

The Hebrew Corner

Jeremiah was a prophet who prophesied during the reign of the last four kings of Judah before it was conquered by Babylon in 586 BC. The prophecies of Jeremiah are noteworthy in that he gives very vivid descriptions as to the judgments that God is going to deliver, and precise details of what is going to happen and why it was going to happen. The accuracy is evidenced by history, as Judah was conquered by Babylon, seventy years after the largest group of captives were taken by Babylon, Jews were allowed to go back to Jerusalem, and Babylon was conquered by the Medes (with the Persians), all prophecies of Jeremiah. The following is a translation from the original Hebrew into English of the book of Jeremiah. The reader should take note of the following explanatory items concerning this translation. Whenever an asterisk (*) appears after “the Lord” or “God” in the text, this is referring to the Hebrew name of God יהוה, also known as the tetragrammaton. Two Hebrew words that have a meaning more broad in scope than an English word can represent are usually left untranslated; these are the Hebrew words shalom (שלום), and Torah (תורה). Words or letters in parentheses are added to clarify the meaning or make the grammar more correct in English. Words or phrases that appear in brackets are used to give clarity to the English translation that is evident in the Hebrew but not in English. The author would like to acknowledge that the Hebrew lexicon Brown-Driver-Briggs was used almost

exclusively to determine the meaning of Biblical Hebrew words, and many phrases.

I pray that reading of this will increase your faith and trust in God, and his provision for those who walk in the way of righteousness that he has established for us, as clearly marked by prophets such as Jeremiah. Blessings and shalom to all.

Jeremiah (Yirmayahu)

Chapter 1

The words of Jeremiah, son of Hilkiah, out of the priests who were in the land of Anathoth in the land of Benjamin,

2 When the word of the Lord* (came) to him in the days of Josiah, son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign,

3 And in the days of Jehoiakim, son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah, son of Josiah, king of Judah until the deportation of Jerusalem in the fifth month.

4 The word of the Lord* (came) to me, saying:

5 Before I had formed you in the belly, I knew you. Before you had come out of the womb, I sanctified you. I appointed you (as) a prophet to the nations.

6 Then I said, Ah Lord God*, look, I do not know how to speak, for I am a boy.

7 But the Lord* said to me, Do not say, I am a boy, for to all that I send you, you will go, and all that I command you, you will speak.

8 Do not fear from their presence, for I will be with you to rescue you, declares the Lord*,

9 And the Lord* stretched out his hand, and touched on my mouth, and the Lord* said to me, Now I have put my word in your mouth.

10 See, I have appointed you this day over the nations and kingdoms to uproot, to break down, to destroy, and to tear down, to build and to plant.

11 The word of the Lord* came to me, saying: What do you see, Jeremiah? And I said, I see a rod of an almond [wake] tree.

12 Then the Lord* said to me, You have done well to see (it), for I keep watch [a wake] over my word to perform it.

13 Then the word of the Lord* (came) to me a second time, saying: What do you see? And I said, I see a boiling pot, and the front of it is away from the north,

14 And the Lord* said to me, From the North, misery will be let loose on all the inhabitants of the land.

15 For I am calling now to all the families of the northern kingdoms, declares the Lord*, and they will come and will place each one his throne in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, against all its surrounding walls, and against all the cities of Judah,

16 And I will pronounce my judgment upon them concerning all their evil, when they abandoned me, and burnt sacrifices to foreign gods, and bowed down in worship to the works of their hands.

17 So you will gird up your loins, and rise up, and speak to them all that I command you. Do not be dismayed from their presence, lest I cause you to be dismayed in front of them.

18 Now I have made you, today, into a fortified city, and pillars of iron, and walls of bronze, against all the land, the kings of Judah, its princes, its high priests, and the people of the land.

19 They will fight against you, but they will not prevail over you, for I will be with you to rescue you, declares the Lord*.

Chapter 2

The word of the Lord* came to me, saying:

2 Go, and you will cry out in the hearing of Jerusalem, saying, Thus says the Lord*, I have remembered of you the steadfast love of your youth, the love at the time of your betrothal, your walking after me in the wilderness, in a land not sown.

3 Holy is Israel to the Lord*, the first-fruits of his increase. All who would devour him will be held guilty. Distress will come to them, declares the Lord*.

4 Hear the word of the Lord*, O house of Jacob, and all (you) families of Israel.

5 Thus says the Lord*, When did your fathers find unrighteousness in me, that they kept at a distance from me, and went after vanity, and became vain,

6 And they did not say, Where is the Lord*, who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who ruled over us in the wilderness, in a land of desert and pits, in a land of drought and the death-shadow, in a land that no one has crossed over into it, and no man has dwelled there.

7 I brought you into the country of the garden-land in order that you might eat its fruit and good (food), but you went in and defiled my land, and my inheritance you made as an abomination.

8 The priests did not say, Where is the Lord*, and those who held up the Torah did not know me. The shepherds transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied about Baal, and went after what provides no benefit.

9 Therefore I still contend with you, declares the Lord*, and with the children of your children I will contend.

10 Just pass by the coasts of the Cypriotes and look, send to Kedar, observe very closely, and see whether there has been anything such as this!

11 Has a nation exchanged gods, but they were no gods? My people exchanged its glory; it profited them nothing.

12 Be appalled over this, O heavens, and bristle with horror! Be very desolate, declares the Lord*.

13 For two evils my people have done. They have abandoned me, a fountain of living water, to dig for themselves wells, broken wells that have no capacity for water.

14 Was Israel a servant? If he was born in the house, why should he be for plunder?

15 Over him the young lions have roared. They have uttered their sound, and have set his land to ruin. His cities are burned down without an inhabitant.

16 Also the people of Noph and Tahpahnesh have cropped you (at) the crown of your head.

17 Did you not do this to yourself, (in) that you abandoned the Lord* your God at the time of (his) leading you along the way?

18 And now, what is for you on the way to Egypt, to drink water from the Sihor? And what is for you on the way to Assyria, to drink water from the (Euphrates) River?

19 Your wickedness will chasten you, and your apostasy will admonish you. Thus perceive and see, that it was evil and bitter that you abandoned the Lord* your God, nor did fear of me come into you, declares the Lord God* of hosts.

20 For a long time I broke off your yoke. I took away your bonds, but you said, I will not be a servant, for upon every high hill, and under every luxuriant tree, you have stooped down to harlotry.

21 I have planted you (as) a choice vine, a sure seed, so how could you turn against me (as) shoots of a foreign vine?

22 Though you may wash with washing soda, or clean yourself with lye soap, stained is your iniquity before me, declares the Lord God*.

23 How can you say, I am not unclean, I have not gone after Baals? Observe your way in the valley. Understand what you are doing, a swift young camel entangling her ways.

24 (As) a wild donkey accustomed to the wilderness, in her soul's desire, breath panting (at) the time of copulation, who can hinder her? All who seek to find her will not grow weary. In her month they can find her.

25 Spare your foot from bareness, and your throat from dryness, but you say to me, I do not despair, for I give (my) love to foreign (gods), and after them I will go.

26 As shame (comes to) a thief when he is found out, so will the house of Israel be ashamed: they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets.

27 Those who say to wood, You are my father, and to stone, You have given birth to me, that turn the back of the neck to me, and not the face, but in the time of their distress, will say, Rise up and save us!

28 And where are the gods that you have made for yourselves? Let them rise up, if they can save you in the time of your distress, for as the number of your cities, (so) are your gods, O Judah!

29 Why would you strive with me? All of you have rebelled against me, declares the Lord*.

30 In vain I have struck your children. They did not take instruction. Your sword has devoured your prophets, as a lion ravages.

31 You of (this) generation, observe the word of the Lord*. Have I been a wilderness to Israel, although it was a land of deep darkness? Why do my people say: We wander restlessly. We still will not come to you.

32 Will a virgin forget her ornaments, a bride her sashes? Yet my people have forgotten me (for) days without number.

33 Why did you make your way good to seek love? Therefore I have directed your ways, even with distresses.

34 Even the blood of the lives of the poor, the innocent ones, has been drained out on your skirts. You did not catch them in the act of breaking in, so it was with all of these.

35 But you say to me, Because I am innocent, surely he has turned his anger away from me. Now I am pleading my case against you, because you say, I have not sinned.

36 Why do you get very agitated to change your way? By Egypt you also will be disappointed, as you were disappointed by Assyria.

37 Indeed, out of this, you will go forth with your hands upon your head, for the Lord* has rejected those in whom you trust, and you will not prosper by them.

Chapter 3

He said, Observe: a man sends away his wife, she goes away from him, and another man has her. Will he return to her still? Would that land not be badly polluted? But you have committed fornication with many lovers, yet return to me, declares the Lord*.

2 Lift up your eyes upon the barren heights, and see where you have not been ravished. You have sat along the paths for them, like steppe-dwellers in the wilderness, and you have polluted the land in your fornication and your wickedness.

3 Yet copious showers have been withheld, and the latter rain has not come, but the brow of a woman who has played the harlot has come to you. You have refused to be ashamed.

4 Has it not been just now that you have called out to me, My father! You have been a friend from my youth.

5 Will he maintain forever? Will he restrain to eternity? Now I have spoken, yet you have done evil, and you have had your way.

6 The Lord* said to me in the days of Josiah the king, Do you see what backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain, and beneath every luxuriant tree, and has played the harlot there.

7 Yet I said after all these (things) she had done, You may return to me, but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw.

8 But I observed that, on account of all the occurrences where backsliding Israel committed adultery, I sent for her, and gave a bill of divorce to her, yet her treacherous sister Judah was not afraid, and she went out, and also played the harlot.

9 It was from the frivolity of her harlotry that she polluted the land, and committed adultery with stone and wood.

10 Even in all this, her treacherous sister Judah has not turned back to me with all her heart, but only in a false way, declares the Lord*.

11 Then the Lord* said to me, More righteous is the character of backsliding Israel than treacherous Judah.

12 Go along proclaiming these words to the North, and say, Return, O backsliding Israel, declares the Lord. I will not look displeased at you, for I am kind, declares the Lord*. I will not stay (angry) forever.

13 Only recognize your iniquity, for against the Lord* your God you have transgressed, and you have criss-crossed your paths toward foreign gods under every luxuriant tree, but you have not listened to my voice, declares the Lord*.

14 Return, you backsliding children, declares the Lord*, for I am your husband, and I will appoint you one from a city, and two from a family, and I will bring you into Zion.

15 Then I will give you pastors according to my heart, and they will pastor you in knowledge and prudence.

16 But it will happen that you will multiply, and be fruitful in the land. In those days, declares the Lord*, they will no longer say, The ark of the

covenant of the Lord*, nor will it come upon their mind, nor will they bring it to memory, nor will they miss (it), nor will they do (this) anymore.

17 In that time, they will call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord*, and all the nations will be gathered into it, to the name of the Lord* of Jerusalem, and they will no longer walk after the stubbornness of their evil heart.

18 In those days, the house of Judah will walk along with the house of Israel, and they will enter in together from the land of the North, upon the land that I gave as an inheritance to your fathers.

19 I said, How could I set you among children, and give to you the desirable land, the inheritance of the most beautiful of nations. Then I said, you must call out to me, My father, and thereafter not turn back.

20 But indeed, (as) a wife acts treacherously away from her husband, surely you acted treacherously against me, O house of Israel, declares the Lord*.

21 A voice on the barren heights is heard, the children of Israel weeping for supplication, for they have done wrong in their way. They have forgotten the Lord* their God.

22 Return, you children that have turned away! I will pardon your backsliding. (Say), Here we are; we will come to you, for you are the Lord* our God.

23 Surely the high places, a multitude of hills, are in vain. Surely the salvation of Israel is by the Lord* our God.

24 Shame has devoured the product of our fathers from our youth, their flocks and their cattle, their sons and their daughters.

25 Let us lie down in our shame, and may our humiliation cover us, for we have sinned against the Lord* our God, we and our fathers from our youth until this day, and we have not been obedient to the Lord* our God.

Chapter 4

If you would return, O Israel, return to me, declares the Lord*, and if you would put away your detested things from my face, and not wander,

2 And if you would take an oath, the Lord* lives, in truth, in justice, and in righteousness, then the nations in him would bless themselves, and in him they would glory.

3 For thus says the Lord* to each one of Judah and Jerusalem, Till for yourselves the fallow (ground), but do not sow among thorns.

4 Be circumcised to the Lord*, and remove the foreskins of your heart, you men of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem, lest my wrath go out like fire,

and burning but no one to quench (it), from the presence of the evil that you have done.

5 Announce in Judah and declare in Jerusalem, and speak and blow the shofar in the land. Cry out fully, and say, Gather yourselves, and let us enter into the fortified cities.

6 Lift up a sign to Zion! Seek refuge! Do not stand still, for I am bringing in distress from the North, and a great shattering.

7 A lion goes up from his thicket, and he journeys, destroying nations. He goes out from his place to set your land to devastation. Your cities will fall in ruins, without an inhabitant.

8 Because of this, gird on sackcloth! Howl and wail, for the burning of the anger of the Lord* has not turned back from us.

9 So it will happen on that day, declares the Lord*, the heart of the king and the princes will vanish, the priests will be appalled, and the prophets will be astounded.

10 Then I said, O Lord God*, surely you have been quite deceptive to this people, saying, There will be shalom for you, then the sword strikes to the soul.

11 At this time it will be said to this people, and to Jerusalem, A glowing wind of the barren heights in the wilderness is the way of the daughter of my people, not to winnow, and not to purify.

12 A wind too strong for these (things) will come in for me. Now I will also speak judgments on them.

13 Now he will ascend like the clouds, and his chariots are like a storm wind. His horses are swifter than eagles. Woe to us, for we are devastated!

14 Cleanse your heart from evil, O Jerusalem, in order that you might be saved. How long will you keep your wicked imaginations in your inner being?

15 For a voice is declaring from Dan, and making known the trouble from Mount Ephraim.

16 Mention to the nations now. Make (it) known over Jerusalem. The blockaders are coming from a distant land, and they are uttering their voice against the cities of Judah.

17 Like the keepers of a field, they are upon her from every side, for she has rebelled against me, declares the Lord*.

18 Your way and your evil practices have done these (things) to you. This is your distress, for it is bitter, for it reaches into your heart.

19 My stomach! My stomach! I am in anguish (in) the walls of my heart. My heart is murmuring to me. I cannot remain silent, for you have heard the sound of the shofar, O my soul, the trumpet blast of war!

20 Breach upon breach has been announced, for all the land is devastated. Suddenly my tents were destroyed, my curtains in an instant.

