

## 23.04 Jehoiakim Burns the Bible (Jeremiah 36:1–32; 45:1–5)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud; they also show answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- (optional) A fire pot, found in garden stores and used outside; obviously, no fire will be in the pot
- A “scroll” with 3 columns of print per page; a knife to cut the scroll. (See document 23.04a to access and print this “scroll.”)
- Sweet Publishing pictures may be found at [FreeBibleimages :: King Jehoiakim burns Jeremiah's scroll :: Baruch, Jeremiah and the scroll King Jehoiakim burnt \(2 Kings 23:28-24:20, Jeremiah 36:1-32\)](#).

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *secretary*: a person to help a boss. A secretary takes dictation, i.e., he writes down what the boss dictates, or says to write. King Jehoiakim had several secretaries.
- *to fast*: to go without eating in order to pray and seek God’s will
- *mercy*: giving blessing to someone who deserves punishment

### Scripture: (ESV)

Jeremiah 36:1 In the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 2 “Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah until today. 3 It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the disaster that I intend to do to them, so that every one may turn from his evil way, and that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.”

4 Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the Lord that he had spoken to him. 5 And Jeremiah ordered Baruch, saying, “I am banned from going to the house of the Lord, 6 so you are to go, and on a day of fasting in the hearing of all the people in the Lord’s house you shall read the words of the Lord from the scroll that you have written at my dictation. You shall read them also in the hearing of all the men of Judah who come out of their cities. 7 It may be that their plea for mercy will come before the Lord, and that every one will turn from his evil way, for great is the anger and wrath that the Lord has pronounced against this people.” 8 And Baruch the son of Neriah did all that Jeremiah the prophet ordered him about reading from the scroll the words of the Lord in the Lord’s house.

9 In the fifth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, in the ninth month, all the people in Jerusalem and all the people who came from the cities of Judah to Jerusalem proclaimed a fast before the Lord. 10 Then, in the hearing of all the people, Baruch read the words of Jeremiah from the scroll, in the house of the Lord, in the chamber of Gemariah the son of Shaphan the secretary, which was in the upper court, at the entry of the New Gate of the Lord’s house.

11 When Micaiah the son of Gemariah, son of Shaphan, heard all the words of the Lord from the scroll, 12 he went down to the king’s house, into the secretary’s chamber, and all the officials were sitting there: Elishama the secretary, Delaiah the son of Shemaiah, Elnathan the son of Achbor, Gemariah the son of Shaphan, Zedekiah the son of Hananiah, and all the officials. 13 And Micaiah told them all the words that he had heard, when Baruch read the scroll in the hearing of the people. 14 Then all the officials sent Jehudi the son of Nethaniah, son of Shelemiah, son of Cushi, to say to Baruch, “Take in your hand the scroll that you read in the hearing of

the people, and come.” So Baruch the son of Neriah took the scroll in his hand and came to them. 15 And they said to him, “Sit down and read it.” So Baruch read it to them. 16 When they heard all the words, they turned one to another in fear. And they said to Baruch, “We must report all these words to the king.” 17 Then they asked Baruch, “Tell us, please, how did you write all these words? Was it at his dictation?” 18 Baruch answered them, “He dictated all these words to me, while I wrote them with ink on the scroll.” 19 Then the officials said to Baruch, “Go and hide, you and Jeremiah, and let no one know where you are.”

20 So they went into the court to the king, having put the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the secretary, and they reported all the words to the king. 21 Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the secretary. And Jehudi read it to the king and all the officials who stood beside the king. 22 It was the ninth month, and the king was sitting in the winter house, and there was a fire burning in the fire pot before him. 23 As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a knife and throw them into the fire in the fire pot, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the fire pot. 24 Yet neither the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words was afraid, nor did they tear their garments. 25 Even when Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them. 26 And the king commanded Jerahmeel the king’s son and Seraiah the son of Azriel and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel to seize Baruch the secretary and Jeremiah the prophet, but the Lord hid them.

