

“A Pen of Iron”

by Wayne Goff

“The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; with the point of a diamond it is engraved on the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of your altars, while they children remember their altars and their wood images by the green trees on the high hills,” Jeremiah 17:1-2.

The weeping prophet Jeremiah points out how incorrigible are the hearts of the people of Judah! Their sin is indelibly engraved on their hearts with an iron pen and a diamond tip! Jeremiah says in verse 5 that their *“heart departs from the Lord.”*

God had already declared that Judah *feigned* dedication to Jehovah (3:10). *“...You are near in their mouth, but far from their mind”* (12:2) Jeremiah says to God. You cannot fool an omniscient Being!

Amazingly, it seems as if some of these people have so perfectly deceived themselves that they cannot see their error! *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”* (17:9). But God searches the heart, tests the mind, and gives to every man according to his ways (17:10)!

Dear reader, ask yourself what God knows about you. Are you ***truly dedicated*** to the Lord through love and obedience? Do you feign these things by affirming with your mouth while God is far from your heart? God’s Word can search your heart, and reveal to you what you need to know to be saved. Let none of us be like Judah in Jeremiah’s day — self-deceived, self-serving, and self-destroyed!

See also Deut. 8:2; 1 Sam. 2:3; 16:7; 1 Kings 8:39; 1 Chron. 28:9; 29:17; Psalm 139:1-2, 23-24; Jer. 32:19; Ezek. 18:30; Rom. 2:6-8; Gal. 6:7-8; Heb. 4:12-13; Rev. 20:12.

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