

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE EVIL REIGN OF ZEDEKIAH-PART 2
2 KINGS 24:17-20; 25:1-7; JEREMIAH 27; 28

Introduction

Last time we began to look at **THE EVIL REIGN OF ZEDEKIAH** who was **JUDAH'S** final king to reign before the last invasion and the **DESTRUCTION** of **JERUSALEM** at the hands of the **BABYLONIANS!**

We looked at a **VISION** the **LORD** gave the **PROPHET JEREMIAH** in **JEREMIAH 24** in the early part of **ZEDEKIAH'S** reign where he saw two starkly different baskets of figs that were set before the **TEMPLE** of the **LORD!**

One of these baskets is described as being that of **VERY GOOD FIGS** that represented those of **JUDAH** who had already been carried away into **BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY!**

The other basket was that of **VERY NAUGHTY** or **BAD FIGS** that represented **ZEDEKIAH** and those that led **JUDAH** with him as well as the residue of **JERUSALEM** and **JUDAH** that had not been carried away but either remained in the land or had fled to **EGYPT.**

That **PROPHECY** was designed to **ENCOURAGE** the despairing exiles in **BABYLON**, while at the same time **REPROVE** the people who were still in **JUDAH** and prided themselves as being superior to those who had been carried away into **BABYLON.**

Then we looked at the **LORD'S** message to those represented by the **GOOD FIGS** that was written about the same time as the **PARABLE OF THE FIGS.**

JEREMIAH 29:1-14 contains a message, a letter that **JEREMIAH** sent to the **CAPTIVES** in **BABYLON** telling them to settle in for a long **CAPTIVITY.**

1. He told them to build houses, plant gardens, have families, and even pray for peace in Babylon.
2. He warned them not listen to the false prophets who were saying that the captivity would be over shortly.

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Tonight let's turn to another **MESSAGE** of **WARNING** that was given to **JEREMIAH** to deliver to **ZEDEKIAH** and **JUDAH.** (**JEREMIAH 27**)

- I. **WE SEE GOD'S WARNING TO JUDAH AND THE SURROUNDING NATIONS NOT TO REBEL AGAINST THE BABYLONIAN KINGS! (JEREMIAH 27)**
 - A. **This Message Came To JEREMIAH In The Days Of JEHOIAKIM, The Son Of JOSIAH. (Vs 1)**

So, the **LORD** had him hold on to this message for about 15 years until **ZEDEKIAH'S** reign to whom it was intended!
 - B. **This Message Was Delivered To ZEDEKIAH And To All The Messengers Of The Kings Of The Surrounding Nations Who Had Come To JERUSALEM Unto ZEDEKIAH To Form A Confederacy Against Babylon. (Vs 2-3)**
 1. **It Contained A Visual Of A Yoke For Them!**

A yoke is placed on an animal to exert control and to direct them!
 2. **It Contained A Message Of Submission For Them!**
 - C. **We See The Content Of The Message. (Vs 5-11)**
 1. **The LORD Made Everything By His Great Power! (Vs 5a)**
 2. **The LORD Gives Control Of What He Made To Whomever He Will For His Purposes! (Vs 5b)**

Think about what that means. To rebel against the one whom the **LORD** has established is to rebel against the **LORD HIMSELF!**
 3. **The LORD Had Given To NEBUCHADNEZZAR All The Lands And Everything In Them Of The Nations That This Message Was Directed To! (Vs 6-7a)**

