

Jeremiah 36:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now it came to pass, when they had heard all the words, they were afraid both one and other, and said unto Baruch, We will surely tell the king of all these words.

Analysis

Now it came to pass, when they had heard all the words, they were afraid (תָּחַדְּשׁ, pachad—to fear, dread, be in awe). This is appropriate reverence before divine judgment. **Both one and other** (אִישׁ אֶל-רֹעֵהוּ, ish el-re'ehu)—literally "each man to his neighbor," suggesting they exchanged fearful looks, confirming each other's alarm. **We will surely tell the king** (נָגֵד נָגֵיד, naged naged—emphatic repetition meaning "we will certainly declare").

Their fear is genuine but incomplete. True fear of the LORD produces repentance (Proverbs 1:7); their fear produces only duty to inform the king. They recognize the gravity of the message without yielding to its demands. This is the tragedy of conviction without conversion—seeing truth clearly yet failing to submit to it.

Historical Context

Royal officials had obligations to inform the king of significant developments, especially prophetic messages claiming divine authority. Their fear was both religious (awareness of divine judgment) and political (concern for national crisis). The year 604 BC was perilous—Babylon was conquering the region, and Jehoiakim's pro-Egyptian policy was increasingly dangerous.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. When was the last time Scripture filled you with holy fear—and did that fear lead to repentance or merely acknowledgment?
2. What's the difference between being afraid of God's word and actually obeying it?
3. How do you move from intellectual conviction about biblical truth to actual submission and life change?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּהֲיֵה בְּשָׁמָעַם
H1961 Now it came to pass when they had heard H8085 H853 H3605 all the words H1697

בָּרְאָנָה אֶל יְהֹוָה
they were afraid one both and other and said both unto Baruch
H6342 H376 H413 H7453 H559 H413 H1263

פָּאָלָה: בְּדָבָר יִם כָּל אֵת לְמַלְךָ גָּגִיד
We will surely We will surely the king H853 H3605 all the words H428
H5046 H5046 H4428 H1697

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 36:24 (Kingdom): Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, neither the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words.

Jeremiah 13:18 (Kingdom): Say unto the king and to the queen, Humble yourselves, sit down: for your principalities shall come down, even the crown of your glory.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org