21 How long must I see the standard, must I hear the sound of the shofar?

22 For my people are foolish. They do not know me. They are foolish children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but they do not know to do good.

23 I have seen the land, and behold, it is dull and null, even to the heavens, and there are no lights.

24 I have seen the mountains, and behold, they are shaking, and all the hills are shaking themselves.

25 I have seen, and behold, there is no mankind, and all the birds of the heavens have fluttered away.

26 I have seen, and behold, the garden-land is a wilderness, and all its cities have been broken down, from the presence of the Lord*, from the presence of the burning of his anger.

27 For thus says the Lord*, All the land will be devastated, but an end (of it) I will not make.

28 For this reason the land will mourn, and the heavens will be darkened from above. According to what I spoke of, I have planned, and I do not regret (it), nor will I turn away from it.

29 From the sound of horsemen and those who lift the bow, every city is fleeing. They enter into the thickets, and go up into the rocks. Every city has been abandoned, and there is no one dwelling in them.

30 So you will be destroyed. What will you do? Though you clothe yourselves in scarlet, though you deck yourselves in ornaments of gold, though you enlarge your eyes with antimony, though you beautify yourself for vanity, those who fawned after (you) will despise you. They will seek after your life.

31 For I heard a voice like writhing in travail, distress like one bearing her first child. It is the voice of the daughter of Zion. She is gasping for breath. She is spreading her palms. Woe to me, for my soul is weary from the slayers.

Chapter 5

Rove about in the streets of Jerusalem, and please discern, find out, and inquire in her plazas, if you can find someone, if there is anyone, who practices justice, who desires faithfulness, and I will grant a pardon to her.
2 But if they should say, The Lord* lives, thus they will have sworn to a lie.

3 O Lord*, are your eyes not toward the faithful? You have struck them, but they are not sick. You have brought destruction (to) them. They have refused the taking of instruction. They have made their faces harder than a rock. They have refused to repent.

4 But I said, Surely they are the lowly ones. They act foolishly, for they do not know the way of the Lord*, the justice of their God.

5 Let me go by myself to the high (priests), for they know the way of the Lord*, the justice of their God. However, they have become united. They have broken the yoke. They have torn apart the bonds.

6 Thus a lion strikes them from the thicket. A wolf from barren places will devastate them. A leopard is lurking over the cities. Anyone who goes out from them will be torn, for their transgressions are many; their apostasies are numerous.

7 Upon what grounds should I grant a pardon to you? Your children have abandoned me, and they have taken an oath to false gods. Although I have satisfied them, yet have they committed adultery, and they have gathered in throngs into a house of prostitution.

8 (My) anointed ones are horses equipped with testicles. Each man neighs at the wife of his friend.

9 Will I not visit upon these things, declares the Lord*, and if in a nation that is like this one, will I not avenge myself?

10 Go up among its vine rows and spoil (them), but do not make an end (of them). Take away the tendrils, for they do not belong to the Lord*.

11 For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously with me, declares the Lord*.

12 They have acted deceitfully against the Lord*, and have said, He is not (here), and evil will not come upon us, nor will we see the sword or famine.

13 Even the prophets will be for the wind, and there will be no speech in them. Thus will it be done to them.

14 So thus says the Lord* God of hosts, Because of this, speak to yourself this word, Now I am putting my word in your mouth for a fire, and this people will be wood, and it will consume them.

15 Now I am bringing a nation from a distant place against you, O house of Israel, declares the Lord*. It is an imperishable nation. It is a nation long enduring, a nation of a language that is unknown. When someone speaks, it cannot be understood.

16 Its quiver is like an open grave. All of them are valiant men.

17 It will eat your harvest, and your food, (which) your sons and daughters should have eaten. It will consume your flock and your cattle. It will

consume your wine and your fig tree. It will beat down your fortified cities, whom you trusted in, with the sword.

18 But even in those days, declares the Lord*, I will not make an end of you.

19 Then you will say in response to, Why did the Lord* our God do all these things to us, you will say to them, Because you abandoned me, and served foreign gods in your land, so you will serve foreigners in a land not your own.

20 Announce this in the house of Jacob, and declare it in Judah, saying:

21 Now listen to this, you foolish and mindless people. They have eyes, but they do not see. They have ears, but they do not hear.

22 Should you not fear me, declares the Lord*. When (in) my presence, should you not writhe in travail? The sand that I have set at the border of the sea is an ordinance forever, and they cannot cross over it. Its waves may reel to and fro, yet they cannot prevail, even rage, but they cannot cross over it.

23 But this people have a stubborn and rebellious heart. They have turned aside and walked away,

24 And they have not said in their hearts, Who will fear the Lord* our God, who makes rain, the former and the latter rain in its time? He keeps for us the statutory weeks for harvest.

25 Your iniquities have thrust these (things) away. Your sins have held back the good (things) from you.

26 For wicked ones are found among my people. They lie in wait like the crouching of fowls. They set a trap. They capture men.

27 Like a cage is full of birds, so their houses are full of deceit. In this manner, they have become great, and gained riches.

28 They have grown fat. They have become refined. They have even passed over matters of evil. They do not plead a cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper. They also have not advocated the justice of the poor.

29 Will I not visit upon these (things), declares the Lord*. If in a nation that is like this (one), will I not avenge myself?

30 An appalling and horrible (thing) has happened in the land.

31 The prophets have prophesied falsely, and the priests have ruled by their own guidance, but my people have loved it as such, so what will you do for an end to it?

Chapter 6

Seek refuge, O sons of Benjamin, from the midst of Jerusalem, blow the shofar in Tekoa, and lift up a signal over Beth Hakkerem, for calamity looks down from the North, and a great crash.

2 I will destroy the daughter of Zion, beautiful and daintily bred.

3 Shepherds will enter into her, and their flocks. They will pitch their tents upon her round about. Each one will tend his own place.

4 Consecrate war against her! Arise, and let us go up at noon. Woe to us, for the day has passed, for the shadows of evening are spreading out.

5 Arise, and let us go up in the night, and let us destroy her citadels.

6 For thus says the Lord* of hosts, Cut down trees, and cast a mound against her. That is the city appointed for punishment, all of her. Oppression is in her midst.

7 Like keeping cool a water well, so she keeps her wickedness fresh.

Violence and havoc are heard in her. Before me continually are sickness and wounds.

8 Take correction, O Jerusalem, lest my desire is driven away from you, lest I appoint you (for) devastation, a land not inhabited.

9 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, They will glean a gleanings of a remnant of Israel like a vine. Return your hand like a grape gatherer over branches.

10 To whom will I speak or will I testify, and they will listen? See, their ears are uncircumcised, and they are not able to pay attention. Now the word of the Lord* will be to them for a reproach. They will not delight in it.

11 I am filled with the wrath of the Lord*. I am weary of enduring (it). Pour out upon the child in the street, and upon the counsel of the young men at the same time, for even a man with a wife will be taken captive, along with an old man full of days.

12 Their houses will be turned over to foreigners, fields and wives together, for I will stretch out my hand against the inhabitants of the land, declares the Lord*,

13 For from the least of them to the greatest of them, everyone has robbed greedily, and from prophet even to priest, everyone has practiced deceit.

14 They have treated the fracture of my people lightly, saying, Shalom, shalom, yet there is no shalom.

15 They should be put to shame for the abomination they have done. Indeed, they are hardly ashamed; indeed, they are not aware they have been humiliated. Therefore, they will fall among the fallen. They will be overthrown in the time of their punishment, says the Lord*.

16 Thus says the Lord*, Stand along the ways and look, and inquire about the traditional courses of life, which is the good way, and walk in it, and find rest for your souls, but they said, We will not walk (in it).

17 So I raised up watchmen over you, (saying), Pay attention to the sound of the shofar, but they said, We will not pay attention.

18 Therefore, listen, O nations, and know that in them is a witness.

19 Hear, O earth. Now I am bringing calamity to this people, the fruit of their schemes, for they have not paid attention to my word or my Torah, but they have rejected it.

20 What is this to me that frankincense from Sheba comes in, or the good calamus from a distant land? Your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor are your sacrifices pleasing to me.

21 Therefore, thus says the Lord*, Here am I, who gives to this people occasions of stumbling, and fathers and sons together will stumble on them. A neighbor and his friend will perish.

22 Thus says the Lord*, Behold, a people are coming from a northern land, and a great nation is being aroused from the remote parts of the earth.

23 They will take hold of bow and javelin. It will be cruel, and they will have no mercy. Their voice will roar like the sea, and upon horses they will ride, arrayed as a man of war against you, O daughter of Zion.

24 We have heard the report of it. Our hands have lost energy. Distress has seized us, anguish like a woman giving birth.

25 Do not go out into the field, and do not walk along the path. Because of the sword of the enemy, (there is) terror from all around.

26 O daughter of Zion, gird yourself with sackcloth, and roll yourself in the dust, mourning (as) for an only son. Make for yourself a bitter wailing, for suddenly the destroyer will come upon you.

27 I placed you as an assayer among my people, a fortification, so you could know and try their way.

28 All of them are the worst deviants, slanderers, bronze and iron. All of them are those who act corruptly.

29 The bellows are snorting. From their refining fire comes lead. He has smelted continually in vain, for the wickedness is not purged out.

30 Rejected silver, they cry out to them, for the Lord* has rejected them.

Chapter 7

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord*, saying:

2 Stand in the gate of the house of the Lord*, and there proclaim this word, and say, Hear the word of the Lord*, all (you of) Judah, who enter into these gates to bow down and give worship to the Lord*.

3 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, Make your ways and your deeds good, and I will allow you to dwell in this place.

4 Do not place your trust in the words of deceit, those saying, The temple of the Lord*, the temple of the Lord*, the temple of the Lord*.

5 For if you will truly make your ways and your deeds good, if you will truly do justice between each one and his companion,

6 If you also do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place, and you do not walk after foreign gods into evil for yourself,

7 Then I will allow you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, from a long time ago, even to eternity.

8 See, you are (the ones) who trust for yourselves upon false words that cannot benefit you.

9 Do you steal, murder, or commit adultery, or take a false oath, or sacrifice to Baal, or walk after foreign gods that you have no knowledge of?

10 Then you come in and stand in front of me, in this house that is called by my name, and say, We were delivered in order to do all these abominations.

11 Is this house that is called by my name a den of robbers in your sight also? I just now observed (this), declares the Lord*.

12 So go to my place that is in Shiloh, where I established my name at first, and see what I have done to it because of the wickedness of my people Israel.

13 Now, because you have done all these acts, declares the Lord*, and I continually spoke early to you, but you did not listen, and I called, but you did not answer,

14 So will I do to the house that is called by my name, which you trust in, even to the place I gave to you, as I did to Shiloh.

15 I will cast you away from my face, in the manner that I cast away all of your brothers, even the offspring of Ephraim.

16 Do not pray on behalf of this people, nor lift up for them a cry or a prayer, for I will not be one who listens to you.

17 Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem?

18 The children are picking up wood, the fathers are kindling the fire, and the women are setting the dough to make cakes for the queen of the heavens, and pouring out drink offerings to foreign gods, in order to provoke me.

19 Is it me whom they provoke? Is it not themselves, for the sake of shame to their faces?

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord*, Now my anger and wrath are poured out towards this place, upon man and beast, upon the tree of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; yes, it has kindled and will not be quenched.

21 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Heap up your burnt offerings upon your sacrifices, and eat the flesh.

22 For I did not speak with your fathers, and I did not give them a command, in the day that (I) brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning matters of burnt offering and sacrifice,

23 But it was with this word that I commanded them, saying, Listen to my voice, and I will be as God to you, and you will be for a people to me, and you will walk in the ways that I command you, in order that it may go well for you.

24 Yet they did not listen, nor did they extend their ear, but they went along in the devices of the stubbornness of their wicked heart, and they went to the rear and not to the front.

25 From the day that your fathers went out from the land of Egypt until this day, I have sent all my servants the prophets to you, rising early and sending them,

26 But they did not listen to me, nor did they extend their ear, but they stiffened their neck. They did more evil than their fathers.

27 Thus will you speak all these words, but they will not listen to you, and you will call out to them, but they will not answer you.

28 So you will say to them, (This) is a nation that does not listen to the voice of the Lord* their God, and does not take instruction. Faithfulness has perished, and has been cut off from their mouth.

29 Shear your head, throw it away, and lift up a dirge upon the heights, for the Lord* has rejected and abandoned the generation of his rage,

30 For the children of Judah did evil in my sight, declares the Lord*. They put their detestable things in the house that is called by my name, the purpose of it to make it unclean.

31 They built the high places of Tophet, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and daughters in the fire, which I did not command them, nor did it come into my mind.

32 Therefore, now the days are coming, declares the Lord*, that it will no longer be said, Tophet, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but instead the Valley of the Slaughter, for they will bury in Tophet until there is no place left.

33 Then the corpse(s) of this people will be for food for the fowl of the heavens, and for the beast of the land, and none (of them) will be disturbed,
34 And I will cause the sound of rejoicing, and the sound of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, to cease from the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem, for the land will be for desolation.

Chapter 8

At that time, declares the Lord*, they will bring the bones of the kings of Judah and its princes, and the bones of the priests and the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem out from their graves.

2 They will spread them out to the sun, and the moon, and all the host of the heavens, whom they loved, and they served, and they walked after, and they sought after, and they bowed down in worship to. They will not be gathered, and they will not be buried. They will be for dung on the surface of the ground.

3 Death will be chosen rather than life, for all the remnant who are left from this wicked family, in all the places that remain where I have banished them, declares the Lord* of hosts.

4 Then you will say to them, Thus says the Lord*, Will they fall and not rise? If they turn away, will they not turn back?

5 Why did this people, Jerusalem, backslide to perpetual apostasy? They have taken hold of deceit. They have refused to turn back.

6 I have paid attention and listened. They speak incorrectly. No one has regret over his wickedness, saying, What have I done? They all return to their course of life, like a horse dashing into the battle.

7 Even the stork in the heavens knows her appointed times. The turtle-dove, the swift, and the swallow keep the time of their arrival, but my people do not know the justice of the Lord*.

8 How can they say, We have wisdom, and the Torah of the Lord* is with us? Surely now, a false pen of the scribes is made for the deception.

9 The wise have been put to shame. They are dismayed and ensnared. See, they have rejected the word of the Lord*, for what is wisdom to them?

10 Therefore I will give their women to others, their fields to those who will take possession, because from the least even to the greatest, all have robbed greedily. From prophet even to priest, all have practiced deceit.

