

Jeremiah Ch 28-29 • “A Future and a Hope ”

- Background Ch 26-29 all share common theme: Jeremiah’s conflict with false prophets.
- 28v1 “Same year” connects to prior chapter; c. 594BC.
Gibeon = Levitical city; Hananiah *could* have been a priest (maybe).
- v2-4 Yoke = reference back to Ch 27. Hananiah squaring off vs. Jeremiah ☒
Ch 27 said treasure not coming back; Ch 22 said Jehoiachin not coming back.
- v5-6 Jeremiah compelled to reply, but doesn’t immediate call Hananiah a liar;
Jeremiah says he wishes Hananiah were right. But he’s not.
- v7-9 J. points out he’s not the first prophet to speak of judgment (cf Micah, Isaiah).
Measure of prophet is accuracy of prophecies (time will tell).
- v10-11 Hananiah pushes back: Babylon is done in two years! It’s going to happen!
Jeremiah: “We’ll see!” (Don’t answer a fool in their folly!)
- v12-16 God gets the last word: “Hananiah, you’ve only made things worse!”
Yoke will be iron (unbreakable) as opposed to wood (bends).
And Hananiah who wasn’t sent as prophet (v15) will be sent (v16) to grave!
- v17 Again, measure of prophet is accuracy of prophecies. “Time will tell.”
- Side note: Possible that end of Ch 28 are words of comfort spoken by God to Jeremiah
in response to Jeremiah’s lament at end of Ch 15 (cf v12 @ “iron”) – maybe?
- Ch 29v1-3 This chapter could be one long letter or several collected letters.
Correspondence between Jeremiah and those in exile.
Post 597BC (second deportation) based on how J. describes those in exile.
Letter carried by messengers already going from Zedekiah to Babylon.
- v4 Notice God takes credit for the deportations (Neb. is only the instrument)
- v5-7 God tells those in exile to make selves comfortable (will be there awhile).
Also says pray for peace of enemies – only time in OT this happens.
Character of Jesus but also practical – chaos increases anti-Semitism.
- v8-9 Jeremiah’s response is unchanged: don’t listen to false prophets!
- v10 Second time God has given a specific timetable (cf Ch 25).
- v11-14 Note ASV and ERV translate :“to give you hope in your latter end.”
Clear signal of long-term (end of Tribulation) fulfillment.
Reinforced by v13 – “whole hearts” only at end of Tribulation.
Yes, God wants to be sought (found) (known). But how does that happen?
JESUS!

- v15 There WERE prophets in Babylon at this point (eg Daniel, Ezekiel)
But here Jeremiah referring to false prophets.
- v16-19 False prophets being proven wrong daily: judgment falling on Judah!
Could be dual fulfillment here: Babylonian Captivity AND Diaspora?
- v20-23 Why is judgment happening? Judah didn't heed her true prophets!
Jeremiah's advice? Listen to the true prophets now!
Ignore false prophets trying to lead you astray.
To demonstrate they ARE false prophets, God will have them executed!
- v24-28 Final section of letter; also concerning a false prophet (Shemaiah)
Apparently heard Jeremiah prophesying, "Make yourselves comfortable."
Writes to Zephaniah (priest) – you need to silence Jeremiah!
- v29-32 Zephaniah reads letter to Jeremiah; Jeremiah responds ☒
Punishment for false prophecy is death (which God will enforce).
In this case death to Zephaniah and entire lineage.
- Application* *We need to take false prophecy seriously, even in the church.*
Jesus has died for our sins, including false prophecy.
But these chapters remind us how serious it is in God's eyes.
Even well-intended prognostication becomes sin when we attach
"Thus sayeth the Lord" to our own estimates and opinion.
Should be looking past present day to "future and hope" Jesus promised.