

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

NOTES FOR THIS WEEK: 4/12-13/2021

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Jeremiah Chapters 35-36*

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER – Introduction *Jeremiah Chapters 35-36*

TO GOD BE THE GLORY – F. Crosby – (3:25)

I To God be the glory, great things He has done; So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son, And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, To every believer the promise of God; The vilest offender who truly believes, That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.(Refrain)

3 Great things He has taught us, great things He has done, And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; But purer, and higher, and greater will be Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)

THIS WEEK'S STUDY:

Chap. 35 – The Obedient Rechabites - (vs. 1-19); Chap. 36 – The Scroll Read in the Temple; (vs. 1-19); The King Destroys Jeremiah's Scroll - (vs. 20-26); Jeremiah Rewrites the Scroll; (vs. 27-32).

- Chapter 35: Jeremiah was facing much the same kind of situation as we are, at the present time. Where people are turning their backs against the Lord and the things of the Lord. Disobedience of God's word is being practiced by many.

The Obedience of the Rechabites

Jer 35:1 The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying,

- **Jehoiakim reigned eleven years from 609-598 B.C.** He was a wicked, now 30 years old, king, as we will see in this chapter, not really fearing the LORD or His word. We're back about 18 years earlier or so from the last chapter. Jeremiah a prophetic book, is not laid out chronologically, but by subject. It seems that following the extreme example of disobedience with Judah reversing itself with the covenant to free Hebrew slaves, we're going to see a lesson to be learned, by comparison of the Rechabites, an extreme example of obedience!

Jer 35:2 "Go to the house of the Rechabites, speak to them, and bring them into the house of the LORD, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink." (1Ch 2:55) And the families of the scribes who dwelt at Jabez were the Tirathites, the Shimeathites, and the Suchathites. These were the Kenites who came from Hammath, the father of the house of Rechab. (2Ki 10:15-16) Now when he departed from there, he met Jehonadab the son of Rechab, coming to meet him; and he greeted him and said to him, "Is your heart right, as my heart is toward your heart?" And Jehonadab answered, "It is." Jehu said, "If it is, give me your hand." So he gave him his hand, and he took him up to him into the chariot. [16] Then he said, "Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD." So they had him ride in his chariot.

- **God is using the Rechabites to remove all excuses of God's people.** A very powerful chapter in the Bible, which showed that a person could do what was right if they truly wanted to. What the children of Judah lacked, was in the obedience to God's word, was not an ability to do it. They lacked a proper respect for God. Here are the Rechabites, who have a greater respect for a great, great...grandfather and a commandment that he gave some 250 years earlier, than God's people had toward the LORD!
- **The Rechabites, the clan, were actually the Kenites or closely related to them.** They were not really Israelites, but their heritage was traced back to the father-in-law of Moses. Thus, there's a close association with Israel, but the father-in-law of Moses of course, lived in the area of Sinai. Moses when he fled from Egypt for forty years, living in the Sinai peninsula area, met Jethro, married his daughter. The Kenites were descendants from Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses.
- **Rechab from whom the clan got its name, lived at about the time of Jehu.** His son Jonadab made a covenant with Jehu, which shows that Jonadab lived about 250-300 years before this event. Consider obeying such an edict that was given by some relative that far back? Yet, that's exactly the case you have with the Rechabites. There is this traditional thing with them. That because of the commandment of Jonadab, their son of Rechab, to his children, not to drink any wine, not to plant any vineyards, not to sow any seeds, not to build houses, but to dwell in tents. They were still keeping that commandment!

Jer 35:3 Then I took Jaazaniah the son of Jeremiah, the son of Habazziniah, his brothers and all his sons, and the whole house of the Rechabites,

Jer 35:4 and I brought them into the house of the LORD, into the chamber of the sons of Hanan the son of Igdaliah, a man of God, which was by the chamber of the princes, above the chamber of Maaseiah the son of Shallum, the keeper of the door.

Jer 35:5 Then I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites bowls full of wine, and cups; and I said to them, "Drink wine."

Jer 35:6 *But they said, "We will drink no wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, saying, 'You shall drink no wine, you nor your sons, forever.*

- **Jeremiah was told by the Lord to invite them to come to one of the chambers in the temple.** When the clan arrived, Jeremiah brought out wine and invited them to drink. They all refused to drink, making reference to this commandment that was given by Jonadab, to his children.

