

Jer. 14-17: The Background of Lev. 26
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A. Overview

The next major section in Jer, ch. 14-17, draws heavily from Leviticus 26, so we will take a break and survey it before continuing in Jeremiah. Need to consider its role in Leviticus and its inner structure.

1. Role: This is the "blessings and curses" section of the Covenant of Sinai. Ancient covenants all had them; what would happen if the parties did or did not keep the covenant. Recall ch. 11, and the exhortation to keep the Sinai covenant. Now Jeremiah is zooming in on the consequences for not keeping it.
2. Structure:
 - a) ch. 25 reviews sabbatical laws; 26:1-2 summarizes these, as well as the law of idolatry. These first two verses thus summarize the law. Note that the sabbatical laws, providing as they do for the poor, may represent the second table of the law.
 - b) 26:3-13 tells what will happen if they keep the law.
 - c) 26:14-39 describes the consequences of disobeying the law.
 - d) 26:40-45, which emerges with no distinct break from the disobedience section, describes their repentance and restoration.

B. The Commandments

1. Idolatry forbidden. This represents the first table of the law.
2. Sabbaths enjoined. While the fourth commandment is usually thought of as belonging to the first table, Lev. 25 shows the humanitarian emphasis of it, and we may well consider it here as standing for all of the second table.
3. Both are motivated with "I am the Lord." **Application:** We obey God, not because it is convenient for us or even because it makes sense, but because our creator has given us his law and we owe him nothing less than obedience.

C. 3-13, Obedience

The "then" is a long sequence of statements, which can best be understood if we observe that it consists of a series of statements of what God will do, each then amplified by the results that the people will experience. The last paragraph, the climax, just emphasizes what God will do, without working out the details, as much as if to say, "I'll do lots of other neat things for you, and you can't begin to imagine what will flow from them."

1. 4-5, Rain
Because God brings the rain at the right time, they will enjoy fruitful harvests. They won't be done threshing before it's time

to pick the grapes, and they won't have done pressing the grapes before it's time to sow the grain again. They will enjoy the security of abundant food.

2. 6, Peace
3. 7-8, Protection from Beasts and War
4. 9-12, General relationship with God, bringing prosperity
We have four statements of what God will do (v.9), then a chiasm reiterating their prosperity (10), and then four more statements about God's blessings on them (11). The lack of "result" clauses suggests that this is to be viewed as an "above and beyond" statement of God's abundant blessing to be poured out on them.
5. 13, the basis of their relation with God.
This is another motive for their obedience: "I am the Lord." But it's not just his authority that's in view; it's also his history of care for them, in bringing them out of Egypt. This is one of the verses that Jeremiah picks up in 14-17 (16:14-15).

D. 14-45, Disobedience

1. General notes
 - a) This section consists of five conditions, in 14, 18, 21, 23, and 27.
 - b) Each assumes that they disobey the Lord, and then traces the different kinds of consequences that they can expect.
 - c) As in the obedience section, statements of what the Lord will do mark the successive paragraphs.
 - d) The references to "seven times" in all but the first do not refer to exactly that many repetitions, but to the completeness of the judgment to be brought.
2. 14-17, pestilence and subjugation
14-15 give the fullest description of their disobedience. The consequence is twofold.
 - a) 16, pestilence, so that they cannot enjoy their food, but must leave it to others to eat.
 - b) 17, political subjugation before other nations.
3. 18-20, drought
Just the opposite of v.4.
4. 21-22, wild beasts
They will multiply uncontrolled in the land, killing man and domestic beast alike. The opposite of v.6.
5. 23-26, siege: invasion, pestilence, and famine
This paragraph has three clauses of what the Lord will do. The first, invasion, leads to siege, which in turn leads to the second and third, plague and famine due to being shut up in their

fortified cities.

6. 27-45, exile, confession, and restoration

Carrying on in chronological order from the previous paragraph, here we have the have the pinnacle of the siege resulting in cannibalism, followed by exile, and then the surprising confession and promise of restoration. The Hebrew text does not have an explicit condition in v.40, but just another "and..."

This section has two peak paragraphs, 30 and 31-35, marked by pile-up of first person verbs. The first deals with their violation of 26:1, and the second with their violation of 26:2.

