

Jeremiah 25:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup at thine hand to drink, then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ye shall certainly drink.

Analysis

And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup at thine hand to drink, then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ye shall certainly drink. This verse addresses possible resistance to the prophetic message. The phrase *kî mǎ'ên lāqahat hakkôs* (כִּי מֵאֵן לִקְחַת הַכּוֹס, if they refuse to take the cup) anticipates rejection of the prophecy. People naturally resist unwelcome messages, denying their truth or applicability. The emphatic response *shātōh tištû* (שָׁתָה תִּשְׁתּוּ, you shall certainly drink) uses Hebrew infinitive absolute construction for absolute certainty—there is no escape, no alternative, no exception.

This establishes a crucial principle: rejecting the prophetic warning doesn't prevent the prophesied judgment. Denying reality doesn't change reality. Many rejected Noah's warning—the flood came anyway. Israel rejected prophets' warnings—exile came anyway. People today reject biblical warnings of final judgment—it will come anyway (2 Peter 3:3-7). The certainty of God's word isn't contingent on human acceptance. What God has decreed will occur regardless of human belief or unbelief. This should create urgency: the time to respond is before judgment arrives, while mercy is available.

Historical Context

Historical records show that many nations failed to take seriously Babylon's threat until too late. Egypt, confident in its military strength, dismissed warnings. Judah's

false prophets assured the people that Jerusalem would never fall. When Babylonian armies arrived, the prophecies were fulfilled regardless of prior skepticism. The certainty of biblical prophecy's fulfillment has been demonstrated repeatedly throughout history, building confidence that unfulfilled prophecies will likewise come to pass precisely as stated.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty that judgment comes 'whether you believe it or not' challenge our culture's assumption that truth is subjective?
2. What does this verse teach about the responsibility to deliver God's warning even when we know it will be rejected?
3. In what areas might we be 'refusing the cup'—rejecting biblical warnings we find unwelcome or inconvenient?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה הַ	כִּי	יִמָּאֵן וְ	לִקְחַת	הַ כֹּס	מִדֶּךָ
H1961	H3588	H3985	H3947	H3563	H3027
		And it shall be if they refuse	to take	the cup	at thine hand
תִּשְׁתָּו:	אָמַר	כֹּה	אֵלֶיָּהּ	אָמַר	
H8354	H559	H413	H3541	H559	
Ye shall certainly	then shalt thou say			then shalt thou say	
יְהוָה הַ	צָבָא וְ	תִּשְׁתָּו:	תִּשְׁתָּו:		
H3068	H6635	H8354	H8354		
the LORD	of hosts	Ye shall certainly	Ye shall certainly		

Additional Cross-References

Job 34:33 (Parallel theme): Should it be according to thy mind? he will recompense it, whether thou refuse, or whether thou choose; and not I: therefore speak what thou knowest.