

Ezekiel 13:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To wit, the prophets of Israel which prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and which see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, saith the Lord GOD.

Analysis

God addresses false prophecy related to Prophets of Jerusalem. This verse contributes to the comprehensive exposure of false teaching that enabled Israel's apostasy. The specific practices condemned show how false prophecy mixed superstition with claims of divine authority, leading people astray from covenant faithfulness.

The Hebrew terminology indicates concrete practices that promised protection or favor through human manipulation rather than covenant obedience. These represent attempts to control or manipulate divine blessing through ritual or magical means rather than submission to God's revealed will. Such practices directly violated monotheistic faith.

From a Reformed perspective, this warns against any attempt to manipulate God through religious practices divorced from heart obedience. Named the guilty parties. True relationship with God requires faith in His promises and submission to His commands, not manipulative rituals or techniques.

Historical Context

Historical context shows various superstitious practices in pre-exilic Israel combining folk religion with claims of Yahwistic authority. Archaeological evidence includes amulets, magical texts, and fertility cult objects showing syncretism.

These practices promised protection or blessing through human technique rather than covenant faithfulness, directly violating first and second commandments. Named the guilty parties within this cultural context of widespread religious syncretism.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this condemnation challenge modern attempts to manipulate God through religious techniques?
2. What does Prophets of Jerusalem teach about the difference between faith and superstition?
3. In what ways might contemporary Christianity compromise biblical faith with cultural superstitions?

Interlinear Text

וְיִרְאָה	וְשָׁלֵם	בְּנֵי	אֶל	יְהוָה	בְּנֵי	אֶל	בְּנֵי	וְיִרְאָה
To wit the prophets	of Israel	which prophesy	concerning Jerusalem					
H5030	H3478	H5012	H413					H3389
וְיִרְאָה	וְשָׁלֵם	בְּנֵי	אֶל	יְהוָה	בְּנֵי	אֶל	בְּנֵי	וְיִרְאָה
and which see	visions	for her and there is no peace						
H2374	H2377	H7965						H369
וְיִרְאָה	וְשָׁלֵם	בְּנֵי	אֶל	יְהוָה	בְּנֵי	אֶל	בְּנֵי	וְיִרְאָה
for her and there is no peace	saith	the Lord	GOD					
H7965	H5002	H136	H3069					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 6:14 (Peace): They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

Ezekiel 13:10 (Peace): Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered morter:

Jeremiah 8:11 (Peace): For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

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