

Jeremiah 14:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place.

Analysis

Jeremiah protests: 'Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place.' This explains the people's complacency: false prophets contradict Jeremiah's warnings, promising 'assured peace' (Hebrew 'shalom emet'—true, reliable peace). Jeremiah appeals to God, effectively saying the people have been misled. This raises the problem of competing prophetic voices—how can people discern true from false? The false prophets' message was more pleasant but ultimately deadly, while Jeremiah's harsh message, though rejected, was true and life-saving for those who heeded.

Historical Context

False prophets like Hananiah (Jeremiah 28) contradicted Jeremiah's warnings, promising swift deliverance from Babylon. Their optimistic lies were more popular but proved catastrophically wrong.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How can believers discern true from false prophetic voices today?
2. Why is the more pleasant message often false while harsh truth is rejected?
3. What responsibility do false teachers bear for those they mislead?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר יְהוָה אֶל־עַמּוֹת יִמְלָא־יְהוָה־הָרִים
Then said I Ah Lord GOD H2009 behold the prophets Then said

לֹא לִפְנֵיכֶם תְּרִא אֶת־יְהוָה
H0 H3808 unto them Ye shall not see H7200 the sword neither shall ye have famine

לֹא לִפְנֵיכֶם יְהוָה תְּרִא אֶת־יְהוָה
H3808 H1961 H0 H3588 peace H7965 you assured but I will give H571 H5414

בָּמָקָם כִּי
in this place H2088 H4725

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 6:14 (Peace): They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

2 Peter 2:1 (Prophecy): But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

Jeremiah 4:10 (Word): Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! surely thou hast greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall have peace; whereas the sword reacheth unto the soul.

Jeremiah 23:17 (Peace): 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.

Micah 3:11 (Prophecy): The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us.

Jeremiah 8:11 (Peace): For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

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