

Ezekiel 13:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people, which prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy thou against them,

Analysis

God addresses false prophecy related to Daughters prophesying. 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. Female false prophets condemned. 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. Female false prophets condemned within this cultural context of widespread religious syncretism.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

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

Interlinear Text

אַל פָּתַח יְבָנָם אֲדֹם שֶׁ יְמִינְךָ בֶּן אַתָּה
H859 Likewise thou son of man set thy face H413
H1121 H120 H7760 H6440

מִלְבָב | אֲדֹם עַמּוֹ בֶּן וְתַּחֲנֵן וְהַנְּבֵב
against the daughters of thy people and prophesy out of their own heart
H1323 H5971 H5012 H3820

עַלְיכֶם וְהַנְּבֵב אֲדֹם
and prophesy H5921
H5012

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 13:2 (Prophecy): Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the LORD;

Revelation 2:20 (Prophecy): Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

2 Kings 22:14 (Prophecy): So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asahiah, went unto Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college;) and they communed with her.

Judges 4:4 (Prophecy): And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.

Luke 2:36 (Prophecy): And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

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