

We will now begin the seventeenth lecture on Jeremiah. /Today we will begin with chapter 36. /The title of chapter 36 is "The Scroll." /First, the Lord's words are recorded on a scroll. /Verses 1-4. /Second, the words on the scroll is read to the people. /Verses 5-10.

/Third, the officials hear the words on the scroll and question Baruch. /Verses 11-19. /Fourth, the king burns the scroll and attempts to arrest Jeremiah and Baruch. /Verses 20-26. /Fifth, prophecy about the king's judgment, and the words of the Lord are recorded again on a scroll. /Verses 27-32.

/Read verse 1. /In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

/This is a story of the time of King Jehoiakim. /Jehoiakim is Josiah's son. /God told Jeremiah to record all the prophecies from the time of Josiah to the time of Jehoiakim.

/Then the Lord's recorded words were to be taught to the people. /Then the people would repent and return. /At the time, Jeremiah preached the gospel orally and through sermons. /Sometimes, he was able to testify to God's Word by writing them down.

/Today, we can testify about God's Word through the written Bible. /Then believers will hear and repent.

/Verse 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.

/Jeremiah called Baruch to write down all the words of the Lord. /Baruch was Jeremiah's attendant and scribe. /Verse 26. /Baruch recorded all the words of the Lord that Jeremiah dictated onto a scroll.

/The apostle Paul also did not record his writing himself, but had other people write it down for him. /Romans 16:22 /1 Corinthians 16:21 /2 Thessalonians 3:17

/Verses 5-6. /Then Jeremiah told Baruch, "I am restricted; I cannot go to the LORD's temple. 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.

/At the time, Jeremiah was restricted. /Therefore, he was not able to go to the people and read to them from the scroll. /Therefore, Jeremiah told Baruch to record the Bible and proclaim the words of the Lord to the people.

/It says that Baruch was to read to the people at the house of the Lord. /He was to read to the people when they had gathered at the temple.

/Verse 7. /Perhaps they will bring their petition before the LORD, and each will turn from

his wicked ways, for the anger and wrath pronounced against this people by the LORD are great."

/It says, "Perhaps they will bring their petition before the LORD." /He said that they could repent after hearing God's Word. /We must diligently preach God's Word to people. /Then they will repent and return to God.

/Verse 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.

/Baruch went to the temple as Jeremiah commanded him, and he read God's Word to the people. /However, the prophecy that was written on the scroll said, "Jerusalem will be destroyed." /Verse 29.

/Therefore, it was difficult for Baruch to read that Jerusalem would be destroyed. /His life could have been in danger. /However, Baruch read God's Word as it was.

/This was Baruch's faith. /He went where God commanded him to go. /He testified to God's Word whether he went to prison or died. /Acts 20:22-24

/Verse 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.

/King Jehoiakim proclaimed a time of fasting and prayer in the ninth month of the fifth year of his reign. /In verse 10, Baruch goes to the room of Gemariah in the temple, and reads God's Word from the scroll.

/Verse 11. /When Micaiah son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan, heard all the words of the LORD from the scroll,

/Micaiah, son of Gemariah, heard the words of the Lord from the scroll, and he went to the royal palace and told the officials all he had heard. /The officials were alarmed, and they sent people to bring back Baruch and the scroll. /The officials were shocked at the words of the Lord that Baruch read to them. /Then they reported everything to the king.

/Verse 17. /Then they asked Baruch, "Tell us, how did you come to write all this? Did Jeremiah dictate it?"

/The officials asked Baruch, "How did you come to write all this?" /Baruch replied. /"I wrote the words that Jeremiah dictated to me."

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

/The officials told Baruch to go hide with Jeremiah. /This was because the king would

surely kill Jeremiah and Baruch if he heard that Jerusalem was going to be destroyed.
/The officials were God-fearing people. /They tried to help Baruch and Jeremiah.

/Verse 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.

/The officials went and reported everything to the king. /They reported to the king about the scroll that Baruch read to them from. /The king called Jehudi and told him to read from the scroll. /There was a fire burning before the king because it was a cold day.

/Verse 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.

/Jehudi read the written words of the Lord. /When Jehudi read from the scroll, the king cut it and threw it into the fire pot to burn. /The king burned and destroyed God's Word.

/The king did not fear God's Word and he did not repent. /King Jehoiakim was a wicked and stubborn man. /He sinned by defying God's Word.

/On the other hand, Jehoiakim's father, Josiah, was a king of good faith. /King Josiah tore his clothes and his heart when he heard the Book of the Law of the Lord. /2 Chronicles 34:14-33

/Verse 25. /Even though Elnathan, Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them.

/However, there were faithful officials. /They were Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah. /They feared God. /They asked of the king, "Do not burn the scroll." /Yet, the king did not listen to them.

/Verse 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.

/The king did not listen to God's words. /Instead, he commanded his people to arrest Baruch and Jeremiah. /However, God had hidden them.

/Verse 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:

/Verse 28. /"Take another scroll and write on it all the words that were on the first scroll, which Jehoiakim king of Judah burned up.

/The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah. /God told Jeremiah to take another scroll and record everything that was on the first scroll. /Heaven and earth may fade, but the Word

of God will never fade.

/Verse 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 cut off both men and animals from it?"

/King Jehoiakim heard about God's judgment, but he did not repent. /He held God's Word in contempt. /He destroyed God's Word. /Therefore, God said he would judge Jehoiakim.

/In verses 30 and 31, it says that Jehoiakim will die tragically. /His body will be abandoned. /His descendants will receive disasters. /2 Chronicles 36:6

/Verse 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.

/Jeremiah recorded again God's Word that Jehoiakim burned in the fire. /God's Word is always fulfilled. /John 12:48-50 /Today, this generation has become a generation that throws away God's Word. /There are believers who throw away God's Word.

/When people throw away God's Word, God throws them away. /1 Samuel 15:23 /Acts 20:32 /We must be like King Josiah and tear our hearts when we hear God's Word.

/We will continue with Jeremiah chapter 37. /The title of chapter 37 is "Secretive Questioning and Answering." /First, King Zedekiah asks Jeremiah to pray. /Verses 1-4. /Second, Jeremiah says that the Babylonians will attack the city again. /Verses 5-10.

/Third, Jeremiah is arrested on his way to his hometown, and he is imprisoned. /Verses 11-15. /Fourth, King Zedekiah frees Jeremiah and gives him bread to eat. /Verses 16-21.

/Read verses 1-2. /Zedekiah son of Josiah was made king of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; he reigned in place of Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim. Neither he nor his attendants nor the people of the land paid any attention to the words the LORD had spoken through Jeremiah the prophet.

/This is the story of the time of King Zedekiah, son of King Josiah. /Zedekiah was made king after Coniah. /Coniah is King Jehoiachin. /King Josiah was a good king. /His first son, Jehoahaz became king first.

/Then he was taken captive to Egypt during his third month of reign. /2 Kings 23:31-34 / Then Josiah's other son Jehoiakim became king. /Jehoiakim reigned as king for eleven years. /2 Kings 23:36 /He was taken captive to Babylon. /2 Chronicles 36:5, 6

/Then Jehoiakim's son Jehoiachin became king. /He reigned as king for three months.

/Then he was taken captive. /2 Chronicles 36:8 /After him, Zedekiah became king. /2 Kings 24:17 /2 Chronicles 3:15

/Zedekiah was Judah's last king. /He was king in Jerusalem for eleven years. /2 Chronicles 36:11 /However, King Zedekiah disobeyed God's commands and betrayed the king of Babylon. /2 Kings 24:19

/Verse 3. /King Zedekiah, however, sent Jehucal son of Shelemiah with the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah to Jeremiah the prophet with this message: "Please pray to the LORD our God for us."

/King Zedekiah sent people to Jeremiah and said, "Please pray for us." /Babylon's army had surrounded Jerusalem. /The king faced a crisis.

/He asked Jeremiah to pray to God. /Then he would live as he wanted when things were well with him. /He disobeyed God's commands. /We must pray to God in critical times and in peaceful times.

/Verse 5. /Pharaoh's army had marched out of Egypt, and when the Babylonians who were besieging Jerusalem heard the report about them, they withdrew from Jerusalem.

/Pharaoh's army of Egypt came close to Jerusalem. /Therefore, the Chaldeans from Babylon withdrew from Jerusalem. /This was because King Zedekiah asked Pharaoh's army for help. /Zedekiah disobeyed God's commands.

/God told the people to take on the yoke of Babylon. /27:12 /However, the king relied on Egypt. /Ezekiel 17:15 /However, God said that Pharaoh's army would return to Egypt.

/Then the army of Babylon would attack. /This is written in verses 6 and 8. /"Pharaoh's army will go back to its own land to Egypt." /"The Babylonians will return and attack this city."

/Verse 9. /"This is what the LORD says: Do not deceive yourselves, thinking, 'The Babylonians will surely leave us.' They will not!

/The people of Judah believed that Babylon's army had completely left them. /However, they were deceiving themselves. /God said that Babylon's army will come and overtake Jerusalem again.

/Verse 13. /But when he reached the Benjamin Gate, the captain of the guard, whose name was Irijah son of Shelemiah, the son of Hananiah, arrested him and said, "You are deserting to the Babylonians!"

