

# Kids' Chronicle

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BY CINDY BASSETT

## Jeremiah writes a long scroll

Baruch sighed with weariness. He and his friend, Jeremiah, had been at their task for several days now. Jeremiah, a prophet for 20 years, was dictating all of God's messages to him so they could be written on a scroll and read to the people tomorrow.

**PROPHET:**  
a person called by God to tell His messages to the people

"I just have one question, Jeremiah," Baruch said, looking up. "You've been beaten and imprisoned for speaking these messages. Some people would like to see you dead. Why do you still continue?"

"Yes," Jeremiah agreed, "I must be the most unpopular person in all of Jerusalem. But, I have to do what God has asked of me. And in spite of all of their wrongdoings, God still loves these wayward people. If they admit their sins and turn back to him, they will be saved from disaster."

"Disaster?" asked Baruch.

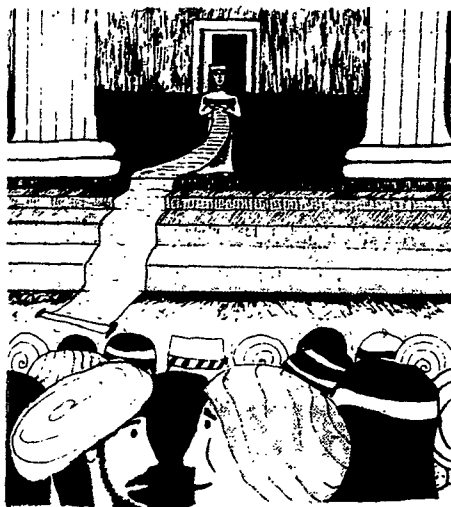
"A time is coming when our people will be defeated by enemy forces and taken prisoner," Jeremiah said. "When that happens, God will still not abandon them. He will rescue them when they cry out to him in their suffering."

"Jeremiah, you've been barred from speaking at the Temple. How do you intend to read this long message once we've completed it?"

Jeremiah smiled and said, "Baruch, you're not only an excellent scribe. You're a good friend who has stuck by me all of these years."

**SCRIBE:**  
a person trained in penmanship. Not all people could read and write at this time

So the next day, it was Baruch



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

who stood in front of the Temple in Jerusalem and read God's messages to the large crowd. When he had finished, one of King Jehoiakim's officials came up and said, "Give us the scroll. We will go to the palace and read it to the king."

King Jehoiakim was lounging before a warm fire in his study when these officials arrived. "Is that crazy prophet, Jeremiah, stirring up the people again? I should have ordered him exiled years ago. That would have put an end to his nonsense."

"You may think him foolish, but he claims that these words are not his own, but messages from the mouth of God," one of the officials said.

The king only yawned. "Go on, then; read it if you must. I may find it rather entertaining."

The king's face remained expressionless and he said nothing as the official read from the long scroll. But after each section was read, King Jehoiakim took out his penknife and sliced off the portion of the scroll that had been read and tossed the portion into the fire.

When the entire scroll had been read and burned, the king ordered, "Arrest Jeremiah and his scribe, Baruch! They are both traitors!"

Jeremiah was not the least bit dismayed when he learned that the long scroll had been destroyed. He and Baruch set themselves to making another scroll that same day. Only this time, it was even longer. A new message warned that the people would be conquered by the Babylonians and exiled for 70 years if they did not turn back to God.

You can read God's words to the prophet in the Old Testament Book of Jeremiah. Some sources also name Jeremiah as the author of the Book of Lamentations. Jeremiah's faithful friend, Baruch, also has a book in the Old Testament.

Read More About It: Book of Jeremiah, Chapter 36.

### Q & A

1. Why did the people refuse to accept Jeremiah's messages from God?

2. Name some modern day prophets. Has the world accepted their messages?

## Bible Trivia

### January Trivia Question:

Jeremiah was not very popular and was often arrested and imprisoned. Name the man who saved Jeremiah after he was thrown down into a well to die.

Send answers to Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name and address with your entry. All entries must be received by Feb. 11, 1993. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner will receive a gift, courtesy of LOGOS.

## A New Covenant

Jeremiah's messages warned people what would happen if they didn't change. However, through the prophet, God also promised a new covenant that would be fulfilled many years later through Jesus Christ. Decode God's promise contained in Jeremiah's scroll. Each number stands for a different letter of the alphabet. 1 = A; 2 = B; 3 = C, etc. Answer on page 15.

"9 23-9-12-12 16-21-20 13-25 12-1-23 9-14 20-8-5-9-18

13-9-14-4-19 1-14-4 23-18-9-20-5 9-20 15-14 20-8-5-9-18

8-5-1-18-20-19. 9 23-9-12-12 2-5 20-8-5-9-18 7-15-4

1-14-4 20-8-5-25 23-9-12-12 2-5 13-25 16-5-15-16-12-5."

## The Bible Times

587 B.C.

Jerusalem — King Nebuchadnezzar's forces conquered the Hebrews today.

The city of Jerusalem was burned down after the Hebrew army surrendered to the Babylonians. Most of the people of Jerusalem, including King Zedekiah, have been taken captive and deported to Babylon where they will serve as slaves.

According to sources, the prophet Jeremiah had predicted this defeat for many years because of the Hebrew worship of false gods. In alleged messages from God, Jeremiah condemned their breaking of the covenant, a sacred agreement made with God.

Although Jeremiah was beaten, imprisoned and left for dead in an old well during his tenure as a prophet, he continued to preach for more than 40 years. He was labeled a traitor by all three Hebrew kings who reigned during those years.

Jeremiah was not taken prisoner by the Babylonians. Ironically, yesterday he predicted that God would rescue the Hebrews and that Jerusalem would be rebuilt.

## Talking to God

Dear Jesus,

Give me courage like Jeremiah to stand up for my beliefs even when others make fun of me. I know that you are with me always.

"The Lord is with me like a mighty warrior, so my persecutors will stumble and not succeed."

Jeremiah 20:11.

## King Solomon's Wisdom



"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work.

If one falls down, his friend can help him up.

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; 12.

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