The three post-peak paragraphs give us a glimpse of the effect of all of this judgment on the people.

a) 29, siege

So severe that they resort to cannibalism.

b) 30, disregard holy places

The piling up of first person verbs reminds us of vv.9-12, the climax of the obedience section; this may be the climax of the judgment section. There, he established his relation with them. Here, he destroys the pagan sanctuaries and rites that bound them to other gods, and declares his hatred of them. This judgment answers their disobedience to 26:1, no idols.

c) 31-35, exile

More first person verbs piled up; continuation of climax. By chasing them out of Jerusalem, he silences their sacrifices (31). In Jer, this develops into a refusal to hear their prayers. The result is that the land can keep its sabbaths. Thus this judgment answers their disobedience of 26:2.

d) 36-39, Groundless terror

The opposite of vv. 7,8. They are so terrified that they run when no one is after them! The last verse suggests that they finally recognize the reason for their suffering, leading us to the next paragraph, confession.

e) 40-41, confession

The people finally acknowledge that they are suffering the justly deserved consequences of their sin, and that their punishment does indeed come from the Lord. NB: No condition here in Hebrew; this is just another step. God ordains the punishment; in faithfulness to his covenant, he also ordains the repentance.

f) 42-45, restoration

- 1) 42-43, YHWH will remember the land, the object of the patriarchal promises, and permit it to enjoy its sabbaths.
- 2) 44-45, YHWH will not forget them, but will remember his covenant with them (Sinai). In fact, Israel lived under this covenant for 400 years after the captivity, until the

time of Christ. Note once again the refrain, "I am the Lord." His mercy, like his law, is motivated by his own sovereign character.

E. Things to Note

1. The various kinds of chastisement: plague, subjugation, drought, wild animals, siege and accompanying pestilence and famine, exile. We'll see these in Jer. 14-15.
2. Will not hear their prayers, Jer. 14-15.
3. The anticipation of confession and restoration. Jer. 16.
4. The role of the sabbaths. Emphasized at the end of Jer. 17.
5. Other minor notes:
 - a) 26:13 --> Jer. 16:14-15
 - b) 26:19 --> Jer. 15:12

ANALYSIS

A. Commandments

1. Idolatry
 - a) Command:
 - 1) 1 LO)-TA(:A&W. L/FKEM):ELIYLIM
 - 2) W./PESEL W./MAC."BFH LO)-TFQIYMW. L/FKEM
 - 3) W:/)EBEN MA&:K.IYT LO) TIT.:NW. B.:/)AR:C/:KEM
L:/HI\$:T.AX:AWOT (FLEY/HF
 - b) Motive: K.IY):ANIY Y:HWFH):ELOH"Y/KEM
2. Sabbath
 - a) Command:
 - 1) 2)ET-\$AB.:TOT/AY T.I\$:MORW.
 - 2) W./MIQ:D.F\$/IY T.IYRF)W.
 - b) Motive:):ANIY Y:HWFH S

B. If: Obedience

1. If:
 - a) 3)IM-B.:/XUQ.OT/AY T."L"KW.
 - b) W:/)ET-MIC:WOT/AY T.I\$:M:RW.
 - c) WA/(:A&IYTEM)OT/FM
2. then: Each except the last (the climax) begins with a statement of what God will do, and then traces the results in their experience.
 - a) Rain
 - 1) 4 W:/NFTAT.IY GI\$:M"Y/KEM B.:/(IT./FM
 - 2) chiastic
 - a> W:/NFT:NFH HF/)FREC Y:BW.L/FH.
 - b> W:/("C HA/&.FDEH YIT."N P.IR:Y/OW
 - 3) chiastic
 - a> 5 W:/HI&.IYG L/FKEM D.AYI\$)ET-B.FCIYR
 - b> W./BFCIYR YA&.IYG)ET-ZFRA(
 - 4) WA/):AKAL:T.EM LAX:M/:KEM LF/&OBA(
 - 5) WI/Y\$AB:T.EM LF/BE+AX B.:/)AR:C/:KEM
 - b) Peace
 - 1) 6 W:/NFTAT.IY \$FLOWM B.F/)FREC
 - 2) W./\$:KAB:T.EM
 - 3) W:/)"YN MAX:ARIYD
 - c) Beasts and War

