

5/25/25

Sermon Title: God's Judgment on King Jehoiakim of Judah, Who Persisted in Rebellion Until the End

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture Passage: Jeremiah 36:1-32

(Jeremiah 36:1) In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

(Jeremiah 36:2) "Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah till now.

(Jeremiah 36:3) Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about every disaster I plan to inflict on them, they will each turn from their wicked ways; then I will forgive their wickedness and their sin."

(Jeremiah 36:4) So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and while Jeremiah dictated all the words the LORD had spoken to him, Baruch wrote them on the scroll.

(Jeremiah 36:5) Then Jeremiah told Baruch, "I am restricted; I am not allowed to go to the LORD's temple.

(Jeremiah 36:6) So you go to the house of the LORD on a day of fasting and read to the people from the scroll the words of the LORD that you wrote as I dictated. Read them to all the people of Judah who come in from their towns.

(Jeremiah 36:7) Perhaps they will bring their petition before the LORD and will each turn from their wicked ways, for the anger and wrath pronounced against this people by the LORD are great."

(Jeremiah 36:8) Baruch son of Neriah did everything Jeremiah the prophet told him to do; at the LORD's temple he read the words of the LORD from the scroll.

(Jeremiah 36:9) In the ninth month of the fifth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, a time of fasting before the LORD was proclaimed for all the people in Jerusalem and those who had come from the towns of Judah.

(Jeremiah 36:10) From the room of Gemariah son of Shaphan the secretary, which was in the upper courtyard at the entrance of the New Gate of the temple, Baruch read to all the people at the LORD's temple the words of Jeremiah from the scroll.

(Jeremiah 36:11) When Micaiah son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan, heard all the words of the LORD from the scroll,

(Jeremiah 36:12) he went down to the secretary's room in the royal palace, where all the officials were sitting: Elishama the secretary, Delaiah son of Shemaiah, Elnathan son of Akbor, Gemariah son of Shaphan, Zedekiah son of Hananiah, and all the other officials.

(Jeremiah 36:13) After Micaiah told them everything he had heard Baruch read to the people from the scroll,

(Jeremiah 36:14) all the officials sent Jehudi son of Nethaniah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Cushi, to say to Baruch, "Bring the scroll from which you have read to the people and come." So Baruch son of Neriah went to them with the scroll in his hand.

(Jeremiah 36:15) They said to him, "Sit down, please, and read it to us." So Baruch read it to them.

(Jeremiah 36:16) When they heard all these words, they looked at each other in fear and said to Baruch, "We must report all these words to the king."

(Jeremiah 36:17) Then they asked Baruch, "Tell us, how did you come to write all this? Did Jeremiah dictate it?"

(Jeremiah 36:18) "Yes," Baruch replied, "he dictated all these words to me, and I wrote them in ink on the scroll."

(Jeremiah 36:19) Then the officials said to Baruch, "You and Jeremiah, go and hide. Don't let anyone know where you are."

(Jeremiah 36:20) After they put the scroll in the room of Elishama the secretary, they went to the king in the courtyard and reported everything to him.

(Jeremiah 36:21) he king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and Jehudi brought it from the room of Elishama the secretary and read it to the king and all the officials standing beside him.

(Jeremiah 36:22) It was the ninth month and the king was sitting in the winter apartment, with a fire burning in the firepot in front of him.

(Jeremiah 36:23) Whenever Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with a scribe's knife and threw them into the firepot, until the entire scroll was burned in the fire.

(Jeremiah 36:24) The king and all his attendants who heard all these words showed no fear, nor did they tear their clothes.

(Jeremiah 36:25) Even though Elnathan, Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them.

(Jeremiah 36:26) Instead, the king commanded Jerahmeel, a son of the king, Seraiah son of Azriel and Shelemiah son of Abdeel to arrest Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet. But the LORD had hidden them.

(Jeremiah 36:27) After the king burned the scroll containing the words that Baruch had written at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

(Jeremiah 36:28) "Take another scroll and write on it all the words that were on the first scroll, which Jehoiakim king of Judah burned up.

(Jeremiah 36:29) Also tell Jehoiakim king of Judah, 'This is what the LORD says: You burned that scroll and said, "Why did you write on it that the king of Babylon would certainly come and destroy this land and wipe from it both man and beast?"

