

EPISODE NO. 201

Jer. 36:20-32

King Jehoiakim Burned the Scroll of Jeremiah

20 The leaders put the scroll in the room of Elishama, the royal assistant. Then they went to the king in the courtyard and told him all about what was in the scroll. 21 So, King Jehoiakim sent Jehudi to get the scroll. Jehudi brought the scroll from the room of Elishama, the royal assistant. Then Jehudi read the scroll out loud to the king, as well as to all the leaders who stood next to the king. 22 This happened in the 9th month. So, King Jehoiakim was sitting in his winter apartment. There was a fire burning in a small fire-pot in front of him. 23 Jehudi began to read from the scroll. However, after he had read three or four columns, the king cut those columns off of the scroll with a pen-knife. And, the king threw them into the fire-pot! Finally, the entire scroll was burned up in the fire. 24 King Jehoiakim and all his servants had heard the whole message from the scroll, but they were not scared! They didn't tear their clothes, either. 25 Nevertheless, Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah tried to persuade King Jehoiakim NOT to burn the scroll. But the king wouldn't listen to them. 26 Instead, the king ordered some men to arrest Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet. Those men were Jerahmeel (a member of the royal court), Seraiah (the son of Azriel), and Shelemiah (the son of Abdeel). However, Yahweh had hidden Baruch and Jeremiah well.

The Scroll Was Rewritten

27 Now, after King Jehoiakim had burned the scroll with the words which Baruch wrote while Jeremiah dictated, the Word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah again. 28 "Jeremiah, get yourself another scroll. Write all the same words on it that were on the first scroll. (That was the scroll which Jehoiakim, the king of Judah, burned up.) 29 Also, say this to Jehoiakim, the king of Judah: 'This is what Yahweh says: "You burned up that scroll. You thought: 'How dare Jeremiah write that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land! Why would he destroy both men and animals in it!?' " 30 'So, this is what Yahweh says about Jehoiakim, the king of Judah: "Jehoiakim's descendants will NOT sit on David's throne! When Jehoiakim dies, his body will be thrown out on the ground. It will be left out in the heat of the day. And, it will also be left out in the cold frost of the night. 31 I, Yahweh, will punish Jehoiakim and his offspring. And, I will punish his servants because they have done evil things. I have promised to bring all those disasters upon them. And, I will bring such things upon all the residents in

Jerusalem and the people of Judah, just as I promised against them. But they would NOT listen to Me.” ’ ”

32 So, Jeremiah got another scroll and gave it to Baruch. (Baruch, the son of Neriah, was his scribe.) As Jeremiah spoke, Baruch wrote what Jeremiah said on the scroll. He wrote all the same words that were in the book which Jehoiakim, the king of Judah, had burned in the fire. And, many similar words were added to the second scroll.