

August 11 Answers

- 1) Jeremiah cried out against the false **prophets** and **priests** who claimed to speak in God's name. The people would ask one of the false prophets what message he had from God, and the false prophet would claim to have "the **burden** (*massa*) of the LORD!" God was so angry at their lies that He actually commanded the people never to say those words again. If they did, God would pick them up and **throw** them out of His presence (Jer 23:36–40). Jeremiah's experience teaches us how to identify false prophets today: (1) they do not hold people **accountable** for sin, (2) they tell people what they want to **hear**, (3) they do not live careful, **godly** lives, and (4) their message **contradicts** the clear teaching of Scripture. Early in Jehoiakim's reign, God sent Jeremiah to preach another sermon at the temple. In mercy, God was giving Judah one last chance to repent. Instead, the priests and prophets seized Jeremiah and were going to kill him. Ahikam spoke up in Jeremiah's defense, and reminded the people that Micah had also predicted the destruction of Jerusalem. Hezekiah had not put him to death; instead, he heeded Micah's warning. Jeremiah was eventually released, and a few years later, he pronounced God's final judgment on the people of Judah: they would be carried into captivity by the Babylonians for 70 years (Jer 25:11–12). After the 70 years were complete, God would judge Babylon and fulfill His word as spoken by Jeremiah.