

Amos 7:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore hear thou the word of the LORD: Thou sayest,
Prophecy 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, Prophecy not against Israel, and drop not thy word against the house of Isaac (וְעַתָּה שְׁמָעַךְ וְאַתָּה אָמַרְתָּ לֹא תִנָּבֵא עַל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלֹא תִטֹּף עַל־בֵּית יִשְׁחָק, v'atah sh'ma d'var-YHWH atah omer lo tinave al-Yisrael v'lo tatif al-beit Yitzchak)—Amos confronts Amaziah directly. The verb טַף (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

וְעַתָּה ה	שְׁמַע ע	דְּבַר	יְהוָה ה	אָתָּה ה	אֵלֶיךָ ר
H6258	Now therefore hear	thou the word	of the LORD	H859	Thou sayest
	H8085	H1697	H3068		H559
ל א	תְּנִבָּא	עַל	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	וְל א	תִּטּוּ יָדְךָ
H3808	Prophecy	H5921	not against Israel	H3808	and drop
	H5012		H3478		H5197
	בֵּית יִת	יִשְׁחָק:			
	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.

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