

# The Jeremiah Syndrome, Why We Don't Obey The Voice Of God

Sermon Title: The Jeremiah Syndrome, Why We Don't Obey The Voice Of God

Sermon Number: 5888

Speaker: Nathaniel Bronner

Link to sermon audio - <http://www.theonlineword.com/mp3/5888.mp3>

Link to sermon video - <http://theark.s3.amazonaws.com/vid/5888.mp4>



[BrothersofTheWord.com](http://BrothersofTheWord.com)  
[m](http://m)

Nathaniel Bronner: To be able to follow God, you got to be able to die to yourself because what you want to do and what God wants you to do most of the time is different.

Female: You are listening to [BrothersofTheWord.com](http://BrothersofTheWord.com). This is the Sermon titled, "The Jeremiah Syndrome, Why We Don't Obey The Voice Of God" by Nathaniel Bronner. This Sermon is number 5888.

(Music Playing: 00:00:18 - 00:00:30)

And now for, "The Jeremiah Syndrome, Why We Don't Obey The Voice Of God".

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the word, because brother you need the word. And as many of you know, I have been in the midst of the series called "Success Forces" and actually this is the second part of Success Forces. I preached the first part and the first series several years ago. And as I was in my prayer this morning, I mentioned to you prior that Christian has had us going through the Bible and yesterday was the Book of Jeremiah and it was studying the 42nd through the 46 chapter. And as I read through Jeremiah chapter 42, I actually went over it four or five times just over and over and over and over. And at the end of my prayer this morning, God spoke "That's what I want you to preach about this morning." So, I'm going to just put a pause in the Success Forces for just this Sunday. We will be back the next message continuing on with Success Forces, but I just want to talk about Jeremiah and not so much Jeremiah as the Jeremiah syndrome.

Jeremiah chapter 42, the New Living Translation version. "Then all the guerrilla leaders, from the least to the greatest, approached Jeremiah the prophet. They said, "Please pray to the Lord your God for us. As you can see, we are only a tiny remnant compared to what we were before. Pray that the Lord your God will show us what to do and where to go." "All right," Jeremiah replied. "I will pray to the Lord your God, as you have asked, and I will tell you everything he says. I will hide nothing from you."

Then they said to Jeremiah, "May the Lord your God be a faithful witness against us if we refuse to obey whatever he tells us to do! Whether we like it or not, we will obey the Lord our God to whom we are sending you with our plea. For if we obey Him, everything will turn out well for us."

Ten days later, the Lord gave his reply to Jeremiah. So he called for the other guerrilla leaders, and for all the people, from the least to the greatest. He said to them, “You sent me to the Lord, the God of Israel, with your request, and this is his reply: ‘Stay here in this land. If you do, I will build you up and not tear you down; I will plant you and not uproot you. For I am sorry about all the punishment I have had to bring upon you. Do not fear the king of Babylon anymore,’ says the Lord. ‘For I am with you and will save you and rescue you from his power. I will be merciful to you by making him kind, so he will not stay here in your land.’

“But if you refuse to obey the Lord your God, and if you say, ‘We will not stay here; instead, we will go to Egypt where we will be free from war, the call to arms, and hunger,’ then hear the Lord’s message to the remnant of Judah. This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says: ‘If you are determined to go to Egypt and live there, the very war and famine you fear will catch up to you, and you will die there.’ That is the fate awaiting every one of you who insists on going to live in Egypt. Yes, you will die from war, famine, and disease. None of you will escape the disaster I will bring upon you there. “Listen, you remnant of Judah. The Lord has told you: ‘Do not go to Egypt!’ Don’t forget this warning I have given you today. For you were not being honest when you sent me to pray to the Lord your God for you. You said, ‘Just tell us what the Lord our God says, and we will do it!’ And today I have told you exactly what he said, but you will not obey the Lord your God any better now than you have in the past. So you can be sure that you will die from war, famine, and disease in Egypt, where you insist on going.”

That’s chapter 42. Now, I’ll just read you the first couple of verses of chapter 43.

