

Jeremiah 29:1-32 **Letter from Jeremiah to those in Babylonian Captivity**

Jeremiah's Letter to the Captives after Jeconiah and the royal family were carried to Babylon

1 Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the remainder of the elders who were carried away captive — to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon.

2 (This happened after Jeconiah the king, the queen mother, the eunuchs, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem.)

3 The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan, and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon, to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, saying,

4 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon:

5 Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit.

6 Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters — that you may be increased there, and not diminished.

7 And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace.

Warning regarding false prophets among the captives

8 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed.

9 For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the Lord.

Yahweh's good plan for those carried away captive to Babylon

10 For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

14 I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

Concerning those who are left in Jerusalem

15 Because you have said, "The Lord has raised up prophets for us in Babylon" —

16 therefore thus says the Lord concerning the king who sits on the throne of David, concerning all the people who dwell in this city, and concerning your brethren who have not gone out with you into captivity —

17 thus says the Lord of hosts: Behold, I will send on them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them like rotten figs that cannot be eaten, they are so bad.

18 And I will pursue them with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence; and I will deliver them to trouble among all the kingdoms of the earth — to be a curse, an astonishment, a hissing, and a reproach among all the nations where I have driven them,

19 because they have not heeded My words, says the Lord, which I sent to them by My servants the

prophets, rising up early and sending them; neither would you heed, says the Lord.

Concerning Ahab and Zedekiah To those in Babylonian captivity

20 Therefore hear the word of the Lord, all you of the captivity, whom I have sent from Jerusalem to Babylon.

21 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning Ahab the son of Kolaiah, and Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah, who prophesy a lie to you in My name: Behold, I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he shall slay them before your eyes.

22 And because of them a curse shall be taken up by all the captivity of Judah who are in Babylon, saying, "The Lord make you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire";

23 because they have done disgraceful things in Israel, have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives, and have spoken lying words in My name, which I have not commanded them. Indeed I know, and am a witness, says the Lord.

Message regarding Shemaiah because of his letter against Jeremiah

24 You shall also speak to Shemaiah the Nehelamite, saying,

25 Thus speaks the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, saying: You have sent letters in your name to all the people who are at Jerusalem, to Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, and to all the priests, saying,

26 "The Lord has made you priest instead of Jehoiada the priest, so that there should be officers in the house of the Lord over every man who is demented and considers himself a prophet, that you should put him in prison and in the stocks.

27 Now therefore, why have you not rebuked Jeremiah of Anathoth who makes himself a prophet to you?

28 For he has sent to us in Babylon, saying, "This captivity is long; build houses and dwell in them, and plant gardens and eat their fruit."

29 Now Zephaniah the priest read this letter in the hearing of Jeremiah the prophet.

Yahweh's answer to Shemaiah and his letter

30 Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying:

31 Send to all those in captivity, saying, Thus says the Lord concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite: Because Shemaiah has prophesied to you, and I have not sent him, and he has caused you to trust in a lie —

32 therefore thus says the Lord: Behold, I will punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his family: he shall not have anyone to dwell among this people, nor shall he see the good that I will do for My people, says the Lord, because he has taught rebellion against the Lord.

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Facts Revealed:

Jeremiah's Letter to the Captives after Jeconiah and the royal family were carried to Babylon

✧ Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the remainder of the elders who were carried away captive — to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon.

(This happened after Jeconiah the king, the queen mother, the eunuchs, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem.)

The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan, and Gemariah the son of

Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon, to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, saying, [\[Jeremiah 29:1-3\]](#)

- ✧ Jeconiah is also known as Jehoiachin and Coniah. [\[2 Kings 24:6-8, 2 Chronicles 36:8-10, 1 Chronicles 3:16, Jeremiah 22:24, 24:1\]](#)
- ✧ The timing was after Jeconiah and the royal family was carried to Babylon along with all the nobles of Jerusalem.
- ✧ The courier was Elasah whom Zedekiah the king of Judah sent to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.
- ✧ Thus says Yahweh Tsebaavt Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel), to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon:
Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit.
Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters — that you may be increased there, and not diminished.
And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to Yahweh (the Lord) for it; for in its peace you will have peace. [\[Jeremiah 29:4-7\]](#)
- ✧ Jeremiah's letter was to the people who had been carried captive from Jerusalem to Babylon.
- ✧ The message was that the captivity would be seventy years long so the people should live normal lives, establish their homes and raise their families so they could increase their number in the land of their captivity.
- ✧ They must seek and pray for peace for the land of their captivity, because if the land was at peace the people would also have peace.

Warning regarding false prophets among the captives

- ✧ For thus says Yahweh Tsebaavt Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel): Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed.
For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says Yahweh (the Lord). [\[Jeremiah 29:8-9\]](#)
- ✧ False Prophets had been carried into captivity with the people, so Yahweh sent a warning for the people to know that He had not sent them and the people were to be on guard against their lying messages even when they claimed to be in the name of Yahweh.

Yahweh's good plan for those carried away captive to Babylon

- ✧ For thus says Yahweh (the Lord): After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.
For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says Yahweh (the Lord), thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.
Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.
I will be found by you, says Yahweh (the Lord), and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says Yahweh (the Lord), and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive. [\[Jeremiah 29:10-14\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh has a good plan for those who were carried captive to Babylon.
- ✧ The return from Babylon will take place after seventy years of the current captivity.
- ✧ Yahweh revealed His plan to give the captives a hope for their future.

