**The Book of Jeremiah**

**Jeremiah Chapter 1**

1The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, *one* of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, 2to whom the word of Yahweh came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. 3It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, *continuing* until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah, the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until *the people of* Jerusalem were carried away captive in the fifth month.

4Now the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,

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| 5 | “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.  Before you came out of the womb, I set you apart.  I have appointed you *to be* a prophet to the nations.” |

6Then I said, “Oh, Lord Yahweh! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am a youth.”

7But Yahweh said to me,

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|  | “Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’  for to whoever I will send you, you will go,  and whatever I command you,  you will speak. |
| 8 | Do not be afraid of their faces,  for I am with you to deliver you,  says Yahweh.” |

9Then Yahweh reached out his hand and touched my mouth, and Yahweh said to me,

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|  | “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. |
| 10 | Behold, this day I have set you  over the nations and over kingdoms,  to pluck up and to break down  and to destroy and to overthrow,  to build and to plant.” |

11And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, “Jeremiah, what do you see?”

I said, “I see a branch of an almond tree.”

12Then Yahweh said to me, “You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to do it.” 13The word of Yahweh came to me the second time, saying, “What do you see?”

I said, “I see a boiling caldron, and it is tipping away from the north.”

14Then Yahweh said to me, “Out of the north evil will be let loose on all the inhabitants of the land. 15For behold, I will call all the tribes of the kingdoms of the north,” says Yahweh,

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|  | “and they will come, and they will each set his throne  at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem  and against all its walls all around,  and against all the cities of Judah.” |

16“I will utter my judgments against them for all their wickedness in abandoning me. They have burned offerings to other gods and worshiped the work of their own hands.

17“But you, tuck your cloak under your belt, get up and tell them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed at them, lest I make you dismayed before them. 18For, behold, this day I have made you a fortified city and an iron pillar and bronze walls against the whole land; against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. 19They will fight against you but they will not prevail over you, for I am with you to deliver you,” says Yahweh.

**Jeremiah Chapter 2**

1The word of Yahweh came to me, saying, 2“Go and cry out in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, This is what Yahweh says,

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|  | “I remember the devotion of your youth,  your love as a bride,  how you followed me in the desert,  through a land *that was* not sown. |
| 3 | Israel was set apart to Yahweh,  the firstfruits of his harvest.  All who devoured it were held guilty;  evil came upon them,  says Yahweh.” |
| 4 | Hear the word of Yahweh, O house of Jacob,  and all the families of the house of Israel! |
| 5 | This is what Yahweh says:  “What injustice did your fathers find in me,  that they went far from me,  and walked after worthlessness  and became worthless? |
| 6 | They did not ask, ‘Where is Yahweh  who brought us up out of the land of Egypt,  who led us through the wilderness,  through a land of deserts and ravines,  through a land of drought and of the shadow of death,  through a land that no one passed through  and where no person lives?’ |
| 7 | I brought you into a plentiful land,  to enjoy its fruit and its goodness.  But when you entered, you defiled my land  and made my heritage an abomination. |
| 8 | The priests did not say ‘Where is Yahweh?’  And those who handle the law did not know me.  The shepherds[[1]](#footnote-14631) also transgressed against me,  and the prophets prophesied by Baal  and walked after things that do not profit. |
| 9 | Therefore I will bring a case against you again,  says Yahweh,  and I will bring a case against your children’s children. |
| 10 | Cross over to the coastlands of Cyprus and see,  or send to Kedar and consider diligently,  and see if there has been such a thing. |
| 11 | Has a nation changed its gods,  (which are really not gods)?  But my people have changed their Glory  for that *thing* which does not profit. |
| 12 | Be appalled at this, O heavens  and shudder;  be very devastated, says Yahweh. |
| 13 | For my people have committed two evils:  they have forsaken me,  the spring of living water,  and have dug out cisterns for themselves,  broken cisterns that can hold no water. |
| 14 | Is Israel a slave?  Is he a home-born *slave*?  Why then has he become a prey? |
| 15 | The young lions have roared at him; they have raised their voices.  They have made his land a desolation.  His cities are burned up *and* without an inhabitant. |
| 16 | Also, the people of Memphis and Tahpanhes  have shaved the crown of your head. |
| 17 | Have you not brought this upon yourself,  by your forsaking Yahweh your God  when he was leading you along the *right* road? |
| 18 | Now what are you doing, *traveling* on the road to Egypt  to drink the water of the Nile?[[2]](#footnote-13521)  Or what are you doing, *traveling* on the road to Assyria  to drink the water of the *Euphrates* River?[[3]](#footnote-24998) |
| 19 | Your own wickedness will correct you,  and your backsliding will reprove you.  Know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and a bitter *one*,  that you have forsaken Yahweh your God  and that my fear is not in you,  says the Lord Yahweh of Armies. |
| 20 | For from old time you have broken your yoke  and burst your bonds,  and you said, ‘I will not serve *you*,’  for on every high hill  and under every green tree  you spread yourself, prostituting yourself. |
| 21 | Yet I myself had planted you, a choice vine,[[4]](#footnote-16239)  wholly of pure[[5]](#footnote-25731) seed.  How then have you turned into  the degenerate branches of a foreign vine to me? |
| 22 | For although you wash yourself with lye  and use a great amount of soap,  still the stain of your iniquity is before me,”  says the Lord Yahweh. |
| 23 | How can you say, ‘I am not defiled.  I have not gone after the Baals’?  See your way in the valley.  Know what you have done.  You are a swift young camel  crisscrossing its path, |
| 24 | a wild donkey used to the wilderness  that sniffs the wind in her lust.  When she is in heat,  who can turn her away?  All those males who seek her will not weary themselves.  In her month, they will find her. |
| 25 | Spare your feet from becoming bare  and your throat from thirst.  But you said, ‘No. It’s hopeless.  I have loved foreign *gods*,  and I will go after them.’ |
| 26 | As a thief is shamed when he is caught,  so the house of Israel is put to shame;  they, their kings, their officials,  and their priests and their prophets, |
| 27 | who say to wood, ‘You are my father,’  and to a stone, ‘You gave birth to me,’  for they have turned their back to me  and not their face.  But in the time of their trouble they will say,  ‘Rise up and save us.’ |
| 28 | But where are your gods that you have made for yourselves?  Let them rise up, if they can save you  in the time of your trouble;  for according to the number of your cities are your gods, Judah. |
| 29 | Why will you argue your case with me?  You all have rebelled against me,  says Yahweh. |
| 30 | I have struck down your sons in vain.  They received no correction.  Your own sword has devoured your prophets  like a destroying lion. |
| 31 | Generation,  consider the word of Yahweh.  Have I been a wilderness to Israel?  Or a land of thick darkness?  Why do my people say,  ‘We have broken loose.  We will not come to you anymore’? |
| 32 | Can a virgin forget her jewelry,  or a bride her *wedding* sash?  Yet my people have forgotten me  for days without number. |
| 33 | How well you direct your course to seek love,  so that you have taught even the evil women your ways. |
| 34 | Also the blood of the souls of the innocent poor  is found on your skirts.  You did not find them breaking in.  But in spite of all these things |
| 35 | you say, ‘I am innocent.  Surely his anger has turned away from me.’  “Behold, I will judge you,  because you say, ‘I have not sinned.’ |
| 36 | Why do you constantly go about changing your ways?  You will be ashamed of Egypt also  as you were ashamed of Assyria. |
| 37 | You will also go out from there  with your hands on your head,  for Yahweh has rejected those in whom you trust,  and you will not prosper with them. |

**Jeremiah Chapter 3**

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| 1 | “They say ‘If a man puts away his wife  and she goes from him and becomes another man’s,  can he ever return to her again?  Wouldn’t that land be greatly polluted?’  But you have prostituted yourself with many lovers,  and yet *think* to return to me,  says Yahweh. |
| 2 | Lift up your eyes to the barren heights, and look!  Where have you not been lain with?  You have sat for them by the roads  like an Arab in the desert.  You have polluted the land  with your prostitution and with your wickedness. |
| 3 | Therefore the showers have been withheld  and there has been no latter rain;  yet you have the forehead of a prostitute,  you refused to be ashamed. |
| 4 | Have you not just now called to me, *saying,*  ‘My Father, you are the friend of my youth! |
| 5 | Will he retain his anger forever?  Will he be indignant to the end?’  Behold, you *people* have spoken  and have done evil things,  and have had your way.” |

6Moreover, Yahweh said to me in the days of Josiah the king, “Have you seen what she did, that unfaithful one, Israel? She has gone up on every high hill and under every green tree, and has prostituted herself there. 7I said after she had done all these things, ‘She will return to me,’ but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. 8She saw that for all the adulteries of that unfaithful one, Israel, I had sent her away and given her a bill of divorce. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she also went and prostituted herself. 9It came to pass because she took her prostitution lightly, that the land was polluted, and she committed adultery with stones and with trees. 10Yet for all this her treacherous sister, Judah, has not returned to me with her whole heart, but only in pretense,” says Yahweh.

11Yahweh said to me, “Unfaithful Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah.. 12Go and proclaim these words toward the north and say,

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|  | ‘Return, unfaithful Israel,  says Yahweh,  I will not look on you in anger,  for I am merciful,  says Yahweh.  I will not keep *my anger* forever. |
| 13 | Only acknowledge your iniquity,  that you have transgressed against Yahweh your God  and have scattered your favors to the strangers under every green tree,  and you have not obeyed my voice,  says Yahweh. |

14Return, you unfaithful children, says Yahweh, for I am your husband.[[6]](#footnote-21804) I will take you—one of a city and two of a family—and I will bring you to Zion. 15I will give you shepherds *who are* after my heart, who will shepherd you with knowledge and understanding. 16When you have multiplied and increased in the land in those days, says Yahweh, they will no longer say, “The ark of the covenant of Yahweh!” Indeed, it will not come to mind, nor will they remember it, nor miss it. It will not be made again. 17At that time they will call Jerusalem, “The throne of Yahweh,” and all the nations will be gathered to it, to the name of Yahweh, to Jerusalem. And they will walk no longer after the stubbornness of their own evil heart. 18In those days the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel, and together they will come from the land of the north to the land that I gave to your fathers as an inheritance.

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| 19 | But I said: How I would put you among the children  and give you a pleasant land,  the most beautiful inheritance of any army of nations!  And I said: You will call me “My Father,”  and will not turn away from following me. |
| 20 | Surely as a wife treacherously departs from her husband,  so you have dealt treacherously with me, house of Israel,  says Yahweh.’” |
| 21 | A voice is heard on the bare heights,  the weeping and the petitions of the children of Israel  because they have perverted their way,  they have forgotten Yahweh their God. |
| 22 | “Return, you unfaithful children;  I will heal your unfaithfulness.”  “Behold, we have come to you,  for you are Yahweh our God.” |
| 23 | Truly the hills are a deception,  that tumult on the mountains.  Truly the salvation of Israel  is in Yahweh our God. |
| 24 | “But from our youth the Shameful Thing[[7]](#footnote-17637) has devoured the labor  of our fathers;  their flocks and their herds,  their sons and their daughters. |
| 25 | Let’s lie down in our shame  and let our disgrace cover us,  for we have sinned against Yahweh our God,  we and our fathers,  from our youth even to this day.  We have not obeyed the voice of Yahweh our God.” |

**Jeremiah Chapter 4**

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| 1 | “If you will return, Israel,”  says Yahweh,  “if you return to me  and if you will remove your abominations  from my sight,  and do not waver, |
| 2 | and *if* you will swear, ‘As Yahweh lives,’  in truth, in justice and in righteousness,  then nations will bless themselves in him,  and in him they will glory.” |

3For this is what Yahweh says to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem,

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|  | “Break up your fallow ground,  and do not sow among thorns. |
| 4 | Circumcise yourselves to Yahweh  and take away the foreskins of your heart,  you men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem,  lest my wrath come out like fire  and burn so that no one can quench it  because of the evil of your doings.” |

5Declare in Judah and proclaim in Jerusalem and say,

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|  | “Blow the shofar in the land!  Cry out aloud and say,  ‘Assemble yourselves!  Let’s go into the fortified cities!’ |
| 6 | Set up a standard toward Zion.  Flee for safety! Do not wait,  for I will bring evil from the north,  and a great destruction. |
| 7 | A lion has gone up from his thicket,  even a destroyer of nations;  he is on his way, he has gone out from his place  to make your land desolate,  so that your cities are laid waste without inhabitant. |
| 8 | Because of this, clothe yourself with sackcloth,  lament and wail,  for the fierce anger of Yahweh  has not turned back from us.” |

9“On that day, says Yahweh, the heart of the king will perish, and the heart of the rulers, and the priests will be astonished and the prophets will wonder.”

10Then I said, “Ah, Lord Yahweh! Surely you have greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, ‘You will have peace,’ whereas the sword reaches to the heart.”

11At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem, “A hot wind from the bare heights in the desert *is coming* toward the daughter of my people, not to winnow nor to cleanse; 12a wind too strong for that will come from me. Now I will also utter judgments against them.”

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| 13 | “Behold, he will come up as clouds  and his chariots will be as the whirlwind;  his horses are swifter than eagles.  Woe to us! For we are ruined. |
| 14 | Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness,  that you can be saved.  How long will your evil thoughts  lodge inside you? |
| 15 | For a voice declares from Dan,  and proclaims evil from the hills of Ephraim. |
| 16 | Tell the nations; behold,  proclaim against Jerusalem,  ‘Besiegers are coming from a far country  and they raise their voice  against the cities of Judah. |
| 17 | Like guards *guarding* a field,  they are against her from all around *her*,  because she has been rebellious against me,’”  says Yahweh. |
| 18 | “Your way and your doings  have brought these things upon you.  This is your punishment. How bitter!  It reached your heart!” |
| 19 | My bowels, my bowels! I am in anguish. Oh, my heart!  My heart is pounding within me.  I cannot keep silent  because you have heard,  O my soul,  the sound of the shofar,  the alarm of war. |
| 20 | Destruction after destruction is proclaimed,  for the whole land is laid waste;  suddenly my tents are destroyed,  and my *tent* curtains in a moment. |
| 21 | How long must I see the *battle* flag  and hear the sound of the shofar? |
| 22 | “For my people are fools,  they do not know me.  They are senseless children,  and they have no understanding.  They are skillful in doing evil,  but they do not know how to do good.” |
| 23 | I saw the earth, and behold,  it was formless and empty,  and *I saw* the heavens,  and they had no light. |
| 24 | I saw the mountains, and behold,  they trembled,  and all the hills moved back and forth. |
| 25 | I saw, and behold,  there was no human *there*,  and all the birds of the air had fled. |
| 26 | I saw, and behold,  the fruitful field was a wilderness,  and all its cities were broken down  at the presence of Yahweh,  before his fierce anger. |

27For this is what Yahweh says,

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|  | “The whole land will be a desolation;  yet I will not make a full end. |
| 28 | The earth will mourn because of this,  and the heavens above will be black  because I have spoken it. I have purposed it  and I will not repent,  nor will I turn back from it.” |
| 29 | Every city flees  because of the noise of the horsemen and archers;  they go into the thickets  and climb up on the rocks;  every city is abandoned,  and not a person lives in them. |
| 30 | You, when you are made desolate,  what will you do?  Though you clothe yourself with scarlet,  though you deck yourself with ornaments of gold,  though you enlarge your eyes with makeup,  you are making yourself beautiful in vain;  your lovers despise you,  they seek your life. |
| 31 | For I have heard a voice like that of a woman in labor,  the anguish like that of she who brings forth her first child,  the voice of Daughter Zion, who gasps for breath,  who spreads her hands, saying,  “Woe is me now! For my soul is weary  because of the murderers.” |

**Jeremiah Chapter 5**

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| 1 | Run back and forth through the streets of Jerusalem  and see now, and know,  and seek in the wide places of it  if you can find a man,  if there is *even* one who acts justly,  who seeks truth,  and I will pardon her. |
| 2 | Though they say, “As Yahweh lives,”  surely they swear falsely. |
| 3 | O Yahweh, do not your eyes look for faithfulness?  You have stricken them, but they were not grieved.  You have consumed them,  but they have refused to receive correction.  They have made their faces harder than rock.  They have refused to repent. |

4Then I said,

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|  | “Surely these are the poor;  they are foolish  because they do not know the way of Yahweh  nor the law of their God. |
| 5 | I will go to the great men  and will speak to them,  for they know the way of Yahweh  and the law of their God.”  But these with one accord have broken the yoke  and burst the bonds. |
| 6 | Therefore a lion out of the forest will kill them,  a wolf of the evening will destroy them,  a leopard will watch against their cities;  everyone who goes out there will be torn in pieces  because their transgressions are many  and their apostasies are numerous. |
| 7 | “How can I pardon you?  Your children have forsaken me  and sworn by those that are not gods.  When I had fed them to the full, they committed adultery  and assembled themselves in troops at the prostitutes’ houses. |
| 8 | They were as fed horses roaming at large:  everyone neighed after his neighbor’s wife. |
| 9 | Shouldn’t I punish them for these things?  says Yahweh,  and shouldn’t my soul be avenged  on such a nation as this? |
| 10 | Go up on her vineyard terraces and destroy,  but do not make a full end.  Strip away her branches,  for they are not Yahweh’s. |
| 11 | For the house of Israel and the house of Judah  have dealt very treacherously against me,”  says Yahweh. |
| 12 | They have denied Yahweh,  and said, “He is nothing;  evil will not come upon us,  nor will we see sword nor famine.” |
| 13 | The prophets will *prove to* be *only* wind,  and the word is not in them.  Thus will it be done to them. |

14Therefore this is what Yahweh, the God of Armies, says;

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|  | “Because you have spoken this word,  behold, I will make my words in your mouth fire,  and this people wood,  and it will consume them. |
| 15 | Behold, I will bring a nation on you from far away,  O house of Israel,  says Yahweh.  It is a mighty nation.  It is an ancient nation,  a nation whose language you do not know,  nor *do you* understand what they say. |
| 16 | Their quiver is an open tomb,  they are all mighty warriors. |
| 17 | They will consume your harvest and your bread;  they will consume your sons and your daughters;  they will consume your flocks and your herds.  They will consume your vines and your fig trees.  They will beat down with the sword  your fortified cities in which you trust. |

18But even in those days, says Yahweh, I will not make a full end of you. 19It will happen when your people say, ‘Why has Yahweh our God done all these things to us?’ Then you will say to them, ‘Just like you have forsaken me and served foreign gods in your land, so you will serve strangers in a land that is not yours.’”

20Declare this in the house of Jacob and proclaim it in Judah, saying,

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| 21 | “Now hear this,  O foolish and senseless people,  who have eyes and do not see,  who have ears and do not hear: |
| 22 | Do you not fear me,  says Yahweh?  Will you not tremble at my presence,  the one who has by a perpetual decree placed the sand for the boundary of the sea  that it cannot cross?  And though its waves toss themselves, yet they cannot prevail;  though they roar, yet they cannot cross over it. |
| 23 | But this people has a rebellious and defiant heart;  they have rebelled and gone away. |
| 24 | And they do not say in their heart,  ‘Let’s now fear Yahweh our God,  who gives the rain, both the former and the latter *rain* in its season,  who keeps for us the appointed weeks of the harvest.’ |
| 25 | Your iniquities have turned away these things  and your sins have withheld good from you. |
| 26 | For among my people are found wicked men.  They watch, like fowlers lie in wait.  They set a trap.  They catch people. |
| 27 | As a cage is full of birds,  so their houses are full of deceit.  Therefore they have become great and grew rich. |
| 28 | They have grown fat, they are sleek.  Also, they excel in deeds of wickedness.  They do not plead the cause,  *that is,* the cause of the fatherless so that they may prosper;  and they do not defend the rights of the needy. |
| 29 | Should I not punish *them* for these things?  says Yahweh.  Should my soul not be avenged  on such a nation as this?” |
| 30 | “An appalling and horrible thing  has happened in the land. |
| 31 | The prophets prophesy falsely  and the priests rule by their own authority,  and my people love to have it so.  But what will you do at the end of it all?” |

**Jeremiah Chapter 6**

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| 1 | “Flee for safety, O children of Benjamin,  out of the midst of Jerusalem,  and blow the shofar in Tekoa  and raise a signal on Beth-haccherem;  for evil looks down from the north,  even a great destruction. |
| 2 | The lovely and delicate one,  Daughter Zion, I will cut off. |
| 3 | Shepherds with their flocks will come to her;  they will pitch their tents against her all around;  they will pasture, everyone in his place.” |
| 4 | “Prepare for war against her;  arise, and let’s attack at noon.  Woe to us! For the day declines,  for the shadows of the evening are stretched out. |
| 5 | Arise, and let’s go up by night,  and let’s destroy her palaces.” |

6For Yahweh of Armies said,

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|  | “Cut down trees  and cast up a *siege* mound against Jerusalem;  this is the city to be punished;  she has nothing but oppression within her. |
| 7 | As a well keeps its water fresh,  so she keeps her wickedness fresh.  Violence and destruction are heard in her;  Sickness and wounds are continually before me. |
| 8 | Be warned, O Jerusalem,  lest my soul be alienated from you,  lest I make you a desolation,  a land not inhabited.” |

9This is what Yahweh of Armies says,

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|  | “They will thoroughly glean the remnant of Israel  like a vine.  Pass your hand again over the branches,  like a grape gatherer.” |
| 10 | To whom can I speak and testify,  that they will hear?  Behold, their ear is uncircumcised  and they cannot pay attention.  Behold, the word of Yahweh has become a reproach to them.  They have no delight in it. |
| 11 | Therefore I am full of the wrath of Yahweh.  I am weary of holding in.  “Pour it out on the children in the street  and on the assembly of young men as well,  because even the husband with the wife will be taken,  *and also* the aged and the one who is full of days. |
| 12 | Their houses will be turned over to others,  together with their fields and their wives,  for I will stretch out my hand  against the inhabitants of the land,”  says Yahweh. |
| 13 | “For from the least of them even to the greatest of them,  everyone is greedy for gain,  and from the prophet even to the priest,  everyone deals falsely. |
| 14 | And they have healed the hurt of my people superficially,  saying, ‘Peace, peace!’  when there is no peace. |
| 15 | Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination?  No, they were not at all ashamed,  nor could they blush.  Therefore they will fall among those who fall;  at the time that I visit them  they will be cast down,” says Yahweh. |

16This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “Stand at the crossroads and look.  And ask for the old paths,  *ask*, ‘Where is the good way?’  Then walk in it  and you will find rest for your souls.  But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’ |
| 17 | I set watchmen over you,  saying, ‘Pay attention to the sound of the shofar!’  But they said, ‘We will not pay attention!’ |
| 18 | Therefore hear, you nations,  and know, O assembly,  what is going to happen to them. |
| 19 | Hear, earth!  Behold, I will bring evil on this people,  even the fruit of their thoughts,  because they have not listened to my words;  and as for my law, they have rejected it. |
| 20 | For what purpose does frankincense come to me from Sheba  and the sweet cane from a distant land?  Your burnt offerings are not acceptable,  and your sacrifices are not pleasing to me. |
| 21 | Therefore this is what Yahweh says:  Behold, I will lay stumbling blocks before this people.  The fathers and the sons together will stumble against them.  The neighbor and his friend will perish.” |

22This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “Behold, a people is coming from the north land.  A great nation will be stirred up  from the faraway parts of the earth. |
| 23 | They take hold of bow and spear.  They are cruel and have no mercy.  Their voice roars like the sea,  and they ride on horses,  each one set in *battle* formation like a man for war against you, Daughter Zion.” |
| 24 | We have heard the report about it;  our hands hang helpless.  Anguish has taken hold of us,  and pains like *those* of a woman in labor. |
| 25 | Do not go out into the field,  nor walk on the road,  for the enemy has a sword  and terrors are on every side. |
| 26 | O Daughter, my people, clothe yourself with sackcloth  and wallow in ashes!  Mourn, as for an only son,  a most bitter lamentation;  for the destroyer will suddenly come on us. |
| 27 | “I have made you an assayer  *and* a tester *of metals* among my people,  that you may know and assay their ways. |
| 28 | They are all rebels of rebels,  going around spreading slander.  They are bronze and iron,  they—all of them—deal corruptly. |
| 29 | The bellows blow fiercely;  the lead is consumed by the fire.  In vain the refining goes on  for the wicked are not purged. |
| 30 | They will be called ‘rejected silver,’  because Yahweh has rejected them.” |

**Jeremiah Chapter 7**

1The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh, saying, 2“Stand in the gate of Yahweh’s house and proclaim there this word, and say: Hear the word of Yahweh, all you of Judah who enter in at these gates to worship Yahweh.

