

Jeremiah 7:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.

Analysis

God confronts their false confidence directly: 'Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit' (hinnēh 'attem bōṭēhîm lākem 'al-diḇrê haššāqer lēḥiltî hô'îl). The verb bāṭaḥ (trust) indicates misplaced confidence. The 'lying words' (diḇrê haššāqer) are explicitly named as unprofitable (lēḥiltî hô'îl)—they provide no benefit, no protection, no salvation. This demolishes the comforting theology that temple presence guarantees security. The rhetorical question in verse 9 will expose the absurdity: they commit flagrant covenant violations yet expect temple worship to save them. This pattern appears throughout Scripture: people want God's blessings while rejecting His authority, religious benefits without moral transformation, divine protection while pursuing sin. Jesus condemned similar hypocrisy in the Pharisees (Matthew 23), and Paul warns against form of godliness without power (2 Timothy 3:5). Genuine security requires truth, not comfortable lies; authentic faith, not religious pretense.

Historical Context

The specific 'lying words' included false prophets' messages promising peace and security (Jeremiah 6:14, 8:11, 14:13, 23:17, 28:2-4) despite impending judgment. These prophets told people what they wanted to hear, contradicting God's true messengers. The theology that temple presence guaranteed protection despite disobedience was demonstrably false—God had allowed His ark to be captured in Eli's day (1 Samuel 4), and Shiloh (where the tabernacle once stood) lay in ruins as a warning (Jeremiah 7:12-14). Yet people preferred comfortable deception to convicting truth. Within two decades, Babylon destroyed the temple, proving these

'lying words' worthless. Church history shows this pattern repeating: when religious institutions or traditions replace genuine faith and obedience, judgment comes. Jesus warned the temple would be destroyed (Matthew 24:2), which occurred in AD 70, again proving that buildings and institutions don't save.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What 'lying words' in contemporary Christianity promise blessings and security while minimizing holiness and obedience requirements?
2. How do you discern between biblical truth that may be uncomfortable and popular religious messages that 'cannot profit' but sound appealing?

Interlinear Text

הֵי הַ	אֲתֶם	בְּטֹחַ יָם	לְךָ מִ	עַל	דְּבַר י	הַשָּׁ קָר	לְבַלְתָּ י
H2009	H859	Behold ye trust	H0	H5921	words	in lying	H1115
		H982			H1697	H8267	

הוֹעִיל:
that cannot profit
H3276

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 28:15 (Parallel theme): Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:

