

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 (וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־יִרְמְיָהוּ אַחֲרַי שֶׁבַר חֲנַנְיָה הַנָּבִיא אֶת־הַמוֹסָה מֵעַל צִוָּאר וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־יִרְמְיָהוּ הַנָּבִיא, vay'hi d'var-YHWH el-yirm'yahu acharei sh'vor chananyah hannavi et-hammotah me'al tsavvar yirm'yahu hannavi)—divine word (דְּבַר־יְהוָה, d'var-YHWH) comes after the confrontation (אַחֲרַי, 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

וַיְהִי י	דָּבַר	יְהוָה	אֶל	יִרְמְיָה	אֶת	חֲרִי	שָׁב וֹר
H1961	Then the word	of the LORD	H413	Jeremiah	the prophet after	H7665	had broken
	H1697	H3068		H3414	H310		
חֲנַנְיָה	הַנָּבִי	אֶת	הַמֹּוֹט	ל	מֵעַ	צוֹ	אֶרֶץ
that Hananiah	of the prophet	H853	the yoke	H5921	from off the neck		
H2608	H5030		H4133		H6677		
יִרְמְיָה	הַנָּבִי	יֹאמֵר:					
Jeremiah	of the prophet	saying					
H3414	H5030	H559					

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.

