

## Jeremiah

The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilki'ah, of the priests who were in An'athoth in the land of Benjamin, to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josi'ah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. It came also in the days of Jehoi'akim the son of Josi'ah, king of

5 Judah, and until the end of the eleventh year of Zedeki'ah, the son of Josi'ah, king 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!

10 Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you you shall go, and whatever I command you you shall speak. Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put forth his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to

15 me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant." And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see a rod of almond." Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am

20 watching over my word to perform it." The word of the LORD came to me

a second time, saying, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see a boiling pot, facing away from the north." Then the LORD said to me, "Out of the north evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land. For, lo, I am calling all the tribes of the kingdoms of the north, says the LORD; and they

5 shall come and every one shall set his throne at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, against all its walls round about, and against all the cities of Judah. And I will utter my judgments against them, for all their wickedness in forsaking me; they have burned incense to other gods, and worshiped the works of their own hands. But you, gird up your loins; arise, and say to

10 them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them. And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, 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

15 the LORD, to 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 became guilty; evil

20 came upon them, says 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 fathers find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless? They did not say, 'Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that none passes through, where no man dwells?' And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. The priests did not say, 'Where is the LORD?' Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Ba'al, and went after things that do not profit.

"Therefore I still contend with you, says the LORD, and with your children's children I will contend. For cross to the coasts of Cyprus and see, or send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which 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 waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. "Is Israel a slave? Is he a homeborn servant? Why then has he

become a prey? 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 men of Memphis and Tah'panhes have broken the crown of  
your head. Have you not brought this upon yourself by forsaking the LORD  
5 your God, when he led you in the way? And now what 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 Euphra'tes? Your wickedness will  
chasten you, and your apostasy will reprove 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.' Yea, upon every high  
hill and under every green tree you bowed down as a harlot. Yet I planted  
you a choice vine, wholly of pure seed. How then have you turned  
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 Ba'als'?  
Look at your way in the valley; know what you have done--a restive young  
camel interlacing her tracks, a wild ass used to the wilderness, in her heat  
sniffing the wind! Who can restrain her lust? None who seek her need weary  
20 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  
princes, their priests, and their prophets, who say to a tree, 'You are my  
5 father,' and to a stone, 'You gave me birth.' For they have turned their back  
to me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble they say, 'Arise  
and save us!' But where are your gods that you made for yourself? Let them  
arise, if they can save you, in your time of trouble; for as many as your  
cities are your gods, O Judah. "Why do you complain against me? You have  
10 all rebelled against me, says the LORD. In vain have I smitten your children,  
they took no correction; your own sword devoured your prophets like a  
ravaging lion. And you, O generation, heed 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 no more to thee'? Can a maiden  
15 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 guiltless poor; you did not find them breaking in.  
Yet in spite of all these things you say, 'I am innocent; surely his anger has  
20 turned from me.' Behold, I will bring you to judgment for saying, 'I have

not sinned.' How lightly you gad about, changing your way! You shall be put to shame by Egypt as you were put to shame by Assyria. From it too you will come away with your hands upon your head, for the LORD has rejected those in whom you trust, and you will not prosper by them. "If a

5 man divorces his wife and she goes from him and becomes another man's wife, will he return to her? Would not that land be greatly polluted? You have played the harlot with many lovers; and would you return to me? says the LORD. Lift up your eyes to the bare heights, and see! Where have you not been lain with? By the waysides you have sat awaiting lovers like an

10 Arab in the wilderness. You have polluted the land with your vile harlotry. Therefore the showers have been withheld, and the spring rain has not come; yet you have a harlot's brow, you refuse to be ashamed. Have you not just now called to me, 'My father, thou art the friend of my youth-- will he be angry for ever, will he be indignant to the end?' Behold, you have spoken,

15 but you have done all the evil that you could." The LORD said to me in the days of King Josi'ah: "Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and there played the harlot? And I thought, 'After she has done all this she will return to me'; but she did not return, and her false sister Judah saw it. She

20 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 harlot. Because harlotry was so light to her, she polluted the land, committing adultery with stone and tree. Yet for all this her false sister Judah did not return to me with her whole heart, but in

5     pretense, says the LORD." And 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 angry for ever. Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the

10    LORD your God and scattered your favors among strangers under every green tree, and that you 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. "'And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with

15    knowledge and understanding. And when you have multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, says the LORD, they shall no more say, "The ark of the covenant of the LORD." It shall not come to mind, or be remembered, or missed; it shall not be made again. At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to

20    the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly

follow their own evil heart. 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 fathers for a heritage. "I thought how I would set you among my sons, and give you a pleasant land, a heritage most beautiful of all nations. And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me. Surely, as a faithless wife leaves her husband, so have you been faithless to me, O house of Israel, says the LORD." A voice on the bare heights is heard, the weeping and pleading of Israel's sons, because they have perverted their way, they have forgotten the LORD their God. "Return, O faithless sons, I will heal your faithlessness." "Behold, we come to thee; for thou art 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 devoured all for which our fathers 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 fathers, 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, to me you should return. 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 bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory." For  
thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of  
Jerusalem: "Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.  
Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, remove the foreskin of your hearts, O  
5 men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my wrath go forth like fire,  
and burn with none 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; cry aloud and say, 'Assemble, and let us go into the  
fortified cities!' Raise a standard toward Zion, flee for safety, stay not, for I  
10 bring evil from the north, and great destruction. A lion has gone up from his  
thicket, a destroyer of nations has set out; he has gone forth from his place  
to make your land a waste; your cities will be ruins without inhabitant. For  
this gird you with sackcloth, lament and wail; for the fierce anger of the  
LORD has not turned back from us." "In that day, says the LORD, courage  
15 shall fail both king and princes; the priests shall be appalled and the  
prophets astounded." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD, surely thou hast utterly  
deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, 'It shall be well with you';  
whereas the sword has reached their very life." At that time it will be said  
to this people and to Jerusalem, "A hot wind from the bare heights in the  
20 desert toward the daughter of my people, not to winnow or cleanse, a wind

too full for this comes for me. Now it is I who speak in judgment upon them." Behold, he comes up like clouds, his chariots like the whirlwind; his horses are swifter than eagles--woe to us, for we are ruined! O Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness, that you may be saved. How long shall

5 your evil thoughts lodge within you? For a voice declares from Dan and proclaims evil from Mount E'phraim. Warn the nations that he is coming; announce to Jerusalem, "Besiegers come from a distant land; they shout against the cities of Judah. Like keepers of a field are they against her round about, because she has rebelled against me, says the LORD. Your ways and

10 your doings have brought this upon you. This is your doom, and it is bitter; 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, the alarm of war. Disaster follows hard on disaster, the whole land is laid waste. Suddenly my tents are destroyed,

15 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 know me not; they are stupid children, they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil, but how to do good they know not." I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light. I looked on

20 the mountains, and lo, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro.

I looked, and lo, there was no man, 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, before his fierce anger. For thus says the LORD,  
"The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end. For  
5 this the earth shall mourn, and the heavens above be 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 city takes to flight; they enter thickets;  
they climb among rocks; all the cities are forsaken, and no man dwells in  
them. And you, O desolate one, what do you mean that you dress in scarlet,  
10 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 travail, anguish as of one  
bringing forth her first child, the cry of the daughter of Zion gasping for  
breath, stretching out her hands, "Woe is me! I am fainting before  
15 murderers." Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, look and take  
note! Search her squares to see if you can find a man, one who does justice  
and seeks truth; that I may pardon her. Though they say, "As the LORD  
lives," yet they swear falsely. O LORD, do not thy eyes look for truth?  
Thou hast smitten them, but they felt no anguish; thou hast consumed them,  
20 but they refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than

rock; they have refused to repent. 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. I will go to the great, and will speak to them; for they know the  
way of the LORD, the law of their God." But they all alike had broken the  
5 yoke, they had burst the bonds. Therefore a lion from the forest shall slay  
them, a wolf from the desert shall destroy them. A leopard is watching  
against their cities, every one who goes out of them shall be torn in pieces;  
because their transgressions are many, their apostasies are great. "How can I  
pardon you? Your children have forsaken me, and have sworn by those who  
10 are no gods. When I fed them to the full, they committed adultery and  
trooped to the houses of harlots. They were well-fed lusty stallions, each  
neighing for his neighbor's wife. Shall I not punish them for these things?  
says the LORD; and shall I not avenge myself on a nation such as this?  
"Go up through her vine-rows and destroy, but make not a full end; strip  
15 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 us, nor shall we see sword or famine. The prophets will  
become wind; the word is not in them. Thus shall it be done to them!'"  
20 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of hosts: "Because they have spoken

this word, behold, I am making my words in your mouth a fire, and this  
people wood, and the fire shall devour them. Behold, I am bringing upon  
you a nation from afar, 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,  
5 nor can you understand what they say. Their quiver is like an open tomb,  
they are all mighty men. 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 herds; they shall eat up your vines and your fig trees; your fortified  
cities in which you trust they shall destroy with the sword." "But even in  
10 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  
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  
15 senseless people, who have eyes, but see not, who have ears, but hear not.  
Do you not fear me? says the LORD; Do you not tremble before me? I  
placed the sand as the bound for the sea, a perpetual barrier which it cannot  
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  
20 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.'  
Your iniquities have turned these away, and your sins have kept good from  
you. For wicked men are found among my people; they lurk like fowlers  
5 lying in wait. They set a trap; they catch men. Like a basket 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 bounds in deeds of  
wickedness; they judge not with justice the cause of the fatherless, to make  
it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy. Shall I not punish  
10 them for these things? says the LORD, and shall I not avenge myself on a  
nation such as this?" An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the  
land: the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule at their direction; my  
people love to have it so, but what will you do when the end comes? Flee  
for safety, O people of Benjamin, from the midst of Jerusalem! Blow the  
15 trumpet in Teko'a, and raise a signal on Beth-hacche'rem; for evil looms out  
of the north, and great destruction. The comely and delicately bred I will  
destroy, the daughter of Zion. Shepherds with their flocks shall come against  
her; they shall pitch their tents around her, they shall pasture, each in his  
place. "Prepare war against her; up, and let us attack at noon!" "Woe to us,  
20 for the day declines, for the shadows of evening lengthen!" "Up, and let us

attack by night, and destroy her palaces!" For thus says the LORD of hosts:

"Hew down her trees; cast up a siege mound against Jerusalem. This is the city which 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

5 destruction are heard within her; sickness and wounds are ever before me. Be warned, O Jerusalem, lest I be alienated from you; lest I make you a desolation, an uninhabited land." Thus says the LORD of 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

10 they may hear? Behold, their ears are closed, they cannot listen; behold, the word of the LORD is to them an object of scorn, they take no pleasure in it. Therefore I am full of the wrath of the LORD; I am weary of holding it in. "Pour it out upon the children in the street, and upon the gatherings of young men, also; both husband and wife shall be taken, the old folk and the

15 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, every one is greedy for unjust gain; and from prophet to priest, every one deals falsely. They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,'

20 when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they committed

abomination? No, they were not at all 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 overthrown," says the LORD. Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where  
5 the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.' I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Give heed to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not give heed.' Therefore hear, O nations, and know, O congregation, what will happen to them. Hear, O earth; behold, I am bringing evil upon this people, the fruit of their devices,  
10 because they have not given heed to my words; and as for my law, they have rejected it. To what purpose does frankincense come to me from Sheba, or sweet cane from a distant land? Your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices pleasing to me. Therefore thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will lay before this people stumbling blocks against which they shall stumble;  
15 fathers and sons together, neighbor and friend shall perish.'" Thus says the LORD: "Behold, a people is coming from the north country, a great nation is stirring from the farthest parts of the earth. They lay hold on 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 man for battle, against you, O  
20 daughter of Zion!" We have heard the report of it, our hands fall helpless;



anguish has taken hold of us, pain as of a woman in travail. Go not forth  
into the field, nor walk on the road; for the enemy has a sword, terror is on  
every side. O daughter of my people, gird on sackcloth, and roll in ashes;  
make mourning as for an only son, most bitter lamentation; for suddenly the  
5 destroyer will come upon us. "I have made you an assayer and tester among  
my people, that you may know and assay their ways. They are all stubbornly  
rebellious, going about with slanders; they are bronze and iron, all of them  
act corruptly. The bellows blow fiercely, the lead is consumed by the fire; in  
vain the refining goes on, for the wicked are not removed. Refuse silver they  
10 are called, 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 men  
of Judah who enter these gates to worship the LORD. Thus says the LORD  
of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will  
15 let you dwell 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  
execute justice one with another, if you do not oppress the alien, the  
fatherless or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do  
20 not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will let you dwell in this

place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers for ever. "Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Ba'al, and go after other gods that you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which is

5 called by my name, and say, 'We are delivered!' --only to go on doing all these abominations? Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, says the LORD. Go now to my 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

10 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 which is called by my name, and in which you trust, and to the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I did to Shiloh. And I will cast you out of my sight, as I cast

15 out all your kinsmen, all the offspring of E'phraim. "As for you, do not pray for this people, or lift up cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with me, for I do not hear you. Do you not see what they are doing in the cities 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

20 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 confusion? Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:

Behold, my anger and my wrath will be poured out on this place, upon man and beast, upon the trees of the field and the fruit of the ground; it will

5 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 them out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to your fathers or command them concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. But this command I gave them, 'Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and

10 you shall be my people; and walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.' But they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward. From the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt to this day, I have persistently sent all my servants the

15 prophets to them, day after day; yet they did not listen to me, or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers. "So you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you. You shall call to them, but they will not answer you. And you shall say to them, "This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the LORD their God, and

20 did not accept discipline; truth has perished; it is cut off from their lips. Cut

off your hair and cast it away; raise a lamentation on the bare heights, for the LORD has rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath.' "For the sons of Judah have done evil in my sight, says the LORD; they have set their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to defile it.

