

Jeremiah 36:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When Michaiah the son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan, had heard out of the book all the words of the LORD,

Analysis

When Michaiah the son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan—The genealogy is significant: Shaphan was Josiah's secretary who discovered the Book of the Law (2 Kings 22:8). This family had spiritual DNA of responding rightly to Scripture. **Had heard out of the book all the words of the LORD** שָׁמַע מֵעַל הַקְּרָבָה אֶת-כָּל-דְּבָרֵי יְהוָה, shama me'al hasepher et-kol-divrei YHWH)—The verb שָׁמַע (shama) appears repeatedly in Jeremiah 36, creating a motif: will they hear unto obedience?

Michaiah represents the faithful remnant who hears and acts. Unlike the majority who heard without heeding, he immediately takes action. The phrase "all the words" emphasizes he grasped the complete message, not selective listening. This verse sets up the contrast between faithful hearing (Shaphan's family) and rebellious hearing (Jehoiakim).

Historical Context

Michaiah belonged to the third generation of Shaphan's family serving in government. His grandfather Shaphan had been instrumental in Josiah's reforms (640-609 BC). This family represented the best of Judah's scribal-prophetic tradition, bridging official circles and authentic faith. Their consistent support of Jeremiah across decades shows covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does your family's spiritual heritage influence your response to Scripture, and how are you shaping the next generation?
2. What does Michaiah's immediate action after hearing God's word teach about authentic biblical response?
3. In what ways do you practice selective hearing of Scripture rather than receiving "all the words of the LORD"?

Interlinear Text

אָתָּה שָׁפֵן גֵּמָרִי הָוּ בְּנֵי גֵּמָרִי הָוּ בְּנֵי שָׁפֵן
had heard When Michaiah the son of Gemariah the son of Shaphan H853

כָּל דְּבָרָיו מֵעַל יְהִי הַנּוֹפָרֶת
H3605 all the words of the LORD H5921 out of the book H5612

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