

# Jeremiah 36:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, neither the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words.

## Analysis

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**Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, neither the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words.** The emphatic **they were not afraid** (lo pachadu, לֹא פָחָדָו) and **nor rent their garments** (lo qare'u et-bigdehhem, נֹלֶא קָרְעָו אֶת-בְּגָדָיוּם) presents a damning contrast to Josiah's response when Shaphan read the Book of the Law. Josiah "rent his clothes" and trembled at God's word (2 Kings 22:11-13, using the same Hebrew verb qara, קָרָע). Tearing garments signified grief, repentance, and humility before God—visceral recognition of sin and coming judgment.

The absence of fear (pachad, פָחָד, meaning dread, terror, or reverent awe) reveals hardened hearts. Proverbs 1:7 declares "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge," but Jehoiakim and his court displayed contemptuous fearlessness. This isn't courage but spiritual numbness—they heard God's word and felt nothing. The collective failure ("neither the king, nor any of his servants") shows systemic apostasy from the top down. Where Josiah's court responded with repentance, Jehoiakim's court met prophetic warning with indifference and hostility. This verse captures the terrifying reality of a hardened heart that hears God's truth and remains unmoved (Hebrews 3:12-13).

## Historical Context

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The explicit comparison to Josiah is inescapable—Jehoiakim was Josiah's son, had witnessed his father's reforms, and knew the proper response to discovered

Scripture. Josiah's generation saw revival after hearing the Book of Deuteronomy; Jehoiakim's generation heard comprehensive prophetic warning and felt nothing. This reveals the rapid spiritual decline in one generation. The failure to tear garments also indicates the prophetic warnings had become familiar—Jeremiah had been preaching for twenty-three years (25:3), and the people had become inoculated to the message. Familiarity bred contempt. Additionally, the political context matters: accepting Jeremiah's message meant submitting to Babylon, which contradicted Jehoiakim's pro-Egyptian policy. The king had invested in rebellion and couldn't afford to hear God's contrary command without losing face and power.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. What does the contrast between Josiah's fearful repentance and Jehoiakim's fearless indifference teach about the danger of familiarity with God's word?
2. How can we examine our own hearts for areas where we hear Scripture's warnings but feel no fear or conviction?
3. In what ways might political commitments, pride, or investment in our current path harden us against God's word?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּגִדִּים מִן אֲתָה קָרָע וְאֶל אַתְּ פְּקַד אֶל אֶל  
H3808 Yet they were not afraid H3808 nor rent H853 their garments  
H6342 H7167 H899

כֹּל אֵת הַשְׁמָעָה יָמִין עָבֹד יְהִי וְכֹל בָּתְּרַבְּתָה לְרִבְבָּתָה  
neither the king H3605 nor any of his servants that heard H853 H3605  
H4428 H5650 H8085

בְּאֶלְהָה בְּדָבָר יִם  
all these words H428  
H1697

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 36:16** (Kingdom): 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.

**Psalms 36:1** (Parallel theme): The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.

**Psalms 64:5** (Parallel theme): They encourage themselves in an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privily; they say, Who shall see them?

**Jonah 3:6** (Kingdom): For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

**1 Kings 21:27** (Word): And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly.