

Jeremiah 42:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now I have this day declared it to you; but ye have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God, nor any thing for the which he hath sent me unto you.

Analysis

And now I have this day declared it to you (וְאָמַד לְכֶם הַיּוֹם)—emphasis on temporal precision: 'this very day' (הַיּוֹם, hayom) eliminates excuse of ignorance. The verb nagad (נָגַד, declare/report) stresses prophetic faithfulness—Jeremiah discharged his duty fully. **But ye have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God** (וְלֹא שָׁמַעְתֶם בְּקוֹל יְהָוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם)—again 'your God,' emphasizing their covenant responsibility.

Nor any thing for the which He hath sent me unto you (וְלֹכֶל אֲשֶׁר שֶׁלַחַנִי אֱלֹהֵיכֶם)—comprehensive disobedience, rejecting not peripheral details but core divine command (stay in the land, vv. 10-12). The phrase 'sent me' (shelachani, שֶׁלַחַנִי) grounds Jeremiah's authority in prophetic commission. Deuteronomy 18:18-19 warned: whoever doesn't listen to God's prophet will be held accountable. They face not mere political miscalculation but covenant rebellion.

Historical Context

The remnant's disobedience fulfilled Jeremiah's earlier prophecy that the people would refuse to listen (7:27, 25:3-7). Their rejection mirrors Israel's consistent pattern—demanding prophetic word, then rejecting it when it contradicts their will (1 Kings 22:8, Isaiah 30:10, Amos 7:10-17). This final rebellion precipitates the community's last judgment: forced exile to Egypt, dying there by sword and famine (44:12-14).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What's the accountability difference between ignorance of God's will and knowing but disobeying?
2. How do we sometimes seek prophetic/pastoral counsel not for guidance but for validation of predetermined decisions?
3. When has God's clear answer to prayer been the opposite of what you hoped —how did you respond?

Interlinear Text

לֹכֶד	וְ	הַיְومָ	אֵל	שְׁמֻנֶת
declared	H0	And now I have this day	H3808	it to you but ye have not obeyed
H5046		H3117		H8085
בְּקוֹל	אֲשֶׁר	וְלֹכֶד	אֱלֹהִיכֶם	
the voice	of the LORD	your God	H3605	H834
H6963	H3068	H430		
שְׁלָמָן	אֲלֵיכֶם:			
nor any thing for the which he hath sent	H413			
H7971				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 2:7 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious.