

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 (אַל־תִּשְׁמָעוּ אֶל־דְּבָרֵי נְבִיאֵיכֶם)—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 (שֶׁקֶר הֵם נִבְּאִים לָכֶם)—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

וְאֶל	הַכֹּהֲנִים	וְאֶל	כָּל	הָעָם	הַזֶּה	דִּבַּר רְתִי
H413	to the priests	H413	H3605	and to all this people	H2088	Also I spake
	H3548			H5971		H1696

לֵאמֹר	כֹּה	לֵאמֹר	יְהוָה	אֶל	תִּשְׁמָעוּ	אֶל
Thus saith	H3541	Thus saith	of the LORD'S	H408	Hearken	H413
H559		H559	H3068		H8085	

דְּבַר	נְבִיאֵיכֶם	נְבִיאֵי יִם	לָכֶם	לֵאמֹר	הִנֵּה
not to the words	of your prophets	for they prophesy	H0	Thus saith	H2009
H1697	H5030	H5012		H559	

כָּל	בֵּית	יְהוָה	מוֹשָׁב יִם	מִבֶּבֶל	עַתָּה
Behold the vessels	house	of the LORD'S	be brought again	from Babylon	H6258
H3627	H1004	H3068	H7725	H894	

מְהֵרָה	כִּי	שֶׁקֶר	יְהוָה	נְבִיאֵי יִם	לָכֶם:
shall now shortly	H3588	a lie	H1992	for they prophesy	H0
H4120		H8267		H5012	

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.