3“This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Amend your ways and your doings, and I will let you live in this place. 4Do not trust in lying words, saying, ‘This is the Temple of Yahweh, the Temple of Yahweh, the Temple of Yahweh.’ 5But if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly execute justice between a man and his neighbor, 6if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, nor walk after other gods (*which is* to your own hurt), 7then I will let you live in this place, in this land that long ago I gave to your fathers forever. 8Behold, you are trusting in lying words that cannot help.

9“Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense to Baal, and follow other gods that you have not known, 10and then come and stand before me in this house that is called by my name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’ only to go on doing all these abominations? 11Has this house that is called by my name become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it,” declares Yahweh.

12“But go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I caused my name to dwell at first, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of my people Israel. 13Now, because you have done all these things, says Yahweh, and *because* I spoke to you *again and again*, rising up early and speaking, but you did not listen, and I called you, but you did not answer, 14therefore I will do to the house that is called by my name, in which you trust, even to the place that I gave to you and to your fathers, just as I did to Shiloh. 15I will cast you out of my sight as I have cast out all your brothers, even the whole seed of Ephraim.

16“As for you, do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to me, for I will not hear you. 17Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? 18The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead the dough to make cakes to the Queen of Heaven, and to pour out drink offerings to other gods, making me angry. 19But are they making me angry?” says Yahweh. “Are they not *doing it* to themselves, to the shame of their own faces?”

20Therefore this is what the Lord Yahweh says: “Behold, my anger and my wrath will be poured out on this place, on man and on animal, and on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground, and it will burn and will not be quenched.”

21This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: “Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat the meat yourselves. 22For in the day that I brought your fathers out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to them or give them commands out of concern for burnt offerings or sacrifices; 23but this thing I commanded them, saying, ‘Listen to my voice, and I will be your God and you will be my people; and walk in all the ways that I command you so that it will go well with you.’ 24But they did not listen or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsel and in the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward. 25Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt to this day, I have sent to you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them *again and again*, 26yet they did not listen to me or incline their ear, but made their neck stiff. They did worse than their fathers.

27“You are to speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you; you are also to call to them, but they will not answer you. 28You must tell them, ‘This is the nation that has not listened to the voice of Yahweh their God, nor received instruction. Truth has perished; it has been cut off from their mouth. 29Cut off your hair and throw it away, and take up a lamentation on the bare heights, for Yahweh has rejected and forsaken the generation that has aroused his wrath.’

30“For the children of Judah have done what is evil in my eyes, says Yahweh, they have set up their abominations in the house that is called by my name, to defile it. 31They have built the shrines 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.

32“Therefore behold, the days are coming,” says Yahweh, “that it will no more be called Topheth, nor the Valley of the son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; for they will bury *bodies* in Topheth because there is no place *left* to bury. 33The dead bodies of this people will be food for the birds of the air and for the animals of the earth, and no one will frighten them away. 34Then I will cause to cease from the cities of Judah and from the streets of Jerusalem the sound of joy and the sound of gladness, the voice of the groom and the voice of the bride, for the land will become a waste.”

**Jeremiah Chapter 8**

1“At that time, declares Yahweh, they will bring out of their graves the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of its officials, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, 2and they will spread them before the sun and the moon and all the army of heaven that they have loved, and that they have served, and that they have followed, and that they have sought, and that they have worshiped. And they will not be collected and buried; they will be like dung on the surface of the ground. 3Death will be chosen rather than life by all the remnant that remains of this evil family, that remains in all the places where I have driven them, says Yahweh of Armies. 4Moreover, you are to tell them: This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | Do people fall and not get up again?  If one turns away, does he not return? |
| 5 | Why then has this people of Jerusalem  turned away in perpetual apostasy?  They hold fast to deceit;  they refuse to return *to me*. |
| 6 | I listened and heard,  but they did not speak what was right.  No one repents of his wickedness,  saying, ‘What have I done?’  Everyone turns aside to his own race course  like a horse that plunges forward into the battle. |
| 7 | Even the stork in the sky  knows her appointed times,  and the turtledove and the swallow and the crane  keep the time of their coming;  but my people do not know the regulations of Yahweh. |
| 8 | How can you say, ‘We are wise,  and the law of Yahweh is with us?’  But behold, the lying pen of the scribes  has made it into a lie. |
| 9 | The wise men will be put to shame,  they will be dismayed and captured.  Behold, they have rejected the word of Yahweh,  so what kind of wisdom is in them? |
| 10 | So I will give their wives to others  and their fields to those who will take possession of them,  because everyone from the least even to the greatest  is greedy for gain;  from the prophet to the priest  everyone deals falsely. |
| 11 | They have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people superficially,  saying, ‘Peace, peace,’  when there is no peace. |
| 12 | Were they ashamed when they had committed abominations?  No, they were not at all ashamed,  and they do not know how to blush;  therefore they will fall among those who fall.  In the day that I visit them they will be cast down,  says Yahweh. |
| 13 | I will utterly consume them,  says Yahweh,  no grapes will be on the vine,  nor figs on the fig tree,  and the leaf will fade;  and the things that I have given them will pass away from them.” |
| 14 | Why are we sitting still?  Assemble yourselves, and let’s enter into the fortified cities,  and let’s perish there;  for Yahweh our God has doomed us to perish,  and given us poisonous water to drink  because we have sinned against Yahweh. |
| 15 | We looked for peace, but no good came;  and for a time of healing, but behold, terror! |
| 16 | “The snorting of their horses is heard from Dan;  at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones  the whole land trembles.  For they are coming to devour the land  and all that is in it,  the city and those who live in it. |
| 17 | For behold, I will send snakes among you,  venomous serpents that cannot be charmed;  and they will bite you,”  says Yahweh. |
| 18 | Oh that I could comfort myself against sorrow!  My heart is faint within me. |
| 19 | Behold, the sound of the cry of the daughter of my people  from a far away land:  isn’t Yahweh in Zion?  Isn’t her King in her?  Why do they anger me  with their carved images  and with foreign idols? |
| 20 | The harvest is past, the summer is ended,  and we are not saved. |
| 21 | For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt.  I go about in black; dismay has seized me. |
| 22 | 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? |

**Jeremiah Chapter 9**

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| 1 | Oh that my head were waters  and my eyes a fountain of tears,  that I might weep day and night  over the slain of the daughter of my people! |
| 2 | Oh that I had in the wilderness  a lodging place for traveling men  so that I might leave my people  and go from them!  For they are all adulterers,  an assembly of treacherous men. |
| 3 | They bend their tongue like their bow.  Lies and not truth have grown strong in the land,  for they proceed from evil to evil,  and they do not know me,  says Yahweh. |
| 4 | Let everyone beware of his neighbor,  and do not trust in any brother;  for every brother will deceive, yes, deceive,  and every neighbor will go about as a slanderer. |
| 5 | Everyone will deceive his neighbor,  and will not speak the truth.  They have taught their tongue to speak lies;  they weary themselves committing iniquity. |
| 6 | Your dwelling is in the midst of deceit;  in their deceit they refuse to acknowledge me,  says Yahweh. |

7Therefore this is what Yahweh of Armies says,

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|  | “Behold, I will smelt them and test them;  for what else can I do  because of the daughter of my people? |
| 8 | Their tongue is a deadly arrow;  it speaks deceit.  With his mouth one speaks peaceably to his neighbor,  but in his heart he lays an ambush for him. |
| 9 | Shouldn’t I punish them for these things?”  says Yahweh.  “Shouldn’t my soul be avenged  on such a nation as this? |
| 10 | I will take up a weeping and wailing for the mountains,  and a lamentation for the pastures of the wilderness,  because they are burned up  such that no one passes through,  nor can people hear the sound of the livestock;  both the birds of heaven and the animals have fled;  they are gone. |
| 11 | I will make Jerusalem heaps of ruins,  a dwelling place of jackals,  and I will make the cities of Judah  a desolation without inhabitant.” |

12Who is the wise man that can understand this? Who is he to whom the mouth of Yahweh has spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land destroyed and burned up like a wilderness, so that none passes through? 13Yahweh says, “Because they have forsaken my law that I set before them and have not obeyed my voice, nor walked in it, 14but have walked according to the stubbornness of their own heart and have gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them. 15Therefore this is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: ‘Behold, I will feed them—this people—with wormwood, and give them poisonous water to drink. 16I will scatter them also among the nations whom neither they nor their fathers have known, and I will send the sword after them until I have consumed them.’” 17This is what Yahweh of Armies says:

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|  | “Consider, and call for the mourning women,  that they may come,  and send for the skillful women, that they may come; |
| 18 | and let them make haste and take up a wailing for us,  that our eyes may run down with tears  and our eyelids gush out with water. |
| 19 | For a sound of wailing is heard out of Zion,  ‘How we are ruined!  We are put to great shame!  For we have abandoned the land  because they have cast down our homes.’” |
| 20 | Yet hear the word of Yahweh, you women,  and let your ear receive the word of his mouth,  and teach your daughters wailing,  and everyone *teach* her neighbor lady a lament, |
| 21 | for death has come up through our windows,  it has entered into our strongholds,  to cut off the children from the streets  and the young men from the broad places. |

22Say *this*, “This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | ‘The dead bodies of men will fall  like dung on the open field  and like the sheaves after the harvester,  and no one will gather them.’” |

23This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “Let not the wise man boast about his wisdom,  and let not the mighty man boast about his might,  *and* let not the rich man boast about his riches; |
| 24 | but let the one who boasts boast about this,  that he has understanding and knows me,  that I am Yahweh who acts with covenant faithfulness,  justice, and righteousness on the earth,  for in these things I delight,  says Yahweh. |

25Behold, the days are coming, says Yahweh, that I will punish all those who are circumcised *only* in the foreskin; 26Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that have the corners of their hair cut off who live in the wilderness, for all the nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart.”

**Jeremiah Chapter 10**

1Hear the word that Yahweh speaks to you, house of Israel! 2This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “Do not learn the way of the nations,  and do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven;  for the nations are dismayed at them. |
| 3 | For the customs of the peoples are a delusion.  Because it is a tree someone cuts out of the forest,  the work of the hands of a craftsman with an ax. |
| 4 | They adorn it with silver and with gold;  they fasten it with nails and with hammers  so that it does not totter. |
| 5 | They are like a scarecrow in a cucumber patch;  they do not speak.  They must be carried because they cannot walk.  Do not be afraid of them;  for they cannot do evil,  nor is it in them to do good.” |
| 6 | There is none like you, O Yahweh.  You are great,  and your name is great in might. |
| 7 | Who should not fear you,  O King of the nations?  For that *respect* is what you deserve!  For among all the wise ones of the nations  and in all their kingdoms,  there is none like you. |
| 8 | But one and all they are stupid and foolish;  the instruction of Delusions...is wood! |
| 9 | Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish,  and gold from Uphaz  that are the work of the craftsman  and of the hands of the goldsmith;  blue and purple is their clothing,  they are all the work of skillful men. |
| 10 | But Yahweh is the true God;  he is the living God, and an everlasting King:  at his wrath the earth trembles,  and the nations are not able to stand up to his indignation. |

11You are to say this to them: “The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, these will perish from the earth and from under the heavens.”

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| 12 | It is he who has made the earth by his power,  he has established the world by his wisdom,  and he has stretched out the heavens by his understanding. |
| 13 | When he utters his voice,  *there is* a roar of waters in the heavens,  and he causes the mist to rise  from the ends of the earth.  He makes lightning for the rain  and brings forth the wind out of his storehouses. |
| 14 | Everyone is stupid and without knowledge.  Every goldsmith is put to shame by his carved image,  for his cast *metal* image is a lie,  and there is no breath in them. |
| 15 | They are a delusion, a work of error;  in the time of their punishment  they will perish. |
| 16 | Not like these is the Portion of Jacob,  for he is the one who formed all things,  and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance:  Yahweh of Armies is his name. |
| 17 | Gather up your belongings from the ground,  you who live under siege. |

18For this is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “Behold, I will sling out  the inhabitants of the land at this time,  and will bring distress upon them,  so that they will feel it.” |
| 19 | Woe is me because of my hurt!  My wound is grievous,  but I said, “Truly this is an affliction,  and I must bear it.” |
| 20 | My tent is destroyed  and all my *tent* cords are broken;  my children have gone from me,  and they are no more;  there is no one to spread out my tent any more,  and to set up my curtains. |
| 21 | For the shepherds have become stupid  and have not inquired of Yahweh,  so they have not prospered,  and all their flocks are scattered. |
| 22 | The sound of a report. Behold, it comes.  A great commotion from the land of the north—  to make the cities of Judah a desolation,  a place where jackals live. |
| 23 | Yahweh, I know  that the way of man is not in himself;  it is not in man who walks to direct his steps. |
| 24 | Yahweh, correct me, but with justice;  not in your anger,  lest you bring me to nothing. |
| 25 | Pour out your wrath on the nations  that do not know you  and on the families  that do not call on your name,  for they have devoured Jacob,  yes, they have devoured him and consumed him  and have laid waste his habitation. |

**Jeremiah Chapter 11**

1The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh, saying, 2“Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, 3and say to them, this is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: Cursed is the one who does not listen to the words of this covenant 4that I commanded your fathers in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the iron furnace, saying, ‘Listen to my voice, and do according to all that I command you, then you will be my people and I will be your God,’ 5so that I can fulfill the oath that I swore to your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is today.” Then I answered and said, “Amen, Yahweh.”

6And Yahweh said to me, “Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying, Listen to the words of this covenant and do them. 7For I warned, yes, warned your fathers in the day that I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, even to this day, rising early and warning them *again and again*, saying, ‘Listen to my voice.’ 8Yet they did not listen or incline their ear, but each one walked in the stubbornness of his evil heart. Therefore I brought on them all the words of this covenant that I commanded them to do, but which they did not do.”

9Yahweh said to me, “A conspiracy has been discovered among the men of Judah and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 10They have returned to the iniquities of their forefathers, who refused to hear my words, and they have gone after other gods to serve them. The house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant that I made with their fathers.

11Therefore this is what Yahweh says: Behold, I will bring evil on them that they will not be able to escape, and they will cry out to me, but I will not listen to them. 12Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry out to the gods to which they burn incense, but they will not save them at all in the time of their trouble. 13For your gods have become as numerous as your cities, O Judah, and as many as the streets of Jerusalem are the altars you have set up to that Shameful Thing, even altars to burn incense to Baal.

14Therefore, *Jeremiah*, do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, for I will not listen to them when they cry out to me in the time of their trouble.

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| 15 | What right has my beloved in my house,  when she has carried out so many evil schemes?  Can holy meat take away your disaster?  When you do evil,  then you rejoice. |
| 16 | Yahweh called your name,  ‘A green olive tree,  beautiful and with good fruit.’  But with the noise of a great tumult  he has kindled fire on it,  and its branches are worthless. |

17For Yahweh of Armies, who planted you, has pronounced evil against you because of the evil that the house of Israel and the house of Judah have done, provoking me to anger by their burning incense to Baal.”

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| 18 | Yahweh made it known to me, and I knew *it*;  then you showed me what they were doing. |
| 19 | But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter,  and I did not know that they had schemed schemes against me,  saying, “Let’s destroy the tree with its fruit,  and let’s cut him off from the land of the living  so that his name will no longer be remembered.” |
| 20 | But O Yahweh of Armies, who judges righteously,  who tests the kidneys and the heart,  let me see your vengeance on them,  for to you I have committed my cause. |

21Therefore this is what Yahweh says concerning the men of Anathoth who seek your life, saying, “You must not prophesy in the name of Yahweh, so that you will not die by our hand,” 22therefore this is what Yahweh of Armies says: “Behold, I will punish them. The young men will die by the sword, their sons and their daughters will die by famine, 23and there will be no remnant of them, for I will bring evil on the men of Anathoth, even the year of their punishment.”

**Jeremiah Chapter 12**

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| 1 | You are righteous, Yahweh, when I bring a case against you,  yet I would speak to you about *your* justice.  Why does the way of the wicked prosper?  Why are all those who deal in treachery at ease? |
| 2 | You have planted them,  and they have taken root;  they grow, they also bring forth fruit.  You are near in their mouth  but far from their heart. |
| 3 | But you know me, Yahweh, you see me,  and test my heart, *that it is* toward you.  Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter  and set them apart for the day of slaughter. |
| 4 | How long will the land mourn  and the vegetation of the whole country wither?  Because of the wickedness of those who dwell in it,  the animals are consumed, and the birds;  for they said,  “He cannot see our latter end.” |
| 5 | “If you have run with the footmen  and they have wearied you,  then how can you compete against horses?  And if you feel secure in a land of peace,  yet how will you do in the thickets of the Jordan? |
| 6 | For even your brothers and the house of your father,  even they have dealt treacherously with you;  even they have cried aloud after you.  Do not believe them,  though they say good things to you.” |
| 7 | “I have forsaken my house,  I have cast off my heritage,  I have given the dearly beloved of my soul  into the hand of her enemies. |
| 8 | My heritage has become to me  like a lion in the forest,  she has raised her voice against me;  therefore I have come to hate her. |
| 9 | Is my heritage to me like a speckled bird of prey?  Are the birds of prey against her all around?  Go, assemble all the animals of the field,  bring them to devour. |
| 10 | Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard,  they have trampled my portion under foot,  they have made my pleasant portion  a desolate wilderness. |
| 11 | They have made it a desolation;  it mourns to me, being desolate;  the whole land is made desolate  because no man lays it to heart.” |
| 12 | Destroyers have come  on all the bare heights in the wilderness,  for the sword of Yahweh devours  from the one end of the land even to the other end of the land:  no flesh has peace. |
| 13 | They have sown wheat and have reaped thorns;  they have tired themselves out but profit nothing.  And you will be ashamed of your harvests,  because of the fierce anger of Yahweh. |

14This is what Yahweh says against all my evil neighbors, who touch the inheritance that I have caused my people Israel to inherit: “Behold, I will pluck them up from off their land, and I will pluck up the house of Judah from among them. 15And after I have plucked them up, I will again have compassion on them, and I will bring them again, each to his heritage and each to his land. 16Then, if they will learn, yes, learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, saying, ‘As Yahweh lives,’ just as they *once* taught my people to swear by Baal, then they will be built up in the midst of my people. 17But if they will not listen, then I will pluck up that nation, plucking it up and destroying it, says Yahweh.”

**Jeremiah Chapter 13**

1This is what Yahweh says to me, “Go and buy yourself a linen loincloth and put it around your waist, but do not put it in water.” 2So I bought a loincloth according to the word of Yahweh, and put it around my waist.

3Then the word of Yahweh came to me the second time, saying, 4“Take the loincloth that you have bought that is around your waist and arise, go to the *Wadi* Parath, and hide it there in a crevice in the rocks.” 5So I went, and hid it in the *Wadi* Parath, as Yahweh commanded me.

6And after many days Yahweh said to me, “Arise, go to the *Wadi* Parath and take from there the loincloth that I commanded you to hide there.” 7So I went to the *Wadi* Parath and dug and took the loincloth from the place where I had hidden it, and behold, the loincloth was ruined; it was good for nothing.

8Then the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, 9“This is what Yahweh says: In this way I will ruin the pride of Judah, and the great pride of Jerusalem. 10This evil people who refuse to hear my words, who walk in the stubbornness of their heart and who have gone after other gods to serve them and to worship them, will be like this loincloth, which is good for nothing. 11For just as the loincloth clings to the waist of a man, so have I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, says Yahweh, that they may be to me for a people, and for a name, and for a praise, and for a glory, but they would not hear.

12Therefore you are to speak to them this word: “This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: ‘every skin-bottle will be filled with wine.’” And they will tell you, ‘Do we not certainly know that every skin-bottle will be filled with wine?’ 13Then you will say to them, ‘This is what Yahweh says: Behold, I am about to fill all the inhabitants of this land with drunkenness, even the kings who sit on the throne of David, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 14I will dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together, says Yahweh. I will not pity, nor spare, nor have compassion such that I would not destroy them.’”