4. **The LORD Would Limit The Time That NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S Family Was In Control And Then Give Them And All They Had Over To A Serve Another! (Vs 7b)**
 5. **Those Who Failed To Serve NEBUCHADNEZZAR, Faced A Worse Fate From The LORD! (Vs 8)**
(Sword, famine, and pestilence.)
 6. **They Were Warned To Not Listen To False Prophets Who Might Tell Them Otherwise! (Vs 9-10)**
 7. **They Were Directed To Submit Rather Than Rebel! (Vs 11)**
If they submitted themselves, they could continue living in their lands. If not, the LORD would remove them from the land!
- D. **We See The Delivery Of The Message To ZEDEKIAH. (Vs 12-15)**
Basically the message was *"Submit and live or rebel and die, the choice is yours!"* It was senseless to rebel!
- E. **We See The Delivery Of The Message To The Priests And The People. (Vs 16-22)**
They were warned **not to listen to the lying prophets** who would tell them that the articles of the TEMPLE already taken by NEBUCHADNEZZAR would be returned shortly.
- They needed to serve the king of BABYLON, and live!
- Other vessels were going to be going to BABYLON as well! And **none** of the vessels would be returning until the LORD allowed them to be restored at the end of the CAPTIVITY!

- II. **WE SEE THE OPEN CONFLICT BETWEEN HANANIAH THE FALSE PROPHET AND JEREMIAH! (JEREMIAH 28)**
Vs 1-2a
HANANIAH, claiming to speak for GOD, confronted JEREMIAH in the TEMPLE in the presence of the PRIESTS and all the people. In doing this HANANIAH lifted himself above the PROPHET of the LORD (JEREMIAH) and hence, above the LORD HIMSELF!

It was as if just saying that he was speaking what the LORD spoke to him and speaking it in the TEMPLE made it so.

Vs 2-3

He said that the LORD had broken the yoke of the king of BABYLON and in two years JUDAH would no longer serve NEBUCHADNEZZAR and that the vessels of the TEMPLE would be returned to the TEMPLE in JERUSALEM.

Vs 4

His false prophecy also said that the LORD was going to bring back JECONIAH (JEHOIACHIN) along with all the captives of JUDAH! Again he falsely says that the LORD said *he would break the yoke* of the king of BABYLON. (Cp. Vs. 2 – *"I have broken the yoke..."*)

Vs 5-9

JEREMIAH implies here that he wished it were true, but HANANIAH'S message was NOT from the LORD!

He said the TRUE PROPHET would be revealed by which "PROPHECY OF THE LORD" came to pass!
(Cf. Deuteronomy 18:20-22)

Vs 10-11

HANANIAH then dramatically grabbed hold of the yoke JEREMIAH had on, pulling it off his neck, and then breaking it while speaking his false prophecy again. Jeremiah response was to simply leave.

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Vs 12-13a

The **WORD OF THE LORD** then came to **JEREMIAH** telling him to return to **HANANIAH** and deliver a **MESSAGE** to him!

Vs 13b-14

Part 1 Of The MESSAGE: You broke the **yokes of wood**, but you have made them into **yokes of iron** by your doing so! **I** have put a **yoke of iron** on all these nations!

Vs 15-16

Part 2 Of The MESSAGE: The **LORD** has not sent you and you are causing the people to believe a lie! So, you will die this year because of your teaching the people to rebel against the **LORD!**

Vs 17

Two months later (*cp. Vs 1*), **HANANIAH** died just as **JEREMIAH** had said would happen by the **WORD OF THE LORD!**

Thus showing and proving to **ZEDEKIAH**, the other leaders in **JERUSALEM**, the people of **JUDAH**, and the surrounding nations that **JEREMIAH** had warned in **JEREMIAH 27 and 28**, that **HANANIAH** was a false prophet and **JEREMIAH** was the **LORD'S TRUE PROPHET!**

If the **LORD** didn't go ahead and remove **HANANIAH**, it would have been 2 years before he was exposed as the false prophet that he was!

Conclusion

What about all the ear tickling teachers and preachers of our day. People go to them to hear what they want to hear instead of what **GOD** wants them to hear! (**2 Timothy 4:3-4**) That is why **2 Timothy 3:13** says what it says!

We're done for the evening, but we are not done with **ZEDEKIAH** yet. We still have at least 2 more messages to look at from during his reign.