00:05:03

“When Jeremiah had finished giving this message from the Lord their God to all the people, all the proud men said to Jeremiah, “You lie! The Lord our God hasn’t forbidden us to go to Egypt! Baruch son of Neriah has convinced you to say this, because he wants us to stay here and be killed by the Babylonians or be carried off into exile.” So, the guerrilla leaders and all the people refused to obey the Lord’s command to stay in Judah.”

And God says somebody needs this particular message, just one of you. But I saw when Jesus went to the pool of Bethesda and just healed one man, sometimes he'll send a message just for one purpose, just for one person. So today, I am speaking from the Jeremiah syndrome. The Jeremiah syndrome, why we don't obey the voice of God?

And as I first read this chapter. Because you know Jeremiah is not a popular book to read. There's not a whole lot of folk who just quote a whole lot of Jeremiah. It's not a popular book to read. It's a long book, but it's not a popular book to read. And when I went over that chapter 42, I just went over and over and over and over and over again and I had a hard time come into grips with why the folk would not listen to Jeremiah and they had asked Jeremiah. I could see it if Jeremiah had just come out of the blue and started prophesying, not that, it wasn't the way it happened. They went to Jeremiah and said, "Please go to God and whatever God says we will do because we know if we do what God says it will be well with us and whether he says whether it is good or bad, we are going to do whatever the Lord says."

But yet Jeremiah came back and he only told them one thing, "don't go to Egypt". Don't go to Egypt. And then he went to tell other stuff. "If you go to Egypt, you're gonna die by the sword. You're going to die by the famine. You're gonna die by the pestilence. If you go to Egypt you're going to get killed in war, the famine, your money and your food going to get messed up and your body going to be sick. If you go to Egypt, these things are going to happen to you. Just don't go Egypt," then he repeated it two or three times. Don't go to Egypt, don't go to Egypt, don't go to Egypt.

The very next chapter, the first verses, we'll go in Egypt. We'll go in Egypt. It's the Jeremiah syndrome. Now you may think and I've learned this. I don't particularly criticize or judge folk in the Bible because those people are us. They're us all day long. Those folks are us all day long. The human nature has not really changed significantly since then and I know some of you say. "If I were back there in that day, I wouldn't be like that."

"If I have been one of the disciples of Jesus, I would have been one of the 12 who stayed not one of the 58 who left. I've been one of the 12 who stayed. If I have seen all of the stuff that Jesus did, there's no way. I'd have been right there with my Lord and

Savior, I wouldn't even cache like Peter. If I have been there, I would have died with Jesus if I have been back in that day. I wouldn't have been like all the others who were the disciples with Jesus, who all have seen stuff and they left I wouldn't have been like that, no. If I was back then and Jesus told me and I was that rich man, He told me to give up all my stuff, give it the poor, I have done that. I have done that." No, you wouldn't. No, you wouldn't.

So I have learned to understand the human nature and I understand why God had to send his son in human form because I go through the same thing myself. And I understand the difficulty sometimes it is to obey God's voice even when it comes to a trusted source and you know this is good, they knew Jeremiah. And see first of all, they were not unbelievers that's why they called Jeremiah in the first place. You're not talking about unbelievers. These are people who said, "Look, we know you hear from God and whatever God tells you to do be a good or bad, we are going to do this thing. We are going to do this thing." So, they were not unbelievers and they knew Jeremiah was a great prophet.

Actually Jeremiah, he is considered one of the major prophets. There were really only four major prophets in the Bible. You had four major prophets and a bunch of minor prophets. Jeremiah was one of the major prophets. Ezekiel, Daniel, Jeremiah and Isaiah, those were the major prophets.

00:10:00

So, he wasn't just a little prophet, he is a big prophet. So here comes a big prophet, and the big prophet tells them, "Look it's just one thing, it's just one thing you don't need to do." Does that sound familiar from the very beginning? Just one thing, one thing "You don't need to do, (00:10:17). Look, you go anywhere but just do not go to Egypt. Don't go to Egypt because if you go to Egypt because if you go to Egypt, you're gonna die from violence, you're gonna die from economic disaster and you're going to die from sickness. Don't go to Egypt." And the very thing that God told them not to do, the very place God told them not to go, that's where they say, "We're heading straight to Egypt."

