

Week 9: The word preserved – Jeremiah 36

Pray for our mission partners and your time in the Word

Context (the written word)

1. What do you remember from the sermon on Sunday?

Read the following passages:

- Deuteronomy 4:13
- Deuteronomy 6:6-9
- Jeremiah 25:13
- Jeremiah 30:1-2

How do these passages speak to the importance of the written word?

Notice

Read Jeremiah 36

2. Re-read the passage on your own

Prompts for reading on own

- Images/metaphors
- Keywords or ideas
- Questions you have

3. Share with a partner, what images had an impact on you?
4. Discuss all together,
 - a. What are you unsure about?
 - b. What do you think the passage is about?

Guided study *if needed*

Break the passage into parts, and try summarising each part?

Vs: 1-8

What is the intention in writing Jeremiah's words down?

- What's different/similar about what baruch is called to do, compared to Jeremiah?

Vs: 9-26

Who are the people that come into contact with written words?

- What are the different responses of these characters to the words?
- Why do you think they responded in this way?

Vs: 26-32

Why would jehoikim's actions bring such significant consequences?

- What does this reveal about God's word?

Reflect	
5. As a group, a. What are some life lessons? b. What do these chapters teach about God? c. Resolve what you think the main message	Guided study <i>if needed</i> How does this speak into the importance of reading the bible? What do God's actions in this passage reveal about who he is and how he works? Read Hebrews 1:1-2, How does Jeremiah's message point to Jesus?
Respond	
6. What kind of impact should it have? On a. What you believe b. What you want in life c. What you do this week	Why can we say reading the bible is different to reading a book? - How does this shape the way we see growth groups?
Pray in response to the passage, then in pairs	

Main point:

God words spoken through the prophet Jeremiah cannot be silenced and are preserved through writing.

App:

Reading the words of Jeremiah in the bible, has the same divine power as when the word was spoken by the prophet.

Deuteronomy

4

¹³ He declared to you his covenant, the Ten Commandments, which he commanded you to follow and then wrote them on two stone tablets.

Jeremiah

25

¹³ I will bring on that land all the things I have spoken against it, all that are written in this book and prophesied by Jeremiah against all the nations.

30

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²“This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you.

36 In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD.² “Take a scroll and **write on it all the words I have spoken** to you concerning Israel, Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah till now.”³ Perhaps when the people of Judah **hear** about every disaster I plan to inflict on them, they will each turn from their wicked ways; then I will forgive their wickedness and their sin.”

⁴ So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and while Jeremiah dictated all the words the LORD had spoken to him, Baruch wrote them on the scroll.⁵ Then Jeremiah told Baruch, “I am restricted; I am not allowed to go to the LORD’s temple.”⁶ So you go to the house of the LORD on a day of fasting and read to the people **from the scroll the words of the LORD** that you wrote as I dictated. Read them to all the people of Judah who come in from their towns.⁷ Perhaps they will bring their petition before the LORD and will each turn from their wicked ways, **for** the anger and wrath pronounced against this people by the LORD are great.”⁸ Baruch son of Neriah did everything Jeremiah the prophet told him to do; **at the LORD’s temple** he read the words of the LORD from the scroll.

⁹ In the ninth month of the fifth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, a time of fasting before the LORD was proclaimed for all the people in Jerusalem and those who had come from the towns of Judah.¹⁰ From the room of Gemariah son of Shaphan the secretary, which was in the upper courtyard at the entrance of the New Gate of the temple, Baruch read to all the people at the LORD’s temple the words of Jeremiah from the scroll.

¹¹ When Micaiah son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan, heard all the **words of the LORD from the scroll**,¹² he went down to the secretary’s room in the royal palace, where all the officials were sitting: Elishama the secretary, Delaiah son of Shemaiah, Elnathan son of Akbor, Gemariah son of Shaphan, Zedekiah son of Hananiah, and all the other officials.¹³ After Micaiah told them everything he had heard Baruch read to the people from the scroll,¹⁴ all the officials sent Jehudi son of Nethaniah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Cushi, to say to Baruch, “Bring the scroll from which you have read to the people and come.” So Baruch son of Neriah went to them with the scroll in his hand.¹⁵ They said to him, “Sit down, please, and read it to us.”

So Baruch read it to them.¹⁶ When they heard all these words, they looked at each other in **fear** and said to Baruch, “We must report all these words to the king.”¹⁷ Then they asked Baruch, “Tell us, how did you come to write all this? Did Jeremiah dictate it?”

¹⁸ “Yes,” Baruch replied, “he dictated all these words to me, and I wrote them in ink on the scroll.”

¹⁹ Then the officials said to Baruch, "You and Jeremiah, go and hide. Don't let anyone know where you are."

²⁰ After they put the scroll in the room of Elishama the secretary, they went to the king in the courtyard and reported everything to him. ²¹ The king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and Jehudi brought it from the room of Elishama the secretary and read it to the king and all the officials standing beside him. ²² It was the ninth month and the king was sitting in the winter apartment, with a fire burning in the firepot in front of him. ²³ Whenever Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with a scribe's knife and threw them into the firepot, until the entire scroll was burned in the fire. ²⁴ The king and all his attendants who heard all these words **showed no fear**, nor **did they tear their clothes**. ²⁵ Even though Elnathan, Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, **he would not listen to them**. ²⁶ Instead, the king commanded Jerahmeel, a son of the king, Seraiah son of Azriel and Shelemiah son of Abdeel to arrest Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet. But the LORD had hidden them.

²⁷ After the king burned the scroll containing the words that Baruch had written at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ²⁸ "Take another scroll and write on it all the words that were on the first scroll, which Jehoiakim king of Judah burned up. ²⁹ Also tell Jehoiakim king of Judah, 'This is what the LORD says: You burned that scroll and said, "Why did you write on it that the king of Babylon would certainly come and destroy this land and wipe from it both man and beast?" ³⁰ Therefore this is what the LORD says about Jehoiakim king of Judah: He will have no one to sit on the throne of David; his body will be thrown out and exposed to the heat by day and the frost by night. ³¹ I will punish him and his children and his attendants for their wickedness; I will bring on them and those living in Jerusalem and the people of Judah every disaster I pronounced against them, because they have not listened."

³² So Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to the scribe Baruch son of Neriah, and as Jeremiah dictated, Baruch wrote on it all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And many similar words were added to them.