5 And they have built 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 mind. Therefore, behold, the days are 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  
10 in Topheth, because there is no room elsewhere. And the dead bodies of this people will be food for the birds of the air, and for the beasts of the earth; and none will frighten them away. And I will make to cease from the cities of Judah and from the streets of Jerusalem the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride; for the  
15 land shall become a waste. "At that time, says the LORD, the bones of the kings of Judah, the bones of its princes, the bones of the priests, the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be 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  
20 they have gone after, and which they have sought and worshiped; and they

shall not be gathered or buried; they shall be as dung on the surface of the ground. Death shall be preferred to life by all the remnant that 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 men fall, do  
5 they not rise again? If one turns away, does he not return? Why then has this people turned away in perpetual backsliding? They hold fast to deceit, they refuse to return. I have given heed and listened, but they have not spoken aright; no man repents of his wickedness, saying, 'What have I done?' Every one turns to his own course, like a horse plunging headlong into  
10 battle. Even the stork in the heavens knows her times; and the turtledove, swallow, and crane keep the time of their coming; but my people know not the ordinance of the LORD. "How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us'? But, behold, the false pen of the scribes has made it into a lie. The wise men shall be put to shame, they shall be dismayed  
15 and taken; lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD, and 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 every one is greedy for unjust gain; from prophet to priest every one deals falsely. They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no  
20 peace. Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were

not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall  
fall among the fallen; when I punish them, they shall be overthrown, says  
the LORD. When I would 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  
5 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 perish, and has given us poisoned water to drink,  
because we have sinned against the LORD. We looked for peace, but no  
good came, for a time of healing, but behold, terror. "The snorting of their  
10 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 dwell in it. For behold, I am sending among you  
serpents, adders which cannot be charmed, and they shall bite you," says the  
LORD. My grief is beyond healing, my heart is sick within me. Hark, the  
15 cry of the daughter of my people from the length and breadth of the land:  
"Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" "Why have they  
provoked me to anger with their graven images, and with their foreign  
idols?" "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."  
For the wound of the daughter of my people is my heart wounded, I mourn,  
20 and dismay has taken hold on me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no

physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored? O that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people! O that I had in the desert a wayfarers' lodging place, that I might leave my

5 people and go away from them! For they are all adulterers, a company of treacherous men. They bend their tongue like a bow; falsehood and not truth has grown strong in the land; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know me, says the LORD. Let every one beware of his neighbor, and put no trust in any brother; for every brother is a supplanter, and every

10 neighbor goes about as a slanderer. Every one deceives his neighbor, and no one speaks the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they commit iniquity and are too weary to repent. Heaping oppression upon oppression, and deceit upon deceit, they refuse to know me, says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, I will refine them and test

15 them, for what else can I do, because of my people? Their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks deceitfully; with his mouth each speaks peaceably to his neighbor, but in his heart he plans an ambush for him. Shall I not punish them for these things? says the LORD; and shall I not avenge myself on a nation such as this? "Take up weeping and wailing for the mountains,

20 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 beasts have fled and are gone. I will make  
Jerusalem a heap of ruins, a lair of jackals; and I will make the cities of  
Judah a desolation, without inhabitant." Who is the man so wise that he can  
5 understand this? To whom has the mouth of the LORD spoken, that he 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 which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, or walked  
in accord with it, but have stubbornly followed their own hearts and have  
10 gone after the Ba'als, as their fathers taught them. Therefore thus says the  
LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will feed this people with  
wormwood, and give them poisonous water to drink. I will scatter them  
among the nations whom neither they nor their fathers have known; and I  
will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them." Thus says the  
15 LORD of hosts: "Consider, and call for the mourning women to come; send  
for the skilful women to come; let them make haste and raise a wailing over  
us, that our eyes may run down with tears, and our eyelids gush with water.  
For a sound of wailing is heard from Zion: 'How we are ruined! We are  
utterly shamed, because we have left the land, because they have cast down  
20 our dwellings.'" Hear, O women, the word of the LORD, and let your ear



receive the word of his mouth; teach to your daughters a lament, and each to her neighbor a dirge. For death has come up into our windows, it has entered our palaces, cutting off the children from the streets and the young men from the squares. Speak, "Thus says the LORD: "The dead bodies of

5 men shall fall like dung upon the open field, like sheaves after the reaper, and none shall gather them." Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practice steadfast love,

10 justice, and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, says the LORD." "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will punish all those who are circumcised but yet uncircumcised-- Egypt, Judah, Edom, the sons of Ammon, Moab, and all who dwell in the desert that cut the corners of their hair; for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the

15 house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart." Hear the word which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel. Thus says the LORD: "Learn not the way of the nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed at them, for the customs of the peoples are false. A tree from the forest is cut down, and worked with an axe by the hands of a

20 craftsman. Men 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. Be not afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good." There is none like thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is

5 great in might. Who would not fear thee, O King of the nations? For this is thy due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like thee. They are both stupid and foolish; the instruction of idols is but wood! Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz. They are the work of the craftsman and of the hands of

10 the goldsmith; their clothing is violet and purple; they are all the work of skilled men. 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 heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under

15 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 rain, and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses. Every man is stupid

20 and without knowledge; every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols; for his

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 he who is 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.

- 5 Gather up your bundle from the ground, O you who dwell under siege! For thus says the LORD: "Behold, I am slinging out the inhabitants of the land at this time, and I will bring distress on them, that they may feel it." Woe is me because of my hurt! My wound is grievous. But I said, "Truly this is an affliction, and I must bear it." My tent is destroyed, and all my cords are
- 10 broken; my children have gone from me, and they are not; 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. Hark, a rumor! Behold, it comes! --a great commotion out of the north country to make the cities of Judah a desolation,
- 15 a lair of jackals. I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps. Correct me, O LORD, but in just measure; not in thy anger, lest thou bring me to nothing. Pour out thy wrath upon the nations that know thee not, and upon the peoples that call not on thy name; for they have devoured Jacob; they have devoured
- 20 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 men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. You shall say to them, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Cursed be the man who does not heed the words of this covenant which I commanded your fathers when I

5 brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, 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 which I swore to your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as at this day."

Then I answered, "So be it, LORD." And the LORD said to me, "Proclaim

10 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 fathers when I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, warning them persistently, even to this day, saying, Obey my voice. Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but every one walked in the stubbornness of his evil heart.

15 Therefore I brought upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but they did not." Again the LORD said to me, "There is revolt among the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, who refused to hear my words; they have gone after other gods to serve them; the house of

20 Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with

their fathers. Therefore, thus says the LORD, Behold, I am bringing evil upon them which they cannot escape; though they cry to me, I will not listen to them. Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry to the gods to whom they burn incense, but they cannot save

5 them in the time of their trouble. For your gods have become as many as your cities, O Judah; and as many as the streets of Jerusalem are the altars you have set up to shame, altars to burn incense to Ba'al. "Therefore do not pray for this 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

10 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 will set fire to it, and its branches will be consumed. The LORD of hosts, who planted you, has pronounced evil against you, because

15 of the evil which the house of Israel and the house of Judah have done, provoking me to anger by burning incense to Ba'al." The LORD made it known to me and I knew; then thou didst show me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let

20 us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no

more." But, O LORD of hosts, who judgest righteously, who triest the heart  
and the mind, let me see thy vengeance upon them, for to thee have I  
committed my cause. Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the men of  
An'athoth, who seek your life, and say, "Do not prophesy in the name of the  
5 LORD, or you will die by our hand" -- therefore thus says the LORD of  
hosts: "Behold, I will punish them; the young men shall die by the sword;  
their sons and their daughters shall die by famine; and none of them shall be  
left. For I will bring evil upon the men of An'athoth, the year of their  
punishment." Righteous art thou, O LORD, when I complain to thee; yet I  
10 would plead my case before thee. Why does the way of the wicked prosper?  
Why do all who are treacherous thrive? Thou plantest them, and they take  
root; they grow and bring forth fruit; thou art near in their mouth and far  
from their heart. But thou, O LORD, knowest me; thou seest me, and triest  
my mind toward thee. Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and set  
15 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 dwell in it the  
beasts and the birds are swept away, because men said, "He will not see our  
latter end." "If you have raced with men on foot, and they have wearied  
you, how will you compete with horses? And if in a safe land you fall  
20 down, how will you do in the jungle of the Jordan? For even your brothers

and the house of your father, even they have dealt treacherously with you;  
 they are in full cry after you; believe them not, though they speak fair words  
 to you." "I have forsaken my house, I have abandoned my heritage; I have  
 given the beloved of my soul into the hands of her enemies. My heritage  
 5 has become to me like a lion in the forest, she has lifted up her voice  
 against me; therefore I hate her. Is my heritage to me like a speckled bird  
 of prey? Are the birds of prey against her round about? Go, assemble all the  
 wild beasts; bring them to devour. Many shepherds have destroyed my  
 vineyard, they have trampled down my portion, they have made my pleasant  
 10 portion a desolate wilderness. They have made it a desolation; desolate, it  
 mourns to me. The whole land is made desolate, but no man lays it to heart.  
 Upon all the bare heights in the desert destroyers have come; for the sword  
 of the LORD devours from one end of the land to the other; no flesh has  
 peace. They have sown wheat and have reaped thorns, they have tired  
 15 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 which I have given my people  
 Israel to inherit: "Behold, I will pluck them up from their land, and I will  
 pluck up the house of Judah from among them. And after I have plucked  
 20 them up, I will again have compassion on them, and I will bring them again

each to his heritage and each to his land. And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, 'As the LORD lives,' even as they taught my people to swear by Ba'al, then they shall be built up in the midst of my people. But if any nation will not

5 listen, then I will utterly pluck it up and destroy it, says the LORD." Thus said the LORD to me, "Go and buy a linen waistcloth, and put it on your loins, and do not dip it in water." So I bought a waistcloth according to the word of the LORD, and put it on my loins. And the word of the LORD came to me a second time, "Take the waistcloth which you have bought,

10 which is upon your loins, and arise, go to the Euphra'tes, and hide it there in a cleft of the rock." So I went, and hid it by the Euphra'tes, as the LORD commanded me. And after many days the LORD said to me, "Arise, go to the Euphra'tes, and take from there the waistcloth which I commanded you to hide there." Then I went to the Euphra'tes, and dug, and I took the

15 waistcloth from the place where I had hidden it. And behold, the waistcloth was spoiled; it was good for nothing. Then the word of the LORD came to me: "Thus says the LORD: Even so will I spoil the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. This evil people, who refuse to hear my words, who stubbornly follow their own heart and have gone after other gods to

20 serve them and worship them, shall be like this waistcloth, which is good for



nothing. For as the waistcloth clings to the loins of a man, so I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, says the LORD, that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory, but they would not listen. "You shall speak to them this word: 'Thus says  
5 the LORD, the God of Israel, "Every jar shall be filled with wine.'" And they will say to you, 'Do we not indeed know that every jar will be filled with wine?' Then you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: Behold, I will fill with drunkenness all the inhabitants of this land: the kings who sit on David's throne, the priests, the prophets, and all the inhabitants of  
10 Jerusalem. And I will dash them one against another, fathers and sons together, says the LORD. I will not pity or spare or have compassion, that I should not destroy them.'" Hear and give ear; be not proud, for the LORD has spoken. Give glory to the LORD your God before he brings darkness, before your feet stumble on the twilight mountains, and while you look for  
15 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 queen mother: "Take a lowly seat, for your beautiful crown has come down from your head." The cities of the Negeb  
20 are shut up, with none 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 you those whom you yourself have taught to  
be friends to you? Will not pangs take hold of you, like those of a woman  
5 in travail? 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 suffer violence. Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his  
spots? Then also you can do good who are accustomed to do evil. I will  
scatter you like chaff driven by the wind from the desert. This is your lot,  
10 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 lewd harlotries, on the hills in the field. Woe  
to you, O Jerusalem! How long will it be before you are made clean?" The  
15 word of the LORD which came to Jeremiah concerning the drought: "Judah  
mourns and her gates languish; her people lament on the ground, and the cry  
of Jerusalem goes up. Her nobles send their servants for water; they come to  
the cisterns, they find no water, they return with their vessels empty; they  
are ashamed and confounded and cover their heads. Because of the ground  
20 which is dismayed, since there is no rain on the land, the farmers are

ashamed, they cover their heads. Even the hind in the field forsakes her newborn calf because there is no grass. The wild asses stand on the bare heights, they pant for air like jackals; their eyes fail because there is no herbage. "Though our iniquities testify against us, act, O LORD, for thy

5 name's sake; for our backslidings are many, we have sinned against thee. O thou hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why shouldst thou be like a stranger in the land, like a wayfarer who turns aside to tarry for a night? Why shouldst thou be like a man confused, like a mighty man who cannot save? Yet thou, O LORD, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy

10 name; leave us not." Thus says the LORD concerning this people: "They have loved to wander thus, they have not restrained their feet; therefore the LORD does not accept them, now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins." The LORD said to me: "Do not pray for the welfare of this people. Though they fast, I will not hear their cry, and though they offer

15 burnt offering and cereal offering, I will not accept them; but I will consume them by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence." Then I said: "Ah, Lord GOD, behold, the prophets say to them, 'You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.'" And the LORD said to me: "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name; I did

20 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 although I did not send them, and who say, 'Sword  
and famine shall not come on this land': By sword and famine those  
5 prophets shall be consumed. And the people to whom they prophesy shall be  
cast out in the streets of Jerusalem, victims of famine and sword, with none  
to bury them--them, their wives, their sons, and their daughters. For I will  
pour 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  
10 virgin daughter of my people is smitten with a great wound, with a very  
grievous blow. If I go out into the field, behold, those slain by the sword!  
And if I enter the city, behold, the diseases of famine! For both prophet and  
priest ply their trade through the land, and have no knowledge.'" Hast thou  
utterly rejected Judah? Does thy soul loathe Zion? Why hast thou smitten us  
15 so that there is no healing for us? We looked for peace, but no good came;  
for a time of healing, but behold, terror. We acknowledge our wickedness, O  
LORD, and the iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against thee. Do  
not spurn us, for thy name's sake; do not dishonor thy glorious throne;  
remember and do not break thy covenant with us. Are there any among the  
20 false gods of the nations that can bring rain? Or can the heavens give

showers? Art thou not he, O LORD our God? We set our hope on thee, for  
 thou doest all these things. Then the LORD said to me, "Though Moses and  
 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 ask you,  
 5 'Where shall we go?' you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: "Those  
 who are for pestilence, to pestilence, and those who are for the sword, to the  
 sword; those who are for famine, to famine, and those who are for captivity,  
 to captivity.'" "I will appoint over them four kinds of destroyers, says the  
 LORD: the sword to slay, the dogs to tear, and the birds of the air and the  
 10 beasts of the earth to devour and destroy. And I will make them a horror to  
 all the kingdoms of the earth because of what Manas'seh the son of  
 Hezeki'ah, king of Judah, did in Jerusalem. "Who will have pity on you, O  
 Jerusalem, or who will bemoan you? Who will turn aside to ask about your  
 welfare? You have rejected me, says the LORD, you keep going backward;  
 15 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 from their ways. I have made their widows more in number  
 than the sand of the seas; I have brought against the mothers of young men  
 20 a destroyer at noonday; I have made anguish and terror fall upon them

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 the sword before their enemies, says the  
LORD." Woe is me, my mother, that you bore me, a man of strife and  
5 contention to the whole land! I have not lent, nor have I borrowed, yet all  
of them curse me. So let it be, O LORD, if I have not entreated thee for  
their good, if I have not pleaded with thee on behalf of the enemy in the  
time of trouble and in the time of distress! Can one break iron, iron from  
the north, and bronze? "Your wealth and your treasures I will give as spoil,  
10 without price, for all your sins, throughout all your territory. I will make you  
serve your enemies in a land which you do not know, for in my anger a  
fire is kindled which shall burn for ever." O LORD, thou knowest; remember  
me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In thy  
forbearance take me not away; know that for thy sake I bear reproach. Thy  
15 words were found, and I ate them, and thy words became to me a joy and  
the delight of my heart; for I am called by thy name, O LORD, God of  
hosts. I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; I sat  
alone, because thy hand was upon me, for thou hadst filled me with  
indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be  
20 healed? Wilt thou be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail?

Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of

5 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 me: "You shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons or daughters in this place. For thus says the LORD

10 concerning the sons and daughters who are born in this place, and concerning the mothers who bore them and the fathers who begot them in this land: They shall die of deadly diseases. They shall not be lamented, nor shall they be buried; they shall be as dung on the surface of the ground. They shall perish by the sword and by famine, and their dead bodies shall be food for

15 the birds of the air and for the beasts 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 great and small shall die in this land; they shall not be buried, and no one shall lament for them or cut himself or

20 make himself bald for them. No one shall break bread for the mourner, to

comfort him for the dead; nor shall any one give him the cup of consolation to drink for his father or his mother. You shall not go into the house of feasting to sit with them, to eat and drink. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will make to cease from this place, before your

5 eyes and in your days, 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 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

10 to them: 'Because your fathers 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 done worse than your fathers, for behold, every one of you follows his stubborn evil will, refusing to listen to me; therefore I will hurl you out of this land into

15 a land which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods day and night, for I will show you no favor.' "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when it shall no longer be said, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' but 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel

20 out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven



them.' For I will bring them back to their own land which I gave to their fathers. "Behold, I am sending for many fishers, says the LORD, and they shall catch them; and afterwards 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 upon all their ways; they are not hid from me, nor is their iniquity concealed from my eyes. And I will doubly recompense their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted my land with the carcasses of their 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 thee shall the nations come from the ends of the earth and say: "Our fathers have inherited nought but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit. Can man make for himself gods? Such are no gods!" "Therefore, behold, I will make them know, this once I will make them know my power and my might, and they shall know that my name is the LORD." "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; with a point of diamond it is engraved on the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of their altars, while their children remember their altars and their Ashe'rim, beside every 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. You shall loosen your hand from

your heritage which I gave to you, and I will make you serve your enemies  
in a land which you do not know, for in my anger a fire is kindled which  
shall burn for ever." Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in  
man and makes flesh his arm, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He  
5 is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall  
dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.  
"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He  
is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and  
does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not  
10 anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." The heart  
is deceitful above all things, and desperately corrupt; who can understand it?  
"I the LORD search the mind and try the heart, to give to every man  
according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings." Like the  
partridge that gathers a brood which she did not hatch, so is he who gets  
15 riches but not by right; in the midst of his days they will leave him, and at  
his end he will be a fool. A glorious throne set on high from the beginning  
is the place of our sanctuary. O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake  
thee shall be put to shame; those who turn away from thee shall be written  
in the earth, for they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living water.  
20 Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved;

for thou art my praise. Behold, they say to me, "Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come!" I have not pressed thee to send evil, nor have I desired the day of disaster, thou knowest; that which came out of my lips was before thy face. Be not a terror to me; thou art my refuge in the day

5 of evil. Let those be put to shame who persecute me, but let me not be put to shame; let them be dismayed, but let me not be dismayed; bring upon them the day of evil; destroy them with double destruction! Thus said the LORD to me: "Go and stand in the Benjamin Gate, by which the kings of Judah enter and by which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem, and

10 say: '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: Take heed for the sake of your lives, and do not bear a burden on the sabbath day or bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem. And do not carry a burden out of your houses on the sabbath or do any work, but keep the

15 sabbath day holy, as I commanded your fathers. Yet they did not listen or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck, that they might not hear and 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, but keep the sabbath day holy and do no work on it, then there shall enter by the gates of this

20 city kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses,

they and their princes, the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem;  
and this city shall be inhabited for ever. And people shall come from the  
cities of Judah and the places round about Jerusalem, from the land of  
Benjamin, from the Shephe'lah, from the hill country, and from the Negeb,  
5 bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, cereal 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 not to bear a burden and enter by  
the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its  
gates, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem and shall not be  
10 quenched.'" The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Arise, and 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.  
And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and  
he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.  
15 Then the word of the LORD came to me: "O house of Israel, can I not do  
with you as this potter has done? says the LORD. Behold, like the clay in  
the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. If at any time I  
declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break  
down and destroy it, and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken,  
20 turns from its evil, I will repent of the evil that I intended to do to it. And

if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build  
 and plant it, and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then  
 I will repent of the good which I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore,  
 say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: 'Thus says the  
 5 LORD, Behold, I am shaping evil against you and devising a plan against  
 you. Return, every one from his evil way, and amend your ways and your  
 doings.' 'But they say, 'That is in vain! We will follow our own plans, and  
 will every one act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.' 'Therefore  
 thus says the LORD: Ask among the nations, who has heard the like of this?  
 10 The virgin Israel has done a very horrible thing. Does the snow of Lebanon  
 leave the crags of Si'rion? Do the mountain waters run dry, the cold flowing  
 streams? But my people have forgotten me, they burn incense to false gods;  
 they have stumbled in their ways, in the ancient roads, and have gone into  
 bypaths, not the highway, making their land a horror, a thing to be hissed at  
 15 for ever. Every one who passes by it is horrified and shakes his head. Like  
 the east wind 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 Jeremiah, for the law shall not perish from the priest,  
 nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, let us  
 20 smite him with the tongue, and let us not heed any of his words." Give

heed to me, O LORD, and hearken to my plea. Is evil a recompense for good? Yet they have dug a pit for my life. Remember how I stood before thee to speak good for them, to turn away thy wrath from them. Therefore deliver up their children to famine; give them over 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 thou bringest the marauder suddenly upon them! For they have dug a pit to take me, and laid snares for my feet. Yet, thou, O LORD, knowest all their plotting to slay me. Forgive not their iniquity, nor blot out their sin from thy sight. Let them be overthrown before thee; deal with them in the time of thine anger. Thus said the LORD, "Go, buy a potter's earthen flask, and take some of the elders of the people and 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, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon this place that the ears of every one who hears of it will tingle. Because the people have forsaken me, and have profaned this place by burning incense in it to other gods whom neither they nor their fathers nor the kings of Judah have known; and because they have

filled this place with the blood of innocents, and have built the high places  
of Ba'al to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Ba'al, which I  
did not command or decree, nor did it come into my mind; therefore, behold,  
days are coming, says the LORD, when this place shall no more be called  
5 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 cause their people to 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 beasts of the earth. And I will make this city  
10 a horror, a thing to be hissed at; every one 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 their daughters, and every one shall eat the flesh  
of his neighbor in the siege and in the distress, with which their enemies  
and those who seek their life afflict them.' "Then you shall break the flask  
15 in the sight of the men 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. Men shall bury in Topheth  
because there will be no place else to bury. Thus will I do to this place,  
says the LORD, and to its inhabitants, making this city like Topheth. The  
20 houses of Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah--all the houses

upon whose roofs incense has been burned to all the host of heaven, and  
drink offerings have been poured out to other gods--shall be defiled like the  
place of Topheth." Then Jeremiah came from Topheth, where the LORD had  
sent him to prophesy, and he stood in the court of the LORD's house, and  
5 said to all the people: "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,  
Behold, I am bringing upon this city and upon all its towns all the evil that  
I have pronounced against it, because they have stiffened their neck, refusing  
to hear my words." Now Pashhur the priest, the son of Immer, who was  
chief officer in the house of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesying these  
10 things. Then Pashhur beat Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks  
that were in the upper Benjamin Gate of the house of the LORD. On the  
morrow, when Pashhur released Jeremiah from the stocks, Jeremiah said to  
him, "The LORD does not call your name Pashhur, but Terror on every side.  
For thus says the LORD: Behold, I will make you a terror to yourself and  
15 to all your friends. 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 Babylon; he  
shall carry them captive to Babylon, and shall slay them with the sword.  
Moreover, I will give all the wealth of the city, all its gains, all its prized  
belongings, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah into the hand of their  
20 enemies, who shall plunder them, and seize them, and carry them to



Babylon. And you, Pashhur, and all who dwell in your house, shall go into captivity; to Babylon you shall go; and there you shall die, and there you shall be buried, you and all your friends, to whom you have prophesied falsely." O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived; thou art

5 stronger than I, and thou hast prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; every one mocks me. For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire

10 shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! "Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" say all my familiar friends, watching for my fall. "Perhaps he will be deceived, then we can overcome him, and take our revenge on him." But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors

15 will stumble, they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O LORD of hosts, who triest the righteous, who seest the heart and the mind, let me see thy vengeance upon them, for to thee have I committed my cause. Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of

20 the needy from the hand 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, "A son is born to you,"  
making him very glad. Let that man be like the cities which the LORD  
overthrew without pity; let him hear a cry in the morning and an alarm at  
5 noon, because he did not kill me in the womb; so my mother would have  
been my grave, and her womb for ever great. Why did I come forth from  
the womb to see toil and sorrow, and spend my days in shame? This is the  
word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, when King Zedeki'ah sent to  
him Pashhur the son of Malchi'ah and Zephani'ah the priest, the son of Ma-  
10 asei'ah, saying, "Inquire of the LORD for us, for Nebuchadrez'zar king of  
Babylon is making war against us; perhaps the LORD will deal with us  
according to all his wonderful deeds, and will make him withdraw from us."  
Then Jeremiah said to them: "Thus you shall say to Zedeki'ah, 'Thus says the  
LORD, the God of Israel: Behold, I will turn back the weapons of war  
15 which are in your hands and with which you are fighting against the king of  
Babylon and against the Chalde'ans who are besieging you outside the walls;  
and I will bring them together into the midst of this city. I myself will fight  
against you with outstretched hand and strong arm, in anger, and in fury, and  
in great wrath. And I will smite the inhabitants of this city, both man and  
20 beast; they shall die of a great pestilence. Afterward, says the LORD, I will

give Zedeki'ah king of Judah, and his servants, and the people in this city  
who survive the pestilence, sword, and famine, into the hand of  
Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon and into the hand of their enemies, into the  
hand of those who seek their lives. He shall smite them with the edge of the  
5 sword; he shall not pity them, or spare them, or have compassion.' "And to  
this people you shall say: 'Thus says the LORD: Behold, I set before you  
the way of life and the way of death. He who stays in this city shall die by  
the sword, by famine, and by pestilence; but he who goes out and surrenders  
to the Chalde'ans who are besieging you shall live and shall have his life as  
10 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 hand of the king of  
Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire.' "And 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  
15 oppressor him who has been robbed, lest my wrath go forth like fire, and  
burn with none to quench it, because of your evil doings.'" "Behold, I am  
against you, O inhabitant of the valley, O rock of the plain, says the LORD;  
you who say, 'Who shall come down against us, or who shall enter our  
habitations?' I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings, says the  
20 LORD; I will kindle a fire in her forest, and it shall devour all that is round

about her." Thus says the LORD: "Go down to the house of the king of  
Judah, and speak there this word, and say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, O  
King of Judah, who sit on the throne of David, you, and your servants, and  
your people who enter these gates. Thus says the LORD: Do justice and  
5 righteous, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been  
robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the fatherless, and the  
widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place. For if you will indeed obey  
this word, then there shall enter the gates of this house kings who sit on the  
throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they, and their servants,  
10 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 says the  
LORD concerning the house of the king of Judah: "You are as Gilead to  
me, as the summit of Lebanon, yet surely I will make you a desert, an  
uninhabited city. I will prepare destroyers against you, each with his  
15 weapons; and they shall cut down your choicest cedars, and cast them into  
the fire. "And many nations will pass by this city, and every man will say  
to his neighbor, "Why has the LORD dealt thus with this great city?" And  
they will answer, "Because they forsook the covenant of the LORD their  
God, and worshiped other gods and served them."" Weep not for him who  
20 is dead, nor bemoan him; but weep bitterly for him who goes away, for he

shall return no more to see his native land. For thus says the LORD  
concerning Shallum the son of Josi'ah, king of Judah, who reigned instead of  
Josi'ah his father, and who went away from this place: "He shall return here  
no more, but in the place where they have carried him captive, there shall  
5 he 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  
neighbor serve him for nothing, and does not give him his wages; who says,  
'I will build myself a great house with spacious upper rooms,' and cuts out  
windows for it, paneling it with cedar, and painting it with vermilion. Do  
10 you think you are 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 cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to  
know me? says the LORD. But you have eyes and heart only for your  
dishonest gain, for shedding innocent blood, and for practicing oppression and  
15 violence." Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoi'akim the son of  
Josi'ah, king of Judah: "They shall not lament for him, saying, 'Ah my  
brother!' or 'Ah sister!' They shall not lament for him, saying, 'Ah lord!' or  
'Ah his majesty!' With the burial of an ass he shall be buried, dragged and  
cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem." "Go up to Lebanon, and cry out,  
20 and lift up your voice in Bashan; cry from Ab'arim, for all your lovers are

destroyed. I spoke to you in your prosperity, but you said, 'I will not listen.'

This has been your way from your youth, that 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 confounded because of all your

5 wickedness. O inhabitant of Lebanon, nested among the cedars, how you will groan when pangs come upon you, pain as of a woman in travail!" "As I live, says the LORD, though Coni'ah the son of Jehoi'akim, king of Judah, were the signet ring on my right hand, yet I would tear you off and give you into the hand of those who seek your life, into the hand of those of

10 whom you are afraid, even into the hand of Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon and into the hand of the Chalde'ans. I will hurl you and the mother who bore you into another country, where you were not born, and there you shall die. But to the land to which they will long to return, there they shall not return." Is this man Coni'ah a despised, broken pot, a vessel no one cares

15 for? Why are he and his children hurled and cast into a land which they do not know? O land, land, land, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the LORD: "Write this man down 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

20 scatter the sheep of my pasture!" says the LORD. Therefore thus says the

LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people:

"You have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries

5 where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, says the LORD. "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as

10 king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

"Therefore, behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when men shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of

15 the land of Egypt,' but 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' Then they shall dwell in their own land." Concerning the prophets: My heart is broken within me, all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, like a man overcome by wine, because of

20 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 is 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 evil upon them in the year of their punishment, says the LORD. In the prophets of Sama'ria I saw an unsavory thing: they prophesied by Ba'al and led my people Israel astray. But in the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: they commit adultery and walk in lies; they strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns from his wickedness; all of them have become like Sodom to me, and its inhabitants like Gomor'rah." Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets: "Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and give them poisoned water to drink; for from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has gone forth into all the land." Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes; they speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, 'It shall be well with you'; and to every one who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'" For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to



perceive and to hear his word, or who has given heed to his word and  
listened? Behold, 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  
5 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 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 at hand, says the LORD, and not a  
10 God afar off? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see  
him? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. I  
have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name,  
saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' How long shall there be lies in  
the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of  
15 their own heart, who think to make my people forget my name by their  
dreams which they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for  
Ba'al? Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him 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  
20 hammer which breaks the rock in pieces? Therefore, behold, I am against the

prophets, says the LORD, who steal my words from one another. Behold, I  
am against the prophets, says the LORD, who use their tongues and say,  
'Says the LORD.' Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams,  
says the LORD, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies  
5 and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them; so they do  
not profit this people at all, says the LORD. "When one of this people, or a  
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 one of the people who says, 'The burden  
10 of the LORD,' I will punish that man and his household. Thus shall you say,  
every one to his neighbor and every one to his brother, 'What has the LORD  
answered?' or 'What has the LORD spoken?' But 'the burden of the LORD'  
you shall mention no more, for the burden is every man's own word, and  
you pervert the words of the living God, the LORD of hosts, our God. Thus  
15 you shall say to 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, '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, behold, I will surely lift you up and cast you away from my  
20 presence, you and the city which I gave to you and your fathers. And I will

bring upon you everlasting reproach and perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten." After Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon had taken into exile from Jerusalem Jeconiah the son of Jehoi'akim, king of Judah, together with the princes of Judah, the craftsmen, and the smiths, and had brought them to

5 Babylon, the LORD showed me this vision: Behold, two baskets of figs placed before the temple of the LORD. One basket had very good figs, like first-ripe figs, but the other 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

10 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, whom I have sent away from this place to the land of the Chalde'ans. 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

15 plant them, and not uproot them. 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 with their whole heart. "But thus says the LORD: Like the bad figs which are so bad they cannot be eaten, so will I treat Zedeki'ah the king of Judah, his princes, the remnant of Jerusalem who remain in this

20 land, and those who dwell in the land of Egypt. I will make them a horror

to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a reproach, 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 shall be utterly destroyed from the land which I gave to them and their fathers." The word that came to

5 Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoi'akim the son of Josi'ah, king of Judah (that was the first year of Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon), which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem: "For twenty-three years, from the thirteenth year of Josi'ah the son of Amon, king of Judah, to this day, the

10 word of the LORD has come to me, and I have spoken persistently to you, but you have not listened. You have neither listened nor inclined your ears to hear, although the LORD persistently sent to you all his servants the prophets, saying, 'Turn now, every one of you, from his evil way and wrong doings, and dwell upon the land which the LORD has given to you and your

15 fathers from of old and for ever; do not go after other gods to serve and worship them, or provoke me to anger with the work of your hands. Then I will do you no harm.' Yet you have not listened to me, says the LORD, that you might provoke me to anger with the work of your hands to your own harm. "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: Because you have not

20 obeyed my words, behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, says the

LORD, and for Nebuchadrez'zar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these nations round about; I will utterly destroy them, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting reproach. Moreover, I will banish from them the voice of

5 mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the grinding of the millstones and the light of the lamp. 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 Chalde'ans,

