

Jeremiah 36:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD. This verse introduces Baruch ben Neriah, Jeremiah's faithful scribe and companion. The name Baruch (ברוך) means 'blessed,' while Neriah (נָרִיאָה) means 'lamp of Yahweh.' Baruch was from a distinguished family—his brother Seraiah served as quartermaster to King Zedekiah (Jeremiah 51:59). Wrote from the mouth translates mippi (מִפִּי), from my mouth), indicating direct dictation. This wasn't Baruch's composition but verbatim transcription of God's words through Jeremiah.

Upon a roll of a book describes a scroll (megillah, מגילה) made of leather or papyrus. This scroll contained Jeremiah's prophecies from Josiah's 13th year (626 BC) through Jehoiakim's 4th year (605 BC)—approximately 21 years of prophetic ministry (Jeremiah 36:2). The act of writing preserved God's word beyond oral proclamation, creating a permanent witness that could be read repeatedly to multiple audiences. This demonstrates the importance of written Scripture as authoritative, enduring testimony to God's revelation (Deuteronomy 31:24-26, 2 Timothy 3:16).

Historical Context

This event occurred in Jehoiakim's 4th year (605 BC), the same year Nebuchadnezzar defeated Egypt at Carchemish and began asserting Babylonian

dominance. Jeremiah had prophesied Babylon would conquer Judah, making him deeply unpopular. Baruch came from Jerusalem's scribal elite—educated, literate, and trained in Hebrew composition. His role as scribe was crucial for preserving Jeremiah's oracles. After King Jehoiakim burned this scroll (Jeremiah 36:23), God commanded its rewriting with additional material (36:32). Baruch faithfully accompanied Jeremiah through persecution, imprisonment, and forced exile to Egypt. Extrabiblical texts ('Baruch's Apocalypse') testify to his lasting significance in Jewish tradition. The preservation of Jeremiah's prophecies through Baruch's faithful scribal work demonstrates God's sovereignty in preserving His written word.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does Baruch's faithful service as scribe teach about the importance of supporting roles in God's kingdom work?
2. How does the careful preservation of God's words in written form validate the authority and reliability of Scripture?
3. In what ways does Jeremiah's use of a scribe demonstrate wisdom in multiplying ministry impact beyond personal limitations?

Interlinear Text

בָּרְךָ וְנִצְתָּבָת בְּנֵי הָרִמְיָה אֶת בָּרְךָ וְנִצְתָּבָת אֶת
called Then Jeremiah H853 Baruch the son of Neriah wrote Baruch
H7121 H3414 H1263 H1121 H5374 H3789 H1263

אֲשֶׁר יְהִי הַדָּבָר מִלְּפָנָי
from the mouth Then Jeremiah H853 all the words of the LORD H834
H6310 H3414 H3605 H1697 H3068

דְּבָרָרְךָ עַל אֶלְעָלָה מִגְּלָת סִפְרָה
which he had spoken H413 H5921 unto him upon a roll of a book H5612
H1696

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 32:12 (Parallel theme): And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison.

Jeremiah 36:32 (Word): 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.

Ezekiel 2:9 (Parallel theme): And when I looked, behold, an hand was sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein;

Jeremiah 43:3 (Parallel theme): But Baruch the son of Neriah setteth thee on against us, for to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, that they might put us to death, and carry us away captives into Babylon.