

Ezekiel 13:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

God condemns false prophets regarding Shall see no more vanity. This verse shows how false teaching profanes God's name by attributing to Him messages He didn't give. The practice of claiming divine authority for human opinions brings God's name into disrepute and misleads His people. The Hebrew indicates serious covenant violation—using Yahweh's name falsely violates the third commandment.

False prophets silenced in judgment. False prophets caused spiritual harm by distorting people's understanding of God's character, will, and covenant demands. They made judgment seem unlikely, repentance unnecessary, and sin inconsequential—all lies that endangered souls. Their deceptive ministry required divine intervention to protect the faithful.

From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates God's jealousy for His glory and His protection of His people from deception. When false teaching proliferates, God directly intervenes through faithful prophets exposing error and eventually through judgment silencing false teachers. The church must maintain doctrinal integrity, opposing error and protecting believers from wolves in sheep's clothing.

Historical Context

The specific practices condemned reflect ancient Near Eastern religious syncretism mixing Yahwism with pagan divination, magic, and superstition. False

prophets silenced in judgment within a context where religious professionals exploited people's fears and hopes for profit. Archaeological evidence shows widespread magical practices in Iron Age Israel despite Torah prohibitions. False prophets capitalized on this syncretistic environment, offering services that mixed legitimate spiritual authority with pagan techniques. Their ministry represented covenant apostasy at leadership level, more dangerous than lay idolatry because it carried authoritative weight.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does claiming God's authority for human opinions profane His name today?
2. What responsibility does church leadership bear to protect believers from false teaching?
3. In what ways does Shall see no more vanity warn against mixing biblical faith with cultural superstitions?

Interlinear Text

לֹא יֵאֵשׂ וְאַל־לֹכֶד |
H3651 no more vanity H3808 Therefore ye shall see H2372 divinations H3808

מִלְאָכָלָתִי וְעַד תִּחְסֹן מִנְחָה |
H7080 nor divine H5750 for I will deliver H5337 my people H5971 out of your hand H3027

וְיַדְעָתָךְ | אֶת־יְהֹוָה: אֶת־יְהֹוָה:
and ye shall know H3588 H589 that I am the LORD H3068

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 13:21 (References Lord): Your kerchiefs also will I tear, and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall be no more in your hand to be hunted; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel 12:24 (Parallel theme): For there shall be no more any vain vision nor flattering divination within the house of Israel.

Micah 3:6 (Parallel theme): Therefore night shall be unto you, that ye shall not have a vision; and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them.

Revelation 12:11 (Parallel theme): And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 12:9 (Parallel theme): And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Zechariah 13:3 (References Lord): And it shall come to pass, that when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the LORD: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth.

Ezekiel 34:10 (References Lord): Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

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