10 for their iniquity, says the LORD, making the land an everlasting waste. I will bring upon that land all the words which I have uttered against it, everything written in this book, which Jeremiah prophesied against all the nations. For many nations and great kings shall make slaves even of them; and I will recompense them according to their deeds and the work of their

15 hands." 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 drink it. They shall drink and stagger and be crazed because of the sword which 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

20 the cities of Judah, its kings and princes, to make them a desolation and a

waste, a hissing and a curse, as at this day; Pharaoh king of Egypt, his  
servants, his princes, all his people, and all the foreign folk among them; all  
the kings of the land of Uz and all the kings of the land of the Philistines  
(Ash'kelon, Gaza, Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod); Edom, Moab, and the  
5 sons of Ammon; all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon, and the kings  
of the coastland across the sea; Dedan, Tema, Buz, and all who cut the  
corners of their hair; all the kings of Arabia and all the kings of the mixed  
tribes that dwell 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  
10 after another, and all the kingdoms of the world which are on the face of  
the earth. And after them the king of Babylon shall drink. "Then you shall  
say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Drink, be  
drunk and vomit, fall and rise no more, because of the sword which I am  
sending among you.' "And if they refuse to accept the cup from your hand  
15 to drink, then you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: You  
must drink! For behold, I begin to work evil at the city which is called by  
my name, and shall you go unpunished? 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,  
20 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 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,  
 5 and the wicked he will put to the sword, says the LORD.' "Thus says the  
 LORD of hosts: Behold, evil is going forth from nation to nation, and a  
 great tempest is stirring from the farthest parts of the earth! "And 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 be dung  
 10 on the surface of the ground. "Wail, you shepherds, and cry, and roll in  
 ashes, you lords of the flock, for the days of your slaughter and dispersion  
 have come, and you shall fall like choice rams. No refuge will remain for  
 the shepherds, nor 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  
 15 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 land  
 has become a waste because of the sword of the oppressor, and because of  
 his fierce anger." In the beginning of the reign of Jehoi'akim the son of  
 Josi'ah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD, "Thus says the  
 20 LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak to all the cities

of Judah which come to worship in the house of the LORD all the words  
that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. It may be  
they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may repent of  
the evil which I intend to do to them because of their evil doings. You shall  
5 say to them, "Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in  
my law which I have set before you, and to heed the words of my 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  
10 heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. And when  
Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded 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  
15 shall be desolate, without inhabitant'?" And all the people gathered about  
Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. When the princes of Judah 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 princes and to all the people,  
20 "This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against



this city, as you have heard with your own ears." Then Jeremiah spoke to all the princes and all the people, saying, "The LORD 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

5 God, and the LORD will repent of the evil which he has pronounced against you. But as for me, behold, I am in 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 bring 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

10 in your ears." Then the princes and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, "This man does not deserve the sentence of death, for he has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God." And certain of the elders of the land arose and spoke to all the assembled people, saying, "Micah of Mo'resheth prophesied in the days of Hezeki'ah king of Judah, and said to all

15 the people of Judah: 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.' Did Hezeki'ah king of Judah and all Judah put him to death? Did he not fear the LORD and entreat the favor of the LORD, and did not the LORD repent of the evil which he had pronounced against

20 them? But we are about to bring great evil upon ourselves." There was

another man who prophesied in the name of the LORD, Uri'ah the son of Shemai'ah from Kir'iath-je'arim. He prophesied against this city and against this land in words like those of Jeremiah. And when King Jehoi'akim, with all his warriors and all the princes, heard his words, the king sought to put

5 him to death; but when Uri'ah heard of it, he was afraid and fled and escaped to Egypt. Then King Jehoi'akim sent to Egypt certain men, Elna'than the son of Achbor and others with him, and they fetched Uri'ah from Egypt and brought him to King Jehoi'akim, who slew him with the sword and cast his dead body into the burial place of the common people. But the hand of

10 Ahi'kam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah so that he was not given over to the people to be put to death. In the beginning of the reign of Zedeki'ah the son of Josi'ah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD. Thus the LORD said to me: "Make yourself thongs and yoke-

bars, and put them on your neck. Send word to the king of Edom, the king

15 of Moab, the king of the sons of Ammon, the king of Tyre, and the king of Sidon by the hand of the envoys who have come to Jerusalem to Zedeki'ah king 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

20 is I who by my great power and my outstretched arm have made the earth, with the men and animals that are on the earth, and I give it to whomever

it seems right to me. Now I have given all these lands into the hand of  
Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, my servant, and I have given him also  
the beasts 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  
5 nations and great kings shall make him their slave. ""But if any nation or  
kingdom will not serve this Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and put its  
neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, I will punish that nation with  
the sword, with famine, and with pestilence, says the LORD, until I have  
consumed it by his hand. So do not listen to your prophets, your diviners,  
10 your dreamers, your soothsayers, or your sorcerers, who are saying to you,  
'You shall not serve the king of Babylon.' For it is a lie which they are  
prophesying to you, with the result that you will be removed far from your  
land, and I will drive you out, and you will perish. But any nation which  
will bring its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I  
15 will leave on its own land, to till it and dwell there, says the LORD."" To  
Zedekiah king of Judah I spoke in like manner: "Bring your necks under the  
yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live. Why  
will you and your people die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, as  
the LORD has spoken concerning any nation which will not serve the king  
20 of Babylon? Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are saying to

you, 'You shall not serve the king of Babylon,' for it is a lie which they are prophesying 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

5 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, 'Behold, the vessels of the LORD's house will now shortly be brought back from Babylon,' for it is a lie which they are prophesying to you. Do not listen to them; serve the king of Babylon and live. Why should this city

10 become a desolation? If 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 which are 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 which

15 are left in this city, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon did not take away, when he took into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem-- thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning the vessels

20 which are 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 remain there until

the day when I give attention to them, says the LORD. Then I will bring them back and restore them to this place." In that same year, at the beginning of the reign of Zedeki'ah king of Judah, in the fifth month of the fourth year, Hanani'ah the son of Azzur, the prophet from Gibeon, spoke to

5 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 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 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon. I will

10 also bring back to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoi'akim, king of Judah, and all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon, says the LORD, for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon." Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hanani'ah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; and the prophet

15 Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words which you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. Yet hear now this word which I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times

20 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 to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet." Then the prophet Hanani'ah took the yoke-bars from the neck of Jeremiah the prophet, and broke them. And Hanani'ah spoke in the

5 presence of all the people, saying, "Thus says the LORD: Even so will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all the nations within two years." But Jeremiah the prophet went his way. Sometime after the prophet Hanani'ah had broken the yoke-bars from off the neck of Jeremiah the prophet, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: "Go, tell

10 Hanani'ah, "Thus says the LORD: You have broken wooden bars, but I will make in their place bars of iron. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I have put upon the neck of all these nations an iron yoke of servitude to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and they shall serve him, for I have given to him even the beasts of the field." And Jeremiah the prophet

15 said to the prophet Hanani'ah, "Listen, Hanani'ah, the LORD has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in a lie. Therefore thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will remove you from the face of the earth. This very year you shall die, because you have uttered rebellion against the LORD.'" In that same year, in the seventh month, the prophet Hanani'ah died. These are

20 the words of the letter which Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to

the elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. This was after King Jeconiah, and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the smiths had departed from

5 Jerusalem. The letter was sent by the hand of Ela'sah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilki'ah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of 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

10 eat their 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 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

15 hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams which they dream, for it is a lie which they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD. "For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfil to you my

20 promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for

you, says the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will restore your

5 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 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 dwell in

10 this city, your kinsmen who did not go out with you into exile: 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, Behold, I am sending on them sword, famine, and pestilence, and I will make them like vile figs which are so bad they cannot be eaten. I will pursue them with sword, famine, and pestilence, and will make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, a terror,

15 a hissing, and a reproach among all the nations where I have driven them, because they did not heed my words, says the LORD, which I persistently sent to you by my servants the prophets, but you would not listen, says the LORD.' -- Hear the word of the LORD, all you exiles whom I sent away from Jerusalem to Babylon: 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of

20 Israel, concerning Ahab the son of Kola'iah and Zedeki'ah the son of Ma-



asei'ah, who are prophesying a lie to you in my name: Behold, I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon, and he shall slay them before your eyes. Because of them this curse shall be used by all the exiles from Judah in Babylon: "The LORD make you like Zedeki'ah and

5 Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire," because they have committed folly in Israel, they have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives, and they have spoken in my name lying words which I did not command them. I am the one who knows, and I am witness, says the LORD." To Shemai'ah of Nehel'am you shall say: "Thus says the LORD of

10 hosts, the God of Israel: You have sent letters in your name to all the people who are in Jerusalem, and to Zephani'ah the son of Ma-asei'ah the priest, and to all the priests, saying, 'The LORD has made you priest instead of Jehoi'ada the priest, to have charge in the house of the LORD over every madman who prophesies, to put him in the stocks and collar. Now why have

15 you not rebuked Jeremiah of An'athoth who is prophesying to you? For he has sent to us in Babylon, saying, "Your exile will be long; build houses and live in them, and plant gardens and eat their produce.'"" Zephani'ah the priest read this letter in the hearing of Jeremiah the prophet. Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: "Send to all the exiles, saying, 'Thus says

20 the LORD concerning Shemai'ah of Nehel'am: Because Shemai'ah has

prophesied to you when I did not send him, and has made you trust in a  
lie, therefore thus says the LORD: Behold, I will punish Shemai'ah of  
Nehel'am and his descendants; he shall not have any one living among this  
people to see the good that I will do to my people, says the LORD, for he  
5 has talked rebellion against the LORD." The word that came to Jeremiah  
from the LORD: "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Write in a book  
all the words that I have spoken to you. For behold, days are 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 which I gave to  
10 their fathers, and they shall take possession of it." These are the words  
which the 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  
15 day is so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress for Jacob; yet  
he shall be saved out of it. "And it shall come to pass in that day, says the  
LORD of hosts, that I will break the yoke from off their neck, and I will  
burst their bonds, and strangers shall no more make servants of them. But  
they shall serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will  
20 raise up for them. "Then fear not, O Jacob my servant, says the LORD, nor

be dismayed, O Israel; for lo, I will save you from afar, and your offspring  
from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease,  
and none shall make him afraid. For I am with you to save you, says the  
LORD; I will make a full end of all the nations among whom I scattered  
5 you, but of you I will not make a full end. I will chasten you in just  
measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished. "For thus says the  
LORD: Your hurt is incurable, and your wound is grievous. There is none 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  
10 you the blow of an enemy, the punishment of a merciless foe, because your  
guilt is great, because your sins are flagrant. Why do you cry out over your  
hurt? Your pain is incurable. Because your guilt is great, because your sins  
are flagrant, I have done these things to you. Therefore all who devour you  
shall be devoured, and all your foes, every one of them, shall go into  
15 captivity; those who despoil you shall become a spoil, and all who prey on  
you I will make a 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, for whom no one cares!' "Thus says the LORD: Behold, I will restore  
the fortunes of the tents of Jacob, and have compassion on his dwellings; the  
20 city shall be rebuilt upon its mound, and the palace shall stand where it used

to be. Out of them shall come songs of thanksgiving, and the voices of those who make merry. I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will make them honored, and they shall not be small. Their children shall be as they were of old, and their congregation shall be established before me;

5 and I will punish all who oppress them. Their prince shall be one of themselves, their ruler shall come forth from their midst; I will make him draw near, and he shall approach me, for who would dare of himself to approach me? says the LORD. And you shall be my people, and I will be your God." Behold the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling

10 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 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

15 found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the LORD appeared to him from afar. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with timbrels, and shall go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. Again you

20 shall plant vineyards upon the mountains of Sama'ria; the planters shall plant,

and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when watchmen will call  
in the hill country of E'phraim: 'Arise, and 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,  
5 and say, 'The LORD has saved his people, the remnant of Israel.' Behold, I  
will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the farthest  
parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the woman with  
child and her who is in travail, together; a great company, they shall return  
here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them  
10 back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which  
they shall not stumble; for I am a father to Israel, and E'phraim is my first-  
born. "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the  
coastlands afar off; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will  
keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.' For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
15 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, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the  
young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden,  
and they shall languish no more. Then shall the maidens rejoice in the  
20 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 feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, 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 not."

5 Thus says the LORD: "Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for your work shall be rewarded, says the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is hope for your future, says the LORD, and your children shall come back to their own country. I have

10 heard E'phraim bemoaning, 'Thou hast chastened me, and I was chastened, like an untrained calf; bring me back that I may be restored, for thou art the LORD my God. For after I had turned away I repented; and after I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh; I was ashamed, and I was confounded, because I bore the disgrace of my youth.' Is E'phraim my dear son? Is he

15 my darling child? For as often as I speak against him, I do remember him still. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I will surely have mercy on him, says the LORD. "Set up waymarks 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

20 daughter? For the LORD has created a new thing on the earth: a woman

protects 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 cities, when  
I restore their fortunes: 'The LORD bless you, O habitation of righteousness,  
O holy hill!' And Judah and all its cities shall dwell there together, and the  
5 farmers and those who wander with their flocks. For I will satisfy the weary  
soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish." Thereupon I awoke and  
looked, and my sleep was pleasant to me. "Behold, the days are coming,  
says the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah  
with the seed of man and the seed of beast. And it shall come to pass that  
10 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 fathers have eaten  
sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.' But every one shall die  
for his own sin; each man who eats sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on  
15 edge. "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a  
new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the  
covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to  
bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though  
I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant which I will  
20 make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put

my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be  
their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each man teach  
his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall  
all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I  
5 will forgive their iniquity, and I will 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 name: "If this fixed order departs from before  
me, says the LORD, then shall the descendants of Israel cease from being a  
10 nation before me for ever." Thus says the LORD: "If the heavens above can  
be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I  
will cast off all the descendants of Israel for all that they have done, says  
the LORD." "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when the city  
shall be rebuilt for the LORD from the tower of Han'anel to the Corner  
15 Gate. And the measuring line shall go out farther, straight to the hill Gareb,  
and shall then turn to Go'ah. The whole valley of the dead bodies and the  
ashes, and all the fields as far as the brook Kidron, to the corner of the  
Horse Gate toward the east, shall be sacred to the LORD. It shall not be  
uprooted or overthrown any more for ever." The word that came to Jeremiah  
20 from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedeki'ah king of Judah, which was the



eighteenth year of Nebuchadrez'zar. At that time the army of the king of  
Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in  
the court of the guard which was in the palace of the king of Judah. For  
Zedeki'ah king of Judah had imprisoned him, saying, "Why do you prophesy  
5 and say, 'Thus says the LORD: Behold, I am giving this city into the hand  
of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it; Zedeki'ah king of Judah shall  
not escape out of the hand of the Chalde'ans, but shall surely be given into  
the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him face to face and  
see him eye to eye; and he shall take Zedeki'ah to Babylon, and there he  
10 shall remain until I visit him, says the LORD; though you fight against the  
Chalde'ans, you shall not succeed'?" Jeremiah said, "The word of the LORD  
came to me: Behold, Han'amel the son of Shallum your uncle will come to  
you and say, 'Buy my field which is at An'athoth, for the right of  
redemption by purchase is yours.' Then Han'amel my cousin came to me in  
15 the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said  
to me, 'Buy my field which is at An'athoth 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 word of the LORD. "And I bought the field at  
An'athoth from Han'amel my cousin, and weighed out the money to him,  
20 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 the son of Neri'ah son of Mahsei'ah, in the presence  
of Han'amel my cousin, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the  
5 deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Jews who were sitting in  
the court of the guard. I charged Baruch in their presence, saying, 'Thus says  
the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed  
deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware vessel,  
that they may last for a long time. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the  
10 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 the son of Neri'ah,  
I prayed to the LORD, saying: 'Ah Lord GOD! It is thou who hast made the  
heavens and the earth by thy great power and by thy outstretched arm!  
Nothing is too hard for thee, who showest steadfast love to thousands, but  
15 dost requite the guilt of fathers to 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 men, rewarding every man  
according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings; who hast  
shown signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, and to this day in Israel and  
20 among all mankind, and hast made thee a name, as at this day. Thou didst

bring thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders,  
with a strong hand and outstretched arm, and with great terror; and thou  
gavest them this land, which thou didst swear to their fathers to give them, a  
land flowing with milk and honey; and they entered and took possession of  
5 it. But they did not obey thy voice or walk in thy law; they did nothing of  
all thou didst command them to do. Therefore thou hast made all this evil  
come upon them. Behold, the siege mounds have come up to the city to take  
it, and because of sword and famine and pestilence the city is given into the  
hands of the Chalde'ans who are fighting against it. What thou didst speak  
10 has come to pass, and behold, thou seest it. Yet thou, O Lord GOD, hast  
said to me, "Buy the field for money and get witnesses" --though the city is  
given into the hands of the Chalde'ans." The word of the LORD came to  
Jeremiah: "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too  
hard for me? Therefore, thus says the LORD: Behold, I am giving this city  
15 into the hands of the Chalde'ans and into the hand of Nebuchadrez'zar king  
of Babylon, and he shall take it. The Chalde'ans who are fighting against this  
city shall come and set this city on fire, and burn it, with the houses on  
whose roofs incense has been offered to Ba'al and drink offerings have been  
poured out to other gods, to provoke me to anger. For the sons of Israel and  
20 the sons of Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight from their youth;

the sons 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 to this day, so that I will remove it from my sight because of all the evil of the sons of Israel and the sons of Judah which

5 they did to provoke me to anger--their kings and their princes, their priests and their prophets, the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They have turned to me their back and not their face; and though I have taught them persistently they have not listened to receive instruction. They set up their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to defile it.

10 They built the high places of Ba'al 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 into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin. "Now therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, 'It is given into the hand of the king

15 of Babylon by sword, by famine, and by pestilence': Behold, I will gather them from all the countries 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 make them dwell in safety. And 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

20 for ever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will

make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from  
doing good to them; and I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they  
may not turn from me. I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant  
them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul. "For  
5 thus says the LORD: Just as I have brought all this great evil upon this  
people, so I will bring upon them all the good that I promise them. Fields  
shall be bought in this land of which you are saying, It is a desolation,  
without man or beast; it is given into the hands of the Chalde'ans. Fields  
shall be bought for money, and deeds shall be signed and sealed and  
10 witnessed, in the land of Benjamin, in the places about Jerusalem, and in the  
cities of Judah, in the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the  
Shephe'lah, and in the cities of the Negeb; for I will restore their fortunes,  
says the LORD." The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah a second time,  
while he was still shut up in the court of the guard: "Thus says the LORD  
15 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 which you have not known. For thus says the LORD, the God  
of Israel, concerning the houses of this city and the houses of the kings of  
Judah which were torn down to make a defense against the siege mounds  
20 and before the sword: The Chalde'ans are coming in to fight and to fill them

with the dead bodies of men whom I shall smite in my anger and my wrath,  
for I have hidden my face from this city because of all their wickedness.  
Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal  
to them abundance of prosperity and security. I will restore the fortunes of  
5 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 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  
10 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 man  
or beast,' in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate,  
without man or inhabitant or beast, there shall be heard again the voice of  
mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice  
15 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 endures for ever!' For I will restore the  
fortunes of the land as at first, says the LORD. "Thus says the LORD of  
hosts: In this place which is waste, without man or beast, and in all of its  
20 cities, there shall again be habitations of shepherds resting their flocks. In the

cities of the hill country, in the cities of the Shephe'lah, and in the cities of  
 the Negeb, in the land of Benjamin, the places about Jerusalem, and in the  
 cities of Judah, flocks shall again pass under the hands of the one who  
 counts them, says the LORD. "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD,  
 5 when I will fulfil 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 forth for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the  
 land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely.  
 And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our  
 10 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 burn cereal offerings,  
 and to make sacrifices for ever." The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:  
 "Thus says the LORD: If you can break my covenant with the day and my  
 15 covenant with the night, so that day and night will not come at their  
 appointed time, then also my covenant with David my servant may be  
 broken, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and my  
 covenant with the Levitical priests my ministers. As the host of heaven  
 cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I will  
 20 multiply the descendants of David my servant, and the Levitical priests who

minister to me." The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: "Have you not observed what these people are saying, 'The LORD has rejected the two families which he chose'? Thus they have despised my people so that they are no longer a nation in their sight. Thus says the LORD: If I have not  
5 established my covenant with day and night and the ordinances of heaven and earth, then I will reject the descendants of Jacob and David my servant and will not choose one of his descendants to rule over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes, and will have mercy upon them." The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, when  
10 Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and all his army and all the kingdoms of the earth under his dominion and all the peoples were fighting against Jerusalem and all of its cities: "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: Behold, I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he  
15 shall burn it with fire. You shall not escape from his hand, but shall surely be captured and delivered into his hand; you shall see the king of Babylon eye to eye and speak with him face to face; and you shall go to Babylon.' Yet hear the word of the LORD, O Zedekiah king of Judah! Thus says the LORD concerning you: 'You shall not die by the sword. You shall die in  
20 peace. And as spices were burned for your fathers, the former kings who



were before you, so men shall burn spices for you and lament for you,  
saying, "Alas, lord!" For I have spoken the word, says the LORD." Then  
Jeremiah the prophet spoke all these words to Zedeki'ah king of Judah, in  
Jerusalem, when the army of the king of Babylon was fighting against  
5 Jerusalem and against all the cities of Judah that were left, Lachish and  
Aze'kah; for these were the only fortified cities of Judah that remained. The  
word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, after King Zedeki'ah had  
made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to make a proclamation of  
liberty to them, that every one should set free his Hebrew slaves, male and  
10 female, so that no one should enslave a Jew, his brother. And they obeyed,  
all the princes and all the people who had entered into the covenant that  
every one would set free his slave, male or female, so that they would not  
be 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  
15 brought them into subjection as slaves. The word of the LORD came to  
Jeremiah from the LORD: "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I made  
a covenant with your fathers when I brought them out of the land of Egypt,  
out of the house of bondage, saying, 'At the end of six years each of you  
must set free the fellow Hebrew who has been sold to you and has served  
20 you six years; you must set him free from your service.' But your fathers did

not listen to me or incline their ears to me. You recently repented and did what was right in my eyes by proclaiming liberty, each to his neighbor, and you made a covenant before me in the house which is called by my name; but then you turned around and profaned my name when each of you took  
5 back his male and female slaves, whom you had set free according to their desire, and you brought them into subjection to be your slaves. Therefore, thus says the LORD: You have not obeyed me by proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother and to his neighbor; behold, I proclaim to you liberty to the sword, to pestilence, and to famine, says the LORD. I will make you a  
10 horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. And the men who transgressed my covenant and did not keep the terms of the covenant which they made before me, I will make like the calf which they cut in two and passed between its parts-- the princes of Judah, the princes of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, the priests, and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the  
15 calf; and I will give them into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their lives. Their dead bodies shall be food for the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth. And Zedeki'ah king of Judah, and his princes I will give into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their lives, into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon  
20 which has withdrawn from you. Behold, I will 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. I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without inhabitant." The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the days of Jehoi'akim the son of Josi'ah, king of Judah: "Go to the house of the

5 Re'chabites, 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 Jazani'ah the son of Jeremiah, son of Habazzini'ah, and his brothers, and all his sons, and the whole house of the Re'chabites. I brought them to the house of the LORD into the chamber of the sons of Hanan the son of

10 Igdali'ah, the man of God, which was near the chamber of the princes, above the chamber of Ma-asei'ah the son of Shallum, keeper of the threshold. Then I set before the Re'chabites pitchers full of wine, and cups; and I said to them, "Drink wine." But they answered, "We will drink no wine, for Jon'adab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, 'You shall not drink

15 wine, neither you nor your sons for ever; you shall not build a house; you shall not sow seed; you shall not plant or have a vineyard; but you shall live in tents all your days, that you may live many days in the land where you sojourn.' We have obeyed the voice of Jon'adab the son of Rechab, our father, in all that he commanded us, to drink no wine all our days,

20 ourselves, our wives, our sons, or our daughters, and not to build houses to

dwelt in. We have no vineyard or field or seed; but we have lived in tents,  
and have obeyed and done all that Jon'adab our father commanded us. But  
when Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came up against the land, we said,  
'Come, and let us go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans  
5 and the army of the Syrians.' So 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 men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem,  
Will you not receive instruction and listen to my words? says the LORD.  
The command which Jon'adab the son of Rechab gave to his sons, to drink  
10 no wine, has been kept; and they drink none to this day, for they have  
obeyed their father's command. I have spoken to you persistently, but you  
have not listened to me. I have sent to you all my servants the prophets,  
sending them persistently, saying, 'Turn now every one of you from his evil  
way, and amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them,  
15 and then you shall dwell in the land which I gave to you and your fathers.'  
But you did not incline your ear or listen to me. The sons of Jon'adab the  
son of Rechab have kept the command which their father gave them, but this  
people has not obeyed me. Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of hosts,  
the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing on Judah and all the inhabitants of  
20 Jerusalem all the evil 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 Re'chabites Jeremiah said, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Because you have obeyed the command of Jon'adab your father, and kept all his precepts, and done all that

5 he commanded you, therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Jon'adab the son of Rechab shall never lack a man to stand before me." In the fourth year of Jehoi'akim the son of Josi'ah, king of 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

10 nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josi'ah until today. It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I intend to do to them, so that every one may turn from his evil way, and that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin." Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neri'ah, and Baruch wrote upon a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah all the

15 words of the LORD which he had spoken to him. And Jeremiah ordered Baruch, saying, "I am debarred from going to the house of the LORD; so you are to go, and on a fast day in the hearing of all the people in the LORD's house you shall read the words of the LORD from the scroll which you have written at my dictation. You shall read them also in the hearing of

20 all the men of Judah who come out of their cities. It may be that their

supplication will come before the LORD, and that every one will turn from his evil way, for great is the anger and wrath that the LORD has pronounced against this people." And Baruch the son of Neri'ah did all that Jeremiah the prophet ordered him about reading from the scroll the words of

5 the LORD in the LORD's house. In the fifth year of Jehoi'akim the son of Josi'ah, king of Judah, in the ninth month, all the people in Jerusalem and all the people who came from the cities of Judah to Jerusalem proclaimed a fast before the LORD. Then, in the hearing of all the people, Baruch read the words of Jeremiah from the scroll, in the house of the LORD, in the

10 chamber of Gemari'ah the son of Shaphan the secretary, which was in the upper court, at the entry of the New Gate of the LORD's house. When Micai'ah the son of Gemari'ah, son of Shaphan, heard all the words of the LORD from the scroll, he went down to the king's house, into the secretary's chamber; and all the princes were sitting there: Eli'shama the secretary,

15 Delai'ah the son of Shemai'ah, Elna'than the son of Achbor, Gemari'ah the son of Shaphan, Zedeki'ah the son of Hanani'ah, and all the princes. And Micai'ah told them all the words that he had heard, when Baruch read the scroll in the hearing of the people. Then all the princes sent Jehu'di the son of Nethani'ah, son of Shelemi'ah, son of Cush, to say to Baruch, "Take in

20 your hand the scroll that you read in the hearing of the people, and come."

So Baruch the son of Neri'ah took the scroll in his hand and came to them.

And they said to him, "Sit down and read it." So Baruch read it to them.

When they heard all the words, they turned one to another in fear; and they said to Baruch, "We must report all these words to the king." Then they

5 asked Baruch, "Tell us, how did you write all these words? Was it at his dictation?" Baruch answered them, "He dictated all these words to me, while I wrote them with ink on the scroll." Then the princes said to Baruch, "Go and hide, you and Jeremiah, and let no one know where you are." So they went into the court to the king, having put the scroll in the chamber of

10 Eli'shama the secretary; and they reported all the words to the king. Then the king sent Jehu'di to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Eli'shama the secretary; and Jehu'di read it to the king and all the princes who stood beside the king. It was the ninth month, and the king was sitting in the winter house and there was a fire burning in the brazier before him.

15 As Jehu'di 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 afraid, nor did they rend their garments. Even when Elna'than and Delai'ah and Gemari'ah urged the

20 king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them. And the king

commanded Jerah'meel the king's son and Serai'ah the son of Az'ri-el and  
Shelemi'ah the son of Abdeel to seize Baruch the secretary and Jeremiah the  
prophet, but the LORD hid them. Now, after the king had burned the scroll  
with the words which Baruch wrote at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the  
5 LORD came to Jeremiah: "Take another scroll and write on it all the former  
words that were in the first scroll, which Jehoi'akim the king of Judah has  
burned. And concerning Jehoi'akim king of Judah you shall say, 'Thus says  
the LORD, You have burned this scroll, saying, "Why have you written in it  
that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and will  
10 cut off from it man and beast?" Therefore thus says the LORD concerning  
Jehoi'akim king of Judah, He shall have none 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 his servants for their  
iniquity; I will bring upon them, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and  
15 upon the men of Judah, all the evil that I have pronounced against them, but  
they would not hear.'" Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to  
Baruch the scribe, the son of Neri'ah, who wrote on it at the dictation of  
Jeremiah all the words of the scroll which Jehoi'akim king of Judah had  
burned in the fire; and many similar words were added to them. Zedeki'ah  
20 the son of Josi'ah, whom Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon made king in the



land of Judah, reigned instead of Coni'ah the son of Jehoi'akim. But neither he nor his servants nor the people of the land listened to the words of the LORD which he spoke through Jeremiah the prophet. King Zedeki'ah sent Jehu'cal the son of Shelemi'ah, and Zephani'ah the priest, the son of Ma-  
5 asei'ah, to Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "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. The army of Pharaoh had come out of Egypt; and when the Chalde'ans who were besieging Jerusalem heard news of them, they withdrew from Jerusalem. Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the  
10 prophet: "Thus says the LORD, God of Israel: Thus shall you say to the king of Judah who sent you to me to inquire of me, 'Behold, Pharaoh's army which came to help you is about to return to Egypt, to its own land. And the Chalde'ans shall come back and fight against this city; they shall take it and burn it with fire. Thus says the LORD, Do not deceive yourselves,  
15 saying, "The Chalde'ans will surely stay away from us," for they will not stay away. For even if you should defeat the whole army of Chalde'ans who are fighting against you, and there remained of them only wounded men, every man in his tent, they would rise up and burn this city with fire.'" Now when the Chalde'an army had withdrawn from Jerusalem at the approach of  
20 Pharaoh's army, Jeremiah set out from Jerusalem to go to the land of