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| 15 | Hear, and give ear. Do not be proud,  for Yahweh has spoken. |
| 16 | Give glory to Yahweh your God,  before he causes darkness,  and before your feet stumble  on the darkening mountains,  and while you look for light,  he turns it into the shadow of death  and makes it deep darkness. |
| 17 | But if you will not hear it,  my soul will weep in secret  for your pride,  and my eye will weep bitterly and run down with tears,  because Yahweh’s flock will be taken captive. |
| 18 | Say to the king and to the queen mother,  “Humble yourselves, sit down;  for your beautiful crowns will come down from your heads.” |
| 19 | The cities of the Negev are closed up  and there is no one to open them;  Judah will be carried away captive, all of it;  it is wholly carried away captive. |
| 20 | “Lift up your eyes and see  those who are coming from the north.  Where is the flock that was given to you,  your beautiful flock? |
| 21 | What will you say,  when he sets over you as head  those whom you yourself have taught to be friends to you?  Will not pangs take hold of you,  as of a woman in labor? |
| 22 | If you say in your heart,  ‘Why have these things come on me?’  *It is* because of the greatness of your iniquity  your skirts are removed  and your heels are violated. |
| 23 | Can the Ethiopian change his skin,  or the leopard his spots?  *If they can,* then you also can do good;  *you* who are accustomed to doing evil. |
| 24 | Therefore I will scatter them  like the chaff that is blown away  by the wind from the desert. |
| 25 | This is your lot,  the portion measured to you from me,  says Yahweh,  because you have forgotten me  and trusted in falsehood. |
| 26 | Therefore I will also pull up your skirts over your face  and your shame will be seen. |
| 27 | Your adulteries, and your *lustful* neighing,  and your shameless prostitution!  On the hills and in the fields  I have seen your abominations;  Woe to you, Jerusalem!  How long will it be before you become clean?” |

**Jeremiah Chapter 14**

1The word of Yahweh that came to Jeremiah concerning the drought.

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| 2 | “Judah mourns  and her gates languish.  They lie in gloom on the ground,  and the cry of Jerusalem goes up. |
| 3 | Their nobles send their servants for water.  They have come to the cisterns  but find no water;  they have returned with their vessels empty.  They have been put to shame and humiliated,  and they cover their heads. |
| 4 | Because the ground is cracked,  because there has been no rain on the land,  the plowmen have been put to shame;  they have covered their heads. |
| 5 | Even the doe in the field gives birth  but abandons her young  because there is no grass. |
| 6 | And the wild donkeys stand on the bare heights;  they pant for air like jackals;  their eyes fail because there is no herbage.” |
| 7 | “Though our iniquities testify against us,  act for your name’s sake, Yahweh;  for our apostasies are many;  we have sinned against you. |
| 8 | O Hope of Israel,  its Savior in the time of trouble,  why should you be like a foreigner in the land  and like a traveling man who pitches *his tent* only to stay for a night? |
| 9 | Why should you be like a helpless man,  like a mighty man who cannot save?  Yet you, Yahweh, are in the midst of us,  and we are called by your name;  do not leave us.” |

10This is what Yahweh says to this people:

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|  | “They truly love to wander.  They have not refrained their feet,  so Yahweh does not accept them.  Now he will remember their iniquity  and punish their sins.” |

11Yahweh said to me, “Do not pray for the welfare of this people. 12When they fast, I will not hear their cry, and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them; but I will consume them by the sword, and by famine, and by plague.”

13Then I said, “Ah, Lord Yahweh! Behold, the prophets say to them, ‘You will not see the sword, nor will you have famine, but I will give you lasting peace *and prosperity* in this place.’”

14Then Yahweh said to me, “The prophets prophesy lies in my name. I did not send them, nor have I commanded them, nor did I speak to them. They prophesy to you a lying vision, and worthless divination, and the deceptions of their own heart.

15Therefore this is what Yahweh says: As for the prophets who prophesy in my name although I did not send them, yet they keep saying, ‘Sword and famine will not be in this land,’ By sword and famine those prophets will be consumed. 16And the people they prophesy to will be cast out into the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword, and they will have no one to bury them—them, nor their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters—because I will pour their wickedness on them.

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| 17 | You are to say this word to them:  ‘Let my eyes run down with tears night and day,  and let them not cease,  for the virgin daughter—my people—is broken with a great blow,  with a very grievous wound. |
| 18 | If I go out into the field,  then behold, the slain with the sword!  And if I enter into the city,  then behold, those who are sick from famine!  For both the prophet and the priest  go about their business in the land, and have no knowledge.’” |
| 19 | Have you utterly rejected Judah?  Has your soul loathed Zion?  Why have you struck us,  and there is no healing for us?  We looked for peace,  but no good came;  and for a time of healing,  but behold, terror! |
| 20 | We acknowledge our wickedness, O Yahweh  and the iniquity of our fathers,  for we have sinned against you. |
| 21 | For your name’s sake, do not spurn us.  Do not disgrace your glorious throne;  remember, *and* do not break your covenant with us. |
| 22 | Are there any among the worthless *idols* of the nations that can cause rain?  Or can heaven give showers?  Is it not you, O Yahweh our God?  So we set our hope on you,  for you have made all these things. |

**Jeremiah Chapter 15**

1Then Yahweh said to me, “Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind would not be toward this people. Send them out of my sight and let them go out. 2When they say to you, ‘Where will we go?’ then you are to say to them, ‘This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | Those who are for death, to death;  and those who are for the sword, to the sword;  and those who are for the famine, to the famine;  and those who are for captivity, to captivity.’ |

3I will appoint over them four kinds *of punishment*, says Yahweh: the sword to kill, and the dogs to drag away *the bodies*, and the birds of the heavens and the animals of the earth to devour and to destroy. 4And I will make them an object of horror among all the kingdoms of the earth because of Manasseh, the son of Hezekiah, the king of Judah, because of what he did in Jerusalem.

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| 5 | “For who will have pity on you, O Jerusalem?  Or who will grieve for you?  Or who will turn aside  to ask about your welfare? |
| 6 | You have rejected me,”  says Yahweh,  “you keep going backward.  So I will stretch out my hand against you  and destroy you.  I am tired of relenting. |
| 7 | I have winnowed them with a winnowing fork  at the gates of the land;  I have bereaved them of children,  I have destroyed my people.  They did not repent of their ways. |
| 8 | Their widows will be more numerous  before me than the sand of the seas;  I will bring on them—against the mother of the young men—a destroyer at noonday.  I will cause anguish and terrors  to fall on her suddenly. |
| 9 | She who has borne seven *sons* grows feeble;  she has given up the spirit;  her sun went down while it was still day;  she has been put to shame and humiliated,  and the rest of them I will give over to the sword  before their enemies,”  says Yahweh. |
| 10 | Woe is me, my mother,  that you have borne me,  a man of accusation and a man of contention  with the whole earth!  I have not lent, nor have men lent to me,  yet every one of them curses me. |

11Yahweh said,

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|  | “*Jerusalem,* I will surely send you away for your own good.  I will surely bring the enemy upon you in a time of trouble and distress. |
| 12 | Can one break iron,  iron from the north, or bronze? |
| 13 | Your wealth and your treasures  I will give as plunder without cost,  and that because of all your sins  throughout all your territory. |
| 14 | I will make you serve your enemies in a land that you do not know;  for in my anger a fire has been kindled.  It will burn against you.” |
| 15 | Yahweh, you know;  remember me, and visit me,  and avenge me of my persecutors.  Do not take me away *from life* because of your patience *toward sinners*;  know that for your sake I have suffered reproach. |
| 16 | Your words were found, and I ate them,  and your words became a joy to me  and the rejoicing of my heart,  for I am called by your name,  O Yahweh, God of Armies. |
| 17 | I did not sit in the assembly  of those who make merry, nor rejoiced;  I sat alone because of your hand,  for you have filled me with indignation. |
| 18 | Why is my pain perpetual  and my wound incurable,  refusing to be healed?  Will you indeed be to me like a deceitful brook,  like waters that fail? |

19Therefore this is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “If you return back *to me*, then I will take you back  *and y*ou will stand before me.  And if you utter the precious and not the worthless,  *then* you will be my mouth.  It is they who must turn back to you,  but you must not turn back to them. |
| 20 | Then I will make you a fortified bronze wall to this people,  and though they fight against you,  they will not prevail against you,  for I am with you to save you  and to deliver you,”  says Yahweh. |
| 21 | “I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  and I will redeem you out of the hand of the ruthless.” |

**Jeremiah Chapter 16**

1The word of Yahweh also came to me, saying, 2“Do not take a wife for yourself, and do not have sons or daughters in this place. 3For this is what Yahweh says concerning the sons and concerning the daughters who are born in this place, and concerning their mothers who bore them, and concerning their fathers who fathered them in this land: 4They will die of deadly diseases. They will not be lamented, nor will they be buried. They will be like dung on the surface of the ground, and they will be consumed by the sword and by famine, and their dead bodies will be food for the birds of heaven and for the animals of the earth.

5For this is what Yahweh says: Do not enter into the house of mourning, nor go to lament or bemoan them, for I have taken away my peace from this people, says Yahweh, even covenant faithfulness and tender mercies. 6Both great and small will die in this land, They will not be buried, nor will people lament for them, nor cut themselves, nor shave their heads for them; 7nor will men break bread for those in mourning to comfort them for the dead, nor will men give them the cup of consolation to drink for their father or for their mother. 8You must not go into the house of feasting to sit with them to eat and drink. 9For this is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Behold, I will cause to cease in this place, before your eyes and in your days, the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the groom and the voice of the bride.

10When you tell this people all these words, they will say to you, ‘Why has Yahweh pronounced all this great evil against us? And what is our iniquity and what is our sin that we have committed against Yahweh our God?’ 11Then you are to say to them, ‘Because your fathers have forsaken me, says Yahweh, and have walked after other gods, and have served them and have worshiped them, and have forsaken me and have not kept my law, 12and you have done more evil than your fathers, for behold, each one of you walks according to the stubbornness of his evil heart, refusing to listen to me, 13therefore will I hurl you out of this land into a land that you have not known, neither you nor your fathers; and there you will serve other gods day and night, for I will show you no favor.’

14Therefore behold, the days come, says Yahweh, when it will no longer be said, ‘As Yahweh lives who brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt’, 15but, ‘As Yahweh lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where he had driven them.’ I will bring them again into their land that I gave to their fathers.

16Behold, I will send for many fishermen, says Yahweh, and they will fish for them. And after that I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks. 17For my eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from my face, nor is their iniquity concealed from my eyes. 18First I will repay their iniquity and their sin double, because they have polluted my land with the corpses of their detestable idols and have filled my inheritance with their abominations.”

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| 19 | Yahweh, my strength and my stronghold  and my refuge in the day of affliction,  to you the nations will come  from the ends of the earth and will say,  “Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies,  vanity and things in which there is no profit. |
| 20 | Can human beings make gods for themselves?  But they are not gods!” |
| 21 | “Therefore behold, I am going to make them know—  this once I am going to make them know  my hand and my might,  and they will know that my name is Yahweh.” |

**Jeremiah Chapter 17**

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| 1 | “The sin of Judah is written  with an iron stylus  and with a flint point.  It is engraved on the tablet of their heart,  and on the horns of your altars, |
| 2 | while their children remember their altars  and their Asherah poles by the green trees  on the high hills. |
| 3 | O my mountain in the countryside,  I will give your wealth  and all your treasures as booty,  and *also* your shrines, because of sin  *committed* throughout all your territory. |
| 4 | And you will, even by your own *acts*,  lose your inheritance that I gave you,  and I will make you serve your enemies  in a land that you do not know,  for you have kindled a fire in my anger  that will burn for ages.” |

5This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “Cursed is the one who trusts in humans  and makes flesh his arm,  and whose heart departs from Yahweh. |
| 6 | For he will be like a juniper bush in the Arabah,  and will not see when good comes,  but will inhabit the parched places in the wilderness,  a salt land and not inhabited. |
| 7 | Blessed is the one who trusts in Yahweh, and whose confidence is Yahweh. |
| 8 | For he will be like a tree planted by the waters,  who spreads out its roots by the river  and does not fear when heat comes,  but its leaf will be green;  and it will not be anxious in the year of drought,  nor will it cease from yielding fruit.” |
| 9 | The heart is deceitful above all things,  and is incurable; who can know it? |
| 10 | “I, Yahweh, search the heart,  I test the kidneys,  in order to give to each one according to his ways,  according to the fruit of his doings.” |
| 11 | As the partridge that sits on eggs that do not hatch,  so is the one who gets riches,  but by injustice;  in the midst of his days they will leave him,  and in the end he will be *shown to be* a fool. |
| 12 | A glorious throne,  set on high from the beginning  is the place of our sanctuary. |
| 13 | O Yahweh, the hope of Israel,  all who forsake you  will be put to shame.  Those who depart from you  will be written in the dirt,  because they have forsaken Yahweh,  the spring of living water, |
| 14 | Heal me, O Yahweh, and I will be healed;  save me, and I will be saved,  for you are my praise. |
| 15 | Behold, they keep asking me,  “Where is the word of Yahweh?  Let it come to pass now.” |
| 16 | As for me, I have not run away from being your shepherd,  nor have I desired the woeful day.  You know what came from my lips; it was before your face. |
| 17 | Do not be a terror to me;  you are my refuge in the day of evil. |
| 18 | Let those who persecute me be put to shame,  but do not let me be put to shame;  let them be dismayed, but do not let me be dismayed;  bring on them the day of evil  and destroy them with double destruction. |

19This is what Yahweh said to me: “Go and stand in the gate of the children of the people through which the kings of Judah come in and through which they go out, as well as in all the gates of Jerusalem, 20and tell them, ‘Hear the word of Yahweh, you kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem that enter in by these gates. 21This is what Yahweh says: Be careful if you value your lives. Do not carry a burden on the Sabbath day, nor bring it in through the gates of Jerusalem, 22nor carry a burden out of your houses on the Sabbath day, nor do any work: but make the Sabbath day holy, as I commanded your fathers. 23But they did not listen or incline their ear, but made their neck stiff so that they would not hear and would not receive instruction.

24If you will listen, yes, listen to me, says Yahweh, and not bring in any burden through the gates of this city on the Sabbath day, but make the Sabbath day holy by doing no work on it, 25then there will enter in through the gates of this city kings and leaders sitting on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their officials, the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and this city will remain for ages *to come*. 26They will come from the cities of Judah, and from the places around Jerusalem; from the land of Benjamin, and from the Shephelah and from the hill country and from the Negev, bringing burnt offerings, and sacrifices, and grain offerings, and frankincense, and bringing thank offerings to the house of Yahweh. 27But if you will not listen to me to keep the Sabbath day holy by not carrying a burden in through the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its gates, and it will devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it will not be quenched.’”

**Jeremiah Chapter 18**

1The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh, saying, 2“Get up and go down to the potter’s house and I will tell you my message there.” 3So I went down to the potter’s house, and behold, he was making a work on the wheels. 4Whenever the vessel that he made of the clay came out ruined in the hand of the potter, he made it again, into another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

5Then the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, 6“House of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter? says Yahweh. Behold, as the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, house of Israel. 7At one moment I may speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up and to break down and to destroy it; 8but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from their evil, I will change my mind about the evil that I thought to do to them. 9And at one moment I may speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; 10if they do what is evil in my eyes by not obeying my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had said I would do for them. 11So now, speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, ‘This is what Yahweh says: Behold, I am shaping evil against you, and planning a plan against you. Turn back, each one of you, from your evil ways and amend your ways and your doings.’ 12But they say, ‘It is in vain. For we are going to follow our own plans, and each of us will act according to the stubbornness of his *own* evil heart.’ 13Therefore this is what Yahweh says:

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|  | Ask now among the nations,  who has heard such things?  Virgin Israel has done a very horrible thing. |
| 14 | Does the snow of Lebanon fail from the rock of the field?  Do the cold waters that flow down from afar ever dry up? |
| 15 | Yet my people have forgotten me.  They have burned incense to worthless *gods*,  and they have been made to stumble in their ways,  in the ancient paths,  to walk in byways, in a way not built up, |
| 16 | to make their land an astonishment  and a perpetual hissing;  everyone who passes by it will be astonished,  and shake his head. |
| 17 | I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy;  I will show them the back, and not the face,  in the day of their calamity.” |

18Then they said, “Come and let’s plan plans against Jeremiah; for the teaching of the law by the priests will not be lost, nor will counsel from the wise *cease*, nor the word *cease* from the prophet. Come and let’s strike him with our tongue, and let’s not pay attention to any of his words.”

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| 19 | Give heed to me, Yahweh,  and listen to the voice of those who contend with me. |
| 20 | Should evil be recompensed for good?  For they have dug a pit for my soul.  Remember how I stood before you  to speak good for them,  to turn away your wrath from them. |
| 21 | Therefore deliver up their children to the famine  and give them over to the power of the sword;  and let their wives become childless, and widows;  and let their men be slain by disease,  and their young men struck by the sword in battle. |
| 22 | Let a cry be heard from their houses  when you bring a troop suddenly on them;  for they have dug a pit to take me,  and hid snares for my feet. |
| 23 | Yet, Yahweh, you know  all their counsel against me to kill me.  Do not forgive their iniquity  nor blot out their sin from your sight,  but let them be overthrown before you;  Deal with them in the time of your anger. |

**Jeremiah Chapter 19**

1Thus said Yahweh, “Go, and buy a potter’s clay jug, and take some of the elders of the people and some of the elders of the priests, 2and go out to the Valley of Ben-hinnom that is by the entry of the Potsherd Gate and proclaim there the words that I tell you, 3and say, ‘Hear the word of Yahweh, kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Behold, I will bring evil on this place, at which whoever hears it, his ears will tingle. 4Because they have forsaken me and have estranged this place, and in it they have burned incense to other gods that they did not know, they and their fathers and the kings of Judah, and have filled this place with the blood of the innocent, 5and have built the shrines of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, a thing that I did not command, nor spoke it, nor did it come into my mind.

6So, behold, the days are coming, says Yahweh, that this place will no longer be called Topheth, or the Valley of Ben-hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter. 7I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place, and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies and by the hand of those who seek their life, and I will give their dead bodies to be food for the birds of heaven and for the animals of the earth. 8I will make this city an astonishment, and a hissing; everyone who passes by it will be astonished and hiss because of all its disasters. 9I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they will eat—every one—the flesh of his friend, in the siege and in the affliction with which their enemies, and those who seek their life will afflict them.’

10Then you are to break the jug in the sight of the men who go with you 11and you are to tell them, ‘This is what Yahweh of Armies says: Even so I will break this people and this city, as one breaks a potter’s vessel that cannot be made whole again, and they will bury in Topheth until there is no place to bury. 12This is what I will do to this place, says Yahweh, and to its inhabitants, making this city like Topheth, 13and the houses of Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah that are defiled will be like the place of Topheth, even all the houses on whose roofs they have burned incense to all the army of heaven, and have poured out drink offerings to other gods.’”

14Then Jeremiah went from Topheth, where Yahweh had sent him to prophesy, and he stood in the court of Yahweh’s house and said to all the people: 15“This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Behold, I will bring on this city and on all its towns all the evil that I have pronounced against it, because they have made their neck stiff, so as not to hear my words.”

**Jeremiah Chapter 20**

1Now Pashhur, the son of Immer, the priest who was chief officer in the house of Yahweh, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things. 2Then Pashhur had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put him in the stocks that were in the Upper Gate of Benjamin, which was in the house of Yahweh. 3It came to pass on the next day that Pashhur brought Jeremiah out of the stocks. Then Jeremiah said to him, “Yahweh has not called your name Pashhur,[[8]](#footnote-15535) but Magor-missabib.[[9]](#footnote-24100) 4For this is what Yahweh says: Behold, I will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends, and they will fall by the sword of their enemies, and your eyes will see it. And I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will carry them captive to Babylon and will kill them with the sword. 5Moreover I will give all the riches of this city, and all its gains, and all its precious things, yes, all the treasures of the kings of Judah I will give into the hand of their enemies and they will make them a prey and take them and carry them to Babylon. 6You, Pashhur, and all who dwell in your house will go into captivity, and you will go to Babylon, and there you will die, and there you will be buried, you and all your friends to whom you have prophesied falsely.”

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| 7 | Yahweh, you have deceived me, and I was deceived.  You are stronger than I *am*, and have prevailed.  I have become a laughingstock all day long;  everyone mocks me. |
| 8 | For as often as I speak, I cry out;  I cry out, “Violence and destruction!”  because for me the word of Yahweh has resulted in reproach  and derision all day long. |
| 9 | If I say, “I will not make mention of him,  nor speak any more in his name,”  then there is in my heart as it were a burning fire  shut up in my bones,  and I am weary with holding it in,  and I cannot. |
| 10 | For I have heard the defaming of many,  terror on every side.  “Denounce him! Let’s denounce him,”  say all my familiar friends,  those who watch for me to fall,  “Perhaps he will be deceived,  and we will prevail against him  and we will take our revenge on him.” |
| 11 | But Yahweh is with me as an awesome mighty one;  therefore my persecutors will stumble,  and they will not prevail;  they will be greatly shamed  because they have not dealt wisely,  even with an everlasting dishonor that will never be forgotten. |
| 12 | But Yahweh of Armies, who tests the righteous,  who sees the kidneys and the heart,  let me see your vengeance on them,  for to you I have revealed my cause. |
| 13 | Sing to Yahweh,  praise Yahweh,  for he has delivered the soul of the needy  from the hand of evildoers. |
| 14 | Cursed is the day  in which I was born;  do not let the day in which my mother bore me  be blessed. |
| 15 | Cursed is the man  who brought news to my father, saying,  “A boy is born to you,”  making him very glad. |
| 16 | Let that man be as the cities  that Yahweh overthrew and did not relent;  and let him hear a cry *of distress* in the morning,  and a battle cry at noontime, |
| 17 | because he did not kill me from the womb;  and so my mother would have been my grave,  and her womb always great. |
| 18 | Why did I come forth out of the womb  to see labor and sorrow,  that my days should be consumed with shame? |

**Jeremiah Chapter 21**

1The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh, when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur the son of Malchijah and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah, the priest, saying, 2“Please inquire of Yahweh for us, because Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon is making war against us. Perhaps Yahweh will deal with us according to all his wondrous works so that he will go away from us.”

3Then Jeremiah said to them, “You are to tell Zedekiah: 4‘This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: Behold, I will turn back the weapons of war that are in your hands with which you fight against the king of Babylon and against the Chaldeans who besiege you outside the walls, and I will gather them into the middle of this city. 5I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm, even in anger and in wrath and in great indignation. 6I will strike the inhabitants of this city, both man and animal. They will die of a great pestilence. 7Afterward, says Yahweh, I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah and his servants and the people—those who survive in this city from the pestilence, from the sword and from the famine—into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those who seek their life. And he will strike them with the mouth of the sword; he will not spare them, nor have pity, nor have mercy.’

