

Jeremiah 23:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour.

Analysis

I am against the prophets...that steal my words every one from his neighbour (גִּנְבִי דְבַרִי אִישׁ מֵאֵת רֵעֵהוּ, gov'vei d'varai ish me'et re'ehu)—the participle גִּנְבִי ('stealing') describes ongoing theft. These prophets plagiarize each other, recycling religious language without authentic divine encounter. The phrase 'every one from his neighbour' suggests echo chambers creating false consensus.

The declaration **I am against** (הֶנְנִי עַל) is terrifying—God positions Himself as enemy of religious professionals. They traffic in stolen spiritual goods—using God's vocabulary without God's voice. The eighth commandment forbids theft (Exodus 20:15); these prophets steal God's words, repackaging them without authorization.

Historical Context

Prophetic guilds created professional networks where messages circulated and successful formulas repeated. Instead of hearing God directly, they borrowed from peers. This produced theological homogeneity disconnected from actual divine revelation. Jeremiah stood alone against this consensus.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How much of your spiritual teaching comes from authentic encounter versus borrowed content?
2. When do you plagiarize others' insights rather than wrestling with God?
3. What would change if God positioned Himself against your religious activities?

Interlinear Text

עַל הַנָּבִי לֵךְ	הַנָּבִיא יָמִים	נֹאֵם יְהוָה
H3651 H2005 H5921	H5030	H5002 H3068
Therefore behold I am against the prophets	saith the LORD	
מִגִּנְבֵי דִבְרֵי יֵשׁ מֵאֵת רֵעֵהוּ:	מֵאֵת רֵעֵהוּ:	
H1589 H1697 H376 H853 H7453		
that steal my words every one from his neighbour		

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 18:20 (Word): But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.

Ezekiel 13:8 (References Lord): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord GOD.

Psalms 34:16 (References Lord): The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

Ezekiel 13:20 (References Lord): Wherefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against your pillows, wherewith ye there hunt the souls to make them fly, and I will tear them from your arms, and will let the souls go, even the souls that ye hunt to make them fly.

Ezekiel 15:7 (References Lord): And I will set my face against them; they shall go out from one fire, and another fire shall devour them; and ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I set my face against them.

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