



Inspiring quotes

²¹Take courage, my children, cry to God, and he will 9 202. m6T



About the Author

The book is attributed to Baruch son of Neriah, Jeremiah's secretary but its verbal differences from the rest of Jeremiah have made scholars doubt whether, in fact, he was the author. The very different tone of the two parts of the book also raises questions about whether the same person wrote 1.1–3.8 and 3.9–5.9.

What do we know about him?

Jeremiah 36 talks about Baruch writing down the words of Jeremiah and editing them. He then read them out while Jeremiah was in hiding from the King. He remained with Jeremiah after the fall of Jerusalem and was taken with him into Egypt. The early Christian theologian Jerome recorded that Baruch died soon afterwards but the book of Baruch implies that he later travelled to Babylon where he delivered Jeremiah's letter.

The scroll that we have is probably not by Baruch but is an example of a later editor using the name to reinterpret Jeremiah for a new situation, in which they felt the exile was still going on. The book was probably written sometime between 586 BC and AD 70, originally in Hebrew.

The existing manuscripts of the book of Baruch are only in Greek but 1.1–3.8 is thought to have been translated into Greek from a Semitic language (either Hebrew or Aramaic) because of its sentence structure and style.



About the times

The book is set during the Babylonian exile (the early sixth century BC)

What were people feeling?

The exiles were feeling dislocated, anxious and alone.



How is it structured?

1.1-14	Introduction set in Babylon
1.15–2.10	A confession of sins
2.11–3.8	Prayer for mercy
3.9–4.4	A poem in praise of wisdom
4.5–5.9	The reason why the people are in exile
6.1-73	Letter of Jeremiah



What kind of Book is it?

Baruch is partially historical story, partially letter and partially poetry.



Look out for...

Baruch seems to be telling God's people that they were to blame for the calamity that had befallen them. Trace this theme through the book.

There is a change of tone, especially between 3.8 and 3.9 – reflect on why you think it changes so much here.

Verses 3.9–4.14 talk extensively about wisdom, look out for the theme as you read.



What could this mean for me?

Baruch is a message to a people in the midst of disaster, reflect on whether it has anything to say in our modern world.



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