

# Jeremiah 23:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith.

## Analysis

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**Behold, I am against the prophets...that use their tongues, and say, He saith** (בָּרוּךְ יְהוָה הַלְּקָחִים לְשׁוֹנָם וַיֹּאמְרוּ בָּם) —they manufacture oracles then attach the formula בָּם ('declares'), the technical term for divine utterance. The phrase 'they oracle an oracle' mocks their pretense—using sacred language as verb.

This is spiritual forgery, counterfeiting God's signature. The formula appears 365 times in Jeremiah, marking authentic prophecy. False prophets exploited it, assuming language itself carried authority. Jesus condemned those saying 'Lord, Lord' yet practicing lawlessness (Matthew 7:21). Right vocabulary without divine reality is theater.

## Historical Context

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The formula 'declares the LORD' signaled divine speech, not human opinion. False prophets assumed the language itself granted authority regardless of actual commission. This is like signing someone else's name to documents—identity theft at the highest level.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. When do you use religious language without genuine divine guidance?
2. How can communities distinguish authentic prophecy from opinion in spiritual garb?
3. What accountability exists for those claiming to speak for God?

## Interlinear Text

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עַל	הַנּוּ	רְבִבְיא	מִ	תְּאַמֵּן	הִנֵּה	הַלְקָמָם	יְמִינָה
H2005	H5921	<b>Behold I am against the prophets</b>	H5030	<b>He saith</b>	H5002	<b>the LORD</b>	<b>that use</b>
						H3068	H3947
לְשׁוֹנָה	מִ	תְּיִגְאֵם	וְ	תְּאַמֵּן	וְ	לְשׁוֹנָה	מִ
<b>their tongues</b>	<b>and say</b>	<b>He saith</b>					
H3956	H5001	H5002					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 23:17** (References Lord): 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.

**Isaiah 30:10** (Prophecy): Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:

**2 Chronicles 18:5** (Prophecy): Therefore the king of Israel gathered together of prophets four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for God will deliver it into the king's hand.