

Jeremiah 26:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then spake Jeremiah unto all the princes and to all the people, saying, The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that ye have heard.

Analysis

Then spake Jeremiah unto all the princes and to all the people, saying, The LORD sent me—Jeremiah's defense rests entirely on divine commission. The Hebrew **שֶׁלְחָנִי יְהִי** (shelachani YHWH, 'the LORD sent me') echoes the prophetic call formula throughout Scripture (Exodus 3:12-15, Isaiah 6:8, Ezekiel 2:3). This claim is either true—making opposition to Jeremiah rebellion against God—or false—making Jeremiah worthy of death as a false prophet. There is no middle ground. The stakes are ultimate: either Jeremiah speaks God's word requiring obedience, or he blasphemously invokes God's name requiring execution.

To prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that ye have heard—Jeremiah doesn't retreat or soften his message under threat. He reaffirms that every word came from God, including the unbearable prophecy of temple and city destruction. The phrase 'all the words' (כל-הדברים, kol-hadevarim) emphasizes completeness—not selective prophecy tailored to audience preference, but full declaration of God's counsel. This models apostolic boldness: 'We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard' (Acts 4:20).

Historical Context

Jeremiah's claim to divine commission was verifiable through fulfillment—his prophecies came true with devastating accuracy. Within 20 years, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem exactly as prophesied (586 BC). Yet immediate verification

wasn't available during his trial. The test was conformity to God's revealed character and covenant: Did Jeremiah's message align with God's established word? It did—the covenant curses for disobedience (Deuteronomy 28:15-68) explicitly threatened exile and destruction. Jeremiah didn't contradict God's word; he applied it to Judah's covenant-breaking.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jeremiah's unwavering claim to divine commission—risking death rather than softening his message—challenge modern pressures to make biblical truth more palatable?
2. What does Jeremiah's refusal to retreat from hard truth teach about the nature of faithful prophetic ministry?
3. How can we discern between legitimate prophetic boldness and presumptuous claims to speak for God?

Interlinear Text

לְאָמֵן רֹאשׁוֹ כָּל אֲלֵיכֶם כָּל הַשָּׂרִיר מִן כָּל אֲלֵיכֶם
Then spake Jeremiah unto all the princes
H559 H413 H3605 H8269 H413 H3605

לְאָמֵן רֹאשׁוֹ כָּל הַבָּשָׂר מִן יְהוָה שְׁלָמָן בְּנֵי שְׁלָמָן אֶל הַנֶּגֶב אֶל
and to all the people Then spake The LORD sent me to prophecy
H5971 H559 H3068 H7971 H5012 H413

בַּבְּיַת כָּל בָּהָר אֶל בָּהָר בְּעֵיר כָּל אֶת בָּזָר אֶת
against this house and against this city
H1004 H2088 H413 H5892 H2063 H853 H3605

אֲשֶׁר רָאָתֶם שְׁמַעְתֶּם
all the words that ye have heard
H1697 H834 H8085

Additional Cross-References

Acts 4:19 (Parallel theme): But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

Acts 5:29 (Parallel theme): Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Jeremiah 26:15 (Word): But know ye for certain, that if ye put me to death, ye shall surely bring innocent blood upon yourselves, and upon this city, and upon the inhabitants thereof: for of a truth the LORD hath sent me unto you to speak all these words in your ears.

Jeremiah 26:2 (Word): 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: