

Jeremiah 27,28**3-26-98****“Yokes On You!”****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. Another “action Sermon” this time using a yoke to get their attention!
 - 1.1.1. **Q:** What would you think of a guy walking down California Oaks with a yoke on his shoulders?
 - 1.1.2. Remember a yoke speaks of submission & that’s what Jeremiah is trying to get across.
 - 1.1.3. **The purpose:** Judah(& her allies) must surrender/submit to Babylon.
- 1.2. **Submission:** “An interesting thing about **flight in outer space** is that you must “slow down in order to catch up.” If two satellites, or spacecraft, desire to rendezvous, the one that is making an approach cannot accelerate, it must decelerate. If it increases its speed, the craft goes into a higher orbit, but if it decreases its speed, it will drop into a lower orbit and actually gain on the craft ahead of it. Most rendezvous are designed so that the approaching craft comes in from a higher orbit and “slows down, in order to catch up.” As a result, it drops into place by **decelerating**.
 - 1.2.1. This is how we best discover God’s will for our own life. If we struggle spiritually and emotionally to please God, we only make it hard on ourselves and will probably move further away from God’s perfect will. The best way to serve God is to submit our lives to his control. The more we yield ourselves to his power, the more power is available to use for service. It’s a case of “If you lose, you win; if you give in, you won’t give out.”
- 1.3. **Outline:** The Message of the Yoke(27); The Breaking of the Yoke(28).

2. THE MESSAGE OF THE YOKE! (27:1-22)

- 2.1. He delivers this sermon 3 times:
- 2.2. **1st To 5 Ambassadors** (1-11)
 - 2.2.1. **vs.2** – “Bonds & yokes” – (NIV) “Make a yoke out of **straps and crossbars** and put it on your neck.” {leather straps & wooden cross-boards}
 - 2.2.2. **vs.3** - Here Jeremiah chose a time when 5 representatives from 5 alley countries were conferring w/the King of Judah, planning a strategy for dealing w/Neb.

- 2.2.3. **Vs.4-8** – They needed submission not strategy.
- 2.2.4. **Vs.9** – Diviners/read omens; Dreamers/interpret dreams; soothsayers & sorcerers/were those who collaborated w/demons in order to discover or control their future.
- 2.3. **2nd To King Zedekiah (12-15)**
 - 2.3.1. **vs. 12** - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in his book Ethics, makes an interesting observation: "The tree of knowledge of Good and Evil produced the ability to choose our own good or our own evil." Both choices may take us equally distant from God. We have a third alternative, **God's will.**"
- 2.4. **3rd To the Priest & People (16-22)**
 - 2.4.1. Jeremiah taunted them by encouraging them to pray about this.
 - 2.4.1.1. Because if they were True prophets of God, He'd answer their prayers.
 - 2.4.1.2. He told them to Pray, not for the return of the treasures but that the treasures they still had would stay in the Temple.
 - 2.4.1.3. The 2nd deportation in 597 bc proved them **false prophets & liars** because their prayers were not answered.
 - 2.4.2. The important thing **wasn't** to save the Temple furnishings, but to save the people from death, & the city from destruction.
 - 2.4.2.1. People usually find it easier focusing on Holy Objects than on Holy Living!
 - 2.4.2.2. "**Holy** has the same root as **wholly**, it means complete. A man is not complete in spiritual stature if all his mind, heart, soul, and strength are not given to God."

3. **THE BREAKING OF THE YOKE! (28:1-17)**

- 3.1. False prophets give false hopes!
- 3.2. **Vs.2-4** – Historians tell us Neb. Was suppressing a revolt in Babylon.
 - 3.2.1. Hananiah wrongly interprets this as the end of Neb.'s rule.
- 3.3. **Vs.6** – This vs. could be interpreted "*Oh, that the lord would do what you have said!*" {or, possible sarcastic}

- 3.4. **Vs.10,11** – Note Jer. Doesn't resist, nor does he reply to the false prophets message, he walked away(11).
- 3.4.1. **Q:** Why would this be hard to do? (humbling, they'll think you got stumped)
- 3.4.2. **Q:** What was Jer. Doing? {He was waiting for the **Right** message from the Lord!}
- 3.4.2.1. **Q:** How often have we just "given" an answer?
- 3.4.2.2. "The greatness of a man's power is the measure of his surrender."
William Booth
- 3.5. **Vs.13** – "Wood for Iron" – This was a curse for disobedience back in Deut. 28:48.
- 3.5.1. We only add to our chastening when we resist it.
- 3.5.2. Know this → "**God is in charge of Yokes!**"
- 3.5.2.1. **1st** - The one He gives you is the **right one** for you.
- 3.5.2.2. **2nd** - No matter **who** puts it on your shoulder. {He can even use unbel.'s}
- 3.5.2.3. **3rd** - Accept your yokes as **from God** & He will transform it from "**Bondage** to **Blessing!**"
- 3.5.2.4. **4th** – If you **Break** the **light yoke**, the next one will be **heavier**.
- 3.5.2.5. **5th** - **Everyone** must wear a yoke! {we are like wild beasts that need to be broken}
- 3.6. **vs.17** – God doesn't usually strike someone dead in such a dramatic fashion.
- 3.6.1. **Q:** **Can you name a few?** {The sons of **Korah**/Num.16; **Uzzah**/2 Sam.6; The **Assyrian army**(185,000)The Angel of the Lord/2 Kings 19:35; **Ananias & Sapphira**/Acts 5}
- 3.6.2. **Heb.10:31** "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."
- 3.7. **YOKES!** {remember yoke = submission}
- 3.7.1. The nation **broke Gods yoke** by their sins – Jer.2:20; 5:5.
- 3.7.2. Their **sins** became a **heavy yoke** – Lam.1:14 {which became even heavier w/the Baby. Captivity}

3.7.3. God **promised to remove** this heavy yoke & give His people a new beginning – Jer.30:8-11.

3.7.4. Your **Youth** is the best time to learn how to wear the yoke – Lam.3:27,28.

3.7.5. Let God **break you & control you** now, & the future will be bright.

3.7.5.1. **“God uses broken things.** It takes **broken soil** to produce a crop, **broken clouds** to give rain, **broken grain** to give bread, **broken bread** to give strength. It is the **broken alabaster box** that gives forth perfume--it is **Peter, weeping bitterly**, who returns to greater power than ever.” **Vance Havner**

3.7.6. **Take** Gods yoke upon you – Mt.11:29

3.7.7. His yoke is **easy** – Mt. 11:30 {Often times the yokes had a heavy side}

3.7.7.1. “The man who surrenders to Christ exchanges a cruel slave driver for a kind and gentle Master whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light.” **A. W. Tozer**