11 They have treated the fracture of the daughter of my people lightly, saying, Shalom, shalom, yet there is no shalom.

12 They should be put to shame for the abomination they have done. Indeed, they are hardly ashamed; indeed, they are not aware they have been humiliated. Therefore, they will fall among the fallen. They will be overthrown in the time of their punishment, says the Lord*.

13 I will surely destroy them, declare the Lord*. There will be no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, but the leaf will wither and fall, and I am giving them over to those who will make them slaves.

14 Why are we sitting? Gather yourselves, let us go into the fortified cities, and let us perish there. For the Lord* our God has made us perish, and he has given us water of gall to drink, for we have sinned against the Lord*.

15 Waiting for shalom, but there is nothing good, for a time of healing, but look, terror!

16 From Dan can be heard the snorting of his horses. All the land shakes from the sound of the neighing of his mighty ones. They are coming in and consuming the land and its entirety, the city, and those who dwell in it.

17 For here am I, sending into you snakes, vipers that cannot be charmed, so they will bite you fatally, declares the Lord*.

18 A source of brightening must come to me at a time of sorrow. My heart is faint upon me.

19 Now (comes) the voice of a cry for help from the daughter of my people from distant (places). Is the Lord* not in Zion? Is her king not in her? Why do they provoke me by their idols, by foreign vanities?

20 The harvest has passed by. The summer is over, and we are not saved.

21 On account of the breach of the daughter of my people, I am broken. I am mournful. Horror has seized me.

22 Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no healer there? Why is the restoration of the daughter of my people not offered up?

Chapter 9

Oh, that my head were water, and my eyes a fountain of tears! Then I would weep day and night with the pierced of the daughter of my people.

2 Oh, that I had a lodging for wayfarers in the wilderness, that I might leave my people, and walk away from them. For all of them are adulterers, an assembly of deceivers.

3 They have bent their tongue (as) their bow of deceit, and not by faithfulness have they prevailed in the land. They go from wickedness to wickedness, but they do not know me, declares the Lord*.

4 Everyone, be on guard from his friend, and do not put trust upon any brother. For every brother greatly overreaches, and every friend walks around in slander.

5 Each one will trifle with his friend, and they do not speak the truth. They train their tongue (in) speaking a lie. They weary themselves doing wrong.

6 You sit in the middle of treachery. In treachery, they have refused knowledge of me, declares the Lord*.

7 Therefore, thus says the Lord* of hosts, Now I am testing them, and I will try them, for how else should I act because of the daughter of my people?

8 Their tongue is a sharpened arrow. It speaks deceit. With his mouth, he will speak shalom with his friend, but in his inner thoughts, he is setting an ambush.

9 Should I not punish them because of all these (things), declares the Lord*. When in a nation that is like this (one), should I not avenge myself?

10 Upon the mountains I will lift up weeping and a lamentation, and upon the meadows of the wilderness an elegy, for they are burning without anyone who will pass through, and they do not hear the sound of cattle. Without birds of the heavens or even a beast, they have departed. They have gone.

11 I will make Jerusalem into a heap of ruins, a lair of jackals, and to the cities of Judah, I will appoint devastation, without an inhabitant.

12 Who is the wise man that could understand this, that the mouth of the Lord* is speaking to him, and he would tell about it? Why should the scorched land burn as a wilderness, without anyone passing through?

13 The Lord* says, It is because of abandoning my Torah, which I presented before them, but they did not listen to my voice, nor did they walk in it,

14 But they walked after the stubbornness of their heart, and after the Baals that their fathers taught them.

15 Therefore, thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Here am I, who feeds this people wormwood, and gives them water of gall to drink.

16 Thus I will disperse them among the nations, whom they do not know, they nor their fathers, and I will send the sword after them until I have consumed them.

17 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, Consider diligently, and call for the wailing women, and let them come in, and send for the wise women, and let them come in,

18 And let them hurry up, and lift up a wailing over us, that tears would descend down our eyes, and our eyelids would trickle down water.

19 For the sound of wailing is heard in Zion. How devastated are we! We are very ashamed, for we have abandoned the land, because they have overthrown our dwelling places.

20 So (you) women, hear the word of the Lord*, let your ear receive the word of his mouth, and teach your daughters a lamentation, and each wife a dirge to her friend.

21 For death has come up through our windows. It enters into our citadels, to destroy a child not in a street, young men away from plazas.

22 Say, Thus declares the Lord*, The corpses of men will fall like dung upon the surface of the field, or like a row of fallen grain from behind the reapers, and no one is gathering (them).

23 Thus says the Lord*, Let not the wise man boast about his wisdom, nor the strong man about his strength. Let not the rich man boast about his riches.

24 But instead, let the one who boasts boast about this: (his) insight and knowledge of me, for I am the Lord*, who does acts of kindness, justice, and righteousness on the earth, for I delight in these (things), declares the Lord*.

25 Now the days are coming, declares the Lord*, that I will punish all the circumcised along with the uncircumcised;

26 Upon Egypt, Judah, Edom, the Ammonites, Moab, and those clipped on the temples, who dwell in the wilderness, for all the (other) nations are uncircumcised, but all the house of Israel are uncircumcised at heart.

Chapter 10

Hear the word that the Lord* has spoken to you, O house of Israel.

2 Thus says the Lord*, Do not take instruction by the way of the nations, and do not be dismayed by the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed about them.

3 For the graven images of the peoples are worthless, for he cuts down a tree from the forest, the work of the hands of a woodworker with the ax.

4 With silver and gold he beautifies it. With nails and hammers he strengthens it, so it will not totter.

5 They are like a scarecrow in a cucumber field, for they do not speak. They surely must be carried around, because they do not take steps. Do not have fear about them, for they do no harm, and they do them no good.

6 Where is anyone like you, O Lord*? Great are you, and great is your name as to might.

7 Who would not fear you, O king of the nations? For to you it is fitting, for among all the wise men of the nations, and among all their kingdoms, where is anyone like you?

8 Yes, they are altogether brutish and foolish, (their) discipline is worthless. It is wood.

9 It is from the work of an engraver, and the hands of a goldsmith. (There) is violet fabric and violet cloth for their clothing, the work of wise men, all of them.

10 But the Lord* is the true God. He is the living God, and everlasting king. The earth quakes from his wrath. The nations cannot endure his indignation.

11 Like this will you speak to them, (They) are gods who did not make the heavens and the earth. These (gods) will perish from the earth and from under the heavens.

12 He made the earth by his strength, he established the world by his wisdom, and he stretched out the heavens by his understanding.

13 At the sound of his uttering came the roar of water in the heavens, and he made rising mist ascend from the ends of the earth. He made lightning for the rain, and the wind came out from his storehouses.

14 Everyone is dull-hearted, apart from knowledge. Every goldsmith brings shame because of an image, for his molten image is a lie, and there is no breath in it.

15 They are worthless, a work to be mocked. In the time of their visitation they will perish.

16 Not like these is the portion of Jacob, for he is the creator of all, and Jacob is the tribe of his property. The Lord* of hosts is his name.

17 Pack your bundle away from the land, (you) who are dwelling in a state of siege.

18 For thus says the Lord*, Now I am the one who slings out the inhabitants of the land at this time, and I press hard upon them, in order that they may be discovered.

19 Woe to me because of my fracture! My wound is severe, but I have said, Indeed, this is an injury, but I must bear it.

20 My tent is destroyed, and all the tent cords are torn apart. My sons have gone away from me, and they are not (here). There is no one who will stretch out my tent, or raise up my tent curtains.

21 For the shepherds are dull-hearted, because they have not sought the Lord*. Therefore, they do not prosper, and all their flock is scattered.

22 Now the sound of a report is coming in, a great shaking from a northern land, making the cities of Judah a devastation, a lair of jackals.

23 I know, O Lord*, that a man may not have his (own) way. It is not for the one who walks that he should order his (own) steps.

24 O Lord*, chasten me, but in justice, not in your anger, lest you diminish me.

25 Pour out your wrath upon the nations that do not know you, and upon the families that do not call on your name, for they have devoured Jacob. Yes, they devoured him, and destroyed him, and ravaged his habitation.

Chapter 11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord*, saying:

2 Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to everyone of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem,

3 And say to them, Thus says the Lord* God of Israel. Cursed is the one who does not obey the words of this covenant,

4 Which I commanded your fathers in the day I brought them forth from the land of Egypt, out of the iron furnace, saying, Pay attention to my voice and do them, according to all I have commanded you, and you will be a people to me, and I will be as God to you,

5 In order to carry out the vow that I vowed to your fathers, to give to them a land flowing with milk and honey, as today. So I answered and said, Amen Lord*.

6 Then the Lord* said to me, Proclaim all of these words in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem, saying, Hear the words of this covenant, and do them.

7 For I clearly gave charge to your fathers on the day that I brought them up from the land of Egypt, and until this day, rising up early and charging (them), saying, Pay attention to my voice.

8 But they did not pay attention, neither did they incline their ears, but each one each one walked along by the stubbornness of their own evil heart, so I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded (them) to do, but they have not done.

9 Then the Lord* said to me, A conspiracy is found among everyone of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

10 They have returned to the iniquity of their fathers, who refused to hear my words, but walked after foreign gods to serve them. The house of Israel and Judah have violated my covenant that I made with their fathers.

11 Therefore, thus says the Lord*, Now I am bringing distress to them, which they will not be able to get away from, and they will cry out to me, but I will not listen to them.

12 Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go out, and they will cry out to the gods whom they have sent out offerings to, yet they will not deliver salvation to them in the time of their distress.

13 For as numerous as your cities are your gods, O Judah, and as numerous as the streets of Jerusalem are the altars of shame you have placed, altars to offer up smoke to Baal.

14 So you, do not pray on behalf of this people, and do not lift up a cry or a prayer on their behalf, for I will not be one who listens when they cry out to me about their distress.

15 What does my beloved have in my house? Many are her wicked deeds. Let them take away the sacred flesh from you, for when you are wicked, then you will be jubilant.

16 A luxuriant olive tree, beautiful, with fruit visible, the Lord* calls your name. To the sound of a great storm, he kindles a fire over it, and its branches break.

17 The Lord* of hosts who established you, has spoken misery on you, on account of the wickedness of those of the house of Israel and of Judah that they did to themselves, provoking me to anger by offering up smoke to Baal.

18 The Lord* made me understand, and I understood, since he had shown me their practices,

19 But I was like a choice lamb led to the slaughter, and did not know that they had planned devices against me, saying, Let us destroy the tree bearing its fruit. Let us cut him off from the land of the living, so his name will be remembered no more.

20 O Lord* of hosts, righteous judge, who tries the emotions and the heart, let me see your vengeance over them, for I have revealed my cause to you.

21 Therefore, thus says the Lord* against the men of Anathoth, those who seek your life, saying, Do not prophesy in the name of the Lord*, and you will not die by our hands.

22 Therefore, thus says the Lord* of hosts, Here am I, who will bring punishment upon them. The young men will die by the sword, their sons and daughters will die by famine,

23 And there will not be a remnant of them, for I will bring misery to the men of Anathoth the year of their punishment.

Chapter 12

Righteous are you, O Lord*, although I make a complaint. Surely I will state causes to you. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? All of the most treacherous are at ease.

2 You have planted them. They have also taken root. They grow and have even produced fruit. You are near to their mouths, but far from their affections.

3 But you, O Lord*, know me. You see me, and you have examined my heart towards you. Drag them away as a flock for slaughter, and set them apart for the day of slaughter.

4 How long must the land mourn, and the herb of every field wither? Because of the wickedness of the inhabitants, the animals and fowl are snatched away, for they said, He does not see our ultimate end.

5 For you ran with the footmen, and it made you weary, so how can you hotly contend with the horses, and you trust in the land of shalom, but how will you do on the majestic (banks) of the Jordan?

6 For even your brothers, and the house of your father, even they have dealt deceitfully with you. They also have cried out loudly after you. Do not trust in them because they speak good things to you.

7 I have abandoned my house. I have forsaken my inheritance. I have given the love of my soul into the grasp of her enemies.

8 My inheritance is to me like a lion in the forest. She has roared against me with her voice. Therefore, I have hated her.

9 My inheritance is to me as a multi-colored bird of prey; birds of prey are circling about her. Go and gather all the beasts of the field. Bring them to devour!

10 Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard. They have trampled down my portion of land. They have made the property that I delighted in into a desolate wilderness.

11 It has set her for devastation. She mourns by me, devastated. All of the land is in ruins, for there is no one to take (it) to heart.

12 Over all the barren places in the wilderness, the destroyers have come, for the sword of the Lord* is devouring (one) end of the land to the other. There is no shalom for all flesh.

13 They sow wheat, but they reap thorns. They take possessions that do not profit. So be ashamed of your yield, on account of the burning anger of the Lord*.

14 Thus says the Lord*, Upon all my wicked neighbors, who have done harm to the property that I appointed my people Israel, to inherit: Now I will pluck them from their land, and pluck the house of Judah from among them.

15 Then after I have plucked them up, I will relent, and have mercy on them, and return each one to his inheritance, and each one to his land.

16 And if they will diligently learn the ways of my people to vow in my name, the Lord* lives, as they taught my people to vow to Baal, then they will be established in the midst of my people.

17 But if they will not listen, then I will surely pluck up and destroy that nation, declares the Lord*.

Chapter 13

Thus said the Lord* to me, Go and buy a waistcloth of flax for yourself, and place it upon your loins, but do not put it into water.

2 So I bought the waistcloth according to the word of the Lord*, and I placed (it) upon my loins.

3 Then came the word of the Lord* to me again, saying:

4 Take the waistcloth that you bought that is upon your loins, and get yourself up to the Euphrates, and hide it there in the cleft of the cliff.

5 So I went and hid it at the Euphrates according to the command of the Lord* to me.

6 Then it was after a span of many days, that the Lord* said to me, Get yourself up to the Euphrates, and take from there the waistcloth that I commanded you to hide there.

7 So I went (to) the Euphrates and dug, and took the waistcloth from the place where I hid it, but now it was ruined, and good for nothing.

8 Then the word of the Lord* came to me, saying:

9 Thus says the Lord*, In like manner, I will destroy the majesty of Judah, and the great majesty of Jerusalem.

10 This wicked people, who refuse to hear my word, who walk in the stubbornness of their heart, and walk after foreign gods to serve them, and bow down to them in worship, are like this waistcloth, which is good for nothing.

11 For like when a waistcloth clings to the loins of a man, so would I have caused the house of Israel to cling to me, declares the Lord*, to be as a people for me, for the name, for the praise, and for the renown, but they would not listen.

12 So you will say to them this word, Thus says the Lord* God of Israel, Every wineskin will be full of wine, and they will say to you, Do we not know for sure that every wineskin will be full of wine?

13 Then you will say to them, Thus says the Lord*, Here am I, filling all the inhabitants of this land, the kings who sit on the throne of David, the priests, the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Judah. Drunkenness!

14 I will then dash each one with his brother to pieces, and fathers and sons together, declares the Lord*. I will neither spare, nor pity, nor have compassion over their destruction.

15 Listen, and extend an ear. Do not be haughty, for the Lord* has spoken.

16 Give glory to the Lord* your God, before he brings darkness, and your feet stumble on the hills of twilight, so you wait for the light, but he sets it to the death-shadow. He will set it for thick darkness.

17 But if you will not hear it, my soul will weep in secret places because of pride, and it will weep profusely. Yes, my eyes will flow down tears, for the flock of the Lord* has been taken captive.

18 Say to the king and the queen-mother, Become humble! Step down! For the crown of your splendor has come down from your heads.

19 The cities of the Negev are closed off, and there is no one who can open (them). Judah is carried away, all of it, carried away completely.

20 Lift up your eyes and see who comes in from the North. Where is the flock given to you, your precious sheep?

21 What will you say when he punishes you, and you teach them about yourself, (from) intimate friends to the chief? Will not pain seize you, like a woman in travail?

22 When you say in your heart, Why do these things happen to me, it is in the multitude of your iniquity (that) your skirts have been uncovered, your heels have suffered violence.

23 Can an Ethiopian change his skin, or a leopard his markings? Will you indeed be able to do right with those who have learned evil?

24 So I will scatter them like chaff passing over due to the wind of the desert.

25 This is your lot, the portion measured to you from me, declares the Lord*, since you forgot me, and you trusted in a lie.

26 So I am stripping off your skirt over your face, and your disgrace will appear.

27 I have seen your adultery and your neighing, the wickedness of your fornication, your detestable practices upon the hills in the fields. Woe to you, O Jerusalem! How long will you remain unclean?

Chapter 14

The word of the Lord* that came to Jeremiah concerning the matter of the dearths.

2 Judah mourns, and her gates languish. They have become dark for the land, and an outcry of Jerusalem has ascended.

3 Their nobles send out their commoners for water. They come upon cisterns. They find no water. They go back, Their vessels are empty. They are ashamed and humiliated, and they cover their head.

4 Because the ground is depleted, for no rain has come upon the land, the farmers are ashamed. They cover their head.

5 For even the doe in the field gives birth and leaves, for there is no grass,

6 And the wild donkeys stand on bare places. They pant for breath like jackals. Their eyes look longingly, but there is no herbage.

7 Though our sins testify against us, O Lord*, act for the sake of your name, for our apostasies are many. We have sinned against you.

8 O hope of Israel, its savior in a time of distress, why will you be like a sojourner in the land, or a wayfarer turned aside to spend the night?

9 Why must you be like an astonished man, like a valiant man not able to deliver? But you are in the midst of us, O Lord*, and your name has been given to us. Do not abandon us!

10 Thus says the Lord* to this people, Yes, they have loved to totter. They have not held their feet in check, so the Lord* does not accept them now. He will remember their wrongdoing, and will punish their sin.

11 Then the Lord* said to me, Do not pray on behalf of this people for well-being.

12 When they fast, I will not listen to their cry, and when they offer a burnt offering and a grain offering, I will not accept them, for by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, I will consume them.

13 Then I said, O Lord God*, see, the prophets say to them, You will not see the sword, and famine will not happen to you, for I will truly give shalom to you in this place.

14 But the Lord* said to me, The prophets are prophesying a lie in my name. I did not send them, neither did I command them, nor have I spoken to them. They prophesy to you a false vision, a divination, and worthlessness, and those (things) of the deceitfulness of their heart.

15 Therefore, thus says the Lord* against the prophets that prophesy in my name and I did not send them, and they say, Sword and famine will not happen to this land, By the sword and by famine those prophets will be finished off,

16 And the people to whom they prophesy will be thrown into the streets of Jerusalem from the presence of the famine and the sword, and there will not be an undertaker for them; them, their wives, their sons, or their daughters. Yes, I will pour out their wickedness upon them.

17 Now you will speak to them this word, Tears will flow down my eyes night and day, and they will not stop, because of a huge fracture. The virgin daughter of my people has been crushed, a very severe wound.

18 If I go out in the field then, look, those have been slain (by) the sword, and if I come into the city then, look, diseases of famine, so that even a prophet, even a priest, travel toward a land that they do not know.

19 Have you indeed rejected Judah? Does your soul abhor Zion? Why do you strike us, yet there is no healing for us, waiting for shalom, yet there is nothing good, and for a time of healing, but look, terror!

20 We know, O Lord*, that our transgression is (as) the offense of our fathers, for we have sinned against you.

21 Do not spurn (us), for the sake of your name. Do not treat the throne of your glory with disdain, Remember, do not break your covenant with us.

22 Are there any among the false gods of the nations who cause it to rain, and then the skies give copious showers? Is it not you, O Lord* our God? So we wait for you, because it is you. You do all of these (things).

Chapter 15

The Lord* said to me, If Moses and Samuel would stand in front of me, my desire would not be for this people. Send them out of my presence, and let them go away,

2 And if they say to you, Where will we go away (to), then you will say to them, Thus says the Lord*, Whoever is for death, to death, whoever is for the sword, to the sword, whoever is for famine, to famine, and whoever is for captivity, to captivity.

3 I will appoint four ways for them: to slay (them) with the sword, to drag (them) by the dogs, and to consume and destroy (them) by the birds of the heavens, and the beasts of the earth.

4 Thus I will make them for a terror to all the kingdoms of the earth on account of Manasseh, son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, concerning what he did in Jerusalem.

5 For who will have pity on you, O Jerusalem, and who will lament for you, and who will turn aside to ask for shalom for you?

6 You have forsaken me, declares the Lord*. You are going backwards, so I will stretch out my hand upon you, and bring you to ruin, I am weary of pitying you.

7 So I will scatter them with a pitch-fork in the gates of the land. I make (them) childless. I cause my people to perish. They do not repent from their ways.

8 Their widows are more numerous to me than the sands of the sea. I bring to them a violent destroyer at noon against the mother of a young man. I bring down sudden panic and terror upon her.

9 The mother of seven grows feeble. She breathes out her life. Her sun comes in while it is still daytime. She is ashamed and abashed, as I give their remnant to the sword in the face of their enemies, declares the Lord*.

10 Woe to me, O my mother, that you gave birth to me, a man of strife and contention to all the land. I have not lent, and they have not lent to me. Each one of them has cursed me.

11 The Lord* says, Have I not strengthened you for good? Have I not caused the enemy to make a treaty with you in a time of misery and distress?

12 Who can break iron, iron from the North, or bronze?

13 I will give away your wealth and your storehouses for spoil without price, and it is because of all your sins, even throughout all your territories,

14 And I will make you serve your enemies in a land you do not know, for a fire is kindled in my anger. It is burning against you.

15 O Lord*, you know! Remember me, visit me, and take vengeance for me from my persecutors. Do not take me away at the end of your patience.

Know that I have borne reproach on your behalf.

16 Your words appeared, and I consumed them. Your words were for joy and the gladness of my heart, for your name was named upon me, O Lord* God of hosts.

17 I do not sit in the council of merry-makers, yet I rejoice. Because of your power, I dwell alone, for you have filled me (with) indignation.

18 Why has my pain endured, and my wound festered? It refuses healing. Surely you are to me like a deceptive stream, unsure waters.

19 Therefore, thus says the Lord*, If you will repent, then I will bring you back. You will stand in front of me, and if you bring forth the precious out of the worthless, you will be as my spokesman. They may return to you, but you must not return to them.

20 I will give you to this people for a fortified wall of bronze, and they will do battle against you, but they will not prevail against you, for I will be with you to save you, and rescue you, declares the Lord*.

21 Yes, I will rescue you from the hand of the evil ones, and I will ransom you from the palm of those who strike terror.

Chapter 16

The word of the Lord* came to me, saying:

2 Do not take a wife for yourself, and you must not have sons or daughters in this place.

3 For thus says the Lord* concerning the sons and daughters who were born in this place, and their mothers who gave birth to them, and their fathers who fathered them in this land,

4 They will die from deaths of diseases. They will not be lamented, nor will they be buried. They will be for dung on the surface of the ground. They will be finished off by sword and by famine, and their corpses will be for food for the birds of the heavens and the beasts of the earth.

5 For thus says the Lord*, Do not enter into the house of mourning, do not go along lamenting, and do not show grief for them, for I have removed my shalom away from this people, along with kindness and compassion, declares the Lord*.

6 The greatest and the least will die in this land, They will not be buried, nor will they lament for them, nor will they cut themselves, nor will they make a baldness for them.

7 They will not break (bread) because of mourning for his consolation over the dead, neither will they provide them water, a cup of consolation regarding his father and his mother.

8 Do not enter a house of feast to sit with them, to eat and to drink.

9 For thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Now, before your eyes, and in your days, I will cause the sound of rejoicing and the sound of joy, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, to cease from this place.

10 So it will be when you declare to this people all these words, that they will say to you, Why does the Lord* speak over us all this great distress, and what are our iniquities, and what are our sins that we have sinned against the Lord* our God?

11 Then you will say to them, On the grounds that your fathers abandoned me, and went after foreign gods, served them, and bowed down in worship to them, and they deserted me, and did not observe my Torah,

12 But you have been (so) wicked, doing worse than your fathers, and here you are, each one walking after the stubbornness of his wicked heart, not obeying me.

13 So I will cast you away from this land, upon the land that you do not know, you or your fathers, and you will serve gods there day and night, where I will not show favor to you.

14 Therefore, now come the days, declares the Lord*, when one will no longer say, The Lord* lives, who brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

15 Instead, The Lord* lives who brought the children of Israel out of the land of the North, and all the lands where he banished them, for I will bring them back upon their ground, which I gave to their fathers.

16 Now I am sending for many fishermen, declares the Lord*, and they will catch them, and I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt for them, over every mountain and every hill, and out of the clefts of rocks.

17 For my eyes are upon all their ways. They are not concealed from my face, and their iniquity is not hidden from my eyes.

18 So I will first recompense the double of their iniquity and their sin, because of their defilement of my land by the busts of their detestable (things), and their abominations that fill my inheritance.

19 O Lord*, my strength, my fortress, and my refuge in a day of distress, the nations will come to you from the ends of the earth, and they will say, Surely our fathers took possession of a lie, worthless and nothing of benefit to them.

20 Did man make gods for himself that were not gods?

21 Therefore, here am I, who will enlighten them on this occasion. I will cause them to know my power and my strength, and they will know that my name is the Lord*.

Chapter 17

The sin of Judah is written with a stylus of iron with a point of a diamond. It is engraved upon the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of your altars,

2 While their children remember their altars and their Ashera poles, by the luxuriant trees upon the high hills.

3 O my mountain in the land, I will give your wealth, all your storehouses, for plunder, because of your high places, because of sin inside all your borders.

4 You must let go, and by yourself, what I have given to you according to your inheritance, and I will cause you to serve your enemies in the land that you do not know, for you have kindled a fire in my anger, forever burning.

5 Thus says the Lord*, Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind, makes flesh his strength, and turns his heart away from the Lord*.

6 For he will be like a bush in the desert. He does not see when he is entering into a good (place), and he settles down in the parched places of the wilderness, a land of salt plain, where you should not dwell.

7 Blessed is the man that will trust in the Lord*, and the Lord* will be his confidence.

8 For he will be like a tree planted near water, and he will spread out his roots near a stream. He will not fear that he entering into a hot place, for his leaf will be fresh, and in a year of dearth he will not be anxious, nor will he cease from producing fruit.

9 The heart is deceitful above all, and it is incurable. Who can know it?

10 I am the Lord* who searches the heart, who examines the affections, also to recompense to each one according to his way, the fruit of his deeds.

11 A partridge that gathers together as a brood, but does not hatch, that is the one who makes riches, but unjustly. In the middle of his days, it will leave him, and at his end will be folly.

12 A throne of glory on high from former times is the place of our sanctuary.

13 O Lord*, the hope of Israel, all who have forsaken you will be ashamed. Those who revolt against me will be written about in the land, for they have forsaken the Lord*, the fountain of living water.

14 Heal me, O Lord*, and I will be healed. Save me, and I will be saved, for you are my praise.

15 Here they are, saying to me, Where is the word of the Lord*? Let it come, please.

16 But I have not rushed away from shepherding after you, and you know I have not desired a day of sickness. The utterance of my lips is before your face.

17 Do not be a terror to me. You are my refuge in a time of distress.

18 Let my pursuers be ashamed, but do not let me be ashamed. Let them be dismayed, but do not let me be dismayed. Bring a day of misery on them, and break them with double the crushing.

19 Thus said the Lord* to me, Go and stand in the gate of the sons of the people, which the rulers of Judah enter into and go out of, and in all the gates of Jerusalem,

20 And you will say to them, Hear the word of the Lord*, O rulers of Judah, all of Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem who enter through these gates,

21 Thus says the Lord*, Take care for yourselves, and do not carry a load on the Sabbath day, or bring them through the gates of Jerusalem.

22 You must also not bring a load out of your house on the Sabbath day, and you must not do any business, so you will sanctify the Sabbath day according to what I commanded your fathers.

23 Yet they did not listen, nor extend their ear, but they stiffened their neck, not obeying or taking instruction.

24 But it will come to pass, that if you will carefully listen to me, declares the Lord*, to not bring a load through the gates of the city on the Sabbath day, and to sanctify the Sabbath day, to not do any work on it,

25 The kings and princes sitting on the throne of David, will come through the gates of this city, those who ride in the chariot and on horses, they and their princes, men of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem, and they will dwell in this city forever.

26 They will come from the cities of Judah, those that surround Jerusalem, from the land of Benjamin, from the lowland, from the mountain, and from the Negev. There will be those who bring a burnt offering, a sacrifice, a grain offering, and frankincense, and who bring a thank-offering to the house of the Lord*.

27 But if you will not listen to me, to sanctify the Sabbath day, and not carry a load and come through the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its gates, it will consume the palaces of Jerusalem, and it will not be extinguished.

Chapter 18

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord*, saying:

2 Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will declare my word to you.

3 So I went down to the potter's house, and he was doing work there on the potter's wheel.

4 The vessel that was made of clay by the hand of the potter was marred, so he repeated the process, and made for himself another vessel that was pleasing in the sight of the potter to do.

5 Then the word of the Lord* came to me, saying:

6 Am I not able to do to you as this potter, O house of Israel, declares the Lord*. Behold, as the clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel!