(Jeremiah 36:30) Therefore this is what the LORD says about Jehoiakim king of Judah: He will have no one to sit on the throne of David; his body will be thrown out and exposed to the heat by day and the frost by night.

(Jeremiah 36:31) I will punish him and his children and his attendants for their wickedness; I will bring on them and those living in Jerusalem and the people of Judah every disaster I pronounced against them, because they have not listened."

(Jeremiah 36:32) So Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to the scribe Baruch son of Neriah, and as Jeremiah dictated, Baruch wrote on it all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And many similar words were added to them.

In the fourth year of Jehoiakim king of Judah, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Jeremiah.

(Jeremiah 36:1) In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

In the fourth year of King Jehoiakim of Judah (605 BC), a year of great change unfolded in the Near East.

It was the year when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated Egypt in the Battle of Carchemish, thereby seizing dominance over the region.

This marked the beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecy that Jeremiah had long proclaimed—that disaster would come from the north.

God commanded Jeremiah to write on a scroll all the words He had spoken to him over the past 23 years—since the thirteenth year of King Josiah until the fourth year of King Jehoiakim—which he had proclaimed orally.

(Jeremiah 36:2) “Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah till now.

But why did God suddenly command that all His spoken words be written in a scroll?

We can consider several reasons:

First, the situation in Judah was deteriorating rapidly.

God may have known that when Babylon invaded, the words He had spoken through Jeremiah and passed down orally could easily be forgotten or lost amid the chaos of war.

Second, it’s possible that God foresaw that Jeremiah’s life was at risk.

There was no guarantee the prophet would survive the coming turmoil.

By having everything written down, God ensured that His message would endure—even if His messenger did not.

In both cases, the written word would preserve God's warning, call to repentance, and promise of judgment, standing as a lasting testimony to His will and justice.

The Lord said that if the people of Judah would listen to these words and repent, He would forgive them.

However, this offer was not made with great expectation.

God already knew that the people of Judah would not turn back.

Even so, He could not give up on His people and offered them one final opportunity to repent.

(Jeremiah 36:3) Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about every disaster I plan to inflict on them, they will each turn from their wicked ways; then I will forgive their wickedness and their sin.”

God earnestly hoped that the people of Judah might hear the words of warning about all the disasters He had proclaimed and turn from their evil ways—because He deeply desired to forgive their sins, no matter what it took.

Jeremiah summoned Baruch, the son of Neriah, his scribe, and dictated to him all the words of the Lord, which Baruch wrote on a scroll.

Since Jeremiah was under restriction and could not go to the temple, he instructed Baruch to go in his place and read the scroll aloud in the house of the Lord on a day of fasting.

The temple was the most fitting place to proclaim the word of the Lord, and the day of fasting was the perfect occasion, as it would gather many people together.

(Jeremiah 36:4) So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and while Jeremiah dictated all the words the LORD had spoken to him, Baruch wrote them on the scroll.

(Jeremiah 36:5) Then Jeremiah told Baruch, “I am restricted; I am not allowed to go to the LORD’s temple.

(Jeremiah 36:6) So you go to the house of the LORD on a day of fasting and read to the people from the scroll the words of the LORD that you wrote as I dictated. Read them to all the people of Judah who come in from their towns.

(Jeremiah 36:7) Perhaps they will bring their petition before the LORD and will each turn from their wicked ways, for the anger and wrath pronounced against this people by the LORD are great.”

(Jeremiah 36:8) Baruch son of Neriah did everything Jeremiah the prophet told him to do; at the LORD’s temple he read the words of the LORD from the scroll.

Baruch proclaimed them in the temple, which was filled with people who had gathered from every town in Judah for the day of fasting.

This day of fasting took place in the ninth month of the fifth year of King Jehoiakim’s reign.

It was around November or December of 604 BC in the Gregorian (solar) calendar.

(Jeremiah 36:9) In the ninth month of the fifth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, a time of fasting before the LORD was proclaimed for all the people in Jerusalem and those who had come from the towns of Judah.

(Jeremiah 36:10) From the room of Gemariah son of Shaphan the secretary, which was in the upper courtyard at the entrance of the New Gate of the temple, Baruch read to all the people at the LORD’s temple the words of Jeremiah from the scroll.

It is assumed that the reason the residents of Jerusalem and all the people of Judah proclaimed a fast and gathered together was because they felt a sense of crisis after seeing King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon invade and destroy Ashkelon in Palestine.

