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SERIES: Jeremiah, Part 2 (God's Certain Judgment)

TITLE: Program 9 – Confronting The Lie

THURSDAY

OPEN

Have you ever sat down with a friend and said, “I know that God says that, but I really don't think God wants you to be unhappy. I don't really think that God wants you to endure this. I think it's too much for Him to expect. And then you advised them to go against the Word of God. Do you know what you did? You got them to trust in a lie and you led them into rebellion.

PART ONE

How I pray that you have been with me all week. What we are studying is so absolutely critical. And it's critical because we live in a world of vast information, and much of that information is anti-God, much of that information is anti-Bible. They just don't think of the way God presents Himself in the Word of God. They think of God as a namby-pamby God. A God who loves everyone, a God who would never put anyone to death, certainly wouldn't cause a sword, a war, a famine, a pestilence. And so what

we do is we sit as God and give counsel to others. And when those people listen to us they trust in a lie, and you and I have counseled rebellion. And the question is: How does God feel about that? Well, that's what we are going to see in Jeremiah chapter 28 as we pick up on Hananiah. Now remember Hananiah is the prophet that has shown up in the same year of Jeremiah, chapter 27. It's the fourth year of the reign of Zedekiah. Zedekiah is going to be the last king of Judah. He is going to be the king that takes them into captivity, so to speak, because he does not listen to God. Jeremiah in chapter 27 has spoken and given God's message to the messengers from the surrounding countries. He has spoken to the king. He has spoken to the priest and the people. Now Hananiah shows up, and Hananiah has said, as we have already seen that, "Listen, in two years all the vessels that have been taken into captivity in 597 are coming back here, and not only that, but Jeconiah your king is coming back here. Jeconiah only served for three months and then he was taken into captivity— he's coming back." Another name for Jeconiah is Coniah. Um, and they're saying he is coming back. And then they're saying, "All the exiles are coming back. They're only going to be in Babylon two more years, and they are coming home." (See Jeremiah 28:1-4) What does Jeremiah think about this? Because Hananiah is standing there talking to the priests and the people that Jeremiah just spoke to. And Jeremiah just told them, "Hey, the vessels are not coming back. As a matter of fact, the vessels that are left here, left here in the temple, are going to Babylon and they are going to be there until the day that God visits them." (See Jeremiah 27:16, 21-22) So let's open our Bibles and let's look at Jeremiah chapter 28. And I just want to thank you for studying with us. I want to thank you for getting the study guide. I want to thank you for communicating with me. When you go online and leave me a message it delights my heart, and I take those messages. They are printed out for me, and I take them and I pile up in bed, or I sit someplace and have a cup of coffee and I read what you are saying, and it means so much to me. And I

want to thank you for supporting this ministry. If ever we needed truth it was now. Well, Jeremiah chapter 28, Hananiah says all this, and then verse 5: **“Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and in the presence of all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD.” (Jeremiah 28:5)** So all of this is taking place on the Temple Mount. When you look at a picture of Jerusalem and you see the golden dome shining on that Temple Mount, you’ve got to know that before it was ever there, there was a glorious temple that was built by Solomon. And this is the temple that they are worshipping in. If you’ve gotten your “Inductive Study Bible,” if you haven’t, this is a true study Bible. It doesn’t tell you what to believe, it’s not a commentary on the text, but it teaches you how to discover truth for yourself, book by book, chapter by chapter as you move through the Word of God. At the front of that you are going to see this beautiful picture of the Temple that is going to be destroyed, all right? Now it says, **“And the prophet Jeremiah said, ‘Amen!....’” (Jeremiah 28:6)** Hananiah just said “Hey, heh—, they’re coming back in two years. Everybody’s is coming back. The vessels are coming back.” And the prophet Jeremiah said, **“...‘Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD confirm your words which you [had] prophesied to bring back the vessels of the LORD’S house and all the exiles, [of] Babylon [from] this place.’” (Jeremiah 28:6)** What is he saying? He is saying this: “You know it would be nice if it happened. It would really be nice if it happened, but you’ve got to know that it is not going to happen,” and he’s going to tell him that. But he said, “It would be nice if it would happen.” You see many, many times when you have to speak up for God—when I went on YouTube in 2009, on two days after 9/11 and the celebration. And I had been at the courthouse in Chattanooga TN, and I had been one of the people there that participated in that program, and I was called to bring a call to prayer to explain the situation. I came back here after I brought it and we cut a six-minute version of it. We put it on YouTube and in three days

