# Jeremiah

JeremiAh is a record of the prophecies that Jehovah gave to the Prophet JeremiAh.

It was likely written by JeremiAh’s companion, the scribe Baruch, but was later edited by others after the return from Babylonian exile.

It covers JeremiAh’s warning messages that he gave to the Kingdom of Judah over a (roughly) 40-year period, up until the destruction of JeruSalem by the Babylonians.

There are two main versions of the text of Jeremiah:

 • The Hebrew (used by most Western churches), and
 • The Greek Septuagint version, which is the oldest version, is about 1/8th shorter, and which also presents the contents in a slightly different order.

Scholars widely believe that the Greek version is closest to the original text. Copies resembling both versions were found among the Dead Sea Scrolls, suggesting that the creation of the new Hebrew version had already begun prior to the 1st century CE.

Our version of JeremiAh is based on the Greek, however, we’ve re-ordered the text to match the Hebrew ordering. That way, the chapter and verse numbers both match-up.

*Most of this book is poetry*

Something that only a Bible translator would notice is when words are in the form of Hebrew poetry. There’s a definite cadence that can be seen in the original language. Therefore, because this is the chosen style of God, we’ve tried to recreate it as it was originally intended: in poetic verse.

*Why use poetry?*

Poetry must conform to a certain rhythm and style. These act as memory aids, helping you to recall the words, making it easier for messages to be spread via the most common communication method of the time: song.

*Who was talking?*

When translating the words of the Prophets, you can’t help but notice the constant changing personal pronouns (I, you, he, they, etc.) used in the text. It makes it very confusing to figure out exactly who’s talking.

However, we now realize one reason for the confusion that’s usually overlooked: God didn’t speak to the Prophets personally. Rather, He sent His messages through a mediator, either referred to as a messenger (an angel), or sometimes as ‘The Word’ (which some interpret to mean Jesus).

So there are actually *three* voices speaking:

 1. That of the Prophet, who sometimes quotes himself,

 2. That of the angelic messenger who’s bringing the message from God,

 3. The words of God Himself (which we put in italics).

How can we tell the difference? From the context, the pronouns, and the tenses:

 1. When the Prophet speaks, he’s either clearly reporting what he said or did, or is simply saying what was happening.

 2. When the angelic messenger speaks, he talks about God in the third person.

 3 When God is speaking, all references to God are naturally spoken in the first person.

Did we get it all right? Probably not, but it has been an honest attempt at doing so. If you think you’ve spotted a place where our choice is incorrect, please let us know and we’ll reconsider it.

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 1

1These are the words of God which came to JeremiAh (son of HilkiAh), a Priest who lived in AnathOth, in the land of BenJamin.

2God’s words came to him in the days of JosiAh (son of AmMon) the king of Judah in the 13th year of his reign.

3All of this happened from the time of JehoiAkim (son of JosiAh) the king of Judah, until the 11th year of ZedekiAh (son of JosiAh) the king of Judah – and [the beginning of] the captivity of JeruSalem, [which happened] in the 5th month.

4The Word of Jehovah came to me and said:

 5‘I knew you before you were formed in the womb
 And before you came from the belly.
 So I chose you and I made you holy
 To serve as a Prophet to the nations.’

6But I said:

 ‘O Great Being… O Lord… O Jehovah,

 ‘{Look!} I don’t know how to speak, for I’m just a young man.’

7And the Lord told me:

 ‘Don’t say that you’re just a young man;
 For you’ll go to whomever I send you
 And you’ll speak whatever I tell you to say!
 8So, don’t be afraid when you go before them,
 Since I’m with you and I will protect you.’

9Then the Lord stuck his hand out towards me and touched my mouth, and said:

 ‘Look! I’m putting my words in your mouth.
 10For I’ve appointed you over nations and kingdoms
 To root out, cut down, and set free,
 And then to rebuild and replant.’

11Thereafter, the Word of Jehovah came to me again and asked:

 ‘What do you see now, JeremiAh?’

And I said:

 ‘I see a walnut walking stick.’

12Then the Lord said to me:

 ‘You are [very observant];
 And I’m [watching to see if you’ll] do as I [say].’

13Then the Word of Jehovah came to me a second time and asked:

 ‘What do you see now?’

And I replied:

 ‘I see a kettle over a fire, and the front side of it is facing the north.’

14Then the Lord said to me:

 ‘Thus, from the face of the north,
 All those who are bad will be burned away
 From among those who live in the land.
 15For, {Look!} this is what was said by Jehovah:

 *‘From the north, I’ll be gathering kingdoms*
 *That will come, and then, they’ll each place their thrones*
 *On the thresholds of JeruSalem’s gates,*
 *And on the walls of the cities of Judah.*

 16*‘Then I’ll speak My judgments against them*
 *For all the bad things they’ve done…*
 *[I’ll speak of] how they have left Me*
 *And sacrificed to gods that they’ve never known,*
 *Then they bowed before the works of their hands.’*

 17‘So arise and wrap up your waist,
 And say to them what I’ll tell you to say!
 Don’t be afraid when you go there,
 Nor be in terror before them;
 For, this was said by Jehovah:

 *‘I’m with you and I will [protect] you.’*

 18‘{Look!} So today, I’ve turned you into a fort…
 A fortified wall made of brass
 To resist Judah’s rulers and kings,
 And to oppose the people of your land.’

19And the Lord said:

 ‘Although they will wage war against you,
 There’s no way that they’ll be able to win;
 For I’m with you and I will [protect] you.’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 2

1Then the Word of Jehovah came to me again and said:

 2‘Go and yell in JeruSalem’s ears…
 Tell them that thus says Jehovah:

 *‘I remembered the mercy you had in your youth*
 *And the love that you had for perfection*
 *When you obeyed IsraEl’s Most Holy One.’*

 ‘Yes, this was said by Jehovah,
 IsraEl’s Most Holy Lord.
 3For, IsraEl is Holy to Jehovah,
 And because they are His first born,
 He’s offended by those who are chewing them up,
 And on those doing this, He’s bringing bad things.

 4‘O house of Jacob (you families of the house of IsraEl);
 Hear the word of Jehovah!
 5For Jehovah is asking you this:

 *‘What defect in Me, did your fathers find*
 *That they’d leave Me to act in this way*
 *And start following after such foolish things?*

 6*‘They no longer ask,* ‘Where’s Jehovah…
 The One who led us through the desert from Egypt…
 Through that vast land of no water or fruit…
 A land through which no man can travel…
 A land where none can survive?’

 7*‘For I led you to CarMel, where you ate its fruits,*
 *As well as its other good things…*
 *Then you entered My land and defiled it,*
 *And My inheritance, you turned into something that’s foul.*

 8*‘But the priests don’t ask,* ‘Where’s Jehovah?’
 *So, those who were resisting the Law*
 *Weren’t prompted to turn back to Me.*
 *Your shepherds also showed no respect,*
 *And your prophets spoke prophecies by BaAl,*
 *So they followed after things that were worthless!*

 9*‘But, despite all of this, I still chose them,* says Jehovah;
 *And the sons of their sons, I’ve [accepted].*

 10*‘Now, go to the Island of Cyprus and see…*
 *Yes, send to Kedar and you’ll understand!*
 *See if the gods of those nations*
 *Have ever had any effect…*
 *Then you’ll know that they really aren’t gods!*

 11*‘Yet, My people have left all their glory*
 *For things that do them no good!*
 12*And by this, the heavens were amazed…*
 *[It caused them to] shudder,* says Jehovah.

 ‘*To Me, My people did two wicked things:*

 • 13*They abandoned the spring of the waters of life,*
 *• And they dug cracked cisterns that cannot hold water.*

 14*‘Is IsraEl a slave or a native-born son;*
 *For, why did he choose to be plundered?*
 15*Now, lions are roaring before him*
 *That are ordered to wipe out his land.*
 *So his cities will be cut to the ground,*
 *Then no one can live there again!*

 16*‘The sons of Memphis and TahPanhes…*
 *Those who know you, are laughing at you!*
 17*And this happened because you have left Me,*
 Says Jehovah, your God.

 18*‘Now, what are the ways of Egypt to you*
 *That you would [long for] their waters?*
 *And what are the ways of Assyria to you*
 *That you’d wish to drink from their rivers?*

 19*‘So because you’ve left Me, I’ll discipline you…*
 *For your evil ways, I will scold You…*
 *You’ll see it happen and then you will know*
 *How bitter are the ways of turning from Me,*
 Says Jehovah, your God!

 20*‘I’ve come to think [poorly] of you,’*
 Says Jehovah your God.
 *‘For, throughout the ages, you’ve broken My yoke*
 *And you have ripped off My bonds.*

 *‘You said:*

 ‘I won’t be [Your] servant;
 But I’ll climb up every high hill
 And bow beneath every shade tree…
 And there is where I’ll go whoring!’

 21*‘Yet I planted you to be My grapevine*
 *For the purpose of bearing the fruitage of truth.*
 *So, why did you then turn so bitter*
 *And become a grapevine that’s strange?*

 22*‘Now, if I would wash you in lye,*
 *And if I’d use plenty of soap,*
 *You’d still be spotted in your sins before Me.*

 23*‘How can you say you’re not dirty*
 *And that you’ve not chased after BaAl?*
 *See how you’re acting in graveyards…*
 *Yes, you know all the things that you’ve done!*

 24*‘Upon desert waters, her ways have been spread,*
 *And she’s driven by the winds of desires.*
 *So to them, she’s been handed over,*
 *To turn her away from her [evil].*

 *‘Now those searching for her won’t get tired,*
 *And she will be humbled when they arrive.*

 25*‘Although she should divert her feet from this path*
 *And turn her throat from this thirst,*
 *This is what she’s still saying:*

 ‘I will act like a man;
 So, I will chase after strangers,
 And with them, I will make love!’

 26*‘As a thief is shamed when he’s caught,*
 *Is how IsraEl’s sons will be shamed…*
 *Yes they, their kings, and their rulers,*
 *As well as their prophets and priests.*

 27*‘For they’ve said to a tree,* ‘You’re my father;’
 *And they’ve said to a stone,* ‘You gave me life.’

 *‘Yet, although they have all turned their backs*
 *(But not their faces) towards Me;*
 *When hard times arrive, they’ll still say:*

 ‘O Jehovah, please save us!’

 28*‘Will [your idols] still save you in difficult times,*
 *And will [you turn] to these gods that you’ve made?*

 *‘In Judah, each city now has its own gods,*
 *And in all of JeruSalem’s streets*
 *They offer sacrifices to BaAl.*
 29*So, why are you even talking to me?’*

 ‘Jehovah says:

 *‘You’ve been irreverent and lawless towards Me,*
 30*And it’s in vain that I’ve spanked you like children;*
 *For, from My correction, you’ve failed to learn!*

 *‘So, although your prophets were devoured by swords,*
 *And although lions came and wiped them away,*
 *This hasn’t [taught you] to fear Me.*

 31‘Therefore, hear the Word of Jehovah,
 For Jehovah is asking you this:

 *‘To IsraEl, am I now a desert…*
 *Am I a land that’s barren to you?*

 *‘Why is it that My people say:*

 ‘Because you aren’t our Lord anymore,
 We’ll no longer be coming before You’?

 32*‘Will the bride forget her tiara,*
 *And will virgins forget the bands for their breasts?*
 *Yet, I’ve been forgotten by you*
 *Through too many days to be counted.*

 33*‘What good can you make of your ways,*
 *So that you can seek [My] affection again?*
 *It just won’t do any good,*
 *Because you’ve made yourselves wicked.*

 *‘All of your ways are now dirty,*
 *And innocent blood is found in your hands.*
 34*No, I don’t find [their bodies] in ditches,*
 *But [hanging] from every [tall] tree.*
 35*Yet you still say, I’m not guilty…*
 *So, please turn back You rage!*

 *‘{Look!} I’m the One who’s passing judgment on you*
 *When you say that you have not sinned!*
 36*And for you, I’ve come to feel great disdain*
 *Because of the things that you’re doing.*

 *‘Therefore, by Egypt, you will be disgraced,*
 *As Assyria has disgraced you before.*
 37*You’ll be taken from here with your hands on your heads,*
 *For Jehovah has thrust you away…*
 *And then, none of your hopes will succeed.’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 3

 1*‘If a man releases his woman*
 *And she [then moves in with] another…*
 *Then, if she thereafter [also leaves him],*
 *Can she return [to first one] again?*
 *For, once she has been defiled,*
 *Isn’t she always defiled?*

 *‘Yet, after [you’ve had] many shepherds,*
 *You want to come back to Me,* said Jehovah.
 2*So now, raise your eyes to see the right way…*
 *See how you’ve been defiled!*

 *‘For you sat by the road [and waited] for them*
 *Alone and defiled like a crow*
 *In this land of your evil and whoring.*

 3*‘You’ve stumbled and had many shepherds,*
 *And because you looked like a whore,*
 *You have brought shame on them all.*

 4*‘Yet, didn’t you call Me [your] Father…*
 *The One who founded your virgin condition!*
 5*[And wasn’t it you who once said],*
 *Throughout the age, I’ll still be a virgin…*
 *I’ll guard this state ‘til I’ve won?*
 *{Look!} Yet, although you made such a vow,*
 *You went and did this vile thing!’*

6Well, it was during the days of King JosiAh that the Lord came and said this to me:

 ‘You saw what the house of IsraEl has done…
 For she’s climbed upon every high mountain
 And crawled under every tree in the woods,
 And there, she’s committing [adultery].

 7‘Then, after she does all her whoring;
 Although I’ve told her to turn from this badness,
 She still refuses to stop.

 ‘So when I saw that Judah had broken [her vows];
 8I knew that in order to benefit all,
 I had to stand up [for what’s right].

 ‘For the house of IsraEl fell into seduction,
 And then she committed adultery.
 So with a certificate of divorce I sent her away.

 ‘But the [vow]-breaker Judah wasn’t bothered by this,
 And she continued in her whoring ways.
 9For, whoring was nothing to her…
 She even did it with wood and stone things…
 10Her heart refused to turn back,
 And all she offered was lies.’

11Then the Lord said this to me:

 ‘Even IsraEl was better than this [vow]-breaker Judah;
 12So, go to the north and then read these words…
 Tell [those in the north] that thus says Jehovah:

 *‘O house of IsraEl, if you’ll come back to Me,*
 *Against you, I’ll not set My face…*
 *I will show mercy upon you,* says Jehovah,
 *And throughout the age, I won’t be outraged.*

 13*‘Just be aware of your sins!*
 *For you’ve shown disrespect to Jehovah your God…*
 *[Your love] you’ve given to strangers*
 *Beneath every tree in the woods,*
 *And you chose not to do what I said,* says Jehovah.

 14*‘So return, you sons who’ve revolted,* says God,
 *And I’ll be your Lord once again.*
 *I’ll choose one man from each city,*
 *And I will choose two from each family;*
 *Then, I will take them to Zion*
 15*And appoint these ones whom My heart has chosen*
 *To serve as shepherds for you,*
 *And with higher knowledge, they’ll watch over you.*

 16*‘Then, as you grow and spread in the land,* says Jehovah;
 *In those days, they’ll not speak anymore*
 *Of IsraEl’s Holy Chest of the Sacred Agreement…*
 *No, it won’t come into their hearts…*
 *It won’t be named or examined…*
 *This won’t be done anymore!*

 17*‘For, in those days and during that time,*
 *JeruSalem will everafter be known*
 *As the place of the Throne of Jehovah,*
 *And it’s where all the nations will gather*
 *With no wicked thoughts in their hearts.*

 18*‘And in those days, the houses of IsraEl and Judah*
 *Will become one [nation] again.*
 *They’ll be gathered from the lands of the north*
 *To the place that I gave to their fathers.’*

19Well at that, I shouted:

 ‘May it happen, O Lord!

 ‘For You told me that You will let me have children again, and that I will receive a choice piece of land… The inheritance of the Almighty God… [The God] that will be over all the nations! Yes, Father; you’ve called me, and now I’ll never turn away from You!’

20But the Lord said:

 ‘The house of IsraEl has left me,
 Like a woman who’s rejected her man.
 21And for this, her lips will thereafter weep.

 ‘So, tell IsraEl’s sons to turn back and beg,
 Because their ways have led them to sin,
 And they’ve forgotten their Most Holy God.
 22So sons; it is time to turn back…
 Turn back and I’ll heal your broken condition!’

[And I said]:

 ‘Look… That’s how we’ll be with You then, for You are our God Jehovah, 23and all the powers of the hills and mountains are really the powers of our Lord… Our God who is IsraEl’s Savior!

 24‘However, the efforts of our fathers have been eaten away by shame since the time of their youth, and now all their calves and sheep (their sons and daughters) 25go to bed in shame and they’re covered by their dishonor. Yes, like our fathers, we have sinned before God from the time of our youth down to this day, and we’ve failed to pay attention to the voice of our God Jehovah!’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 4

1Then the Lord said:

 ‘If IsraEl should [choose to] return,
 I’ll also turn back to them.
 If they’ll wash the disgusting things from their mouths…
 If they’ll show that they will respect me,
 2And if they’ll swear *‘As Jehovah is living’* in oaths;
 I’ll bless them with equity, justice, and truth.
 Then the rest of the nations will praise them,
 And in JeruSalem, all will praise God.

 3‘So to the men of Judah and JeruSalem
 Jehovah gave these instructions:

 *‘Prepare your [hearts]… Yes, get them ready to plow…*
 *Don’t allow thorn bushes to grow here again!’*

 4‘O men of Judah and JeruSalem,

 ‘Circumcise yourselves to your God…
 Snip the hardness out of your hearts
 So He doesn’t send the fire of His rage…
 [A fire] that can’t be extinguished
 Because of the bad things you’re doing!

 5‘Announce [this message] to Judah,
 And let them hear it in JeruSalem:

 *‘Blow trumpets throughout the whole land,*
 *And then, cry out in loud voices!’*

 6‘Say:

 *‘All should gather inside the walled cities…*
 *Gather your things and run to Mount Zion!*
 *Do this quickly, don’t wait,*
 *For from the north, bad things will arrive…*
 *A terrible destruction is heading your way!’*

 7‘Now the lion has come from his lair,
 And he is wiping out nations.
 He’s arisen and now he’s come from his place
 To desolate lands and destroy them!

 ‘So your cities will all be demolished,
 And you’ll no longer be living within them.
 8Because of this, put on sackcloth…
 Yes, be sad, and then start to bawl!
 For the anger and rage of Jehovah
 Will not be diverted from you.

 9‘And in that day,’ said the Lord,
 ‘There’ll be no heart in the king…
 The hearts of the rulers and priests will be shocked
 And the prophets will all be confused.’

10Then I replied:

 ‘O Almighty Lord,

 ‘You must surely be joking… Aren’t you misleading these people? Aren’t you saying that there’ll really be peace for JeruSalem and that the sword won’t be coming into our lives?’

11[But He replied]:

 ‘At that time, I’ll say to these people
 (To those who live in JeruSalem):

 ‘An addiction to delusions has come from the desert;
 For the ways of the daughters of my people
 Can no longer be thought of as pure…
 None have kept themselves holy.
 12So the spirit of fulfillment is coming from me,
 And I’m now speaking judgments against them.

 13‘Look! Like a cloud, someone has arisen
 Whose chariots are sending out blasts,
 And whose horses are lighter than eagles.
 So woe, for misery is headed your way!

 14‘Therefore, O JeruSalem,

 ‘Rinse the evil out of your hearts
 So that somehow, you might be saved!
 For, how long did you think you can do all those things
 That are [the root] of your [problems]?

 15‘So from Dan, you’ll start hearing voices,
 And from Ephraim will come misery.

 16‘{Look!} Remind your nation of this,
 And shout this aloud in JeruSalem:

 *‘From a far-away land will come an alliance*
 *That’s speaking against the cities of Judah!’*

 17‘For Jehovah had told me this:

 *‘They’ll [camp] around her and guard all her fields*
 *Because I’ve been neglected by you.*
 18*It’s because of your [bad] ways and [evil] deeds*
 *That they are coming against you…*
 *Because your evil is now so bitter*
 *That it has reached into your hearts!*

 19*‘This [thought] brings pain to My belly…*
 *It causes My heart to feel spasms and ache…*
 *But My Soul has been forced to take action!*

 20*‘So, since I’ll no longer stay silent,*
 *My Soul now hears trumpet blasts*
 *And the cries of misery and war.*

 *‘This conflict is something that’s called for,*
 *And misery will come to your land.*
 *For, you have abandoned My Tent,*
 *And its covering of skins you have parted.*

 21*‘Why must I watch [people] fleeing*
 *And hear the blowing of trumpets?*
 22*Yet, this will all happen because,*
 *The leaders of My people don’t know Me…*
 *They’ve become undiscerning, foolish sons…*
 *They’re just wise when it comes to doing what’s bad,*
 *And they don’t remember how to do what is good.’*

23Well at that, I looked down at the ground and I couldn’t see anything, then I looked up into the sky, and its lights weren’t there. 24I also noticed that the mountains were shaking and all the hills were being disturbed. 25So I looked around and I couldn’t see anyone, for even the birds in the skies had been frightened away. Then I noticed that CarMel was bare and all of its cities were burning… They had been set on fire by the face of Jehovah! 26For, due to His anger and rage, He had removed them from His view.

27And at that, the Lord said:

 ‘Although the whole land will soon lie in ruins;
 No way will it all be destroyed.

 28‘But the land should now start to mourn,
 Because the skies above will grow dark…
 I’ve spoken, and I won’t change my mind.
 No I won’t be dissuaded… It will happen!

 29‘So from the sounds of horsemen with tightly stretched bows,
 In every place, they will run…
 They’ll hide in caves and in sacred groves…
 Down among rocks, they’ll descend.
 Then their cities will all be abandoned…
 No one will be living there.

 30‘So now, what will they do…
 Will they wrap themselves in scarlet and gold?
 If they rub antimony on their eyelids,
 It will all be in vain!
 For, although they may dress in their finest of clothes,
 Their lovers have already pushed them away…
 And now they are seeking their lives!

 31‘So I hear the sounds of a woman in labor
 And the moans of one who is giving first birth.
 But the voice of the daughter of Zion grows faint,
 And her hands grow weak as she says:

 *‘Woe to me, for my life has now failed*
 *And I am being destroyed!’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 5

 1‘Now, run through JeruSalem’s streets…
 Yes, seek and search in her squares…
 See if you can find just one righteous man…
 A single trustworthy person.
 Then to such a one, I’ll be kind,’ said the Lord.

 2‘*As Jehovah lives*, they often say,
 But, when they swear oaths, aren’t they lying?’

3[And I, Jeremiah, said:],

 ‘O Jehovah,

 ‘Your eyes have searched for those who are true;
 But, when You whipped them, they felt no pain…
 Even when You brought destruction on them,
 They had still failed to learn…
 Their faces remained as solid as rocks,
 And they refused to turn back to You.

 4‘But perhaps it’s only the poor
 Who don’t understand the ways of the Lord,
 Or comprehend the fairness of God.
 5So I’ll go and speak to the wealthy…
 For they’ll recognize the ways of the Lord
 And [trust in] the fairness of God.

 ‘But look! Together, they’ve broken their yokes
 And they have torn off their bonds.
 6And because of this, lions have attacked…
 Then, out of the woods came a wolf,
 Which entered their homes and [consumed] them,
 As leopards kept watch in their cities.

 ‘That’s how those who leave Him are hunted,
 Since none have shown Him respect,
 And their rejection [of God] has grown worse.’

7[And the Lord said]:

 ‘What sort of kindness should they expect
 Now that their sons have all left me?
 Because they swear oaths by those who aren’t gods,
 I’ve become filled with [their disrespect].
 For they’re even committing adultery,
 And whores find rest in their homes!

 8‘Like horses, they snort and are sex crazed…
 Each one for the wife of his neighbor.
 9So for this, shouldn’t I come to visit?’ ...asked the Lord,
 ‘Shouldn’t my soul now take vengeance
 Upon a nation that’s acting this way?

 10‘So her battle towers, they will scale,
 And they’ll knock them down until none remain…
 Yes, these are the ones who will do it!
 They’ll destroy everything that supports them,
 For [their badness] didn’t come from Jehovah!

 11‘Jehovah says:

 *‘They have not shown Me any respect…*
 *Not the houses of IsraEl or of Judah.*
 12*And about their Lord, they have lied;*
 *For they’ve said:*

 ‘These things will not happen…
 What’s bad won’t really come upon us…
 Neither famine nor sword will we see.

 13‘For [His] Prophets are really just windbags,
 And they don’t [speak] the word of Jehovah;
 So it will happen to them, not to us!’

 14‘*But because of this,* says Jehovah the Almighty…
 *Because you have said all these things,*
 *I’ve put My words like flames in your mouths,*
 *And they’ll consume you like wood [on a fire]!’*

 15‘O house of IsraEl, pay attention:
 For, from a far-away land
 I’m bringing a nation against you,’ said the Lord,
 ‘Which speaks a tongue that you won’t understand.

 16‘The quivers of their mighty are like open tombs,
 17And they’ll consume your harvests and bread,
 As well as your sons and your daughters.

 ‘They’ll eat your sheep and your calves…
 They’ll devour your vineyards and fig groves,
 As well as all of your olives.
 They’ll thresh your fortified cities with swords
 (Those places that you have relied on).

 18‘And in that day,’ said the Lord;
 ‘God won’t allow you to come to fulfillment.
 19And when you ask why this happened,
 Jehovah will give this reply:

 *‘I did it because you have left Me*
 *And served strange gods in My land.*
 *So, you will now have to serve strangers*
 *In a land that is no longer yours.’*

 20‘So, to the house of Jacob, announce all these things,
 And let it be heard throughout Judah:

 21*‘Pay attention, you foolish and heartless…*
 *You who have eyes that can’t see,*
 *And you who have ears that can’t hear.*

 22*‘Why have you failed to show fear,*
 *And not bowed to your faces before Me?*
 *For, I’m the One who ordered the sands*
 *To be the limits of the seas!*
 *It’s the order [that I gave] throughout the ages*
 *That the seas cannot go beyond them…*
 *Its [waves] may never disturb them…*
 *No way can they ever defeat them.*
 *So, no matter how great the waves roar,*
 *They can’t pass beyond the limits I’ve set.*

 23*‘But these people have hearts that don’t listen,*
 *So they continue to resist My persuasion…*
 *They’ve turned aside and they’ve left [Me]!*

 24*‘They haven’t said in their hearts:*

 ‘We should fear Jehovah our God…
 The One who gives rain in its seasons
 (Both the early and late rains),
 And that orders full harvests for us!’

 25*‘But, by your lawless deeds, you have turned from these things…*
 *By your sins, you’ve removed what’s good from yourselves.*
 26*For among My own people, the godless are found…*
 *Those who set snares to corrupt other men,*
 *As they devise plans to do evil.*

 27*‘As a trap is set to catch many birds…*
 *With treachery, their homes are now filled.*
 *And because of this, they are famous and rich…*
 *They have grown fat on injustice!*
 28*The side of orphans, they never take,*
 *And they don’t give justice to widows.*

 29*‘Am I not watching such things,’* asks Jehovah?
 *Won’t My soul bring vengeance upon them?*

 30*‘So, this is why things have changed…*
 *This is why they’ll shudder throughout the whole land!*
 31*For their prophets now prophesy lies*
 *As their priests are applauding and clapping their hands.*
 *So, since this is what My people have loved,*
 *I must now do this bad thing!’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 6

 1‘O sons of BenJamin, be strong
 There in JeruSalem’s midst.
 But, you should start blowing your trumpets…
 From the House in the Vineyards, sound the alarm!
 For, bad things now loom in the north,
 And a great destruction is headed your way!

 2‘O you daughter of Zion;
 Your haughty ways will soon be removed!
 3For to you, will come shepherds and flocks
 That will pitch their tents all around you,
 And there, each one will tend his own lot.

 4[‘They’ll say:]

 *‘Get ready to wage war against her…*
 *Arise, and we will attack her at noon!*
 *But, woe to us, for the day is now gone*
 *And the shadows of daylight have failed.*
 5*So, let’s get up and attack her at night,*
 *Then wipe her to her foundations!’*

 6‘For, thus says Jehovah of Armies:

 *‘Cut down all of her trees…*
 *Against that city of liars, send troops…*
 *Complete your tyranny against her!*

 7*‘Just like the cool taste of well water,*
 *You must cool off her evil.*
 *Since disrespect and misery are in her,*
 *Throw it back in her face!*

 8*‘O you [who live] in JeruSalem;*
 *In misery, with whips, you’ll be lashed,*
 *But My soul won’t totally leave you…*
 *I won’t make you a land that is no longer walked*
 *And which won’t be lived in again.’*

 9‘For, thus says Jehovah of Armies:

 *‘Glean them as you’d glean grapes*
 *(Those few who’ll be left in IsraEl)…*
 *Return as the picker returns to his [vines]!*

 10‘To whom should I be saying these things…
 Yes, whom can I tell that will listen?
 {Look!} For, because their ears are uncircumcised,
 They are unable to hear.
 And since, Jehovah’s words are something they scorn,
 {Look!} They’ll be unwilling to listen!

 11[‘Jehovah says:]

 *‘But although I waited, My rage wasn’t filled,*
 *And I didn’t completely finish them off…*
 *So I’ll pour it out on their children*
 *And upon their groups of young men.*

 *‘Their women and men will be taken away*
 *Along with the elders and those who’ve lived many days.*
 12*Then their houses will be given to others,*
 *Along with their women and fields.’*

 ‘Jehovah says:

 *‘Against all in this land, I’ll stretch out My hand…*
 13*Against all from the small to the great…*
 *All those who are filled with their own lawless ways.*

 *‘For their priests and all their false prophets*
 *Have each acted in falsehood.*
 14*And although they claim to bring healing,*
 *They are just bringing contempt.*
 *They also claim there is peace…*
 *But, where indeed is this peace?*

 15*‘So now they’ll be shamed, because they have failed.*
 *But, even though they’ll be disgraced,*
 *They’ll refuse to accept their dishonor.*
 *And because of this, they will fall…*
 *They’ll perish when I come to visit,’* says Jehovah.