Benjamin to receive his portion there among the people. When he was at the Benjamin Gate, a sentry there named Iri'jah the son of Shelemi'ah, son of Hanani'ah, seized Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "You are deserting to the Chalde'ans." And Jeremiah said, "It is false; I am not deserting to the Chalde'ans." But Iri'jah would not listen to him, and seized Jeremiah and brought him to the princes. And the princes were enraged at Jeremiah, and they beat him and imprisoned him in the house of Jonathan the secretary, for it had been made a prison. When Jeremiah had come to the dungeon cells, and remained there many days, King Zedeki'ah 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 delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon." Jeremiah also said to King Zedeki'ah, "What wrong have I done to you or your servants or this 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 hear, I pray you, O my lord the king: let my humble plea come before you, and do not send me back to the house of Jonathan the secretary, lest I die there." So King Zedeki'ah gave orders, and they committed 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 Shephati'ah the son of Mattan, Gedali'ah the son of Pashhur, Jucal the son of Shelemi'ah, and Pashhur the son of Malchi'ah heard the words that Jeremiah was saying to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, He who stays in this city shall die  
5 by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence; but he who goes out to the Chalde'ans shall live; he shall have his life as a prize of war, and live. Thus says the LORD, This city shall surely be given into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon and be taken." Then the princes said to the king, "Let this man be put to death, for he is weakening the hands of the soldiers who  
10 are left in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm." King Zedeki'ah said, "Behold, he is in your hands; for the king can do nothing against you." So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern of Malchi'ah, the king's son, which was in the court of the guard, letting  
15 Jeremiah down by ropes. And there was no water in the cistern, but only mire, and Jeremiah sank in the mire. When E'bed-mel'ech the Ethiopian, a eunuch, who was in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern--the king was sitting in the Benjamin Gate-- E'bed-mel'ech went from the king's house and said to the king, "My lord the king, these men  
20 have done evil in all that they did to Jeremiah the prophet by casting him

into the cistern; and he will die there of hunger, for there is no bread left in the city." Then the king commanded E'bed-mel'ech, the Ethiopian, "Take three men with you from here, and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies." So E'bed-mel'ech took the men with him and went to the

5 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 E'bed-mel'ech the Ethiopian said to Jeremiah, "Put the rags and clothes between your armpits and the ropes." Jeremiah did so. Then they drew Jeremiah up with ropes and lifted him out of the cistern. And Jeremiah

10 remained in the court of the guard. King Zedeki'ah sent for Jeremiah the prophet and received him at the third entrance of the temple of the LORD. The king said to Jeremiah, "I will ask you a question; hide nothing from me." Jeremiah said to Zedeki'ah, "If I tell you, will you not be sure to put me to death? And if I give you counsel, you will not listen to me." Then

15 King Zedeki'ah swore secretly to Jeremiah, "As the LORD lives, who made our souls, I will not put you to death or deliver you into the hand of these men who seek your life." Then Jeremiah said to Zedeki'ah, "Thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel, If you will surrender to the princes of the king of Babylon, then your life shall be spared, and this city

20 shall not be burned with fire, and you and your house shall live. But if you

do not surrender to the princes of the king of Babylon, then this city shall be given into the hand of the Chalde'ans, and they shall burn it with fire, and you shall not escape from their hand." King Zedeki'ah said to Jeremiah, "I am afraid of the Jews who have deserted to the Chalde'ans, lest I be

5 handed over to them and they abuse me." Jeremiah said, "You shall not be given to them. Obey now the voice of the LORD in what I say to you, and it shall be well with you, and your life shall be spared. But if you refuse to surrender, this is the vision which the LORD has shown to me: Behold, all the women left in the house of the king of Judah were being led out to the

10 princes of the king of Babylon and were saying, 'Your trusted friends have deceived you and prevailed against you; now that your feet are sunk in the mire, they turn away from you.' All your wives and your sons shall be led out to the Chalde'ans, and you yourself shall not escape from their hand, but shall be seized by the king of Babylon; and this city shall be burned with

15 fire." Then Zedeki'ah said to Jeremiah, "Let no one know of these words and you shall not die. If the princes hear that I have spoken with you and come to you and say to you, 'Tell us what you said to the king and what the king said to you; hide nothing from us and we will not put you to death,' then you shall say to them, 'I made a humble plea to the king that he would not

20 send me back to the house of Jonathan to die there.'" Then all the princes

came to Jeremiah and asked him, and he answered them as the king had instructed him. So they left off speaking with him, for the conversation had not been overheard. And Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard until the day that Jerusalem was taken. In the ninth year of Zedeki'ah king of

5 Judah, in the tenth month, Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and besieged it; in the eleventh year of Zedeki'ah, in the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, a breach was made in the city. When Jerusalem was taken, all the princes of the king of Babylon came and sat in the middle gate: Ner'gal-share'zer, Sam'gar-ne'bo, Sar'sechim the

10 Rab'saris, Ner'gal-share'zer the Rabmag, with all the rest of the officers of the king of Babylon. When Zedeki'ah king 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 the two walls; and they went toward the Arabah. But the army of the Chalde'ans pursued them, and overtook Zedeki'ah in the

15 plains of Jericho; and when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon, at Riblah, in the land of Hamath; and he passed sentence upon him. The king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedeki'ah at Riblah before his eyes; and the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah. He put out the eyes of Zedeki'ah, and bound him in fetters to take

20 him to Babylon. The Chalde'ans burned the king's house and the house of

the people, and broke down the walls of Jerusalem. Then Nebu'zarad'an, the captain of the guard, carried into exile to Babylon the rest of the people who were left in the city, those who had deserted to him, and the people who remained. Nebu'zarad'an, the captain of the guard, left in the land of Judah

5 some of the poor people who owned nothing, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time. Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon gave command concerning Jeremiah through Nebu'zarad'an, the captain of the guard, saying, "Take him, look after him well and do him no harm, but deal with him as he tells you." So Nebu'zarad'an the captain of the guard, Nebushaz'ban the

10 Rab'saris, Ner'gal-share'zer the Rabmag, and all the chief officers of the king of Babylon sent and took Jeremiah from the court of the guard. They entrusted him to Gedali'ah the son of Ahi'kam, son of Shaphan, that he should take him home. So he dwelt among the people. The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah while he was shut up in the court of the guard:

15 "Go, and say to E'bed-mel'ech the Ethiopian, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will fulfil my words against this city for evil and not for good, and they shall be accomplished before you on that day. But I will deliver you on that day, says the LORD, and you shall not be given into the hand of the men of whom you are afraid. For I will surely

20 save you, and you shall not fall by the sword; but you shall have your life

as a prize of war, because you have put your trust in me, says the LORD."

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD after Nebu'zarad'an the captain of the guard had let him go from Ramah, when he took him bound in chains along with all the captives of Jerusalem and Judah who were being

5     exiled to Babylon. The captain of the guard took Jeremiah and said to him, "The LORD your God pronounced this evil against this place; the LORD has brought it about, and has done as he said. Because you sinned against the LORD, and did not obey his voice, this thing has come upon you. Now, behold, I release you today from the chains on your hands. If it seems good

10    to you to come with me to Babylon, come, and I will look after you well; but if it seems wrong to you to come with me to Babylon, do not come.

See, the whole land is before you; go wherever you think it good and right to go. If you remain, then return to Gedali'ah the son of Ahi'kam, son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon appointed governor of the cities of

15    Judah, and dwell 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 Gedali'ah the son of

Ahi'kam, at Mizpah, and dwelt with him among the people who were left in the land. When all the captains of the forces in the open country and their

20    men heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedali'ah the son of



Ahi'kam 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 Gedali'ah at Mizpah--Ish'mael the son of Nethani'ah, Joha'nan the son of Kare'ah, Serai'ah the son of Tanhu'meth, the sons of

5 Ephai the Netoph'athite, Jezani'ah the son of the Ma-ac'athite, they and their men. Gedali'ah the son of Ahi'kam, son of Shaphan, swore to them and their men, saying, "Do not be afraid to serve the Chalde'ans. Dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you. As for me, I will dwell at Mizpah, to stand for you before the Chalde'ans who will come

10 to us; but as for you, gather wine and summer fruits and oil, and store them in your vessels, and dwell in your cities that you have taken." Likewise, when all the Jews who were in Moab and among the Ammonites and in Edom and in other lands heard that the king of Babylon had left a remnant in Judah and had appointed Gedali'ah the son of Ahi'kam, son of Shaphan,

15 as governor over them, then all the Jews returned from all the places to which they had been driven and came to the land of Judah, to Gedali'ah at Mizpah; and they gathered wine and summer fruits in great abundance. Now Joha'nan the son of Kare'ah and all the leaders of the forces in the open country came to Gedali'ah at Mizpah and said to him, "Do you know that

20 Ba'alis the king of the Ammonites has sent Ish'mael the son of Nethani'ah to

take your life?" But Gedali'ah the son of Ahi'kam would not believe them.

Then Joha'nan the son of Kare'ah spoke secretly to Gedali'ah at Mizpah, "Let me go and slay Ish'mael the son of Nethani'ah, and no one will know it.

Why should he take your life, so that all the Jews who are gathered about

5 you would be scattered, and the remnant of Judah would perish?" But

Gedali'ah the son of Ahi'kam said to Joha'nan the son of Kare'ah, "You shall not do this thing, for you are speaking falsely of Ish'mael." In the seventh month, Ish'mael the son of Nethani'ah, son of Eli'shama, of the royal family, one of the chief officers of the king, came with ten men to Gedali'ah the

10 son of Ahi'kam, at Mizpah. As they ate bread together there at Mizpah, Ish'mael the son of Nethani'ah and the ten men with him rose up and struck down Gedali'ah the son of Ahi'kam, son of Shaphan, with the sword, and killed him, whom the king of Babylon had appointed governor in the land.

Ish'mael also slew all the Jews who were with Gedali'ah at Mizpah, and the

15 Chalde'an soldiers who happened to be there. On the day after the murder of Gedali'ah, before any one knew of it, eighty men arrived from Shechem and Shiloh and Sama'ria, with their beards shaved and their clothes torn, and their bodies gashed, bringing cereal offerings and incense to present at the temple of the LORD. And Ish'mael the son of Nethani'ah came out from Mizpah to

20 meet them, weeping as he came. As he met them, he said to them, "Come

in to Gedali'ah the son of Ahi'kam." When they came into the city, Ish'mael the son of Nethani'ah and the men with him slew them, and cast them into a cistern. But there were ten men among them who said to Ish'mael, "Do not kill us, for we have stores of wheat, barley, oil, and honey hidden in the fields." So he refrained and did not kill them with their companions. Now the cistern into which Ish'mael cast all the bodies of the men whom he had slain was the large cistern which King Asa had made for defense against Ba'asha king of Israel; Ish'mael the son of Nethani'ah filled it with the slain. Then Ish'mael 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 Nebu'zarad'an, the captain of the guard, had committed to Gedali'ah the son of Ahi'kam. Ish'mael the son of Nethani'ah took them captive and set out to cross over to the Ammonites. But when Joha'nan the son of Kare'ah and all the leaders of the forces with him heard of all the evil which Ish'mael the son of Nethani'ah had done, they took all their men and went to fight against Ish'mael the son of Nethani'ah. They came upon him at the great pool which is in Gibeon. And when all the people who were with Ish'mael saw Joha'nan the son of Kare'ah and all the leaders of the forces with him, they rejoiced. So all the people whom Ish'mael had carried away captive from Mizpah turned about and came back, and went to Joha'nan the son of

Kare'ah. But Ish'mael the son of Nethani'ah escaped from Joha'nan with eight men, and went to the Ammonites. Then Joha'nan the son of Kare'ah and all the leaders of the forces with him took all the rest of the people whom Ish'mael the son of Nethani'ah had carried away captive from Mizpah after

5 he had slain Gedali'ah the son of Ahi'kam--soldiers, women, children, and eunuchs, whom Joha'nan brought back from Gibeon. And they went and stayed at Geruth Chimham near Bethlehem, intending to go to Egypt because of the Chalde'ans; for they were afraid of them, because Ish'mael the son of Nethani'ah had slain Gedali'ah the son of Ahi'kam, whom the king of

10 Babylon had made governor over the land. Then all the commanders of the forces, and Joha'nan the son of Kare'ah and Azari'ah the son of Hoshai'ah, and all the people from the least to the greatest, came near and said to Jeremiah the prophet, "Let our supplication come before you, and pray to the LORD your God for us, for all this remnant (for we are left but a few of

15 many, as your eyes see us), that the LORD your God may show us the way we should go, and the thing that we should do." Jeremiah the prophet said to them, "I have heard you; behold, I will pray to the LORD your God according to your request, and whatever the LORD answers you I will tell you; I will keep nothing back from you." Then they said to Jeremiah, "May

20 the LORD be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act

according to all the word with which the LORD your God sends you to us.

Whether it is good or evil, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God to whom we are sending you, that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the LORD our God." At the end of ten days the word of the

- 5 LORD came to Jeremiah. Then he summoned Joha'nan the son of Kare'ah 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 supplication before him: If you will remain in this land, then I will build you up and not pull you
- 10 down; I will plant you, and not pluck you up; for I repent of the evil which I did to you. Do not fear the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid; do not fear him, says the LORD, for I am with you, to save you and to deliver you from his hand. I will grant you mercy, that he may have mercy on you and let you remain in your own land. But if you say, 'We will not remain
- 15 in this land,' 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 we will dwell there,' then hear the word of the LORD, O remnant of Judah. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: If you set your faces to enter Egypt and go to live
- 20 there, then the sword which you fear shall overtake you there in the land of

Egypt; and the famine of which you are afraid shall follow hard after you to Egypt; and there you shall die. All the men who set their faces to go to Egypt to live there shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence; they shall have no remnant or survivor from the evil which I will bring

5 upon them. "For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 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 execration, a horror, a curse, and a taunt. You shall see this place no more. The LORD has said to you, O remnant of Judah, 'Do not go to

10 Egypt.' Know for a certainty that I have warned you this day that you have gone astray at the cost of your lives. For you sent me to the LORD your God, saying, 'Pray for us to the LORD our God, and whatever the LORD our God says declare to us and we will do it.' And I have this day declared it to you, but you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God in

15 anything that he sent me to tell you. Now therefore know for a certainty that you shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence in the place where you desire to go to live." 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, Azari'ah the son of Hoshai'ah and Joha'nan the son of

20 Kare'ah and all the 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 live there'; but Baruch the son of Neri'ah has set you against us, to deliver us into the hand of the Chalde'ans, that they may kill us or take us into exile in Babylon." So Joha'nan the son of Kare'ah and all the commanders of the

5 forces and all the people did not obey the voice of the LORD, to remain in the land of Judah. But Joha'nan the son of Kare'ah and all the commanders of the forces took all the remnant of Judah who had returned to live in the land of Judah from all the nations to which they had been driven-- the men, the women, the children, the princesses, and every person whom

10 Nebu'zarad'an the captain of the guard had left with Gedali'ah the son of Ahi'kam, son of Shaphan; also Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch the son of Neri'ah. And they came into the land of Egypt, for they did not obey the voice of the LORD. And they arrived at Tah'panhes. Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah in Tah'panhes: "Take in your hands large stones,

15 and hide them in the mortar in the pavement which is at the entrance to Pharaoh's palace in Tah'panhes, in the sight of the men of Judah, and say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will send and take Nebuchadrez'zar the king of Babylon, my servant, and he will set his throne above these stones which I have hid, and he will spread his royal

20 canopy over them. He shall come and smite the land of Egypt, giving to the

pestilence those who are doomed to the pestilence, to captivity those who are doomed to captivity, and to the sword those who are doomed 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 clean the land of

- 5 Egypt, as a shepherd cleans his cloak of vermin; and he shall go away from there in peace. He shall break the obelisks of Heliop'olis 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 concerning all the Jews that dwelt in the land of Egypt, at Migdol, at Tah'panhes, at Memphis, and in the land of
- 10 Pathros, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: You have seen all the evil that I brought upon Jerusalem and upon all the cities of Judah. Behold, this day they are a desolation, and no one dwells in them, because of the wickedness which they committed, provoking me to anger, in that they went to burn incense and serve other gods that they knew not, neither they,
- 15 nor you, nor your fathers. Yet I persistently sent to you all my servants the prophets, saying, 'Oh, do not do this abominable thing that I hate!' But they did not listen or incline their ear, to turn from their wickedness and burn no incense to other gods. Therefore my wrath and my anger were poured forth and kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they
- 20 became a waste and a desolation, as at this day. And now thus says the



LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel: Why do you commit this great evil against yourselves, to cut off from you man and woman, infant and child, from the midst of Judah, leaving you no remnant? Why do you provoke me to anger with the works of your hands, burning incense to other gods in the

5 land of Egypt where you have come to live, that you may be cut off and become a curse and a taunt among all the nations of the earth? Have you forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, the wickedness of the kings of Judah, the wickedness of their wives, your own wickedness, and the wickedness of your wives, which they committed in the land of Judah and in

10 the streets of Jerusalem? They have not humbled themselves even to this day, nor have they feared, nor walked in my law and my statutes which I set before you and before your fathers. "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will set my face against you for evil, to cut off all Judah. I will take the remnant of Judah who have set their faces to come

15 to the land of Egypt to live, and they shall all be consumed; in the land of Egypt they shall fall; by the sword and by famine they shall be consumed; from the least to the greatest, they shall die by the sword and by famine; and they shall become an execration, a horror, a curse, and a taunt. I will punish those who dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem,

20 with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence, so that none of the

remnant of Judah who have come to live in the land of Egypt shall escape or survive or return to the land of Judah, to which they desire to return to dwell there; for they shall not return, except some fugitives." Then all the men who knew that their wives had offered incense to other gods, and all

5 the women who stood by, a great assembly, all the people who dwelt in Pathros in the land of Egypt, answered Jeremiah: "As for the word which you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we will not listen to you. But we will do everything that we have vowed, burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out libations to her, as we did, both we and our fathers,

10 our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; for then we had plenty of food, and prospered, and saw no evil. But since we left off burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out libations to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine." And the women said, "When we burned incense

15 to the queen of heaven and poured out libations to her, was it without our husbands' approval that we made cakes for her bearing her image and poured out libations to her?" Then Jeremiah said to all the people, men and women, all the people who had given him this answer: "As for the incense that you burned in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, you and your

20 fathers, your kings and your princes, and the people of the land, did not the

LORD remember it? Did it not come into his mind? The LORD could no longer bear your evil doings and the abominations which you committed; therefore your land has become a desolation and a waste and a curse, without inhabitant, as it is this day. It is because you burned incense, and

5 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 testimonies, that this evil has befallen you, as at this day." Jeremiah said to all the people and all the women, "Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah who are in the land of Egypt, Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: You and

10 your wives have declared with your mouths, and have fulfilled it with your hands, saying, 'We will surely perform our vows that we have made, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and to pour out libations to her.' Then confirm your vows and perform your vows! Therefore hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah who dwell in the land of Egypt: Behold, I have

15 sworn by my great name, says the LORD, that my name shall no more be invoked by the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, 'As the Lord GOD lives.' Behold, I am watching over them for evil and not for good; all the men of Judah who are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, until there is an end of them. And

20 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 came to the land of Egypt to live, shall know whose word will stand, mine or theirs.

This shall be the sign to you, says the LORD, that I will punish you in this place, in order that you may know that my words will surely stand against

5 you for evil: Thus says the LORD, Behold, I will give Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies and into the hand of those who seek his life, as I gave Zedeki'ah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon, who was his enemy and sought his life." The word that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch the son of Neri'ah, when he wrote

10 these words in a book at the dictation of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoi'akim the son of Josi'ah, king of Judah: "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch: You said, 'Woe is me! for the LORD has added sorrow to my pain; I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest.' Thus shall you say to him, Thus says the LORD: Behold, what I have built I am

15 breaking down, and what I have planted I am plucking up--that is, the whole land. And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not; for, behold, I am bringing evil upon all flesh, says the LORD; but I will give you your life as a prize of war in all places to which you may go." The word of the LORD which came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations. About

20 Egypt. Concerning the army of Pharaoh Neco, king of Egypt, which was by

the river Euphra'tes at Car'chemish and which Nebuchadrez'zar king of  
Babylon defeated in the fourth year of Jehoi'akim the son of Josi'ah, king of  
Judah: "Prepare buckler and shield, and advance for battle! Harness the  
horses; mount, O horsemen! Take your stations with your helmets, polish  
5 your spears, put on your coats of mail! Why have I seen it? They are  
dismayed and have turned backward. Their warriors are beaten down, and  
have fled in haste; they look not back--terror on every side! says the LORD.  
The swift cannot flee away, nor the warrior escape; in the north by the river  
Euphra'tes they have stumbled and fallen. "Who is this, rising like the Nile,  
10 like rivers whose waters surge? Egypt rises like the Nile, like rivers whose  
waters surge. He said, I will rise, I will cover the earth, I will destroy cities  
and their inhabitants. Advance, O horses, and rage, O chariots! Let the  
warriors go forth: men of Ethiopia and Put who handle the shield, men of  
Lud, skilled in handling the bow. That day is the day of the Lord GOD of  
15 hosts, a day of vengeance, to avenge himself on 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 north country by the river Euphra'tes. Go up to  
Gilead, and take balm, O virgin daughter of Egypt! In vain you have used  
many medicines; there is no healing for you. The nations have heard of your  
20 shame, and the earth is full of your cry; for warrior has stumbled against

warrior; they have both fallen together." The word which the LORD spoke to Jeremiah the prophet about the coming of Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon to smite the land of Egypt: "Declare in Egypt, and proclaim in Migdol; proclaim in Memphis and Tah'panhes; Say, 'Stand ready and be prepared, for

5 the sword shall devour round about you.' Why has Apis fled? Why did not your bull stand? Because the LORD thrust him down. Your multitude stumbled and fell, and they said one to another, 'Arise, and let us go back to our own people and to the land of our birth, because of the sword of the oppressor.' Call the name of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, 'Noisy one who lets the

10 hour go by.' "As I live, says the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts, like Tabor among the mountains, and like Carmel by the sea, shall one come. Prepare yourselves baggage for exile, O inhabitants of Egypt! For Memphis shall become a waste, a ruin, without inhabitant. "A beautiful heifer is Egypt, but a gadfly from the north has come upon her. Even her hired

15 soldiers in her midst are like fatted calves; yea, they 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 serpent 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. The daughter of Egypt shall be put to shame, she shall be delivered into the hand of a people from the north." The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, said: "Behold, I am bringing punishment upon Amon of Thebes, and Pharaoh, and Egypt and her gods and her kings, 5 upon Pharaoh and those who trust in him. I will deliver them into the hand of those who seek their life, into the hand of Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon and his officers. Afterward Egypt shall be inhabited as in the days of old, says the LORD. "But fear not, O Jacob my servant, nor be dismayed, O Israel; for lo, I will save you from afar, and your offspring from the land 10 of their captivity. Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease, and none shall make him afraid. Fear not, O Jacob my servant, says the LORD, for I am with you. I will make a full end of all the nations to which I have driven you, but of you I will not make a full end. I will chasten you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished." The word of the 15 LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the Philistines, before Pharaoh smote Gaza. "Thus says the LORD: Behold, 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 dwell in it. Men shall cry out, and every inhabitant of the land shall wail. At the noise of the stamping 20 of the hoofs of his stallions, at the rushing of his chariots, at the rumbling

of their wheels, the fathers look not back to their 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, Ash'kelon has perished. O remnant of the Anakim, how  
long will you gash yourselves? Ah, sword of the LORD! How long till you  
are quiet? Put yourself into your scabbard, rest and be still! How can it be  
quiet, when the LORD has given it a charge? Against Ash'kelon and against  
the seashore he has appointed it." Concerning Moab. Thus says the LORD of  
10 hosts, the God of Israel: "Woe to Nebo, for it is laid waste! Kiriatha'im 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 cry from  
15 Horona'im, 'Desolation and great destruction!' Moab is destroyed; a cry is  
heard as far as Zo'ar. For at the ascent of Luhith they go up weeping; for at  
the descent of Horona'im they have heard the cry of destruction. Flee! Save  
yourselves! Be like a wild ass in the desert! For, because you trusted in your  
strongholds and your treasures, you also shall be taken; and Chemosh shall  
20 go forth into exile, with his priests and his princes. The destroyer shall come



upon every city, and no city shall escape; the valley shall perish, and the  
 plain shall be destroyed, as the LORD has spoken. "Give wings to Moab, for  
 she would fly away; her cities shall become a desolation, with no inhabitant  
 in them. "Cursed is he who does the work of the LORD with slackness; and  
 5 cursed is he who keeps back his sword from bloodshed. "Moab has been at  
 ease from his youth and has settled on his lees; he has not been emptied  
 from vessel to vessel, nor has he gone into exile; so his taste remains in  
 him, and his scent is not changed. "Therefore, behold, the days are coming,  
 says the LORD, when I shall send to him tilers who will tilt him, and  
 10 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 do you say, 'We are heroes and mighty men of war'? The destroyer of  
 Moab and his cities has come up, and the choicest of his young men have  
 gone down to slaughter, says the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.  
 15 The calamity of Moab is near at hand and his affliction hastens apace.  
 Bemoan him, all you who are round about him, and all who know his name;  
 say, 'How the mighty scepter is broken, the glorious staff.' "Come down from  
 your glory, and sit on the parched ground, O inhabitant of Dibon! For the  
 destroyer of Moab has come up against you; he has destroyed your  
 20 strongholds. Stand by the way and watch, O inhabitant of Aro'er! Ask him

who flees and her who escapes; say, 'What has happened?' Moab is put to  
 shame, for it is broken; wail and cry! Tell it by the Arnon, that Moab is  
 laid waste. "Judgment has come upon the tableland, upon Holon, and Jahzah,  
 and Meph'a-ath, and Dibon, and Nebo, and Beth-diblatha'im, and Kiriatha'im,  
 5 and Beth-ga'mul, and Beth-me'on, and Ker'i-oth, and Bozrah, and all the cities  
 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; so that Moab shall wallow in his vomit, and he  
 too shall be held in derision. Was not Israel a derision to you? Was he  
 10 found among thieves, that whenever you spoke of him you wagged your  
 head? "Leave the cities, and dwell in the rock, O inhabitants of Moab! Be  
 like the dove that nests in 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 his heart. I know his insolence, says  
 15 the LORD; his boasts are false, his deeds are false. Therefore I wail for  
 Moab; I cry out for all Moab; for the men of Kir-he'res I mourn. More than  
 for Jazer I weep for you, O vine of Sibmah! Your branches passed over the  
 sea, reached as far as Jazer; upon your summer fruits and your vintage the  
 destroyer has fallen. Gladness and joy have been taken away from the fruitful  
 20 land of Moab; I have made the wine cease from the wine presses; no one

treads them with shouts of joy; the shouting is not the shout of joy.

"Heshbon and Ele-a'leh cry out; as far as Jahaz they utter their voice, from Zo'ar to Horona'im and Eg'lath-shelish'iyah. For the waters of Nimrim also have become desolate. And I will bring to an end in Moab, says the LORD,

5 him who offers sacrifice in the high place and burns incense to his god.

Therefore my heart moans for Moab like a flute, and my heart moans like a flute for the men of Kir-he'res; therefore the riches they gained have perished. "For every head is shaved and every beard cut off; upon all the hands are gashes, and on the loins is sackcloth. On all the housetops of

10 Moab and in the squares there is nothing but lamentation; for I have broken Moab like a vessel for which no one cares, 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 that are round about him." For thus says the LORD: "Behold, one shall fly swiftly like an eagle, and spread

15 his wings against Moab; the cities shall be taken and the strongholds seized.

The heart of the warriors of Moab shall be in that day like the heart of a woman in her pangs; Moab shall be destroyed and be no longer a people, because he magnified himself against the LORD. Terror, pit, and snare are before you, O inhabitant of Moab! says the LORD. He who flees from the

20 terror shall fall into the pit, and he who climbs out of the pit shall be

caught in the snare. For I will bring these things upon Moab in the year of  
 their punishment, says the LORD. "In the shadow of Heshbon fugitives stop  
 without strength; for a fire has gone forth from Heshbon, a flame from the  
 house of Sihon; it has destroyed the forehead of Moab, the crown of the  
 5 sons of tumult. Woe to you, O Moab! The people of Chemosh is undone;  
 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  
 10 dispossessed Gad, and his people settled in its cities? Therefore, behold, the  
 days are coming, says the LORD, when I will cause the battle cry to be  
 heard 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  
 15 waste! Cry, O daughters of Rabbah! Gird yourselves with sackcloth, lament,  
 and run to and fro among the hedges! For Milcom shall go into exile, with  
 his priests and his princes. Why do you boast of your valleys, O faithless  
 daughter, who trusted in her treasures, saying, 'Who will come against me?'  
 Behold, I will bring terror upon you, says the Lord GOD of hosts, from all  
 20 who are round about you, and you shall be driven out, every man straight

before him, with none 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 wisdom no more in Teman? Has counsel perished from the prudent? Has their wisdom vanished? Flee, turn back, dwell in the depths, O inhabitants of Dedan! 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, would they not destroy only enough for themselves? But I have stripped Esau bare, I have uncovered his hiding places, and he is not able to conceal himself. His children are destroyed, and his brothers, and his neighbors; and he is no more. Leave your fatherless children, I will keep them alive; and let your widows trust in me." For thus says the LORD: "If those who did not deserve to drink the cup must drink it, will you go unpunished? You shall not go unpunished, but you must drink. For I have sworn by myself, says the LORD, that Bozrah shall become a horror, a taunt, a waste, and a curse; and all her cities 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 behold, I will make you small among the nations, despised among men. The horror you inspire has deceived you, and the pride of your heart, you who live in the clefts of the rock,

who hold the height of the hill. Though you make your nest as high as the eagle's, I will bring you down from there, says the LORD. "Edom shall become a horror; every one who passes by it will be horrified and will hiss because of all its disasters. As when Sodom and Gomor'rah and their  
 5 neighbor cities were overthrown, says the LORD, no man shall dwell there, no man shall sojourn in her. Behold, like a lion coming up from the jungle of the Jordan against a strong sheepfold, I will suddenly make them run away from her; and I will appoint over her whomever I choose. For who is like me? Who will summon me? What shepherd can stand before me?  
 10 Therefore hear the plan which the LORD has made against Edom and the purposes which he has formed against the inhabitants of Teman: Even 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. Behold, one shall mount  
 15 up and fly swiftly like an eagle, and spread his wings against Bozrah, and the heart of the warriors of Edom shall be in that day like the heart of a woman in her pangs." Concerning Damascus. "Hamath and Arpad are confounded, for they have heard evil tidings; they melt in fear, they are troubled like the sea which cannot be quiet. Damascus has become feeble,  
 20 she turned to flee, and panic seized her; anguish and sorrows have taken

hold of her, as of a woman in travail. How the famous city is forsaken, the joyful city! 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 in the wall of Damascus, and it shall devour the strongholds of

5 Ben-ha'dad." Concerning Kedar and the kingdoms of Hazor which Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon smote. Thus says the LORD: "Rise up, advance against Kedar! Destroy the people of the east! Their tents and their flocks shall be taken, their curtains and all their goods; their camels shall be borne away from them, and men shall cry to them: 'Terror on every side!'

10 Flee, wander far away, dwell in the depths, O inhabitants of Hazor! says the LORD. For Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon has made a plan against you, and formed a purpose against you. "Rise up, advance against a nation at ease, that dwells securely, says the LORD, that has no gates or bars, that dwells alone. Their camels shall become booty, their herds of cattle a spoil. I

15 will scatter to every wind those who cut the corners of their hair, and I will bring their calamity from every side of them, says the LORD. Hazor shall become a haunt of jackals, an everlasting waste; no man shall dwell there, no man shall sojourn in her." The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning Elam, in the beginning of the reign of Zedeki'ah king

20 of Judah. Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, I will break the bow of

Elam, the mainstay of their might; and I will bring upon Elam the four winds from the four quarters of heaven; and I will scatter them to all those winds, and there shall be no nation to which those driven out of Elam shall not come. I will terrify Elam before their enemies, and before those who

5 seek their life; I will bring evil upon them, my fierce anger, says the LORD.

