

Today we will begin our fourteenth lecture on Jeremiah. /Our lecture will begin with Jeremiah 27. /The title of chapter 27 is “Yoke of Straps and Crossbars.” /First, the prophecy says that Judah will wear Babylon’s yoke made of straps and crossbars. /Verses 1-7

/Second, not wearing the yoke of Babylon will result in punishment from God. /Verses 8-13. /Third, listening to the false prophets will turn the city into a wasteland. /Verses 14-17. /Fourth, the prophecy says that the temple’s furnishings will be moved to Babylon. /Verses 18-22

/Verse 1. Please read. / “Early in the reign of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD:”

/Jehoiakim appears in the original text. /However, it was meant to say King Zedekiah. / If you read chapter 27 verses 3, 12, and 20 and chapter 28 verse 1, the text refers to King Zedekiah. /The people recording the text had made an error when copying the Bible. /Therefore, the chapter refers to the reign of King Zedekiah.

/Verses 2-3. / “This is what the LORD said to me: “Make a yoke out of straps and crossbars and put it on your neck. Then send word to the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Sidon through the envoys who have come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah.”

/God commanded Jeremiah prophesy to King Zedekiah with a yoke of wood placed on his neck. /Jeremiah was told to prophesy to the envoys of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Sidon, those who have come to visit King Zedekiah.

/Jeremiah was to prophesy to the envoys to the king. /Zedekiah was planning to build an alliance with the kings of the envoys to fight against the Babylonians. /But God, through Jeremiah, is telling the nations to wear the yoke of Babylon.

/Verses 5-6. / “With my great power and outstretched arm I made the earth and its people and the animals that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please. Now I will hand all your countries over to my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; I will make even the wild animals subject to him.”

/God, with his power and sovereignty, decided to give all the nations and all the people to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. /God said he will hand over all nations to the Babylonian king. /Here, God calls the king of Babylon “my servant.”

/Sometimes, God will use kings of the unbelieving world to punish other nations. /Romans 13:1-4. /Sometimes, when his chosen people sin, God will use foreign kings as tools for punishment. /We must wear the yoke that God has placed on us.

/Verse 8. / “If, however, any nation of kingdom will not serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon or bow its neck under his yoke, I will punish that nation with the sword, famine and plague, declares the LORD, until I destroy it by his hand.”

/God will punish any nation that does not wear the yoke of Babylon or does not serve the king of Babylon with the sword, famine, and plague. /God’s will is for the nations to carry the yoke of Babylon. /To do so is to obey God’s command. /When the yoke is carried, pride is destroyed and humility is found. /People will then repent and trust in God.

/Verse 9. / “So do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your interpreters of dreams, your mediums or your sorcerers who tell you, ‘You will not serve the king of Babylon.’”

/God commands the people to not listen to the false prophets. /They are to not listen to diviners, interpreters of dreams, mediums, nor sorcerers. /They are people who tell false prophecies. /Those who listen to the false prophets will face the judgment of God.

/Verse 11. / “But if any nation will bow its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will let that nation remain in its own land to till it and to live there, declares the LORD.”

/The nations that bow their neck under the yoke of Babylon will remain in their land and received God’s blessing. /Anyone who obeys the word of God and wears the yoke is blessed, but anyone who does not will be die by the sword, famine, and plague.

/We today must carry the yoke that God has given us. /Matthew 11:28-30 /We must also have the faith of a servant. /Philippians 2:5-8

/If we do not carry the yoke that God has given us, God will place an iron yoke upon us. /28:13 /Therefore, we must wear the yoke of the gospel and of the church.

/We need to properly wear the yoke of the family or the workplace. /We need to carry the yoke in the church when we evangelize, pay visits to people, teach children on Sundays, worship, and build churches.

/Verse 14. / “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who say to you, ‘You will not serve the king of Babylon, ‘for they are prophesying lies to you.’”

/Through Jeremiah, God tells the people to turn their ears away from false prophets. /Jeremiah says to the king and his people, “Do not listen to the words of the false prophets.”

/God says he will chase away the false prophets and destroy them. /Verses 16 and 17 also warn about the false prophets and their false prophecies. /Their prophecies do not come true. /Eventually, as God said through Jeremiah, the people of Judah were taken as prisoners to Babylon. /29:10

/Verse 18. / “If they are prophets and have the word of the LORD, let them plead with the LORD Almighty that the furnishings remaining in the house of the LORD and in the palace of the king of Judah and in Jerusalem not be taken to Babylon.”

