

# Jeremiah 51:61

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, and shalt see, and shalt read all these words;

## Analysis

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**And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, and shalt see, and shalt read all these words** וַיֹּאמֶר יְ�רֵמֵיהוּ אֶל־שְׁרַיָּה בְּאֶבֶן בָּבֶל וְרָא־תְּמִימָה וְקַרְאָת אֶת כָּל־) vayyomer Yirmeyahu el-S'rayah k'vo'akha Vavel v'ra'ita v'qarata et kol-had'varim ha'elleh)—Three imperatives: arrive, see, read. Seraiah must publicly proclaim these judgments in Babylon. This was enormously dangerous—denouncing an empire at its capital while part of a vassal king's entourage.

The requirement to 'see' suggests Seraiah should observe Babylon's grandeur before pronouncing its doom—heightening the prophetic audacity. Babylon at its zenith, seemingly invincible, is declared doomed by a foreign prophet's scroll read by a mid-level official. This reverses human wisdom: the world sees power; faith sees coming judgment. The act models Christian proclamation: we announce God's verdicts regardless of visible circumstances, trusting His word over appearances.

## Historical Context

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Public reading of prophetic scrolls was established practice (see Jeremiah 36:6-10). Seraiah likely read this privately or semi-publicly, perhaps to fellow Jews, not in Nebuchadnezzar's throne room. Still, the act was risky. Any informer could have reported seditious content, endangering Zedekiah's delegation.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What does the command to 'see' Babylon before pronouncing judgment teach about faith's relationship to visible reality?
2. How does Seraiah's obedience model costly faithfulness to God's word even when personally dangerous?
3. In what ways are Christians called to proclaim God's judgments on worldly systems that seem secure and dominant?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּ לֹא כִּבְאָבֶב שְׁבִי הַיְּהוָה יְאַתֶּר  
said And Jeremiah to Seraiah When thou comest to Babylon  
H559 H3414 H413 H8304 H935 H894

בְּאֵלָהֶן כִּזְבָּר יִמְלָא תְּלִקְבָּח אֶת כָּל  
and shalt see and shalt read all these words H1697 H428  
H7200 H7121 H853 H3605

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