Jer 35:7 *You shall not build a house, sow seed, plant a vineyard, nor have any of these; but all your days you shall dwell in tents, that you may live many days in the land where you are sojourners.'*

- **This was the purpose of not settling down, but to be nomadic, living in tents.** Like Abraham had lived, who was a man of the tent and of the altar. The tent defined his relationship with this world and the altar defined his relationship with the next world. Today the Bedouins, who may possibly be descendants to Rechab, are still living this way in the land. No time for worldly distractions.

Jer 35:8 *Thus we have obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, in all that he charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, or our daughters,*

Jer 35:9 *nor to build ourselves houses to dwell in; nor do we have vineyard, field, or seed.*

Jer 35:10 *But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us.*

Jer 35:11 *But it came to pass, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up into the land, that we said, 'Come, let us go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans and for fear of the army of the Syrians.' So we dwell at Jerusalem."*

- **The Rechabites were then living in the walled city of Jerusalem for protection from the Babylonian and Syrian armies.** This was likely between the first and second invasion by Babylon. Jeremiah was impressed at the obedience of these people, to the ancient commandment of their ancestor **Jonadab**. It impressed Jeremiah that these people would still be observing the customs that were set forth by this ancestor of theirs.

Jer 35:12 *Then came the word of the LORD to Jeremiah, saying,*

Jer 35:13 *"Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Go and tell the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, "Will you not receive instruction to obey My words?" says the LORD.*

Jer 35:14 *"The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, which he commanded his sons, not to drink wine, are performed; for to this day they drink none, and obey their father's commandment. But although I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, you did not obey Me.*

- **Jeremiah is now to go out and talk to the Jews.** The Lord is saying to them, "Won't you *receive instruction to obey My words?*" God is saying, the whole tribe of the **Rechabites** is totally obeying the one command of an earthly father! Yet, Judah will scarcely one command from the true and living God!

Jer 35:15 *I have also sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, 'Turn now everyone from his evil way, amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them; then you will dwell in the land which I have given you and your fathers.' But you have not inclined your ear, nor obeyed Me.*

- **God is pointing out these Rechabites, saying, "Look they're obeying the commandment of Jonadab, their earthly father, given to them one time about 250 years ago.** Now I have given you commands, and you readily disobey My words, even though *I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, you did not obey Me!*
- **God is calling Judah to do three things.** First of all, *Turn now everyone from his evil way!* What constitutes *evil*? From a Biblical standpoint, *evil* is something that we know is wrong. It's something that is destructive. If God prohibits it, it's because it hurtful to you or to someone else. And it's contagious. Nobody sins to themselves.
- **Secondly, amend your doings!** What proves that you've returned, is that you have changed! You're not living the way you used to live. What point is there in proclaiming a gospel to the world, if it does not change lives? Who wants to hear the Good News, that doesn't set you free? Certainly, if we're proclaiming it, we should be people that have been set free by it. Why listen to us, if we're still in bondage?

- **Thirdly do not go after other gods to serve them!** If you are going *after other gods*, you're in idolatry. They were going after Molech, the god of pleasure, Mammon, the god of power and Ashtoreth, the goddess of sexual fertility and excitement.
- **God is calling them back to Himself!** These other gods will destroy you. Only the living God can give life. And the Lord promises them, "If you will turn to Me, amend your ways, turn from your evil, *then you will dwell in the land which I have given you and your fathers, But you have not inclined your ear, nor obeyed Me.*
- **God has given us the basic laws for the preservation of a strong society.** You break those laws and you're going to have social disorder on all sides. We've got the social disorder. We've broken the law of God. If we continue in the present path, we cannot continue to exist as a nation.
- **It was that way at the time that Jeremiah was prophesying to the people.** They had a breakdown in their society, and things were just about ready to go into destruction and captivity. God, always showing grace, is saying, "*Turn now everyone and you can still dwell here in the land, which I have given you and your fathers.*"

Jer 35:16 Surely the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have performed the commandment of their father, which he commanded them, but this people has not obeyed Me.' '

