

Jeremiah

The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of King Josiah son of Amon of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. It came also in the days of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, and until

5 the end of the eleventh year of King Zedekiah son of Josiah of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month. Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak,

10 for I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your

15 mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see a branch of an almond tree." Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it." The

20 word of the LORD came to me a second time, saying, "What do you see?"

And I said, "I see a boiling pot, tilted away from the north." Then the LORD said to me: Out of the north disaster shall break out on all the inhabitants of the land. For now I am calling all the tribes of the kingdoms of the north, says the LORD; and they shall come and all of them shall set
5 their thrones at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, against all its surrounding walls and against all the cities of Judah. And I will utter my judgments against them, for all their wickedness in forsaking me; they have made offerings to other gods, and worshiped the works of their own hands. But you, gird up your loins; stand up and tell them everything that I
10 command you. Do not break down before them, or I will break you before them. And I for my part have made you today a fortified city, an iron pillar, and a bronze wall, against the whole land--against the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests, and the people of the land. They will fight against you; but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, says the LORD, to
15 deliver you. The word of the LORD came to me, saying: Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the LORD: I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. Israel was holy to the LORD, the first fruits of his harvest. All who ate of it were held guilty; disaster came upon them, says
20 the LORD. Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the

families of the house of Israel. Thus says the LORD: What wrong did your
ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless
things, and became worthless themselves? They did not say, "Where is the
LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the
5 wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep
darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?" I
brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But
when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an
abomination. The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?" Those who
10 handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the
prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit.
Therefore once more I accuse you, says the LORD, and I accuse your
children's children. Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar
and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing. Has a nation
15 changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have
changed their glory for something that does not profit. Be appalled, O
heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the LORD, for my
people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of
living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can
20 hold no water. Is Israel a slave? Is he a homeborn servant? Why then has

he become plunder? The lions have roared against him, they have roared loudly. They have made his land a waste; his cities are in ruins, without inhabitant. Moreover, the people of Memphis and Tahpanhes have broken the crown of your head. Have you not brought this upon yourself by forsaking

5 the LORD your God, while he led you in the way? What then do you gain by going to Egypt, to drink the waters of the Nile? Or what do you gain by going to Assyria, to drink the waters of the Euphrates? Your wickedness will punish you, and your apostasies will convict you. Know and see that it is evil and bitter for you to forsake the LORD your God; the fear of me is not

10 in you, says the Lord GOD of hosts. For long ago you broke your yoke and burst your bonds, and you said, "I will not serve!" On every high hill and under every green tree you sprawled and played the whore. Yet I planted you as a choice vine, from the purest stock. How then did you turn degenerate and become a wild vine? Though you wash yourself with lye and

15 use much soap, the stain of your guilt is still before me, says the Lord GOD. How can you say, "I am not defiled, I have not gone after the Baals"? Look at your way in the valley; know what you have done-- a restive young camel interlacing her tracks, a wild ass at home in the wilderness, in her heat sniffing the wind! Who can restrain her lust? None

20 who seek her need weary themselves; in her month they will find her. Keep

your feet from going unshod and your throat from thirst. But you said, "It is hopeless, for I have loved strangers, and after them I will go." As a thief is shamed when caught, so the house of Israel shall be shamed-- they, their kings, their officials, their priests, and their prophets, who say to a tree, 5 "You are my father," and to a stone, "You gave me birth." For they have turned their backs to me, and not their faces. But in the time of their trouble they say, "Come and save us!" But where are your gods that you made for yourself? Let them come, if they can save you, in your time of trouble; for you have as many gods as you have towns, O Judah. Why do you complain 10 against me? You have all rebelled against me, says the LORD. In vain I have struck down your children; they accepted no correction. Your own sword devoured your prophets like a ravening lion. And you, O generation, behold the word of the LORD! Have I been a wilderness to Israel, or a land of thick darkness? Why then do my people say, "We are free, we will come 15 to you no more"? Can a girl forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me, days without number. How well you direct your course to seek lovers! So that even to wicked women you have taught your ways. Also on your skirts is found the lifeblood of the innocent poor, though you did not catch them breaking in. Yet in spite of all these things 20 you say, "I am innocent; surely his anger has turned from me." Now I am

bringing you to judgment for saying, "I have not sinned." How lightly you
gad about, changing your ways! You shall be put to shame by Egypt as you
were put to shame by Assyria. From there also you will come away with
your hands on your head; for the LORD has rejected those in whom you
5 trust, and you will not prosper through them. If a man divorces his wife and
she goes from him and becomes another man's wife, will he return to her?
Would not such a land be greatly polluted? You have played the whore with
many lovers; and would you return to me? says the LORD. Look up to the
bare heights, and see! Where have you not been lain with? By the waysides
10 you have sat waiting for lovers, like a nomad in the wilderness. You have
polluted the land with your whoring and wickedness. Therefore the showers
have been withheld, and the spring rain has not come; yet you have the
forehead of a whore, you refuse to be ashamed. Have you not just now
called to me, "My Father, you are the friend of my youth-- will he be angry
15 forever, will he be indignant to the end?" This is how you have spoken, but
you have done all the evil that you could. The LORD said to me in the
days of King Josiah: Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel,
how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and played
the whore there? And I thought, "After she has done all this she will return
20 to me"; but she did not return, and her false sister Judah saw it. She saw

that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away
with a decree of divorce; yet her false sister Judah did not fear, but she too
went and played the whore. Because she took her whoredom so lightly, she
polluted the land, committing adultery with stone and tree. Yet for all this
5 her false sister Judah did not return to me with her whole heart, but only in
pretense, says the LORD. Then the LORD said to me: Faithless Israel has
shown herself less guilty than false Judah. Go, and proclaim these words
toward the north, and say: Return, faithless Israel, says the LORD. I will not
look on you in anger, for I am merciful, says the LORD; I will not be
10 angry forever. Only acknowledge your guilt, that you have rebelled against
the LORD your God, and scattered your favors among strangers under every
green tree, and have not obeyed my voice, says the LORD. Return, O
faithless children, says the LORD, for I am your master; I will take you, one
from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. I will
15 give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge
and understanding. And when you have multiplied and increased in the land,
in those days, says the LORD, they shall no longer say, "The ark of the
covenant of the LORD." It shall not come to mind, or be remembered, or
missed; nor shall another one be made. At that time Jerusalem shall be
20 called the throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to the

presence of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they shall no longer stubbornly follow their own evil will. In those days the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your ancestors for a heritage. I thought how I would set
5 you among my children, and give you a pleasant land, the most beautiful heritage of all the nations. And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me. Instead, as a faithless wife leaves her husband, so you have been faithless to me, O house of Israel, says the LORD. A voice on the bare heights is heard, the plaintive weeping of
10 Israel's children, because they have perverted their way, they have forgotten the LORD their God: Return, O faithless children, I will heal your faithlessness. "Here we come to you; for you are the LORD our God. Truly the hills are a delusion, the orgies on the mountains. Truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel. "But from our youth the shameful thing has
15 devoured all for which our ancestors had labored, their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters. Let us lie down in our shame, and let our dishonor cover us; for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our ancestors, from our youth even to this day; and we have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God." If you return, O Israel, says the LORD, if
20 you return to me, if you remove your abominations from my presence, and

do not waver, and if you swear, "As the LORD lives!" in truth, in justice,
and in uprightness, then nations shall be blessed by him, and by him they
shall boast. For thus says the LORD to the people of Judah and to the
inhabitants of Jerusalem: Break up your fallow ground, and do not sow
5 among thorns. Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, remove the foreskin of
your hearts, O people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, or else my
wrath will go forth like fire, and burn with no one to quench it, because of
the evil of your doings. Declare in Judah, and proclaim in Jerusalem, and
say: Blow the trumpet through the land; shout aloud and say, "Gather
10 together, and let us go into the fortified cities!" Raise a standard toward
Zion, flee for safety, do not delay, for I am bringing evil from the north,
and a great destruction. A lion has gone up from its thicket, a destroyer of
nations has set out; he has gone out from his place to make your land a
waste; your cities will be ruins without inhabitant. Because of this put on
15 sackcloth, lament and wail: "The fierce anger of the LORD has not turned
away from us." On that day, says the LORD, courage shall fail the king and
the officials; the priests shall be appalled and the prophets astounded. Then I
said, "Ah, Lord GOD, how utterly you have deceived this people and
Jerusalem, saying, 'It shall be well with you,' even while the sword is at the
20 throat!" At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot

wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward my poor people, not to winnow or cleanse-- a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them. Look! He comes up like clouds, his chariots like the whirlwind; his horses are swifter than eagles-- woe to us,

5 for we are ruined! O Jerusalem, wash your heart clean of wickedness so that you may be saved. How long shall your evil schemes lodge within you? For a voice declares from Dan and proclaims disaster from Mount Ephraim. Tell the nations, "Here they are!" Proclaim against Jerusalem, "Besiegers come from a distant land; they shout against the cities of Judah. They have closed

10 in around her like watchers of a field, because she has rebelled against me, says the LORD. Your ways and your doings have brought this upon you. This is your doom; how bitter it is! It has reached your very heart." My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain! Oh, the walls of my heart! My heart is beating wildly; I cannot keep silent; for I hear the sound of the trumpet,

15 the alarm of war. Disaster overtakes disaster, the whole land is laid waste. Suddenly my tents are destroyed, my curtains in a moment. How long must I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet? "For my people are foolish, they do not know me; they are stupid children, they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil, but do not know how to do

20 good." I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void; and to the

heavens, and they had no light. I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro. I looked, and lo, there was no one at all, and all the birds of the air had fled. I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the LORD,

5 before his fierce anger. For thus says the LORD: The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end. Because of this the earth shall mourn, and the heavens above grow black; for I have spoken, I have purposed; I have not relented nor will I turn back. At the noise of horseman and archer every town takes to flight; they enter thickets; they climb among

10 rocks; all the towns are forsaken, and no one lives in them. And you, O desolate one, what do you mean that you dress in crimson, that you deck yourself with ornaments of gold, that you enlarge your eyes with paint? In vain you beautify yourself. Your lovers despise you; they seek your life. For I heard a cry as of a woman in labor, anguish as of one bringing forth her

15 first child, the cry of daughter Zion gasping for breath, stretching out her hands, "Woe is me! I am fainting before killers!" Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, look around and take note! Search its squares and see if you can find one person who acts justly and seeks truth-- so that I may pardon Jerusalem. Although they say, "As the LORD lives," yet they swear

20 falsely. O LORD, do your eyes not look for truth? You have struck them,

but they felt no anguish; you have consumed them, but they refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to turn back. Then I said, "These are only the poor, they have no sense; for they do not know the way of the LORD, the law of their God. Let me go
5 to the rich and speak to them; surely they know the way of the LORD, the law of their God." But they all alike had broken the yoke, they had burst the bonds. Therefore a lion from the forest shall kill them, a wolf from the desert shall destroy them. A leopard is watching against their cities; everyone who goes out of them shall be torn in pieces-- because their transgressions
10 are many, their apostasies are great. How can I pardon you? Your children have forsaken me, and have sworn by those who are no gods. When I fed them to the full, they committed adultery and trooped to the houses of prostitutes. They were well-fed lusty stallions, each neighing for his neighbor's wife. Shall I not punish them for these things? says the LORD;
15 and shall I not bring retribution on a nation such as this? Go up through her vine-rows and destroy, but do not make a full end; strip away her branches, for they are not the Lord's. For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have been utterly faithless to me, says the LORD. They have spoken falsely of the LORD, and have said, "He will do nothing. No evil will come upon
20 us, and we shall not see sword or famine." The prophets are nothing but

wind, for the word is not in them. Thus shall it be done to them! Therefore
thus says the LORD, the God of hosts: Because they have spoken this word,
I am now making my words in your mouth a fire, and this people wood,
and the fire shall devour them. I am going to bring upon you a nation from
5 far away, O house of Israel, says the LORD. It is an enduring nation, it is
an ancient nation, a nation whose language you do not know, nor can you
understand what they say. Their quiver is like an open tomb; all of them are
mighty warriors. They shall eat up your harvest and your food; they shall eat
up your sons and your daughters; they shall eat up your flocks and your
10 herds; they shall eat up your vines and your fig trees; they shall destroy
with the sword your fortified cities in which you trust. But even in those
days, says the LORD, I will not make a full end of you. And when your
people say, "Why has the LORD our God done all these things to us?" you
shall say to them, "As you have forsaken me and served foreign gods in
15 your land, so you shall serve strangers in a land that is not yours." Declare
this in the house of Jacob, proclaim it in Judah: Hear this, O foolish and
senseless people, who have eyes, but do not see, who have ears, but do not
hear. Do you not fear me? says the LORD; Do you not tremble before me?
I placed the sand as a boundary for the sea, a perpetual barrier that it cannot
20 pass; though the waves toss, they cannot prevail, though they roar, they

cannot pass over it. But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart; they have turned aside and gone away. They do not say in their hearts, "Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives the rain in its season, the autumn rain and the spring rain, and keeps for us the weeks appointed for the harvest."

5 Your iniquities have turned these away, and your sins have deprived you of good. For scoundrels are found among my people; they take over the goods of others. Like fowlers they set a trap; they catch human beings. Like a cage full of birds, their houses are full of treachery; therefore they have become great and rich, they have grown fat and sleek. They know no limits in deeds

10 of wickedness; they do not judge with justice the cause of the orphan, to make it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy. Shall I not punish them for these things? says the LORD, and shall I not bring retribution on a nation such as this? An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule as

15 the prophets direct; my people love to have it so, but what will you do when the end comes? Flee for safety, O children of Benjamin, from the midst of Jerusalem! Blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and raise a signal on Beth-haccherem; for evil looms out of the north, and great destruction. I have likened daughter Zion to the loveliest pasture. Shepherds with their flocks

20 shall come against her. They shall pitch their tents around her; they shall

pasture, all in their places. "Prepare war against her; up, and let us attack at noon!" "Woe to us, for the day declines, the shadows of evening lengthen!"

"Up, and let us attack by night, and destroy her palaces!" For thus says the LORD of hosts: Cut down her trees; cast up a siege ramp against Jerusalem.

5 This is the city that must be punished; there is nothing but oppression within her. As a well keeps its water fresh, so she keeps fresh her wickedness; violence and destruction are heard within her; sickness and wounds are ever before me. Take warning, O Jerusalem, or I shall turn from you in disgust, and make you a desolation, an uninhabited land. Thus says the LORD of

10 hosts: Glean thoroughly as a vine the remnant of Israel; like a grape-gatherer, pass your hand again over its branches. To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear? See, their ears are closed, they cannot listen. The word of the LORD is to them an object of scorn; they take no pleasure in it. But I am full of the wrath of the LORD; I am weary of holding it in.

15 Pour it out on the children in the street, and on the gatherings of young men as well; both husband and wife shall be taken, the old folk and the very aged. Their houses shall be turned over to others, their fields and wives together; for I will stretch out my hand against the inhabitants of the land, says the LORD. For from the least to the greatest of them, everyone is

20 greedy for unjust gain; and from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely.

They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying, "Peace, peace,"
when there is no peace. They acted shamefully, they committed abomination;
yet they were not ashamed, they did not know how to blush. Therefore they
shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be
5 overthrown, says the LORD. Thus says the LORD: Stand at the crossroads,
and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk
in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, "We will not walk in it."
Also I raised up sentinels for you: "Give heed to the sound of the trumpet!"
But they said, "We will not give heed." Therefore hear, O nations, and
10 know, O congregation, what will happen to them. Hear, O earth; I am going
to bring disaster on this people, the fruit of their schemes, because they have
not given heed to my words; and as for my teaching, they have rejected it.
Of what use to me is frankincense that comes from Sheba, or sweet cane
from a distant land? Your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor are your
15 sacrifices pleasing to me. Therefore thus says the LORD: See, I am laying
before this people stumbling blocks against which they shall stumble; parents
and children together, neighbor and friend shall perish. Thus says the LORD:
See, a people is coming from the land of the north, a great nation is stirring
from the farthest parts of the earth. They grasp the bow and the javelin, they
20 are cruel and have no mercy, their sound is like the roaring sea; they ride

on horses, equipped like a warrior for battle, against you, O daughter Zion!

