

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES

APRIL 29–MAY 5

For Those Loving Jehovah, “There Is No Stumbling Block”

PAGE 3 • SONGS: 45, 32

MAY 6-12

Do You Have “a Heart to Know” Jehovah?

PAGE 8 • SONGS: 62, 60

MAY 13-19

Having “Come to Know God” —What Now?

PAGE 13 • SONGS: 81, 135

MAY 20-26

Jehovah—Our Place of Dwelling

PAGE 19 • SONGS: 51, 95

MAY 27–JUNE 2

Honor Jehovah’s Great Name

PAGE 24 • SONGS: 27, 101



62 *To Whom Do We Belong?* (Romans 14:8)

1. To whom do you belong?

Which god do you now obey?
Your master is he to whom you bow.
He is your god; you serve him now.
You cannot serve two gods;
Both masters can never share
The love of your heart in its ev'ry part.
To neither you would be fair.

2. To whom do you belong?

Which god will you now obey?
For one god is false and one is true,
So make your choice; it's up to you.
Shall Caesar of this world
Possess your allegiance still?
Or will you obey the true God today
By always doing his will?

3. To whom do I belong?

Jehovah I will obey.
My Father in heaven I shall serve;
I'll pay my vows without reserve.
He bought me at great cost;
Devoted to him I'll stay.
The death of his Son my ransom has won;
His name I'll honor each day.

(See also Josh. 24:15; Ps. 116:14, 18; 2 Tim. 2:19.)



DO YOU HAVE “A HEART TO KNOW” JEHOVAH?

“I will give them a heart to know me, that I am Jehovah; and they must become my people.”—JER. 24:7.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

How were many Jews in Jeremiah’s day “uncircumcised in heart”?

Why should all of us examine our figurative heart?

How can we have “a heart to know” Jehovah?

DO YOU enjoy eating figs, either fresh or dried? Many do, so edible figs are cultivated widely. Ancient Jews valued the fruit of fig trees. (Nah. 3:12; Luke 13:6-9) Figs contain fiber, antioxidants, and minerals; hence, some say that they are good for the heart.

² Jehovah once linked figs to hearts. God was not describing the nutritional benefit of eating figs. He was speaking figuratively. What he said through the prophet Jeremiah has implications for your heart and the hearts of your loved ones. As we consider what he said, think about what this can mean for Christians.

³ Let us first consider something God said in Jeremiah’s day about figs. In 617 B.C.E., the nation of Judah was in a bad spiritual state. God gave a vision about what the future held, illustrating it with two types of figs—“very good” figs and “very bad” ones. (**Read Jeremiah 24:1-3.**) The bad figs meant King Zedekiah and others like him who faced severe treatment by King Nebuchadnezzar and his troops. But what of Ezekiel, Daniel and his three companions already in Babylon, and some Jews soon to be taken there? They were like good figs. A remnant of them would return to rebuild Jerusalem and its temple. In time, that did occur.—Jer. 24:8-10; 25:11, 12; 29:10.

⁴ Jehovah said of those represented by the good figs: “I will give them a heart to know me, that I am Jehovah; and they must become my people.” (Jer. 24:7) That is the theme text of this article, and how encouraging it is! God is willing to give individuals

-
- 1, 2. Why might some be interested in figs?
 3. What did the figs spoken of in Jeremiah chapter 24 stand for?
 4. What encouragement can we draw from what God said about the good figs?

“a heart to know” him. In this case, the “heart” relates to one’s disposition. Certainly, you want to have such a heart and to be part of his people. Steps to that end include studying and applying his Word, repenting and turning around, dedicating your life to God, and being baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and holy spirit. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 3:19) You may already have taken those steps, or you may be regularly associating with Jehovah’s Witnesses and be in the process of doing so.