/Jeremiah wanted to go to the land of Benjamin. /Then, a man named Irijah arrested Jeremiah. /He thought that Jeremiah was surrendering to the Chaldeans. /However, Irijah was wrong. /Irijah falsely accused Jeremiah.

/Verse 14. /"That's not true!" Jeremiah said. "I am not deserting to the Babylonians." But Irijah would not listen to him; instead, he arrested Jeremiah and brought him to the officials.

/Jeremiah said that he was not surrendering. /However, Irijah arrested Jeremiah and sent him to prison. /Irijah was an evil man who persecuted true prophets.

/Verse 16. /Jeremiah was put into a vaulted cell in a dungeon, where he remained a long time.

/Jeremiah remained a long time in a vaulted cell in a dungeon. /Then a long time later, King Zedekiah summoned Jeremiah. /Then Zedekiah asked Jeremiah if he had received any prophecies from God.

/Then Jeremiah truthfully replied, "You will be handed over to the king of Babylon." /Jeremiah spoke boldly before the king. /He meant that if the king did not listen to God's Word and repent, he would be destroyed by the Babylonians.

/Verse 19. /Where are your prophets who prophesied to you, 'The king of Babylon will not attack you or this land'?

/Jeremiah said that he did not do anything to be put into prison. /Then he asked the king where the false prophets were. /The false prophets prophesied that Babylon was not going to attack.

/However, the false prophets had run away. /Babylon invaded just as Jeremiah the true prophet had said. /The lies of the false prophets were revealed.

/Verses 20-21. /But now, my lord the king, please listen. Let me bring my petition before you: Do not send me back to the house of Jonathan the secretary, or I will die there." King Zedekiah then gave orders for Jeremiah to be placed in the courtyard of the guard and given bread from the street of the bakers each day until all the bread in the city was gone. So Jeremiah remained in the courtyard of the guard.

/Jonathan's house was used as a prison. /Therefore, Jeremiah said that he did not want to return to Jonathan's house. /King Zedekiah then placed Jeremiah in the courtyard of the guard and gave him bread. /God protected Jeremiah through King Zedekiah. /No matter what critical situation we may be in, we can live if God helps us.

/We will continue with Jeremiah chapter 38. /The title of chapter 38 is "Ebed-Melech, a Cushite." /First, Jeremiah proclaims God's Word and is thrown into a cistern. /Verses 1-6.

/Second, Ebed-Melech, a Cushite, tells the king, and Jeremiah is saved. /Verses 7-13. /Third, King Zedekiah questions Jeremiah, and Jeremiah answers with God's Word.

/Verses 14-23. /Fourth, Jeremiah keeps his promise about his conversation with the king. /Verses 24-28.

/Read verse 1. /Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son of Pashhur, Jehucal son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur son of Malkijah heard what Jeremiah was telling all the people when he said,

/Jeremiah said, "Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine or plague." /Jeremiah also said, "But whoever goes over to the Babylonians will live." /However, several officials did not believe Jeremiah.

/They did not repent. /Instead, they said that Jeremiah was a wicked man. /They said, "This man is not seeking the good of these people but their ruin."

/The officials told the king that it was right to kill Jeremiah. /However, the truth was, the only way to live was to surrender to Babylon, just as Jeremiah had said. /However, the officials tried to kill the true prophet.

/Verse 5. /"He is in your hands," King Zedekiah answered. "The king can do nothing to oppose you."

/King Zedekiah gave permission to the officials to do as they pleased. /The king was afraid of the people. /The king was afraid of the officials. /Proverbs 29:25 /King Zedekiah was a weak and indecisive man.

/The king did not use his good conscience but was a man of unbelief. /We must not be afraid of people, but we must be afraid of God. /Those who fear people will fall into a trap.

/Verse 6. /So they took Jeremiah and put him into the cistern of Malkijah, the king's son, which was in the courtyard of the guard. They lowered Jeremiah by ropes into the cistern; it had no water in it, only mud, and Jeremiah sank down into the mud.

/Jeremiah was put in prison. /He was put into a cistern with mud. /He could have died if he stayed there for a long time. /Jeremiah was persecuted for delivering God's Word.

/Verse 7. /But Ebed-Melech, a Cushite, an official in the royal palace, heard that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern. While the king was sitting in the Benjamin Gate,

/Here, there is a man named Ebed-Melech, a Cushite. /He was an African man. /He went to the king. /He told the king that they needed to save Jeremiah. /Jeremiah would die if he was left in the cistern.

