

Jeremiah 36:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading in the book the words of the LORD in the LORD'S house.

Analysis

And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him—The Hebrew verb שָׁמַע (shama, to hear/obey) underlies Baruch's faithful obedience. As Jeremiah's scribe and loyal disciple, Baruch becomes the physical voice of the imprisoned prophet. **Reading in the book the words of the LORD in the LORD'S house** (קְרָא בְּסִפְרָיו, qara basepher)—The public reading of Scripture in the temple precinct establishes a pattern seen throughout redemptive history: God's word must be proclaimed, not merely possessed.

Baruch's role prefigures the work of all faithful ministers who proclaim God's word exactly as given. The phrase "words of the LORD" (דְּבָרַי יְהָוָה) emphasizes divine authorship—these are not Jeremiah's opinions but Yahweh's covenant lawsuit against Judah. The temple setting intensifies the confrontation: God's indictment is read in His own house.

Historical Context

This occurred in 604 BC during Jeremiah's confinement. Baruch served as Jeremiah's amanuensis (professional scribe), a common practice in the ancient Near East. The temple courtyards were public spaces where prophetic oracles were traditionally delivered. Baruch's family belonged to Jerusalem's scribal elite, giving him access to official circles.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Baruch's faithful obedience challenge you to proclaim God's word accurately, even when it's unpopular?
2. What does it mean for you to speak "the words of the LORD" rather than your own opinions in ministry?
3. How can you cultivate the kind of loyalty Baruch showed to Jeremiah in your relationships with spiritual leaders?

Interlinear Text

צְאַהֲרֵבְנָעַשׂ
did And Baruch the son of Neriah commanded
H6213 H1263 H1121 H5374 H3605 H834 H6680

דָבָרִים יְמִינֵי הָרָא
according to all that Jeremiah the prophet him reading in the book the words
H3414 H5030 H7121 H5612 H1697

בְּיַתְהָרָה
in the LORD'S house in the LORD'S
H3068 H1004 H3068

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 1:17 (Parallel theme): Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.

