

Jeremiah 20

Chapter 20 of 52 · 18 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Jeremiah and Pashhur

- ¹ Now Pashur the son of Immer the priest, who was also chief governor in the house of the LORD, heard that Jeremiah prophesied these things.
 - ² Then Pashur smote Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the high gate of Benjamin, which was by the house of the LORD.
 - ³ And it came to pass on the morrow, that Pashur brought forth Jeremiah out of the stocks. Then said Jeremiah unto him, The LORD hath not called thy name Pashur, but Magor-missabib.
 - ⁴ For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will make thee a terror to thyself, and to all thy friends: and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies, and thine eyes shall behold it: and I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall carry them captive into Babylon, and shall slay them with the sword.
 - ⁵ Moreover I will deliver all the strength of this city, and all the labours thereof, and all the precious things thereof, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah will I give into the hand of their enemies, which shall spoil them, and take them, and carry them to Babylon.
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- ⁶ And thou, Pashur, and all that dwell in thine house shall go into captivity: and thou shalt come to Babylon, and there thou shalt die, and shalt be buried there, thou, and all thy friends, to whom thou hast prophesied lies.

Jeremiah's Complaint

- ⁷ O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.
- ⁸ For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily.
- ⁹ Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.
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- ¹⁰ 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.
- ¹¹ But the LORD is with me as a mighty terrible one: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten.
- ¹² But, O LORD of hosts, that triest the righteous, and seest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I opened my cause.
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- ¹³ Sing unto the LORD, praise ye the LORD: for he hath delivered the soul of the poor from the hand of evildoers.
- ¹⁴ Cursed be the day wherein I was born: let not the day wherein my mother bare me be blessed.
- ¹⁵ Cursed be the man who brought tidings to my father, saying, A man child is born unto thee; making him very glad.
- ¹⁶ And let that man be as the cities which the LORD overthrew, and repented not: and let him hear the cry in the morning, and the shouting at noontide;

17 Because he slew me not from the womb; or that my mother might have been my grave, and her womb to be always great with me.

18 Wherefore came I forth out of the womb to see labour and sorrow, that my days should be consumed with shame?

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Lord — אֲדֹנָי / יְהוָה (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Love — אֶהְבָּה / אָהַבָה (Ahavah / Chesed)

Love / Loyal-love

Hebrew uses **ahavah** (אֶהְבָּה) for love generally, but the covenant term **chesed** (אָהַבָה) describes God's steadfast, loyal love—faithful covenant commitment beyond mere emotion.

Priest — כֹּהֵן (Kohen)

Priest

The Hebrew **kohen** (כֹּהֵן) denotes a priest—one who mediates between God and people through sacrifices and intercession. Aaron and his descendants served as Israel's priests, foreshadowing Christ the Great High Priest.

Prophet — נָבִיא (Navi)

Prophet, spokesman

The Hebrew **navi** (נָבִיא) means prophet—one who speaks God's word to the people. Prophets received divine revelation and declared God's message, often calling Israel to repentance and foretelling future events.

Repent — שׁוּב / נָחַם (Shuv / Nacham)

To turn back, relent

The Hebrew **shuv** (שׁוּב) means to turn or return—a physical turning that represents spiritual redirection back to God. **Nacham** (נָחַם) conveys grief or relenting, often used of God 'repenting' of judgment.

Righteous — צַדִּיק (Tzaddik)

Righteous one

The Hebrew **tzaddik** (צַדִּיק) describes one who is righteous, just, or lawful—conforming to God's standard. From the root tzedek (צֶדֶק), meaning righteousness or justice.

Word — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

CROSS REFERENCES

Jeremiah 20:1 **Parallel theme:** 2 Kings 25:18; 1 Chronicles 24:14

Jeremiah 20:2

Prophecy: Jeremiah 29:26; 36:26; 37:13. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 1:19; 2 Chronicles 24:21.
Parallel theme: 1 Kings 22:27; 2 Chronicles 16:10; Zechariah 14:10

Jeremiah 20:3 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 6:25; 20:10; Psalms 31:13. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 46:5; Isaiah 8:3; Lamentations 2:22

Jeremiah 20:4 **Kingdom:** Jeremiah 25:9; 29:21

Jeremiah 20:5 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 15:13; 17:3; Lamentations 1:10; Ezekiel 22:25.
Kingdom: 2 Chronicles 36:10

Jeremiah 20:6 **Parallel theme:** Lamentations 2:14; Ezekiel 22:28. **References Babylon:** Jeremiah 20:4

Jeremiah 20:7 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 20:9; Lamentations 3:14; Hosea 9:7. **References Lord:** Ezekiel 3:14

Jeremiah 20:8 **Word:** Jeremiah 6:10; 2 Chronicles 36:16

Jeremiah 20:9 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 6:11; Psalms 39:3; Ezekiel 3:14; Luke 9:62; Acts 4:20; 17:16

Jeremiah 20:10 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 6:25; 18:18; Job 19:19; Psalms 31:13; 41:9; Proverbs 10:18; Isaiah 29:21; Ezekiel 22:9; Luke 20:20; Acts 24:13

Jeremiah 20:11 **References Lord:** Jeremiah 1:8; 1:19; 15:20. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 17:18; Psalms 6:10; 35:26; 40:14; Isaiah 41:10; 45:16. **Eternal Life:** Jeremiah 23:40

Jeremiah 20:12 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 17:3; 54:7; 59:10; 62:8; 139:23. **Righteousness:** Jeremiah 11:20; Psalms 7:9; 11:5. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 17:10; Isaiah 37:14

Jeremiah 20:13 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 72:4; Isaiah 25:4. **References Lord:** Psalms 34:6; 69:33

Jeremiah 20:14 **Curse:** Jeremiah 15:10

Jeremiah 20:16 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 18:22. **References Lord:** Deuteronomy 29:23

Jeremiah 20:17 **Parallel theme:** Job 3:16; Ecclesiastes 6:3

Jeremiah 20:18 **Parallel theme:** Job 3:20; 14:1; Psalms 69:19; Lamentations 3:1

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