 16‘And Jehovah said:

 *‘Now, stand in the roads and behold…*
 *[Consider the] paths of the ages;*
 *Then, choose the best road and travel that way*
 *As you search for ways to clean up your lives!*

 *‘But because you have said,* ‘We won’t go,’
 17*I’m appointing watchmen for you,*
 *And you must listen for the sounds of their trumpets!*

 *‘But, although you’ll say,* ‘We won’t listen,’
 18*The nations [that are coming] will listen,*
 *As will those who are tending their flocks.*

 19*‘O land, pay attention and look,*
 *For I’m bringing what’s bad on your people…*
 *It’s the fruitage of their rejection [of Me].*
 *For, because they’ve ignored My words and My Laws,*
 *I have pushed them away.*

 20*‘Why offer frankincense from SheBa to Me,*
 *And cinnamon from far away lands?*
 *For, your whole burnt-offerings, I will not accept,*
 *Since your sacrifices delight Me no more.*

 21*‘Because of this,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘Upon them, I’m bringing a weakness…*
 *Yes, fathers and sons will be weak,*
 *And their neighbors and loved ones will die.’*

 22‘Then Jehovah said:

 *‘{Look!} From the north, a people are coming*
 *Who’ll awaken the nations to the ends of the earth…*
 23*They’ll come with their spears and their bows,*
 *And on you, they will not show mercy.*

 *‘Their sounds are like the roar of the sea,*
 *And with horses and chariots, they will attack…*
 *They’ll bring the fire of war against you,*
 *O you daughters of Zion.’*

24About them, we have heard the reports,
 And the things that we’ve heard have made our hands weak…
 Anguish has grabbed hold of us
 Like the pangs of a woman about to give birth!

25So, don’t go out to the fields,
 And do not walk on the roads,
 For they’re filled with enemies who are carrying swords!

[And the Lord continues:]

 *‘So, you daughters of My people;*
 *[It’s time for you] to wear sackcloth…*
 *Strew ashes and mourn for your loved ones,*
 26*And in pity for yourselves, beat your breasts;*
 *For misery will suddenly come upon you.*

 27*‘Among you (you people on trial),*
 *I’ve appointed someone who’ll judge you;*
 *And as you’re tried, you’ll know I’m the One*
 *Who is judging your ways.*

 28*‘Yet, none have been willing to listen,*
 *Because they all walk crooked paths…*
 *They’re corrupted like brass touching iron.*

 29*‘Because the forge bellows have failed,*
 *It’s in vain that the smith works his silver;*
 *For their wicked ways will not melt.*

 30*‘So, call out and tell them*
 *That their silver has all been rejected…*
 *Yes, they’ve been rejected by [God].’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 7

1Then the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh and said:

 ‘Go stand at the gate of [the Temple],
 And against them, you must read these words:

 2‘O Judah,
 ‘Hear the Word of Jehovah,
 For Jehovah of Armies (the God of IsraEl) says this:

 3*‘If you’ll set right the things that you’re doing,*
 *And if you’ll choose to straighten your paths,*
 *I’ll settle you here in this place.*

 4*‘But you can’t rely on your lies anymore;*
 *For they’ll be no help when you’re shouting:*

 ‘O the Temple of Jehovah!
 O the Temple of [God]!’

 5*‘You must change your deeds and your ways,*
 *And get yourselves straightened out.*
 *Each man must start being fair with his neighbors,*
 6*As well as with foreigners, orphans, and widows.*

 7*‘[No, you] may no longer be tyrants…*
 *Innocent blood, don’t shed in this place…*
 *And stop chasing after strange gods!*

 *‘Then, [when you remove all this] badness,*
 *I’ll bring you back to this land once again*
 *That I gave to your fathers throughout the ages.*

 8*‘But now, you are trusting in words that are lies*
 *And which will do you no good.*
 9*You commit adultery, murder, and steal,*
 *And when you swear oaths, you are lying!*
 *You also burn incense to BaAl,*
 *And follow strange gods that you’ve never known.*

 10*‘So, although there’s just badness within you,*
 *You still come and stand before Me*
 *In the [Temple] that’s called by My Name,*
 *And then dare to say, We are clean.*

 11*‘Hasn’t My House that’s standing before you*
 *And which is called by My Name*
 *Become just a den of thieves?*
 *Look… This is what I have seen,’* says Jehovah...

 12*‘Go to My old place in ShiLoh*
 *Where I camped and placed My Name long ago,*
 *And see what I did because of their badness*
 *Before the faces of IsraEl, My people!*

 13*‘Now, because you are doing these things*
 *About which I warned you, but you failed to hear…*
 *The things that I shouted before you,*
 *But to which, you failed to change;*
 14*I’ll do the same thing to this [Temple]…*
 *The one that is called by My Name,*
 *And upon which you have relied…*
 *The Place that I gave to your fathers and you.*

 *‘Yes, I’ll do the same as I did to ShiLoh…*
 15*I’ll throw you away from My face*
 *Like I cast off your brothers (Ephraim’s offspring)!*

 16‘Now, you must not pray for these people…
 But don’t come and petition for mercy,
 Nor approach Me with vows on their behalf…
 For, I will not listen to you!

 17‘Don’t you see the things that they’re doing
 In all the cities of Judah
 And in JeruSalem’s streets?

 18*‘The sons go out to gather the wood,*
 *So their fathers can then light the fires*
 *[To bake] the dough that their women knead*
 *As cakes for the armies of the heavens.*

 *‘They offer drinks to strange gods,*
 *So they can provoke Me to rage…*
 19*Don’t they provoke Me to rage,’* asks Jehovah?
 *But, shouldn’t they be the ones who’re provoked*
 *By the disgrace on their faces?*

 20*‘It’s because of this,’* says Jehovah,
 *That I’ll pour out My anger and rage on this Place…*
 *Upon the men and their cattle…*
 *Upon every tree in their fields,*
 *As well as on the land’s produce.*
 *This fire has been lit and it won’t be put out!*

 21‘Jehovah said:

 *‘Gather up all your burnt-offerings,*
 *As well as your other sacrifices,*
 *Then go on and just eat all the meats!*

 22*‘For on the day that I led them from Egypt,*
 *I didn’t ask your fathers to offer such things…*
 *I didn’t really tell them to bring Me*
 *Whole burnt offerings or other sacrifices.*

 23*‘The only instructions that I gave them*
 *Was to pay attention to the things that I say!*
 *For you’ll be My people and I’ll be your God*
 *As long as you walk in My ways*
 *And do whatever I tell you is good!*

 24*‘But, they didn’t listen to Me,*
 *And their ears just paid no attention…*
 *They followed the evil thoughts in their hearts*
 *And became the butt not the head*
 *From the day that their fathers left Egypt ‘til now.*

 25*‘So I sent them My servants the Prophets*
 *Morning after morning and day after day.*
 26*But they still didn’t listen to Me…*
 *Their ears just paid no attention,*
 *And then they made their necks stiffer…*
 *Yes, harder than those of their fathers.*

 27*‘So, go and tell them these things,*
 *But they won’t listen to you…*
 *Yes, call out to them, but they won’t respond.*

 28*‘Go tell them that theirs is the nation*
 *That refused to hear the voice of its God…*
 *They failed to believe or give heed*
 *To the instructions that came from [My] mouth.’*

 29‘So, shear your [hair] and throw it away,
 Then let your lips start to wail;
 For Jehovah has rejected and pushed away
 The generation that has done all these things!

 30‘For, Jehovah says:

 *‘The sons of Judah are wicked before Me,*
 *Since they’ve brought disgusting things to My House*
 *And defiled the Place that is called by My Name.*

 31*‘They’ve built a shrine of Topheth for themselves*
 *There in the Valley of Hinnom*
 *Where they burn their sons and daughters in fire…*
 *Something that I never told them to do*
 *Or ever came into My heart.’*

 32‘Jehovah says:

 *‘{Look!} Because they’ve done this, the days have arrived*
 *When, from the Valley of Hinnom’s sons*
 *And the Shrine that they [built there to] Topheth,*
 *Nothing more will ever be heard.*

 *‘For their valley will soon be destroyed*
 *And Topheth will thereafter be buried,*
 *Since his place will no longer exist.*

 33*‘His people will also be dead,*
 *And they’ll serve as food for the birds in the skies,*
 *As well as for the wild beasts on the ground,*
 *Since no one will come to chase them away.*

 34*‘From the cities of Judah, I’ll take them,*
 *And I’ll remove them from JeruSalem’s streets.*
 *Then all the sounds of joy will be gone,*
 *And the voices of brides and grooms won’t be heard;*
 *For the land will become desolation.’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 8

 1*‘Then, during that time,’ says Jehovah,*
 *Within the graveyards of JeruSalem,*
 *They’ll dig up the bones of Judah’s kings,*
 *As well as the bones of its rulers,*
 *Along with the bones of its Prophets and Priests,*
 *And the bones of the rest of the people,*
 2*And let them dry under the sun…*
 *Yes, under the moon and the stars,*
 *Beneath the armies of the heavens*
 *That they have served and so loved…*
 *Those whom they worshiped and followed,*
 *And those before whom they have bowed.*

 *‘Thereafter, they will not be lamented,*
 *Nor will their bones be returned to their tombs…*
 3*They’ll just lie on the ground as examples…*
 *For, rather than life, they chose death.*
 *Then, all that remain of those generations*
 *Will be laid wherever I choose.’*

 4‘Then Jehovah asked:

 *Will the fallen not be resurrected…*
 *Will those who rebelled not return?*

 5*‘Why did they choose My rejection*
 *And hold so firmly to their resolve…*
 *Why didn’t they wish to [live once again]?*

 6*‘So give ear and pay close attention;*
 *For, since they’re not being told what is right,*
 *None have repented their badness,*
 *Nor have they asked what they have done wrong…*
 *They’ve just stopped running the race*
 *Like a horse that’s snorting and covered with sweat.’*

7‘Well, storks in the skies know their time,
 As do swallows and doves in the fields…
 Even sparrows keep watch for their end.
 Yet, my people do not understand
 The judgments that Jehovah has made.

8‘So, how can they say, *‘We are wise,*
 *And we have the Law of Jehovah?’*
 For, all the lies that are written
 By the quills of their scribes are in vain!

 9‘[Jehovah continues:]

 *‘Now the wise are frightened and shamed*
 *Because they’ve rejected My Word…*
 *So what wisdom do they truly have?*

 10*‘For I’ll give their women to other men,*
 *And I’ll leave their fields to other men’s heirs.*
 *Since, from the small to the great,*
 *They have chased after money;*
 *And from prophets to priests, they’ve all lied!*

 11*‘They’ve dishonored the daughters of My people,*
 *And they shout,* ‘Peace! Peace!’ *when there’s really no peace!*

 12*‘So, by the disgusting things that they’re doing,*
 *They have brought shame on themselves…*
 *Yet they’re not ashamed of their shame…*
 *They refuse to know any shame!*

 *‘And because of this, they will fall*
 *Along with the rest that will fall…*
 *In the time of My visit, they’ll fall,’* says Jehovah.
 13*And they will reap what they’ve [sown].’*

 ‘Now, there are no grapes on the vines,
 And there are no figs on their trees…
 Even the leaves have dropped off.

 14‘So, why are you just sitting there…
 You should flee to the fortified cities!
 But there, you will be turned away,
 Because your God has disowned you.

 ‘Then, bile you’ll be given for water,
 Because you have sinned against [God].
 15And although you will gather for peace,
 You will not receive any peace…
 Just worry when you really need healing.

 16‘Then from Dan, you’ll hear sounds of swift horses
 (The sounds of snorting and those riding steeds)…
 So many that the ground will be shaken.

 ‘They’ll come here and eat up your land
 Along with everything in it…
 The cities and all those who dwell there.

 17‘{Look!} I’ll send snakes against you to kill you
 (The types that have never been charmed).
 18Then, they will incurably bite you,
 Adding grief to hearts already disturbed.

 19[And Jehovah says:]

 *‘Look! Hear these cries of the daughters of My people,*
 *Which will come from far-away lands:*

 ‘Isn’t Jehovah on Zion…
 Don’t we have a king anymore?’

 *‘But, they’ve provoked Me to rage*
 *With their carvings of idols,*
 *And by following many strange, worthless things.’*

20Now, although summer has already passed,
 We’ve not received any harvest.
 21And about the destruction of the daughters of my people,
 I’m perplexed and swallowed by darkness…
 I’m in labor like a woman about to give birth.

22For in GileAd, there aren’t any ointments,
 Nor do they have any doctors.
 So the daughters of my people will never be healed.

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 9

1Who’ll provide enough water to come from my head
 And feed the springs of tears from my eyes,
 So that, day and night I can cry for my people,
 And for the daughters of those who’ll be slain?

2Who’ll provide me a hut in the desert
 Where I can escape from them all?
 For, they are committing ‘adultery,’
 And they’re breaking their Sacred Agreement [with God].

 3[And Jehovah says:]

 *‘Their tongues are stretched tight like bows,*
 *As lies and mistrust increase in the land;*
 *For, evil after evil is what they pursue,*
 *And they no longer know Me,’* said Jehovah.

 4*‘So each man must keep watch on his neighbor*
 *And not rely on even his brother;*
 *For their brothers will stomp them under their heels*
 *And their friends will [try to] deceive them.*

 5*‘Now, they all [laugh at] their friends*
 *And no way do they tell them the truth.*
 *Since their tongues have learned to speak lies,*
 *They do whatever is wrong,*
 *And they feel no sorrow for the bad things they do.*

 6*‘They’re compounding interest on interest*
 *And treachery upon treachery;*
 *For they no longer wish to behold Me,’* says [God].

 7‘*Because of this,’* says Jehovah of Armies;
 *‘{Look!} I’ll judge them and set them on fire!*
 *For, what else can I possibly do*
 *In the face of these wicked ways*
 *Being done by the daughters of My people?*

 8*‘Their tongues are piercing like arrows,*
 *And the words from their mouths are deceitful.*
 *Although each one speaks peace to his neighbors;*
 *Inside, they really feel hatred.*

 9*‘So, shouldn’t I pay them a visit,’ asks Jehovah,*
 *‘And bring My vengeance upon them?’*

 10*‘[Thus, it’s time to] mourn for the mountains,*
 *And time to wail for their desert roads…*
 *They’re failing, because there aren’t enough men,*
 *And they no longer hear sounds from the birds in the skies…*
 *Why, even the cattle are gone!*

 11*‘Evacuation is coming to JeruSalem,*
 *And she’ll become a home for wild beasts.*
 *I’ve appointed extinction to the cities of Judah,*
 *And they will no longer be lived in.’*

 12‘Now, who is the man who’s discerning?
 Let him recognize this…
 May the words of Jehovah be with him
 So he can tell you the reasons
 Why this land is being destroyed…
 Being burned away into a desert
 Where no one will thereafter live.

 13‘So Jehovah said:

 *‘Because they’ve abandoned My Law*
 *That I set in front of their faces,*
 *And they’ve paid no attention to My voice*
 14*As they chase after things that pleasure their hearts*
 *(Things that are evil and idols,*
 *Which their fathers had taught them to worship)…*
 15*On account of this,’* says IsraEl’s God
 (Jehovah of Armies is His Name);
 *‘{Look!} Upon distress, I will feed them,*
 *And I’ll make them drink bile for their water.*

 16*‘They’ll be scattered among many nations*
 *That they and their fathers have never known;*
 *For against them, I’m sending the sword*
 *Until they’re completely consumed.’*

 17‘Then Jehovah said:

 *‘You should call for the women who wail…*
 *Yes, shout and tell them to come!*
 *Send for all the wise women*
 *And tell them that this is their time to speak out.’*

 18‘So, they should start their lamenting
 And really bring tears to their eyes…
 Cause water to flow from their eyelids!
 19For in Zion, this dirge will be heard:

 ‘How have we come to such misery?
 We’re disgraced, for our land is abandoned
 And our tents have been thrown away!

 20‘Yes, listen to this, O you women;
 For, these are the words of your God!
 Let your ears hear the words from His mouth,
 Then teach this lament to your daughters…
 Let each one teach her neighbors to wail!

 21‘For, death has crept in through your windows…
 It has come to your land to wipe out your young
 And remove the young men from your squares.

 22‘Then your men must die on the face of the plains,
 To set an example for those in your land;
 And just like grass that’s been mowed,
 None will go out to collect them.

 23‘Then Jehovah said:

 *‘Don’t let the wise boast of their wisdom…*
 *Don’t let the mighty boast of their strength…*
 *Don’t let the rich boast of their wealth!*
 24*For when they boast, let them brag about this:*
 *That they perceive Me and know Me…*
 *That they know of My mercy and fairness,*
 *And that I’ve judged this land to bring justice…*
 *So these things being done, are My will,’* says Jehovah.

 25‘*{Look!} For the days are coming,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘When I’ll visit the uncircumcised,*
 *As well as the circumcised of Edom*
 26*(Those in Judah, Egypt, and Edom;*
 *The sons of AmMon and MoAb…*
 *All those who are shaving their faces*
 *And those who live in the deserts).*
 *For although the flesh of the nations is uncircumcised,*
 *In their hearts, IsraEl is uncircumcised too.’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 10

 1‘O house of IsraEl; listen to the Word of Jehovah!
 2‘Don’t learn the ways of the gentiles
 And don’t [follow] the [zodiac] signs…
 These things that are feared by the nations,
 3For the customs of the nations are worthless!

 ‘An idol is a tree that they’ve cut from the woods,
 Or it’s something that someone has cast [in a mold].
 4They adorn them with silver and gold,
 And nail them in place with a hammer…
 They [nail them tight] so they cannot move.

 5‘But they’re just carved pieces of silver…
 So, they are unable to speak,
 And they also have to be carried,
 For they can’t lift themselves into place!

 ‘Thus, there is no reason to fear them,
 For nothing in them can do bad or good.
 6They aren’t like You, O Jehovah;
 For You’re great… And great is the strength of Your Name.

 7‘Who won’t fear You, O King of the Nations?
 For to You come the wise from all lands;
 Because, in each of their kingdoms,
 They have no gods that are like You.
 8[For their idols] are foolish and thoughtless,
 Since trees can just teach foolish things.

 9‘It’s by the hands of skilled goldsmiths
 That silver from TarShish is melded
 Into gold that comes from Uphaz…
 But it’s all just the workings of craftsmen!
 10Then they deck those things in purple and blue.

 11‘As a result, tell them this:

 ‘Let these gods that didn’t make the skies or the ground
 Be destroyed from all lands under heaven!
 12For, it was Jehovah who made the earth…
 By His might, He erected man’s home.
 Then, in His intelligence and wisdom,
 Above it, He stretched out the heavens.

 13‘He gathers all the waters under the skies
 And [assembles] the clouds to the ends of the earth.
 He made the lightning and rain,
 And from His treasuries, He brings forth the winds.

 14‘The knowledge of men, He disgraces;
 And goldsmiths are shamed by the idols they carve.
 For false gods are just cast in ovens,
 And there is no spirit within them.

 15‘They are foolish works that are made to be mocked;
 And in that time [when God] comes to visit,
 They will all be destroyed.

 16‘But this isn’t the portion of Jacob;
 For the One who shaped everything
 (IsraEl’s inheritance and scepter)
 Is named Jehovah of Armies!
 17And from the [nations], He will gather supporters
 Who will dwell among His elected.’

18Then the Lord said:

 ‘{Look!} I’ll stumble those who live in this land,
 And squeeze them to [show all that they’ve done].
 19So, woe to you, for you’ll be destroyed,
 And your wounds will be very painful.’

Then I said:

 ‘But I’ve already been wounded… And this has surely come from you! 20For my tent is in such a miserable condition that it is almost totally destroyed… Its coverings of skins have been ripped apart, my sons and my sheep are all gone, there are no walls for my tent, and I have no place to store its leather! 21Even my shepherds have been acting stupidly. For since they’ve also failed to search for Jehovah, they’ve allowed all of my sheep to be scattered and confused in their pastures.

 22‘{Look!} We’ve received a report that the sounds of great shaking can be heard from the land in the north, and that orders have been given to wipe out our cities… To scatter us like the nest of an ostrich!

 23But I know, O Lord, that our people don’t know the right way to go, and we don’t even know how to walk a straight path. 24So, correct us in fairness, O Lord… Don’t send your rage and allow only a few of us to remain! 25Pour out your rage on the nations [instead]… On those kingdoms that really don’t know you, and on those who don’t call on [God’s] Name. For IsraEl has already been completely consumed, all of our pastures lie desolate, and now they’re getting ready to come and consume the rest of Jacob!’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 11

1Then these words came to JeremiAh from the Lord. He said:

 2‘Listen to these words about [God’s] Sacred Agreement,
 And then read them to the people of Judah,
 As well as to those in JeruSalem.
 3This is what IsraEl’s God Jehovah declared:

 *‘Cursed is the man who pays no regard*
 *To the words of the Sacred Agreement*
 *That I made with your fathers*
 *On the day that I led them from Egypt…*
 *From out of that furnace of iron.*

 4*‘If you’ll pay close attention to My voice*
 *And do all the things that I tell you to do,*
 *You’ll be My people and I’ll be your God.*
 5*I’ll reestablish My oath*
 *(The oath that I swore to your fathers)*
 *To give them this land of honey and milk*
 *That has flowed to them to this day.’*

And I replied:

 ‘May it be so, O my Lord.’

6And the Lord said to me:

 ‘Read these words in the cities of Judah
 And at JeruSalem’s [gates].
 Then, tell them to pay close attention
 To the words of the Sacred Agreement,
 And be sure to obey them!

 7‘For, we bore witness together,
 And I’ve testified to your fathers
 From the day that I led them from Egypt
 Down to this very day…
 I came to them early each morning
 In order to witness to them.
 I told them to hear the words of my voice!
 But, they wouldn’t listen or turn an ear…
 They just followed the bad thoughts in their hearts.

 ‘Although they agreed to the words of this Contract
 And to the things that I said they must do;
 8Thereafter, they just didn’t do them.

 9‘So, because of this, tell them that thus says Jehovah:

 *A conspiracy has been found among Judah’s men*
 *And among those who live in JeruSalem!*
 10*To their father’s bad ways, they’ve returned…*
 *The ways of those who had lived before them,*
 *And who also refused to listen to Me.*
 *{Look!} For, those in the houses of IsraEl and Judah*
 *Are following and serving strange gods…*
 *They’ve annulled My Agreement with their fathers!*

 11*‘And because of this,’* says Jehovah;
 *‘{Look!} I’ll bring an evil upon them*
 *That they won’t be able to end.*

 *‘Then, once again, they’ll start calling to Me,*
 *But this time, I will not listen.*
 12*And [what happens to] those in the cities of Judah,*
 *Will [be worse] than for those in JeruSalem.*

 *‘So then, they’ll have to call to their gods…*
 *Those to whom they burn incense…*
 *Those who can’t save them in times of [distress].*

 13*‘Now, each town in Judah has its own gods,*
 *And there are shrines on all of JeruSalem’s streets*
 *Where they burn incense to [a] BaAl.*

 14*‘So, you must not pray for these people…*
 *Don’t beg or petition for them!*
 *For when they call, I won’t listen*
 *In their time of distress.*

 15*‘Now, disgusting things are done in My House*
 *By those for whom I’ve shown love!*
 *So, will vows and holy meat atone for their bad…*
 *Are they putting their hope in such things?’*

 16‘As a pretty olive tree providing much shade
 Was the sight of those who called on His Name.
 Then I heard the sound of it being chopped down…
 It was lit on fire [and burned]…
 So her tender branches were wasted.

 17‘Yet, it was planted by Jehovah of Armies…
 The One against whom they spoke evil.
 So, on the houses of IsraEl and Judah
 There also came very bad things
 That they brought on themselves by provoking His rage…
 By their burning incense to [a] BaAl.’

18[But I said]:

 ‘O Lord,

 ‘Please tell me about it so I’ll know, because you’re the only one who’s fully aware of what they’re doing! 19However, I’m just an innocent lamb who doesn’t know he’s being led to the sacrifice; for they’re even plotting and making plans against me, saying:

 *‘Come, let’s give him wood for his bread…*
 *From the land of the living, let’s wipe him away,*
 *And make sure that his name is forgotten!’*

 20‘O Jehovah of Armies; please judge them fairly over such things… Try their kidneys and hearts! May I [live to] see Your punishment on them… But remember that I’ve acted uprightly.’

21It was because of this that the Lord then replied concerning the men of AnathOth that were seeking my life. For these were the ones who were saying to me:

 *‘Don’t prophesy in the Name of Jehovah anymore, for if you do, we’ll kill you!’*

22So concerning them, Jehovah of Armies said this:

 *‘Look! I’ll pay them a visit,*
 *Then, all their young men will die by the sword,*
 *And their sons and daughters will starve.*

 23*‘None of them will remain;*
 *For, to those who are living in AnathOth,*
 *I will be bringing what’s bad*
 *In the year that I come to visit.’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 12

1[And I said]:

 ‘You are righteous, O Lord; so, let me plead my case before You, and I’ll leave it for you to decide.

 ‘Why do the irreverent [seem to] succeed,
 And the wicked and disrespectful continue to prosper?
 2Yet, they were planted and rooted by you,
 And they produced children and fruitage.
 So it seems as though you are near to their mouths
 But far away from their kidneys.

 3‘You know me, O Lord,
 And before you, my heart has been tried.
 So, may they be gathered like flocks
 That are dedicated for slaughter!

 4‘How long will the land have to mourn
 And all the grass in the fields become dry
 Because of their evil deeds?
 Although they offer God cattle and birds,
 They say He doesn’t see what they’re doing.’

5[And the Lord replied]:

 ‘Since your feet get so tired when they run,
 How can you be ridden like a horse?
 Why have you trusted that there will be peace
 And why do you whinny for the JorDan?

 6‘For, even your brothers and the house of your father
 Have failed to pay attention to you…
 Behind your back, they are yelling at you!
 So, don’t trust them when they speak kind words.’

7[And I said]:

 ‘I have abandoned my home…
 My inheritance, I have forsaken…
 And into the hands of her enemies
 I’ve given the love of my life.

 8‘For [she], (my inheritance) has now become
 Like a lion that lives in the woods…
 She roared, so I started to hate her.

 9‘She’s become a den of hyenas,
 And [this den] is now her protection.
 So, gather to her the beasts of the fields
 And let them go there to eat her!’

10[And the Lord replied]:

 ‘Many shepherds have corrupted my vineyard…
 Yes, they have tainted my portion…
 They’ve turned my portion into a land that’s unwalked!

 11‘So, destruction and extinction is what I have planned.
 And because of me, the land will all be destroyed.
 Yet, the people have failed to take this to heart.

 12‘Then, through every pass in the desert
 Will come those who bring misery…
 Those who will use my sword to consume.
 And from one end of the land to the other;
 There won’t be any peace for all flesh.

 13‘For, although I once planted wheat there,
 Thorn-bushes is all that it [grew]…
 So, all of my efforts were wasted.
 Therefore, be ashamed of your prideful words
 And for speaking in scorn to Jehovah!’

14Then the Lord said:

 ‘When it comes to the wicked around you
 (Those who have touched my belongings…
 IsraEl, my people and portion);
 {Look!} From their land, I will take them away…
 I’ll uproot the people of Judah.

 15‘But, after I drive them away,
 I will also let them return,
 And I will show mercy upon them.
 Yes I’ll let them return and resettle
 In the land they received from their fathers…
 I’ll return each one to his [home].

 16‘And if my people should learn the right way
 Then start swearing their oaths by [God’s] Name…
 If they’ll say, *As Jehovah is living,*
 As they’re now swearing by [a] BaAl;
 I’ll let them return and rebuild their homes.

 17‘But, if they should choose not to return,
 I will lift that nation away…
 I’ll remove them and then I’ll destroy them,’ said the Lord.

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 13

1Then the Lord said:

 ‘Now, go buy a loin cloth of linen,
 And thereafter, wrap it around you…
 But, do not wash it in water.’

2So I went out and bought the loincloth, just as I was told by the Word of Jehovah, and I wrapped it around my loins. 3Then the Word of Jehovah came to me a second time saying:

 ‘Now you should take off the loincloth
 (The one whom you’ve wrapped ‘round your loins),
 4Then get up and go to the River EuPhrates,
 And hide it in a hole among rocks!’

5So I went and hid it by the EuPhrates, just as the Lord had told me to do.

6Then after many days, the Lord said to me:

 ‘Now, get up and go back to the River EuPhrates…
 Go search and bring back that loincloth…
 The one I told you to hide there.’

7So I went back to the EuPhrates and dug up the loincloth from the place where I’d hidden it… And {Look!} it was ruined… There’s no way that it could have been used after that.

8Then the Word of Jehovah came and told me [and said]:

 9‘This is what Jehovah has said:

 *‘Like this, I’ll corrupt the insolence of Judah*
 *Because of JeruSalem’s insolent ways…*
 10*The insolence of those who don’t wish to obey…*
 *Those who follow in the wicked ways of their hearts*
 *By chasing and serving strange gods,*
 *Then bowing to their faces before them.*

 *‘They will become like this loincloth,*
 *Which will never be useful again.*
 11*For, just as this cloth hugs the loins of a man,*
 *I’ve stuck by the houses of IsraEl and Judah,’* says Jehovah.

