִּי לְכוּ־נָא אֶל־מְקוֹמִי אֲשֶׁר בְּשִׁילוֹ אֲשֶׁר
שָׁכַנְתִּי שְׁמִי שָׁם בְּרֹאשׁוֹנָה וּרְאוּ אֵת
אֲשֶׁר־עָשִׂיתִי לוֹ מִפְּנֵי רַעַת עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל: ¹³וְעַתָּה
יַעַן עֲשׂוֹתְכֶם אֶת־כָּל־הַמַּעֲשִׂים הָאֵלֶּה נְאֻם־יְקֹנֶק
וְאֲדַבֵּר אֵלֵיכֶם הַשָּׁפֵם וְדַבֵּר וְלֹא שָׁמַעְתֶּם
וְאֶקְרָא אֶתְכֶם וְלֹא עָנִיתֶם: ¹⁴וְעָשִׂיתִי לְבַיִת י
אֲשֶׁר נִקְרָא־שְׁמִי עָלָיו אֲשֶׁר אַתֶּם בֹּטְחִים בּוֹ
וּלְמָקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־נָתַתִּי לָכֶם וְלְאֲבוֹתֵיכֶם כַּאֲשֶׁר
עָשִׂיתִי לְשִׁילוֹ: ¹⁵וְהִשְׁלַכְתִּי אֶתְכֶם מֵעַל פְּנֵי
כַּאֲשֶׁר הִשְׁלַכְתִּי אֶת־כָּל־אֲחֵיכֶם אֵת כָּל־זֶרַע
אֶפְרַיִם:

¹⁶וְאַתָּה אַל־תִּתְפַּלֵּל י בְּעַד־הָעַם הַזֶּה וְאַל־תִּשָּׂא
בְּעַדָם רִנָּה וּתְפִלָּה וְאַל־תִּפְגַּע־בִּי כִּי־אֲיַנְנִי שָׁמַעַ
אֶתְךָ: ¹⁷הֲאֵינְךָ רֹאֶה מָה הִמָּה עֹשִׂים בְּעָרֵי יְהוּדָה
וּבְחִצּוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם: ¹⁸הַבָּנִים מְלַקְטִים עֵצִים
וְהָאֲבוֹת מְבַעְרִים אֶת־הָאֵשׁ וְהַנְּשִׂים לִשְׁוֹת בָּצֶק
לְעִשׂוֹת פְּנִינִים לְמִלְכַת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהַסֶּךְ נֹסְכִים
לְאֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים לְמַעַן הַכְּעִסְנִי: ¹⁹הֲאֵתִי הֵם
מְכַעֲסִים נְאֻם־יְקֹנֶק הֲלוֹא אַתֶּם לְמַעַן בָּשַׂת
פְּנֵיהֶם: ²⁰לָכֵן כֹּה־אָמַר י אֶ־דְּנִי יְקֹנֶק הִנֵּה אֲפִי
וְחַמְתִּי נִתְכַּת אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה עַל־הָאָדָם
וְעַל־הַבְּהֵמָה וְעַל־עֵץ הַשָּׂדֶה וְעַל־פְּרֵי הָאֲדָמָה
וּבְעֶרְהָ וְלֹא תִכְבֶּה:

²¹כֹּה אָמַר יְקֹנֶק צְבָאוֹת אֱלֹקֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עַל־וֹתֵיכֶם
סָפוּ עַל־זִבְחֵיכֶם וְאָכְלוּ בָשָׂר: ²²כִּי לֹא־דִבַּרְתִּי
אֶת־אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם וְלֹא צִוִּיתִים בְּיוֹם הוֹצֵאֲנִי אוֹתָם
מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם עַל־דְּבַרִּי עוֹלָה וְזִבְחָ: ²³כִּי
אִם־אֶת־הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה צִוִּיתִי אוֹתָם לֵאמֹר שָׁמְעוּ
בְּקוֹלִי וְהִיִּיתִי לָכֶם לְאֱלֹקִים וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיוּ־לִי לְעַם
וְהִלַּכְתֶּם בְּכָל־הַדֶּרֶךְ אֲשֶׁר אֲצַוֶּה אֶתְכֶם לְמַעַן

listen or give ear; they followed their own counsels, the willfulness of their evil hearts. They have gone backward, not forward,²⁵ from the day your fathers left the land of Egypt until today. And though I kept sending all My servants, the prophets, to them daily and persistently,²⁶ they would not listen to Me or give ear. They stiffened their necks, they acted worse than their fathers.

²⁷You shall say all these things to them, but they will not listen to you; you shall call to them, but they will not respond to you.

