

Jeremiah 36:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words.

Analysis

Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words. This verse reveals the outcome of divine command—complete restoration plus expansion. The phrase "all the words of the book which Jehoiakim... had burned" confirms nothing was lost. The addition "there were added besides unto them many like words" (venosaph aleihem od devariym rabbiym kahemah) shows that opposing God's word results not in its diminishment but its increase.

The divine irony is rich: Jehoiakim burned the scroll to silence the prophecy, but his action produced an expanded edition with additional warnings. Persecution meant to eliminate God's word instead expanded it. This pattern recurs throughout redemptive history—opposition to Scripture consistently results in its wider dissemination and vindication. The blood of martyrs becomes the seed of the church.

Theologically, this verse establishes:

1. Progressive revelation—God continues speaking, adding to previous revelation
2. Divine sovereignty over human opposition—God turns rebellion into opportunity for expanded truth
3. Scripture's organic growth under divine inspiration
4. The futility of resisting God's purposes.

The Reformed understanding of Scripture's authority and sufficiency finds support here—God ensures His word is complete and accessible despite all opposition.

Historical Context

The "many like words" likely included the specific judgment prophecies against Jehoiakim recorded in verses 29-31, plus other oracles. This demonstrates that biblical books sometimes grew through such additions under continued inspiration. The final form of Jeremiah we possess contains these divinely commanded supplements, making the book we read richer because of Jehoiakim's opposition.

This historical incident explains some of Jeremiah's compositional complexity—the book doesn't follow strict chronological order but reflects the process of writing, destruction, rewriting, and expansion described here. Archaeological discoveries of ancient manuscripts showing textual variants and additions parallel this biblical example, though only the canonical additions carry divine authority. The preservation of this account within Scripture itself validates the process and assures readers of the Bible's providential formation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does knowing Scripture sometimes grew through such providential processes affect your confidence in the Bible's authority?
2. In what ways have you seen opposition to biblical truth result in its wider dissemination rather than suppression?
3. How does this account of progressive revelation inform your understanding of the relationship between Old and New Testaments?

Interlinear Text

יְרֵמְיָהוּ	לָקַח חוּ	מַגֵּל הַ	אֲחֵרֶת	וַתֵּנָה	אֶל	בָּר וְיָ	בֶּן
Jeremiah	Then took	roll	another	and gave	H413	it to Baruch	the son
H3414	H3947	H4039	H312	H5414		H1263	H1121
יְרֵמְיָהוּ	הַסֹּפֵר	וַיִּכְתֹּב בַּ	עַל יְהוֹ	מִפִּי			
of Neriah	the scribe	who wrote	H5921	therein from the mouth		Jeremiah	
H5374	H5608	H3789		H6310		H3414	
יְהוֹיָכִים	שָׂרָף	אֶשׁ רַ	הַסֵּפֶר	דְּבַר יְהוָה	כָּל	אֵת	
H3079	H8313	H834	H5612	H1697	H3605	H853	
which Jehoiakim	had burned		of the book	all the words			
עָלֶיהָ	וְנֹסְףָ	וְעוֹד	בְּאֵשׁ	יְהוּדָה	מֶלֶךְ		
H5921	H3254	H5750	H784	H3063	H4428		
and there were added			in the fire	of Judah	king		
כַּהֲמָה:	רַב יְהוָה	דְּבַר יְהוָה					
like	besides unto them many	all the words					
H1992	H7227	H1697					

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 36:18 (Word): Then Baruch answered them, He pronounced all these words unto me with his mouth, and I wrote them with ink in the book.

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