

Jeremiah 37:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Where are now your prophets which prophesied unto you, saying, The king of Babylon shall not come against you, nor against this land?

Analysis

Where are now your prophets which prophesied unto you—Jeremiah's pointed question exposes the false prophets whose pleasant lies Zedekiah had preferred to Jeremiah's warnings. These prophets had assured the king that **Babylon shall not come against you, nor against this land**, directly contradicting Jeremiah's consistent message that Nebuchadnezzar would conquer Jerusalem unless Judah repented (e.g., 21:3-10, 34:1-5).

The phrase 'where are now' drips with justified vindication. The Egyptian relief force had briefly raised hopes that the false prophets were right, but Jeremiah prophesied that Egypt would retreat and Babylon would return (37:7-10)—which is exactly what happened. The false prophets' silence now testified to their fraud. They had prophesied from their own hearts (23:16-17), telling rulers what they wanted to hear rather than God's word.

This pattern recurs throughout Scripture: false teachers promise prosperity, victory, and God's favor without repentance, while true prophets call for faithfulness regardless of cost. Jeremiah's vindication came not from his eloquence or charisma but from the fulfillment of his prophecies—the test Moses established in Deuteronomy 18:21-22. Jesus warned of false prophets in sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15) and Paul predicted those who would gather teachers to suit their itching ears (2 Timothy 4:3).

Historical Context

The false prophets Jeremiah opposed throughout his ministry included Hananiah (chapter 28), who broke Jeremiah's yoke-bars and prophesied Babylonian dominance would end within two years—he died within that year as judgment. Others included Ahab and Zedekiah in Babylon (29:21-23) and Shemaiah (29:24-32). These men enjoyed royal favor and popular support because they prophesied victory and peace, while Jeremiah was hated for predicting judgment. Zedekiah's tragedy was that he consulted Jeremiah secretly but publicly sided with the false prophets, trying to appease both God and political expediency. By the time of this conversation, Jerusalem was under siege, Egypt had withdrawn, and the false prophets' lies were exposed—yet Zedekiah still lacked courage to fully heed Jeremiah.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How can we discern false teachers who promise what we want to hear versus true teachers who proclaim what we need to hear?
2. What does this verse teach about the importance of fulfilled prophecy as a test of true versus false prophets?
3. Why do political and religious leaders often prefer pleasant lies to uncomfortable truth, and how does this dynamic operate today?

Interlinear Text

וְאַיִן	נְבִיאֶיךָ	אֲשֶׁר	נְבִיא וְ	לְךָ	לְאמֹר
Where are now	your prophets	H834	which prophesied	H0	unto you saying
H346	H5030		H5012		H559
לֹא	יָבֹא	מֶלֶךְ	בְּבֶל	עָלֶיךָ	וְעַל
H3808	shall not come	The king	of Babylon	H5921	H5921
	H935	H4428	H894		
	בְּךָ	וְעַל	הָאָרֶץ	הַזֹּאת:	
	against you nor	against this land		H2063	
	H776				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 2:28 (Parallel theme): But where are thy gods that thou hast made thee? let them arise, if they can save thee in the time of thy trouble: for according to the number of thy cities are thy gods, O Judah.

Jeremiah 8:11 (Parallel theme): For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

Jeremiah 23:17 (Parallel theme): They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.

Jeremiah 29:31 (Parallel theme): Send to all them of the captivity, saying, Thus saith the LORD concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite; Because that Shemaiah hath prophesied unto you, and I sent him not, and he caused you to trust in a lie:

Jeremiah 6:14 (Parallel theme): They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

2 Kings 3:13 (Kingdom): And Elisha said unto the king of Israel, What have I to do with thee? get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother. And the king of Israel said unto him, Nay: for the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab.