⁵ Whether we have taken some or all of those steps, we still need to give attention to our attitude and conduct. You can see why from what else Jeremiah wrote about the heart. Some chapters of the book of Jeremiah dealt with nations round about, yet its main focus was the nation of Judah during the reigns of five of its kings. (Jer. 1:15, 16) Yes, Jeremiah principally wrote about men, women, and children who were in a dedicated relationship with Jehovah. Their ancestors had voluntarily chosen to be a nation in that relationship. (Ex. 19:3-8) And in Jeremiah’s day, the people confirmed being dedicated to God. They said: “We have come to you, for you, O Jehovah, are our God.” (Jer. 3:22) However, what do you think the condition of their heart was?

FIGURATIVE HEART SURGERY NEEDED?

⁶ Modern physicians can use advanced technology to see what the condition of a heart is and how it is functioning. Jehovah, though, can do much more, as he did in Jeremiah’s day. God is outstandingly qualified, as we see from his words: “The heart is more treacher-

ous than anything else and is desperate. Who can know it? I, Jehovah, am searching the heart, . . . to give to each one according to his ways, according to the fruitage of his dealings.” (Jer. 17:9, 10) “Searching the heart” involves no medical exam of the literal heart, which in 70 or 80 years might beat some three billion times. Rather, Jehovah was speaking of the figurative heart. That “heart” refers to a person’s entire inner self, encompassing his desires, thoughts, disposition, attitudes, and goals. You have such a heart. God can examine it, and to a degree, you can do so too.

⁷ To prepare for this examination, we might ask, ‘What was the condition of the figurative heart of most Jews in Jeremiah’s time?’ To answer, consider an unusual phrase that Jeremiah used: “All the house of Israel are *uncircumcised in heart*.” He was not referring to normal circumcision of Jewish males, for he had said: “‘Look! Days are coming,’ is the utterance of Jehovah, ‘and I will hold an accounting with everyone *circumcised but still in uncircumcision*.’” Thus even circumcised Jewish men were “uncircumcised in heart.” (Jer. 9:25, 26) What did this mean?

⁸ We find a clue as to the meaning of “uncircumcised in heart” in what God urged the Jews to do: “Take away the foreskins of your hearts, you men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; that my rage may not go forth . . . *on account of the badness of your dealings*.” But from where did their bad dealings originate? From inside, from their heart. (**Read Mark 7:20-23.**) Yes, through Jeremiah, God accurately diagnosed the source of

5. About whose heart did Jeremiah principally write?

6. Why should we be especially interested in what God said about the heart?

7. How did Jeremiah describe the heart of most Jews in his day?

8, 9. As regards their heart, what did most Jews need to do?



the Jews' bad dealings. Their heart was stubbornly rebellious. Their motives and thinking were displeasing to him. (**Read Jeremiah 5:23, 24; 7:24-26.**) God told them: "Get yourselves circumcised to Jehovah, and take away the foreskins of your hearts."—Jer. 4:4; 18:11, 12.

⁹ Hence, Jews in Jeremiah's day needed figurative heart surgery—'circumcision of the heart'—even as those in Moses' time did. (Deut. 10:16; 30:6) To 'take away the foreskin of their heart' meant getting rid of what made their heart unresponsive—their thinking, affections, or motives that were in conflict with God's. —Acts 7:51.

"A HEART TO KNOW" HIM TODAY

¹⁰ How thankful we can be that God offers us insight into the figurative heart! 'But why,' some might wonder, 'would this be of concern to Jehovah's Witnesses today?' It is not that many Christians in the congregations are walking in badness or becoming "bad figs," as were many Jews back then. On the contrary, God's servants today are a devoted, clean people. Still, reflect on the plea

10. As exemplified by David, what should we want to do?

that David made to Jehovah: "Search through me, O God, and *know my heart*. Examine me, and know my disquieting thoughts, and see whether there is in me any painful way."—Ps. 17:3; 139:23, 24.

