

RUSSELL SANDERS

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JEREMIAH – LESSON 2

OPPOSITION TO HIS PROPHECIES

Jeremiah's prophecy of seventy years of Babylonian captivity (Jeremiah 25:12) came a year before Nebuchadnezzar's 606 B.C. invasion. We see in chapters 26-27 that some agreed with him, such as Urijah who was slain by King Jehoiakim over it. (26:24.) However, God sent Ahikam (26:24) to protect Jeremiah from that fate.

There were also false prophets who opposed Jeremiah's prophecy. One was Hananiah who took the yoke of the prophet off Jeremiah's neck (28:10) and broke it. Hananiah prophesied the captivity would last only two years. God spoke through Jeremiah that because of his lie God would cast him off the face of the earth for his rebellion against the LORD. Hananiah died that same year.

Jeremiah also prophesied to Jehoiakim, King of Judah, that he would be replaced as king by Zedekiah. This happened when Nebuchadnezzar took captives in 606 B.C. from Jerusalem. Jehoiakim was taken captive and Nebuchadnezzar replaced him with Zedekiah to be king over the remaining residents of Jerusalem. He would have allegiance to Babylon.

Jeremiah told Zedekiah to serve Babylon and he would live (27:12). Zedekiah followed that advice until he rebelled in his eleventh year. Nebuchadnezzar bound him, took him captive, executed all his sons in front of his eyes, then put out both of his eyes so that the last memory with vision was watching his sons die a bloody death.

However, it was the opposition of the false prophet Shemaiah the Nehelamite, that angered God the most. We shall study Shemaiah tomorrow and how his spirit lives on today as "the spirit of unbelief."