

The Study on the Book of Jeremiah
Week #10: The Temple Sermon (Part 1)
Sunday, December 29, 2024 (PM Service)

Introduction:

- Jeremiah chapters 7-10 are believed to contain the messages of Jeremiah delivered on different occasions and for the most part during the rule of **King Jehoiakim** (609-598 B.C.).

1. The **Temple Sermon (Jer. 7:1-15)**

- a. The sermon reveals that the reforms of King Josiah, who died in 609, had been quickly **abandoned** with the encouragement of the people's new ruler, Jehoiakim. **(Deut. 16:16)**
- b. Jeremiah's sermon, however, **exposed** the fallacy of their **trust**.
 - i. Their only real security lay not in a building but in moral uprightness, faithfulness, and obedience to their God.

2. The **Misplaced Trust in Deceptive Words**

- a. **Jer. 7:1-2:** The gate was undoubtedly a place where great throngs of **worshippers** congregated.
- b. **Jer. 7:3-8:** Like a prosecuting attorney in court, the Lord accused the people of **misplaced** trust and **misguided** behavior.
 - i. He warned them to reform their ways along with a promise, **"I will let you live in this place."**
 - ii. Sometimes the "place" (a word occurring 8 times in **7:1-8:3**) refers to the **shrine (7:12)**, to **Jerusalem (7:3)**, and sometimes to the entire **land (7:7)**.
 - iii. The temple was a visible reminder of God's **presence** and protective **power** about the city.
 - iv. They, the Nation of Israel, had forgotten God **required** obedience as a condition for enjoying his blessings.
 - v. What were the conditions for the people to remain in the land?
 1. If they practiced **justice** with one another (**Deut. 16:20**), did not **oppress** others (**Ex. 22:21-22**), did not **shed** innocent blood (**Deut.**

19:10), or worship other gods (Ex. 23:3-4), he would let them remain the land.

a. God never requires more than His people are able to accomplish.

c. **Jer. 7:9-11:** The temple had become the refuge for people to perform the rituals they believed freed them to continue their wicked practices.

d. **Warnings from Shiloh's Fate**

i. **Jer. 7:12-15:** As further warning that the temple was not exempt from God's wrath, He reminded them to consider the fate of Shiloh. (Ps. 78:56-64)

3. **The Worship of the Queen of Heaven**

a. **Jer. 7:16-20:** God knew that the hearts of the people of Judah were so hardened that they had already made their irrevocable decision to ignore His warnings.

i. The queen of heaven (mentioned elsewhere in the Old Testament in **Jeremiah 44:17-25**) is usually identified as the Assyro-Babylonian deity Ishtar (Canaanite Astarte), goddess of lover and fertility, though her exact identity remains unknown.

ii. The scoffer and atheist should ask who is really being hurt when he or she defies God. (**Jer. 7:20**)