"We have heard news of them, our hands fall helpless; anguish has taken hold of us, pain as of a woman in labor. Do not go out into the field, or walk on the road; for the enemy has a sword, terror is on every side." O

5 my poor people, put on sackcloth, and roll in ashes; make mourning as for an only child, most bitter lamentation: for suddenly the destroyer will come upon us. I have made you a tester and a refiner among my people so that you may know and test their ways. They are all stubbornly rebellious, going about with slanders; they are bronze and iron, all of them act corruptly. The

10 bellows blow fiercely, the lead is consumed by the fire; in vain the refining goes on, for the wicked are not removed. They are called "rejected silver," for the LORD has rejected them. The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah, you that

15 enter these gates to worship the LORD. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place. Do not trust in these deceptive words: "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD." For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with

20 another, if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed

innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors forever and ever. Here you are, trusting in deceptive words to no avail. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely,
5 make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, "We are safe!" --only to go on doing all these abominations? Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your sight? You know, I too am watching, says the LORD. Go now to my
10 place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel. And now, because you have done all these things, says the LORD, and when I spoke to you persistently, you did not listen, and when I called you, you did not answer, therefore I will do to the house that is called by my name, in which you
15 trust, and to the place that I gave to you and to your ancestors, just what I did to Shiloh. And I will cast you out of my sight, just as I cast out all your kinsfolk, all the offspring of Ephraim. As for you, do not pray for this people, do not raise a cry or prayer on their behalf, and do not intercede with me, for I will not hear you. Do you not see what they are doing in the
20 towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood,

the fathers kindle fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, to provoke me to anger. Is it I whom they provoke? says the LORD. Is it not themselves, to their own hurt? Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: My anger
5 and my wrath shall be poured out on this place, on human beings and animals, on the trees of the field and the fruit of the ground; it will burn and not be quenched. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat the flesh. For in the day that I brought your ancestors out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to them
10 or command them concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. But this command I gave them, "Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people; and walk only in the way that I command you, so that it may be well with you." Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but, in the stubbornness of their evil will, they walked in their own counsels, and
15 looked backward rather than forward. From the day that your ancestors came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them, day after day; yet they did not listen to me, or pay attention, but they stiffened their necks. They did worse than their ancestors did. So you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not
20 listen to you. You shall call to them, but they will not answer you. You

shall say to them: This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the LORD their God, and did not accept discipline; truth has perished; it is cut off from their lips. Cut off your hair and throw it away; raise a lamentation on the bare heights, for the LORD has rejected and forsaken the generation

5 that provoked his wrath. For the people of Judah have done evil in my sight, says the LORD; they have set their abominations in the house that is called by my name, defiling it. And they go on building the high place of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire--which I did not command, nor did it come into my

10 mind. Therefore, the days are surely coming, says the LORD, when it will no more be called Topheth, or the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of Slaughter: for they will bury in Topheth until there is no more room. The corpses of this people will be food for the birds of the air, and for the animals of the earth; and no one will frighten them away. And I will

15 bring to an end the sound of mirth and gladness, the voice of the bride and bridegroom in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; for the land shall become a waste. At that time, says the LORD, the bones of the kings of Judah, the bones of its officials, the bones of the priests, the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be

20 brought out of their tombs; and they shall be spread before the sun and the

moon and all the host of heaven, which they have loved and served, which they have followed, and which they have inquired of and worshiped; and they shall not be gathered or buried; they shall be like dung on the surface of the ground. Death shall be preferred to life by all the remnant that

5 remains of this evil family in all the places where I have driven them, says the LORD of hosts. You shall say to them, Thus says the LORD: When people fall, do they not get up again? If they go astray, do they not turn back? Why then has this people turned away in perpetual backsliding? They have held fast to deceit, they have refused to return. I have given heed and

10 listened, but they do not speak honestly; no one repents of wickedness, saying, "What have I done!" All of them turn to their own course, like a horse plunging headlong into battle. Even the stork in the heavens knows its times; and the turtledove, swallow, and crane observe the time of their coming; but my people do not know the ordinance of the LORD. How can

15 you say, "We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us," when, in fact, the false pen of the scribes has made it into a lie? The wise shall be put to shame, they shall be dismayed and taken; since they have rejected the word of the LORD, what wisdom is in them? Therefore I will give their wives to others and their fields to conquerors, because from the least to the greatest

20 everyone is greedy for unjust gain; from prophet to priest everyone deals

falsely. They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying, "Peace,
peace," when there is no peace. They acted shamefully, they committed
abomination; yet they were not at all ashamed, they did not know how to
blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time when I
5 punish them, they shall be overthrown, says the LORD. When I wanted to
gather them, says the LORD, there are no grapes on the vine, nor figs on
the fig tree; even the leaves are withered, and what I gave them has passed
away from them. Why do we sit still? Gather together, let us go into the
fortified cities and perish there; for the LORD our God has doomed us to
10 perish, and has given us poisoned water to drink, because we have sinned
against the LORD. We look for peace, but find no good, for a time of
healing, but there is terror instead. The snorting of their horses is heard from
Dan; at the sound of the neighing of their stallions the whole land quakes.
They come and devour the land and all that fills it, the city and those who
15 live in it. See, I am letting snakes loose among you, adders that cannot be
charmed, and they shall bite you, says the LORD. My joy is gone, grief is
upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and
wide in the land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?"
("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign
20 idols?") "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken
hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why
then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head
were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might
5 weep day and night for the slain of my poor people! O that I had in the
desert a traveler's lodging place, that I might leave my people and go away
from them! For they are all adulterers, a band of traitors. They bend their
tongues like bows; they have grown strong in the land for falsehood, and not
for truth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know me, says
10 the LORD. Beware of your neighbors, and put no trust in any of your kin;
for all your kin are supplanters, and every neighbor goes around like a
slanderer. They all deceive their neighbors, and no one speaks the truth; they
have taught their tongues to speak lies; they commit iniquity and are too
weary to repent. Oppression upon oppression, deceit upon deceit! They refuse
15 to know me, says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: I will
now refine and test them, for what else can I do with my sinful people?
Their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks deceit through the mouth. They all
speak friendly words to their neighbors, but inwardly are planning to lay an
ambush. Shall I not punish them for these things? says the LORD; and shall
20 I not bring retribution on a nation such as this? Take up weeping and

wailing for the mountains, and a lamentation for the pastures of the wilderness, because they are laid waste so that no one passes through, and the lowing of cattle is not heard; both the birds of the air and the animals have fled and are gone. I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, a lair of
5 jackals; and I will make the towns of Judah a desolation, without inhabitant.

Who is wise enough to understand this? To whom has the mouth of the LORD spoken, so that they may declare it? Why is the land ruined and laid waste like a wilderness, so that no one passes through? And the LORD says: Because they have forsaken my law that I set before them, and have not
10 obeyed my voice, or walked in accordance with it, but have stubbornly followed their own hearts and have gone after the Baals, as their ancestors taught them. Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I am feeding this people with wormwood, and giving them poisonous water to drink. I will scatter them among nations that neither they nor their ancestors
15 have known; and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them. Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider, and call for the mourning women to come; send for the skilled women to come; let them quickly raise a dirge over us, so that our eyes may run down with tears, and our eyelids flow with water. For a sound of wailing is heard from Zion: "How we are
20 ruined! We are utterly shamed, because we have left the land, because they

have cast down our dwellings." Hear, O women, the word of the LORD, and let your ears receive the word of his mouth; teach to your daughters a dirge, and each to her neighbor a lament. "Death has come up into our windows, it has entered our palaces, to cut off the children from the streets and the

5 young men from the squares." Speak! Thus says the LORD: "Human corpses shall fall like dung upon the open field, like sheaves behind the reaper, and no one shall gather them." Thus says the LORD: Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom, do not let the mighty boast in their might, do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth; but let those who boast boast in this, that they

10 understand and know me, that I am the LORD; I act with steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the LORD. The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will attend to all those who are circumcised only in the foreskin: Egypt, Judah, Edom, the Ammonites, Moab, and all those with shaven temples who live in the desert.

15 For all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart. Hear the word that the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel. Thus says the LORD: Do not learn the way of the nations, or be dismayed at the signs of the heavens; for the nations are dismayed at them. For the customs of the peoples are false: a tree from the forest is cut

20 down, and worked with an ax by the hands of an artisan; people deck it

with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move. Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, nor is it in them to do good. There is none
5 like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is great in might. Who would not fear you, O King of the nations? For that is your due; among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is no one like you. They are both stupid and foolish; the instruction given by idols is no better than wood! Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish, and gold from
10 Uphaz. They are the work of the artisan and of the hands of the goldsmith; their clothing is blue and purple; they are all the product of skilled workers. But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation. Thus shall you say to them: The gods who did not make the
15 heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens. It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens. When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightnings for the
20 rain, and he brings out the wind from his storehouses. Everyone is stupid

and without knowledge; goldsmiths are all put to shame by their idols; for their images are false, and there is no breath in them. They are worthless, a work of delusion; at the time of their punishment they shall perish. Not like these is the LORD, the portion of Jacob, for he is the one who formed all

5 things, and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance; the LORD of hosts is his name. Gather up your bundle from the ground, O you who live under siege! For thus says the LORD: I am going to sling out the inhabitants of the land at this time, and I will bring distress on them, so that they shall feel it.

Woe is me because of my hurt! My wound is severe. But I said, "Truly this

10 is my punishment, and I must bear it." My tent is destroyed, and all my cords are broken; my children have gone from me, and they are no more; there is no one to spread my tent again, and to set up my curtains. For the shepherds are stupid, and do not inquire of the LORD; therefore they have not prospered, and all their flock is scattered. Hear, a noise! Listen, it is

15 coming-- a great commotion from the land of the north to make the cities of Judah a desolation, a lair of jackals. I know, O LORD, that the way of human beings is not in their control, that mortals as they walk cannot direct their steps. Correct me, O LORD, but in just measure; not in your anger, or you will bring me to nothing. Pour out your wrath on the nations that do

20 not know you, and on the peoples that do not call on your name; for they

have devoured Jacob; they have devoured him and consumed him, and have laid waste his habitation. The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. You shall say to them, Thus says the LORD, the

5 God of Israel: Cursed be anyone who does not heed the words of this covenant, which I commanded your ancestors when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron-smelter, saying, Listen to my voice, and do all that I command you. So shall you be my people, and I will be your God, that I may perform the oath that I swore to your ancestors, to give them a

10 land flowing with milk and honey, as at this day. Then I answered, "So be it, LORD." And the LORD said to me: Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: Hear the words of this covenant and do them. For I solemnly warned your ancestors when I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, warning them persistently, even to this day, saying,

15 Obey my voice. Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone walked in the stubbornness of an evil will. So I brought upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but they did not. And the LORD said to me: Conspiracy exists among the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They have turned back to the iniquities of

20 their ancestors of old, who refused to heed my words; they have gone after

other gods to serve them; the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken the covenant that I made with their ancestors. Therefore, thus says the LORD, assuredly I am going to bring disaster upon them that they cannot escape; though they cry out to me, I will not listen to them. Then the cities
5 of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry out to the gods to whom they make offerings, but they will never save them in the time of their trouble. For your gods have become as many as your towns, O Judah; and as many as the streets of Jerusalem are the altars you have set up to shame, altars to make offerings to Baal. As for you, do not pray for this
10 people, or lift up a cry or prayer on their behalf, for I will not listen when they call to me in the time of their trouble. What right has my beloved in my house, when she has done vile deeds? Can vows and sacrificial flesh avert your doom? Can you then exult? The LORD once called you, "A green olive tree, fair with goodly fruit"; but with the roar of a great tempest he
15 will set fire to it, and its branches will be consumed. The LORD of hosts, who planted you, has pronounced evil against you, because of the evil that the house of Israel and the house of Judah have done, provoking me to anger by making offerings to Baal. It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. But I was like a
20 gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that

they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!" But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I

5 have committed my cause. Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the people of Anathoth, who seek your life, and say, "You shall not prophesy in the name of the LORD, or you will die by our hand"-- therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: I am going to punish them; the young men shall die by the sword; their sons and their daughters shall die by famine; and not even a

10 remnant shall be left of them. For I will bring disaster upon the people of Anathoth, the year of their punishment. You will be in the right, O LORD, when I lay charges against you; but let me put my case to you. Why does the way of the guilty prosper? Why do all who are treacherous thrive? You plant them, and they take root; they grow and bring forth fruit; you are near

15 in their mouths yet far from their hearts. But you, O LORD, know me; You see me and test me--my heart is with you. Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and set them apart for the day of slaughter. How long will the land mourn, and the grass of every field wither? For the wickedness of those who live in it the animals and the birds are swept away, and because people

20 said, "He is blind to our ways." If you have raced with foot-runners and

they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses? And if in a safe
land you fall down, how will you fare in the thickets of the Jordan? For
even your kinsfolk and your own family, even they have dealt treacherously
with you; they are in full cry after you; do not believe them, though they
5 speak friendly words to you. I have forsaken my house, I have abandoned
my heritage; I have given the beloved of my heart into the hands of her
enemies. My heritage has become to me like a lion in the forest; she has
lifted up her voice against me-- therefore I hate her. Is the hyena greedy for
my heritage at my command? Are the birds of prey all around her? Go,
10 assemble all the wild animals; bring them to devour her. Many shepherds
have destroyed my vineyard, they have trampled down my portion, they have
made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness. They have made it a
desolation; desolate, it mourns to me. The whole land is made desolate, but
no one lays it to heart. Upon all the bare heights in the desert spoilers have
15 come; for the sword of the LORD devours from one end of the land to the
other; no one shall be safe. They have sown wheat and have reaped thorns,
they have tired themselves out but profit nothing. They shall be ashamed of
their harvests because of the fierce anger of the LORD. Thus says the LORD
concerning all my evil neighbors who touch the heritage that I have given
20 my people Israel to inherit: I am about to pluck them up from their land,

and I will pluck up the house of Judah from among them. And after I have plucked them up, I will again have compassion on them, and I will bring them again to their heritage and to their land, everyone of them. And then, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name,

5 "As the LORD lives," as they taught my people to swear by Baal, then they shall be built up in the midst of my people. But if any nation will not listen, then I will completely uproot it and destroy it, says the LORD. Thus said the LORD to me, "Go and buy yourself a linen loincloth, and put it on your loins, but do not dip it in water." So I bought a loincloth according to

10 the word of the LORD, and put it on my loins. And the word of the LORD came to me a second time, saying, "Take the loincloth that you bought and are wearing, and go now to the Euphrates, and hide it there in a cleft of the rock." So I went, and hid it by the Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me. And after many days the LORD said to me, "Go now to the Euphrates, and

15 take from there the loincloth that I commanded you to hide there." Then I went to the Euphrates, and dug, and I took the loincloth from the place where I had hidden it. But now the loincloth was ruined; it was good for nothing. Then the word of the LORD came to me: Thus says the LORD:

Just so I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. This

20 evil people, who refuse to hear my words, who stubbornly follow their own

will and have gone after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall
be like this loincloth, which is good for nothing. For as the loincloth clings
to one's loins, so I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of
Judah cling to me, says the LORD, in order that they might be for me a
5 people, a name, a praise, and a glory. But they would not listen. You shall
speak to them this word: Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Every
wine-jar should be filled with wine. And they will say to you, "Do you
think we do not know that every wine-jar should be filled with wine?" Then
you shall say to them: Thus says the LORD: I am about to fill all the
10 inhabitants of this land--the kings who sit on David's throne, the priests, the
prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem--with drunkenness. And I will
dash them one against another, parents and children together, says the LORD.
I will not pity or spare or have compassion when I destroy them. Hear and
give ear; do not be haughty, for the LORD has spoken. Give glory to the
15 LORD your God before he brings darkness, and before your feet stumble on
the mountains at twilight; while you look for light, he turns it into gloom
and makes it deep darkness. But if you will not listen, my soul will weep in
secret for your pride; my eyes will weep bitterly and run down with tears,
because the Lord's flock has been taken captive. Say to the king and the
20 queen mother; "Take a lowly seat, for your beautiful crown has come down

from your head." The towns of the Negeb are shut up with no one to open them; all Judah is taken into exile, wholly taken into exile. Lift up your eyes and see those who come from the north. Where is the flock that was given you, your beautiful flock? What will you say when they set as head over

5 you those whom you have trained to be your allies? Will not pangs take hold of you, like those of a woman in labor? And if you say in your heart, "Why have these things come upon me?" it is for the greatness of your iniquity that your skirts are lifted up, and you are violated. Can Ethiopians change their skin or leopards their spots? Then also you can do good who

10 are accustomed to do evil. I will scatter you like chaff driven by the wind from the desert. This is your lot, the portion I have measured out to you, says the LORD, because you have forgotten me and trusted in lies. I myself will lift up your skirts over your face, and your shame will be seen. I have seen your abominations, your adulteries and neighings, your shameless

15 prostitutions on the hills of the countryside. Woe to you, O Jerusalem! How long will it be before you are made clean? The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the drought: Judah mourns and her gates languish; they lie in gloom on the ground, and the cry of Jerusalem goes up. Her nobles send their servants for water; they come to the cisterns, they find

20 no water, they return with their vessels empty. They are ashamed and

dismayed and cover their heads, because the ground is cracked. Because there has been no rain on the land the farmers are dismayed; they cover their heads. Even the doe in the field forsakes her newborn fawn because there is no grass. The wild asses stand on the bare heights, they pant for air like

5 jackals; their eyes fail because there is no herbage. Although our iniquities testify against us, act, O LORD, for your name's sake; our apostasies indeed are many, and we have sinned against you. O hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler turning aside for the night? Why should you be like someone

10 confused, like a mighty warrior who cannot give help? Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not forsake us! Thus says the LORD concerning this people: Truly they have loved to wander, they have not restrained their feet; therefore the LORD does not accept them, now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins. The

15 LORD said to me: Do not pray for the welfare of this people. Although they fast, I do not hear their cry, and although they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I do not accept them; but by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence I consume them. Then I said: "Ah, Lord GOD! Here are the prophets saying to them, 'You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have

20 famine, but I will give you true peace in this place.'" And the LORD said to

me: The prophets are prophesying lies in my name; I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds. Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who prophesy in my name

5 though I did not send them, and who say, "Sword and famine shall not come on this land": By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed. And the people to whom they prophesy shall be thrown out into the streets of Jerusalem, victims of famine and sword. There shall be no one to bury them--themselves, their wives, their sons, and their daughters. For I will pour

10 out their wickedness upon them. You shall say to them this word: Let my eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease, for the virgin daughter--my people--is struck down with a crushing blow, with a very grievous wound. If I go out into the field, look--those killed by the sword! And if I enter the city, look--those sick with famine! For both prophet and