¹¹ Jehovah wants each of us to come into and remain in a condition acceptable to him. Concerning the righteous one, Jeremiah acknowledged: "You, O Jehovah of armies, are examining the righteous one; you are seeing the kidneys and the heart." (Jer. 20:12) If the Almighty is examining the heart of even the righteous one, should not we ourselves do some honest self-inspection? (**Read Psalm 11:5.**) As we do so, we might discern an attitude, a goal, or a deep feeling that needs attention. We could recognize something that is making our heart less sensitive, some 'fore-skin of our heart,' as it were, which we realize ought to be removed. That would be figurative heart surgery. If you agree that it would be good to examine your figurative heart, what might you look for? And how might you make any needed adjustments?—Jer. 4:4.

¹² One thing is certain: We should not expect Jehovah to force us to change. He said of "the good figs" that he would "*give them* a heart to know" him. He did not say that he would force a change of heart on them. They needed to desire a sensitive heart that reflected their knowing God. Would we not need the same?

¹³ Jesus stated: "Out of the heart come wicked reasonings, murders, adulteries, fornications, thieveries, false testimonies, blasphemies." (Matt. 15:19) Clearly, if a brother's insensitive heart moved him to commit adultery or fornication

11, 12. (a) Why should each of us examine his own heart? (b) What will God not do?

13, 14. In what sense might a Christian's heart be harming him?



Examining the heart and correcting improper desires will lead to blessings

and he remained unrepentant, he could lose God's favor permanently. Yet, even a person who has not committed such a wrong might be allowing an improper desire to grow in his heart. (**Read Matthew 5:27, 28.**) This is where making a personal examination of the heart may help. If you scrutinized your heart, would you find an improper feeling toward someone of the opposite sex, secret longings that God would not condone and that need to be removed?

¹⁴ Or a brother who has not actually committed "murders" might let rancor fester in his heart to the point of hating a fellow Christian. (Lev. 19:17) Will he put forth effort to rid himself of such emotions that could make his heart unresponsive?—Matt. 5:21, 22.

¹⁵ Happily, most Christians do not have such a 'heart problem.' Yet, Jesus also spoke of "wicked reasonings." These are views or attitudes that can taint many aspects of life. For example, a person could have a distorted sense of loyalty to his relatives. Of course, Chris-

tians want to have "natural affection" for relatives, not being like many who lack such affection in these "last days." (2 Tim. 3:1, 3) It is possible, though, to go to extremes in showing that affection. Many feel that "blood is thicker than water." Thus, they might defend or side with relatives at all costs, taking it personally if a relative is offended. Think of what strong feelings of that kind led Dinah's brothers to do. (Gen. 34:13, 25-30) And imagine what was in Absalom's heart, leading him to murder his half brother Amnon. (2 Sam. 13:1-30) Were not "wicked reasonings" behind those cases?

¹⁶ Understandably, true Christians do not murder. However, might they harbor strong negative feelings toward a brother or a sister who slighted one of their relatives or who they *think* did so? They may turn down hospitality from the fellow believer who they feel mistreated one of their relatives, or they may never show hospitality to him or her. (Heb. 13:1, 2) Such strong negative feelings and lack of hospitality reflect a lack of love and are not to be excused casually. Yes, the Examiner of hearts might diagnose it as 'uncircumcision of the heart.' (Jer. 9:

15, 16. (a) Give an example of how a Christian might be "uncircumcised in heart." (b) Why do you think an 'uncircumcised heart' would be displeasing to Jehovah?



25, 26) Remember those whom Jehovah urged: “Take away the foreskins of your hearts.”—Jer. 4:4.

GAINING AND MAINTAINING “A HEART TO KNOW” GOD

¹⁷ What if you examined your figurative heart and found that it was not as sensitive to Jehovah’s counsel as it could be and that it was to some extent “uncircumcised”? Maybe you detected a fear of man, a longing for prominence or luxury, or even an inclination toward stubbornness or independence. You would not be the first to experience such. (Jer. 7:24; 11:8) Jeremiah wrote that unfaithful Jews in his day had “a stubborn and rebellious heart.” He added: “They have not said in their heart: ‘Let us, now, fear Jehovah our God, the One who is giving the downpour and the autumn rain.’” (Jer. 5:23, 24) Does that not suggest that an aid in taking away ‘the foreskin of the heart’ is that of developing a greater fear of and appreciation for Jehovah? Such healthy fear can help each of us to have a heart more sensitive to what God desires us to be.

