



## Part 3 of 5

As we keep reading, we find the Jewish people hearing God's offer to forgive them if they repent, but they reply, "Don't waste your breath. We will continue to live as we want to, stubbornly following our own evil desires" (18:12). Jeremiah's prophecies make it clear the destruction of Judah will soon become a reality because of their rebellious ways.

The prophet proclaims judgment on Judah's kings for their failure to carry out justice, especially to the poor, orphans, widows, and foreigners.

But there is future hope... Jeremiah also speaks of a Jewish remnant that will eventually return from the coming Babylonian captivity. He indicates the captivity will last seventy years and will be followed by judgment on Babylon and their allied nations (25:12). This prophecy is also cited in Daniel 9:2 and 2 Chronicles 36:21.

Jeremiah then returns to the theme of false prophets, who were apparently quite powerful in the royal court, and the judgment awaiting them. After giving a "temple sermon," Jeremiah is even seized by the priests, the false prophets, and the people, all wanting to kill him. He was spared by the intervention of some of the elders (most likely not from Jerusalem). Soon after, Jeremiah has a run-in with a false prophet named Hananiah who challenges his authority. Jeremiah pronounces judgment on Hananiah and within two months the false prophet is dead.

During the life of Jeremiah, the Babylonians conquer Jerusalem twice – a surrender in 598 BC and a total destruction (including the Temple) in 586 BC. Although the false prophets of Jeremiah's time predicted a quick return from exile, Jeremiah sends the exiles a letter explaining that they will be in Babylon for seventy years (a lifetime), so they might as well prepare and settle down for the extended period (29:4-23). *More next week...*