Upon hearing the words of the Lord read aloud by Baruch, Micaiah son of Gemariah went down to the scribe’s chamber in the royal palace, into the room of Elishama the secretary.

There, he reported everything he had heard to the officials who were gathered.

(Jeremiah 36:11) When Micaiah son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan, heard all the words of the LORD from the scroll,

(Jeremiah 36:12) he went down to the secretary's room in the royal palace, where all the officials were sitting: Elishama the secretary, Delaiah son of Shemaiah, Elnathan son of Akbor, Gemariah son of Shaphan, Zedekiah son of Hananiah, and all the other officials.

(Jeremiah 36:13) After Micaiah told them everything he had heard Baruch read to the people from the scroll,

Upon hearing Micaiah's report, the officials sent Jehudi to Baruch to bring the scroll that had been read aloud to the people.

When Baruch brought it, they had him read it again in their presence.

(Jeremiah 36:14) all the officials sent Jehudi son of Nethaniah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Cushi, to say to Baruch, "Bring the scroll from which you have read to the people and come." So Baruch son of Neriah went to them with the scroll in his hand.

(Jeremiah 36:15) They said to him, "Sit down, please, and read it to us."

So Baruch read it to them.

After hearing Baruch's reading, the officials sensed the seriousness of the situation and decided to report everything to the king.

(Jeremiah 36:16) When they heard all these words, they looked at each other in fear and said to Baruch, "We must report all these words to the king."

(Jeremiah 36:17) Then they asked Baruch, "Tell us, how did you come to write all this? Did Jeremiah dictate it?"

(Jeremiah 36:18) "Yes," Baruch replied, "he dictated all these words to me, and I wrote them in ink on the scroll."

(Jeremiah 36:19) Then the officials said to Baruch, "You and Jeremiah, go and hide. Don't let anyone know where you are."

Before reporting to the king, the officials, realizing that the source of the scroll's message was Jeremiah, advised Baruch to hide with him in a place unknown to anyone.

This shows that the officials were convinced the king would not repent after hearing the contents of the scroll.

Nevertheless, because the matter was so serious, they could not help but report it to the king.

The officials left the scroll in the room of Elishama the scribe and went to the king.

It seems they wanted to keep the scroll safe.

However, upon hearing about it, the king sent Jehudi to bring the scroll and had it read aloud.

(Jeremiah 36:20) After they put the scroll in the room of Elishama the secretary, they went to the king in the courtyard and reported everything to him.

(Jeremiah 36:21) The king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and Jehudi brought it from the room of Elishama the secretary and read it to the king and all the officials standing beside him.

(Jeremiah 36:22) It was the ninth month and the king was sitting in the winter apartment, with a fire burning in the firepot in front of him.

(Jeremiah 36:23) Whenever Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with a scribe's knife and threw them into the firepot, until the entire scroll was burned in the fire.

(Jeremiah 36:24) The king and all his attendants who heard all these words showed no fear, nor did they tear their clothes.

(Jeremiah 36:25) Even though Elnathan, Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them.

(Jeremiah 36:26) Instead, the king commanded Jerahmeel, a son of the king, Seraiah son of Azriel and Shelemiah son of Abdeel to arrest Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet. But the LORD had hidden them.



However, the response of the king and his officials to God's warning was shocking. Instead of being gripped with fear, King Jehoiakim took a knife and cut off each portion of the scroll as it was read, throwing the pieces into the fire burning in front of him.

His actions were not only a blatant disregard for the curses written in the scroll but a deliberate attempt to nullify them altogether.

As the officials had feared, the king ordered that the scribe Baruch and the prophet Jeremiah be arrested.

Yet among them were a few who feared God—Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah. These men bravely attempted to stop the king, risking their own safety to confront his wrongdoing.

In doing so, King Jehoiakim trampled upon the authority of the LORD and forfeited what could have been Judah's final chance for deliverance.

This stands in stark contrast to King Josiah, Jehoiakim's father.

The book of 2 Kings records in detail how King Josiah responded with deep humility and repentance when he heard the word of the LORD.

(2Kings 22:11) When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes.

(2Kings 22:12) He gave these orders to Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Akbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king's attendant:

(2Kings 22:13) "Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the LORD's anger that burns against us because those who have gone before us have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us."

