

Ezekiel 13:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord GOD.

Analysis

God addresses false prophecy related to Against false prophets. 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. Divine opposition to lies. 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. Divine opposition to lies within this cultural context of widespread religious syncretism.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

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

Interlinear Text

לְכָךְ כִּי אָמַר אֱלֹהִים אֶלְךָ
H3651 H3541 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD H3282

אַלְכָם הָתְתִּי לְכָךְ מִשְׁאָרֶב
Because ye have spoken vanity and seen lies H3651 H2005 H413

נָא מִיְהָוֶה אֶלְךָ
therefore behold I am against you saith the Lord GOD H136 H3069

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 5:8 (References God): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, am against thee, and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations.

Ezekiel 21:3 (References Lord): And say to the land of Israel, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I am against thee, and will draw forth my sword out of his sheath, and will cut off from thee the righteous and the wicked.

Nahum 2:13 (References Lord): Behold, I am against thee, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will burn her chariots in the smoke, and the sword shall devour thy young lions: and I will cut off thy prey from the earth, and the voice of thy messengers shall no more be heard.

Ezekiel 26:3 (References God): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up.

Ezekiel 35:3 (References God): And say unto it, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O mount Seir, I am against thee, and I will stretch out mine hand against thee, and I will make thee most desolate.

Ezekiel 28:22 (References God): And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Zidon; and I will be glorified in the midst of thee: and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall have executed judgments in her, and shall be sanctified in her.