 *‘They’d have been a famous people to Me*
 *And a reason for boasting and glory…*
 *But they have paid Me no heed!*

 12‘So, speak these words to those people…
 Say that IsraEl’s God Jehovah says this:

 *‘Your leather bags will be filled with wine!’*

 ‘And when they ask:

 *‘Don’t you think that we already know*
 *That our leather bags will be filled with wine?*
 *Why have you have said this to us?’*

 13‘Tell them that thus says Jehovah:

 *‘{Look!} I’ll fill those in this land with strong drink…*
 *Their kings (David’s sons) that sit on their thrones,*
 *As well as their priests and their prophets,*
 *Along with all those living in Judah*
 *And those who live in JeruSalem.*

 14*‘Then, I will send them away…*
 *Each man will be torn from his brother,*
 *And all sons will be torn from their fathers.*
 *And thereafter, I will not miss them,’* says Jehovah…
 *‘I won’t spare them or pity their ruin.’*

15So, hear this… Yes listen, and then give up hope!
For, this is what the Lord said:

 ‘Give glory to Jehovah, your God…
 16Give glory before it gets dark…
 Before your feet stumble amid mountain shade
 Where you’ll wait for light in the shadow of death,
 But where you will only find darkness!

 17‘For, if you choose not to listen,
 You’ll weep in secret, because of your pride;
 And there, your eyes will shed tears
 For the scattered flock of Jehovah.

 18‘Now, go and say this to your king:

 *‘Your rulers must sit down and humble themselves,*
 *For their wreaths of glory will be knocked from their heads.*

 19*‘The cities towards the south will be also closed,*
 *And not be opened again.*
 *Then the people of Judah will be resettled*
 *In a complete relocation.*

 20*‘So, raise your eyes, O JeruSalem,*
 *And see what’s coming to you from the north!*

 *‘And where is the flock that was given to you…*
 *[Yes, where are] the sheep of your glory?*
 21*What will you say when those people arrive*
 *And you’ll have to teach them hard lessons*
 *Against yourselves and your rule?*

 *‘Won’t labor pangs then control you*
 *As though you’re a woman about to give birth?*

 22*‘And if you should ask in your heart,*
 ‘Why has this happened to me?’
 *It’s because your sins have been great!*
 *So your butt will now be uncovered*
 *To be an example to your heels.*

 23*‘If Ethiopians could change their skin color*
 *Or leopards could change all their spots;*
 *You’d also be able to do what is good*
 *And learn [not to do] any evil.*

 24*‘So, your people will be scattered by [God]…*
 *Like twigs that are blown in the desert by winds.*
 25*Yes, this is your portion and lot,*
 *Because of the ways you’ve opposed [Him],’* said the Lord.

 *‘For, you forgot [Him] and trusted in lies.*
 26*So, to your faces, I’ll now show your butts…*
 *Your dishonor will be exposed before all.*

 27*‘Yes I’ve seen your snorting and adultery…*
 *Your disgusting acts and the whoring*
 *That you’ve done in your hills and in all your fields.*

 *‘So, woe to you, O JeruSalem,*
 *Because you’re too dirty to follow me,*
 *And for you, there’s no hope any longer!’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 14

1**Then the Word of Jehovah came to me (JeremiAh) to [speak about] the drought.**

[For I had said:]

 2‘Judah is mourning, for her gates are now empty,
 And the land is enveloped in darkness,
 As cries are ascending from JeruSalem.

 3‘Her great ones send young men for water,
 Who find nothing when they get to the wells;
 So, all they bring back is just empty jars.

 4‘The works in the land have failed also,
 For there hasn’t been any rain.
 So the farmers are shamed and they cover their heads.
 5And when the hinds in the prairies give birth,
 They just abandon their young…
 For there’s not enough [grass] in the fields.

 6‘Wild burros in the woods must suck wind;
 And because there is so little hay,
 The eyes of the wild beasts have failed.

 7‘Because of our sins, [You’ve] opposed us, O Lord;
 But, help us for the sake of Your Name.
 However, our errors are many,
 And we’re [guilty] of sinning against You.

 8‘But Jehovah,

 ‘You are IsraEl’s endurance…
 In hard times, You’ve been our Savior.
 So, why are You being a stranger to us…
 Like a native-born son on vacation?

 9‘Are You like a man who is sleeping,
 Or someone who is able to save us?
 For, You’ve been among us, O Lord,
 And we are called by Your Name;
 So, You should never forget us!’

10And the Lord replied concerning these people:

 ‘They’ve [sinned] and they have spared no one;
 So, God hasn’t prospered their ways,
 And because He is now recalling their sins…
 For their errors, He’s coming to visit.’

11Then the Lord told me:

 ‘Don’t request good things for these people;
 12For, when they fast, I won’t hear their prayers.
 And if they should bring sacrifices,
 I won’t look kindly upon them.
 Rather, I’ll finish them off with the sword,
 And to the rest, I will then send a famine.’

13And I said:

 ‘O Great Being… O Lord,

 ‘Our prophets have said that we won’t ever see the sword and that we’ll never go hungry… Rather, they’re saying that You’re going to bring peace to our land!’

14And then the Lord said this to me:

 ‘Those who prophesy such in [God’s] Name
 Are just telling them lies;
 For, I did not really send them,
 Nor did I tell them what they should say.

 ‘So the visions that they have are all lies;
 And the signs and omens that they prophesy,
 Are just things that come from their hearts.

 15‘Therefore, this was said by Jehovah:

 *‘You must tell those who prophesy lies in My Name*
 *(Those whom I didn’t send)…*
 *[Because you’ve said] that famine and the sword*
 *Will never come to this land;*
 *You prophets will die by diseases,*
 *And I’ll finish what’s left by starvation!*

 16*‘Yes, you who are telling such stories*
 *Will all die by the sword and by famine;*
 *Then your bodies will be tossed in JeruSalem’s streets.*

 *‘You won’t be buried in tombs…*
 *Nor will your wives, sons, or daughters.*
 *For I’ll pour your own badness upon you!’*

 17‘Then tell them that Jehovah said this:

 *‘Your eyes will be filled with tears day and night…*
 *For you will never stop crying!*
 *To the daughters of My people will just come defeat…*
 *Yes, they will be horribly beaten!*

 18*‘So, when you go out to the fields,*
 *You’ll see those cut down by the sword.*
 *And when you enter the cities,*
 *You’ll see the misery of famine.*
 *Then, to lands that you’ve never known,*
 *They’ll carry you prophets and priests!’*

19[And I asked:]

 ‘Are you saying that Jehovah has rejected all of Judah and that He has removed His Soul from Zion? Why is He striking us instead of healing us? For although we’ve been waiting for peace, nothing good has happened… [we’ve been waiting for] healing, but things are just getting worse!

 20‘O Lord, we’re aware of our errors and the sins of our fathers… Yes we know that we’re guilty of sins before You. 21But please back off because of Your Name… Don’t destroy Your glorious throne! Please remember Your Sacred Agreement… Please don’t wipe it away!

 22‘For, which idol of the nations can bring rain… Which one can bring what they say they can bring from the skies? Who other than You can accomplish such things… [Who other than] our God Jehovah?

 ‘Therefore, we’ll continue to wait upon You, since You’re the One who created it all!’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 15

1And then the Lord said to me:

 ‘If you’d stand SamuEl and Moses before me…
 Even for them, my soul wouldn’t change.
 So, send these people away from my face…
 Yes, let them [be carried away]!

 2‘And if they should ask, *Where are we going?*
 You should tell them that thus says Jehovah:

 *‘As many as are [appointed for] death*
 *[Are the numbers of those] who will die;*
 *As many as are [appointed] to the sword*
 *[Are the numbers of those] who will die by the sword;*
 *As many as are [appointed] to famine*
 *[Are the numbers of those] who will starve;*
 *And as many as are [appointed] to be captives*
 *[Are the numbers of those] who’ll be carried away.’*

 3‘And Jehovah said:

 *‘I will take vengeance in 4 different ways:*

 · *They’ll be put to death by the sword,*
 · *They’ll be torn to pieces by dogs,*
 · *They’ll serve as prey for wild beasts,*
 · *They’ll be rotting flesh for the birds in the skies.*

 4*‘To many distresses, I’ll hand them*
 *To all the kingdoms throughout the earth*
 *Because of ManasSeh, king of Judah*
 *(The son of King HezekiAh),*
 *And for all that he did in JeruSalem.*

 5*‘O JeruSalem; who will spare you?*
 *Yes, who will be timid against you,*
 *And who will say,* ‘May you have peace?’
 *For to Me, you have now turned [your backs],’* says Jehovah.
 6*So now, you will be [forced to] retreat;*

 *‘Then I’ll stretch out My hand to destroy you*
 *And I will not spare you thereafter.*

 7*‘I’ll scatter and disperse those inside the gates,*
 *And they will all become childless…*
 *They’ll destroy My people, because they’re so bad.*

 8*‘Then there’ll be more widows than the sands of the seas…*
 *For to mothers of young men, I’ll send misery…*
 *I’ll bring trembling and anxiety upon them at noon.*

 9*‘So the one who bore 7 will have none,*
 *For their lives will meet with misfortune*
 *And their sun will have set at midday.*
 *They’ll be disgraced and berated,*
 *And I’ll hand what’s left to the sword,’* says Jehovah.’

10So, woe to you, O mother who bore me;
 For I’ve become a man who must judge
 And bring bad things to this land.

Yet, none of this will benefit me,
 Since no one has offered to help me,
 And I’ve been weakened by all those who curse me.

11So may it be, O Jehovah the Almighty…
 May they get no help in their time of distress,
 And may their enemies bring them no good.
 12Let them know that [You are like] iron
 And Your strength is like a robe made of brass.

13[Then the Lord said this concerning the people]:

 ‘Because of the sins in your borders,
 I’ll hand all your treasures to them.
 14Before them, you all will be slaves,
 And you’ll live in lands that you’ve never known.
 For a fire will start burning among you,
 Which will be lit by my rage.’

15But Lord; please do not forget me…
 Save me from those who pursue me…
 Please don’t hold back [Your hand],
 Since it’s because of You, that I’m hated
 16By those who don’t want to hear what You’ve said.

If You’ll completely finish them off,
 Your words will bring joy to my heart.
 For, O Jehovah the Almighty;
 I’m a man who is called by Your Name!

17I don’t sit among those who have mocked You,
 And before Your hand, I was cautious.
 I sat by myself all alone
 Filled with great indignation.

18But, why do You allow those who bring grief to win?
 For my wounds by them have been so severe…
 And now, where can I go to get healed?
 Yes, to me, this is untested water…
 It’s something that I cannot trust.

19Then the Lord said:

 ‘If you should ever return [to this land],
 I’ll return everything that you’ve owned,
 And before my face, you’ll stand once again.

 ‘But now, you must separate those who are worthy
 From all the rest that are not,
 And you must serve as my mouth.

 ‘And although they may come before you,
 You must not go before them.
 20For, to these people, I’ve made you
 A fortified wall of forged brass.

 ‘So, although they’ll wage war against you,
 They won’t be able to beat you,
 Because I am here and I’ll save you.

 ‘Yes, I’ll rescue you from their hands,’ said [the Lord]…
 ‘From the hands of the wicked, I’ll save you…
 I’ll ransom you from these cursed people.’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 16

1Then the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:

 2‘Don’t take another wife in this place
 And don’t father more daughters or sons.
 3For, concerning the sons and the daughters
 That have been born in this place…
 And concerning the mothers that gave them birth,
 And those in this land that are fathers,
 [Your God Jehovah says this]:

 4*‘They’ll die by death and disease,*
 *And not be entombed or lamented…*
 *As examples, they’ll lie on the face of the ground!*

 *‘Most will fall by the sword,*
 *And starvation will kill all the rest.*
 *Their corpses will serve as food for wild beasts*
 *And for the birds in the skies.’*

5And the Lord told me:

 ‘Don’t join in their [funeral processions],
 And for them, don’t mourn or lament,
 Since I’m the one who took peace away,
 Along with compassion and mercy.

 6‘So the great and the small of this land will all die
 And they won’t be lamented or buried…
 No one will beat their chests over them,
 Nor cut on themselves or shave their heads.

 7‘No way will there be feasts of mourning…
 No bread will be broken to console
 Those who are mourning their dead.
 Nor will any drinks be provided
 For the deaths of their fathers and mothers.

 8‘So don’t enter their homes for a banquet…
 Don’t sit beside them to eat or to drink;
 9For thus says Jehovah, IsraEl’s God:

 *‘{Look!} Before your eyes, I’ll remove them,*
 *And during your [life, this will happen].*
 *There’ll be no sounds of gladness or joy,*
 *Nor the voices of grooms and their brides.*

 10‘Now, when you say this to the people, they’ll ask:

 *‘Why has Jehovah pronounced such bad things…*
 *What wrongs have we really done…*
 *How have we sinned against God?’*

 11‘And this must be your reply:

 *It’s because your fathers have left Me,’ says Jehovah;*
 *And they have followed strange gods…*
 *They bowed before them and served them…*
 *They’ve abandoned Me and not kept My Laws…*
 12*And you’re more wicked than them!*

 *‘{Look!} For you’ve chased all the evil that pleases your hearts,*
 *And you have refused to obey Me.*
 13*So I’ll drive you away from this land*
 *To a land that is strange to your fathers and you,*
 *Where you’ll serve strange gods day and night…*
 *Those who will show you no mercy!*

 14*‘Yes, because of this, days will come when they’ll say:*

 ‘As Jehovah is living…
 The One who led IsraEl from Egypt...’

 15*‘But then, they will also be saying:*

 ‘As Jehovah is living…
 The One who led IsraEl back
 From the lands in the north,
 And from everywhere else they were taken...’

 *‘For then, I will bring them back to their land…*
 *This land that I gave to their fathers.*

 16*‘{Look!} To them, I will send men who fish,’* says Jehovah,
 *And they will go fishing for them.*
 *I will also send out the hunters*
 *Who’ll hunt for them on the mountains and hills*
 *And even in holes among rocks.*

 17*‘But My eyes are now watching their ways,*
 *So they can’t hide their offenses from Me.*
 18*And it’s because of all their unrighteous ways…*
 *For the sins with which they’ve ruined My land…*
 *For the disgusting things of their rotting flesh*
 *And for filling My inheritance with their lawless deeds,*
 *That I will pay them back double!*

 19*‘But thereafter, they will be saying:*

 ‘O Jehovah, our helper and strength…
 Our refuge during hard times…
 To You, all the nations will come
 From the ends of the earth.’

 *‘And they will also be saying:*

 ‘How false were the idols that our fathers acquired;
 Because, in them, there was no hope at all…
 20Although each man made his own gods,
 None of these really proved to be gods!’

 21*‘{Look!} At that time, I will show them My hand…*
 *Yes, I will show them My might.*
 *Then they’ll learn that My Name is Jehovah!’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 17

 1‘Thus says Jehovah:

 *All the sins of Judah have been inscribed*
 *With a stylus of iron…*
 *In the tablets of their hearts, they’ve been clawed,*
 *And upon the horns of their altars.*

 2*‘So their sons will remember their altars,*
 *As well as their sacred poles,*
 *Which were found under every tree in the woods*
 *And upon every high hill.*

 3*‘And on the mountains, there in your plains,*
 *I will give your wealth and treasures as loot*
 *For the sins [you’ve committed] upon these high peaks.*

 4*‘Then the inheritance that I gave to you will be gone,*
 *And you’ll have to serve people who hate you*
 *In a land that you’ve never known.*
 *For you’ve kindled the fire of My wrath,*
 *Which will blaze against you throughout the rest of this age.’*

5Then the Lord said:

 ‘Cursed is the man who has any hope;
 For, although his flesh is still on his arms,
 His heart is far from Jehovah.
 6So he’ll be like a tree in the desert,
 And when good things arrive, he won’t see them.
 For in a desert of salt, he’ll be planted…
 In a brackish land, where no one has lived.

 7‘But, praised is the man who relies on the Lord
 And puts his hope in Jehovah.
 8For he’ll be like a tree planted near water
 That shoots its roots into moisture.

 ‘He’ll have no fear of sweltering heat
 And grow fat like a tree in the woods.
 He’ll have nothing to fear in the year of the drought,
 And he’ll keep on producing good fruit.

 9‘Since hearts are the deepest of things,
 Who can know [what’s inside] a man?
 10But, I can examine the hearts,
 And I also put the kidneys on trial,
 Then repay each one for his ways
 By the fruits of the things that he’s done.

 11‘As a partridge calls out to [eggs] that won’t hatch,
 Is the man who is rich but unfair.
 For in the last half of his days,
 He will lose all his wealth…
 And this [will prove] that he’s been a fool.’

12[O Lord],

Our Holy Place is Your glorious throne,
 Which we’ve held in esteem since most ancient times.
 13But, IsraEl now awaits the disgrace
 That will come upon those who have left You.

So, may the names of those who’ve rebelled
 Be written deep under the ground,
 Since they’ve left their Lord and the source of their life!

14Make the Sabbath days holy again…
 Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed…
 Save me and I’ll be delivered,
 For, You are my reasons for boasting!

15They ask:

 *‘Where is this Word of Jehovah?*
 *May [whatever He says] come upon us!’*

16But I’ve never tired of following You,
 And I’ve had no desire to do what they’ve done.

You know all the things that have come from my lips…
 Before Your face, they’re all here!
 17So, please don’t push me away…
 Protect me when that bad day arrives!

18May those who chase me be shamed,
 And may I not bring disgrace on myself.
 Although they may come to know terror,
 May terror never come upon me.
 Yes, bring that bad day upon them…
 Double the destruction upon them!

19And then the Lord said this to me:

 ‘Go stand at the gates of the sons of your people
 (The gates through which kings of Judah now walk …
 Those gates through which they must pass).
 Yes, go and stand at each of those gates,
 20And this is what you should tell them:

 *‘O you kings of Judea…*
 *You kings of Judah and JeruSalem*
 *And all the rest that enter these gates;*
 *Hear the Word of Jehovah!*

 21*‘For Jehovah has said you can save yourselves*
 *By not carrying loads here on the Sabbaths…*
 *Don’t carry anything through JeruSalem’s gates*
 22*Or from your homes on the Sabbaths.*
 *He told you not to do any work,*
 *And to keep the Sabbath days holy;*
 *Since, that’s what He told your fathers to do!’*

 23‘But, they’ll not turn and listen to you…
 They’ll have stiffer necks than their fathers…
 They’ll not pay attention or do what you say.’

24Then the Lord [told me to say this to them]:

 ‘If you will just listen to Me
 And not carry goods through these gates on the Sabbaths…
 If you’ll treat the Sabbaths as holy
 By refusing to do any work;
 Then, kings and rulers will enter these gates
 Who will still sit upon David’s throne.

 25‘They’ll come through here with horses and chariots,
 And I will appoint them the rulers
 Of Judah and JeruSalem…
 Then they’ll settle in this city throughout the ages.

 26‘And at that time, [the people] will come
 From Judah and JeruSalem.
 And from BenJamin’s land they’ll come also…
 From the mountains and fields in the south.

 ‘Here they’ll be bringing burnt-offerings,
 Along with incense and frankincense,
 As well as offerings of praise and thanksgiving…
 Here to the Temple of Jehovah.

 27‘But, if you should choose not to listen
 And not treat My Sabbaths as holy…
 If you continue to lift and tote loads
 Through JeruSalem’s gates on the Sabbaths;
 I’ll kindle a fire inside of these gates
 To devour JeruSalem’s plazas…
 A fire that won’t be extinguished!’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 18

1This message came to JeremiAh from Jehovah. 2He said:

 *‘Get up and go to the house of the potter*
 *And hear the words that I’ll say there.’*

3So I went to the house of the potter, and {Look!} there I found the man making a [pot] on his stone. 4However, the pot that he was making then fell apart, so he reshaped it into one that he was pleased with.

5It was then that the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:

 6‘Now, Jehovah is asking this question:

 *‘O House of IsraEl;*
 *Can’t I shape you in the same way*
 *That the potter just [reshaped this pot]?*
 *For, O house of IsraEl;*
 *Like clay in the hands of a potter*
 *Is what you are in My hands.*

 7*‘So, when I speak of bringing an end*
 *To any nation or kingdom,*
 *And I plan to destroy them and lift them away;*
 8*If the nation should turn from the bad,*
 *I can then change My mind*
 *About the bad things that I’d planned.*

 9*‘And when I speak of building a nation or kingdom,*
 10*And they [choose to be] wicked before Me,*
 *Refusing to hear what I say;*
 *About the good things of which I had planned,*
 *I can then change My mind.’*

 11‘So, say this to those men of Judea
 And to those who live in JeruSalem…
 Tell them that thus says Jehovah:

 *‘{Look!} I will shape bad things against you*
 *And devise against you, a plot,*
 *Unless you turn from your evil ways*
 *And change your bad ways to good!*

 12*‘Yet, this is what they’ll say in reply:*

 ‘We’ll act like men and do as we please…
 We’ll do whatever is bad in our hearts!’

 13‘And because of this, thus says Jehovah:

 *‘Go and ask the gentiles this question:*
 *Have you heard better reasons to shudder*
 *Than what IsraEl, the virgin, has done?*

 14*‘Will snow leave the rocks on the mountains?*
 *Will rain not fall when it’s blown by the wind?*
 15*Yet, because My own people forgot Me,*
 *It’s in vain that they’re burning incense to Me,*
 *And they’ll now grow weak in their paths.*

 *‘On the roads of the ages, they will not walk;*
 *For, since they don’t know the right way to go,*
 16*They’ve ordered extinction upon their own land…*
 *A hissing [that will last] throughout the ages.*

 *‘Then, all that go there will be stupefied,*
 *And they will just shake their heads.*
 17*For, enemies will blow them away*
 *As though they are flames in the wind…*
 *Yes, I’ll show them the rear not the front*
 *In the day that they’re being destroyed!’*

18Well after that, [the people] started saying:

 ‘We need to come up with a plot [to destroy] JeremiAh, for the Law won’t really pass away, nor will the wisdom or words of [our] prophets. Come on, let’s beat him on his tongue so we won’t have to listen to his words anymore!’

19Hear me, O Lord,

Hear the [results] of my righteous deeds! 20Should I be repaid with evil for the good [that I’m doing]? For right now they’re meeting and talking about doing something evil to my life!

Please remember [all the times] that I stood here before You and asked You to do good things for them… When I urged You to turn from Your rage against them! 21But now, because of [these things that they’re saying], please bring a famine upon all their sons and hand them over to those who are carrying swords! Let their women become childless and widows… May all of their husbands be killed, and may all their young men fall by the sword! 22Let there be cries in their homes as You set looters upon them… For now they’re plotting to arrest me and they’re hiding snares to catch me!

23Yes, You know, O Lord, that they’re planning to kill me; so don’t overlook their errors and sins, and wipe them away from before You. Let their failures always remain in Your [eyes], and then deal with them in the day of Your rage!

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 19

1Well at that, the Lord said to me:

 ‘Go buy a shaped earthenware pitcher
 From the elders of the people and the priests.
 2Then go to the graveyard of Hinnom’s sons
 At the threshold of the East Gate,
 And read all these words that I’ll tell you:

 3‘Say:

 *‘O you kings of Judea,*
 *And you who live in JeruSalem;*
 *Hear the word of Jehovah!*
 *For Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl now says*
 *That He’ll bring so many bad things to this place*
 *That it will ring in the ears of those hearing about it!*

 4*‘For, they’ve left Him and [chosen] this place*
 *Where they burn incense to their strange gods*
 *(Gods that their fathers never knew).*
 *And the kings of Judah have filled up this place*
 *With the blood of innocent men.*

 5*‘Here, they’ve built [altars] to [a] BaAl,*
 *And they’ve burned their sons in a fire…*
 *Something that God never spoke of*
 *And which He never told them to do,*
 *Or ever came into His heart!*

 6*‘And because of this, days will come,’* said the Lord,
 *‘When they’ll call this [The Valley] no longer,*
 *Nor the Graveyard of Hinnom’s sons.*
 *It’ll be called, The Graveyard of Slaughter!*

 7*‘For there, I’ll slay the counselors of Judah,*
 *As well as those of JeruSalem…*
 *Before their enemies, I’ll cut them down*
 *Through the hands of those who are seeking their lives.*
 *Then I’ll hand their dead to the birds as their food,*
 *As well as to the wild beasts of the ground.*

 8*‘I’ll order the extinction of this city…*
 *It’ll be just a place where hissing is heard.*
 *And all that come here will look at it sadly,*
 *Then whistle [when they see] its disaster.*

 9*‘Here they’ll eat the flesh of their daughters and sons,*
 *And in their strongholds, the flesh of their neighbors,*
 *When their enemies (those seeking their lives) have arrived.’*

 10‘Then, break that pitcher in front of their eyes,
 And before those who’ve traveled there with you,
 11Then tell them that thus says Jehovah:

 *‘This is how I will do it;*
 *I’ll break your city and its people*
 *Just like this pot has been shattered*
 *So that it cannot be repaired.*
 *Then they will be buried here in this place*
 *Where [they now play] tambourines…*
 *And there’ll be no other place to be buried.’*

 12‘Jehovah says:

 *This is what I will do to this place,*
 *And to all those who live here…*
 *I’ll hand this city to destruction…*
 13*Yes, all of JeruSalem’s homes*
 *And the palaces of all of its rulers.*

 *‘It will all fall into ruin*
 *Because of the bad things they’ve done here.*
 *For here, they’ve burned incense on roofs*
 *To each of the [Zodiac signs],*
 *And they’ve offered drinks to strange gods.’*

14Then JeremiAh left [the valley] where The Lord had sent him to prophesy, and he went and stood in the courtyard of the [Temple] of Jehovah and said this to all the people who were there:

 ‘Thus says Jehovah of Armies:

 *‘{Look!} I’ll bring calamity on this city*
 *And to the rest of its cities and towns.*
 *I’m bringing all of the evils that I’ve spoken against her;*
 *For, you have hardened your necks,*
 *And not listened to the instructions that I sent.’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 20

1Well, when PashUr son of ImMer (the Priest who had been anointed as the leader of the Temple of Jehovah) heard what JeremiAh was prophesying, 2he had him beaten and thrown into the dungeon near the Upper Gate of the House of BenJamin, which was near the Temple of Jehovah.

3Then the next morning, as PashUr was leading JeremiAh out of the dungeon, JeremiAh said to him:

 ‘Jehovah won’t call your name PashUr anymore. Rather, He’s going to call you *Refugee*. 4Because, Jehovah says this:

 *‘{Look!} I will hand over you and your friends,*
 *And you’ll be taken away from this place.*
 *Then, each one will be cut down by enemy swords…*
 *And your eyes will see it all happen.*

 *‘Then I’ll hand over Judah to Babylon’s king,*
 *And he’ll move the people away*
 *Or cut them to pieces with swords.*

 5*‘I’ll remove the strength from this city*
 *– All its works and all the king’s treasures –*
 *And give them into their enemy’s hands.*

 *‘Then to Babylon, they all will be led;*
 6*And you and all that live in your house*
 *Will be taken to Babylon as captives,*
 *And that is the place where you’ll die…*
 *It’s where you’ll be entombed with your friends*
 *To whom you prophesied lies.’*

7Then I said:

 ‘You’ve deceived me, O Lord… Yes, I was truly deceived! Although You’ve held on and won, I’m the butt of their laughter every day and I’m the one they’re all sneering at! 8So from now on, I’m just going to laugh at the bitterness and call for more misery and rebellion, since all that speaking the word of Jehovah has brought me is scorn and taunting every day.’

9And I said:

 ‘There’s no way that I’m going to [speak of] Jehovah anymore… I won’t even mention His Name!’

However, soon it became like a fire that burned and blazed in my bones and made me weak on the inside, until I was no longer able to bear it. [So I said:]

 10‘I’ve heard that they’ve said in their meetings:

 *‘We should all rise up against him…*
 *Yes, let’s stand together against him*
 *As well as against all his friends!*

 *‘Let’s ignore what he says will be coming…*
 *Yes, let him keep on being deceived.*
 *For against him, we will prevail,*
 *And then, we’ll take vengeance upon him!’*

 11‘However, Jehovah is with me,
 As a warrior that’s making me strong.
 So, they have chased me in vain…
 And although they will all meet with shame,
 They’ll fail to see their dishonor,
 Which will not be forgotten throughout ages.

 12‘O Lord,

 ‘Try me according to Your righteous ways…
 Examine my kidneys and heart.
 May I witness Your punishment on them…
 For before You, I’ve laid out my pleas for defense.

 13‘So, sing to Jehovah and praise Him,
 Because He’ll save the lives of the poor
 From the hands of those who have power!

 14‘O cursed is the day I was born…
 May the day that my mother gave birth
 Never be longed for again!

 15‘And may that person be cursed
 Who brought this as news to my father:
 *‘Rejoice, for you have a male child!’*
 16May he be as the cities that did not repent
 And were destroyed by Jehovah!

 ‘Let him hear their cries in the mornings,
 As well as their shouting at noon!
 17For [God] failed to kill me in my mother’s womb
 And let it serve as my tomb throughout the ages.

 18‘Why did I come from the womb…
 Just to see all of this misery
 And to spend all my days in such shame?’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 21

1The following are the words that came to JeremiAh from Jehovah after King ZedekiAh had sent PashUr (son of MelchiAh) and ZephaniAh (son of MaAseJah) the Priest to him to say this:

 2‘Go beg to Jehovah for us, because the king of Babylon has us surrounded! [Ask] if the Lord will send wonders and drive that king from [our walls].’

