

7/7/02

Jeremiah 36-37

This chapter is one of the most important of the book, due to the fact that we are given the origin of the book of Jeremiah.

We come to the chapter where we are given details on the recording the prophecies given to Jeremiah by the mention of a scroll, ink, a pen, the choice of a scribe and the dictation of Jeremiah.

The focus of these chapters is on God's word of judgment and Judah's rejection of God's word, climaxing with the burning of the scroll by Jehoiakim!

Chapters 36-38 are biographical in nature for the most part dealing with Jeremiah's messages, the burning of God's word by the king and the imprisonment of Jeremiah for treason.

36:1-32 The recording of Jeremiah's prophecies.

36:1-3 *God commanded Jeremiah to write down the prophecies.*

- 1) The date of the command is stated. Vs. 1
 - a) The fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, 605 B. C.,

the year Nebuchadnezzar defeated Egypt at the battle of Charchemish.

* Same date as chapter 25:1

- b) The word came to Jeremiah from the LORD.
- 2) The prophet is told to write down God's words. Vs. 2
 - a) Take a scroll of a book and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel, against Judah, and against all the nations. Vs. 2a-b
 - 1) Jeremiah had written a letter to the captives. Jer. 29
 - 2) God told Jeremiah to write in a book all the words he had spoken to him. Jer. 30:2

* Made of papyrus, fastened to a wooden roller at one or both ends, typically measuring thirty feet by ten.
 - b) The material was to consist of that from the day Yahweh had spoken to him, from the days of Josiah even to that day.
 - 1) Twenty-three years of ministry. Jer. 25:1-3; 45:1-5
 - 2) Certainly the first twenty chapters would be in the reign of Josiah and forty-six through fifty-one, the judgments of the nations.

- 3) The purpose behind God's command was the benefit of the people. Vs. 3
- a) It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the adversities which Yahweh purposed to bring upon them and everyone might turn from his evil way. Vs. 3a-b
- * This was the heart of God for his people and still is, even for the world!
- b) That He might forgive their iniquity and their sin. Vs. 3c
- * What could have been done more? Is. 5:4

36:4-8 *Jeremiah enlists Baruch to record and proclaim the messages written.*

- 1) The prophet Jeremiah called Baruch to write his words. Vs. 4
- a) Baruch wrote all the words of the Lord.
- 1)) His name means blessed.
- 2)) He was from a prominent family, his grandfather was Maasaiah, who was a ruler under Joisah and his brother Seraiah was in the service of Zedekiah. 2Chron. 34:8; Jer. 32:12; 45:1; 51:59
- b) Jeremiah spoke the words.
- 2) The prophet Jeremiah gave instructions to Baruch. Vs. 5

- a) Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, "I am confined, I cannot go into the house of the LORD". Vs. 5
- 1)) Some say he was ceremonial unclean but it is not stated.
- 2)) Others that he was in prison but it did not take place till the next chapter.
- 3)) The word confined "asur" is literally shut up or kept out, probably due to his unpopular messages to the people. Jer. 7:1-15; 26:1-7
- b) Baruch was to go and read from the scroll he had written at my instruction. Vs. 6a-c
- c) These were the words of the LORD, to be spoken in the hearing of the people in the LORD'S house on the day of fasting. Vs. 6d-e
- d) And you shall also read them in the hearing of all Judah who come from their cities. Vs. 6f
- 3) The purpose is repeated, that they might repent. Vs. 7
- a) "It may be that they will present their supplication before the LORD, and everyone will turn from his evil way. Vs. 7a-b

- b) For great is the anger and the fury that the LORD has pronounced against this people. Vs. 7c
- 4) The complete obedience of Baruch is stated. Vs. 8
 - a) And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him. Vs. 8a
 - b) He read from the book the words of the LORD in the LORD'S house. Vs. 8b

36:9-19 *Baruch proclaimed the word and was approached by the princes.*

36:9-10 The obedience of Baruch to read the prophecy to all the people.

