***Jeremiah 36:16-32 Now it happened, when they had heard all the words, that they looked in fear from one to another, and said to Baruch, “We will surely tell the king of all these words.” 17And they asked Baruch, saying, “Tell us now, how did you write all these words - at his instruction?” 18So Baruch answered them, “He proclaimed with his mouth all these words to me, and I wrote them with ink in the book.” 19Then the princes said to Baruch, “Go and hide, you and Jeremiah; and let no one know where you are.” 20And they went to the king, into the court; but they stored the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe, and told all the words in the hearing of the king. 21So the king sent Jehudi to bring the scroll, and he took it 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. 22Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month, with a fire burning on the hearth before him. 23And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe’s knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth. 24Yet they were not afraid, nor did they tear their garments, the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words. 25Nevertheless Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah implored the king not to burn the scroll; but he would not listen to them. 26And the king commanded Jerahmeel the king’s son, Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to seize Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet, but the Lord hid them.***

***27Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words which Baruch had written at the instruction of Jeremiah, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying: 28“Take yet another scroll, and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned. 29And you shall say to Jehoiakim king of Judah, ‘Thus says the Lord: “You have burned this scroll, saying, ‘Why have you written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and cause man and beast to cease from here?’ ” 30Therefore thus says the Lord concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: “He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night. 31I will punish him, his family, and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring on them, on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah all the doom that I have pronounced against them; but they did not heed.” 32Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, who wrote on it at the instruction of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And besides, there were added to them many similar words.***

When we last left Jeremiah and Baruch, Baruch was reading in the hearing of all the princes. He is being faithful to the instruction of Jeremiah and God. We know that Jesus tells us that we must not be worried about what we will say when we are called to account for our Faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit will speak through us. We must be studied up and prayed up, surrendered to the Holy Spirit and He will speak Truth through us. We pick up tonight seeing the reaction of the princes, as they hear the word of God, spoken through Jeremiah, and delivered by Baruch.

Verses 16-19 *Now it happened, when they had heard all the words, that they looked in fear from one to another, and said to Baruch, “We will surely tell the king of all these words. 17And they asked Baruch, saying, “Tell us now, how did you write all these words - at his instruction?” 18So Baruch answered them, “He proclaimed with his mouth all these words to me, and I wrote them with ink in the book.” 19Then the princes said to Baruch, “Go and hide, you and Jeremiah; and let no one know where you are.”* ***When t****hey heard all the words* ***–*** There is disagreement among theologians whether all words signifies every word of Jeremiah for the last 22 years written down or if these counselors and princes heard enough to understand the total meaning of the prophecies. Regardless, *they looked in fear from one to another –* They were afraid, as they should have been. Jeremiah is doubtless held in high regard, even if they do not like what he is saying. He was a prophet for 18 years during the time of Josiah, and he was trusted in these times. During these years, prophecies of Jeremiah have been accomplished, so he is verified as a true prophet. If other prophecies have been fulfilled before, they fear these will as well. They commit to telling the petulant king Jehoiakim. *And they asked Baruch, saying, Tell us now, How did you write all these words?* This is a reasonable and straightforward question, as prophets normally speak and prophecies are later written down. *So Baruch answered them, “He proclaimed with his mouth all these words to me, and I wrote them with ink in the book”* This can only increase the surety that this is a God inspired thing. Jeremiah recalled and spoke 22 years of prophecies perfectly. Baruch listened and wrote them down… in ink… perfectly. Only God could ordain this. *Then the princes said to Baruch, “Go and hide, you and Jeremiah –* They knew this petulant and rebellious king. The princes said – God hide.

Verse 20 - *And they went to the king, into the court; but they stored the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe, and told all the words in the hearing of the king.* Verse 12 suggests that they were in the court earlier. Likely, they were in a part of the court that may have been like offices and now they are going into the personal court of the king. This is more like the kings living quarters. They left the scroll in the offices. Perhaps, they knew the king’s tendency to destroy what he did not like.

Verse 21 - *So the king sent Jehudi to bring the scroll, and he took it 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.*The princes have delivered the gist and the substance of what is contained in the scroll. The king’s response is to send Jehudi to retrieve the scroll from the office and Jehudi read it to the king and those with the king.

Verse 22 - *Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month, with a fire burning on the hearth before him.*Amos 3:15 indicates that kings, princes, and the well to do had living quarters specific to various seasons of the year. This seems the case here. The 9th month would have been the end of November and early December. The fire before him would have been a fire pan full of burning coals. This was not a roaring fireplace as we might picture, but a more personal source of heat for the king. Because of smoke and soot, chimneys were kept in an area away from the king. Instead, fire pans were used to warm.

Verse 23 - *And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe’s knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.* Jehudi read three or four pieces of parchment. These would have been like sections of parchment, not unlike what we know as pages, rolled into a scroll. These may have been separate rolls. Some scrolls were sewn together to be one continuous roll. Some were not sewn together, as the Volume of Synagogues found a few years ago, where the scroll is many individual parchments rolled as individual leaves. Regardless, he cut the scroll with a knife. And cast it into the fire – of the firepan! Never mind that this is the revelation of God and reveals His will. The king acts childishly and with disregard for the good of his people and casts this scroll upon the burning coals.

Verse 24 - *Yet they were not afraid, nor did they tear their garments, the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words.* The fear they felt in verse 16 has dissipated or perhaps they were afraid to show that fear before the king. They didn’t tear at their garments and repent at this terrible news of impending judgement. Josiah, Jehoiakim’s father, tore his clothes when he heard the Law read by Shaphan. Josiah wept before God for the state of his people. Jehoiakim casts the word of God into the fire. God looks upon the heart and knows the state of our sorrow and the stage of our repentance. This was an example of irreverence before God.

Verses 25-26 - *Nevertheless Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah implored the king not to burn the scroll; but he would not listen to them. 26And the king commanded Jerahmeel the king’s son, Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to seize Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet, but the Lord hid them.* ***Nevertheless*** *Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah implored –* These three had great reverence for God and a great dread for the coming wrath. They implored the king to not act in the way he was acting. Instead, the king would not listen and ordered Baruch and Jeremiah to be seized. *But the Lord hid them –* God, in His perfect knowledge and providence, kept His servants hidden and safe from all harm. John 8:59 we read - *Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, goingthrough the midst of them, and so passed by*. When people don’t like what the messenger of God is saying, often they seek to kill the messenger, rather than return to God and repent. We must always be open to the Truth of God that we might receive the correction and instruction of His Holy Spirit. God hides His own, sometimes in plain sight.

Verses 27-29 *Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words which Baruch had written at the instruction of Jeremiah, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying: 28“Take yet another scroll, and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned. 29And you shall say to Jehoiakim king of Judah, ‘Thus says the Lord: “You have burned this scroll, saying, ‘Why have you written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and cause man and beast to cease from here?* ***The*** *word of the Lord came to Jeremiah –* Jeremiah now receives word to write another scroll with the same words as before. Jesus tells us that in Matthew 5:17-18 *Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.****18****For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.* Isaiah 55:11 says - *So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.* God’s word will always accomplish it’s purpose. We cannot burn it nor destroy it. *And you shall say to Jehoiakim –* This appears to be a command that will be accomplished in the future while Jeremiah is in prison. In the future, you will say to the king – *You have burned this scroll –* We learn that part of what had enraged Jehoiakim is that Jeremiah prophesied that the king of Babylon would take Jerusalem. That he would destroy the country and take many into captivity. We know that this is exactly what happened first 6 years later and then again and more fully 18 years later.

Verses 30-31 - *Therefore thus says the Lord concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: “He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night. 31I will punish him, his family, and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring on them, on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah all the doom that I have pronounced against them; but they did not heed.”* God now pronounces judgement upon Jehoiakim and his legacy. None of his offspring will reign any length of time. Jeconiah reigned only 3 months and had no son to succeed him. *And his dead body shall be cast out* ***–*** He will not be buried in an honorable way, but as the carcass of a dead donkey or mule. *I will punish him, his family, and his servants for their iniquity –* Anyone related to Jehoiakim in any way will fare badly, as God will punish all. They all sinned by following the example and the wickedness of Jehoiakim and they will answer for this. The decree of God’s wrath was not altered by the burning of the scroll. His will is done. The problem was not the burning scroll but the hardened hearts.

Verse 32 - *Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, who wrote on it at the instruction of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And besides, there were added to them many similar words –* It does not benefit us to oppose God. Wickedness will never win. God’s counsel and correction is always perfect. It prevails. Why would we foolishly resist? Jeremiah is faithful. Baruch is faithful. Another scroll is written, and we benefit to this very day as we study God’s word. God gave all the prophecies again and revealed additional wisdom to be added. Oh, the greatness of our God!

And so we leave Jeremiah and Baruch again tonight. Judgment is ahead. Wrath is ahead. God’s divine protection of Jeremiah will see him faithfully until the end, as he and Baruch both witnessed the fulfillment of prophecy, ended up in Egypt, and survived the Babylonian captivity. As we study God’s word, we must never lay aside what we do not agree with or omit what does not taste sweet to our souls. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,****17****that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.* All scripture… not just what tickles our ears. May God reveal all His truth to us through the study of His word, and the instruction of His Holy Spirit. To ignore His divinely inspired word is to do so at our very great peril.