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JEREMIAH – LESSON 3

SHEMAIAH - THE SPIRIT OF UNBELIEF

With all the opposition to Jeremiah, none was neither so fierce nor carried out to such great lengths as that of the false prophet Shemaiah the Nehelamite. The story is told in Jeremiah 29:24-32.

Jeremiah had written his prophecy of seventy years captivity in Babylon. Hananiah had prophesied it to be only two years, calling Jeremiah a false prophet. God killed him the same year he said that.

Now Shemaiah is calling Jeremiah a false prophet. He said Jeremiah should be put in prison in stocks, and it was done so. But he went much further. Shemaiah sent letters to every captive in Babylon claiming Jeremiah to be false. He spread it throughout Judea also.

He was aggressively promoting “unbelief” in the word of God given to Jeremiah. This “spirit of unbelief” was against God and His word.

The priest Zephaniah read Shemaiah’s letter to Jeremiah. God gave a word about this to Jeremiah who then put it into a letter that was sent to all those in captivity. In the letter, God told them through Jeremiah that Shemaiah was the false prophet putting forth lies.

God said he would punish Shemaiah by cutting off his seed from the face of the earth forever, neither shall he see the good that God would later do in restoration of the nation. This was because of his rebellion against God by convincing people that God’s word was not true.

The evil spirit that was found in Shemaiah is still very active today, but it is well hidden in identity. It is “the spirit of unbelief.” Tomorrow I will go into more detail about this “strongman demon spirit of unbelief.”