

Jeremiah 10:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:

Analysis

This verse opens a new oracle: 'Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel.' The Hebrew *shim'u* (שִׁמְעוּ, hear) with *eth-haddavar* (הַדָּבָר, the word) emphasizes attentive obedience to divine revelation. This verse introduces an extended polemic against idolatry, contrasting the true God with worthless idols. The address to 'house of Israel' encompasses the entire covenant people, though by Jeremiah's time it primarily meant Judah. The chapter's theme—the incomparability of YHWH versus the nothingness of idols—resonates throughout prophetic literature, especially Isaiah 40-48.

Historical Context

This chapter may have been composed during the exile or shortly before, addressing the temptation to worship Babylonian gods whose power seemed demonstrated by their victory over Judah. The exiles needed reassurance that YHWH remained the true God despite Jerusalem's fall. Similar anti-idol polemic appears in Isaiah's later chapters and Daniel's accounts of Babylonian religious practice.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Why does God begin this oracle with a command to 'hear,' and what does this demand from the audience?
2. How does the contrast between YHWH and idols address the theological crisis caused by Jerusalem's fall?

Interlinear Text

שָׁמַע	אַתָּה	רְבָבָה	רֹאשׁ	רְבָבָה	אַתָּה	שָׁמַע	עַלְיָכָה
Hear	H853	ye the word	H834	speaketh	which the LORD	H5921	
H8085		H1697		H1696		H3068	
בְּ יִתְּ	אַשְׁרָאֵל:						
unto you O house	of Israel						
H1004		H3478					

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