

Jeremiah 7:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD.

Analysis

God commands Jeremiah to deliver His message publicly: 'Stand in the gate of the LORD's house' ('āmmōd bēša'ar bêt-YHWH, עֲמֹד בְּשַׁעַר בֵּית־יְהוָה). The temple gate was the most public location, ensuring maximum audience. The charge: 'proclaim there this word' (wēqārā'tā šām 'eṭ-haddābār hazzeh)—public proclamation, not private counsel. The audience: 'Hear the word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD' (šim'û dēḅar-YHWH kol-yēhûdā habbā'im bēšē'ārīm hā'ēlleh lēhištaḅwōṭ laYHWH). This addresses worshipers entering for temple ritual—people who consider themselves religiously observant. The irony is palpable: God's message will challenge whether their worship is genuine or hypocritical, whether they truly know God or merely maintain religious routine. This sets the stage for confronting the disconnect between external religious observance and internal heart condition, between ritual and righteousness.

Historical Context

Jerusalem's temple was the religious center of Judah, where daily sacrifices occurred and pilgrims came for festivals (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles). The temple gates were high-traffic areas where prophets, priests, and teachers addressed the public. Jeremiah's positioning there ensured his message reached both Jerusalem residents and pilgrims from throughout Judah. The phrase 'enter in at these gates to worship' indicates people coming for prescribed ritual

observances, believing such participation fulfilled covenant requirements. However, the prophets consistently taught that ritual without righteousness is worthless (Isaiah 1:10-17, Amos 5:21-24, Micah 6:6-8). Jeremiah's sermon would expose this disconnect, warning that temple worship doesn't substitute for covenant obedience. The message was so controversial it nearly cost him his life (Jeremiah 26:8-11).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you evaluate whether your worship is genuine encounter with God or merely religious routine?
2. What would it look like for God's word to confront your comfortable religious assumptions as it did for Jeremiah's audience?

Interlinear Text

עֲמֹד	בַּשְּׁעָרִים	בֵּית	לַיהוָה:	וְקִרְאתָ	אֶת	שְׁמִי	דְּבַר
Stand	at these gates	house	of the LORD	and proclaim			the word
H5975	H8179	H1004	H3068	H7121		H8033 H853	H1697
הִנֵּה	וְאָמַרְתָּ	שְׁמַע וְ	דְּבַר	לַיהוָה:	כָּל	יְהוּדָה	
	and say	Hear	the word	of the LORD		all ye of Judah	
H2088	H559	H8085	H1697	H3068	H3605	H3063	
הַבָּאִים	בַּשְּׁעָרִים	לְהַשְׁתַּחֲוֹת	לַיהוָה:				
that enter in	at these gates	to worship	of the LORD				
H935	H8179	H428 H7812	H3068				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 26:2 (Word): Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word:

Revelation 3:22 (Parallel theme): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Isaiah 1:10 (Word): Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah.

Amos 7:16 (Word): Now therefore hear thou the word of the LORD: Thou sayest, Prophecy not against Israel, and drop not thy word against the house of Isaac.

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