- **Here is a man, a human leader, Jonadab,** about six generations ago, saying this is the way I want my family, my kids, my grandchildren, forever, to be like this. And they listened to him! God says, here I am, a Divine leader, Sovereign, the God of Israel, Holy, and they don't listen to Me! They listen to Jonadab. They don't listen to Me!
- **Jonadab commanded them one time.** He just said it once. This is what I want. This is the covenant. He told them one time and it's still working 250 years later.
- **Jonadab did this in the context of the present, the material - Don't live in tents.** Don't build houses. Don't plant *vineyards*. **God says, I speak in the context of eternal things! They don't want to listen!** Jonadab's descendants obey him, and the children of Israel won't even incline their hearts to listen to the things I have to say! God is even willing to make ear inclined, if they are willing, but they were not!
- **The Rechabites have performed the commandments of their father,** which he commanded them, *but this people has not obeyed Me!* – *Even after miracle after miracle* - The parting of the Red Sea; the sun standing still in the valley of Aijalon; their king, a little boy, killing a giant with a slingshot.

Jer 35:17 "Therefore thus says the LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will bring on Judah and on all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the doom (ra'ah, evil, calamities, not sin) that I have pronounced against them; because I have spoken to them but they have not heard, and I have called to them but they have not answered.' "* (Isa 45:7) *I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity (evil); I, the LORD, do all these things.'

- **God is saying, "Because they won't obey, I'm going to bring all the doom, calamity, that I have prophesied or announced that is going to come".**
- **Does God create evil? Isaiah 45:7,** is a passage of scripture that people have had difficulty with. This may help clear it up for them. The Lord declares, "*I form the light and create darkness. I make peace and create evil.*" Many people have been stumbled by the statement that God created evil. But what is being referred to there is the judgement that is going to be coming upon the nation, through the invasion, by the Babylonians. Their destruction, really a calamity, is the evil that is being referred to. It doesn't mean that God has created evil, in the sense of wicked things. But the judgements that God has announced, they are calamities, translated *evil* in the King James version. It's the Hebrew word "*ra'ah*" and it is translated, "*doom, calamity, adversity or affliction*", but never sin. So, the *evil* is just the calamities that are going to come because of disobedience to God.
- **God says, I told them over and over, sending prophets, rising up early,** I repeated Myself and repeated Myself and I cannot get any co-operation.

Jer 35:18 And Jeremiah said to the house of the Rechabites, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Because you have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts and done according to all that he commanded you,

Jer 35:19 therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not lack a man to stand before Me forever.' ' "* (Jude 1:24b) *And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, (2Co 11:2b) For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

- **The tribe of the Rechabites will go on**, continuing to inhabit the land. They will stand there in the land *forever*. The LORD said, in light of the demonstration of what has just happened here, then I'm going to bless your tribe and your family and some of the descendants would be involved in the worship of the LORD.

Chapter 36:

Jehoiakim Burns Jeremiah's Scroll

- **How do we have a Bible in our hands?** How was it ever recorded for us to be able to read it, as we are doing right now? This chapter helps to explain that, among other things.

Jer 36:1 Now it came to pass in the fourth year (605 B.C.) of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, that this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying:

Jer 36:2 "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.

- **Jeremiah is to record the prophecies that had God had given him during his ministry.** It was probably a general kind of a summarizing. But it was no doubt a lengthy scroll that Jeremiah had written of the past twenty-two years, or so, of prophesying to the nation. He's to put it all down now in this scroll. He had no doubt written some of the earlier prophecies, they were in scattered fragments. It's now to be compiled and put together.

Jer 36:3 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."

- ***It may be...that Judah...will turn from his evil way...that I may forgive their iniquity!*** So, the purpose! Our gracious God gives man every opportunity to repent! God gives warning after warning, in many different ways. God will put stumbling blocks in your path. God will do all that He can, short of violating your free will, to keep you out of hell. You've got to trample over Jesus! You've got to trample over the Holy Spirit! You've got to trample over the word of God and fight every step of the way to be destroyed. Because God is going to be there to warn you, and to turn you back, and to call you back. But you've got to ignore all of that, and you've got to continue, stubborn and steadfast in your evil, to make it. Hell's the hardest place in the world to get into. But if you're stubborn enough, you can make it. But, you'll have to fight to do it.
- **Here God is still calling Judah to return to Him, "Write it on a scroll.** Maybe some will listen, maybe some will hear that they might be saved, that I might forgive them." That is God's primary desire to ***forgive their iniquity and their sin.*** God desires to forgive you! All He wants is an excuse! Just your saying, "Lord forgive me. I'm sorry." That's all He desires, is just for you to turn from that sin which is destroying you!