(2Kings 22:14) Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Akbor, Shaphan and Asaiah went to speak to the prophet Huldah, who was the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the New Quarter.

(2Kings 22:15) She said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Tell the man who sent you to me,

(2Kings 22:16) ‘This is what the LORD says: I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people, according to everything written in the book the king of Judah has read.

(2Kings 22:17) Because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods and aroused my anger by all the idols their hands have made, my anger will burn against this place and will not be quenched.’

(2Kings 22:18) Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says concerning the words you heard:

(2Kings 22:19) Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people—that they would become a curse and be laid waste—and because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I also have heard you, declares the LORD.

(2Kings 22:20) Therefore I will gather you to your ancestors, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place.’”

So they took her answer back to the king.

Unlike King Jehoiakim, King Josiah responded with reverent fear when Shaphan read the Book of the Law that the priest Hilkiah had found during the temple repairs.

He tore his clothes and wept in anguish, then sent messengers to the prophetess Huldah to inquire of the LORD.

Jehoiakim may have thought that by burning the scroll, he could nullify God's pronouncement of Judah's destruction.

But burning the scroll did not—and could not—cancel the power or truth of God's word.

The word of the LORD stands firm and will be fulfilled without the slightest deviation.

God then commanded Jeremiah to take another scroll and write on it all the words that had been in the first scroll, which Jehoiakim had burned.

(Jeremiah 36:27) After the king burned the scroll containing the words that Baruch had written at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: (Jeremiah 36:28) "Take another scroll and write on it all the words that were on the first scroll, which Jehoiakim king of Judah burned up.

Then God pronounced judgment upon King Jehoiakim for burning the scroll:

1. He would have no successor to sit on the throne of David.
2. He would be denied a royal burial, receiving no honors befitting a king—his body would be discarded, exposed to the heat by day and the frost by night.
3. God would bring upon him, his descendants, his officials, and all the people of Jerusalem and Judah every disaster He had declared through the prophet Jeremiah.

(Jeremiah 36:29) Also tell Jehoiakim king of Judah, 'This is what the LORD says: You burned that scroll and said, "Why did you write on it that the king of Babylon would certainly come and destroy this land and wipe from it both man and beast?"

(Jeremiah 36:30) Therefore this is what the LORD says about Jehoiakim king of Judah: He will have no one to sit on the throne of David; his body will be thrown out and exposed to the heat by day and the frost by night.

According to the word of the Lord, Jehoiakim's descendants did not sit on David's throne, and he died a shameful death.

His son, Jehoiachin, reigned only three months before being deposed and taken into exile, where he eventually died in captivity.

Jehoiakim's body was not even buried.

In 586 BC, as foretold, Judah was completely destroyed by Babylon.

Because of the king's corrupt faith and failed leadership, the people of Jerusalem and all Judah were brought to ruin.

Jeremiah gave Baruch another scroll, and had him write down everything again—every word that had been spoken by the Lord.

(Jeremiah 36:32) So Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to the scribe Baruch son of Neriah, and as Jeremiah dictated, Baruch wrote on it all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And many similar words were added to them.

The second scroll, which was newly written, included not only the content of the first scroll but also new words given by God.

God's word cannot be erased or silenced.

It will stand firm and be fulfilled without fail.

Beloved members of Church of God Dreams,

Because of the rebellion of King Jehoiakim of Judah, the nation lost its opportunity for salvation and was utterly destroyed.

The judgment extended not only to the king and his descendants but also to all the residents of Jerusalem and the people of Judah.

From a small unit like a family to a large structure like a nation, the importance of leadership cannot be overstated.

The rise or fall of any organization is deeply influenced by the kind of faith and values its leader upholds.

June 3 is the day when our homeland, the Republic of Korea, will elect its highest leader, the President.

For Korea to rise again from its crisis, we must elect someone who fears God, who is honest, diligent, decisive, and capable.

Thankfully, God has raised up a person who can bring hope to Korea, which had seemed to have no alternatives and was in despair.

To a rebellious Korea, deserving of destruction, God has given one final opportunity.

Now let us all wake up and turn away from evil.

Let us set aside our personal interests and choose a leader who fears God and walks uprightly.

Only then will Korea live, and we will live.

If we turn from our wicked ways, God will see our repentance and raise up Korea once again.