

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'ôt (יהָה צְבָאֹת, LORD of hosts/armies) identifies God as commander of heavenly forces, emphasizing His sovereign power to execute judgment. The 'therefore' (lākēn, לכן) 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 (לא שמעתם את- דברי, 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

Judah. This wasn't merely military conquest but theological judgment—God actively bringing consequences on His unfaithful people.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the title 'LORD of hosts' comfort believers while warning those who reject God?
2. What is the significance of God's judgment being predicated on persistent refusal to hear rather than inability to understand?
3. In what ways might we be 'not hearing' God's words today, and how can we cultivate genuine receptivity to His revealed will?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	אָשָׁר	רִאָתְךָ	עָשָׂתָה	צְבָא	וְתִהְנֵת	יְהִי	הָ	אָמַר	רְאֵתְךָ	כִּי	לְכָדֵךְ
H3651	H3541	Therefore thus saith	H559	the LORD	H3068	of hosts	H3282	H834	H3808		
מִשְׁמְעָתְךָ	אַתָּה	דְּבָרַי									
Because ye have not heard	H8085	H853	my words	H1697							

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