

POWER HOUR

7/19/2026

Lesson Text:
Jeremiah 26:1-13

Related Scriptures:
2 Kings 23:34-24-6;
2 Timothy 2:22-26;
Jeremiah 7:21-28; Mark 11:15-19;
Matthew 26:57-68

“GOD’S FAITHFUL JUSTICE”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: But if you stop your sinning and begin to obey the Lord your God, he will change his mind about this disaster that he has announced against you.

Jeremiah 26:13 NLT

Time: 608 B.C.

Place: Jerusalem

Jeremiah 26:1-13 NLT

¹ This message came to Jeremiah from the Lord early in the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah. ² “This is what the Lord says: Stand in the courtyard in front of the Temple of the Lord, and make an announcement to the people who have come there to worship from all over Judah. Give them my entire message; include every word. ³ Perhaps they will listen and turn from their evil ways. Then I will change my mind about the disaster I am ready to pour out on them because of their sins. ⁴ “Say to them, ‘This is what the Lord says: If you will not listen to me and obey my word I have given you, ⁵ and if you will not listen to my servants, the prophets—for I sent them again and again to warn you, but you would not listen to them— ⁶ then I will destroy this Temple as I destroyed Shiloh, the place where the Tabernacle was located. And I will make Jerusalem an object of cursing in every nation on earth.’” ⁷ The priests, the prophets, and all the people listened to Jeremiah as he spoke in front of the Lord’s Temple. ⁸ But when Jeremiah had finished his message, saying everything the Lord had told him to say, the priests and prophets and all the people at the Temple mobbed him. “Kill him!” they shouted. ⁹ “What right do you have to prophesy in the Lord’s name that this Temple will be destroyed like Shiloh? What do you mean, saying that Jerusalem will

be destroyed and left with no inhabitants?" And all the people threatened him as he stood in front of the Temple. ¹⁰ When the officials of Judah heard what was happening, they rushed over from the palace and sat down at the New Gate of the Temple to hold court. ¹¹ The priests and prophets presented their accusations to the officials and the people. "This man should die!" they said. "You have heard with your own ears what a traitor he is, for he has prophesied against this city." ¹² Then Jeremiah spoke to the officials and the people in his own defense. "The Lord sent me to prophesy against this Temple and this city," he said. "The Lord gave me every word that I have spoken. ¹³ But if you stop your sinning and begin to obey the Lord your God, he will change his mind about this disaster that he has announced against you.

INTRODUCTION

Jeremiah's ministry was not a happy one. Not only did he prophesy during a turbulent time in Judah, but God had promised that the people would ultimately reject his message, and the people would be carried into exile (Jeremiah 12:5-13).

God often called His prophets when His people were in the middle of a crisis. The crisis could involve a national threat for the people practicing sin. Or, as was often the case, the people's sin led to other problems. Prophets often faced a hostile nation to call it to repentance. That was certainly true of the prophet Jeremiah's ministry.

Additional Scripture Readings

The Persecution of God's Prophets. Jeremiah 7:21-28.

Jesus Cleanses the Temple. Mark 11:15-19.

Jesus Prophecies against the Temple. Matthew 23:37-24:2.

Jewish Leaders Seek Jesus' Death. Matthew 26:57-68.

Blessing for the Persecuted. Matthew 5:2-12.

Hope for Persecutors. 2 Timothy 2:22-26.

The Jews Seek Jeremiah's Death. Jeremiah 26:13.

1. Jeremiah prophesies to the people (Jeremiah 26:1-7). God commanded Jeremiah to stand in the courtyard of the temple and speak to everyone who came to worship the Lord. One would think that this audience would be receptive. After all, the people in God's temple would seem likely to listen to God! God knew, however, that their hearts were far from Him. They trusted in their religious rituals while perpetrating great acts of injustice (Jeremiah 7:1-11).

Jeremiah stood in the courtyard and called the people to obey His law and to listen to the words of the prophets. If the people did not listen, then God would make the temple like Shiloh. The ark of the covenant had been at Shiloh in the past, and God had destroyed Shiloh due to the people's unfaithfulness. This message would have been shocking—that God would destroy the place where He had put His Name, His presence. But the destruction of the temple would be a fitting judgment. God's people had rejected His presence through their sin, so He would remove His presence from them; the temple's destruction was inevitable.

2. The people reject Jeremiah's prophecy (Jeremiah 26:8-11). Despite Jeremiah's dire warnings to the people in the temple—the priests, the prophets, and the worshippers—immediate reaction was to seize him and threaten him with death. The commotion attracted city officials, and the priests and prophets pleaded their case that Jeremiah should die for his words. Instead of accepting the rebuke of the Lord, they confirmed the hardness of their hearts—just as God had told Jeremiah they would (Jeremiah 1:11-16).

By rejecting Jeremiah's words, they were ultimately rejecting the Lord. This is a warning for us as well. The people of Judah were listening to false prophets and rejecting the word of God. Likewise, it is a temptation for us to ignore the parts of Scripture we do not like and listen to teachers who tell us what we want to hear (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

3. Jeremiah defends his prophecy (Jeremiah 26:12-13). Even though he was threatened with death, Jeremiah remained faithful to God and did not back down from his words. He knew that God was his protection and that even if he should die, it was better to die by following God than to live by forsaking God. Not only that, but God had promised to deliver Jeremiah from the officials—the very people before whom he stood in this passage (Jeremiah 1:17-19; 15:20-21). God

delivered righteous Jeremiah from the officials because of Jeremiah's willingness to obey Him. Jeremiah continued to call for the people to repent. If they did, then God would relent of the disaster He had proclaimed against Judah. If not, however, He would faithfully bring forth His justice and destroy Jerusalem. The people chose not to repent. This is a warning for us. We have something greater than Jeremiah, the prophet, who stood in the temple and proclaimed God's justice. We have Jesus, who also stood in the temple and denounced false religion (Mark 11:15-19). Not only that, but Jesus—the true temple—was destroyed by death and “rebuilt” when God raised Him from the dead. Will we reject His message to repent, or will we turn to Him and be saved?

PRACTICAL POINTS

God is not silent about human culture (Jeremiah 26:1-2).

Every word God speaks is important (vs. 2).

God desires to bless rather than judge (vs. 3).

God will judge those who do not obey His message (vss. 4-6).

God's words apply to every level of society (vs. 7).

Preaching God's words may engender a hostile reaction (vs. 8).

Many people cannot accept that God would judge them (vs. 9).

Sometimes people wrongly think they can sit in judgment of God's words (vss. 10-11).

God's message will prevail no matter what people say (vss. 12-13).

CONCLUSION

God repeatedly offered opportunities for His people to repent, but they refused. Jeremiah was faithful to proclaim God's message despite the people's threats against him. Looking to Jeremiah's example, we ought to be careful to follow the word God has given us in Scripture. He has left a clear witness for us to follow, but if we are not careful, we can let false teaching or the desires of our heart inform us instead of Scripture. As we prayerfully read, let us ask God to safeguard our hearts against false teaching and give us courage to proclaim the truth.

Next week, as we continue in the book of Jeremiah we see the hope God promised to the exiles in **“God’s Hope for Exiles. Jeremiah 29:1-14.** *Union Gospel Press, LifeStone*