15 priest ply their trade throughout the land, and have no knowledge. Have you completely rejected Judah? Does your heart loathe Zion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us? We look for peace, but find no good; for a time of healing, but there is terror instead. We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, the iniquity of our ancestors, for we

20 have sinned against you. Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not

dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant
with us. Can any idols of the nations bring rain? Or can the heavens give
showers? Is it not you, O LORD our God? We set our hope on you, for it
is you who do all this. Then the LORD said to me: Though Moses and
5 Samuel stood before me, yet my heart would not turn toward this people.
Send them out of my sight, and let them go! And when they say to you,
"Where shall we go?" you shall say to them: Thus says the LORD: Those
destined for pestilence, to pestilence, and those destined for the sword, to the
sword; those destined for famine, to famine, and those destined for captivity,
10 to captivity. And I will appoint over them four kinds of destroyers, says the
LORD: the sword to kill, the dogs to drag away, and the birds of the air
and the wild animals of the earth to devour and destroy. I will make them a
horror to all the kingdoms of the earth because of what King Manasseh son
of Hezekiah of Judah did in Jerusalem. Who will have pity on you, O
15 Jerusalem, or who will bemoan you? Who will turn aside to ask about your
welfare? You have rejected me, says the LORD, you are going backward; so
I have stretched out my hand against you and destroyed you-- I am weary of
relenting. I have winnowed them with a winnowing fork in the gates of the
land; I have bereaved them, I have destroyed my people; they did not turn
20 from their ways. Their widows became more numerous than the sand of the

seas; I have brought against the mothers of youths a destroyer at noonday; I have made anguish and terror fall upon her suddenly. She who bore seven has languished; she has swooned away; her sun went down while it was yet day; she has been shamed and disgraced. And the rest of them I will give to
5 the sword before their enemies, says the LORD. Woe is me, my mother, that you ever bore me, a man of strife and contention to the whole land! I have not lent, nor have I borrowed, yet all of them curse me. The LORD said: Surely I have intervened in your life for good, surely I have imposed enemies on you in a time of trouble and in a time of distress. Can iron and
10 bronze break iron from the north? Your wealth and your treasures I will give as plunder, without price, for all your sins, throughout all your territory. I will make you serve your enemies in a land that you do not know, for in my anger a fire is kindled that shall burn forever. O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my
15 persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
20 for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my

wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful
brook, like waters that fail. Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back,
I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is
precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they
5 who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you
to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they
shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and
redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless. The word of the LORD came to
10 me: You shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons or daughters in this
place. For thus says the LORD concerning the sons and daughters who are
born in this place, and concerning the mothers who bear them and the
fathers who beget them in this land: They shall die of deadly diseases. They
shall not be lamented, nor shall they be buried; they shall become like dung
15 on the surface of the ground. They shall perish by the sword and by famine,
and their dead bodies shall become food for the birds of the air and for the
wild animals of the earth. For thus says the LORD: Do not enter the house
of mourning, or go to lament, or bemoan them; for I have taken away my
peace from this people, says the LORD, my steadfast love and mercy. Both
20 great and small shall die in this land; they shall not be buried, and no one

shall lament for them; there shall be no gashing, no shaving of the head for them. No one shall break bread for the mourner, to offer comfort for the dead; nor shall anyone give them the cup of consolation to drink for their fathers or their mothers. You shall not go into the house of feasting to sit
5 with them, to eat and drink. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I am going to banish from this place, in your days and before your eyes, the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride. And when you tell this people all these words, and they say to you, "Why has the LORD pronounced all this
10 great evil against us? What is our iniquity? What is the sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?" then you shall say to them: It is because your ancestors have forsaken me, says the LORD, and have gone after other gods and have served and worshiped them, and have forsaken me and have not kept my law; and because you have behaved worse than your
15 ancestors, for here you are, every one of you, following your stubborn evil will, refusing to listen to me. Therefore I will hurl you out of this land into a land that neither you nor your ancestors have known, and there you shall serve other gods day and night, for I will show you no favor. Therefore, the days are surely coming, says the LORD, when it shall no longer be said,
20 "As the LORD lives who brought the people of Israel up out of the land of

Egypt," but "As the LORD lives who brought the people of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the lands where he had driven them."

For I will bring them back to their own land that I gave to their ancestors. I am now sending for many fishermen, says the LORD, and they shall catch

5 them; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks. For my eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from my presence, nor is their iniquity concealed from my sight. And I will doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted my land with the carcasses of their

10 detestable idols, and have filled my inheritance with their abominations. O LORD, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in the day of trouble, to you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth and say: Our ancestors have inherited nothing but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit. Can mortals make for themselves gods? Such are no gods!

15 "Therefore I am surely going to teach them, this time I am going to teach them my power and my might, and they shall know that my name is the LORD." The sin of Judah is written with an iron pen; with a diamond point it is engraved on the tablet of their hearts, and on the horns of their altars, while their children remember their altars and their sacred poles, beside every

20 green tree, and on the high hills, on the mountains in the open country.

Your wealth and all your treasures I will give for spoil as the price of your sin throughout all your territory. By your own act you shall lose the heritage that I gave you, and I will make you serve your enemies in a land that you do not know, for in my anger a fire is kindled that shall burn forever. Thus

5 says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They

10 shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse-- who can understand it? I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways,

15 according to the fruit of their doings. Like the partridge hatching what it did not lay, so are all who amass wealth unjustly; in mid-life it will leave them, and at their end they will prove to be fools. O glorious throne, exalted from the beginning, shrine of our sanctuary! O hope of Israel! O LORD! All who forsake you shall be put to shame; those who turn away from you shall be

20 recorded in the underworld, for they have forsaken the fountain of living

water, the LORD. Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved; for you are my praise. See how they say to me, "Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come!" But I have not run away from being a shepherd in your service, nor have I desired the fatal day. You know what

5 came from my lips; it was before your face. Do not become a terror to me; you are my refuge in the day of disaster; Let my persecutors be shamed, but do not let me be shamed; let them be dismayed, but do not let me be dismayed; bring on them the day of disaster; destroy them with double destruction! Thus said the LORD to me: Go and stand in the People's Gate,

10 by which the kings of Judah enter and by which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem, and say to them: Hear the word of the LORD, you kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, who enter by these gates. Thus says the LORD: For the sake of your lives, take care that you do not bear a burden on the sabbath day or bring it in by the gates of

15 Jerusalem. And do not carry a burden out of your houses on the sabbath or do any work, but keep the sabbath day holy, as I commanded your ancestors. Yet they did not listen or incline their ear; they stiffened their necks and would not hear or receive instruction. But if you listen to me, says the LORD, and bring in no burden by the gates of this city on the sabbath day,

20 but keep the sabbath day holy and do no work on it, then there shall enter

by the gates of this city kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in
chariots and on horses, they and their officials, the people of Judah and the
inhabitants of Jerusalem; and this city shall be inhabited forever. And people
shall come from the towns of Judah and the places around Jerusalem, from
5 the land of Benjamin, from the Shephelah, from the hill country, and from
the Negeb, bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, grain offerings and
frankincense, and bringing thank offerings to the house of the LORD. But if
you do not listen to me, to keep the sabbath day holy, and to carry in no
burden through the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day, then I will kindle
10 a fire in its gates; it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem and shall not be
quenched. The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Come, go
down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I
went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The
vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he
15 reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of
the LORD came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as
this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand,
so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare
concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and
20 destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its

evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it.

And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do

5 to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings. But they say, "It is no use! We will follow our own plans, and each of us will act according to the

10 stubbornness of our evil will." Therefore thus says the LORD: Ask among the nations: Who has heard the like of this? The virgin Israel has done a most horrible thing. Does the snow of Lebanon leave the crags of Sirion? Do the mountain waters run dry, the cold flowing streams? But my people have forgotten me, they burn offerings to a delusion; they have stumbled in their

15 ways, in the ancient roads, and have gone into bypaths, not the highway, making their land a horror, a thing to be hissed at forever. All who pass by it are horrified and shake their heads. Like the wind from the east, I will scatter them before the enemy. I will show them my back, not my face, in the day of their calamity. Then they said, "Come, let us make plots against

20 Jeremiah--for instruction shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the

wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, let us bring charges against him,
and let us not heed any of his words." Give heed to me, O LORD, and
listen to what my adversaries say! Is evil a recompense for good? Yet they
have dug a pit for my life. Remember how I stood before you to speak
5 good for them, to turn away your wrath from them. Therefore give their
children over to famine; hurl them out to the power of the sword, let their
wives become childless and widowed. May their men meet death by
pestilence, their youths be slain by the sword in battle. May a cry be heard
from their houses, when you bring the marauder suddenly upon them! For
10 they have dug a pit to catch me, and laid snares for my feet. Yet you, O
LORD, know all their plotting to kill me. Do not forgive their iniquity, do
not blot out their sin from your sight. Let them be tripped up before you;
deal with them while you are angry. Thus said the LORD: Go and buy a
potter's earthenware jug. Take with you some of the elders of the people and
15 some of the senior priests, and go out to the valley of the son of Hinnom at
the entry of the Potsherd Gate, and proclaim there the words that I tell you.
You shall say: Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and
inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I
am going to bring such disaster upon this place that the ears of everyone
20 who hears of it will tingle. Because the people have forsaken me, and have

profaned this place by making offerings in it to other gods whom neither they nor their ancestors nor the kings of Judah have known; and because they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent, and gone on building the high places of Baal to burn their children in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or decree, nor did it enter my mind. Therefore the days are surely coming, says the LORD, when this place shall no more be called Topheth, or the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of Slaughter. And in this place I will make void the plans of Judah and Jerusalem, and will make them fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hand of those who seek their life. I will give their dead bodies for food to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth. And I will make this city a horror, a thing to be hissed at; everyone who passes by it will be horrified and will hiss because of all its disasters. And I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and all shall eat the flesh of their neighbors in the siege, and in the distress with which their enemies and those who seek their life afflict them. Then you shall break the jug in the sight of those who go with you, and shall say to them: Thus says the LORD of hosts: So will I break this people and this city, as one breaks a potter's vessel, so that it can never be mended. In Topheth they shall bury until there is no more room to bury. Thus will I do

to this place, says the LORD, and to its inhabitants, making this city like Topheth. And the houses of Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah shall be defiled like the place of Topheth--all the houses upon whose roofs offerings have been made to the whole host of heaven, and libations have
5 been poured out to other gods. When Jeremiah came from Topheth, where the LORD had sent him to prophesy, he stood in the court of the Lord's house and said to all the people: Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I am now bringing upon this city and upon all its towns all the disaster that I have pronounced against it, because they have stiffened their
10 necks, refusing to hear my words. Now the priest Pashhur son of Immer, who was chief officer in the house of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things. Then Pashhur struck the prophet Jeremiah, and put him in the stocks that were in the upper Benjamin Gate of the house of the LORD. The next morning when Pashhur released Jeremiah from the stocks,
15 Jeremiah said to him, The LORD has named you not Pashhur but "Terror-all-around." For thus says the LORD: I am making you a terror to yourself and to all your friends; and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies while you look on. And I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of
20 Babylon; he shall carry them captive to Babylon, and shall kill them with the sword. I will give all the wealth of this city, all its gains, all its prized

belongings, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah into the hand of their
enemies, who shall plunder them, and seize them, and carry them to
Babylon. And you, Pashhur, and all who live in your house, shall go into
captivity, and to Babylon you shall go; there you shall die, and there you
5 shall be buried, you and all your friends, to whom you have prophesied
falsely. O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have
overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all
day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must
shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become
10 for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention
him, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like
a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I
cannot. For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him!
Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble.
15 "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our
revenge on him." But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior; therefore
my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly
shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be
forgotten. O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and
20 the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have

committed my cause. Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers. Cursed be the day on which I was born! The day when my mother bore me, let it not be blessed! Cursed be the man who brought the news to my father, saying, "A
5 child is born to you, a son," making him very glad. Let that man be like the cities that the LORD overthrew without pity; let him hear a cry in the morning and an alarm at noon, because he did not kill me in the womb; so my mother would have been my grave, and her womb forever great. Why did I come forth from the womb to see toil and sorrow, and spend my days
10 in shame? This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur son of Malchiah and the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah, saying, "Please inquire of the LORD on our behalf, for King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon is making war against us; perhaps the LORD will perform a wonderful deed for us, as he has often done, and will
15 make him withdraw from us." Then Jeremiah said to them: Thus you shall say to Zedekiah: Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I am going to turn back the weapons of war that are in your hands and with which you are fighting against the king of Babylon and against the Chaldeans who are besieging you outside the walls; and I will bring them together into the
20 center of this city. I myself will fight against you with outstretched hand and

mighty arm, in anger, in fury, and in great wrath. And I will strike down
the inhabitants of this city, both human beings and animals; they shall die of
a great pestilence. Afterward, says the LORD, I will give King Zedekiah of
Judah, and his servants, and the people in this city--those who survive the
5 pestilence, sword, and famine--into the hands of King Nebuchadrezzar of
Babylon, into the hands of their enemies, into the hands of those who seek
their lives. He shall strike them down with the edge of the sword; he shall
not pity them, or spare them, or have compassion. And to this people you
shall say: Thus says the LORD: See, I am setting before you the way of life
10 and the way of death. Those who stay in this city shall die by the sword,
by famine, and by pestilence; but those who go out and surrender to the
Chaldeans who are besieging you shall live and shall have their lives as a
prize of war. For I have set my face against this city for evil and not for
good, says the LORD: it shall be given into the hands of the king of
15 Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire. To the house of the king of Judah
say: Hear the word of the LORD, O house of David! Thus says the LORD:
Execute justice in the morning, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor
anyone who has been robbed, or else my wrath will go forth like fire, and
burn, with no one to quench it, because of your evil doings. See, I am
20 against you, O inhabitant of the valley, O rock of the plain, says the LORD;

you who say, "Who can come down against us, or who can enter our places of refuge?" I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings, says the LORD; I will kindle a fire in its forest, and it shall devour all that is around it. Thus says the LORD: Go down to the house of the king of

5 Judah, and speak there this word, and say: Hear the word of the LORD, O King of Judah sitting on the throne of David--you, and your servants, and your people who enter these gates. Thus says the LORD: Act with justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and

10 the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place. For if you will indeed obey this word, then through the gates of this house shall enter kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they, and their servants, and their people. But if you will not heed these words, I swear by myself, says the LORD, that this house shall become a desolation. For thus

15 says the LORD concerning the house of the king of Judah: You are like Gilead to me, like the summit of Lebanon; but I swear that I will make you a desert, an uninhabited city. I will prepare destroyers against you, all with their weapons; they shall cut down your choicest cedars and cast them into the fire. And many nations will pass by this city, and all of them will say

20 one to another, "Why has the LORD dealt in this way with that great city?"

And they will answer, "Because they abandoned the covenant of the LORD their God, and worshiped other gods and served them." Do not weep for him who is dead, nor bemoan him; weep rather for him who goes away, for he shall return no more to see his native land. For thus says the LORD

5 concerning Shallum son of King Josiah of Judah, who succeeded his father Josiah, and who went away from this place: He shall return here no more, but in the place where they have carried him captive he shall die, and he shall never see this land again. Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors

10 work for nothing, and does not give them their wages; who says, "I will build myself a spacious house with large upper rooms," and who cuts out windows for it, paneling it with cedar, and painting it with vermilion. Are you a king because you compete in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. He judged the

15 cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? says the LORD. But your eyes and heart are only on your dishonest gain, for shedding innocent blood, and for practicing oppression and violence.

