

No Use Burning the Scroll Jeremiah 36

Introduction:

- I. In Jeremiah 36 we read about an interesting chain of events that took place.

Discussion:

- I. God has warned what he will do to those who do not obey the gospel.
 - a. In Jeremiah 36:2, God told Jeremiah to take a scroll and write down every warning that God had given him to that date. This was 20-30 years worth of prophecies.
 - i. The purpose of this was to get Judah to repent of their sins after hearing the disaster that was coming over them (3).
 - b. God has done the same thing for us today.
 - i. Acts 17:30-31 – God overlooked man’s ignorance of the gospel for a time, but now commands all men everywhere to repent!
 1. Paul continues by telling his Athenian audience that God has assured mankind that he will judge the world through Jesus Christ by raising him from the dead.
 - ii. Mark 16:15-16 – As many as believe and are baptized will be saved, and whoever does not believe will be condemned.
 1. There is no middle ground. If you obey the gospel, you will be saved. If you do not, you will be condemned. There is no middle ground.
 - iii. II Peter 2:17-21 – God has warned about false prophets and the destruction that will follow them and those who follow them.
 1. They are “wells without water,” “clouds driven by storm winds.”
 - a. They prophesy about things that do not come to pass. We see a spring and think there is water, or we see a storm coming and think it will rain, but it does not.
 - b. God warns that these false teachers and their followers will be in worse shape than if they had never heard the gospel (21).

(This means that we must listen to what the Bible says, rather than “burning the scroll.” In what ways do people burn the scroll today?)

- II. Several people “burn the scroll” and ignore God’s word, both the instructions and warnings. God’s word will remain, and those who “burned the scroll” still will not escape its warnings.
 - a. In Jeremiah 36, King Jehoiakim burns every leaf of the manuscript that Jehudi read to him (the writings of Jeremiah), and Jeremiah, through the inspiration of God, rewrote the scroll and added many other similar words to it.
 - i. Do you see how much worse this made Judah’s fate? (Jer. 36:29-32)

1. God rejected Jehoiakim from being king and relegated his descendents for judgment, on top of what other things he had pronounced.
- b. How are we burning the Bible today?
 - i. We ignore it.
 1. If you do not read the Bible, you are burning the scroll.
 - a. How can you revere something that you rarely want to see?
 - b. How can you serve God without a daily dose of his word?
 2. II Timothy 3:15 – The Scriptures are able to make you wise *unto* salvation.
 - a. In other words, being wise in the Scriptures will lead you to be able to be saved. If that is the case, can we be saved without knowing the Scriptures?
 3. I have a poster hanging in my house signed by one of my favorite music groups. I have race tickets signed by NASCAR drivers. I know of people who have spent thousands of dollars for a baseball signed by a “Babe Ruth.” Why are these things so valuable to us?
 - a. They were written by the hand of famous people.
 - b. Who wrote the Bible? Is God not more important than music? Is he not more important than sports events?
 - c. I honestly believe that the reason we do not immerse ourselves in the Bible like we should is because *we have forgotten that God himself wrote it!*
 - ii. We do not give it the first place in our lives.
 1. We let ourselves not have time for the Bible, because we think other things are more important.
 - a. The Church of Christ in the 1950s was known as “People of the Book,” because members of the church knew the Bible from cover to cover.
 - i. Now we struggle with knowing the names of the books of the Bible! How could this happen?
 - b. We may blame this on our poor memories, or our fast-paced society, but this is not a plausible answer.
 - c. We remember song lyrics.
 - d. We remember what is going on around us, especially the gossip that is not our business in the first place.
 - e. We remember politics, TV shows, etc., but we do not remember the Bible.
 - i. WE HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD!!!
 2. We forget that God must have first place, or he will have no place in our lives.
 - a. Matthew 22:37
 - b. Matthew 6:33
 - c. Ephesians 4:6
 3. If we let other things come before God and our obedience to his will,, we are burning the scroll.

- iii. We do not assemble to study it with other Christians.
 - 1. In college, it is almost without exception that if you do not go to class, you will fail the class.
 - a. Why then do we not go to Bible class?
 - i. Acts 2:42-46
 - 1. Continued Steadfastly – You could not tear them away from the Bible, from coming together to study, or even from eating together!
 - 2. Feared God – They definitely gave him first place.
 - 3. Sold Possessions – The common good of the church outweighed personal property.
 - 4. Continued Daily – They did not just meet for one hour before worship on Sunday (“That’s not in the Bible”) and an hour on Wednesday. They met day after day in the temple, GLADLY, and ate together, studied together, and encouraged one another.
 - b. Hebrews 10:24-25 – Assembling together is given the same importance as faith (verses 19-22). Can we be saved without faith? Can we be saved without constant church attendance?
 - 2. If you regularly miss church services, you are burning the scroll.
- iv. We refuse to become holy and change our sinful habits.
 - 1. Hebrews 12:1-2 – Since we have seen the faith of so many in the Bible (Hebrews 11), we must also do two things.
 - a. Lay aside every weight.
 - i. This refers to anything that prevents us from effectively doing what we are supposed to do.
 - 1. This might be laziness.
 - 2. This might be attitudes.
 - 3. This might be certain responsibilities.
 - 4. This might be addictions.
 - ii. Whatever it is that prevents you from running the Christian race must be set aside.
 - b. Lay aside the sin.
 - i. Is it interesting to you that this is worded as “*the* sin?” Each of us has at least one major weakness that is very difficult for us.
 - 1. This might be foul language.
 - 2. This might be sexual temptation.
 - 3. This might be selfishness.
 - ii. Anything that easily gets in our way of being perfect could be “the sin.”
 - 1. Jesus is the “author and finisher.”

- a. He begins it and works it unto perfection.
 - v. We put off making our lives right.
 - 1. Knowing and doing are two different things.
 - a. Felix 24:22-25
 - i. Felix had a complete knowledge of “the Way,” and yet he told Paul, “I will call for you when it is convenient.”
 - 1. convenient – Latin *con*, “together, with,” and *venere*, “to come.”
 - a. “When everything comes together, I will call for you.”
 - ii. If we wait for our lives to come together before God enters, we are wasting our time.
 - 1. 127:1 – Unless the Lord builds the house, the laborers build in vain.
 - a. Unless God builds your life from its broken mess, your work will be in vain. We must *start* with God.

Conclusion:

- I. Like Jehoiakim, who burned Jeremiah’s scroll, we will lead ourselves and our loved ones toward destruction if we do not take heed to these things.