

Lesson VII. JEHOIAKIM BURNS THE PROPHET'S BOOK August 13, 1911

Jeremiah 36 : 20-32. Study Jeremiah, ch 36—Memory Verses, 23, 24.

Golden Text—The word of our God shall stand for ever.—Isaiah 40 : 8.

20 And they went in to the king into the court, but they laid up the roll in the chamber of Eli'shama the scribe, and told all the words in the ears of the king.

21 So the king sent Jehu'di to fetch the roll : and he took it out of Eli'shama the scribe's chamber. And Jehu'di read it in the ears of the king, and in the ears of all the princes which stood beside the king.

22 Now the king sat in the winterhouse in the ninth month : and there was a fire on the hearth burning before him.

23 And it came to pass, that when Jehu'di had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.

24 Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, neither the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words.

25 Nevertheless, Elna'than and Delai'ah and Gemari'ah had made intercession to the king that he would not burn the roll : but he would not hear them.

26 But the king commanded Jerai'meel the son of Ham'melech, and Sera'i'ah the son of Az'riel, and Shelemi'ah the son of Ab'dee, to take Bar'uch the scribe and Jeremi'ah the prophet : but the LORD hid them.

27 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremi'ah, after that the king had burned the roll, and the words which Bar'uch wrote at the mouth of Jeremi'ah, saying,

28 Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Ju'dah hath burned.

29 And thou shalt say to Jehoi'akim king of Ju'dah, Thus saith the LORD : Thou hast burned this roll, saying, Why hast thou written therein, saying, The king of Bab'ylon shall certainly come and destroy this land, and shall cause to cease from thence man and beast ?

30 Therefore thus saith the LORD of Jehoi'akim king of Ju'dah : He shall have none to sit upon the throne of Da'vid : and his dead body shall be cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost.

31 And I will punish him and his seed and his servants for their iniquity ; and I will bring upon them, and upon the inhabitants of Jeru'salem, and upon the men of Ju'dah, all the evil that I have pronounced against them ; but they hearkened not.

32 Then took Jeremi'ah another roll, and gave it to Bar'uch the scribe, the son of Neri'ah ; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremi'ah all the words of the book which Jehoi'akim king of Ju'dah had burned in the fire : and there were added besides unto them many like words.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When King Jehoiakim had reigned four years, the Lord spake again to the prophet Jeremiah and commanded him to have written down in a book all the punishments that were coming upon the children of Israel.

So Jeremiah called to him a man named Baruch, who was a scribe or writer, and Baruch wrote down the words as Jeremiah spoke them. Afterwards Jeremiah told him to go and read them to the people. So Baruch took the book to the temple and read it aloud where all the people could hear.

The princes of the king's palace heard of the book, and sent for Baruch to come, and read it to them also. So he took the roll in his hand and went to the palace. And the princes said to him, "Sit down now, and read it to us." But when they heard all the things that the Lord had spoken against

the children of Israel, and of the dreadful punishments He was going to send upon them, they were afraid, and said, "Tell us how it was that you got these words." And Baruch answered, "Jeremiah spoke them to me with his mouth, and I wrote them down with ink in the book." Then the princes said to Baruch, "We must tell the king of this, but do you and Jeremiah go away and hide in some safe place, lest the king seek to harm you."

So the princes came to King Jehoiakim and told him about the book, and immediately the king sent an officer to bring it to him. And when the officer brought it, he read it before them all. Now it was winter, and the king sat beside a fire that was burning on the hearth. And when the officer had read three or four leaves of the book, the king took his