Therefore thus says the LORD concerning King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah: They shall not lament for him, saying, "Alas, my brother!" or "Alas, sister!" They shall not lament for him, saying, "Alas, lord!" or "Alas, his

20

majesty!" With the burial of a donkey he shall be buried-- dragged off and thrown out beyond the gates of Jerusalem. Go up to Lebanon, and cry out, and lift up your voice in Bashan; cry out from Abarim, for all your lovers are crushed. I spoke to you in your prosperity, but you said, "I will not

5 listen." This has been your way from your youth, for you have not obeyed my voice. The wind shall shepherd all your shepherds, and your lovers shall go into captivity; then you will be ashamed and dismayed because of all your wickedness. O inhabitant of Lebanon, nested among the cedars, how you will groan when pangs come upon you, pain as of a woman in labor! As I

10 live, says the LORD, even if King Coniah son of Jehoiakim of Judah were the signet ring on my right hand, even from there I would tear you off and give you into the hands of those who seek your life, into the hands of those of whom you are afraid, even into the hands of King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon and into the hands of the Chaldeans. I will hurl you and the mother

15 who bore you into another country, where you were not born, and there you shall die. But they shall not return to the land to which they long to return. Is this man Coniah a despised broken pot, a vessel no one wants? Why are he and his offspring hurled out and cast away in a land that they do not know? O land, land, land, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the

20 LORD: Record this man as childless, a man who shall not succeed in his

days; for none of his offspring shall succeed in sitting on the throne of David, and ruling again in Judah. Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people:

5 It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them

10 who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And

15 this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness." Therefore, the days are surely coming, says the LORD, when it shall no longer be said, "As the LORD lives who brought the people of Israel up out of the land of Egypt," but "As the LORD lives who brought

20 out and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the land of the north and out of all the lands where he had driven them." Then they shall live in

their own land. Concerning the prophets: My heart is crushed within me, all my bones shake; I have become like a drunkard, like one overcome by wine, because of the LORD and because of his holy words. For the land is full of adulterers; because of the curse the land mourns, and the pastures of the wilderness are dried up. Their course has been evil, and their might is not right. Both prophet and priest are ungodly; even in my house I have found their wickedness, says the LORD. Therefore their way shall be to them like slippery paths in the darkness, into which they shall be driven and fall; for I will bring disaster upon them in the year of their punishment, says the LORD. In the prophets of Samaria I saw a disgusting thing: they prophesied by Baal and led my people Israel astray. But in the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a more shocking thing: they commit adultery and walk in lies; they strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns from wickedness; all of them have become like Sodom to me, and its inhabitants like Gomorrah. Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets: "I am going to make them eat wormwood, and give them poisoned water to drink; for from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has spread throughout the land." Thus says the LORD of hosts: Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you; they are deluding you. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. They keep saying to

those who despise the word of the LORD, "It shall be well with you"; and
to all who stubbornly follow their own stubborn hearts, they say, "No
calamity shall come upon you." For who has stood in the council of the
LORD so as to see and to hear his word? Who has given heed to his word
5 so as to proclaim it? Look, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a
whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. The anger of the
LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents
of his mind. In the latter days you will understand it clearly. I did not send
the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But
10 if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words
to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and
from the evil of their doings. Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not
a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?
says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. I have
15 heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I
have dreamed, I have dreamed!" How long? Will the hearts of the prophets
ever turn back--those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of
their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their
dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for
20 Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who

has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? See, therefore, I am against the prophets, says the LORD, who steal my words from one another. See, I am
5 against the prophets, says the LORD, who use their own tongues and say, "Says the LORD." See, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, says the LORD, and who tell them, and who lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or appoint them; so they do not profit this people at all, says the LORD. When this people, or a
10 prophet, or a priest asks you, "What is the burden of the LORD?" you shall say to them, "You are the burden, and I will cast you off, says the LORD." And as for the prophet, priest, or the people who say, "The burden of the LORD," I will punish them and their households. Thus shall you say to one another, among yourselves, "What has the LORD answered?" or "What has
15 the LORD spoken?" But "the burden of the LORD" you shall mention no more, for the burden is everyone's own word, and so you pervert the words of the living God, the LORD of hosts, our God. Thus you shall ask the prophet, "What has the LORD answered you?" or "What has the LORD spoken?" But if you say, "the burden of the LORD," thus says the LORD:
20 Because you have said these words, "the burden of the LORD," when I sent

to you, saying, You shall not say, "the burden of the LORD," therefore, I will surely lift you up and cast you away from my presence, you and the city that I gave to you and your ancestors. And I will bring upon you everlasting disgrace and perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten. The

5 LORD showed me two baskets of figs placed before the temple of the LORD. This was after King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon had taken into exile from Jerusalem King Jeconiah son of Jehoiakim of Judah, together with the officials of Judah, the artisans, and the smiths, and had brought them to Babylon. One basket had very good figs, like first-ripe figs, but the other

10 basket had very bad figs, so bad that they could not be eaten. And the LORD said to me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" I said, "Figs, the good figs very good, and the bad figs very bad, so bad that they cannot be eaten."

Then the word of the LORD came to me: Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the exiles from Judah,

15 whom I have sent away from this place to the land of the Chaldeans. I will set my eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up, and not tear them down; I will plant them, and not pluck them up. I will give them a heart to know that I am the LORD; and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me

20 with their whole heart. But thus says the LORD: Like the bad figs that are

so bad they cannot be eaten, so will I treat King Zedekiah of Judah, his officials, the remnant of Jerusalem who remain in this land, and those who live in the land of Egypt. I will make them a horror, an evil thing, to all the kingdoms of the earth--a disgrace, a byword, a taunt, and a curse in all the places where I shall drive them. And I will send sword, famine, and pestilence upon them, until they are utterly destroyed from the land that I gave to them and their ancestors. The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah (that was the first year of King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon), which the prophet Jeremiah spoke to all the people of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem: For twenty-three years, from the thirteenth year of King Josiah son of Amon of Judah, to this day, the word of the LORD has come to me, and I have spoken persistently to you, but you have not listened. And though the LORD persistently sent you all his servants the prophets, you have neither listened nor inclined your ears to hear when they said, "Turn now, everyone of you, from your evil way and wicked doings, and you will remain upon the land that the LORD has given to you and your ancestors from of old and forever; do not go after other gods to serve and worship them, and do not provoke me to anger with the work of your hands. Then I will do you no harm." Yet you did not listen to me, says the LORD, and so

you have provoked me to anger with the work of your hands to your own harm. Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: Because you have not obeyed my words, I am going to send for all the tribes of the north, says the LORD, even for King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon, my servant, and I will

5 bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these nations around; I will utterly destroy them, and make them an object of horror and of hissing, and an everlasting disgrace. And I will banish from them the sound of mirth and the sound of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp.

10 This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Then after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, says the LORD, making the land an everlasting waste. I will bring upon that land all the words that I have uttered against

15 it, everything written in this book, which Jeremiah prophesied against all the nations. For many nations and great kings shall make slaves of them also; and I will repay them according to their deeds and the work of their hands. For thus the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: Take from my hand this cup of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you

20 drink it. They shall drink and stagger and go out of their minds because of

the sword that I am sending among them. So I took the cup from the Lord's hand, and made all the nations to whom the LORD sent me drink it:

Jerusalem and the towns of Judah, its kings and officials, to make them a desolation and a waste, an object of hissing and of cursing, as they are

5 today; Pharaoh king of Egypt, his servants, his officials, and all his people; all the mixed people; all the kings of the land of Uz; all the kings of the land of the Philistines--Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod; Edom, Moab, and the Ammonites; all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon, and the kings of the coastland across the sea; Dedan, Tema, Buz, and

10 all who have shaven temples; all the kings of Arabia and all the kings of the mixed peoples that live in the desert; all the kings of Zimri, all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of Media; all the kings of the north, far and near, one after another, and all the kingdoms of the world that are on the face of the earth. And after them the king of Sheshach shall drink. Then

15 you shall say to them, Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Drink, get drunk and vomit, fall and rise no more, because of the sword that I am sending among you. And if they refuse to accept the cup from your hand to drink, then you shall say to them: Thus says the LORD of hosts: You must drink! See, I am beginning to bring disaster on the city that is

20 called by my name, and how can you possibly avoid punishment? You shall

not go unpunished, for I am summoning a sword against all the inhabitants of the earth, says the LORD of hosts. You, therefore, shall prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: The LORD will roar from on high, and from his holy habitation utter his voice; he will roar mightily against his
5 fold, and shout, like those who tread grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. The clamor will resound to the ends of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against the nations; he is entering into judgment with all flesh, and the guilty he will put to the sword, says the LORD. Thus says the LORD of hosts: See, disaster is spreading from nation to nation, and a great
10 tempest is stirring from the farthest parts of the earth! Those slain by the LORD on that day shall extend from one end of the earth to the other. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become dung on the surface of the ground. Wail, you shepherds, and cry out; roll in ashes, you lords of the flock, for the days of your slaughter have come--and your
15 dispersions, and you shall fall like a choice vessel. Flight shall fail the shepherds, and there shall be no escape for the lords of the flock. Hark! the cry of the shepherds, and the wail of the lords of the flock! For the LORD is despoiling their pasture, and the peaceful folds are devastated, because of the fierce anger of the LORD. Like a lion he has left his covert; for their
20 land has become a waste because of the cruel sword, and because of his

fierce anger. At the beginning of the reign of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came from the LORD: Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD; speak to them all the words that I

5 command you; do not hold back a word. It may be that they will listen, all of them, and will turn from their evil way, that I may change my mind about the disaster that I intend to bring on them because of their evil doings.

You shall say to them: Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, and to heed the words of my

10 servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently--though you have not heeded-- then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth. The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD.

And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded

15 him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die! Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?'" And all the people gathered

around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. When the officials of Judah

20 heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the

LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears." Then Jeremiah

5 spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, "It is the LORD who sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will change his mind about the disaster that he has pronounced against you. But as for me, here I am in

10 your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will be bringing innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears." Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, "This man does not

15 deserve the sentence of death, for he has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God." And some of the elders of the land arose and said to all the assembled people, "Micah of Moresheth, who prophesied during the days of King Hezekiah of Judah, said to all the people of Judah: 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a

20 heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.' Did King

Hezekiah of Judah and all Judah actually put him to death? Did he not fear the LORD and entreat the favor of the LORD, and did not the LORD change his mind about the disaster that he had pronounced against them? But we are about to bring great disaster on ourselves!" There was another man

5 prophesying in the name of the LORD, Uriah son of Shemaiah from Kiriath-jearim. He prophesied against this city and against this land in words exactly like those of Jeremiah. And when King Jehoiakim, with all his warriors and all the officials, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death; but when Uriah heard of it, he was afraid and fled and escaped to Egypt. Then

10 King Jehoiakim sent Elnathan son of Achbor and men with him to Egypt, and they took Uriah from Egypt and brought him to King Jehoiakim, who struck him down with the sword and threw his dead body into the burial place of the common people. But the hand of Ahikam son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah so that he was not given over into the hands of the people to

15 be put to death. In the beginning of the reign of King Zedekiah son of Josiah of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD. Thus the LORD said to me: Make yourself a yoke of straps and bars, and put them on your neck. Send word to the king of Edom, the king of Moab, the king of the Ammonites, the king of Tyre, and the king of Sidon by the hand of

20 the envoys who have come to Jerusalem to King Zedekiah of Judah. Give

them this charge for their masters: Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: This is what you shall say to your masters: It is I who by my great power and my outstretched arm have made the earth, with the people and animals that are on the earth, and I give it to whomever I please. Now I

5 have given all these lands into the hand of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, my servant, and I have given him even the wild animals of the field to serve him. All the nations shall serve him and his son and his grandson, until the time of his own land comes; then many nations and great kings shall make him their slave. But if any nation or kingdom will not serve this

10 king, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, and put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, then I will punish that nation with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence, says the LORD, until I have completed its destruction by his hand. You, therefore, must not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your dreamers, your soothsayers, or your sorcerers, who are saying to you, 'You

15 shall not serve the king of Babylon.' For they are prophesying a lie to you, with the result that you will be removed far from your land; I will drive you out, and you will perish. But any nation that will bring its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will leave on its own land, says the LORD, to till it and live there. I spoke to King Zedekiah of

20 Judah in the same way: Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of

Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live. Why should you and your people die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, as the LORD has spoken concerning any nation that will not serve the king of Babylon? Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are telling you not to serve the king of Babylon, for they are prophesying a lie to you. I have not sent them, says the LORD, but they are prophesying falsely in my name, with the result that I will drive you out and you will perish, you and the prophets who are prophesying to you. Then I spoke to the priests and to all this people, saying, Thus says the LORD: Do not listen to the words of your prophets who are prophesying to you, saying, "The vessels of the Lord's house will soon be brought back from Babylon," for they are prophesying a lie to you. Do not listen to them; serve the king of Babylon and live. Why should this city become a desolation? If indeed they are prophets, and if the word of the LORD is with them, then let them intercede with the LORD of hosts, that the vessels left in the house of the LORD, in the house of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem may not go to Babylon. For thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the pillars, the sea, the stands, and the rest of the vessels that are left in this city, which King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon did not take away when he took into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon King Jeconiah son of Jehoiakim of Judah, and all the nobles of Judah and

Jerusalem-- thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning the vessels left in the house of the LORD, in the house of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem: They shall be carried to Babylon, and there they shall stay, until the day when I give attention to them, says the LORD. Then I will

5 bring them up and restore them to this place. In that same year, at the beginning of the reign of King Zedekiah of Judah, in the fifth month of the fourth year, the prophet Hananiah son of Azzur, from Gibeon, spoke to me in the house of the LORD, in the presence of the priests and all the people, saying, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I have broken the

10 yoke of the king of Babylon. Within two years I will bring back to this place all the vessels of the Lord's house, which King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon. I will also bring back to this place King Jeconiah son of Jehoiakim of Judah, and all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon, says the LORD, for I will break

15 the yoke of the king of Babylon." Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the

20 house of the LORD, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I

5 speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet." Then the prophet Hananiah took the yoke from the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, and broke it. And Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, "Thus says the LORD: This is how I will break the yoke of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon from the neck of all the nations within two years." At this, the prophet Jeremiah went his way. Sometime after the prophet Hananiah had broken the yoke from the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: Go, tell Hananiah, Thus says the LORD: You have broken wooden bars only to forge iron bars in place of them! For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I have put an iron yoke on the neck of all these nations so that they may serve King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, and they shall indeed serve him; I have even given him the wild animals. And the prophet Jeremiah said to the prophet Hananiah, "Listen, Hananiah, the LORD has not sent you, and you made this people trust in a lie. Therefore thus says the LORD: I am going to send you off the face of the earth. Within this year you will be dead, because you have spoken rebellion

against the LORD." In that same year, in the seventh month, the prophet Hananiah died. These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken
5 into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. This was after King Jeconiah, and the queen mother, the court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem. The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom King Zedekiah of Judah sent to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of
10 Babylon. It said: Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do
15 not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are
20 prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD. For

thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will
I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this
place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for
your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when
5 you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you
search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will
let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather
you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says
the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you
10 into exile. Because you have said, "The LORD has raised up prophets for us
in Babylon,"-- Thus says the LORD concerning the king who sits on the
throne of David, and concerning all the people who live in this city, your
kinsfolk who did not go out with you into exile: Thus says the LORD of
hosts, I am going to let loose on them sword, famine, and pestilence, and I
15 will make them like rotten figs that are so bad they cannot be eaten. I will
pursue them with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence, and will make
them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be an object of cursing,
and horror, and hissing, and a derision among all the nations where I have
driven them, because they did not heed my words, says the LORD, when I
20 persistently sent to you my servants the prophets, but they would not listen,

says the LORD. But now, all you exiles whom I sent away from Jerusalem to Babylon, hear the word of the LORD: Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning Ahab son of Kolaiah and Zedekiah son of Maaseiah, who are prophesying a lie to you in my name: I am going to

5 deliver them into the hand of King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon, and he shall kill them before your eyes. And on account of them this curse shall be used by all the exiles from Judah in Babylon: "The LORD make you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire," because they have perpetrated outrage in Israel and have committed adultery with

10 their neighbors' wives, and have spoken in my name lying words that I did not command them; I am the one who knows and bears witness, says the LORD. To Shemaiah of Nehelam you shall say: Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: In your own name you sent a letter to all the people who are in Jerusalem, and to the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah,

15 and to all the priests, saying, The LORD himself has made you priest instead of the priest Jehoiada, so that there may be officers in the house of the LORD to control any madman who plays the prophet, to put him in the stocks and the collar. So now why have you not rebuked Jeremiah of Anathoth who plays the prophet for you? For he has actually sent to us in

20 Babylon, saying, "It will be a long time; build houses and live in them, and

plant gardens and eat what they produce." The priest Zephaniah read this letter in the hearing of the prophet Jeremiah. Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: Send to all the exiles, saying, Thus says the LORD concerning Shemaiah of Nehelam: Because Shemaiah has prophesied to you, 5 though I did not send him, and has led you to trust in a lie, therefore thus says the LORD: I am going to punish Shemaiah of Nehelam and his descendants; he shall not have anyone living among this people to see the good that I am going to do to my people, says the LORD, for he has spoken rebellion against the LORD. The word that came to Jeremiah from 10 the LORD: Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you. For the days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah, says the LORD, and I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their ancestors and they shall take possession of it. These are the words that the 15 LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah: Thus says the LORD: We have heard a cry of panic, of terror, and no peace. Ask now, and see, can a man bear a child? Why then do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor? Why has every face turned pale? Alas! that day is so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress for Jacob; yet he shall be 20 rescued from it. On that day, says the LORD of hosts, I will break the yoke

from off his neck, and I will burst his bonds, and strangers shall no more
make a servant of him. But they shall serve the LORD their God and David
their king, whom I will raise up for them. But as for you, have no fear, my
servant Jacob, says the LORD, and do not be dismayed, O Israel; for I am
5 going to save you from far away, and your offspring from the land of their
captivity. Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease, and no one shall make
him afraid. For I am with you, says the LORD, to save you; I will make an
end of all the nations among which I scattered you, but of you I will not
make an end. I will chastise you in just measure, and I will by no means
10 leave you unpunished. For thus says the LORD: Your hurt is incurable, your
wound is grievous. There is no one to uphold your cause, no medicine for
your wound, no healing for you. All your lovers have forgotten you; they
care nothing for you; for I have dealt you the blow of an enemy, the
punishment of a merciless foe, because your guilt is great, because your sins
15 are so numerous. Why do you cry out over your hurt? Your pain is
incurable. Because your guilt is great, because your sins are so numerous, I
have done these things to you. Therefore all who devour you shall be
devoured, and all your foes, everyone of them, shall go into captivity; those
who plunder you shall be plundered, and all who prey on you I will make a
20 prey. For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, says the

LORD, because they have called you an outcast: "It is Zion; no one cares for her!" Thus says the LORD: I am going to restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob, and have compassion on his dwellings; the city shall be rebuilt upon its mound, and the citadel set on its rightful site. Out of them

5 shall come thanksgiving, and the sound of merry-makers. I will make them many, and they shall not be few; I will make them honored, and they shall not be disdained. Their children shall be as of old, their congregation shall be established before me; and I will punish all who oppress them. Their prince shall be one of their own, their ruler shall come from their midst; I

10 will bring him near, and he shall approach me, for who would otherwise dare to approach me? says the LORD. And you shall be my people, and I will be your God. Look, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. The fierce anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the

15 intents of his mind. In the latter days you will understand this. At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the LORD: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love;

20 therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you,

and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your
tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. Again you shall
plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and
shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the
5 hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our
God." For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and
raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to
bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest
10 parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With
weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will
let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not
stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.
15 Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far
away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a
shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed
him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the
height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
20 over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and

the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests
5 their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD. Thus says the LORD: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the LORD: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a
10 reward for your work, says the LORD: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the LORD: your children shall come back to their own country. Indeed I heard Ephraim pleading: "You disciplined me, and I took the discipline; I was like a calf untrained. Bring me back, let me come back, for you are the LORD my God. For after
15 I had turned away I repented; and after I was discovered, I struck my thigh; I was ashamed, and I was dismayed because I bore the disgrace of my youth." Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he the child I delight in? As often as I speak against him, I still remember him. Therefore I am deeply moved for him; I will surely have mercy on him, says the LORD. Set up road markers
20 for yourself, make yourself guideposts; consider well the highway, the road

by which you went. Return, O virgin Israel, return to these your cities. How long will you waver, O faithless daughter? For the LORD has created a new thing on the earth: a woman encompasses a man. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Once more they shall use these words in the land of Judah and in its towns when I restore their fortunes: "The LORD bless you, O abode of righteousness, O holy hill!" And Judah and all its towns shall live there together, and the farmers and those who wander with their flocks. I will satisfy the weary, and all who are faint I will replenish.

