

Proclamation Styles in *Jeremiah*

► Dialogic (Dialogue) Nature

> God dialoguing with the People

e.g., 6:22-26; 8:13-17; 9:12-16

● Quoting the People (over 100 x)

e.g., 2:5-8, 23, 27; 5:2; 6:16, 17; 8:6, 8;
14:7-9, 19-22; 18:12

● Use of Rhetorical Questions

e.g., 2:5, 11, 14, 17, 18, 21, 24, 28, 29, 31, 32,
36; 5:3, 7, 9, 22, 29, 31; 6:10, 15; 8:4, 8, 9, 19,
22; 9:7, 9, 12; 10:7; 18:13-14, 20

● Use of Imperatives

> God dialoguing with Jeremiah

e.g., 14:10-16

Jer 2

(World English Bible)

¹ Yahweh's word came to me, saying,

² "Go and proclaim in the ears of Jerusalem,
saying, 'Thus says Yahweh:

I remember for you the kindness of your youth,
the love of your bridal-betrothals;
how you went after me in the wilderness,
in a land that was not sown.

³ Israel was holiness to Yahweh,
the first fruits of his increase.

All who devour him will be held guilty.
Evil will come on them," says Yahweh."

Jer 2 (WEB)

⁴ Hear Yahweh's word, O house of Jacob,
and all the families of the house of Israel!

⁵ Thus says Yahweh:

“What unrighteousness have your fathers found in me,
that they have gone far from me,
and have walked after worthless vanity,
and have become worthless?

?

⁶ They didn't say,

‘Where is Yahweh who brought us up out of the land of Egypt,
who led us through the wilderness,
through a land of deserts and of pits,
through a land of drought and of the shadow of death,
through a land that no one passed through,
and where no man lived?’

“ ”

⁷ I brought you into a plentiful land
to eat its fruit and its goodness;

but when you entered, you defiled my land,
and made my heritage an abomination.

⁸ The priests didn't say, ‘Where is Yahweh?’

and those who handle the law didn't know me.

The rulers also transgressed against me,

and the prophets prophesied by Baal

and followed things that do not profit.

“ ”

⁹ “Therefore I will yet contend with you,” says Yahweh,
“and I will contend with your children’s children.

¹⁰ For pass over to the islands of Kittim, and see.
Send to Kedar, and consider diligently,
and see if there has been such a thing.



¹¹ Has a nation changed its gods,
which really are no gods?



But my people have changed their glory for that which doesn’t profit.

¹² Be astonished, you heavens, at this
and be horribly afraid.
Be very desolate,” says Yahweh.



¹³ “For my people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken me, the spring of living waters,
and cut out cisterns for themselves:
broken cisterns that can’t hold water.

14 Is Israel a slave?

Is he born into slavery?

Why has he become a captive?

?

15 The young lions have roared at him and yelled.

They have made his land waste.

His cities are burned up, without inhabitant.

16 The children also of Memphis and Tahpanhes

have broken the crown of your head.

17 Haven't you brought this on yourself,

in that you have forsaken Yahweh your God,
when he led you by the way?

18 Now what do you gain by going to Egypt,

to drink the waters of the Shihor?

Or why do you go on the way to Assyria,

to drink the waters of the (Euphrates) River?

?

19 Your own wickedness will correct you,

and your backsliding will rebuke you.

Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing,

that you have forsaken Yahweh your God,

and that my fear is not in you,"

>

says the Lord, Yahweh (the Commander) of Armies.

Jer 2 (WEB)

²⁰ “For long ago I broke off your yoke,
and burst your bonds.

You said, ‘I will not serve;’

“ ”

for on every high hill and under every green tree you bowed yourself,
playing the prostitute.

²¹ Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a pure and faithful seed.

How then have you turned into the degenerate branches
of a foreign vine to me?

?

²² For though you wash yourself with lye,
and use much soap,
yet your iniquity is marked before me,” says the Lord Yahweh.

²³ “How can you say, ‘I am not defiled.

