

---

JEREMIAH 36: 1 In the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

---

God commands Jeremiah to write down in one roll or volume all the predictions he had uttered against Israel and Judah, and all the surrounding nations, from the day of his vocation to the prophetic office, that the house of Judah might have abundant warning of the dreadful calamities with which their country was about to be visited, if not prevented by a timely repentance, Jer 36:1-3. The prophet employs Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, to write from his mouth all the words of the Lord, and then to read them publicly upon a fast day in the Lord's house, Jer 36:4-8. A general fast is proclaimed in the following year, viz., the fifth year of the reign of Jehoiakim; upon which occasion Baruch, in obedience to the prophet's command, reads the words of Jeremiah to all the people at the entry of the new gate of the temple, Jer 36:9, Jer 36:10. The princes, hearing of this, send for Baruch, who reads the roll to them; at the contents of which they are greatly alarmed, and solemnly resolve to give information to the king, at the same time advising both the prophet and his scribe to hide themselves, Jer 36:11-19. Jehoiakim likewise having sent for the roll, Jehudi reads to him a part; and then the king, though advised to the contrary by some of his princes, having cut the leaves, throws the whole into the fire, Jer 36:20-25, and orders Jeremiah and Baruch to be seized; but they could not be found, because a special providence of God had concealed them, Jer 36:26. Jeremiah is commanded to re-write his prophecies, and to denounce the judgments of God against the king who had destroyed the first roll, Jer 36:27-31. Baruch accordingly writes from the mouth of Jeremiah a new copy, with numerous additions, Jer 36:32.

#### Verse 1

And it came to pass in the fourth year - About the end of this year, see Jer 36:9. This discourse also bears its own date, and was probably delivered at a time when the people enjoyed peace, and were about to celebrate one of their annual fasts.

---

JEREMIAH 36: 2 Take a scroll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah, even to this day.

---

#### Verse 2

Take thee a roll of a book - Take a sufficient quantity of parchment; cut and stitch it together, that it may make a roll on which to write the words that I have already spoken, that they may serve for a testimony to future generations. The Jewish rolls, several of which now lie before me, were made of vellum, or of sheep-skins dressed in the half-tanned or Basil manner. These were cut into certain lengths, and those parts were all stitched together, and rolled upon a roller. The matter was written on these skins in columns or pages. Sometimes two rollers are used, that as the matter is read from the roll in the left hand, the reader may coil it on the roller in his right. In this form the Pentateuch is written which is read in the synagogues.

---

JEREMIAH 36: 3 It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do to them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.

---

Verse 3

It may be that the house of Judah will hear - It was yet possible to avert the judgments which had been so often denounced against them. But in order to this they must -

1. Hear what God has spoken.
  2. Every man turn from his evil way.
  3. If they do so, God graciously promises to forgive their iniquity and their sin.
- 

JEREMIAH 36: 4 Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the LORD's words, which he had spoken to him, on a scroll of a book.

---

Verse 4

Then Jeremiah called Baruch - This man, so useful to the prophet, and so faithfully attached to him, was by office a scribe; which signifies, not only a writer, but also a man in office; a chancellor, secretary, etc., a learned man; one acquainted with laws and customs.

---

JEREMIAH 36: 5 Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, I am shut up; I can't go into the LORD's house:

JEREMIAH 36: 6 therefore you go, and read in the scroll, which you have written from my mouth, the LORD's words in the ears of the people in the LORD's house on the fast day; and also you shall read them in the ears of all Judah who come out of their cities.

---

Verse 6

Upon the fasting day - A day when multitudes of people would be gathered together from all parts to implore the mercy of God. This was a favorable time to read these tremendous prophecies.

---

JEREMIAH 36: 7 It may be they will present their supplication before the LORD, and will return everyone from his evil way; for great is the anger and the wrath that the LORD has pronounced against this people.

---

Verse 7

Present their supplication - "Let their supplication fall," that they may fall down before God, and deplore their sins.

---

JEREMIAH 36: 8 Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading in the book the LORD's words in the LORD's house.

JEREMIAH 36: 9 Now in the fifth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, in the ninth month, all the people in Jerusalem, and all the people who came from the cities of Judah to Jerusalem, proclaimed a fast before the LORD.

---

Verse 9

In the ninth month - Answering to a part of our December.

---

JEREMIAH 36: 10 Then Baruch read the words of Jeremiah from the book in the LORD's house, in the room of Gemariah the son of Shaphan, the scribe, in the upper court, at the entry of the new gate of the LORD's house, in the ears of all the people.

---

Verse 10

In the chamber of Gemariah - He was one of the princes of Judah. See Jer 36:12.

---

JEREMIAH 36: 11 When Micaiah the son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan, had heard out of the book all the LORD's words,

JEREMIAH 36: 12 he went down into the king's house, into the scribe's room: and behold, all the princes were sitting there, Elishama the scribe, and Delaiah the son of Shemaiah, and Elnathan the son of Achbor, and Gemariah the son of Shaphan, and Zedekiah the son of Hananiah, and all the princes.

