

Jeremiah 27:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also I spake to the priests and to all this people, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Hearken not to the words of your prophets that prophesy unto you, saying, Behold, the vessels of the LORD'S house shall now shortly be brought again from Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you.

Analysis

Hearken not to the words of your prophets (אל-תִּשְׁמַעוּ אֶל-דִּבְרֵי נָבִיאֵיכֶם) Jeremiah confronts false prophets promising imminent return of temple vessels stolen by Nebuchadnezzar. The Hebrew shema (listen/obey) appears in negative imperative, commanding resistance to deceptive prophecy.

They prophesy a lie unto you (שְׁقֵר הַם נְבָאִים לְכֶם) — The word sheqer (falsehood, deception) exposes prophecy rooted not in God's revelation but in nationalist wishful thinking. These prophets, like Hananiah (ch. 28), predicted swift Babylonian defeat, contradicting God's revealed timeline of 70 years captivity (25:11). Jeremiah's unpopular truth—submit to Babylon—tested whether Israel would trust God's counterintuitive word over comforting lies.

Historical Context

Spoken circa 594 BC during Zedekiah's reign, after Nebuchadnezzar's first deportation (597 BC) took temple vessels and Jewish nobility. False prophets promised quick restoration, but Jeremiah insisted on long captivity as God's judgment. This message directly opposed the royal court's pro-Egyptian resistance policies.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you discern between messages that comfort your preferences and prophecy that challenges you to trust God's harder path?
2. What 'temple vessels' (symbols of past glory) might you be clinging to instead of accepting God's present discipline?
3. When has obeying God required you to accept what seemed like defeat or humiliation?

Interlinear Text

דְּבָרָתִי	בְּזַה	בְּעַמְּךָ	כָּל	אֶל	כָּלְכָלִים	וְאֶל
H2088	H1696	H5971	H3605	H413	H3548	H413
Also I speake			and to all this people	to the priests		
אֶל	תִּשְׁמַע	וְאֶל	יְהִי הָ	לְאָמֵן רְ	פֶּה	לְאָמֵן רְ
H413	H8085	H408	H3068	H559	H3541	H559
Hearken		of the LORD'S	Thus saith	Thus saith		
הָ	לְאָמֵן רְ	לְכָם	נְבָא יִם	נְבָא יִם	דְּבָרִ	הָ
H2009	H559	H0	H5012	H5030	H1697	H0
Thus saith			for they prophesy	of your prophets	not to the words	
עַתָּה	מִבְּבָבָ לָהּ	מִשְׁבַּבָּ יִם	יְהִי הָ	בֵּית	כָּלִ	עַתָּה
H6258	H894	H7725	H3068	H1004	H3627	H0
from Babylon		be brought again	of the LORD'S	house	Behold the vessels	
לְכָם:	נְבָא יִם	הָ פָּה	שְׁלֹךְ כִּי	מִבְּבָבָ הָ	מִבְּבָבָ הָ	לְכָם:
H0	H5012	H1992	H8267	H4120	H3588	H0
for they prophesy		a lie		shall now shortly		

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 28:3 (References Lord): Within two full years will I bring again into this place all the vessels of the LORD'S house, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place, and carried them to Babylon:

2 Kings 24:13 (References Lord): And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said.

Jeremiah 27:10 (Prophecy): For they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish.

Daniel 1:2 (References Lord): And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

Jeremiah 27:14 (Word): Therefore hearken not unto the words of the prophets that speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you.

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