8To this people you must say, ‘This is what Yahweh says: Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death. 9He who remains in this city will die by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence, but he who goes out and passes over to the Chaldeans who besiege you, he will live, and his life will be his spoils of war. 10For I have set my face on this city for evil, and not for good, says Yahweh: it will be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will burn it with fire.’

11Touching the house of the king of Judah, hear the word of Yahweh: 12‘House of David, this is what Yahweh says:

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|  | Execute justice in the morning  and deliver the one who has been robbed  out of the hand of the oppressor,  or else my wrath come out like fire  and burn so that no one can quench it,  because of the evil of your doings.’ |
| 13 | Behold, I am against you,  O inhabitant of the valley,  O rock of the plain,  says Yahweh.  You who say, ‘Who can come down against us?’  or ‘Who can enter into our habitations?’ |
| 14 | I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings,  says Yahweh,  and I will kindle a fire in her forest,  and it will devour all that is around her.” |

**Jeremiah Chapter 22**

1Yahweh said this *to me*: “Go down to the house of the king of Judah and speak this word there. 2Say, ‘Hear the word of Yahweh, O king of Judah, who sits on the throne of David; you, and your servants, and your people who enter in by these gates. 3This is what Yahweh says: Do what is just and right, and rescue from the hand of his oppressor the one who has been robbed, and do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place. 4For if you obey this word, then kings sitting on the throne of David will enter in by the gates of this house, riding in chariots and on horses; he and his servants and his people. 5But if you will not hear these words, I swear by myself, says Yahweh, that this house will become a desolation.’ 6For this is what Yahweh says concerning the house of the king of Judah:

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|  | ‘You are Gilead to me,  the head of Lebanon.  Yet surely I will make you a wilderness;  cities that are not inhabited. |
| 7 | I will prepare destroyers against you,  each with his weapons,  and they will cut down your choice cedars  and cast them into the fire. |

8Many nations will pass by this city, and every man will say to his neighbor, “Why has Yahweh done such a thing to this great city?” 9Then they will answer, “Because they forsook the covenant of Yahweh their God, and worshiped other gods and served them.”’”

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| 10 | Do not weep for the dead,  nor mourn for him;  but weep bitterly for him who goes away *into exile*,  for he will never return,  or see his native land. |

11For this is what Yahweh says touching Shallum the son of Josiah, king of Judah, who reigned instead of Josiah his father, and who has gone forth out of this place: “He will return here no more. 12But in the place where they have led him captive, there he will die, and he will see this land no more.”

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| 13 | “Woe to him who builds his house  through unrighteousness  and his upper rooms through injustice,  who makes his neighbor serve him for nothing  and does not give him his wages, |
| 14 | who says, ‘I will build myself a wide house  and spacious upper rooms,’  and who cuts out windows for himself,  and panels it with cedar,  and paints it with vermilion. |
| 15 | Are you a king because you strive to excel in cedar?  Your father, did he not eat and drink  and administer justice and righteousness?  Then it was well with him. |
| 16 | He judged the cause of the poor and needy;  then it was well.  Isn’t this *what it means* to know me?  says Yahweh. |
| 17 | But your eyes and your heart are for nothing except for your covetousness  and for shedding innocent blood,  and for oppression,  and for doing violence.” |

18Therefore this is what Yahweh says concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah:

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|  | “They will not lament for him, saying,  ‘Ah my brother!’ or ‘Ah sister!’  They will not lament for him, saying,  ‘Ah lord!’ or ‘Ah his glory!’ |
| 19 | He will be buried with the burial of a donkey,  dragged off and cast outside;  beyond the gates of Jerusalem.” |
| 20 | “Go up to Lebanon, and cry out;  and lift up your voice in Bashan,  and cry out from Abarim,  for all your lovers are destroyed. |
| 21 | I spoke to you in your *times of* prosperity;  but you said, ‘I will not hear.’  This has been your way from your youth,  that you have not obeyed my voice. |
| 22 | The wind will shepherd away all your shepherds,  and your lovers will go into captivity.  Surely then you will be ashamed and confounded  because of all your wickedness. |
| 23 | O inhabitant of Lebanon  who makes your nest in the cedars,  how you will groan when pangs come upon you,  the pain as of a woman in labor!” |

24“As I live, says Yahweh, even if you, Coniah, the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, were the signet ring on my right hand, yet would I pull you off, 25and I will give you into the hand of those who seek your life, and into the hand of those of whom you are afraid, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of the Chaldeans. 26I will hurl you, and your mother who bore you, into another country where you were not born, and you will die there. 27And to the land that their soul longs to return to, they will not return there.”

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| 28 | Is this man Coniah a despised broken pot?  Is he a vessel that no one wants?  Why are he and his seed to be hurled out,  and cast into a land that they do not know? |
| 29 | Land, land, land,  hear the word of Yahweh. |

30This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “Write down this man *as* childless,  a strong man who will not succeed in his days,  for none of his seed will succeed  in sitting on the throne of David  and ruling any more in Judah.” |

**Jeremiah Chapter 23**

1“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” says Yahweh. 2Therefore this is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says against the shepherds who feed my people: “You have scattered my flock and driven them away, and have not visited them. Behold, I will visit on you the evil of your doings, says Yahweh. 3I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds, and they will be fruitful and multiply. 4I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them, and they will fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor will any be missing, says Yahweh.

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| 5 | Behold, the days are coming,  says Yahweh,  that I will raise for David a righteous Branch,  and he will reign as king and deal wisely,  and will execute justice and righteousness in the land. |
| 6 | In his days Judah will be saved,  and Israel will dwell safely,  and this is its[[10]](#footnote-23107) name by which he will call it:  ‘Yahweh is our righteousness.’ |

7Therefore behold, the days are coming, says Yahweh, that they will no longer say, ‘As Yahweh lives, who brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ 8but, ‘As Yahweh lives, who brought up and who led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all the countries where I had driven them.’ They will live in their own land.”

9Concerning the prophets:

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|  | My heart is broken within me,  all my bones tremble;  I am like a drunken man,  and like a man overcome by wine,  because of Yahweh  and because of his holy words. |
| 10 | For the land is full of adulterers;  the land mourns because of the curse,  the pastures of the wilderness are dried up.  Their way *of life* is evil  and their might is not rightly used. |
| 11 | “For both prophet and priest are ungodly.  Even in my house have I found their wickedness,  says Yahweh. |
| 12 | Therefore their way will be to them  like slippery places in the darkness.  They will be driven on and fall down there;  for I will bring evil on them,  even the year of their visitation,”  says Yahweh. |
| 13 | “I have seen an offensive thing  among the prophets of Samaria:  they prophesied by Baal  and led my people Israel astray. |
| 14 | Among the prophets of Jerusalem also  I have seen a horrible thing:  they commit adultery and walk in lies,  and they strengthen the hands of evildoers  so that no one turns from his wickedness.  All of them have become to me like Sodom,  and her inhabitants like Gomorrah.” |

15Therefore this is what Yahweh of Armies says concerning the prophets:

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|  | “Behold, I will feed them with wormwood  and make them drink poisonous water,  for from the prophets of Jerusalem  ungodliness has gone forth into all the land.” |

16This is what Yahweh of Armies says, “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They fill you with false hope. They speak visions from their own hearts, and not out of the mouth of Yahweh. 17They keep on saying to those who despise me, ‘Yahweh has said you will have peace.’ And to everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his own heart they say, ‘No evil will come on you.’”

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| 18 | For who has stood in the council of Yahweh,  that he should see and hear his word?  Who has paid attention to his word, and heard it? |
| 19 | Behold, the storm of Yahweh!  His wrath has gone forth.  Yes, a whirling storm.  It will burst on the head of the wicked. |
| 20 | The anger of Yahweh will not turn back  until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart.  In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. |
| 21 | “I did not send these prophets,  yet they ran *with a message*.  I did not speak to them,  yet they prophesied. |
| 22 | 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 things they were doing. |

23Am I a God *only* close at hand, says Yahweh, and not *also* a God who is far away? 24Can anyone hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? says Yahweh. Do not I fill heaven and earth? says Yahweh.

25“I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ 26How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, even the prophets who prophesy from the deceit of their own heart, 27who think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams that they tell to one another, just as their fathers forgot my name because of Baal. 28The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; and he who has my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the straw to the wheat? says Yahweh. 29Is my word not like fire? says Yahweh, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? 30Therefore behold, I am against the prophets, says Yahweh, who all steal my words from one another. 31Behold, I am against the prophets, says Yahweh, who use their tongues, and say, ‘He says.’ 32Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, says Yahweh, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and by their vain boasting, when I didn’t send them, nor commanded them. They do not benefit this people at all, says Yahweh.

33When this people, or the prophet, or a priest, asks you, saying, ‘What is the burdensome message of Yahweh?’ Then you will tell them, ‘You are the burden! I will cast you away, says Yahweh.’ 34As for the prophet, and the priest, and the people who say, ‘The burdensome message of Yahweh,’ I will even punish that man and his house. 35This is what each man is to say to his neighbor and to his brother, ‘What has Yahweh answered?’ or, ‘What has Yahweh spoken?’ 36You are to mention the burdensome message of Yahweh no more, for every man’s own word will be his burden; for you have perverted the words of the living God, of Yahweh of Armies, our God. 37You must say to the prophet, ‘What has Yahweh answered you?’ or, ‘What has Yahweh spoken?’ 38But if you say, ‘The burdensome message of Yahweh’, therefore this is what Yahweh says: ‘Because you say this word, “The burdensome message of Yahweh,” and I have sent to you, saying, “You are not to say, ‘The burdensome message of Yahweh,’” 39therefore, behold, I will utterly forget you, and I will cast you away, and *also* the city that I gave to you and to your fathers—away from my presence; 40and I will bring an everlasting reproach on you, and a perpetual shame that will not be forgotten.’”

**Jeremiah Chapter 24**

1After Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and the officials of Judah with the craftsmen and smiths, from Jerusalem, and had brought them to Babylon, Yahweh showed me *a vision*, and behold, *there were* two baskets of figs placed in front of the Temple of Yahweh. 2One basket had very good figs, like the figs that are first-ripe; and the other basket had very bad figs that could not be eaten because they were so bad. 3Then Yahweh said to me, “What do you see, Jeremiah?” I said, “Figs; the good figs, very good, and the bad, very bad, that cannot be eaten because they are so bad.”

4Then the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, 5“This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the captives of Judah whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans. 6For I will set my eyes on them for good, and I will bring them again to this land, and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up. 7I will give them a heart to know me, that I am Yahweh, and they will be my people and I will be their God, for they will return to me with their whole heart.

8As the bad figs, that cannot be eaten they are so bad, surely this is what Yahweh says: In this way I will abandon Zedekiah the king of Judah, and his officials, and the residue of Jerusalem who remain in this land, and those who dwell in the land of Egypt. 9I will even make them an *object of* horror and evil among all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse in all places where I will drive them. 10I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence among them, until they are consumed from off the land that I gave to them and to their fathers.”

**Jeremiah Chapter 25**

1The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah (this was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), 2that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, 3“From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, even to this day, these 23 years, the word of Yahweh has come to me, and I have spoken it to you, rising up early and speaking, but you have not listened. 4Yahweh has sent to you all his servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them *again and again* (but you have not listened, nor inclined your ear to hear) 5saying, ‘Turn now, every one of you, from his evil way, and *turn* from the evil of your doings, and live in the land that Yahweh has given to you and to your fathers from age to age; 6and do not go after other gods to serve them or worship them, and do not make me angry with the work of your hands, and I will do you no harm.

7Yet you have not listened to me, says Yahweh, and so you made me angry with the work of your hands. Thus you have brought harm on yourselves.’

8Therefore this is what Yahweh of Armies says: Because you have not heard my words, 9behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, says Yahweh, and *I will send* to Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land and against its inhabitants and against all these nations around, and I will devote them to destruction and make them a horror, and a hissing, and everlasting desolations. 10Moreover I will take from them the sound of joy and the sound of gladness, the voice of the groom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. 11This whole land will be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon 70 years. 12When 70 years are accomplished, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, says Yahweh, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it desolate forever. 13I will bring on that land all my words that I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah has prophesied against all the nations. 14For many nations and great kings will make slaves of them, even them, and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the work of their hands.”

15For this is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, said to me: “Take this cup of the wine of wrath from my hand and cause all the nations to whom I send you to drink it. 16They will drink, and reel back and forth, and be mad because of the sword that I will send among them.”

17Then took I the cup at Yahweh’s hand and made all the nations to drink to whom Yahweh had sent me:

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| 18 | Jerusalem, and the cities of Judah, and its kings, and its officials, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, a hissing, and a curse, as it is this day; |
| 19 | Pharaoh king of Egypt, and his servants, and his officials, and all his people; |
| 20 | and all the mixed people,  and all the kings of the land of the Uz,  and all the kings of the Philistines, and Ashkelon, and Gaza, and Ekron,  and the remnant of Ashdod; |
| 21 | Edom, and Moab, and the children of Ammon, |
| 22 | and all the kings of Tyre  and all the kings of Sidon,  and the kings of the isle that is beyond the sea; |
| 23 | Dedan, and Tema, and Buz, and all who have the corners of their beard cut off; |
| 24 | and all the kings of Arabia,  and all the kings of the mixed people who dwell in the wilderness; |
| 25 | and all the kings of Zimri,  and all the kings of Elam,  and all the kings of the Medes; |
| 26 | and all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another;  and all the kingdoms of the world that are on the surface of the earth:  and the king of Sheshach will drink after them. |

27“You are to tell them, ‘This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: “Drink, and be drunk, vomit, fall, and rise no more, because of the sword that I will send among you.” 28If they refuse to take the cup at your hand to drink, then you are to tell them, “This is what Yahweh of Armies says: ‘You must surely drink. 29For, behold, I am beginning to bring disaster on the city that is called by my name; and should you be utterly unpunished? You will not be unpunished, for I will call for a sword on all the inhabitants of the earth, says Yahweh of Armies.” 30Therefore you prophesy against them all these words, and tell them:

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|  | “Yahweh will roar from on high,  and utter his voice from his holy habitation;  he will mightily roar against his fold;  he will give a shout, as those who tread grapes,  against all the inhabitants of the earth. |
| 31 | A noise will come even to the end of the earth,  for Yahweh has a controversy with the nations;  he will enter into judgment with all flesh.  As for the wicked, he will give them to the sword,  says Yahweh.” |

32This is what Yahweh of Armies says,

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|  | “Behold, evil will go out  from nation to nation,  and a great storm will be raised up  from the uttermost parts of the earth. |

33“On that day the slain of Yahweh will be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth; they will not be lamented, nor gathered up, nor buried; they will be dung on the surface of the ground.

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| 34 | “Wail, you shepherds, and cry out;  and wallow in dust, you leaders of the flock,  for the days of your slaughter and of your dispersions have fully come,  and you will fall *and be broken* like a precious vessel. |
| 35 | The shepherds will have no way to flee,  nor the prominent ones of the flock to escape. |
| 36 | A sound of the cry of the shepherds,  and the wailing of the leaders of the flock!  For Yahweh lays waste their pasture. |
| 37 | The peaceable folds are brought to silence  because of the fierce anger of Yahweh. |
| 38 | Like a lion he has left his den,  for their land has become an astonishment  because of the fierceness of the oppression,  and because of his fierce anger.” |

**Jeremiah Chapter 26**

1In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from Yahweh, saying, 2“This is what Yahweh says: Stand in the court of Yahweh’s house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of Yahweh all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. 3It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way. Then I will change my mind about the evil that I am planning to do to them because of the evil of what they are doing. 4You are to tell them, ‘This is what Yahweh says: “If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, 5and to listen to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I have been sending to you, even rising up early and sending them *again and again*, but you have not listened, 6then I will make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth.”’”

7The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of Yahweh. 8It came to pass, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking everything that Yahweh had commanded him to speak to all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold on him, saying, “You must die, yes, die. 9Why have you prophesied in the name of Yahweh, saying, ‘This house will be like Shiloh, and this city will be desolate, without inhabitant’?” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of Yahweh.

10When the leaders of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of Yahweh, and they sat in the entry of the New Gate of Yahweh’s house. 11Then the priests and the prophets spoke to the leaders and to all the people, saying, “This man is worthy of death, for he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your ears.”

12Then Jeremiah spoke to all the leaders and to all the people, saying, “Yahweh sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that you have heard. 13So now reform your ways and what you do and obey the voice of Yahweh your God, and Yahweh will change his mind about the evil that he has pronounced against you. 14But as for me, behold, I am in your hand; do with me what is good and right in your eyes. 15Only know, yes, know that if you put me to death you will bring innocent blood on yourselves, and on this city and on its inhabitants, because truly, Yahweh has sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

16Then the leaders and all the people said to the priests and to the prophets: “This man is not worthy of death, for he has spoken to us in the name of Yahweh our God.”

17Then certain of the elders of the land rose up and spoke to all the assembly of the people, saying, 18“Micah the Morashtite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and he spoke to all the people of Judah, saying, ‘This is what Yahweh of Armies says:

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|  | Zion will be plowed as a field,  and Jerusalem will become heaps,  and the Temple Mount like a forested hill.’ |

19Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him to death? Didn’t he fear Yahweh and entreat the favor of Yahweh, and *then* Yahweh changed his mind about the disaster that he had pronounced against them? We are about to bring great evil upon ourselves.”

20But there was also a man who prophesied in the name of Yahweh, Uriah the son of Shemaiah of Kiriath-jearim, and he prophesied against this city and against this land with words like all those of Jeremiah; 21and when Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men and all the officials, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death. But when Uriah heard about it, he was afraid, and fled, and went to Egypt. 22But Jehoiakim the king sent men into Egypt, *namely* Elnathan the son of Achbor and certain men with him, into Egypt, 23and they brought Uriah out of Egypt, and took him to Jehoiakim the king, who killed him with the sword and threw his dead body into the graves of the common people.

24But the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah so that he was not turned over into the hand of the people to put him to death.

**Jeremiah Chapter 27**

1In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word from Yahweh came to Jeremiah, 2this is what Yahweh said to me: “Make *leather* straps and yoke bars and put them on your neck, 3and send word to the king of Edom, and to the king of Moab, and to the king of the children of Ammon, and to the king of Tyre, and to the king of Sidon, by the hand of the messengers who have come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah; 4and command them *to go* to their masters, saying, ‘This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says. “This is what you must say to your masters: 5I have made the earth, the people and the animals that are on the surface of the earth, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and I give it to whomever it seems right to me. 6Now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I have also given him the animals of the field to serve him. 7And all the nations will serve him, and his son, and his son’s son, until the time of his own land comes; and then many nations and great kings will make him their servant.

8The nation and the kingdom that will not serve him, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, I will punish that nation, says Yahweh, with the sword and with the famine and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand. 9But as for you, do not listen to your prophets, or to your diviners, or to your dreamers, or to your soothsayers, or to your sorcerers who speak to you, saying, ‘Do not serve the king of Babylon,’ 10for they prophesy a lie to you, with the result that you will be removed far from your land; I will drive you out and you will perish. 11But the nation that will bring their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him, I will let that nation remain in their own land, says Yahweh, and they will cultivate it and live in it.”’”

12I spoke words like all these to Zedekiah king of Judah, saying, “Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live. 13Why will you die, you and your people, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, as Yahweh has spoken concerning the nation that will not serve the king of Babylon? 14So do not listen to the words of the prophets who speak to you, saying, ‘You must not serve the king of Babylon,’ for they are prophesying a lie to you. 15‘For I have not sent them,’ says Yahweh, ‘but they prophesy 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.’”

16Also, I spoke to the priests and to all this people, saying, “This is what Yahweh says: Do not listen to the words of your prophets who prophesy to you, saying, ‘Behold, the articles of Yahweh’s house will now shortly be brought again from Babylon,’ because they are prophesying a lie to you. 17Do not listen to them; serve the king of Babylon, and live. Why should this city become a desolation? 18But if they are prophets, and if the word of Yahweh is with them, let them now make intercession to Yahweh of Armies, that the articles that are left in the house of Yahweh and in the house of the king of Judah and at Jerusalem do not go to Babylon. 19For this is what Yahweh of Armies says concerning the pillars, and concerning the sea, and concerning the bases, and concerning the remainder of the articles that are left in this city, 20which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon did not take when he carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, from Jerusalem to Babylon, and all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem— 21yes, this is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says concerning the articles that are left in the house of Yahweh and in the house of the king of Judah and at Jerusalem: 22‘They will be carried to Babylon, and there they will be until the day that I visit them,’ says Yahweh, ‘then I will bring them up and restore them to this place.’”

**Jeremiah Chapter 28**

1And the same year, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fifth month of the fourth year, Hananiah the son of Azzur, the prophet who was from Gibeon, spoke to me in the house of Yahweh, in the presence of the priests and all the people, saying, 2“This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says. *He* says, ‘I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. 3Within two full years I will bring again into this place all the articles of the house of Yahweh that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon, 4and I will bring again to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, with all the captives of Judah who went to Babylon, says Yahweh, for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.’”

5Then the prophet Jeremiah said to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and in the presence of all the people who stood in the house of Yahweh, 6even the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen. May Yahweh do so! May Yahweh perform your words that you have prophesied, to bring again the articles of the house of Yahweh, and *also* all the exiles, from Babylon to this place. 7Yet hear now this word that I speak in your ears, and in the ears of all the people: 8the prophets who have preceded me and you from ancient times prophesied against many countries and against great kingdoms, *and spoke* of war, and of evil, and of plagues. 9As for the prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, then the prophet becomes known *as one* that Yahweh has truly sent.”

10Then Hananiah the prophet took the yoke bar off of the prophet Jeremiah’s neck and broke it. 11Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, “This is what Yahweh says: ‘In this way, within two years I will break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon off of the neck of all the nations.’” And the prophet Jeremiah went his way.

12Then, after Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke bar off of the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, the word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah, saying, 13“Go and tell Hananiah, saying, ‘This is what Yahweh says: You have broken the yoke bars of wood, but you have made in their place yoke bars of iron. 14For this is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: I have put a yoke of iron on the neck of all these nations, so that they can serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and they will serve him; and I have given him the animals of the field also.’”

15Then the prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet, “Hear now, Hananiah: Yahweh has not sent you, and you have made this people to trust in a lie. 16Therefore this is what Yahweh says, ‘Behold, I am about to send you away off the face of the earth. This year you will die, because you have spoken rebellion against Yahweh.’” 17So Hananiah the prophet died that same year in the seventh month.

**Jeremiah Chapter 29**

1Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the captivity, and to the priests, to the prophets and to all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon, 2(this was after Jeconiah the king, the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem) 3by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah (whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), saying,

4This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captivity whom I have caused to be carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5“Build houses, and live in them; and plant gardens, and eat their fruit. 6Take wives and father sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands so that they may bear sons and daughters; and multiply there; do not decrease. 7Seek the welfare of the city to which I have caused you to be carried away as captives, and pray to Yahweh for it, for in its welfare you will have your welfare.”

8For this is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let your prophets who are in the midst of you, and your diviners, deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that you are encouraging them to dream. 9For they prophesy falsely to you in my name. I have not sent them,” says Yahweh.

10For this is what Yahweh says, “After 70 years are accomplished for Babylon, I will visit you and perform my good word toward you by causing you to return to this place. 11For I know the plans that I have in mind for you,” says Yahweh, “plans of peace and not of evil, to give you hope and a future. 12You will call on me, and you will come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart. 14I will be found by you,” says Yahweh, “and I will reverse your captivity and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,” says Yahweh, “and I will bring you again to the place from which I caused you to be carried away captive.”

15Because you have said, “Yahweh has raised us up prophets in Babylon,” 16this is what Yahweh says concerning the king who sits on the throne of David and concerning all the people who live in this city, your brothers who have not gone with you into captivity; 17this is what Yahweh of Armies says: “Behold, I will send on them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them like vile figs that cannot be eaten, they are so bad. 18I will pursue after them with the sword, with the famine, and with the pestilence, and will deliver them to be tossed back and forth among all the kingdoms of the earth, to be an object of horror and an astonishment, and a hissing, and a reproach among all the nations where I have driven them; 19because they have not listened to my words,” says Yahweh, “that I sent to them by my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them *again and again*; but you would not listen,” says Yahweh.

20Therefore hear the word of Yahweh, all you of the captivity, whom I have sent away from Jerusalem to Babylon. 21This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says concerning Ahab the son of Kolaiah and concerning Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah, who prophesy a lie to you in my name: “Behold, I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he will kill them before your eyes. 22And because of them this curse will be used by all the captives of Judah who are in Babylon; they will say, ‘May Yahweh make you like Zedekiah and like Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire,’ 23because they have worked folly in Israel and have committed adultery with their neighbors’ wives, and have spoken lying words in my name that I did not command them; and I am he who knows, and am a witness,” says Yahweh.

24Concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite you are to speak, saying, 25“This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, speaks, saying, Because you have sent letters in your own name to all the people who are at Jerusalem, and to Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, and to all the priests, saying, 26‘Yahweh has made you priest in the place of Jehoiada the priest, to be overseers in the house of Yahweh, *responsible* for every man who is mad and makes himself a prophet. You are to put him in the stocks and in shackles. 27Now therefore, why have you not rebuked Jeremiah of Anathoth, who is acting like a prophet among you? 28For he has sent to us in Babylon, saying, ‘The captivity will be long. Build houses and live in them, and plant gardens and eat their fruit.’”

29Zephaniah the priest read this letter in the ears of Jeremiah the prophet.

30Then the word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah, saying, 31“Send *a message* to all the captives *in Babylon*, saying, ‘This is what Yahweh says concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite: Because Shemaiah has prophesied to you (but I did not send him), and he has caused you to trust in a lie, 32therefore this is what Yahweh says: behold, I will punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his seed; he will not have a man to live among this people, nor will he see the good that I will do to my people, says Yahweh, because he has spoken rebellion against Yahweh.’”

**Jeremiah Chapter 30**

1The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh, saying, 2“This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says, ‘Write all the words that I have spoken to you on a scroll. 3For behold, the days are coming,’ says Yahweh, ‘when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity,’ says Yahweh, ‘and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they will possess it.’”

4These are the words that Yahweh spoke concerning Israel and concerning Judah. 5“For this is what Yahweh says:

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|  | ‘We have heard a voice of trembling,  of fear, and not of peace. |
| 6 | Ask now, and see  whether a man labors with child.  Why do I see every man  with his hands on his waist like a woman in labor,  and all faces are turned pale? |
| 7 | Alas! For that day is great,  so that none is like it;  it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble,  but he will be saved out of it. |

8It will come to pass in that day,’ says Yahweh of Armies, ‘that I will break his yoke from off your neck, and will burst your bonds, and strangers will no longer make him their slave; 9but they will serve Yahweh their God, and David their king whom I will raise up to them.

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| 10 | Therefore do not be afraid,  O Jacob my servant,’  says Yahweh,  ‘and do not be dismayed, O Israel;  for behold, I will save you from *that* distant place,  and your seed from the land of their captivity,  and Jacob will return and will be calm and without anxiety,  and no one will make him afraid. |
| 11 | For I am with you,’  says Yahweh,  ‘to save you;  for I will make a full end of all the nations  where I have scattered you,  but I will not make a full end of you;  but I will correct you in measure,  and in no way will leave you unpunished.’ |

12For this is what Yahweh says,

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|  | ‘Your hurt is incurable,  and your wound grievous. |
| 13 | There is none to plead your cause;  no healing for your wound;  no medicine for you. |
| 14 | All your lovers have forgotten you;  they no longer seek you out,  for I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy,  with the chastisement of a cruel one,  because of the greatness of your iniquity  and your sins grew so great. |
| 15 | Why do you cry out because of your hurt?  Your pain is incurable!  I have done these things to you  because your iniquity is great,  because your sins are numerous. |
| 16 | Nevertheless, all those who devoured you will be devoured,  and all your adversaries, every one of them,  will go into captivity.  And those who plundered you will be plundered,  and all who prey on you I will give to be a prey. |
| 17 | For I will restore health to you,  and I will heal you of your wounds,’  says Yahweh,  because they have called you an outcast, saying,  ‘It is Zion, whom no one cares about.’ |

18This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | ‘Behold, I will turn again the captivity of Jacob’s tents  and have compassion on his dwelling places,  and the city will be built on its own mound of ruins,  and the palace will be inhabited in its own way. |
| 19 | Out of them will proceed thanksgiving  and the sound of those who celebrate,  and I will multiply them, and they will not be few;  I will also glorify them, and they will not be small. |
| 20 | Their children also will be as before,  and their congregation will be established before me,  and I will punish all who oppress them. |
| 21 | Their leader will be one of them,  and their ruler will proceed from their midst;  and I will cause him to draw near,  and he will approach to me;  for who is he who would dare to risk his life to approach me?’  says Yahweh. |
| 22 | ‘You will be my people,  and I will be your God.’” |
| 23 | Behold, the storm of Yahweh!  His wrath has gone forth,  a sweeping storm;  it will whirl down upon the heads of the wicked. |
| 24 | The fierce anger of Yahweh will not turn back until he has executed,  until he has accomplished, the intentions of his heart.  In the latter days you will understand this. |

**Jeremiah Chapter 31**

1“At that time,” says Yahweh, “I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people.” 2This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “The people who survived the sword  found favor in the wilderness;  *yes*, Israel, when it went to find its rest.” |
| 3 | Yahweh appeared to him from afar, saying,  “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love;  therefore with covenant faithfulness I have drawn you. |
| 4 | I will build you again and you will be rebuilt,  O virgin Israel.  You will take up your tambourines again  and go out, dancing with those who make merry. |
| 5 | Again you will plant vineyards  on the mountains of Samaria;  the planters will plant and will enjoy its fruit. |
| 6 | For there will be a day  that the watchmen on the hills of Ephraim will cry out,  ‘Arise, and let’s go up to Zion  to Yahweh our God.’” |

7For this is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “Sing with gladness for Jacob,  and shout for the foremost of the nations;  proclaim, praise, and say,  ‘Yahweh, save your people,  the remnant of Israel.’ |
| 8 | Behold, I will bring them from the north country  and gather them from the uttermost parts of the earth,  along with the blind and the lame,  the woman with child and she who is in labor with child;  a large throng—they will return here together. |
| 9 | They will come with weeping,  and they will pray as I lead them.  I will cause them to walk by rivers of water,  on a straight road where they will not stumble,  for I am a father to Israel  and Ephraim is my firstborn. |
| 10 | Hear the word of Yahweh,  you nations, and declare it in the islands afar off,  and say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him,  and keep him as a shepherd does his flock.’ |
| 11 | For Yahweh will ransom Jacob  and redeem him from the hand of him who was stronger than he. |
| 12 | They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion,  and will be radiant over the goodness of Yahweh;  over the grain and over the new wine, and over the oil,  and over the young of the flocks and of the herds,  and their life will be like a watered garden;  and they will never languish again. |
| 13 | Then will the virgin rejoice with dancing,  and the young men and the old *rejoice* together,  for I will turn their mourning into joy  and will comfort them  and give them joy in place of their sorrow. |
| 14 | I will fill the soul of the priests with fatness,  and my people will be satisfied with my goodness,”  says Yahweh. |

15This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “A voice is heard in Ramah,  lamentation and bitter weeping,  Rachel weeping for her children;  she refuses to be comforted for her children,  because they are no more.” |

16This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “Refrain your voice from weeping  and your eyes from tears,  for your work will be rewarded,”  says Yahweh,  “and they will come again from the land of the enemy. |
| 17 | There is hope for your latter end,”  says Yahweh,  “and your children will come again to their own territory. |
| 18 | I have surely heard Ephraim moaning,  ‘You have disciplined me,  and I was disciplined like an untrained calf;  bring me back and I will be restored,  for you are Yahweh my God. |
| 19 | Surely after I turned away, I repented;  and after I was instructed, I struck on my thigh.  I was ashamed, yes, even confounded,  because I bore the reproach of my youth.’ |
| 20 | Is Ephraim my dear son?  Is he a darling child?  For as often as I speak against him,  I do still remember, yes, remember him:  therefore my bowels are stirred for him.  I will surely have mercy on him,”  says Yahweh. |
| 21 | “Set up road signs, make guideposts;  set your heart toward the highway,  even the road by which you went.  Return, O Virgin Israel,  return to these your cities. |
| 22 | How long will you go here and there,  you unfaithful daughter?  For Yahweh has created a new thing in the earth:  a woman will encompass a man.” |

23This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: “When I restore their fortunes they will again speak this word in the land of Judah and in its cities, ‘Yahweh bless you, habitation of righteousness, holy mountain.’ 24Judah and all its cities will dwell in it together, the farmers, and those who go about with flocks. 25For I have satiated the weary soul, and every sorrowful soul I have replenished.”

26At this I awoke, and looked around, and my sleep had been sweet to me.

27“Behold, the days come,” says Yahweh, “that I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the offspring of man and with the offspring of animals. 28Like as I have watched over them to pluck up and to break down and to overthrow and to destroy and to afflict, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says Yahweh. 29In those days they will no longer say,

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|  | ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes,  and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’ |

30But everyone will die for his own iniquity; every man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth will be set on edge.

31Behold, the days are coming, declares Yahweh, that I will cut a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, 32not like the covenant that I cut with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; my covenant that they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares Yahweh. 33“But this is the covenant that I will cut with the house of Israel after those days,” declares Yahweh. “I will put my law within them, yes, I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they will be my people, 34and they will no longer teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know Yahweh,’ for they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” says Yahweh, “for I will forgive their iniquity and I will remember their sin no more.”

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| 35 | This is what Yahweh says:  who gives the sun for a 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—  Yahweh of Armies is his name: |
| 36 | “If these ordinances depart from before me,”  says Yahweh,  “then the seed of Israel also will cease  from being a nation before me forever.” |

37This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “If heaven above can be measured,  and the foundations of the earth *can be* searched out beneath,  then I will also cast off all the seed of Israel  because of all that they have done,”  says Yahweh. |

38“Behold, the days are coming,” says Yahweh, “that Yahweh’s city[[11]](#footnote-30894) will be built from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. 39The measuring line will go out further straight onward to the hill Gareb, and will turn to Goah. 40The whole valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes, and all the fields to the brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, will be holy to Yahweh. It will not be plucked up, nor overthrown any more forever.”

**Jeremiah Chapter 32**

1The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. 2Now at that time the king of Babylon’s army was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the courtyard of the guard that was in the king of Judah’s house. 3For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, “Why do you prophesy *what you do*? You say, ‘This is what Yahweh says: Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will take it; 4and Zedekiah king of Judah will not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but will surely be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon, and will speak with him mouth to mouth, and his eyes will see his eyes, 5and he will bring Zedekiah to Babylon, and he will be there until I visit him, says Yahweh. If you fight with the Chaldeans, you will not prosper.’”

6Jeremiah said, “The word of Yahweh came to me, saying: 7Behold, Hanamel the son of Shallum your uncle will come to you, saying, ‘Buy my field that is in Anathoth, for the right of redemption is yours to buy it.’

8“So Hanamel my uncle’s son came to me in the courtyard of the guard according to the word of Yahweh, and said to me, ‘Please buy my field that is in Anathoth, which is in the land of Benjamin, for the right of inheritance is yours, and the redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.’ Then I knew that this was the word of Yahweh. 9I bought the field that was in Anathoth from Hanamel my uncle’s son, and weighed him the money, even 17 shekels[[12]](#footnote-24842) of silver. 10I signed the deed, and sealed it, and called witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances. 11So I took the deed of the purchase, both the one that was sealed, containing the terms and conditions, and the one that was open, 12and I delivered the deed of the purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, before the eyes of Hanamel my uncle’s son, and before the eyes of the witnesses who signed the deed of the purchase, *and* before the eyes of all the Jews who sat in the courtyard of the guard.

13“In their presence I commanded Baruch, saying, 14‘This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: take these deeds, this deed of the purchase that is sealed and this deed that is open, and put them in an earthen vessel, so that they will last many days. 15For this is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: houses and fields and vineyards will yet again be bought in this land.’

16“Now after I had delivered the deed of the purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed to Yahweh, saying, 17‘Ah, Lord Yahweh! Behold, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm; nothing is too hard for you, 18who shows covenant faithfulness to thousands and repays the iniquity of the fathers into the laps of their children after them; the great, the mighty God, Yahweh of Armies is his name, 19great in counsel and mighty in work, whose eyes are open on all the ways of the sons of men, to give to every one according to his ways and according to the fruit of what he does, 20who performed signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, *and continue them* even to this day both in Israel and among humankind; and you have made yourself a name, as in this day. 21And you brought forth your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terror; 22and gave them this land, which you swore to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey; 23and they came in and possessed it, but they did not obey your voice, nor walked according to your Law; they have done nothing of all that you commanded them to do. Therefore you have caused all this evil to come on them. 24Behold, the siege ramps have reached the city to take it; and the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans who fight against it, because of the sword, and of the famine, and of the pestilence, and what you have spoken has happened; and behold, you see it. 25Lord Yahweh, you have said to me, “Buy the field for money, and call witnesses,” whereas the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.’”

26Then came the word of Yahweh to Jeremiah, saying, 27“Behold, I am Yahweh, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for me? 28Therefore this is what Yahweh says: Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the Chaldeans and into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he will take it; 29and the Chaldeans who fight against this city will come and set this city on fire, and burn it, along with the houses on whose roofs they have burned incense to Baal and poured out drink offerings to other gods, making me angry. 30For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have done nothing from their youth except what was evil in my eyes. Indeed, the children of Israel have done nothing but make me angry with the work of their hands, says Yahweh. 31For this city has been a cause of my anger and of my wrath from the day that they built it even to this day, so I will remove it from before my face 32because of all the evil of the children of Israel and of the children of Judah that they have done, making me angry—they, their kings, their officials, their priests and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 33They have turned their backs to me, and not their faces, and though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them *over and over*, yet they have not listened and received instruction. 34But they set their abominations in the house that is called by my name, to defile it. 35They built the shrines to Baal that are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through *the fire* to Molech, which I did not command them, nor did it come into my mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

36Now therefore, this is what Yahweh the God of Israel says concerning this city about which you say, ‘It is given into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.’ 37Behold, I will gather them out of all the countries where I have driven them in my anger, and in my wrath, and in great indignation, and I will bring them again to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely; 38and they will be my people, and I will be their God. 39And I will give them one heart and one way, so that they will fear me forever, for their *own* good and for *the good of* their children after them; 40and I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, from doing them good, and I will put the fear of me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from me. 41Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I, in faithfulness, will plant them in this land with my whole heart and with my whole soul.

42For this is what Yahweh says: Just as I have brought all this great evil on this people, so I will bring on them all the good that I have promised them. 43Fields will be bought in this land about which you are saying, ‘It is a desolation, without man or animal; it has been given into the hand of the Chaldeans.’ 44Men will buy fields for money, and deeds will be signed and sealed and witnessed in the land of Benjamin and in the places around Jerusalem and in the cities of Judah and in the cities of the hill country and in the cities of the lowland and in the cities of the Negev, for I will cause their captivity to return,” says Yahweh.

**Jeremiah Chapter 33**

1Then the word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still shut up in the courtyard of the guard, saying, 2“This is what Yahweh who made *the earth*, Yahweh who formed it to establish it, says—Yahweh is his name: 3Call to me and I will answer you, and will show you great and hidden things that you do not know. 4For this is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says concerning the houses of this city, and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah that have been torn down to make a defense against the siege ramps, and against the sword; 5they are coming to fight against the Chaldeans, but *only* to fill those houses with the dead bodies of men whom I have killed in my anger and in my wrath, for I have hidden my face from this city because of all their wickedness. 6*But* behold, I will bring it health and healing, and I will heal them, and I will reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth. 7I will turn back the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel, and I will build them as at the first. 8I will cleanse them from all their iniquity that they have sinned against me, and I will pardon all their iniquities that they have sinned against me and that they have transgressed against me. 9This city will be to me for a name of joy, for a praise and for a glory before all the nations of the earth that will hear all the good that I do to them. And they will fear and tremble for all the good and for all the peace that I procure to it.

10This is what Yahweh says: Yet again there will be heard in this place about which you say, ‘It is waste, without man and without animal,’ even in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man and without inhabitant and without animal, 11the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the groom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who say,

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|  | ‘Give thanks to Yahweh of Armies,  for Yahweh is good,  for his loving kindness endures forever,’ |

who bring thanksgiving into the house of Yahweh. For I will cause the captivity of the land to return as at the first, says Yahweh.

12This is what Yahweh of Armies says: Yet again will there be in this place that is waste, without man and without animal, and in all its cities, a habitation of shepherds causing their flocks to lie down. 13In the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the Shephelah, and in the cities of the Negev and in the land of Benjamin, and in the places around Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, the flocks will again pass under the hands of him who counts them, says Yahweh.

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| 14 | Behold, the days come,  says Yahweh,  that I will perform that good word  that I have spoken  concerning the house of Israel  and concerning the house of Judah. |
| 15 | In those days and at that time  I will cause a righteous Branch  to grow up for David;  and he will execute justice  and righteousness in the land. |
| 16 | In those days Judah will be saved,  and Jerusalem will dwell safely,  and this is what he will call her:  “Yahweh is our righteousness.” |

17For this is what Yahweh says: David will never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, 18nor will the Levitical priests lack a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to burn grain offerings into smoke, and to make sacrifices continually.”

19The word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah, saying, 20“This is what Yahweh says: If you can break my covenant of the day and my covenant of the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season, 21then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he will not have a son to reign on his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers. 22As the army of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea be measured, so I will multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites who minister to me.”

23The word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah, saying, 24“Have you not considered what these people have said? They say ‘The two families that Yahweh chose, he has cast them off.’ Thus they have despised my people so that they are no longer a nation in their sight. 25This is what Yahweh says: If my covenant with day and night is not established, and if I did not appoint the ordinances of heaven and earth, 26then I will also cast away the seed of Jacob and of David my servant so that I will not take of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; for I will cause their captivity to return, and will have mercy on them.”

**Jeremiah Chapter 34**

1The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army, and all the kingdoms of the earth that were under his dominion, and all the peoples, were fighting against Jerusalem and against all its cities, saying, 2“This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: Go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah, and tell him, ‘This is what Yahweh says: Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will burn it with fire. 3And you will not escape out of his hand, but will surely be captured and given into his hand. And your eyes will see the eyes of the king of Babylon, and he will speak with you mouth to mouth, and you will go to Babylon.’

4Yet hear the word of Yahweh, O Zedekiah king of Judah. This is what Yahweh says concerning you, ‘You will not die by the sword, 5you will die in peace. And just as with the burnings made for your fathers, the former kings who were before you, so they will burn *a fire* for you, and they will lament you, saying, “Alas, master!” for I have spoken the word, says Yahweh.’”

6Then Jeremiah the prophet spoke all these words to Zedekiah king of Judah in Jerusalem 7when the king of Babylon’s army was fighting against Jerusalem and against all the cities of Judah that were left, against Lachish and against Azekah, because these were the only ones left of the fortified cities of Judah.

8*This had been* the word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh after King Zedekiah had cut a covenant with all the people who were at Jerusalem to proclaim liberty to them, 9that every man should let his male servant and his female servant—who was a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman—free; that no one should enslave a Jew, his brother. 10All the officials and all the people obeyed—those who had entered into the covenant that everyone was to let his male slave and his female slave go free, *and* that no one was to keep them as slaves anymore—they obeyed, and let them go. 11But afterwards they turned back and forced the slaves and the slave girls, whom they had let go free, to return, and brought them into subjection as slaves and slave girls.

12Therefore the word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah from Yahweh, saying, 13“This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: I cut a covenant with your fathers when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. I said, 14‘At the end of seven years every one of you must release his brother who is a Hebrew, who has been sold to you and has served you six years; you must let him go free from you.’ But your fathers did not listen to me, nor inclined their ear. 15You had recently turned and done what is right in my eyes by each man proclaiming liberty to his neighbor, and you had cut a covenant before me in the house that is called by my name. 16But *then* you turned back and profaned my name, and every man forced his slave, and his slave girl, whom you had let go free to go where they wanted, to return. And you brought them into subjection to be your slaves and slave girls.

17Therefore this is what Yahweh says: You have not listened to me, to proclaim liberty, every man to his brother and every man to his neighbor, *so* behold, I proclaim to you a liberty, says Yahweh, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine, and I will make you to be tossed back and forth among all the kingdoms of the earth. 18I will give the men who have transgressed my covenant, who have not performed the words of the covenant that they made before me when they cut the calf in two and passed between its parts— 19the officials of Judah, and the officials of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, and the priests, and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf— 20I will give them into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those who seek their life, and their dead bodies will be for food for the birds of the air and for the animals of the earth. 21I will give Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their life, and into the hand of the king of Babylon’s army who have withdrawn from you. 22Behold, I will command, says Yahweh, and cause them to return to this city. And they will fight against it, and capture it, and burn it with fire, and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without inhabitant.”

