

# Jeremiah 38:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then came all the princes unto Jeremiah, and asked him: and he told them according to all these words that the king had commanded. So they left off speaking with him; for the matter was not perceived.

## Analysis

**Then came all the princes unto Jeremiah, and asked him**—The suspicious officials interrogated the prophet, exactly as Zedekiah feared. Their questioning confirms the political danger surrounding any counsel of surrender. **And he told them according to all these words that the king had commanded**—Jeremiah repeated the cover story verbatim. The phrase according to all these words (כְּכָל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה) emphasizes exact compliance with Zedekiah's instructions.

**So they left off speaking with him; for the matter was not perceived**—The deception succeeded. The verb shama (שָׁמַע, "to hear/perceive") appears in the Niphal (passive) stem: the truth was not heard/discovered. Yet this "success" only postponed disaster. Zedekiah's successful concealment of God's ultimatum meant he never had to publicly reject it—he simply ignored it privately, leading to Jerusalem's destruction exactly as prophesied.

## Historical Context

This interrogation likely occurred shortly after the private meeting, while Jeremiah was still confined to the court of the guard (38:28). The princes' acceptance of the cover story bought temporary peace but changed nothing substantively—Zedekiah

had already decided against surrender, and these officials supported that decision. Within months, Babylon would breach Jerusalem's walls (39:1-3).

## Related Passages

## Romans 2:1 — Judging others

## Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

## Study Questions

1. What does the princes' acceptance of the cover story reveal about how close Judah came to the truth that might have saved them?
2. How does successful deception sometimes enable continued disobedience by removing pressure to make hard choices?
3. What might have happened if Zedekiah had instead publicly declared God's message through Jeremiah, risking his officials' anger?

## Interlinear Text

וַיָּבֹאוּ Then came H935	כָּל H3605	הַשָּׂרִים all the princes H8269	אֶל H413	יֵרֵמְיָהוּ unto Jeremiah H3414	וַיִּשְׁאַל ו and asked H7592	אֶת H853
וַיֹּאמֶר him and he told H5046	לָהֶם H1992	כָּכָל H3605	הַדְּבָרִים them according to all these words H1697			הָאֵלֵּה H428
אָמַר H834	צִוָּה had commanded H6680	הַמֶּלֶךְ that the king H4428	וַיִּסָּרוּ לֵשׁ So they left off speaking H2790			כִּי H3588
לֹא H3808	נִשְׁמָע was not perceived H8085	הַדְּבָרִים them according to all these words H1697				

