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Various information and topics that help the reader of the Bible understand the apostles and the Lord Jesus Christ's teachings.

Jeremiah 28.

(2010).

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Teach it, don't demand it.

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Jeremiah 28.

The following is a brief overview of the main topics.
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Hananiah speaks to Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 28:1 ----- ¹In that same year, at the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fifth month of the fourth year, Hananiah the son of Azzur, the prophet from Gibeon, spoke to me in the house of the LORD, in the presence of the priests and all the people, saying,

Hananiah; means, Jehovah is gracious he was a false prophet speaks to Jeremiah in the Temple in front of the priests and all the people.

Zedekiah; was the last king of Judah.

Hananiah says: -

Jeremiah 28:2-4 ----- ²Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. ³Within two years I will bring back to this place all the vessels of the LORD'S house, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon. ⁴I will also bring back to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon, declares the LORD, for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon."

Hananiah is speaking falsely in the name of the LORD telling the people: -

- God has broken the power of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon.
- Within two years God will bring all the captives in Babylon back to Jerusalem.

Note; just because a prophet says, "Thus saith the LORD," does not always mean it is the LORD'S words they are speaking.

Jeremiah replies to Hananiah's speech: -

Jeremiah 28:5-9 ----- ⁵Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. ⁷Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

Remember the LORD has already told Jeremiah that Judah will serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon for 70 years (Jer 25:11), nevertheless Jeremiah knowing the stubbornness of the people and that they have been plotting to kill him would realise that trying to prove what Hananiah is saying is false would just stir up more strife and contention, so he basically says, well that would be nice if the LORD does that, nevertheless Jeremiah is fully aware that Hananiah's words will never come to pass so he implies it by telling the people if a prophet prophesies peace, and it comes to pass, then the people will certainly know that the LORD has truly sent that prophet (of course Hananiah's words of peace never came to pass, in fact he was killed not long after).

Note; Jeremiah ministered for 23 years, some may feel that his ministry was pointless because the people of Judah never listened to him, but it shows the patience of God and how much He wanted His people to avoid the impending

destruction. A second blessing of Jeremiah's ministry was that once the events came to pass all Judah would have become fully aware that Jeremiah was certainly a true prophet of the LORD which became a tremendous blessing because he became a prophet of comfort and encouragement to the exiles in captivity (see Jer 29:1-13).

Hananiah replies to Jeremiah's speech: -

Jeremiah 28:10-11 -- ¹⁰Then the prophet Hananiah took the yoke-bars from the neck of Jeremiah the prophet and broke them. ¹¹And Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, "Thus says the LORD: Even so will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all the nations within two years." But Jeremiah the prophet went his way.

The yoke bars around Jeremiah's neck was a symbol of Nebuchadnezzar's power over Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem (v10-11), but the words, "But Jeremiah the prophet went his way." Implies Jeremiah was disheartened because of the influence the false prophet Hananiah had over the people (v10).

Jeremiah replies to Hananiah's speech: -

Jeremiah 28:12-17 -- ¹²Sometime after the prophet Hananiah had broken the yoke-bars from off the neck of Jeremiah the prophet, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ¹³"Go, tell Hananiah, 'Thus says the LORD: You have broken wooden bars, but you have made in their place bars of iron. ¹⁴For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I have put upon the neck of all these nations an iron yoke to serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and they shall serve him, for I have given to him even the beasts of the field.'" ¹⁵And Jeremiah the prophet said to the prophet Hananiah, "Listen, Hananiah, the LORD has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in a lie. ¹⁶Therefore thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will remove you from the face of the earth. This year you shall die, because you have uttered rebellion against the LORD.'" ¹⁷In that same year, in the seventh month, the prophet Hananiah died.

Jeremiah had told the people that if what a prophet says comes to pass then they will know that he was a true prophet, the death of Hannaniah the same year should have convinced the people remaining at Jerusalem that what Hannaniah was saying was false and that Jeremiah was a true prophet of the LORD, but sadly it didn't.

End.