- 1) chiasm
 - a> W:/HI\$:B.AT.IY XAY.FH RF(FH MIN-HF/)FREC
 - b> W:/XEREB LO)-TA(:ABOR B.:/)AR:C/:KEM
- 2) 7 W./R:DAP:T.EM)ET-)OY:B"Y/KEM
- 3) W:/NFP:LW. LI/P:N"Y/KEM LE/XFREC
- 4) chiasm
 - a> 8 W:/RFD:PW. MI/K.EM X:AMI\$.FH M")FH
 - b> W./M")FH MI/K.EM R:BFBFH YIR:D.OPW.
- 5) W:/NFP:LW.)OY:B"Y/KEM LI/P:N"Y/KEM LE/XFREC
- d) General relationship with God, bringing prosperity
 - 1) 9 W./PFNIYTIY):AL"Y/KEM
 - 2) W:/HIP:R"YTIY)ET/:KEM
 - 3) W:/HIR:B."Y/TIY)ET/:KEM
 - 4) WA/H:AQIYMOTIY)ET-B.:RIYTIY)IT./:KEM
- 5) chiasm
 - a> 10 WA/):AKAL:T.EM YF\$FN NOW\$FN
 - b> W:/YF\$FN MI/P.:N"Y XFDF\$ T.OWCY)W.
- 6) 11 W:/NFTAT.IY MI\$:K.FN/IY B.:/TOWK/:KEM
- 7) W:/LO)-TIG:(AL NAP:\$/IY)ET/:KEM
- 8) 12 W:/HIT:HAL.AK:T.IY B.:/TOWK/:KEM
- 9) W:/HFYIYTIY L/FKEM L"/)LOHIYM
- 10) W:/)AT.EM T.IH:YW.-L/IY L:/(FM
- e) comment p
 - 1) text: 13):ANIY Y:HWFH):ELOH"Y/KEM
 - 2) comment: nar. seq. p):A\$ER
 - a> purpose p
 - 1> text: HOWC")TIY)ET/:KEM M"/)EREC MIC:RAYIM
 - 2> purpose: MI/H:YOT L/FHEM (:ABFDIYM
 - b> WF/)E\$:B.OR MO+OT (UL./:KEM
 - c> WF/)OWL"K:)ET/:KEM QOWM:MIY.W.T P

C. If: Disobedience

1. Conditional p: pestilence and defeat

- a) if:
 - 1) 14 W:/)IM-LO) TI\$:M:(W. L/IY W:/LO) TA(:A&W.)"T
K.FL-HA/M.IC:WOT HF/)"L.EH
 - 2) 15 W:/)IM-B.:/XUQ.OT/AY T.IM:)FSW.
 - 3) W:/)IM)ET-MI\$:P.F+/AY T.IG:(AL NAP:\$/:KEM L:/BIL:T.IY
(:A&OWT)ET-K.FL-MIC:WOT/AY L:/HAP:R/:KEM)ET-B.:RIYT/IY
- b) then: ampl p
 - 1) text: 16)AP-):ANIY)E(:E&EH-Z.O)T L/FKEM
 - 2) ampl:
 - a> pestilence, so that they cannot enjoy their food.
 - 1> comment p
 - a: text: W:/HIP:QAD:T.IY (:AL"Y/KEM B.EHFLFH
)ET-HA/\$.AXEPET W:/)ET-HA/Q.AD.AXAT
 - b: comment:
 - 1: M:KAL.OWT ("YNAYIM
 - 2: W./M:DIYBOT NFPE\$
 - 2> W./Z:RA(:T.EM LF/RIYQ ZAR:(/:AKEM
 - 3> WA/):AKFLU/HW.)OY:B"Y/KEM
 - b> political subjugation
 - 1> 17 W:/NFTAT.IY PFN/AY B./FKEM

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2> W:/NIG.AP:T.EM LI/P:N"Y )OY:B"Y/KEM
3> W:/RFDW. B/FKEM &ON:)"Y/KEM
4> circumstantial p
   a: text: W:/NAS:T.EM
   b: circumstance: W:/)"YN-ROD"P )ET/:KEM S

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2. Conditional p: drought

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a) if
   18 W:/)IM-(AD-)"L.EH LO) TI$:M:(W. L/IY
b) then: ampl. p
   1) text: W:/YFSAP:T.IY L:/YAS.:RFH )ET/:KEM $EBA(
      (AL-XA+.O)T"Y/KEM
   2) ampl:
   a> 19 W:/$FBAR:T.IY )ET-G.:)OWN (UZ./:KEM
   b> W:/NFTAT.IY )ET-$:M"Y/KEM K.A/B.AR:ZEL W:/)ET-)AR:C/:KEM
      K.A/N.:XU$FH
   c> 20 W:/TAM LF/RIYQ K.OX/:AKEM
   d> W:/LO)-TIT."N )AR:C/:KEM )ET-Y:BW.L/FH.
   e> W:/("C HF/)FREC LO) YIT."N P.IR:Y/OW

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3. Conditional p: wild beasts