27 Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words that Baruch wrote at Jeremiah’s dictation, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: 28 “Take another scroll and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned. 29 And concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah you shall say, ‘Thus says the Lord, You have burned this scroll, saying, Why have you written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and will cut off from it man and beast? 30 Therefore thus says the Lord concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: He shall have none to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat by day and the frost by night. 31 And I will punish him and his offspring and his servants for their iniquity. I will bring upon them and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem and upon the people of Judah all the disaster that I have pronounced against them, but they would not hear.’”

32 Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, who wrote on it at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And many similar words were added to them.

45:1 The word that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch the son of Neriah, when he wrote these words in a book at the dictation of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: 2 “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch: 3 You said, ‘Woe is me! For the Lord has added sorrow to my pain. I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest.’ 4 Thus shall you say to him, Thus says the Lord: Behold, what I have built I am breaking down, and what I have planted I am plucking up—that is, the whole land. 5 And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not, for behold, I am bringing disaster upon all flesh, declares the Lord. But I will give you your life as a prize of war in all places to which you may go.”

### **Introduction/Review:**

[Teach concerning the preservation of the Word of God.] Throughout history some surfaces for writing and people who used them have included stone tablets (God during Moses’ life), handwritten scrolls on papyrus (Baruch in today’s story), clay tablets (the Apostle Paul), copying by hand on paper (monks of old time), and paper printed by machines (after Johannes Gutenberg invented a printing press with movable metal type).

About seventeen years before today’s story takes place, King Josiah had found God’s Law in the Temple. When he had heard it read to him, the king had torn his clothes, repenting of the sins of the people and asking God for mercy. This was the proper response to hearing God’s word. God granted Josiah mercy.

Now, about seventeen years later, as we learned in last week’s story, King Nebuchadnezzar had come from Babylon; besieged Jerusalem; and taken some of the best young men of the land, including Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. We learned last week about their refusing to eat King Nebuchadnezzar’s food and about God’s favor upon them for obeying God.

Nebuchadnezzar had left King Jehoiakim to rule in Jerusalem, provided he would do what Nebuchadnezzar wanted him to do.

Before Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem, God had told Jeremiah, the prophet, to go into the court of the Temple and warn the people that Jerusalem would be destroyed if they did not repent of their idol worship. Jeremiah had done exactly as God said, but people who heard Jeremiah's message did not like it and wanted to slay Jeremiah. God, however, saved Jeremiah's life.

## Story:

### *Writing the scroll*

Now Jeremiah was no longer allowed to go to the court of the Temple, but God still wanted to give the people His message. God told Jeremiah to take a scroll and write down all the words God had given him since he had become a prophet. Our gracious and merciful God was giving every opportunity for the people to repent and turn from their false worship. He told Jeremiah that the reason Jeremiah was to write all these prophecies was, "It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I intend to do to them, so that every one may turn from his evil way, and that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin."

If it had been I instead of God giving this message, I probably would have said, "You deserve my punishment; it's time to die!" But God said, "Here's another chance to change your minds before I bring destruction upon you." Oh, what a compassionate God we serve!

Jeremiah ✓ remembered all the things God had told him to tell the people. With God's direction he dictated, and a secretary named Baruch ["BEAR uk"] wrote down in a scroll exactly what God had spoken to Jeremiah. ✓ This writing took about a year to finish. After all, since Jeremiah had begun prophesying in the thirteenth year of good King Josiah's rule, at least twenty-two years' worth of God's prophecies needed to be recorded.

### *Reading the scroll*

When the scroll was complete, Jeremiah instructed Baruch, "I am not allowed to go to the House of the Lord; so you are to go. On a day of fasting in the hearing of all the people in the Lord's house, you, Baruch, shall read the words of the Lord from the scroll that you have penned. Read these words to all the men of Judah who come out of their cities." Then Jeremiah adds what God had already said was the purpose of this writing: "It may be that their plea for mercy will come before the Lord, and that everyone will turn from his evil way. For great is the anger that the Lord has pronounced against this people."