I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them; and I will set my throne in Elam, and destroy their king and princes, says the LORD. "But in the latter days I will restore the fortunes of Elam, says the LORD." The word which the LORD spoke concerning Babylon, concerning the land of the

10 Chalde'ans, by Jeremiah the prophet: "Declare among the nations and proclaim, set up a banner and proclaim, conceal it not, and say: 'Babylon is taken, Bel is put to shame, Mer'odach is dismayed. Her images are put to shame, her idols are dismayed.' "For out of the north a nation has come up against her, which shall make her land a desolation, and none shall dwell in

15 it; both man and beast shall flee away. "In those days and in that time, says the LORD, the people of Israel and the people of Judah shall come together, weeping as they come; and they shall seek the LORD their God. They shall ask the way to Zion, with faces turned toward it, saying, 'Come, let us join ourselves to the LORD in an everlasting covenant which will never be

20 forgotten.' "My people have been lost sheep; their shepherds have led them



astray, turning 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, for they have sinned against the LORD, their true habitation, the LORD, the hope of their fathers.'

5 "Flee from the midst of Babylon, and go out of the land of the Chalde'ans, and be as he-goats before the flock. For behold, I am stirring up and bringing against Babylon a company of great nations, from the north country; and they shall array themselves against her; from there she shall be taken. Their arrows are like a skilled warrior who does not return empty-handed.

10 Chalde'a shall be plundered; all who plunder her shall be sated, says the LORD. "Though you rejoice, though you exult, O plunderers of my heritage, though you are wanton as a heifer at 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 and desert. Because

15 of the wrath of the LORD she shall not be inhabited, but shall be an utter desolation; every one who passes by Babylon shall be appalled, and hiss because of all her wounds. Set yourselves in array against Babylon round about, all you that bend the bow; shoot at her, spare no arrows, for she has sinned against the LORD. Raise a shout against her round about, she has

20 surrendered; her bulwarks have fallen, her walls are thrown down. For this 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 one who handles the sickle in time of harvest; because of the sword of the oppressor, every one shall turn to his own people, and every one shall flee to his own land. "Israel is

5 a hunted sheep driven away by lions. First the king of Assyria devoured him, and now at last Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon has gnawed his bones. Therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing punishment on the king of Babylon and his land, as I punished the king of Assyria. I will restore Israel to his pasture, and he shall feed on

10 Carmel and in Bashan, and his desire shall be satisfied on the hills of E'phraim and in Gilead. In those days and in that time, says the LORD, iniquity shall be sought in Israel, and there shall be none; and sin in Judah, and none shall be found; for I will pardon those whom I leave as a remnant. "Go up against the land of Meratha'im, and against the inhabitants of Pekod.

15 Slay, and utterly destroy after them, says the LORD, and do all that I have commanded you. 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! I set a snare for you and you were taken, O Babylon, and you did not know it; you were found and caught,

20 because you strove against the LORD. The LORD has opened his armory,

and brought out the weapons of his wrath, for the Lord GOD of hosts has a work to do in the land of the Chalde'ans. 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. Slay all her bulls, let them go down to

5 the slaughter. Woe to them, for their day has come, the time of their punishment. "Hark! they flee and escape from the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, vengeance for his temple.

"Summon archers against Babylon, all those who bend the bow. Encamp round about her; let no one escape. Requite her according to her deeds, do

10 to her according to all that she has done; for she has proudly defied the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. Therefore her young men shall fall in her squares, and all her soldiers shall be destroyed on that day, says the LORD.

"Behold, I am against you, O proud one, says the Lord GOD of hosts; for your day has come, the time when I will punish you. The proud one shall

15 stumble and fall, with none to raise him up, and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it will devour all that is round about him. "Thus says the LORD of hosts: The people of Israel are oppressed, and the people of Judah with them; all who took them captive have held them fast, they refuse to let them go. Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is his name. He will

20 surely plead their cause, that he may give rest to the earth, but unrest to the

inhabitants of Babylon. "A sword upon the Chalde'ans, says the LORD, and upon the inhabitants of Babylon, and upon her princes and her wise men! A sword upon the diviners, that they may become fools! A sword upon her warriors, that they may be destroyed! A sword upon her horses and upon her chariots, and upon all the foreign troops in her midst, that they may become women! A sword upon all her treasures, that they may be plundered! A drought upon her waters, that they may be dried up! For it is a land of images, and they are mad over idols. "Therefore wild beasts shall dwell with hyenas in Babylon, and ostriches shall dwell in her; she shall be peopled no more for ever, nor inhabited for all generations. As when God overthrew Sodom and Gomor'rah and their neighbor cities, says the LORD, so no man shall dwell there, and no son of man shall sojourn in her. "Behold, a people comes from the north; a mighty nation and many kings are stirring from the farthest parts of the earth. They lay hold of bow and spear; they are cruel, and have no mercy. The sound of them is like the roaring of the sea; they ride upon horses, arrayed as a man for battle against you, O daughter of Babylon! "The king of Babylon heard the report of them, and his hands fell helpless; anguish seized him, pain as of a woman in travail. "Behold, like a lion coming up from the jungle of the Jordan against a strong sheepfold, I will suddenly make them run away from her; and I will appoint over her

whomever I choose. For who is like me? Who will summon me? What shepherd can stand before me? Therefore hear the plan which the LORD has made against Babylon, and the purposes which he has formed against the land of the Chalde'ans: Surely the little ones of their flock shall be dragged  
5 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: "Behold, I will stir up the spirit of a destroyer against Babylon, against the inhabitants of Chaldea; and I will send to Babylon winnowers, and they shall winnow her, and they shall empty her  
10 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 stand up in his coat of mail. Spare not her young men; utterly destroy all her host. They shall fall down slain in the land of the Chalde'ans, and wounded in her streets. For Israel and Judah have not been forsaken by their God, the LORD of hosts; but the  
15 land of the Chalde'ans is full of guilt against the Holy One of Israel. "Flee from the midst of Babylon, let every man save his life! Be not cut off in her punishment, for this is the time of the LORD's vengeance, the requital he is rendering her. Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD's hand, making all the earth drunken; the nations drank of her wine, therefore the nations went  
20 mad. Suddenly Babylon has fallen and been broken; wail for her! Take balm

for her pain; perhaps she may be healed. We would have healed Babylon,  
but she was not healed. Forsake her, and let us go each to his 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  
5 in Zion the work of the LORD our God. "Sharpen the arrows! Take up the  
shields! The LORD has stirred up the spirit of the kings of the Medes,  
because his purpose concerning Babylon is to destroy it, for that is the  
vengeance of the LORD, the vengeance for his temple. Set up a standard  
against the walls of Babylon; make the watch strong; set up watchmen;  
10 prepare the ambushes; for the LORD has both planned and done what he  
spoke concerning the inhabitants of Babylon. O you who dwell by many  
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 men,  
as many as locusts, and they shall raise the shout of victory over you. "It is  
15 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 rain, and he  
brings forth the wind from his storehouses. Every man is stupid and without  
20 knowledge; every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols; for his 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 he who is 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

5 are my hammer and weapon of war: with you I break nations in pieces; with you I destroy kingdoms; with you I break in pieces the horse and his rider; with you I break in pieces the chariot and the charioteer; with you I break in pieces man and woman; with you I break in pieces the old man and the youth; with you I break in pieces the young man and the maiden; with you

10 I break in pieces the shepherd and his flock; with you I break in pieces the farmer and his team; with you I break in pieces governors and commanders. "I will requite Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea before your very eyes for all the evil that they have done in Zion, says the LORD. "Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, says the LORD, which destroys the

15 whole earth; I will stretch out my hand against you, and roll you down from the crags, and make you a burnt mountain. No stone shall be taken from you for a corner and no stone for a foundation, but you shall be a perpetual waste, says the LORD. "Set up a standard on the earth, blow the trumpet among the nations; prepare the nations for war against her, summon against

20 her the kingdoms, Ararat, Minni, and Ash'kenaz; 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 their dominion. The land trembles and writhes in pain, for the LORD's purposes against Babylon stand, to make the land of Babylon a

5 desolation, without inhabitant. The warriors of Babylon have ceased fighting, they remain in their strongholds; their strength has failed, they have become women; her dwellings are on fire, her bars are broken. One runner runs to meet another, and one messenger to meet another, to tell the king of Babylon that his city is taken on every side; the fords have been seized, the

10 bulwarks are burned with fire, and the soldiers are in panic. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor at the time when it is trodden; yet a little while and the time of her harvest will come." "Nebuchadrez'zar the king of Babylon has devoured me, he has crushed me; he has made me an empty vessel, he has

15 swallowed me like a monster; he has filled his belly with my delicacies, he has rinsed me out. The violence done to me and to my kinsmen be upon Babylon," let the inhabitant of Zion say. "My blood be upon the inhabitants of Chalde'a," let Jerusalem say. Therefore thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will plead your cause and take vengeance for you. I will dry up her sea and

20 make her fountain dry; and Babylon shall become a heap of ruins, the haunt



of jackals, a horror and a hissing, without inhabitant. "They shall roar together like lions; they shall growl like lions' whelps. While they are inflamed I will prepare them a feast and make them drunk, till they swoon away and sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake, says the LORD. I will bring

5 them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams and he-goats. "How Babylon is taken, the praise of the whole earth seized! How Babylon has become a horror among the nations! The sea has come up on Babylon; she is covered with its tumultuous waves. Her cities have become a horror, a land of drought and a desert, a land in which no one dwells, and through

10 which no son of man passes. And I will punish Bel in Babylon, and take out of his mouth what he has swallowed. The nations shall no longer flow to him; the wall of Babylon has fallen. "Go out of the midst of her, my people! Let every man save his life from the fierce anger of the LORD! Let not your heart faint, and be not fearful at the report heard in the land, when

15 a report comes in one year and afterward a report in another year, and violence is in the land, and ruler is against ruler. "Therefore, behold, 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 in the midst of her. Then the heavens and the earth, and all that is in them, shall sing for joy over

20 Babylon; for the destroyers shall come against them out of the north, says

the LORD. Babylon must fall for the slain of Israel, as for Babylon have  
fallen the slain of all the earth. "You that have escaped from the sword, go,  
stand not still! Remember the LORD from afar, and let Jerusalem come into  
your mind: 'We are put to shame, for we have heard reproach; dishonor has  
5 covered our face, for aliens have come into the holy places of the LORD's  
house.' "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will  
execute judgment upon her images, and through all her land the wounded  
shall groan. Though Babylon should mount up to heaven, and though she  
should fortify her strong height, yet destroyers would come from me upon  
10 her, says the LORD. "Hark! a cry from Babylon! The noise of great  
destruction from the land of the Chalde'ans! For the LORD is laying Babylon  
waste, and stilling her mighty voice. Their waves roar like many waters, the  
noise of their voice is raised; for a destroyer has come upon her, upon  
Babylon; her warriors are taken, their bows are broken in pieces; for the  
15 LORD is a God of recompense, he will surely requite. I will make drunk  
her princes and her wise men, her governors, her commanders, and her  
warriors; they shall sleep a perpetual sleep and not 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  
20 shall be burned with fire. The peoples labor for nought, and the nations

weary themselves only for fire." The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Serai'ah the son of Neri'ah, son of Mahsei'ah, when he went with Zedeki'ah king of Judah to Babylon, in the fourth year of his reign. Serai'ah was the quartermaster. Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should

5 come upon Babylon, all these words that are written concerning Babylon.

And Jeremiah said to Serai'ah: "When you come to Babylon, see that you read all these words, and say, 'O LORD, thou hast said concerning this place that thou wilt cut it off, so that nothing shall dwell in it, neither man nor beast, and it shall be desolate for ever.' When you finish reading this book,

10 bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of the Euphra'tes, and say, 'Thus shall Babylon sink, to rise no more, because of the evil that I am bringing upon her.'" Thus far are the words of Jeremiah. Zedeki'ah was twenty-one years old when he became king; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamu'tal the daughter of Jeremiah of

15 Libnah. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoi'akim had done. Surely because of the anger of the LORD things came to such a pass in Jerusalem and Judah that he cast them out from his presence. And Zedeki'ah rebelled against the king of Babylon. And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the

20 month, Nebuchadrez'zar king of Babylon came with all his army against

Jerusalem, and they laid siege to it and built siegeworks against it round about. So the city was besieged till the eleventh year of King Zedeki'ah. On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was so severe in the city, that there was no food for the people of the land. Then a breach was made in

5 the city; and all the men of war fled and went out from the city by night by the way of a gate between the two walls, by the king's garden, while the Chalde'ans were round about the city. And they went in the direction of the Arabah. But the army of the Chalde'ans pursued the king, and overtook Zedeki'ah in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him.

10 Then they captured the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he passed sentence upon him. The king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedeki'ah before his eyes, and also slew all the princes of Judah at Riblah. He put out the eyes of Zedeki'ah, and bound him in fetters, and the king of Babylon took him to Babylon, and put him in

15 prison till the day of his death. In the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month--which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadrez'zar, king of Babylon--Nebu'zarad'an the captain of the bodyguard who served the king of Babylon, entered Jerusalem. And he burned the house of the LORD, and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned

20 down. And all the army of the Chalde'ans, who were with the captain of the

guard, broke down all the walls round about Jerusalem. And Nebu'zarad'an  
the captain of the guard carried away captive some of the poorest of the  
people and the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters  
who had deserted to the king of Babylon, together with the rest of the  
5 artisans. But Nebu'zarad'an the captain of the guard left some of the poorest  
of the land to be vinedressers and plowmen. And 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 Chalde'ans broke in pieces, and carried  
all the bronze to Babylon. And they took away the pots, and the shovels,  
10 and the snuffers, and the basins, and the dishes for incense, and all the  
vessels of bronze used in the temple service; also the small bowls, and the  
firepans, and the basins, and the pots, and the lampstands, and the dishes for  
incense, and the bowls for libation. What was of gold the captain of the  
guard took away as gold, and what was of silver, as silver. As for the two  
15 pillars, the one sea, the twelve bronze bulls which were under the sea, and  
the stands, which Solomon the king had made for the house of the LORD,  
the bronze of all these things was beyond weight. As for the pillars, the  
height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, its circumference was twelve  
cubits, and its thickness was four fingers, and it was hollow. Upon it was a  
20 capital of bronze; the height of the one capital was five cubits; a network

and pomegranates, all of bronze, were upon the capital round about. And the second pillar had the like, with pomegranates. There were ninety-six pomegranates on the sides; all the pomegranates were a hundred upon the network round about. And the captain of the guard took Serai'ah the chief

5 priest, and Zephani'ah the second priest, and the three keepers of the threshold; and from the city he took an officer who had been in command of the men of war, and seven men of the king's council, who were found in the city; and 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

10 found in the midst of the city. And Nebu'zarad'an the captain of the guard took them, and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. And the king of Babylon smote them, and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was carried captive out of its land. This is the number of the people whom Nebuchadrez'zar carried away captive: in the seventh year,

15 three thousand and twenty-three Jews; in the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrez'zar he carried away captive from Jerusalem eight hundred and thirty-two persons; in the twenty-third year of Nebuchadrez'zar, Nebu'zarad'an the captain of the guard carried away captive of the Jews seven hundred and forty-five persons; all the persons were four thousand and six hundred. And

20 in the thirty-seventh year of the captivity of Jehoi'achin king of Judah, in the

twelfth month, on the twenty-fifth day of the month, E'vil-mer'odach king of Babylon, in the year that he became king, lifted up the head of Jehoi'achin king of Judah and brought him out of prison; and he spoke kindly to him, and gave him a seat above the seats of the kings who were with him in

5 Babylon. So Jehoi'achin put off his prison garments. And every day of his life he dined regularly at the king's table; as for his allowance, a regular allowance was given him by the king according to his daily need, until the day of his death as long as he lived. \*

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