So sometimes we look at this and we say, "How could they do that?" And then they sought God's will. These were people who

were seemingly open to the voice of God. They pleaded, "Jeremiah, just tell us. Go and just tell us, tell me Lord." Have you ever wondered and just, "Lord, I just want to know what to do. I want to know what to do, Lord. I want to know what to do about this man. I want to know what to do about this woman. What do I do?" "Let him go, let him go." "Huh? But I love him Lord, I love him, I love him. You don't understand!" "Let him go Marsha!" "No, no, no! Anything but that. No!"

So, we often will seek God's wisdom and His divine infinite intelligence but when he speaks it, we're just like these children of Israel, just like this remnant. See God had already wiped out most of them. That's why I said one of the few that was left. Because they were disobedient, they wouldn't obey. And these were the few who were left and they have seen that. That's why God said it just hurt His heart to have to bring all that stuff on them because they were doing all this stuff and they just wouldn't listen, they wouldn't do right. So here come the remnant and said "Look, we have learned our lesson, we are gonna do right. Jeremiah, you just go to God and ask God, what do we need to do? Whatever he needs to do, good or bad we gonna do it." "Don't go to Egypt. Don't go to Egypt. Don't go to Egypt." "We're going to Egypt. We are going to Egypt." So, the Jeremiah syndrome is what all of us go through at times and we fight and we face trying to do the will of God and they promised God and accepted the consequences of disobedience. For they said for if we obey him everything will turn out well for us.

And I just want to outline three major reasons why we don't obey God and I'm going to use the word lie. L-I-E is an acronym for these three reasons. It's more of them but due to time constraints these are what I considered to be the major ones. L-I-E, why we don't obey God.

The first one L actually is the lie. That was the original one in the garden. When the serpent said, "Ye hath God said ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" The world lies to you. The world will present you images and behavior that's totally against the word of God. Some of you listen to Oprah more than you do God because Oprah said it. A whole lot of folk want to be like Oprah. Are you want to be like some rapper or some entertainer or some sports star? And often people will take their word as gospel and they will take their behavior as gospel, not God.

So, the serpent in the very beginning said, “Did God really tell you not to eat of every tree?” No, God didn’t tell them that. See, he twisted the question to start with. God said, “You can’t eat of every tree except one.” The devil didn’t even phrase it the way God said it that’s how he’s so twisted. See sometimes stuff will come to you and it sounds like the truth, but there’s one twist in it and because of that twist the lie becomes in our minds a perceived truth and once anybody can get us to take just a little bit of lie stirred up in some stuff and we go off with it. So the lie or the deception is often the first thing that mess us up and with that lie we move off and away from the word of God.

And there’s so many stuff about God’s word that the world would just say “You can do that. Ain’t nothing really wrong with you, you ain’t hurting nobody.” And the lie becomes in our own minds the truth. But you can’t do the word of God if you don’t know the word of God. But often even when we know the word of God, even when we hear God’s word direct, we are like the children of Israel and we say I’m going to Egypt.

All the proud men said to Jeremiah, “You lie.

00:15:02

The Lord our God hasn’t forbidden us to go to Egypt. Baruch son of Neriah has convinced you to say this because he wants us to stay here and be killed by the Babylonians or be carried off into exile.” It wasn’t Jeremiah who was lying, it was Baruch. Now, are you listening to Jeremiah or are you listening to Baruch? Because there will always be those two voices. There will always be the voice of God and there was always be the voice of the world of materialism or pleasure, of satanism. There will always be those two voices.

