

**2/9, 2025**

**Sermon Title:** The Conflict Between Jeremiah and the False Prophet Hananiah

**Preacher:** Pastor Kim Soon-bae

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 28:1-17

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

**(Jeremiah 28:2)** "This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon.

**(Jeremiah 28:3)** Within two years, I will bring back to this place all the articles of the Lord's house that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon removed from here and took to Babylon.

**(Jeremiah 28:4)** I will also bring back to this place Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah and all the exiles of Judah who went to Babylon,' declares the Lord, 'for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.'"

**(Jeremiah 28:5)** 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 28:6)** He said, "Amen! May the Lord do so! May the Lord fulfill the words you have prophesied by bringing the articles of the Lord's house and all the exiles back to this place from Babylon.

**(Jeremiah 28:7)** Nevertheless, listen to what I have to say in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people:

**(Jeremiah 28:8)** The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, disaster, and plague against many countries and great kingdoms.

**(Jeremiah 28:9)** But the prophet who prophesies peace will be recognized as one truly sent by the Lord only if his prediction comes true."

**(Jeremiah 28:10)** Then the prophet Hananiah took the yoke off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah and broke it,

**(Jeremiah 28:11)** and he said before all the people, “This is what the Lord says: ‘In the same way, within two years I will break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all the nations.’” At this, the prophet Jeremiah went on his way.

**(Jeremiah 28:12)** After the prophet Hananiah had broken the yoke off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah:

**(Jeremiah 28:13)** “Go and tell Hananiah, ‘This is what the Lord says: You have broken a wooden yoke, but in its place, you will get a yoke of iron.

**(Jeremiah 28:14)** This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I will put an iron yoke on the necks of all these nations to make them serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and they will serve him. I will even give him control over the wild animals.’”

**(Jeremiah 28:15)** 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.

**(Jeremiah 28:16)** 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.’”

**(Jeremiah 28:17)** In the seventh month of that same year, the prophet Hananiah died.

God commands the people of Judah and the nations not to listen to the false prophecies of false prophets but to hear the true prophecies of the true prophets and obey His word.

Of course, that is what should be done.

However, the problem is how to distinguish between a true prophet and a false prophet.

In some cases, a true prophet may appear to be false, while a false prophet may seem more like a true prophet.

Nevertheless, the truth will inevitably be revealed.

The same situation is happening in Judah right now.

The true prophet, Jeremiah, following God's command, prophesies to Judah and the surrounding nations that they must surrender to Babylon and serve King Nebuchadnezzar.

He declares that this is God's will, and if they do not comply, Judah will be destroyed.

However, the false prophets claim that everything will be fine.

They prophesy that the stolen temple and palace treasures will soon be returned and that the exiled captives will come back.

They incite the people to resist Babylon.

From the perspective of the people of Judah, they want to believe the words of the false prophets.

Moreover, they even feel that resisting Babylon to protect Jerusalem is the more patriotic path.

This event took place in 593 BC, during the fourth year of King Zedekiah's reign in Judah, not long after envoys from surrounding nations had gathered in Jerusalem for an anti-Babylonian meeting to discuss their course of action.

The prophet Jeremiah and Hananiah confront each other in the temple, in front of the priests and all the people.

Hananiah was likely a prophet affiliated with the Jerusalem temple.

The prophet Hananiah prophesies directly opposite to the message that Jeremiah had delivered, claiming that the Lord God spoke to him.

(Jeremiah 28:1) In that year, the fourth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, in the fifth month, the prophet Hananiah, the son of Azur, from Gibeon, spoke to me in the house of the Lord, in the presence of the priests and all the people, saying:

(Jeremiah 28:2) "This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon.

(Jeremiah 28:3) Within two years, I will bring back to this place all the articles of the Lord's house that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, removed from here and took to Babylon.

(Jeremiah 28:4) I will also bring back to this place Jeconiah son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the other exiles from Judah who went to Babylon,' declares the Lord, 'for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.'"

While Jeremiah proclaimed that greater disaster would come, especially following the calamity of 597 BC, Hananiah delivered a message of comfort and hope to the people.

Jeremiah proclaimed that the only way for Judah to survive was by bearing the yoke of the king of Babylon and serving King Nebuchadnezzar.

In contrast, Hananiah declared that the Lord had broken the yoke of the king of Babylon.

While Jeremiah prophesied that even the remaining articles of the temple and the kingdom would be taken to Babylon, Hananiah proclaimed that the articles taken by King Nebuchadnezzar would be returned to their rightful place within two years.

Jeremiah declared that Jeconiah (also known as Jehoiachin), the king of Judah, would be taken to Babylon and die there, never returning.

On the other hand, Hananiah proclaimed that Jeconiah and all the exiles from Judah taken to Babylon would return to their homeland.

Jeremiah announced that Judah would endure 70 years or three generations under Babylonian rule, while Hananiah declared that the rule of the king of Babylon would last no more than two years.

One of them is proclaiming a false prophecy.

Hearing Hananiah's proclamation, Jeremiah responds to him.

(Jeremiah 28:5) The prophet Jeremiah said to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people standing in the Lord's temple,

(Jeremiah 28:6) "Amen! May the Lord do so! May the Lord fulfill the words you have prophesied by bringing back to this place from Babylon the articles of the Lord's temple and all the exiles."

(Jeremiah 28:7) "Nevertheless, listen to what I have to say in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people."

(Jeremiah 28:8) "The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, disaster, and plague against many countries and great kingdoms."

