

Jeremiah 26:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there was also a man that prophesied in the name of the LORD, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjath-jearim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah:

Analysis

And there was also a man that prophesied in the name of the LORD, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjath-jearim (אורִיָּהוּ בֶן־שִׁמְעִיָּהוּ מִקִּרְיַת הַיַּעֲרִים, uriyyahu ven-sh'ma'yahu miqqiryat hay'arim)—Urijah (meaning 'Yahweh is my light') prophesied messages identical to Jeremiah's: **who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah**. The phrase כָּל־דִּבְרֵי יִרְמְיָהוּ (k'khol divrei yirm'yahu, 'according to all Jeremiah's words') confirms theological alignment.

This proves Jeremiah wasn't alone—God raised multiple witnesses to the same truth. Urijah's fate (next verses) demonstrates the deadly cost of authentic prophecy under Jehoiakim's reign. While we remember Jeremiah, Urijah died for the same message. His inclusion here honors a forgotten martyr and warns that faithfulness doesn't guarantee earthly survival. Some prophets God preserves; others He allows to die bearing witness. Both outcomes glorify God.

Historical Context

Kirjath-jearim was about 8 miles northwest of Jerusalem, where the Ark of the Covenant temporarily rested (1 Samuel 7:1-2). Urijah's hometown connects him to Judah's sacred history. He likely prophesied during Jehoiakim's reign (609-598

BC), when Jeremiah first proclaimed temple destruction (chapter 7, 26). Multiple prophets speaking identical truth refutes claims that Jeremiah was isolated extremist.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Who are the forgotten faithful in your tradition who paid costs you've not had to bear?
2. How does knowing others shared Jeremiah's message affect understanding of prophetic ministry?
3. What does faithfulness look like when it doesn't guarantee earthly survival?

Interlinear Text

וְגַם	אִישׁ	הָיָה	וְנָבִיא	בְּשֵׁם	יְהוָה
H1571	And there was also a man	H1961	that prophesied	in the name	of the LORD
	H376		H5012	H8034	H3068
אֲוִיָּהּ הוּא	בֶּן	שְׁמַעְיָהּ הוּא	מִקְרֵי ת	הַעִיר ים	וְנָבִיא
Urijah	the son	of Shemaiah	H0	of Kirjathjearim	that prophesied
H223	H1121	H8098		H7157	H5012
עַל	הָעִיר יר	וְעַל הַזֹּאת	הָאֶרֶץ	הַזֹּאת	כָּכָל ל
H5921	against this city	H2063	H5921	and against this land	H2063
	H5892		H776		H3605
דְּבַר י	יְרֵמְיָהּ:				
according to all the words	of Jeremiah				
H1697	H3414				

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 7:2 (References Lord): And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kirjath-jearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

Joshua 9:17 (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel journeyed, and came unto their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, and Chephirah, and Beeroth, and Kirjath-jearim.

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