/If the false prophets were true prophets, they would have prayed to God. /With the passing of time, their lies are revealed. /The false prophets taught the people that Jerusalem would not be destroyed.

/However, God’s word tell us that the people are to be taken captive to Babylon, and the temple’s furnishings are to be taken away as well. /The prayers of the false prophets are revealed to be fruitless. /In the end, things happened according to God’s word.

/We will continue with the lecture on Jeremiah 28. /The title of the chapter is “A Wooden Yoke and an Iron Yoke.”

/First, the false prophets predict the prisoners will return to Judah within 2 years. /Verses 1-4. /Second, the words of the true prophet are spoken to the people. /Verses 5-11. /Third, if the wooden yoke is broken, an iron yoke will be received. /Verses 12-14. /Fourth, God removes the false prophet Hananiah from the face of the earth. /Verses 15-17.

/Verse 1. Please read. / “In the fifth month of that same year, the fourth year, early in the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, the prophet Hananiah son of Azzur, who was from Gibeon, said to me in the house of the LORD in the presence of the priests and all the people.”

/Here, the false prophet from the reign of King Zedekiah tells his prophesy. /According to Hananiah, God breaks the yoke of the king of Babylon. /In verses 3, he prophesies the release of the people of Judah within two years.

/The false prophet pretends to be from God, acting and speaking as if he is a true prophet, and he predicts liberation from Babylon within two years. /Jeremiah, on the other hand, predicts a return within 70 years. /Whose word is correct?

/The false prophets claimed captivity will end in 2 years, while the true prophet said it would take 70 years. /The people were not able to differentiate between the words of the true prophet and the words of the false prophets.

/We must know how to distinguish between the words of the true prophets and false prophets. /To the people, the false prophet’s prophecies sounded better. /However, this was not the will of God.

/Verse 5. / “Then the prophet Jeremiah replied to the prophet Hananiah before the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD.”

/Jeremiah speaks in verse 5. /Jeremiah himself desires for the people of Judah to return to their land. /He wanted them to be able to go back home at an earlier time. /But this was not God's will for them.

/Verse 7. / "Nevertheless, listen to what I have to say in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people:"

/Jeremiah continued to speak. /The true prophet had prophesied about the wars, disasters, and plagues of the past. /A true prophet knows how to point out sins and to correctly prophesy war, disaster, and plague. /False prophets do not point out sin, but they speak only of peace and a good future. /6:14; 8:15

/Verse 9. / "But the prophet who prophesies peace will be recognized as one truly sent by the LORD only if his prediction comes true."

/Furthermore, a true prophet's prophecies are fulfilled according to the word of God. /If a true prophet receives a message of peace from God, the prophesy of peace will be fulfilled.

/When false prophets prophesy peace, the prophesy does not happen. /The lie is revealed as a lie. /Deuteronomy 18:22 /False prophets are different from true prophets. /A true prophet prophesies in order for people to repent.

/False prophets prophesy according to the flesh, but true prophets listen to the Holy Spirit. /False prophets' prophecies do not come true, but true prophets' prophecies are fulfilled. /False prophets place their focus on outward, institutional things.

/True prophets regard salvation, eternal life, and life as the important things. /Once again, I say that true prophets normally prophesy disaster. /Also, the prophecies of true prophets are fulfilled.

/Verse 10. / "Then the prophet Hananiah took the yoke off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah and broke it,"

/In the presence of the people, Hananiah removes Jeremiah's yoke and breaks it. /Then, he declares the return of the people within two years. /Jeremiah had worn the wooden yoke of Babylon on his neck and had prophesied to the people. /27?2

/Hananiah breaks Jeremiah's yoke and prophesies the return to their home land within two years. /He spoke words that pleased the people. /The people did not like wearing the yoke of Babylon.

/Thus the people favored the words of Hananiah over the words of Jeremiah. /Anyone who speaks words that are pleasing to the ears is welcomed by others. /However, believers are blessed when they follow the words of true prophets.

