

Jeremiah 8:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

We looked for peace, but no good came; and for a time of health, and behold trouble!

Analysis

This verse captures disappointed hope: 'We looked for peace, but no good came.' The Hebrew qivvinu leshalom (קִוָׁנוּ לְשָׁלוֹם) indicates confident expectation of the false prophets' 'shalom' message (v. 11). 'And for a time of health, and behold trouble!' uses the contrast between marpeh (מְרֻפָּא, healing) and be'atah (בְּעִתָּה, terror, calamity). The false prophets had promised healing; reality delivered terror. This verse exposes false hope's bitter fruit—those who believed lying prophets discovered too late that their confidence was misplaced. The contrast between expected shalom and experienced be'atah represents total reversal of hope.

Historical Context

This lament would characterize Jerusalem's inhabitants during the sieges of 597 and 586 BC. Having been promised by court prophets that God would defend His city and temple, they watched Babylonian armies surround their walls. Lachish Letter IV mentions 'watching for the signals from Lachish'—desperate military communications during Nebuchadnezzar's campaign. The psychological devastation of realized judgment exceeded physical suffering.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does false hope based on false teaching compound suffering when reality arrives?
2. What distinguishes genuine biblical hope from wishful thinking based on what we want God to do?

Interlinear Text

וְلִקְוָה	לִשְׁלָל	וּמָ	וְבָרֵא	וְאֵין	וְבָרֵט	תָּעַתְּלֵעַ	הַמְּרַפֵּה
We looked	for peace	H369	but no good	came and for a time			of health
H6960	H7965		H2896		H6256		H4832
וְהִנֵּה	בְּעִתָּה						
H2009	and behold trouble	H1205					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 14:19 (Peace): Hast thou utterly rejected Judah? hath thy soul loathed Zion? why hast thou smitten us, and there is no healing for us? we looked for peace, and there is no good; and for the time of healing, and behold trouble!

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