

# Jeremiah 11:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel;  
Cursed be the man that obeyeth not the words of this  
covenant,

## Analysis

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This verse pronounces covenant curse: 'And say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel; Cursed be the man that obeyeth not the words of this covenant.' The Hebrew *arur* (אָרַר, cursed) is the covenant curse formula from Deuteronomy 27-28. 'Obeyeth not' (*lo yishma*, literally 'does not hear/obey') uses *shama* in its full sense of obedient response. 'Words of this covenant' directly echoes Deuteronomic language. The curse pronouncement makes clear that covenant violation carries consequences—not arbitrary punishment but agreed-upon terms activated by breach. Israel entered this covenant knowing the curses for disobedience.

## Historical Context

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The curse formula '*arur*' (cursed) appears twelve times in Deuteronomy 27:15-26, pronounced from Mount Ebal at covenant ratification. The curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 elaborate consequences for disobedience. This isn't new information—Jeremiah reminds Israel of what they already agreed to. The approaching Babylonian judgment represents these curses taking effect after centuries of violation.

