

The Consequences of Violating the Covenant: God's Inescapable Judgment Jeremiah 11:11–12:06

1. *The consequences of violating the covenant listed*

a. Cries to God would not be heard

b. Cries for help to the false gods would not save the people

c. Cries to a multitude of false gods — even to the greatest of the false gods, Baal — would not save the people

d. Prayers offered by Jeremiah (or any other prophet) would not help the people: God instructed Jeremiah not to pray for them

e. Worship — giving more offerings and sacrifices — would not stop the judgment from falling upon those who did evil

f. Religious heritage — godly forefathers of a family or nation — would not avert the judgment: The olive tree (Judah) would be destroyed

11 Therefore this is what the LORD says:
‘I will bring on them
a disaster they cannot escape.
Although they cry out to me,
I will not listen to them.

12 The towns of Judah
and the people of Jerusalem
will go and cry out to the gods
to whom they burn incense,
but they will not help them at all
when disaster strikes.

13 You, Judah, have as many gods
as you have towns; and the altars
you have set up to burn incense
to that shameful god Baal are
as many as the streets of Jerusalem.’

14 “Do not pray for this people or offer any plea
or petition for them,
because I will not listen when they call to me
in the time of their distress.

15 “What is my beloved doing in my temple
as she, with many others,
works out her evil schemes?
Can consecrated meat avert your punishment?
When you engage in your wickedness,
then you rejoice. ”

16 The LORD called you a thriving olive tree
with fruit beautiful in form.
But with the roar of a mighty storm
he will set it on fire,
and its branches will be broken.

<p>2. <i>The certainty of the judgment</i></p> <p>a. It was decreed</p> <p>b. The reasons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The people did evil • The people worshipped false gods <p>3. <i>The people's reaction to the preaching of judgment</i></p> <p>a. The LORD's exposure of a plot to kill Jeremiah</p> <p>b. Jeremiah's twofold response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He confessed he suspected nothing: Was like a lamb being led to slaughter by men planning to kill him to stop his message • He prayed for God to execute true justice and judgment on the evil-doers: He placed his cause into God's hands for vengeance <p>c. The LORD's twofold pledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The persecutors' plot would not succeed: They would not be able to kill him nor stop God's Word from being proclaimed • The persecutors and their families would be punished: None of their descendants would be left alive 	<p>17 The LORD Almighty, who planted you, has decreed disaster for you, because the people of both Israel and Judah have done evil and aroused my anger by burning incense to Baal.</p> <p>18 Because the LORD revealed their plot to me, I knew it, for at that time he showed me what they were doing.</p> <p>19 I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; I did not realize that they had plotted against me, saying, "Let us destroy the tree and its fruit; let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more."</p> <p>20 But you, LORD Almighty, who judge righteously and test the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I have committed my cause.</p> <p>21 Therefore this is what the LORD says about the people of Anathoth who are threatening to kill you, saying, "Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD or you will die by our hands" —</p> <p>22 therefore this is what the LORD Almighty says: "I will punish them. Their young men will die by the sword, their sons and daughters by famine.</p> <p>23 Not even a remnant will be left to them, because I will bring disaster on the people of Anathoth in the year of their punishment."</p>
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CHAPTER 12

4. *The question Jeremiah asked about God's justice and judgment: Why did the wicked seem to prosper?*

- a. Jeremiah's acknowledgment that God is righteous
- b. Jeremiah's puzzling question: Why did God bless the wicked when the wicked were hypocritical, making false professions?
- c. Jeremiah's confession: God knew his heart
 - He wanted true justice — the wicked punished in the day of slaughter (God's judgment)
 - He wondered how long the land and the godly must suffer God's discipline (droughts, conquests, destruction): All due to the wicked
- d. God's response: Stirred Jeremiah to greater courage and faith
 - The future would be far tougher: Like running against horses or in a thicket
 - The future opposition and persecution would be far more fierce: Must not trust even his own family

- 1 You are always righteous, LORD, when I bring a case before you. Yet I would speak with you about your justice: Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all the faithless live at ease?
- 2 You have planted them, and they have taken root; they grow and bear fruit. You are always on their lips but far from their hearts.
- 3 Yet you know me, LORD; you see me and test my thoughts about you. Drag them off like sheep to be butchered! Set them apart for the day of slaughter!
- 4 How long will the land lie parched and the grass in every field be withered? Because those who live in it are wicked, the animals and birds have perished. Moreover, the people are saying, "He will not see what happens to us."
- 5 "If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?"
- 6 Your relatives, members of your own family — even they have betrayed you; they have raised a loud cry against you. Do not trust them, though they speak well of you.