

Jeremiah 25:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The which Jeremiah the prophet spake unto all the people of Judah, and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying,

Analysis

The which Jeremiah the prophet spake unto all the people of Judah, and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem—This comprehensive audience indicates the universal scope of God's message. The Hebrew *nāḇî* (נָבִיא, prophet) identifies Jeremiah as God's authorized spokesman, one who speaks not his own thoughts but divine revelation. The inclusion of both 'people of Judah' and 'inhabitants of Jerusalem' emphasizes that rural and urban populations alike stood under this word of judgment.

Jeremiah's public proclamation of this message required immense courage. He was declaring imminent destruction to a nation that wanted to hear promises of peace (6:14, 8:11). False prophets were proclaiming prosperity while Jeremiah announced catastrophe. This pattern—God's messenger standing alone against popular religious sentiment—appears throughout Scripture. Micaiah versus the 400 false prophets (1 Kings 22), Jesus versus the religious establishment, Paul versus the Judaizers. Truth is not determined by majority opinion but by conformity to God's revealed word.

Historical Context

Jerusalem in 605 BC was still intact, the temple functioning, sacrifices being offered. To the casual observer, covenant life appeared normal. Yet spiritual reality contradicted external appearances—the people had abandoned Yahweh for idols while maintaining religious rituals. Jeremiah's public proclamation of this message

likely occurred in the temple courts, where he frequently preached (7:2, 19:14, 26:2). His message was considered treasonous by many, as it predicted Judah's defeat.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What gives a prophet or preacher the authority to proclaim an unpopular message, and how can we discern true from false authority?
2. How can religious activity and external observance coexist with spiritual apostasy, and what does this reveal about the nature of genuine faith?
3. In what ways might we be tempted to prefer comforting messages over the challenging truth of God's word?

Interlinear Text

אֶשׂר	דָּבַר	יְרֵמְיָהוּ	הַנָּבִיא	עַל	כָּל	עַם
H834	spake	The which Jeremiah	the prophet	H5921	H3605	unto all the people
	H1696	H3414	H5030			H5971
יְהוּדָה	וְאֶל	כָּל	יֹשְׁבֵי	יְרוּשָׁלַם	לֵאמֹר:	
of Judah	H413	H3605	and to all the inhabitants	of Jerusalem	saying	
H3063			H3427	H3389	H559	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 18:11 (References Jerusalem): Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.

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