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Jeremiah's Scroll

(Based on Jeremiah 36 & 45 and 2 Kings 24:1-6)



There was a time when most of the people in the kingdom of Judah had stopped worshipping God and they were worshipping idols. They also were doing very bad things.

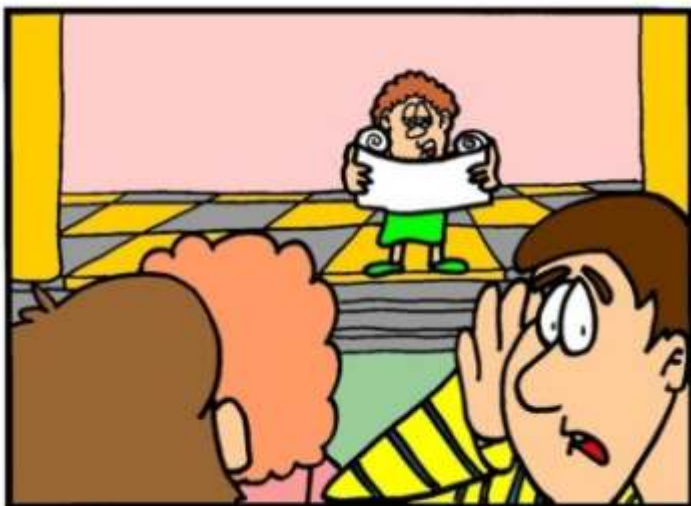
During the time when Jehoiakim was the King of Judah, God told a young priest named Jeremiah to get a scroll and write all of God's warnings about the bad things that were going to happen. Jeremiah said the words and Baruch his secretary wrote them down.





"Baruch", said Jeremiah. "God has a special message for you. You are saying, 'I am so sad. The Lord is making my life harder and harder.' The Lord says, 'Don't make big plans for yourself because bad things are coming on all these people. But everywhere you go I will protect you and give you your life as a prize.'

Baruch, I have been banned from the temple", said Jeremiah. "You must be the one to take the scroll and read it to all the people in the temple. Maybe they will cry out to the Lord for forgiveness and stop doing their bad things."



Baruch obeyed and went on the special prayer day. Many people were at the temple. He read the scroll out loud and that day one of the King's helpers was listening.

"Come with me," pleaded the King's helper. "All the other princes and helpers must hear the message on that scroll."



Baruch sat down and read the scroll. The princes and helpers were very afraid when they heard about the bad things that were going happen.

"Baruch, you and Prophet Jeremiah must go into hiding," said the King's helpers. "We will take this scroll to the King".

The king's helper began to read the scroll but before he was finished, King Jehoiakim took his knife, cut the scroll into pieces and threw it on the fire. The servants begged him not to do it, but the King did it anyway. He was not afraid of God's message.





"Arrest Baruch and Jeremiah!" shouted the King. But no one could find them.

God told Jeremiah to take a scroll and write the message again. Once more Baruch wrote the words with a special warning to King Jehoiakim that he and his friends would be punished.



Before long Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came and he made himself the boss over King Jehoiakim. This lasted for three years and then King Jehoiakim decided that he was not going to let Nebuchadnezzar be the boss over him any more. He led a revolt.

King Nebuchadnezzar tied Jehoiakim with fetters and carried him to the Kingdom of Babylon. Jehoiakim died.



HEY YOU!

Whoever God loves he corrects. We must be quick to change when God shows us that we are wrong. People like King Jehoiakim are headed for trouble.

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 29:1 He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall be destroyed and that without remedy.