

GOD'S PROTECTION OF HIS INSPIRED WORD

Text: Jeremiah 36:27-28

INTRO: This chapter tells the story of King Jehoiakim, the king who was Judah's last chance to avoid Babylonian exile--the king who hated God's word & plunged his people into darkness. But it also tells us how God reaches out to those in sin, & how He has protected His word to give hope to any & all who will heed its message.

I. JEREMIAH IS INSTRUCTED TO WRITE GOD'S WORDS, 1-3.

A. In the 4th year of Jehoiakim, vs. 1. Earlier that king had executed one faithful prophet, Urijah, Jer. 26:20-23.

B. Take a scroll... and write, vs. 2. 2 Peter 1:20-21

C. The words that I [God] have spoken

NOTE: These words had already been delivered orally. Now they are to be put into written form.

D. It may be... Free moral agency.

E. That I may forgive. Conditional.

F. Vs. 4-10 tell how Jeremiah dictated God's message to Baruch the scribe who wrote the scroll, then read it in the temple to the people of Judah on a great fast day.

G. Vs. 11-13 tells of Michaiiah, who was so impressed by God's inspired warnings that he rushed to tell the princes of Judah what he had heard.

H. In vs. 14-19, the princes too are impressed with the importance of the writings, but fearing that the King will not approve of the prophecies, they warn Jeremiah & Baruch to go into hiding.

II. KING JEHOIAKIM DESTROYS THE BOOK, vs. 20-25.

A. They stored the scroll, vs. 20. Perhaps they foresaw that the king would seek to destroy it.

B. Jehoiakim sent for the scroll, vs. 21.

C. He cut it with the scribe's knife [with which scribes made writing pens from reeds], & burned it in the fire, vs. 23.

1. Perhaps he was foolish enough to think that if he destroyed the warning, God's judgment wouldn't come to pass.
2. At any rate, we learn from him that a book or a paper containing God's word can be destroyed & burned, but God's message cannot be destroyed nor His judgments averted.
3. Of course, Jehoiakim was not the last man who wanted to destroy the word of God & tried to do so. Others have been no more successful than he was.

III. JEREMIAH RESTORES THE INSPIRED WRITING, 27-28, 32.

- A. The king could not destroy God's message, but he destroyed himself, his family & his nation by his attitude toward it, READ vs. 29-31.
- B. God's word cannot be destroyed. MT 24:35.
- C. We can destroy ourselves & those who are influenced by us, by not heeding the teachings of God's word.

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