

Jeremiah 28:1-17 **False Prophecy of Hananiah – God's Answer**

Hananiah's False Prophecy

1 And it happened in the same year, at 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, who was from Gibeon, spoke to me in the house of the Lord in the presence of the priests and of all the people, saying,

2 "Thus speaks the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, saying: 'I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon.

3 Within two full years I will bring back to this place all the vessels of the Lord's house, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon.

4 And I will bring back to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, with all the captives of Judah who went to Babylon,' says the Lord, 'for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.'"

Jeremiah's response

5 Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and in the presence of all the people who stood in the house of the Lord,

6 and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! The Lord do so; the Lord perform your words which you have prophesied, to bring back the vessels of the Lord's house and all who were carried away captive, from Babylon to this place.

7 Nevertheless hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people:

8 The prophets who have been before me and before you of old prophesied against many countries and great kingdoms — of war and disaster and pestilence.

9 As for the prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be known as one whom the Lord has truly sent."

Hananiah confirms his message

10 Then Hananiah the prophet took the yoke off the prophet Jeremiah's neck and broke it.

11 And Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, "Thus says the Lord: 'Even so I will 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.

Yahweh responds

12 Now the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, after Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke from the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, saying,

13 "Go and tell Hananiah, saying, 'Thus says the Lord: "You have broken the yokes of wood, but you have made in their place yokes of iron."

14 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: "I have put a yoke of iron on the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him. I have given him the beasts of the field also.'"

15 Then the prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet, "Hear now, Hananiah, the Lord has not sent you, but you make this people trust in a lie.

16 Therefore thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will cast you from the face of the earth. This year you shall die, because you have taught rebellion against the Lord.'"

17 So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month.
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Hananiah's False Prophecy

- ✧ And it happened in the same year, at 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, who was from Gibeon, spoke to me in Beit Yahweh (the house of the Lord) in the presence of the priests and of all the people, saying,
"Thus speaks Yahweh Tsebaovt Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel), saying: 'I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon.
Within two full years I will bring back to this place all the vessels of Beit Yahweh (the Lord's house), that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon.
And I will bring back to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, with all the captives of Judah who went to Babylon,' says Yahweh (the Lord), 'for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.'" [\[Jeremiah 28:1-4\]](#)
- ✧ This is an example of the false prophecies that have been going around since the first captives were carried away to Babylon.
- ✧ Jeconiah (Coniah, Jehoiachin) was carried away to Babylon with the royal family and the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem in the eighth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. [\[Jeremiah 27:20, 2 Kings 24:8-16\]](#)
- ✧ Hananiah predicted in the name of Yahweh, that within two years they would all return from captivity along with the treasures taken from the temple. [\[Jeremiah 28:3-4\]](#)
- ✧ Jeremiah had prophesied that the captivity would last seventy years. [\[Jeremiah 25:11-12\]](#)

Jeremiah's response

- ✧ Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and in the presence of all the people who stood in Beit Yahweh (the house of the Lord), and the prophet Jeremiah said, "**Amen!** Yahweh (The Lord) do so; Yahweh (the Lord) perform your words which you have prophesied, to bring back the vessels of Beit Yahweh (the Lord's house) and all who were carried away captive, from Babylon to this place.

Nevertheless hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people:

The prophets who have been before me and before you of old prophesied against many countries and great kingdoms — of war and disaster and pestilence.

As for the prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be known as one whom Yahweh (the Lord) has truly sent." [\[Jeremiah 28:5-9\]](#)

- ✧ Jeremiah had foretold the captivity would last seventy years. [\[Jeremiah 25:11-12\]](#)
- ✧ Now if they all return in two years, Jeremiah would be pleased so he said, "Amen!"
- ✧ However Jeremiah reminded them that all true prophets had prophesied war, disaster, and pestilence.
- ✧ A message of peace to a sinful people is doubtful, and can only be believed when it does come to pass.
- ✧ Yahweh's punishment of evil comes before He establishes peace.

Hananiah confirms his message

- ✧ Then Hananiah the prophet took the yoke off the prophet Jeremiah's neck and broke it. And Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, "Thus says Yahweh (the Lord): 'Even so I will 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](#)]
- ✧ It is interesting to see how readily false prophets tie the name of the Lord to their message.
- ✧ The third of the ten commandments says, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." [[Exodus 20:7](#)]
- ✧ Jeremiah did not want a confrontation so he just walked away.

Yahweh responds

- ✧ Now the word of Yahweh (the Lord) came to Jeremiah, after Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke from the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "Go and tell Hananiah, saying, 'Thus says Yahweh (the Lord): "You have broken the yokes of wood, but you have made in their place yokes of iron." For thus says Yahweh Tsebaovt Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel): "I have put a yoke of iron on the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him. I have given him the beasts of the field also.'" "[\[Jeremiah 28:12-14\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh confirmed His original message to Jeremiah.
- ✧ Then the prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet, "Hear now, Hananiah, Yahweh (the Lord) has not sent you, but you make this people trust in a lie. Therefore thus says Yahweh (the Lord): 'Behold, I will cast you from the face of the earth. This year you shall die, because you have taught rebellion against Yahweh (the Lord).'" So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month. [[Jeremiah 28:15-17](#)]
- ✧ The lying words of the false prophet cause the people to trust in a lie, making them feel secure in their sin.
- ✧ A true prophet will call the people to repentance for their salvation. [[Jeremiah 23:16-22, 26:3](#)]
- ✧ Hananiah's punishment for teaching rebellion is death in the same year.
- ✧ Hananiah's prophesy was in the fifth month, he died in the seventh month. [[Jeremiah 28:1, 17](#)]