

Jeremiah 18:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

Analysis

This formulaic introduction "The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD" establishes divine origin and authority for the following prophecy. The Hebrew *davar* (דָּבָר, word) signifies not mere verbal communication but powerful, effective divine speech that accomplishes God's purposes (Isa 55:11). Prophetic oracles begin with such authentication formulas to distinguish genuine revelation from human speculation.

The prophet serves as mediator, receiving God's word and transmitting it to the people. This mediation anticipates Christ, the ultimate Word made flesh (John 1:1, 14), who perfectly reveals the Father. Unlike Jeremiah who received words periodically, Christ is the Word eternally—the complete and final revelation of God (Heb 1:1-2).

From a Reformed perspective, this verse affirms the doctrine of verbal revelation—God speaks in human language, giving propositional truth through prophets. Scripture's authority derives from divine origin, not human wisdom or religious insight. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets illuminates believers to understand God's word today (2 Pet 1:20-21, 1 Cor 2:10-14).

Historical Context

Prophetic introduction formulas pervade the prophetic books, authenticating messages as divine rather than human. In a context where false prophets proliferated (Jer 23:9-40), such formulas were crucial for identifying authentic

prophecy. The canonical prophets consistently claimed direct divine revelation, distinguishing them from priests who taught Torah and wise men who offered counsel based on tradition and observation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does understanding Scripture as God's revealed word shape your approach to reading and applying it?
2. What difference does it make that biblical prophecy comes from God rather than human religious insight?
3. How does Christ as the Word made flesh fulfill and complete God's prophetic revelation?

Interlinear Text

הַדְּבָר	אֲשֶׁר	הָיָה	אֶל	יְרֵמְיָהוּ	מֵאֵת	יְהוָה
The word	H834	H1961	H413	which came to Jeremiah	H853	from the LORD
H1697				H3414		H3068

לֵאמֹר:
saying
H559