

Jeremiah 15:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem thee out of the hand of the terrible.

Analysis

God responds to Jeremiah's complaint: 'Therefore thus saith the LORD, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me: and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth.' The condition 'if thou return' doesn't mean Jeremiah had apostatized but that he needed to return to proper spiritual perspective. The promise: restoration to prophetic ministry ('stand before me'). The second condition: 'take forth the precious from the vile'—separate valuable truth from worthless complaint or discouragement. Then he'll be 'as my mouth'—God's spokesman. This shows even faithful servants need recalibration when discouragement distorts perspective.

Historical Context

Even great prophets experienced spiritual crises requiring divine correction and recommissioning. God's gentle rebuke and renewed commission demonstrate His patience with struggling servants.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to 'return' when we haven't abandoned God but have lost proper perspective?
2. How do we 'take forth the precious from the vile' in our thinking and ministry?
3. What does being God's 'mouth' require in terms of spiritual preparation and perspective?

Interlinear Text

וְהִצַּלְתִּי יָךְ	מִיָּד	כֶּעָיִם	וּפְדֶתִי יָךְ
And I will deliver	thee out of the hand	of the wicked	and I will redeem
H5337	H3027	H7451	H6299
מִכָּף	עֲרֻצִּים:		
thee out of the hand	of the terrible		
H3709	H6184		

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 1:10 (Parallel theme): Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

Jeremiah 50:34 (Redemption): Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is his name: he shall thoroughly plead their cause, that he may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon.

Isaiah 54:17 (Parallel theme): No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 29:20 (Parallel theme): For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off:

Psalms 37:40 (Evil): And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

Psalms 27:2 (Evil): When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

Genesis 48:16 (Redemption): The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

Isaiah 29:5 (Parallel theme): Moreover the multitude of thy strangers shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the terrible ones shall be as chaff that passeth away: yea, it shall be at an instant suddenly.

Romans 16:20 (Parallel theme): And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Matthew 6:13 (Evil): And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.