

Baggage Claim Pt 1 *Who Has the Final Say in Your Life?*

Message to Conversation Guide

Key Text of Today's Message

Jeremiah 36:20-32

20 So they went into the court to the king, having put the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the secretary, and they reported all the words to the king. 21 Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the secretary. And Jehudi read it to the king and all the officials who stood beside the king. 22 It was the ninth month, and the king was sitting in the winter house, and there was a fire burning in the fire pot before him. 23 **As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a knife and throw them into the fire in the fire pot, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire** that was in the fire pot. 24 Yet neither the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words was afraid, nor did they tear their garments. 25 Even when Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them. 26 And the king commanded Jerahmeel the king's son and Seraiah the son of Azriel and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel to seize Baruch the secretary and Jeremiah the prophet, but the LORD hid them.

27 Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words that Baruch wrote at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: 28 "Take another scroll and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned. 29 And concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah you shall say, '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 will cut off from it man and beast?"' 30 Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: He shall have none to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat by day and the frost by night. 31 I will punish him and his offspring and his servants for their iniquity. I will bring upon them and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem and upon the people of Judah all the disaster that I have pronounced against them, but they would not hear.'" 32 Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, who wrote on it at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And many similar words were added to them.
ESV

Summary of passage: King Jehoiakim burned the scroll of Jeremiah because he did not want to hear the prophecy that told of the coming Babylonian captivity. God had Jeremiah prepare another scroll with even more of the same message.

Quotes: *"Speak the truth, even if your voice shakes"* - Maggie Kuhn

"Speak the Truth in love." Apostle Paul, **Ephesians 4:15**

Discussion Questions

1. Jeremiah was saying things in his prophecies that no one else wanted to hear. According to the summary of the chapter what was Jeremiah's unpopular message?
2. Who wrote down Jeremiah's prophecy? According to archeological discoveries what has been revealed about Baruch?

“There is a detailed account of how God's words to Jeremiah are accurately transcribed by Jeremiah's personal secretary Baruch. A seal impression has been found, bearing the inscription: 'Belonging to Berechiah, son of Neriah, the scribe'. Baruch is a shortened form of the name Berechiah. The seal was found among those of royal officials, suggesting that Baruch was a high-ranking scribe.” -Hetty Lalleman

3. What did Jehoiakim do when he heard Jeremiah's inspired words from God? What did most of the other members of the court do as they listened to Jeremiah's words?

Jeremiah 36:24 -25

24 Yet neither the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words was afraid, nor did they tear their garments. 25 Even when Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them. ESV

4. Discuss the two reasons that Jehoiakim rejected the message of Jeremiah. They are: he didn't like the content of the message of Jeremiah. Secondly he was the King and didn't welcome any authority that threatened his personal autonomy.
5. What is the modern movement called **deconstruction** all about? Discuss the quotes below as they uncover the core issue of **deconstruction**.

“Faith deconstruction is a postmodern process of rethinking your faith without regarding Scripture as a standard.” Alisa Childers and Tim Barnett

“Deconstruction doesn't usually imply a deconversion to atheism, but it's certainly a deconversion of its own kind—from a worldview rooted in the authority of the Bible to a worldview rooted in the authority of the self.” Natasha Crain

“At the heart of the deconstruction explosion is a rejection of biblical authority. Deconstruction emphasizes personal autonomy—the authority of the self.” Alisa Childers and Tim Barnett

“I don't think the God that I believe in is going to just all of the sudden ignore me because I don't believe every single thing that's written down somewhere,” Kevin Max, From DC Talk