7 In one moment, I may speak upon a nation or kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy (it),

8 But that nation repents from its wickedness that I spoke concerning it, then I will relent as to the misery that I thought to make for it.

9 Also, in a moment, I may speak upon a nation or kingdom, to build up, and to plant,

10 But it does wickedness in my sight, to not listen to my voice, then I will relent as to the good that I spoke to do it.

11 Now speak to everyone of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus says the Lord*, I am now fashioning misery and devising a plan against you. Repent now, each one from his wicked way, and make well your ways and your practices.

12 But they will say, It is hopeless, for we walk after our own plans, and each (of us) will continue to follow the stubbornness of his wicked heart.

13 Therefore, thus says the Lord*, Ask among the nations, Who has heard anything like these things? The virgin of Israel has done a very horrible thing.

14 Will the snow of Lebanon depart on account of the rock of the plain, or will cool streams be forsaken for foreign waters?

15 For my people have forgotten me. They offer sacrifices to worthless (things). They have caused them to stumble along their ways, the enduring paths, to walk the side paths, a way not cast up (high),

16 To put their land to ruin, a hissing forever. Anyone who passes by it will be appalled and wag his head.

17 Like a wind from the East, I will scatter them in front of the enemy. I will show the back of the neck, and not the face in the day of their calamity.

18 They said, Come, and let us devise schemes against Jeremiah, for the Torah will not vanish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise man, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us strike him by the tongue, and let us not pay attention to any of his words.

19 Pay attention to me, O Lord*, and listen to the voice of my opposition.

20 Do they repay evil instead of good, that they have dug a pit for me?

Remember when I stood in front of you, to speak good over them, to turn back your wrath from them.

21 Therefore, appoint their children to famine, deliver them to the power of the sword, let their women be bereaved and widows, and let their men be put to death, their young men struck down by the sword in battle.

22 Let a cry be heard from their houses when a marauding band comes upon them suddenly, for they have dug a pit to capture me, and they have hidden snares for my feet.

23 But, O Lord*, you know their counsel against me for death. Do not cover over their iniquity, do not blot out their sin from before you, and let them be those who stumble before you. In a time of your anger, deal with them.

Chapter 19

Thus says the Lord*, Walk along, and get an earthen vessel of a potter, and some of the elders of the people, and some of the elders of the priests,

2 And go out to the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, where the entrance of the Potsherd Gate is, and proclaim the words that I speak to you.

3 You will say, Hear the word of the Lord, O kings of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem, thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Here am I, bringing misery upon this place, so that all that hear it, their ears will tingle,

4 For the reason that they have abandoned me, treated this place as foreign, and made sacrifices smoke in it to foreign gods whom they do not know, they nor their fathers, nor the kings of Judah, and filled this place with the blood of the innocents.

5 They built the high places of Baal for burning their children in the fire (as) burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command, nor speak, nor did it come up to my mind.

6 Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord*, that this place will no longer be called Tophet, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, for then it will be called the Valley of the Slaughter.

7 So I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place, and I will cause them to fall by the sword in front of their enemies, and by the hand of those who desire their lives. I will give their carcasses for food for the bird of the heavens, and the beast of the earth.

8 I will set this city for ruin, and for hissing. Everyone who passes by it will be appalled, and will hiss over all its wounds,

9 And I will feed them with the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and everyone will eat the flesh of his friend, in the siege and the stress that their enemies and those that desire their lives will press upon them.

10 So you will break the flask in the sight of the men walking with you,

11 And you will say to them, Thus says the Lord* of hosts, In this manner I will shatter this people and this city, just as the vessel of the potter shatters, which cannot be mended again. In Tophet they will bury until there is no place (left) to bury.

12 So will I do to this place, declares the Lord*, and to its inhabitants, yes, to make this city as Tophet,
13 And the houses of Jerusalem, and of the kings of Judah will be unclean as the place Tophet, for all the houses where they made sacrifices smoke upon their roofs to all the host of the heavens, and offered drink offerings to foreign gods.
14 Then Jeremiah came from Tophet, where the Lord* sent him to prophesy, and he stood in the courtyard of the house of the Lord*, and said to all the people,
15 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Now I am bringing to this city, and to all the cities, all the misery that I spoke over it, because they stiffened their neck, to not hear my words.

Chapter 20

Now Pashhur, son of Immer, the priest, who was also prince-overseer of the house of the Lord*, heard Jeremiah prophesy these words,
2 And Pashhur struck Jeremiah the prophet, and put him upon the stocks that were in the upper gate of Benjamin, which was by the house of the Lord*.
3 It was on the next day that Pashhur brought out Jeremiah from the stocks, and Jeremiah said to him, The Lord* has not called your name Pashhur, but Magor-Missabib [terror on every side].
4 For thus says the Lord*, Here I am, giving you over for terror to you, and for all who love you, and they will fall by the sword of their enemies, and your eyes will see (it). I will give all of Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will carry them captive to Babylon, and strike them down with the sword.
5 I will give all the wealth of the city, all the produce, all the precious things, and the storehouses of the kings of Judah into the hand of their enemies, and they will take them as spoil, carry them off, and bring them to Babylon.
6 Now you, Pashhur, and all who dwell in your house, will go into captivity. You will go to Babylon, and there you will die and be buried, you, and all who love you, whom you prophesied falsely to.
7 You deceived me, O Lord*, and I was deceived. You were too strong for me, and you prevailed. I was for derision every day, all of it, for those who mocked me.
8 For as often as I speak, I cry out, or I proclaim, Violence and destruction, then the word of the Lord* becomes for disgrace and derision to me all day.

9 I have even said, I will not bring it to mind, or I will not speak any longer in his name, but it will be in my heart as a kindled fire that is restrained in my bones, and I make myself weary containing it, and I cannot.

10 For I have heard the whispering of many, Magor-Missabib! Be an informer, and we will report it. Every man of my friendship is watching my flanks, (saying), Perhaps he may be deceived, and we will prevail against him, and we will take our revenge from him.

11 But the Lord* is an awe-inspiring valiant man to me. Therefore, those who pursue me will stumble, and will not prevail. They are very ashamed, for they do not prosper, an everlasting humiliation that will never be forgotten.

12 You, O Lord* of hosts, who examines the righteous, who sees the affections and the heart, let me see your vengeance over them, for to you I have made known my cause.

13 Sing to the Lord*! Praise the Lord*, for he has saved the life of the poor, out of the hand of those who do evil.

14 Cursed be the day when I was born! Let the day my mother gave birth to me not be blessed.

15 Cursed be the man who brought tidings to my father, saying, A male child is born to you, who surely made him rejoice.

16 So let that man be as the cities that the Lord* overthrew, and did not relent, and let him hear a cry of distress in the morning, and an alarm in the noontime.

17 For he did not put me to death from the womb, then my mother could have been my grave, or her womb be forever (in) a pregnant state,

18 Why did this happen, that I came forth from the womb to see trouble and sorrow, and that my days would be spent in shame?

Chapter 21

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord*, when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur, son of Melchiah, and Zephaniah, son of Maaseiah, the priest, saying:

2 Seek out the Lord* now on our behalf, for Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, fights against us. Perhaps the Lord* will do for us according to all his wonderful acts, and he will withdraw from us.

3 Jeremiah said to them, Thus will you say to Zedekiah,

4 Thus says the Lord* God of Israel, Here I am, turning back the weapons of war that are in your hand, those with which you engage in battle with the

king of Babylon, and the Chaldeans, those who close in upon you from outside of the wall, and I will gather them into the middle of this city.

5 I will do battle against you by a stretched out hand and a strong arm, and in anger, rage, and great wrath,

6 And I will strike down the inhabitants of this city, mankind and animals. They will be killed by a great pestilence.

7 After that, declares the Lord*, I will give Zedekiah, king of Judah, those who serve him, the people, even those who remain in this city from the pestilence, sword, and famine, into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, and the hand of their enemies and those that desire their lives. He will strike them down according to the measure of the sword. He will not have pity on them, nor will he spare or have mercy.

8 Then to this people, you will say, Thus says the Lord*, Now I am putting before you the way of life, and the way of death.

9 He who remains in this city will die, by sword or famine or pestilence, but he who goes out, and falls in with the Chaldeans, those who close in upon you, will live, and he will have his life for a spoil.

10 For I have set my face against this city for harm, and not for good, declares the Lord*. It will be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will burn it with fire.

11 Regarding the house of the king of Judah, hear the word of the Lord*;

12 O house of David, thus says the Lord*, Judge continually (in) justice, and rescue those robbed out of the hand of the oppressor, lest my wrath go out as fire, and no one can extinguish (it), due to the presence of the wickedness of your deeds.

13 Now I am coming to you who dwell in the valley, the rock of the plateau, declares the Lord*, who say, Who can descend upon us, and who can come into our dwelling places.

14 Yet I will visit upon you according to the fruit of your works, declares the Lord*, and I will kindle a fire in its forest, and it will consume everything around it.

Chapter 22

Thus says the Lord*, Go down to the house of Judah, and speak this word there,

2 And you will say, Hear the word of the Lord, O king of Judah, who sits on the throne of David, you, your servants, and your people who enter through these gates,

3 Thus says the Lord*, Do justice and righteous acts, and rescue those who were robbed out of the hand of the oppressor. Do not mistreat or do violence to the stranger, fatherless, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.

4 For if you will carefully do this word, then kings sitting on the throne of David, riding on chariot and horses, he, his servants, and his people, will enter through the gates of this house.

5 But if you will not obey these words, I swear by myself, declares the Lord*, that this house will be for a desolation.

6 For thus says the Lord* concerning the king of Judah, You are Gilead to me, the top of Lebanon, but surely I will set you (as) a wilderness, cities not inhabited.

7 I will dedicate destroyers against you, each one with his weapons, and they will cut down from the best of your cedars, and cast (them) down on the fire.

8 Then many nations will pass by this city, and everyone will say to his friend, Why did the Lord* do so to this great city,

9 And they will say, For the reason that they abandoned the covenant of the Lord* their God, and bowed down to foreign gods, and served them.

10 Do not weep for the dead, and do not show grief for him. Weep profusely for he who goes into exile, because he will not return, nor see the land of his birth again.

11 For thus says the Lord* concerning Shallum, son of Josiah, king of Judah, the king replacing Josiah, his father, who went out from this place. He will never return there.

12 For in the place where they carried him into exile, he will die, and he will no longer see this land.

13 Woe (to) the one who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his roof-chambers by injustice, who works by means of his neighbor for nothing, for he does not give his wage to him,

14 Who says, I will build me a large house and spacious roof-chambers, and he made wide its windows, covering (it) in cedar, and painting (it) in vermilion.

15 Do you reign because you strove to excel in cedar? Did your father not eat, drink, and do just and righteous acts, before it was good for him?

16 He was pleading the cause of the poor and needy before it was good. Did he not know me, declares the Lord*.

17 For your eyes and your mind do not exist, except to achieve by unjust gain, shedding of innocent blood, extortion, and oppression.

18 Therefore, thus says the Lord* against Jehoiakim, son of Josiah, king of Judah, They will not wail for him, Woe, my brother, or Woe, sister. They will not wail for him, Woe, master, or Woe, his majesty.

19 He will be buried (as) the burial of a donkey, dragged and thrown beyond the gates of Jerusalem.

20 Go up to Lebanon and cry out, utter your voice in Bashan, and cry out from the Abarim, for all your lovers are crushed.

21 I spoke to you in your prosperity. You said, I will not listen. This has been your way from your youth, that you have not listened to my voice.

22 The wind will drive away all your shepherds, and your lovers will go into captivity, for then you will be ashamed and humiliated from all your wickedness.

23 O dwellers in Lebanon, you who are nested in the cedars, how pitied will you be when pangs come to you, writhing as in childbirth.

24 (As) I live, declares the Lord*, if (you). Coniah, son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet ring upon my right hand, yet would I pull you off from there.

25 So I will give you into the hand of those who desire your life, and those that you will be in dread of from the presence of them, yes, into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, and the hand of the Chaldeans.

26 Then I will hurl you and your mother who gave birth to you upon a foreign land where you were not born, and there you will die,

27 But regarding the land where they lift up their desire to return, there they will not return.

28 Is this man Coniah, a despised, shattered vessel, an ornament that is not desirable? Why are he and his offspring cast out, and thrown upon a land that they do not know?

29 O land, land, land! Hear the word of the Lord*.

30 Thus says the Lord*, Write this one childless, a man who will not prosper in his lifetime, for none of his offspring will prosper, who will sit on the throne of David or rule in Judah any longer.

Chapter 23

Woe (to) shepherds who destroy and scatter the flock of my pasturage, declares the Lord*.

2 Therefore, thus says the Lord* God of Israel concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people, You have scattered my people, and have thrust

them out, but you have not attended to them. Now I am attending to you with the evil of your works, declares the Lord*.

3 So I will gather the remainder of my flock out of all the lands where I banished them, and I will cause them to dwell on their pasture, and they will bear fruit and multiply.

4 I will raise up shepherds over them, who will shepherd them, and they will no longer be afraid, nor be dismayed, declares the Lord*, and they will be accounted for.

5 Now the days are coming, declares the Lord*, that I will raise up a righteous sprout of David, and a king will reign, prosper, and do justice and righteousness in the land.

6 In his days, Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell in security, and this is his name by which he will be called, The Lord* Our Righteousness.

7 Therefore, now the days are coming, declares the Lord*, when they will no longer say, The Lord* lives, who brought the children of Israel up from the land of Egypt,

8 But, The Lord* lives, who brought up and brought in the offspring of the house of Israel from a land to the North, and from all the lands where I banished them, and they will dwell upon their own ground.

9 To the prophets: My heart is broken in my inner being. All my bones have softened. I am like a drunk, or a man whom wine has overcome, from the presence of the Lord*, and his holy words.

10 For the land is full of those who commit adultery, for apart from the presence of God the land mourns. Their course is evil, and their valor is lacking.

11 For even the prophet and the priest are profane. Even in my house I have discovered their wickedness, declares the Lord*.

12 Therefore their path will be as slipperiness to them. They will be thrust out into the darkness, and in it they will fall, for I will bring misery to them (in) the year of their visitation, declares the Lord*.

13 I have also seen unseemliness among the prophets of Samaria. They have prophesied of Baal, and have led my people Israel astray.

14 Among the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing, committing adultery and walking in a lie, and they have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that no one has repented of his wickedness. All of them are to me like Sodom, and its inhabitants like Gomorrah.

15 Therefore, thus says the Lord* of hosts concerning the prophets, Here I am, feeding them wormwood, and I will give them water of gall to drink, for among the prophets of Jerusalem, pollution has gone out to all the land.

