

Ezekiel 12:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For there shall be no more any vain vision nor flattering divination within the house of Israel.

Analysis

God explains why false prophecies proliferate: 'For there shall be no more any vain vision nor flattering divination within the house of Israel.' God announces cessation of false prophecy along with fulfillment of true prophecy. The Hebrew *shav* (שׁוּב, 'vain') indicates empty, false messages, while *qesem chalaqqot* (קֶסֶם חֲלָאֻקֹּת, 'flattering divination') refers to smooth, pleasing but false predictions.

False prophets proliferated in Israel's final decades, promising peace and quick restoration (Jeremiah 6:14, 8:11, 14:13-16, 23:16-17). They told people what they wanted to hear—smooth prophecies that required no repentance. These flattering messages created false security, making genuine prophetic warnings seem harsh and extreme by comparison. But judgment's arrival would silence false prophets, vindicating faithful ones like Ezekiel.

From a Reformed perspective, this warns against popularity-seeking ministry that avoids difficult truths. True prophets/pastors speak full counsel of God, including uncomfortable doctrines (sin, judgment, hell, divine sovereignty). False teachers offer therapeutic messages that don't challenge or convict (2 Timothy 4:3-4). The test: do messages align with Scripture and produce holiness, or do they merely tickle ears?

Historical Context

Jeremiah extensively confronted false prophets (Jeremiah 23, 27-29). Hananiah prophesied Jerusalem's quick restoration, contradicting Jeremiah's warning of seventy-year exile (Jeremiah 28). Hananiah died within a year, validating Jeremiah. But false prophets remained popular because they promised what people desired—continued blessing without repentance.

The tension between true and false prophecy created confusion for ordinary people. How could they discern? Deuteronomy 18:21-22 provided one test—fulfillment. Another test: conformity to established revelation (Deuteronomy 13:1-5). Ezekiel's prophecies conformed to Torah's covenant curses and were fulfilled precisely, authenticating him as true prophet while exposing false prophets.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How can believers discern between faithful biblical teaching and smooth messages that avoid uncomfortable truths?
2. What does the proliferation of false prophets in Israel's final days teach about human nature and spiritual deception?
3. In what ways does demand for comfortable messages create market for false teachers today?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	לֹא	יִהְיֶה	עוֹד	כָּל	דָּז וְ	וְאֵין
H3588	H3808	H1961	H5750	H3605	vision H2377	For there shall be no more any vain H7723
וּמִקֹּדֶשׁ	דָּלָק	בֵּית וְ	בֵּית	שְׂרָאֵל:		
divination H4738	nor flattering H2509	within H8432	the house H1004	of Israel H3478		

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 13:23 (Parallel theme): Therefore ye shall see no more vanity, nor divine divinations: for I will deliver my people out of your hand: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.