

Jeremiah 36:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said the princes unto Baruch, Go, hide thee, thou and Jeremiah; and let no man know where ye be.

Analysis

Then said the princes unto Baruch, Go, hide thee, thou and Jeremiah (לְהִסְתֵּר, lekh histater—"go, hide yourselves"). The urgency is clear: סָתַר (satar, to hide/conceal) in the reflexive form indicates self-concealment. **And let no man know where ye be**—The princes, knowing Jehoiakim's violent temperament (he murdered the prophet Urijah, 26:23), issue a warning that saves the prophet's and scribe's lives.

This is remarkable: governmental officials who will report to the king simultaneously protect the prophets they're reporting about. Their divided loyalty shows internal conflict—duty to the king versus recognition of divine truth. They cannot embrace the message (no recorded repentance), but neither will they participate in its suppression through violence. This ambiguous middle ground characterizes those who respect God's word intellectually while refusing personal submission.

Historical Context

Jehoiakim's reign (609-598 BC) was marked by violence, injustice, and persecution of prophets. He had built his palace with forced labor and shed innocent blood (22:13-17). The princes' warning reflects their insider knowledge of the king's murderous intentions. Hiding prophets during persecution would become a pattern (1 Kings 18:4, 13; Hebrews 11:38).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when you recognize biblical truth but find submission to it personally costly?
2. What does this passage teach about the complex loyalties believers face when human authority conflicts with divine truth?
3. When have you, like these princes, occupied an uncomfortable middle ground between full obedience and outright rebellion against God's word?

Interlinear Text

אָז	הַסֵּתִי	רַ	לִּ	בְּרִי	וְ	אֶל	הַשָּׂרִים	וַיֹּאמֶר
Then said	hide			unto Baruch			the princes	
H559	H5641			H1263			H8269	
אֲתָם:	אֵיפֹה	יָדַע	אֶל	וְ	אִישׁ	וְיִרְמְיָהוּ		
	where	know			and let no man	thee thou and Jeremiah		
	H375	H3045	H408		H376	H3414		

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 17:3 (Parallel theme): Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

Jeremiah 36:26 (Parallel theme): But the king commanded Jerahmeel the son of Hammelech, and Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to take Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet: but the LORD hid them.

1 Kings 18:4 (Parallel theme): For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)

1 Kings 18:10 (Parallel theme): As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.

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