

# Jeremiah 11:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble.

## Analysis

This verse prohibits intercession: 'Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble.' Jeremiah is forbidden to intercede—an unprecedented restriction for a prophet whose role included intercession (1 Samuel 12:23, Amos 7:1-6). 'Lift up cry or prayer' (rinnah utephillah) describes urgent supplication. The double prohibition emphasizes finality. God's refusal to hear their cry repeats verse 11. The time for intercession has passed; judgment is determined. This reveals limits to prophetic intercession when persistent rebellion exhausts divine patience.

## Historical Context

This command appears three times in Jeremiah (7:16, 11:14, 14:11), each intensifying the prohibition. Moses successfully interceded after the golden calf (Exodus 32:11-14) and at Kadesh (Numbers 14:13-20). Samuel interceded regularly. But by Jeremiah's time, centuries of prophetic warning rejected, even Moses and Samuel couldn't change the outcome (Jeremiah 15:1). The prohibition distressed Jeremiah, who genuinely loved his people.

## Related Passages

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What circumstances might make intercession futile, and how do we know when that point is reached?
2. How does this prohibition affect our understanding of intercessory prayer's effectiveness?

## Interlinear Text

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אֲלֵיכֶם בַּעַד תִּתְפַּלֵּל אֲלֵיכֶם הַעֲמִיד

H859 H408 Therefore pray H1157 not thou for this people H2088 H408

H6419 H5971

אִתְּנֵנִי כִּי וְתִתְפַּלֵּל הָעָם בַּעַד מִתְּשַׁאֲלָה

neither lift up H1157 a cry or prayer H3588 H369

H5375 H7440 H8605

בַּעַד אֲלֵיכֶם שְׁמַע

for them for I will not hear them in the time that they cry H413 H1157

H8085 H6256 H7121

בְּעִתָּם:

unto me for their trouble

H7451

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 7:16** (Prayer): Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

**Jeremiah 11:11** (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them.

**1 John 5:16** (Prayer): If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

**Jeremiah 14:11** (Prayer): Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for their good.

**Exodus 32:10** (Parallel theme): Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

**Psalms 66:18** (Parallel theme): If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

**Jeremiah 15:1** (Parallel theme): Then said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth.

**Hosea 5:6** (Parallel theme): They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD; but they shall not find him; he hath withdrawn himself from them.