And you see, they knew Jeremiah was the voice of God. You know what the voice of God is. You know what’s right. See, number one, you can easily tell what’s right and wrong by which you got to hide. When you got to hide it, it’s not too much question, which one that is. When you got to really hide it, when you can’t tell your mama, just those two little things. If you got to hide it and you can’t tell your mama about it that. That lets you know. That’s not a whole lot of deep stuff, but just those two little things. If you can’t tell your mother about it and you have to hide it that’s a real good indication that’s Baruch talking to you, not Jeremiah.

But see, Baruch was saying what they wanted to hear and often we are much more prone. This is the second part of a LIE, the I in the LIE. The I is basically the pride of self and it's what we want to do. And often times people will come to prophets not to hear the truth of God, just to hear a verification and somebody to agree with what they want to do anyway. I get that so much for a pastor. "So, I just need your advice, I want you to ask God about this." They'll come to me, often I function in one of two roles, a pastoral role and actually more people come to me actually for business advices of businessman. But they'll sometimes tell me, "God told me to come ask you about this," and I'll tell them, "that's not a good idea. That's just not a good idea". And I don't just tell them that's not a good idea and it's not necessarily the Spirit, I give them a logical reason. "This is why that's not a good idea. That's just not a good idea." And you know most of the time they don't listen.

I had one case of where I was talking and advising the person, I said, "Look, number one, you got a whole bunch of ideas. You need to first of all narrow down to just one idea because you got too many things. You got limited resources, you have limited time. You can only focus on one thing and do it well. Narrow it down to just one thing. Now, you got about seven or eight things here. Narrowing down to just one thing. But of all the things out of the seven or eight, there's one thing do not do. Do not do this thing. You got seven or eight things here. These other six or seven, you narrow it down, but this one right here, do not do this one. Don't do that because that's got the highest failure rate, the probability of success, but this is just not going to happen. Whatever you do, do not waste your time, do not waste your money, do not waste your energy on this. Don't do that. Pick one out of these other six or seven, but just don't do that one." Baruch got to him. And Baruch whispered something in their ear and the very thing, the very thing I've told them not to do, that very place God told them not to go was the very place and the very thing they did.

And sometimes it's the self that's such a pride and that's why the Bible even says all of the proud men. See pride can mess you up because you can't see God for you and that is the part of even the sacrifice of being able to die to the self. To be able to follow God, you got to be able to die to yourself because what you want to do and what God wants you to do most of the time is different.

Where that flesh wants to go is a whole different place than where God wants you to go and the pride is just an issue. If you can conquer that thing is a challenge, but that's why the Bible says all of the proud men. That's what happened to Satan and Lucifer himself because he's, "I want to be God," and that's the ultimate level of pride when you just want to be God. And sometimes we'll have to learn these things the hard way and often God would have to do some stuff just to get our pride in check because he can't talk to us full of pride.

James and I were in business together and stuff is going extremely well now and our investments are doing better than ever and God has just been speaking, "You got another level of material success just coming." I asked God and said "Lord," I said, "Are you going to block that because our pride make it in a way?" God said, "No, I'm not going to block it." He said, "Because I got a thousand ways of dealing with your pride." He said your knee is one of them. I said. "My knee?" He said, "Yeah, your knee." And I wondered why my knee had gone out twice in the last month.

You know, I've got this issue with my knee sometimes, it just twist and when it twist, it will ache for three or four days and I have to limp on it and I couldn't understand.

00:20:00

Last week, I had run about three miles on Sunday morning. I went to dance class on Monday. I know some of you say, "What?" Yeah, I went to a hip-hop dance class. You'll say, "What?" Just block that out of your mind, but I went -- just block that out of your mind. But I went to a hip-hop dance class on Monday. So, I have ran three miles on Sunday, hip hop dance on Monday. I'm getting out of my car on Tuesday, just stepped out off the car the knee twist, I said how and why, I don't know (00:20:35). I don't hip hop all this time away, I don't run three miles and I just step out of the car with my knee, how that happened?

