

Jeremiah Escapes Death

Jeremiah 7 - 12

Jeremiah 26

by Don Falkos

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Jeremiah stood in front of the Temple and spoke to the people of Judah.

The Lord says:

Disaster is looming.

But there is still time for you to change your ways. Administer justice; stop oppressing immigrants, orphans, and widows; stop shedding innocent blood; and stop worshipping idols. Then I will avert the approaching disaster and let you stay in this land.

You think just because my Temple is here in Jerusalem you are safe. You steal, murder, commit adultery, lie, and worship other gods. You have even sunk so low as to offer your own children in the fires of your false gods. You come here direct from your worthless idols and offer a sacrifice that holds no meaning for you, only to go right back to what you were doing. You are not repentant; you are not saved.

You have broken my covenant with you. I have called to you repeatedly through the prophets, but you refuse to come back to me. Listen to me now, or this Temple will be destroyed, and Jerusalem will become an uninhabited ruin – an object of derision.

Jeremiah was put on trial for prophesying against Jerusalem. Many called for his execution. Some of the Judean leaders said, "Years ago the prophet Micah said, 'Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins, and the Temple mount an overgrown thicket.' King Hezekiah didn't kill Micah. Instead, he and the people turned from their evil ways and worshiped the Lord. Then the Lord averted the disaster that was headed their way. Shouldn't we do the same today?"

So Jeremiah was spared an ignoble and unwarranted death.