I have not gone after the Baals’?

“ ”

See your way in the valley.

Know what you have done.

>

²⁴ You are a swift dromedary traversing her ways,
a wild donkey used to the wilderness, that sniffs the wind in her craving.
When she is in heat, who can turn her away?
All those who seek her will not weary themselves.
In her month, they will find her.”

25 “Keep your feet from being bare,
and your throat from thirst.



But you said, ‘It is in vain.

No, for I have loved strangers,
and I will go after them.’

“ ”

26 As the thief is ashamed when he is found,
so the house of Israel is ashamed:
they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets,

27 who tell wood, ‘You are my father,’
and a stone, ‘You have given birth to me,’

“ ”

for they have turned their back to me,
and not their face;

but in the time of their trouble

they will say, ‘Arise, and save us!’

“ ”

28 But where are your gods that you have made for yourselves?



Let them arise, if they can save you in the time of your trouble;
for you have as many gods as you have towns, O Judah.

29 “Why will you contend with me?”

?

You all have transgressed against me,” says Yahweh.

30 “I have struck your children in vain.

They received no correction.

Your own sword has devoured your prophets,
like a destroying lion.

31 Generation, consider Yahweh’s word.

>

Have I been a wilderness to Israel?

Or a land of thick darkness?

?

Why do my people say, ‘

?

We have broken loose.

We will come to you no more’?

“ ”

32 Can a virgin forget her ornaments,
or a bride her attire? ?

Yet my people have forgotten me for days without number.

33 How well you prepare your way to seek love!

Therefore you have even taught the wicked women your ways.

34 Also the blood of the souls of the innocent poor is found in your skirts.

You didn't find them breaking in,
but it is because of all these things.

35 Yet you said, 'I am innocent.
Surely his anger has turned away from me.' “ ”

Behold, I will judge you,

because you say, 'I have not sinned.' “ ”

36 Why do you go about so much to change your ways? ?

You will be ashamed of Egypt also,
as you were ashamed of Assyria.

37 You will also leave that place with your hands on your head;
for Yahweh has rejected those in whom you trust,
and you won't prosper with them.

Proclamation Style of Jeremiah

- ▶ Dialogue Style
- ▶ Brief, Mixed Metaphors
 - > single metaphors that are not developed

Jer 2 (WEB)

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³ Israel was holiness to Yahweh,
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Israel

Jer 2 (WEB)

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“and I will contend with your children’s children.

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Send to Kedar, and consider diligently,
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which really are no gods?
But my people have changed their glory for that which doesn’t profit.

¹² Be astonished, you heavens, at this
and be horribly afraid.
Be very desolate,” says Yahweh.

¹³ “For my people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken me, the spring of living waters,
and cut out cisterns for themselves:
broken cisterns that can’t hold water.

Yahweh

False gods

Jer 2 (WEB)

14 Is Israel a slave?

Is he born into slavery?

Why has he become a captive?

Israel

15 The young lions have roared at him and yelled.

They have made his land waste.

His cities are burned up, without inhabitant.

**Foreign
Enemies**

16 The children also of Memphis and Tahpanhes
have broken the crown of your head.

17 Haven't you brought this on yourself,
in that you have forsaken Yahweh your God,
when he led you by the way?

18 Now what do you gain by going to Egypt,
to drink the waters of the Shihor?
Or why do you go on the way to Assyria,
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Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing,
that you have forsaken Yahweh your God,
and that my fear is not in you,"

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Jer 2 (WEB)

Israel

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and burst your bonds.

You said, ‘I will not serve;’
for on every high hill and under every green tree you bowed yourself,
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and use much soap,
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a wild donkey used to the wilderness, that sniffs the wind in her craving.
When she is in heat, who can turn her away?
All those who seek her will not weary themselves.
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²⁵ “Keep your feet from being bare,
and your throat from thirst.
But you said, ‘It is in vain.
No, for I have loved strangers,
and I will go after them.’

