

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 שְׁלַחַנִי יְהוָה (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' (כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים, 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

לָאמַר רַ	יֵרֵמְיָהּ הוּא	אֵל	כָּל	הַשָּׂרִים	וְאֵל	כָּל
Then spake	Jeremiah	H413	H3605	unto all the princes	H413	H3605
H559	H3414			H8269		
וְכָל	יֵרֵמְיָהּ	יְהוָה	שָׁלַח נִי	לְהִנָּבֵא	אֵלַי	
and to all the people	Then spake	The LORD	sent	me to prophesy		H413
H5971	H559	H3068	H7971	H5012		
בַּיָּת	הַזֶּה	וְאֵל	הָעִיר	וְכָל	אֵת	כָּל
against this house	H2088	H413	and against this city	H2063	H853	H3605
H1004			H5892			
כָּל	הַדְּבָרִים	אֲשֶׁר	שָׁמַעְתֶּם:			
all the words	H834		that ye have heard			
H1697			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: