



“Book Burning”

Pastor Duane Cross, 07.12.20

“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. 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. The king and all his attendants who heard all these words showed no fear, nor did they tear their clothes.”

[Jeremiah 36:22-24](#)

I. **First: the writing**

“In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “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.”

[Jeremiah 36:1-2](#)

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

[2 Peter 1:20-21](#)

“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.”

[Jeremiah 36:7](#)

II. **Second:** the receiving

“He did everything Jeremiah the prophet told him to do; at the Lord’s temple he read the words of the Lord from the scroll.”

[Jeremiah 36:8](#)

Receiving the Word of God includes several things:

- Hearing
- Reading
- Understanding
- Memorizing
- Embracing

III. **Next:** the rejecting

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. 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. 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.

[Jeremiah 36:21-23](#)

J.I. Packer

“Jekoiakim burns God’s Word, ignoring its warnings. That’s like getting out of the car to destroy the ‘Bridge Out’ sign: done at one’s own peril.”

IV. **Finally:** the persevering

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.

[Jeremiah 36:27-28, 32](#)