What was it that God had pronounced against the people that showed His wrath? [That the city would be destroyed.] Yet Jeremiah was saying God would still grant mercy to those who deserved wrath if they would turn from their evil ways. What mercy!

It was winter time. People who had fire pots in their houses, warmed themselves by them. Many people were not in their houses, however, for they had gone to the Temple in Jerusalem where a fast before the Lord had been proclaimed. ✓ Perhaps they prayed because they disliked Nebuchadnezzar's rule over them. Whatever the reason, this was Baruch's opportunity to read Jeremiah's scroll. He stood above the people in a room belonging to Gemariah ["guem ah RI uh"] near the New Gate to the Temple. Gemariah wasn't home, for he, a secretary for the king, was at the king's house. Baruch stood where everyone could hear him, and he read and read and read God's prophecies of destruction.

### *Reporting the reading*

Michaiah ["mih KY uh"], Gemariah's son, heard this reading and was alarmed! He ✓ ran to the king's house to the room where all the secretaries were assembled and told all those secretaries and officials the words Baruch had read to the people. This caused concern among those secretaries and officials. Wanting to hear Baruch's words for themselves, they sent Jehudi ["jeh HEW dee"], a servant close to the king, to Baruch.

"Bring your scroll that you read to all the people, and come with me," ordered Jehudi. Baruch did as Jehudi

instructed.

When Baruch reached the room, the secretaries and officials said, “Sit down (like a teacher) and read the scroll.” Baruch did so. As he read, the secretaries and officials looked at one another in fear. When Baruch had finished reading, they said, “We must report all these words to the king. Now, how did you happen to write all these words?”

Baruch answered, “Jeremiah dictated them to me, and I wrote them with ink on the scroll.”

The secretaries and officials said to Baruch, “You and Jeremiah need to go hide somewhere. Don’t tell anyone where you are.” Then they took the scroll and put it in the room of one of the secretaries.

### ***Reading to Jehoiakim***

Going to the king, these men reported to him all that they had heard.

“Jehudi!” commanded King Jehoiakim, “go get that scroll!” Jehudi went to the secretary’s room, got the scroll, brought it back to the king, and began reading it to the king and the officials standing beside the king. Remember, it was winter; King Jehoiakim’s fire pot was ablaze to keep him warm.

Jehudi read three or four columns of writing including the words, “God will destroy Jerusalem. . . .”

✓“Let me see that,” commanded the king. “Where were you reading?”

✓“Right here—these three columns,” answered Jehudi.

[Teacher, use the method of drama here. Let a student be Jehudi and you be Jehoiakim. Jehudi will hold your prepared scroll. Perhaps in your portrayal of Jehoiakim, you could look as if you are interested to read. Then change your demeanor as you actually cut off parts of the scroll.]

### ***Burning the scroll***

Jehoiakim took out a knife and cut out those three columns and threw them into the fire, where they were burned.

Jehudi read three or four more columns of writing.

✓“Let me see that,” commanded the king. “Where were you reading?”

✓“Right here—these three columns,” answered Jehudi. Jehoiakim again took out a knife and cut out those three columns and threw them into the fire, where they were burned.

Again and again Jehudi read. Again and again Jehoiakim cut out the columns of writing until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire. As this was happening, some of the secretaries urged the king not to burn the scroll, but he would not listen to them. The other officials just looked on without a word, not even a bit afraid for what God had said to them in the scroll.

Oh, what a difference between wicked King Jehoiakim and good King Josiah! Will God let Jehoiakim get by with his total disrespect for God’s Word? Absolutely not!

### ***Hiding Jeremiah and Baruch***

When the entire scroll was burned, King Jehoiakim ordered, “Find Jeremiah. Find Baruch. ✓Bring them to me that I might slay them.”

