

February 9, 1997

Jeremiah 26-29

4's, 5's & K

3JER22PK

We Must Change to God's Righteous Ways!

Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

The Prophet - *Jeremiah*

The Principle - *We must change to God's righteous ways.*

The People - *Israelites living around Jerusalem*

God's Attribute - *God's righteousness does not change.*

Aim Questions:

1. Who was the prophet we have been learning about and why was he sad? (Jeremiah was sad because the Israelites wouldn't listen to God and change to His righteous ways.)
2. What wrong thing were the Israelites doing with their hands? (Making idols out of wood or metal and praying to the idols)
3. What did God ask Jeremiah to put on his neck? (A yoke)
4. What did the yoke mean? (God would let the Babylonian soldiers put a yoke on the Israelites for seventy years.)
5. Was Hananiah a false prophet or a true prophet when he said the Israelites would be in Babylon for only two years? (False. He said what people wanted to hear.)
6. What was another name Jeremiah gave Jesus, the Savior and coming King? (The Lord Our Righteousness)

 Hook:


**"Counting to 70" Activity:** Do a sorting activity with beans, popcorn, pennies or buttons. Divide the items into tens and add those to make seventy. Talk about seventy being a big number and seventy years being a long time. Let the children try to count as high as they can. Compare the number seventy with the number two. Talk about people you know who are seventy years old, forty years old and five years old. Count out the numbers, as time permits.


**"How Old Is 70?"** Invite a seventy-year-old to class. Ask them to bring pictures of themselves when they were five years old, twenty-five years old and fifty years old. If they have a picture of their mode of transportation as a child, that would be ideal. Pictures of fashions changing throughout the years would be fun to talk about. The point is that seventy years is a long time. People grow up, have children, grandchildren and perhaps great-grandchildren. If possible, have the person bring these people with them. The Israelites would find out how hard seventy years of slavery would be. We will learn about it in today's Bible Adventure.


**Play Dough Center:** Make idol shapes with play dough. Talk about using our hands to make something good or bad. The Israelite craftsmen were using their good, creative abilities for a wrong purpose. They were using wood from trees that only God could make to carve idols that only men could make. Then they were bowing and praying to something that they themselves had made rather than to the God who made the trees, stars and sun. Let the children talk about things they make with their hands. Do they thank God for their hands? Do they thank God for the creative ability He has given them? "Let's see what our hands can make with play dough." Using the GF1


page as an example, make an idol shape. Talk about how the Israelites used their hands to pray to the wooden idol, Baal. Now make a shape of a Bible or cross from play dough. "Do we use our hands to turn pages in the Bible? Do we use our folded hands to thank Jesus for coming to earth to be our Savior?"

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 **The "People" Center:** Provide dress up clothes for the children to wear. Make or bring a real ox yoke. There may be one available from the Children's Department or check with your favorite farmer. Prop the yoke up between two chairs and secure with rope for safety's sake. Let the children touch and feel the ox yoke and role play driving the ox while wearing the dress-up clothes. Ask questions about the ox yoke. What is it made of? What is it used for? Where does the head of the ox go? Let the children put their heads through the yoke and pretend to be oxen. The Israelites have been getting pictures from God about their disobedience. First God said their punishment would be like a boiling pot that would pour onto the Israelites. Then God said the disobedient Israelites were like rotten linen belts, ruined belts that could not be used. In the Bible Adventure today, the Israelites will get another picture. Review the past lessons from Jeremiah and build excitement for today's lesson at this center. Put a picture of King Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon on the yoke. Tell the children that we will learn about them today.

 **Listening Game:** Divide the children into two teams, each lined up along a wall of the room. Whisper a message to the first child in each line. Tell them to listen carefully because this message needs to get to the end of the row correctly, so that it is the same as when it was started. Have some background music playing. Talk about how hard it is to listen carefully but how very important it is to listen to God's words. Ask one of these teams to act out a good listening situation and the other a bad one where they ignore the person talking. "Were the Israelites listening to God's good words through the prophets? What was their problem? Did they have too much ear wax? Was it the words the prophets said that they didn't want to do?"

 **Scavenger Hunt for Ears: (3JER22PKG5)** When the music begins, the children look for "ears" around the room. When the music stops, the children return to their chairs. The one with the most ears is the winner. Ask the children, "Is it more important to find the most paper ears or to be the best listener of God's Word? Who can be the best listener today?" The best listeners get to pin a "Good Listener" ear on their shirts for the rest of the morning.