17. How can fearing Jehovah help us to have a more sensitive heart?

¹⁸ And we can work with Jehovah as he gives us “a heart to know” him. In fact, that is what he promised to do for anointed ones in the new covenant: “I will put my law within them, and in their heart I shall write it. And I will become their God, and they themselves will become my people.” What about truly knowing him? He added: “They will no more teach each one his companion and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know Jehovah!’ for they will all of them know me, from the least one of them even to the greatest one of them . . . For I shall forgive their error, and their sin I shall remember no more.”—Jer. 31:31-34.*

¹⁹ Whether you look forward to benefiting forever from that new covenant in heaven or on earth, you should want to know Jehovah and to be part of his people. A prerequisite to receiving such benefits is having your sins forgiven on the basis of Christ’s ransom. The very fact that you can be forgiven should move you to be forgiving toward others, even those who might be the object of hard feelings. Your being willing to rid your heart of any ill will that you may have will be good for your heart. You will thus show not only that you want to serve Jehovah but also that you are coming to know him better. You will be like those of whom Jehovah said through Jeremiah: “You will actually seek me and find me, for you will search for me with all your heart. And I will let myself be found by you.”—Jer. 29:13, 14.

* The new covenant is discussed in chapter 14 of the book *God’s Word for Us Through Jeremiah*.

18. Jehovah made what promise to those in the new covenant?

19. True Christians have what wonderful prospect?



DO YOU HAVE "A HEART TO KNOW JEHOVAH?"

Jeremiah 24:7

"I will give them a heart to know me, that I am Jehovah; and they must become my people."

PARAGRAPH 1

Nahum 3:12 "All your fortified places are as fig trees with the first ripe fruits, which, if they get wigged, will certainly fall into the mouth of an eater."

Luke 13:6-9 "Then he went on to tell this illustration: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it, but found none. 7 Then he said to the vinedresser, 'Here it is three years that I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, but have found none. Cut it down! Why really should it keep the ground useless?' 8 In reply he said to him, 'Master, let it alone also this year, until I dig around it and put on manure; 9 and if then it produces fruit in the future, [well and good]; but if not, you shall cut it down.'"

PARAGRAPH 3

[READ] Jeremiah 24:1-3 "And Jehovah showed me, and, look! two baskets of figs set before the temple of Jehovah, after Neb-u-chad-rez'zar the king of Babylon had carried into exile Jec-o-ni'ah the son of Je-hoi'a-kim, the king of Judah, and the princes of Judah and the craftsmen and the builders of bulwarks, from Jerusalem that he might bring them to Babylon. 2 As for the one basket, the figs were very good, like early figs; and as for the other basket, the figs were very bad, so that they could not be eaten for badness. 3 And Jehovah proceeded to say to me: "What are you seeing, Jeremiah?" So I said: "Figs, the good figs being very good, and the bad ones being very bad, so that they cannot be eaten for badness."

Jeremiah 24:8-10 ""And like the bad figs that cannot be eaten for badness, this in fact is what Jehovah has said: "So I shall give Zed-e-ki'ah the king of Judah and his princes and the remnant of Jerusalem who are remaining over in this land and those who are dwelling in the land of Egypt- 9 I will also give them over for quaking, for calamity, in all the kingdoms of the earth, for reproach and for a proverbial saying, for a taunt and for a malediction, in all the places to which I shall disperse them. 10 And I will send against them the sword, the famine and the pestilence, until they come to their finish off the ground that I gave to them and to their forefathers.'""

