

Jeremiah 7:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

Analysis

This verse introduces one of Jeremiah's most significant sermons, known as the Temple Sermon. 'The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD' establishes divine origin—this isn't human opinion but God's direct message. The specific setting and audience will be specified in following verses, but the formula 'The word...from the LORD' appears frequently in prophetic literature, authenticating prophetic messages as divine revelation rather than human speculation. This introduction prepares hearers for a message that will challenge their fundamental assumptions about religion, security, and covenant relationship. The temple context makes this especially significant—God will critique false confidence in religious institutions and external ritual divorced from heart transformation and obedience.

Historical Context

This sermon was delivered early in Jehoiakim's reign (609-598 BC), shortly after Josiah's death. Jeremiah 26 provides parallel account with additional details about the sermon's reception. Josiah's reforms had included temple renovation and purification (2 Kings 22-23), but after his death, idolatry quickly returned under Jehoiakim. The people maintained temple worship while practicing injustice and idolatry, believing temple presence guaranteed divine protection regardless of behavior. This false confidence needed prophetic confrontation. The timing was critical—within two decades Babylon would destroy the temple, validating Jeremiah's warning that buildings don't save, covenant faithfulness does. This

sermon cost Jeremiah dearly—priests and prophets demanded his execution (Jeremiah 26:8), though he was spared.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish between authentic divine revelation in Scripture and human religious opinion?
2. What false securities—religious institutions, traditions, or rituals—might you be trusting instead of genuine covenant relationship with God?

Interlinear Text

הַדְּבָר	אֲשֶׁר	הָ	אֵל	יְרֵמְיָהוּ	מֵאֵת	יְהוָה
The word	H834	H1961	H413	that came to Jeremiah	H853	from the LORD
H1697				H3414		H3068

לֵאמֹר:
saying
H559