16 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, those who bring vain (hope) to you. They speak a vision of their own mind, not from the mouth of the Lord*,

17 Who often say to those who spurn me, The word of the Lord* is, Shalom will come to you, and each one who goes along in the stubbornness of his own mind, they say, Misery will not come upon you.

18 For who has stood in the intimate circle of the Lord*, and has observed and heard his word? Who has paid attention to his word and obeyed?

19 Behold, the storm-wind of the Lord*, the wrath goes out, and the tempest will whirl. It will whirl upon the heads of the wicked.

20 The anger of the Lord* will not turn back until he performs and carries out the purposes of his heart. In the last days, you will diligently consider the meaning of it.

21 I did not send the prophets, yet they ran as messengers. I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied.

22 For if they had stood firm in my counsel, and proclaimed my words to my people, then they would have turned back from their wicked ways, yes, the wickedness of their deeds.

23 Am I God close by, declares the Lord*, and not God from a distance?

24 Can a man conceal himself in hiding places, that I cannot see him, declares the Lord*. Did I not fill the heavens and the earth, declares the Lord*.

25 I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy a lie in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed.

26 How long will there be prophets who prophesy lies at heart, yes, prophets of the deceit of their heart,

27 Those who scheme to cause my people to forget my name, by their dreams that someone recounts to his friend, as when their fathers forgot my name by Baal?

28 The prophet who has a dream, let him recount the dream, and he who has my word, let him speak my word of truth. Why is the straw with the wheat?

29 Is not my word like a fire, declares the Lord*, and like a forge-hammer that will shatter rock?

30 Therefore, here I am against the prophets, declares the Lord*, who steal away my word, each one from his friend.

31 Here I am against the prophets, declares the Lord, who wag their tongues and declare a declaration.

32 Here I am, against those who prophesy false dreams, declares the Lord*, and they recount them, and cause my people to err by their lies and

recklessness, but I did not send them, nor command them. So they will surely not be a benefit to this people, declares the Lord*.

33 If this people, or the prophet, or the priest ask you, saying, What is the oracle of the Lord*, then you will say to them, What oracle, for I will forsake you.

34 For the prophet, or the priest, or the people who say, The oracle of the Lord*, I will also punish that man and his house.

35 Thus will you say, each one of you to his friend, or to his brother, What is the answer of the Lord*, or What did the Lord* speak.

36 But the oracle of the Lord* you will no longer bring to mind, for the oracle will be to each one his (own) word, for you have perverted the words of the living God, the Lord* of hosts, our God.

37 Thus will you say to the prophet, What did the Lord answer you, or What did the Lord* speak.

38 But if you should say, The oracle of the Lord*, therefore, thus says the Lord*, On account of your speaking this word, The oracle of the Lord*, and I sent a message to you, saying, You will not say, The oracle of the Lord*,

39 Therefore, here am I, and I will surely forget you, and I will abandon you, and the city that I gave to you and your fathers, away from my presence,

40 And I will put enduring disgrace upon you, and long-lasting humiliation, that will not be forgotten.

Chapter 24

The Lord* showed me, and observe, two baskets of figs were placed in front of the temple of the Lord*, after Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, carried into exile Jeconiah, son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, the officials of Judah, and the artificers and smiths from Jerusalem, and he brought them to Babylon.

2 One basket of figs were very good, as the first-ripe figs, and one basket of figs were very bad, so bad that they could not be eaten.

3 Then the Lord* said to me, What do you see Jeremiah, and I said, Figs, the good figs, very good, and the bad ones, very bad, so bad they cannot be eaten.

4 This was the word of the Lord* to me, saying:

5 Thus says the Lord* God of Israel, Like the good figs, so will I regard the exiles of Judah, which I sent from this place (to) the land of the Chaldeans, for good,

6 And I will set my eyes on them for good, and bring them back upon this land, and build them up and not tear them down, and plant them and not uproot (them).

7 What is more, I will give to them a heart to know me, for I am the Lord*, and they will be to me for a people, and I will be to them as God, for they will return to me with all their heart.

8 But like the bad figs, so bad they could not be eaten, so thus says the Lord*, I will give up Zedekiah, king of Judah, his officials, and the remainder of Judah, those who remain in the land, and those who dwell in the land of Egypt,

9 And I will make them for a trembling, for a misery to all the kingdoms of the earth, for a disgrace, for a proverb, for a taunt, and for a curse, in all the places where I banish them.

10 I will also send among them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence until they are consumed away from all the land that I gave to them and their fathers.

Chapter 25

The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim, son of Josiah, king of Judah. It was the first year of Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon,

2 Which Jeremiah the prophet spoke over all the people of Judah, and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying:

3 From the thirteenth year of Josiah, son of Amon, king of Judah, and until this day, this twenty-third year, came the word of the Lord* to me, and I spoke to you. I rose up early and spoke, but you did not listen.

4 The Lord* sent all his servants, the prophets, to you, rising up early and sending them, but you did not listen, nor did you extend your ears to hear,

5 Saying, Repent now, each one from his wicked ways, and from the wickedness of your deeds, and (so) dwell upon the land that the Lord* gave to you and your fathers, forever and ever.

6 Do not walk after foreign gods, to serve them, and to bow down in worship to them, and do not provoke me to anger by the works of your hands, so that I should not do harm to you.

7 But you did not listen to me, declares the Lord*, on account of you provoked me to anger by the works of your hands, to your own hurt,

8 Therefore, thus says the Lord* of hosts, Because you have not obeyed my words,

9 Now I am sending (out to), and will take all the clans of the North, declares the Lord*, and to Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, my servant, and I will destroy them, and set them for a horror and derision, and to ruins forever.

10 I will cause to vanish from among them the sound of gladness, and the sound of joy, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the handmill, and the light of the lamp,

11 And all this land will be for a ruin and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

12 Then it will be according to the completion of seventy years, that I will visit upon the king of Babylon and that nation their iniquity, declares the Lord*, yes, upon the land of the Chaldeans, and I will set it for a devastation forever.

13 I will bring upon that land all the words I spoke against it, all that is written in this book that Jeremiah prophesied over all the nations.

14 For many nations and great kings will impose tribute upon them, even them. I will give them their due according to their deeds, and the works of their hands.

15 For thus says the Lord* God of Israel to me, Take this cup of the wine of wrath from my hand, and make all the nations to which I send you, to drink it.

16 They will drink, and they will reel to and fro, and act like a madman, from the presence of the sword that I am sending among them.

17 So I took the cup from the hand of the Lord*, and I made all the nations drink that the Lord* sent me to;

18 Jerusalem, the cities of Judah, and its kings, its princes, to give them over to a ruin, a horror, a hissing, and a curse, as (it is) this day;

19 Pharaoh, king of Egypt, his servants, his princes, and all his people;

20 All the mixed company, all the kings of the land of Uz, and all the kings of the land of the Philistines; Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and the remainder of Ashdod;

21 Edom, Moab, and the Ammonites;

22 All the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon, and the kings of the isles that are across the sea;

23 Dedan, Tema, Buz, and all those clipped on the temples;

24 All the kings of the steppe-dwellers, and all the kings of the mixed company of those who dwell in the wilderness;

25 All the kings of Zimri, all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of Media;

26 All the kings of the North, near and far, each one together with his brother, and all the kingdoms of the land that are upon the face of the earth, and the king of Sheshach will drink (it) after them.

27 Then you will say to them, Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Drink, be drunk, and vomit. Fall down, but you will not rise up, from the presence of the sword that I am sending in your midst.

28 But it will be that when they refuse to take the cup from your hand to drink, that you will say to them, Thus says the Lord* of hosts, You will surely drink.

29 For now in the city that my name is bestowed upon, I am beginning to do harm, but will you indeed be kept exempt? You will not be exempt, because I am summoning a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth, declares the Lord* of hosts.

30 You will prophesy all these words against them, and you will say to them, The Lord* will roar from on high, and from his holy dwelling he will deliver his voice. He will surely roar over his habitation. He will utter a shout like the grape treaders, against all the inhabitants of the earth.

31 The crash comes to the ends of the earth because of the strife of the Lord* against the nations. He enters into contention against all flesh. (As to) the wicked, he will give them over to the sword, declares the Lord*.

32 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, Now distress is going out from nation to nation, and a great tempest will be aroused from the remote parts of the earth,

33 And the slain of the Lord* on that day will be from (one) end even to the (other) end of the earth. They will not be lamented, nor will they be gathered, nor will they be buried. They will be for dung on the surface of the ground.

34 Howl, O shepherds, and cry out! Roll in the dust, O nobles of the flock, for your days are fulfilled for the slaughter, and I will scatter you, and you will fall like a precious ornament.

35 For there is no place of escape for the shepherds, nor deliverance for the nobles of the flock.

36 The sound is the cry of the shepherds, and the howl of the nobles of the flock, for the Lord* is destroying their pasturage,

37 And the meadows of shalom are destroyed, from the presence of burning anger, the anger of the Lord*.

38 Like a young lion, he abandons his lair, for their land will be for a ruin from the presence of the sword of the oppressor, and from the presence of the burning of his anger.

Chapter 26

In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim, son of Josiah, king of Judah, came this word from the Lord*, saying:

2 Thus says the Lord*, Stand in the courtyard of the house of the Lord*, and speak to all the cities of Judah, those who enter in to bow down and worship in the house of the Lord*, all the words that I command you to speak to them. Do not diminish a word.

3 Perhaps they will listen, and each one will turn back from his path of wickedness, and I will regret the harm that I thought to do to them because of the wickedness of their deeds.

4 Then you will say to them, Thus says the Lord*, If you will not listen to me, to walk according to my Torah, which I gave in front of you,

5 To listen regarding the words of my servants, the prophets, whom I sent to you, even rising up early and sending (them), but you did not listen,

6 Then I will make this house as Shiloh, and this city for a curse to all the nations of the earth.

7 The priests, prophets, and all the people listened to Jeremiah, who spoke these words in the house of the Lord*.

8 It was when Jeremiah completed speaking all that the Lord* commanded (him) to speak to all the people, the priests, the prophets, and all the people laid hold of him, saying, You will surely die!

9 Why do you prophesy in the name of the Lord*, saying, This house will be as Shiloh, and this city will be desolate, without an inhabitant? Then all the people congregated against Jeremiah in the house of the Lord*.

10 When the rulers of Judah heard of these matters, they went up from the house of the king (to) the house of the Lord*, and they sat in the entrance of the New Gate of the house of the Lord*.

11 Then the priests and the prophets spoke to the rulers and all the people, saying, The sentence of death (be) upon this man, for he prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your ears.

12 Then Jeremiah spoke to all the rulers, and to all the people, saying, The Lord* sent me to prophesy to this house and to this people, all the words that you heard.

13 So now, amend your ways and your deeds, and listen to the voice of the Lord* your God, and the Lord* may have regret concerning the distress that he spoke against you.

14 Now I, here I am in your hand. Do to me as (is) good and right in your eyes.

15 However, you should surely know if you kill me, that you are putting innocent blood upon yourselves, and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the Lord* has sent me to you, to speak all these words in your ears.

16 Then the rulers and all the people said to the priests and to the prophets, There should be no sentence of death for this man, for in the name of our God he spoke to us.

17 Then some men of the elders of the land rose up, and they spoke to all the congregation of the people, saying:

18 There was Micah the Morashite who prophesied in the days of Hezekiah, king of Judah, and he spoke to all the people of Judah, saying, Thus says the Lord* of hosts, Zion will be plowed (like) a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins, and the temple hill will become (as) the forest mountains.

19 Did Hezekiah, king of Judah, or anyone of Judah cause him to be killed? Did he not fear the Lord*, and mollify the countenance of the Lord*, so that the Lord* turned back from the misery that he spoke against them? So we would be doing a great distress upon our lives.

20 There was also a man who prophesied in the name of the Lord, Urijah, son of Shemaiah, of Kirjath Jearim, and he prophesied against this city and this land like all the words of Jeremiah.

21 King Jehoiakim was listening to his words, and all his warriors, his rulers, and the king desired to put him to death. Urijah heard (of it), he was afraid, and he escaped and entered into Egypt,

22 But King Jehoiakim sent men (to) Egypt, Elnathan, son of Achbor, and (other) men with him to Egypt,

23 And they brought out Urijah from Egypt, brought him to King Jehoiakim, and he struck him down with the sword, and threw his corpse into the graves of the sons of the people.

24 However, the hand of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, was with Jeremiah to not give him over to the hand of the people to kill him.

Chapter 27

In the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah, came this word to Jeremiah from the Lord*, saying:

2 Thus said the Lord* to me, Make for yourself bonds and yoke bars, and put them upon your neck,

3 And send them to the king of Edom, the king of Moab, the king of Tyre, the king of the Ammonites, and the king of Sidon, by the hand of messengers entering Jerusalem to Zedekiah, king of Judah.

4 You will charge them to their lords, saying, Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Thus will you say to your lords,

5 I made the earth, mankind, and the animals that are on the face of the earth, in my great strength, and by my outstretched arm, and I bestowed it to whom it was right in my eyes,

6 And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, my servant, and also I have given him the beasts of the field to serve him.

7 All the nations will serve him, his son, and his grandson, until time comes (for) his land, also him, then many nations will impose tribute on him.

8 It will be that the nation or kingdom that will not serve him, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and with which it will not put its neck in a yoke of the king of Babylon, I will visit upon that nation, declares the Lord*, with the sword, famine, and pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.

9 But you, do not listen to what your prophets, diviners, dreamers, soothsayers, or sorcerers are speaking to you, saying, You will not serve the king of Babylon.

10 For they are prophesying a lie to you, for the sake of removing you from your land, then I would cast you down, and you would perish,

11 But the nation that will put its neck in the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will let it remain in the land, declares the Lord*, and cultivate it, and dwell in it.

12 To Zedekiah, king of Judah, I spoke the same as all these words, saying, Put your necks in a yoke of the king of Babylon, serve him and his people, and live.

13 Why should you and your people die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence? Such as that does the Lord* speak to the nation that will not serve the king of Babylon.

14 Do not listen to the words of the prophets who speak to you, saying, You will not serve the king of Babylon, because they prophesy a lie to you.

15 For I have not commissioned them, declares the Lord*, and they prophesy in my name falsely, so that I would cast you down, and you would perish, you and the prophets who prophesy to you.

16 Also to the priests and to all this people I spoke, saying, Thus says the Lord*, Do not listen to the words of your prophets who prophesy to you, saying, Behold, the vessels of the house of the Lord* are about to be brought back quickly from Babylon, for they prophesy a lie to you.

