

Ezekiel 13:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!

Analysis

"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!" False prophets speak from imagination rather than revelation. The phrase "follow their own spirit" contrasts with genuine prophets who deliver God's words. The "seen nothing" exposes their lack of divine vision despite claims. This pattern continues: false teachers invent messages pleasing audiences rather than proclaiming uncomfortable truth. The Reformed emphasis on Scripture's sole authority guards against adding human speculation to divine revelation.

Historical Context

False prophets plagued Israel throughout history, offering false assurances of peace when judgment loomed (591 BC). Jeremiah faced similar opposition (Jeremiah 23:16-17). These false prophets spoke what people wanted to hear, gaining popularity while true prophets suffered rejection. The exiles preferred comforting lies over uncomfortable truth. This pattern repeats: false teachers gain followings by tickling ears (2 Timothy 4:3) while faithful ministers face opposition. Discernment requires testing messages against Scripture, not popularity.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish between messages from God versus human speculation dressed in religious language?
2. What characteristics identify false prophets who follow their own spirit?

Interlinear Text

כֹּה	אָמַר	אֲדֹנָי	יְהוָה	הוּא	עַל	הַנְּבִיאִים	הַנְּבִלִים
H3541	Thus saith	the Lord	GOD	Woe	H5921	prophets	unto the foolish
	H559	H136	H3069	H1945		H5030	H5036
אֲשֶׁר	הֵלֵךְ	אִם	רוּחַ	וּלְבָלָהּ	נָא:		
H834	that follow	H310	their own spirit	H1115	and have seen		
	H1980		H7307		H7200		

Additional Cross-References

Lamentations 2:14 (Prophecy): Thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment.

Hosea 9:7 (Spirit): The days of visitation are come, the days of recompence are come; Israel shall know it: the prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad, for the multitude of thine iniquity, and the great hatred.

Proverbs 15:14 (Parallel theme): The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

Jeremiah 23:1 (References Lord): Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

Ezekiel 34:2 (Prophecy): Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be

to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

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