

Jeremiah 29:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because ye have said, The LORD hath raised us up prophets in Babylon;

Analysis

Because ye have said, The LORD hath raised us up prophets in Babylon— This verse introduces the exiles' fatal delusion. The Hebrew מִקְרָא (heqim, raised up) is the same verb used for Moses (Deut 18:15), but these self-appointed prophets contradicted God's revealed word. They promised swift deliverance (28:2-4) while Jeremiah commanded settling for seventy years (29:10).

The tragedy lies in the phrase **in Babylon**—the exiles wanted prophets who validated their presence in pagan territory as temporary inconvenience, not divine discipline requiring repentance. False prophecy always serves what people want to hear (2 Tim 4:3) rather than what they need: submission to God's sovereign timing and purposes, however painful.

Historical Context

Several false prophets operated among the exiles (vv. 21-23, 24-32), including Ahab, Zedekiah, and Shemaiah. They likely claimed dreams or visions contradicting Jeremiah's letter. The conflict mirrors Jeremiah's confrontation with Hananiah (ch. 28), showing the persistence of false hope that God would override consequences without repentance.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you discern between prophetic voices that promise what you want versus what God actually says?
2. When has 'God told me' become a way to baptize your preferences rather than submit to His revealed will?
3. Why is false prophecy especially dangerous during suffering? What makes desperate people vulnerable to lies?

Interlinear Text

בַּאֲמָרָתִ מֶלֶךְ יְהוָה יְהִי נֶבֶא יְמִינָה
Because ye have said hath raised us up The LORD prophets

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בָּבֶלְתָּה:

in Babylon

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