

“RUIN, REDEMPTION, AND RESTORATION”

Studies in the Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 27:1-28:17

“Following False Prophets will Get You Yoked Up”

Introduction: The narrative jumps from events during the reign of King Jehoiakim to the reign of King Zedekiah, the last king of Judah. Jeremiah is given a message reinforced by a prophetic illustration to provide instruction for the kingdom of Judah and the immediate neighboring Gentile nations.

I. The Consequence of Rebellion and Pride (Jeremiah 27:1-22)

- A. Jeremiah receives a message for the Gentile nations immediately surrounding the southern kingdom. A yoke was ancient farming technology used to control animals for dragging a plow. The yoke is used as a symbol of bondage or subjugation. God has authority over the creation, including all the nations of the earth (Romans 3:29). God chose to give Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, the lands and the beasts of the field. The reign of Babylon was temporary because the only everlasting kingdom is the kingdom of God (Daniel 4). The pagan nations had a variety of false counsel and God warns the pagan nations to stop listening to these worthless spiritual guides.
- B. Next, Jeremiah delivers the message to King Zedekiah. The people voluntarily submitted to the yoke of sin (spiritual bondage), now they have to voluntarily submit to the yoke of Babylon (physical bondage). The lies of the false prophets would lead the people to expulsion and death.
- C. Finally, Jeremiah warns the priests and the people not to listen to the lying prophets. Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) was taken captive in the seventh year of Nebuchadnezzar (Jeremiah 52:28; 2 Kings 24:10; 2 Chronicles 36:10). The false prophets capitalized on the emotions of the people and began to lie about a swift end of Babylon’s reign.

II. The Folly of False Prophecy (Jeremiah 28:1-17)

- A. Hananiah lied in the name of Lord declaring that the Babylonian captivity would end within two years. Hananiah would only be proven a real prophet sent by God if the word came to pass. Hananiah was so full of pride and deceit that he broke the yoke Jeremiah wore. Jeremiah left the matter in the hands of God to bring the verdict. God responded to Hananiah’s antics with a serious judgement – the yoke of wood will be replaced with a yoke of iron. Hananiah was punished with death for lying in the name of the Lord.
- B. What is the practical application in an age of false prophets?



- a. Have a working knowledge of the Bible – the Bible is the word of God because it is inerrant, infallible, and authoritative God-breathed special revelation in written form (2 Timothy 3:14-16).
- b. Spend time in relational/devotional prayer to learn God’s voice (Matthew 6:6; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16; Romans 8:12-17)
- c. When a person claims to have a word from God – search the Scriptures to test it. Paul teaches that prophecy should be evaluated (1 Corinthians 14:29).
- d. Be discerning – stay involved in the Christian community – in the multitude of counsel there is safety (1 John 4:1; Proverbs 11:14).
- e. Leaders should be examined – there are qualifications for leadership (1 Timothy 3:1-7).
- f. Get a grasp of what is written before you follow someone claiming to be led by the Spirit with little to no focus on Scripture (1 Timothy 4:13)
- g. Grow in maturity through the word of God and being equipped by ministry leaders (1 Peter 2:2; Ephesians 4:11-12)

III. The Easy Yoke is a Light Burden (Matthew 11:28-30)

- A. The rejection of Jeremiah’s message was ultimately a rejection of the Lord. This pattern of rejection continued into the time of Christ Jesus. Lord Jesus also commanded the people to take on a yoke. Not the yoke of a pagan Gentile king, but the yoke of the King of Kings.
- B. Lord Jesus calls us to come to Him. We are called to relationship with Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Sin is a hard heavy yoke of bondage. Trying to earn your way to heaven through good works is a heavy wearisome burden. Lord Jesus will give you rest. Lord Jesus is lowly and humble in heart and it is in Him that we find rest for our souls. Is your soul weary and restless? His yoke is easy and His burdens are light.

**“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”
(Romans 6:23).**

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