

Jeremiah 29:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, of Ahab the son of Kolaiah, and of Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah, which prophesy a lie unto you in my name; Behold, I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon; and he shall slay them before your eyes;

Analysis

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, of Ahab the son of Kolaiah, and of Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah—God names names. Ahab and Zedekiah aren't the famous kings but two false prophets in Babylon, now immortalized in infamy. The title **LORD of hosts, the God of Israel** (יהוה אֱלֹהִים אֶלְيִשָּׁעַל, YHWH Tseva'ot Elohei Yisrael) asserts covenant authority against their fraudulent claims.

Which prophesy a lie unto you in my name—The Hebrew שְׁقֵר (sheqer, lie/falsehood) combined with **in my name** constitutes the gravest offense: claiming divine authority for human invention (Deut 18:20). God announces their grotesque execution: **I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar...and he shall slay them before your eyes**—dramatic public execution designed to vindicate true prophecy and silence false hope.

Historical Context

While we know nothing else about these two false prophets, their execution may have involved accusations of treason (promising rebellion against Babylon). Nebuchadnezzar wouldn't tolerate prophets encouraging revolt. God used pagan

justice to silence those who prophesied falsely in His name—a sobering example of divine providence.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How seriously does God take those who claim 'God told me' when He didn't? What's at stake?
2. When false teachers are 'successful' but later exposed, how should the church respond?
3. How does public judgment of false prophets protect God's people from deception?

Interlinear Text

בָּה	אָמַר	הַיְהוּ	וְתִּצְבָּא	אֱלֹהִים	לֹא	יִשְׁרָאֵל	אֶל	בְּאָחָה
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	of hosts	the God	of Israel	H413	of Ahab	
	H559	H3068	H6635	H430	H3478		H256	
בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן
the son	of Kolaiah	H413	and of Zedekiah	the son	of Maaseiah	which prophesy		
H1121	H6964		H6667	H1121	H4641	H5012		
לְכָם	בְּשֵׁם	שְׁאֵר	הַנְּתָנָה יְהוָה	נָתַת	אָתָּה			
H0	unto you in my name	a lie	H2005	Behold I will deliver	H853			
	H8034	H8267		H5414				
בַּיד	נֶבֶכְדָּרָאצְר	מֶלֶךְ	בְּכָל	וְהַכְּמָמָן				
them into the hand	of Nebuchadrezzar	king	of Babylon	and he shall slay				
H3027	H5019	H4428	H894	H5221				
לְעִינֵיכֶם:								
them before your eyes								
H5869								

Additional Cross-References

Lamentations 2:14 (Prophecy): Thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment.

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