Israel

²⁶ As the thief is ashamed when he is found,
so the house of Israel is ashamed:
they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets,
²⁷ who tell wood, ‘You are my father,’
and a stone, ‘You have given birth to me,’
for they have turned their back to me,
and not their face;
but in the time of their trouble
they will say, ‘Arise, and save us!’

²⁸ But where are your gods that you have made for yourselves?
Let them arise, if they can save you in the time of your trouble;
for you have as many gods as you have towns, O Judah.

Jer 2 (WEB)

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30 “I have struck your children in vain.

They received no correction.

Your own sword has devoured your prophets,
like a destroying lion.

Israel's sword



31 Generation, consider Yahweh's word.

Have I been a wilderness to Israel?
Or a land of thick darkness?

Yahweh



Why do my people say, ‘

We have broken loose.

We will come to you no more’?

32 Can a virgin forget her ornaments,
or a bride her attire?

Yet my people have forgotten me for days without number.

33 How well you prepare your way to seek love!

Therefore you have even taught the wicked women your ways.

34 Also the blood of the souls of the innocent poor is found in your skirts.

You didn't find them breaking in,
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35 Yet you said, 'I am innocent.

Surely his anger has turned away from me.'

Behold, I will judge you,

because you say, 'I have not sinned.'

36 Why do you go about so much to change your ways?

You will be ashamed of Egypt also,

as you were ashamed of Assyria.

37 You will also leave that place with your hands on your head;
for Yahweh has rejected those in whom you trust,
and you won't prosper with them.

❖ Wife / Harlotry Imagery

Jeremiah 2:20, 25, 32-3:2

3:6-14a

4:30

5:7-9

13:22-27

❖ Wife / Harlotry Imagery

Pentateuch Exodus 34:15-16
Leviticus 20:5-6
Numbers 14:33
Deut 31:16

Historical Books Judges 2:17; 8:27, 33
2 Kings 9:22
1 Chronicles 5:25
2 Chronicles 21:11, 13

Prophetic Books Hosea chs. 1-3
4:10-19
5:3-4, 7
6:10
7:4
9:1
Ezekiel ch. 16
ch. 23

Jer 3 (WEB)

- ^{6b} “Have you seen that which **backsliding** Israel has done?
She **has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree,**
and has played the prostitute there.
- ⁷ I said after she had done all these things, ‘She will return to me;’
but she didn’t return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it.
- ⁸ I saw when, for this very cause, that **backsliding Israel had committed adultery,**
I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce,
yet treacherous Judah, her sister, had no fear;
but she also **went and played the prostitute.**
- ⁹ Because she took **her prostitution** lightly, the land was polluted,
and **she committed adultery with stones and with wood.**
- ¹⁰ Yet for all this her treacherous sister, Judah,
has not returned to me with her whole heart,
but only in pretense,” says Yahweh.
- ¹¹ Yahweh said to me, “**Backsliding Israel** has shown herself more righteous
than treacherous Judah.
- ¹² Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say,
‘Return, you **backsliding Israel,**’ says Yahweh;
‘I will not look in anger on you; for I am merciful,’ says Yahweh.
‘I will not keep anger forever.
- ¹³ Only acknowledge your iniquity,
that you have transgressed against Yahweh your God,
and have **scattered your ways to the strangers under every green tree,**
and you have not obeyed my voice,’ says Yahweh.”
- ^{14a} “Return, **backsliding children,**” says Yahweh; “**for I am a husband to you. . . .**”

❖ Wife / Harlotry Imagery

Use of

the “Marriage Relationship” between Husband & Wife

to Illustrate

the “Covenant Relationship” between Yahweh & His People

***“Committing Adultery / Playing the Harlot /
Prostituting Herself”***

become the metaphoric descriptions of

**the People’s Unfaithfulness to the Covenant
through Worshipping other gods**

Marriage Metaphor: Husband – Wife Relationship

► **“Spiritual Adultery” (serving other gods)
ultimately results in
“divorce” (a dissolving of the Marriage Covenant)**