Jer 36:4 Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote on a scroll of a book, at the instruction of Jeremiah, all the words of the LORD which He had spoken to him.

Jer 36:5 And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, "I am confined, I cannot go into the house of the LORD.

- **Jeremiah had been commanded to stay out of the temple.** He had been proclaiming what the Lord has told him, which upset the king and the leaders, so he was under orders to stay away. They considered his comments treasonous.

Jer 36:6 You go, therefore, and read from the scroll which you have written at my instruction, the words of the LORD, in the hearing of the people in the LORD's house on the day of fasting (Jehoiakim had called a fast-nothing to do with God). And you shall also read them in the hearing of all Judah who come from their cities.

- **Now, in 606 B.C., which was the fourth year of Jehoiakim the king,** in which Jeremiah was writing out this scroll, Nebuchadnezzar took the city of Jerusalem about a year earlier, however he did not destroy it. He took the king as a captive and he put Jehoiakim on the throne. He took some of the treasures out of the temple, Daniel and others as captives, back to Babylon.
- **On the day of fasting...**Some think this was a fast proclaimed by Jehoiakim, to avert the vengeance threatened by the Chaldean Army. Others believe that Jehoiakim called a fast to stir the people towards rebelling against Babylon. He was seeking to use a religious kind of a fervor to get them to rebel. This particular feast, and fasting day, wasn't a recognized feast, but a day of fasting and gathering in the

temple. It also was a year anniversary from the time that Babylon had made their first conquering of Jerusalem. Jeremiah continued to prophesy that they should surrender to Babylon, saying, "Look, God has delivered you into the hands of the Babylonians. Don't resist, and you'll live, which was just opposite of what King Jehoiakim was saying.

- **Baruch came into the temple.** Jeremiah wasn't allowed but **Baruch** came in and opened up this scroll and starts reading these prophecies of how Babylon is ordained by God to take them and for them not to resist or fight against the Babylonians. If they do, they're going to be carried away captive for seventy years.

Jer 36:7 It may be that they will present their supplication before the LORD, and everyone will turn from his evil way. For great is the anger and the fury that the LORD has pronounced against this people."

- ***It may be...***It's possible that God might work a miracle among them and when they hear these words, they will turn from their wickedness.

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

Jer 36:9 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 the LORD to all the people in Jerusalem, and to all the people who came from the cities of Judah to Jerusalem.

Jer 36:10 Then Baruch read from the book the words of Jeremiah in the house of the LORD, in the chamber 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 hearing of all the people.

- ***Baruch read the message!*** It was on this day, in December, the fifth year of Jehoiakim the celebration, or the anniversary of the conquering by Babylon, that Baruch read this long message – basically the book of Jeremiah, up to that point, after 22+ years of ministry! We're reading the same message as we read Jeremiah, the word that Baruch had spoken!
- Being the ninth month of the fifth year (verse 1 was in the fourth year), this undertaking, seems to take months as Jeremiah was dictating and Baruch was writing it down!

Jer 36:11 When Michaiah the son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan, heard all the words of the LORD from the book,

Jer 36:12 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.

- ***Here now are Gemariah and Michaiah, Shaphan's son and grandson!*** They must have heard in the family how King Josiah responded. Now they will soon see how differently King Jehoiakim will react!
- ***This Gemariah is the one who's seal has been found*** in the recent archeological diggings in Jerusalem. The seal of ***Gemariah***, the son of Shaphan the scribe. Being a scribe, sort of a public notary, he had his own seal. When they made documents, they put the wax on them. They had these little clay seals and would impress their seal upon the documents, as a scribe. Interestingly enough, a few years ago, as they were digging through the rubble of the ancient Jerusalem that was destroyed, they found the various seals in this one house, and they found this exact seal, saying ***Gemariah***, the son of ***Shaphan!***

Jer 36:13 Then Michaiah declared to them all the words that he had heard when Baruch read the book in the hearing of the people.

- ***Michaiah, King Josiah's grandson, went running down to King Jehoiakim's house,*** where all of the scribes were, saying "***Baruch*** is up there in the temple reading and this is what he is saying".

Jer 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 from which you have read in the hearing of the people, and come." So Baruch the son of Neriah took the scroll in his hand and came to them.

Jer 36:15 And they said to him, "Sit down now, and read it in our hearing." So Baruch read it in their hearing.

Jer 36:16 Now it happened, when they had heard all the words, that they looked in fear from one to another, and said to Baruch, "We will surely tell the king of all these words."

