

HANANIAH'S FALSE PROPHECY AND PUNISHMENT

Jeremiah 28:11,15-17 ... "...Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, 'Thus says the Lord: 'Even so I will break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all nations within the space of two full years...Then the prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet, 'Hear now, Hananiah, the Lord has not sent you, but you make this people trust in a lie. 'Therefore thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will cast you from the face of the earth. This year you shall die, because you have taught rebellion against the Lord.' So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month."

God's people the Jews, and the church created by Christ, have been assaulted by false teachers from the beginning of time. Eve's submission to the lies of satan in the Garden of Eden, is the first example of false teaching. Satan has been corrupting the minds of some of God's servants ever since. Today's story from the book of Jeremiah is fairly extreme, because it involved one of God's prophets, Hananiah. God told Jeremiah that Hananiah's prophecy was false, and that Hananiah would die because of it, which he did. Why did this happen?

This story started when Nebuchadnezzar invaded Israel and took the Jews captive to Babylon. God used Nebuchadnezzar to punish the Jews for disobeying him by placing them in bondage to compel the Jews to turn back to God. But Hananiah wanted to make himself a person of importance. He encouraged the Jews to rebel against their Babylonian captors so they could return to Israel. God revealed Hananiah's dishonest scheme to Jeremiah, who then declared it to the people. God then killed Hananiah for his false prophecies.

Today, many cult leaders call themselves pastors and prophets who are only focused on becoming important, attracting followers, and making money. In Jeremiah's time the scriptures were not available to every person, plus they did not yet have the teachings of Christ, who came about 625 years later. So, they had to rely on prophets and teachers. Today, we have the Bible with which we can test what pastors tell us and determine for ourselves if they are honest. We also have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us to confirm that what we are told is true.

A local man joined a cult, the leader of which told him to stop taking insulin and medicine, and to refuse medical help. He also gave his children's inheritance to the cult. When he died from lack of insulin, he left huge debts that his children may never be able to repay. Please, do not be deceived.

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