



what passages in Jeremiah describe people rejecting, threatening, imprisoning, and hurting Jeremiah?

The clearest passages describing Jeremiah's **persecution** are Jeremiah 11:18–23; 20:1–2; 26:7–24; 36:20–26; 37:11–21; and 38:1–13. Together, they describe death threats, rejection of his message, beatings, confinement, and an attempt to leave him to die in a cistern. ^[1] ^[2]

Major passages, in book order

Passage	Who opposed Jeremiah?	What happened?
Jeremiah 11:18–23	Men of Anathoth, his hometown	They plotted to kill him and threatened him with death if he continued prophesying in the Lord's name. Jeremiah compares himself to a gentle lamb led to slaughter. ^[1] ^[3]
Jeremiah 20:1–6, especially vv. 1–2	Pashhur, a priest and chief officer of the temple	Pashhur had Jeremiah beaten and placed in stocks at the temple's Upper Benjamin Gate. He released him the following day. ^[4]
Jeremiah 26:7–24	Priests, prophets, and members of the crowd	They seized Jeremiah after his temple sermon and demanded his death. Others defended him, and Ahikam's protection prevented him from being handed over to the people for execution. ^[1] ^[2]
Jeremiah 32:1–3	King Zedekiah	Jeremiah was confined in the courtyard of the guard because he prophesied that Jerusalem would fall to Babylon and Zedekiah would not escape. ^[5] ^[2]
Jeremiah 36:20–26	King Jehoiakim	The king destroyed the scroll containing Jeremiah's prophecies and ordered the arrest of Jeremiah and Baruch, but they remained hidden. This episode shows rejection of both the message and its messengers. ^[1] ^[2]
Jeremiah 37:11–16	Irijah, a guard captain, and Judah's officials	Irijah falsely accused Jeremiah of deserting to the Babylonians. The officials had him beaten and imprisoned in Jonathan the secretary's house, where he remained in a dungeon for many days. ^[6]
Jeremiah 37:17–21	King Zedekiah, within the system holding Jeremiah	Jeremiah pleaded not to be returned to Jonathan's house because he feared dying there. Zedekiah transferred him to the courtyard of the guard and ordered a daily bread ration. He remained confined, but under less dangerous conditions. ^[7]
Jeremiah 38:1–13	Royal officials, with Zedekiah's permission	The officials demanded Jeremiah's death, accusing him of undermining the soldiers' morale. They lowered him into a waterless cistern, where he sank into mud. Ebed-melech intervened and secured his rescue. ^[5] ^[8]
Jeremiah 43:1–7	Johanan, Azariah, and other leaders of the remnant	They accused Jeremiah of lying about God's command not to go to Egypt. They rejected his message and took Jeremiah and Baruch with them to Egypt. ^[1] ^[2]

Best passages for each category

For a lesson or sermon, these give you a compact set of examples:

- Rejection of his message: Jeremiah 36:20–26—the king destroys his prophetic scroll; Jeremiah 43:1–7—the leaders call him a liar.^[2] ^[1]
- Threats against his life: Jeremiah 11:18–23—his hometown opponents threaten to kill him; Jeremiah 26:7–11—the temple crowd demands his death.^[3] ^[2]
- Physical abuse: Jeremiah 20:1–2—beating and stocks; Jeremiah 37:15—another beating followed by imprisonment.^[4] ^[6]
- Imprisonment: Jeremiah 32:1–3; 37:11–21; 38:1–13. These describe different settings and episodes of confinement, not simply one uninterrupted account of a single arrest.^[5]
- Life-threatening mistreatment: Jeremiah 38:1–13—the cistern episode is the most vivid example.^[5]

Connection to Jeremiah's call

These episodes give concrete expression to the danger anticipated in Jeremiah 1:8: “Do not be afraid of them.” The opposition came not just from foreign enemies but from his own community, temple authorities, royal officials, and kings. In the book's presentation, Jeremiah's suffering does not disprove his commission; it shows the cost of delivering an unwelcome word to the very people he was sent to address.^[1] ^[3]

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1. https://biblicalelearning.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Yates_Jeremiah_Session19.pdf
2. <https://christiancourier.com/articles/the-marvelous-book-of-jeremiah>
3. <https://epriest.com/reflections/view/2620>
4. <https://www.thebiblejourney.org/biblejourney2/42-jeremiah-warns-of-the-destruction-of-jerusalem/jeremiah-is-beaten-and-arrested/>
5. <https://rsc.byu.edu/vol-20-no-3-2019/imprisonment-jeremiah-its-historical-context>
6. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah 37&version=NIV>
7. <https://versebyverseministry.org/lessons/jeremiah-lesson-37-38>
8. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah 37-39&version=NIV>
9. <https://biblehub.com/jeremiah/37-15.htm>
10. <https://thepastorsworkshop.com/bible/jeremiah/on/persecution>