- **Consider what has happened during Jeremiah's 22+ year ministry.** When he began his ministry, prophesying the Babylon would be used to judge Judah by conquering them, Babylon was a nomadic tribe very much behind the armies of Assyria. But now, Assyria has been conquered by Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar is on his way to for his second invasion of Judah. What Baruch is reading to us, is indeed serious! They can now see and realize that what he said, has come to pass! Realizing the great reality of the words on the scroll, they are afraid!

Jer 36:17 And they asked Baruch, saying, "Tell us now, how did you write all these words—at his instruction?"

Jer 36:18 So Baruch answered them, "He proclaimed with his mouth all these words to me, and I wrote them with ink in the book."

- As Jeremiah said it, I wrote it down in ink!

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

- **The princes had some idea of what King Jehoiakim might do, because of his disdain for the LORD.** It's interesting that those in the scribes' chamber were under enough conviction to know that! We're going to make this known to the king, but **Baruch and Jeremiah** need to hide yourselves. Really to have the LORD hide them, telling no man where you are! God will protect His people, just as He will preserve His word forever, no matter how many time the scroll or a Bible is burned or destroyed!

Jer 36:20 And they went to the king, into the court; but they stored the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe, and told all the words in the hearing of the king.

- **Real fear gripped their hearts, when they realized what God had pronounced against them!** It would seem that they were really under Godly conviction. They went to this godless king, Jehoiakim.

Jer 36:21 So the king sent Jehudi to bring the scroll, and he took it from Elishama the scribe's chamber. And Jehudi read it in the hearing of the king and in the hearing of all the princes who stood beside the king.

Jer 36:22 Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month, with a fire burning on the hearth before him.

Jer 36:23 And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king 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.

- **When Jehudi read a few pages, the king cut them with a knife, throwing them into the fire!** He continued to do that **until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.** It's interesting those in the scribes' chamber were under enough conviction to know that.

Jer 36:24 Yet they were not afraid, nor did they tear their garments, the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words. (2Ki 22:3) Now it came to pass, in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the scribe, the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the house of the LORD, saying: (2Ki 22:4, 8, 11-13) "Go up to Hilkiyah the high priest, that he may count the money which has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have gathered from the people. [8] Then Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. [11] Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes. [12] Then the king commanded Hilkiyah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Michaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying, [13] "Go, inquire of the LORD for me, for the people and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is aroused against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

- **What a contrast between the kings, Josiah and his son, Jehoiakim!** It was in the 18th year of Josiah's reign (622 B.C.), about 18 years earlier, that Hilkiyah found the Book of the Law in the temple and read it to King Josiah, whose reaction was **that he tore his clothes commanding** those around him to **Go, inquire of the LORD for...great is the wrath of the LORD...because our fathers have not obeyed!**
- **King Jehoiakim treated the word of the Lord with disdain, as many people do today!** Thinking that they can perhaps destroy God's word. Rather than listening to the word of God, they want to destroy the word of God. There are people who have set their hearts against the word of God to the extent that they spend their whole life seeking to destroy the word of God.

- **That was Satan's ploy from the beginning.** (*Gen 3:1b*) "*Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?*" The challenging or the questioning of the word of God, because a person doesn't want to believe. The **king** didn't want to believe what God was saying, he thought he could destroy the word of God, and thus escape the things of the word. But you can't escape! What He has said, He's going to do! You may not believe it. You may try to destroy it. You may burn your bible, but it's not going to stop what God is going to do. What God says He is going to do! God will do! Whether you believe it or not.
- **The word of God came to pass!** Though the **king** didn't fear, didn't repent, but instead tried to destroy the word, God's word against **Jehoiakim**, did come to pass and was fulfilled.

Jer 36:25 Nevertheless Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah implored the king not to burn the scroll; but he would not listen to them.

- **Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah** said, "Don't do that! Don't do that!", but the **king** didn't pay any attention. **Jehoiakim** is without excuse! His father was the godly **Josiah!** He had been spared by Pharaoh Necho. Now he has been under the ministry of **Jeremiah** for all of this time!

Jer 36:26 And the king commanded Jerahmeel the king's son, Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to seize Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet, but the LORD hid them.