Thereupon I awoke and looked, and my sleep was pleasant to me. The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. In those days they shall no longer say: "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge. The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt--a covenant that they broke, though I

was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to

5 each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar-- the LORD of hosts is his

10 name: If this fixed order were ever to cease from my presence, says the LORD, then also the offspring of Israel would cease to be a nation before me forever. Thus says the LORD: If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I will reject all the offspring of Israel because of all they have done, says the LORD. The

15 days are surely coming, says the LORD, when the city shall be rebuilt for the LORD from the tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. And the measuring line shall go out farther, straight to the hill Gareb, and shall then turn to Goah. The whole valley of the dead bodies and the ashes, and all the fields as far as the Wadi Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward

20 the east, shall be sacred to the LORD. It shall never again be uprooted or

overthrown. The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard

5 that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him. Zedekiah had said, "Why do you prophesy and say: Thus says the LORD: I am going to give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it; King Zedekiah of Judah shall not escape out of the hands of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be given into the hands of

10 the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him face to face and see him eye to eye; and he shall take Zedekiah to Babylon, and there he shall remain until I attend to him, says the LORD; though you fight against the Chaldeans, you shall not succeed?" Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you

15 and say, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours." Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself." Then I knew that this was the

20 word of the LORD. And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin

Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of

5 Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this

10 open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land. After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD, saying: Ah Lord GOD! It is you who made the heavens and the earth by

15 your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. You show steadfast love to the thousandth generation, but repay the guilt of parents into the laps of their children after them, O great and mighty God whose name is the LORD of hosts, great in counsel and mighty in deed; whose eyes are open to all the ways of mortals, rewarding all according to

20 their ways and according to the fruit of their doings. You showed signs and

wonders in the land of Egypt, and to this day in Israel and among all
humankind, and have made yourself a name that continues to this very day.
You brought your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and
wonders, with a strong hand and outstretched arm, and with great terror; and
5 you gave them this land, which you swore to their ancestors to give them, a
land flowing with milk and honey; and they entered and took possession of
it. But they did not obey your voice or follow your law; of all you
commanded them to do, they did nothing. Therefore you have made all these
disasters come upon them. See, the siege-ramps have been cast up against the
10 city to take it, and the city, faced with sword, famine, and pestilence, has
been given into the hands of the Chaldeans who are fighting against it. What
you spoke has happened, as you yourself can see. Yet you, O Lord GOD,
have said to me, "Buy the field for money and get witnesses" --though the
city has been given into the hands of the Chaldeans. The word of the LORD
15 came to Jeremiah: See, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything
too hard for me? Therefore, thus says the LORD: I am going to give this
city into the hands of the Chaldeans and into the hand of King
Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon, and he shall take it. The Chaldeans who are
fighting against this city shall come, set it on fire, and burn it, with the
20 houses on whose roofs offerings have been made to Baal and libations have

been poured out to other gods, to provoke me to anger. For the people of Israel and the people of Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight from their youth; the people of Israel have done nothing but provoke me to anger by the work of their hands, says the LORD. This city has aroused my anger and wrath, from the day it was built until this day, so that I will remove it from my sight because of all the evil of the people of Israel and the people of Judah that they did to provoke me to anger--they, their kings and their officials, their priests and their prophets, the citizens of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They have turned their backs to me, not their faces; though I have taught them persistently, they would not listen and accept correction. They set up their abominations in the house that bears my name, and defiled it. They built the high places of Baal in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to offer up their sons and daughters to Molech, though I did not command them, nor did it enter my mind that they should do this abomination, causing Judah to sin. Now therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, "It is being given into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence": See, I am going to gather them from all the lands to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation; I will bring them back to this place, and I will settle them in safety. They shall be my

people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way,
that they may fear me for all time, for their own good and the good of their
children after them. I will make an everlasting covenant with them, never to
draw back from doing good to them; and I will put the fear of me in their
5 hearts, so that they may not turn from me. I will rejoice in doing good to
them, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart
and all my soul. For thus says the LORD: Just as I have brought all this
great disaster upon this people, so I will bring upon them all the good
fortune that I now promise them. Fields shall be bought in this land of
10 which you are saying, It is a desolation, without human beings or animals; it
has been given into the hands of the Chaldeans. Fields shall be bought for
money, and deeds shall be signed and sealed and witnessed, in the land of
Benjamin, in the places around Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, of the
hill country, of the Shephelah, and of the Negeb; for I will restore their
15 fortunes, says the LORD. The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah a
second time, while he was still confined in the court of the guard: Thus says
the LORD who made the earth, the LORD who formed it to establish it--the
LORD is his name: Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you
great and hidden things that you have not known. For thus says the LORD,
20 the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city and the houses of the

kings of Judah that were torn down to make a defense against the siege-ramps and before the sword: The Chaldeans are coming in to fight and to fill them with the dead bodies of those whom I shall strike down in my anger and my wrath, for I have hidden my face from this city because of all
5 their wickedness. I am going to bring it recovery and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security. I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as they were at first. I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me. And
10 this city shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them; they shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the prosperity I provide for it. Thus says the LORD: In this place of which you say, "It is a waste without human beings or animals," in the towns of Judah and the
15 streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without inhabitants, human or animal, there shall once more be heard the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank offerings to the house of the LORD: "Give thanks to the LORD of hosts, for the LORD is good, for his steadfast love
20 endures forever!" For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says

the LORD. Thus says the LORD of hosts: In this place that is waste,
without human beings or animals, and in all its towns there shall again be
pasture for shepherds resting their flocks. In the towns of the hill country, of
the Shephelah, and of the Negeb, in the land of Benjamin, the places around
5 Jerusalem, and in the towns of Judah, flocks shall again pass under the
hands of the one who counts them, says the LORD. The days are surely
coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house
of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause
a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and
10 righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem
will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The
LORD is our righteousness." For thus says the LORD: David shall never
lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, and the levitical
priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to
15 make grain offerings, and to make sacrifices for all time. The word of the
LORD came to Jeremiah: Thus says the LORD: If any of you could break
my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and
night would not come at their appointed time, only then could my covenant
with my servant David be broken, so that he would not have a son to reign
20 on his throne, and my covenant with my ministers the Levites. Just as the

host of heaven cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I will increase the offspring of my servant David, and the Levites who minister to me. The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: Have you not observed how these people say, "The two families that the LORD
5 chose have been rejected by him," and how they hold my people in such contempt that they no longer regard them as a nation? Thus says the LORD: Only if I had not established my covenant with day and night and the ordinances of heaven and earth, would I reject the offspring of Jacob and of my servant David and not choose any of his descendants as rulers over the
10 offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes, and will have mercy upon them. The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, when King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon and all his army and all the kingdoms of the earth and all the peoples under his dominion were fighting against Jerusalem and all its cities: "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel:
15 Go and speak to King Zedekiah of Judah and say to him: Thus says the LORD: I am going to give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire. And you yourself shall not escape from his hand, but shall surely be captured and handed over to him; you shall see the king of Babylon eye to eye and speak with him face to face; and you shall
20 go to Babylon. Yet hear the word of the LORD, O King Zedekiah of Judah!

Thus says the LORD concerning you: You shall not die by the sword; you shall die in peace. And as spices were burned for your ancestors, the earlier kings who preceded you, so they shall burn spices for you and lament for you, saying, "Alas, lord!" For I have spoken the word, says the LORD. Then

5 the prophet Jeremiah spoke all these words to Zedekiah king of Judah, in Jerusalem, when the army of the king of Babylon was fighting against Jerusalem and against all the cities of Judah that were left, Lachish and Azekah; for these were the only fortified cities of Judah that remained. The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, after King Zedekiah had made

10 a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to make a proclamation of liberty to them, that all should set free their Hebrew slaves, male and female, so that no one should hold another Judean in slavery. And they obeyed, all the officials and all the people who had entered into the covenant that all would set free their slaves, male or female, so that they would not be

15 enslaved again; they obeyed and set them free. But afterward they turned around and took back the male and female slaves they had set free, and brought them again into subjection as slaves. The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah from the LORD: Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I myself made a covenant with your ancestors when I brought them out of the

20 land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, saying, "Every seventh year each

of you must set free any Hebrews who have been sold to you and have served you six years; you must set them free from your service." But your ancestors did not listen to me or incline their ears to me. You yourselves recently repented and did what was right in my sight by proclaiming liberty

5 to one another, and you made a covenant before me in the house that is called by my name; but then you turned around and profaned my name when each of you took back your male and female slaves, whom you had set free according to their desire, and you brought them again into subjection to be your slaves. Therefore, thus says the LORD: You have not obeyed me

10 by granting a release to your neighbors and friends; I am going to grant a release to you, says the LORD--a release to the sword, to pestilence, and to famine. I will make you a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. And those who transgressed my covenant and did not keep the terms of the covenant that they made before me, I will make like the calf when they cut

15 it in two and passed between its parts: the officials of Judah, the officials of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, the priests, and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf shall be handed over to their enemies and to those who seek their lives. Their corpses shall become food for the birds of the air and the wild animals of the earth. And as for King Zedekiah

20 of Judah and his officials, I will hand them over to their enemies and to

those who seek their lives, to the army of the king of Babylon, which has withdrawn from you. I am going to command, says the LORD, and will bring them back to this city; and they will fight against it, and take it, and burn it with fire. The towns of Judah I will make a desolation without inhabitant. The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the days of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah: Go to the house of the Rechabites, and speak with them, and bring them to the house of the LORD, into one of the chambers; then offer them wine to drink. So I took Jaazaniah son of Jeremiah son of Habazziniah, and his brothers, and all his sons, and the whole house of the Rechabites. I brought them to the house of the LORD into the chamber of the sons of Hanan son of Igdaliah, the man of God, which was near the chamber of the officials, above the chamber of Maaseiah son of Shallum, keeper of the threshold. Then I set before the Rechabites pitchers full of wine, and cups; and I said to them, "Have some wine." But they answered, "We will drink no wine, for our ancestor Jonadab son of Rechab commanded us, 'You shall never drink wine, neither you nor your children; nor shall you ever build a house, or sow seed; nor shall you plant a vineyard, or even own one; but you shall live in tents all your days, that you may live many days in the land where you reside.' We have obeyed the charge of our ancestor Jonadab son of Rechab in all that he commanded us,

to drink no wine all our days, ourselves, our wives, our sons, or our daughters, and not to build houses to live in. We have no vineyard or field or seed; but we have lived in tents, and have obeyed and done all that our ancestor Jonadab commanded us. But when King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon

5 came up against the land, we said, 'Come, and let us go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans and the army of the Arameans.' That is why we are living in Jerusalem." Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Go and say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Can you not learn a

10 lesson and obey my words? says the LORD. The command has been carried out that Jonadab son of Rechab gave to his descendants to drink no wine; and they drink none to this day, for they have obeyed their ancestor's command. But I myself have spoken to you persistently, and you have not obeyed me. I have sent to you all my servants the prophets, sending them

15 persistently, saying, "Turn now everyone of you from your evil way, and amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them, and then you shall live in the land that I gave to you and your ancestors.' But you did not incline your ear or obey me. The descendants of Jonadab son of Rechab have carried out the command that their ancestor gave them, but this

20 people has not obeyed me. Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of hosts,

the God of Israel: I am going to bring on Judah and on all the inhabitants of Jerusalem every disaster that I have pronounced against them; because I have spoken to them and they have not listened, I have called to them and they have not answered. But to the house of the Rechabites Jeremiah said:

5 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Because you have obeyed the command of your ancestor Jonadab, and kept all his precepts, and done all that he commanded you, therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Jonadab son of Rechab shall not lack a descendant to stand before me for all time. In the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of

10 Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD: Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah until today. It may be that when the house of Judah hears of all the disasters that I intend to do to them, all of them may turn from their evil ways, so that I

15 may forgive their iniquity and their sin. Then Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at Jeremiah's dictation all the words of the LORD that he had spoken to him. And Jeremiah ordered Baruch, saying, "I am prevented from entering the house of the LORD; so you go yourself, and on a fast day in the hearing of the people in the Lord's house you shall

20 read the words of the LORD from the scroll that you have written at my

dictation. You shall read them also in the hearing of all the people of Judah who come up from their towns. It may be that their plea will come before the LORD, and that all of them will turn from their evil ways, for great is the anger and wrath that the LORD has pronounced against this people." And

5 Baruch son of Neriah did all that the prophet Jeremiah ordered him about reading from the scroll the words of the LORD in the Lord's house. In the fifth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, in the ninth month, all the people in Jerusalem and all the people who came from the towns of Judah to Jerusalem proclaimed a fast before the LORD. Then, in the hearing

10 of all the people, Baruch read the words of Jeremiah from the scroll, in the house of the LORD, in the chamber of Gemariah son of Shaphan the secretary, which was in the upper court, at the entry of the New Gate of the Lord's house. When Micaiah son of Gemariah son of Shaphan heard all the words of the LORD from the scroll, he went down to the king's house, into

15 the secretary's chamber; and all the officials were sitting there: Elishama the secretary, Delaiah son of Shemaiah, Elnathan son of Achbor, Gemariah son of Shaphan, Zedekiah son of Hananiah, and all the officials. And Micaiah told them all the words that he had heard, when Baruch read the scroll in the hearing of the people. Then all the officials sent Jehudi son of Nethaniah

20 son of Shelemiah son of Cushi to say to Baruch, "Bring the scroll that you

read in the hearing of the people, and come." So Baruch son of Neriah took the scroll in his hand and came to them. And they said to him, "Sit down and read it to us." So Baruch read it to them. When they heard all the words, they turned to one another in alarm, and said to Baruch, "We

5 certainly must report all these words to the king." Then they questioned Baruch, "Tell us now, how did you write all these words? Was it at his dictation?" Baruch answered them, "He dictated all these words to me, and I wrote them with ink on the scroll." Then the officials said to Baruch, "Go and hide, you and Jeremiah, and let no one know where you are." Leaving

10 the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the secretary, they went to the court of the king; and they reported all the words to the king. Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the secretary; and Jehudi read it to the king and all the officials who stood beside the king. Now the king was sitting in his winter apartment (it was the

15 ninth month), and there was a fire burning in the brazier before him. As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a penknife and throw them into the fire in the brazier, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the brazier. Yet neither the king, nor any of his servants who heard all these words, was alarmed, nor did they

20 tear their garments. Even when Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah urged the

king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them. And the king
commanded Jerahmeel the king's son and Seraiah son of Azriel and
Shelemiah son of Abdeel to arrest the secretary Baruch and the prophet
Jeremiah. But the LORD hid them. Now, after the king had burned the scroll
5 with the words that Baruch wrote at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the
LORD came to Jeremiah: Take another scroll and write on it all the former
words that were in the first scroll, which King Jehoiakim of Judah has
burned. And concerning King Jehoiakim of Judah you shall say: Thus says
the LORD, You have dared to burn this scroll, saying, Why have you
10 written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this
land, and will cut off from it human beings and animals? Therefore thus says
the LORD concerning King Jehoiakim of Judah: He shall have no one to sit
upon the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat
by day and the frost by night. And I will punish him and his offspring and
15 his servants for their iniquity; I will bring on them, and on the inhabitants of
Jerusalem, and on the people of Judah, all the disasters with which I have
threatened them--but they would not listen. Then Jeremiah took another scroll
and gave it to the secretary Baruch son of Neriah, who wrote on it at
Jeremiah's dictation all the words of the scroll that King Jehoiakim of Judah
20 had burned in the fire; and many similar words were added to them.

