

Jeremiah 28:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the prophet, after that Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke from off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, saying,

Analysis

Then the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the prophet, after that Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke from off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־יְרֵמִיָּה אֶתְתִּת־מִזְבֵּחַ בְּנֵבֵיא אֶת־יְהוָה מִלְּעָלָל צְעָדָר) vay'hi d'var-YHWH el-yirm'ahu acharei sh'vor chananyah hannavi et-hammotah me'al tsavvar yirm'ahu hannavi)—divine word (דְּבָרֵי־הָעֵדָה (d'var-YHWH) comes after the confrontation (אֶת־עָדָל, acharei, 'after'), not during. God provides response in His timing, not human urgency. This validates Jeremiah's patient departure—he waited for divine instruction rather than manufacturing response.

The phrase structure emphasizes sequence: first Hananiah acts, then God speaks. This pattern appears throughout Scripture—God allows human rebellion to fully manifest before responding. The delay tests Jeremiah's faith (will he panic without immediate vindication?) and builds dramatic tension. When God's word finally comes (v. 13), it's devastating: wooden yokes become iron. The divine response transforms Hananiah's dramatic gesture into proof of escalated judgment.

Historical Context

The timing between Hananiah's yoke-breaking and God's response to Jeremiah is unspecified but likely brief. The narrative structure emphasizes that authentic prophets wait for divine word rather than improvising responses. Jeremiah's entire

ministry demonstrates dependence on receiving God's word (1:9, 'I have put my words in thy mouth'), not generating clever arguments independently.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish between waiting for God's direction and avoiding confrontation?
2. When has God's delayed response to opposition tested your faith?
3. What role does patience play in authentic prophetic ministry versus quick reactionary responses?

Interlinear Text

שָׁבָר	אֵת	מִרְמֵי	הַיְהוּ	דָּבָר	יְהִי	וְרָא
H7665	H310	H3414	H3068	H1697	H1961	Then the word
had broken	the prophet after	Jeremiah	of the LORD	of the prophet	Then the word	
מִעַל	אָת	בְּנֵבֶת	יְהִי	בְּנֵבֶת	חֲנַנְיָה	אֵת
H6677	H5921	H4133	H853	H5030	H2608	that Hananiah
from off the neck	the yoke	the prophet	of the prophet	of the prophet	of the prophet	
לִאמְרָה:	יְהִי	מִרְמֵי	בְּנֵבֶת	יְהִי	אֵת	לִאמְרָה:
Jeremiah	saying	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	
H559	H5030	H3414	H3414	H3414	H3414	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 1:2 (Word): To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.