3So the Lord then told JeremiAh:

 ‘Give this reply [from Jehovah] to King ZedekiAh:

 *‘I’ll turn back the weapons of war in your hands*
 *That you’re using to fight those Chaldeans*
 *Who have come to oppress you,*
 *And that are outside of your walls;*
 4*Then, I’ll bring them into your city.*

 5*‘For, I will wage war against you*
 *With My outstretched hand and My mighty arm*
 *In [My] anger and rage.*

 6*‘I’ll strike all those who live in this city*
 *In a slaughter of men and their cattle…*
 *Yes, they will all be destroyed!*

 7*‘And then,’* said Jehovah,
 *I’ll hand over Judah’s King ZedekiAh,*
 *As well as all of his servants,*
 *Along with those who live in this city*
 *Who’ll survive death from the famine*
 *And the swords in the hands of those seeking their lives.*

 *‘By the mouth of the sword, they’ll cut them to bits…*
 *They will not spare or feel pity!’*

 8‘Then, speak to these people and tell them…
 Yes, tell them that thus says Jehovah:

 *‘{Look!} Before your faces, I’ve put life and death.*
 9*And those who stay in this city*
 *Will die by famine or by the sword.*
 *But those who leave to join the Chaldeans*
 *(Those men who have you surrounded) will live…*
 *Your [reward] will be your own lives!*

 10*‘For against this city, I’ve now set My face*
 *To do just bad things, not good,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘It’s going to be handed to Babylon’s king,*
 *And he will then burn it in fire.*

 11‘O house of the kings of Judea;
 Hear the Word of Jehovah!
 12And to you, the house of [King] David;
 Against you, Jehovah said this:

 *‘In the morning, discuss the judgment on you,*
 *And then get yourselves straightened out.*
 *Rescue those being shredded*
 *From the hands of those who are doing them wrong!*

 *‘Don’t let My anger be lit like a fire;*
 *For, after it has been kindled,*
 *No one will come here to put it out!*

 13*‘Look… It’s Me that’s coming against*
 *All you who live in these [mountains],*
 *And you who live in the plains…*
 *Those who have asked,* ‘Whom must we fear?’
 *And,* ‘Who could enter our homes?’

 14*‘Yes, I am the One who is watching*
 *And the One who will light the fire,*
 *Which will burn everything that’s around [you]!’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 22

1Then the Lord said:

 ‘So now, go to the [palace] of Judah’s king,
 And these are the words you must speak there:

 2*‘O you king of Judea,*
 *Hear the Word of Jehovah…*
 *Yes, you who are sitting upon David’s throne…*
 *You, as well as your servants,*
 *And all the people who enter your gates!’*

 3‘Tell him that this is what was said by Jehovah:

 *‘You must [learn to] be righteous and fair,*
 *And rescue those being plundered*
 *From the hands of those who are doing them wrong!*

 *‘Don’t tyrannize strangers, orphans, or widows…*
 *Don’t be irreverent anymore…*
 *And stop shedding innocent blood in this place!*

 4*‘For, if you [continue] doing such things,*
 *Their kings will enter the gates of this house,*
 *And on David’s throne, they will sit.*
 *Yes, they, their children, and people*
 *Will come here on chariots and horses!*

 5*‘If you choose not to listen to Me,*
 *I swear this oath by Myself,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘On your house, I will bring desolation!’*

 6‘And Jehovah said this against the [palace] of the king of Judah:

 *‘You’re the same as GileAd to Me;*
 *For, you are Lebanon’s head.*
 *So, shouldn’t I wipe you away*
 *And leave your cities deserted?*

 7*‘I’ll bring annihilation upon you*
 *By a man who carries the axe.*
 *He’ll cut down all your fine cedars,*
 *And throw them into a fire.*

 8*‘Then, nations will [march] through this city,*
 *And each man will ask his companion:*

 ‘Why did [God] let this happen?’

 9*‘And the other will give this reply:*

 ‘Because they abandoned their Sacred Agreement
 With Jehovah their God…
 Because they bowed to and served other gods.’

 10*‘So don’t weep or feel sorry for those who will die…*
 *Rather, weep for those who’ll be carried away.*
 *For, they will never return*
 *Or see the land of their fathers again.'*

11The Lord also said these words against ShalLum (JehoiAkim) king of Judah (son of [King] JosiAh), who reigned in place of his [brother] who’d been carried] off [to Egypt].

He said:

 ‘You will never return here,
 12And you’ll die where I’ll have you taken…
 So this land will never see you again!

 13‘For your [palace] was built on injustice,
 And unfairly, its rooms were constructed,
 Since you made your neighbors work without pay…
 You didn’t even pay them their wages!

 14‘A well-designed house, you’ve built for yourself,
 With windows and good ventilation,
 And cedar walls that are painted vermillion.
 15But, should you have started to rule
 Because you disliked your father?

 ‘Of food and drink, he had plenty,
 Because he was fair, honest, and just!
 16But, you have not [seen the need]
 To judge the humble in fairness,
 Or to be just with the poor!

 ‘Jehovah asks:

 *‘Have you done this because you don’t know Me?’*

 17‘{Look!} There is nothing good in your eyes or your heart,
 And your desire is just to gain wealth.
 So, you are shedding innocent blood
 And committing such evils as murder!’

18Then the Lord said this against JehoiAkim, king of Judah:

 'Because of all that he’s done,
 Woe [will come to] this man.
 So let no one feel sorry for him,
 And no one should wail, *‘O my brother!’*

 ‘Over him, they should never weep,
 Or say, *‘Too bad for you, O my Lord!’*
 19For, he’ll be buried like a donkey…
 He’ll be scraped up and tossed from JeruSalem’s [walls]!

 20‘Now, go up to Lebanon and shout…
 Go to BaShan and call to the ends of the sea,
 [And you’ll see that] your lovers have been beaten!

 21‘I’ve spoken to you of your sins,
 And you said that you’d pay me no heed.
 This has been your way since your youth…
 You’ve paid no attention to my voice!

 22‘So your shepherds will just tend the wind,
 And your lovers will be taken as captives.
 Then, you’ll be shamed and disgraced
 Before all of those with whom you’ve made love.

 23[‘For Jehovah says:]

 *‘O you who call Lebanon [your home],*
 *And you who nest among cedars;*
 *You’ll groan like a [woman] about to give birth;*
 *For, pangs of grief are coming to you!*

 24*‘As I live,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘King ConiJah (JehoiAkim’s son)*
 *Will become a seal on My right hand;*
 *For, from your place, I will take you*
 25*And hand you to the man who is seeking your life…*
 *The one before whom you are cautious…*
 *To the hands of King NebuChadNezzar*
 *And to the hands of all his Chaldeans.*

 26*‘I’ll throw you and the mother who bore you*
 *Into a land where you were not born…*
 *And then you will die in that place!*
 27*So, to this land that’s the love of your life,*
 *You will never return.*

 28*‘ConiJah will also meet with disgrace…*
 *And like a pot [that’s been thrown] in the trash;*
 *He’ll be thrown in a land that he’s never known.’*

 29‘O land, hear the Word of Jehovah:

 30*‘Record this king as one who’s been banished,*
 *And thereafter, proclaim this in public:*

 ‘Nothing will grow from his ‘seed’
 That will ever sit upon David’s throne,
 Or rule in Judah again!’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 23

1[The Lord continues:]

 ‘O you shepherds who scatter
 And destroy the sheep of His pasture;
 Against you, Jehovah said this…
 He said this to those who shepherd His [sheep]:

 2*‘You have scattered My sheep…*
 *Yes, you have pushed them away*
 *And refused to [watch over] them.*
 *So, {Look!} I will take vengeance upon you*
 *For the wicked things that you’ve done.*

 3*‘Then, from wherever they are on the earth,*
 *I will gather them back*
 *(Those who are left of My people)*
 *From wherever they have been pushed,*
 *And bring them [back] to their pastures,*
 *Where they’ll multiply and grow once again.*

 4*‘Then, I will raise shepherds to tend them*
 *So they won’t know terror or fear,*
 *Nor will they have to be searched for again,’* says Jehovah.

 5*‘Look! The days are now coming,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘When I’ll bring a righteous dawning to David,*
 *And an understanding king will then reign,*
 *Who’ll bring what’s righteous and fair to the land.*

 6*‘In his days, he’ll bring salvation to Judah,*
 *And IsraEl will camp in submission.*
 *Then the Lord will call him, ‘Jehovah is Righteous.’*

 7‘And because of this, {Look!} days will come,’ said the Lord;
 ‘When they’ll not say:

 *‘As Jehovah’s alive…*
 *The One who led IsraEl from Egypt.’*

 8‘But rather, they will be saying:

 *‘As Jehovah is living…*
 *The One who gathered back IsraEl’s offspring*
 *From the lands in the north,*
 *And from everywhere else that they had been pushed…*
 *And then, He returned them to their own land.’*

 9‘But their prophets have broken my heart…
 Yes, they have rattled my bones.
 I became like a person who’s broken,
 Or as one who’s had too much wine
 Before the face of Jehovah…
 Before His beautiful, glorious face…
 10For the land is now full of adultery.

 ‘Because of this, the land is in mourning,
 And all of its pastures have dried.
 For their race has become wicked and weak,
 11And their prophets and priests are corrupt.

 *‘Yes, I saw their wicked ways in My Temple,’* said Jehovah,
 12*‘So I allowed them to slip into darkness,*
 *Where they have stumbled and fallen!*
 *Then, in the year that I come to visit,*
 *I’ll bring more bad things upon them,’* says Jehovah.

 13*‘Among Samaria’s prophets,*
 *I beheld the violations of [My] Law.*
 *For, it was by [a] BaAl that they prophesied*
 *To mislead IsraEl, My people.*

 14*‘Then, among the prophets in JeruSalem,*
 *I also saw reasons to shudder.*
 *For they committed adultery and lied,*
 *While shaking hands with the wicked…*
 *Not turning their hands from bad ways.*

 *‘So, they are like Sodom to Me,*
 *And like GomorRah, are the rest of those living there.*
 15*And because of this,’* says Jehovah to those prophets;
 *‘{Look!} I will feed you on grief,*
 *And bitter water, I’ll give you to drink.*
 *For, everywhere throughout the whole land,*
 *JeruSalem’s prophets have brought what is foul.’*

 16‘So, thus says Jehovah the Almighty:

 *‘Don’t listen to the words of those prophets…*
 *Those who speak prophecies before you.*
 *For their visions prove how foolish they are,*
 *And that what they speak just comes from their hearts,*
 *Not from the mouth of Jehovah.*

 17*‘They are told by those who have pushed the Lord’s Word aside:*

 ‘You will find peace if you’ll follow your hearts…
 No evil will come to any of those
 Who follow the delusions in their own hearts.’

 18‘O who has stood in the fort of Jehovah…
 Who has beheld and heard what He said…
 Yes, who has listened and paid close attention?

 19‘Look! A shaking will come from Jehovah…
 His anger will arrive as a shaking;
 Then a whirl-wind will come to the godless.

 20‘But this won’t turn back the rage of Jehovah
 Until His heart has been satisfied.
 And they won’t comprehend til their days reach their end.

 [‘For He said]:

 21*‘Although I didn’t send those false prophets,*
 *They came to you anyhow.*
 *And although I’ve never spoken to them,*
 *They have still prophesied.*

 22*‘If they had followed My council*
 *And paid attention to what I had said,*
 *My people would have turned from their wicked ways.*

 23*‘But, I am a God who is near,’* says Jehovah!
 *‘I’m not a God who is far away.*
 24*So, what can be hidden [from Me]…*
 *What is the secret that I cannot see…*
 *Weren’t the heavens and earth filled by Me?’* asks Jehovah,

 25*‘Yet I’ve heard what those prophets have said…*
 *Those who speak lies in My Name…*
 *Those who say:*

 ‘This is what I saw in a dream!’

 26*‘How long will their lies still continue*
 *To come from the hearts of those prophets…*
 *How long will they prophesy lies,*
 *And speak the things that their hearts desire?*

 27*‘They’ve come up with ways to forget My Name,*
 *Then they use their dreams to describe to their neighbors*
 *How [it was really] their fathers*
 *That had forgotten My Name,*
 *And then turned to the service of [a] BaAl.*

 28*‘Let those dreaming prophets describe all their dreams!*
 *And let those who say that they have My word*
 *Describe what I truly have said!*

 *‘As straw is to grain; so are My words,’* says Jehovah.

 29‘And aren’t My words like the flames of a fire,’ asks the Lord?
 ‘Aren’t they like an axe that cuts rocks?

 30‘Look! I am against all those prophets
 Who steal My words from their neighbors.

 31*‘Yes, I am against all those prophets,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘Who roll prophecies from their tongues,*
 *While all they’ve really done is just sleep.*

 32*‘Look, I am against all those prophets*
 *Who prophesy from their false dreams;*
 *For, they are misleading My people*
 *With all their lies and delusions!*

 *‘No, I did not really send them,*
 *Nor did I tell them to do this…*
 *I gave them nothing to bring to these people,’* says Jehovah.

 33*‘And if you are asked by these people*
 *Or if you’re asked by their prophets or priests,*
 ‘What is bothering Jehovah?’
 *This is what you must tell them:*

 *‘What bothers Me is you people,*
 *For I’ll beat you down,’* says Jehovah…
 34*‘You people, you prophets, and priests…*
 *You who’ve dared to ask why I’m bothered!*
 *So I’ll punish you men along with your homes!’*

 35‘Then each one will be asking his neighbor,
 And each man will be asking his brother:

 ‘What was Jehovah’s reply…
 What answer came from the Lord?’

 36‘But don’t ask Jehovah about this again;
 For the things that He said should be your concern,
 37Since you have twisted His words!’

 ‘So, [in the future, when] those prophets ask,
 ‘What was said by Jehovah?’
 38Because they’ve spoken these words once again;
 I’ll send Jehovah’s concerns upon them!
 For I told them that they shouldn’t be asking
 What things Jehovah’s concerned with.

 39*‘Yes, because they’ve done this again,*
 *I’ll take them and beat them down in this land*
 *That I once gave to their fathers.*
 40*Throughout the ages, I’ll place scorn upon them…*
 *A dishonor that won’t be forgotten.’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 24

1Well, after NebuChadNezzar (the king of Babylon) had taken JeconiJah (son of JehoiAkim) the king of Judah and the governors from JeruSalem as prisoners and led them into Babylon; the Lord showed me two reed baskets of figs sitting before the Temple of Jehovah. 2The first basket of figs was much fresher and better than the other, for the second basket of figs was so bad that they couldn’t be eaten.

3Then the Lord asked me:

 ‘What do you see, JeremiAh?’

And I replied:

 ‘Figs… Some are good, but the others are so rotten that they can’t be eaten.’

4Then the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:

 5‘Jehovah, the God of IsraEl, says this:

 *‘These good figs are like those Judeans*
 *Whom I already sent away from this place*
 *Into the land of Chaldea.*

 6*‘I will fix My eyes upon them for good,*
 *And I’ll bring them back to this land…*
 *I’ll rebuild them and not destroy them again…*
 *I’ll plant them and not pluck them up.*

 7*‘I’ll give them hearts that will know Me…*
 *So they’ll realize that I am their Lord.*
 *Then they’ll be My people and I’ll be their God,*
 *And with their whole hearts, they’ll turn back to Me.*

 8*‘But, when it comes to those bad figs*
 *That no one could possibly eat…*
 *Because he has made himself rotten’,* says Jehovah,
 *I’ll hand over King ZedekiAh*
 *Along with all his great men.*

 *‘Then the rest of the people in JeruSalem*
 *And those who’ve remained in this land,*
 *As well as all those [fleeing to] Egypt,*
 9*Will be scattered throughout the whole earth.*

 *‘As a parable of hatred, they will be scorned*
 *And cursed everywhere that I’ll push them.*
 10*Upon them, I will bring famine,*
 *As well as plagues and the sword,*
 *Until they’ve been forced out of this land*
 *That I gave to their fathers and them.’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 25

1Well, it was in the 4th year [of the reign] of JehoiAkim (son of JosiAh) the king of Judah that these words came to JeremiAh concerning all the people of Judah. And then, during the 1st year [of the reign] of NebuChadNezzar king of Babylon [over Judah], 2the Prophet JeremiAh went and spoke to all the people of Judah and to those who were living in JeruSalem.

This is what he said to them:

 3‘From the 13th year of JosiAh son of Amon – for [the past] 23 years – Jehovah’s word has been coming to me, and I’ve been getting up early each morning to tell you [what God has said]. However, you just haven’t listened.

 4[‘So now, Jehovah says this]:

 *‘Every morning, I sent you My servants the Prophets,*
 *But your ears refused to listen to them,*
 *And you chose to pay no attention.*

 5*‘They told you to turn from your wicked ways,*
 *And then, you’d continue to live in the land*
 *That I gave to your fathers and you*
 *Throughout the age and into the ages.*

 6*‘I told you not to follow strange gods…*
 *Not to serve them or bow down before them,*
 *So you wouldn’t provoke Me to rage*
 *With these things that you made with your hands,*
 *And I wouldn’t bring bad things upon you…*
 7*However, you just wouldn’t listen!*

 8*‘So because of this,’* says Jehovah…
 *‘Since you didn’t trust the things that I said;*
 9*{Look!} I’ve called for a family that lives in the north*
 *And led them down to this land…*
 *I’ve brought them against those who live here*
 *And against the nations roundabout,*
 *To bring desolation upon you…*
 *They’ll appoint you to extinction, hissing, and scorn*
 *Throughout [the rest of] the age.*

 10*‘They’ll destroy the sounds of happiness and joy…*
 *The voices of grooms and their brides,*
 *As well as the scent of lamps and perfumes,*
 11*There’ll be an extinction throughout the whole land!*

 *‘And you’ll serve that nation for 70 years…*
 *As well as Babylon’s king.*
 12*‘And after the 70 years are fulfilled;*
 *On the king of Babylon and his wicked nation,*
 *I will then bring My vengeance*
 *For the unrighteous things that they’ll do,* says Jehovah.

 *‘I’ll appoint the land of Chaldea*
 *To extinction throughout the rest of the age.*
 13*And against that land, I’ll bring all the words*
 *That I have spoken against them…*
 *All the things that JeremiAh will write in this scroll,*
 *And which he will speak against them!*

 14*‘For, they will force many nations,*
 *And their great kings to serve them.*
 *Then I’ll pay them back for the bad things they’ll do…*
 *According to the works of their hands.’*

 15‘Then Jehovah the God of IsraEl said:

 *‘Take this cup of pure wine from My hand*
 *And give it to those nations where I’ll send you…*
 *Yes, give it to them as their drink!*
 16*Then they’ll drink it and vomit it out,*
 *And go mad before the sword that I’ll send.’*

17So after that, I took the cup that the Lord had given to me and I gave it to the nations to drink (all of those to whom He had sent me… To JeruSalem and the cities of Judah… To the king of Judah and his governors), 18so as to appoint desolation upon them and to be lands that are no longer walked (places of hissing and curses), 19as well as on PharaOh (the king of Egypt), on his children, on his people, and on all his great men (yes, all that live in his realm), 20and upon the kings of Philistia and Uz; on AshKelon, Gaza, EkRon, and those who are left in AshDod, 21and on those in Edom and in MoAb.

 ‘For He said:

 *‘The sons of AmMon will then be extinct,*
 22*As will be the kings of Sidon and Tyre,*
 *And the kings who [live] ‘cross the sea,*
 23*Such as DeDan, Tema, and Buz*
 *(All those who are shaving their faces),*
 24*And the kings of Arabia and their subjects*
 *(Those who rest in the desert)…*

 25*‘All the kings of ZimRi and ElAm;*
 *All the kings of the Medes;*
 26*And all the kings from the east wind*
 *(Both those who are near and those far away),*
 *Along with all of their brothers,*
 *And the rest of the kingdoms on the face of the earth…*
 *Then Shishak will also drink with them!’*

 27‘Yes, tell them that thus says Jehovah the Almighty:

 *‘They all will drink it and all will get drunk,*
 *And then, they will vomit and fall,*
 *For they will be unable to stand*
 *Before the sword that I’m sending to them!’*

 28‘And if they refuse to drink from the cup;
 Explain that Jehovah of Armies said this:

 *[‘You have no choice] but to drink it;*
 29*For this affliction has already started*
 *In the city that carries My Name.*

 *‘And if you should try to clean yourselves up,*
 *There’s no way that you’ll ever be holy;*
 *For now, I have called for a sword*
 *To come upon all your lands,*
 Says Jehovah of Armies.’

 30‘You must speak these words against them and say:

 *‘From high above in His Holy Place,*
 *Jehovah will bring execution…*
 *He’ll speak a word with His voice,*
 *And against your place, He’s sending destruction.*

 *‘Then, those who gather this vintage will say*
 *To those who have settled the land:*

 31‘Part of the earth has been ruined;
 And from Jehovah, this judgment of nations has come.
 For, with all flesh, He’s contending,
 And the irreverent will be given to the sword.’

 32‘Jehovah of Armies also said this:

 *‘{Look!} From a nation, evil will come to the nations,*
 *And a storm will rage to the ends of the earth.*
 33*And in that day;*
 *From one part of the earth to the other,*
 *Those who are slain by Jehovah*
 *Won’t be lamented, gathered, or buried…*
 *They’ll be like manure on the face of the ground!’*

 34‘So shout, O shepherds, and cry out!
 Yes, beat on your chests, O rams of the flocks!
 For your days until slaughter have now been fulfilled,
 And you will fall like the choicest of rams.

 35‘For the shepherds; their chance for flight will be gone,
 And safety will flee from the rams of the flocks.
 36So from the shepherds, cries will arise,
 As well as the bleating of rams,
 When Jehovah wipes their pastures away.

 37‘Then there’ll no longer be peaceful places to rest,
 In the face of Jehovah’s anger and rage.
 For He’ll arrive like a lion that’s abandoned its lair
 To make their lands unwalked places,
 With the face of His mighty sword.’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 26

1It was in the first part of the reign of King JehoiAkim (son of JosiAh) that this word came from Jehovah.

[The Lord] said:

 2‘Go and stand in [the Temple] courtyard
 And there, give orders to those in Judea…
 To all who are coming to bow here.
 Tell them all the things that I said,
 And don’t forget any words!

 3‘Then perhaps they will listen and turn from their bad,
 And I can bring an end to the evil
 That I’ve arranged to send upon them
 Because of the bad things they’re doing.

 4‘So, tell them that thus says Jehovah:

 *If you refuse to listen to Me*
 *And obey all the Laws that I’ve set before you…*
 *[If you won’t] obey the words of My servant*
 5*The words of the Prophet I sent,*
 *But to whom you chose not to listen,*
 6*I’ll make this Temple like ShiLoh*
 *And appoint this city as a curse*
 *Before all the nations on earth.’*

7Well, all the priests and false prophets, as well as all the people heard what JeremiAh said when he spoke those words in the Temple of Jehovah. 8And after he finished saying everything that the Lord had ordered him to say to the people, the priests, and the false prophets, they grabbed him and said:

 9‘We’re going to kill you for prophesying in the Name of Jehovah and for saying that this Temple will become like ShiLoh and that this city will be desolate with no one living in it!’

So thereafter, they all gathered inside the Temple of Jehovah and put JeremiAh on trial. 10But when the rulers of Judah heard [what JeremiAh was saying], they went from the king’s [palace] up to the Temple of Jehovah, and they all sat down on the threshold of the New Gate. 11Then the priests and false prophets said this before the rulers and all the people:

 ‘This man deserves the judgment of death for prophesying against this city… Something that you all heard him say with your own ears!’

12And [in reply], JeremiAh said this to the rulers and the people:

 ‘It was Jehovah that sent me here to prophesy all these words that you heard me speak against this Temple and this city. 13So, it would really best for you to change the ways that you’re acting and the things that you’re doing, and to start listening to the voice of your God Jehovah. For then the Lord would bring an end to all of these evils that He has spoken against you here.

 14‘However, {Look!} here I am in your hands! So, do to me whatever you think is going to be advantageous and best for yourselves! 15But know and understand that if you do away with me, you will have brought the guilt of innocent blood against yourselves, this city, and everyone who lives here; for it was really Jehovah that sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears!’

16Well at that, the rulers and people said to the priests and false prophets:

 ‘This man doesn’t really deserve the sentence of death, for he was speaking in the Name of our God Jehovah!’

17Then, men from among the elders of the land stood up and spoke before the whole gathering and said:

 18‘MicAh the Morasthite was a Prophet in the days of HezekiAh, the king of Judah, and he spoke to all the people of Judah and told them that Jehovah of Armies had said this:

 *‘Zion is now a field to be plowed,*
 *For JeruSalem will be a storehouse of fruits,*
 *And the Temple Mount will soon be converted*
 *Into a grove of sacred poles.’*

 19‘However, King HezekiAh and the people of Judah didn’t do away with him, because they were afraid of Jehovah. So they begged and bowed before [God], and He brought an end to the evils that He had spoken against them… And once again, we have [for a fact, been sinning] in a great way against our own souls!’

20Well, around that same time, there was another man who had been prophesying in the Name of Jehovah, UriAh son of ShemaiAh (from KiriAth JaiRim). For he had also prophesied about the city and the land, using the very same words as JeremiAh.

21But when he heard what King JehoiAkim and all the rulers had said about seeking to kill [JeremiAh], UriAh became afraid and he fled down to Egypt. 22However, the king sent his men (ElNathan son of AchBor, and some others) to Egypt 23and they brought him back from there. Then when he stood before the king, he was cut down with a sword and [his body] was thrown into the tomb of the sons of his people. 24But because the hand of AhiKam (son of ShaPhan) was with JeremiAh, he stopping him from being handed over to the people so they could do away with him.

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 27

1~~It was at the beginning of the reign of JehoiAkim (son of JosiAh) the king of Judah, that these words came to JeremiAh from Jehovah.~~ [Editor note: These words are factually incorrect, and are probably an interpolation introduced in the Hebrew Masoretic text, not present in the original Greek Septuagint ordering of Jeremiah.]

2The Lord said:

 ‘Now, make some shackles for yourself
 And a collar [of iron] to be put ‘round your neck.
 3Then send them to the kings of Edom and MoAb,
 And to those of AmMon, Sidon, and Tyre
 By the hands of those who have come here
 To see ZedekiAh, king of Judah.

 4‘Tell them that they must say to their Lords
 That IsraEl’s God Jehovah of Armies said this:

 5*‘I’m the One who created the earth and its people,*
 *And all cattle on the face of the ground*
 *By means of My strength and My mighty arm,*
 *And I’ll hand it to whomever I choose.*

 6*‘So now, I have given all of your lands*
 *To NebuChadNezzar (Babylon’s King),*
 *[And all the people] must start serving him,*
 *As must all the beasts in the fields,*
 7*As well as your sons and the sons of your sons*
 *Throughout the time that I’ve set for your land…*

 *‘Yes, all of this is now his!*

 *‘Many nations and kings will start serving him,*
 8*And upon any nation or kingdom*
 *That refuses to serve King NebuChadNezzar*
 *(That won’t wear his yoke on their necks),*
 *I’ll send the sword, famine, and plague,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘Until they yield to his hand.*

 9*‘So don’t listen to what your false prophets say*
 *(Those who through dreams prophecy,*
 *Or those who give omens through potions)*
 *When they tell you not to serve Babylon’s king;*
 10*For they are just lying to you,*
 *And then you’ll be driven out of your land…*
 *For I’ll drive you out and [destroy] you!*

 11*‘To the nation that puts its neck in the yoke*
 *And chooses to serve Babylon’s king;*
 *I’ll allow them to stay in their land,* says Jehovah,
 *‘They’ll continue to work there and live.’*

12So I went and spoke all these words to ZedekiAh the king of Judah. I told him:

 ‘If you’ll put your neck in the yoke of Babylon’s king 13and work for him and his men, you’ll live!

 ‘Why should you and your people choose to die by the sword, famines, and plagues, as Jehovah told the nations would happen to them if they don’t wish to serve Babylon’s king?

 14‘You shouldn’t listen to the words of those prophets when they tell you that you must not serve him, for they’re prophesying unrighteous things! 15Jehovah says that He didn’t send them, and what they’re prophesying in His Name is unrighteous, so He’ll have to destroy both them and you…

 ‘Yes, you’ll die along with those prophets who are lying to you!’

16Then I spoke to the priests and to all the people, and told them that Jehovah said this:

 *‘Don’t listen to the words of the prophets*
 *When they speak prophecies and they tell you*
 *That the items of the Temple of Jehovah*
 *Will soon be returned from Babylon.*
 *For, they are lying to you!*

 17*‘No, do not listen to them…*
 *Serve Babylon’s king and you’ll live…*
 *Why bring your city to ruin?’*

18[Then I said]:

 ‘If they truly are Prophets
 And if they really have the word of Jehovah;
 Then, have them all come here and meet me,
 So that the things which are left in the Temple
 And the things that belong to Judea’s kings
 (Whatever is left in JeruSalem)
 Will not be taken to Babylon.

 19‘For Jehovah sent me this warning
 About the [Temple’s sacred] columns,
 And about the [Sacred] Sea and its base,
 As well as about all the rest that is left,
 20Which Babylon’s king didn’t already take
 When he removed JehoiAkim’s son, JeconiJah…
 The king of Judah and all of his rulers,
 Then took them from Judah and JeruSalem,
 And carried them to Babylon.

 21‘For Jehovah of Armies (the God of IsraEl)
 Said this about the things left behind
 At the Temple of Jehovah,
 And all that is left in the homes of the kings
 In Judah and JeruSalem:

 22*‘To Babylon, it will be carried,*
 *And there is where it will stay*
 *Until the day that I come to visit,*
 *And they bring it back to this place.’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 28

1It was in the 5th month of the 4th year of the reign of ZedekiAh (king of Judah) that HananiAh (son of Azur) the false prophet from GibeOn spoke to me in the Temple of Jehovah before the eyes of the priests and all the people.

