

# Jeremiah 32:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying,  
Wherefore dost thou prophesy, and say, Thus saith the LORD,  
Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of  
Babylon, and he shall take it;

## Analysis

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**Wherefore dost thou prophesy** (מָדוּעַ אַתָּה נִבֵּא, maddua attah nibba)—Zedekiah's question drips with irony. He imprisons Jeremiah for prophesying doom, yet cannot silence him. The confrontation echoes Ahab versus Micaiah (1 Kings 22): rulers reject unwelcome truth.

**Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon**—The prophetic hinneh (behold!) demands attention to the unthinkable: YHWH Himself gives Jerusalem (His own dwelling place!) to pagans. This is covenant lawsuit language (rib): God enforces the Deuteronomic curses (Deuteronomy 28:49-52). Yet Jeremiah's imprisonment for speaking God's word highlights a central biblical tension—God's sovereignty versus human responsibility. Zedekiah cannot change the outcome, yet is culpable for rejecting the prophetic warning.

## Historical Context

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Zedekiah rebelled against Babylon despite Jeremiah's repeated warnings (Jeremiah 27-28), swayed by false prophets promising deliverance. His imprisonment of Jeremiah represents the establishment's attempt to suppress inconvenient truth—a pattern repeated throughout Scripture (Acts 4:1-3, 5:17-18).

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## Study Questions

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1. Why do people often 'shoot the messenger' when confronted with unwelcome truth from God's word?
2. How does Zedekiah's resistance to God's revealed will illustrate the doctrine of human depravity?
3. What modern 'false prophets' promise peace and prosperity while ignoring God's conditions for blessing?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶשׂר H834	כָּלָא ו H3607	צִדְקִי הוּ H6667	מֶלֶךְ H4428	יְהוּדָה H3063	אֲמַר H559	מְדוּעַ H4069
	had shut him up	For Zedekiah	king	of Judah	Thus saith	
אֶתָּה H859	נִבֵּא H5012	אֲמַר H559	כֹּה H3541	אֲמַר H559	יְהוָה H3068	
	Wherefore dost thou prophesy	Thus saith		Thus saith	the LORD	
הִנֵּנִי H2005	נָתַן H5414	אֶת H853	הָעִיר H5892	הַזֹּאת H2063	בְּיָד H3027	מֶלֶךְ H4428
	Behold I will give	this city		into the hand	king	
ל H894	וְלָכְדָּהּ H3920					
of Babylon	and he shall take					

