

Jeremiah 28

Read Jeremiah 28:1-4: Hananiah the false prophet is continuing to put out his prophetic speeches. He could not stand seeing Jeremiah get public attention. Perhaps he broadcasted out of envy. Hananiah had been making his own prophecies according to his own thinking and hopes. He had been telling everyone that nothing bad was going to happen; and that the Jews would defeat Babylon. He was obviously proven wrong when the Babylonians stormed the city and took away King Jehoiakim and the royal counselors. That alone proves that he was a false prophet. Now he is saying that everybody is returning home from Babylon within a couple of years. That was misinformation.

Hananiah was disrespecting Jeremiah, and disrespecting God's word. He was issuing contrary advice to his nation. He was telling the people that repentance was not the issue, and that normal life would resume. He was insisting in not giving in to Babylon. God was telling them plainly to give in.

It was not only Jeremiah's Babylonian prophecy that was ignored. Other prophets had talked about the Babylonian prophecy too. Isaiah and Habakkuk were very clear. In fact, it almost seemed like the Babylonian invasion was an answer to Habakkuk's prayer to stop the utter madness in going on in Israel.

Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD. 'And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.' " So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good!" For he said, "At least there will be peace and truth in my days." (Isaiah 39:5-8)

For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, A bitter and hasty nation Which through the breadth of the earth, To possess dwelling places that are not theirs. (Habakkuk 1:6)

In 2 Timothy Paul warns us about *a form of godliness* that these false prophets seem to have. We wonder how intelligent people can come up with this crazy stuff. The Word tells us that those who *willfully* engage in misinformation fall prey to their own lies. They truly begin to believe that *north is south*.

But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, (2 Timothy 3:13-14)

We hear the same voices today. Who is telling us that it is ok to be transgender or homosexual? Who is telling us that the middle east problems are Israel's fault? Who is telling us that it is ok to give the Muslim's a voice to form public policy in our government? Who is telling us that it

is ok to keep aborting the children as unwanted byproducts of our entertainment? It's not coming from God. Hananiah has been pushing his *No-Fear* campaign as the people sail full speed to the edge of the waterfall.

For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape (1 Thessalonians 5: 3)

It is interesting that Hananiah means 'Yahweh is gracious'. He also used the pretext 'Thus says the LORD'. The best liars mix truth and lies. Satan weaves his falsehoods around truths. These liars act for personal benefit. Next, they turn into tyrants towards whoever challenges them. False prophets have killed a lot of true prophets. These deluded, power-hungry fools become irate when they are challenged.

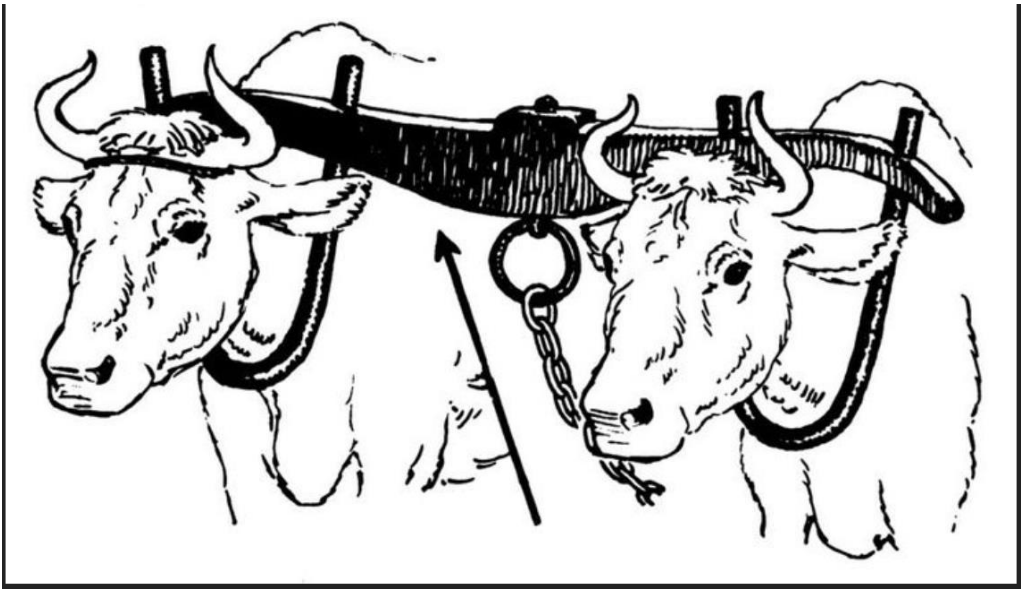
They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. ((John 16:2)

for prophecy never came by the will of man, but ^[k]holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)

Read Jeremiah 28:5-17: God used the prophets as a *show-and-tell* illustration at times. Jeremiah was walking around with a wooden ox yoke draped over his shoulders. It was a sign that the Babylonians would control them like domesticated cattle.



Hananiah broke Jeremiah's yoke and told the people that Babylon would no longer be an international power. God in turn, reiterated that Babylon would not just rule with a yoke of wood, but one of iron. Wooden yokes speak of control and bondage. Yokes of iron pinch and cut, and are very uncomfortable. They do not develop comforting smooth spots over time.



Jeremiah predicted that Hananiah would die for his presumptuous sin against God. He died that same year. The Law of Moses was intended for those who would not follow God voluntarily. You could almost say that that Nebuchadnezzar was an unknowing agent of the Law to unbelieving Hebrews.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you. (Psalm 32:8-9)

Jeremiah's life was spared in chapter 26. This could have been through his priestly family's influence. God let's everybody show their colors, but he protects his people.