He said:

 2‘Jehovah of Armies the God of IsraEl spoke to me and said this:

 *I will break the yoke of Babylon’s king.*
 3*And in two more years, I will return*
 *All the things of the Temple of Jehovah,*
 4*As well as JeconiJah and the [people] of Judah*
 *Whom they have moved away.*
 *For I’ll break the yoke of Babylon’s king.’*

5Then the Prophet JeremiAh replied to HananiAh, there before the priests and before the eyes of all the people who were standing in the Temple of Jehovah.

He said:

 6‘May Jehovah indeed do what you’ve said in the words of your prophecy and return all the things of the Temple of Jehovah along with all the [people] that were carried off to Babylon. 7However, listen to the words that I’ll speak into your ears before all of these people!

 8‘Throughout the ages, long before you and me, there have been many men who’ve prophesied great things against this land concerning war, oppression, and plagues… 9And there were also those who prophesied peace. Then after it happened, the [people] started believing whichever prophet that had really been sent by Jehovah.’

10Well at that, HananiAh tore the yoke from the neck of JeremiAh and broke it. 11And he said (there before the eyes of all the people):

 ‘Jehovah told me that this is how He will break the yoke of the king of Babylon from the necks of all the nations in just **two more years!**’

Well when he did that, JeremiAh left. And as he was leaving 12(after HananiAh had broken the yoke from his neck), the Word of Jehovah came to [JeremiAh] and said this:

 13‘Go back and tell HananiAh that Jehovah said this:

 *‘Because you have broken that wooden yoke,*
 *I’ll turn the wooden yokes into iron!*

14So JeremiAh [went back and said]:

 ‘Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, said this:

 *‘On the necks of all nations, I’ll put an iron yoke,*
 *Then they’ll serve and work for Babylon’s king…*
 *And to him, I’ll give all their cattle.’*

15Then JeremiAh said this to HananiAh:

 ‘Listen, O HananiAh!

 ‘Jehovah hasn’t sent you to these people just so they can learn to rely on the things that they’ve been doing wrong. 16And because of what you’ve been telling them, this is what the Lord told me to say:

 *‘{Look!} I’ll remove you from the face of the earth…*
 *Yes, this very year, you will die*
 *For speaking against Jehovah!’*

17Well, he did in fact die that year, in the 7th month.

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 29

1**These are the words of the scroll that JeremiAh the Prophet sent from JeruSalem to the elders that had already been relocated, as well as to the priests and false prophets… To all the people whom NebuChadNezzar had moved from JeruSalem to Babylon** 2**after King JeconiJah, his queen, his eunuchs, and all the freemen, servants, and craftsman had been taken from JeruSalem.**

3[He sent it] by the hand of ElAsah (son of ShaPhan) and GemariJah (son of HilkiJah). For they were the ones whom ZedekiAh king of Judah had sent to the king of the Babylonian [Empire] that lived in [the city of] Babylon.

[The scroll] said:

 4‘Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, says this
 To those who were carried away
 (Those whom He’d moved from JeruSalem to Babylon):

 5*‘Build houses and get ready to live there…*
 *Plant gardens and then eat their fruits…*
 6*Take wives and also have children…*
 *Father both daughters and sons!*

 *‘Then, take [mates] for your daughters and sons;*
 *And they’ll also give birth to daughters and sons…*
 *They’ll multiply and not be reduced!*

 7*‘Yes, seek peace in the land where I’ve sent you,*
 *And pray to Jehovah on its behalf;*
 *For, in its peace, you’ll find peace!*

 8‘Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, also said this:

 *‘Don’t believe the false prophets among you…*
 *Do not be influenced by those*
 *Who say that you will find comfort…*
 *And pay no attention to the things that they’ve dreamed!*

 9*‘For, there will be those who will come in My Name,*
 *And they will prophesy falsely;*
 *But by Me, they were not sent!’* says Jehovah.

 10‘Then, this is what I was told by Jehovah:

 *‘After the 70 years*
 *Upon Babylon have been fulfilled,*
 *I’ll come to visit and do as I said…*
 *I’ll bring you people back to your [homes].*

 11*‘I’ll work out a way that’s peaceful, not bad,*
 *To bring you back from this place.*
 12*Then you can pray to Me and I’ll hear you…*
 13*You can search for Me and you’ll find Me.*
 *And if wholeheartedly, you’ll search for Me,*
 14*By you, I will be found!’*

 15‘But you say that the Lord has put Prophets among those who are living in Babylon. 16Well, Jehovah says this to the king who is sitting on the throne of David and to all the people who are living in this city, as well as to all your brothers that didn’t leave and weren’t taken into captivity along with you… 17Yes, [concerning these prophets], Jehovah of Armies said this:

 *‘{Look!} I’ll send them the sword, famines, and plagues…*
 *Like a bad fig, I will make them…*
 *[A fig] that’s too rotten to eat.*

 18*‘I’ll pursue them with swords, famines, and plagues,*
 *Then scatter them to all the kingdoms of earth.*
 *And to confusion, hissing, and scorn they’ll be cursed*
 *Among all the nations where I’ll send them.*

 19*‘For they’ve paid no attention to My words,’* said Jehovah,
 *‘That I spoke to them through My servants, the Prophets…*
 *Those whom I sent and rose early [each day],*
 *But to whom, they chose not to listen,’* said Jehovah.

 20‘Yet, those of you who’ve been moved away
 From JeruSalem to Babylon,
 Have also ignored the Word of Jehovah.

 21‘For Jehovah once spoke against Ahab (son of KolaiJah)
 And ZedekiAh (son of MaAseJah)
 Who prophesied lies to you in His Name.
 And this is what He has said about them:

 *‘{Look!} To Babylon’s king, I will hand them,*
 *And he’ll cut them down in front of your eyes.*
 22*So when Babylon’s Jews speak curses, they’ll say:*

 ‘May Jehovah do the same thing to you
 That He did to ZedekiAh and Ahab…
 Those who Babylon’s king fried in fires.’

 23*‘For, JeruSalem’s people are lawless…*
 *They’re committing adultery with their countrymen’s wives.*
 *Yet [their prophets] are saying things in My Name*
 *That I didn’t tell them to say…*
 *And I am the witness [against them],’* says Jehovah!

24Then [the Lord instructed me] to say this to ShemaiAh the NeHelamite:

 ‘Although you were not sent in My Name;
 You wrote to the Priest, ZephaniAh,
 Saying that thus says Jehovah:

 25*‘I’m the One who appointed you as the Priest*
 *To take the place of JehoiAda*
 *And to be in charge of the Temple,*
 *As well as to be over the prophets.*

 26*‘And now, I tell you to put every man*
 *Who acts [like a prophet], in prison…*
 *Put them in the [lowest of] dungeons.*

 27*‘So, why haven’t you joined in and scolded*
 *JeremiAh from [the city of] AnathOth*
 *Who has served as a Prophet to you?’*

 28*‘For to us who are living in Babylon*
 *And in its most-distant places,*
 *He says that freedom is still far away.*
 *So, they should build houses and dwell there…*
 *Plant gardens and then eat their fruits.’*

29Well, after the Prophet JeremiAh read this letter in the ears of ZephaniAh, 30the Word of Jehovah came to him again and said:

 31‘Send [a message] to those who’ve been sent away
 And say that Jehovah has brought condemnation
 Upon ShemaiAh the NeHeLamite.

 ‘He said:

 *‘Since ShemaiAh has prophesied before you*
 *Despite the fact that I didn’t send him,*
 *And he urged you to trust in the bad things you do…*
 32*Yes, because of this,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘I’ll visit ShemaiAh and all of his kind,*
 *And there won’t be a man left among them*
 *Who will see the good I’ll do among you,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘For he’s preached a turning from Me.’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 30

1These words came to JeremiAh from the Lord. He was told that Jehovah the God of IsraEl said this:

 2‘You must write all these words [of Jehovah] that I’ve spoken to you in a scroll:

 3*‘{Look!} The days are coming,’* said Jehovah,
 *‘When I will return those of IsraEl and Judah*
 *(All those who’ve been moved away)…*
 *Yes, I’ll bring them back to this land*
 *That I gave to their fathers,*
 *And once more, they will be its lords.’*

4And after that, these were the words that the Lord spoke concerning IsraEl and Judah:

 5‘Jehovah says:

 *‘[But first], you will hear fearful sounds…*
 *You will hear fearful sounds and there’ll be no peace.*

 6*‘So, ask if a male has ever given birth…*
 *Yet I see all men with their hands on their hips*
 *As though they are women about to give birth,*
 *And their faces are [yellow with] jaundice.*

 7*‘For, that will be a great day of woe,*
 *And there couldn’t be any days worse…*
 *Yet, Jacob will still be returned to his land.’*

 8‘For thus says Jehovah of Armies:

 *‘In that day, I’ll break all the yokes from their necks…*
 *I’ll also tear off their bonds,*
 *And they’ll no longer be toiling for strangers.*
 9*At that time, they’ll work for Jehovah, their God,*
 *And I will raise David to be their king.*

 10*‘So you, O My servant Jacob;*
 *Don’t be afraid,’* says Jehovah…
 *‘O IsraEl, do not be in terror,*
 *For {Look!} I’ll bring you back from those far-away lands!*

 *‘I’ll bring your offspring from that captive place…*
 *Jacob will be returned and find rest.*
 *Then he’ll receive an abundance of good things,*
 *And he will have nothing to fear.*

 11*‘Because I’m with you, I’ll save you,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘And I will appoint a conclusion*
 *To those nations where you have been scattered,*
 *For no way have I appointed your end.*
 *But I will correct you in fairness,*
 *And I’ll scrub you until you are clean!’*

 12‘Jehovah said:

 *‘I’ll remove the pain of destruction;*
 13*For, no one else will be judging your case,*
 *And no one else will be treating your [wounds]*
 *To bring consolation to you.*

 14*‘But by your friends, you will be forgotten,*
 *And none will ask why I struck you…*
 *Why I let your enemies beat you.*

 *‘For My discipline will be very substantial,*
 *Because the things that you did were so bad!*
 15*So don’t yell [to Me] about your destruction,*
 *And the incurable state of your misery!*

 *‘It will happen because your sins were so great,*
 *And because of the harsh things you’ve done…*
 *This is why I’m bringing these bad things upon you.*

 16*‘But those who [are now] eating you*
 *Will find themselves being consumed,*
 *And your enemies will be taken as captives…*
 *Those scattering you, will be scattered,*
 *And those looting you, will be plundered.*

 17*‘Then your grievous wounds, I will cure…*
 *Yes, I will treat all your ailments,’* says God,
 *‘Then Zion will be called ‘The Replanted Place,’*
 *And none will [attack] her again.’*

 18‘Jehovah said:

 *‘{Look!} I’ll return those of Jacob who’ve been taken away…*
 *All that were led off as captives.*
 *Then, I will show mercy upon them*
 *And rebuild their city there in the heights,*
 *Where I will seat all the people*
 *According to the ways they’ve been fair.*

 19*‘And from among them, there will come singers,*
 *As well as the music of musicians*
 *That will grow in super abundance,*
 *And no way will it be diminished.*

 20*‘Each man will then enter [the Temple]*
 *Along with all of his sons,*
 *Just as they’ve done in the past,*
 *And their praises will rise up to Me,*
 *When I come against those who’ve oppressed them.*

 21*‘From among them, I’ll then choose a leader…*
 *Yes, their ruler will be one of them.*
 *I’ll collect them and bring them to Me*
 *All those whose hearts will want to return,’* says Jehovah…
 22*‘Then they’ll be My people and I’ll be their Lord.’*

 23‘For this is why the rage of Jehovah was sent…
 To change the godless, His anger went out
 In order to make them turn back to Him.

 24‘But no way will [God’s] anger and rage be turned back
 Until He has taken some action…
 Until He’s done what His heart has decided…
 And in the last days, you’ll understand why.’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 31

1Then the Lord told me this:

 ‘They’ll be the race of IsraEl’s God…
 Yes they’ll be His people once more.’

2And the Lord said:

 ‘Although they found it hot in the desert
 When they were destroyed by the sword;
 IsraEl will again find places to rest!

 3‘For they’ll see Jehovah off in the distance,
 And this is what He will say:

 *‘With the love of the ages, I’ve loved you,*
 *So I’ve drawn you close to show mercy on you…*
 4*I will rebuild you and you’ll be rebuilt,*
 *O virgin daughter of IsraEl.*

 *‘Your tambourines will be raised once again*
 *And you’ll play them before the assembly.*
 5*You will also plant vineyards again*
 *Upon Samaria’s mountains…*
 *Yes, you will go planting and plant,*
 *And you will go praising and praise!*

 6*‘Then, on the day that I call out to you;*
 *On Ephraim’s mountains, the watchmen will cry:*

 ‘Get up and go to Mount Zion…
 Return to Jehovah your God!’

 7‘Then Jehovah said this concerning [the people of] Jacob:

 *‘Be glad and shout to those leading the nations…*
 *Do it… Shout loudly in praise!*
 *Say, ‘Jehovah has rescued His people…*
 *Those IsraElites who survived!’*

 8*‘Look… From the north, I will lead them,*
 *And I’ll gather them from the ends of the earth*
 *To observe a [glorious] Passover…*
 *They’ll return, and they’ll have many children!*

 9*‘Although when they left, they did so in tears;*
 *I’ll send them comfort and lead them to rest*
 *Along straight roads with [pure] streams…*
 *It’s a path from which they’ll not stray.*
 *Then I’ll be IsraEl’s Father again,*
 *And [a Father] to Ephraim, My firstborn.’*

 10‘O nations, hear the word of Jehovah
 And announce it as far as the islands!
 Say, *‘The One who blew IsraEl off like the chaff*
 *Will gather them back once again,*
 *And like a grazing flock, He will guard them!’*

 11‘For Jehovah will [pay] Jacob’s ransom,
 And from mighty hands, He will save them…
 12Then in joy, they’ll come back to Zion.

 ‘And there in a land filled with grain,
 They will find good things from their God…
 Wine, olive oil, fruit, cattle, and sheep.
 So their lives will then be like fruit trees,
 And they will go hungry no more.

 13‘Then the virgins will all be rejoicing,
 And men young and old will be shouting in joy.
 For their mourning will be changed into cries of glee…
 They’ll be happy, and He’ll bring them comfort.

 14*‘Then I’ll magnify the lives of the Priests*
 *And [the lives of] the sons of Levi…*
 *My people will own many good things!’*

 ‘Jehovah said:

 15*‘A voice was heard crying from RamAh…*
 *The sounds of weeping, wailing, and grief.*
 *It was RachEl crying over her sons…*
 *She refused to accept any comfort,*
 *Because they aren’t here anymore.*

 16‘Then to her, Jehovah said this:

 *‘Stop crying and dry the tears from your eyes,*
 *For you’ll be paid a wage for your work…*
 *They’ll be returned from their enemies’ lands,*
 17*And there is still hope for those who survived,’* says Jehovah,
 *For your sons will return to their borders.*

 18*‘Then I heard Ephraim grieving;*
 *So I listened and he told Me this:*

 ‘You beat me and I was corrected;
 For I had acted like a [wild] calf.
 But You turned me around and now I’ve returned;
 For, You are Jehovah, my God!

 19‘Captivity brought a change to my mind
 In that day when You brought me shame.
 But, after I moaned, I then understood…
 Plainly, I showed You that I had accepted
 That, from my youth, [I deserved] all the scorn.’

 20*‘Yes, Ephraim is My dearly loved son…*
 *A child in whom I find joy.*
 *And because My words are within him,*
 *I will never forget him.*

 *‘It was because of this, that I hurried;*
 *For, when it comes to showing him mercy,*
 *I will show mercy upon him,’* said Jehovah.

 21*‘So erect the road signs and guideposts,*
 *And give your hearts to your shoulders,*
 *For they will be [coming back home]!*
 *Yes return, O IsraEl, the virgin…*
 *Return to the cities where they’re mourning [your loss]!’*

22[And Jeremiah? said:]

O My daughter,

When will you return from those places
 Where you were being disgraced?
 For the Lord has made new places for you
 Where it will be safe to do planting,
 And where people can travel in safety.

[And the Lord said:]

 23‘Then Jehovah of Armies (IsraEl’s God) told me this:

 *‘Once more, you’ll be speaking of Me*
 *In the land of Judah and in all your towns,*
 *When I bring back those who were carried away!’*

 ‘So, praise Jehovah on His Holy Mount!
 24For, those who live in the cities of Judah
 And the farmers [that dwell] in His land
 Will grow once again, along with their flocks!

 25[For Jehovah says:]

 *‘To thirsty souls, I’ll send something to drink,*
 *And all hungry souls, I will fill.*
 26*Then, when you wake up [in the morning],*
 *You’ll see that your sleep has been peaceful.*

 27*‘Look! The days are coming,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘When I’ll sow both IsraEl and Judah*
 *With the ‘seeds’ of men and the ‘seeds’ of wild beasts.*

 28*‘It’ll be as when I watched over them*
 *(Not when I brought them destruction).*
 *And then, over them, I’ll be watchful…*
 *They’ll be rebuilt and replanted,’* said Jehovah.

 29‘*In those days, no way will they say,*
 ‘Although it was the fathers that ate unripe grapes,
 The teeth of their children felt chills.’
 30*For then, only sinners will die*
 *Because of the bad things they do,*
 *And those eating green grapes will feel their own chills.*

 31*‘Look… The days are coming,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘When I’ll make an arrangement with IsraEl’s house,*
 *As well as with the houses of Judah.*

 *‘I’ll conclude a New Sacred Agreement*
 32*That’s unlike the one that I made with their fathers*
 *In the day that I grabbed their hands*
 *To lead them from Egypt’s land.*
 *But because they didn’t keep My Sacred Agreement,*
 *I had to let them go,‘* says Jehovah.

 33*‘So, this is My [New] Sacred Agreement*
 *That I will conclude with IsraEl then,’* said Jehovah,
 *I will put My Laws in their minds,*
 *And into their hearts, I will write them.*
 *Then, they’ll be My people and I’ll be their God.*

 34*‘There’s no way they’ll then teach their neighbors and brothers*
 *That they must learn of Jehovah;*
 *For, all will know Me from the least to the great.*
 *And when it comes to their errors and sins…*
 *I will kindly forget them!’*

 35‘Yet, this is what Jehovah [says]...
 The One who appointed the sun
 To serve as light for the day,
 And the moon and the stars as light for the nights…
 The One who brought the roar of the seas,
 As well as the sounds of their waves…
 Jehovah the Almighty, is His Name:

 36*‘If these Laws should [be voided] before Me,*
 *Then the race of IsraEl will no longer stand*
 *As a nation before Me*
 *Throughout the rest of the days.’*

 37‘Jehovah says:

 *‘If the skies can be raised even higher*
 *And the floor of the ground can be lowered,*
 *I can reject the race of IsraEl,* says Jehovah,
 *For all the things that they’ve done.’*

 38‘But, look! The days are coming,’ said the Lord,
 ‘When the city of Jehovah will be rebuilt.
 [It’s walls will run] from the HananEl Tower
 All the way to the gate at the corner…
 39To the hills of Gareb, I’ll measure it out
 And surround it with most precious stones.

 ‘From the Valley of Phagarim and its ashes,
 And from AsaRemOth to the Wadi of Cedars,
 Then east to the corner of the Horse Gate,
 It’ll be a Holy Place to Jehovah,
 And its roots won’t be pulled up again…
 Throughout the age, it won’t be destroyed.’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 32

1Well, all these words had come from Jehovah to JeremiAh in the 10th year [of the reign] of ZedekiAh, the king of Judah, which was the 18th year of [the reign of] NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon [over Judah].

2And at the time, the army of the king of Babylon had built a siege wall around JeruSalem, and JeremiAh [was under arrest and being kept in] the courtyard of the guard, which was located inside the [palace] of the kings of Judah, 3since King ZedekiAh had him thrown in jail. [For the king had asked him]:

 ‘Why did you prophesy and tell us that Jehovah said:

 *‘{Look!} I will hand this city over to the king of Babylon and he will take it…’*

 4And:

 *‘ZedekiAh won’t escape from the hands of the Chaldeans, but he will be delivered into the hands of the king of Babylon, where he will speak to him mouth to mouth and eye to eye…’*

 5And:

 *‘ZedekiAh will be taken into Babylon and stay there until I look favorably upon him. So, if you wage war against the Chaldeans, you won’t succeed.’*

6Then JeremiAh told him:

 ‘The Word of Jehovah came to me and said:

 7*‘{Look!} Your paternal uncle HanamEl, son of ShalLum, will come to you and ask you to buy his field in AnathOth… And it will be advantageous for you to acquire it!’*

 8‘And thereafter, that’s what happened… My paternal uncle HanamEl son of ShalLum did what the Lord said he would do. It was there in the courtyard of the guard that he said to me:

 *‘Buy my field, the one in AnathOth of the land of BenJamin, because you’re the eldest and it would be advantageous for you to acquire it!’*

 ‘And since I knew that this was the word of Jehovah, 9I purchased the field in AnathOth from my paternal uncle HanamEl; I paid him 7 large silver coins for it, 10then I recorded [the transaction] in a scroll, put a seal on it before witnesses, and weighed out the silver in a balance scale.

 11‘So then I took the scroll that had been testified to and sealed and gave it to BarUch son of NeriAh, son of MaAseJah, before the eyes of my uncle HanamEl, 12as well as before those who had served as witnesses of the deed scroll, and before the eyes of all the Judeans that were sitting in the courtyard of the guard at the time.

 13‘Then before them all, I gave BarUch these orders:

 14‘Jehovah the Almighty God of IsraEl says that you should take this scroll that has been sealed as my proof of ownership, then you must read it and then store it away in an earthenware jar, so that it will last [a long time]. 15Because, Jehovah of Armies the God of IsraEl told me this:

 *‘Fields, houses, and vineyards*
 *Will again be restored in this land.’*

 16‘Well, after I gave the deed scroll to BarUch son of NeriAh, I prayed to Jehovah, saying:

 17‘O Great Being,

 ‘O Lord God,

 ‘You who made the lands and the skies with Your mighty arm held high above You, and from whom nothing at all can be hidden,

 18‘O You who show mercy to thousands and who brings the sins of the fathers upon the chests of their children,

 ‘The great and Almighty God whose Name is Jehovah of Armies,

 19‘[You are the God] of great counsel,
 And mighty are all of Your works.
 Your eyes see the things that the sons of men do,
 And You pay each one back for their deeds
 According to the fruits of their works.

 20‘You’re the One who brought the miracles and signs
 To IsraEl when they were in Egypt
 And which continue to happen down to this day.
 For, You have made Your Name known
 To all who’ve been born on the earth until now.

 21‘You’re the One who led IsraEl from Egypt
 With signs and miracles from Your mighty right hand…
 With Your arm held high and through visions.
 22And thereafter, You gave them the land
 About which You swore to their fathers…
 A land that’s flowing with honey and milk.

 23‘So they entered this land and they claimed it,
 But they chose not to listen to Your orders or voice…
 They wouldn’t do what You told them to do,
 So You brought all these bad things upon them.

 24‘{Look!} Now, a great army has come to this city,
 And they have made plans to destroy it.
 To the hands of Chaldeans, it has been given…
 To those who are warring against it,
 Bringing the sword, famine, and plague…
 {Look!} All that You said has now come to pass!

 25‘Then You’ve told me to bring along silver,
 And before witnesses, purchase a field…
 Despite the fact that this city’s been given
 To the hands of Chaldeans!’

26Then the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:

 [‘Jehovah says:]

 27*‘Since I am Jehovah, the God of all flesh;*
 *[Did you think] that such things were hidden from Me?’*

 28‘Then Jehovah said:

 *‘I have allowed this city to be given*
 *Into the hands of the Chaldeans,*
 *And into the hands of Babylon’s king…*
 *So, he will [very soon] take it!*

 29*‘The Chaldeans will come and [capture] this city,*
 *Then they will burn it with fire,*
 *Consuming the houses where people burn incense*
 *Upon their roofs, before [a] BaAl,*
 *And where they offer [food] to their gods*
 *In order to make Me feel bitter.*

 30*‘Only the sons of IsraEl and Judah*
 *Would practice such evil in front of My eyes.*
 *For, since their youth, they’ve offered such things*
 *Before [those gods] that they made with their hands,*
 *In order to make Me feel bitter,’* says Jehovah.

 31*‘So My anger and rage has been on this place*
 *From the day it was built until now,*
 *To remove it from in front of My face*
 32*For the bad ways of IsraEl and Judah.*

 *‘They’ve done all these things to make Me feel bitter…*
 *Their kings, their rulers, their prophets, and priests…*
 *The men of Judah and JeruSalem.*

 33*‘They turned their faces and showed Me their backs…*
 *So each morning, I [sent someone] to teach them,*
 *But they chose not to listen or learn.*

 34*‘Then, in their unclean condition,*
 *They put disgusting things in the House*
 *That is called by My Name.*

 35*‘There, they built shrines to [a] BaAl;*
 *And to Molech, they’ve offered their daughters and sons*
 *Down in the Valley of Hinnom…*
 *Something that I never told them to do.*
 *Such disgusting things never entered My heart*
 *To make Judah sin [in this way].’*

36Then Jehovah the God of IsraEl made a pronouncement against the city, for He told me to say this:

 *‘Through famine, sword, and the plague,*
 *I’ve handed this city to Babylon’s king.*
 37*But {Look!} I’ll also gather them back from those lands*
 *Where I’ll scatter them in My rage…*
 *From all that I’ll do in My fury!*

 *‘I’ll bring them back to this place,*
 *And in safety, I’ll resettle them here;*
 38*Then, they’ll be My people and I’ll be their God.*

 39*‘I’ll give them new ways and new hearts*
 *So that they will learn how to fear Me*
 *For the rest of their days and for their own good,*
 *And for the good of their children.*

 40*‘A [New] Sacred Agreement of the ages*
 *I’ll make with them at that time…*
 *An Agreement that I won’t take away.*
 *Then I’ll put the fear of Me in their hearts,*
 *So from Me, they’ll not turn again.*

 41*‘Then I’ll visit them just to do good things;*
 *And with My whole heart and soul,*
 *I’ll plant them securely here in this land.*

42Then Jehovah said:

 *‘And as I brought bad things upon them,*
 *I’ll also bring the good things that I promised.*
 43*Then they will buy fields in this land*
 *That you say won’t be walked by man or by beast,*
 *For it’s been handed over to the Chaldeans.*

 *‘So with silver, they’ll buy these fields once again,*
 *Which they’ll record and seal in a scroll,*
 *And to which, witnesses will then testify.*

 44*‘[It will happen] in BenJamin’s land,*
 *And in JeruSalem and the cities of Judah…*
 *In all the towns in the mountains,*
 *And in the ShepheLa and Negev…*
 *From wherever they were taken, I’ll be bringing them back,’* says Jehovah.’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 33

1Then the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh a second time while he was still shackled in the courtyard of the guard.

2He said:

 ‘The Lord who shaped and created the earth
 Whose Name is Jehovah, says this:

 3*‘Call out to Me and I will reply…*
 *I’ll report of things both mighty and great*
 *About which, you’ve never known!’*

4Then the Lord God of IsraEl told me how the houses of the city [of JeruSalem] and the [palace] of the king of Judah would be demolished for use as siege mounds and fortifications 5in their fight against the Chaldeans, and of how they would then be filled with the [bodies] of those whom [He will] strike down in His anger and rage when He turns His face away from the city because of all its wickedness.

6[He said]:

 ‘{Look!} Then I’ll bring a cure and a closing of wounds…
 I’ll treat them, and then I’ll make sure
 That they will all hear and then come to know
 That I’ll bring them peace they can trust.

 7‘I’ll return those of IsraEl and Judah
 That were [carried away] and resettled,
 And I will rebuild them as they once were.

 8‘I will cleanse them of all their errors,
 And from the ways that they’ve sinned against Me.
 No way will I remember their errors,
 Or all the ways that they left Me.

 9‘Then, before all those who live on the earth,
 I’ll give them a joyful, praised name.
 For, all will hear of the good things I’ll do,
 And they will be humbled and fearful
 Because of the good and the peace
 That I will be bringing upon them.’

10Then the Lord said to me:

 ‘In this place that you’ll call desolation,
 You’ll hear [the sounds of] both men and beasts
 Once more in the cities of Judah.

 ‘And then, outside of JeruSalem,
 In those desolate places where the sounds of men and beasts are not heard,
 11There’ll be the voices of gladness and joy…
 The sounds of grooms and their brides,
 And the sounds of men who are saying:

 *‘Praise the Almighty God;*
 *For Jehovah really does care,*
 *And upon us, He’ll show mercy throughout the ages!’*

 ‘Then they’ll carry gifts to the House of Jehovah;
 And those taken from the land, I’ll return,’ said the Lord.

 12‘And Jehovah of Armies said:

 *‘But this first must become a desolate place,*
 *And its cities will be void of cattle and men…*
 *It will be a place where shepherds will lodge,*
 *And a place for them to bed down their flocks.*

 13*‘In all the cities in the mountains…*
 *In the cities of the ShepheLa and Negev…*
 *Throughout BenJamin’s land…*
 *In the places outside of JeruSalem*
 *And in all the cities of Judah,*
 *There will just be those who count sheep,’* said Jehovah.

