

# Jeremiah 29:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying, Because thou hast sent letters in thy name unto all the people that are at Jerusalem, and to Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, and to all the priests, saying,

## Analysis

---

**Because thou hast sent letters in thy name** (בְּשִׁמְךָ, b'shimkha)—Shemaiah's sin was self-authorization, sending correspondence under his own authority rather than divine commission. This contrasts sharply with true prophets who speak b'shem Yahweh ('in the name of the LORD'). His letters targeted **Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest**, seeking to manipulate religious leadership to suppress Jeremiah.

The phrase **unto all the people that are at Jerusalem** reveals Shemaiah's ambition—not private correspondence but a public campaign to undermine God's true prophet. False teaching always seeks platforms and influence, wrapping self-will in religious language. Paul would later warn of those who 'suppose that gain is godliness' (1 Timothy 6:5).

## Historical Context

---

Zephaniah served as a temple officer during Zedekiah's reign (circa 594-586 BC), positioned to enforce religious order. Shemaiah's letter campaign exploited official channels, attempting to use institutional authority against prophetic truth—a pattern recurring throughout Scripture (Amos 7:10-13, Acts 4:1-3).

## Related Passages

---

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

---

1. How do you distinguish between speaking with God-given authority versus claiming authority that God has not granted?
2. When has institutional religious authority been used to silence rather than amplify God's truth?
3. What warning does Shemaiah's public letter campaign offer about using communication platforms to spread false teaching?

## Interlinear Text

---

לֹאמֶר: יְשָׁרָאֵל אֱלֹהִים אֶצְבָּא וְתִּהְעַזְּבָנָה לֹאמֶר:  
H3541 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts the God of Israel Thus speaketh  
H559 H3068 H6635 H430 H3478 H559

אֶל סְפָר יִם בְּשִׁיחָק הַשְׁלָחַת אַתָּה אַשְׁר יְעַן  
H3282 H834 H859 Because thou hast sent in thy name letters  
H7971 H8034 H5612 H413

אֶפְנִי הַיְלָד בֵּית יְהוָה בְּיְרוּשָׁלָם אֲלֵיכֶם כָּל  
H3605 unto all the people H834 that are at Jerusalem H413 and to Zephaniah  
H5971 H3389 H6846

הַכְּבָנִים כָּל וְאֶל הַכְּבָנִים כָּל וְאֶל הַכְּבָנִים  
the son of Maaseiah and to all the priests H413 H3605 and to all the priests  
H1121 H4641 H3548 H3548

לֹאמֶר:  
Thus speaketh  
H559

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Jeremiah 37:3** (References God): And Zedekiah the king sent Jehucal the son of Shelemiah and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest to the prophet Jeremiah, saying, Pray now unto the LORD our God for us.

**Jeremiah 29:29** (Parallel theme): And Zephaniah the priest read this letter in the ears of Jeremiah the prophet.

**Jeremiah 52:24** (Parallel theme): And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three keepers of the door:

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)