So, I couldn't figure this thing out until God says, "Yeah, I knocked your knee all the way and keep your pride in checked. And then I understood because see, you know, how you walk affects your pride. You know it really does. You're walking off strong, walking good, walking strong but it's hard to be proud walking like this. You understand? When you got to walk like

this, it's just hard to be proud walking like this. So I feel that some of you some stuff is happening to you and you can't understand why but God has to deal with your pride because until he can't get that pride under control he really can't talk to you because you just too puffed up and I understood it, just as clear. I understand why he said I got a thousand things that I can deal with you on your pride because when you're puffed up in pride, you can't hear and follow God. You have more of a tendency to listen to Baruch. So, the I in the LIE is the second thing.

The third thing is the E, which stands for encouragement and/or energy. When God has directed us to do something, often that thing is ongoing. It's not just a one-time thing, it's ongoing. He has directed us to live a certain way, but we get tired of doing right. Any of you all ever just gotten tired of doing right? I'm just honest. I just get tired of doing right. You know, you start off on a good track, you're just doing great and all of a sudden you just slip and if you don't have encouragement and if you don't have energy, that's why it's really important who you run with because as the Bible says when one gets weak, the other is strong. It's really important for you to run with somebody. It's really important for you to have the partner, the accountability partner, just a partnership. It's important for you to have that, that's why Jesus didn't send the disciples out by themselves. They always went two by two. At least the ones who stayed with him and I don't know about the other 58 who left, maybe they were by themselves.

So, the point is we get tired and that's why you need to be renewed constantly with your mind, your body and your spirit because we run out of energy. The race and running, this race for God. Even with the prophets, when you look at the prophets, often you will see points of where they've gotten very low and several of them just said, "Look, you're killing me. I'm just tired." They needed some encouragement and these were some of the major prophets. And they just got to a point where they just said, "I'm just tired. I'm the only one left. I'm just tired of this." See, if he had not known he went to only one he needed somebody with him. Two can put 10,000 to flight. They're 10 times stronger. That's why even with the message of that accountability partner and the other part of the first part of Success Force is dealing with having the right partner. It makes a world of difference who you are attached to, who you walk through this life with. So when you get down, when you get weak, they can pull you up and when they

get down and they get weak you can pull them up. It just makes a difference because walking this walk with God through life, you will get tired at times and you just get tired of doing right especially when all the folk doing wrong, you see other folks just having a good time and just (00:24:02). It's hard for you to stay track when everybody else is off track.

And oftentimes even at your job, sometimes you're the only one, you're the only one and everybody else is doing all this stuff. Everybody else just slacking off and you have working and you know, you ought to be working but everybody is slacking off and you just by the time you know it, it just drain all your energy and you're looking at them. So, you need encouragement sometimes just as even stay connected and to stay on the path that God has you. The lie, the I and the encouragement and these are sometimes what I see the three major things is somehow we can get off from what God has told us to do.

And there's not a person within the sound of my voice who hasn't had something that God has told you to do. And sometimes it's like when I'm advising people in business most of it is not spiritual, it's just natural wisdom or knowledge. The problem is folk just don't want to do it. They want to do what they want to do.

00:25:01

"I don't do. (00:25:02). I want to do what I want to do. I want to go where I want to go, when I want to go, where I want to go and do it how I want to do, I just do."

But that's not often the way of God. And you have to decide whether you're going to listen to Jeremiah or Baruch because there will always be those two voices in your life. And God had me change my series just to deliver this message because there's one person who really needs this. You got a Baruch in your ear right now. You kind of know it's Baruch. You know it's Baruch. You don't need to hang around Baruch because Baruch going to lead you on the wrong road. That's the negative encouragement. And if you around Baruch long enough, Baruch is going to steal you down the wrong path. They'll straight down the path to death, the bankruptcy and sickness. And it's a challenge as it always has been to stay tuned and to stay on the path with God.

Bow your heads. Dear Heavenly Father, I just pray right now that you shall speak clearly into all of our lives but so often it is not the speaking but it is the heeding and the doing that makes the difference. That determines often whether we spend time with you in the present and eternity or whether we go the other way. Father, I pray right now for strength for all of us that we heed your voice, that we follow your will and we follow your way not our own desires, not our own flesh. Father. Give us the strength over the satanic and the worldly forces right now. And father I command just all of the demonic spirits that are just within this place, dear Father, to leave out right now, Father. In the name of Jesus. I pray. Amen. Amen. Amen.