“But,” the Bible says, “the Lord hid them.” Jeremiah and Baruch were safe because God Himself hid them from Jehoiakim.

### ***Rewriting the scroll***

Was God’s Word gone forever? No, for God told Jeremiah again, “Take another scroll and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned. And ✓add this

concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: ‘Thus says the Lord, You have burned this scroll, saying, “Why have you written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and will cut off from it man and beast? Therefore, thus says the Lord concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah” (notice, King Jehoiakim’s punishment here): “He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat by day and the frost by night. And I will punish him and his offspring and his servants for their iniquity. I will bring upon them and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem and \*Judah all the disaster that I have pronounced against them, but they would not hear.”’

### ***Cursing Jehoiakim***

These words of punishment are sometimes called “Jehoiakim’s curse,” especially the words that Jehoiakim would have no one to sit on the throne of David. We will learn more about this curse when we study the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. For now, you can see that God was very displeased with Jehoiakim. I hope you are too. In my opinion, this is one of the saddest stories in the Bible—about a man so disrespectful of God as to burn God’s Word.

Jeremiah did take another scroll. He dictated again, and Baruch wrote down all the words of Jeremiah. This scroll had even more in it than the first.

### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- We see Jesus:  
Jesus Christ, although a descendant of David, bypassed Jehoiakim’s curse. He will be King forever and ever.
- No matter what people may do to God’s Word—burn or disregard it—God will preserve it. “Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89). Some periods of history have had very few Bibles; yet, today God’s Word is in our hands.
- Be like Jeremiah and Baruch: love God’s Word. God will bless. Do not be like Jehoiakim and his officials who hated God’s Word. God will punish.

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: scrolls; fire pot; knife
- Snack: Pinwheels made to look like scrolls and cut in 2-inch lengths. A recipe may be found at [Quick Tortilla Pinwheels Recipe: How to Make It \(tasteofhome.com\)](http://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/Quick-Tortilla-Pinwheels-Recipe-How-to-Make-It).
- Dictate to students able to write a verse of Scripture, phrase by phrase, to show how difficult this job is.
- Review questions: (Game: A student who answers a question correctly gets to read a verse from a 3-column scroll—document 23:04a—of God’s warnings to Israel and Jehoiakim.)
  1. Since Jeremiah was no longer allowed in the court of the Temple, what did God tell him to do to speak to the people? [Write down God’s words in a scroll.]
  2. Who was Jeremiah’s secretary? [Baruch.]
  3. What was God’s reason for having the scroll written? (The answer begins with “It may be that . . .”) [“It may be that everyone will turn from his evil way.”]
  4. What would happen if God showed His wrath? [The city of Jerusalem would be destroyed.]
  5. What did King Jehoiakim do when he heard God’s Word? [Burned it piece by piece.]
  6. Was God’s Word through Jeremiah gone forever? Explain your answer. [No. Jeremiah dictated another scroll.]
  7. Tell about one of Jehoiakim’s punishments for disregarding God’s Word. [1. “He shall have no one

to sit on the throne of David”; 2. “His dead body shall be cast out to the heat by day and the frost by night”; 3. God would punish him and his offspring and his servants for their iniquity; 4. God would bring upon him and the people of Jerusalem and Judah all the disaster He had pronounced.]

### Memory Verse[s]:

- Psalm 139:1–18, 23, 24 (NKJV) A very nice song book with black-and-white visuals (I water colored mine) and a CD is available as a learning tool at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](http://thywordcreations.com). Learning this psalm may take six months or more. Some teachers think saying/singing the whole psalm every week is a good way to learn it. However, this Psalm 139 song book breaks the passage after verse 13; therefore, a suggestion is to work on verses 1–13 for thirteen weeks and then the rest of the psalm for an additional eight weeks or more. Take one or two lessons to say/sing the whole psalm.

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

<sup>2</sup>You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

<sup>3</sup>You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

<sup>5</sup>You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>*Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot *attain* it.