Jeremiah 25:11,12 "And all this land must become a devastated place, an object of astonishment, and these nations will have to serve the king of Babylon seventy years." 12 "And it must occur that when seventy years have been fulfilled I shall call to account against the king of Babylon and against that nation,' is the utterance of Jehovah, 'their error, even against the land of the Chal-de'ans, and I will make it desolate wastes to time indefinite."

Jeremiah 29:10 ""For this is what Jehovah has said, 'In accord with the fulfilling of seventy years at Babylon I shall turn my attention to YOU people, and I will establish toward YOU my good word in bringing YOU back to this place.'"

PARAGRAPH 4

Jeremiah 24:7 "And I will give them a heart to know me, that I am Jehovah; and they must become my people, and I myself shall become their God, for they will return to me with all their heart."

Matthew 28:19,20 "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded YOU. And, look! I am with YOU all the days until the conclusion of the system of things."

Acts 3:19 ""Repent, therefore, and turn around so as to get YOUR sins blotted out, that seasons of refreshing may come from the person of Jehovah"

PARAGRAPH 5

Jeremiah 1:15,16 "For 'here I am calling for all the families of the kingdoms of the north,' is the utterance of Jehovah; 'and they will certainly come and place each one his throne at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all her walls round about and against all the cities of Judah. 16 And I will speak with them my judgments over all their badness, in that they have left me and they keep making sacrificial smoke to other gods and bowing down to the works of their own hands.'"

Exodus 19:3-8 "And Moses went up to the [true] God, and Jehovah began to call to him out of the mountain, saying: "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and to tell the sons of Israel, 4 'YOU yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, that I might carry YOU on wings of eagles and bring YOU to myself. 5 And now if YOU will strictly obey my voice and will indeed keep my covenant, then YOU will certainly become my special property out of all [other] peoples, because the whole earth belongs to me. 6 And YOU yourselves will become to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you are to say to the sons of Israel." 7 So Moses came and called the older men of the people and set before them all these words that Jehovah had commanded him. 8 After that all the people answered unanimously and said: "All that Jehovah has spoken we are willing to do." Immediately Moses took back the words of the people to Jehovah."

Jeremiah 3:22 ""Return, YOU renegade sons. I shall heal YOUR renegade condition." "Here we are! We have come to you, for you, O Jehovah, are our God."

PARAGRAPH 6

Jeremiah 17:9,10 ""The heart is more treacherous than anything else and is desperate. Who can know it? 10 I, Jehovah, am searching the heart, examining the kidneys, even to give to each one according to his ways, according to the fruitage of his dealings."

PARAGRAPH 7

Jeremiah 9:25,26 ""Look! Days are coming," is the utterance of Jehovah, "and I will hold an accounting with everyone circumcised [but still] in uncircumcision, 26 upon Egypt and upon Judah and upon E'dom and upon the sons of Am'mon and upon Mo'ab and upon all those with hair clipped at the temples who are dwelling in the wilderness; for all the nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in heart.'"

PARAGRAPH 8

[READ] Mark 7:20-23 "Further, he said: "That which issues forth out of a man is what defiles a man; 21 for from inside, out of the heart of men, injurious reasonings issue forth: fornications, thieveries, murders, 22 adulteries, covetings, acts of wickedness, deceit, loose conduct, an envious eye, blasphemy, haughtiness, unreasonableness. 23 All these wicked things issue forth from within and defile a man."

[READ] Jeremiah 5:23,24 "But this very people has come to have a stubborn and rebellious heart; they have turned aside and keep walking in their course. 24 But they have not said in their heart: "Let us, now, fear Jehovah our God, the One who is giving the downpour and the autumn rain and the spring rain in its season, the One who guards even the prescribed weeks of the harvest for us."