 14*‘Look! The days are coming,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘When I’ll [fulfill] all the good words I’ve spoken*
 *About the houses of IsraEl and Judah.*

 15*‘Yes, in those days and at that time;*
 *From David, a shoot that is righteous will sprout,*
 *And a king will reign who’ll bring understanding,*
 *As well as what’s righteous and fair to this land.*

 16*‘In those days, upon Judah, salvation will come,*
 *And JeruSalem will be lived in securely.*
 *Then they’ll call [Me] ‘Jehovah Our Justice.’*

 17‘And Jehovah said:

 *‘There’ll always be a man of David’s [line]*
 *That will sit on IsraEl’s throne.*

 18*‘And from among the Levites and Priests,*
 *There will always be a man who will stand*
 *To bring burnt offerings before Me,*
 *Along with sacrifices, incense, and gifts*
 *Throughout the rest of the days.’*

19Then the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh saying:

 20‘This is what Jehovah has said:

 *‘If you could annul My Sacred Agreement*
 *– My Agreement with the day and the night –*
 *So there’d be no day and night in that time;*
 21*Then, there would be no more need*
 *For [David’s] sons to reign from his throne,*
 *Nor for Levites and Priests to serve before Me.*

 22*‘For the offspring of My firebrand, David,*
 *Will become too many to be counted*
 *– Like the armies of the heavens and the sands of the seas –*
 *And the same will be true for the offspring of the Levites*
 *Who will be serving before Me.’*

23Then the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh and said:

 24[‘Jehovah says:]

 *‘Don’t you hear what those people are talking about?*
 *They’re saying that the Lord selected two families,*
 *And then, He threw them both out…*
 *That [I am oppressing] My people,*
 *And they’re no longer a nation before Me.’*

 25‘So, this was said by Jehovah:

 *‘If My Agreement with the day and the night hadn’t been,*
 *And if I hadn’t sent them all of My Laws*
 *[To govern] the lands and the skies;*
 26*Jacob’s offspring wouldn’t have been chosen,*
 *Nor would the offspring of My servant David,*
 *And the offspring of the rulers [which came] from the offspring*
 *Of AbraHam, IsaAc, and Jacob…*
 *So no way could they come back to Me.*

 *‘But I’ll bring them back from their captive condition,*
 *And upon them, I will show mercy.’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 34

1These words came to JeremiAh from Jehovah concerning NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon, as well as about the entire camp of his army and all the kingdoms of the earth that are under the domination of his hand… All those people who are waging war against JeruSalem and the cities of Judah. 2For the Lord God of IsraEl told me to go to ZedekiAh the king of Judah and tell him that this is what Jehovah had decreed:

 [‘Jehovah said:]

 *‘When it comes to handing things over;*
 *I’ll hand this city to Babylon’s king…*
 *He’ll capture it and burn it with fire.*

 3*‘Then no way will you be saved from his hands;*
 *For he’ll capture you and snatch you away…*
 *He’ll look at you eye to eye*
 *And speak to you mouth to mouth…*
 *And to Babylon, he will then take you.’*

 4‘Listen to what Jehovah’s decreed,
 O ZedekiAh, king of Judah:

 *‘You will not die by the broadsword;*
 *Rather, in peace, you will die.*
 5*And when you die, they’ll burn incense*
 *As they did for your fathers before you.*
 *And as they burn it, they’ll cry out ‘O Lord,’*
 *While they are mourning for you!’*

 ‘Yes, this is what Jehovah has decreed.’

6So I (JeremiAh) then went and said all these things to King ZedekiAh there in JeruSalem. 7And thereafter, the armies of the king of Babylon attacked JeruSalem and all the remaining cities of Judah (because the fortified cities of LachIsh and AzekAh in Judea still hadn’t [been conquered]).

8And once again, the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh after King ZedekiAh [had issued a decree] to the people in JeruSalem concerning [God’s] Sacred Agreement, in which he called for everyone to set 9all their Hebrew male and female servants free (as well as all of the rest of their slaves), so that there would be no more slaves in Judah. 10And all the great men and all the rest of the people actually agreed to release their male and female slaves, so they wouldn’t have to serve them anymore… Yes, they actually paid attention and set them all free! 11But right after they did that, they went and took back their male and female slaves (whom they’d just set free) and once again put them back to work as their slaves!

12So the Lord said to JeremiAh:

 [‘Jehovah says:]

 *‘In the day that I saved your fathers from Egypt*
 *And from the houses in which they were slaves,*
 13*I made a Sacred Agreement with them,*
 14*Where I said that after every 6th year,*
 *They must release all their brothers*
 *(Those who’d sold themselves as their slaves)…*
 *That they may only toil for 6 years,*
 *And [on the 7th], they must be set free!*

 *‘But, they haven’t listened to Me,*
 *Or turned their ears so they’d hear what I say!*

 15*‘Yet today, they decided to do the right thing*
 *When you told them to release their neighbors;*
 *And before Me, they said they would do this,*
 *There in the Temple that’s called by My Name.*

 16*‘Then they turned and broke their promise to Me*
 *By reclaiming [all of] their slaves…*
 *Those whose lives had just been set free…*
 *They turned back and made them slaves once again!*

 17*‘It’s because of this,’* says Jehovah…
 *‘Because they refused to listen to Me*
 *And release their brothers and neighbors;*
 *{Look!} I’m calling the release on their behalf*
 *By the sword, by famine, and plague!*
 *And then, I will scatter these people*
 *Throughout the kingdoms of the whole earth.*

 18*‘As to those who voided My Sacred Agreement*
 *By not keeping the promise they made before Me*
 *With a calf that they cut in two pieces;*
 19*I will come through the midst of those halves…*
 *To the rulers of Judah and JeruSalem*
 *(To the mighty, as well as the priests,*
 *And to all the people who live in the land);*
 20*Then, to their enemies, I’ll hand them…*
 *I’ll hand them to those who are seeking their lives!*

 *‘Then their rotting flesh will serve as a meal*
 *For all the birds in the skies,*
 *And for all the wild beasts on the ground.*

 21*‘Then I’ll hand over Judah’s King ZedekiAh,*
 *As well as all of his princes*
 *To their enemies who are seeking their lives…*
 *To the armies of Babylon’s king…*
 *To those before whom they are fleeing!*

 22*‘Look! I’m the One who issued the order,* said Jehovah,
 *To bring them into this city,*
 *Where they’ll fight against it and take it,*
 *And then they will burn it with fire…*
 *I’ll make all the cities of Judah*
 *Places where no one will walk.’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 35

1It was during the time of JehoiAkim (son of JosiAh) the king of Judah that the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh saying:

 2‘Call for the Rechabite families,
 Then bring them to the House of Jehovah
 And into one of the courtyards,
 Where you must offer them wine.’

3So I went and brought JaAzaniAh (son of JeremiAh and grandson of HabaZiniAh), as well as his brothers and sons, and the rest of the families of the Rechabites, into the Temple of Jehovah. 4There, I [seated them] in the dining room of the sons of Hanan (son of IgDaliYah, a man of God), which was located next to the house of the Temple overseers and above the house of MaAseJah son of ShalLum (who was in charge of guarding the entryways), 5and I set a clay pitcher of wine before them and some cups, and I offered them some wine.

6But they said:

 ‘There’s no way that we’re going to drink any wine, because our ancestor JoNadab son of RechAb told us:

 *‘You must never drink wine – you and your sons – throughout the ages.* 7*Nor should you build houses, sow seeds, plant vineyards, or own any; you should live in tents all your days, that you may live many days in the land you’re inhabiting.’*

 8‘So we’ve obeyed the instructions of JoNadab son of RechAb our ancestor, and we haven’t done anything that he told us not to do. We haven’t drunk any wine throughout our lives – not us, our wives, our sons, or our daughters – 9nor have we built houses, owned vineyards, or planted seeds in fields… None of this has ever happened among us. 10We’ve done everything that our ancestor JoNadab told us to do, and we’ve been living in tents. 11Then when NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon came to this land, we told him:

 *‘We will leave [our position] in front of the Chaldeans and the armies of the Assyrians and go up to JeruSalem…’*

 ‘...and we’ve been living here ever since then.’

12Well after that, the Word of Jehovah came to me and told me that 13Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, told me to do this:

 ‘You must go and speak to the men of Judea
 And to those who are living in JeruSalem;
 Then, tell them that thus says Jehovah:

 *‘There’s no way that you’ve heard the things that I’ve said;*
 14*Yet, the sons of JoNadab son of RechAb*
 *Have obeyed the instructions he gave to his sons*
 *Not to drink any wine…*
 *And they’ve drunk no wine to this day!*
 *They’ve paid attention to their father’s commands.*
 *But, when I spoke plainly to you,*
 *You refused to listen to Me!*

 15*‘So each morning, I sent you My servants the Prophets…*
 *I sent them and told them to teach every man*
 *To turn from his evil ways…*
 *To be better and not follow or serve other gods,*
 *So you could continue to live in the land*
 *That I gave to your fathers and you.*
 *But, you have learned nothing at all…*
 *Your ears have paid no attention!*

 16*‘Yet the sons of JoNadab son of RechAb*
 *Have obeyed the commands of their father…*
 *They’ve not done the things he said [not to do],*
 *While you haven’t listened to Me!*

 17*‘So because of this,’* says IsraEl’s God, Jehovah of Armies,
 *‘{Look!} I will be bringing on Judah*
 *And on those who live in JeruSalem*
 *All the bad that I’ve spoken against them.*
 *For, when I spoke, they paid no attention…*
 *When I called out to them, they didn’t reply.’*

18Then JeremiAh said to the house of the Rechabites:

 ‘This is what Jehovah has declared:

 *‘Since the descendants of JoNadab son of RechAb*
 *Have paid attention to their father’s commands*
 *And done everything that he told them to do;*
 *It’s because of this,’* says IsraEl’s God, Jehovah of Armies,
 19*‘No way will a man of JoNadab’s sons*
 *Ever fail to stand before Me.’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 36

1It was in the 4th year [of the reign] of JehoiAkim (son of JosiAh) the king of Judah that the Word of Jehovah came to me saying:

 2‘Get a papyrus scroll for yourself
 And write all the words that I’ve said
 About both IsraEl and Judah,
 And about all the nations of which I spoke
 From the time of King JosiAh of Judah
 Down to this very day!
 3Then perhaps the house of Judah will hear
 About all the bad things I’ve planned
 And then turn from their wicked ways,
 So I can cover their failures and sins.’

4Therefore, JeremiAh called BarUch son of NeriAh, who wrote all the words of Jehovah that came from the mouth of JeremiAh on a papyrus scroll.

5Then JeremiAh said to BarUch:

 ‘Because I’m being watched, I can’t enter the Temple of Jehovah. 6So you’ll have to go there and read this papyrus scroll into the ears of all the people who happen to be in the Temple of Jehovah on a fast day… Read it into the ears of all the Judeans that are coming there from all their cities, 7and perhaps their need for mercy will fall before Jehovah and they’ll turn from their evil ways. For the anger and rage that Jehovah has spoken against these people is great!’

8As a result, BarUch son of NeriAh did everything that JeremiAh told him to do... He went and read the scroll of the words of the Lord there at the Temple of Jehovah. 9Then in the 5th year and 9th month [of the reign] of JehoiAkim (son of JosiAh) the king of Judah, all the people of JeruSalem and of the house of Judah held an assembly to fast before Jehovah, 10and BarUch again read the scroll of the words of JeremiAh into the ears of all the people who were there at the Temple of Jehovah. [He did this] from the [apartment] of GemariAh son of Shapha the scribe, in the upper courtyard, which is in front of the threshold of the Temple’s New Gate.

11Well, after MichaiAh (son of GemariAh and grandson of ShaPhan) heard all the words of Jehovah being read from the scroll, 12he went down to the palace of the king and entered the house of the [royal] scribe, where {Look!} he found all the rulers gathered:

 • EliShama the scribe,
 • DalaiJa (son of ShemaiAh),
 • ElNathan (son of AchBor),
 • GemariAh (son of ShaPhan),
 • ZedekiAh (son of HananiAh),
 • And all the supervisors.

13Then MichaiAh told them everything that he’d heard BarUch read from the scroll into the ears of the people.

14So, the rulers sent for BarUch son of NeriAh (son of JeHudi, son of NathaniAh, son of ShelemiAh, son of Cushi) and told him:

 ‘Go get the scroll that you read into the ears of the people and bring it here!’

Then BarUch (son of NeriAh) went and picked up the scroll and returned to them, 15and they said:

 ‘Now, read that scroll into our ears!’

And BarUch read it to them.

16Well, after they heard all the words being read, each person started discussing it with their neighbor, and they said to BarUch:

 ‘We’ve decided that we should announce all these words to the king!’

17Then they asked BarUch:

 ‘Just where were you when you wrote all these words?’

18And he replied:

 ‘These words came from the mouth of JeremiAh… He’s the one who spoke the words. All I did was record them in this scroll.’

19Then the rulers said to BarUch:

 ‘Go somewhere and hide… Both you and JeremiAh! Don’t let anyone know where you are!’

20Then they had the scroll kept under guard in the house of EliShama the scribe, and they went into the courtyard of the king and told the king everything that it said. 21So the king sent JehuDi to get the scroll, and he went and took it from the house of EliShama the scribe, and JehuDi read it before the king and all the rulers that were sitting around him.

22The king happened to be in his winter palace at the time (for it was the 9th month), and he was sitting in front of his fireplace. 23And after JeHudi had read just three or four lines, [the king] shredded [the scroll] with a scribe’s razor and tossed it into the fire in his fireplace. As a result, the papyrus scroll was entirely burned up and destroyed.

24Well, nobody was surprised… None of those who were there ripped their clothes… Not the king, any of his servants, or any of those who heard those words. 25Although ElNathan, DalaiJa, and GemariAh had suggested to the king that he shouldn’t burn the papyrus, 26he refused to listen to them. Then the king told JerahMeEl (the king’s son), SaraiAh son of AzriEl, and ShelemiAh son of AbDeEl to go and arrest both BarUch the scribe and JeremiAh the Prophet. However, these men were already in hiding.

27Well, after the king burned the scroll that BarUch wrote containing all the words that were spoken by JeremiAh, the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh again, and said:

 28‘Now take another scroll of papyrus
 And write the same words that you wrote in the scroll
 That King JehoiAkim burned.
 29Then tell JehoiAkim (king of Judah)
 That this is what was said by Jehovah:

 *‘Although you have burned up this scroll,*
 *You still asked why I had it written.*
 *For it told you that Babylon’s king*
 *Will enter this land and destroy it,*
 *Wiping away all the men and their beasts.’*

 30‘And because you did [such a thing],
 Jehovah made this pronouncement against [you]:

 *‘O JehoiAkim, king over Judah*
 *Who is sitting upon David’s throne;*
 *You’ll no longer sit [on that throne]…*
 *For, into the sweltering heat of the day*
 *And into the icy cold of the night,*
 *Your decaying flesh will be tossed.*

 31*‘Yes, I’m coming against you, your family and sons,*
 *Because of your lawless ways;*
 *Then upon you and those in JeruSalem and Judah,*
 *I’ll bring all the evils about which I’ve warned,*
 *And to which you chose not to listen.’*

32Then JeremiAh took another papyrus scroll and gave it to BarUch son of NeriAh the scribe, and he once again wrote the same words that came from the mouth of JeremiAh upon it – all the words that JehoiAkim the king of Judah had burned in the fire – and he added many more words to it (such as these).

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 37

1Well thereafter, ZedekiAh (son of JosiAh) started reigning in place of ConiJah (son of JehoiAkim), whom NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon had appointed to reign in the land of Judah. 2But he, his servants, and the people of the land wouldn’t listen to the words that Jehovah had spoken through JeremiAh either.

3Yet later, King ZedekiAh sent JehuKal (son of ShelemiAh) and ZephaniAh (son of MaAseJah) the Priest to JeremiAh to say this to him:

 ‘Please pray to Jehovah your God for us.’

4Well at the time, JeremiAh was free to come and go in the city as he wished, because they hadn’t locked him up yet. 5However, when the Chaldeans heard that the armies of PharaOh were marching from the land of Egypt, they [started their attack] on JeruSalem. 6And that’s when the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh and said:

 7‘Jehovah the God of IsraEl says that you are to go and shout these words to the king of Judah – the person who sent you to inquire of Me:

 *‘{Look!} This army of PharaOh that is marching to help you*
 *Will turn and flee back into Egypt.*
 8*And then the Chaldeans will come here*
 *To wage war on this city…*
 *They will take it and burn it with fire!’*

 9‘Jehovah says:

 *‘Now your souls shouldn’t think about saying,*
 ‘The Chaldeans will turn back once more,’
 *For there is no way this will happen!*

 10*‘And if you should beat the Chaldeans*
 *Who are coming to wage war against you;*
 *Even the wounded that they leave behind*
 *Will arise and burn this city with fire.’*

11Well, that’s what happened… Soon the Chaldean armies [attacked] JeruSalem right in front of the armies of PharaOh.

12Meanwhile, JeremiAh had left JeruSalem and gone to the land of BenJamin to purchase some land there among his people. 13But when he arrived at the gates of BenJamin, IriJah (son of ShelemiAh and grandson of HananiAh) had him arrested. He seized JeremiAh and accused him of running away to the Chaldeans. 14Yet, although [JeremiAh] told him that was a lie and he wasn’t running away to the Chaldeans, IriJah refused to listen. He arrested JeremiAh and took him before the local rulers.

15Then, because the rulers [hated] JeremiAh, they had him flogged and sent him to the house of JoNathan the scribe, which had been turned into a prison. 16There JeremiAh [was thrown] into an [outhouse] pit [near] the [main] house, where he was confined for several days.

17Fortunately, King ZedekiAh thereafter sent for him, and the king asked him secretly if he had received any word from Jehovah. And JeremiAh replied:

 ‘Yes… He says that you’ll be handed over to the king of Babylon!’

18Then JeremiAh asked the king this:

 ‘How have I wronged you, your servants, or your people, so that you would have me thrown into a prison latrine… 19And where are those prophets that prophesied to you and told you there’s no way that the king of Babylon will ever come into this land?

 20‘Now, hear this, O Lord, O king; you must show mercy on me as I’m standing here before you… You must not return me to the house of JoNathan the scribe and allow me to die there!’

21So the king gave orders, and then they locked JeremiAh in the guard house, where they provided him with a loaf of bread each day (which was baked outside of the city, because there was no bread left there). And after that, JeremiAh stayed in the courtyard of the guards.

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 38

1Well, ShephatiJah (son of MatTan), GedaliAh (son of PashUr), JuKal (son of ShelemiAh), and PashUr (son of MelchiAh) started thinking about the words that JeremiAh had spoken to the people when he warned them that 2Jehovah had said that anyone who remained in the city would die by the broadsword, famine, and plague, but those who [surrendered] to the Chaldeans could save their own lives and live.

3For this is what he told them that Jehovah had said:

 ‘When it comes to being handed over;
 This city will be handed over
 To the armies of Babylon’s king,
 And soon thereafter, he’ll take it.’

4So those rulers went to the king and said this to him:

 ‘We have to do away with that man, because he’s weakening the hands of the troops that remain in this city and the hands of all the people when he says things like that. He doesn’t prophesy peace, he’s just telling us bad things!’

5So because the king was unable to resist them, King ZedekiAh said:

 ‘Look! He’s in your hands!’

6And as a result, they took JeremiAh and threw him into the [outhouse pit] that belonged to MelchiJah (the king’s son), which was located in the courtyard of the guard. They took rough cords and lowered him into the pit, which contained no water (just manure), and that’s where he had to stay… In the filth!

7Well, the Ethiopian Eunuch EbedMelech happened to be in the King’s courtyard when they threw JeremiAh into the pit. And at the time, the king was outside sitting on the Gate of BenJamin. 8So EbedMelech left the king’s palace and went to speak to the king.

He said to him:

 9‘O my lord and king,

 ‘These men have done something very wicked when they dropped the Prophet JeremiAh into the outhouse pit… He’ll starve to death there, since there’s no more bread left in the city!’

10So the king gave orders to EbedMelech, saying:

 ‘Take 30 men to the pit and pull him out, so he doesn’t die.’

11Then EbedMelech gathered the men and they went to the sub-basement of the king’s palace and found some old rags and ropes, and they tossed them down to JeremiAh in the pit, 12saying:

 ‘Wrap these around you!’

And that’s what JeremiAh did. 13So they lifted him with the ropes and pulled him up out of the pit. And thereafter, JeremiAh once again stayed in the courtyard of the guards.

14Well after that, the king sent for JeremiAh while he (the king) was staying in the house of AsaLiseEl (which is located inside the Temple [complex] of Jehovah). And the king said to him:

 ‘I want to ask you something… And don’t hide the truth from me!’

15But JeremiAh asked:

 ‘If I answer you [truthfully], won’t you just have me killed? Besides, you haven’t listened to any of the advice that I’ve given to you up to this point.’

16Then the king secretly swore an oath to him, saying:

 ‘As Jehovah who gave us this life lives; I won’t kill you or hand you over to these men who are seeking your life!’

17So JeremiAh said to him:

 ‘Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, said this:

 *‘If you will go and surrender*
 *To the governors of Babylon’s king,*
 *You’ll live… You will save your own life,*
 *And this city won’t be burned with fire…*
 *Both you and your family will live!*

 18*‘But, if you don’t go [and surrender],*
 *This city will be handed to the Chaldeans*
 *And they will burn it with fire…*
 *When that happens, you won’t be saved from their hands.’*

19Then the king said to JeremiAh:

 ‘But if I do that, I’ll have a problem with the Judeans who went over to the side of the Chaldeans… If I’m handed over to them, they’ll make [life miserable for] me!’

20However, JeremiAh told him:

 ‘There’s no way that you’ll be handed over to those people. Rather, you should listen to the words of Jehovah that I’ve spoken to you, because it would be better for you to save your own life and survive! 21But if you don’t choose to go out and surrender, this is what Jehovah has decreed:

 22*‘{Look!} All the women who remain in [your] house*
 *Will be carried to the king of Babylon’s princes.*
 *Then these women will say that your allies deceived you;*
 *For they care so little about you*
 *That they’ll turn and stumble your feet,*
 *And help them to bring you to ruin.*

 23*‘Then they’ll take your wives and your children,*
 *And no way will you then be saved…*
 *You’ll be taken by Babylon’s king,*
 *And this city will be burned to the ground.’*

24Well at that, ZedekiAh said to JeremiAh:

 ‘If you don’t speak about this to anyone else, you won’t die. 25But if the rulers hear that I’ve spoken to you about this and they come and ask you:

 *‘What did you say to the king… If you don’t hide it from us, we won’t do away with you… What did you say to the king?’*

 26‘You must tell them:

 *‘I went to plead for mercy before the eyes of the king. I just asked him not to take me back to the house of JoNathan and let me die there.’*

27And in fact, the rulers did come to JeremiAh and say this to him, and he said what the king told him to say. So they didn’t ask him anything more, because they didn’t know what had happened. 28And after that, JeremiAh stayed in the courtyard of the guards until the time that JeruSalem was captured.

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 39

1Well, it was in the 9th year and 10th month [of the reign] of ZedekiAh the king of Judah that NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon came to JeruSalem with all his armies and attacked it. 2And it was in the 11th year, on the 4th month and 9th day of ZedekiAh’s reign that the city’s walls were breached. 3Then all the governors of the king of Babylon entered [the city] and they sat down at the Central Gate… These included:

 • NergalSharezer,
 • SamGar,
 • NeboSarsechim,
 • NebuSarkes,
 • NergalShareZer (the King’s advisor),
 • And all the rest of the governors of the king of Babylon.

4Meanwhile, ZedekiAh king of Judah and all his soldiers had fled the city during the night, going through the king’s garden and then through the gate that leads between the city wall and the fortification around the wall, following the road to the ArabAh.

5However, the Chaldean army chased them down and caught up with ZedekiAh on the other side of JeriCho. Then they carried him back to NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon, who was at RibLah (a city in the land of HaMath), where he passed judgment on him… 6And the king of Babylon had ZedekiAh’s sons killed there in front of his eyes (there in RibLah), along with all the rest of the rulers of Judah. 7Then he had ZedekiAh blinded and bound in shackles, before he was led off to Babylon.

8Well after that, the Chaldeans set the King’s palace and the houses of the people on fire and demolished them. 9Then all those who were left in the city and the deserters were taken before the king of Babylon, 10and NabuZarAdan (the chief of the guards) had them carried off to Babylon. However, he did leave many of the poor people of the land of Judah and those who were of no importance behind, assigning them to watch over the fields and vineyards.

11Then NebuChadNezzar (the king of Babylon) gave instructions to NebuZarAdan (the chief of the guards) concerning JeremiAh. He said:

 12‘Take this man and keep an eye on him… But don’t do anything bad to him. Just treat him as you would like to be treated.’

13So NabuZarAdan (the chief of the guards), as well as NabuShasban, RabSares, Nergel, SharEzer, RabMag, and all the princes of the king of Babylon sent for JeremiAh… 14They took him out of the courtyard of the guards and handed him over to GedaliAh (son of AhiKam and grandson of ShaPhan), who then led him outside to sit among the rest of the people. 15But it was while he was still in the courtyard of the guards that the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh and said:

 16‘Go speak to the black man, EbedMelech,
 And tell him that thus says Jehovah…
 Yes, say that the God of IsraEl said this:

 *‘{Look!} I’ve fulfilled My words on this city*
 *To do just bad things, not good!*
 *And now, although you must stand before them;*
 17*On that day, I will be there to save you,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘I will not be handing you over*
 *To stand before the faces of those whom you fear.*

 18*‘So when it comes to salvation, I’ll save you…*
 *No way will you fall by the sword…*
 *Your reward will be your own life,*
 *Because you trusted in Me,’* says Jehovah.’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 40

1Then the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh again after he had been led off in shackles by NabuZarAdan (the chief of the guards) and after he’d been separated from the rest of the Judeans who were being relocated from RamAh to [the empire of] Babylon. 2And as the chief of the guards was leading him away, he said this to JeremiAh:

 ‘Your God Jehovah spoke to you against this place and against all of its badness, 3and then the Lord did just as He said He would do, because you had all sinned against Him and you refused to listen to His voice. So, these things that happened to you are just the things that He said He would do.

 4‘Therefore, after I remove the manacles from your hands, you can choose to travel with me to Babylon where I’ll watch out for you, or you can just run away from here! Look… The whole land before you is good! So you can go anywhere that pleases your eyes, 5or you can choose to return to GedaliAh son of AhiKam, grandson of ShaPhan, whom the king of Babylon has appointed to be over the land of Judah, and you can live among your people under him… Yes, if it seems good in your eyes to go there, then go!’

Well after that, the chief of the guards held a feast for JeremiAh and they gave him some gifts before sending him away. 6Then [JeremiAh] went to GedaliAh at MizPah and stayed among the people who’d been left behind in the land.

7Meanwhile, when all the [Judean] generals who were still in the fields with their armies heard that the king of Babylon had appointed GedaliAh to be over the land, they brought their men and their wives to him, along with the simple people and the poor of the land… All those who hadn’t been relocated by the Babylonians.

8Then IshMaEl (son of NethaniAh), JoHanan (son of KareAh), SeraiAh (son of TanHumeth), the sons of EphAi the NetoPhathite, and JezaniAh (son of the MaAchathite) came to GedaliAh at MizPah… They and all their men went to him. 9And GedaliAh swore an oath to them and their men, saying:

 ‘You will no longer have anything to fear from the servants of the Chaldeans. Therefore, I urge you to come and live in this land and work for the king of Babylon, since this would be the best thing for you to do!

 10‘{Look!} As I’m sitting here in MizPah, I’m doing so before the faces of the Chaldeans, and [they’re protecting us from anyone] who might come against us. So, collect your wine, autumn fruits, and olive oil in jars, then come and live in these cities that we’ve been able to retain!’

11Well, when those Judeans who were in MoAb and all the rest who had stayed among the sons of AmMon (those who’d been scattered throughout the land of Edom) heard that the king of Babylon had given an allotment to Judah and that he had appointed GedaliAh (son of AhiKam) to be over them, 12they each returned from the places where they’d been scattered and they gathered to GedaliAh in MizPah in the land of Judah, bringing along all their wine, autumn fruits, and a tremendous amount of olive oil.

13However, JoHanan (son of KareAh) and all the generals of the armies who were still in the fields then went to GedaliAh at MizPah 14and they warned him, saying:

 ‘Don’t you know that BaAl Ish, the king of the sons of AmMon, is sending IshMaEl son of NathaniAh to [assassinate] you?’

But GedaliAh (son of AhiKam) just didn’t believe them.

15Then JoHanan (son of KareAh) went and spoke to GedaliAh in secret there in MizPah.

He told him:

 ‘I will go and strike down IshMaEl son of NathaniAh… However, don’t tell anyone! For he’s going to kill you and scatter all the Judeans who have gathered here with you, then he will wipe out the rest of Judah!’

16But GedaliAh told JoHanan (son of KareAh):

 ‘Don’t you dare to do this thing… For you’re really lying about IshMaEl!’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 41

1Well, it was in the 7th month that IshMaEl son of NathaniAh, grandson of EliShama (who was related to the king), came to GedaliAh in MizPah with some of the royal appointees and 10 other men. Then, after sharing some bread, 2IshMaEl and the 10 men who came with him got up and struck down GedaliAh with their swords, killing him (the man who had been appointed over the land by the king [of Babylon]) 3as well as all the Judeans who were with him at MizPah, and any Chaldeans that they found there… He even killed the guards!

4Then, two days after they’d killed GedaliAh (for no one had found out about it yet), 5some 80 men came there from SheChem, ShiLoh, and Samaria with their beards shaved off and wearing torn clothes, beating their chests and carrying gifts of frankincense in their hands [to offer before] Jehovah. 6So IshMaEl (son of NathaniAh) came out of MizPah to meet them, and they all started crying.

Then [IshMaEl] said to them:

 ‘Now, let’s all go and visit GedaliAh.’

7However, as they were traveling through the city, [IshMaEl] and his men started striking them down and killing them next to a well.

