

Jeremiah 26:1-24 **Call to repentance – Death threat to Jeremiah**
Prophecy and death of Urijah – Jeremiah saved

Jeremiah Called the People to Repent before Destruction comes (cf. Jeremiah 7:1-15)

1 In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the Lord, saying,

2 "Thus says the Lord: 'Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the Lord's house, all the words that I command you to speak to them. Do not diminish a word.

3 Perhaps everyone will listen and turn from his evil way, that I may relent concerning the calamity which I purpose to bring on them because of the evil of their doings.'

4 And you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord: "If you will not listen to Me, to walk in My law which I have set before you,

5 to heed the words of My servants the prophets whom I sent to you, both rising up early and sending them (but you have not heeded),

6 then I will make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth.'""

Threat on the life of Jeremiah by Priests & Prophets

7 So the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the Lord.

8 Now it happened, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people seized him, saying, "You will surely die!

9 Why have you prophesied in the name of the Lord, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without an inhabitant?'" And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the Lord.

10 When the princes of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the Lord and sat down in the entry of the New Gate of the Lord's house.

11 And the priests and the prophets spoke to the princes and all the people, saying, "This man deserves to die! For he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your ears."

Jeremiah's Self Defense calling for repentance

12 Then Jeremiah spoke to all the princes and all the people, saying: "The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city with all the words that you have heard.

13 Now therefore, amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God; then the Lord will relent concerning the doom that He has pronounced against you.

14 As for me, here I am, in your hand; do with me as seems good and proper to you.

15 But know for certain that if you put me to death, you will surely bring innocent blood on yourselves, on this city, and on its inhabitants; for truly the Lord has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing."

Princes and People come to Jeremiah's defense

16 So the princes and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, "This man does not deserve to die. For he has spoken to us in the name of the Lord our God."

17 Then certain of the elders of the land rose up and spoke to all the assembly of the people, saying:
18 "Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spoke to all the people of Judah, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts:
'Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, And the mountain of the temple Like the bare hills of the forest.'"
19 Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah ever put him to death? Did he not fear the Lord and seek the Lord's favor? And the Lord relented concerning the doom which He had pronounced against them. But we are doing great evil against ourselves."

Urijah's prophesy and death

20 Now there was also a man who prophesied in the name of the Lord, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjath Jearim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah.

21 And when Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men and all the princes, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death; but when Urijah heard it, he was afraid and fled, and went to Egypt.
22 Then Jehoiakim the king sent men to Egypt: Elnathan the son of Achbor, and other men who went with him to Egypt.
23 And they brought Urijah from Egypt and brought him to Jehoiakim the king, who killed him with the sword and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people.

Ahikam saved Jeremiah

24 Nevertheless the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah, so that they should not give him into the hand of the people to put him to death.
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Facts Revealed:

Jeremiah Called the People to Repent before Destruction comes (cf. Jeremiah 7:1-15)

- ✧ In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from Yahweh (the Lord), saying,
"Thus says Yahweh (the Lord): 'Stand in the court of Beit Yahweh (the Lord's house), and speak to all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in Beit Yahweh (the Lord's house), all the words that I command you to speak to them. Do not diminish a word.
Perhaps everyone will listen and turn from his evil way, that I may relent concerning the calamity which I purpose to bring on them because of the evil of their doings.'
And you shall say to them,
'Thus says Yahweh (the Lord): "**If you will not listen** to Me, to walk in My law which I have set before you, to heed the words of My servants the prophets whom I sent to you, both rising up early and sending them (but you have not heeded), **then I will** make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth.'"
[Jeremiah 26:1-6]
- ✧ Yahweh finds no pleasure in the destruction of His people.
- ✧ Yahweh has been faithful to call His people to repentance for their own good, from the day He brought them out of Egyptian bondage and made them a nation, by all the prophets He sent to them beginning with Moses.
- ✧ The message is still the same, if the people repent and obey the laws Yahweh gave them from the start, He will relent of the punishment pronounced against them.

- ✧ Shiloh was the site of the Tabernacle from the time the land was given to the nation of Israel under Joshua to the time when the Ark of the covenant was captured by the Philistines in the time of Eli and his wicked sons. [Joshua 18:1, 1 Samuel 4:1-18]
- ✧ When the Ark of the Covenant was returned by the Philistines it was taken to Kirjath Jearim in the house of Abinadab. [1 Samuel 6:1-21, 7:1-2]
- ✧ David moved the Ark of the Covenant from the house of Abinadab to Jerusalem, after a brief pause at the house of Obed-Edom, to the tent he pitched for it there where the Temple was later built by Solomon. [2 Samuel 6:1-19]
- ✧ Shiloh was destroyed because of the people's unfaithfulness, and now Jerusalem and the Temple face the same fate for the same reason.
- ✧ Moses warned of their destruction if they fail to obey the Laws Yahweh had given them for their own good. [Deuteronomy 28:15-68]
- ✧ At the time Solomon dedicated the Temple Yahweh had warned that if they turned away from Him, He would cast the Temple Solomon built out of His sight and cut off the people of Israel from the land. [1 Kings 9:1-9]

Threat on the life of Jeremiah by Priests & Prophets

- ✧ So the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in Beit Yahweh (the house of the Lord).
Now it happened, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that Yahweh (the Lord) had commanded him to speak to all the people, that the **priests** and the **prophets** and **all the people** seized him, saying, "You will surely die!
Why have you prophesied in the name of Yahweh (the Lord), saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without an inhabitant?'" And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in Beit Yahweh (the house of the Lord).