Zedekiah son of Josiah, whom King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon made king
in the land of Judah, succeeded Coniah son of Jehoiakim. But neither he nor
his servants nor the people of the land listened to the words of the LORD
that he spoke through the prophet Jeremiah. King Zedekiah sent Jehucal son
5 of Shelemiah and the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah to the prophet
Jeremiah saying, "Please pray for us to the LORD our God." Now Jeremiah
was still going in and out among the people, for he had not yet been put in
prison. Meanwhile, the army of Pharaoh had come out of Egypt; and when
the Chaldeans who were besieging Jerusalem heard news of them, they
10 withdrew from Jerusalem. Then the word of the LORD came to the prophet
Jeremiah: Thus says the LORD, God of Israel: This is what the two of you
shall say to the king of Judah, who sent you to me to inquire of me,
Pharaoh's army, which set out to help you, is going to return to its own
land, to Egypt. And the Chaldeans shall return and fight against this city;
15 they shall take it and burn it with fire. Thus says the LORD: Do not
deceive yourselves, saying, "The Chaldeans will surely go away from us," for
they will not go away. Even if you defeated the whole army of Chaldeans
who are fighting against you, and there remained of them only wounded men
in their tents, they would rise up and burn this city with fire. Now when the
20 Chaldean army had withdrawn from Jerusalem at the approach of Pharaoh's

army, Jeremiah set out from Jerusalem to go to the land of Benjamin to receive his share of property among the people there. When he reached the Benjamin Gate, a sentinel there named Irijah son of Shelemiah son of Hananiah arrested the prophet Jeremiah saying, "You are deserting to the
5 Chaldeans." And Jeremiah said, "That is a lie; I am not deserting to the Chaldeans." But Irijah would not listen to him, and arrested Jeremiah and brought him to the officials. The officials were enraged at Jeremiah, and they beat him and imprisoned him in the house of the secretary Jonathan, for it had been made a prison. Thus Jeremiah was put in the cistern house, in the
10 cells, and remained there many days. Then King Zedekiah sent for him, and received him. The king questioned him secretly in his house, and said, "Is there any word from the LORD?" Jeremiah said, "There is!" Then he said, "You shall be handed over to the king of Babylon." Jeremiah also said to King Zedekiah, "What wrong have I done to you or your servants or this
15 people, that you have put me in prison? Where are your prophets who prophesied to you, saying, 'The king of Babylon will not come against you and against this land'? Now please hear me, my lord king: be good enough to listen to my plea, and do not send me back to the house of the secretary Jonathan to die there." So King Zedekiah gave orders, and they committed
20 Jeremiah to the court of the guard; and a loaf of bread was given him daily

from the bakers' street, until all the bread of the city was gone. So Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard. Now Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son of Pashhur, Jucal son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur son of Malchiah heard the words that Jeremiah was saying to all the people, Thus says the LORD,

5 Those who stay in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence; but those who go out to the Chaldeans shall live; they shall have their lives as a prize of war, and live. Thus says the LORD, This city shall surely be handed over to the army of the king of Babylon and be taken.

Then the officials said to the king, "This man ought to be put to death,

10 because he is discouraging the soldiers who are left in this city, and all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm." King Zedekiah said, "Here he is; he is in your hands; for the king is powerless against you." So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern of Malchiah, the king's son, which

15 was in the court of the guard, letting Jeremiah down by ropes. Now there was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.

Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, a eunuch in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern. The king happened to be sitting at the Benjamin Gate, So Ebed-melech left the king's house and spoke to the king,

20 "My lord king, these men have acted wickedly in all they did to the prophet

Jeremiah by throwing him into the cistern to die there of hunger, for there is no bread left in the city." Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, "Take three men with you from here, and pull the prophet Jeremiah up from the cistern before he dies." So Ebed-melech took the men

5 with him and went to the house of the king, to a wardrobe of the storehouse, and took from there old rags and worn-out clothes, which he let down to Jeremiah in the cistern by ropes. Then Ebed-melech the Ethiopian said to Jeremiah, "Just put the rags and clothes between your armpits and the ropes." Jeremiah did so. Then they drew Jeremiah up by the ropes and

10 pulled him out of the cistern. And Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard. King Zedekiah sent for the prophet Jeremiah and received him at the third entrance of the temple of the LORD. The king said to Jeremiah, "I have something to ask you; do not hide anything from me." Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "If I tell you, you will put me to death, will you not? And if I

15 give you advice, you will not listen to me." So King Zedekiah swore an oath in secret to Jeremiah, "As the LORD lives, who gave us our lives, I will not put you to death or hand you over to these men who seek your life." Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "Thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel, If you will only surrender to the officials of the

20 king of Babylon, then your life shall be spared, and this city shall not be

burned with fire, and you and your house shall live. But if you do not
surrender to the officials of the king of Babylon, then this city shall be
handed over to the Chaldeans, and they shall burn it with fire, and you
yourself shall not escape from their hand." King Zedekiah said to Jeremiah,
5 "I am afraid of the Judeans who have deserted to the Chaldeans, for I might
be handed over to them and they would abuse me." Jeremiah said, "That will
not happen. Just obey the voice of the LORD in what I say to you, and it
shall go well with you, and your life shall be spared. But if you are
determined not to surrender, this is what the LORD has shown me-- a vision
10 of all the women remaining in the house of the king of Judah being led out
to the officials of the king of Babylon and saying, 'Your trusted friends have
seduced you and have overcome you; Now that your feet are stuck in the
mud, they desert you.' All your wives and your children shall be led out to
the Chaldeans, and you yourself shall not escape from their hand, but shall
15 be seized by the king of Babylon; and this city shall be burned with fire."
Then Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, "Do not let anyone else know of this
conversation, or you will die. If the officials should hear that I have spoken
with you, and they should come and say to you, 'Just tell us what you said
to the king; do not conceal it from us, or we will put you to death. What
20 did the king say to you?' then you shall say to them, 'I was presenting my

plea to the king not to send me back to the house of Jonathan to die there."

All the officials did come to Jeremiah and questioned him; and he answered them in the very words the king had commanded. So they stopped questioning him, for the conversation had not been overheard. And Jeremiah

5 remained in the court of the guard until the day that Jerusalem was taken. In the ninth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, in the tenth month, King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and besieged it; in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, a breach was made in the city. When Jerusalem was

10 taken, all the officials of the king of Babylon came and sat in the middle gate: Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim the Rab-saris, Nergal-sharezer the Rab-mag, with all the rest of the officials of the king of Babylon. When King Zedekiah of Judah and all the soldiers saw them, they fled, going out of the city at night by way of the king's garden through the gate between

15 the two walls; and they went toward the Arabah. But the army of the Chaldeans pursued them, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and when they had taken him, they brought him up to King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon, at Riblah, in the land of Hamath; and he passed sentence on him. The king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah at Riblah before his

20 eyes; also the king of Babylon slaughtered all the nobles of Judah. He put

out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in fetters to take him to Babylon.

The Chaldeans burned the king's house and the houses of the people, and broke down the walls of Jerusalem. Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard exiled to Babylon the rest of the people who were left in the city,

5 those who had deserted to him, and the people who remained. Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left in the land of Judah some of the poor people who owned nothing, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time.

King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon gave command concerning Jeremiah through Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, saying, "Take him, look after him

10 well and do him no harm, but deal with him as he may ask you." So Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, Nebushazban the Rab-saris, Nergal-sharezer the Rab-mag, and all the chief officers of the king of Babylon sent and took Jeremiah from the court of the guard. They entrusted him to Gedaliah son of Ahikam son of Shaphan to be brought home. So he stayed

15 with his own people. The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah while he was confined in the court of the guard: Go and say to Ebed-melech the Ethiopian: Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I am going to fulfill my words against this city for evil and not for good, and they shall be accomplished in your presence on that day. But I will save you on that

20 day, says the LORD, and you shall not be handed over to those whom you

dread. For I will surely save you, and you shall not fall by the sword; but you shall have your life as a prize of war, because you have trusted in me, says the LORD. The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD after Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had let him go from Ramah, when he

5 took him bound in fetters along with all the captives of Jerusalem and Judah who were being exiled to Babylon. The captain of the guard took Jeremiah and said to him, "The LORD your God threatened this place with this disaster; and now the LORD has brought it about, and has done as he said, because all of you sinned against the LORD and did not obey his voice.

10 Therefore this thing has come upon you. Now look, I have just released you today from the fetters on your hands. If you wish to come with me to Babylon, come, and I will take good care of you; but if you do not wish to come with me to Babylon, you need not come. See, the whole land is before you; go wherever you think it good and right to go. If you remain, then

15 return to Gedaliah son of Ahikam son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon appointed governor of the towns of Judah, and stay with him among the people; or go wherever you think it right to go." So the captain of the guard gave him an allowance of food and a present, and let him go. Then Jeremiah went to Gedaliah son of Ahikam at Mizpah, and stayed with him

20 among the people who were left in the land. When all the leaders of the

forces in the open country and their troops heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam governor in the land, and had committed to him men, women, and children, those of the poorest of the land who had not been taken into exile to Babylon, they went to Gedaliah at

5 Mizpah--Ishmael son of Nethaniah, Johanan son of Kareah, Seraiah son of Tanhumeth, the sons of Ephai the Netophathite, Jezaniah son of the Maacathite, they and their troops. Gedaliah son of Ahikam son of Shaphan swore to them and their troops, saying, "Do not be afraid to serve the Chaldeans. Stay in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall go

10 well with you. As for me, I am staying at Mizpah to represent you before the Chaldeans who come to us; but as for you, gather wine and summer fruits and oil, and store them in your vessels, and live in the towns that you have taken over." Likewise, when all the Judeans who were in Moab and among the Ammonites and in Edom and in other lands heard that the king

15 of Babylon had left a remnant in Judah and had appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam son of Shaphan as governor over them, then all the Judeans returned from all the places to which they had been scattered and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah at Mizpah; and they gathered wine and summer fruits in great abundance. Now Johanan son of Kareah and all the leaders of the

20 forces in the open country came to Gedaliah at Mizpah and said to him,

"Are you at all aware that Baalis king of the Ammonites has sent Ishmael son of Nethaniah to take your life?" But Gedaliah son of Ahikam would not believe them. Then Johanan son of Kareah spoke secretly to Gedaliah at Mizpah, "Please let me go and kill Ishmael son of Nethaniah, and no one
5 else will know. Why should he take your life, so that all the Judeans who are gathered around you would be scattered, and the remnant of Judah would perish?" But Gedaliah son of Ahikam said to Johanan son of Kareah, "Do not do such a thing, for you are telling a lie about Ishmael." In the seventh month, Ishmael son of Nethaniah son of Elishama, of the royal family, one
10 of the chief officers of the king, came with ten men to Gedaliah son of Ahikam, at Mizpah. As they ate bread together there at Mizpah, Ishmael son of Nethaniah and the ten men with him got up and struck down Gedaliah son of Ahikam son of Shaphan with the sword and killed him, because the king of Babylon had appointed him governor in the land. Ishmael also killed
15 all the Judeans who were with Gedaliah at Mizpah, and the Chaldean soldiers who happened to be there. On the day after the murder of Gedaliah, before anyone knew of it, eighty men arrived from Shechem and Shiloh and Samaria, with their beards shaved and their clothes torn, and their bodies gashed, bringing grain offerings and incense to present at the temple of the
20 LORD. And Ishmael son of Nethaniah came out from Mizpah to meet them,

weeping as he came. As he met them, he said to them, "Come to Gedaliah son of Ahikam." When they reached the middle of the city, Ishmael son of Nethaniah and the men with him slaughtered them, and threw them into a cistern. But there were ten men among them who said to Ishmael, "Do not
5 kill us, for we have stores of wheat, barley, oil, and honey hidden in the fields." So he refrained, and did not kill them along with their companions. Now the cistern into which Ishmael had thrown all the bodies of the men whom he had struck down was the large cistern that King Asa had made for defense against King Baasha of Israel; Ishmael son of Nethaniah filled that
10 cistern with those whom he had killed. Then Ishmael took captive all the rest of the people who were in Mizpah, the king's daughters and all the people who were left at Mizpah, whom Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, had committed to Gedaliah son of Ahikam. Ishmael son of Nethaniah took them captive and set out to cross over to the Ammonites. But when Johanan son
15 of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces with him heard of all the crimes that Ishmael son of Nethaniah had done, they took all their men and went to fight against Ishmael son of Nethaniah. They came upon him at the great pool that is in Gibeon. And when all the people who were with Ishmael saw Johanan son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces with him, they were
20 glad. So all the people whom Ishmael had carried away captive from Mizpah

turned around and came back, and went to Johanan son of Kareah. But
Ishmael son of Nethaniah escaped from Johanan with eight men, and went to
the Ammonites. Then Johanan son of Kareah and all the leaders of the
forces with him took all the rest of the people whom Ishmael son of
5 Nethaniah had carried away captive from Mizpah after he had slain Gedaliah
son of Ahikam--soldiers, women, children, and eunuchs, whom Johanan
brought back from Gibeon. And they set out, and stopped at Geruth
Chimham near Bethlehem, intending to go to Egypt because of the
Chaldeans; for they were afraid of them, because Ishmael son of Nethaniah
10 had killed Gedaliah son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had made
governor over the land. Then all the commanders of the forces, and Johanan
son of Kareah and Azariah son of Hoshai, and all the people from the
least to the greatest, approached the prophet Jeremiah and said, "Be good
enough to listen to our plea, and pray to the LORD your God for us--for all
15 this remnant. For there are only a few of us left out of many, as your eyes
can see. Let the LORD your God show us where we should go and what
we should do." The prophet Jeremiah said to them, "Very well: I am going
to pray to the LORD your God as you request, and whatever the LORD
answers you I will tell you; I will keep nothing back from you." They in
20 their turn said to Jeremiah, "May the LORD be a true and faithful witness

against us if we do not act according to everything that the LORD your God sends us through you. Whether it is good or bad, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God to whom we are sending you, in order that it may go well with us when we obey the voice of the LORD our God." At the end

5 of ten days the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah. Then he summoned Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces who were with him, and all the people from the least to the greatest, and said to them,

"Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your plea before him: If you will only remain in this land, then I will build

10 you up and not pull you down; I will plant you, and not pluck you up; for I am sorry for the disaster that I have brought upon you. Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, as you have been; do not be afraid of him, says the LORD, for I am with you, to save you and to rescue you from his hand. I will grant you mercy, and he will have mercy on you and restore you to

15 your native soil. But if you continue to say, 'We will not stay in this land,' thus disobeying the voice of the LORD your God and saying, 'No, we will go to the land of Egypt, where we shall not see war, or hear the sound of the trumpet, or be hungry for bread, and there we will stay,' then hear the word of the LORD, O remnant of Judah. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the

20 God of Israel: If you are determined to enter Egypt and go to settle there,

then the sword that you fear shall overtake you there, in the land of Egypt;
and the famine that you dread shall follow close after you into Egypt; and
there you shall die. All the people who have determined to go to Egypt to
settle there shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence; they shall
5 have no remnant or survivor from the disaster that I am bringing upon them.
"For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Just as my anger and
my wrath were poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so my wrath will
be poured out on you when you go to Egypt. You shall become an object of
execration and horror, of cursing and ridicule. You shall see this place no
10 more. The LORD has said to you, O remnant of Judah, Do not go to Egypt.
Be well aware that I have warned you today that you have made a fatal
mistake. For you yourselves sent me to the LORD your God, saying, 'Pray
for us to the LORD our God, and whatever the LORD our God says, tell us
and we will do it.' So I have told you today, but you have not obeyed the
15 voice of the LORD your God in anything that he sent me to tell you. Be
well aware, then, that you shall die by the sword, by famine, and by
pestilence in the place where you desire to go and settle." When Jeremiah
finished speaking to all the people all these words of the LORD their God,
with which the LORD their God had sent him to them, Azariah son of
20 Hoshaiiah and Johanan son of Kareah and all the other insolent men said to

