

Ezekiel 13:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Analysis

God's word comes to Ezekiel: 'And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying.' This formula introduces oracles against false prophets (chapter 13). The accumulation of divine words through Ezekiel emphasizes persistent warning against both political/religious corruption and false teaching that enabled it. Each oracle contributes to comprehensive testimony leaving no excuse for judgment.

The transition to addressing false prophets is strategic—they were primary obstacles to genuine repentance. While true prophets warned of judgment requiring repentance, false prophets promised peace without repentance, creating false security. God must expose false teaching before people can respond appropriately to truth.

From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates that false teaching is serious offense requiring direct confrontation. Paul similarly warns against false teachers (Galatians 1:8-9, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, 2 Timothy 4:3-4). Protecting sheep requires exposing wolves. Love for truth necessitates opposing error. Ministers must both positively proclaim truth and negatively refute error (Titus 1:9).

Historical Context

False prophets proliferated in Judah's final decades. Jeremiah extensively confronted them (Jeremiah 23, 27-29). They prophesied peace, quick restoration, and continued blessing despite persistent sin. Their messages were popular—people preferred hearing comfortable lies over uncomfortable truth. This created

market for false prophecy and marginalized faithful prophets.

Sociologically, false prophets functioned as establishment yes-men, legitimizing corrupt leadership and unjust policies by claiming divine approval. They provided religious cover for political and economic exploitation. Their prosperity and popularity contrasted with faithful prophets' suffering and rejection, testing people's discernment about true versus false spirituality.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the proliferation of false teachers in judgment-ripe societies warn about current spiritual climates?
2. What responsibility do believers have to confront false teaching rather than just ignore it?
3. In what ways do modern preferences for comfortable messages create markets for false teachers?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּהִי י'	דְּבַר	יְהוָה	אֵלַי	לֵאמֹר:
H1961	And the word	of the LORD	H413	came unto me saying
	H1697	H3068		H559