Jeremiah 3:8a (KGF)

... on account of all the adulteries (done by) faithless Israel,
I **sent her away,**
and I gave (her) her **certificate of divorce. . .**

Hosea 2:2a [Heb 2:4a] (KGF)

Contend with your mother;
contend,
**for she is not my wife,
and I am not her husband.**

**Technical language of divorce,
reversing the oath of marriage:
“You are my wife/husband;
I am your husband/wife.”**

Marriage Metaphor: Husband – Wife Relationship

- ▶ **“Spiritual Adultery” (serving other gods)
ultimately results in
both “punishment”
& “divorce”
(Dissolving of the Marriage Covenant)**

**▶ But after that,
God takes back His People
and both Restores their Circumstances
& Re-Marries them
(Re-establishes the Covenant with them)**

“Prophetic Sign-Actions”

24 in OT— 8 done by Jeremiah

(9 by Ezekiel, 1 each by Isaiah, Hosea, Zechariah, Ahijah, Elisha
& 2 by “false” prophets)

- Nonverbal actions
performed by the prophets
to intentionally communicate
God’s messages to their audiences.



Jeremiah 43



Jeremiah 27

Literary Form of Report of Sign-Action

Primary Components:

1) Divine Command to Perform Action

2) Report that Prophet Performed the Action

3) Interpretation of the Action

❖ frequently expressed through simile:

“just as the prophet did → so Yahweh will do”

Secondary Components:

4) Statement of the Presence of Eyewitnesses

5) Declaration that the Event will come to Fulfillment

Genre: Report of Sign-Actions

Jeremiah

- 13:1-11 Spoiled Waistcloth
- 16:19 Not to Marry
- 19:1 – 20:6 Shattering of Pottery Jar
- chs. 27-28 Wearing the Yoke
- ch. 32 Buy Field
- ch. 35 Ask Rechabites to Drink Wine
- 43:8-13 Bury a Stone in the Pavement in Egypt
- 51:59-64 Sinking of Scroll in Babylon

Jeremiah 13:1-11

(Translation: KGF)

1) Divine Command to Perform the Action

13:1 Thus said Yahweh to me:

“Go, and you shall buy for yourself a linen waistsash, and you shall place it on your loins. But you shall not put it into water.”

2) Report that Prophet Performed the Action

2 And I bought the waistsash according to the word of Yahweh. And I placed (it) on my loins.

Waistsash: outer belt



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<http://www.messagetoeagle.com/images2/babylonianmusic.jpg>