we had over 20,000 people watching it, and the average was that they watched it all the way, if not quite the six-minutes, all the way, all the way. We got it, by that time three days later; we had gotten 400 responses. Of course, some are favorable, some are not. Some are calling you an idiot, a fool and worse. Some of them had to be deleted because of the vocabulary on that, but they heard. They heard what God had to say, and what Jeremiah is saying is, “I wish that were true. Amen! May it be so.” (See Jeremiah 28:6) And you know what? When I brought the message—I wish I hadn’t had to bring that kind of message. I wish I hadn’t had to bring us face to face with our sin and with the judgment of God and where America is. I would have loved to have had it different. But am I to speak truth? Am I to speak the Word of God, or am I to tickle your ears? Am I to give you what you dream of hearing? What you want to hear? And so Jeremiah turns and he says, **“Yet hear now this word which I am about to speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people!” (Jeremiah 28:7)** “Yes, that would be wonderful, but listen to this word.” **“The prophets who were before me and before you from ancient times prophesied against many lands and against...kingdoms, of war and...calamity and...pestilence.” (Jeremiah 28:8)** I am not the first prophet to do this. He’s saying: From ancient times they have prophesied this; from ancient times. You can go back to the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, and you can look at what God wrote through Moses in Leviticus chapter 26, and you will see what is going to come to pass. Already prophesied in Leviticus 26, when God says, “I’m going to punish you seven times for your sins; seven times.” (See Leviticus 26:24) You wish you didn’t have to say it, but you have to say it, seven times. You can see it in Deuteronomy chapter 28 and 29 and 30 where he gives the blessing and he gives the cursing. And: [“I’ve set before you life and death. You choose.”] (See Deuteronomy 30:19) How do you choose? You choose by listening to God so as to obey God. And anyone that comes along and tells you different is going to cause rebellion in your life because

you trusted in a lie. And so this is what Jeremiah goes on to say in verse 9: “[The prophets] **the prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, then that prophet will be known as [the] one whom...[God] has truly sent.**” (Jeremiah 28:9) Now in the book of Deuteronomy in the 18th chapter he tells them how you know a true prophet. A true prophet always speaks what God says and it comes to pass. (See Deuteronomy 18:22) In Deuteronomy 13 he talks about prophets that come along, and they’re doing signs and they’re doing wonders and the people are believing them, but through his signs and wonders he’s leading them away from God, he’s leading them into rebellion against God. (See Deuteronomy 13:2) Those are prophets, but they’re wrong prophets. And the way that you spot them is, you spot a prophet because what he says has to come to pass. You spot a prophet because he’s not going to lead you away from the Lord. He’s going to lead you to the Lord. He’s not going to cause you to disobey the Word. He’s going to cause you to obey God. So the signs and wonders aren’t necessarily of indentifying him or his credentials for being a true prophet. Also a true prophet has to line up, as you see here, with all the other prophets because God has one message throughout the Word of God. The Word of God does not contradict itself. So this is why this program is so important, this is why we’re teaching you how to study the Bible so that you can discover truth for yourself, so that you don’t trust in a lie. So that somebody doesn’t preach rebellion to you and you follow that path and you end up like Hananiah ends up. You say, “How does Hananiah end up?” We are going to see that in just a minute. Just know Beloved, it is vital that you know the whole counsel of God. (See Acts 20:27)

PART TWO

There’s a conflict going on in Jeremiah chapter 28, isn’t it? It’s a conflict between a truth and a lie. It’s a contest, but it really isn’t a contest, because lies always end up in a death of some sort. They do not bring life. And they

