

Ezekiel 7:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients.

Analysis

Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients. This verse describes the complete collapse of all sources of guidance and wisdom when judgment arrives. Every avenue of leadership—prophetic, priestly, and elder wisdom—will fail simultaneously, leaving the nation without direction.

Mischief shall come upon mischief indicates cascading disasters, one calamity following another without respite. The Hebrew word can mean disaster, harm, or violence. Rumour shall be upon rumour depicts confusion, contradictory reports, inability to discern truth amid chaos. This psychological warfare precedes and accompanies military conquest, producing panic and paralysis.

Then shall they seek a vision of the prophet shows people finally turning to divine guidance when crisis hits—but too late. During prosperity and pride they ignored prophets; now in desperation they seek visions. But the law shall perish from the priest indicates religious leaders themselves have lost understanding. Counsel from the ancients shows even traditional wisdom fails. All human sources of wisdom and guidance collapse simultaneously.

From Reformed perspective, this demonstrates that rejecting God word during

peace leads to losing access during crisis. When people persistently ignore divine revelation, God may withdraw insight as judgment. This also shows human wisdom futility apart from divine illumination. Only in Christ do we find wisdom that never fails (1 Corinthians 1:30, Colossians 2:3).

Historical Context

During Jerusalem final days in 586 BC, exactly this scenario unfolded. Multiple disasters compounded: Babylonian siege, internal famine, plague, political paralysis, and eventually breached walls and city burning. Contradictory rumors circulated—would Egypt come to rescue? Would Babylon negotiate? Could temple provide refuge?

The prophetic office had been compromised by false prophets who spoke peace when there was no peace (Jeremiah 6:14, 8:11, Ezekiel 13). True prophets like Jeremiah were imprisoned or ignored. When people finally sought divine guidance, they received only judgment oracles, not deliverance promises.

The priesthood had become corrupt, teaching for hire and compromising with idolatry (Zephaniah 3:4, Ezekiel 22:26). They could not provide authentic guidance because they themselves violated torah. The elders or ancients, normally source of accumulated wisdom and counsel, found their experience and understanding inadequate for unprecedented calamity.

Lamentations 2:9 confirms: Her king and her princes are among the Gentiles: the law is no more; her prophets also find no vision from the LORD. The complete collapse of all leadership structures that Ezekiel predicted came precisely to pass, validating his prophetic credentials.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does the collapse of all wisdom sources teach about human limitations in crisis?
2. How does ignoring God word during peace lead to losing access during judgment?
3. In what ways do people seek spiritual guidance only when desperate, having ignored it previously?
4. What is the relationship between prophetic, priestly, and wisdom traditions in providing divine guidance?
5. How does Christ as embodiment of God wisdom provide what human teachers cannot (Colossians 2:3)?

Interlinear Text

מִשְׁכֵּבְנִים	H1245	וְבָקָשׁ	H2377	רִזּוֹן	H935	מִנְبֵּבְנִים	H5030	וְתַזְבִּחַ	H8451	תְּאַבֵּד	H6	תְּהִנֵּה	H1961	הַשְׁמֹועַ	H8052	וְהַשְׁמֹועַ	H413	וְאַל	H1943	שְׁמֹועַ	H1943	וְאַתָּה	H5921	מִשְׁכֵּבְנִים	H1943
----------------	-------	----------	-------	---------	------	---------------	-------	-------------	-------	-----------	----	-----------	-------	------------	-------	--------------	------	-------	-------	----------	-------	----------	-------	----------------	-------

מִזְקָנִים: | יְעֵץ הַ מִפְּהָר |
from the priest and counsel from the ancients

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 4:20 (Parallel theme): Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment.

Psalms 74:9 (Prophecy): We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long.

Ezekiel 14:1 (Parallel theme): Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me.

Micah 3:6 (Prophecy): 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.

Jeremiah 37:17 (Word): Then Zedekiah the king sent, and took him out: and the king asked him secretly in his house, and said, Is there any word from the LORD? And Jeremiah said, There is: for, said he, thou shalt be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon.

Jeremiah 18:18 (Word): Then said they, Come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.

Jeremiah 21:2 (Parallel theme): Enquire, I pray thee, of the LORD for us; for Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon maketh war against us; if so be that the LORD will deal with us according to all his wondrous works, that he may go up from us.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org