- 1) It took place months after the command to write the prophecies. Vs. 9
 - a) It took place in the following year, the fifth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, in the ninth month. Vs. 9a-c
 - * The month of December of 604 B. C., reckoned from April.
 - b) It took place during a proclaimed fast. Vs. 9d
 - * These were fast that were proclaimed due to some calamity or emergency, at this time Babylon

had sacked the Philistine city of Ashkelon!

- c) It was proclaimed by all the people in Jerusalem, and to all the people who came from the cities of Judah to Jerusalem. Vs. 9d-e
- 2) Baruch read from the book the words of Jeremiah. Vs. 10
 - a) He did it in the house of the LORD. Vs. 10a
 - b) The location was in the chamber of Gemariah the son of Shaphan the scribe, in the upper court at the entry of the New Gate of the LORD'S house. Vs. 10b-c
 - 1)) Gamariah was Josiah's secretary of state. 2Kings 22:3, 8, 12
 - 2)) Gamariah was the brother of Ahikam, a friend of Jeremiah. Jer. 26:24, 29:3
 - c) He proclaimed the word in the hearing of all the people. Vs. 10d

36:11-19 The obedience of Baruch to read the prophecy to the princes.

- 1) Michaiah responded to the hearing the words went and informed all the princes. Vs. 11-13
 - a) Michaiah was the son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan. Vs. 11

- b) Michaiah being moved, went down to the princes of the king's house, into the scribe's chamber where they all were sitting. Vs. 12
- 1)) Elishama the scribe,
 - 2)) Delaiah the son of Shemaiah.
 - 3)) Elnathan the son of Achbor.
 - 4)) Gemariah the son of Shaphan.
 - 5)) Zedekiah the son of Hananiah.
- c) Then Michaiah declared to them all the words that he had heard when Baruch read the book in the hearing of the people. Vs. 13
- 2) The conclusion of all the princes was to send for Baruch. Vs. 14-15
- a) They sent Jehudi the son of Nethaniah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Cushi, to Baruch. Vs. 14a-d
 - b) They told him to take the scroll he had read to the people, and come, so he did and then they said, “Sit down now, and read it in our hearing” and he did. Vs.14e-15
 - * These men treated Baruch with respect giving him the position of a teacher, as he sat at the second reading of the scroll!
- 3) The response of the princes. Vs. 16
- a) Having heard all the words, they looked in fear from one to another. Vs. 16a-c

* The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom. Prov. 1:7; 9:10

- b) They told Baruch, “We will surely tell the king of all these words.” Vs. 16d-e
- c) They asked Baruch to tell them how he wrote all these words--at his instruction? Vs. 17
- d) Baruch said Jeremiah proclaimed with his mouth all these words to him and he wrote them with ink in the book. Vs. 18
- 1)) This is the only place in the Old Testament where “ink” is mentioned.
 - 2)) Literally, he read from his mouth. 2Tim. 3:16-17; 2Pet. 1:20-21
- e) Then the princes said to Baruch, “Go and hide, you and Jeremiah; and let no one know where you are.” Vs. 19
- 1)) They feared the Kings response and retribution.
 - 2)) They feared for Baruch and Jeremiah.

36:20-26 *The king Jehoiakim destroys the Scroll.*

- 1) The men informed the king as they entered the court after having hid the scroll. Vs. 20

- 2) The king order the scroll to be brought by Jehudi from Elishama the scribe's chamber and Jehudi read it in the hearing of the king and in the hearing of all the princes who stood beside the king. Vs. 21
- 3) The king heard the reading. Vs. 22-23
 - a) The king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month, December.
 - b) Winter was cold so a fire was burning on the hearth before him. Vs. 22
 - c) When Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe's knife and cast it into the fire till it was consumed. Vs. 23
 - 1)) The word columns "delet" literally door, the only time in the Old Testament.
 - 2)) The instrument used was the same kind that prepared the scroll which he destroyed, taking perhaps personal satisfaction.
- 4) The shocking thing was that the king nor any of his servants were not afraid, nor did they tear their garments at the hearing of the Word. Vs. 24
 - a) What a contrast to his father Josiah who tore his garment and repented! 2Kings 22:1-23:25
 - b) He was only interested in the alliance of Egypt. 2Kings 23:34-35

