

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 (פָּחַד, pachad—to fear, dread, be in awe). This is appropriate reverence before divine judgment. **Both one and other** (אִישׁ אֶל־רֵעֵהוּ, 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** (נִגִּיד נִגִּיד, 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

וַיְהִי י'	כַּשְׁמָעָם	אֶת	כָּל	הַדְּבָרִים	
H1961	Now it came to pass when they had heard	H853	H3605	all the words	
	H8085			H1697	
פָּחַד ו	אֶחָד	אֲלֵהֶם	וַיֹּאמְרוּ	אֲלֵהֶם	בָּר וְ
they were afraid	one	both	and said	both	unto Baruch
H6342	H376	H413	H7453	H559	H413
					H1263
נִגִּיד	נִגִּיד	לִמֶּלֶךְ	אֶת	כָּל	הַדְּבָרִים
We will surely	We will surely	the king	H853	H3605	all the words
H5046	H5046	H4428			H1697
					H428

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.

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