

Jeremiah 36:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Baruch answered them, He pronounced all these words unto me with his mouth, and I wrote them with ink in the book.

Analysis

Then Baruch answered them, He pronounced all these words unto me with his mouth (מִפִּי יִקְרָא, mipivi yiqra—"from his mouth he called/proclaimed"). **And I wrote them with ink in the book** (בְּצִוּן עַל-הַסְּפָר, badyo al-hasepher). Baruch's straightforward answer confirms direct dictation and mechanical transcription using דְּיוֹן (deyo, ink)—likely carbon-based ink on a leather scroll.

This verse provides rare insight into biblical writing process: oral proclamation by the inspired prophet, faithful recording by the trained scribe. Baruch doesn't claim independent revelation; he's a conduit, not a source. The phrase "all these words" (repeated throughout chapter 36) emphasizes complete preservation of the prophetic message. This partnership between prophet and scribe models the dual authorship of Scripture—divine and human.

Historical Context

Ancient inks were made from carbon (lampblack) or iron-gall mixtures mixed with gum arabic as a binder. Scribes wrote on prepared leather (parchment) or papyrus using reed pens. Professional scribes underwent extensive training in writing, grammar, and legal-administrative practices. Baruch's family background prepared him for this crucial role as Jeremiah's secretary and literary executor.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does understanding the human process of biblical writing (dictation, transcription, preservation) affect your view of Scripture's authority?
2. What gifts and training has God given you to faithfully preserve and communicate His word in your context?
3. In what ways are you called to be a "Baruch"—faithfully recording and transmitting truth you've received from others?

Interlinear Text

!בר אָמַר לִבְּרָךְ מִפְּנֵי
Bar a'mar lib'rach mi-p'nei
answered H0 Then Baruch unto me with his mouth them He pronounced
H559 H1263 H6310 H7121

עַל פִּתְבְּחָר אֲתָּא בְּרָךְ יְמִינְךָ כָּל
Ul pit-b'brach a-ta brach y'min-chak cal
H413 H853 H3605 all these words H428 H589 and I wrote H5921 H1697 H3789

בְּדִין בְּטַף כְּרָם
B'dein betaf k'rem
in the book them with ink
H5612 H1773

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 36:4 (Word): Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.

Jeremiah 36:2 (Word): Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day.

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