8But as they were seeing this happen, 10 of the men said to IshMaEl:

 ‘You shouldn’t kill us, because we’ve brought along treasures from the fields… Wheat, barley, honey, and olive oil!’

And as a result, he passed them by and left them alive there in the midst of their [murdered] brothers.

9Now, the well where IshMaEl had killed the men was very large (it’s the one that King Asa [had dug] in fear of king BaAsha of IsraEl), so IshMaEl (son of NathaniAh) threw the men’s bodies into it. 10Then IshMaEl took all the people who were left in MizPah – which included the daughters of the king who had been left in the care of the chief of the guards by GedaliAh (son of AhiKam) – and he set out for the other side [of the land] of the sons of AmMon.

11Well, when JoHanan (son of KareAh) and the generals who were with him heard of all the evil things that IshMaEl (son of NathaniAh) had done, 12they took everyone in their camp and went to wage war with IshMaEl, catching up with him next to the water of the great pool in GibeOn. 13And when all the people who were with IshMaEl saw JoHanan (son of KareAh) coming with the generals, they were very happy, 14so they all went over to JoHanan’s side.

15Nevertheless, IshMaEl was able to escape along with 8 of his men, and they headed towards the [land of] the sons of AmMon. 16So JoHanan then took all the generals and their armies, along with all the remaining people from MizPah – those whom IshMaEl (son of NathaniAh) had captured after he killed GedaliAh (son of AhiKam), all the mighty men of war, as well as all the women, the eunuchs, and everything that was left in GibeOn – 17and they set up camp at KimHam (near BethLehem), as they planned to travel towards the land of Egypt. 18[For they had decided] to run from the Chaldeans, since they were afraid to face them because of IshMaEl’s striking down GedaliAh (the man whom the king of Babylon had appointed to be over their land).

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 42

1Well, they traveled on from there – all the generals, JoHanan (son of KareAh), JezaniAh (son of HoshaiAh), and all the people from the least to the greatest – and they went to JeremiAh the Prophet and said this:

 2‘May our need for mercy fall before you! Please pray to Jehovah your God about all these things; for there were once as many of us as your eyes could see, but now we are so few. 3Tell us which way Jehovah your God says we should go, and that’s the way we will go!’

4And JeremiAh the Prophet said to them:

 ‘I’ve heard you, so {Look!} I will pray to Jehovah our God about the things you’ve said, and then I’ll announce to you whatever Jehovah tells me to say… There’s no way that I’ll hide a single word from you!’

5Then they replied to JeremiAh:

 ‘May Jehovah be a righteous and trustworthy witness against us if we fail to follow every word that Jehovah your God sends to us. 6We will obey [every word] from the voice of our God Jehovah, the One we’re sending you to, whether it’s for the good or for the bad! We’ll pay attention and listen to the voice of our God Jehovah, so that things will go well for us!’

7Well, it was 10 days later that the Word of Jehovah finally came to JeremiAh. 8So he called for JoHanan (son of KareAh), the generals, and all the people (from the least to the greatest), 9and he said this to them:

 ‘Jehovah the God of IsraEl to whom you sent me, has heard all your prayers before Him. 10[He told me to tell you this]:

 *‘If you wish to survive, you must stay in this land,*
 *For I’ll build you up, not wipe you away…*
 *I’ll plant you and not pluck you out…*
 *I’ll bring you rest from the bad that I’ve sent.*

 11*‘So don’t worry about Babylon’s king,*
 *The one whose face you now fear…*
 *No, don’t be afraid,’ says Jehovah;*
 *‘For I’m with you, and I will save you…*
 *From his hands, I will save you!*

 12*‘I will grant you this one act of kindness,*
 *And I will show mercy upon you…*
 *For I’ll take you back to your land.*

 13*‘But if you should say to yourselves,*
 ‘No way will we stay in this land,’
 *And you fail to obey the voice of your God…*
 14*If you should say:* ‘There’s no way…
 For we’ve chosen to go down to Egypt
 So that we will no longer know fighting
 Or hear the sounds of the trumpets,
 Nor will we go hungry, because there’s no bread…
 Yes, we’ll [go down to Egypt] and live there...’

 15‘Then, hear the Word of Jehovah,
 O you remnant of Judah!
 For Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl says this:

 ‘*If you point your faces towards Egypt,*
 *And enter [that land] and then plan to stay…*
 16*The broadsword that you are now facing*
 *– The one of which you’re in fear –*
 *Will also find you in Egypt.*
 *And the famine that you have been facing*
 *Will also overtake you in Egypt…*
 *So, there is where you will die!*

 17*‘Yes, all those men whose faces are set*
 *To go down to Egypt and live,*
 *Will fall by the broadsword, famine, and plague…*
 *None will survive all the evils*
 *That I will be bringing upon them!’*

 18‘Then Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, said this:

 *‘As My rage has dripped on JeruSalem,*
 *My rage will then drip upon you,*
 *Should you choose to go down into Egypt.*

 *‘You’ll become a land that’s unwalked,*
 *And come under the hands of other men…*
 *You’ll be a cursed [people] who’s scorned,*
 *And never again will you see this [land]!’*

 19‘Yes, this is what Jehovah spoke against you, O remaining ones of Judah… You must not go down into Egypt!

 ‘Now, you’re aware of all this, for I’ve testified to you about it today! 20But you [weren’t really being honest] with yourselves when you sent me to Jehovah your God and said:

 *‘Pray to the Lord for us and we’ll do whatever Jehovah our God tells us… Whatever He says, we will do!’*

 21‘And now, although I’ve warned you, you won’t listen to the voice of Jehovah your God and follow [the words] that He sent to you.

 ‘So, by means of the broadsword, famine, and plague
 You will come to your end in that place
 Where you’ve chosen to go and to live.’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 43

1Well, just after JeremiAh had finished speaking all the words that Jehovah their Lord God had sent to them, 2AzariAh (son of HoshaiAh), JoHanan (son of KareAh), and all the proud ones started shouting at JeremiAh and saying:

 ‘You’re lying! Our God Jehovah didn’t send you to tell us that we shouldn’t go down into Egypt and live there! 3And look at BarUch son of NeriJah… He has joined with you against us to hand us over to the Chaldeans, so that they can just kill us or move us to Babylon!’

4Well, JoHanan (son of KareAh), the generals, and all the people refused to listen to the voice of Jehovah and stay in the land of Judah. 5So JoHanan took all the generals, all the rest of the Judeans, those who had returned from the nations where they’d been scattered to live in the land of Judah, 6as well as all the mighty men, the women, the children, the remaining daughters of the king (all the souls that had been left behind by NabuZarAdan the chief of the [Babylonian] guards), as well as GedaliAh (son of AhiKam), 7the Prophet JeremiAh, and BarUch (son of NeriJah), and they went to TahPanHes in Egypt. For the people refused to listen to the voice of Jehovah.

8And it was while JeremiAh was in TahPanHes that the Word of Jehovah came to him again and said:

 9‘Now, take two huge rocks for yourself
 And [bury] them under the thresholds
 Of the gates of PharaOh’s house in TahPanHes.
 Do this in front of the men of Judea,
 10And tell them that thus says Jehovah of Armies:

 *‘{Look!} I’ll send for My servant NebuChadNezzar,*
 *And he’ll set his throne on these [buried] rocks,*
 *Then lay his shields down upon them.*
 11*For he’ll come and then attack Egypt,*
 *Bringing death to those who are already dead,*
 *Resettlement to those who’ve been moved away,*
 *And the sword to those bearing swords.*

 12*‘Then he’ll burn the [temples] of their gods,*
 *And he will resettle them all…*
 *The land of Egypt, he will then fumigate*
 *As a shepherd fumigates his own clothes…*
 *Only then, will he leave there in peace.*

 13*‘He’ll destroy the columns of the City of the Sun,*
 *And he’ll burn Egypt’s gods in a fire.’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 44

1Then the Word of Jehovah once again came to JeremiAh concerning the Judeans that were living in the land of Egypt… Those who had settled near the watchtower, or in TahPanHes, or in Memphis, or in the land of Pathros.

He said:

 2‘Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl says this:

 *‘You have witnessed all the bad things*
 *That I brought upon JeruSalem*
 *And upon the cities of Judah;*
 *For {Look!} they have lain desolate down to this day…*
 *No one lives there at all,*
 3*Because of their wicked faces,*
 *And what they did to make Me feel bitter*
 *By burning incense to gods they’ve not known…*
 *Which you and your fathers have done also!*

 4*‘So [each morning], I sent them My servants the Prophets*
 *To tell them not to do those bad things…*
 *Those disgusting things that I’ve hated.*
 5*But they chose not to listen to Me,*
 *Or lean their ears to pay any attention*
 *And then turn from their evil ways*
 *Of burning incense before other gods.*

 6*‘So My anger and rage dripped upon them.*
 *And now, all the cities of Judah*
 *(All those surrounding JeruSalem)*
 *Have been desolated and burned…*
 *They lie unwalked to this day.’*

 7‘So Jehovah (IsraEl’s Almighty God) asks you this:

 *‘Why are you still bringing evil*
 *Into your lives, O My people…*
 *Upon your women, your infants, and babies,*
 *So there’ll be no survivors in Judah?*

 8*‘For you continue to make Me feel bitter*
 *By the things that you do with your hands,*
 *When you burn incense to other gods*
 *In the land of Egypt where you’ve gone to live.*
 *So now, you’ll be cut off and cursed,*
 *And scorned among all the nations!*

 9*‘Have you forgotten all the evils*
 *That your fathers have committed [in the past]…*
 *The evil deeds of Judea’s kings…*
 *The evils of all of your rulers,*
 *And the bad things your women have done*
 *In JeruSalem and in Judah…*
 10*And which they’re still doing today?*

 *‘For, they have not learned to fear Me,*
 *Nor have they followed the orders*
 *That I set before them and their fathers.*

 11*‘It’s because of this,’*
 *Said IsraEl’s God, Jehovah of Armies;*
 *‘{Look!} Against you, I’ve now set My face*
 *Because of all the bad things you’ve done*
 *Since the time that I sent destruction to Judah.*

 12*‘So I’ll take the remnant of Judah*
 *That went down to Egypt to live,*
 *And I’ll cause them to fail throughout the whole land…*
 *Yes, from their least to their greatest.*
 *They’ll all fall by the broadsword and famine…*
 *They’ll be cursed, scorned, and destroyed!*

 13*‘I’ll visit those who’ve settled in Egypt*
 *The same as I visited JeruSalem…*
 *I’ll bring the same broadswords, famines, and plagues,*
 14*Which [JeruSalem’s people] could not escape.*

 *‘So, none of the remnant of Judah*
 *That went down to Egypt and hoped to return,*
 *Will be allowed to go back again.*
 *There’s no way that they’ll ever return…*
 *Except for a few who’ll escape.’*

15Well, [none of the men] would reply to JeremiAh, because they all knew that their women were burning incense to other gods. And at the time, there was a great gathering of the women among all those who had settled in the land of Egypt at Pathros.

And there, these women said:

 16‘We won’t pay any attention to the words that you’ve spoken to us in the Name of Jehovah, 17and we’ll do whatever we choose to do… We’ll keep on burning incense to the Queen of Heaven! Yes, we’ll keep on offering her [food and drink] as our fathers, our kings, our rulers, and the rest of us have done in Judah and around JeruSalem in the past… Back when we were better off… Back when we had enough bread to eat and things weren’t so bad!

 18‘For it was only after we stopped burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and offering her [food and drink] that things became worse and we started falling by the sword and from famine!

 19‘Haven’t you noticed all that has happened since we stopped burning incense to the Queen of Heaven… Back when we (without the aid of our husbands) made cakes and offered drinks to her?’

20Then JeremiAh replied to all the people (the mighty men, the women, and everyone else who had responded to him) saying:

 21‘When it comes to the incense that you’ve burned in the cities of Judah and in JeruSalem (you, your ancestors, your kings, your rulers, and the rest of the people of the land); Jehovah hasn’t forgotten this! Yes, it has reached all the way up to His heart!

 22‘And it’s because He was unable to bear all your wicked deeds and the disgusting things you were doing that He brought desolation upon your land… He made it an unwalked place and a curse to this day!

 23‘For you stood there before Him and burned incense – sinning against Jehovah – and you didn’t pay any attention to the voice of the Lord, or to His instructions, His Laws, or His proofs. Rather, you went and took up all these evil practices that you’ve continued to do down to this day.’

24And JeremiAh said to the women and to all the people:

 ‘Hear the Word of Jehovah, all you Judeans who are now living in Egypt!

 25‘For Jehovah the God of IsraEl says that you and your women have brought this [upon yourselves] by your own mouths and your own hands, when you said that you will continue to acknowledge and burn incense to the Queen of Heaven, and to offer [food and drink] before her.

 ‘So, you still plan to continue making offerings before her, do you? 26Well, because of this, hear the Word of Jehovah all you in Judah and those of you who have settled in the land of Egypt:

 *‘{Look!} I have sworn this oath by My Name,’* said Jehovah,
 *‘That My Name won’t remain in the mouths of these Jews,*
 *Because they have failed to say:*

 ‘O Jehovah, our Lord;
 Come and live among us in Egypt!’

 27*‘{Look!} I’ll be zealous about bringing them harm (not the good)!*
 *So those Jews that are living in Egypt*
 *Will fall by the broadsword and famine*
 *Until [they all] cease to be!*

 28*‘Just the [few] that escape from the sword*
 *Will ever return to Judea…*
 *And there will be very few!*

 *‘Then, all the remnant of Judah*
 *(Those who went and started living in Egypt)*
 *Will know whose words have proved to be true…*
 *If it’s My words, or those [of their gods].*

 29*‘And this is your sign,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘That I will visit this place,*
 *So you’ll know that My words have stuck upon you*
 *Because of your evil deeds:*

 30*‘{Look!} I’ll hand the house of Egypt’s King HophRa*
 *To his enemies and those who are seeking his life,*
 *As I handed Judah’s King ZedekiAh*
 *To his enemy NebuChadNezzar,*
 *Who was seeking his life.’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 45

1**These were the words that the Prophet JeremiAh spoke to BarUch (son of NeriAh) as he was writing all the words that came from the mouth of JeremiAh in this scroll [back] during the 4th year of [the reign of] JehoiAkim (son of JosiAh) the king of Judah.**

He said:

 2‘Jehovah, the God of IsraEl, said this about you, O BarUch, 3because you made this complaint:

 *‘Alas, to my misery, Jehovah has added hard labor;*
 *For I went to bed groaning and there found no rest.’*

 4‘So Jehovah told me that I should say this to you:

 *‘{Look!} That which I’ve built, I’ll demolish,*
 *And that which I’ve planted, I will pluck…*
 *Yes, even this land that is Mine.*

 5*‘Were you looking for great things to happen? If so,*
 *You had best remove that thought from your mind;*
 *For {Look!} upon all flesh, I’m bringing what’s bad,’* says Jehovah.
 *‘But as your reward, I’ll give you your life,*
 *No matter which way you may choose to go.’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 46

1**These are the words that Jehovah sent to JeremiAh the Prophet against the nations.**

2[He said this concerning] Egypt and the armies of PharaOh Necho the king of Egypt, who was at the EuPhrates River in CarChemIsh when he was [killed] by NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon, which happened [back] in the 4th year [of the reign] of JehoiAkim (son of JosiAh), the king of Judah:

 3*‘Now, pick up your weapons and shields,*
 *And then get ready for battle!*
 4*Saddle the horses and mount up their riders…*
 *Don your helmets and chest plates,*
 *And you should take up your spears!*

 5*‘Why are they frightened and running?*
 *It’s because their mighty have fallen,*
 *And into exile, they’re going…*
 *They’ll not return to their land,’* says Jehovah.

 6*‘Their nimble will not be able to flee,*
 *And their strong won’t be saved from those in the north…*
 *For at the EuPhrates, they’ll fall.*

 7*‘What is this that’s rising like a river…*
 *Yes, like a river that’s swollen?*
 8*The waters of the river of Egypt arose,*
 *And said:*

 I will rise and cover their land…
 I’ll destroy their cities and all those who live there.

 9*‘So, ready the chariots and mount up your horsemen…*
 *Assemble the Ethiopians and Libyans*
 *All armed and carrying shields!*

 *‘Come, O Lydians, and stretch tight your bows,*
 10*For this day belongs to Jehovah of Armies,*
 *Who’ll arise to take vengeance on His enemies.*
 *Then the sword will devour and be filled…*
 *It will get drunk on their blood.*

 *‘There’ll be a ‘sacrifice’ to Jehovah of Armies*
 *[Being offered by those] from the land to the north*
 *At the River EuPhrates.*

 11*‘So, go to GileAd for ointment*
 *[To heal] the virgin daughter of Egypt!*
 *But the attempts to heal her will all be in vain,*
 *And the ointments will do her no good.*

 12*‘Now, the nations have all heard your voices,*
 *For your cries have filled the whole earth.*
 *Warriors fighting warriors have weakened together,*
 *And together, they’ve fallen [in battle].’*

13**This is what Jehovah said through JeremiAh the Prophet concerning the coming of NebuChadNezzar (the king of Babylon) to strike the land of Egypt:**

 14[‘God said:]

 *‘Send the announcement to Egypt…*
 *Yes, let them hear it in Migdol,*
 *And then give warning to Memphis!*
 *Tell those who live in TahPanHes*
 *To prepare their yew to be [chopped] by the sword!*

 15*‘Why are your mighty all lying face down?*
 *They can’t get up, for the Lord knocked them down!*

 16*‘Yes your mighty [armies] have weakened,*
 *Then they turned to their comrades and said:*

 ‘Let’s get up and go back to our people and homes…
 Let’s [flee from] the faces of Greeks!’

 17*‘You can call on the name, PharaOh Necho…*
 *The one who’s the king of all Egypt,*
 *But [his time of glory has past].*

 18*‘As I live,’* says the King, Jehovah of Armies,
 *‘As sure as Tabor is found among mountains,*
 *And as sure as CarMel is found by the sea,*
 19*I’ve come here to settle up matters.*

 *‘So get ready, O daughter of Egypt,*
 *And those of you who are still left alive;*
 *For Memphis will now be destroyed,*
 *And she’ll be referred to as Woe,*
 *Because she’ll be left without people.*

 20*‘Egypt is a heifer prepared for the slaughter*
 *By a broken branch that will come from the north.*
 21*For the soldiers they’ve hired are like calves*
 *That are cared for and very-well fed.*
 *But, they will all turn back and flee,*
 22*Because they won’t wish to wait for the day*
 *When their destruction will come…*
 *The time when they will be punished.*

 *‘Since her voice is like the hissing of snakes*
 *That slither along in the sand;*
 *They will attack her with axes*
 *As though they are chopping up wood.*

 23*‘Then they’ll cut down all her forests,’* says Jehovah!
 *‘For, no one can imagine their numbers…*
 *As with locusts, there’s no way to count them!*

 24*‘Disgrace will come to the daughter of Egypt,*
 *And she’ll be given to the men from the north.’*

 25‘Yes, IsraEl’s God, Jehovah of Armies says this:

 *‘{Look!} Amun, Thebes’ God, will be punished;*
 *For, I will bring this on Egypt,*
 *As well as on her gods and her kings…*
 *To PharaOh and those who are trusting in him.*

 26*‘To those seeking his life, I will hand them…*
 *To the hands of King NebuChadNezzar,*
 *And to the hands of his servants.*

 *‘Once again, it will be as it was long ago,’* says Jehovah.
 27*So My servant Jacob should not be afraid,*
 *Nor should IsraEl ever feel terrified.*

 *‘{Look!} For I’ll bring you back from faraway lands…*
 *Your offspring, from where they were captives.*
 *Jacob will come and then sleep in peace,*
 *And no one will bring them more trouble.*

 28*‘So, don’t be afraid, O Jacob, My child,* says Jehovah;
 *For, I will be there with you!*
 *And all the nations to which you were led*
 *Will be appointed to destruction…*
 *The nations where I sent you will all be consumed.*

 *‘But although I’ll never appoint you an end,*
 *I will still judge and correct you.*
 *I won’t declare you free from all guilt,*
 *Nor will you ever be acquitted.’*

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 47

1**These words of the Lord came to JeremiAh the Prophet against the Philistines before PharaOh attacked Gaza:**

 2‘Jehovah says:

 *‘{Look!} From the north, the ‘waters’ will rise*
 *To become a ‘river’ that’s flooding.*
 *It will flood the land and all its good things…*
 *The city and all those who live there.*

 3*‘Then, all the men will start crying,*
 *And those living there will be shouting,*
 *Because of the sounds of the beating of hoofs*
 *And the rumble of chariot wheels.*

 *‘Fathers won’t [help] their own sons*
 *Because their hands will be just too weak*
 4*In the day that he comes to destroy the Philistines…*
 *To wipe away Sidon, Tyre, and their friends.’*

 ‘To the Philistines, Jehovah is sending destruction,
 As well as to the islands of CappaDocia.
 5Baldness will come upon Gaza,
 And AshKelon will be thrown away,
 Along with Anakim’s [giants].

 6‘How long will you strike with the sword of Jehovah…
 Until when, will it finally be stilled?
 Please put it back into its sheath…
 Yes, lift it away and put it to rest!

 7‘But, what can make it be stilled?
 For it came from Jehovah upon AshKelon
 And against [her cities] by the sea,
 So that all the rest would be shaken.’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 48

1**Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, said this against MoAb:**

 *‘Woe to Nebo, for it was destroyed,*
 *And KiriAth JaiRim was taken…*
 *Their forts were all vanquished and shamed.*

2MoAb won’t be dancing in HeshBon,
 For God has planned many bad things against her.

 *‘Come and cut her out of the nations…*
 *Let’s bring her to an end with the sword!’*

 3*‘From HoroNaim comes the sound of men shouting,*
 *For destruction and ruin have arrived,*
 4*And MoAb will be wiped away!*

 *‘Announce this too in Zogora!*
 5*For LuHith is now filled with weeping,*
 *And on the road to HoroNaim, they’re crying.*

 *‘You can hear the cries of destruction;*
 6*So escape, and run for your lives…*
 *Go live in the desert like zebras!*

 7*‘But you’ll be captured because you’ve relied*
 *On your treasures and forts.*
 *So you’ll be taken away and resettled,*
 *Along with your princes and priests.*

 8*‘To your cities, ruin is coming…*
 *None of your towns will be saved.*
 *So your valleys will then be destroyed,*
 *As will even your plains,’* says Jehovah.

 9*‘Post signs over MoAb that say she has the plague;*
 *So, soon she’ll have to be burned.*
 *Her cities will become unwalked lands,*
 *For there’ll be no one living within them.’*

10O cursed is the one who’s indifferent
 When it comes to doing the work of the Lord…
 Cursed is the one who holds back his sword!

 11*‘MoAb has rested since childhood,*
 *Relying upon his own glory.*
 *He’s never poured dregs from pitcher to pitcher,*
 *Nor has he been carried away…*
 *So his sense of taste hasn’t left him,*
 *And his ability to smell still remains.*

 12*‘But because of this,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘{Look!} The days are coming when I will send*
 *Those who wish to lean upon him.*

 *‘Then, they’ll water [the wine] in his pitchers,*
 *And they will break all his trumpets.*
 13*MoAb will be disgraced before CheMosh*
 *As IsraEl was disgraced before BethEl.*

 14*‘So, how can you say,* ‘We are strong…
 All our men are mighty for war?’
 15*For, MoAb and his cities are gone…*
 *His young men have fallen in slaughter,’*

Says the King, Jehovah of Armies.

 16*‘MoAb’s day of harm has quickly arrived.*
 17*So those around him should all move away,*
 *And those who were trusting in him should now ask:*

 ‘Who broke this famous one’s staff?’
 ‘Who broke that magnificent rod?’

 18*‘So, descend from your glory and sit where it’s damp,*
 *O you daughters of Dibon!*
 *For now that MoAb has been destroyed,*
 *Someone is coming to you*
 *Who will destroy all your forts!*

 19*‘Stand in the road and then look,*
 *All you who are sitting in AroEr,*
 *Then ask the fleeing what has happened.*

 20*‘MoAb is broken and he’s been disgraced.*
 *So shriek, cry out, and announce it in Arnon*
 *That mighty MoAb has fallen!*

 21*‘For, judgment has come to the land of Misor…*
 *On MephaAth, JaHazah, and Holon,*
 22*As well as on Dibon and Nebo,*
 *And on the house of the DiblaThaim.*

 23*‘On KiriAth JaiRim, it has arrived,*
 *And on the house of GaMul,*
 *As well as on the house of MeOn.*

 24*‘It has come on KiriAth and BozRah…*
 *Upon all the cities of MoAb,*
 *Both those who are near and those far away.*

 25*‘The horn of MoAb has been broken*
 *And his mighty arm is now destroyed,’* says Jehovah.
 26*‘So let [all of his people] get drunk;*
 *For before them, he made himself great.*

 *‘In his own vomit, MoAb will wallow,*
 *And he’ll be considered a joke.*
 27*O IsraEl; you’re the reason why this came to be…*
 *It was your cunning ways that brought this on them,*
 *Because they were [your ally] in war.*

 28*‘The people of MoAb have all fled their towns,*
 *And now they must live among rocks…*
 *They must live like doves among stones.*

 29*‘I heard the insolence of MoAb,*
 *And he was very insulting…*
 *Then his insults and pride raised his heart.*

 30*‘But I’m aware of the [bad] things he’s done,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘And from him, I’ve endured far too much…*
 *Yes, I know of his [wicked] deeds.*

 31*‘Because of this, MoAb will shriek,*
 *And the men of KeIr will be yelling*
 *Because of their squalid conditions!*

 32*‘The same as I’ve wept over JaZer*
 *Is how I’ll cry over you,*
 *O great grapevine of SibMah.*
 *For your vines have reached to the sea,*
 *And they’ve touched the city of JaZer.*

 *‘Now, ruin has come to your autumn fruits,*
 *And on those who are picking your grapes.*

 33*‘But at CarMel, there’s reason for shouting and joy;*
 *For there’s no one to tread MoAb’s wine vats…*
 *Yes, from morning to evening, they’re [shouting in] joy.*

 34*‘From HeshBon, to ElYaleh, and to JaHaz*
 *There now arises a cry;*
 *From ZoAr to HoroNaim there’s bleating*
 *As though coming from 3-year-old heifers…*
 *For the waters at NimRim have dried.*

 35*‘To MoAb, I will bring destruction,’* says Jehovah…
 *‘To this one who goes up to his shrines*
 *And burns incense there to his gods.*

 36*‘So like pipes, MoAb’s heart will soon resonate*
 *The same as My heart resonates*
 *For all the people of KeIr-Aras…*
 *Where like pipes, their [hearts] will resonate too,*
 *Since the things that they’ve gained will all perish.*

 37*‘Then all their heads will be shorn,*
 *And all their beards will be shaved…*
 *They’ll be beating their chests with their hands,*
 *And every loin will wear sackcloth.*

 38*‘[There’ll be wailing] on the rooftops of MoAb,*
 *As well as in all of their squares,*
 *Because I will have smashed MoAb,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘Like a pot that is no longer used.*

 39*‘O how very contrite;*
 *O how MoAb’s repented;*
 *For, MoAb’s now laughed at and shamed…*
 *An object of horror to those [passing by].’*

40Jehovah says:

 *‘I’ll spread and stretch out My wings over MoAb…*
 41*KiriAth and her forts will be seized.*
 *In that day, the hearts of the armies of MoAb*
 *Will become like the hearts of their women.*

42MoAb will [soon] be destroyed,
 So he will no longer be many…
 For against him, Jehovah will prove Himself great.

 43*‘Snares, fear, and the pit have arrived*
 *Upon you who have settled in MoAb,’* says Jehovah.
 44*‘For those fleeing in fear will fall into pits,*
 *And those climbing out will be caught in a snare.*

 *‘I’ll be bringing these things upon MoAb*
 *In the year that I go there to visit,’* says Jehovah.

 45*‘In the shadow of HeshBon, they stopped…*
 *The army that was running away.*
 *For, fire arose out of HeshBon,*
 *And in SiHon’s midst, there were flames*
 *That devoured the forehead of MoAb*
 *And the scalps of the sons of SiHon.*

 46*‘Woe upon you, O MoAb!*
 *For the people of CheMosh have all been destroyed,*
 *And their sons and daughters were carried away.*
 47*But the captives of MoAb, I will return*
 *In the last days,’* says Jehovah.

This was the judgment upon MoAb.

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 49

1**To the sons of AmMon:**

Jehovah asked this:

 *‘Are there no sons in IsraEl…*
 *Is there no one left to inherit?*
 *Why has Moloch inherited Gad and his sons,*
 *And why does he dwell in their cities?*

 2*‘{Look!} Because of this, days will come,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘When I’ll cause the disturbance of war*
 *To be heard in RabBah by AmMon’s sons,*
 *And then, they will all be destroyed.*
 *So their land [will soon] be unwalked,*
 *And their shrines will be burned up in fire.*
 *Then, IsraEl will inherit its kingship,’* says Jehovah.

 3*‘Shout, O HeshBon, for Ai was destroyed…*
 *Cry out, O daughters of RabBah,*
 *And then wrap sackcloth around you!*
 *Give in and lament over Moloch;*
 *For together, his priests and his rulers*
 *Will be carried away and resettled.*

 4*‘Why are there cheers in EmaKeim,*
 *O you presumptuous daughter…*
 *You who’ve relied on you treasures and asked:*

 ’Who would dare come against me?’

 5*‘{Look!} I will bring you something to fear,’*
 Says Jehovah of Armies…
 *‘From your cities, [your people] will scatter*
 *In whichever direction their faces [will look],*
 *And those who flee will never return.*

 6*‘But the sons of AmMon, I will return*
 *From wherever they’ve been taken captive,’* says Jehovah.

