

Study Guide: Jeremiah's Message - Trusting Lying Words

This study guide is designed to review the core concepts presented in Lesson 6, focusing on Jeremiah's "Temple Sermon" as detailed in Jeremiah chapter 7.

Short-Answer Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in two to three sentences each, based on the provided source material.

1. Who was the prophet Jeremiah, and where was his home located?
2. What was the primary warning Jeremiah delivered to the people of Judah at the temple gate?
3. What specific "lying words" were the people of Jerusalem trusting in, according to Jeremiah 7:4?
4. According to Jeremiah's message, what was the "right solution" for the people's sin, and what was God's promise if they followed it?
5. List three specific ethical changes God demanded from the people in Jeremiah 7:5-6.
6. How did Jeremiah expose the hypocrisy of the people's worship in Jeremiah 7:9-10?
7. Why did God reject the people's burnt offerings and sacrifices as detailed in Jeremiah 7:21-23?
8. What historical example does God use in Jeremiah 7:12 & 14 as a warning for what would happen to the temple in Jerusalem?
9. What acts of idolatry were the people committing in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem?
10. What is the timeless, underlying theme of Jeremiah's message regarding the kind of relationship God desires with people?

Answer Key

1. Jeremiah was a priest by profession who served as a prophet for the Lord. He lived in the village of Anathoth, which was located about three miles northeast of Jerusalem, a journey of about an hour to the temple.
2. Jeremiah's primary warning was against the danger of trusting in "lying words." He proclaimed that the people of Judah needed to hear the word of the Lord and amend their ways and doings.
3. The people were trusting in the deceptive chant, "The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, are these." They believed the mere presence of the physical temple guaranteed their safety and deliverance, regardless of their actions.

4. The "right solution" was for the people to "thoroughly amend [their] ways and [their] doings." If they obeyed, God promised, "I will cause you to dwell in this place," referring to the land given to their fathers forever.
 5. God demanded that they thoroughly execute justice between individuals, cease the oppression of the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and stop shedding innocent blood. He also commanded them not to walk after other gods.
 6. Jeremiah exposed their hypocrisy by pointing out that they would steal, murder, commit adultery, and burn incense to Baal, then come and stand in the temple and claim, "We are delivered." They treated God's house like a "den of robbers" by using it as a safe haven after committing abominations.
 7. God rejected their sacrifices because they were not what He had originally commanded when He brought Israel out of Egypt. Instead of ritual sacrifice, His primary command was, "Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people."
 8. God points to His former dwelling place at Shiloh. He states that just as He destroyed Shiloh because of the wickedness of the people of Israel, He would do the same to the temple in Jerusalem in which the people wrongly placed their trust.
 9. The people were engaging in widespread idolatry. The children gathered wood, fathers kindled fires, and women kneaded dough to make cakes for the "queen of heaven" and pour out drink offerings to other gods.
 10. The timeless theme is that God wants a relationship based on willing obedience, not insincere ritual. God desires worship that comes from a sincere heart rather than just the outward trappings of devotion.
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Essay Questions

Instructions: Consider the following prompts for deeper reflection and essay-style responses. Answers are not provided.

1. Analyze the concept of "lying words" as presented in Jeremiah 7. What did the people believe, why was it a deception, and what are modern parallels to this kind of false spiritual security?
2. Discuss the relationship between outward religious practice (worship at the temple, sacrifices) and inward heart posture (obedience, justice) as described in Jeremiah's message. Why does God prioritize one over the other, and what does this reveal about His character?
3. Explain the hypocrisy Jeremiah exposed among the people of Judah. How did their actions outside the temple (Jeremiah 7:9) directly contradict their claims of deliverance inside the temple (Jeremiah 7:10), and what does this reveal about their flawed understanding of worship?
4. Using Jeremiah 7:5-7 and 7:23, describe the covenantal relationship God desired with His people. What were God's promises, and what were the specific social and spiritual conditions the people were required to meet?

5. The source material states that Jeremiah's message is "timeless." Elaborate on this idea by connecting the specific sins of 7th-century Judah (oppression of the vulnerable, idolatry, false security in religious symbols) to potential spiritual dangers today.
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Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Anathoth	The village where the prophet Jeremiah lived, located about three miles northeast of Jerusalem.
Baal	An idol to whom the people of Judah were burning incense, an act of idolatry condemned by Jeremiah.
Hypocrisy	The practice of engaging in sinful acts (stealing, murder, adultery, idolatry) while simultaneously claiming deliverance and safety within God's temple. A central theme of Jeremiah's message.
Idolatry	The act of walking after and worshipping "other gods," specifically mentioned as burning incense to Baal and making offerings to the "queen of heaven."
Jeremiah	A priest and prophet from the village of Anathoth who delivered God's message, known as the "Temple Sermon," at the gate of the Lord's house in Jerusalem.
Lying Words	The deceptive phrase, "The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord," which the people chanted, falsely believing the temple's existence guaranteed their protection.
Obedience	The primary command of God to His people ("Obey my voice"). According to Jeremiah, this was the original command from the time of the Exodus and was more important than burnt offerings or sacrifices.
Oppression	A specific sin condemned by God, which included wrongdoing against the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.
Queen of Heaven	An idol to whom the women of Judah kneaded dough to make cakes, as part of the widespread idolatry in Jerusalem.
Shiloh	The location of God's first sanctuary, which He destroyed due to the wickedness of the people. It is used as a historical warning of what would happen to the temple in Jerusalem if the people did not repent.
Temple Sermon	The term used to describe the message from the Lord that Jeremiah delivered at the gate of the temple in Jerusalem, as recorded in Jeremiah 7.