/How do we distinguish false prophets from true prophets? /First, we can observe the principles of the Bible. /Anyone who speaks words that are inconsistent with the Bible is a false prophet. /Second, false prophets focus on people. /Their focus is on the world and people.

/Third, we can learn from the fruits of the prophecies. /A good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. /Jeremiah does not fight the false prophet. /He simply does what he is meant to do. /Jeremiah is gentle and humble.

/Jeremiah does not display anger nor does he retaliate. /He stays true to his duties. /He continues to fulfill his mission. /Jesus also walked this path. /1 Peter 2:23

/Verse 12. / “Shortly after the prophet Hananiah had broken the yoke off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah.”

/God speaks to Hananiah through Jeremiah. /God tells Hananiah that since he broke the wooden yoke, he will instead wear an iron yoke.

/To anyone who breaks off a wooden yoke, God will give him a yoke of iron. /When God commanded Jonah to preach the word of God to the people of Nineveh, Jonah did not obey. /The command to go to Nineveh to preach was an yoke of wood.

/Jonah ran away from God and ended up in the belly of a fish. /The fish’s stomach is an iron yoke. /What again is a wooden yoke? It is something God gives us. /It is our mission and we need to obey it.

/Second, it is the cross that God gives us. /Third, it is a light punishment to lead us to repentance. /When we carry the wooden yoke, God walks with us and makes it easier for us. /He also opens new roads for us.

/If we do not wear the yoke of wood, God gives us an iron yoke. /An iron yoke cannot be broken. /We are trapped in it with no other option. /It cannot be avoided. /An iron yoke gives us great pain. /Therefore we must accept the wooden yoke and obey God’s word.

/The people taken to Babylon wore the yoke of Babylon. /They repented and were humble. /They had become humble on the outside. /However, they were spiritually blessed by God, who had given them spiritual wealth. /We as believers must wear the wooden yoke that God has placed upon us.

/Verse 15. / “Then the prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet, “Listen, Hananiah! The LORD has not sent you, yet you have persuaded this nation to trust in lies.”

/Verses 16-17. / “Therefore, this is what the LORD says: ‘I am about to remove you from the face of the earth. This very year you are going to die, because you have preached rebellion against the LORD.’” In the seventh month of that same year, Hananiah the prophet died.”

/God said he would kill Hananiah. /With his lies, Hananiah put the people into confusion. /Hananiah's words did not come from God, but Hananiah lied that they were from God. /He deceived God's people. /As a result, God put Hananiah to death on the seventh month of the year. /In this way, false prophets perish.

/We will continue with the lecture on Jeremiah chapter 29. /The title of the chapter is, "Seek the LORD with all your heart." /First, Jeremiah sends a letter with guidelines for living to the people of Judah in Babylon. /Verses 1-9. /Second, God looks after his people in captivity in Babylon. /Verses 10-14.

/Third, there is a warning for the people left in the land of Judah. /Verses 15-19. /Fourth, the false prophets Ahab and Zedekiah are cursed. /Verses 20-23. /Fifth, the false prophet Shemaiah living in Babylon is punished for speaking wrongly of Jeremiah. /Verses 24-32.

/Verse 1. Please read. / "This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon."

/God speaks to the people through Jeremiah. /Jeremiah sent a letter to the prisoners in Babylon. /He delivered God's message to the prisoners in Babylon.

/Verse 2. / "(This was after King Jehoiachin and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen and the artisans had gone into exile from Jerusalem.)"

/The time Jeremiah sent the letter was after King Jehoiachin and the queen mother were taken as prisoners to Babylon. /King Jehoiachin is also known as Jeconiah. /This king was taken away to Babylon during the second period of captivity. /This was in 597 B.C.

/During that time, influential people were taken captive. /2 Kings 24:8-17 /Eunuchs, woodworkers, and ironworkers were taken away. /Many skilled people became prisoners to Babylon.

/Verse 3. / "He entrusted the letter to Elasah son of Shaphan and to Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It said:"

/King Zedekiah sent Elasah and Gemariah as messengers to the king of Babylon. /They carried letters to Babylon. /Jeremiah entrusted his letter to these messengers.

/Shaphan worked with King Josiah during the religious reformation. /2 Kings 22:8 /Hilkiah was someone who assisted King Josiah. /2 Kings 22:12 /They were sending letters to the sons of these people.

