

# JEREMIAH 29 vs 1

Since the Garden... people have regularly come claiming they represent the LORD, they know what the LORD said, at least they know His *real* intentions... that's nothing new... even in our generation. The book of Hebrews says, *God in times past spoke through bits and pieces by the prophets, but in **these last days** spoke to us through His Son.* – the **first days** included: Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits and Pentecost; **the last days** are: **Trumpets**, **Afflicting souls**, and **Tents / tabernacles**. So... did His Son forget to tell us something? Lots of folks think so, I don't. This chapter reminds us, the LORD knows who they are; He will visit them, too.

**<sup>1</sup> Now these are the words of the letter Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the rest of the elders who were carried away captives, and to the priests, and to the prophets, and to all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken captive from Jerusalem to Babylon;**

**<sup>2</sup> (This was after King Jehoniah, and the queen mother, and the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, and the carpenters, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem)**

**<sup>3</sup> 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,**

**<sup>4</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiled captives, whom I have sent captive from Jerusalem to Babylon:**

**<sup>5</sup> Build houses, and live; plant gardens, and eat the fruit;**

**<sup>6</sup> take wives, and beget sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that you may increase there, and **not** decrease / which we know happened, history records by 400 AD, Babylon was chiefly a Jewish community... with 4 universities there; it was a center of Judaism and gave its people the great Babylonian Talmud.**

**<sup>7</sup> Only seek the peace of the City / remember Jerusalem... from where I have exiled you as captives, and pray to the LORD for it: for in its peace, you will have peace.**

**<sup>8</sup> For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel;**

**Do **not** let your prophets and diviners deceive you, who are in your midst; do **not** listen to their dreams which they dreamed.**

**<sup>9</sup> For they prophesy **falsely** to you in My Name: I have **not** sent them, says the LORD.**

**<sup>10</sup> For thus says the LORD,**

**After seventy 70 years are accomplished at Babylon, I will visit you,**

**and work **My good word** to you, to return you to this place.**

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<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD,  
plans for your welfare, and **not** for evil, to give you a hopeful future.

<sup>12</sup> When you call on Me,  
and you go and pray to Me, I will listen to you.

<sup>13</sup> **And you will seek Me,  
and find Me,**

**when you search for Me with all your heart** / 400 years earlier... David told his children, *if you seek God with your whole heart – not half-heartedly, He will let you find Him -- 1 Chronicles 28:9.*

**You will seek Me, and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart...**

<sup>14</sup> And **I will let you find Me, says the LORD:**

**I will return you from captivity,**

**I will gather you from all the nations,**

**and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD;**

**I will bring you again to the place where I exiled you captive.**

<sup>15</sup> **Because you have said, The LORD has raised up prophets for us in Babylon / we know both Daniel and Ezekiel were raised up;**

<sup>16</sup> **Know, thus says the LORD concerning the king who sits on the throne of David,**

**and concerning all the people who dwelled in this City / Jerusalem,**

**and concerning your brethren who did **not** go captive with you;**

<sup>17</sup> **Thus says the LORD of hosts;**

**Behold, I will send on them the sword, famine, and pestilence,**

**and will make them like rotten figs, that cannot be eaten,**

**they are so rotten.**

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**18 I will persecute them with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence,**

**I will make them to be a terror in all the kingdoms of the earth** / and that's what happened to **Judah**, history tells us they became a holocaust of horror even in the 20<sup>th</sup> century; when God speaks, especially to people He chooses... a people who were to be an example to others, had they been faithful, a blessing to others, so it's probably wise to listen; He knows how to speak, but do we know how to hear?

**I will make them to be a terror in all the kingdoms of the earth...**

**to be a curse, and a horror, and an hissing, and a reproach, among all the nations where I have driven them:**

Why does He deal so harshly with them? Simple, they were hardheads; many of them still are!

**19 Because they have not listened to My words, says the LORD, which I sent to them by My servants the prophets, again and again sending them;**

**but you** / like a whiny, ignorant, loudmouth 2-year-old... **would not listen, says the LORD.**

**20 So hear the word of the LORD,**

**all you** / men and women, young and old... **of the captivity, whom I have sent from Jerusalem to Babylon:**

**21 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel** / the God of **those He truly rules**... who has access to more resources... than we can imagine, both visible and invisible,

**concerning Ahab the son of Kolaiah, and concerning Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah,**

**who prophesy a lie to you in My Name** / claiming they represent Me; that I actually sent those fools;

**Behold** / pay attention,

**I will deliver them to the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and he will slay them before your eyes;**

**22 And because of them, a curse will be used... by all the captivity of Judah who are in Babylon saying,**

**The LORD make you like loony Zedekiah and Ahab** whom the king of Babylon burned in the fire / he made them toast;

**23 Because they committed villainy in Israel, and committed adultery with their neighbors' wives, and spoke lies in My name, which I had not commanded them;**

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I am He who knows and am a witness, says the LORD.

<sup>24</sup> And to **Shemaiah** the Nehelamite you will speak, saying,

<sup>25</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying,

Because you sent letters in your name / of your own volition...

to all the people who are at Jerusalem, and to Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, and to all the priests, saying,

<sup>26</sup> The LORD has made you priest instead of Jehoiada the priest, that you should be the chief overseer in **the house of the LORD**, over every madman who prophesies, to put him in the stocks, in an iron collar.

<sup>27</sup> Now then, why have you **not** rebuked Jeremiah of Anathoth, who prophesies to you?

<sup>28</sup> For he sent us to Babylon, saying, This captivity is long: build houses, and live; plant gardens, and eat the fruit.

<sup>29</sup> And Zephaniah the priest read this letter in the ears of Jeremiah the prophet.

<sup>30</sup> Then came **the word of the LORD** to Jeremiah, saying,

<sup>31</sup> Send to all the exiles, saying,

**Thus says the LORD** concerning **Shemaiah** the Nehelamite;

Because **Shemaiah** prophesied to you, and I did **not** send him,

and he caused you to trust in **lies**:

<sup>32</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD;

Behold / pay attention,

I will punish **Shemaiah** the Nehelamite, and his descendants:

he will **not** have a man to live among this people;

he will **not** behold the good that I will do for My people, says the LORD;

because **he taught rebellion against** the LORD.