- 5) The men who feared Yahweh pleaded with the king to not burn the scroll to no avail, he would not listen. Vs. 25
 - a) Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah.
 - b) Elnathan was one of the men who slaughtered Uriah. Jer. 26:22
- 6) The king gave orders to arrest Baruch and Jeremiah. Vs. 26
 - a) He commanded Jerahmeel his son.
 - b) Seraiah the son of Azriel
 - c) Shelemiah the son of Abdeel.
 - d) But the LORD hid them.

* This was the third reading of the scroll!

36:27-32 *Jeremiah is told by Yahweh to re-write the scroll.*

- 1) Yahweh then told Jeremiah take another scroll, and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned. Vs. 27-28
- 2) Yahweh revealed the reason Jehoiakim burned the scroll. Vs. 29

* Because it declared that Babylon would certainly come and destroy this land, and cause man and beast to cease from here?'
- 3) Yahweh pronounce his judgment. Vs. 30
 - a) Jehoiakim would have no one to sit on the throne of David.

- b) His dead body would be cast out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night.
- c) His son Jehoiachin reigned only three months and he is not even mentioned by the prophet in the introduction of the book. 2Kings 24:6, 8
* Greater judgment comes to leaders!
- 4) Yahweh included those of his house. Vs. 31
 - a) He would punish him, his family, and his servants for their iniquity.
 - b) He would bring on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah all the doom that I have pronounced against them.
 - c) He reminds them that they did not heed.
- 5) Then Jeremiah proceeded to rewrite the scroll. Vs. 32
 - a) He took another scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe.
 - b) Baruch wrote on it at the instruction of Jeremiah.
* The parallel of the Law given to Moses is to coincidental, broken before ever given to the people!
Ex. 31:28; 32:15-16; 34:1
 - c) All the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire were written and there were

added to them many similar words. Is. 40:8
* This action sealed the doom of Judah!

37:1-21 The false hope of Egypt and the imprisonment of Jeremiah.

37:1-5 *Zedekiah sends men to Jeremiah to know the mind of God.*

- 1) The date is during Zedekiah's reign, possibly 589 B. C. Vs. 1
* Chapter 37-39 record the siege and events and the fall of Jerusalem.
 - a) King Zedekiah was the son of Josiah.
 - b) He succeeded the reign of Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, who was his nephew, the son of his brother Jehoiakim.
 - c) He was placed on the throne over the land of Judah by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.
* This chapter and the next go together.
- 2) The conduct of the people of Judah was rebellion and disobedience to the word of God. Vs. 2
 - a) The word "But" marks the sharp contrast in the fact that he was king and yet he did not obey the word of God from Jeremiah.

- b) Nor did his servants, the were like him, he set the standard.
- c) The people of the land neither gave heed to the words of the LORD.
- d) The word of Yahweh were spoken by Jeremiah are a clear declaration of inspiration. 2Pet, 1:20-21
- 3) Zedekiah sent two individual to Jeremiah that he might pray to the Lord. Vs. 3
 - a) Jehucal the son of Shelemiah, who later calls for Jeremiah's death. Jer. 38:1, 4
 - b) Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah, the priest. Jer. 29:24-29
 - c) The petition was for prayer for them. Jer. 21:1-2
- 4) The time period is pin pointed more. Vs. 4
 - a) The prophet Jeremiah free to come and go as he willed.
 - b) The reason being that they had not yet put him in prison.
- 5) The time period is given with more precision. Vs. 5
 - a) Then Pharaoh Necho's army had came up from Egypt.
 - b) The Chaldeans hearing the news left the siege of Jerusalem and departed to confront the Egyptian army.