/Verse 4. / “This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:”

/Through his letters, Jeremiah delivered the word of God to the prisoners of Babylon.

/Verse 5. / “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.”

/The letter tells them to build houses and live in Babylon. /The false prophets prophesied a speedy return to the land of Judah. /Hearing the words of the false prophets, the people did not build houses and settle down, but they were excited to return home.

/Jeremiah tells them to relax and build a life in Babylon as prisoners. /We must do our best in our workplace and businesses. /Even if the world ends tomorrow, we must plant our apple tree. /2 Thessalonians 3:10

/Verse 6. / “Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease.”

/Next, God tells the people to find wives and have children. /He means for them to have proper marriages. /He wants them to build families of faith. /Their children and families will be better off, and their faith will be stronger.

/Third, verse 7 tells the people to pray for the Babylon’s peace. /God wants them to pray for the nation. /It means praying for the nation of Babylon. /1 Timothy 2:2; /We must pray for our nations and cities.

/If we do so, our nations will be at peace, we will be free to worship, and we will be able to evangelize to others. /Fourth, God warns them to not be deceived by the false prophets. /29:8-9 /The false prophets prophesied the return to Judah within two years. /28:3

/Now, it is time for the people to listen to Jeremiah and prepare for 70 years of captivity in Babylon. /Jeremiah correctly delivered God’s will to the people. /In whatever circumstance we are in, we must learn to accept it as God’s will and continue our lives of faith.

/Verse 10. / “This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place.”

/God promises to bring his people back after seventy years in Babylon.

/God does not want to give us disaster. /He desires to give us peace. /He wants to give us hope for a future.

/When God's people in Babylon repent and become humble, he promises to bless them. / We must believe in God's promises and carry the yoke he has given us. /Ezekiel 18:13

/God tests us and humbles us to bring us blessings. /It may feel like a disaster when we are facing hardships and trials. /However, after the pain, God gives us peace and hope.

/Verse 12. / "Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."

/God says he will meet with those who earnestly pray and seek God. /God listens to our prayers. /Ezekiel 11:16 /It is important that we wholeheartedly seek God. /We must completely trust the Lord and call out for him.

/In verse 14, God promises to meet his people. He will allow them to return to their home nation. /It means God will send them back to Judah. /God will restore everything to its original state and make everything normal again.

/We too must seek God and trust him in our small rooms. /We must believe that he will free us from captivity and have hope.

/Verse 15. / "You may say, "The LORD has raised up prophets for us in Babylon,"

/The people of Judah in Babylon will say, "God has sent prophets for us in Babylon. /However, verse 21 says those prophets are false prophets. /They are the false prophets Ahab and Zedekiah.

/The people perished because they did not listen to the true prophet of God. /They perished because they listened to the words of the false prophets. /They did not listen to the true prophet, but they chose to listen to the false prophets.

/Verses 20-21. / "Therefore, hear the word of the LORD, all you exiles whom I have sent away from Jerusalem to Babylon. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says about Ahab son of Kolaiah and Zedekiah son of Maaseiah, who are prophesying lies to you in my name: "I will hand them over to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he will put them to death before your very eyes."

/Ahab and Zedekiah appear in the text. /These people told false prophecies. /God said he will judge and kill these two people. /God judges false prophets in this way.

/Verse 24. / "Tell Shemaiah the Nehelamite,"

/Here, the false prophet Shemaiah living in Babylon appears. /Shemaiah slanders Jeremiah and eventually is punished. /Shemaiah, like Ahab and Zedekiah, is a false prophet with wrong political, religious, and moral beliefs.



/Even still, Shemaiah criticized Jeremiah. /Jeremiah told the people in Babylon to plant gardens and eat their fruits. /Verses 4-7. /Shemaiah criticized Jeremiah for telling them this.

/When we look at verses 29-32, /we see that Shemaiah is a false prophet. /Shemaiah made the people believe in a lie. /In verse 32, God says he will punish Shemaiah and his descendants. /Every generation has its false prophets. /They also have true prophets.

/False prophets' wrongdoings are eventually uncovered. /They also face God's judgment. /The words of true prophets eventually turn out to be true. /They are fulfilled because they are God's prophecies. /We must listen to the words of true prophets.

/This concludes the fourteenth lecture on Jeremiah. /Thank you.