

## **JEHOIAKIM BURNS THE SCROLL (Jeremiah 36)**

**Parts:** Narrator,  
Jeremiah,  
Baruch,  
Michaiah,  
Jehudi,  
Delaiah,  
Gemariah,  
Elishama,  
King Jehoiakim

**Narrator:**

Now it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, that this word came to Jeremiah from Yehowah, saying: "Take a scroll of a book and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel, against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah even to this day. It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the adversities which I purpose to bring upon them, that everyone may turn from his evil way, that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin." Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah.

**Jeremiah:**

"Write on a scroll of a book all the words of Yehowah which I speak to you."

**Baruch** (*gets ready to write*)

**Jeremiah:**

"Thus says the Lord:  
Behold, a people comes from the north country,  
And a great nation will be raised from the farthest parts of the earth.  
They will lay hold on bow and spear;  
They are cruel and have no mercy;  
Their voice roars like the sea;  
And they ride on horses,  
As men of war set in array against you,  
O daughter of Zion.' "

**Narrator:**

And Baruch wrote on a scroll of a book, at the instruction of Jeremiah, all the words of Yehowah which He had spoken to him.

**Jeremiah (to Baruch):**

"I am confined, I cannot go into the house of Yehowah. You go, therefore, and read... the words of Yehowah, in the hearing of the people.... And you shall also read them in the hearing of all Judah who come from their cities. It may be that they will present their supplication before Yehowah, and everyone will turn from his evil way. For great is the anger and the fury that Yehowah has pronounced against this people."

**Narrator:**

And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading from the book the words of Yehowah in Yehowah's house.

Now it came to pass in the fifth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, in the ninth month, that they proclaimed a fast before Yehowah to all the people in Jerusalem, and to all the people who came from the cities of Judah to Jerusalem. Then Baruch read from the book the words of Jeremiah in the house of Yehowah, in the chamber of Gemariah the son of Shaphan the scribe, in the upper court at the entry of the New Gate of Yehowah's house, in the hearing of all the people.

**Baruch (reading from the scroll):**

"Thus says the Lord: `Behold, I will surely bring calamity on them which they will not be able to escape; and though they cry out to Me, I will not listen to them. Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry out to the gods to whom they offer incense, but they will not save them at all in the time of their trouble.'"

**Narrator:**

When Michaiah the son of Gemariah..., heard all the words of Yehowah from the book, he then went down to the king's house, into the scribe's chamber; and there all the princes were sitting – Elishama the scribe, Delaiah the son of Shemaiah, Elnathan the son of Achbor, Gemariah the son of Shaphan, Zedekiah the son of Hananiah, and all the princes. Then Michaiah declared to them all the words that he had heard when Baruch read the book in the hearing of the people.

**Michaiah:**

"Behold, Baruch, that scribe of Jeremiah, is speaking words of great doom in Yehowah's house, in the hearing of all the people!"

**[Gemariah]:**

"Jehudi, go get Baruch, and bring him here."

**Jehudi:**

"[Very well.] *(After finding Baruch in the temple)* Take in your hand the scroll from which you have read in the hearing of the people, and come."

**Baruch** *(took the scroll in his hand and came to them):*

**[Delaiah]:**

"Sit down now, and read it in our hearing."

**Narrator:**

So Baruch read it in their hearing.

**Baruch:**

"Thus says Yehowah:  
 `Say to the king and to the queen mother,  
 Humble yourselves;  
 Sit down,  
 For your rule shall collapse,  
 the crown of your glory.  
 The cities of the South shall be shut up,  
 And no one shall open them;  
 Judah shall be carried away captive,  
 all of it;  
 It shall be wholly carried away captive.' "

**Narrator:**

Now it happened, when they had heard all the words, that they looked in fear from one to another.

**[Gemariah]** *(to Baruch):*

"We will surely tell the king of all these words."

**[Michaiah]:**

"Tell us now, how did you write all these words – at [Jeremiah's] instruction?"

**Baruch:**

"He proclaimed with his mouth all these words to me, and I wrote them with ink in the book."

**[Elishama]:**

"Go and hide, you and Jeremiah; and let no one know where you are."

**Narrator:**

And they stored the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe, [Elishama hides it], and went to the king, into the court. And they told all the words in the hearing of the king.

**[Delaiah]:**

["O king, Baruch, the servant of Jeremiah, has been reading a scroll in the temple which he claims is the word of Yehowah. It speaks of doom for all Judah and Jerusalem at the hand of Babylon."]

**[King Jehoiakim]:**

["Jehudi, go bring the scroll to me."]

**[Jehudi]:**

["Yes, my Lord."] *(goes, gets scroll, returns)*

**[King Jehoiakim]:**

["Read it."]

**Narrator:**

And Jehudi read it in the hearing of the king and in the hearing of all the princes who stood beside the king. Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month, with a fire burning on the hearth before him. And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, [that the king rose and seized the scroll and held it before the fire.]

**[Delaiah]:**

["I pray you, my Lord, do not offend Yehowah's prophet!"]

**[Gemariah]:**

["My Lord, there may be hope, if we speak to Jeremiah. But, please do not do this thing!"]

**Narrator:**

Nevertheless,... the king would not listen to them. And he cut it with the scribe's knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth. Yet they were not afraid, nor did they tear their garments, the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words.

**[King Jehoiakim] (to Jerahmeel, his son):**

["Go, seize Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet!"]

*(Jerahmeel and others go.)*

**Narrator:**

And Jerahmeel the king's son, Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, went to seize Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet, but Yehowah hid them.

**Narrator:**

Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words which Baruch had written at the instruction of Jeremiah, the word of Yehowah came to Jeremiah, saying: "Take yet another scroll, and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned. And you shall send a message to Jehoiakim king of Judah.

**Narrator:**

So Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, who wrote on it at the instruction of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And besides, there were added to them many similar words. And Jeremiah sent a message to the king.

**[Jehudi]** (*enters court room announces to king*):

["O king, a messenger is here from Jeremiah the prophet."]

**[King Jehoiakim]:**

["Send him in."]

**[Baruch]:**

"Thus says Yehowah: 'You have burned this scroll, saying, "Why have you written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and cause man and beast to cease from here?" Therefore thus says Yehowah 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 to the heat of the day and the frost of the night. I will punish him, his family, and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring on them, on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah all the doom that I have pronounced against them; but they did not heed." ' ' "

(The End)