

Isaiah 30:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets,
Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth
things, prophesy deceits:

Analysis

Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things /אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְוּ לְרֹאִים לֹא תִּרְאֻ וְלֹחֲזִים לֹא תִּלְחַזֵּן נְכֹחוֹת (asher amru laro'im lo tir'u velachozim lo techezu-lanu nechohot)—The people silence God's messengers. Ro'im (seers) and chozim (prophets) both refer to those who receive visions. Nechohot means right things, straight things, true things. They want prophets to stop seeing visions and speaking truth.

Speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits /דָבַרְוְלָמָת חֶלְקֹת צָזוּ מַהֲתָלוֹת (dabru-lanu chalaqot chazu mahatalot)—Instead of truth, they demand flattery. Chalaqot (from chalaq, smooth) means smooth, flattering, pleasant words. Mahatalot (from hathal, to mock, deceive) means deceptions, illusions, false prophecies. They want prophets who'll tell them what they want to hear, not what they need to hear. This is the demand for ear-tickling preachers (2 Timothy 4:3: "having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth").

Historical Context

False prophets who spoke smooth deceptions plagued Israel throughout its history. Jeremiah confronted prophets who said "Peace, peace" when there was no peace (Jeremiah 6:14). Micaiah stood alone against 400 false prophets telling King Ahab what he wanted to hear (1 Kings 22). Ezekiel condemned prophets who "daubed with untempered mortar" (Ezekiel 13:10)—covering over serious problems with

superficial reassurances. The pattern is consistent: people prefer comfortable lies to uncomfortable truth. Isaiah faced audiences who wanted prophecies affirming their Egyptian alliance, not warnings against it. They wanted religious validation for political decisions already made. This demand for smooth words rather than right words characterizes every generation that rejects God's true messengers for popular ear-ticklers.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do you silence God's word when it challenges your choices—avoiding sermons, ignoring Scripture, dismissing conviction?
2. What 'smooth things' do you prefer hearing rather than the 'right things' God's word says?
3. How can we discern between prophets who speak truth and those who prophesy deceits to tickle ears?

Interlinear Text

רֹאשׁ	אָשָׁר	אָמַר	תְּרִא	לֹא	תְּרִא	וְאָמַר	וְאָשָׁר	לֹא	לֹא	וְלֹא	חַזְקָה	יְמִינָה	
H834	Which say	See	H3808	See	H7200	not and to the prophets	H3808	H2374					
H559		H7200		H7200									
מִתְלָלוֹת	וְתַתְנִיחַ	לֹא	מִתְלָלוֹת	וְתַתְנִיחַ	לֹא	מִתְלָלוֹת	וְתַתְנִיחַ	לֹא	מִתְלָלוֹת	וְתַתְנִיחַ	מִתְלָלוֹת	וְתַתְנִיחַ	
Prophesy	H0	not unto us	right things	Prophesy	H0	unto us	smooth things	H2372	H5229	H1696	H2513		
H2372				H2372									
מִתְלָלוֹת	וְתַתְנִיחַ	לֹא	מִתְלָלוֹת	וְתַתְנִיחַ	לֹא	מִתְלָלוֹת	וְתַתְנִיחַ	לֹא	מִתְלָלוֹת	וְתַתְנִיחַ	מִתְלָלוֹת	וְתַתְנִיחַ	
deceits	Prophesy												
H4123	H2372												

Additional Cross-References

Romans 16:18 (Parallel theme): For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Amos 7:13 (Prophecy): But prophesy not again any more at Beth-el: for it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court.

Jeremiah 11:21 (Prophecy): Therefore thus saith the LORD of the men of Anathoth, that seek thy life, saying, Prophesy not in the name of the LORD, that thou die not by our hand:

Amos 2:12 (Prophecy): But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophesy not.

Revelation 11:7 (Parallel theme): And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

Jeremiah 23:17 (Parallel theme): They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.
