

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 צבאות, YHWH Tseva'ot Elohei Yisrael) asserts covenant authority against their fraudulent claims.

Which prophesy a lie unto you in my name—The Hebrew שקר (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

כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	צָבָא	וְ	אֱלֹהֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֵל	אֲחָב	ב
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	of hosts		the God	of Israel	H413	of Ahab	
	H559	H3068	H6635		H430	H3478		H256	
בֶּן	קוֹלִיָּה	וְ	אֶל	צִדְקִי	הוּא	בֶּן	מַעֲשִׂיָּה	הַ	הַנְּבִיאִים
the son	of Kolaiah	H413		and of Zedekiah		the son	of Maaseiah		which prophesy
H1121	H6964			H6667		H1121	H4641		H5012
לְכֶם	בְּשֵׁמִי	הִנֵּנִי	יֹשֵׁלִי	קֶרֶב	נִתְּן	אֶתְּ	מִי		
H0	unto you in my name		a lie	H2005	Behold I will deliver	H853			
	H8034		H8267		H5414				
בְּיָד	נְבוּכַדְרֶאצַּר	מֶלֶךְ	לְ	בְּבָבֶל	וְ	הֵמָּה			
them into the hand	of Nebuchadrezzar	king	of Babylon		and he shall slay				
H3027	H5019	H4428	H894		H5221				
לְעֵינֵיכֶם:									
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.