

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 devariyim 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 grow 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

Jeremiah	Then took	roll	another	and gave	it to Baruch	the son
H3414	H3947	H4039	H312	H5414	H413	H1263
of Neriah	the scribe	who wrote		therein from the mouth	Jeremiah	H3414
H5374	H5608	H3789	H5921	H6310		
all the words	of the book	of	had burned	which	Jehoiakim	
H3605	H5612	H834	H8313	H3079		
king	of Judah	in the fire	and there were added			
H4428	H3063	H784	H5750			
all the words	besides unto them many	like				
H1697	H7227	H1992				

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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