

Jeremiah 28:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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 (כֹּה, koh amar YHWH kakah eshbor et-ol n'vukhadnetsar melek-bavel b'od sh'natayim yamim me'al tsavvar kol-haggoyim)—Hananiah invokes divine authority (כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה, 'Thus saith the LORD') for his optimistic timeline. The comparison כָּכָה (kak'ah, 'just like this') links broken wooden yoke to promised broken Babylonian empire. **Within the space of two full years** (בְּעוֹד שְׁנַתַּיִם יָמִים, b'od sh'natayim yamim) sets specific deadline. **And the prophet Jeremiah went his way** (וַיֵּלֶךְ יִרְמְיָהוּ הַנָּבִיא לְדַרְכּוֹ, vayyelekh yirm'yahu hannavi l'darko)—Jeremiah departs without immediate response.

Jeremiah's departure shows wisdom: not every false claim requires instant rebuttal. Sometimes truth needs time to formulate proper response. Jeremiah waits for divine instruction rather than reacting emotionally. Hananiah's specific timeline would eventually expose him—either events vindicate him (they won't) or time proves him false. Faithful ministry sometimes requires patience, letting lies hang themselves with their own specifics.

Historical Context

Hananiah's two-year prediction (593-591 BC) would be tested by events. Babylon didn't fall; instead, it grew stronger, ultimately destroying Jerusalem in 586 BC. Hananiah died within the year (28:17), never seeing his prophecy's failure. His specific timeline, meant to inspire confidence, became his undoing. False prophets often make falsifiable predictions; truth requires patience to let time expose lies.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. When should you immediately refute false teaching versus waiting for time to expose it?
2. How do specific predictions make theological claims testable?
3. What does Jeremiah's departure teach about not needing last word in every argument?

Interlinear Text

אִם ר	חֲנַנְיָה	לְעֵינַי י	כָּל	הָעָם	אִם ר	
Thus saith	And Hananiah	in the presence	H3605	of all the people	Thus saith	
H559	H2608	H5869		H5971	H559	
כֹּה	אִם ר	יְהוָה	כִּי כֹה	אֶשְׁבֵּר	אֶת	עַל לִי
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	H3602	Even so will I break	H853	the yoke
	H559	H3068		H7665		H5923
וְנִבְכַּדְנֶאֱצַר	מֶלֶךְ	בָּבֶל	בְּעוֹד	שָׁנֹת יָם		
of Nebuchadnezzar	king	of Babylon	H5750	years		
H5019	H4428	H894		H8141		
יָמֵי	יְמֵי	צוֹ אֶרֶץ	כָּל	הַגּוֹיִם	וְלִי לִי	
within the space of two full	H5921	from the neck	H3605	of all nations	H1980	
H3117		H6677		H1471		
יֵרֵמְיָהּ	הַנָּבִי יָא	לְדַרְכּוֹ:				
Jeremiah	And the prophet	his way				
H3414	H5030	H1870				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 14:7 (Parallel theme): Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.

Jeremiah 14:14 (Prophecy): Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.