

JEREMIAH 26: 1 In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, came this word from the LORD, saying,

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Jeremiah, by the commend of God, goes into the court of the Lord's house; and foretells the destruction of the temple and city, if not prevented by the speedy repentance of the people, Jer 26:1-7. By this unwelcome prophecy his life was in great danger; although saved by the influence of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, who makes a masterly defense for the prophet, Jer 26:8-18. Urijah is condemned, but escapes to Egypt; whence he is brought back by Jehoiakim, and slain, Jer 26:20-23. Ahikam befriends Jeremiah, Jer 26:24.

#### Verse 1

In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim - As this prophecy must have been delivered in the first or second year of the reign of Jehoiakim, it is totally out of its place here. Dr. Blayney puts it before chap. 36.; and Dr. Dahler immediately after chap. ix., and before chap. 46.

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JEREMIAH 26: 2 Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD's house, all the words that I command you to speak to them; don't diminish a word.

JEREMIAH 26: 3 It may be they will listen, and turn every man from his evil way; that I may repent me of the evil which I purpose to do to them because of the evil of their doings.

JEREMIAH 26: 4 You shall tell them, Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law, which I have set before you,

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#### Verse 4

If ye will not hearken - This and several of the following verses are nearly the same with those in Jer 7:13, etc., where see the notes.

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JEREMIAH 26: 5 to listen to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I send to you, even rising up early and sending them, but you have not listened;

JEREMIAH 26: 6 then I will make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth.

JEREMIAH 26: 7 The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the LORD's house.

JEREMIAH 26: 8 When Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, the priests and the prophets and all the people seized him, saying, "You shall surely die."

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Verse 8

And all the people - That were in company with the priests and the prophets.

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JEREMIAH 26: 9 Why have you prophesied in the LORD's name, saying, This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant? All the people were gathered to Jeremiah in the LORD's house.

JEREMIAH 26: 10 When the princes of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the LORD's house; and they sat in the entry of the new gate of the LORD's house.

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Verse 10

The princes of Judah - The king's court; his cabinet counsellors.

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JEREMIAH 26: 11 Then spoke the priests and the prophets to the princes and to all the people, saying, This man is worthy of death; for he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your ears.

JEREMIAH 26: 12 Then spoke Jeremiah to all the princes and to all the people, saying, the LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that you have heard.

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Verse 12

The Lord sent me to prophesy - My commission is from him, and my words are his own. I sought not this painful office. I did not run before I was sent.

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JEREMIAH 26: 13 Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the LORD your God's voice; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he has pronounced against you.

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Verse 13

Therefore now amend your ways - If ye wish to escape the judgment which I have predicted, turn to God, and iniquity shall not be your ruin.

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JEREMIAH 26: 14 But as for me, behold, I am in your hand: do with me as is good and right in your eyes.

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Verse 14

As for me, behold, I am in your hand - I am the messenger of God; you may do with me what you please; but if you slay me, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves.

JEREMIAH 26: 15 Only know for certain that, if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood on yourselves, and on this city, and on its inhabitants; for of a truth the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.

JEREMIAH 26: 16 Then the princes and all the people said to the priests and to the prophets: This man is not worthy of death; for he has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God.

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Verse 16

This man is not worthy to die - The whole court acquitted him.

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JEREMIAH 26: 17 Then rose up certain of the elders of the land, and spoke to all the assembly of the people, saying,

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Verse 17

Certain of the elders - This is really a fine defense, and the argument was perfectly conclusive. Some think that it was Ahikam who undertook the prophet's defense.

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JEREMIAH 26: 18 Micah the Morashtite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah; and he spoke to all the people of Judah, saying, Thus says the LORD of Armies: Zion shall be ploughed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest.

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Verse 18

Micah the Morasthite - The same as stands among the prophets. Now all these prophesied as hard things against the land as Jeremiah has done; yet they were not put to death, for the people saw that they were sent of God.

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JEREMIAH 26: 19 Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him to death? Didn't he fear the LORD, and entreat the favour of the LORD, and the LORD relented of the disaster which he had pronounced against them? Thus should we commit great evil against our own souls.

JEREMIAH 26: 20 There was also a man who prophesied in the LORD's name, Uriah the son of Shemaiah of Kiriath Jearim; and he prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah:

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Verse 20

Urijah - who prophesied - The process against Jeremiah is finished at the nineteenth verse; and the case of Urijah is next brought on, for he was also to be tried for his life; but hearing of it he fled to Egypt. He was however condemned in his absence; and the king sent to Egypt, and brought him thence and slew him, and caused him to have an ignominious burial, Jer 26:21-23.

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JEREMIAH 26: 21 and when Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men, and all the princes, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death; but when Uriah heard it, he was afraid, and fled, and went into Egypt:

JEREMIAH 26: 22 and Jehoiakim the king sent men into Egypt, Elnathan the son of Achbor, and certain men with him, into Egypt;

JEREMIAH 26: 23 and they fetched Uriah out of Egypt, and brought him to Jehoiakim the king, who killed him with the sword, and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people.

JEREMIAH 26: 24 But the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah, that they should not give him into the hand of the people to put him to death.

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#### Verse 24

The hand of Ahikam - was with Jeremiah - And it was probably by his influence that Jeremiah did not share the same fate with Urijah. The Ahikam mentioned here was probably the father of Gedaliah, who, after the capture of Jerusalem, was appointed governor of the country by Nebuchadnezzar, Jer 40:5. Of the Prophet Urijah, whether he was true or false, we know nothing but what we learn from this place.

That they should not give him into the hand of the people - Though acquitted in the supreme court, he was not out of danger; there was a popular prejudice against him, and it is likely that Ahikam was obliged to conceal him, that they might not put him to death. The genuine ministers of God have no favor to expect from those who are His enemies.