

Jeremiah 19:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then came Jeremiah from Tophet, whither the LORD had sent him to prophesy; and he stood in the court of the LORD'S house; and said to all the people,

Analysis

After delivering the prophecy at Tophet, Jeremiah returns to the temple: "Then came Jeremiah from Tophet, whither the LORD had sent him to prophesy; and he stood in the court of the LORD'S house; and said to all the people." The prophet moves from the site of abomination (Tophet) to the site of true worship (temple court), demonstrating contrast between false and true religion. His obedience to divine commissioning appears in "whither the LORD had sent him to prophesy"—Jeremiah acts under divine authority, not personal initiative.

Standing "in the court of the LORD'S house" positions Jeremiah where maximum audience could hear. The temple courts accommodated large crowds, especially during festivals. "Said to all the people" emphasizes comprehensive witness—everyone has opportunity to hear God's word. This public proclamation in the religious center ensures the message reaches both religious and political leaders, as well as common people.

This action demonstrates prophetic courage. After delivering a message of total judgment, Jeremiah doesn't flee but returns to the religious establishment to repeat and apply the prophecy. This will provoke his arrest (Jer 20:1-2), yet he remains faithful to his commission. The principle: God's servants must proclaim His word regardless of consequences, trusting Him for protection and vindication. Christ modeled this, teaching in the temple despite opposition that would lead to His crucifixion (Matt 21:23, 26:55).

Historical Context

The temple courts included several sections where crowds gathered—the Court of the Gentiles, Court of Women, Court of Israel. These open areas allowed large assemblies for teaching, prayer, and sacrifice. Prophets regularly delivered oracles in temple courts (Jer 7:2, 26:2), making their messages official and unavoidable. The priesthood controlled temple access, so preaching there required either priestly permission or divine boldness overriding human authority—Jeremiah demonstrated the latter.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Jeremiah's courage in proclaiming judgment at the religious center challenge your willingness to speak uncomfortable truth?
2. What does it mean to act under divine authority rather than personal preference when delivering God's word?
3. How do you balance wisdom in choosing when to speak with faithfulness in not remaining silent when God commands?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּבֹא א	יֵרֵמְיָהּ הוּ	מִתּוֹפֶת	אֲשֶׁר	שָׁלַח ו	יְהוָה	שָׁם
Then came	Jeremiah	from Tophet	H834	had sent	of the LORD'S	H8033
H935	H3414	H8612		H7971	H3068	
לְהִנָּבֵא	וַיַּעֲמֵד	בְּחֹצֵר	בֵּית	יְהוָה	וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵל
him to prophesy	and he stood	in the court	house	of the LORD'S	and said	H413
H5012	H5975	H2691	H1004	H3068	H559	
כָּל	הָעָם:					
H3605	to all the people					
	H5971					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 26:2 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word:

2 Chronicles 20:5 (References Lord): And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,