<sup>7</sup>Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

<sup>8</sup>If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

<sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

<sup>10</sup>Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

<sup>11</sup>If I say, “Surely the darkness shall fall on me,” Even the night shall be light about me;

<sup>12</sup>Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.

<sup>13</sup>For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb.

<sup>14</sup>I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

<sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

<sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.

<sup>17</sup>How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup>*If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. . . .

<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

<sup>24</sup>And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- Alternative verse: “Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89):

### Handwork:

- Print the coloring page found below for students to color. Another coloring page may be found at [Jehoiakim-burning-the-word.jpg \(2346x2296\) \(bethanybible.org\)](http://bethanybible.org).

**secretary**

**to fast**

**mercy**





**Papyri**  
P<sup>52</sup> (ca. 125) Jn. 18:31-33



**Stone**  
Rosetta Stone (2nd Century BC);  
Egyptian law in hieroglyphics and Greek



**Ostraka (pottery peices)**  
ZPE 18 tax receipt



**Wood**  
inv. 4533.10  
Wooden mummy tag for a woman named Anoubiaina



**Parchment**  
P.Mich.Inv. 1573 (5th Century) Ps. 3:3-8



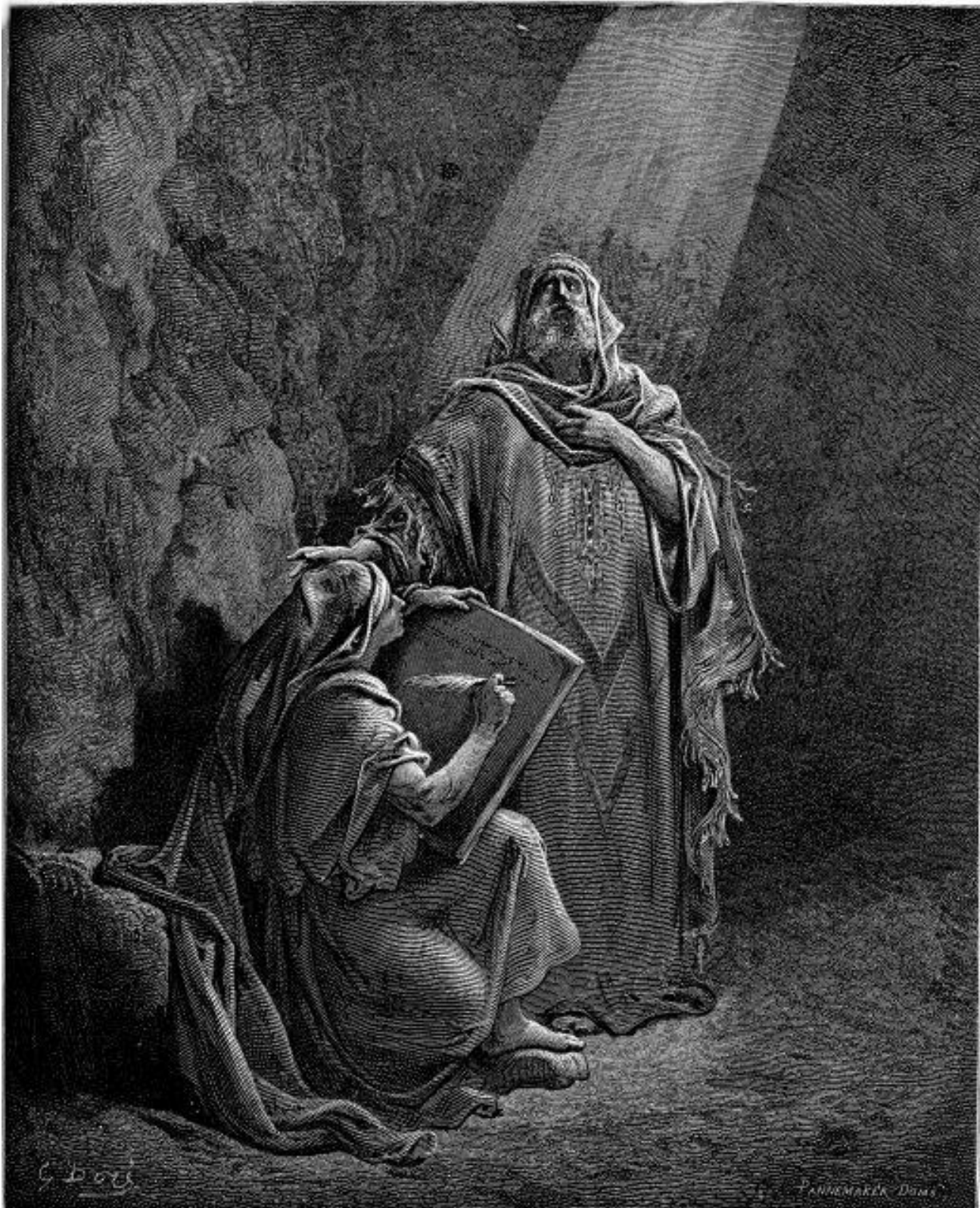
**Codex**  
"A" Vaticanus (350 AD); contains almost entire Bible  
(Lacks some Gen., 2 Kings, Heb. and Ps.; I and II Mach.; all of I and 2 Tim.; Titus.; Apoc.)