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a) if:
   1) 21 W:/)IM-T."L:KW. (IM./IY QERIY
   2) W:/LO) TO)BW. LI/$:MO(A L/IY
b) then: ampl p
   1) text: W:/YFSAP:T.IY (:AL"Y/KEM MAK.FH $EBA(
      K./XA+.O)T"Y/KEM
   2) ampl:
   a> 22 W:/HI$:LAX:T.IY B/FKEM )ET-XAY.AT HA/&.FDEH
   b> W:/$IK.:LFH )ET/:KEM
   c> W:/HIK:RIYTFH )ET-B.:HEM:T./:KEM
   d> W:/HIM:(IY+FH )ET/:KEM
   e> W:/NF$AM.W. D.AR:K"Y/KEM

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4. Conditional p: siege: invasion, pestilence, and famine

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a) if:
   1) 23 W:/)IM-B.:/)"L.EH LO) TIW.FS:RW. L/IY
   2) WA/H:ALAK:T.EM (IM./IY QERIY
b) then: ampl p
   1) text:
   a> 24 W:/HFLAK:T.IY )AP-):ANIY (IM./FKEM B.:/QERIY
   b> W:/HIK."YTIY )ET/:KEM G.AM-)FNIY $EBA( (AL-XA+.O)T"Y/KEM
   2) ampl:
   a> invasion
      1> 25 W:/H"B")TIY (:AL"Y/KEM XEREB NOQEMET
         N:QAM-B.:RIYT
      2> W:/NE):ESAP:T.EM )EL-(FR"Y/KEM
   b> pestilence
      1> W:/$IL.AX:T.IY DEBER B.:/TOWK/:KEM
      2> W:/NIT.AT.EM B.:/YAD-)OWY"B
   c> famine
      1> temporal p
         a: time: 26 B.:/$IB:R/IY L/FKEM MA+."H-LEXEM
         b: text:

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1: W:/)FPW. (E&ER NF\$IYM LAX:M/:KEM B.:/TAN.W.R
)EXFD
 2: W:/H"\$IYBW. LAX:M/:KEM B.A/M.I\$:QFL
 3: WA/):AKAL:T.EM
 4: W:/LO) TI&:B.F(W. S

5. Conditional p: exile, confession, restoration

a) if:

1) 27 W:/)IM-B.:/ZO)T LO) TI\$:M:(W. L/IY
 2) WA/H:ALAK:T.EM (IM./IY B.:/QERIY

b) then: ampl p

1) text:

a> 28 W:/HFLAK:T.IY (IM./FKEM B.A/X:AMAT-QERIY
 b> W:/YIS.AR:T.IY)ET/:KEM)AP-)FNIY \$EBA(
 (AL-XA+.O)T"Y/KEM

2) ampl:

a> siege: chiasm

1> 29 WA/):AKAL:T.EM B.:&AR B.:N"Y/KEM
 2> W./B:&AR B.:NOT"Y/KEM T.O)K"LW.

b> Climax: disregard holy places (cf. v.1)

1> 30 W:/HI\$:MAD:T.IY)ET-B.FMOT"Y/KEM
 2> W:/HIK:RAT.IY)ET-XAM.FN"Y/KEM
 3> W:/NFTAT.IY)ET-P.IG:R"Y/KEM (AL-P.IG:R"Y
 G.IL.W.L"Y/KEM
 4> W:/GF(:ALFH NAP:\$/IY)ET/:KEM

c> Climax: exile (cf. v.2)

1> The event

a: 31 W:/NFTAT.IY)ET-(FR"Y/KEM XFR:B.FH
 b: WA/H:A\$IM.OWTIY)ET-MIQ:D.:\$"Y/KEM
 c: W:/LO))FRIYXA B.:/R"YXA NIYXOX/:AKEM
 d: 32 WA/H:A\$IM.OTIY):ANIY)ET-HF/)FREC
 e: W:/\$FM:MW. (FLEY/HF)OY:B"Y/KEM HA/Y.O\$:BIYM
 B./FH.
 f: 33 W:/)ET/:KEM):EZFREH BA/G.OWYIM
 g: WA/H:ARIYQOTIY)AX:AR"Y/KEM XFREB
 h: chiasm
 1: W:/HFY:TFH)AR:C/:KEM \$:MFMFH
 2: W:/(FR"Y/KEM YIH:YW. XFR:B.FH