²⁸Then say to them: This is the nation that would not obey the Lord their God, that would not accept rebuke. Faithfulness has perished, vanished from their mouths.

²⁹Shear your locks and cast them away,

Take up a lament on the heights,

For the Lord has spurned and cast off

The brood that provoked His wrath.

³⁰For the people of Judah have done what displeases Me—declares the Lord. They have set up their abominations in the House which is called by My name, and they have defiled it. ³¹And they have built the shrines of Topheth in the Valley of Ben-hinnom to burn their sons and daughters in fire—which I never commanded, which never came to My mind.

³²Assuredly, a time is coming—declares the Lord—when men shall no longer speak of Topheth or the Valley of Ben-hinnom, but of the Valley of Slaughter; and they shall bury in Topheth until no room is left. ³³The carcasses of this people shall be food for the birds of the sky and the beasts of the earth, with none to frighten them off. ³⁴And I will silence in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem the sound of mirth and gladness, the voice of bridegroom and bride. For the whole land shall fall to ruin.

יִיטֵב לָכֶם: ²⁴וְלֹא שָׁמְעוּ וְלֹא־הִטּוּ אֶת־אָזְנָם
וַיִּלְכוּ בְּמַעֲצוֹת בְּשָׂרָרוֹת לָכֶם הִרְעוּ וַיִּהְיוּ לְאַחֲזֹר
וְלֹא לְפָנַיִם: ²⁵לְמֶן־הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר יָצְאוּ אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם
מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וְאֲשַׁלַּח אֵלֵיכֶם
אֶת־כָּל־עַבְדֵי הַנְּבִיאִים יוֹם הַשָּׁפֵם וְשַׁלַּח: ²⁶
וְלֹא שָׁמְעוּ אֵלַי וְלֹא הִטּוּ אֶת־אָזְנָם וַיִּקְשׁוּ
אֶת־עַרְפֹּם הִרְעוּ מֵאֲבוֹתָם:

²⁷וְדַבַּרְתָּ אֲלֵיהֶם אֶת־כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וְלֹא
יִשְׁמְעוּ אֵלַיִךְ וְקִרְאתָ אֲלֵיהֶם וְלֹא יַעֲנוּכָה: ²⁸
וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵיהֶם זֶה הַגּוֹי אֲשֶׁר לֹא־שָׁמְעוּ בְּקוֹל
יְקִיָּקָה אֱלֹהָיו וְלֹא לָקַחוּ מוֹסָר אֲבֹדָה הַאֲמוּנָה
וַנִּכְרַתָּה מִפִּיהֶם:

²⁹גִּזְיִי נִזְרָךְ וְהִשְׁלִיכִי

וּשְׂאֵי עַל־שִׁפְיָם קִינָה

כִּי מָאֵס יְקִיָּקָה וַיִּטֹּשׁ

אֶת־דֹּוֹר עֲבָרְתָּו:

³⁰כִּי־עָשׂוּ בְּנֵי־יְהוּדָה הִרְעוּ בְּעֵינַי נְאוּם־יְקִיָּקָה
שָׁמְעוּ שְׁקוּצִיָּהם בְּבַיִת אֲשֶׁר־נִקְרָא־שְׁמִי עָלָיו
לְטִמְאוֹ: ³¹וַיִּבְנוּ בְּמֹזֶת הַתֶּפֶת אֲשֶׁר בְּגֵיא בְּנֵי־הַנֶּחֱם
לְשׂוֹרֵף אֶת־בְּנֵיהֶם וְאֶת־בְּנֹתֵיהֶם בְּאֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר לֹא
צִוִּיתִי וְלֹא עָלְתָה עַל־לִבִּי:

³²לְכֹן הִנֵּה־יָמַיִם בָּאִים נְאוּם־יְקִיָּקָה וְלֹא־יֵאמַר
עוֹד הַתֶּפֶת וְגֵיא בְּנֵי־הַנֶּחֱם כִּי אִם־גֵּיא הַהִרְגָּה
וְקִבְרוּ בַתֶּפֶת מֵאִין מְקוֹם: ³³וְהָיְתָה נִבְלַת הָעַם
הַזֶּה לְמֵאֶכְלָל לְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וּלְבְּהֵמַת הָאָרֶץ וְאִין
מִחֲרִיד: ³⁴וְהִשְׁבַּתִּי | מְעַרְי יְהוּדָה וּמַחֲצוֹת
יְרוּשָׁלַם קוֹל שִׁשׁוֹן וְקוֹל שְׂמִחָה קוֹל חֲתָן וְקוֹל
כָּלָה כִּי לְחֻרְבָּה תִּהְיֶה הָאָרֶץ: