

# Jeremiah 29:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD hath made thee priest in the stead of Jehoiada the priest, that ye should be officers in the house of the LORD, for every man that is mad, and maketh himself a prophet, that thou shouldest put him in prison, and in the stocks.

## Analysis

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**For every man that is mad, and maketh himself a prophet**—the Hebrew מִשְׁתָּגֵ'א (mishtage'a, 'acting insanely') recalls how David feigned madness (1 Samuel 21:13, same root). Shemaiah cynically equates prophetic inspiration with insanity, demanding Jeremiah be placed **in prison, and in the stocks** (מַחְפֶּקֶת, mahpekhet)—the same instrument used against Jeremiah in 20:2.

**In the stead of Jehoiada the priest** invokes the faithful priest who preserved Joash (2 Kings 11-12), establishing a supposed precedent for priestly authority to suppress dangerous 'prophets.' But Shemaiah distorts history—Jehoiada preserved God's anointed king, while Shemaiah seeks to destroy God's anointed prophet. Faithfulness requires discerning when authority serves God's purposes versus when it serves self-preservation.

## Historical Context

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Jehoiada (835-796 BC) courageously opposed the illegitimate queen Athaliah to restore David's line. Shemaiah's appeal to his example was historically specious—Jehoiada acted with divine warrant, while Shemaiah opposed it. This shows how false teachers manipulate biblical precedent.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How can you tell the difference between prophetic 'madness' that challenges worldly wisdom and actual spiritual deception?
2. When has historical precedent been wrongly invoked to justify silencing uncomfortable truth?
3. What does Shemaiah's attempted use of state power reveal about the alliance between false religion and coercive authority?

## Interlinear Text

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יְהוָה ה	וַנַּתַּתָּ ה	הַכֹּהֵן	בְּחַת	יְהוֹיָדָע	הַכֹּהֵן
<b>The LORD</b>	<b>hath made</b>	<b>the priest</b>	H8478	<b>in the stead of Jehoiada</b>	<b>the priest</b>
H3068	H5414	H3548		H3077	H3548
לְהִיּוֹת	פְּקֻדִים	בֵּית	יְהוָה ה	לְכָל	אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל
H1961	<b>that ye should be officers</b>	<b>in the house</b>	<b>The LORD</b>	H3605	<b>for every man</b>
	H6496	H1004	H3068		H376
מְשֻׁגָּע	וַיַּתְנֵב א	וַנַּתַּתָּ ה	אֶת ו	אֶל	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ כֶּתֶר
<b>that is mad</b>	<b>and maketh himself a prophet</b>	<b>hath made</b>	H853	H413	<b>him in prison</b>
H7696	H5012	H5414			H4115
וְאֵל	הַצִּיּוֹן:				
H413	<b>and in the stocks</b>				
	H6729				

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Kings 9:11** (References Lord): Then Jehu came forth to the servants of his lord: and one said unto him, Is all well? wherefore came this mad fellow to thee? And he said unto them, Ye know the man, and his communication.

**Acts 26:24** (Parallel theme): And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

**John 10:20** (Parallel theme): And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?

**Hosea 9:7** (Prophecy): The days of visitation are come, the days of recompence are come; Israel shall know it: the prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad, for the multitude of thine iniquity, and the great hatred.

**Acts 16:24** (Creation): Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

**Mark 3:21** (Parallel theme): And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.