

Instead of this, they had promised a happy future, in lying oracles—

6 They have seen a mock vision¹ and spoken false predictions, when they said, "Jehovah saith," without His having sent them, and that they might hope to fulfil their words. 7 Is it not true that you have pretended to see a mock vision, and spoken false divinations, saying, "Jehovah speaks," when I, Jehovah, have not spoken?

8 Therefore, thus says the Lord Jehovah; Because ye have spoken falsehood, and pretended to see lies; behold I am against you, says the Lord Jehovah. 9 And My hand will come on the prophets who see falsehood and divine lies. They shall not be the counsellors of My people, nor shall they be inscribed in the Book of the House of Israel, nor come into the land of Israel at the Return—that ye may know that I am the Lord Jehovah—10 because they have led astray My people, saying "All is well," though all is not well. For if my people build a wall,² behold, these prophets smooth it off with plaster; if they have delusions, these men confirm them in them. 11 Say to these plasterers up of lies, that these lies will fall. For a deluge of rain is coming; and ye hailstones, fall ye; thou hurricane, break loose! 12 And, lo, when your wall has fallen, will they not say to you, "Where is that which you plastered over?" 13 Therefore, thus says the Lord Jehovah, I will let loose a hurricane wind in My fury, and a rain, sweeping all before it, will come in My anger, and hailstones in My destroying wrath! 14 And I will cast down the wall that you have plastered up, and throw it to the earth, laying bare its very foundation, and it will fall, and you will perish under it, and you will know that I am Jehovah!³ 15 I will let loose my fury on the wall and on them that plastered it over,⁴ and it will be said of

¹ Ezek. xiii. 6-16.

² That is, dream of safety and protection as the result of plots, alliances, and the like. The expression is like our "castles in the air."

³ The wall is Jerusalem itself; the plaster is the illusory promising of the false prophets which faced the badly built wall, and seemed to give strength; the bad building is the moral corruption of the city.

⁴ With "white plaster"—lime.