17 Do not listen to them. Serve the king of Babylon and live. Why should this city be a ruin?

18 If they are prophets, and the word of the Lord* is with them, then let them reach out now to the Lord* of hosts, for the remaining vessels in the house of the Lord*, and the house of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem, to not come into Babylon.

19 For thus says the Lord* of hosts concerning the pillars, the sea, the stands, and the rest of the vessels left in this city,

20 Which Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, did not take when he carried away Jeconiah, son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, into exile from Jerusalem into Babylon, and all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem,

21 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning the remaining vessels of the house of the Lord*, and the house of the king of Judah and Jerusalem,

22 They will be brought into Babylon, and there they will be until the day I visit them, declares the Lord*, and I lift them up, and bring them back to this place.

Chapter 28

It was in that year, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah, in the fourth year, in the fifth month, Hananiah, son of Azur, the prophet, who was from Gibeon, spoke to me in the house of the Lord* in the sight of the priests and all the people, saying:

2 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, saying, I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon.

3 In the span of two years time, I will restore to this place all the vessels of the house of the Lord* that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, took from this place and brought to Babylon,

4 And I am returning Jeconiah, son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the exiles of Judah brought to Babylon, back to this place, declares the Lord*, for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.

5 Then Jeremiah the prophet said to Hananiah the prophet in the sight of all the priests and all the people standing in the house of the Lord*;

6 Jeremiah, the prophet said, Amen. May the Lord* do so. May the Lord* carry out your word that you have prophesied, to return the vessels of the house of the Lord*, and every exile from Babylon to this place.

7 However, hear now this word that I am speaking in your hearing, and in the hearing of all the people,

8 The prophets that were before me and before you from antiquity, they prophesied against many lands and great kingdoms, for war, for misery, and for pestilence.

9 The prophet who prophesies of shalom, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be revealed as one whom the Lord* sent in truth.

10 Then Hananiah the prophet took the bar of yoke over the neck of Jeremiah the prophet, and he broke it,

11 And Hananiah spoke in the sight of all the people, saying, Thus says the Lord*, In this way I will break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, (that is) over the neck of all the nations, in the span of two years time. So Jeremiah the prophet went on his way.

12 Then the word of the Lord* came to Jeremiah, after Hananiah the prophet broke the bar of yoke (that was) over the neck of Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

13 Go and speak to Hananiah, saying, Thus says the Lord*, You broke a yoke bar of wood, but you have made yoke bars of iron in place of them.

14 For thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, I have put a yoke of iron on the neck of all these nations in order to serve Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and they will serve him. I have even given the beast of the field to him.

15 Then Jeremiah the prophet said to Hananiah the prophet, Hear now, O Hananiah, the Lord* did not send you, and you have caused this people to trust upon a lie.

16 Therefore, thus says the Lord*, Here I am, to cast you upon the surface of the ground. This year you will die because you spoke apostasy concerning the Lord*.

17 So Hananiah the prophet died in that year in the seventh month.

Chapter 29

These are the words of the book that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the rest of the elders of the exiles, and to the priests and prophets, and the people that Nebuchadnezzar deported from Jerusalem into Babylon.

2 This was after the departure from Jerusalem of Jeconiah the king, the queen-mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, and the artificers and smiths.

3 It was by the hand of Elasah, son of Shaphan, and Gemariah, son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah, king of Judah, sent into Babylon, to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, saying:

4 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, to all exiles whom I deported from Jerusalem into Babylon,

5 Build houses and dwell (there), and plant vineyards, and eat their fruit.

6 Take women, and father sons and daughters, take women for your sons, give your daughters to men, and let them bear sons and daughters, and multiply there and do not diminish.

7 Seek shalom for the city where I deported you, and pray to the Lord* on behalf of it. For due to its shalom, you will have shalom.

8 For thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Do not let your prophets that are in your midst or your diviners deceive you, and do not pay attention to the dreams that you dream.

9 For they prophesy falsely in my name to you. I did not send them, declares the Lord*.

10 For thus says the Lord*, For according to the full span of seventy years in Babylon, I will visit you, then I will carry out my word of welfare on behalf of you, to return you to this place.

11 For I know the plans that I have devised concerning you, declares the Lord*, plans for shalom and not for distress, to give you a future and hope.

12 You will call me, and you will walk along, and you will pray to me, and I will listen to you,

13 And you will seek me, then you will find me, for you will search for me with all your heart.

14 For I will let myself be found by you, declares the Lord*, then I will bring you back from your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations where I banished you, declares the Lord*. Then I will return you to the place where I deported you from.

15 For you have said, The Lord* has raised up prophets to Babylon for us.

16 For thus says the Lord* to the king who sits on the throne of David, and to all the people who dwell in this city, (and) your brothers who did not go out in the exile with you,

17 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, Now I am sending the sword, the famine, and the pestilence among them, and I am treating them as left over figs that you cannot eat, they are so bad.

18 Yes, I am chasing after them with the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and I will make them for a terror for all kingdoms of the earth; a curse, a horror, a hissing, and a disgrace among all the nations where I banish them,

19 Because they did not listen to my word, declares the Lord*, which I sent to them through my servants, the prophets, rising up early and sending (them). You, too, did not listen.

20 So you, hear the word of the Lord*, all you exiles whom I sent from Jerusalem into Babylon,

21 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, as to Ahab, son of Kolaiah, and Zedekiah, son of Maaseiah, They are prophesying falsely in my name to you. I am now giving them into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, and he will strike them down in your sight.

22 Thus a curse will be taken up on account of them, for all the exiles of Judah in Babylon, who will say, The Lord* make you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted with fire,

23 Because that they have done senseless (acts) in Israel, they have committed adultery with the wives of their friends, and they have spoken a word falsely in my name that I did not command them. For I am the one who knows and is a witness, declares the Lord*.

24 You will also speak to Shemaiah the Nehelamite, saying:

25 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, saying, Because that you sent in your name scrolls to all the people that are in Jerusalem and to Zephaniah, son of Maaseiah, the priest, and to all the priests, saying:

26 The Lord* has made you a priest instead of Jehoiada the priest, to be overseer of the house of the Lord* against every madman, even those who claim to be prophets, that you may put them into stocks and a pillory.

27 So now why have you not given a rebuke against Jeremiah the Anathothite, who acts as a prophet to you,

28 On the grounds that he sent (this) to us in Babylon, saying, It will be a long time. Build houses and settle down, and plant your gardens, and eat their fruit.

29 Zephaniah the prophet read this book in the hearing of Jeremiah the prophet,

30 Then the word of the Lord* came to Jeremiah, saying:

31 Send to every exile, saying, Thus says the Lord* against Shemaiah the Nehelamite, Because that Shemaiah prophesied to you, but I did not send him, and he caused you to trust upon a lie,

32 Therefore, thus says the Lord*, Now I am visiting upon Shemaiah the Nehelamite, and his offspring. There will be none of his abiding among this people, and he will see none of the good things that I will do for my people, declares the Lord*, because he spoke apostasy concerning the Lord*.

Chapter 30

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord*, saying:

2 Thus says the Lord* God of Israel, saying, Write for yourself all the words that I speak to you into a book,

3 For behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord*, that I will bring back the captives of my people Israel and Judah, says the Lord*, and I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their fathers so they could inherit it.

4 These are the words that the Lord* spoke to Israel and to Judah,

5 Thus says the Lord*, We have heard the sound of trembling. (There) is terror, and there is no shalom.

6 Inquire now, and see if a male can give birth. Why have I seen every man (with) his hands upon his loins like childbirth, and all their faces are turning pale?

7 Woe! For that day is without comparison, for it is that time of distress for Jacob, but he will be saved from it.

8 For on that day it will happen, declares the Lord* of hosts, that I will break his yoke that is over your neck, and I will tear away your bonds, and foreigners will not continue to impose tribute on him,

9 But they will serve the Lord* their God, and David, their king, whom I will raise up for them.

10 Now you, my servant Jacob, do not fear, declares the Lord*, and do not be dismayed, for now I am delivering you from a distant place, your offspring from the land of their captivity, and Jacob will return, be undisturbed, be at ease, and no one will make (him) tremble.

11 For I am with you, declares the Lord*, to save you, for I will make an end of all the nations where I dispersed you. However, I will not make an end of you, although I will chastise you justly, and will not totally acquit you.

12 For thus says the Lord*, Your fracture has no cure. Severe is your wound.

13 There is no one to plead your cause for binding (it) up. There are no remedies of healing for you.

14 All your lovers have forgotten you. They do not seek you, for I have struck you a wound of an enemy, a cruel chastisement, because of a multitude of your iniquities. Your sins have been numerous.

15 Why do you cry out over your fracture? There is no relief from your pain. Because of a multitude of your iniquities (your sins have been numerous), I have done these (things) to you.

16 Therefore, all who consumed you will be consumed, and all of your adversaries, all of them, will go into captivity. Your plunderers will be for plunder, and all who spoiled you, will be for a spoil.

17 For I will bring up restoration for you, and I will heal you from your wounds, declares the Lord*. For they gave a name to you: Banished. That is Zion. No one searches for it.

18 So now I am bringing from captivity the tents of Jacob, and will have compassion on his dwellings, declares the Lord*. A city will be built on its ruin-heap, and a citadel will remain according to its plan.

19 Gratitude will proceed from them, there will be the sound of laughter, and I will multiply them, and they will not be diminished, and I will make them important, and they will not become insignificant.

20 His children will be as in previous times, his congregation will be established before me, and I will attend to those who oppress him.

21 His nobility will be from among him, and his ruler will be from his midst. For I will bring him near, and he will approach to me. For who is he, this (one) who gives his heart in pledge to draw near to me, declares the Lord*.

22 Then I will have you for a people, and you will have me for God.

23 Behold, the tempest of the Lord! The wrath goes out, a roaring tempest. Over the head of the wicked it will whirl.

24 The burning of the anger of the Lord* he will not turn back until he has completed it, until he has carried it out, the purpose of his heart. At the end of the days you will gain an understanding of it.

Chapter 31

At that time, declares the Lord*, I will be for God to all the families of Israel, and they will be to me for a people,

2 Thus says the Lord*, The people who survived the sword will find favor in the wilderness. I will go to give Israel rest.

3 From a distance the Lord* appeared to me. A love everlasting I have loved you, therefore I have prolonged kindness to you.

4 I will build you up again, yes, the virgin of Israel will be rebuilt. You will once again put on your timbrels, and go out in the dancing of play.

5 You will plant vineyards again in the hills of Samaria. The planters who plant them will treat them as common produce.

6 For there will be a day (that) watchmen cry out on Mount Ephraim, Arise, and let us go up to Mount Zion, to the Lord* our God.

7 For thus says the Lord*, Give a joyous shout! Rejoice for Jacob, and give a cry of praise in the foremost of nations. Proclaim, give praise, and say, O Lord, save your people, the remnant of Israel!

8 Now I am bringing them back from the land of the North, and I will gather them from the remote parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, women with child and those who are in labor together. The great assembly will return here.

9 While weeping, they will come in, and by (their) supplication for favor, I will lead them along. I will bring them to rivers of water, in a way that is straight. They will not stumble in it, for I am for a father to Israel, and Ephraim, he is my first born.

10 Hear the word of the Lord*, O nations, and announce (it) among the lands at a distance, and say, The one who scattered Israel, he will gather them together, and guard them as a shepherd (to) his sheep.

11 For the Lord* will ransom Jacob, and he will redeem him out of a hand stronger than his.

12 They will enter in, and shout for joy in the heights of Zion, and stream to the good (things) of the Lord*, because of the grain, the new wine, the fresh oil, the young of the flock, and the cattle. Their soul will be like a watered garden, and they will never again increase in anxiety.

13 Then the virgin will rejoice in the dance, and the young and old men together, for I will turn their mourning to gladness, and console them, even cause them to rejoice out of their sorrow.

14 I will saturate the soul of the priests abundantly, and my people will be satisfied with my goodness, declares the Lord*.

15 Thus says the Lord*, a voice in Ramah is heard, the lamentation of weeping, the bitterness of Rachel weeping (for) her children, refusing to be comforted on account of her children, because they are no more.

16 Thus says the Lord*, Hold back your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears. For there is a reward for your work, declares the Lord*, as they return from the land of the enemy,

17 And there is hope for your future, for the children will return to their territory.

18 I have surely heard Ephraim mourning for himself, You have chastened me, and I have been chastened like an untrained calf. Allow me back, and I will return, for you are the Lord* my God.

19 So after my return, I was sorry, and after my correction, I slapped myself on the thigh. I was ashamed, and also humiliated, for I carried the disgrace of my youth.

20 Is Ephraim a very precious son to me? If he is the boy of (my) delight, then as often as my words are against him, I should surely remember him still. Therefore my inner being murmurs. I will have abundant compassion on him, declares the Lord*.

21 Station guide-posts for yourselves. Place sign-posts for yourselves. Set your heart to the highway, the way you went. Return, O virgin of Israel! Return to these, your cities.

22 How long will you be turned this way and that way, O daughter of apostasy? For the Lord* creates a new thing on the earth: a woman will surround a man.

23 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Again they will speak this word in the land of Judah, and in its cities upon my returning their captives, The Lord* bless you, O habitat of righteousness, O mountain of holiness!

24 And in it they will dwell, Judah and all her cities, farmers and those that journey with a flock.

25 For I cause every weary soul to drink, and fill every languishing soul.

26 Upon this I woke up, and I could see, but my sleep to me was sweet.

27 Now the days are coming, declares the Lord*, that I will sow seed on the house of Israel, and the house of Judah: the seed of man and animal.

28 It will be that as I watched over them to root out, to break down, to destroy, and to do harm, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, declares the Lord*.

29 In those days, they will no longer say, The fathers ate sour grapes, but the teeth of the children are blunted.

30 For surely each one will die in his own iniquity, (as) every man that eats sour grapes, his own teeth will be blunted.

31 Now the days are coming, declares the Lord*, when I will cut a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

32 Not like the covenant I cut with their fathers on the day when I took hold of their hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, who broke my covenant, although I was a husband to them, declares the Lord*.

33 For this is the covenant that I will cut with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord*: I will put my Torah into their inner being, I will write it upon their heart, and they will have me for God, and I will have them for a people.

34 No longer will each one teach his friend or brother, Know the Lord*, for all will know me, from the least to the greatest, declares the Lord*, for I will forgive their iniquities, and remember their sin no longer.

35 Thus says the Lord*, who gave the sun for a light by day, the statutes of the moon and stars (by) night, who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar; the Lord* of hosts is his name.