do not bring life because you have to understand who is: the source of all lies. And we're gonna look at that, but let's return to Jeremiah chapter 28. And Jeremiah has just reminded Hananiah that: ["Okay, I hope this does happen, may the exiles come back. But know this God is already spoken through these prophets. And He has spoken about sword, He has spoken about war, He has spoken about calamity, He has spoken about pestilence, just know that. So you are coming along and you are changing the whole scenario of everything that God has said?"] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 28:8) It is important for you and me, Precious Ones, to know what God says, to know the whole counsel of God. (See Acts 20:27) You've got to know the whole counsel of God that is why you've got to move through the Bible book by book. Now watch what happens: **"Then Hananiah the prophet took the yoke from the neck of Jeremiah...and [he] broke it. [And] Hananiah spoke in the presence of...the people...'Thus says the LORD, 'Even so [I will] break within two full years the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all...nations....'"** (Jeremiah 28:10-11) Now listen, Nebuchadnezzar knows he's going to rule. Jeremiah knows Nebuchadnezzar's going to rule, but Hananiah hasn't paid attention to anything that has gone on. If he had stopped and looked he would have known, "Hey, Babylon! That's who God is talking about in Deuteronomy 28. That's the nation that is going to come against these people. Hey, he's here." But instead he's breaking the yoke, very big drama. And he does this and he says, **"... 'Thus... 'Even...[I will] break within two full years the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all...nations.'"** Jeremiah just turned around and he **"...went his way."** (Jeremiah 28:11) I admire the man. He didn't argue, he didn't debate, he didn't say anything, and I think the reason he didn't is he didn't know exactly, listen carefully, exactly what God wanted him to say. So what does Jeremiah do? Jeremiah goes home. He goes back and then God speaks to Jeremiah. **"The word of the LORD..."**, verse 12, **"...came to Jeremiah**

after Hananiah...had broken the yoke from...the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, saying, ‘Go and speak to Hananiah, saying, “Thus says the LORD, ‘You have broken...yokes of wood, but you have made instead...yokes of iron.’”’ (Jeremiah 28:12-13) In other words, you have just made it worse for these people. “For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, ‘I have put a yoke of iron on the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they will serve him....I have also given him [Nebuchadnezzar] the beasts of the field.’ Then Jeremiah the prophet said to Hananiah the prophet, ‘Listen now, Hananiah, the LORD has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in a lie.’” (Jeremiah 28:14-15) You—through your false counsel, through your false prophecy have made this people trust in a lie. He says, “Therefore thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I am [going] to remove you from the face of [this] earth. This year you are going to die, because you...,’” now catch this, “‘...have counseled rebellion against the LORD.’” (Jeremiah 28:16) So Hananiah the prophet died in the same year, in the seventh month. Now it tells you that the chapter and the encounter happens in the fourth year of Zedekiah in, in, look at it, and you will see it, “...in the fifth month.” (Jeremiah 28:1) This one says; look at it, and you will see it. And you need to mark it: “...in the seventh month....” (Jeremiah 28:17) Two months later, Hananiah’s dead. Because what did he do? He counseled rebellion. He counseled rebellion; he made the people trust in a lie. It was something that they wanted to hear. It was something that they chose to believe, but it was wrong. You know what? You get on YouTube, that was my first experience on YouTube, and you get on there and you make yourself very vulnerable, and you find out that there are a lot of people that really hate God. That do not want to hear truth and you know what it does? It doesn’t make you angry. It makes you sad. It breaks your heart because you know that those people have trusted a lie. And in believing that lie they are in rebellion against God. Precious One, when you

and I seek to divert someone from the Word of God or obedience to Word of God, we are counseling rebellion against God. Because rebellion is “not” listening to God; it is “not” believing God, it is “not” obeying God. We cause them to trust a lie. Now do you know John 8:44? Jesus turns around and He looks at the religious leaders of the day who hate Him, who want to kill Him, who are fellow Jews, and He says, **“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the [works] of your father. [Your father] was a murderer from the beginning, and [he abides] not...in the truth....he is a liar and [he is] the father of lies.” (John 8:44)** All those people that don’t believe the Word of God are under the domain of Satan, who is a liar, and who is going to murder them because he counsels rebellion against God. Think. Genesis chapter 3, when the serpent comes into the garden, and God has told Eve not to— and Adam— [“Don’t eat of the fruit of] **the tree of knowledge of good and evil...in the day... you eat [of] it you will surely die.” (Genesis 2:17)** The serpent comes into the garden his first words are **“Yea, [has] God said....” (Genesis 3:1, KJV)** The woman answers him, says: “God said we are gonna die.” And he says: “You’re not going to die!” (See Genesis 3:3-4) So it’s a direct opposite to what God said. And then he accuses God: **“...God knows that...the day [that] you eat [of the fruit of that tree]...you will be like God, [you will know] good and evil.” (Genesis 3:5)** “You don’t need anyone telling you good and evil.” And all those people out there that don’t believe the Word of God of God, Precious Ones, have rebelled against God. They have bought a lie and they think they can judge good from evil. So they **“...call evil good, and good evil.” (Isaiah 5:20)** And do you know where it leads to? Rebellion against God is sin and **“...the wages of sin is death....” (Romans 6:23)** The only way they can be rescued is through Jesus Christ. Go out there and tell them, but tell them with love.