**Jeremiah 36:1-32**

***“The Bible Under Attack!”***

Introduction

1. Is this Book reliable? What makes it different from any other book?

2. In Jeremiah 36:1-32 there are seven aspects as they relate to the Word of God:

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**I. THE REVELATION OF THE WORD OF GOD 36:1-4**

*The Word of God came…from the Lord* was more than a gut feeling. The details are too

 explicit.

 ***A. God’s Desire...A Man 1***

**1.** The author is God; the instrument is man. Jeremiah is the man God chose to use.

 **2.** He was a prophet. He had the credentials. One credential was that if one

 prophecy failed he was a fake. Jeremiah was confirmed. There was a Babylonian

 Captivity and it lasted 70 years.

 ***B. God’s Design...A Message 2***

**1.** A Scroll was made of leather or was written on papyrus. Rolls were up on a pole

 with two ends. It was written in columns.

 **2.** Israel, Judah and the nations from the day I spoke. For 23 years God has spoken

 through Jeremiah. Revealed…Remembered…Recorded

 **3.** The words Jeremiah wrote down were not his words but God’s Word. (II Pt. 1:20, 21)

 ***C. God’s Determination...A Movement 3***

**1.** The reason God wanted His words written down was to save His people from their

 sins.

 **2.** This verse helps explain Jeremiah’s many terrible prophecies of divine judgment.

 The purpose was not only to convict but to convert. (7)

 **3.** Hell is to turn people from their sin. Judgment and eternal punishment is based

 upon God’s grace. You must get lost before you can be saved.

 ***D. God’s Delivery…A Means 4***

**1.** In order for Scripture to fulfill its saving purpose, it must be written down.

 **2. Revealed:** by the Holy Spirit

 **Remembered:** by the prophet Jeremiah

 **Recorded:** by Baruch.

 Inspiration: is not some kind of heavenly dictation as though God bypassed the authors

 (II Tim 3:16). Each author has his style and personality without making him a robot. God

 guided Jeremiah in his choice of words to his secretary Baruch. Baruch wrote them down on

 a scroll.

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**II. THE RECEPTION OF THE WORD OF GOD 36:5-11**

1. ***The Proclaimer 5*** God uses human instruments.
2. *How will they hear without a proclaimer? (Rom 1:14)*
3. No doubt due to his Temple message, Jeremiah was forbidden to go the Temple. He sent Baruch in his place.

 ***B. The Place 6***

**1.** Baruch waited for the day there would be a good crowd. With the political

 situation so shaky a fast was proclaimed.

 **2.** Baruch took the opportunity. **You must hear the Word before you can respond.**

 ***C. The Proclamation 8-10*** *v. 7* leads to a change of heart.

 **1.** *The day came*…Baruch read some of Jeremiah. There were 3 public readings in

 one day. He wouldn’t have read the whole book.

1. There is no record that the crowd responded. **They were so busy fasting they**

 **didn’t have time to repent!**

 ***D. The Pliable 11***

**1.** There was one who heard all the word. His name was Micaiah.

 **2.** It is no surprise that he received the Word. He was the grandson of Shaphan.

 Shaphan was the Secretary of State under Josiah. When the Book of the Law was

 rediscovered in the Temple, Shaphan read it and reread it to King Josiah (II Kg 22).

 Shaphan was a great spiritual leader and great father. His sons were among the

 forgotten heroes of the Bible. Ahikam (26:24) son of Shaphan supported Jeremiah

 and son he was not handed over to the people. Elasah, son of Shaphan carried

 Jeremiah’s letter to the exiles in Babylon (29:3). Gemariah, son of Shaphan was one

 of the officials who took Jeremiah’s scroll off Jehoiakim (36:12).

1. The godly influence extended to the grandchildren: Micaiah, son of Germiah, son of Shaphan shared God’s Word with the king’s cabinet (11-14). His cousin, Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, rescued Jeremiah and brought him into his home when Jerusalem fell (39:14-41).
2. What a pattern for a post-Christian America!! Mom and Dad, you are vital to the survival of Biblical truth. You can make a difference!!

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**III. THE RELATION OF THE WORD OF GOD 36:12-16**

1. *Micaiah* told the princes about the scroll and they asked to hear it, so Baruch read it to them.
2. Along with Micaiah, the official trembled when they heard the words. *We will surely tell the king all of these words.*
3. **When you get the Word…you can’t keep quiet!**

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**IV. THE RECOGNITION OF THE WORD OF GOD 36:17-18**

 ***A. The Authority 17***

 ***B. The Authenticity 18***

1. They want to know what to tell a skeptical king.
2. The Gnostic Gospels were written in the 3rd Century…Epistle of Judas…Mary

 Magdelene…Gospel of Thomas were rejected by the Church.

1. *Word…*The books written were God-breathed. They were canonical the moment they were written. People and councils only recognized what was already there. **No Bible book became canonical by action of some church council.** The books were already approved and viewed by the church body of believer as God’s Word. The Council of Nicene approved what was already recognized.
2. Men recognized and made choices. God has His word preserved in these 66 books. The 39 Old Testament books were those viewed as a part of canon of Scripture that was approved at the time of Jesus. By 150 A.D. all but two New Testament books were recognized as Scripture. **No new books are being written!**

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**V. THE REJECTION OF THE WORD OF GOD 36:19-26**

 ***A.* Just because it is related is no sign it will be received.** Knowing the king they hid

 Jeremiah, Baruch and the Word. (20)

1. The third reading, at least a part of Jeremiah (21-26), was read by Jehudi, perhaps a scribe.
2. The king took his penknife and cut the scroll up. He didn’t like what it said. Being December, he threw it into the portable hearth. The royal attendants showed no fear.
3. **Rejecting God’s Word does not cease to make it so. JUDGMENT WAS COMING!**

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**VI. THE RETENTION OF THE WORD OF GOD 36:27, 28, 32**

1. **God preserves His word**. Anyone who thinks he can silence God with a knife and fire doesn’t know God or His Word!!
2. Write another scroll and add more material!

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**VII. THE RETRIBUTION OF THE WORD OF GOD 36:30-31**

1. **There is a price to pay for rejecting God’s Word!**
2. Jehoiachin lasted 3 months and no one succeeded him!

***God always has the last Word!!!***