**Jeremiah Chapter 35**

1The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying, 2“Go to the house of the Rechabites and speak to them, and bring them into the house of Yahweh, into one of the rooms, and give them wine to drink.”

3Then I took Jaazaniah the son of Jeremiah the son of Habazziniah, and his brothers and all his sons, and the whole house of the Rechabites, 4and I brought them into the house of Yahweh, into the room of the sons of Hanan the son of Igdaliah, the man of God, that was by the room of the officials that was above the room of Maaseiah the son of Shallum, the keeper of the threshold. 5I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites bowls full of wine, and cups, and I said to them, “Drink wine!”

6But they said, “We will not drink wine; for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, saying, ‘You must not drink wine, not you or your sons, forever. 7And you must not build a house, or sow seed, or plant a vineyard. *Those things* are not for you. But all your days you must live in tents in order that you live many days in the land where you are sojourning as a resident alien.’ 8We have obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, in all that he commanded us, to not drink any wine all our days, *not* us, our wives, our sons, or our daughters, 9nor to build houses for us to dwell in, nor have a vineyard, nor a field, nor *sow* seed, 10but we have lived in tents and have obeyed and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us. 11But when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up into the land, we said, ‘Come, and let’s go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans, and for fear of the army of the Syrians.’ So we dwell at Jerusalem.”

12Then the word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah, saying, 13“This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Go and tell the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, ‘Will you not receive instruction and listen to my words? says Yahweh. 14The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab that he commanded his sons, not to drink wine, have been carried out, and to this day they drink none, for they obey their father’s commandment. But I have spoken to you, rising up early and speaking *again and again*, but you have not listened to me. 15I have also sent to you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them *again and again*, saying, “Every man is to turn back from his evil way, and *you are to* amend your doings, and not go after other gods to serve them, and *then* you will dwell in the land that I have given to you and to your fathers.” But you have not inclined your ear, nor listened to me. 16Because the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have carried out the commandment of their father that he commanded them, but this people has not listened to me, 17therefore this is what Yahweh, the God of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Behold, I will bring on Judah and on all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the evil that I have pronounced against them, because I have spoken to them but they have not listened and I have called to them but they have not answered.’”

18Jeremiah said to the house of the Rechabites, “This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Because you have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father and kept all his precepts, and done according to all that he commanded you, 19therefore this is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Jonadab the son of Rechab will not lack a man to stand before me forever.”

**Jeremiah Chapter 36**

1And in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from Yahweh, saying, 2“Take a scroll for writing and write in it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah even to this day. 3It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the disaster that I am planning to do to them, so that each one turns back from his evil way; then I will forgive their iniquity and their sin.”

4Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll for writing all the words of Yahweh *that came* from the mouth of Jeremiah that he had spoken to him. 5And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, “I am restricted; I cannot go into the house of Yahweh; 6so you must go, and read the words of Yahweh from the scroll that you have written from my mouth. *Read them* on a fast day in the hearing of the people in the house of Yahweh, and also you must read them in the hearing of all Judah who come out of their cities. 7It may be their petition for mercy will come before Yahweh, and that everyone will turn from his evil way; for great is the anger and the wrath that Yahweh has pronounced against this people.” 8Baruch the son of Neriah did everything that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading from the scroll the words of Yahweh in the house of Yahweh.

9Now it came to pass in the fifth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, in the ninth month, that all the people in Jerusalem and all the people who came from the cities of Judah to Jerusalem, proclaimed a fast before Yahweh. 10Then Baruch read from the scroll the words of Jeremiah in the house of Yahweh, in the room of Gemariah the son of Shaphan, the scribe, in the upper court, at the entrance of the New Gate of the house of Yahweh, in the hearing of all the people.

11When Micaiah the son of Gemariah the son of Shaphan had heard all the words of Yahweh *read* from the scroll, 12he went down into the king’s house, into the scribe’s room; and behold, all the officials were sitting there, Elishama the scribe, and Delaiah the son of Shemaiah, and Elnathan the son of Achbor, and Gemariah the son of Shaphan, and Zedekiah the son of Hananiah, and all the officials. 13Then Micaiah told them all the words that he had heard when Baruch read the book in the hearing of the people. 14So all the officials sent Jehudi the son of Nethaniah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Cushi, to Baruch, saying, “Take in your hand the scroll from which you have read in the hearing of the people, and come.” So Baruch the son of Neriah took the scroll in his hand and came to them. 15They said to him, “Sit down now, and read it in our ears.” So Baruch read it in their ears.

16Now it came to pass when they had heard all the words that they turned in fear toward one another and said to Baruch, “We will report, yes, report all these words to the king.” 17They asked Baruch, saying, “Tell us now, how did you write all these words from his mouth?”

18Then Baruch answered them, “He spoke out all these words to me with his mouth, and I wrote them with ink on the scroll.”

19Then the officials said to Baruch, “Go hide, you and Jeremiah, and do not let anyone know where you are.” 20Then they went in to the king into the court, but they had deposited the scroll in the room of Elishama the scribe; and they told all the words in the ears of the king. 21So the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it out of the room of Elishama the scribe. Jehudi read it in the ears of the king and in the ears of all the officials who stood beside the king. 22Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month, and there was a fire burning in the firepot in front of him. 23And it came to pass, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that Jehoiakim would cut it with a scribes knife and cast it into the fire that was in the firepot. *He did this* until the whole scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the firepot. 24Yet neither the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words was afraid, nor did they tear their clothes. 25Even though Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah had urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them. 26Then the king commanded Jerahmeel the king’s son, and Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to seize Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet, but Yahweh hid them.

27Then the word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah after the king had burned the scroll with the words that Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah. He said: 28“Take again another scroll, and write in it all the original words that were in the original scroll that Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned. 29And concerning Jehoiakim the king of Judah you are to say, ‘This is what Yahweh says: you have burned this scroll, saying, “Why have you written in it, saying, ‘The king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and will cause man and animal to cease from there?’” 30Therefore this is what Yahweh says concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: he will have no one to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body will be cast out in the day to the heat and in the night to the frost. 31I will punish him and his seed and his servants for their iniquity, and I will bring on them, and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem and on the men of Judah, all the evil that I have pronounced against them, but they didn’t listen.’”

32Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, who wrote on it from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire; and many similar words were added to them.

**Jeremiah Chapter 37**

1Zedekiah the son of Josiah reigned as king instead of Coniah[[13]](#footnote-23165) the son of Jehoiakim, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon made king in the land of Judah. 2But neither he, nor his servants, nor the people of the land listened to the words of Yahweh that he spoke by the prophet Jeremiah.

3Zedekiah the king sent Jehucal the son of Shelemiah and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah, the priest, to the prophet Jeremiah, saying, “Please pray to Yahweh our God for us.” 4Now Jeremiah came in and went out among the people, for they had not put him into prison. 5Meanwhile, Pharaoh’s army had come forth out of Egypt, and when the Chaldeans who were besieging Jerusalem heard the news about them, they withdrew from Jerusalem.

6Then the word of Yahweh came to the prophet Jeremiah, saying, 7“This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: This is what you are to tell the king of Judah who sent you to me to inquire of me: ‘Behold, Pharaoh’s army, which has come out to help you, will return to Egypt, to their own land. 8The Chaldeans will return and fight against this city, and they will capture it and burn it with fire. 9This is what Yahweh says: Do not deceive yourselves, saying, “The Chaldeans will depart, yes, depart from us,” for they will not depart. 10For even if you had struck down the whole Chaldean army that is fighting against you and there remained only wounded men among them, each man in his tent, yet they would get up and burn this city with fire.’”

11And when the army of the Chaldeans had withdrawn from Jerusalem for fear of Pharaoh’s army, 12then Jeremiah went out of Jerusalem to go into the land of Benjamin, to receive his portion *of property* there in the midst of the people. 13But when he was in the Benjamin Gate, a commander of the guard was there whose name was Irijah the son of Shelemiah the son of Hananiah, and he laid hold on Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “You are deserting to the Chaldeans.”

14Then Jeremiah said, “That’s a lie. I am not deserting to the Chaldeans.” But he did not listen to him, and Irijah laid hold on Jeremiah and brought him to the officials. 15The officials were angry with Jeremiah, and beat him, and put him in prison in the house of Jonathan the scribe, for they had made that the prison. 16When Jeremiah had come into the dungeon house, and into the cells, and Jeremiah had remained there many days,

17then Zedekiah the king sent and took him *out,* and the king asked him secretly in his house, and said, “Is there any word from Yahweh?”

And Jeremiah said, “There is.” Then he said, “You will be given into the hand of the king of Babylon.” 18Jeremiah also said to King Zedekiah, “In what way have I sinned against you, or against your servants, or against this people, that you have put me in prison? 19And where are your prophets who prophesied to you, saying, ‘The king of Babylon will not come against you or against this land’? 20So now please listen, O my lord the king. Please let my supplication be presented before you, that you do not cause me to return to the house of Jonathan the scribe, or I will die there.”

21Then Zedekiah the king commanded, and they committed Jeremiah to the court of the guard, and they gave him a loaf of bread every day from the bakers’ street until all the bread in the city was gone. So Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.

**Jeremiah Chapter 38**

1Shephatiah the son of Mattan, and Gedaliah the son of Pashhur, and Jucal the son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur the son of Malchijah, heard the words that Jeremiah spoke to all the people, saying, 2“This is what Yahweh says: he who remains in this city will die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence. But he who goes out to the Chaldeans will live, and his life will be his spoils of war, and he will live. 3This is what Yahweh says: this city will surely be given into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon, and he will capture it.”

4Then the officials said to the king, “Please let this man be put to death, because by speaking such words to them he weakens the hands of the men of war who remain in this city and the hands of all the people. For this man does not seek the welfare of this people, but the hurt.”

5So Zedekiah the king said, “Behold, he is in your hand, for the king cannot do anything against you.” 6Then they took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern of Malchijah the king’s son, which was in the courtyard of the guard, and they let down Jeremiah with ropes. In the cistern there was no water, but mire, and Jeremiah sank in the mire.

7Now Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, a eunuch who was in the king’s house, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the cistern. Now the king was sitting in the Gate of Benjamin. 8And Ebed-melech went out of the king’s house and spoke to the king, saying, 9“My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet whom they have thrown into the cistern, and he is likely to die in the place where he is because of the famine, because there is no more bread in the city.”

10Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, saying, “Take 30 men from here with you, and take Jeremiah the prophet up out of the cistern before he dies.”

11So Ebed-melech took the men with him and went into the house of the king beneath the treasury, and took rags and worn-out garments from there, and let them down by ropes into the cistern to Jeremiah. 12Ebed-melech the Ethiopian said to Jeremiah, “Put these rags and worn-out garments under your armpits now, under the ropes.” And Jeremiah did so. 13So they drew up Jeremiah with the ropes and took him up out of the cistern, and Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.

14Then Zedekiah the king sent and had Jeremiah the prophet brought to him in the third entry that is in the house of Yahweh, and the king said to Jeremiah, “I am going to ask you something. Hide nothing from me.”

15Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, “If I tell it to you, will you not surely put me to death? And if I give you counsel, you will not listen to me.”

16So Zedekiah the king swore secretly to Jeremiah, saying, “As Yahweh lives, who has given us this life,[[14]](#footnote-22999) I will not put you to death, nor will I give you into the hand of these men who are seeking your life.”

17Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, “This is what Yahweh, the God of Armies, the God of Israel, says: If you will go out to the king of Babylon’s officials, then your soul will live and this city will not be burned with fire. And you will live, and your house. 18But if you will not go out to the king of Babylon’s officials, then this city will be given into the hand of the Chaldeans and they will burn it with fire, and you will not escape out of their hand.”

19Zedekiah the king said to Jeremiah, “I am afraid of the Jews who have deserted to the Chaldeans. The Chaldeans may deliver me into their hand, and *then* they abuse me.”

20But Jeremiah said, “They will not deliver you *to them*. I beg you, obey the voice of Yahweh in what I speak to you so it will be well with you and your soul will live. 21But if you refuse to go out, this is the word that Yahweh has shown me: 22Behold, all the women who are left in the king of Judah’s house will be brought out to the king of Babylon’s officials, and those women will say,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | ‘Your trusted friends have misled and have overpowered you.  Your feet have sunk in the mud,  *and* they have turned away from you.’ |

23They will bring out all your wives and your children to the Chaldeans, and you will not escape out of their hand, but will be taken by the hand of the king of Babylon, and you will cause this city to be burned with fire.”

24Then Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, “Don’t let anyone know about these words, and you will not die. 25But if the officials hear that I have talked with you, and they come to you and say to you, ‘Tell us what you have said to the king; do not hide it from us and we will not put you to death; also *tell us* what the king said to you,’ 26then you are to say to them, ‘I presented my supplication before the king, that he would not make me return to Jonathan’s house, to die there.’” 27Then all the officials went to Jeremiah and asked him, and he answered them with all the words that the king had commanded. So they stopped speaking with him, because the conversation had not been overheard. 28So Jeremiah stayed in the court of the guard until the day that Jerusalem was captured.

**Jeremiah Chapter 39**

1This is how Jerusalem was captured: in the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and besieged it. 2In the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, a breach was made in the city *wall*, 3and all the officials of the king of Babylon came in and sat in the Middle Gate: Nergal-sharezer of Samgar, Sarsechim the Rabsaris, Nergal-sharezer *the* Rabmag, along with all the rest of the officials of the king of Babylon.

4And when Zedekiah the king of Judah and all the men of war saw them, then they fled and went out of the city at night by the path through the king’s garden, through the gate between the two walls; and he went out toward the Arabah. 5But the army of the Chaldeans pursued them and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho. And when they had captured him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he passed sentence on him.

6Then the king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes; the king of Babylon also slaughtered all the nobles of Judah. 7Then he put out Zedekiah’s eyes and bound him in fetters to carry him to Babylon. 8The Chaldeans burned the king’s house and the houses of the people with fire, and broke down the walls of Jerusalem. 9Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive into Babylon the rest of the people who remained in the city, and also the deserters who had deserted to him, and the rest of the people who remained. 10But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left some of the poor people who did not own anything in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields at that time.

11Now Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon commanded Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard concerning Jeremiah, saying, 12“Take him and look after him well and do him no harm, but do for him whatever he tells you.” 13So Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard sent, and Nebushazban, Rabsaris, and Nergal-sharezer, Rabmag, and all the chief officers of the king of Babylon; 14they sent and took Jeremiah out of the court of the guard and committed him to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, to take him home. So he remained among the people.

15Now the word of Yahweh had come to Jeremiah while he was confined in the court of the guard, saying, 16“Go and speak to Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, saying, ‘This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Behold, I will bring my words on this city for evil, and not for good, and they will be accomplished before your face in that day. 17But I will deliver you in that day, says Yahweh, and you will not be given into the hand of the men of whom you are afraid. 18Indeed, I will surely save you, and you will not fall by the sword, but your life will be your spoils of war, because you have put your trust in me, says Yahweh.’”

**Jeremiah Chapter 40**

1The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh after Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had let him go from Ramah, when he had taken him bound in chains among all the captives of Jerusalem and Judah who were carried away captive to Babylon. 2The captain of the guard took Jeremiah and said to him, “Yahweh your God pronounced this evil on this place, 3and Yahweh has brought it and done just as he said. Because you *people* sinned against Yahweh and have not obeyed his voice, this thing has come on you all. 4Now, behold, I am releasing you this day from the chains that are on your hands. If it seems good to you to come with me into Babylon, come, and I will take care of you, but if it seems bad to you to come with me into Babylon, do not. Behold, all the land is before you, wherever it seems good and right for you to go, go there.” 5Now when Jeremiah had still not turned to go back, he said, “Go back then, to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan whom the king of Babylon has appointed over the cities of Judah, and live with him among the people, or go wherever it seems right to you to go.” So the commander of the guard gave him food and a present, and let him go. 6Then Jeremiah went to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam at Mizpah, and lived with him among the people who were left in the land.

7Now when all the leaders of the forces who were in the fields, even they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam *over them* in the land, and had committed to him men and women and children, those of the poorest of the land who had not been carried away captive to Babylon, 8then they came to Gedaliah to Mizpah, *even* Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and Johanan and Jonathan the sons of Kareah, and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth, and the sons of Ephai the Netophathite, and Jezaniah the son of the Maacathite, they and their men.

9Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan swore to them and to their men, saying, “Do not be afraid to serve the Chaldeans. Live in the land, and serve the king of Babylon and it will be well with you. 10As for me, behold, I will live at Mizpah to represent you before the Chaldeans who will come to us. But as for you, gather wine and summer fruit and oil, and put them in your *storage* vessels, and live in your cities that you have taken over.”

11Likewise, when all the Jews who were in Moab, and among the children of Ammon, and in Edom, and who were in all the countries, heard that the king of Babylon had let some *of the people* remain in Judah, and that he had set over them Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, 12then all the Judeans returned out of all places to which they had been driven and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah at Mizpah, and gathered wine and summer fruit in great abundance.

13Now Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces who were in the fields came to Gedaliah at Mizpah 14and said to him, “Do you know that Baalis the king of the children of Ammon has sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to take your life?” But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam did not believe them. 15Then Johanan the son of Kareah spoke to Gedaliah in Mizpah secretly, saying, “Please let me go, and I will kill Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and no man will know it. Why should he take your life, so that all the Jews who are gathered to you should be scattered and the remnant of Judah perish?”

16But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam said to Johanan the son of Kareah, “You must not do this thing, for you are speaking falsely of Ishmael.”

**Jeremiah Chapter 41**

1Now in the seventh month, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal seed, and one of the chief officers of the king, and ten men with him, came to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam to Mizpah. While they were eating bread together there in Mizpah, 2Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and the ten men who were with him rose up and struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan with the sword and *thus they* killed the one whom the king of Babylon had appointed over the land. 3Ishmael also struck down all the Jews who were with him, *that is,* with Gedaliah at Mizpah, as well as the Chaldean soldiers who happened to be there.

4And the second day after he had killed Gedaliah, before anyone knew about it, 580 men came there from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, having their beards shaved and their clothes torn and having cut themselves. *They came* with grain offerings and frankincense in their hand, to bring them to the house of Yahweh. 6Ishmael the son of Nethaniah went out from Mizpah to meet them, weeping all along as he went, and when he met them he said to them, “Come to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam.” 7Yet it turned out that when they came into the midst of the city, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and the men who were with him slaughtered them *and threw them* into the midst of the cistern.

8But ten men who were found among them said to Ishmael, “Do not kill us! For we have stores of wheat and of barley and of oil and of honey hidden in the field.” So he stopped and did not put them to death along with their brothers. 9Now the cistern where Ishmael had thrown all the dead bodies of the men whom he had struck down by the side of Gedaliah was the one that Asa the king had made because he was afraid of Baasha king of Israel. Ishmael the son of Nethaniah filled it with those who had been killed.

10Then Ishmael carried away captive all the rest of the people who were in Mizpah, the king’s daughters and all the people who remained in Mizpah whom Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had committed to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam. Ishmael the son of Nethaniah carried them away captive and departed to go over to the children of Ammon.

11But when Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces who were with him heard of all the evil that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had done, 12then they took all the men and went to fight with Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and they found him by the great pool that is in Gibeon. 13Now when all the people who were with Ishmael saw Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces who were with him, then they were glad. 14So all the people who Ishmael had carried away captive from Mizpah turned around and came back, and went to Johanan the son of Kareah. 15But Ishmael the son of Nethaniah escaped from Johanan with eight men and went to the children of Ammon. 16Then Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces with him took from Mizpah all the rest of the people whom he had recovered from Ishmael the son of Nethaniah after he had struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam. *Johanan took* the men of war, and the women, and the children, and the eunuchs, whom he had brought back from Gibeon, 17and they departed and lived in Geruth Chimham, which is by Bethlehem, in order to proceed into Egypt, 18because of the Chaldeans. For they were afraid of them because Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had appointed governor over the land.

**Jeremiah Chapter 42**

1Then all the leaders of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least even to the greatest, came near 2and said to Jeremiah the prophet, “Please let our supplication be presented before you, and pray to Yahweh your God for us—for all this remnant, because we are left but a few out of many, as your eyes now see us— 3*so* that Yahweh your God may show us the way in which we should walk, and the thing that we should do.”

4Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, “I have heard you. Behold, I will pray to Yahweh your God according to your words, and whatever thing Yahweh answers you, I will tell it to you. I will keep nothing back from you.”

5Then they said to Jeremiah, “May Yahweh be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not do according to all the word that Yahweh your God sends us through you. 6Whether it is good or whether it is evil, we will obey the voice of Yahweh our God to whom we are sending you, so that it will go well with us when we obey the voice of Yahweh our God.”

7And after ten days the word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah. 8Then he called Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces who were with him, and all the people from the least to the greatest, 9and he said to them,

“This is what Yahweh the God of Israel says, to whom you sent me to present your supplication before him: 10if you will remain in this land, then will I build you up and not pull you down, and I will plant you and not pluck you up; for I am grieved about the evil that I have done to you. 11Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, who you are *now* afraid of. Do not be afraid of him, says Yahweh, for I am with you to save you and to deliver you from his hand. 12I will grant you mercy, so that he will have mercy on you and cause you to return to your own land. 13But if you say, ‘We will not remain in this land,’ with the result that you do not obey the voice of Yahweh your God, 14saying, ‘No, but we will go to the land of Egypt, where we will not see war, nor hear the sound of the shofar, nor be hungry for food, and we will live there,’ 15then hear the word of Yahweh, O remnant of Judah. This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: If you indeed set your faces to enter into Egypt, and go there to live, 16then it will come to pass that the sword that you fear will overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine that you are afraid of will follow close behind you there in Egypt, and you will die there. 17This is how it will be for all the people who set their faces to go into Egypt to live there: they will die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, and none of them will remain or escape from the evil that I will bring on them.