[jeremiahandrews.wordpress.com/.../](http://jeremiahandrews.wordpress.com/.../)

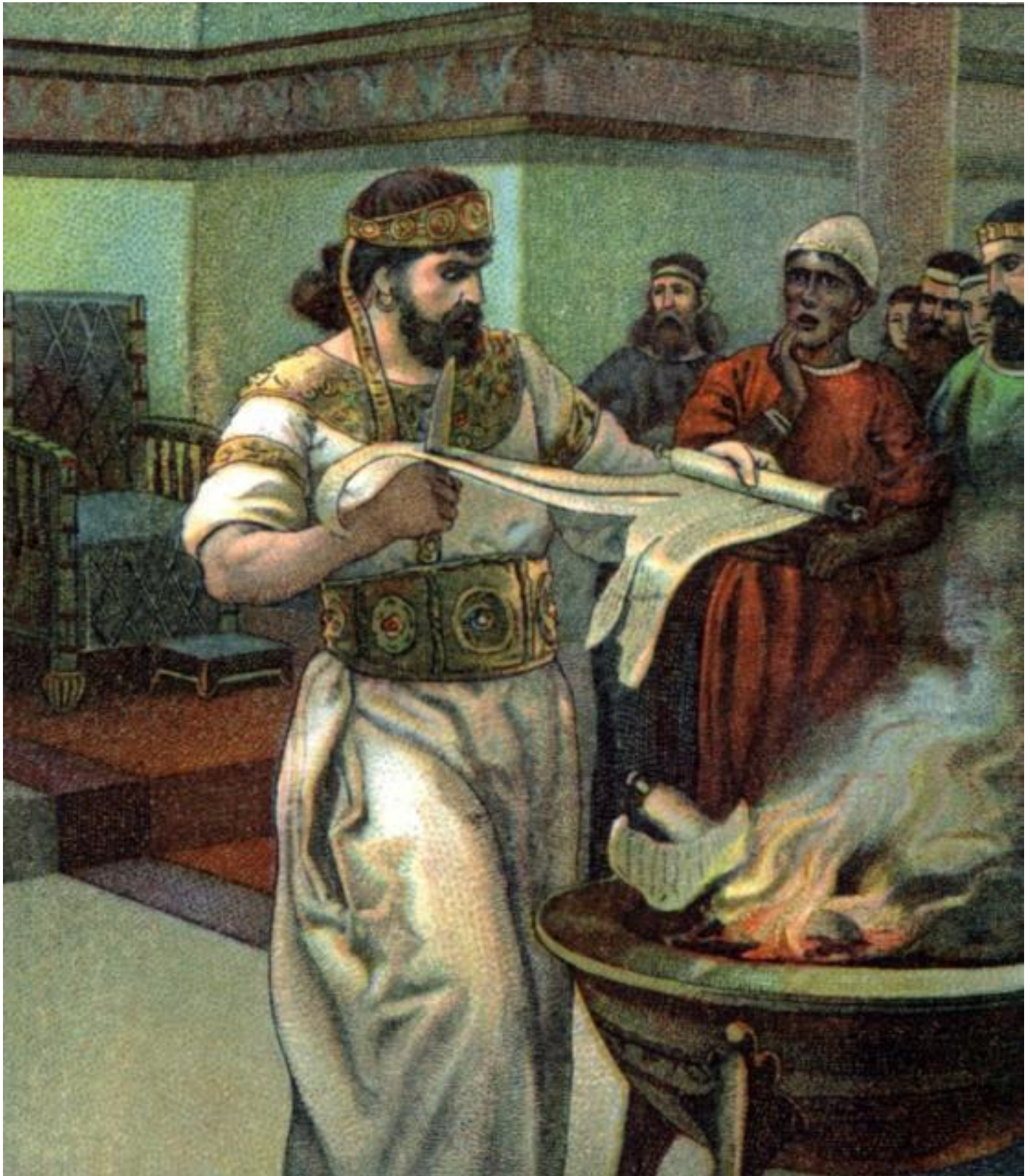
**"Baruch Writing Jeremiah's Prophecies" by Gustave Doré**



