

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 (כלוך ואמרת אל) חנניא...מטוות עץ שברת ועשית תחתיהם מטוות ברזל ets shavarta v'asita tachteihen motot barzel)—the ironic reversal is devastating. Hananiah's dramatic breaking of wooden yokes doesn't bring liberation but escalation: iron yokes (ברזל, motot barzel) that cannot be broken. The verb **עשָׂה** (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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

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

יְהִי הָאָמָר	אָמָר רְכִלּוֹג	אֶל אָמָר הַנְּבָנִי הָאָמָר כִּי הָאָמָר	יְהִי הָאָמָר	אָמָר רְכִלּוֹג	אֶל אָמָר הַנְּבָנִי הָאָמָר כִּי הָאָמָר	יְהִי הָאָמָר	אָמָר רְכִלּוֹג	אֶל אָמָר הַנְּבָנִי הָאָמָר כִּי הָאָמָר
Go	Thus saith	H413	Hananiah	Thus saith	H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	
H1980	H559		H2608	H559		H559		H3068
מִתְּזֵת מִתְּזֵת	עַץ	שִׁבְעַת רְתִּף	וְעַשְׂתָּה יְתִּפְאֵל	תְּחִתְמֵא				
for them yokes	of wood	Thou hast broken	but thou shalt make					
H4133	H6086	H7665	H6213					H8478
מִתְּזֵת מִתְּזֵת	ברֶזֶל:							
for them yokes	of iron							
H4133	H1270							

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