



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Jeremiah; Lamentations Sermon Series
Supports Session 10: Speaks
Sermon Title: "The Doctrine of Scripture"
Passage: Jeremiah 36:1-32

Connection to Lesson 10

Regardless of opposition, God's Word will endure forever.

Introduction/Opening

Nearly every day, we read or hear of some challenge to the supernatural origins and reliability of Scripture. What are we to believe and how are we to respond? =

In 605 BC, Babylon defeated the Egyptians at Carchemish and took the city of Ashkelon in Israel. Judah and Jerusalem trembled with fear over the news. In this context, the Lord gave them assurance of His Word.

Outline

1. Inspired (Jer. 36:1-4).

- a. God revealed His message to Jeremiah. Jeremiah repeated it to Baruch who recorded it. This displays a simple and straightforward approach to the supernatural inspiration of Scripture.
- b. Following the Hebrew text, the Christian Standard Bible uses the phrases "this is the LORD's declaration," "this is what the LORD says," or "the word of the LORD came" at least 453 times. Paul wrote of his own words, "We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit" (1 Cor. 2:13).
- c. God delivered the Scripture to His messengers. How else would biblical authors know of creation? No human witnessed it. How else would prophets know the future in such detail? Their prophecies contain such detail that they could have never guessed the future. These include Jerusalem's destruction, Jehoiakim's death, and the end of his family line on the throne of David (vv. 30-31). Also, Jeremiah prophesied Judah's exile and return after seventy years (29:5-11). Finally, prophecies concerning Christ were detailed and specific: place of His birth, time of His birth, manner of death, companions in death, and burial in a rich man's tomb.
- d. For a view of inspiration to qualify as Christian, it must explain, respect, defend, trust, and celebrate the supernatural inspiration of Scripture.

2. Intentional (Jer. 36:3-10).

- a. The Lord revealed to Jeremiah how Judah might “turn from his evil way” so He would “forgive their iniquity and their sin” (v. 3).
- b. God wants people to experience repentance and grace, so He gives us the Scriptures.
- c. The stakes are high. Heaven and hell are in the balance. If we intend to plunder hell to populate heaven, we must begin by trusting in God’s inspired and inerrant Word.

3. Incendiary (Jer. 36:11-26).

- a. The king’s counselors knew of king Jehoiakim’s disdain for the Word and Jeremiah, so when they heard the message, they hid him and Baruch. They told the king of the scroll. Despite the example of his ancestor Josiah (2 Kings 22-23), the Word itself, his counselors (26:25), and troubles in Carchemish and Ashkelon, Jehoiakim attempted to destroy the Word.
- b. The arrogant and unspiritual person will oppose the Word. This person may not burn the Word, but this person may misrepresent, twist, or ignore it. God’s people should not grow discouraged when they encounter such a person. They need to persist with gospel love until they find a humble person ready to trust God’s Word.

4. Indestructible (Jer. 36:27-32).

- a. The Lord commanded Jeremiah to re-record the Word and to warn Jehoiakim that the opportunity for repentance had passed, Judah would go into captivity, and he would have no descendant sit on the throne. Jehoiakim had a very high opinion of himself and a low view of Scripture. The king made the fatal mistake of thinking he could destroy the Word when, in fact, the Word destroyed him.
- b. The Lord’s Word withstood the assault of king Jehoiakim, and his unbelief. It stands today.

Conclusion

Jeremiah’s scroll outlived its opposition. The Lord promised, “The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of our God endures forever” (Isa. 40:8). Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” (Matt. 24:35). In AD 303 the Roman emperor Diocletian wrote an imperial letter ordering the destruction of all churches, the burning of all Scriptures, and the loss of civil liberties by all professing Christians. That did not stop the spread of Christianity or the proclamation of God’s Truth. Constantine, the Roman emperor who succeeded Diocletian, converted to Christianity, and eventually ordered Eusebius to make fifty copies of the Scriptures to be produced by the best scribes at government expense. Voltaire, a hostile French philosopher (d. 1778) said that in one hundred years from his time Christianity would be swept from existence and passed into history. Fifty years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society used Voltaire’s house and printing press to print hundreds of Bibles. Further, more than two hundred years after Voltaire’s death, Christianity is still not extinct.

Stand upon God’s Word because God’s Word will stand.

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