18For this is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: As my anger and my wrath has been poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so my wrath will be poured out on you when you enter Egypt, and you will be an object of horror, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach, and you will see this place no more. 19Yahweh has spoken concerning you, O remnant of Judah: ‘Do not go into Egypt!’ Know for a certainty that I have warned you this day. 20For you have deceived yourselves at the cost of your own lives, for you yourselves sent me to Yahweh your God, saying, ‘Pray for us to Yahweh our God, and according to all that Yahweh our God will say, tell us that and we will do it,’ 21and this day I have told it to you. But you have not obeyed the voice of Yahweh your God in anything that he has sent me to *tell* you. 22So now, know, yes, know that you will die by the sword, by the famine, and by the plague in the place where you want to go to live there.”

**Jeremiah Chapter 43**

1And when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking to all the people all the words of Yahweh their God, with which Yahweh their God had sent him to them, even all these words, 2then Azariah the son of Hoshaiah and Johanan the son of Kareah and all the proud men spoke, saying to Jeremiah, “You are telling a lie! Yahweh our God has not sent you to say, ‘You must not go to Egypt to live there,’ 3but Baruch the son of Neriah has set you against us to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, so that they may put us to death or carry us away captive to Babylon.”

4So Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces and all the people did not obey the voice of Yahweh to stay in the land of Judah. 5But Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders 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— 6the men, and the women, and the children, and the king’s daughters and every person who Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch the son of Neriah— 7and they went into the land of Egypt because they did not obey the voice of Yahweh, and they went as far as Tahpanhes.

8Then the word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah in Tahpanhes, saying, 9“Take large stones in your hand and hide them in mortar in the brick *pavement* that is at the entrance of Pharaoh’s house in Tahpanhes while the men of Judah watch, 10and tell them, ‘This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: behold, I will send and take Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will set his throne on these stones that I have hidden, and he will spread his royal pavilion over them. 11He will come and will strike the land of Egypt, *and deliver* the one who is *destined* for death to death, and the one who is for captivity to captivity, and the one who is for the sword to the sword. 12He will light a fire in the houses of the gods of Egypt, and he will burn them or carry them away captive, and he will clean the land of Egypt as a shepherd cleans his garment of vermin, and he will leave there unharmed. 13He will also break the standing-stones of the House of the Sun that is in the land of Egypt, and the houses of the gods of Egypt he will burn with fire.’”

**Jeremiah Chapter 44**

1The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews who lived in the land of Egypt, who lived at Migdol, and at Tahpanhes, and at Memphis, and in the country of Pathros: 2“This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: You have seen all the evil that I have brought on Jerusalem and on all the cities of Judah, and behold, this day they are a desolation, and no one lives in them 3because of their wickedness that they did to provoke me by burning incense *and* by serving other gods that they did not know; not they, nor you, nor your fathers. 4However I sent to you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them *again and again*, saying, ‘Oh, do not do this detestable thing that I hate.’ 5But they did not listen, nor incline their ear to turn from their wickedness or stop burning incense to other gods. 6Therefore my wrath and my anger was poured out and burned in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, and they became wasted and desolate as they are this day.

7So now this is what Yahweh the God of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Why do you commit this great evil against your own souls, to cut off from yourselves man and woman, infant and nursing child, out of the midst of Judah, thus leaving yourselves with no remnant? 8*Why do* you continue to make me angry with the work of your hands, burning incense to other gods in the land of Egypt where you have come to live, so that you will be cut off and so that you will be a curse and a reproach among all the nations of the earth? 9Have you forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, and the wickedness of the kings of Judah, and the wickedness of their wives, and your own wickedness, and the wickedness of your wives that they committed in the land of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? 10They have not become humble even to this day, nor have they feared *me* nor walked in my law or in my statutes that I set before you and before your fathers.

11Therefore this is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: behold, I will set my face against you for evil, even to cut off all Judah. 12I will take the remnant of Judah that have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to live there, and they will all be consumed. In the land of Egypt they will fall. They will be consumed by the sword and by the famine. They will die, from the least even to the greatest, by the sword and by the famine, and they will be an object of horror, an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach. 13For I will punish those who live in the land of Egypt as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, 14so that none of the remnant of Judah who have gone into the land of Egypt to live there for a while will escape or be left to return into the land of Judah, to which they are longing in their souls to return and live there. For none will return except a few refugees.”

15Then all the men who knew that their wives were burning incense to other gods, and all the women who stood by, a great assembly including all the people who lived in Pathros in the land of Egypt, answered Jeremiah, saying, 16“As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of Yahweh, we will not listen to you. 17But we will do, yes, do every word that has gone out of our mouth, to burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and to pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our officials, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then had we plenty of food, and prospered, and saw no evil. 18But since we stopped burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine.

19“And,” *the women added*, “when we burned incense to the Queen of Heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, was it without our husbands that we made cakes for her in her image and pour out drink offerings to her?”

20Then Jeremiah said to all the people, to the men and to the women, even to all the people who had given him that answer, 21“The incense that you burned in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, you and your fathers, your kings and your officials and the people of the land, was it not those *very* things that Yahweh remembered and that came up into his heart? 22Yahweh could no longer endure your evil deeds; the abominations that you have committed. That is why your land has become a desolation, and an object of horror, and a curse, without an inhabitant, as it is this day. 23It is because you have burned incense and because you have sinned against Yahweh and have not obeyed the voice of Yahweh, nor walked in his law, nor in his statutes, nor in his testimonies, that this evil has happened to you, as it is this day.”

24Then Jeremiah said to all the people, including to all the women, “Hear the word of Yahweh, all Judah who are in the land of Egypt. 25This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: You and your wives have spoken with your mouths (and with your hands have done it), saying, ‘We will fulfill, yes, fulfill our vows that we have vowed, to burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and to pour out drink offerings to her.’ Then confirm, yes, confirm your vows! And fulfill, yes, fulfill your vows!

26But hear the word of Yahweh, all Judah who live in the land of Egypt: Behold, I have sworn by my great name, says Yahweh, that my name will no more be named by the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, ‘As the Lord Yahweh lives.’ 27Behold, I am watching over them for evil and not for good, and all the men of Judah who are in the land of Egypt will be consumed by the sword and by the famine until there is an end of them. 28Those who escape the sword will return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah few in number, and all the remnant of Judah who have come into the land of Egypt to live there will know whose word will stand, mine or theirs! 29And this will be the sign to you, says Yahweh, that I will punish you in this place, so that you will know that my words will stand, yes, stand against you for evil. 30This is what Yahweh says: 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, just as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who was his enemy and sought his life.”

**Jeremiah Chapter 45**

1The message that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch the son of Neriah, when he wrote these words spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah into a book in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying, 2“This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says to you, Baruch: 3You said, ‘Ah, woe is me! For Yahweh has added sorrow to my pain. I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest.’

4This is what you are to say to him, ‘This is what Yahweh says: behold, what I have built I am breaking down, and what I have planted I am plucking up; and *I am doing* this in the whole land. 5Are you seeking great things for yourself? Do not seek them! For behold, I will bring evil on all flesh, says Yahweh, but your life I will give to you as the spoils of war in all the places where you go.’”

**Jeremiah Chapter 46**

1The word of Yahweh that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations.

2About Egypt. Concerning the army of Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt that was at Carchemish by the Euphrates River and which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon defeated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah:

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| 3 | “Prepare the buckler and shield  and draw near to battle! |
| 4 | Harness the horses  and mount up, O horsemen!  And take your stand with your helmets *on*!  Polish the spears,  put on the coats of mail! |
| 5 | What do I see?  They are terrified.  They are turning back.  And their mighty ones are defeated  and have fled headlong  without looking back.  Terror is on every side,  says Yahweh. |
| 6 | The swift cannot flee away,  and the mighty man cannot escape.  In the north, by the Euphrates River,  they have stumbled and fallen. |
| 7 | Who is this who rises up like the Nile,  like the rivers whose waters toss themselves about? |
| 8 | Egypt rises up like the Nile  and like the rivers whose waters toss themselves about,  and he says, ‘I will rise up. I will cover the earth.  I will destroy cities and their inhabitants.’ |
| 9 | Forward, O horses,  and rage, O chariots!  And let the mighty men go out:  Cush and Put,  who handle the shield,  and the Ludim,  who handle and bend the bow. |
| 10 | For that day belongs to the Lord Yahweh of Armies,  a day of vengeance, that he may avenge himself  on his adversaries.  And the sword will devour and be satiated,  and will drink its fill of their blood.  For the Lord, Yahweh of Armies, will offer a sacrifice  in the north country by the river Euphrates. |
| 11 | Go up into Gilead and take balm,  virgin daughter Egypt.  In vain do you use many medicines;  there is no healing for you. |
| 12 | The nations have heard of your shame,  and the earth is full of your cries *of distress*,  because the mighty *warrior* has stumbled against the mighty.  Together they have fallen—both of them!” |

13The word that Yahweh spoke to Jeremiah the prophet about Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon coming and striking the land of Egypt:

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| 14 | “Declare *this* in Egypt, and proclaim *it* in Migdol,  and proclaim *it* in Memphis and in Tahpanhes!  Say, ‘Take your stations and prepare *yourselves*,  for the sword devours all around you.’ |
| 15 | Why has your bull been swept away?  It did not stand,  because Yahweh pushed it. |
| 16 | He made many stumble,  yes, they fell one on another  and they said, ‘Get up and let’s go back to our own people  and to the land of our birth  away from the oppressing sword.’ |
| 17 | There they will cry out,  ‘Pharaoh king of Egypt is only a noise;  he has missed his opportunity.’ |
| 18 | As I live,  says the King whose name is Yahweh of Armies,  surely like Tabor among the mountains  and like Carmel by the sea,  so he will come. |
| 19 | O daughter who dwells in Egypt,  prepare yourself to go into captivity,  for Memphis will become a desolation  and will be burned up without inhabitant. |
| 20 | Egypt is a very beautiful heifer,  but destruction out of the north has come, it has come. |
| 21 | Also her hired men in the midst of her  will be like calves of the stall  because they also will turn back.  They will flee away together,  they will not stand,  for the day of their calamity has *then* come on them,  the time of their visitation. |
| 22 | Egypt will make a sound like a snake that is *trying to* get away,  because they will march with an army  and come against her with axes,  like wood cutters. |
| 23 | They will cut down her forest,  says Yahweh,  though it cannot be searched,  because they are more numerous than the locusts,  and are innumerable. |
| 24 | Daughter Egypt will be put to shame;  she will be given into the hand of the people of the north.” |

25Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: “Behold, I will punish Amon of Thebes, and Pharaoh, and Egypt, with her gods and her kings; that is, Pharaoh and those who trust in him. 26And I will give them into the hand of those who seek their lives and into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of his servants. But afterward it will be inhabited, as in the days of old,

says Yahweh.

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| 27 | But do not be afraid, O Jacob my servant,  and do not be dismayed, O Israel,  for behold, I will save you from afar,  and your seed from the land of their captivity;  and Jacob will return and will be quiet and at ease,  and no one will make him afraid. |
| 28 | Do not be afraid, O Jacob my servant,  says Yahweh,  for I am with you,  for I will make a full end of all the nations  where I have driven you;  but I will not make a full end of you,  but I will correct you in measure  and will in no way leave you unpunished.” |

**Jeremiah Chapter 47**

1The word of Yahweh that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the Philistines, before Pharaoh struck down Gaza. 2“This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | Behold, waters rise up out of the north,  and will become an overflowing stream,  and will overflow the land and all that is in it,  the city and those who live in it;  and the men will cry out,  and all the inhabitants of the land will wail. |
| 3 | At the noise of the stamping of the hoofs of his strong ones,  at the rushing of his chariots,  at the rumbling of his wheels,  the fathers will not look back toward their children  because of the feebleness of *their* hands, |
| 4 | because of the day that is coming  to destroy all the Philistines,  to cut off from Tyre and Sidon  every helper who remains.  For Yahweh will destroy the Philistines,  the remnant from the island of Caphtor. |
| 5 | Baldness will come upon Gaza;  Ashkelon will become silent;  you remnant on the plain,  how long will you cut yourself? |
| 6 | O sword of Yahweh,  how long will it be before you are quiet?  Put yourself back into your scabbard;  rest, and be still. |
| 7 | How can you be quiet,  since Yahweh has given you a command?  Against Ashkelon, and against the seashore,  he has appointed it there.” |

**Jeremiah Chapter 48**

1Of Moab. “This is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says:

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|  | Woe to Nebo! For it will be laid waste;  Kiriathaim will be disappointed, it will be captured;  the fortress will be put to shame and broken down. |
| 2 | There is no longer praise for Moab.  They have planned evil against her in Heshbon, *saying,*  Come, and let’s cut her off from being a nation.  You also, O Madmen, will be brought to silence;  the sword will pursue you. |
| 3 | The sound of a cry from Horonaim,  desolation and great destruction! |
| 4 | Moab will be destroyed;  her little ones will cause a cry *of distress* to be heard. |
| 5 | For by the ascent of Luhith they will go up with weeping;  for at the descent of Horonaim  they will hear the distressed cries of destruction. |
| 6 | Flee, save your lives,  and be like the juniper bush in the desert. |
| 7 | For because you have trusted in your works and in your treasures,  you also will be taken *captive*,  and Chemosh will go out into captivity;  *and* his priests and his officials together. |
| 8 | The destroyer will come upon every city,  and no city will escape;  the valley will also perish,  and the plain will be destroyed,  as Yahweh has said. |
| 9 | Give wings to Moab,  that she may fly and get herself away;  yet her cities will become a desolation,  without any to live in it. |
| 10 | Cursed is he  who does the work of Yahweh negligently,  and cursed is he  who keeps back his sword from blood. |
| 11 | Moab has been at ease from his youth,  and he has settled on his lees  and has not been emptied from vessel to vessel,  neither has he gone into captivity;  therefore his taste remains in him,  and his aroma has not changed. |
| 12 | Therefore behold, the days are coming,  says Yahweh,  that I will send to him those who pour off,  and they will pour him off;  and they will empty his vessels  and break his jars in pieces. |
| 13 | Moab will be ashamed of Chemosh  as the house of Israel was ashamed  of Bethel their confidence. |
| 14 | How do you say, ‘We are mighty men,  and valiant men for the war?’ |
| 15 | Moab will be laid waste,  and they will go up into his cities,  and his chosen young men  will go down to the slaughter,  says the King  whose name is Yahweh of Armies. |
| 16 | The calamity of Moab is near to come,  and his affliction hurries fast. |
| 17 | All you who are around him, bemoan him,  and all you who know his name,  say, ‘How is the strong staff broken,  the beautiful rod!’ |
| 18 | You daughter who dwells in Dibon,  come down from your glory and sit in thirst,  for the destroyer of Moab has come up against you,  he has destroyed your strongholds. |
| 19 | Inhabitant of Aroer,  stand by the way, and watch;  ask him who flees, and her who escapes;  say, ‘What has been done?’ |
| 20 | Moab is disappointed; for it is broken down;  wail and cry out.  Tell it by the Arnon  that Moab is laid waste. |

21Judgment has come on the plain country, on Holon, and on Jahzah, and on Mephaath, 22and on Dibon, and on Nebo, and on Beth-diblathaim, 23and on Kiriathaim, and on Beth-gamul, and on Beth-meon, 24and on Kerioth, and on Bozrah, and on all the cities of the land of Moab, far or near. 25The horn of Moab is cut off and his arm is broken,

says Yahweh.

26Make him drunken, for he magnified himself against Yahweh; and Moab will wallow in his vomit, and he also will be in derision. 27For wasn’t Israel a derision to you? Was he found among thieves? For as often as you speak of him, you shake your head.

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| 28 | You inhabitants of Moab,  leave the cities and dwell in the rock,  and be like the dove  that makes her nest over the mouth of the abyss. |
| 29 | We have heard of the pride of Moab—  he is very proud—his loftiness,  and his pride, and his arrogance,  and the haughtiness of his heart. |
| 30 | I know his wrath,  says Yahweh,  that it is nothing;  his boastings have worked nothing. |
| 31 | So I will wail for Moab,  yes, I will cry out for all Moab;  for the men of Kir Heres they will mourn. |
| 32 | With more than the weeping of Jazer  I will weep for you, vine of Sibmah.  Your branches passed over the sea,  they reached even to the sea of Jazer;  on your summer fruits and on your vintage  the destroyer has fallen. |
| 33 | Gladness and joy is taken away from the fruitful field  and from the land of Moab,  and I have caused wine to cease from the wine presses;  none will tread with shouting;  the shouting will be no shouting. |

34From the cry of Heshbon even to Elealeh, even to Jahaz have they uttered their voice, from Zoar even to Horonaim, to Eglath Shelishiyah, for the waters of Nimrim also will become desolate. 35Moreover, says Yahweh, I will cause to cease in Moab the one who offers at the shrines and the one who burns incense to his gods. 36Therefore my heart sounds for Moab like pipes, and my heart sounds like pipes for the men of Kir Heres; therefore the abundance that he has gotten is perished. 37For every head is shaved bald and every beard cut off; on all the hands are slashes, and around the waist—sackcloth! 38On all the housetops of Moab and in its streets there is lamentation everywhere, for I have broken Moab like a vessel in which none delights, says Yahweh. 39How it is broken down! How they wail! How Moab has turned the back with shame! So will Moab become a derision and a terror to all who are around him.” 40For this is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “Behold, he will fly as an eagle,  and will spread out his wings against Moab. |
| 41 | Kerioth is taken,  and the strongholds are seized,  and the heart of the mighty men of Moab at that day  will be as the heart of a woman in her pangs. |
| 42 | Moab will be destroyed from being a people,  because he has magnified himself against Yahweh. |
| 43 | Fear and the pit and the snare are upon you,  inhabitant of Moab,  says Yahweh. |
| 44 | He who flees from the fear will fall into the pit;  and he who gets up out of the pit  will be taken in the snare;  for I will bring on him, even on Moab,  the year of their visitation,  says Yahweh. |
| 45 | Those who fled stand without strength under the shadow of Heshbon;  for a fire has gone forth out of Heshbon,  and a flame from the midst of Sihon,  and it has devoured the corner of Moab  and the crown of the head of the tumultuous ones. |
| 46 | Woe to you, O Moab!  The people of Chemosh is undone,  for your sons are taken away captive,  and your daughters into captivity. |
| 47 | Yet I will bring back the captivity of Moab in the latter days,  says Yahweh.”  Thus far is the judgment of Moab. |

**Jeremiah Chapter 49**

1Concerning the children of Ammon. This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “Has Israel no sons?  Has he no heir?  Why then has Milcom dispossessed Gad,  and his people settled in their cities? |
| 2 | Therefore behold, the days are coming,  says Yahweh,  that I will cause an alarm of war to be heard  against Rabbah of the children of Ammon;  and it will become a desolate heap,  and her daughters will be burned with fire;  then will Israel possess those who possessed him,  says Yahweh. |
| 3 | Wail, O Heshbon, for Ai is laid waste;  cry out, you daughters of Rabbah,  clothe yourself in sackcloth; lament  and run back and forth within your walls;  for Milcom will go into captivity  together with his priests and his officials. |
| 4 | Why do you boast about your valleys,  your flowing valley,  O rebellious daughter?  You trusted in your treasures,  saying, ‘Who can come against me’? |
| 5 | Behold, I will bring a fear on you,  says the Lord Yahweh of Armies,  from all who are around you,  and you will be driven out every man straight before *him*,  and there will be no one to gather the fugitives together. |
| 6 | But afterward I will bring back the captivity of the children of Ammon,  says Yahweh.” |

7Of Edom. This is what Yahweh of Armies says:

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|  | “Is wisdom no more in Teman?  Is counsel perished from the prudent?  Is their wisdom vanished? |
| 8 | Flee, turn back, dwell in the depths,  inhabitants of Dedan,  for I will bring the calamity of Esau on him,  at the time that I will visit him. |
| 9 | If grape gatherers came to you,  would they not leave some grapes for gleaning?  If thieves by night,  would they not destroy only until they had enough? |
| 10 | But I have made Esau bare,  I have uncovered his secret places,  and he will not be able to hide himself;  his seed is destroyed,  and his brothers, and his neighbors,  and he is no more. |
| 11 | Leave your fatherless children, I will preserve them alive;  and let your widows trust in me.” |

12For this is what Yahweh says: “Behold, they to whom it did not pertain to drink of the cup must certainly drink; and are you the one who will go completely unpunished? You will not go unpunished, but you must surely drink. 13For I have sworn by myself, says Yahweh, that Bozrah will become an astonishment, a reproach, a waste, and a curse, and all its cities will be perpetual wastes.”

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| 14 | I have heard news from Yahweh,  and an ambassador is sent among the nations, saying,  “Gather yourselves together and come against her,  and rise up to the battle. |
| 15 | For behold, I have made you small among the nations  and despised among men. |
| 16 | As for your terror,  the pride of your heart has deceived you,  O you who dwell in the clefts of the rock,  who hold the height of the hill.  Though you should make your nest as high as the eagle,  I will bring you down from there,  says Yahweh. |

17“Edom will become an astonishment. Everyone who passes by it will be astonished and will hiss at all its plagues. 18As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbor cities of it,” says Yahweh, “no one will live there, nor will any son of man sojourn in it.

19“Behold, he will come up like a lion from the pride of the Jordan against the strong habitation, for I will suddenly make them run away from it. And whoever is chosen, I will appoint him over it. For who is like me? And who will appoint me a time? And who is the shepherd who can stand against me?”

20Therefore hear the counsel of Yahweh that he has taken against Edom and his purposes that he has purposed against the inhabitants of Teman: “Surely they will drag them away, the little ones of the flock. Surely he will make their habitation desolate over them. 21The earth trembles at the noise of their fall; there is a cry, the noise that is heard in the Red Sea. 22Behold, he will come up and fly as the eagle and spread out his wings against Bozrah, and the heart of the mighty men of Edom at that day will be as the heart of a woman in her pangs.”

23Of Damascus.