**Doré Bible Illustrations • Free to Copy**  
[www.creationism.org/images/](http://www.creationism.org/images/)

Jer 36:4 Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the Lord, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.





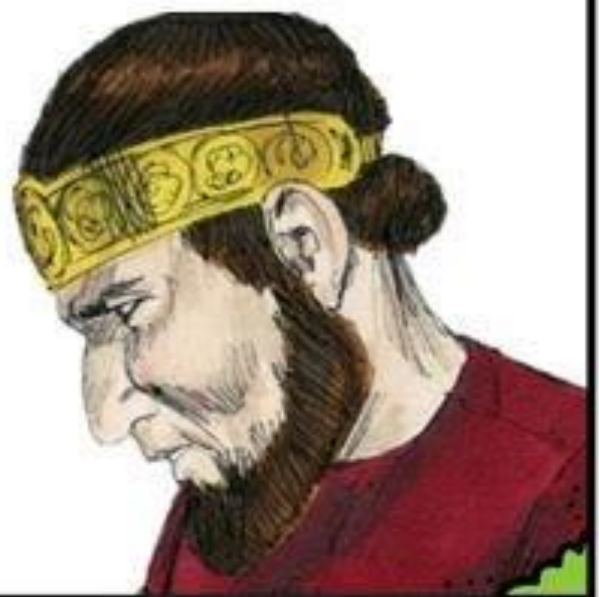
[http://freebibleillustrations.com/main.php/v/24\\_Jeremiah/24036001+C11+-+Jeremiah+36+1+-+Jehoiakim+burns+the+prophet\\_s+book.jpg.html](http://freebibleillustrations.com/main.php/v/24_Jeremiah/24036001+C11+-+Jeremiah+36+1+-+Jehoiakim+burns+the+prophet_s+book.jpg.html)

# King Jehoiakim of Judah

- He was 25 when he became the king
- Pharaoh Necho of Egypt changed his name from Eliakim to Jehoiakim
- When he heard what was written on Jeremiah's scroll, he cut it and threw it into the fire
- King Nebuchadnezzar took him hostage and took him to Babylon
- King for 11 years in Jerusalem



[www.biblefunforkids.com](http://www.biblefunforkids.com)







# The king destroys the scroll of God's Words.

Jeremiah 36:1-32

