

Jeremiah 33:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying,

Analysis

Moreover the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying (וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־יִרְמְיָהוּ שְׁנִית לְאֹמֶר)—a second revelation while Jeremiah remains imprisoned (v. 1, 'shut up in the court of the prison'). The Hebrew debar-YHWH (word of the LORD) marks prophetic authority—not Jeremiah's opinion but divine speech. This formula appears over 150 times in Jeremiah, grounding hope in God's initiative, not human optimism.

The verse serves as transitional hinge: vv. 1-22 detailed Davidic and Levitical covenant promises; vv. 23-26 address skeptical objections to those promises. The structure mirrors ancient Near Eastern disputation oracles where the prophet anticipates and refutes doubts. God doesn't merely announce restoration—He engages with Israel's unbelief, dignifying their doubts with reasoned response.

Historical Context

This second oracle came during the same imprisonment period as chapter 32 (588-587 BC), likely days or weeks after the initial revelation. Jerusalem was still under siege, conditions worsening daily. The delay between first and second words tests prophetic patience—God's timing differs from human urgency, yet His word comes 'a second time' (שְׁנִית), confirming and expanding initial promises.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's willingness to address doubts and objections inform your approach to honest questions about His promises?
2. What does the timing—a second word during continued imprisonment—teach about God's communication pattern in trials?
3. Why might God separate His messages into multiple revelations rather than giving complete information at once?

Interlinear Text

וְיִהִי	דְּבַר	יְהוָה	אֶל	יְרֵמְיָהוּ	לֵאמֹר:
H1961	Moreover the word	of the LORD	H413	came to Jeremiah	saying
	H1697	H3068		H3414	H559

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