

Jeremiah 34:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jeremiah the prophet spake all these words unto Zedekiah king of Judah in Jerusalem,

Analysis

Then Jeremiah the prophet spake all these words unto Zedekiah king of Judah in Jerusalem, This verse emphasizes Jeremiah's faithful discharge of his prophetic commission despite the message's difficulty. The phrase "all these words" (kol-hadevarim ha'eleh) stresses comprehensive delivery—Jeremiah didn't soften or abbreviate God's hard message. The designation "Jeremiah the prophet" (Yirmeyahu hanavi) underscores his official status as divine spokesman: this wasn't personal opinion but authoritative prophetic oracle requiring Zedekiah's attention.

Speaking directly "unto Zedekiah king of Judah in Jerusalem" demonstrates prophetic courage: confronting royal power with unwelcome truth risked imprisonment or death (Jeremiah was indeed later imprisoned, 37:15-16). The location "in Jerusalem" highlights the message's urgency—spoken in the besieged capital while Babylonian armies surrounded it, making the prophecy immediately testable. Jeremiah's faithfulness models ministerial integrity: proclaiming God's whole counsel regardless of audience response or personal cost.

Theologically, this verse teaches:

1. Faithful ministry requires delivering God's full message, not selective portions pleasing to hearers
2. prophetic/pastoral authority comes from divine commission, not human credentials
3. speaking truth to power is essential even when dangerous

4. God's messengers are accountable for message delivery, while hearers are accountable for response.

The verse prepares for the historical context in verse 7, setting the scene for this pivotal confrontation.

Historical Context

This encounter occurred during the final Babylonian siege of Jerusalem (588-586 BCE). Jeremiah had consistently proclaimed submission to Babylon as God's will, opposing the court's pro-Egyptian faction who advocated rebellion. His access to Zedekiah is remarkable given his unpopular message—it demonstrates Zedekiah's internal conflict between respect for Jeremiah's proven prophetic accuracy and political pressure from nobles favoring resistance (38:4-5). Historical records show prophets in ancient Near Eastern courts often risked death for unfavorable prophecies, making Jeremiah's boldness extraordinary. The phrase underscores that despite extreme pressure, true prophets must prioritize divine commission over self-preservation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jeremiah's example of speaking 'all these words' challenge modern tendencies to emphasize appealing biblical themes while avoiding difficult ones?
2. What sustains faithfulness when proclaiming unpopular biblical truth risks personal cost or rejection?
3. In what areas might contemporary Christians be tempted to soften God's word to avoid offense, and how should Jeremiah's example inform our response?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה הַמֶּלֶךְ צְדָקִי הַמֶּלֶךְ יְהוָה יְדַבֵּר

spake Then Jeremiah the prophet unto Zedekiah king of Judah

H1696

H3414

הַנֵּבֶת יְאָמַר

אֶל

צְדָקִי הַמֶּלֶךְ

לְבָנָה

יְהוָה

H413

H6667

H4428

H3063

בֵּירֹשֶׁתֶם: פֶּאֲלָה פְּדַבֵּר יְמִינָה כָּל אֶת

H853

H3605

all these words

H1697

לְהַנְּדִיבָה יְמִינָה

in Jerusalem

H3389

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 3:18 (Parallel theme): And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.

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