



Serving the LORD and Serving Jeremiah

Jeremiah 45

There are many Old Testament saints who served God faithfully and yet their names were never recorded in God's "Hall of Faith" found in Hebrews chapter 11. Yet, God is not unrighteous to forget all those who labor for His glory.

One such man was Baruch. He did not serve in the limelight, but rather under the shadow of God's great prophet Jeremiah. Baruch was Jeremiah's devoted friend, and he labored as his *amanuensis* (recording secretary). Jeremiah would dictate the prophecies which came from the mouth of the LORD. Baruch would carefully write them on a scroll, and on certain occasions Baruch would read them to the people.

Josephus described Baruch as a man from an eminent family, having unusual talents and exceedingly skillful in the Hebrew language. He used his talents and intellect for Jehovah.

When Judah's King Jehoiakim read the prophecies that Baruch had recorded, he was convicted. In anger he burned the scroll and destroyed God's Holy Word (Jer. 36:23). Yet, God's Word shall never pass away (*Matt. 24:35*), and Jeremiah dictated the prophecies to Baruch again, even adding additional judgments (*Jer. 36:32*).

After the catastrophic Babylonian invasion and destruction of Jerusalem under Nebuchadnezzar, God, through Jeremiah, told the surviving remnant of Jews to remain in Jerusalem and not to go down to Egypt. Though the message came from the LORD, the Jews falsely accused Baruch of influencing Jeremiah in this matter (*Jer. 43:3*). God addressed an entire chapter of His Word to Baruch, giving him both a warning and an encouragement (*Jer. 45*). He was warned not to seek great things for himself, but instead to exhibit humility. In spite of all his trials and persecutions, God encouraged Baruch that his life would be spared (*Jer. 45:5*).

May we learn valuable lessons from this faithful scribe who made it possible for us to have the book of Jeremiah!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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