

Jeremiah 25:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words,

Analysis

Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words—The phrase YHWH šēbā'ôṭ (יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת, LORD of hosts/armies) identifies God as commander of heavenly forces, emphasizing His sovereign power to execute judgment. The 'therefore' (lākēn, לָכֵן) marks the transition from warning to sentence. Twenty-three years of patient appeal (v. 3) yields to certain judgment. The indictment is simple: lō' shēma'tem 'et-dēbāray (לֹא שָׁמַעְתֶּם אֶת־דִּבְרֵי, you have not heard my words). Not 'you couldn't understand' or 'you disagreed,' but simply 'you didn't listen.'

This demonstrates the justice of divine judgment. God doesn't condemn for ignorance or inability but for willful rejection of clearly revealed truth. The people had access to God's law, heard prophetic warnings repeatedly, and consciously chose disobedience. Romans 1:18-32 describes this pattern: people suppress truth they know, exchanging it for lies. When God executes judgment, it's response to persistent, informed rebellion, not arbitrary divine wrath.

Historical Context

The title 'LORD of hosts' appears frequently in prophetic literature announcing judgment (Isaiah 1:24, 3:1; Jeremiah 2:19, 6:6). It emphasizes that the same God who commands angelic armies also controls earthly empires. Nebuchadnezzar's army would be God's instrument, executing divine sentence on covenant-breaking

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