

# Jeremiah 29:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Send to all them of the captivity, saying, Thus saith the LORD concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite; Because that Shemaiah hath prophesied unto you, and I sent him not, and he caused you to trust in a lie:

## Analysis

---

**Because that Shemaiah hath prophesied unto you, and I sent him not**—the devastating verdict וְאַנְּיִ לֹא שְׁלַחְתִּי (va'ani lo shelachtiv, 'and I did not send him') exposes the core issue. True prophecy requires divine שְׁלִיחָה (shlichut, 'sending/commission'). Without it, religious speech is unauthorized presumption, however sincere or eloquent.

**He caused you to trust in a lie** (רְשֵׁאָה, sheqer)—false prophecy's damage isn't merely incorrect prediction but moral corruption, teaching people to trust falsehood. The causative הִבְטִיחָה (hivtiach, 'caused to trust') emphasizes Shemaiah's active culpability: he didn't merely speak error but built false confidence. This recalls Eden's serpent causing Eve to trust God's word was restrictive rather than protective (Genesis 3:1-5). False teaching always invites trust in something other than God's revealed truth.

## Historical Context

---

Shemaiah's lie was that exile would end quickly, contradicting the '70 years' prophecy. Those who trusted this built their lives on false hope, unprepared for generations of displacement. When Jerusalem fell (586 BC), Shemaiah's followers faced shattered expectations—the inevitable fruit of trusting lies.

## Related Passages

---

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

---

1. How can you test whether teaching comes from divine sending or human presumption—what marks distinguish them?
2. When has trusting a 'lie' about God's promises or timing caused spiritual damage in your life or others'?
3. What responsibility do teachers bear not just for truth-content but for the trust their words create in listeners?

## Interlinear Text

---

אָמֵן	רְכָב	הָאָמֵן	רְכָב	אָמֵן	רְכָב
Send	H5921	H3605	to all them of the captivity	Thus saith	H3541
H7971			H1473	H559	H559
אֲשֶׁר	יְעַנְתָּם	יְשִׁמְעֵנִי	יְשִׁמְעֵנִי	אֲשֶׁר	יְעַנְתָּם
the LORD	H413	Because that Shemaiah	the Nehelamite	H3282	H834
H3068		H8098	H5161		
שְׁלִיחַת	לְאַנְתִּי	שִׁמְעֵנִי	לְאַנְתִּי	שְׁלִיחַת	לְאַנְתִּי
hath prophesied	H0	Because that Shemaiah	H589	H3808	Send
H5012		H8098			H7971
שְׁקָרָה	עַל אַתְּכֶם	יְבַטַּח	עַל אַתְּכֶם	שְׁקָרָה	יְבַטַּח
him not and he caused you to trust	H982	H853	H5921	in a lie	H8267

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Jeremiah 29:9** (References Lord): For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.

---

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