7**To Edom:**

Jehovah says:

 *‘There is no more wisdom in TeMan;*
 *For the council of their experts has been wiped away,*
 *And their wisdom has been beguiled and undone.*

 8*‘So, get accustomed to sitting,*
 *All you are living in DeDan;*
 *For, in the day that I come to visit,*
 *I will be bringing hard times.*

 9*‘Then, those who harvest grapes will arrive,*
 *And they will leave nothing behind…*
 *They’ll come upon you and snatch you away*
 *As though they are thieves in the night.*

 10*‘For, in the same way that I dragged Esau down;*
 *I’ll uncover the things that you’ve tucked away…*
 *No way can you keep them hidden.*
 *Then, you’ll be destroyed by a people*
 *Who are not your neighbors or brothers.*

 11*‘So abandon your orphans, that they might survive;*
 *For, I will keep them alive*
 *As I’ll also keep your widows alive,*
 *Because they’ve put faith in Me.’*

12Jehovah says:

 *‘{Look!} Those who weren’t under [My] Law*
 *Were given the cup from which they must drink.*
 *And because you will be found guilty,*
 *You will also have to drink from that cup.*

 13*‘For I swear this oath by Myself,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘That your land will soon be scorned and unwalked…*
 *In her midst, you will be cursed,*
 *And throughout ages, your cities will be deserts!’*

14Then I listened and heard this from Jehovah. For He sent His messengers to all the nations in order to give them this warning:

 *‘Gather and come here against her…*
 *Arise and get ready for war!*
 15*Look! I’ve appointed her to be small among nations,*
 *And something despised by all people.*

 16*‘For her [schemes] have worked out against her,*
 *And because of the audacious ways of her heart,*
 *Her people will be living in the hills,*
 *And in the holes among rocks.*
 *So, if they set their nests higher than eagles,*
 *I will still bring them back down,’* says Jehovah.

 17*‘Then Edom will be a land that’s unwalked…*
 *All that go there will just be amazed*
 *And whistle at all that has happened to her.*

 18*‘For as Sodom and GomorRah were destroyed*
 *Along with all those who lived there,’* said Jehovah;
 *‘No man will sit [in Edom] again,*
 *Nor will sons of men ever dwell there.*

 19*‘{Look!} Like lions, they will then arrive*
 *[And attack] AiTham from the JorDan…*
 *They’ll quickly drive them away from their land,*
 *And a young man [will serve as their ruler]!*

 *‘For, who else can be likened to Me,*
 *And by whom can I be opposed…*
 *Which shepherd can stand and oppose Me?’*

20So, hear the plan of Jehovah…
 His plan against Edom and what He’s devised
 Against those who are dwelling in TeMan:

 *‘Even their smallest of sheep*
 *Will soon be taken away,*
 *And the places where they rest will be empty.*
 21*The sounds of their downfall will shake the whole earth,*
 *And their cries will be heard ‘cross the seas.*

 22*‘{Look!} He’ll soar like an eagle and spot her,*
 *Then stretch out his wings towards her forts.*
 *In that day, the hearts of the mighty of Edom*
 *Will become like women with birth pangs.’*

23**To Damascus:**

 *‘HaMath will soon be disgraced,*
 *And from Arpad, they’ll hear bad reports…*
 *They will be startled and enraged,*
 *And they’ll be unable to rest.*

 24*‘Damascus was weakened and she turned to flee…*
 *By trembling, she was overcome.*
 *Concern and grief held her down*
 *Like a woman who’s about to give birth.*

 25*‘O you praised city that was never abandoned…*
 *You town that was ever so loved;*
 26*Your young men will fall in your squares,*
 *And your mighty will all be cut down,’* says Jehovah of Armies.

 27*‘For I’ll kindle a fire on the walls of Damascus,*
 *And burn the Plaza of the Sons of Hadad.’*

28**To Cypress and its queen in her courtyard, [concerning the attack by] NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon.**

[The Lord says:]

 ‘Jehovah of Armies says this:

 *‘Arise and go up to Cypress,*
 *And then attack Kedem’s sons.*
 29*Take all their tents and their sheep,*
 *As well as their clothes, their camels, and jars;*
 *For I’ve called for destruction upon them.*

 30*‘Flee right away… Just grab what you need,*
 *O you who are resting in yards,’* says Jehovah!
 *‘Since King NebuChadNezzar has made plans against you,*
 31*Get up and flee to a nation that’s safe,*
 *All you who are sitting and resting*
 *In a place with no gates and no bars.*

 32*‘Then, all your camels will be plundered,*
 *And your cattle will all be destroyed…*
 *I’ll blow them away with the winds*
 *And shave them away from your sides…*
 *I’ll bring your enemies to drive them away,’* said Jehovah.

 33*‘Then your yards will become ostrich playgrounds…*
 *Places unwalked throughout the ages.*
 *No way will men ever sit there again,*
 *Nor will sons of men ever live there.’*

34Well, after the Lord told the Prophet JeremiAh that these things would happen to them, this is what did happen to ElAm around the beginning of the reign of ZedekiAh, the king of Judah.

35For Jehovah of Armies said this [to JeremiAh]:

 *‘Look! I will break ElAm’s bows,*
 *As well as his sources of power.*
 36*I’ll bring the four winds against ElAm*
 *From the four corners of the skies,*
 *And to those four winds, they’ll be scattered.*

 *‘Many nations will come against ElAm*
 *To push them out of their land.*
 37*Before their foes, they’ll be scattered*
 *(Before those who are seeking their lives).*
 *For upon them, I’m bringing My anger and rage,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘And I’ll chase them away with My sword*
 *Until they’re completely consumed.*

 38*‘Then in ElAm, I will establish My throne…*
 *And that’s where I’ll send a king and great men,’* says Jehovah.
 39*‘But in the last days, I will also return*
 *All the captives of ElAm,’* says Jehovah.

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 50

1**These are the words that the Lord spoke against Babylon and the land of the Chaldea through the mouth of JeremiAh, the Prophet.**

[The Lord said:]

 2‘Announce it to all of the nations…
 Make it heard and erect a sign…
 Let them all know, do not hide it!
 [Tell them what Jehovah said, and] say:

 *‘Babylon has now been captured,*
 *And to Bel, disgrace has arrived.*
 *MeroDach has been [destroyed]…*
 *All of his idols were shamed,*
 *And have now been [carried away].*

 3*‘For a nation from the north came against her*
 *And brought her land to extinction.*
 *So, no one will ever live there again…*
 *None from among men or beasts.*

 4*‘During those days and at that time,*
 *They will be entered and shaken,’* says Jehovah.
 *‘Then the sons of IsraEl and Judah*
 *Will get together and leave her.’*

[The Lord continues:]

 ‘Before Jehovah, they’ll be weeping [in joy],
 For they will be seeking their God.
 5They’ll ask for directions to Zion,
 And that’s where they’ll set their faces to go.

 ‘In Jehovah, they will seek refuge,
 And they’ll remember His Sacred Agreement.

 [‘Jehovah says:]

 6*‘For my people became as sheep that were lost,*
 *Since their shepherds had pushed them into the hills…*
 *They led them astray from mountain to hill,*
 *And then, they just walked away.*

 7*‘So, those who found them consumed them…*
 *Their enemies said, We won’t spare them*
 *Because they’ve sinned against God*
 *In those pastures [that He gave] to their fathers.*

 8*‘So, flee from Babylon’s midst…*
 *Get out of the land of Chaldea…*
 *Escape like sheep being chased by wild beasts!*
 9*For {Look!} against Babylon, I will be bringing*
 *A great nation from the lands in the north,*
 *Which will then come and attack her,*
 *And take [her people] as captives…*
 *For the arrows of their finest of warriors*
 *Won’t return without seeing success.*

 10*‘Then all the Chaldeans will be plundered,*
 *And those who loot her will take what they want,’* said Jehovah.

 11*‘For, she was glad and found glory*
 *When My inheritance was plundered by her…*
 *She leaped like a calf in My pasture,*
 *And then, she gored like a bull.*

 12*‘So, she will bring shame to her mother,*
 *And become the least of the nations…*
 *A barren parched land, and a desert.’*

 ‘{Look!} It will lie empty as a place that’s unwalked;
 13For because of the rage of Jehovah,
 She will no longer be lived in…
 Yes, everyone there will be gone.
 And those who travel through Babylon,
 Will look sadly and whistle at her fate.

 14‘So, come and lay siege against Babylon…
 Stretch tight your bows and then shoot her down!
 Don’t spare the arrows in your attack,
 For against Jehovah, she’s sinned.

 15‘Then tie up her hands and lead her away…
 Raze her parapets and all of her walls!
 For, this is vengeance from God…
 Do to her as she once did to you!

 16‘May Babylon’s offspring be taken away
 (Those who [swing] sickles in the harvest)
 Before the swords of the Greeks,
 Who will carry them back to their people,
 As they are going back home!

 [‘Jehovah says:]

 17*‘IsraEl was a flock that had strayed,*
 *So lions pushed them out [of their land].*
 *Assyria’s king ate them first,*
 *And then Babylon’s king chewed on their bones.*

 18*‘But because of the things they will do,’ says Jehovah of Armies;*
 *‘{Look!} I’ll take vengeance on Babylon’s king and his land,*
 *As I’ve done to Assyria’s king.*

 19*‘Then I’ll bring IsraEl back to their pastures,*
 *And in BaShan and CarMel, they’ll feed…*
 *Yes, upon Ephraim’s mountains,*
 *And in GileAd, their souls will be filled.*

 20*‘In those days and at that time,’ says Jehovah;*
 *‘In IsraEl, you’ll search for unrighteous ways,*
 *But they will no longer exist.*
 *And if they search throughout Judah for sins,*
 *They won’t be able to find them…*
 *They’ll only find kindness from those who return.*

 21*‘So, go to that land and attack her…*
 *Attack all the people who live there…*
 *Punish the ones who once clapped their hands…*
 *Wipe them away with the sword,’ says Jehovah…*
 *‘Do to them, what I told you to do!*

 22*‘There’s the sound of destruction and war*
 *In the land of Chaldea.*
 23*For they’ll be defeated and smashed*
 *By the hammer of the whole earth…*
 *O how the nations will bring*
 *Extinction upon Babylon!*

 24*‘They’ll attack her and she will be captured*
 *Before those in Babylon know*
 *That they’ll be relocated and taken away;*
 *For it’s Me, Jehovah, whom they have opposed!*

25The Lord has opened His storehouse
 And withdrawn the things of his rage
 To do the work of Jehovah of Armies
 Within the land of Chaldea.

26So, because it’s her time, you must open her stores,
 Then search her through like a cave…
 And thereafter, you should destroy her…
 Don’t leave a trace [of where she has been]!

27Then, dry up all of her fruits
 And carry them down to the slaughter!
 Woe to them, for their day has arrived…
 The time for them to be punished!

28There’s the sound of [people] who are fleeing…
 From Babylon’s lands, they are running.
 So announce Jehovah’s vengeance to Zion…
 God’s vengeance over what they did to His Temple.

29Urge many to come against Babylon…
 Tell all to stretch tight their bows!
 Around her, set up your camps
 And allow no one to escape.

Pay her back for the things she has done…
 Do to her as she once did to you!
 For Jehovah’s the One whom she has opposed…
 IsraEl’s Most Holy God.

 [‘Jehovah continues:]

 30*‘It’s because of this, that she’ll fall.*
 *And all the young men in her squares,*
 *As well as all of her warriors,*
 *Will be [run through] in that day,’* says Jehovah.

 31*‘Look! I’m the One who’s against you, O proud one,’*
 Says Jehovah of Armies,
 *‘And your day has finally come…*
 *The day for you to be punished!*

 32*‘The insolence you had will now fall*
 *And no one will raise it again.*
 *In her woods, I’ll kindle a fire*
 *To devour everything that’s around her.’*

 33‘Jehovah of Armies also said:

 *‘To the sons of IsraEl, you were tyrants,*
 *And to the sons of Judah, you were even [more cruel]…*
 *You’ve been tyrants to all whom you’ve captured,*
 *And let no one return to their homes.*

 34‘But the Almighty will ransom them back
 (Jehovah the Almighty is His Name).
 He judges His opponents in fairness,
 Before He takes them away from their lands.
 And now, He is sending His rage
 To those who are living in Babylon.

 35‘*Bring a sword upon the Chaldeans,’* says Jehovah,
 *‘And upon all of Babylon’s people…*
 *Upon all her great men and experts!*

 36*‘Bring a sword against her clairvoyants,*
 *And prove them all to be fools!*
 *Bring a sword against all her soldiers,*
 *And let them each receive wounds!*

 37*‘Bring a sword upon all their horses,*
 *And upon their chariots also.*
 *Then those in her midst will be acting like girls!*

 *‘Bring a sword upon all her treasures…*
 *[Yes, haul them away] as your loot!*

 38*‘And although she’s relied on her waters,*
 *They will soon be disgraced.*
 *For, they are a land of carved idols*
 *Before which, those in the islands have bowed.*
 39*So their idols will be sent to those islands,*
 *Where among chained demons, they’ll dwell.’*

[The Lord continues:]

 ‘Throughout the ages, she’ll not be lived in again…
 Through generations, no one will camp there.
 40For as God destroyed Sodom and GomorRah,
 As well as the places round-about them,’ said the Lord,
 ‘There’s no way that men will live there again,
 Nor will sons of men ever stay there.

 41‘{Look!} There are people who are coming from the far north…
 A great nation will come from the ends of the earth
 Along with many [great] kings,
 42All brandishing arrows and swords.

 ‘They will be very audacious;
 For, they will act without mercy,
 And their voices [will roar] like the seas.

 ‘O you daughters of Babylon;
 They’ll come against you on horses,
 And with fire, as they’re preparing for war.

 43‘Babylon’s king will hear the report,
 And then his hands will grow weak…
 He’ll be gripped with pangs like a woman giving birth.

 [‘Jehovah continues:]

 44*‘{Look!} Like a lion, he’ll ascend from the JorDan,*
 *And he’ll go to a place called AiTham.*
 *Then quickly, I’ll drive them upon her…*
 *I’ll set all their young men against her.*

 *‘For who else is like Me and who can resist…*
 *What shepherd can stand before Me?*

 45‘So, hear the plan of Jehovah…
 His plans against Babylon
 And the equipment that He has devised
 Against those in the land of Chaldea.

 ‘Surely their lambs will all be destroyed…
 Surely their fields will be captured!

 46‘From the sounds of Babylon’s conquest,
 All on the earth will be shaken,
 And her cries will be heard in all nations.’

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 51

1The Lord said:

 ‘{Look!} I’ll awaken a wind that burns and destroys
 Against Babylon’s people
 And all the Chaldeans who live there.

 2‘Against Babylon, I’ll be sending the proud
 Who’ll insult her and wipe out her land.
 Woe to Babylon and those round-about
 In the day that she is oppressed.

 3‘Let the bowman stretch tight his bow
 And strap on all of his weapons!
 Do not spare her young men…
 Wipe all her armies away…
 4May all in the land of Chaldea fall dead.

 ‘May their [mercenary troops] be pierced through and fall.
 5For, IsraEl and Judah aren’t the widows
 Of Jehovah the Almighty God.

 ‘It was because their land was filled with injustice,
 And from IsraEl’s holy ways, they had strayed,
 That they were allowed to be captured.

 6‘So, those in Babylon’s midst should now flee…
 Each man should save his own soul!
 In her unrighteous ways, don’t get involved,
 Since it’s time for her to be punished…
 To be repaid for the bad things she’s done!

 7‘Within the hands of Jehovah,
 Babylon is like a gold cup
 From whose wine, the earth became drunk.
 For she forced all the nations to drink it,
 And this is why they are reeling.

 8‘So, Babylon will fall and be broken;
 Then the [time to] lament her will come when they’ll say:

 *‘Bring an ointment to heal all her wounds,*
 *And to see if she can be saved!’*

 9*‘Although we treated her, she couldn’t be healed…*
 *So, all should return to their lands,*
 *Since heaven has approached to pass judgment on her…*
 *Before the stars, she has been exposed.’*

10Yes, Jehovah’s brought judgment upon her;
 So come, let’s announce it in Zion…
 For, this is the work of Jehovah our God.

 11‘Prepare your bows… Fill your quivers;
 For, the spirit of the king of the Medes
 Has now been aroused by Jehovah
 To bring His rage against Babylon
 And to wipe her away.
 Yes, this is the vengeance from God…
 He’s getting revenge for His people.

 12‘Raise the flags on Babylon’s walls!
 Prepare the watchmen and ready the shields!
 For Jehovah’s about to do what He said
 Against those who are dwelling in Babylon.

 13‘O you who camp between waters
 And you who [put trust in] your treasures;
 The limit has finally been reached
 As to what your bowels can hold.

 14‘For Jehovah has now sworn this oath
 By [the power of] His mighty arm, [saying]:

 *‘I’ll fill you with men; like locusts they’ll come…*
 *And they’ll shout as they are attacking!’*

 15‘He’s the Mighty One who created the earth…
 The One, who in His great wisdom
 Prepared mankind’s habitation,
 And the One who with great understanding,
 Stretched out the heavens above it.

 16‘With His voice, He sends waters down from the skies,
 And He brings the clouds from the ends of the earth.
 He sends lightning along with the rain,
 And from His treasures, He then draws the light.

 17‘He has proven all men to be foolish,
 [And foolish] is the knowledge of their goldsmiths;
 For, they have cast idols and they have carved gods,
 Which are unable to breathe.

 18‘So their deeds are wasted and scornful,
 And they’ll be destroyed when He visits.
 19Yet, this won’t be the portion of Jacob…
 Their inheritance is the One who shaped all,
 Whose Name is Jehovah of Armies!

 [‘He says:]

 20*‘So before Me, lay out your items of war,*
 *And I’ll scatter [many] nations before you…*
 *Over many kings, I will raise you,*
 21*And before you, I’ll scatter their horses and riders,*
 *As well as their chariots and horsemen.*

 22*‘I’ll scatter before you, their husbands and wives…*
 *I’ll scatter their elders and children.*
 *Before you, I’ll scatter their young men and virgins,*
 23*And I’ll scatter their shepherds and flocks.*

 *‘I’ll scatter before you their farmers and farms…*
 *Governors and commanders, I’ll scatter.*
 24*Before your eyes, I will pay back*
 *Those of Chaldea and Babylon*
 *For the evils they committed against Zion, said Jehovah.*

 25*‘Look… I’m against you, you mount of corruption,*
 *And I oppose your iron that corrupts the whole earth.*
 *So I’ll stretch My hand out against you,*
 *Then upon you, I will roll rocks,*
 *As I set your mountain on fire!*

 26*‘No way will your stones then be carried*
 *To be used as foundation blocks…*
 *You’ll be wiped away throughout the ages,’* said Jehovah.

 27‘So, raise the banners throughout the whole earth…
 Signal the nations with trumpets;
 Then, make them holy against her…
 The Araratites and the AshKenazi!

 ‘Bring many weapons against her…
 Bring horses like locusts, upon her!
 28Drag many nations [to fight] her…
 The king of the Medes and the rest of the earth…
 Their leaders and all their commanders!

 29‘Then the earth will be shaken and reel
 By Jehovah’s plans against Babylon,
 Since He’s arranged the extinction of Babylon’s land
 So that no one will live there again!

 30‘Babylon’s soldiers will fail to wage war…
 They’ll just sit in their forts as they’re losing control.
 They’ll become like women whose tents are ablaze,
 And then, her bars will be broken.

 31‘Those chasing will meet others chasing,
 As they pursue the announcers
 Who will meet with those who proclaim,
 And make the announcement to Babylon’s king
 That his great city was captured,
 32And the last of his moats have been breached…
 That his ramparts have been burned by fire,
 And all of his men have surrendered.

 33‘For Jehovah of Armies (the God of IsraEl) says this:

 *‘The palace of Babylon’s king*
 *Will become a floor to do threshing…*
 *And now is the season for threshing,*
 *Because it’s time for the harvest!’*

 34‘[And those living in Zion will say:]

 *‘By NebuChadNezzar, Babylon’s King,*
 *I was crushed and divided…*
 *He caught up with me in the darkness;*
 *Then, like a beast, he swallowed me down,*
 *And his belly was filled with My good things.*
 35*So in misery and in great trouble,*
 *To Babylon, I was taken,*
 *And my blood was laid upon those Chaldeans.’*

 [‘And God says:]

 36‘*But because of this,’* says Jehovah,
 *{Look!} I will judge your opponents*
 *And send My vengeance to them for the ways*
 *That they will be punishing you.*

 *‘I’ll destroy her [rivers] and dry up her springs,*
 37*And Babylon will become an extinction*
 *– A den for wild beasts and for snakes –*
 *Which won’t be lived in again.*

 38*‘As lions and their cubs are aroused in the heat,*
 *I’ll give them a drink that will make them all drunk…*
 *I’ll stupefy them and put them to sleep,*
 39*Which will be a sleep for the ages*
 *From which they’ll never awaken,’* says Jehovah.

 40*‘I’ll bring them like lambs for the slaughter…*
 *Like rams that are mixed among [goats].*

 41*‘Thereafter, Sheshach will be captured,*
 *And the earth’s boastful ones will be hunted…*
 *For, Babylon will not be great again*
 *Among the rest of the nations.*

 42*‘May Babylon be covered up by ‘the sea’…*
 *May she be covered by the roar of its ‘waves’…*
 43*May all her cities meet with destruction,*
 *And may her land become dry and unwalked.*

 *‘Nothing alive will go there again,*
 *Nor will sons of men ever rest there.*
 44*For, I will take vengeance upon Babylon,*
 *And from her mouth, I’ll snatch what she ate.*
 *No more will nations gather with her,*
 *And even her walls will soon fall.’*

45So, get out of her midst, O my people…
 Let each man save his own life
 From the anger and rage of Jehovah.

[The Lord continues:]

 46‘And don’t let your hearts be consumed…
 Don’t fear the reports that are heard in that land;
 For in one year, there’ll come a report,
 And in the next, another will come
 Of misery and sin in that land,
 And of one leader ruling another.

 [‘And Jehovah says:]

 47*‘Because of this, {Look!} days will come*
 *When I’ll bring vengeance on Babylon’s idols.*
 *Then, all in their land will be shamed,*
 *As in her midst, the slain will be falling.*

 48*‘Heaven and earth will be joyful,*
 *As well as all those who live there.*
 *For her destroyer will come from the north,’* says Jehovah.
 49*‘And as Babylon murdered the IsraElites,*
 *The slain will fall in Babylon’s land.*

 50‘So flee, O you who’ve been saved from the sword,
 For you should stay there no longer!
 Then speak of Jehovah in far-away lands…
 And JeruSalem should remain in your hearts!

 [‘You should say:]

 51*‘We were shamed when we heard of our scorn,*
 *And in dishonor, we covered our faces;*
 *For, foreigners entered our Most Holy Place…*
 *They entered the Temple of Jehovah!’*

 [‘And Jehovah continues:]

 52*‘And because of this, {Look!} days will come,’* said Jehovah,
 *‘When I’ll take vengeance upon her carved idols,*
 *And the slain will fall in her land.*

 53*‘So if Babylon could climb up into the skies*
 *And fortify her strength in the heights;*
 *I’d still send those who’d destroy her,’* said Jehovah.

 54‘So from Babylon, you will hear cries,
 As destruction comes to the Chaldeans.
 55Jehovah will remove Babylon…
 With the sounds of waves, He’ll destroy her,
 And to her voice, He’ll bring ruin.

 56‘Misery will come upon Babylon,
 For her warriors will soon all be captured,
 And terror will come to her bowmen…
 Yes, this is her payback from God.

 57*‘The Lord will repay her with what she is due,*
 *And he’ll make them all [reel like] drunks…*
 *Yes, her governors, commanders, and wise men,’*
 Says the King, Jehovah the Almighty.

 58‘And thus says Jehovah the Almighty:

 *‘The broad walls of Babylon will fall,*
 *And her gates will fail and be burned;*
 *For the nations and peoples will tire of her pride.’*

59These were the words that the Lord had instructed JeremiAh the Prophet to say to SeraiAh (son of NeriAh and grandson of MaAseJah) [back] when he went with ZedekiAh (the king of Judah) into Babylon in the 4th year of his reign (SeraiAh was in charge of the gifts that were [brought to the king]).

60Then JeremiAh wrote of all the bad things that were to come upon Babylon in a scroll, including all the rest of these words that were written against Babylon.

61JeremiAh also told SeraiAh that when he got to Babylon, he was to read all of these words to [the people of Babylon], and then say:

 62‘It was Jehovah that spoke ill of this place…
 He’s the One who said He’d destroy it
 So that no one will ever live here again…
 Neither man nor beast, throughout the ages.’

63[Then JeremiAh told him:]

 ‘Then, when you finish reading this scroll, tie it to a rock and toss it into the EuPhrates, and tell them:

 64*‘This is how Babylon will sink*
 *And not be raised up again…*
 *She’ll vanish, because of the bad things He’ll bring.’*

Yes, these were all the words of JeremiAh.

### Jeremiah

## Chapter 52

1Well, King ZedekiAh was 21 years old when he started his reign, and he ruled from JeruSalem for 11 years. His mother’s name was HamuTal, and she was the daughter of JeremiAh of LibNah. 2For, like JehoiAkim, the things that he did were wicked before Jehovah. 3And this is why the wrath of Jehovah stayed upon JeruSalem and Judah until He finally cast them away from His face… For then ZedekiAh rebelled against the king of Babylon.

4It was in the 9th year and 10th month of his reign, on the 10th day of the month that NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon came against JeruSalem with all his armies. He camped outside of the city and built a rampart around it, 5and the city stayed under siege until the 11th year of King ZedekiAh. 6So by the 9th day of the 4th month, there was famine in the city, and there was no longer any bread for the people in the land.

7Thereafter, the city’s [walls] were breached and all its warriors fled… They escaped during the night by way of the gate in the middle of the wall and the area around the wall that was next to the king’s garden. [They did this] as the Chaldeans were already in and around the city… And then they headed towards the desert.

8Well, the army of the Chaldeans chased after the king, catching up with him on the other side of JeriCho, where all of his servants had left him.

9So they captured the king and led him to the king of Babylon (who was in RibLah in the land of HaMath at the time), where he spoke to him and then passed judgment on him. 10Then the king of Babylon had all the sons of ZedekiAh killed before his eyes, and he killed all the rulers of Judah there in RibLah. 11And thereafter, he blinded the eyes of ZedekiAh, bound him in shackles, and the king of Babylonian had him carried to Babylon, where he was kept in a mill house until the day that he died.

12It was during the 5th month, on the 10th day of the month, that NabuZarArdan (the chief of the guards who always stood before the king of Babylon) came to JeruSalem 13and he burned the Jehovah’s Temple, the king’s palace, and all the houses in the city, including all of its mansions. 14Then the chief of the guards had the Chaldean armies tear down all of the city walls, 15and he removed all of the poor people (those who had been left behind in the city) as well as those who had gone over to the king of Babylon, along with everyone else. 16However, the chief of the guards did leave some of the poor people behind to serve as vinedressers and farmers.

17Then the Chaldeans broke up the columns of brass that stood outside the Jehovah’s Temple, along with their bases and the brass Sea, and they carried all the brass off to Babylon. 18This included:

 • The bowls,
 • The meat hooks, and
 • The rest of the brass items that were used to officiate [at the Temple]...

19As well as the silver things:

 • The snuffers,
 • The oil flasks,
 • The lamp stands,
 • The incense pans,
 • And the cups.

Then the chief of the guards took all the things that were made of gold and silver 20(along with the two columns, the Sea, and the 12 brass calves that were under the Sea, which King Solomon had made for the Temple of Jehovah) [back to Babylon].

21No one could know the weight of all the brass; for the columns were each 33 feet (10m) tall, they had a circumference of 22 feet (6.7m), and their walls were 4 fingers thick. 22The moldings were also 8 feet (2.4m) long (one of them was very fine), and there was a net of pomegranates around the moldings, all of which was made of brass. 23There were 96 pomegranates on each [molding] and 100 pomegranates on each of the nets that encircled them.

24Then the chief of the guards carried off:

 • SeraiAh (the High Priest),
 • ZephaniAh (his second in command),
 • And three of the Temple’s entrance guards.

25And from the city, he took:

 • One of the eunuchs who was in charge of the warriors,
 • Seven of the famous men who stood before the king (all of whom were found in the city),
 • The scribe of the armies,
 • The one who acted as scribe for the people of the land,
 • And 60 men from among the people of the land who were found in the midst of the city.

26NabuZarArdan (the chief of the guards) took them all away and led them before the king of Babylon in RibLah, 27and the king of Babylon had them all killed at RibLah (in the land of HaMath).

Then the rest of the people of Judah were deported from the land.

28There were 3,023 people whom [King] NebuChadNezzar [of Babylon] deported in his 7th year. 29Then in the 18th year of NebuChadNezzar’s [reign], he deported another 832 souls from JeruSalem. 30And in the 23rd year of [his reign], the chief of the guards deported 745 more souls from among the Judeans. So, all those [that were carried way] came to 4,600.

31Then in the 37th year, on the 25th day of the 12th month after the relocation of King JehoiAchin of Judah, King EvilMerodach of Babylon took King JehoiAchin of Judah and led him from the house where he’d been kept under guard (he did this in the 1st year of his reign). 32Then he spoke to him kindly and gave him a throne that was higher than all the thrones of the other kings who were there with him in Babylon. 33He took him from his prison, provided him with better clothes, and allowed him to eat bread before him for as long as he lived. 34He was also provided a daily allowance by the king of Babylon until the day that he died.