

Isaiah 28:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

Analysis

For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

God responds to the mockers' baby-talk (v.10) with ironic judgment: you refuse My clear teaching? Fine—you'll hear **stammering lips and another tongue** (be-la'agei safah uv-lashon acheret, וּבִלְשׁוֹן אַחֶרֶת, literally "with mocking lips and with another tongue"). This refers to foreign invaders (Assyrians/Babylonians) whose unintelligible language will be God's message of judgment. They rejected the clear Hebrew prophecies, so they'll hear incomprehensible foreign commands from conquerors.

Paul quotes this in 1 Corinthians 14:21-22 applying it to tongues as a sign to unbelievers—when Israel rejected clear prophecy, God spoke through foreign tongues (both Assyrian soldiers and NT spiritual gift). The principle: those who reject intelligible revelation receive unintelligible signs of judgment. Deuteronomy 28:49 warned of nations with strange languages as covenant curse. Jesus spoke of judgment coming through Roman armies (Luke 21:20-24). God's final word to the rebellious may be foreign oppressors rather than patient prophets.

Historical Context

When Assyria conquered Northern Israel (722 BC) and besieged Judah (701 BC), Hebrew-speakers heard Aramaic and Akkadian commands. Later, Babylonian soldiers spoke Chaldean to conquered Jews (586 BC). Daniel and friends had to learn Babylonian (Daniel 1:4). In exile, Jews heard foreign tongues daily—

judgment for rejecting Hebrew prophets. At Pentecost, the reversal: tongues declared God's wonders (Acts 2:11), beginning gospel proclamation to all nations. What was curse becomes blessing through Christ, as all languages praise God (Revelation 7:9).

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does rejecting God's clear word in Scripture lead to spiritual confusion and inability to discern truth?
2. What modern 'foreign tongues' (confusing philosophies, false teachings) might be God's judgment on those who reject biblical truth?
3. How should Paul's use of this verse (1 Corinthians 14:21-22) shape our understanding of spiritual gifts as signs?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	בְּלִעְגִי	שִׁפְּה	וּבִלְשׁוֹן	אֶחָדָת	יְדַבֵּר	אֵל
H3588	For with stammering	lips	tongue	and another	will he speak	H413
	H3934	H8193	H3956	H312	H1696	
הָעָם	הַזֶּה:					
to this people						
H5971	H2088					

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 14:21 (Parallel theme): In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

Jeremiah 5:15 (Parallel theme): Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from far, O house of Israel, saith the LORD: it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language thou knowest not, neither understandest what they say.

Deuteronomy 28:49 (Parallel theme): The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

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