

Jeremiah 27:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And command them to say unto their masters, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say unto your masters;

Analysis

And command them to say unto their masters, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel—God instructs the envoys to deliver His message to their kings. The title **LORD of hosts** (Yahweh Tseva'ot, יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר־צָבָא) emphasizes God's supreme military authority over all heavenly and earthly armies. Despite Babylon's apparent supremacy, the God of Israel commands both Babylon and the nations plotting against it. The phrase **Thus shall ye say unto your masters** establishes that even pagan kings must hear Yahweh's word—they are accountable to Him whether they acknowledge it or not.

The irony is profound: Israel's God addresses foreign kings through their own envoys who had come seeking political alliance. God does not recognize their independence or autonomous authority; He is sovereign over all nations. This passage anticipates Paul's teaching that all earthly authority is established by God and remains under His ultimate jurisdiction (Romans 13:1). The covenant title 'God of Israel' reminds hearers that this message comes from the deity who chose Abraham, delivered Israel from Egypt, and established His kingdom through David—He is no local deity but the Creator who governs history.

Historical Context

The formula 'Thus saith the LORD' (koh amar Yahweh, כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה) was the standard prophetic introduction authenticating divine speech. Foreign nations

would have been familiar with prophetic messengers from their own religious contexts, but hearing Yahweh's word directed to their kings through His prophet was unprecedented. Ancient Near Eastern kings claimed divine right to rule, but here Yahweh asserts His authority over them. This challenged the ANE worldview where national deities were thought to have limited territorial jurisdiction. Yahweh's message to these foreign kings demonstrated His universal sovereignty, a theological truth that would be fully revealed in Christ's commission to make disciples of 'all nations' (Matthew 28:19).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the truth that God addresses and holds accountable even pagan rulers affect our understanding of His sovereignty?
2. What does it mean that God identifies Himself as 'the God of Israel' when speaking to foreign nations?
3. In what ways should the universal authority of God shape how Christians engage with secular political authorities today?

Interlinear Text

תֹּאמֶר וְכֹה תֹּאמֶר וְאָל אַתָּה מִצְוָה
And command H853 H413 unto their masters H113 Thus saith H3541 Thus saith H559

וְאָל תֹּאמֶר וְכֹה יְשַׁבֵּא לְאֱלֹהִים אֱבָאֹת יְהֹוָה
the LORD H3068 of hosts H6635 the God H430 of Israel H3478 Thus saith H3541 Thus saith H413

אָל תֹּאמֶר וְאָל יְשַׁבֵּא לְאֱלֹהִים אֱבָאֹת יְהֹוָה
unto their masters H113

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