

The image is a composite. The left half features a dramatic, painterly illustration of a city in flames. Bright orange and yellow fire consumes the foreground, with a large, dark stone tower or fortress visible in the background amidst the smoke and fire. The right half of the image is a solid black rectangle.

Building
from the
rubble

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷



1 basic issue

(vv.20-21)

3 common excuses

(vv.22-25)

5 crucial symptoms

(vv.26-37)

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

basic issue

(vv.20-21)

‘Long ago you broke off your yoke and tore off your bonds; you said, “I will not serve you!” Indeed, on every high hill and under every spreading tree you lay down as a prostitute. ²¹ I had planted you like a choice vine of sound and reliable stock. How then did you turn against me into a corrupt, wild vine?

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

basic issue

(vv.20-21)

- the Christmas message
- the challenge of the Bible

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

common excuses

(vv.22-25)

1) reform (v.22)

²² 'Although you wash yourself with soap and use an abundance of cleansing powder, the stain of your guilt is still before Me,' declares the Sovereign Lord.

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

common excuses

(vv.22-25)

2) denial (vv.23f)

²³ 'How can you say, "I am not defiled; I have not run after the Baals"? See how you behaved in the valley; consider what you have done.

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

common excuses

(vv.22-25)

2) denial (vv.23f)

You are a swift she-camel running here and there, ²⁴ a wild donkey accustomed to the desert, sniffing the wind in her craving – in her heat who can restrain her? Any males that pursue her need not tire themselves; at mating time they will find her.

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

common excuses

(vv.22-25)

3) incapacity (v.25)

²⁵ Do not run until your feet are bare and your throat is dry. But you said, "It's no use! I love foreign gods, and I must go after them."

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷



crucial symptoms

(vv.26-37)

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

crucial symptoms #1

(vv.26-37)

You don't subscribe to God's uniqueness (vv.26-28)

²⁶ 'As a thief is disgraced when he is caught, so the people of Israel are disgraced – they, their kings and their officials, their priests and their prophets.

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

crucial symptoms #1

(vv.26-37)

You don't subscribe to God's uniqueness (vv.26-28)

²⁷ They say to wood, "You are my father," and to stone, "You gave me birth." They have turned their backs to me and not their faces; yet when they are in trouble, they say, "Come and save us!"

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

crucial symptoms #1

(vv.26-37)

You don't subscribe to God's uniqueness (vv.26-28)

²⁸ Where then are the gods you made for yourselves? Let them come if they can save you when you are in trouble! For you, Judah, have as many gods as you have towns.

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

crucial symptoms #2

(vv.26-37)

**You don't listen to God's
corrections (vv.29-30)**

²⁹ 'Why do you bring charges against me? You have all rebelled against me,' declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

crucial symptoms #2

(vv.26-37)

You don't listen to God's
corrections (vv.29-30)

³⁰ 'In vain I punished your people; they
did not respond to correction.

Your sword has devoured your
prophets like a ravenous lion.

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

crucial symptoms #3

(vv.26-37)

You don't respond to God's
goodness (vv.31-33)

³¹ 'You of this generation, consider the word of the Lord: 'Have I been a desert to Israel or a land of great darkness? Why do my people say, "We are free to roam; we will come to you no more"?

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

crucial symptoms #3

(vv.26-37)

You don't respond to God's
goodness (vv.31-33)

³² Does a young woman forget her
jewellery, a bride her wedding
ornaments? Yet my people have
forgotten me, days without number.

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

crucial symptoms #3

(vv.26-37)

You don't respond to God's
goodness (vv.31-33)

³³ How skilled you are at pursuing
love! Even the worst of women can
learn from your ways.

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

crucial symptoms #4

(vv.26-37)

You don't submit to God's
judgment (vv.34-35)

³⁴ On your clothes is found the
lifeblood of the innocent poor, though
you did not catch them breaking in.

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

crucial symptoms #4

(vv.26-37)

You don't submit to God's
judgment (vv.34-35)

Yet in spite of all this ³⁵ you say, "I am innocent; he is not angry with me."

But I will pass judgment on you because you say, "I have not sinned."

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

crucial symptoms #5

(vv.26-37)

You don't commit to God's
Kingdom (vv.36-37)

³⁶ Why do you go about so much, changing your ways? You will be disappointed by Egypt as you were by Assyria.

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

crucial symptoms #5

(vv.26-37)

You don't commit to God's
Kingdom (vv.36-37)

³⁷ You will also leave that place with
your hands on your head, for
the Lord has rejected those you
trust; you will not be helped by them.

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷

Prepare the ways

(vv.20-37)

for the Lord

- subscribe to God's uniqueness
- listen to God's corrections
- respond to God's goodness
- submit to God's judgments
- commit to God's Kingdom

Jeremiah 2.²⁰⁻³⁷