/The officials attempted to kill Jeremiah, but Ebed-Melech wanted to save Jeremiah. /Ebed-Melech was not afraid of persecution from people. /He was not afraid to be treated with contempt by others.

/He wanted to save the prophet Jeremiah. /This was similar to Joseph of Arimathea and his request to properly bury Jesus. /Matthew 27:57-60

/Verse 10. /Then the king commanded Ebed-Melech the Cushite, "Take thirty men from here with you and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies."

/The king commanded Ebed-Melech to take thirty soldiers and save Jeremiah. /Then Ebed-Melech went to a room in the palace and made worn-out clothes with some old rags.

/Then he saved Jeremiah from the muddy cistern. /Ebed-Melech saved Jeremiah. /He saved a prophet. /Therefore, Ebed-Melech received blessings from God. /39:15-18 /Whoever helps a prophet will receive a prophet's reward. /Matthew 10:41 /When King Saul tried to kill King David, his son Jonathan protected David. /1 Samuel 20:17

/Verse 14. Then King Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah the prophet and had him brought to the third entrance to the temple of the LORD. "I am going to ask you something," the king said to Jeremiah. "Do not hide anything from me."

/King Zedekiah called Jeremiah and questioned him.

/Verse 16. /But King Zedekiah swore this oath secretly to Jeremiah: "As surely as the LORD lives, who has given us breath, I will neither kill you nor hand you over to those who are seeking your life."

/King Zedekiah promised Jeremiah that he would protect him.

/Verse 17. /Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "This is what the LORD God Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'If you surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, your life will be spared and this city will not be burned down; you and your family will live.'

/Jeremiah told King Zedekiah, "Surrender to Babylon, and carry the yoke." /If the king did not surrender, Jerusalem would be taken into the hands of the Chaldeans, and the city would be burned down.

/God continuously told Zedekiah through Jeremiah to surrender. /We must have discernment. /We must listen to true prophets and obey immediately.

/We must discern and decide whether King Zedekiah was to surrender to Babylon, or if he was not to surrender. /We must be decisive and make the correct choice.

/Verse 19. /King Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, "I am afraid of the Jews who have gone over to the Babylonians, for the Babylonians may hand me over to them and they will mistreat me."

/King Zedekiah listened to what Jeremiah said, but he said that he would not surrender to Babylon. /The king was afraid that the Jews who already surrendered to Babylon would mistreat him. /He did not want to surrender because he was afraid of damaging his image.

/We must leave our images and problems of personalities to God. /We must become humble when God tells us to be humble. /We must turn the left cheek when someone strikes us on the right cheek. /We will be ruined and shamed if we do not live by God's commands. /Proverbs 29:25 /We must not be afraid of people, but be afraid of God.

/Verse 20. /"They will not hand you over," Jeremiah replied. "Obey the LORD by doing what I tell you. Then it will go well with you, and your life will be spared.

/Jeremiah told King Zedekiah to listen to God. /Jeremiah said that the king will not be mistreated if he surrendered to Babylon. /If we obey God's Word, we will not be shamed even if we think we will. /Even if it may seem as if we will become low when we obey God's Word, God will lift us up. /2 Corinthians 4:8-10

/Verse 21. /But if you refuse to surrender, this is what the LORD has revealed to me:

/If the king refused to surrender, God's Word would be fulfilled. /The king would be shamed. /The people of the kingdom would be taken captive to Babylon.

/In verse 22, "your friends" are the officials. /The officials enticed King Zedekiah and told him not to surrender to Babylon. /King Zedekiah was ruined, as well as the nation and his children, for listening to the officials.

/Verse 24. /Then Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, "Do not let anyone know about this conversation, or you may die.

/King Zedekiah told Jeremiah not to let anyone know about their conversation.

/Verse 27. /All the officials did come to Jeremiah and question him, and he told them everything the king had ordered him to say. So they said no more to him, for no one had heard his conversation with the king.

/The officials came to Jeremiah and questioned him about his conversation with the king. /Jeremiah did not lie. /Jeremiah told them only a portion of his conversation with the king. /37:20

/Verse 28. /And Jeremiah remained in the courtyard of the guard until the day Jerusalem was captured.

/The courtyard of the guard became a shelter for Jeremiah. /The place became a place of refuge for Jeremiah when the Babylonian army invaded. /God sent Jeremiah to that prison to be a place of refuge and save Jeremiah's life.

/King Zedekiah disobeyed God, and therefore, he was ruined. /Jeremiah obeyed God's commands and was put in prison, but God protected him.

/We must testify God's commands even if we are persecuted like Jeremiah and Baruch. / This is the way of God's true servants.

/Here we will conclude the seventeenth lecture on Jeremiah. /Thank you.