

Setting the Scene: Covenant Words That Still Call Us

Chapter 11 opens with a fresh word from the Lord: *“Hear the words of this covenant”* (Jeremiah 11:2, NKJV). Jeremiah is commissioned to remind Judah that life in the land was never unconditional; it was relational—rooted in love, loyalty, and obedience to the God who saved them out of Egypt. The Lord’s heart is clear: *“Obey My voice... so shall you be My people, and I will be your God”* (Jeremiah 11:4, NKJV).

This is not a debate about abstract fate or human boasting. It is the call of a faithful God to a responsible people. Real relationship with God is not secured by merely possessing His words but by practicing them (see James 1:22–25).

1) Hear and Do: The Covenant Re-Read (Jeremiah 11:1–5)

“Cursed is the man who does not obey the words of this covenant.” — Jeremiah 11:3 (NKJV)

Jeremiah reaches back to the dramatic covenant ceremony in Deuteronomy 27–28—half the tribes on Mount Ebal pronouncing curses for disobedience; half on Mount Gerizim proclaiming blessings for obedience; and the massive congregation below responding, “Amen!” The point was unmistakable: God’s blessings are enjoyed in the path of trustful obedience; covenant infidelity brings consequences.

Application: Hearing is not the same as heeding. Many of us have shelves of Bibles and streams of sermons, but the Lord asks for responsive hearts—forgiveness offered, integrity practiced, idols abandoned, compassion displayed, and worship marked by wholehearted devotion.

Prayer to practice: “Amen, O Lord—let Your covenant words govern my choices today.”

2) The Missed Turn: From Hearing to Hardening (Jeremiah 11:6–8)

“Hear the words of this covenant and do them.” — Jeremiah 11:6 (NKJV)

The Lord says He “earnestly protested” (Jeremiah 11:7, NKJV)—which means He rose early, again and again, sending warnings through His servants. Grace came first: God pleaded, instructed, waited. But Judah “walked... in the imagination of their evil heart” (Jeremiah 11:8, NKJV). Their problem was not information but insubordination.

Application: God’s repeated cautions are acts of mercy. When the Spirit convicts you about a habit, a harsh tongue, secret compromise, or a neglected duty, that is God rising early to rescue you. Do not postpone obedience; delays calcify the heart.

3) The Conspiracy of Unfaithfulness (Jeremiah 11:9–13)

“A conspiracy is found among the men of Judah... they have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers... they have broken My covenant.” — Jeremiah 11:9–10 (NKJV)

This is not a private lapse but a public alignment—a cultural collusion to normalize idolatry. Altars to Baal multiply; as many cities, so many gods (Jeremiah 11:13). The tragedy? When crisis comes, the gods they served cannot save (Jeremiah 11:12).

Application: Modern idols rarely sit on pedestals; they live in priorities—success without surrender, romance without righteousness, security without trust, spirituality without Scripture. In the end, our idols cannot hear us, carry us, or redeem us. Only the living God can.

Diagnostic questions for believers:

1. What am I relying on for peace that is not Christ?
2. What do I fear losing most—status, control, approval, pleasure, comfort?
3. Where have I adjusted Scripture to fit my desires rather than adjusting my desires to fit Scripture?

4) A Sobering Line: When Prayer Is Withheld (Jeremiah 11:14–17)

“Do not pray for this people... for I will not hear them in the time that they cry out to Me because of their trouble.” — Jeremiah 11:14 (NKJV)

These are among the heaviest words in the book. After persistent warnings are despised, judicial hardness sets in; the Lord withholds rescue so that the full weight of covenant-breaking might be felt. Even the once-green olive tree (Judah) is set ablaze (Jeremiah 11:16–17).

Two clarities we must hold together (without partisan systems):

- God is faithful and patient—He warns before He wounds, and His judgments are measured and moral.
- Humans are responsible—we can resist, grieve, and finally forfeit blessings by stubborn unbelief.

Application: If you sense the Spirit’s grief over a path you are taking, turn now. Repentance today is easier than repair tomorrow.

5) When Obedience Costs: The Prophet Under Threat (Jeremiah 11:18–20)

“I was like a docile lamb... they devised schemes, saying, ‘Let us destroy the tree with its fruit...’” — Jeremiah 11:19 (NKJV)

Jeremiah discovers a plot on his life, likely from his own hometown of Anathoth. He entrusts his case to the *“LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the mind and the heart”* (Jeremiah 11:20, NKJV).

Application: Faithfulness may provoke hostility. When obedience brings loss, slander, or isolation, commit your way to the righteous Judge. He sees motives, measures wrongs, and will vindicate truth in His time.

A wise response: Pray for enemies, refuse retaliation, keep speaking truth in love, and entrust the outcome to God.

6) God's Verdict on Violent Resistance (Jeremiah 11:21–23)

“Thus says the LORD concerning the men of Anathoth who seek your life... ‘I will punish them...’” — Jeremiah 11:21–22 (NKJV)

Those who forbid God's word and threaten God's servant face God's justice. The Lord's answer to Jeremiah's cry is not personal revenge but divine righteousness. God will not be mocked; He protects His message and holds opposers accountable.

Application: The church must reject both vengeance and moral indifference. We love our enemies (Matthew 5:44), yet we also stand firm against evil and trust God to judge rightly (Romans 12:17–21).

A Challenge for Believers: Renew Your “Amen”

1. Return to first-love obedience. Do not confuse exposure to Scripture with submission to Scripture. Re-consecrate your habits, speech, money, media, and relationships to Jesus' lordship.
2. Remove the rival altars. Identify and dethrone whatever competes with Christ—fear of man, hidden sin, self-reliance, bitterness, or material security.
3. Rebuild corporate faithfulness. In your home and church, normalize repentance, not pretense; intercession, not indifference; courage, not compromise.
4. Rely on the living God. Idols must be carried; God carries you (Isaiah 46:3–4). Cast your cares on Him.

A simple prayer of response:

“Father, I hear Your covenant word. I say ‘Amen.’ By Your Spirit, help me do what You say. Where I have strayed, correct me in mercy. Where idols have risen, tear them down. Make my life a true ‘Amen’ to Jesus.”

An Invitation to the Not-Yet-Convinced: Come to the Living God

Jeremiah exposes the emptiness of substitutes so you can meet the Savior who satisfies. The living God has drawn near in Jesus Christ. He shed His blood on the cross to pay for our sins and reconcile us to God, and His resurrection declares that He is God, Savior, and Lord (see Romans 1:3–4; First Corinthians 15:3–4).

God does not ask you to carry Him; He came to carry you—your guilt, shame, and helplessness.

How to respond today:

- Repent and believe: “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19).
- Confess Jesus as Lord: “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).
- Receive the gift: “Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved” (Joel 2:32; Romans 10:13).

A prayer you can make your own:

“Lord Jesus, I turn from my sin and from every idol. I believe You shed Your blood on the cross for me, and that You rose again. I confess You as my God, my Savior, and my Lord. Make me new and teach me to walk in Your ways. Amen.”