

Jeremiah 36:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned.

Analysis

Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned. God's command to replicate the destroyed scroll demonstrates the permanence and authority of divine revelation. The phrase "all the former words" (kol-hadevariyim harishonim) emphasizes complete restoration—nothing of God's message is lost despite human opposition. This affirms the doctrine of Scripture's preservation through divine providence.

The specific mention of "Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned" assigns responsibility and foreshadows judgment. Royal authority, which should have protected and honored God's word, instead attacked it. This covenant violation would bring specific consequences (verses 30-31). The contrast between divine and human authority is stark: the king burns the scroll; God commands its rewriting. Human power proves impotent against divine purposes.

Theologically, this verse teaches:

1. God's word is eternal and indestructible (Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 1:24-25)
2. opposition to Scripture brings judgment on the opposer, not elimination of the message
3. God providentially ensures His word's preservation across generations
4. human rejection doesn't alter divine truth.

The Reformation principle of Scripture's self-authentication finds support here—God's word validates itself despite human response.

Historical Context

The rewriting process would have been laborious. Ancient scrolls required careful preparation of writing materials, precise scribal technique, and significant time investment. That God commanded complete replication, not summary, underscores the importance of preserving His exact words. Each phrase matters; nothing is expendable.

This event established a precedent for Scripture's preservation. When later manuscripts wore out or were destroyed, careful copying preserved the text. The remarkable consistency among Hebrew manuscripts (evidenced by Dead Sea Scrolls matching medieval Masoretic texts) demonstrates the scribal community's reverence for exact preservation—perhaps influenced by this very incident. God's command to Jeremiah became the model for all subsequent Scripture preservation.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the labor-intensive process of hand-copying Scripture increase your appreciation for the Bible's preservation?
2. In what ways does God's insistence on preserving His exact words inform how carefully we should handle biblical interpretation?
3. How does Scripture's indestructibility encourage you when contemporary culture dismisses or attacks biblical truth?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	אֵת	עַל	יְהֹוָה	פְּמִגְלָה	אַפְתָּת	בְּקַרְבָּן	וְקַתְבָּן	שׁוּב	קָח	לְבָב	תְּבִרְכָּה	תְּבִרְכָּה
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H7725	H3947		H4039	H312			H3789					H3605
words	in it all the former			H834	H1961	H5921	roll					
H1697	H7223						H4039					
in it all the former		H834	hath burned		which Jehoiakim		מלך		יהוֹדָה			
H7223			H8313		H3079		H4428		H3063			

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