

Jeremiah 23:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard it?

Analysis

For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard his word? (כִּי מִי עָמַד בְּסוּד יְהוָה וַיִּרְא וַיִּשְׁמַע אֶת־דְּבָרוֹ, ki mi amad b'sod YHWH vayyere vayyishma et-d'varo). The noun סוּד (sod, 'counsel/intimate circle/secret assembly') describes Yahweh's heavenly court where true prophets receive revelation—compare 1 Kings 22:19-22 where Micaiah sees God's throne room. The verbs רָאָה (ra'ah, 'perceived/saw') and שָׁמַע (shama, 'heard') indicate direct divine encounter. **Who hath marked his word, and heard it?** repeats the challenge with קָשַׁב (qashav, 'attended carefully/marked').

The rhetorical question demands: Where is your authority? True prophets accessed God's throne room (compare Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1). False prophets manufactured messages from imagination. This establishes the test: Has the prophet stood in God's counsel? Amos 3:7 states, 'Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.' The divine sod is where authentic revelation originates—not human cleverness or political calculation.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern prophets claimed various sources for oracles—divination, dreams, ecstatic experiences, political intuition. Biblical prophets claimed unique access to Yahweh's throne room counsel. Jeremiah himself received direct commissioning (Jeremiah 1:4-10). The question challenges contemporaries: Can

you demonstrate similar divine encounter? The false prophets could not, revealing their fraudulent claims.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you verify that your theological convictions originate from God's counsel, not your assumptions?
2. What distinguishes authentic spiritual insight from religious imagination in your experience?
3. Have you 'stood in God's counsel' through Scripture and prayer, or merely adopted second-hand opinions?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	יֵשׁוּעַ	עָמַד	בְּסֹד	יְהוָה	וַיֵּרָא
H3588	H4310	H5975	H5475	H3068	H7200
		For who hath stood	in the counsel	of the LORD	and hath perceived
וַיִּשְׁמָע:	אֶת	דְּבַר יְהוָה	הַקֹּשׁ יְב	דְּבַר יְהוָה	וַיִּשְׁמָע:
H8085	H853	H4310	H7181	H1697	H8085
and heard		his word	who hath marked	his word	and heard

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 23:22 (Word): But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

1 Corinthians 2:16 (References Lord): For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Psalms 25:14 (References Lord): The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

John 15:15 (References Lord): Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Amos 3:7 (References Lord): Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

1 Kings 22:24 (References Lord): But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?

2 Chronicles 18:23 (References Lord): Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near, and smote Micaiah upon the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?