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Judah's Sin and the LORD's Sovereignty

17: 1-27

606 BC during the eleven-year reign of Jehoiakim

ADONAI's sovereignty constitutes an offer of life. In these images **the LORD** does not so much intervene in judgment. Rather, life works out its own destiny, but where there is no water (here meaning **God**) - death is certain. **Y'hudah** was running out of choices. **Her** best choice would be to **return (shuwb)** to **the LORD** in faith. Then **she** would most assuredly live. It had been said in different ways beforehand: Moshe had said: **choose life (Deuteronomy 30:19)**; and **Amos** had said: **Seek Me and live (Amos 5:4)**. The poetry of **Jeremiah**, however, is much more subtle, requiring us to delve deeper into the Scriptures.



Judah's turning away (shuwb) indicated that **she** had rejected **her** only means of life - and so death would be the natural consequence. **She** needed to come to terms with **her Maker**, the only source of **her** existence. **He** is the source of **her** well being (**17:8**), hope (**17:13a**), and source of life (**17:13c**). If, on the other hand, **the LORD** is rejected by the one who **trusts in man (17:5)**, like the deceitful heart (**17:19**), the greedy and the ones who leave the living well (**17:13**), then death is inevitable. The wisdom statements seen in this section are placed in the middle of some very harsh prophetic judgments over **Jerusalem**. Clearly wisdom would be needed to change **her** destiny. If not, **she** had as much of a chance of living as a shrub in the desert, a wanderer without water, a partridge taking a baby bird, or a greedy one keeping wealth. When **Judah** turned **her** back on **God**, it was **her** way of rejecting **ADONAI's** gift of spiritual life.