

Jeremiah's Prophecy to Judah—Condemnation of False Prophets (609/608 BC)

Jeremiah 23:9–40

Condemnation of Godless Prophets and Priests

9 Concerning the prophets:

My heart is broken in my midst.

All my bones tremble.

I have become like a drunken man,
even like a man over whom wine has passed,
because of Yahweh,
and because of his holy words.

10 For the land is full *of* adulterers;
for the land mourns because of a curse.

The pastures of *the* desert are dry,
and their evil has been their way of running,
and their power *is* not right.

11 “For both prophet as well as priest are godless,
even in my temple I have found their wickedness,” declares Yahweh.

12 “Therefore their way will be to them like the slippery places,
they will be pushed in the darkness,
and they will fall into it,
for I will bring disaster on them *in* the year of their punishment,” declares Yahweh.

Evil Prophets of Samaria Compared to Prophets of Jerusalem

13 “Now in the prophets of Samaria I saw a disgusting thing.
They prophesied by Baal and they caused my people Israel to err.

14 And in the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen something horrible.
They commit adultery, and they walk in lies,
and they make strong *the* hands of evildoers,
so that they have not turned back each from his wickedness.
All of them have become to me like Sodom,
and its inhabitants like Gomorrah.”

15 Therefore thus says Yahweh concerning the prophets,

“Look, I *am* going to let them eat wormwood
and I will give them water of poison to drink,
for from the prophets of Jerusalem
went out ungodliness to all the land.”

God Warns Judah to Reject the Message of the False Prophets

16 Thus says Yahweh of hosts,

“You must not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you.
They *are* deluding you *with* visions of their mind,
They do not speak from the mouth of Yahweh.

17 *They are* continually saying to those who disregard the word of Yahweh,
‘Peace it will be to you,’
and *to* each one who walks in the stubbornness of his heart they say,
‘Calamity will not come upon you.’

18 For who has stood in the council of Yahweh,
that he has seen and heard his word?
Who has listened attentively *to* his word and heard *it*?

19 Look, the storm of Yahweh has gone forth *in* wrath,
even a whirling tempest.
It will whirl upon *the* head of *the* wicked.

20 The anger of Yahweh will not turn back
until his doing and until his keeping the plans of his mind.

- In latter days you will look closely at it *with* understanding.
- 21 I have not sent the prophets, yet they ran.
I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.
- 22 But if they had stood in my council,
then they would have proclaimed my words *to* my people,
and they would have caused them to turn from their evil way,
and from the evil of their deeds.
- 23 *Am* I a God from near," declares Yahweh,
"and not a God from far?
- 24 Or can a person hide himself in secret places
and I cannot see him?" declares Yahweh.
"*Do* I not fill up the heaven and the earth?" declares Yahweh.

God's Rejection of the Lying Prophets

- 25 "I have heard what the prophets who prophesy lies have said in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed! I have dreamed!'
- 26 How long *will* this be in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy lies, even the prophets of the deceitfulness of their hearts,
27 who plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell each one to his neighbor, just as their ancestors
forgot my name through Baal?
- 28 The prophet who *has* with him a dream, let him tell *the* dream. But *the prophet* who *has* my word with him, let him speak my
word faithfully. What is straw compared to wheat?" declares Yahweh.
- 29 "*Is* not my word like fire?" declares Yahweh, "and like a blacksmith's hammer *that* breaks a rock into pieces?
- 30 "Therefore look, I *am* against the prophets," declares Yahweh, "who steal my words each one from his neighbor.
31 Look, I *am* against the prophets," declares Yahweh, "who take their tongues and declare as prophets, '*Yahweh* declares.'
32 Look, I *am* against those who prophesy dreams of lies," declares Yahweh, "and tell them, and they caused my people to err
through their lies, and in their recklessness, when I myself have not sent them nor commanded them, so they profit not this people
at all," declares Yahweh.

The Burden of the Lord

- 33 "Now when this people, or a prophet, or a priest, ask you, 'What *is* the burden of Yahweh?' then you shall say to them,
'You are the burden, and I will forsake you,'" declares Yahweh.
- 34 "And the prophet, and the priest, and the people who say, 'The burden of Yahweh,' I will punish that man and his house.
35 Thus you shall say, each one to his neighbor and each one to his brother: 'What has Yahweh answered?' or, 'What has Yahweh
spoken?'
- 36 But you shall not mention the burden of Yahweh, for the burden is to each one his word, and so you twist the words of *the* living
God, Yahweh of hosts, our God.
- 37 Thus you shall say to that prophet, 'What has Yahweh answered you?' or, 'What has Yahweh spoken?'
- 38 But if you say, 'The burden of Yahweh,' therefore thus says Yahweh, 'because of your saying these words, "The burden of
Yahweh," then I will send to you, saying, "You shall not say, 'The burden of Yahweh.''"
- 39 Therefore look, here I am, and I will surely lift you up and forsake you and the city that I gave to you and to your ancestors from
my presence,
40 and I will bring upon you an everlasting disgrace and an everlasting shame that will not be forgotten."

