

# Jeremiah 32:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I charged Baruch before them, saying,

## Analysis

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**And I charged Baruch before them, saying**—The Hebrew tsavah (צִוָּה) means to command, commission, or give orders, indicating authoritative instruction rather than casual request. Jeremiah's charge to Baruch was delivered publicly (**before them**) as the legal witnesses observed, ensuring accountability and establishing the prophetic nature of what followed. Baruch's role transcended that of mere scribe; he became custodian of prophetic sign-acts that testified to God's future purposes.

This brief transitional verse introduces Jeremiah's specific instructions for preserving the legal documents (v. 14), but it also highlights the principle of faithful stewardship. Baruch received, recorded, and preserved God's word through Jeremiah (Jeremiah 36), even when doing so brought persecution. Now he must safeguard the deed that symbolized God's promise of restoration. The public charge emphasized that this was not a private business transaction but a prophetic act with theological significance. Like Noah building an ark before the flood, Jeremiah bought land before conquest—both acts testifying that God's word would come to pass and providing tangible proof for future generations. The New Testament similarly charges Timothy to guard the deposit of faith entrusted to him (2 Timothy 1:14), showing that each generation must faithfully steward what God has revealed.

## Historical Context

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Baruch son of Neriah was from a prominent scribal family in Jerusalem. His brother Seraiah served as quartermaster to King Zedekiah (Jeremiah 51:59). As Jeremiah's secretary, Baruch wrote down the prophet's oracles and read them publicly in the temple (Jeremiah 36), risking his life when King Jehoiakim burned the scroll. After Jerusalem's fall, Baruch accompanied Jeremiah to Egypt, where tradition holds he continued his ministry. Ancient bullae (clay seal impressions) bearing the inscription 'Belonging to Baruch son of Neriah the scribe' have been discovered, providing archaeological confirmation of his historical existence. The charge given 'before them' (the witnesses) transformed a private instruction into public commission, ensuring multiple people knew that these documents testified to God's promise of restoration. When exiles returned from Babylon beginning in 538 BC, such testimonies—preserved in writing and memory—encouraged faith that the same God who judged would also restore.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What does Baruch's faithful service as Jeremiah's scribe teach about the importance of supporting and preserving faithful biblical ministry?
2. How does the public nature of Jeremiah's charge to Baruch emphasize accountability in spiritual leadership?
3. What 'deposits' has God entrusted to you that require faithful stewardship even when circumstances seem discouraging?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאָצִיָּה	אֶת	בָּר וְ	לְעֵינֵיהֶם	יֹאמְרוּ:
<b>And I charged</b>	H853	<b>Baruch</b>	<b>before</b>	<b>them saying</b>
H6680		H1263	H5869	H559

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