

Jeremiah 28:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month.

Analysis

So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month (וְחִנְמַת) vayyamat chananyah hannavi basshanah hahi bachodesh hashvi'i)—the terse, factual reporting emphasizes fulfillment. Given in the fifth month (28:1), Hananiah died in the seventh month—approximately two months later. The verb מַתָּה (mut, 'die') in Qal perfect indicates completed action. No details about cause of death are given; what matters is that Jeremiah's prophecy came true while Hananiah's did not.

This conclusion serves multiple purposes:

1. vindicates Jeremiah's prophetic authority
2. exposes Hananiah as false prophet
3. demonstrates God's justice against rebellion
4. provides testable evidence for the community to evaluate competing prophets.

The narrative's placement shows that truth ultimately prevails, though sometimes only through judgment. Hananiah's death became object lesson confirming Jeremiah's ministry. Time and events distinguish true from false prophecy when both claim divine authority. As Jesus said, 'by their fruits ye shall know them' (Matthew 7:20).

Historical Context

Hananiah's death occurred in 593 BC, four years before Jerusalem's fall. His removal from the prophetic scene prevented further false encouragement toward rebellion. However, other false prophets continued misleading Judah (Jeremiah 29:8-9, 21-23), contributing to Zedekiah's eventual revolt. Hananiah's death proved Jeremiah's prophetic authority to those willing to see, but many remained unconvinced, continuing toward catastrophe.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does time ultimately vindicate truth and expose falsehood?
2. What role do testable predictions play in evaluating theological claims?
3. How do you respond when prophetic fulfillment proves who truly speaks for God?

Interlinear Text

בְּחֵדֶשׁ	הַיּוֹם	בְּשָׁנָה	הַנּוֹבֵט	סְנָתָה	וְיִמְתָּחֵל
died	So Hananiah	the prophet	the same year	H1931	month
H4191	H2608	H5030	H8141		H2320

השביעי

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