

Monday, 18th Week in Ordinary Time – Year II (2026)

Someone once defined ***overconfidence*** as overflowing optimism colliding with real life experience.

Israel learned this the hard way. God's promise to remain with His people never absolved them of their responsibility to live the covenant faithfully.

Many of them denied that God would ever allow the destruction of the temple. Their exuberance was ignited from the prophecies of Nathan concerning King David centuries before: that someone from his dynasty would rule on the throne of Israel forever.

Today we hear Hananiah's voice — a prophet of false comfort — predicting that Babylon would soon fall and Israel's independence would be restored. Jeremiah, however, was not persuaded. He knew that covenant infidelity opens the door not to blessing, but to ruin.

Jeremiah, however, was not persuaded. He was very well aware that Israel's failure to live up to the demands of the covenant was a door which opened up to nothing more than a road to perdition.

What would you think if St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican were destroyed by an earthquake or by an invading army? Would we say it was a tragic loss or the end of the world?

Yes, some would surely see it as a sign from God, as punishment for the Church's sins and failures; while others would take it as a message that would a return to the fundamentals of the faith.

When God permits suffering, it is not because He delights in it, but because He respects human freedom — and because He can bring good even from tragedy.

When God allows evil to befall us, it is a reminder that there are consequences to sinful behavior—even if we are not among the guilty party.

The lesson here is timeless. No one is immune from trouble. Evil deeds release an evil virus, and that mist floats about at will, infecting anyone and everyone, the good and the bad.

As the author C.S. Lewis reminds us, “Good people know about both good and evil: bad people do not know about either.”

The wise learn from suffering. The foolish deny it. Jeremiah calls us to be among the wise.