 **Transition to Bible Adventure Activity:** Standing in a line, ask the children to ask the child on their left the name of their pet at home. Ask 3 children to repeat what they heard their friend say. After they have answered, they get to go to their chairs in the circle. "You were good listeners today. Go find a chair in the circle."


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### **Book:**

#### **Presentation Ideas -**

 Ask a seventy-year-old visitor to hold up a large number seventy. Bring a two-year-old into class for just a minute to show how many years the number "two" is.

 Act out the temple scene with a teacher named "Hananiah" and a teacher designated as "Jeremiah." The Jeremiah teacher could be wearing a Jeremiah mask. Jeremiah can keep saying, "God said 70 years!" Hananiah says, "God said 2 years!" At the end of the story, ask the children who they believe, Jeremiah or Hananiah. How do they know who is speaking the truth? God's words always come true. Hananiah died within the year.

#### **Bible Adventure -**

**Review:** Who was the sad prophet we have been learning about? (*Jeremiah*) Why was Jeremiah so sad? (*Show a picture of King Jehoiakim and add a sticker of an idol.*) Jeremiah was sad because King Jehoiakim started the backward sliding toward worshipping idols and encouraged the Israelites living around Jerusalem to worship idols. Jeremiah saw a vision of a boiling pot that would pour punishment out on Jerusalem if they didn't stop loving idols. The Babylonian soldiers would come and take the Israelites away to Babylon.

*(Hold up a picture of King Jehoiachin and the picture of the linen belt.)* King Jehoiachin worshipped idols, too. God warned the Israelites by asking Jeremiah to bury his linen belt. The linen belt rotted and became useless, as the Israelites had become useless in shining God's light to the people around them. *(Show two baskets of figs.)* God also warned the Israelites by showing Jeremiah the basket of good figs and the basket of bad figs. God would take care of the good "figs," the Israelites who had been taken away to Babylon.

Close your eyes for a minute. I want to help you imagine where the next part of our Adventure takes place. You are walking down a dirt and cobblestone street. You can smell the dust in the air from all the sandals walking in the dirt. You can hear people visiting everywhere. Along the way, you might see people using their hands to make something out of wood. Open your eyes. *(Show a picture of an idol or piece of wood.)* What were the Israelites using their hands to make? Yes, wooden idols. Was that a good thing to do with their hands? No, way! Close your eyes again. At the end of the street is the temple or church. People are gathering as they do here before the service, chatting, laughing and talking. There is a stone courtyard at the entrance of the temple where all the people are standing. A few shade trees are keeping the people cool on the sunny day. Then you hear a big booming voice and you look up *(Open your eyes now!)* and there is Jeremiah, God's prophet. *(Show the picture of Jeremiah.)*

What did Jeremiah have to say? God had asked him to warn the Israelites again of the coming disaster and their captivity in Babylon. It was not fun for Jeremiah to say the same thing again, but he was bold and spoke for God. He stood up in front of all those people in the temple courtyard. "I have told you before that if you turn...now...from your evil ways, God will let you stay in the land He gave you. You have not listened to God's words. Instead, you are using your hands to make idols. You are worshipping and praying to idols. Your punishment is coming." Did the Israelites listen to Jeremiah when he spoke God's words? No. They didn't want to change.

Have you ever heard Dad or Mom say, "Aaron, time to come home now?" Have you ever ignored what you heard because it wasn't what you wanted to hear? You wanted to stay and play with your friend just a little longer. That is what the Israelites were like. They ignored God's message because they wanted to do what they felt like doing rather than what God said to do. The Israelites were bad listeners.

The false priests and prophets got up in front of the people and said, "You should die, Jeremiah, for saying Jerusalem will be destroyed!" Everyone crowded around Jeremiah and they were getting ready to hurt him. They didn't want to hear those words. The city leaders heard about what was happening at the temple and they rushed over as fast as they could. They wanted to help decide what to do with Jeremiah. The false prophets and priests said, "Jeremiah should die because he said bad things would happen to our city!" The city leaders looked at Jeremiah to see what he would say. Jeremiah said, "I only say what God tells me to say. If you kill me, God will punish you." The city leaders were afraid to hurt Jeremiah so they let him go home. They said, "We haven't listened and obeyed. We deserve this punishment." (Jer.26:19) God took care of Jeremiah so he could keep giving out God's words. God always knows what is best to do!

