

Pastor Dave's notes

27.1-11: These verses are not addressed to Israel, but to other nations (e.g. Moab, Edom, Ammon, etc.). Jeremiah's prophetic mission is focused on the Hebrew people, but interestingly he also addresses this message to other, pagan nations. The God who created the whole world (v. 5) also guides and directs the fates of every nation.

v. 14-15: as Jeremiah suggests, there were other prophets in ancient Israel besides him. Many of these prophets were so-called 'court prophets,' who worked for the king and could be relied on to say what he wanted to hear. In our passage Jeremiah denounces these false prophets, whose 'word from the Lord' is not genuine. (You can read chapter 28 for more about Jeremiah's confrontation with the false prophet Hananiah.).

v. 16-22: these verses concern 'the vessels left in the house of the Lord' and 'in the house of the king of Judah' (v. 18). That is, it refers to precious ornaments and tools found in the king's palace and, just importantly, in the temple. During a previous raid, Babylon had taken away several of these precious vessels from the temple and the palace, although they also left several behind. Some of the false prophets had begun to say that those vessels would be returned to the temple within the next few years (v. 16). That is, they had begun to suggest that Babylon would be defeated or that its influence would decline, resulting in the return of the stolen treasures to Israel. Jeremiah rejects this idea, noting that unless the Hebrews repent all the rest of Israel's treasures will be carried away to Babylon as well (v. 22).