<https://i.pinimg.com/474x/40/8f/e0/408fe088f1bb380ce7b95ce0ed3033f.jpg>

Jeremiah 13:1-11

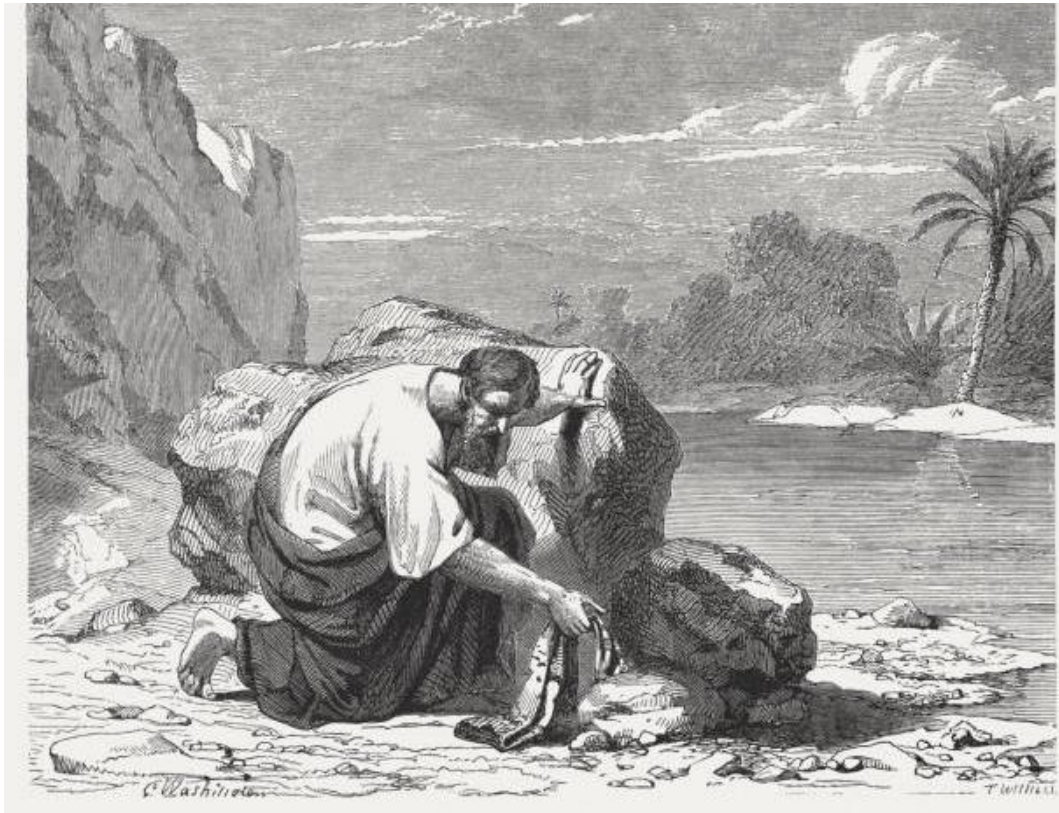
(Translation: KGF)

1) Divine Command to Perform the Action

3 And the word of Yahweh (came) to me a second time, saying:
4 “Take the waistsash,
which you bought that is on your loins,
and arise, go to P^{erat},
and there conceal it in a crevice of the cliff.”

2) Report that Prophet Performed the Action

5 And I went and I concealed it in P^{erat},
just as Yahweh commanded me.





Oxford Bible Atlas

P^era = locale (Ein Perat) about 10km from Jerusalem,
rather than the Euphrates River

Jeremiah 13:1-11 (Translation: KGF)

1) Divine Command to Perform the Action

6 And it came about at the end of many days that Yahweh spoke to me:
“Rise, go to P^erat, and take from there the waistsash that I commanded you to conceal there.”

2) Report that Prophet Performed the Action

7 So I went to P^erat, and I dug, and I took the waistsash from the place where I had concealed it. And behold the waistsash was ruined; it was not good for anything.



3) Interpretation of the Action

8 And the word of Yahweh (came) to me, saying:

9 “Thus says Yahweh:

Just like this I will ruin the pride of Judah
and the great pride of Jerusalem.

10 This evil people who refuse to listen to my words,
who walk in the stubbornness of their heart,
and they walk after other gods in order to serve them
and to worship them,
so (they) shall be like this waistsash
which is not good for anything.

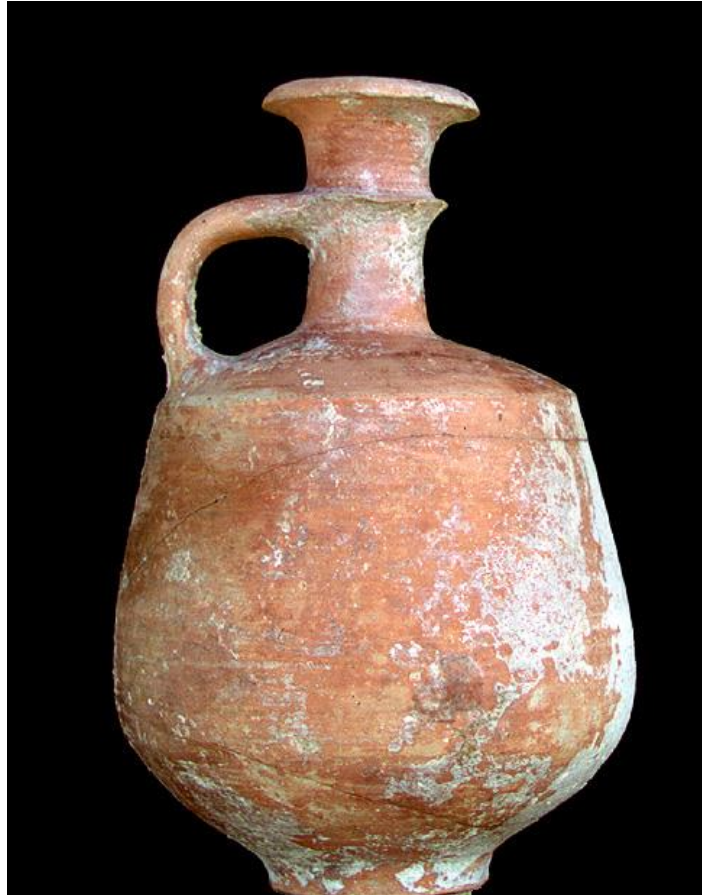
11 For just as the waistsash clings to a person's loins,
thus I made the whole house of Israel
and the whole house of Judah
cling to me —declares Yahweh—
to be for me a people and a name and praise and glory,
but they did not listen.



Jeremiah 19:1-13 (Translation: KGF)

Divine Command to Perform the Action

- 1 Thus said Yahweh: “Go,
and you shall acquire an earthenware potter’s decanter,
and (take) some of the elders of the people
and some of the elders of the priests.
- 2a And you shall go out of the Valley of Ben-Hinnom,
the entrance to which is the Potsherd Gate.



Jeremiah 19:1-13 (Translation: KGF)

Divine Command to Perform the Action	<p>1 Thus said Yahweh: “Go, and you shall acquire an earthenware potter’s decanter, and (take) some of the elders of the people and some of the elders of the priests.</p> <p>2a And you shall go out ot the Valley of Ben-Hinnom, the entrance to which is the Potsherd Gate.</p>		
<table><tr><td>Accompanying Verbal “Prophecy of Disaster” re: location of Ben-Hinnom</td><td>vv. 2b –9</td></tr></table>		Accompanying Verbal “Prophecy of Disaster” re: location of Ben-Hinnom	vv. 2b –9
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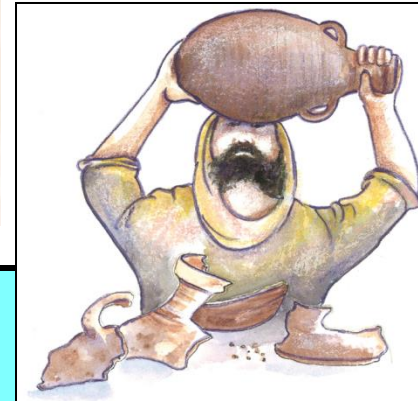
Divine Command to Perform Action

10 And you shall break the decanter
in the sight of the men who accompany you.



<https://www.newlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/101221-1.jpg>

https://revgeary.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/fsb-p142_the-story-of-jeremiah-b.jpg



Interpretation of the Action

11a And you will say to them:
‘Thus says Yahweh (Lord of) Hosts:
Just so will I break this people and this city,
just as one breaks the potter’s vessel,
which (then) can no longer be repaired.

Accompanying Verbal “Prophecy of Disaster”
re: location

vv. 11b-13

Purpose or Function of Sign-Actions:

- ▶ Dramatically presented the messages
in non-verbal formats
(which were always coordinated
with verbal interpretations & messages)
- ▶ Communicated the messages through other than
just words that were being heard,
but Sign-Actions also included the senses of:
seeing,
hearing sounds (other than words),
smell,
& touch.



Persuasive Aspect of Sign-Actions:

- drew the people's attention
so as to hear messages
to which they were not receptive
- presented the messages
in a memorable manner,
which would be hard to forget,
and could be easily recalled

