

Amos 7:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore hear thou the word of the LORD: Thou sayest, Prophesy not against Israel, and drop not thy word against the house of Isaac.

Analysis

Now therefore hear thou the word of the LORD: Thou sayest, Prophesy not against Israel, and drop not thy word against the house of Isaac (עַתָּה שְׁמַע (ע' atah sh'ma d'var-YHWH atah omer lo tinave al-Yisrael v'lo tatif al-beit Yitzchak)—Amos confronts Amaziah directly. The verb נָתַף (nataf, 'to drop, drip, preach') appears in the causative: 'drop not thy word'—Amaziah wants Amos to stop speaking God's Word. Using 'Isaac' instead of 'Israel' emphasizes covenant sonship, making Amaziah's resistance worse—he's protecting God's covenant people from God's covenant word.

This confrontation typifies conflict between institutional religion and prophetic truth. Amaziah represents state-sponsored religion serving political ends (Bethel was the king's sanctuary, 7:13), while Amos speaks uncompromising divine truth. When religious leaders prioritize institutional preservation over prophetic faithfulness, they resist God Himself.

Historical Context

Bethel was the northern kingdom's primary religious center, established by Jeroboam I with golden calf worship (1 Kings 12:28-29). By Amos's time, it functioned as state-controlled religion legitimizing the status quo. Amaziah's opposition to Amos shows how false worship systems silence prophetic voices that threaten their power.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do modern religious institutions sometimes resist prophetic voices that threaten comfortable compromise?
2. What's the difference between legitimate church authority and religious leadership that silences God's Word?
3. How should Christians respond when religious leaders command them not to speak biblical truth?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה אָמַרְתָּ	וְעַתָּה שְׁמַעْ	דְּבָרִ	יְהִי הָ	אַתָּה אָמַרְתָּ
H6258	Now therefore hear	thou the word	of the LORD	H859
	H8085	H1697	H3068	H559
לֵאמֹר	תִּנְבְּא	עַל	יִשְׁנָא לֵ	עַל
H3808	Prophesy	H5921	not against Israel	H5921
	H5012		H3478	H5197
בְּ יַת		וְשָׁקָ		
not thy word against the house		of Isaac		
H1004		H3446		

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 20:46 (Word): Son of man, set thy face toward the south, and drop thy word toward the south, and prophesy against the forest of the south field;

Ezekiel 21:2 (Word): Son of man, set thy face toward Jerusalem, and drop thy word toward the holy places, and prophesy against the land of Israel,

Micah 2:6 (Prophecy): Prophesy ye not, say they to them that prophesy: they shall not prophesy to them, that they shall not take shame.

Deuteronomy 32:2 (Parallel theme): My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

Amos 7:13 (Prophecy): But prophesy not again any more at Beth-el: for it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org