

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 (אוֹבָהוּ בֶן־שְׁמַעְיָהוּ מִקְרִית הַיּוֹרָם) 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 דְּבָרָי יְרֵמִיָּהוּ** (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 אָוָשׁ בְּנֵי הָעָם תִּפְרֹחַ אֲבָשׁ בְּשֵׁם הָרֹאשׁ הָרֹאשׁ הָרֹאשׁ
H1571 **And there was also a man** H376 H1961 **that prophesied** H5012 H8034 **in the name** H3068 **of the LORD**

וְאַוְרִיָּה בְּנֵי שְׁמַעְיָה מִקְרָא תְּשִׁמְעֵי הָעָרָם בְּשֵׁם קִרְיָתְיְהוּא תִּפְרֹחַ אֲבָשׁ
H223 **Urijah** H1121 H8098 H0 **of Shemaiah** H7157 H5012 **that prophesied**

עַל עַל בְּעַל יְרֵא בְּעַל בְּזֹאת בְּעַל בְּזֹאת כִּכְלִיל כִּכְלִיל
H5921 **against this city** H5892 H2063 H5921 H776 H2063 H3605 **and against this land**

דָּבָר יְרֵמִיָּה
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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