

Jeremiah 42:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto whom ye sent me to present your supplication before him;

Analysis

Jeremiah begins delivering God's word: 'And said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto whom ye sent me to present your supplication before him.' The prophetic formula 'Thus saith the LORD' establishes divine authority—this isn't Jeremiah's opinion but God's revealed will. The title 'the God of Israel' reminds them of covenant relationship: this is their God speaking, not a foreign deity, making disobedience covenant violation. The phrase 'unto whom ye sent me to present your supplication' recalls their own request (verses 2-3), holding them accountable to their commitment to obey whatever God said. By reminding them that they initiated this consultation, Jeremiah preemptively addresses potential objections: they asked for God's will, now they must accept it. The language 'present your supplication before him' uses formal covenant terminology, emphasizing that God heard their petition and is responding. This verse functions as preamble establishing grounds for what follows: God's command to remain in Judah, His promises of protection, and His warnings against Egypt. The careful setup demonstrates prophetic wisdom: before delivering difficult words, establish divine authority, remind people of their own request, and emphasize covenant relationship as context for obedience.

Historical Context

The phrase 'the God of Israel' carried deep covenant significance, reminding the remnant of their identity as God's chosen people with whom He had established

binding relationship at Sinai, renewed under Joshua, and reaffirmed throughout their history. This title distinguished Yahweh from surrounding nations' deities and emphasized His particular commitment to Israel despite their rebellion and current suffering. That God heard their 'supplication' demonstrated His continued engagement with His covenant people even in their desperate circumstances—He hadn't abandoned them despite Jerusalem's destruction and the exile's horrors. The formal language 'unto whom ye sent me' established chain of accountability: they requested divine guidance, Jeremiah faithfully sought it, God responded, now they must honor their oath to obey (verse 5-6). Ancient Near Eastern treaty and covenant language regularly included such preambles identifying the sovereign speaking, recalling shared history, and establishing authority basis for commands that followed. This prophetic introduction thus fit both theological and cultural patterns for authoritative proclamation, making rejection of what followed inexcusable rebellion rather than mere disagreement.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the title 'the God of Israel' simultaneously emphasize both divine authority and covenant relationship as basis for obedience?
2. What does God's response to their supplication teach about His continued engagement with His people even amid judgment and catastrophe?
3. Why is it significant that Jeremiah reminds them they initiated this consultation before delivering God's answer?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר יֹשַׁבְאַלְיָהּ מִאֶתְרָא
And said H413 H3541 And said the LORD the God of Israel H834
H559 H559 H3068 H430 H3478
לְפָנָיו תְּחִנְתֶּךָ מִשְׁלַחְתְּךָ מִאֵלֶיךָ אֶלְيָהּ
unto whom ye sent H853 H413 me to present your supplication before H6440
H7971 H5307 H8467 H6440

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 42:2 (References God): And said unto Jeremiah the prophet, Let, we beseech thee, our supplication be accepted before thee, and pray for us unto the LORD thy God, even for all this remnant; (for we are left but a few of many, as thine eyes do behold us:)

2 Kings 19:4 (References God): It may be the LORD thy God will hear all the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God; and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that are left.

2 Kings 19:6 (References Lord): And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say to your master, Thus saith the LORD, Be not afraid of the words which thou hast heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.

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