2> Its consequences

a: 34)FZ T.IR:CEH HF/)FREC)ET-\$AB.:TOTEY/HF K.OL
 Y:M"Y H:F\$.AM.FH W:/)AT.EM B.:/)EREC)OY:B"Y/KEM
 b:)FZ T.I\$:B.AT HF/)FREC
 c: W:/HIR:CFT)ET-\$AB.:TOTEY/HF
 d: 35 K.FL-Y:M"Y HF\$.AM.FH T.I\$:B.OT)"T):A\$ER
 LO)-\$FB:TFH B.:/\$AB.:TOT"Y/KEM B.:/\$IB:T./:KEM
 (FLEY/HF

d> summary p: Groundless terror

1> text

a: 36 W:/HA/N.I\$:)FRIYM B./FKEM W:/H"B")TIY MOREK:
 B.I/L:BFB/FM B.:/)AR:COT)OY:B"Y/HEM
 b: W:/RFDAP)OT/FM QOWL (FLEH NID.FP
 c: W:/NFSW. M:NUSAT-XEREB
 d: W:/NFP:LW.
 e: W:/)"YN ROD"P

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f: 37  W:/KF$:LW. )IY$-B.:/)FXIY/W
      K.:/MI/P.:N"Y-XEREB
g: W:/ROD"P )FYIN
h: W:/LO)-TIH:YEH L/FKEM T.:QW.MFH LI/P:N"Y
      )OY:B"Y/KEM
i: 38  WA/):ABAD:T.EM B.A/G.OWYIM
j: W:/)FK:LFH )ET/:KEM )EREC )OY:B"Y/KEM
2> summary: chiasm
a: 39  W:/HA/N.I$:)FRIYM B./FKEM YIM.AQ.W.
      B.A/( :AWON/FM
      B.:/)AR:COT )OY:B"Y/KEM
b: W:/)AP B.A/( :AWONOT ):ABOT/FM )IT./FM YIM.FQ.W.
e> confession
1> 40  W:/HIT:WAD.W.
      a: )ET-( :AWON/FM
      b: W:/)ET-( :AWON ):ABOT/FM B.:/MA( :AL/FM ):A$ER
      MF( :ALW.-B/IY
      c: W:/)AP
          1: ):A$ER-HFL:KW. (IM./IY B.:/QERIY
          2: 41 )AP-):ANIY )"L"K: (IM./FM B.:/QERIY
          3: W:/H"B")TIY )OT/FM B.:/)EREC )OY:B"Y/HEM
2> )OW-)FZ YIK.FNA( L:BFB/FM HE/(FR"L
3> W:/)FZ YIR:CW. )ET-( :AWON/FM
f> restoration
1> chiasm: YHWH will remember the land
      a: 42  W:/ZFKAR:T.IY )ET-B.:RIYT/IY YA(:AQOWB
      b: W:/)AP )ET-B.:RIYT/IY YIC:XFQ W:/)AP
          )ET-B.:RIYT/IY )AB:RFHFM )EZ:K.OR
      c: W:/HF/)FREC )EZ:K.OR
2> 43  W:/HF/)FREC T."(FZ"B M"/HEM
3> W:/TIREC )ET-$AB.:TOTEY/HF B.F/H:$AM.FH M"/HEM
4> reason p
      a: text: W:/H"M YIR:CW. )ET-( :AWON/FM
      b: reason: YA(AN W./B:/YA(AN
          1: B.:/MI$:P.F+/AY MF)FSW.
          2: W:/)ET-XUQ.OT/AY G.F( :ALFH NAP:$/FM
5> temporal p
      a: time: 44  W:/)AP-G.AM-ZO)T B.I/H:YOWT/FM B.:/)EREC
          )OY:B"Y/HEM
      b: text: contrast p
          1: purpose p
              A. text:
                  1. LO)-M:)AS:T.IY/M
                  2. W:/LO)-G:(AL:T.IY/M
              B. purpose:
                  1. L:/KAL.OT/FM
                  2. L:/HFP"R B.:RIYT/IY )IT./FM
              C. reason: K.IY ):ANIY Y:HWFH ):ELOH"Y/HEM
          2: reason p
              A. text: 45  W:/ZFKAR:T.IY L/FHEM B.:RIYT
                  RI)$ONIYM ):A$ER HOWC")TIY-)OT/FM M"/)EREC
                  MIC:RAYIM L:/("YN"Y HA/G.OWYIM LI/H:YOT
                  L/FHEM L"/)LOHIYM
              B. reason: ):ANIY Y:HWFH

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D. 46)"L.EH HA/XUQ.IYM W:/HA/M.IŞ:P.F+IYM W:/HA/T.OWROT
):AŞER NĖTAN Y:HWFH B."YN/OW W./B"YN B.:N"Y YI&:RF)"L
B.:/HAR SIYNAY B.:/YAD-MOŞEH P