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|  | “Hamath is confounded, and Arpad,  for they have heard evil news; they are melted away;  there is sorrow on the sea, it cannot be quiet. |
| 24 | Damascus has grown feeble,  she turns herself to flee,  and trembling has seized on her;  anguish and sorrows have taken hold of her,  as of a woman in travail. |
| 25 | How is the city of praise not forsaken,  the city of my joy? |
| 26 | Therefore her young men will fall in her streets,  and all the men of war will be brought to silence in that day,  says Yahweh of Armies. |
| 27 | I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus,  and it will devour the palaces of Ben-hadad.” |

28Of Kedar and of the kingdoms of Hazor that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon struck. This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “Arise, go up to Kedar,  and destroy the children of the east. |
| 29 | They will take their tents and their flocks;  they will carry away for themselves their curtains,  and all their goods, and their camels,  and they will cry out to them,  ‘Terror on every side!’ |
| 30 | Flee, wander far off, dwell in the depths,  you inhabitants of Hazor,  says Yahweh,  for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon  has taken counsel against you  and has conceived a purpose against you. |
| 31 | Arise, go up to a nation that is at ease,  that dwells without care,  says Yahweh,  that have neither gates nor bars,  that dwell alone. |
| 32 | Their camels will be a booty  and the multitude of their livestock a spoil,  and I will scatter to all winds  those who have the corners of their beards cut off;  and I will bring their calamity from every side of them,  says Yahweh. |
| 33 | Hazor will be a dwelling place of jackals,  a desolation forever;  no human will live there,  nor will any son of man live in it.” |

34The word of Yahweh that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning Elam, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, saying, 35This is what Yahweh of Armies says:

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|  | “Behold, I will break the bow of Elam,  the chief of their might. |
| 36 | And I will bring the four winds  from the four ends of heaven upon Elam,  and I will scatter them to all those winds;  and there will be no nation  where the outcasts of Elam will not go. |
| 37 | I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies  and before those who seek their life;  and I will bring evil on them,  even my fierce anger,  says Yahweh,  and I will send the sword after them  until I have consumed them; |
| 38 | and I will set my throne in Elam  and will destroy from there king and officials,  says Yahweh. |
| 39 | But in the latter days  I will bring back the captivity of Elam,  says Yahweh.” |

**Jeremiah Chapter 50**

1The word that Yahweh spoke concerning Babylon, concerning the land of the Chaldeans, by Jeremiah the prophet.

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| 2 | “Declare among the nations and proclaim,  and set up a banner;  proclaim and do not conceal.  Say, ‘Babylon will be captured ,  Bel will be disappointed,  Merodach will be dismayed.  Her images will be disappointed  *and* her idols will be dismayed.’ |
| 3 | For out of the north a nation will come up against her  that will make her land desolate,  and no one will dwell in it;  they will flee, they will be gone, both man and animal. |
| 4 | In those days and in that time,  says Yahweh,  the children of Israel will come,  they and the children of Judah together;  they will go on their way weeping,  and will seek Yahweh their God. |
| 5 | They will inquire concerning Zion  with their faces turned toward it, saying,  ‘Come and join yourselves to Yahweh  in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten.’ |
| 6 | My people have been lost sheep;  their shepherds have caused them to go astray.  They have turned them away on the mountains;  they have gone from mountain to hill;  they have forgotten their resting place. |
| 7 | All who found them have devoured them,  and their adversaries said, ‘We are not guilty,  because they have sinned against Yahweh,  the habitation of righteousness,  even Yahweh, the hope of their fathers.’ |
| 8 | Flee out of the middle of Babylon  and go out of the land of the Chaldeans,  and be as the male goats before the flocks. |
| 9 | For behold, I will stir up and cause to come up against Babylon  a company of great nations from the north country,  and they will set themselves in *battle* formation against her.  From there she will be taken;  their arrows will be as of an expert mighty man;  none will return in vain. |
| 10 | Chaldea will be a prey;  all who prey on her will be satisfied,  says Yahweh. |
| 11 | Because you are glad,  because you rejoice,  O you who plunder my heritage,  because you are wanton as a heifer that treads out the grain,  and neigh as strong horses, |
| 12 | your mother will be utterly disappointed;  she who bore you will be confounded,  behold, she will be the least of the nations,  a wilderness, a dry land and a desert. |
| 13 | Because of the wrath of Yahweh  she will not be inhabited,  but she will be wholly desolate;  everyone who goes by Babylon  will be astonished,  and hiss because of all her wounds. |
| 14 | Set yourselves in *battle* formation against Babylon all around,  all you who bend the bow.  Shoot at her! Spare no arrows,  for she has sinned against Yahweh. |
| 15 | Shout against her all around;  she has submitted herself.  Her bulwarks will fall,  her walls will be thrown down,  for it is the vengeance of Yahweh.  Take vengeance on her;  as she has done, do to her. |
| 16 | Cut off the sower from Babylon,  and him who handles the sickle in the time of harvest.  For fear of the oppressing sword  everyone will return to his people,  and everyone will flee to his own land. |
| 17 | Israel is a hunted sheep,  the lions have driven him away:  first, the king of Assyria devoured him;  and now at last Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon  has broken his bones. |

18Therefore this is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land as I have punished the king of Assyria.

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| 19 | I will bring Israel again to his pasture,  and he will feed on Carmel and Bashan,  and his soul will be satisfied  on the hills of Ephraim and in Gilead. |
| 20 | In those days and in that time,  says Yahweh,  people will search for the iniquity of Israel  but there will be none,  and *they will search for* the sins of Judah,  but they will not be found,  because I will pardon those whom I leave as a remnant. |
| 21 | Go up against the land of Merathaim,[[15]](#footnote-13602) even against it,  and against the inhabitants of Pekod.[[16]](#footnote-21081)  Kill, and devote them to destruction,  says Yahweh,  and do according to all that I have commanded you. |
| 22 | A sound of battle is in the land,  and of great destruction. |
| 23 | How the hammer of the whole earth  is cut apart and broken!  How is Babylon become a desolation  among the nations! |
| 24 | I have laid a snare for you, and you will be caught, Babylon,  and you will not know it;  you will be found, and also caught,  because you have opposed Yahweh. |
| 25 | Yahweh has opened his armory  and has brought out the weapons of his wrath,  because the Lord Yahweh of Armies has a work to do  in the land of the Chaldeans. |
| 26 | Come against her from the most distant places.  Open her storehouses;  pile her up like heaps *of grain*  and devote her to destruction.  Let nothing be left of her. |
| 27 | Kill all her bulls;  let them go down to the slaughter.  Woe to them! For their day has come,  the time of their visitation. |
| 28 | A voice! *It is* of those who flee and escape  out of the land of Babylon  to declare in Zion the vengeance of Yahweh our God,  the vengeance for *destroying* his Temple. |
| 29 | Call together the archers against Babylon,  all those who bend the bow.  Encamp against her all around;  let no one escape.  Repay her according to her work;  according to all that she has done, do to her.  For she has been proud against Yahweh,  against the Holy One of Israel. |
| 30 | Therefore her young men will fall in her streets,  and all her men of war  will be brought to silence in that day,  says Yahweh. |
| 31 | Behold, I am against you, you proud one,  says the Lord Yahweh of Armies,  for your day has come,  the time that I will visit you. |
| 32 | The proud one will stumble and fall,  and no one will raise him up;  and I will kindle a fire in his cities,  and it will devour all who are around him. |

33This is what Yahweh of Armies says:

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|  | The children of Israel and the children of Judah are oppressed together,  and all who took them captive hold them fast;  they refuse to let them go. |
| 34 | Their Redeemer is strong;  Yahweh of Armies is his name.  He will plead, yes, plead their cause,  that he may give rest to the land  but disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon. |
| 35 | A sword is on the Chaldeans,  says Yahweh,  and on the inhabitants of Babylon,  and on her officials and on her wise men. |
| 36 | A sword is on the boasters,  and they will become fools.  A sword is on her mighty men,  and they will be dismayed. |
| 37 | A sword is on their horses and on their chariots,  and on all the mixed people who are in the midst of her,  and they will become as women.  A sword is on her treasures,  and they will be robbed. |
| 38 | A drought is on her waters  and they will be dried up,  because it is a land of engraved images  and they go mad because of their idols that cause terror. |
| 39 | Therefore the wild animals of the desert along with the jackals will dwell there,  and the ostriches will dwell in it,  and it will be no longer inhabited—forever—  and it will not be lived in from generation to generation. |
| 40 | Just as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah  and their neighboring cities,  says Yahweh,  so no man will dwell there,  neither will any son of man live in it. |
| 41 | Behold, a people comes from the north,  and a great nation and many kings will be stirred up  from the uttermost parts of the earth. |
| 42 | They lay hold on bow and spear;  they are cruel and have no mercy;  their voice roars like the sea,  and they ride on horses,  each one set in formations like a man for battle against you, daughter Babylon. |
| 43 | The king of Babylon has heard the news of them,  and his hands grow feeble;  anguish has taken hold of him,  pains as of a woman in labor. |

44Behold, the enemy will come up like a lion from the pride of the Jordan against the strong habitation, for I will suddenly make them run away from it; and whoever is chosen, him I will appoint over it. For who is like me? And who will appoint me a time? And who is the shepherd who can stand against me?

45Therefore hear the counsel of Yahweh that he has taken against Babylon, and his purposes that he has purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely they will drag them away, even the little ones of the flock; surely he will make their habitation desolate because of them. 46At the noise of the capture of Babylon the earth will tremble, and her cry will be heard among the nations.”

**Jeremiah Chapter 51**

1This is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “Behold, I will raise up a destroying wind against Babylon  and against those who lift up their heart against me. |
| 2 | I will send to Babylon strangers  who will winnow her, and they will empty her land,  for in the day of trouble  they will be against her on every side. |
| 3 | Do not let the archer bend his bow,  and do not let him stand up in his coat of mail.  And do not spare her young men;  devote to destruction all her army. |
| 4 | They will fall down slain in the land of the Chaldeans,  thrust through in her streets. |
| 5 | For Israel is not forsaken,  nor Judah, by his God,  Yahweh of Armies,  even though their land is full of guilt  against the Holy One of Israel. |
| 6 | Flee out of the midst of Babylon  and let every man save his life!  Do not be cut off because of her iniquity,  for it is the time of Yahweh’s vengeance;  he will repay her what she deserves. |
| 7 | Babylon has been a gold cup in Yahweh’s hand,  making the whole earth drunk.  The nations drank of her wine,  and so the nations went mad. |
| 8 | Babylon will suddenly fall and be destroyed.  Wail for her;  bring balm for her pain,  perhaps she may be healed. |
| 9 | We would have healed Babylon,  but she is not healed.  Abandon her!  Let’s each go to his own country,  for her judgment reaches to heaven  and is lifted up as far as the skies. |
| 10 | Yahweh has brought forth our vindication!  Come, and let’s declare in Zion  the work of Yahweh our God. |
| 11 | Make sharp the arrows;  hold firm the shields.  Yahweh has stirred up the spirit  of the kings of the Medes,  because his purpose is against Babylon  to destroy it;  for it is the vengeance of Yahweh,  the vengeance of his Temple. |
| 12 | Set up a standard against the walls of Babylon,  make the watch strong,  set the watchmen,  prepare the ambushes,  for Yahweh has both purposed and done what he spoke  concerning the inhabitants of Babylon. |
| 13 | You who dwell on many waters,  abundant in treasures,  your end has come,  the measure of your covetousness. |

14Yahweh of Armies has sworn by himself, saying,

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|  | Surely I will fill you with men as with the canker worm,  and they will lift up a shout against you. |
| 15 | He has made the earth by his power,  he has established the world by his wisdom,  and by his understanding has he stretched out the heavens. |
| 16 | When he utters his voice,  there is a tumult of waters in the heavens,  and he causes the vapors  to ascend from the ends of the earth;  he makes lightning for the rain  and brings forth the wind out of his treasuries. |
| 17 | Every man has become stupid; without knowledge.  Every goldsmith is put to shame by his carved image,  for his cast *metal* image is a lie  and there is no breath in them. |
| 18 | They are vanity, a work of delusion;  in the time of their visitation they will perish. |
| 19 | Jacob’s Portion is not like these,  for he is the one who formed all things,  and *Israel*, the tribe of his inheritance.  Yahweh of Armies is his name. |
| 20 | You are my battle axe and weapons of war,  and with you I will break in pieces the nations;  and with you I will destroy kingdoms; |
| 21 | and with you I will break in pieces  the horse and his rider; |
| 22 | and with you I will break in pieces the chariot and him who rides in it;  and with you I will break in pieces man and woman;  and with you I will break in pieces the old man and the youth;  and with you I will break in pieces the young man and the virgin; |
| 23 | and with you I will break in pieces the shepherd and his flock;  and with you I will break in pieces the farmer and his yoke;  and with you I will break in pieces governors and deputies. |
| 24 | Before your *very* eyes I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea  for all their evil that they have done in Zion, says Yahweh. |
| 25 | Behold, I am against you, destroying mountain,  says Yahweh,  which destroys all the earth;  and I will stretch out my hand on you  and roll you down from the rocks,  and will make you a burned mountain. |
| 26 | They will not take of you a stone for a corner,  nor a stone for foundations,  but you will be desolate forever,  says Yahweh. |
| 27 | Set up a standard in the land,  blow the shofar among the nations,  prepare the nations against her,  call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz;  appoint a marshal against her,  cause the horses to come up as the rough canker worm. |
| 28 | Prepare against her the nations,  the kings of the Medes,  its governors and all its deputies  and all the land of their dominion. |
| 29 | The land trembles and is in pain,  for the purposes of Yahweh against Babylon do stand,  to make the land of Babylon a desolation without inhabitant. |
| 30 | The mighty men of Babylon have forborne to fight;  they remain in their strongholds;  their might has failed;  they are become as women.  Her dwelling places are set on fire;  her bars are broken. |
| 31 | One runner will run to meet another,  and one messenger to meet another,  to show the king of Babylon  that his city is taken on every quarter; |
| 32 | and the passages are seized,  and the reeds they have burned with fire,  and the men of war are frightened. |

33For this is what Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says:

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|  | The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor  at the time when it is trampled;  yet a little while, and the time of harvest will come for her.” |
| 34 | “Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon has devoured me,  he has crushed me,  he has made me an empty vessel,  he has swallowed me up like a sea monster,  he has filled his stomach with my delicacies,  he has cast me out. |
| 35 | May the violence done to me and to my flesh be upon Babylon,”  the inhabitant of Zion will say, and,  “May my blood be upon the inhabitants of Chaldea,”  Jerusalem will say. |

36Therefore this is what Yahweh says:

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|  | “Behold, I will plead your cause  and take vengeance for you,  and I will dry up her sea  and make her fountain dry. |
| 37 | Babylon will become heaps *of ruins*,  a dwelling place for jackals,  an *object of* astonishment and hissing  without an inhabitant. |
| 38 | They will roar together like young lions,  they will growl as lions’ cubs. |
| 39 | When they are inflamed *with desire*,  I will set out their drinking-banquet  and I will make them drunken,  so that they will be merry, but *then* sleep a perpetual sleep  and not wake up,  says Yahweh. |
| 40 | I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter,  like rams and male goats. |
| 41 | How is Sheshach taken!  And the praise of the whole earth seized!  How is Babylon become a desolation  among the nations! |
| 42 | The sea has come up on Babylon;  she is covered with the multitude of its waves. |
| 43 | Her cities are become a desolation,  a dry land and a desert,  a land where no man dwells,  neither does any son of man pass by it. |
| 44 | I will execute judgment on Bel in Babylon,  and I will bring forth out of his mouth what he has swallowed up;  and the nations will not flow any more to him,  yes, the wall of Babylon will fall. |
| 45 | My people, go away from the middle of her,  and save yourselves every man  from the fierce anger of Yahweh. |
| 46 | Do not let your heart faint,  neither fear for the news that will be heard in the land;  for news will come one year,  and after that in another year will come news,  and violence in the land,  ruler against ruler. |
| 47 | Therefore behold, the days come  that I will execute judgment on the carved images of Babylon,  and her whole land will be put to shame,  and all her slain will fall in the middle of her. |
| 48 | Then the heavens and the earth and all that is in it  will sing for joy over Babylon,  for the destroyers will come to her from the north,  says Yahweh. |
| 49 | As Babylon has caused the slain of Israel to fall,  so at Babylon will fall the slain of all the land. |
| 50 | You who have escaped the sword,  go, do not stand still;  remember Yahweh from afar,  and let Jerusalem come into your mind. |
| 51 | ‘We are confounded  because we have heard reproach;  confusion has covered our faces,  for strangers have come  into the sanctuaries of Yahweh’s house.’ |
| 52 | Therefore behold, the days are coming,  says Yahweh,  that I will execute judgment on her carved images,  and through all her land  the wounded will groan. |
| 53 | Though Babylon should mount up to the heavens,  and though she should fortify the height of her strength,  yet from me will destroyers come to her,  says Yahweh. |
| 54 | The sound of a cry from Babylon,  and of great destruction  from the land of the Chaldeans! |
| 55 | For Yahweh lays Babylon waste  and destroys out of her the great voice,  and their waves roar like many waters;  the noise of their voice is uttered, |
| 56 | for the destroyer has come on her,  even on Babylon,  and her mighty men are taken,  their bows are broken in pieces;  for Yahweh is a God of recompenses,  he will surely requite. |
| 57 | I will make drunk her leaders  and her wise men, her governors and her deputies and her mighty men,  and they will sleep a perpetual sleep  and not wake up,  says the King,  whose name is Yahweh of Armies. |

58This is what Yahweh of Armies says:

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|  | The thick walls of Babylon will be utterly overthrown,  and her high gates will be burned with fire.  So the peoples will labor for nothing,  and the nations *only* to fuel the fire,  and they will be weary.” |

59The word that Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah to Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. Now Seraiah was chief quartermaster. 60Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come on Babylon, even all these words that are written concerning Babylon.

61Jeremiah said to Seraiah, “When you come to Babylon, then see that you read all these words, 62and say, ‘Yahweh, you have spoken concerning this place, to cut it off, that no one will dwell in it, neither man nor animal, but that it will be desolate forever.’, 63When you have made an end of reading this book, you are to bind a stone to it and cast it into the middle of the Euphrates, 64and you are to say, ‘Thus will Babylon sink, and will not rise again because of the evil that I will bring on her, and they will be weary.’”

Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

**Jeremiah Chapter 52**

1Zedekiah was 21 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 11 years in Jerusalem, and his mother’s name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. 2And he did evil in the eyes of Yahweh according to all that Jehoiakim had done. 3For through the anger of Yahweh it happened in Jerusalem and Judah—until he had cast them out from his presence—*that* Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

4And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against Jerusalem, he and all his army, and they encamped against it and they built a siege wall around it. 5So the city was besieged to the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

6In the fourth month, in the ninth day of the month, the famine was severe in the city such that there was no bread for the people of the land. 7Then a breach was made in the city and all the men of war fled and went out of the city at night by the route *that went* through the gate between the two walls, which was by the king’s garden (now the Chaldeans were against the city all around it), and they went toward the Arabah. 8But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him. 9Then they took the king and carried him up to the king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he pronounced judgment on him.

10The king of Babylon killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes. He also killed all the officials of Judah in Riblah. 11He put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and *then* the king of Babylon bound him in fetters and carried him to Babylon, and put him in prison until the day of his death.

12Now in the fifth month, in the tenth day of the month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard *who* stood before the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem; 13He burned the house of Yahweh and the king’s house, and *also* all the houses of Jerusalem—every great house—he burned with fire. 14All the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down all the walls around Jerusalem. 15Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard exiled *some* of the poorest of the people and the rest of the people who were left in the city, and the deserters who had defected to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the craftsmen. 16But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land as vineyard keepers and farmers.

17The Chaldeans broke into pieces the pillars of bronze that were in the house of Yahweh and the stands and the bronze sea that were in the house of Yahweh and carried the bronze to Babylon. 18They also took away the pots, the shovels, the snuffers, the sprinkling bowls, the spoons, and all the accessories of bronze with which the *priests* served. 19The captain of the guard took away the cups, the firepans, the sprinkling bowls, the pots, the menorahs, the spoons, and the bowls, *and* whatever was of gold, as gold, and whatever was of silver, as silver.

20They took the two pillars, the one sea, and the 12 bronze bulls that were under the bases, which king Solomon had made for the house of Yahweh. The bronze of all these items was too much to weigh. 21As for the pillars, the height of the one pillar was 18 cubits, and a line of 12 cubits encircled it; and its thickness was four fingers. It was hollow. 22A capital of bronze was on it, and the height of the one capital was five cubits, with the latticework and pomegranates on the capital all around, all of bronze, and the second pillar had the same and pomegranates. 23There were 96 pomegranates on the sides, *and* all the pomegranates around the latticework numbered 100.

24The captain of the guard took Seraiah the Chief Priest and Zephaniah the second priest and the three guards of the threshold, 25and out of the city he took an officer who was set over the men of war, and seven men of Those Who See The King’s Face who were present in the city, and the scribe of the commander of the army who mustered the people of the land, and 60 men of the people of the land who were present in the middle of the city. 26Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. 27The king of Babylon struck them down and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was exiled from off of his land.

28This is the people whom Nebuchadnezzar carried away captive: in the seventh year 3,023 Jews; 29in the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar he carried away captive from Jerusalem 832 persons; 30in the twenty-third year of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive of the Jews 745 persons. All the persons were 4,600.

31It came to pass in the thirty-seventh year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, in the twenty-fifth day of the month, that Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the first year of his reign, lifted up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah and brought him forth out of prison, 32and he spoke kindly to him and set his throne above the throne of the kings who were with him in Babylon, 33and he changed his prison garments and he ate bread in his presence continually all the days of his life, 34and his allowance, a continual allowance, was given to him from the king of Babylon, a portion for each day until the day of his death, all the days of his life.

1. The leaders [↑](#footnote-ref-14631)
2. Literally, “Shihor,” likely a branch of the Nile. [↑](#footnote-ref-13521)
3. “The River” is the Euphrates. [↑](#footnote-ref-24998)
4. Lit. “a Soreq vine.” A high quality red grape vine [↑](#footnote-ref-16239)
5. Lit. “Faithful” [↑](#footnote-ref-25731)
6. Hebrew word means both “husband” and “master.” Likely “husband” is the meaning here. [↑](#footnote-ref-21804)
7. The Shameful Thing is the god Baal. [↑](#footnote-ref-17637)
8. Likely, “Fruitful All Around” or “Joy All Around” [↑](#footnote-ref-15535)
9. Lit. “Terror on Every Side” [↑](#footnote-ref-24100)
10. Or “his,” referring to Israel [↑](#footnote-ref-23107)
11. Lit. “the city to Yahweh,” a common phrase to express ownership. [↑](#footnote-ref-30894)
12. Roughly 6.8 ounces (193 grams) [↑](#footnote-ref-24842)
13. Also called Jehoiachin and Jeconiah [↑](#footnote-ref-23165)
14. Lit. “made this soul/breath” [↑](#footnote-ref-22999)
15. Merathaim means “Double Rebellion,” referring to Babylon. [↑](#footnote-ref-13602)
16. Pekod means “Punishment,” referring to Babylon. [↑](#footnote-ref-21081)