

# Jeremiah 28:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the LORD hath truly sent him.

## Analysis

**The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the LORD hath truly sent him**, הַנְּבֵיא אֲשֶׁר יִנְבְּאֶלְעָלָם בָּבָא דָבָר הַנְּבֵיא יִלְעַל הַנְּבֵיא אֲשֶׁר-שָׁלַחּוּ יְהִיָּה בָּאָמָת) hannavi asher yinnave l'shalom b'vo d'var hannavi yivvada hannavi asher-sh'lacho YHWH be'emet)—the test for peace prophecy is stricter: it must be fulfilled, בָּבָא, b'vo, 'when it comes'). Only then is the prophet **known** (עִזּוּל, yivvada) as truly sent by Yahweh (שָׁלַחּוּ יְהִיָּה, sh'lacho YHWH).

This creates asymmetry: judgment prophecy aligns with historical precedent and covenant curses, giving it credibility; peace prophecy contradicts both, requiring validation through fulfillment. Hananiah's two-year deadline (28:3) meant waiting for vindication. Deuteronomy 18:21-22 established this test: unfulfilled prophecy indicates presumption. The principle protects against optimistic lies while allowing for genuine good news when God truly grants it. Hope must be tested; judgment has precedent.

## Historical Context

Hananiah's specific timeframe—'within two full years' (28:3)—made his prophecy testable. By setting a deadline, he inadvertently established criteria for his own evaluation. When two years passed without fulfillment, his false prophecy was

exposed. In contrast, Jeremiah's 70-year exile prediction (29:10) was eventually fulfilled, vindicating his ministry posthumously.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. Why does Scripture apply stricter tests to pleasant prophecies than difficult ones?
2. How do you evaluate optimistic predictions in contemporary Christianity?
3. What timeframes and criteria make theological claims testable versus unfalsifiable?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּבָא	לְשָׁלָם	וּמְשֻׁבְּכָה	אֲשֶׁר	רְאֵיתָה	אֲשֶׁר	יְהִי	בְּבָבָא
<b>The prophet</b>	H834	<b>which prophesieth</b>		<b>of peace</b>		<b>shall come to pass</b>	
H5030		H5012		H7965		H935	
דָּבָר	יְהִי	בְּבָבָא	יְדַע	בְּבָבָא	אֲשֶׁר	שָׁלַח	וּמְשֻׁבְּכָה
<b>when the word</b>		<b>The prophet</b>	<b>be known</b>	<b>The prophet</b>	H834		<b>sent</b>
H1697		H5030	H3045	H5030			H7971
הָיָה	בְּאָמִתָּה	הָיָה	בְּבָבָא	הָיָה	בְּבָבָא	וּמְשֻׁבְּכָה	
<b>that the LORD</b>		<b>hath truly</b>					
H3068		H571					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 18:22** (Prophecy): When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD

hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

**Jeremiah 6:14** (Peace): They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

**Jeremiah 4:10** (Word): Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! surely thou hast greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall have peace; whereas the sword reacheth unto the soul.

**Jeremiah 14:13** (Word): Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place.

**Jeremiah 8:11** (Peace): For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.