

# Jeremiah 28:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Go and tell Hananiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Thou hast broken the yokes of wood; but thou shalt make for them yokes of iron.

## Analysis

**Go and tell Hananiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Thou hast broken the yokes of wood; but thou shalt make for them yokes of iron** (הלֹךְ וְאָמַרְתָּ אֵלָיו, halokh v'amarta el-chananyah...motot ets shavarta v'asita tachteiheh motot barzel)—the ironic reversal is devastating. Hananiah's dramatic breaking of wooden yokes doesn't bring liberation but escalation: iron yokes (מֹטוֹת בַּרְזֶל, motot barzel) that cannot be broken. The verb עָשָׂה (asah, 'make') in perfect form indicates completed action—**thou shalt make** means Hananiah's action has already caused this outcome.

This reveals how false prophecy worsens judgment rather than averting it. By encouraging rebellion against Babylon through optimistic lies, Hananiah ensures harsher subjugation. Wood breaks; iron doesn't. Comfortable lies create harder bondage than difficult truths. Deuteronomy 28:48 warned of iron yokes as covenant curse. Hananiah thought he was liberating Israel; he was actually forging stronger chains. This principle applies broadly: rejecting truth for comfortable falsehood doesn't escape consequences—it intensifies them.

## Historical Context

After false prophets like Hananiah encouraged rebellion, Zedekiah eventually did revolt against Babylon (589 BC), resulting in devastating 18-month siege and total destruction (586 BC). Had Judah submitted as Jeremiah counseled, they would

have experienced 'wooden yoke' subjugation—difficult but survivable. Rebellion brought 'iron yoke'—catastrophic destruction, mass death, permanent exile. False hope produced worse outcome than accepting hard reality.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How do comfortable lies create harsher consequences than difficult truths?
2. When have you seen false optimism worsen situations it claimed to improve?
3. What 'iron yokes' result from rejecting God's 'wooden yoke' discipline?

## Interlinear Text

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הָלוֹךְ	אָמַר	אֵל	חֲנַנְיָהּ	אָמַר	כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה
Go	Thus saith	H413	Hananiah	Thus saith	H3541	Thus saith	the LORD
H1980	H559		H2608	H559		H559	H3068

מִטּוֹת	עֵץ	שָׁבַרְתָּ	וַעֲשֵׂה יָתִיד	תַּחֲתֵיהֶן
for them yokes	of wood	Thou hast broken	but thou shalt make	H8478
H4133	H6086	H7665	H6213	

מִטּוֹת	בְּרִזָּל:
for them yokes	of iron
H4133	H1270