

## IV. Don't be Beaten by Rejection

### A. A General Note:

There are many forms of rejection and none of them are pleasant, I think. The potentiality of distress coming from rejection is huge and in some cases even the least strong rejection may dwarf one's life with defeatism and destroy future efforts before they are begun. But some rejection comes to everyone at some time and in some degree so that the lesson from the prophets is that we learn to live with it and be overcomers in the conflict. Somehow one must learn to see that rejection is a growth stimulant and when we face it with triumph we are the better for it. I am not claiming to be a hero in this fight...as an academician I often faced rejection and sometimes it won! But the lessons learned from the prophets help us to win so we look for victory in the face of defeat. Now if this philosophy is not sufficient for your needs, try John 16:1-4 and 15:20-21. Take heart!

The case studies include:

1. Baruch in Jeremiah 36
2. Jeremiah himself in 36:37
3. Elijah in 2 Kings 1.

### B. The teachings:

1. When it comes to spiritual things it is often, not always, but often, the Lord who is being rejected and not just the messenger. Your personal rejection is more easily swallowed when you are standing with the Lord (or vice versa) in the situation. Look at 2 Timothy 4 for an interesting example.
2. The purpose of God will be accomplished whether or not...so---
3. Do not invite nor advertise for rejection...it will come soon enough on its own. (Jeremiah's note to Baruch--chapter 45)
4. Understand the rejection as complementary--it will enrich your character and deepen your trust if you do not give up!
5. And remember that abounding in the work of the Lord has its own reward as stated in 1 Corinthians 15:58

C. Conclusion: Take the advice of Romans 15:4 and read in the Word of God about the victories He gave when no one thought it possible. We do not always win in the temporal realm but the work of God is greater and the overcoming power of God is supreme in the universe

*Don't be Beaten*