Jeremiah, "You are telling a lie. The LORD our God did not send you to say, 'Do not go to Egypt to settle there'; but Baruch son of Neriah is inciting you against us, to hand us over to the Chaldeans, in order that they may kill us or take us into exile in Babylon." So Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces and all the people did not obey the voice of the LORD, to stay in the land of Judah. But Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces took all the remnant of Judah who had returned to settle in the land of Judah from all the nations to which they had been driven-- the men, the women, the children, the princesses, and everyone whom Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah son of Ahikam son of Shaphan; also the prophet Jeremiah and Baruch son of Neriah. And they came into the land of Egypt, for they did not obey the voice of the LORD. And they arrived at Tahpanhes. Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah in Tahpanhes: Take some large stones in your hands, and bury them in the clay pavement that is at the entrance to Pharaoh's palace in Tahpanhes. Let the Judeans see you do it, and say to them, Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I am going to send and take my servant King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon, and he will set his throne above these stones that I have buried, and he will spread his royal canopy over them. He shall come and ravage the land of Egypt, giving those

who are destined for pestilence, to pestilence, and those who are destined for captivity, to captivity, and those who are destined for the sword, to the sword. He shall kindle a fire in the temples of the gods of Egypt; and he shall burn them and carry them away captive; and he shall pick clean the land of Egypt, as a shepherd picks his cloak clean of vermin; and he shall depart from there safely. He shall break the obelisks of Heliopolis, which is in the land of Egypt; and the temples of the gods of Egypt he shall burn with fire. The word that came to Jeremiah for all the Judeans living in the land of Egypt, at Migdol, at Tahpanhes, at Memphis, and in the land of Pathros, Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: You yourselves have seen all the disaster that I have brought on Jerusalem and on all the towns of Judah. Look at them; today they are a desolation, without an inhabitant in them, because of the wickedness that they committed, provoking me to anger, in that they went to make offerings and serve other gods that they had not known, neither they, nor you, nor your ancestors. Yet I persistently sent to you all my servants the prophets, saying, "I beg you not to do this abominable thing that I hate!" But they did not listen or incline their ear, to turn from their wickedness and make no offerings to other gods. So my wrath and my anger were poured out and kindled in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they became a waste and a

desolation, as they still are today. And now thus says the LORD God of
hosts, the God of Israel: Why are you doing such great harm to yourselves,
to cut off man and woman, child and infant, from the midst of Judah,
leaving yourselves without a remnant? Why do you provoke me to anger
5 with the works of your hands, making offerings to other gods in the land of
Egypt where you have come to settle? Will you be cut off and become an
object of cursing and ridicule among all the nations of the earth? Have you
forgotten the crimes of your ancestors, of the kings of Judah, of their wives,
your own crimes and those of your wives, which they committed in the land
10 of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? They have shown no contrition or
fear to this day, nor have they walked in my law and my statutes that I set
before you and before your ancestors. Therefore thus says the LORD of
hosts, the God of Israel: I am determined to bring disaster on you, to bring
all Judah to an end. I will take the remnant of Judah who are determined to
15 come to the land of Egypt to settle, and they shall perish, everyone; in the
land of Egypt they shall fall; by the sword and by famine they shall perish;
from the least to the greatest, they shall die by the sword and by famine;
and they shall become an object of execration and horror, of cursing and
ridicule. I will punish those who live in the land of Egypt, as I have
20 punished Jerusalem, with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence, so that

none of the remnant of Judah who have come to settle in the land of Egypt shall escape or survive or return to the land of Judah. Although they long to go back to live there, they shall not go back, except some fugitives. Then all the men who were aware that their wives had been making offerings to other
5 gods, and all the women who stood by, a great assembly, all the people who lived in Pathros in the land of Egypt, answered Jeremiah: "As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we are not going to listen to you. Instead, we will do everything that we have vowed, make offerings to the queen of heaven and pour out libations to her, just as we
10 and our ancestors, our kings and our officials, used to do in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. We used to have plenty of food, and prospered, and saw no misfortune. But from the time we stopped making offerings to the queen of heaven and pouring out libations to her, we have lacked everything and have perished by the sword and by famine." And the
15 women said, "Indeed we will go on making offerings to the queen of heaven and pouring out libations to her; do you think that we made cakes for her, marked with her image, and poured out libations to her without our husbands' being involved?" Then Jeremiah said to all the people, men and women, all the people who were giving him this answer: "As for the offerings that you
20 made in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, you and your

ancestors, your kings and your officials, and the people of the land, did not the LORD remember them? Did it not come into his mind? The LORD could no longer bear the sight of your evil doings, the abominations that you committed; therefore your land became a desolation and a waste and a curse, without inhabitant, as it is to this day. It is because you burned offerings, and because you sinned against the LORD and did not obey the voice of the LORD or walk in his law and in his statutes and in his decrees, that this disaster has befallen you, as is still evident today." Jeremiah said to all the people and all the women, "Hear the word of the LORD, all you Judeans who are in the land of Egypt, Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: You and your wives have accomplished in deeds what you declared in words, saying, 'We are determined to perform the vows that we have made, to make offerings to the queen of heaven and to pour out libations to her.' By all means, keep your vows and make your libations! Therefore hear the word of the LORD, all you Judeans who live in the land of Egypt: Lo, I swear by my great name, says the LORD, that my name shall no longer be pronounced on the lips of any of the people of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, 'As the Lord GOD lives.' I am going to watch over them for harm and not for good; all the people of Judah who are in the land of Egypt shall perish by the sword and by famine, until not one is left. And

those who escape the sword shall return from the land of Egypt to the land of Judah, few in number; and all the remnant of Judah, who have come to the land of Egypt to settle, shall know whose words will stand, mine or theirs! This shall be the sign to you, says the LORD, that I am going to

5 punish you in this place, in order that you may know that my words against you will surely be carried out: Thus says the LORD, I am going to give Pharaoh Hophra, king of Egypt, into the hands of his enemies, those who seek his life, just as I gave King Zedekiah of Judah into the hand of King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon, his enemy who sought his life." The word that

10 the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Baruch son of Neriah, when he wrote these words in a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah: Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch: You said, "Woe is me! The LORD has added sorrow to my pain; I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest." Thus you shall

15 say to him, "Thus says the LORD: I am going to break down what I have built, and pluck up what I have planted--that is, the whole land. And you, do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them; for I am going to bring disaster upon all flesh, says the LORD; but I will give you your life as a prize of war in every place to which you may go." The word of the

20 LORD that came to the prophet Jeremiah concerning the nations. Concerning

Egypt, about the army of Pharaoh Neco, king of Egypt, which was by the river Euphrates at Carchemish and which King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon defeated in the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah:

Prepare buckler and shield, and advance for battle! Harness the horses; mount

5 the steeds! Take your stations with your helmets, whet your lances, put on your coats of mail! Why do I see them terrified? They have fallen back; their warriors are beaten down, and have fled in haste. They do not look back-- terror is all around! says the LORD. The swift cannot flee away, nor can the warrior escape; in the north by the river Euphrates they have

10 stumbled and fallen. Who is this, rising like the Nile, like rivers whose waters surge? Egypt rises like the Nile, like rivers whose waters surge. It said, Let me rise, let me cover the earth, let me destroy cities and their inhabitants. Advance, O horses, and dash madly, O chariots! Let the warriors go forth: Ethiopia and Put who carry the shield, the Ludim, who draw the

15 bow. That day is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of retribution, to gain vindication from his foes. The sword shall devour and be sated, and drink its fill of their blood. For the Lord GOD of hosts holds a sacrifice in the land of the north by the river Euphrates. Go up to Gilead, and take balm, O virgin daughter Egypt! In vain you have used many medicines; there

20 is no healing for you. The nations have heard of your shame, and the earth

is full of your cry; for warrior has stumbled against warrior; both have fallen together. The word that the LORD spoke to the prophet Jeremiah about the coming of King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon to attack the land of Egypt: Declare in Egypt, and proclaim in Migdol; proclaim in Memphis and

5 Tahpanhes; Say, "Take your stations and be ready, for the sword shall devour those around you." Why has Apis fled? Why did your bull not stand? -- because the LORD thrust him down. Your multitude stumbled and fell, and one said to another, "Come, let us go back to our own people and to the land of our birth, because of the destroying sword." Give Pharaoh, king of

10 Egypt, the name "Braggart who missed his chance." As I live, says the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts, one is coming like Tabor among the mountains, and like Carmel by the sea. Pack your bags for exile, sheltered daughter Egypt! For Memphis shall become a waste, a ruin, without inhabitant. A beautiful heifer is Egypt-- a gadfly from the north lights upon

15 her. Even her mercenaries in her midst are like fatted calves; they too have turned and fled together, they did not stand; for the day of their calamity has come upon them, the time of their punishment. She makes a sound like a snake gliding away; for her enemies march in force, and come against her with axes, like those who fell trees. They shall cut down her forest, says the

20 LORD, though it is impenetrable, because they are more numerous than

locusts; they are without number. Daughter Egypt shall be put to shame; she shall be handed over to a people from the north. The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, said: See, I am bringing punishment upon Amon of Thebes, and Pharaoh, and Egypt and her gods and her kings, upon Pharaoh and those
5 who trust in him. I will hand them over to those who seek their life, to King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon and his officers. Afterward Egypt shall be inhabited as in the days of old, says the LORD. But as for you, have no fear, my servant Jacob, and do not be dismayed, O Israel; for I am going to save you from far away, and your offspring from the land of their captivity.
10 Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease, and no one shall make him afraid. As for you, have no fear, my servant Jacob, says the LORD, for I am with you. I will make an end of all the nations among which I have banished you, but I will not make an end of you! I will chastise you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished. The word of the
15 LORD that came to the prophet Jeremiah concerning the Philistines, before Pharaoh attacked Gaza: Thus says the LORD: See, waters are rising out of the north and shall become an overflowing torrent; they shall overflow the land and all that fills it, the city and those who live in it. People shall cry out, and all the inhabitants of the land shall wail. At the noise of the
20 stamping of the hoofs of his stallions, at the clatter of his chariots, at the

rumbling of their wheels, parents do not turn back for children, so feeble are their hands, because of the day that is coming to destroy all the Philistines, to cut off from Tyre and Sidon every helper that remains. For the LORD is destroying the Philistines, the remnant of the coastland of Caphtor. Baldness
5 has come upon Gaza, Ashkelon is silenced. O remnant of their power! How long will you gash yourselves? Ah, sword of the LORD! How long until you are quiet? Put yourself into your scabbard, rest and be still! How can it be quiet, when the LORD has given it an order? Against Ashkelon and against the seashore-- there he has appointed it. Concerning Moab. Thus says the
10 LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Alas for Nebo, it is laid waste! Kiriathaim is put to shame, it is taken; the fortress is put to shame and broken down; the renown of Moab is no more. In Heshbon they planned evil against her: "Come, let us cut her off from being a nation!" You also, O Madmen, shall be brought to silence; the sword shall pursue you. Hark! a
15 cry from Horonaim, "Desolation and great destruction!" "Moab is destroyed!" her little ones cry out. For at the ascent of Luhith they go up weeping bitterly; for at the descent of Horonaim they have heard the distressing cry of anguish. Flee! Save yourselves! Be like a wild ass in the desert! Surely, because you trusted in your strongholds and your treasures, you also shall be
20 taken; Chemosh shall go out into exile, with his priests and his attendants.

The destroyer shall come upon every town, and no town shall escape; the valley shall perish, and the plain shall be destroyed, as the LORD has spoken. Set aside salt for Moab, for she will surely fall; her towns shall become a desolation, with no inhabitant in them. Accursed is the one who is
5 slack in doing the work of the LORD; and accursed is the one who keeps back the sword from bloodshed. Moab has been at ease from his youth, settled like wine on its dregs; he has not been emptied from vessel to vessel, nor has he gone into exile; therefore his flavor has remained and his aroma is unspoiled. Therefore, the time is surely coming, says the LORD, when I
10 shall send to him decanters to decant him, and empty his vessels, and break his jars in pieces. Then Moab shall be ashamed of Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed of Bethel, their confidence. How can you say, "We are heroes and mighty warriors"? The destroyer of Moab and his towns has come up, and the choicest of his young men have gone down to slaughter, says
15 the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts. The calamity of Moab is near at hand and his doom approaches swiftly. Mourn over him, all you his neighbors, and all who know his name; say, "How the mighty scepter is broken, the glorious staff!" Come down from glory, and sit on the parched ground, enthroned daughter Dibon! For the destroyer of Moab has come up
20 against you; he has destroyed your strongholds. Stand by the road and watch,

you inhabitant of Aroer! Ask the man fleeing and the woman escaping; say,
"What has happened?" Moab is put to shame, for it is broken down; wail
and cry! Tell it by the Arnon, that Moab is laid waste. Judgment has come
upon the tableland, upon Holon, and Jahzah, and Mephaath, and Dibon, and
5 Nebo, and Beth-diblathaim, and Kiriathaim, and Beth-gamul, and Beth-meon,
and Kerioth, and Bozrah, and all the towns of the land of Moab, far and
near. The horn of Moab is cut off, and his arm is broken, says the LORD.
Make him drunk, because he magnified himself against the LORD; let Moab
wallow in his vomit; he too shall become a laughingstock. Israel was a
10 laughingstock for you, though he was not caught among thieves; but
whenever you spoke of him you shook your head! Leave the towns, and live
on the rock, O inhabitants of Moab! Be like the dove that nests on the sides
of the mouth of a gorge. We have heard of the pride of Moab-- he is very
proud-- of his loftiness, his pride, and his arrogance, and the haughtiness of
15 his heart. I myself know his insolence, says the LORD; his boasts are false,
his deeds are false. Therefore I wail for Moab; I cry out for all Moab; for
the people of Kir-heres I mourn. More than for Jazer I weep for you, O
vine of Sibmah! Your branches crossed over the sea, reached as far as Jazer;
upon your summer fruits and your vintage the destroyer has fallen. Gladness
20 and joy have been taken away from the fruitful land of Moab; I have

stopped the wine from the wine presses; no one treads them with shouts of joy; the shouting is not the shout of joy. Heshbon and Elealeh cry out; as far as Jahaz they utter their voice, from Zoar to Horonaim and Eglath-shelishiyah. For even the waters of Nimrim have become desolate. And I will
5 bring to an end in Moab, says the LORD, those who offer sacrifice at a high place and make offerings to their gods. Therefore my heart moans for Moab like a flute, and my heart moans like a flute for the people of Kirheres; for the riches they gained have perished. For every head is shaved and every beard cut off; on all the hands there are gashes, and on the loins
10 sackcloth. On all the housetops of Moab and in the squares there is nothing but lamentation; for I have broken Moab like a vessel that no one wants, says the LORD. How it is broken! How they wail! How Moab has turned his back in shame! So Moab has become a derision and a horror to all his neighbors. For thus says the LORD: Look, he shall swoop down like an
15 eagle, and spread his wings against Moab; the towns shall be taken and the strongholds seized. The hearts of the warriors of Moab, on that day, shall be like the heart of a woman in labor. Moab shall be destroyed as a people, because he magnified himself against the LORD. Terror, pit, and trap are before you, O inhabitants of Moab! says the LORD. Everyone who flees
20 from the terror shall fall into the pit, and everyone who climbs out of the

pit shall be caught in the trap. For I will bring these things upon Moab in the year of their punishment, says the LORD. In the shadow of Heshbon fugitives stop exhausted; for a fire has gone out from Heshbon, a flame from the house of Sihon; it has destroyed the forehead of Moab, the scalp of the people of tumult. Woe to you, O Moab! The people of Chemosh have perished, for your sons have been taken captive, and your daughters into captivity. Yet I will restore the fortunes of Moab in the latter days, says the LORD. Thus far is the judgment on Moab. Concerning the Ammonites. Thus says the LORD: Has Israel no sons? Has he no heir? Why then has Milcom dispossessed Gad, and his people settled in its towns? Therefore, the time is surely coming, says the LORD, when I will sound the battle alarm against Rabbah of the Ammonites; it shall become a desolate mound, and its villages shall be burned with fire; then Israel shall dispossess those who dispossessed him, says the LORD. Wail, O Heshbon, for Ai is laid waste! Cry out, O daughters of Rabbah! Put on sackcloth, lament, and slash yourselves with whips! For Milcom shall go into exile, with his priests and his attendants. Why do you boast in your strength? Your strength is ebbing, O faithless daughter. You trusted in your treasures, saying, "Who will attack me?" I am going to bring terror upon you, says the Lord GOD of hosts, from all your neighbors, and you will be scattered, each headlong, with no one to gather

the fugitives. But afterward I will restore the fortunes of the Ammonites,
says the LORD. Concerning Edom. Thus says the LORD of hosts: Is there
no longer wisdom in Teman? Has counsel perished from the prudent? Has
their wisdom vanished? Flee, turn back, get down low, inhabitants of Dedan!

5 For I will bring the calamity of Esau upon him, the time when I punish
him. If grape-gatherers came to you, would they not leave gleanings? If
thieves came by night, even they would pillage only what they wanted. But
as for me, I have stripped Esau bare, I have uncovered his hiding places,
and he is not able to conceal himself. His offspring are destroyed, his

10 kinsfolk and his neighbors; and he is no more. Leave your orphans, I will
keep them alive; and let your widows trust in me. For thus says the LORD:
If those who do not deserve to drink the cup still have to drink it, shall you
be the one to go unpunished? You shall not go unpunished; you must drink
it. For by myself I have sworn, says the LORD, that Bozrah shall become

15 an object of horror and ridicule, a waste, and an object of cursing; and all
her towns shall be perpetual wastes. I have heard tidings from the LORD,
and a messenger has been sent among the nations: "Gather yourselves
together and come against her, and rise up for battle!" For I will make you
least among the nations, despised by humankind. The terror you inspire and