I heard God speaking because I wouldn't pray on that command in the demons, but I heard him say this, He said, "You told him to get out and I'll honor that but they going to be standing outside waiting on you. You got to decide whether you let them back in you. They'll be outside waiting on you. Even if a demonic force is cleaned out, they're standing outside waiting on you. The minute you get out the door. Hey, you got to decide whether it's Jeremiah or Baruch and once you make that decision life changes once you make a decision.

And always understand this, usually the path and the word of God is not the easy path. That's why Jesus said broad is the way that leadeth to destruction., broad is the way. Many are going to be down on that path, but narrow, thin is the way that leadeth unto life and few going to be on that path. Few are going to find it. So always the path of God, it is usually tougher than the path of destruction, but that's where he wants you to go. And there's one person under the sound of my voice with you here or whether in the electronic world and you need to make that decision right now and you need to stop listening to Baruch. Some of you already know who the Baruchs are in your life and you need to stop listening to Baruch and start listening to the prophetic voice of God so that you can turn and change and live.

You see right now we are all concerned about this virus. Georgia is the number one state in the country with virus cases per capita. Meaning that for population, we have the highest percentage of coronavirus cases anywhere in the country. The U.S. is number one in the world. So, the U.S. is the number country with cases. Georgia is the number one state in the country, which means you right now in the hottest state in the world, but I ain't worried

about that. Georgia is number one. Florida is number two, Louisiana is number three.

A month ago, I was in Louisiana and I didn't worry about it a bit. See, Elijah just drove in from Florida yesterday, and he didn't worry about it a bit. Like I said, we're not foolish but we're not fearful and you're in a place right now, we're not foolish, but we're not fearful. So you're in church where most of the people said I ain't going to, no, no, no. You're going to have on your mask. You can go down and you get a smoothie. You got your seven shields and I believe even when the virus does come because most of us sooner or later are going to come in contact with it, you're going to be strong. You're not going to be in Egypt. You're not going to be faced with the war, with the economic disaster and with the sickness.

And God has a plan for his children for all three of those areas. He really, really does. So even though we are in literally the hottest spot in the world, there is no fear, there is no concern, there is wisdom and there is obedience. That's why when God told me (00:29:53) church, I won't worried about it. He made the virus. Well, maybe it may have been made in the lab, but anyway, he's over the side. There's nothing as accidental.

00:30:00

Pestilence is nothing new. God has sent pestilence throughout the Earth from the dawn of history, it's nothing new. So, God has all of his stuff in control. I just want to be in his will. I'd rather die in his will than live listening to Baruch. But when you're in God's will, you don't die, you live. So choose you this day whom you will serve. Choose life, not death.

We thank you for joining us today at Brothers of The Word. You can go to [BrothersofTheWord.com](http://BrothersofTheWord.com) and listen to this message all over or send it to a friend absolutely free of charge. Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of The Word because brother, you need the word.

Female:

You are listening to [BrothersofTheWord.com](http://BrothersofTheWord.com). This was the Sermon titled, "The Jeremiah Syndrome, Why We Don't Obey The Voice Of God," by Nathaniel Bronner. This Sermon is number 5888. That's 5888. To listen to thousands of free sermons or to

[www.TheOnLineWord.com/mp3/5888](http://www.TheOnLineWord.com/mp3/5888)

send this sermon number 5888 to a friend, go to [BrothersoftheWord.com](http://BrothersoftheWord.com).

Male: If this message has been a blessing to you, and you would like to help support this ministry, go to [iwanttogive.com](http://iwanttogive.com). That's [iwanttogive.com](http://iwanttogive.com).

Female: Listen to [BrothersofTheWord.com](http://BrothersofTheWord.com) often, because brother, you need the Word.

(Music Playing: 00:31:17 - 00:31:24)

00:31:25