[READ] Jeremiah 7:24-26 "But they did not listen, neither did they incline their ear, but they went walking in the counsels in the stubbornness of their bad heart, so that they became backward in direction and not forward, 25 from the day that YOUR forefathers came forth out of the land of Egypt until this day; and I kept sending to YOU all my servants the prophets, daily getting up early and sending [them]. 26 But they did not listen to me, and they did not incline their ear, but they kept hardening their neck. They acted worse than their forefathers!"

PARAGRAPH 8 cont.

Jeremiah 4:4 "Get yourselves circumcised to Jehovah, and take away the foreskins of YOUR hearts, YOU men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; that my rage may not go forth just like a fire, and it certainly burn with no one to do the extinguishing, on account of the badness of YOUR dealings."

Jeremiah 18:11,12 ""And now say, please, to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, 'This is what Jehovah has said: "Here I am forming against YOU a calamity and thinking against YOU a thought. Turn back, please, each one from his bad way, and make YOUR ways and YOUR dealings good."' 12 And they said: "It is hopeless! For after our own thoughts we shall walk, and we are going to carry out each one the stubbornness of his bad heart.""

PARAGRAPH 9

Deuteronomy 10:16 "And YOU must circumcise the foreskin of YOUR hearts and not harden YOUR necks any longer."

Deuteronomy 30:6 "And Jehovah your God will have to circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, that you may love Jehovah your God with all your heart and all your soul for the sake of your life."

Acts 7:51 ""Obstinate men and uncircumcised in hearts and ears, YOU are always resisting the holy spirit; as YOUR forefathers did, so YOU do."

PARAGRAPH 10

Psalms 17:3 "You have examined my heart, you have made inspection by night, You have refined me; you will discover [that] I have not schemed. My mouth will not transgress."

Psalms 139:23,24 "Search through me, O God, and know my heart. Examine me, and know my disquieting thoughts, 24 And see whether there is in me any painful way, And lead me in the way of time indefinite."

PARAGRAPH 11

Jeremiah 20:12 "But you, O Jehovah of armies, are examining the righteous one; you are seeing the kidneys and the heart. May I see your vengeance upon them, for to you I have revealed my case at law."

[READ] Psalm 11:5 "Jehovah himself examines the righteous one as well as the wicked one, And anyone loving violence His soul certainly hates."

Jeremiah 4:4 "Get yourselves circumcised to Jehovah, and take away the foreskins of YOUR hearts, YOU men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; that my rage may not go forth just like a fire, and it certainly burn with no one to do the extinguishing, on account of the badness of YOUR dealings."

PARAGRAPH 13

Matthew 15:19 "For example, out of the heart come wicked reasonings, murders, adulteries, fornications, thieveries, false testimonies, blasphemies."

[READ] Matthew 5:27,28 ""YOU heard that it was said, 'You must not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to YOU that everyone that keeps on looking at a woman so as to have a passion for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

PARAGRAPH 14

Leviticus 19:17 ""You must not hate your brother in your heart. You should by all means reprove your associate, that you may not bear sin along with him."

Matthew 5:21,22 ""YOU heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You must not murder; but whoever commits a murder will be accountable to the court of justice.' 22 However, I say to YOU that everyone who continues wrathful with his brother will be accountable to the court of justice; but whoever addresses his brother with an unspeakable word of contempt will be accountable to the Supreme Court; whereas whoever says, 'You despicable fool!' will be liable to the fiery Ge-hen'na."

PARAGRAPH 15

1 Timothy 3:1,3 "That statement is faithful. If any man is reaching out for an office of overseer, he is desirous of a fine work. 3 not a drunken brawler, not a smiter, but reasonable, not belligerent, not a lover of money,"

Genesis 34:13 "And Jacob's sons began to answer She'chem and Ha'mor his father with deceit and to speak so because he had defiled Di'nah their sister."