- **God is able to preserve, He inspires His word!** He can preserve His prophets! It wasn't time for them to meet an end. Note that **the LORD hid them!**

Jer 36:27 Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words which Baruch had written at the instruction of Jeremiah, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying:

Jer 36:28 "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. (Mat24:35) Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

- **Take yet another scroll, and write on it!** How do you stop guys like this? Just write a new scroll! Please notice that burning the word of God does not destroy it or gets rid of it! It's still very much alive and will remain so! It's important to note that the God who inspires the word, is the same God, who preserves the word – we see this over and over in the Bible!
- **We must be careful not to cut out any Scripture ourselves!** We can look at Jehoiakim's deed and be critical, but we need to be careful we don't take a **knife and cut** out any Scripture that we don't like or that makes us uncomfortable, because of our sin! Scriptures about bitterness, anger, how we treat one another, about our wives, about our husbands!

Jer 36:29 And you shall say to Jehoiakim king of Judah, 'Thus says the LORD: "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?' "

- **Jehoiakim was angry that that was prophesied**, that the king of Babylon was going to destroy them, and all of the land and **the beasts**.
- **All the calamity pronounced against Judah and Jerusalem in that scroll shall be brought upon them, and it did!** Though the scroll be burned, the original remains in the divine counsel, which shall again be copied out after another manner in bloody characters. There is no escaping God's judgments by struggling with them.

Jer 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 to the heat of the day and the frost of the night.

- **He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David.** There won't be any of his children to sit upon the throne. What happened is that when **Jehoiakim** was captured by **Nebuchadnezzar** and taken as a captive to Babylon, **Nebuchadnezzar** set up his son **Jechoniah** to sit upon the throne. **Jechoniah** was only there for three months until he was overthrown, and **Zedekiah** who was the brother of Jehoiakim came upon the throne.
- **So Jehoiakim was cut off, the family line was cut off three months after he was taken captive**, when **Jechoniah** his son was deposed. The prophecy of **Jeremiah** came to pass! There was no mourning of his death.

Jer 36:31 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."

- ***I will punish him, his family, and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring on them.*** They didn't fear the word of God. They disdained the word of God, they mocked the word of God, and so now they will be punished by God, the consequence of disobedience not listening or hearkening to God.

Jer 36:32 Then 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.

- ***Another scroll!*** God laid it out a little heavier the second time, not only making a copy of what had been burned but ***adding to its many similar words!***
- ***What faithfulness of God!*** We must be impressed with the faithfulness of God, with the patience of God, with the goodness of God, as we read the text. Surely it bears witness to the scripture that says (***2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*** God gave Judah every opportunity to turn from their evil. He sent His prophets to warn them of the destruction that would come if they persisted in their idolatrous path. Their judgement only came after their steadfast refusal to listen to God.
- ***In the world today, there are still the two categories.*** Those who have given heed to the word of God and have come in repentance, to seek God's forgiveness, who have received that forgiveness of God and the hope of eternal life. There are those who are still refusing to listen to God's word. Making fun of the word of God. Trying to destroy the word of God. Those against whom the judgement of God is building and shall surely come. You're in one of two camps. I'm glad I'm in His camp, and I intend to stay there.
- ***If some great ruler should arise in the world today, and have every single Bible in the world destroyed,*** it will not change one prophecy in the world of God. It will not change one commandment in the word of God. Every single one of those commandments and prophecies is going to come to pass! King Jehoiakim is going to find that out the hard way! He didn't solve his problem at all. We never solve our problems by coming against God or His word!

Application:

- Am I more like the obedient Rechabites, or like disobedient Judah, not listening to God or interested in heeding His word?
- We need to realize we have been given the Holy Spirit to enable us to obey God's word.
- Am living in such a way, that it's rather easy to run into an unbeliever, who is living a more godly or obedient life, or a more separated from the world, with an inferior motivation, than mine?
- How repulsive do you find King Jehoiakim's cutting and the burning of the scroll? Do I ever "cut" the word of God out because I don't like what it is saying to me? Do I ever "cut" the word of God by not mentioning those passages that are difficult for us? Do I "cut" the word by emphasizing only God's love and mercy and not His judgment and righteousness, by emphasizing only heaven and omitting hell?
- How grateful are we that our God will always protect His people, just as He will preserve His word forever, no matter how many times the scroll or a Bible is burned or destroyed!
- How aware am I that there are things I can do now, that won't be possible when we're in glory? Praying for the lost. Living a life that glorifies God, drawing others to Him?

Closing Prayer: