

**Message #32****Jeremiah 28:1-17**

When the Apostle Paul took the grace gospel to Galatia, the people responded and believed on the Lord. Just as soon as Paul left the area, in came these false teachers who tried to mix law and works into grace. So just as soon as Paul was done presenting truth, here came the phony ministers trying to pollute it. That same kind of thing happens here to Jeremiah.

We may recall in chapter 27 that God told Jeremiah that he was to take a yoke and wear it as an illustration that God's will for His people was that they submit to and put themselves under the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king. God told His people through Jeremiah that if they would obey Him and do that, they would not only live, but God would bless them where they lived. But He warned them that if they did not obey Him, and submit to His will, they would die.

There were false prophets and teachers at the Temple listening to this. They had been telling the people just the opposite. They were trying to keep the people from submitting to the Babylonians by telling them a bunch of lies. They were telling the people that they were at peace with God and that God would never destroy them or the temple and they had nothing to worry about.

Now watching Jeremiah and listening to all he was telling the people was a prophet named "Hananiah." He was one of the false prophets at the Temple that was telling lies to the people. He was one of the false ministers who was telling the people they had nothing to worry about. He was one who promoted the idea that God would not ever do anything negative to them or the Temple. He did not like what Jeremiah was doing or saying.

**So he decided to make up his own message, which was just the opposite of the true message.** He decided to put on a show for the people, claiming he had received additional revelation and information directly from God. He took it upon himself to try to influence the people.

At the time Jeremiah was proclaiming this message, Nebuchadnezzar was putting down some revolt in his own land of Babylonia. So at the time Jeremiah was wearing this yoke and telling the people this in Jerusalem, Nebuchadnezzar and his forces weren't even there. So Hananiah decided to use this to his advantage.

But what we end up seeing here is this:

**FALSE PROPHETS, PREACHERS, TEACHERS AND LEADERS TELL PEOPLE JUST THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT IS TRUE AND THEY OPPOSE THE TRUE MESSAGE OF A TRUE MAN OF GOD AND IN THE END GOD WILL DESTROY THEM.**

Again let's restate this. Jeremiah is wearing a yoke and telling people that they need to submit to Babylon because God was going to use Babylon to punish His own people.

The false prophet Hananiah did not like that message from God and from God's true prophet so he decided to make up his own.

We learn from **verse 1** that he too was living, beginning of the reign of Zedekiah, and he was the son of Azzur, which also made him from the tribe of Benjamin. That gave him good standing with the people.

This prophet named Hananiah turns out to be against Jeremiah and his message. Nothing else is known about him except what we learn in this chapter.

**COMMUNICATON #1 – Hananiah speaks to Jeremiah. 28:1-4**

There are eight observations we may make about what Hananiah says:

**Observation #1** - Hananiah spoke to Jeremiah in the Temple in the presence of the priests and people. **28:1**

This is anything but a private conversation. This was a public message that he was giving to Jeremiah. Hananiah believed he could convince the priests to believe him, even though he was presenting a blatant lie.

**Observation #2** - Hananiah said his message was from the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel. **28:2a**

He uses the same name for God as Jeremiah (27:21). This sounds so pious and true, but it is all a lie. Look at this, he is telling Jeremiah he has received a message from God, which is not true.

**Observation #3** - Hananiah said that God's message is He has broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. **28:2b**

Hananiah said that Nebuchadnezzar had been broken by God and therefore was no threat any more to Israel. He said God revealed to him that while Nebuchadnezzar was away, he and his forces had been broken so now Israel was about to be delivered from the Babylonians.

He is standing before the priest making these dogmatic statements that are all invented lies.

**Observation #4** - Hananiah said in two years God would bring back all vessels to the Temple. **28:3**

He even sets a time limit on when God would bring back the Temple items already taken.

**Observation #5** - Hananiah said in two years God would bring back Jeconiah as king. **28:4a**

He even takes it a step further and says God told him in two years Jeconiah would be back as king.

**Observation #6** - Hananiah said in two years God would bring back all exiles from Babylon. **28:4b**

He then says God told him in two years He would bring back all of the Jewish people who had been taken to Babylon. These are bold predictions.

**Observation #7** - Hananiah said this is what the LORD has declared. **28:4c**

Hananiah says this is what the LORD has declared to me.

**Observation #8** - Hananiah said God declares He will break the yoke of the Babylonians. **28:4d**

He ended it by saying God will break the yoke of the Babylonians.

Now if you are the people listening to Jeremiah and listening to Hananiah, which message would you want to hear? Even Jeremiah would have been happy if that were true; but it was not true.

Hananiah was just making this up. He probably really felt it and believed it; but it was a lie.