*(Hold up a picture of King Zedekiah and the picture of the yoke.)* The next king was named Zedekiah. King Zedekiah and the false priests and prophets kept on doing wrong. They did not want to change to God's just and right ways. The Lord spoke to Jeremiah and said, "Make a yoke out of straps and crossbars and put it on your neck. Then send a message to the kings of all the countries around Jerusalem. Tell them that the all-powerful God, the one true God who has the best plan, will let Babylon put a yoke on them. Tell them God is going to let the Babylonians be their master for 70 years. Tell them not to fight against the enemy, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon." God was going to save some of the "good fig" Israelites and bring them back to their land, but first they would have to be slaves in Babylon for seventy years.

This message was not easy for the Israelites to hear. They wanted to hear good words. They didn't want to hear about seventy hard years of captivity. They wanted to listen to the false prophet, Hananiah. He came to the temple church and said to all the people there, "God has told me that the Israelites will not be ruled by Babylon for seventy years. He will break the yoke of the king of Babylon in two years, not seventy years. The Israelites and all the treasures that have been taken to Babylon will be brought back in two years." Then Hananiah took the yoke off Jeremiah's neck and broke it in half. He said, "This is how God will break the yoke of power from the Babylonians." Those weren't God's true words and Jeremiah knew it. He knew that Hananiah was a false prophet. Jeremiah said, "The Lord has not sent

you as a prophet. Your words are lies. To prove you are a false prophet, you will die this year." That is exactly what happened. Hananiah died within two months.

Jeremiah knew life would not be easy for the Israelites for seventy years. Have you ever walked on a hard, bumpy road that has lots of big rocks in it? You often stumble and the bumps hurt. Life is like that. It isn't always soft and smooth. Hard, tough things happen even for people who love God, but He knows what is best and His best plan will always happen. The Israelites had to remember that God knows best and is a promise keeper.

Jeremiah also knew a Savior was coming. (*Show the picture of "the Lord Our Righteousness."*) Do you remember the Savior's name? Jesus is the true righteous king who always does what is just and right. Sing "Rejoice in the Lord Always" with the words "the Lord Our Righteousness."

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank You for being the Lord Our Righteousness. You are righteous and good and Your ways never change. I want to walk in Your good and right way. In Jesus' name, Amen.



### Look:



**Bible Adventure Review: (3JER22PKGF1)** Let each child color his or her worksheet as you retell the Bible Adventure. "The Israelites worshipped the idol, Baal. God asked His true prophet, Jeremiah, to tell the Israelites that if they didn't stop their wrong ways, the Babylonian soldiers would come and take them away to Babylon for seventy years. The false prophet, Hananiah, told the Israelites that the Babylonians would only keep them in Babylon for two years, not a very long time. How many years do you think the Israelites will be in Babylon? Why do you think they will be there seventy years? Because God said so." The children who finish coloring the picture and drawing their "70" can tell you the story with their picture.



**"Color the Number 70" Worksheet: (3JER22PKGF2)** The Israelites were having problems listening to God's true words. "Was the problem with their ears? Did the Israelites have ears or was the problem with what they listened to?" To find out the problem the Israelites were having, have the children color all the number 70's on the page. They will have to think and look carefully because there are number "7's" and "0's" that will confuse them. Hananiah confused the Israelites by saying they would only be in Babylon two years. They should have listened only to God's prophet, Jeremiah, who said they would be in Babylon for seventy years. Have the children color the "70" numbers with a very dark color and the rest of the numbers light colors. The ones who finish early may want to cut out the ear and write their name on the back. These can either be placed on a large map around Jerusalem or on a large butcher paper that says, "Listen to God's true words. Change to God's right ways!"



**"The Yoke's on You!" Dot-to-Dot: (3JER22PKGF3 & 3JER22PKGF4)** Have the children connect the lines between the dots with twine or string. Talk about the meaning of the yoke. It meant the Babylonians would take the Israelites as slaves for seventy years if they didn't change to God's right ways. Tape a picture of an ox or Jeremiah in the yoke straps. For extra visual aids, glue a picture of King Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon to the yoke.



