

putting upon them and he came with an army and said he was going to destroy the city and take the people captive-- exactly what Assyria had said a century before to the people he was now going to do to Jerusalem!

Hannaniah the son of Azzur said, Within two years the power of Nebuchadnezzar will be broken and he will not take this city. He gave substantially the same message that Isaiah had given about a century before and which God had so wonderfully fulfilled.

But when Hananiah did this as we're told in Jer. 28, there was another prophet in the land who had been giving a very different message. I'm sure that if the word quizzling had been invented, the people of Jerusalem would have said Jeremiah was a quizzling! Because Jeremiah said, God has given this land over to Nebuchadnezzar because of your sin, and Nebuchadnezzar will destroy this city and will take you into captivity and the best thing for you to do is to surrender.

I don't think it was only the people of the land who considered Jeremiah a quizzling (you said Nebuchadnezzar) -- I believe that Nebuchadnezzar also considered Jeremiah as such. Because we read that when the people were taken captive and they had been taken a few hundred miles from Jerusalem, that as they processed these exiles they came across Jeremiah, and Nebuchadnezzar said, Jeremiah has been supporting us in the land during this time, Let him go; don't take him into exile. He can go into exile if he wants, and live in Babylon. Or he can go back to Jerusalem. Jeremiah went back to Jerusalem.

So good patriotic Jews, or most anybody who had heard Isaiah give his prophecies a century before would say, Hananiah was a true prophet of God, and this quizzling Jeremiah is certainly one whom we should not follow.

In the time before Jerusalem was taken, in the 4th year of Zedekiah 7 yrs. before the city was taken, Jeremiah was telling the people, Surrender to Nebuchadnezzar; God is going to give the city over to him and we read in 28:5 -- rather in v. 2 of ch. 28 -- that Hananiah the son of Azzur said publicly, This is what the Lord Almighty the God of Israel says, I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon within 2 yrs. I will bring back to this place all the articles of the Lord's house that Neb. king of Babylon removed from here and took to Babylon. I will also bring back to this place Jehoiakim king of Judah and all the other exiles from Judah.

The next few vv. tell how Jeremiah said that this was wrong. In v. 10 Hananiah took the yoke off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah and broke it, and said before all the people, this is what the Lord says, In the same way will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from off the neck of all the nations within two years. At this the prophet Jeremiah went on his way. Shortly after Hananiah had broken the yoke off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, Go and tell Hananiah, This is what the Lord says, You have broken a wood yoke but in its place you will get a yoke of iron. This is what the Lord Almighty the God of Israel says: I will put an iron yoke upon the necks of all these nations to make them serve Neb. king of Babylon, and they