

Jeremiah 35:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying,

Analysis

Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah (וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־יִרְמְיָהוּ vayehi d'var-Yahweh el-Yirmeyahu)—The formulaic prophetic introduction marks a divine oracle. The דָּבָר (davar, word) of Yahweh isn't mere information but performative speech that creates reality, judges nations, and accomplishes God's purposes (Isaiah 55:11).

This transitional verse pivots from the Rechabites' testimony (vv. 1-11) to God's application (vv. 13-19). The object lesson complete, God now interprets its meaning: the Rechabites' fidelity to Jonadab will magnify Judah's infidelity to Yahweh. The same prophetic word that blessed the obedient Rechabites (vv. 18-19) will curse the disobedient covenant people (v. 17)—one oracle, two opposite outcomes, depending on covenant response.

Historical Context

This prophetic word came during Jehoiakim's reign (609-598 BC), a period of flagrant covenant violation when the king burned Jeremiah's scroll (chapter 36), murdered prophets (26:20-23), and pursued pro-Egyptian policies contrary to God's directive. Against this backdrop of rebellion, the Rechabites' obedience shone brilliantly.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Do you approach Scripture as mere religious information, or as God's living word that judges your heart and demands response?
2. How does your reaction to God's word—whether obedience like the Rechabites or resistance like Jehoiakim—determine whether you receive blessing or curse?
3. What makes the difference between hearing the same biblical message and responding with either repentance or rebellion?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי	דָּבַר	יְהוָה	אֶל	יִרְמְיָהוּ	לֵאמֹר:
H1961	Then came the word	of the LORD	H413	unto Jeremiah	saying
	H1697	H3068		H3414	H559