**"Which Prophet Is Telling the Truth?" Craft Page: (See 3JER22PKGF4)** On a piece of construction paper, the children can glue down a popsicle stick or two to represent the wooden part of the yoke. They can loop two chenille wires down from the sticks to represent the straps of the yoke. Let the children write the number 70 by the yoke and add a picture of Babylon and King Nebuchadnezzar. God's true prophet, Jeremiah, said the Israelites would be in Babylon seventy years if they didn't change to God's right ways. Let the children break a popsicle stick in half and glue it to the page. They can write the number two beside it to represent the number of years the false prophet, Hananiah, said the Israelites would be in Babylon.



**Yoke Construction Paper Craft #2: (3JER22PKGF4)** Enlarge the pictures on this page about 125%. Let the children cut out the pictures and glue to construction paper. They should glue the yoke on first. Talk about the meaning of the yoke as they glue the pictures of Babylon and its king, Nebuchadnezzar. The children will glue the ox into the strap of the yoke. Talk about the purpose of the yoke and how oxen do heavy work in the yoke. The Israelites will be slaves in Babylon and will

do heavy work for their master, King Nebuchadnezzar. Let the children tell you why Jeremiah is glued into the strap of the yoke. God wanted to show the Israelites a picture of what life would be like if they didn't change to God's righteous ways.

**“Pin the Ear on the Israelite” Worksheet: (3JER22PKGF5)** Help the children remember from former lessons which of the Israelites, prophets and kings were listening to God's good words. Glue reduced GF5 ears on the ones who listened to God and obeyed.

**“God Says” Game:** Play a game called "God Says" instead of “Simon Says!” Use this to review the Bible Adventure today.

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**Traffic Light Review:** Use a traffic light to review the Adventure. When a child points to green, she can choose another child to tell one thing that was a “go” for the Israelites, something good they did that would please God. When a child points to red, another child can name a bad or “stop” thing the Israelites were doing. What are some “red light, green light, slow down and think” things in our daily lives?

### Songs:

**The “Babs” (Babylonians) Go Marching Two by Two”** (Tune: “The Ants Go Marching Two by Two”)  
The Babs go marching two by two, Oh, no! Oh, no!  
The Babs go marching two by two, Oh, no! Oh, no!  
The Babs go marching two by two; They're going to Judah, God told them to.  
And they all go marching on, to the hill, to the holy, holy hill.

The Israelites, they prayed to Baal, Oh, no! Oh, no!  
The Israelites, they prayed to Baal, Oh, no! Oh, no!  
The Israelites, they prayed to Baal; They kept right on, so they'll go to jail.  
And they all went praying on, to the Baal, to the awful, awful Baal.

**We Will Not Forget God's Word**  
We will not forget God's Word,  
That is where His voice is heard.  
If we listen and obey,  
We'll be happy every day.

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### Took:

**Good Listener Awards: (3JER22PKGF5)** Ask the children how they felt they did today at listening with their ears. If you haven't already done so, pin a Good Listener Ear on each child. They could write their names on their ears. Talk about the good things we want to listen to. God wants us to listen to our parents and teachers. Tape or glue a GF5 Bible scroll on each child's ear. Emphasize the idea that we want to listen to God's good words with our ears, with our minds and with our hearts. Sing “We Will Not Forget God's Word.”

**Jeremiah Review Path: (3JER22PKGF6)** Use the laminated Jeremiah path to review the pictures we have studied in the book of Jeremiah. Add the sticker of the ox yoke today from the 3JER20PKGF10 sticker page. Remind the children that the yoke is a punishment in Babylon because the Israelites didn't obey.

**“Reminders to Listen” Craft Center: (3JER22PKGF5)** Make an "Ear" necklace to wear to remind ourselves to listen to God's word, to our parents and to our teachers.

**“Listening and Obeying Make Us Happy” Puppets:** Make a happy/sad face puppet by drawing a happy face on one side of a paper plate and a sad face on the other. Let the children show you the appropriate face as you name things God doesn't want us to do and things He does want us to do. Be sure you incorporate the Aim Questions into this activity. “Was Jeremiah obeying God and

prophesying His words? Were the Israelites listening to God's words? Were the Israelites worshipping the idol, Baal? Was Hananiah telling God's truth?" Write the words, "I want to change to God's righteous ways," on the sad face side of the puppet.

