

# Jeremiah 37:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now Jeremiah came in and went out among the people: for they had not put him into prison.

## Analysis

---

**Now Jeremiah came in and went out among the people**—this phrase marks a brief window of freedom for the prophet. The Hebrew *yatsa* (יָצָא, to go out) and *bo* (בָּא, to come in) indicate normal movement and activity, suggesting Jeremiah exercised public ministry without restriction. **For they had not put him into prison**—the negative statement emphasizes what would soon change dramatically (vv. 15-16). This freedom was temporary and strategic.

The timing is crucial: this occurred during the Babylonian siege's brief interruption when Egyptian forces approached (v. 5). King Zedekiah's regime apparently hoped Jeremiah might revise his prophecies of doom now that circumstances seemed to be improving. They permitted his liberty, perhaps expecting him to declare Egypt's intervention as deliverance. Instead, Jeremiah would prophesy Egypt's retreat and Babylon's inevitable victory (vv. 7-10), making his subsequent imprisonment a certainty. This pattern repeats throughout Scripture: God's faithful prophets speak unwelcome truth regardless of personal cost (1 Kings 22:14; Acts 4:19-20).

## Historical Context

---

This incident occurred in 588/587 BC during the final Babylonian siege of Jerusalem. Jeremiah had already endured persecution—beaten and imprisoned in stocks (20:2), threatened with death (26:8), opposed by false prophets (chapter 28). Yet between imprisonments, he continued public ministry. Zedekiah's vacillating treatment of Jeremiah reflects the king's tragic character: he feared the

prophet's words enough to consult him privately (37:17; 38:14-16) but lacked courage to obey publicly. The brief reprieve when Egypt approached created false hope that God's judgment might be averted without repentance—a hope Jeremiah would shatter.

## Related Passages

---

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

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

---

1. How did Jeremiah use his brief freedom to continue faithful ministry despite knowing it would lead to further persecution?
2. What does Zedekiah's treatment of Jeremiah reveal about fearing God's word while refusing to obey it?
3. When have you experienced a 'window of opportunity' for witness that required courage despite potential consequences?

## Interlinear Text

---

וְיֵרֵמְיָהּ הוּא	בָּא	וַיֵּצֵא	בֵּית וְיָ	הָעָם	וְלֹא
Now Jeremiah	came in	and went out	among	the people	H3808
H3414	H935	H3318	H8432	H5971	
וְלֹא	הָיָה	בְּיָד	אֶת	וְיֵרֵמְיָהּ	הָיָה
for they had not put	H853	him into prison	H3628		
H5414		H1004			

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Jeremiah 37:15** (Parallel theme): Wherefore the princes were wroth with Jeremiah, and smote him, and put him in prison in the house of Jonathan the scribe: for they had made that the prison.

---

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