Genesis 34:25-30 "However, it came about that on the third day, when they got to be aching, the two sons of Jacob, Sim'e-on and Le'vi, brothers of Di'nah, proceeded to take each one his sword and to go unsuspectedly to the city and to kill every male. 26 And Ha'mor and She'chem his son they killed with the edge of the sword. Then they took Di'nah from She'chem's house and went on out. 27 The other sons of Jacob attacked the fatally wounded men and went plundering the city, because they had defiled their sister. 28 Their flocks and their herds and their asses and what was in the city and what was in the field they took. 29 And all their means of maintenance and all their little children and their wives they carried off captive, so that they plundered all that was in the houses. 30 At this Jacob said to Sim'e-on and to Le'vi: "YOU have brought ostracism upon me in making me a stench to the inhabitants of the land, with the Ca'naan-ites and the Per'iz-zites; whereas I am few in number, and they will certainly gather together against me and assault me and I must be annihilated, I and my house."

PARAGRAPH 16

Hebrews 13:1,2 "Let YOUR brotherly love continue. 2 Do not forget hospitality, for through it some, unknown to themselves, entertained angels."

Jeremiah 4:4 "Get yourselves circumcised to Jehovah, and take away the foreskins of YOUR hearts, YOU men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; that my rage may not go forth just like a fire, and it certainly burn with no one to do the extinguishing, on account of the badness of YOUR dealings."

PARAGRAPH 17

Jeremiah 7:24 "But they did not listen, neither did they incline their ear, but they went walking in the counsels in the stubbornness of their bad heart, so that they became backward in direction and not forward,"

Jeremiah 11:8 "But they did not listen or incline their ear, but they kept walking each one in the stubbornness of their bad heart; and so I brought upon them all the words of this covenant that I commanded [them] to do, but that they did not do."

Jeremiah 5:23,24 "But this very people has come to have a stubborn and rebellious heart; they have turned aside and keep walking in their course. 24 But they have not said in their heart: "Let us, now, fear Jehovah our God, the One who is giving the downpour and the autumn rain and the spring rain in its season, the One who guards even the prescribed weeks of the harvest for us."

PARAGRAPH 18

Jeremiah 31:31-34 ""Look! There are days coming," is the utterance of Jehovah, "and I will conclude with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah a new covenant; 32 not one like the covenant that I concluded with their forefathers in the day of my taking hold of their hand to bring them forth out of the land of Egypt, 'which covenant of mine they themselves broke, although I myself had husbandly ownership of them,' is the utterance of Jehovah." 33 "For this is the covenant that I shall conclude with the house of Israel after those days," is the utterance of Jehovah. "I will put my law within them, and in their heart I shall write it. And I will become their God, and they themselves will become my people." 34 "And they will no more teach each one his companion and each one his brother, saying, 'KNOW Jehovah!' for they will all of them know me, from the least one of them even to the greatest one of them," is the utterance of Jehovah. "For I shall forgive their error, and their sin I shall remember no more."

PARAGRAPH 19

Jeremiah 29:13,14 ""And YOU will actually seek me and find [me], for YOU will search for me with all YOUR heart. 14 And I will let myself be found by YOU," is the utterance of Jehovah. 'And I will gather YOUR body of captives and collect YOU together out of all the nations and out of all the places to which I have dispersed YOU,' is the utterance of Jehovah. 'And I will bring YOU back to the place from which I caused YOU to go into exile.'"

He Will Make You Strong

(1 Peter 5:10)

1. There was a reason why
 God brought the truth to you
 And called you from the darkness to the light.
Within your heart, he saw
 the yearning you then had
 To search for him and practice what is right.
You promised him in prayer to do his will;
 He helped you then, and he will help you still.

(CHORUS)

*With Jesus' blood He bought you,
 to God you now belong.
So he will make you firm,
 and he will make you strong.
He'll guide you and protect you,
 as he has all along.
Yes, he will make you firm,
 and he will make you strong.*

2. God gave his own beloved Son in your behalf;
 On this account, He wants you to succeed.
If He did not withhold the gift of His dear Son,
 Then never doubt He'll give the strength you need.
He won't forget the faith and love you've shown;
 He will not fail to care for all His own.

(Chorus)