### Jeremiah

## Chapter 36

1It was in the 4th year [of the reign] of JehoiAkim (son of JosiAh) the king of Judah that the Word of Jehovah came to me saying:  
  
 2‘Get a papyrus scroll for yourself  
 And write all the words that I’ve said  
 About both IsraEl and Judah,  
 And about all the nations of which I spoke  
 From the time of King JosiAh of Judah  
 Down to this very day!  
 3Then perhaps the house of Judah will hear  
 About all the bad things I’ve planned  
 And then turn from their wicked ways,  
 So I can cover their failures and sins.’  
  
4Therefore, JeremiAh called BarUch son of NeriAh, who wrote all the words of Jehovah that came from the mouth of JeremiAh on a papyrus scroll.  
  
5Then JeremiAh said to BarUch:  
  
 ‘Because I’m being watched, I can’t enter the Temple of Jehovah. 6So you’ll have to go there and read this papyrus scroll into the ears of all the people who happen to be in the Temple of Jehovah on a fast day… Read it into the ears of all the Judeans that are coming there from all their cities, 7and perhaps their need for mercy will fall before Jehovah and they’ll turn from their evil ways. For the anger and rage that Jehovah has spoken against these people is great!’  
  
8As a result, BarUch son of NeriAh did everything that JeremiAh told him to do... He went and read the scroll of the words of the Lord there at the Temple of Jehovah. 9Then in the 5th year and 9th month [of the reign] of JehoiAkim (son of JosiAh) the king of Judah, all the people of JeruSalem and of the house of Judah held an assembly to fast before Jehovah, 10and BarUch again read the scroll of the words of JeremiAh into the ears of all the people who were there at the Temple of Jehovah. [He did this] from the [apartment] of GemariAh son of Shapha the scribe, in the upper courtyard, which is in front of the threshold of the Temple’s New Gate.  
  
11Well, after MichaiAh (son of GemariAh and grandson of ShaPhan) heard all the words of Jehovah being read from the scroll, 12he went down to the palace of the king and entered the house of the [royal] scribe, where {Look!} he found all the rulers gathered:  
  
 • EliShama the scribe,  
 • DalaiJa (son of ShemaiAh),  
 • ElNathan (son of AchBor),  
 • GemariAh (son of ShaPhan),  
 • ZedekiAh (son of HananiAh),  
 • And all the supervisors.  
  
13Then MichaiAh told them everything that he’d heard BarUch read from the scroll into the ears of the people.  
  
14So, the rulers sent for BarUch son of NeriAh (son of JeHudi, son of NathaniAh, son of ShelemiAh, son of Cushi) and told him:  
  
 ‘Go get the scroll that you read into the ears of the people and bring it here!’  
  
Then BarUch (son of NeriAh) went and picked up the scroll and returned to them, 15and they said:  
  
 ‘Now, read that scroll into our ears!’  
  
And BarUch read it to them.  
  
16Well, after they heard all the words being read, each person started discussing it with their neighbor, and they said to BarUch:  
  
 ‘We’ve decided that we should announce all these words to the king!’  
  
17Then they asked BarUch:  
  
 ‘Just where were you when you wrote all these words?’  
  
18And he replied:  
  
 ‘These words came from the mouth of JeremiAh… He’s the one who spoke the words. All I did was record them in this scroll.’  
  
19Then the rulers said to BarUch:  
  
 ‘Go somewhere and hide… Both you and JeremiAh! Don’t let anyone know where you are!’  
  
20Then they had the scroll kept under guard in the house of EliShama the scribe, and they went into the courtyard of the king and told the king everything that it said. 21So the king sent JehuDi to get the scroll, and he went and took it from the house of EliShama the scribe, and JehuDi read it before the king and all the rulers that were sitting around him.  
  
22The king happened to be in his winter palace at the time (for it was the 9th month), and he was sitting in front of his fireplace. 23And after JeHudi had read just three or four lines, [the king] shredded [the scroll] with a scribe’s razor and tossed it into the fire in his fireplace. As a result, the papyrus scroll was entirely burned up and destroyed.  
  
24Well, nobody was surprised… None of those who were there ripped their clothes… Not the king, any of his servants, or any of those who heard those words. 25Although ElNathan, DalaiJa, and GemariAh had suggested to the king that he shouldn’t burn the papyrus, 26he refused to listen to them. Then the king told JerahMeEl (the king’s son), SaraiAh son of AzriEl, and ShelemiAh son of AbDeEl to go and arrest both BarUch the scribe and JeremiAh the Prophet. However, these men were already in hiding.  
  
  
27Well, after the king burned the scroll that BarUch wrote containing all the words that were spoken by JeremiAh, the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh again, and said:  
  
 28‘Now take another scroll of papyrus  
 And write the same words that you wrote in the scroll  
 That King JehoiAkim burned.  
 29Then tell JehoiAkim (king of Judah)  
 That this is what was said by Jehovah:  
  
 ‘Although you have burned up this scroll,  
 You still asked why I had it written.  
 For it told you that Babylon’s king  
 Will enter this land and destroy it,  
 Wiping away all the men and their beasts.’  
  
 30‘And because you did [such a thing],  
 Jehovah made this pronouncement against [you]:  
  
 ‘O JehoiAkim, king over Judah  
 Who is sitting upon David’s throne;  
 You’ll no longer sit [on that throne]…  
 For, into the sweltering heat of the day  
 And into the icy cold of the night,  
 Your decaying flesh will be tossed.  
  
 31‘Yes, I’m coming against you, your family and sons,  
 Because of your lawless ways;  
 Then upon you and those in JeruSalem and Judah,  
 I’ll bring all the evils about which I’ve warned,  
 And to which you chose not to listen.’  
  
32Then JeremiAh took another papyrus scroll and gave it to BarUch son of NeriAh the scribe, and he once again wrote the same words that came from the mouth of JeremiAh upon it – all the words that JehoiAkim the king of Judah had burned in the fire – and he added many more words to it (such as these).