

# Jeremiah 11:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the LORD of the men of Anathoth, that seek thy life, saying, Prophesy not in the name of the LORD, that thou die not by our hand:

## Analysis

This verse names the conspirators: 'Therefore thus saith the LORD of the men of Anathoth, that seek thy life.' Jeremiah's own townspeople seek to kill him. 'Saying, Prophesy not in the name of the LORD, that thou die not by our hand.' They demand prophetic silence or death. The opposition isn't to Jeremiah personally but to his message—'in the name of the LORD' (beshem YHWH). Silencing the prophet means silencing God's word. This anticipates persecution of prophets throughout history—the message provokes the violence, not the messenger.

## Historical Context

Anathoth was a Levitical city (Joshua 21:18), making this priestly opposition to prophecy. Jeremiah's family may have descended from Abiathar, the priest Solomon banished to Anathoth (1 Kings 2:26-27). Perhaps they resented prophecies threatening their religious establishment. The phrase 'seek thy life' (mevaqshim eth-nafsheka) appears repeatedly in Jeremiah's confessions.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. Why would Jeremiah's own hometown and possibly family seek to kill him?
2. What does the demand to 'stop prophesying or die' reveal about the threat true prophecy poses to false religion?

## Interlinear Text

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עֲתָה וְתִּשְׁאַל אֶת־יְהוָה רְאֵמָרְתָּ לְךָ |  
H3651 H3541 Therefore thus saith of the LORD H5921 H376 of Anathoth H6068

לֹא־מֵת יְהוָה הַמְּבֹאשׁ יְמִינְךָ אֶת־נֶפֶשׁךָ |  
H559 H3808 Prophesy H5012

לֹא־מֵת יְהוָה אֶל־אֶת־נֶפֶשׁךָ תִּמְתַּחֲלֵת בְּשָׁמֶן |  
H3808 H4191 H3027

תִּמְתַּחֲלֵת בְּשָׁמֶן אֶל־אֶת־נֶפֶשׁךָ תִּמְתַּחֲלֵת בְּשָׁמֶן |  
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## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 30:10** (Prophecy): Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:

**Jeremiah 20:10** (Parallel theme): For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, say they, and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, saying, Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him.

**Amos 2:12** (Prophecy): But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophesy not.