20 the pride of your heart have deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the

rock, who hold the height of the hill. Although you make your nest as high
as the eagle's, from there I will bring you down, says the LORD. Edom
shall become an object of horror; everyone who passes by it will be horrified
and will hiss because of all its disasters. As when Sodom and Gomorrah and
5 their neighbors were overthrown, says the LORD, no one shall live there, nor
shall anyone settle in it. Like a lion coming up from the thickets of the
Jordan against a perennial pasture, I will suddenly chase Edom away from it;
and I will appoint over it whomever I choose. For who is like me? Who can
summon me? Who is the shepherd who can stand before me? Therefore hear
10 the plan that the LORD has made against Edom and the purposes that he
has formed against the inhabitants of Teman: Surely the little ones of the
flock shall be dragged away; surely their fold shall be appalled at their fate.
At the sound of their fall the earth shall tremble; the sound of their cry shall
be heard at the Red Sea. Look, he shall mount up and swoop down like an
15 eagle, and spread his wings against Bozrah, and the heart of the warriors of
Edom in that day shall be like the heart of a woman in labor. Concerning
Damascus. Hamath and Arpad are confounded, for they have heard bad news;
they melt in fear, they are troubled like the sea that cannot be quiet.
Damascus has become feeble, she turned to flee, and panic seized her;
20 anguish and sorrows have taken hold of her, as of a woman in labor. How

the famous city is forsaken, the joyful town! Therefore her young men shall
fall in her squares, and all her soldiers shall be destroyed in that day, says
the LORD of hosts. And I will kindle a fire at the wall of Damascus, and it
shall devour the strongholds of Ben-hadad. Concerning Kedar and the
5 kingdoms of Hazor that King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon defeated. Thus says
the LORD: Rise up, advance against Kedar! Destroy the people of the east!
Take their tents and their flocks, their curtains and all their goods; carry off
their camels for yourselves, and a cry shall go up: "Terror is all around!"
Flee, wander far away, hide in deep places, O inhabitants of Hazor! says the
10 LORD. For King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon has made a plan against you
and formed a purpose against you. Rise up, advance against a nation at ease,
that lives secure, says the LORD, that has no gates or bars, that lives alone.
Their camels shall become booty, their herds of cattle a spoil. I will scatter
to every wind those who have shaven temples, and I will bring calamity
15 against them from every side, says the LORD. Hazor shall become a lair of
jackals, an everlasting waste; no one shall live there, nor shall anyone settle
in it. The word of the LORD that came to the prophet Jeremiah concerning
Elam, at the beginning of the reign of King Zedekiah of Judah. Thus says
the LORD of hosts: I am going to break the bow of Elam, the mainstay of
20 their might; and I will bring upon Elam the four winds from the four

quarters of heaven; and I will scatter them to all these winds, and there shall
be no nation to which the exiles from Elam shall not come. I will terrify
Elam before their enemies, and before those who seek their life; I will bring
disaster upon them, my fierce anger, says the LORD. I will send the sword
5 after them, until I have consumed them; and I will set my throne in Elam,
and destroy their king and officials, says the LORD. But in the latter days I
will restore the fortunes of Elam, says the LORD. The word that the LORD
spoke concerning Babylon, concerning the land of the Chaldeans, by the
prophet Jeremiah: Declare among the nations and proclaim, set up a banner
10 and proclaim, do not conceal it, say: Babylon is taken, Bel is put to shame,
Merodach is dismayed. Her images are put to shame, her idols are dismayed.
For out of the north a nation has come up against her; it shall make her
land a desolation, and no one shall live in it; both human beings and
animals shall flee away. In those days and in that time, says the LORD, the
15 people of Israel shall come, they and the people of Judah together; they shall
come weeping as they seek the LORD their God. They shall ask the way to
Zion, with faces turned toward it, and they shall come and join themselves
to the LORD by an everlasting covenant that will never be forgotten. My
people have been lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray, turning
20 them away on the mountains; from mountain to hill they have gone, they

have forgotten their fold. All who found them have devoured them, and their enemies have said, "We are not guilty, because they have sinned against the LORD, the true pasture, the LORD, the hope of their ancestors." Flee from Babylon, and go out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be like male goats
5 leading the flock. For I am going to stir up and bring against Babylon a company of great nations from the land of the north; and they shall array themselves against her; from there she shall be taken. Their arrows are like the arrows of a skilled warrior who does not return empty-handed. Chaldea shall be plundered; all who plunder her shall be sated, says the LORD.
10 Though you rejoice, though you exult, O plunderers of my heritage, though you frisk about like a heifer on the grass, and neigh like stallions, your mother shall be utterly shamed, and she who bore you shall be disgraced. Lo, she shall be the last of the nations, a wilderness, dry land, and a desert. Because of the wrath of the LORD she shall not be inhabited, but shall be
15 an utter desolation; everyone who passes by Babylon shall be appalled and hiss because of all her wounds. Take up your positions around Babylon, all you that bend the bow; shoot at her, spare no arrows, for she has sinned against the LORD. Raise a shout against her from all sides, "She has surrendered; her bulwarks have fallen, her walls are thrown down." For this
20 is the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance on her, do to her as she has

done. Cut off from Babylon the sower, and the wielder of the sickle in time of harvest; because of the destroying sword all of them shall return to their own people, and all of them shall flee to their own land. Israel is a hunted sheep driven away by lions. First the king of Assyria devoured it, and now
5 at the end King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon has gnawed its bones. Therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I am going to punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I punished the king of Assyria. I will restore Israel to its pasture, and it shall feed on Carmel and in Bashan, and on the hills of Ephraim and in Gilead its hunger shall be satisfied. In those
10 days and at that time, says the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and none shall be found; for I will pardon the remnant that I have spared. Go up to the land of Merathaim; go up against her, and attack the inhabitants of Pekod and utterly destroy the last of them, says the LORD; do all that I have commanded you.
15 The noise of battle is in the land, and great destruction! How the hammer of the whole earth is cut down and broken! How Babylon has become a horror among the nations! You set a snare for yourself and you were caught, O Babylon, but you did not know it; you were discovered and seized, because you challenged the LORD. The LORD has opened his armory, and brought
20 out the weapons of his wrath, for the Lord GOD of hosts has a task to do

in the land of the Chaldeans. Come against her from every quarter; open her granaries; pile her up like heaps of grain, and destroy her utterly; let nothing be left of her. Kill all her bulls, let them go down to the slaughter. Alas for them, their day has come, the time of their punishment! Listen! Fugitives and
5 refugees from the land of Babylon are coming to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, vengeance for his temple. Summon archers against Babylon, all who bend the bow. Encamp all around her; let no one escape. Repay her according to her deeds; just as she has done, do to her-- for she has arrogantly defied the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. Therefore
10 her young men shall fall in her squares, and all her soldiers shall be destroyed on that day, says the LORD. I am against you, O arrogant one, says the Lord GOD of hosts; for your day has come, the time when I will punish you. The arrogant one shall stumble and fall, with no one to raise him up, and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it will devour everything
15 around him. Thus says the LORD of hosts: The people of Israel are oppressed, and so too are the people of Judah; all their captors have held them fast and refuse to let them go. Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is his name. He will surely plead their cause, that he may give rest to the earth, but unrest to the inhabitants of Babylon. A sword against the
20 Chaldeans, says the LORD, and against the inhabitants of Babylon, and

against her officials and her sages! A sword against the diviners, so that they
may become fools! A sword against her warriors, so that they may be
destroyed! A sword against her horses and against her chariots, and against
all the foreign troops in her midst, so that they may become women! A
5 sword against all her treasures, that they may be plundered! A drought
against her waters, that they may be dried up! For it is a land of images,
and they go mad over idols. Therefore wild animals shall live with hyenas in
Babylon, and ostriches shall inhabit her; she shall never again be peopled, or
inhabited for all generations. As when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah
10 and their neighbors, says the LORD, so no one shall live there, nor shall
anyone settle in her. Look, a people is coming from the north; a mighty
nation and many kings are stirring from the farthest parts of the earth. They
wield bow and spear, they are cruel and have no mercy. The sound of them
is like the roaring sea; they ride upon horses, set in array as a warrior for
15 battle, against you, O daughter Babylon! The king of Babylon heard news of
them, and his hands fell helpless; anguish seized him, pain like that of a
woman in labor. Like a lion coming up from the thickets of the Jordan
against a perennial pasture, I will suddenly chase them away from her; and I
will appoint over her whomever I choose. For who is like me? Who can
20 summon me? Who is the shepherd who can stand before me? Therefore hear

the plan that the LORD has made against Babylon, and the purposes that he has formed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely the little ones of the flock shall be dragged away; surely their fold shall be appalled at their fate. At the sound of the capture of Babylon the earth shall tremble, and her cry shall be heard among the nations. Thus says the LORD: I am going to stir up a destructive wind against Babylon and against the inhabitants of Le-qamai; and I will send winnowers to Babylon, and they shall winnow her. They shall empty her land when they come against her from every side on the day of trouble. Let not the archer bend his bow, and let him not array himself in his coat of mail. Do not spare her young men; utterly destroy her entire army. They shall fall down slain in the land of the Chaldeans, and wounded in her streets. Israel and Judah have not been forsaken by their God, the LORD of hosts, though their land is full of guilt before the Holy One of Israel. Flee from the midst of Babylon, save your lives, each of you! Do not perish because of her guilt, for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; he is repaying her what is due. Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand, making all the earth drunken; the nations drank of her wine, and so the nations went mad. Suddenly Babylon has fallen and is shattered; wail for her! Bring balm for her wound; perhaps she may be healed. We tried to heal Babylon, but she could not be healed. Forsake her, and let each

of us go to our own country; for her judgment has reached up to heaven
and has been lifted up even to the skies. The LORD has brought forth our
vindication; come, let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God.
Sharpen the arrows! Fill the quivers! The LORD has stirred up the spirit of
5 the kings of the Medes, because his purpose concerning Babylon is to
destroy it, for that is the vengeance of the LORD, vengeance for his temple.
Raise a standard against the walls of Babylon; make the watch strong; post
sentinels; prepare the ambushes; for the LORD has both planned and done
what he spoke concerning the inhabitants of Babylon. You who live by
10 mighty waters, rich in treasures, your end has come, the thread of your life
is cut. The LORD of hosts has sworn by himself: Surely I will fill you with
troops like a swarm of locusts, and they shall raise a shout of victory over
you. It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world
by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens. When he
15 utters his voice there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the
mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightnings for the rain, and
he brings out the wind from his storehouses. Everyone is stupid and without
knowledge; goldsmiths are all put to shame by their idols; for their images
are false, and there is no breath in them. They are worthless, a work of
20 delusion; at the time of their punishment they shall perish. Not like these is

the LORD, the portion of Jacob, for he is the one who formed all things,
and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance; the LORD of hosts is his name.

You are my war club, my weapon of battle: with you I smash nations; with
you I destroy kingdoms; with you I smash the horse and its rider; with you
5 I smash the chariot and the charioteer; with you I smash man and woman;
with you I smash the old man and the boy; with you I smash the young
man and the girl; with you I smash shepherds and their flocks; with you I
smash farmers and their teams; with you I smash governors and deputies. I
will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea before your very eyes
10 for all the wrong that they have done in Zion, says the LORD. I am against
you, O destroying mountain, says the LORD, that destroys the whole earth; I
will stretch out my hand against you, and roll you down from the crags, and
make you a burned-out mountain. No stone shall be taken from you for a
corner and no stone for a foundation, but you shall be a perpetual waste,
15 says the LORD. Raise a standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the
nations; prepare the nations for war against her, summon against her the
kingdoms, Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz; appoint a marshal against her, bring
up horses like bristling locusts. Prepare the nations for war against her, the
kings of the Medes, with their governors and deputies, and every land under
20 their dominion. The land trembles and writhes, for the Lord's purposes

against Babylon stand, to make the land of Babylon a desolation, without inhabitant. The warriors of Babylon have given up fighting, they remain in their strongholds; their strength has failed, they have become women; her buildings are set on fire, her bars are broken. One runner runs to meet
5 another, and one messenger to meet another, to tell the king of Babylon that his city is taken from end to end: the fords have been seized, the marshes have been burned with fire, and the soldiers are in panic. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Daughter Babylon is like a threshing floor at the time when it is trodden; yet a little while and the time of her harvest
10 will come. "King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon has devoured me, he has crushed me; he has made me an empty vessel, he has swallowed me like a monster; he has filled his belly with my delicacies, he has spewed me out. May my torn flesh be avenged on Babylon," the inhabitants of Zion shall say. "May my blood be avenged on the inhabitants of Chaldea," Jerusalem
15 shall say. Therefore thus says the LORD: I am going to defend your cause and take vengeance for you. I will dry up her sea and make her fountain dry; and Babylon shall become a heap of ruins, a den of jackals, an object of horror and of hissing, without inhabitant. Like lions they shall roar together; they shall growl like lions' whelps. When they are inflamed, I will
20 set out their drink and make them drunk, until they become merry and then

sleep a perpetual sleep and never wake, says the LORD. I will bring them
down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams and goats. How Sheshach is
taken, the pride of the whole earth seized! How Babylon has become an
object of horror among the nations! The sea has risen over Babylon; she has
5 been covered by its tumultuous waves. Her cities have become an object of
horror, a land of drought and a desert, a land in which no one lives, and
through which no mortal passes. I will punish Bel in Babylon, and make him
disgorge what he has swallowed. The nations shall no longer stream to him;
the wall of Babylon has fallen. Come out of her, my people! Save your
10 lives, each of you, from the fierce anger of the LORD! Do not be faint-
hearted or fearful at the rumors heard in the land-- one year one rumor
comes, the next year another, rumors of violence in the land and of ruler
against ruler. Assuredly, the days are coming when I will punish the images
of Babylon; her whole land shall be put to shame, and all her slain shall fall
15 in her midst. Then the heavens and the earth, and all that is in them, shall
shout for joy over Babylon; for the destroyers shall come against them out
of the north, says the LORD. Babylon must fall for the slain of Israel, as
the slain of all the earth have fallen because of Babylon. You survivors of
the sword, go, do not linger! Remember the LORD in a distant land, and let
20 Jerusalem come into your mind: We are put to shame, for we have heard

insults; dishonor has covered our face, for aliens have come into the holy places of the Lord's house. Therefore the time is surely coming, says the LORD, when I will punish her idols, and through all her land the wounded shall groan. Though Babylon should mount up to heaven, and though she should fortify her strong height, from me destroyers would come upon her, says the LORD. Listen! --a cry from Babylon! A great crashing from the land of the Chaldeans! For the LORD is laying Babylon waste, and stilling her loud clamor. Their waves roar like mighty waters, the sound of their clamor resounds; for a destroyer has come against her, against Babylon; her warriors are taken, their bows are broken; for the LORD is a God of recompense, he will repay in full. I will make her officials and her sages drunk, also her governors, her deputies, and her warriors; they shall sleep a perpetual sleep and never wake, says the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts. Thus says the LORD of hosts: The broad wall of Babylon shall be leveled to the ground, and her high gates shall be burned with fire. The peoples exhaust themselves for nothing, and the nations weary themselves only for fire. The word that the prophet Jeremiah commanded Seraiah son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, when he went with King Zedekiah of Judah to Babylon, in the fourth year of his reign. Seraiah was the quartermaster. Jeremiah wrote in a scroll all the disasters that would come on Babylon, all

these words that are written concerning Babylon. And Jeremiah said to
Seraiah: "When you come to Babylon, see that you read all these words, and
say, 'O LORD, you yourself threatened to destroy this place so that neither
human beings nor animals shall live in it, and it shall be desolate forever.'
5 When you finish reading this scroll, tie a stone to it, and throw it into the
middle of the Euphrates, and say, 'Thus shall Babylon sink, to rise no more,
because of the disasters that I am bringing on her.'" Thus far are the words
of Jeremiah. Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign; he
reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal daughter
10 of Jeremiah of Libnah. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, just
as Jehoiakim had done. Indeed, Jerusalem and Judah so angered the LORD
that he expelled them from his presence. Zedekiah rebelled against the king
of Babylon. And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the
tenth day of the month, King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon came with all his
15 army against Jerusalem, and they laid siege to it; they built siegeworks
against it all around. So the city was besieged until the eleventh year of
King Zedekiah. On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine became so
severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. Then a
breach was made in the city wall; and all the soldiers fled and went out
20 from the city by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, by the

king's garden, though the Chaldeans were all around the city. They went in the direction of the Arabah. But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered, deserting him. Then they captured the king, and brought him up to

5 the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he passed sentence on him. The king of Babylon killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and also killed all the officers of Judah at Riblah. He put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in fetters, and the king of Babylon took him to Babylon, and put him in prison until the day of his death. In the fifth

10 month, on the tenth day of the month--which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon--Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard who served the king of Babylon, entered Jerusalem. He burned the house of the LORD, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down. All the army of the Chaldeans, who were with

15 the captain of the guard, broke down all the walls around Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried into exile some of the poorest of the people and the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had defected to the king of Babylon, together with the rest of the artisans. But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left some of the

20 poorest people of the land to be vinedressers and tillers of the soil. The

pillars of bronze that were in the house of the LORD, and the stands and the bronze sea that were in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans broke in pieces, and carried all the bronze to Babylon. They took away the pots, the shovels, the snuffers, the basins, the ladles, and all the vessels of bronze used in the temple service. The captain of the guard took away the small bowls also, the firepans, the basins, the pots, the lampstands, the ladles, and the bowls for libation, both those of gold and those of silver. As for the two pillars, the one sea, the twelve bronze bulls that were under the sea, and the stands, which King Solomon had made for the house of the LORD, the bronze of all these vessels was beyond weighing. As for the pillars, the height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, its circumference was twelve cubits; it was hollow and its thickness was four fingers. Upon it was a capital of bronze; the height of the one capital was five cubits; latticework and pomegranates, all of bronze, encircled the top of the capital. And the second pillar had the same, with pomegranates. There were ninety-six pomegranates on the sides; all the pomegranates encircling the latticework numbered one hundred. The captain of the guard took the chief priest Seraiah, the second priest Zephaniah, and the three guardians of the threshold; and from the city he took an officer who had been in command of the soldiers, and seven men of the king's council who were found in the

city; the secretary of the commander of the army who mustered the people of the land; and sixty men of the people of the land who were found inside the city. Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them, and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. And the king of Babylon struck them
5 down, and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah went into exile out of its land. This is the number of the people whom Nebuchadrezzar took into exile: in the seventh year, three thousand twenty-three Judeans; in the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar he took into exile from Jerusalem eight hundred thirty-two persons; in the twenty-third year of
10 Nebuchadrezzar, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took into exile of the Judeans seven hundred forty-five persons; all the persons were four thousand six hundred. In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of King Jehoiachin of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-fifth day of the month, King Evil-merodach of Babylon, in the year he began to reign, showed favor to King
15 Jehoiachin of Judah and brought him out of prison; he spoke kindly to him, and gave him a seat above the seats of the other kings who were with him in Babylon. So Jehoiachin put aside his prison clothes, and every day of his life he dined regularly at the king's table. For his allowance, a regular daily

allowance was given him by the king of Babylon, as long as he lived, up to the day of his death. *

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