

Subject: *God's Indestructible Word*

Scripture: *Jeremiah 36:1-8*

The Word of God is to some people the best loved and most cherished book, while to others it is the most hated and despised book. It comes as no surprise that everyone does not honor and respect the Bible. Some have tried to deny it, discredit it, displace it, distort it, and even destroy it. One person said the Bible surely cannot be destroyed because it has endured so much shoddy preaching. Throughout history many have attacked God's Word, but it still stands. Someone said that God's Word is the anvil that has worn out many hammers. In Jeremiah 36 we find the story of an evil king who tried to destroy God's Word, but found out it could not be done.

GOD'S WORD WAS WRITTEN (vs. 1-4)

God has preserved His Word in writing. One of the names of God's Word is the Scripture, which means "something written." When Jesus was tempted by Satan, three times He said, "It is written." God's Word has been recorded and written down for generations.

These words were not Jeremiah's words, but God's words (vs. 4). That's why we call the Bible the Word of God. **2 Timothy 3:16** *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

2 Peter 1:21 *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

GOD'S WORD WAS READ (vs. 5-21)

God meant for His Word to be read and heard. When we read the Bible goes to work in our lives. It's like seed. The seed must be taken out of the bag and planted in the ground.

1 Peter 1:23 *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.* We all need a new birth that comes from this old Book.

Romans 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

GOD'S WORD WAS REJECTED AND DESTROYED (vs. 22-26)

This story took place around 605 BC, during the reign of King Jehoiakim, at a time when the Babylonian attacked the Jews and carried many of them away as prisoners of war. The king and the people should have listened carefully to the message. In verses 5-10 Baruch read God's Word to all the people publicly, then in verses 11-19 he Baruch read it to the princes (leaders) privately, and finally in verses 20-21 a man named Jehudi read God's Word to the king.

When the king heard the Word he took a knife and cut out the pages and threw them into the fire because he didn't like what he heard. The message was about judgment that was sure to come and a call to repent of sin. There was an article in Thursday's edition of USA TODAY in which the story was told about 24-year old Isaac McCord, who was cleaning debris in Dollywood and found a page from the Bible that was scorched, but spared in the raging wildfire:

Joel 1:15 *Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.*

Joel 1:19 *O LORD, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field.*

This is the main reason why people reject God's Word: because it confronts their lifestyle and it commands them to repent and submit to God's authority. Mark Twain said, "The part of the Bible that bothers me is not the part I don't understand; it's the part I do understand."

GOD'S WORD WAS WRITTEN AGAIN (vs. 32)

The Bible cannot be destroyed. God told Jeremiah to write it down again and so he did. He even added a few more things that the Lord wanted him to record. God's Word is inspired, infallible, and indestructible.

Some have tried to destroy God's Word forever, like the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who started a crusade to eliminate all copies of the Scripture.

Some have predicted that God's Word would be destroyed, like Voltaire. This French atheist predicted that the Bible would soon be a relic of antiquity, but after his death the Geneva Bible Society used his home to distribute Bibles.

Some have even tried to eliminate the parts they dislike or don't believe, like Thomas Jefferson, who cut out all the passages about Jesus' miracles and other references to the supernatural. It is known today as the Jeffersonian Bible.

A person may try to destroy God's Word, but it can't be done. His Word will stand forever: "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in Heaven." Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall never pass away." You can't avoid it. You can't alter or amend it. But you can adjust your life to line up with it and you can submit to it, believe it, and obey it. Things would have turned out differently if the king had humbled himself when he heard God's Word. Instead of using a knife to cut out the truth he didn't like, he should have let the Word prick his heart and conscience.

Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

If we reject God's Word, He will reject us. If we forget His Word, He will forget us. God's Word will witness to you and lead you to the Lord if you will let it, but if you reject it or neglect it, the Word will be a witness against you on Judgment Day.