Jeremiah Calls on Jehoiakim and Judah to Repent (609/608 BC)

Jeremiah 26

Another Temple Sermon (see Jeremiah 7–10)

- 1 At the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, the king of Judah, this word came from Yahweh, saying,
2 "Thus says Yahweh: 'Stand in the courtyard of the house of Yahweh, and you must speak to all the cities of Judah that come to
bow in worship *in* the house of Yahweh all the words that I command you to speak to them. You must not omit a word.
3 Perhaps they will listen and turn back each from his evil way, and I will relent of the disaster that I *am* planning to do to them
because of their evil deeds.
4 And you shall say to them, "Thus says Yahweh: 'If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you,
5 to listen to the words of my servants the prophets whom I have sent to you, over and over again, though you have not listened,
6 then I will make this house like Shiloh, and this city I will make a curse for all the nations of the earth.'" "

Arrest and Trial of Jeremiah

- 7 And the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the temple of Yahweh.
8 And then as Jeremiah finished speaking all that Yahweh had commanded *him* to speak to all the people, then the priests and the

prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You will die!

9 Why have you prophesied in the name of Yahweh, saying, ‘This house will be like Shiloh, and this city will be in ruins, without inhabitant?’” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the temple of Yahweh.

10 When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the house of the king to the temple of Yahweh, and they sat in the entrance of the New Gate of Yahweh’s temple.

11 Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, saying, “This man deserves the death sentence, because he has prophesied against this city as that *which* you have heard with your ears.”

12 Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and to all the people, saying, “Yahweh sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that you have heard.

13 Now therefore amend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of Yahweh your God, and Yahweh will relent of the disaster that he has spoken over you.

14 But *as for* me, look, I *am* in your hand, do to me what *is* good and right in your eyes.

15 Only you must certainly know that if you put me to death, you will bring on yourselves innocent blood, and on this city and on its inhabitants, for truly Yahweh sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

16 Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and to the prophets, “This man does not deserve a sentence of death, for in the name of Yahweh our God, he has spoken to us.”

17 Then men from the elders of the land arose and said to all the assembly of the people, saying,

18 “Micah the Morashtite was prophesying in the days of Hezekiah, the king of Judah, and he said to all the people of Judah, saying:

‘Thus says Yahweh of hosts,

“Zion will be plowed as a field,

and Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins,

and the mountain of the temple as high places of wood.”’ [\[Mic 3:12\]](#)

19 *Did* Hezekiah, the king of Judah, and all Judah actually put him to death? *Was he* not in fear of Yahweh? And he entreated the face of Yahweh, and Yahweh relented of the disaster that he had spoken against them. But we *are* about to do great disaster to ourselves.”

Arrest and Slaying of Uriah the Prophet

20 Indeed, there also was a man prophesying in the name of Yahweh, Uriah, the son of Shemaiah, from Kiriath-Jearim, and he prophesied against this city and against this land like all the words of Jeremiah.

21 And when King Jehoiakim, and all his warriors, and all the officials heard his words, then the king sought to put him to death. But Uriah heard, and he was afraid, and he fled and went to Egypt.

22 Then King Jehoiakim sent men to Egypt. Elnathan, the son of Achbor, and men with him went to Egypt.

23 And they brought out Uriah from Egypt and they brought him to King Jehoiakim, and he struck him down with the sword, and he threw his dead body into the burial sites of the sons of the people.

Jeremiah is Released

24 However, the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah, so that he was not given into the hand of the people to put him to death.

Jeremiah Warns Judah About the Coming Babylonian Attack (early 605 BC)

Jeremiah 25

Judah’s Refusal to Listen to the Prophets

1 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, the king of Judah, that *was* the first year of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon,

2 which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying,

3 “From *the* thirteenth year of Josiah, the son of Amon, the king of Judah, even up to this day, these twenty-three years the word of Yahweh has come to me, and I have spoken to you over and over again, but you have not listened.

4 And *though* Yahweh has sent all his servants the prophets to you over and over again you have not listened, and you have not inclined your ear to hear,

5 saying, ‘Turn back please, each one from his evil way, and from the evil of your deeds, and live on the land that Yahweh has given to you and to your ancestors from a long time back and until forever,

6 and you must not go after other gods to serve them, and to bow in worship to them, and you must not provoke me to anger with the work of your hands, then I will not do something bad to you.’