When the princes of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to Beit Yahweh (the house of the Lord) and sat down in the entry of the New Gate of Yahweh (the Lord's house).

And **the priests and the prophets spoke to the princes and all the people**, saying, "This man deserves to die! For he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your ears." [Jeremiah 26:7-11]

- ✧ As in the time of Christ, the religious leaders are the first to turn violently against anyone who calls for them to repent, John the Baptist, Jesus, and all the Apostles.
- ✧ Foremost among the antagonists against Jeremiah were the fellow Priests of his home town Anathoth. [Jeremiah 1:1, 11:21-23, 29:27]
- ✧ The priests and prophets took their complaint to the rulers of Jerusalem, just like the Priests took their complaint against Jesus to the civil rulers. [Jeremiah 26:10-11, Matthew 27:1-2]
- ✧ Jeremiah was counted a traitor by his antagonists because he spoke of the destruction of Jerusalem and advised the people taken captive to prepare for a long captivity.

Jeremiah's Self Defense calling for repentance

- ✧ Then Jeremiah spoke to all the princes and all the people, saying: "Yahweh (The Lord) sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city with all the words that you have heard. Now therefore, amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of Yahweh Eloheykm (the Lord your God); then Yahweh (the Lord) will relent concerning the doom that He has pronounced against you.

As for me, here I am, in your hand; do with me as seems good and proper to you.
But know for certain that if you put me to death, you will surely bring innocent blood on

yourselves, on this city, and on its inhabitants; for truly Yahweh (the Lord) has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing." [Jeremiah 26:12-15]

- ✧ Jeremiah stood his ground and informed them that his message was from Yahweh and its purpose was to call them to repentance so Yahweh would relent concerning the doom He had pronounced.
- ✧ **Repentance** is the remedy for finding our way back into the good graces of Yahweh when without it He has pronounced our destruction.
- ✧ Attacking the prophet will not restrain the hand of Yahweh.
- ✧ Jeremiah reminded them that they could kill him, but in doing so they would bring innocent blood on their own heads and further the righteousness of Yahweh's pronouncement of their doom.

Princes, People and Elders come to Jeremiah's defense

- ✧ So the princes and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, "This man does not deserve to die. For he has spoken to us in the name of Yahweh Eloheynu (the Lord our God)."

Then certain of the elders of the land rose up and spoke to all the assembly of the people, saying: "Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spoke to all the people of Judah, saying, 'Thus says Yahweh Tsebaot (the Lord of hosts): "Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, And the mountain of the temple Like the bare hills of the forest."'

Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah ever put him to death? Did he not fear Yahweh (the Lord) and seek Yahweh (the Lord's) favor? And Yahweh (the Lord) relented concerning the doom which He had pronounced against them. But we are doing great evil against ourselves." [Jeremiah 26:16-19]

- ✧ The princes said that Jeremiah did not deserve to die because he had spoken in the name of Yahweh Eloheynu.
- ✧ A call to repentance is perfectly in line with words from Yahweh.
- ✧ Elders brought up the example of the prophetic message in the days of Hezekiah, and that Hezekiah did not put him to death, but turned to Yahweh in repentance, and Yahweh relented concerning the doom He had pronounced against them.
- ✧ The conclusion is that we are doing a great evil against ourselves by seeking Jeremiah's death.

Urijah's prophesy and death

- ✧ Now there was also a man who prophesied in the name of Yahweh (the Lord), Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjath Jearim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah.

And when Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men and all the princes, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death; but when Urijah heard it, he was afraid and fled, and went to Egypt. Then Jehoiakim the king sent men to Egypt: Elnathan the son of Achbor, and other men who went with him to Egypt.

And they brought Urijah from Egypt and brought him to Jehoiakim the king, who killed him with the sword and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people. [Jeremiah 26:20-23]

- ✧ Urijah prophesied and confirmed all the words of Jeremiah.
- ✧ The King and princes sought to put Urijah to death so Urijah fled to Egypt.
- ✧ King Jehoiakim sent to Egypt, brought Urijah back and killed him.
- ✧ This proves that Yahweh did truly save Jeremiah as He said He would. [Jeremiah 1:8, 19, 15:20-21]

Ahikam saved Jeremiah

- ✧ Nevertheless the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah, so that they should not give him into the hand of the people to put him to death. [\[Jeremiah 26:24\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh used Ahikam to help save Jeremiah.