JEREMIAH 36: 13 Then Micaiah declared to them all the words that he had heard, when Baruch read the book in the ears of the people.

JEREMIAH 36: 14 Therefore all the princes sent Jehudi the son of Nethaniah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Cushi, to Baruch, saying, Take in your hand the scroll in which you have read in the ears of the people, and come. So Baruch the son of Neriah took the scroll in his hand, and came to them.

JEREMIAH 36: 15 They said to him, Sit down now, and read it in our ears. So Baruch read it in their ears.

JEREMIAH 36: 16 Now when they had heard all the words, they turned in fear one toward another, and said to Baruch, "We will surely tell the king of all these words."

JEREMIAH 36: 17 They asked Baruch, saying, Tell us now, How did you write all these words at his mouth?

---

Verse 17

How didst thou write all these words? - At his mouth? - So the text should be pointed. They wished to know whether he had not copied them, or whether he wrote as Jeremiah prophesied.

---

JEREMIAH 36: 18 Then Baruch answered them, He pronounced all these words to me with his mouth, and I wrote them with ink in the book.

JEREMIAH 36: 19 Then the princes said to Baruch, Go, hide, you and Jeremiah; and let no man know where you are.

---

#### Verse 19

Go, hide thee, thou and Jeremiah - They saw that the king would be displeased, and most probably seek their lives; and as they believed the prophecy was from God, they wished to save both the prophet and his scribe; but they were obliged to inform the king of what they had heard.

---

JEREMIAH 36: 20 They went in to the king into the court; but they had laid up the scroll in the room of Elishama the scribe; and they told all the words in the ears of the king.

JEREMIAH 36: 21 So the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll; and he took it out of the room of Elishama the scribe. Jehudi read it in the ears of the king, and in the ears of all the princes who stood beside the king.

JEREMIAH 36: 22 Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month: and there was a fire in the brazier burning before him.

---

#### Verse 22

Winterhouse - A warm apartment suited to the season of the year, (December), when in Palestine there is often snow upon the ground, though it does not last long. A fire on the hearth - a pan or brazier of burning coals. This is the case to the present day. In cold weather the rich burn wood in brass or earthen pans, placed in any part of the room; the indigent burn sticks on the floor.

---

JEREMIAH 36: 23 When Jehudi had read three or four leaves, the king cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was in the brazier, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the brazier.

---

#### Verse 23

When Jehudi had read three or four leaves - Rather columns; for the law, and the sacred Hebrew Books, are written in columns of a certain breadth. דלתות delathoth, signifies gates or openings between column and column, or between section and section.

He cut it with the penknife - בתער הספר bethaar hassopher, "the knife of the scribe," properly enough penknife.

And cast it into the fire - To show his contempt for God's words.

---

JEREMIAH 36: 24 They were not afraid, nor tore their garments, neither the king, nor any of his servants who heard all these words.

JEREMIAH 36: 25 Moreover Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah had made intercession to the king that he would not burn the scroll; but he would not hear them.

---

#### Verse 25

Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah - Three of the princes wished to save the roll, and entreated the king that it might not be burnt. They would have saved it out of the fire, but the king would not permit it to be done.

---

JEREMIAH 36: 26 The king commanded Jerahmeel the king's son, and Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to take Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet; but the LORD hid them.

---

#### Verse 26

But the Lord hid them - They had, at the counsel of some of the princes hidden themselves, Jer 36:19. And now, though a diligent search was made, the Lord did not permit them to be found.

---

JEREMIAH 36: 27 Then the LORD's word came to Jeremiah, after that the king had burned the scroll, and the words which Baruch wrote at the mouth of Jeremiah, saying,

JEREMIAH 36: 28 Take again another scroll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned.

---

#### Verse 28

Take thee again another roll - There was no duplicate of the former preserved; and now God inspired the prophet with the same matter that he had given him before; and there is to be added the heavy judgment that is to fall on Jehoiakim and his courtiers.

---

JEREMIAH 36: 29 Concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah you shall say, Thus says the LORD: You have burned this scroll, saying, Why have you written therein, saying, The king of Babylon shall certainly come and destroy this land, and shall cause to cease from there man and animal?

JEREMIAH 36: 30 Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David; and his dead body shall be cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost.

Verse 30

He shall have none to sit upon the throne of David - He shall have no successor and himself shall have an untimely end, and shall not even be buried, but his body be exposed to the open air, both night and day. He who wishes to hide his crimes, or take away the evidence which is against him, adds thereby to his iniquities, and is sure in consequence to double his punishment. See the threatening against Jehoiakim, Jer 22:19 (note), and the note there.

---

JEREMIAH 36: 31 I will punish him and his seed and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring on them, and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah, all the evil that I have pronounced against them, but they didn't listen.

JEREMIAH 36: 32 Then took Jeremiah another scroll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire; and many similar words were added to them.

---

Verse 32

There were added - many like words - All the first roll, with many other threatening and perhaps more minute declarations which were merely of a temporary importance and local application; and the Holy Spirit did not think proper to record them here.