- ✧ The description given (verses 11-14) is the same as He has revealed for the restoration of Israel in the Kingdom age of the End Times, bringing them back from all the nations to which they have been scattered.
- ✧ God's greatest desire is for the time when His people will seek Him with all their hearts and find Him, when they truly will be His People and He is their God in truth. [Exodus 6:7, Leviticus 26:12, Jeremiah 7:23, 11:4, 24:7, 31:1, 31:33, 32:38, Ezekiel 11:20, 14:11, 36:28, 37:23, 27, Hosea 2:23, Zechariah 8:8, 13:9, 2 Corinthians 6:16, Hebrews 8:10, Revelation 21:3]

Concerning those who are left in Jerusalem

- ✧ Because you have said, "Yahweh (The Lord) has raised up prophets for us in Babylon" — therefore thus says Yahweh (the Lord) concerning the king who sits on the throne of David, concerning all the people who dwell in this city, and concerning your brethren who have not gone out with you into captivity —

thus says Yahweh Tsebaaoth (the Lord of hosts): Behold, I will send on them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them like rotten figs that cannot be eaten, they are so bad.

And I will pursue them with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence; and I will deliver them to trouble among all the kingdoms of the earth — to be a curse, an astonishment, a hissing, and a reproach among all the nations where I have driven them,

because they have not heeded My words, says Yahweh (the Lord), which I sent to them by My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; neither would you heed, says Yahweh (the Lord). [Jeremiah 29:15-19]

- ✧ Yahweh has been calling the people to repentance and turning back to the Living God from the time of Moses and by all His prophets who faithfully spoke in His Name.
- ✧ Yahweh had advised the people to go out to the Babylonians for their own good and their life would be their reward and their prize. [Jeremiah 21:8-10, 24:1-10]
- ✧ Those who remain in Jerusalem are viewed by Yahweh as rotted figs and will be facing destruction from Yahweh in the form of sword, famine, and pestilence, they will be scattered through all the kingdoms of the world where they will be ridiculed as a curse, astonishment, a hissing, and a reproach.

Concerning Ahab and Zedekiah to those in Babylonian captivity

- ✧ Therefore hear the word of Yahweh (the Lord), all you of the captivity, whom I have sent from Jerusalem to Babylon.

Thus says Yahweh Tsebaaoth Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel), concerning **Ahab** the son of Kolaiah, and **Zedekiah** the son of Maaseiah, who prophesy a lie to you in My name: Behold, I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he shall slay them before your eyes.

And **because** of them a curse shall be taken up by all the captivity of Judah who are in Babylon, saying, "Yahweh (The Lord) make you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire";

because they have done disgraceful things in Israel, have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives, and have spoken lying words in My name, which I have not commanded them. **Indeed I know, and am a witness**, says Yahweh (the Lord). [Jeremiah 29:20-23]

- ✧ Two false prophets, Ahab and Zedekiah, were carried captive to Babylon.
- ✧ Yahweh who searches the hearts and minds sends a warning to those in Babylonian captivity to be on guard against the lies of these false prophets.
- ✧ The fruit of the false prophet's lives is obvious because they have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives.
- ✧ They have spoken lies in the name of Yahweh though Yahweh did not send them.

- ✧ Yahweh will deliver them into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar who will roast them in fire in front of the other captives.
- ✧ Yahweh is a true witness against the evil-doers.

Message regarding Shemaiah because of his letter against Jeremiah

- ✧ You shall also speak to **Shemaiah** the Nehelamite, saying,
Thus speaks Yahweh Tsebaaoft Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel), saying: You have sent letters in your name to all the people who are at Jerusalem, to Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, and to all the priests, saying,
"Yahweh (The Lord) has made you priest instead of Jehoiada the priest, so that there should be officers in Beit Yahweh (the house of the Lord) over every man who is demented and considers himself a prophet, that you should put him in prison and in the stocks.
Now therefore, why have you not rebuked Jeremiah of Anathoth who makes himself a prophet to you?
For he has sent to us in Babylon, saying, "This captivity is long; build houses and dwell in them, and plant gardens and eat their fruit."
Now Zephaniah the priest read this letter in the hearing of Jeremiah the prophet. [[Jeremiah 29:24-29](#)]
- ✧ Yahweh also included a message to **Shemaiah** in Babylon who had sent letters in the name of Yahweh to **Zephaniah** the Priest in Jerusalem against Jeremiah the prophet calling for Jeremiah's imprisonment.
- ✧ Zephaniah read the letter in the hearing of Jeremiah the prophet.

Yahweh's answer to Shemaiah and his letter

- ✧ Then the word of Yahweh (the Lord) came to Jeremiah, saying:
Send to all those in captivity, saying, Thus says Yahweh (the Lord) concerning **Shemaiah** the Nehelamite: **Because** Shemaiah has prophesied to you, and I have not sent him, and he has caused you to trust in a lie — therefore thus says Yahweh (the Lord): Behold, I will punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his family: he shall not have anyone to dwell among this people, nor shall he see the good that I will do for My people, says Yahweh (the Lord), **because** he has taught rebellion against Yahweh (the Lord). [[Jeremiah 29:30-32](#)]
- ✧ Shemaiah is a false prophet who prophesied error and caused you to trust in a lie.
- ✧ **Because** Shemaiah taught rebellion against Yahweh.
- ✧ Shemaiah will not see the good Yahweh does for His people nor will he have any descendants among the people.