

# 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 (שָׁבַע, 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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בָּאֶזְרִיקָם: יְלִכֵּת אֶת אֶל יְיָ יְאִמְרָת  
And they said      H413      unto him Sit down      H3427      now and read      H7121      it in our ears      H241

בָּאֶזְרִיקָם: בְּרֵךְ אֶל יְלִכֵּת  
now and read      So Baruch      it in our ears  
H7121      H1263      H241

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