

Jeremiah 27:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if they be prophets, and if the word of the LORD be with them, let them now make intercession to the LORD of hosts, that the vessels which are left in the house of the LORD, and in the house of the king of Judah, and at Jerusalem, go not to Babylon.

Analysis

This verse exposes false prophets who predicted quick restoration. True prophets intercede; false prophets presume. The test is whether their prophecies align with God's revealed word. Jeremiah challenges them: if they're real prophets, let them pray to prevent further loss rather than promising what God hasn't promised. Discernment requires comparing all messages against Scripture's standard.

Historical Context

False prophets like Hananiah (chapter 28) were predicting Babylon's defeat within two years. This gave false hope, preventing the repentance God required.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you test modern prophecies and spiritual claims against Scripture?
2. What's the relationship between prophetic gifting and intercessory prayer?

Interlinear Text

וְאִם H518	נִבְּאָ יִם H5030	וְאִם יְהוָה H1992	יֵשׁ H518	וְאִם H3426	דִּבֶּר H1697	יְהוָה H3068
	But if they be prophets		be	and if the word		of the LORD
אֶתָּם H854	וְעַתָּה H6293	יְהוָה H4994	וְעַתָּה H3068	וְעַתָּה H6635		
	with them let them now make intercession		of the LORD	of hosts		
לְבַלְתִּי H1115	בְּאוֹ H935	הַכֵּל יִם H3627	הַנּוֹתֵר יִם H3498	וּבִית H1004	יְהוָה H3068	
	go	that the vessels	which are left	and in the house	of the LORD	
וּבִית H1004	וּבִית H4428	יְהוּדָה H3063	וּבִירוּשָׁלַם H3389	בְּבָבֶלָה: H894		
and in the house	of the king	of Judah	and at Jerusalem	not to Babylon		

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 7:8 (References Lord): And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.

Jeremiah 18:20 (Parallel theme): Shall evil be recompensed for good? for they have digged a pit for my soul. Remember that I stood before thee to speak good for them, and to turn away thy wrath from them.

1 Kings 18:24 (References Lord): And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

1 Samuel 12:23 (References Lord): Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

1 Samuel 12:19 (Kingdom): And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king.

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