(Jeremiah 28:9) "But the prophet who prophesies peace will be recognized as one truly sent by the Lord only if his prediction comes true."

Jeremiah, as a member of the people who love their nation, earnestly hopes that Hananiah's prophecy will be fulfilled.

However, he knows that Hananiah's prophecy is a false one and not from God, so he understands that such hopes are in vain.

Even so, it was not easy for the people to distinguish between the true and false prophets.

Therefore, Jeremiah argues the legitimacy of his prophetic judgment by pointing out that many previous prophets had proclaimed judgment.

In fact, the history of Israel's prophecy proves the legitimacy of judgment prophets.

Most of the prophecies of earlier prophets (such as Joel, Amos, Hosea, Micah, Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, etc.) were calls for repentance and proclamations of judgment against corrupt and fallen nations, and those prophecies were fulfilled as foretold.

Jeremiah says that a prophet can only be recognized as one sent by God when the prophecy they proclaimed is actually fulfilled.

For Hananiah to be recognized as a prophet sent by the Lord, the prophecy he declared must first come to pass.

This is because the criterion for distinguishing between a true prophet and a false prophet lies in the fulfillment of their prophecies.

Hananiah, in a symbolic act identical to what Jeremiah did, refutes Jeremiah's prophecy.

He takes the yoke from Jeremiah's neck and breaks it.

Jeremiah had used the act of wearing a yoke to prophesy that serving the Babylonian king would be the only way for Judah to survive, while Hananiah, by removing and breaking the yoke from Jeremiah's neck, prophesies that the Lord would break the yoke of Babylon from the necks of the nations.

(Jeremiah 28:10) The prophet Hananiah took the yoke off the prophet Jeremiah's neck and broke it.

(Jeremiah 28:11) In front of all the people, Hananiah said, "This is what the Lord says: 'Within two years I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon from the necks of all the nations.'" Then the prophet Jeremiah went on his way.

Hananiah confronts Jeremiah directly by proclaiming the exact opposite of the judgment prophecy that Jeremiah declared.

Contrary to Jeremiah's prophecy, Hananiah proclaims that the Lord would break the yoke of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon within two years.

In response, Jeremiah remains silent without offering any further reaction.

Only God can resolve this issue.

Finally, God intervenes in this matter.

God commands Jeremiah to go to Hananiah and deliver the message that the bondage under Babylon will be even more painful and difficult because of his actions.

Jeremiah obeys God's command, and goes to Hananiah to deliver the Lord's message.

(Jeremiah 28:12) After the prophet Hananiah had broken the yoke off the prophet Jeremiah's neck, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying,

(Jeremiah 28:13) "Go and tell Hananiah, 'This is what the Lord says: You have broken a wooden yoke, but in its place you have made a yoke of iron.

(Jeremiah 28:14) This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I will put an iron yoke on the necks of all these nations to serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and they will serve him. I will even give him the wild animals."

The symbolic act that Hananiah performed to challenge Jeremiah's message actually made the yoke of Babylon even heavier.

Now, all the nations, including Judah, will have to wear an iron yoke, not a wooden one, and serve King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

Additionally, God declares that He will hand over not just the nations, but even the wild animals to the Babylonian king.

God declares that, although Hananiah was not sent by Him, he deceived the people by falsely claiming to speak on God's behalf.

God says He will remove Hananiah from the earth and that he will die within the year.

(Jeremiah 28:15) Then the prophet Jeremiah said to the prophet Hananiah, "Listen, Hananiah! The Lord has not sent you, yet you have persuaded this people to believe a lie."

(Jeremiah 28:16) Therefore, this is what the Lord says: 'I will remove you from the face of the earth. You have spoken against the Lord's will. You will die this year because you have prophesied rebellion against the Lord.'

Jeremiah firmly declares and condemns Hananiah as a false prophet.

In fact, Hananiah dies just two months after this prophecy.

(Jeremiah 28:17) "In the seventh month of that year, the prophet Hananiah died."

The curse prophecy against Hananiah was declared in May, and he died in July of that same year, so the prophecy was fulfilled within two months.

With this, it was revealed that Jeremiah was indeed the true prophet sent by God, and the yoke of the Babylonian king that he had proclaimed was confirmed to be God's will.

Furthermore, the other prophecies that Jeremiah declared were also recognized as true prophecies from God.

Beloved members of Church of God's Dream,

Distinguishing between true prophets and false prophets is not easy.

In many cases, false prophets seem more like true prophets.

False prophets are clever and deceitful, able to see through people's hearts and deceive them with elegant words that people want to hear.

To avoid being swayed by the misleading influence of false prophets in the world, First, we must have spiritual discernment.

To do that, we must know God's Word.

People tend to side with those who have power and wealth in this world, and they want to believe their words.

But as history proves, not everything said by those with power and wealth is true.

They are often entangled in their own interests and manipulate people for their own gain.

Do not trust people.

Only God's Word is the truth.

Second, we must observe the fulfillment of the prophecy made by the prophets.

A true prophet is proven not by their character or knowledge, but by the fulfillment of their prophecy.

Third, we must see God's confirmation.

God will surely testify that the prophet He has sent is a true prophet.



Just as God intervened when Jeremiah and Hananiah were in conflict, condemning Hananiah and confirming Jeremiah as the true prophet.

In these last days, this world is filled with false prophets and Satan, who roar like a lion, seeking to devour us.

Be watchful and alert, so that you are not led astray by false prophets and Satan! If you are misled and reject God's Word, following them, you will perish with them.