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JEREMIAH 36:19-31

GOD'S WORD REJECTED

THIS WEEK'S **focus**

Great advice and helpful instructions are useless if we don't listen to and heed them. After all, it doesn't matter how good a building blueprint is if the construction crew doesn't use it. God's Word is jam-packed with truth—but its truth can only transform us when we receive and apply it. In today's session, the word of the Lord was clearly written and directly communicated to Judah's highest-level leaders. God's intention was to help Judah, but His word was rejected. If we'll heed God's words, they will produce His goodness and blessing in our lives. If we don't, their promises about judgment will come to pass, at some point. It's our privilege to hear and heed God's Word and enjoy the fulfillment of all God's promises.



CENTRAL **truth**

Everything God's Word says will come to pass.



EXPLORE

scripture

JEREMIAH 36:19-31

JEREMIAH 36:19-21

19 The officials said to Baruch, “You and Jeremiah must hide and tell no one where you are.” 20 Then, after depositing the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe, the officials came to the king at the courtyard and reported everything in the hearing of the king.

21 The king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the scribe. Jehudi then read it in the hearing of the king and all the officials who were standing by the king.

JEREMIAH 36:22-26

22 Since it was the ninth month, the king was sitting in his winter quarters with a fire burning in front of him. 23 As soon as Jehudi would read three or four columns, Jehoiakim would cut the scroll with a scribe’s knife and throw the columns into the fire in the hearth until the entire scroll was consumed by the fire in the hearth. 24 As they heard all these words, the king and all his servants did not become

terrified or tear their clothes. 25 Even though Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah had urged the king not to burn the scroll, he did not listen to them. 26 Then the king commanded Jerahmeel the king’s son, Seraiah son of Azriel, and Shelemiah son of Abdeel to seize the scribe Baruch and the prophet Jeremiah, but the LORD hid them.

JEREMIAH 36:27-31

27 After the king had burned the scroll and the words Baruch had written at Jeremiah’s dictation, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: 28 “Take another scroll, and once again write on it the original words that were on the original scroll that King Jehoiakim of Judah burned. 29 You are to proclaim concerning King Jehoiakim of Judah, “This is what the LORD says: You have burned the scroll, asking, “Why have you written on it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy

this land and cause it to be without people or animals?” 30 Therefore, this is what the LORD says concerning King Jehoiakim of Judah: He will have no one to sit on David’s throne, and his corpse will be thrown out to be exposed to the heat of day and the frost of night. 31 I will punish him, his descendants, and his officers for their iniquity. I will bring on them, on the residents of Jerusalem, and on the people of Judah all the disaster, which I warned them about but they did not listen.”

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE JEREMIAH 36:2

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

JEREMIAH 36:19-21

DWELL

God instructed Jeremiah to write on a scroll every word God had spoken to him since his calling began as a prophet. This scroll included God's warnings of coming judgment on Judah. But the scroll wasn't some kind of nail in Judah's coffin—it was exactly the opposite. God instructed Jeremiah to write the scroll so Judah could hear its words, repent, be forgiven, and be spared the coming judgment. A warning sign is intended to spare the reader the danger ahead. God's Word shows us how to live in God's goodness and be mercifully spared His judgment.



What are some reasons that God has given us His Word?



How should we apply the warnings of God's Word to our own lives?

MEMORIZE

Write Jeremiah 36:2 in a journal each day this week and read it aloud 2–3 times. If you'd like, you can decorate the margins with doodles related to the verse.

PRAY

Thank the Father for the amazing gift of His Word. Ask Him to show you how to apply His Word in your life to walk in His good plans.

day 2

JEREMIAH 36:22-26

DWELL

God called Jeremiah to a radical life of devotion, and Jeremiah obeyed. There was a time when things became so difficult for Jeremiah, he didn't want to speak God's messages anymore (see Jer. 20:9), but he said God's message was like a fire in his bones and he couldn't hold it back. We can tell that the word of God wasn't a fire in Jehoiakim's bones—instead, he set God's word on fire. Despite the vibes and good company, Jehoiakim was unmoved by God's word. Piece by piece, he burned the scroll until there was nothing but ash.

↓ Why did Jeremiah and Jehoiakim respond so differently to God's word?

→ How can we combat the temptation to ignore or reject the commands of God's Word?

MEMORIZE

Write Jeremiah 36:2 on a note card and post it somewhere you'll see it regularly, or save it as the lock screen on your phone. Say it aloud 2–3 times whenever you see it.

PRAY

Ask God to empower you with His grace to study and apply His Word. Declare your trust that His Word is a light to guide your life.

day 3

JEREMIAH 36:27-31

DWELL

There's no stopping the word of God. This truth can either be extremely encouraging or deeply terrifying. It all depends on how we respond to God's truth in the Scripture. Its promises of blessing will come to pass in our lives if we seek and obey the Lord. We will experience consequences for sin if we rebel against the Lord. If we seek to know and obey God's Word, we will become unstoppable in His amazing plans.

← What does Jehoiakim's response to God's word reveal about his heart? What did this communicate to the people around him?

↪ How could prayer help you to prepare to study God's Word? What would it look like for you to do pray this way?

MEMORIZE

Every time you wash your hands today, say as much of Jeremiah 36:2 aloud as you can remember.

PRAY

Thank the Father that His promises are unstoppable. Ask His Holy Spirit to teach you God's truth and guide you into applying it in your life this week.

day 4

PSALM 119:9-16

DWELL

We don't study God's Word just so we can think about it and talk about it—we study God's Word to know God. As we get to know God, we know and long for truth. We become sick of sin because we become satisfied in God. We know delight because He is delightful. We're often tempted to reduce God's Word to a list of *dos* and *don'ts*, but His Word is far more wonderful than that. His Word is a record of who He is, and a guide to knowing His goodness. The Word reveals the One our hearts mostly deeply desire.



According to this passage, what are some results of obeying God's Word?



Why do you think God's Word became more valuable than "all riches" to the writer? Is God's Word this valuable to you? Why or why not?

MEMORIZE

Ask 2–3 people today if you can practice reciting Jeremiah 36:2 for them.

PRAY

Declare your desire to know God more deeply. Ask Him to reveal Himself to you in His Word and satisfy your heart in Him.

day 5

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17

DWELL

God's Word convicts us of sin and draws us to faith in Christ so we can be saved from sin's power and penalty. Sometimes, though, we think that's all His Word does. That's only the beginning! The Word of God supplies us with what we need for every good work He calls us to. That means His Word has truth, principles, and wisdom for every single situation we will face in our lives. Through the truth of God's Word, the power of His Spirit, and the partnership of His people, we will lack nothing in our pursuit of His plan.



God's Word equips us for every good work. Knowing that, how should we pray when studying God's Word?



How can you grow in applying God's Word to your life? List a few examples.

MEMORIZE

Write out each of the words of Jeremiah 36:2 on note cards or scraps of paper, and mix them up. See if you can put them in the correct order from memory.

PRAY

As you study God's Word, ask God to show you how to apply His truth in your life. Ask Him to empower you with His grace and wisdom to obey His Word in the situations you face.