The Israelites worshipped the idol, Baal.



How many  are here?

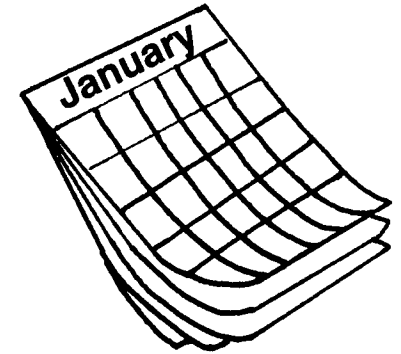
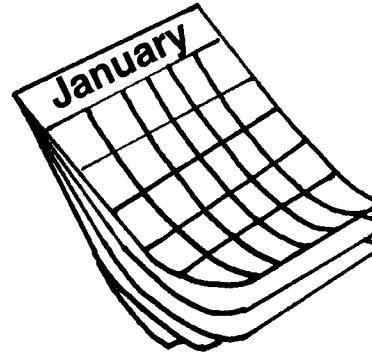


Circle the number below

**2**      **1**      **3**

The false prophet, Hananiah, was wrong. He said the Israelites would be in Babylon 2 years!

How many  are here?



Circle the number below

**2**                      **3**                      **4**

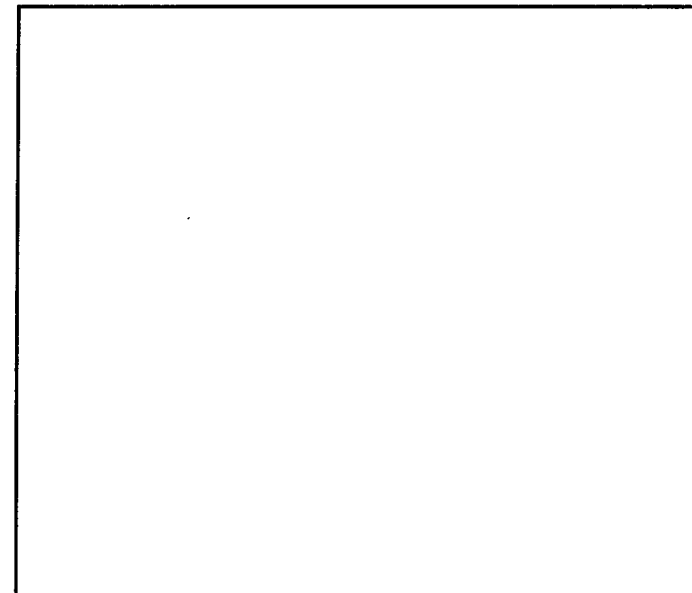
Jeremiah spoke God's true words. God said the Israelites would be in Babylon for 70 years.



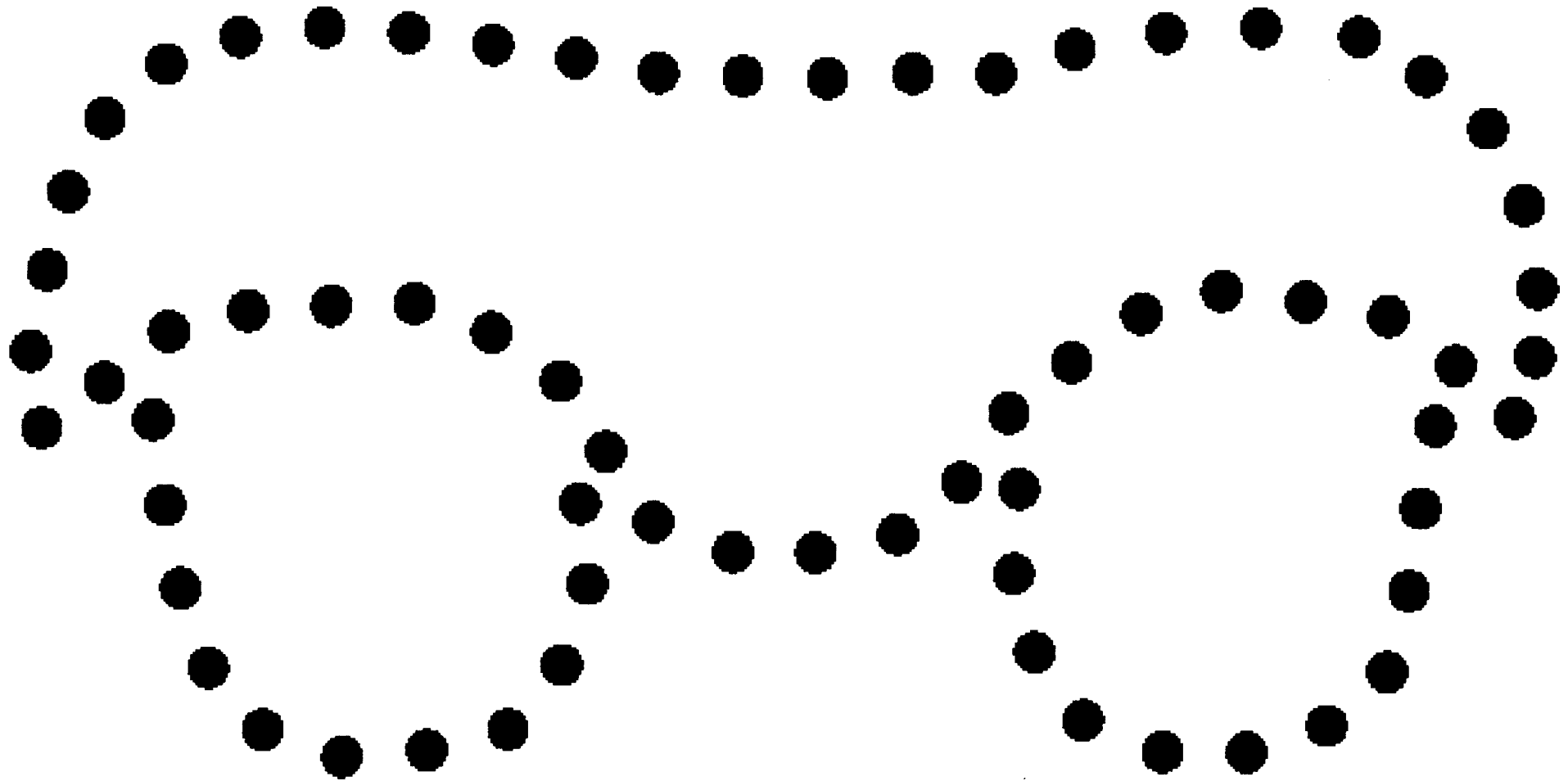
Circle the number below

**1**      **70**      **2**

Draw your own "70" picture.



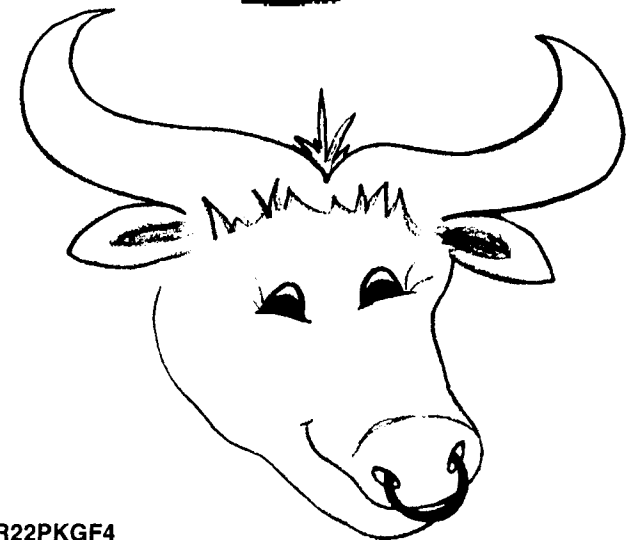
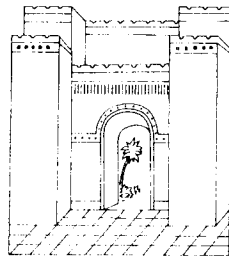
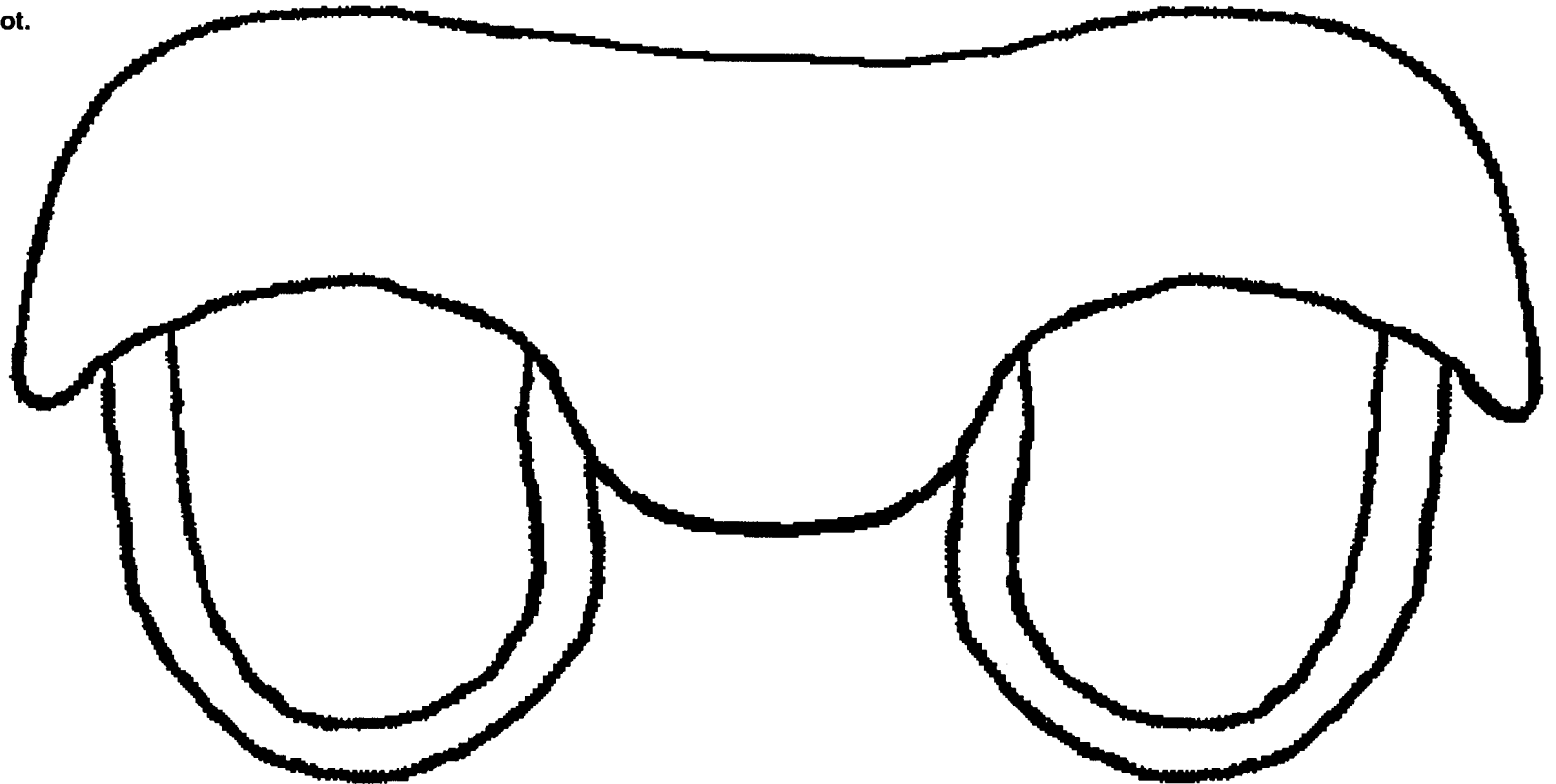
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Connect the lines between the dots to see what Jeremiah wore on his neck.  
What did the yoke mean? For how many years would the Babylonians  
be a yoke to the Israelites?

**Use these pictures in any of the following ways:**

1. Glue or tape the ox, Jeremiah, Babylon and King Nebuchadnezzar to the 3JER22PKG3 Dot to Dot.
2. Use the ox, Jeremiah, Babylon and king for the "Which Prophet Is Telling the Truth" page.
3. Enlarge this page. Cut out the yoke and glue to a piece of construction paper. Glue the ox, Jeremiah, Babylon and king to the yoke and review the Bible Adventure.



3JER22PKG4

# Good Listener Ears

