

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, mipiv yiqra—"from his mouth he called/proclaimed"). **And I wrote them with ink in the book** (בְּדִיּוֹ עַל־הַסֵּפֶר, badyo al-hasepher). Baruch's straightforward answer confirms direct dictation and mechanical transcription using דֵּיּוֹ (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

וַיֹּאמֶר	לָהֶם	בָּר וּכְ	מִפִּי	יְקֹבֵל אֵל		
answered	H0	Then Baruch	unto me with his mouth	them He pronounced		
H559		H1263	H6310	H7121		
יְכָל	אֵל	תֵּל	הַדְּבָרִים	וְאֵנִי	כָּתַב	עַל
H413	H853	H3605	all these words	H428	H589	H5921
		H1697			and I wrote	H3789
הַסֵּפֶר	בְּדִינִי:					
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.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org