

# Jeremiah 37:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jeremiah went forth out of Jerusalem to go into the land of Benjamin, to separate himself thence in the midst of the people.

## Analysis

**Then Jeremiah went forth out of Jerusalem to go into the land of Benjamin, to separate himself thence in the midst of the people**—the phrase lahaliq misham (לְהַלְּקֵה מִשָּׁם, to separate himself/divide/receive a portion) has been interpreted various ways: receiving family inheritance, conducting property transactions (related to his field purchase in 32:6-15), or simply withdrawing for personal business. The Hebrew halaq (הַלָּקֵ) can mean divide, share, or receive a portion, often used for inheritance distribution.

The specificity of **the land of Benjamin** indicates Jeremiah's hometown region—Anathoth, a priestly city about three miles northeast of Jerusalem (1:1). The timing during Babylon's withdrawal made travel possible. Jeremiah's action was entirely innocent—handling legitimate family business—yet would be grotesquely misinterpreted as desertion.

This teaches that even innocent actions can be twisted by hostile audiences. Jesus experienced similar false accusations (Matthew 26:59-61; John 10:33). The righteous should act with integrity regardless of how actions might be misconstrued, trusting vindication to God (1 Peter 2:12, 3:16). Jeremiah's clear conscience enabled him to declare 'It is false' when accused (v. 14).

## Historical Context

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Anathoth in Benjamin territory was Jeremiah's family home, assigned to priests descended from Aaron (Joshua 21:18). His relatives there had previously threatened his life for prophesying (11:21-23), making this journey potentially dangerous even apart from the false arrest. The reference to separating himself 'in the midst of the people' may indicate dividing family property or receiving his inheritance portion while travel was possible. Alternatively, it may simply mean he went to be among his kinsmen during the siege's temporary lifting.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How should we respond when innocent actions are maliciously misinterpreted?
2. What does Jeremiah's attempt to handle family business teach about maintaining normal responsibilities despite extraordinary ministry demands?
3. Why is it important to act with integrity even when we know our actions might be misunderstood?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּנִים | אֲכִזָּה | לְלִכְתָּה | מִירְאָשָׁלָה | יְרַמֵּה | וְאֵלָא |  
went forth Then Jeremiah out of Jerusalem into the land of Benjamin  
H3318 H3414 H3389 H1980 H776 H1144

בַּתְּוָרֵךְ | מִשְׁמָךְ | לְפָלָק | בְּעָם |  
to separate H8033 himself thence in the midst of the people  
H2505 H8432 H5971

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 1:1** (Parallel theme): The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin:

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