

Jeremiah 44:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jeremiah said unto all the people, to the men, and to the women, and to all the people which had given him that answer, saying,

Analysis

Then Jeremiah said unto all the people (וַיֹּאמֶר יְרֵמִיָּהוּ אֲלֵיכֶם) —The prophet addresses **the men, and to the women** (אֲלֵהֶם גְּבָרִים וְאֲלֵהֶם נָשִׁים) equally, dismantling their attempt to divide responsibility. **All the people which had given him that answer** (כָּל-הָעָם הַמְשִׁיבִים אֹתוֹ) indicates this defiant response was collective, not individual dissent.

This verse serves as a transition to Jeremiah's devastating rebuttal (vv.21-23). Rather than being silenced by their united opposition, the prophet confronts the entire community. The structure demonstrates God's word doesn't retreat before human consensus—truth remains authoritative regardless of popular rejection. When the multitude agrees in error, the solitary prophet must still declare divine verdict.

Historical Context

This confrontation occurred at a public gathering in Egypt, likely Pathros (v.15), probably around 582-580 BC. Jeremiah, now elderly and nearing the end of his ministry, faces a community that has collectively rejected everything he's preached for 40+ years. Yet he doesn't soften the message to accommodate their hardness.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why must truth-speakers persist in declaring God's word even when facing unanimous opposition?
2. How does addressing both genders equally emphasize universal accountability before God?
3. What gives a prophet courage to stand alone against an entire community's consensus?

Interlinear Text

וְעַל פָּגְבָר יְמֵן עַל פָּעַל מִן לְאָמָר:
said Then Jeremiah H413 H3605 and to all the people H5921 to the men H5921
H559 H3414 H5971 H1397

אֶת וְפָעַל יְמֵן עַל פָּנָשִׁים
and to the women H5921 H3605 and to all the people H6030 H853
H802 H5971

לְאָמָר: רְבָב
which had given him that answer said
H1697 H559

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