

Jeremiah 37:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Then came the word of the LORD unto the prophet Jeremiah, saying—the prophetic formula introduces direct divine revelation. The Hebrew *dabar-YHWH* (דְּבַר־יְהוָה, word of Yahweh) emphasizes authoritative communication from God Himself. This phrase occurs over 200 times in Jeremiah, establishing that his message is not personal opinion or political commentary but divine revelation.

The timing is significant: God's word came during the crisis when Egypt's approach created false optimism. Jeremiah must speak truth when lies are popular, declare judgment when deliverance seems evident. The phrase *el-Yirmeyahu hanavi* (אֶל־יִרְמְיָהוּ הַנָּבִיא, unto Jeremiah the prophet) confirms his prophetic office and divine commission. Unlike false prophets who spoke from their own imagination (23:16; 27:14-15), Jeremiah received actual revelation from Yahweh.

This verse models the pattern for all biblical proclamation: faithful ministers must speak God's word, not their own wisdom or culturally acceptable messages. Paul charged Timothy to 'preach the word' whether convenient or inconvenient (2 Timothy 4:2). The authority of preaching rests not on human eloquence or popular appeal but on faithful transmission of divine revelation.

Historical Context

Jeremiah's prophetic ministry spanned approximately 40 years (626-586 BC), from Josiah's reign through Jerusalem's destruction. Throughout this period, he faced

fierce opposition from false prophets, political leaders, and even fellow priests. His authority rested solely on divine commission (1:4-10) and his messages' fulfillment. When this word came during Egypt's intervention, many voices declared deliverance; Jeremiah alone would speak Yahweh's contrary truth. His willingness to stand alone against popular opinion, at great personal cost, authenticated his genuine prophetic calling.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the phrase 'word of the LORD' establish the authority and non-negotiable nature of biblical proclamation?
2. What distinguishes receiving God's actual word from speaking our own religious opinions or cultural preferences?
3. In what situations today are Christian ministers tempted to avoid God's word in favor of more acceptable messages?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי	דָּבַר	יְהוָה	אֶל	יִרְמְיָהוּ	הַנָּבִי אֵל
H1961	Then came the word	of the LORD	H413	Jeremiah	unto the prophet
	H1697	H3068		H3414	H5030
לֵאמֹר:					
saying					
H559					