37:6-10 *Jeremiah revealed to them the destruction of Jerusalem.*

- 1) The Lord spoke to the prophet Jeremiah, in response to the inquiry, the information could not be wrong. Vs. 6
- 2) The God of Israel spoke personally to Zedekiah that his hope in Egypt was futile. Vs. 7
 - a) Zedekiah had sent to Jeremiah to inquire of God.
 - b) Yahweh said, "Behold, Pharaoh's army which has come up to help you will return to Egypt, to their own land."
- 3) The God of Israel revealed that the Babylonian would return. Vs. 8
 - a) The Chaldeans would come back and fight against this city.
 - b) The Chaldeans would take the city and burn it with fire.
- 4) The God of Israel warned the king of self-deception saying Babylon had departed and would not return. Vs. 9
- 5) The God of Israel states the certain defeat and conquest. Vs. 10
 - a) Even if they defeated the whole army of the Chaldeans.
 - b) And there remained only wounded men among them, they would rise up, every man in his tent, and burn the city with fire.

37:11-15 *Jeremiah is accused of treason and arrested.*

- 1) The time was when the army of the Chaldeans had left the siege of Jerusalem to encounter Pharaoh's army. Vs. 11
- 2) The prophet Jeremiah at this time went out of Jerusalem to go into the land of Benjamin to claim his property there among the people. Vs. 12
 - a) This is not to be confused with the property he redeemed from his nephew Hanamel. Jer. 32
 - b) Jeremiah just was placed in prison.
- 3) The prophet Jeremiah is accused of treason. Vs. 13
 - a) When he arrived at the Gate of Benjamin, North of the city a captain of the guard was there whose name was Irijah.
 - b) He was the son of Shelemiah, the son of Hananiah.
 - c) He seized Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "You are defecting to the Chaldeans!"
- 4) The response of Jeremiah was immediate. Vs. 14
 - a) Then Jeremiah said, "False! I am not defecting to the Chaldeans."
 - b) But Irijah did not listen to him, so he seized Jeremiah and brought him to the princes.

5) The treatment of Jeremiah by the princes. Vs. 15

- a) The princes were angry with Jeremiah, and they struck him, because he had been demoralizing the people by telling them to surrender to the Babylonians. Jer. 38:2, 19; 39:9; 52:15

* These were not the official of the previous chapter, for they were in captivity already! Jer. 32:12, 19
- b) They put him in prison in the house of Jonathan the scribe, as they had made that the prison.

37:16-21 *Zedekiah sought to inquire of Jeremiah as he was a prisoner.*

- 1) Jeremiah had been in prison many days, how many we are not told. Vs. 16

* Jeremiah was put into a vaulted cell in a dungeon, a subterranean room adjoined to the dungeon.
- 2) Then Zedekiah inquired again of Jeremiah. Vs. 17
 - a) Zedekiah was a weak and vacillating and he sent and took him out and asked him secretly in his house, "Is there any word from the LORD?"
 - b) And Jeremiah gave him the same message as before, "There is you shall

be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon!”

- 3) The prophet Jeremiah pleaded his innocence and for justice. Vs. 18
 - a) Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, “What offense have I committed against you.
 - b) Against your servants, or against this people, that you have put me in prison?”
- 4) The prophet Jeremiah confronts Zedekiah with his disobedience. Vs. 19
 - a) Where now are your prophets who prophesied to you, saying, ‘The king of Babylon will not come against you or against this land’?
 - b) He was not intimidated to compromise his message.
- 5) The prophet Jeremiah pleads for mercy. Vs. 20
 - a) Therefore please hear now, O my lord the king. Please, let my petition be accepted before you, and do not make me return to the house of Jonathan the scribe.
 - b) The reason, “lest I die there.”
- 6) The king granted Jeremiah’s request. Vs. 21
 - a) Zedekiah commanded that they should commit Jeremiah to the court of the prison.

- b) And that they should give him daily a piece of bread from the bakers' street, until all the bread in the city was gone.
- c) Thus Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison.