

# “Jehoiakim's Reaction to God's Word”

## Jer. 36:1-3

### Introduction

- I. The southern kingdom of Judah had fallen into sin like their northern neighbors in Israel.
- II. Before being taken into Babylonian captivity, God sent prophets to foretell of their destruction unless they repented.
- III. The reaction of Jehoiakim is indicative of the attitude and disposition of so many in Judah.

### Discussion

- I. Jehoiakim tried to destroy the Word of God.
  - A. The LORD commanded Jeremiah to write of Judah's impending destruction (Jer. 36:1-2).
  - B. An opportunity to repent is extended by God (Jer. 36:3).
  - C. Jeremiah used a scribe to record the message that God had given (Jer. 36:4, 18).
  - D. Jeremiah then commanded Baruch to read God's message in the Temple (Jer. 36:5-6).
  - E. Again, the opportunity to repent is extended (Jer. 36:7).
  - F. Baruch faithfully obeys Jeremiah's command (Jer. 36:8-10).
  - G. A man named Micaiah heard Baruch read, and then went to tell people in the king's house (Jer. 36:11-13).
  - H. It was then that Baruch was called to bring the scroll to the king's house (Jer. 36:14-15).
  - I. Fear was the reaction to the prophecy (Jer. 36:16).
  - J. Baruch explains how he came to possess the scroll, and some encouraged Baruch and Jeremiah to hide (Jer. 36:17-19).
  - K. Word finally made to Jehoiakim, and he wanted the scroll read in his presence (Jer. 36:20-21).
  - L. It did not take Jehoiakim long to get his fill of the prophecy, and as such he cut the scroll and placed it in fire (Jer. 36:22-23).
  - M. Even though some attempted to dissuade Jehoiakim, the scroll was burned (Jer. 36:24-25).
  - N. After an attempt to have Jeremiah and Baruch arrested, God commanded a second scroll to be written with extra words (Jer. 36:26-31).
- II. What can we glean from this account of history?
  - A. God warns the wicked, and gives them an opportunity to repent (Luke 13:1-5; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).
  - B. People still want to get rid of God's Word today, but God's Word will stand (Matt. 24:35; 1 Pet. 1:22-25).
  - C. We should readily accept the Word of God and render obedience to It (Matt. 7:21-23; James 1:21-22).

### Conclusion

- I. Jehoiakim is a poignant example of how not to react to God's Word.
- II. Let us make sure that we learn from his mistake so that we do not repeat it.