

Ezekiel 22:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken.

Analysis

Her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar (טַפְּלוּ תִפְּלוּ, tafelu tafel)—plasterers applying whitewash over cracked walls, cosmetic religion hiding structural rot (see Ezekiel 13:10-15). These prophets **seeing vanity** (חֲזִים שָׁוְיָ, chozim shav)—false visions, empty revelations—and **divining lies** (קִסְמִים קָזָב, qosemim kazav), forbidden occult practices passed off as prophecy.

Saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken—the ultimate prophetic crime, attributing personal invention to Yahweh. Deuteronomy 18:20 prescribes death for presumptuous prophecy. These whitewashers enabled the wolves of verse 27, providing religious cover for political corruption.

Historical Context

False prophets proliferated in pre-exilic Judah, offering comfortable lies ('Peace, peace!' Jeremiah 6:14) while true prophets announced judgment. They performed divination (condemned in Deuteronomy 18:10-12) while claiming Yahweh's authority, syncretizing paganism with covenant faith. Their 'whitewash' collapsed when Babylon destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What forms does 'whitewashing' take in modern church leadership—covering systemic problems with superficial fixes?
2. How can we distinguish between genuine prophetic word and human opinion 'daubed' with religious language?

Interlinear Text

וּנְבִיאֵי יְהוָה	טָח ו	לָהֶם	תִּפֹּל ל	חֲזֵי יָם			
And her prophets	have daubed	H0	them with untempered	mortar seeing			
H5030	H2902		H8602	H2374			
וְשֵׁי וָאֵ	וּלְקִסְמֵי יָם	לָהֶם ׀	כֵּן בֹּ	אָמַר	כֹּה	אָמַר	אֲדֹנָי י
vanity	and divining	H0	lies	Thus saith	H3541	Thus saith	the Lord
H7723	H7080		H3577	H559		H559	H136
יְהוָה ה	יְהוָה ה	ל א	דָּבָר:				
GOD	when the LORD	H3808	hath not spoken				
H3069	H3068		H1696				

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