Sometimes it’s truly shocking to be reading the Bible, come across a famous verse that you and practically everyone knows and recites by heart, and discover that within its actual context of the verses and paragraphs around it, that it’s actual meaning is quite different from how it’s used.

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

People “discuss” and “talk” about what they’ve “heard” concerning the verse, but that’s quite a different situation from everyone actually opening their Bibles together and carefully pouring over the written Word in context.

Intentionally or accidentally, a person can alter what they think they heard, but returning to the written Word removes all doubt as to its true meaning.

The same was true in Jeremiah’s day, people dismissing what he said as they changed what they heard to suit themselves.
This all changed when he was commanded to write it down.

People now had to make a decision as to what to do with God’s Word.

Jeremiah 36
1 In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah,

1 In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah,
this word came to Jeremiah from the L ORD:

2 “Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah till now.
3 Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about every disaster I plan to inflict on them, each of them will turn from his wicked way; then I will forgive their wickedness and their sin.”

4 So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and while Jeremiah dictated all the words the L ORD had spoken to him, Baruch wrote them on the scroll.

5 Then Jeremiah told Baruch, “I am restricted; I cannot go to the L ORD’s temple.
6 So you go to the house of the LORD on a day of fasting and read to the people from the scroll the words of the LORD that you wrote as I dictated. Read them to all the people of Judah who come in from their towns.

7 Perhaps they will bring their petition before the LORD, and each will turn from his wicked ways, for the anger and wrath pronounced against this people by the LORD are great.”
Matthew 7:13-14
13 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.
14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Jeremiah 36
8 Baruch son of Neriah did everything Jeremiah the prophet told him to do; at the LORD’s temple he read the words of the LORD from the scroll.

10 From the room of Gemariah son of Shaphan the secretary, which was in the upper courtyard at the entrance of the New Gate of the temple, Baruch read to all the people at the LORD’s temple the words of Jeremiah from the scroll.

11 When Micaiah son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan, heard all the words of the LORD from the scroll, 12 he went down to the secretary’s room in the royal palace, where all the officials were sitting...

13 After Micaiah told them everything he had heard Baruch read to the people from the scroll,

14 all the officials ...to say to Baruch, “Bring the scroll from which you have read to the people and come.” So Baruch son of Neriah went to them with the scroll in his hand.

15 They said to him, “Sit down, please, and read it to us.” So Baruch read it to them.

16 When they heard all these words, they looked at each other in fear and said to Baruch, “We must report all these words to the king.”
17 Then they asked Baruch, “Tell us, how did you come to write all this? Did Jeremiah dictate it?”
18 “Yes,” Baruch replied, “he dictated all these words to me, and I wrote them in ink on the scroll.”

19 Then the officials said to Baruch, “You and Jeremiah, go and hide. Don’t let anyone know where you are.”

21 The king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and Jehudi ...and read it to the king and all the officials standing beside him.
22 It was the ninth month and the king was sitting in the winter apartment, with a fire burning in the firepot in front of him.

23 Whenever Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with a scribe’s knife and threw them into the firepot, until the entire scroll was burned in the fire.

He created his own personalized Bible and titled the finished product: “The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth.”

And what he did was, he took several copies of the Bible and literally went through the Gospels, taking a penknife and cutting out the sections of Gospels that he LIKED.

Then he’d paste those sections he liked into a journal – and that became his Bible.

The parts he left out the parts were rejected because he felt those sections were “contrary to reason.”

Because Jefferson was offended by the idea that God would reach down into this world and “interfere” with the affairs of men.
So anything that smacked of a being a miracle was ‘contrary to reason.’"

He left out anything that spoke of God’s miraculous power. Things like:

- the feeding of the 5000
- the various healings Jesus did
- and (of course) the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

**Matthew 24:35** “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.—

**Isaiah 40:8**
8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.”

24 The king and all his attendants who heard all these words showed no fear, nor did they tear their clothes.

25 Even though Elnathan, Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them.

26 Instead, the king commanded ...to arrest Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet. But the LORD had hidden them.

27 After the king burned the scroll containing the words that Baruch had written at Jeremiah’s dictation, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

28 “Take another scroll and write on it all the words that were on the first scroll, which Jehoiakim king of Judah burned up.
29 Also tell Jehoiakim king of Judah, ‘This is what the LORD says: You burned that scroll and said, “Why did you write on it that the king of Babylon would certainly come and destroy this land and cut off both men and animals from it?”

30 Therefore, this is what the LORD says about Jehoiakim king of Judah: He will have no one to sit on the throne of David; his body will be thrown out and exposed to the heat by day and the frost by night.

31 I will punish him and his children and his attendants for their wickedness; I will bring on them and those living in Jerusalem and the people of Judah every disaster I pronounced against them, because they have not listened.’

32 So Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to the scribe Baruch son of Neriah, and as Jeremiah dictated, Baruch wrote on it all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And many similar words were added to them.

Romans, Chapter 8." "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him....for I am convinced that nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Chuck Colson "The BIBLE -- banned, burned, beloved. More widely read, more frequently attacked than any other book in history.

Generations of intellectuals have attempted to discredit it, dictators of every age have outlawed it and executed those who read it.

Yet soldiers carry it into battle believing it more powerful than their weapons.
Fragments of it smuggled into solitary prison cells have transformed ruthless killers into gentle saints” - Hebrews 4:12
12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.