**COMMUNICATION #2** – Jeremiah speaks to Hananiah. **28:5-9**

When Hananiah got done with his message to Jeremiah, Jeremiah decided to respond.

**Response #1** - Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah in the Temple in the presence of the priests and people. **28:5**

Hananiah made all of his invented predictions in the Temple before the priests and people, so Jeremiah decided to respond in the same place.

**Response #2** - Jeremiah says AMEN if in fact his prophecy is confirmed and true. **28:6**

Jeremiah's response is interesting. Jeremiah says if the LORD truly was going to do what you have just said He will do, then great!

Jeremiah said I would love it if that were true. I would love it if God were to bring back all of the Temple items and exiles to this place. I wish He would do that.

**Response #3** - Jeremiah says but you all need to hear what I have to say. **28:7**

But Jeremiah says before you believe this, you better listen to what I have to say.

**Response #4** - Jeremiah says prophets have been prophesying about judgments a long time. **28:8**

Prophets have been making predictions about lands, and kingdoms and wars and calamities and pestilences and those predictions did come true.

**Response #5** - Jeremiah says the prophet who prophesies of peace and it happens, proves to be a true prophet that is sent by God. **28:9**

Jeremiah says if the one prophesying has the prophesy come true, then you know that one is a true prophet of God.

**COMMUNICATION #3** – Hananiah reacts to the message of Jeremiah. **28:10-11**

Hananiah was in front of everyone and he was confident and proud. Jeremiah had not really challenged him or reprovved him so he felt he was right on course. He reacted two ways:

**Way #1** - He took Jeremiah's yoke and broke it. **28:10**

Hananiah was bold in his prediction and he took the yoke off Jeremiah and broke it. God did not authorize him to do this.

**Way #2** - He said God told him He will break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar in two years. **28:11**

He dogmatically declared that the LORD had given him the message. H. A. Ironside made an interesting observation here when he said, "Error is generally insistent and dogmatic, the more so, often, the farther it is removed from the truth" (*Lamentations and Jeremiah*, p. 136).

Hananiah, in front of everyone, takes dogmatic action. He took the yoke off Jeremiah and broke it and made his claims saying, "thus says the LORD."

But the truth is, God was with Jeremiah and not with Hananiah.

So at the end of **verse 11**, Jeremiah quietly went his way.

**COMMUNICATION #4** – God speaks to Jeremiah. **28:12-14**

After Hananiah had broken off the yoke from the neck of Jeremiah and Jeremiah had left, God came to Jeremiah and said I have some Divine messages for you to take to him (**28:12-13**).

We are not sure how much time transpired. During the time Hananiah was probably esteemed and viewed as some hero with the people. But after some time had passed, "The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah." This is never said concerning Hananiah. Hananiah said he was getting messages from God, but God never said it.

**Divine Message #1** - Tell Hananiah that he has broken a wooden yoke so it will be replaced by iron yokes. **28:13**

The yoke made of iron would be impossible to break.

**Divine Message #2** - You tell Hananiah that God has put yokes on all nations to submit to Nebuchadnezzar. **28:14**

There is a time to resist and there is a time to submit. This was a mandate from God to submit. To resist Nebuchadnezzar would mean rebelling against God's word and will.

**COMMUNICATION #5** – Jeremiah takes God's message to Hananiah. **28:15-18**

Jeremiah, who had been publicly ridiculed by Hananiah, went to him with three messages:

**Message #1** - The LORD did not send you with a message to give to the people. **28:15a**

Jeremiah says you were not sent to the people by God. God did not lead you and God did not speak to you and God did not send you.

**Message #2** - You have stood before the people and lied and the people have believed you. **28:15b**

There are ministers telling lies to their congregations. God has not sent them; God has not gifted them and yet the congregation believes them and follows them. They put rock bands on platforms, they remove pulpits, they dress like bums and they play music that is pathetic; they promote same-sex relationships and church codes and rules. This is not of God.

There are ministers who stand before congregations every week and lie to them. They tell them their works can save them. They tell them evil sin is okay. They tell them if they can keep the law and rules they will end up in heaven. These are liars.

**Message #3** - God is going to remove you from the earth and kill you. **28:16**

**According to verse 17, God killed Hananiah in the seventh month, just two months after he made up his lies in the fifth month (v. 1).**

**There are some critical lessons to learn here:**

- 1) Do not think more highly of yourself than you ought.**
- 2) We must always obey the word of God, not the word of some man.**
- 3) No matter how sincere one may be, we must stick to God's word.**
- 4) Do not ever confuse your feelings or will as being the word of God.**
- 5) Obeying God always leads to blessings; disobeying always leads to disaster.**