7 ‘Yet you have not listened to me,’ declares Yahweh, ‘so that you have provoked me to anger with the work of your hands for your own harm.’

Seventy Years of Punishment

8 Therefore thus says Yahweh of hosts, 'Because you have not obeyed my words,
 9 look, I *am* going to send and take all *the* clans of *the* north,' declares Yahweh, 'and I *will* send to Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land, and against its inhabitants, and against all these nations all around, and I will destroy them, and I will make them a horror, and *an object of hissing*, and everlasting ruins.
 10 And I will exterminate from them the sound of jubilation, and the sound of joy, *the* voice of *the* bridegroom, and *the* voice of *the* bride, *the* sound of *the* millstones, and *the* light of *the* lamp.
 11 And all this land will become a site of ruins, a desolation, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.
 12 And then when *the* seventy years *are* fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation,' declares Yahweh, 'for their iniquity, and *the* land of *the* Chaldeans, and I will make it an everlasting waste.
 13 And I will bring upon that land all my words that I have spoken against it, everything that is written in this scroll which Jeremiah prophesied against all the nations.
 14 For many nations and great kings will let them work, even them, and I will repay them according to their deeds, and according to the work of their hands.'"

The Cup of God's Wrath

15 For thus said Yahweh, the God of Israel, to me, "Take this cup of the wine *of* wrath from my hand, and you must give it *to* all the nations to whom I *am* sending you to drink.
 16 And they will drink, and they will stagger, and they will act like madmen because of the presence of the sword that I *am* sending among them."
 17 So I took the cup from the hand of Yahweh and I gave *it* *to* all the nations to whom Yahweh sent me to drink:
 18 Jerusalem and the towns of Judah, and its kings, *and* its officials, to make them a site of ruins, a horror, an *object of hissing*, and a curse, as *it is* this day;
 19 Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and his servants, and his officials, and all his people;
 20 and all the other people; and all the kings of the land of Uz; and all the kings of the land of *the* Philistines—Ashkelon, and Gaza, and Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod;
 21 Edom, and Moab, and the Ammonites;
 22 and all the kings of Tyre, and all the kings of Sidon, and the kings of the coastland that *is* across the sea;
 23 and Dedan, and Tema, and Buz, and all those who are trimmed to *the* side;
 24 and all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of the other people who dwell in the desert;
 25 and all the kings of Zimri, and all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of Media;
 26 and all the kings of the north, near and far, each one to his brother, and all the kingdoms of the world that *are* on the face of the earth; and the king of Sheshach, he will drink after them.
 27 "And you shall say to them, 'Thus says Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel, "Drink and become drunk, and vomit, and fall, and you must not rise because of the presence of the sword that I *am* sending among you."
 28 And it will happen, if they refuse to take the cup from your hand to drink, then you shall say to them, 'Thus says Yahweh of hosts, "You must certainly drink!
 29 For look, on the city that is called by my name I *am* beginning to inflict harm, and you indeed, will you go unpunished? You will not go unpunished, for I *am* summoning a sword against all the inhabitants of the earth," declares Yahweh of hosts.'

God's Coming Judgment on All Nations

30 And you yourself shall prophesy against them all these words, and you shall say to them:

'Yahweh will roar from *on* high,
 and from his holy dwelling place he will give his voice.
 He will roar mightily against his settlement,
 a jubilant shout like those who tread *grapes*,
 he will answer against all the inhabitants of the earth.

31 *The* rage of battle will resound to the end of the earth,
 for *there is* a lawsuit of Yahweh against the nations.
 He *is* entering into judgment with all wicked flesh,
 he will give them to the sword,' declares Yahweh."

32 Thus says Yahweh of hosts,

"Look, disaster *is* going out from nation to nation,

- and a great tempest is stirred up from the farthest parts of *the* earth.
- 33 And the slain *ones* of Yahweh will be on that day
from *one* end of the earth to the *other* end of the earth,
and they will not be mourned,
and they will not be gathered,
and they will not be buried.
They will become like dung on the surface of the ground.
- 34 Wail, you shepherds, and cry out.
And roll about in mourning *in the dust*, O leaders of the flock.
For your days of slaughter and your dispersions have arrived,
and you will fall like a vessel of desire.
- 35 And flight will perish from the shepherds,
and escape from the leaders of the flock.
- 36 A sound, the cry of distress of the shepherds
and the wailing of the leaders of the flock,
for Yahweh *is* despoiling their pasture.
- 37 And the peaceful settlements are devastated
because of the burning anger of Yahweh.
- 38 He has left his den like a lion,
for their land has become a horror,
because of the anger of the oppressors,
and because of his burning anger.”

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