
Narrative Lectionary

Year 3 | The Year of Luke

Scripture Readings

November 22, 2020

The Reign of Christ

..... **About the text**

BLACKLISTED. BANNED. SHUT OUT. Jeremiah was B.P.N.G. in the courts of power.

It wasn't because of his appearance, or his manners. Or, perhaps it was.

Jeremiah had a habit of saying and doing whatever God told him. Sometimes it was a quiet word of assurance. Most often, it was a warning or a rebuke. It often came with pretty striking visuals.

King Jehoiakim knew what to do with Jeremiah's hot words. They made great fuel for his warming fire. Why not take advantage of the free heat?

The scene is humorous. But, it's also tragic. God has something to say. God wants to offer a second chance, a new covenant. Jehoiakim is sending that second chance up in smoke.

Yet, God's Spirit is persistent...



Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28; 31:31-34

1 In the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah 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 when the house of Judah hears of all the disasters that I intend to do to them, all of them may turn from their evil ways, so that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.

4 Then Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at Jeremiah's dictation all the words of the LORD that he had spoken to him. ⁵ And Jeremiah ordered Baruch, saying, "I am prevented from entering the house of the LORD; ⁶ so you go yourself, and on a fast day in the hearing of 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 people of Judah who come up from their towns. ⁷ It may be that their plea will come before the LORD, and that all of them will turn from their evil ways, for great is the anger and wrath that the LORD has pronounced against this people." ⁸ And Baruch son of Neriah did all that the prophet Jeremiah ordered him about reading from the scroll the words of the LORD in the LORD'S house.

21 Then the king sent Jehudi to get the

1 In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, Jeremiah received this Message from GOD:

2 "Get a scroll and write down everything I've told you regarding Israel and Judah and all the other nations from the time I first started speaking to you in Josiah's reign right up to the present day.

3 "Maybe the community of Judah will finally get it, finally understand the catastrophe that I'm planning for them, turn back from their bad lives, and let me forgive their perversity and sin."

4 So Jeremiah called in Baruch son of Neriah. Jeremiah dictated and Baruch wrote down on a scroll everything that GOD had said to him.

5 Then Jeremiah told Baruch, "I'm blacklisted. I can't go into GOD'S Temple, ⁶ so you'll have to go in my place. Go into the Temple and read everything you've written at my dictation. Wait for a day of fasting when everyone is there to hear you. And make sure that all the people who come from the Judean villages hear you.

7 "Maybe, just maybe, they'll start praying and GOD will hear their prayers. Maybe they'll turn back from their bad lives. This is no light matter. GOD has certainly let them know how angry he is!"

8 Baruch son of Neriah did everything Jeremiah the prophet told him to do. In the Temple of GOD he read the Message

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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 Now the king was sitting in his winter apartment (it was the ninth month), and there was a fire burning in the brazier before him. ²³ As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a penknife and throw them into the fire in the brazier, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the brazier.

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 King Jehoiakim of Judah has burned.

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<sup>31</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all

## The Message

of GOD from the scroll.

<sup>21</sup> The king sent Jehudi to get the scroll. He brought it from the office of Elishama the secretary. Jehudi then read it to the king and the officials who were in the king's service.

<sup>22</sup> It was December. The king was sitting in his winter quarters in front of a charcoal fire. <sup>23</sup> After Jehudi would read three or four columns, the king would cut them off the scroll with his pocketknife and throw them in the fire. He continued in this way until the entire scroll had been burned up in the fire.

<sup>27</sup> After the king had burned the scroll that Baruch had written at Jeremiah's dictation, Jeremiah received this Message from GOD: <sup>28</sup> "Get another blank scroll and do it all over again. Write out everything that was in that first scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah burned up.

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³¹ "That's right. The time is coming when I will make a brand-new covenant with Israel and Judah. ³² It won't be a repeat of the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant even though I did my part as their Master." *GOD'S Decree.*

³³ "This is the brand-new covenant that I will make with Israel when the time comes. I will put my law within them—write it on their hearts!—and be their God. And they will be my people. ³⁴ They will no longer go around setting up schools to teach each other about

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know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Message

GOD. They'll know me firsthand, the dull and the bright, the smart and the slow. I'll wipe the slate clean for each of them. I'll forget they ever sinned!"
GOD'S Decree.

Luke 22:19-20

19 Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 20 And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

19 Taking bread, he blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, given for you. Eat it in my memory."

20 He did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant written in my blood, blood poured out for you.

The Narrative Lectionary presents the story of God's work in humanity through a single Gospel each year. This is Year 3: The Year of Luke.