

# Jeremiah 36:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said unto him, Sit down now, and read it in our ears.  
So Baruch read it in their ears.

## Analysis

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**And they said unto him, Sit down now, and read it in our ears**—The courteous invitation (שֵׁב־נָא, shev-na, "sit down, please") and request for oral reading suggests initial respect. **So Baruch read it in their ears**—For the third time, the scroll is read aloud, each reading expanding the circle of accountability: first the people (v.10), then Michaiah's private hearing (v.11-13), now the governmental leadership.

This pattern of progressive reading demonstrates how God's word should penetrate every level of society—from common people to political elite. Each audience must hear and respond. The repetition also builds narrative tension: with each reading, the stakes increase. Oral reading in Hebrew culture was the primary means of engaging texts; literacy was limited, making public reading essential.

## Historical Context

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Ancient texts were designed for oral performance. Reading aloud allowed verification of content and created communal engagement with the message. The princes' request for Baruch to sit suggests a formal audience, treating him with dignity despite his association with the controversial prophet. Court protocol typically required standing before royalty, so "sit" indicates a working session rather than judgment.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does public reading and hearing of Scripture in your church compare to the practice demonstrated here?
2. What happens in your heart when you sit under the reading of God's word—do you listen with the attentiveness these princes initially showed?
3. How can Christian communities recover the practice of careful, repeated engagement with biblical texts?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמְרוּ	אֵלָיו	שֵׁב	נָא	וְקֹרְא	בְּאָזְנוֹתֵינוּ:
And they said	H413	unto him Sit down	H4994	now and read	it in our ears
H559		H3427		H7121	H241
וְקֹרְא	כֵּן וְכֵן	בְּאָזְנוֹתֵינוּ:			
now and read	So Baruch	it in our ears			
H7121	H1263	H241			

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