

**The Response of Jeremiah to Persecution:
Prayer — Seeking a Hiding Place in the LORD
Jeremiah 20:07–18**

1. *He was questioning God's call due to constant abuse:
Was he deceived about his call?*

- a. He faithfully proclaimed God's warning of judgment
- b. He was oppressed and mocked all day long for carrying out God's will

2. *He was still compelled to continue proclaiming God's Word*

- a. Because God's Word burned in his heart
- b. Because he could not keep from sharing it

3. *He was continually persecuted*

- a. He was opposed by both the public and his friends: They sought to stop him by finding out something criminal about him
- b. He knew the LORD was protecting him
 - That his enemies would stumble and fail
 - That God would punish them with eternal shame and dishonour

7 You deceived me, LORD,
and I was deceived;
you overpowered me and prevailed.
I am ridiculed all day long;
everyone mocks me.

8 Whenever I speak,
I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction.
So the word of the LORD has brought me
insult and reproach all day long.

9 But if I say, "I will not mention his word
or speak anymore in his name,"
his word is in my heart like a fire,
a fire shut up in my bones.
I am weary of holding it in;
indeed, I cannot.

10 I hear many whispering,
"Terror on every side!
Denounce him! Let's denounce him!"
All my friends are waiting for me to slip,
saying, "Perhaps he will be deceived;
then we will prevail over him
and take our revenge on him."

11 But the LORD is with me like a mighty warrior;
so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail.
They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced;
their dishonour will never be forgotten.

<p>c. He prayed for God to vindicate Himself</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because God examines and knows people’s hearts • Because his cause (the preaching of God’s Word) must be vindicated <p>d. He praised the LORD for delivering the poor in spirit — true believers — from the wicked</p> <p>4. <i>He was gripped by deep despair, 15:10; Job 3:3-10</i></p> <p>a. He cursed the day he was born</p> <p>b. He cursed the man who brought the news of his birth to his father</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He asked God to judge the man as He did Sodom and Gomorrah (was probably one of the abusive friends) • He preferred never to have been born <p>c. He explained his despair: Because he was unable to prevent the coming judgment</p>	<p>12 LORD Almighty, you who examine the righteous and probe the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I have committed my cause.</p> <p>13 Sing to the LORD! Give praise to the LORD! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.</p> <p>14 Cursed be the day I was born! May the day my mother bore me not be blessed!</p> <p>15 Cursed be the man who brought my father the news, who made him very glad, saying, “A child is born to you — a son!”</p> <p>16 May that man be like the towns the LORD overthrew without pity. May he hear wailing in the morning, a battle cry at noon.</p> <p>17 For he did not kill me in the womb, with my mother as my grave, her womb enlarged forever.</p> <p>18 Why did I ever come out of the womb to see trouble and sorrow and to end my days in shame?</p>
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