

# Jeremiah 34:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

## Analysis

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### **Therefore the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,**

The conjunction **Therefore** (vayehi devar-YHWH) connects God's response directly to the covenant violation in verse 11: because they re-enslaved the freed servants, divine judgment follows. The phrase "the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah" (devar-YHWH el-Yirmeyahu) is the standard prophetic formula appearing throughout Jeremiah, emphasizing that what follows is divine revelation, not human opinion. The repetition "from the LORD" underscores source and authority—this message originates entirely from God.

The verse's simplicity is deceptive: it introduces one of Scripture's most devastating judgment oracles (verses 13-22). The redundancy "the word of the LORD... from the LORD" emphasizes certainty and solemnity—Jeremiah speaks with full divine authorization. The formula appears at critical junctures throughout Jeremiah when God pronounces irrevocable judgment or makes covenant declarations. This literary structure signals readers to pay careful attention: authoritative divine decree follows.

Theologically, this verse teaches:

1. God observes human actions and responds with precise justice
2. prophetic ministry involves delivering God's response to current events, not merely abstract doctrine
3. divine patience has limits—covenant violation brings covenant curse
4. Scripture's authority rests on divine origin, not human wisdom.

The Reformed emphasis on sola scriptura finds support in this formula: God's revealed word, not human tradition or reasoning, determines truth and governs response to covenant breaking.

## Historical Context

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This prophetic word came shortly after the covenant violation described in verses 8-11, during the brief respite when Egyptian intervention temporarily lifted Babylon's siege (Jeremiah 37:5-11). The timing is significant: those who reenslaved servants likely felt vindicated—"See, we're safe now, no need for desperate measures." Into this false confidence, God spoke judgment. The historical pattern demonstrates that brief relief from consequences doesn't indicate God's approval but often precedes intensified judgment. The subsequent verses (13-22) pronounce Jerusalem's total destruction, which occurred exactly as prophesied in 586 BCE. This historical fulfillment validates the prophetic formula's claim: when Scripture says "the word of the LORD came," we can trust it with absolute confidence as genuine divine revelation, not human fabrication.

## Related Passages

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

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does the prophetic formula 'the word of the LORD came' challenge modern skepticism about Scripture's divine origin and authority?
2. What does God's immediate response to covenant violation teach about His active involvement in human affairs rather than distant deistic non-intervention?
3. How should awareness that God observes and responds to our actions shape daily ethical decisions and treatment of others?

## Interlinear Text

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מִאֵת יְרָמִיָּהוּ אָל יְהִי הָדָר בְּיַהְוָה

H1961 Therefore the word from the LORD H413 came to Jeremiah H853

H1697 H3068 H3414

לְאֹמֶר: יְהִי הָדָר

from the LORD saying

H3068 H559

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