

Jeremiah 29:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore why hast thou not reprov'd Jeremiah of Anathoth, which maketh himself a prophet to you?

Analysis

Why hast thou not reprov'd Jeremiah of Anathoth, which maketh himself a prophet to you?—Shemaiah's phrase מְתַנָּבֵא (mitnabe, 'making himself a prophet') drips with contempt, denying Jeremiah's divine calling. The irony is devastating: Shemaiah accuses Jeremiah of self-appointment while Shemaiah himself sends unauthorized letters. The interrogative 'why' (מַדּוּעַ) reveals impatience with Zephaniah's failure to act.

The designation **Jeremiah of Anathoth** may attempt to marginalize him as provincial, from a small priestly town (Joshua 21:18) rather than Jerusalem's religious establishment. Jesus faced similar dismissal: 'Can anything good come from Nazareth?' (John 1:46). Geography and credentials cannot validate or invalidate God's calling—only His authorization matters.

Historical Context

Anathoth, Jeremiah's hometown (Jeremiah 1:1), was 3 miles northeast of Jerusalem in Benjamin's territory. As a priestly city, it should have honored prophetic ministry, yet Jeremiah's own townsmen plotted against him (11:21-23). Shemaiah's reference highlights ongoing local opposition.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. When have you judged a message by the messenger's background rather than by its conformity to Scripture?
2. How does Shemaiah's accusation that Jeremiah 'makes himself a prophet' expose the accuser's own self-authorization?
3. What does opposition from both Babylon (Shemaiah) and Jerusalem (his addressees) teach about the prophet's isolation when speaking truth?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	לָמָּה	וְעַתָּה	הֵן	גַּעַרְתָּ	בְּיָרְמְיָהוּ
H3808	H4100	H6258		H1605	H3414
				Now therefore why hast thou not reprov	Jeremiah
הַמְתִּיבִי	אֶת	הָעֵצָה	יְהוֹנָתָן	לָכֶם:	
H5012		H6069		H0	
which maketh himself a prophet		of Anathoth			