

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 312 – Hananiah Speaks To Jeremiah Through Hananiah Dies (Jeremiah 28:1-17)

1. What message did Hananiah present before Jeremiah, the priests, and the people?

That God would deliver the things of the temple and the people out of Babylon in two years: *“And it came to pass the same year, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fourth year, and in the fifth month, that Hananiah the son of Azur the prophet, which was of Gibeon, spake unto me in the house of the Lord, in the presence of the priests and of all the people, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, saying, I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. Within two full years will I bring again into this place all the vessels of the Lord 's house, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place, and carried them to Babylon: And I will bring again to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, with all the captives of Judah, that went into Babylon, saith the Lord: for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon”* (**Jeremiah 28:1-4**).

- The previous chapter covered a range of time. Now, the reign of Zedekiah began (**II Chronicles 36:11**) which takes us past the beginning of the previous chapter because Jehoiakim reigned eleven years (**II Chronicles 36:5**) and the previous chapter started at the beginning of his reign.
- However, it ties to the previous chapter because God brought it up to Zedekiah (**Jeremiah 27:12**). We will also see that Jeremiah is still wearing the yoke that God had on him from the previous chapter (vs. 10-11).
- Hananiah’s message is contrary to what Jeremiah had prophesied and fulfilled the warning Jeremiah gave about false prophets (**Jeremiah 27:16**).
- God had said the prophets were lying (**Jeremiah 14:14, Jeremiah 23:16-26, Jeremiah 23:32, and Ezekiel 13:3-16**).
- Later God asked the people where the prophets that lied to them are (**Jeremiah 37:19**).

2. What was Jeremiah’s initial response to Hananiah’s prophecy?

Amen. The Lord do so: *“Then the prophet Jeremiah said unto the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests, and in the presence of all the people that stood in the house of the Lord, Even the prophet Jeremiah said, Amen: the Lord do so: the Lord perform thy words which thou hast prophesied, to bring again the vessels of the Lord 's house, and all that is carried away captive, from Babylon into this place”* (**Jeremiah 28:5-6**).

- Jeremiah knows this is not what God told Him. Whether or not he is thinking God has changed His mind or not is a matter to consider. It is a different message though than Jeremiah has delivered (**Jeremiah 25:11-12**) and will deliver (**Jeremiah 29:10**).
- God DID leave them in Babylon 70 years (**Daniel 9:1-6** and **Zechariah 7:5-14**).
- “Amen” [so be it] from Jeremiah could be understood as Jeremiah essentially saying this is wishful thinking and would be great (i.e. **Revelation 22:20-21**).

3. What caution did Jeremiah give concerning Hananiah's prophecy?

He warned about the prophet's message of peace and how the past testifies that you'll know truth from error once that message comes to pass: *"Nevertheless hear thou now this word that I speak in thine ears, and in the ears of all the people; The prophets that have been before me and before thee of old prophesied both against many countries, and against great kingdoms, of war, and of evil, and of pestilence. The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the Lord hath truly sent him"* (**Jeremiah 28:7-9**).

- Like wisdom personified (**Proverbs 8:1**), Jeremiah tries to call attention to his words (**Proverbs 8:6**).
- They needed to listen as other prophets had tried to get them to do (i.e. **Isaiah 47:8**).
- Prophets had long brought the bad news (**Deuteronomy 28:15-68**, **I Samuel 3:11**, **I Kings 14:1-16**, **Isaiah 24:1**, **Nahum 1:1-15**, **Malachi 2:1-17**, etc.).
- What God had said by the faithful did come to pass (**Zechariah 1:5-6**).
- How do they know the true from the false? If it comes to pass or not (**Deuteronomy 18:20-22**).

4. What did Hananiah state concerning the yoke on Jeremiah's neck?

He broke it and said that would be what God was going to do in two years with Babylon: *"Then Hananiah the prophet took the yoke from off the prophet Jeremiah's neck, and brake it. And Hananiah spake in the presence of all the people, saying, Thus saith the Lord; Even so will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all nations within the space of two full years. And the prophet Jeremiah went his way"* (**Jeremiah 28:10-11**).

- God had Jeremiah put bonds and yokes on his neck (**Jeremiah 27:2**).
- Hananiah takes them off and brakes them claiming this is the Lord's will (cf. **Psalms 36:1-4**).
- Hananiah claimed that his message was from the Lord. It was, as God formerly warned, a shameless false message of peace (**Jeremiah 4:14-15**).
- Think of how a man could LIE and claim God showed him something that he knows is not true (**Matthew 7:15-20**, **Matthew 24:5**, **Matthew 24:24**, and **John 8:44**).
- It is on the hearer not to believe the lies (**Proverbs 19:27**, **Matthew 16:6-12**, **Acts 17:10-11**, **Ephesians 4:14**, **Ephesians 5:6**, **Colossians 2:4-8**, **I Thessalonians 5:21**, **I Timothy 1:3-7**, **I Timothy 6:3-5**, and **I John 4:1**).

5. Did God confirm or deny Hananiah's claims?

Denied them: *"Then the word of the Lord came unto Jeremiah the prophet, after that Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke from off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, saying, Go and tell Hananiah, saying, Thus saith the Lord; Thou hast broken the yokes of wood; but thou shalt make for them yokes of iron. For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; I have put a yoke of iron upon the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him: and I have given him the beasts of the field also"* (**Jeremiah 28:12-14**).

- God revealed His response to Jeremiah (**I Samuel 9:9** and **Hebrews 1:1**).
- This false prophesy of Hananiah would bring harm (**Lamentations 2:14**).
- God was still going to deliver these nations to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon (**Jeremiah 27:6-7**, **Daniel 1:1-2**, and **Daniel 2:36-38**).

6. What did God have planned for Hananiah?

Death: *"Then said the prophet Jeremiah unto Hananiah the prophet, Hear now, Hananiah; The Lord hath not sent thee; but thou makest this people to trust in a lie. Therefore thus saith the Lord; Behold, I will cast thee from off the face of the earth: this year thou shalt die, because thou hast taught rebellion against the Lord. So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month"* (**Jeremiah 28:15-17**).

- God charged Hananiah as making the people trust a lie and consequences were to come for that (cf. **Jeremiah 29:31-32**).
- God dealt with these false prophets (**Psalms 101:7-8**, **Jeremiah 29:21**, and **II Peter 2:1-3**).
- These types exist this day (**I Timothy 4:1-5** and **II Timothy 3:13**).
- Death was the price for these lies (**Deuteronomy 18:20**).