

The Warning Against Trusting False Promises

Jeremiah 29:20-32

20 Therefore, hear the word of the Lord, all you exiles whom I have sent away from Jerusalem to Babylon. 21 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says about Ahab son of Kolaiah and Zedekiah son of Maaseiah, who are prophesying lies to you in my name: "I will deliver them into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he will put them to death before your very eyes. 22 Because of them, all the exiles from Judah who are in Babylon will use this curse: 'May the Lord treat you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon burned in the fire.' 23 For they have done outrageous things in Israel; they have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives, and in my name they have uttered lies—which I did not authorize. I know it and am a witness to it," declares the Lord.

24 Tell Shemaiah the Nehelamite, 25 "This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: You sent letters in your own name to all the people in Jerusalem, to the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah, and to all the other priests. You said to Zephaniah, 26 'The Lord has appointed you priest in place of Jehoiada to be in charge of the house of the Lord; you should put any maniac who acts like a prophet into the stocks and neck-irons. 27 So why have you not reprimanded Jeremiah from Anathoth, who poses as a prophet among you? 28 He has sent this message to us in Babylon: It will be a long time. Therefore build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.'"



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29 Zephaniah the priest, however, read the letter to Jeremiah
the prophet. 30 Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah:
31 “Send this message to all the exiles: ‘This is what the Lord
says about Shemaiah the Nehelamite: Because Shemaiah has
prophesied to you, even though I did not send him, and has
persuaded you to trust in lies, 32 this is what the Lord says: I will
surely punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his descendants.
He will have no one left among this people, nor will he see the
good things I will do for my people, declares the Lord, because
he has preached rebellion against me.’”

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