36 If these statutes may depart from my presence, then also the offspring of Israel may cease from being a nation before me for all time.

37 Thus says the Lord*, If the heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth beneath can be ascertained, then I may also reject all the offspring of Israel concerning all they have done, declares the Lord*.

38 Now are the days, declares the Lord*, when the city of the Lord* will be built, from the Tower of Hananel (to) the Corner Gate,

39 And the measuring line will again go out straight forward, over the hill of Gareb, and it will turn around Goath.

40 Then all the valley of corpses and fat ashes, and all the fields up to the Wady Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate to the east will be set apart for the Lord*, and it will never again be uprooted or torn down.

Chapter 32

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord* in the tenth year of Zedekiah, king of Judah. That year was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar.

2 At that time the army of the king of Babylon was laying a siege against Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the courtyard of the prison where the house of the king of Judah was,

3 Where Zedekiah, king of Judah, shut him up, saying, Why did you prophesy, saying, Thus says the Lord*, Now I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will capture it,

4 And Zedekiah, king of Judah, will not slip away from the hand of the Chaldeans, for he will surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and will speak to him mouth-to-mouth, and look at him eye-to-eye.

5 Then he will bring Zedekiah (to) Babylon, and there he will be until I visit him, declares the Lord*. Though you wage war against the Chaldeans, you will not prevail.

6 Jeremiah then said, The word of the Lord* came to me, saying:

7 Look, Hanamel, son of Shallum your uncle, will come to you, saying, Buy for yourself my field that is in Anathoth, for yours is the right of redemption to buy.

8 Then Hanamel, the son of my uncle, came to me, according to the word of the Lord*, to the courtyard of the prison, and said to me, Buy now my field that is in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for yours is the right of inheritance and redemption. Buy it for yourself. So I knew that it was the word of the Lord*.

9 Then I bought the field that is in Anathoth from Hanamel, the son of my uncle, and I weighed out the money to him: seventeen shekels of silver.

10 I signed on a deed of purchase, sealed (it), took witnesses, and I weighed the silver on the balances,

11 And I took the deed of purchase with the seal, (having) the title of the property and the conditions, along with that which was disclosed.

12 Then I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch, son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, in the sight of Hanamel, (son of) my uncle, and in the sight of the witnesses who signed on the deed of purchase, in the sight of all the Jews who were sitting in the courtyard of the prison.

13 Then I gave instructions to Baruch in their sight, saying:

14 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Take these deeds, the deed of this purchase with the seal, and the deed of this disclosure, and put them in an earthen vessel, in order that they will remain for many days.

15 For thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Houses, and fields, and vineyards will again be bought in this land.

16 I prayed to the Lord* after I gave the deed of the purchase to Baruch, son of Neriah, saying:

17 Oh no, Lord* God, behold, you made the heavens and the earth by your great power and your stretched out arm. No matter is too difficult for you,

18 Who performs acts of kindness to thousands, but recompenses the iniquity of fathers into the bosom of their children after them, O great warrior God, the Lord* of hosts is his name.

19 Great is the counsel, and abundant are the deeds, for your eyes are open to all the ways of the children of men, to give to each one according to his ways and the fruit of his works,

20 For you have sent signs and wonders into the land of Egypt even to this day, and in Israel, and among mankind, and you have made for yourself a name, as (it is) this day.

21 You led out your people Israel from the land of Egypt, with signs and wonders, and with a strong hand and stretched out arm, and by a great spectacle.

22 Then you gave to them this land, which you took an oath to their fathers to give to them, a land flowing (in) milk and honey.

23 Then they went in, and they inherited it, but they did not listen to your voice, or walk according to your Torah. They did not do all that you commanded them to do, so you caused all this distress to come upon them.

24 Behold the mounds have entered the city to capture it, and the city has been given into the hand of the Chaldeans that are battling against it, through the presence of the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, so that which you spoke about, now you are seeing.

25 But you said to me O my lord, the Lord*, Buy for yourself the field with money, and take witnesses, yet the city has been given into the hand of the Chaldeans.

26 Then the word of the Lord* came to Jeremiah, saying:

27 Behold, I am the Lord*, the God of all flesh. Can any matter be too difficult for me?

28 Therefore, thus says the Lord*, Now I am giving this city into the hand of the Chaldeans, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, and he is taking it,

29 And the warring Chaldeans will enter into this city, and kindle this city with fire, and will burn it, with the houses where they sent sacrifices up in smoke to Baal on their roofs, and poured out drink offerings to foreign gods for the sake of provoking me to anger.

30 For the children of Israel and Judah have been doing only evil in my sight from their youth, for the children of Israel surely have been provoking me by the work of their hands.

31 This city has been to me the cause of my anger and my wrath from the day that they built it, even until this day, to cause it to be removed from my face,

32 Because of all the wicked acts of the children of Israel and Judah that they did to provoke me: they, their kings, their rulers, their priests, their prophets, and everyone of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

33 They have turned the back of the neck, and not the face to me, though I was teaching them, rising up early and teaching, but no one was listening to take the instruction.

34 They have even placed their detested things in the house that is called by my name, the purpose of this being to defile it,

35 And they built the high places of Baal that are in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom to devote their sons and daughters by fire to Molech, which I did not command them, nor did it come up to my mind to do this abomination, for the sake of causing Judah to sin.

36 So now, therefore, Thus says the Lord*, the God of Israel, (As) to this city that you said is being given into the hand of the king of Babylon, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence,

37 Here am I, gathering them from all the lands where I banished them in anger and my wrath, yes, great wrath, but I will bring them back to this place, and make them to dwell securely.

38 I will have them for a people, and they will have me for God,

39 And I will give one heart to them, and one way, to fear me always, for their good and their children after them.

40 For I am cutting an everlasting covenant with them, (one) that I will not take back from them, to do my good will for them, and I will put a fear of me into their heart, to not turn away from me.

41 I will rejoice over them, to do good for them, and I will truly plant them in this land, with all my heart, and all my passion.

42 For thus says the Lord*, As I brought to this people all this distress, so will I be bringing all the goodness upon them that I spoke concerning them.

43 So a field will be purchased in this land, that you spoke the devastation of it, without man or cattle, (that) it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.

44 They will purchase fields with money, and they will sign on deeds, with a seal and the taking of witnesses, in the land of Benjamin and the surrounding (land) of Jerusalem, in the cities of Judah, and in the cities of the mountain, the lowland, and the Negev, for I will return their captives, declares the Lord*.

Chapter 33

The word of the Lord* came to Jeremiah a second time while he was still shut up in the courtyard of the prison, saying:

2 Thus says the Lord*, the maker of it, the Lord* who formed it, to establish it. The Lord* is his name.

3 Call to me, and I will answer you, and make known to you great (things), and mysteries you do not know.

4 For thus says the Lord*, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city, and the houses of the king of Judah, which have been pulled down on account of the mound and the sword,

5 I am coming in to do battle along with the Chaldeans, and to fill them up with the carcasses of men, which I am striking down in my anger and wrath, for I hid my face from this city because of all their wickedness.

6 Now I will bring up restoration and healing to it, and I will heal them, and show to them an abundance of shalom and stability,

7 And I will bring back the captives of Judah and Israel, and build them up as in earlier times.

8 I will cleanse (them) from all their iniquity that they have sinned against me. Yes, I will pardon (them) for all their iniquities that they have sinned against me, and that they have transgressed against me.

9 Then I will have for a reputation, the rejoicing to a song of praise, and for the renown of all the nations of the earth, when they hear of all the good that I am doing for them.

10 Thus says the Lord*, Again they will hear in this place, which you spoke of the desolation of it, without mankind, without inhabitant, and without cattle,

11 The sound of rejoicing and joy, the voice of the bridegroom and the bride, the voice saying, Praise to the Lord* of hosts, for the Lord* is good, for his steadfast love is forever. They will enter the house of the Lord* with a thank-offering, for I will return the captives of the land as in earlier times, says the Lord*.

12 Thus says the Lord*, Again there will be in this place, the desolation without man or animal, even in all its cities, the abode of shepherds making a flock to lie down.

13 In the cities of the mountain, in the cities of the lowland, in the cities of the Negev, in the land of Benjamin, the surrounding (lands) of Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, the flock(s) will pass through again to the hands of the counter, says the Lord*.

14 Now the days are coming, declares the Lord*, that I will be carrying out a good (thing) for which I have spoken to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

15 In those days and in that time, I will cause to grow of David a righteous sprout, and he will do justice and righteousness in the land.

16 In those days Judah will be delivered, and Jerusalem will dwell securely, and this (name) is what he will be called by: The Lord* Our Righteousness.

17 For thus says the Lord*, There shall not fail a man of David who will sit on the throne of the house of Israel,

18 And for the priests, the Levites, there will not fail a man to offer in front of me forever, and making sacrifices smoke from an offering, each to make a sacrifice every day.

19 The word of the Lord* came to Jeremiah, saying:

20 Thus says the Lord*, If you can break my covenant of the day and the night, and there not be a day or a night in their times,

21 Then also my covenant with David , my servant, can be broken, to not have a son who reigns on his throne, and with the Levites, the priests, to minister to me.

22 As the host of heaven cannot be counted, and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, thus will I multiply the offspring of David, my servant, and the Levites ministering to me.

23 Then the word of the Lord* came to Jeremiah, saying:

24 Did you not observe what this people spoke, saying, Two families are those the Lord* chose among, yet he has rejected them. They have treated my people with contempt, no longer being a nation in their estimation.

25 Thus says the Lord*, If my covenant is not with the day or night, the statutes of the heavens and the earth did I not establish,
26 Then also the offspring of Jacob and David, my servant, may I reject, to not take from his offspring those who would rule the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will return their captives and have mercy on them.

Chapter 34

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord*, when Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, and all of his army, and all the kingdoms of the earth that his hand ruled, and all the people, fought against Jerusalem and all its cities, saying:

2 Thus says the Lord*, the God of Israel, Go and speak to Zedekiah, king of Judah, and say, Thus says the Lord*, Now I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will burn it with fire.

3 You will not escape from his hand, for you will surely be seized, and into his hand you will be put, and you will look eye-to-eye with the king of Babylon, he will speak mouth-to-mouth with you, and you will enter into Babylon.

4 But hear the word of the Lord*, O Zedekiah, king of Judah. Thus says the Lord* concerning you, You will not die by the sword.

5 In peace time you will die, and like the burnings for your fathers, the previous kings that were before you, so will they make burnings for you, and Woe, O lord, they will wail for you, for this is the word that I have spoken, declares the Lord*.

6 Jeremiah the prophet also spoke all these words to Zedekiah, king of Judah, in Jerusalem,

7 While the army of the king of Babylon waged war against Jerusalem, and against all the remaining cities of Judah, against Lachish and Azekah, for those were left of the cities of Judah, the fortified cities.

8 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord*, after King Zedekiah had cut a covenant with all the people that were in Jerusalem, to proclaim liberty to them.

9 Each one was to send out his servant or his maidservant, the Hebrew man or woman, free, so that no one should work by means of them, by a Jewish brother.

10 When all the rulers and all the people heard, who entered into the covenant, that each one was to send out his servant or maidservant free, to work by them no longer, they obeyed and sent them out,

11 But they changed course after that, and brought back the servants and maidservants that they sent out free, and brought them to bondage for servants and maidservants.

12 Then the word of the Lord* came to Jeremiah from the Lord*, saying:

13 Thus says the Lord*, the God of Israel, I cut a covenant with your fathers on the day I brought them out of the land of Egypt, away from the house of servitude, saying:

14 At the end of a seven year (period), you will send out free, everyone his brother, the Hebrew, who was sold to you. Also when he has served you six years, you will send him out free. But your fathers did not listen to me, nor did they incline their ears.

15 Yet you repented one day, and you did what is right in my eyes, each one to proclaim liberty to his friend, and you cut a covenant in my presence, in the house that my name was proclaimed upon it.

16 But you changed course, and profaned my name, and each one of you took back his servant and his maidservant that you sent away free for life, and you brought them back into bondage to be for servants and maidservants to you.

17 Therefore, thus says the Lord*, You did not listen to me, to proclaim liberty, each one to his brother, and each one to his friend. Now I am proclaiming liberty to you, to the sword, to pestilence, and to famine, and I will appoint you for an object of trembling to all the kingdoms of the earth.

18 So I will give the men who passed through my covenant, but did not carry out the words of the covenant that they cut in my presence, the heifer that they cut in two, and passed between its pieces,

19 The rulers of Judah and Jerusalem, the eunuchs, the priests, and all the people of the land who passed between the pieces of the heifer,

20 I will give them into the hand of their enemies, and those that seek their life, and their corpses will be for food for the birds of the heavens, and the beasts of the earth.

21 I will also give Zedekiah, king of Judah, and his princes, into the hand of their enemies, and those that seek their life, yes, into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon, who have withdrawn from you.

22 Now I am giving a command, declares the Lord*, and I will bring them back to this city, and they will wage war against it, and capture it, and burn it with fire, and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation, with no inhabitant.

Chapter 35

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord*, in the days of Jehoiakim, son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying:

2 Go to the house of the Rechabites, speak to them, and bring them to the house of the Lord*, to one of the rooms, and give them wine to drink.

3 So I took Jaazaniah, son of Jeremiah, son of Habazziniah, his brothers, all his sons, and all of the house of the Rechabites,

4 And I brought them into the house of the Lord*, to the room of the sons of Hanan, son of Igdaliah, a man of God, that was next to the room of the rulers, above the room of Maaseiah, son of Shallum, the doorkeeper.

5 Then I set bowls full of wine in front of the sons of the house of the Rechabites, and cups, and said to them, Drink wine.

6 But they said, We will not drink wine, for Jonadab, son of Rechab, our father, placed a command on us, saying, You must not drink wine, neither you, nor your children forever,

7 And you must not build a house, nor sow seed, nor plant a vineyard, nor have any. For in tents you must dwell all your days, in order that you may live many days upon the surface of the ground where you are sojourners.

8 So we were obedient to the voice of Jonadab, son of Rechab, our father, to all that he commanded us, to not drink wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, and our daughters,

9 Also to not build houses for our dwelling places, and we do not have a vineyard, a field, or seed,

10 So we dwell in tents. Thus we have obeyed and acted according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us.

11 It was when Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, came up to the land, that we said, Come and let us enter into Jerusalem, away from the presence of the army of the Chaldeans, and of Syria, so we inhabited Jerusalem.

12 Then the word of the Lord* came to Jeremiah, saying:

13 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Go and say to each one of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will you not take instruction to be obedient to my word, declares the Lord*.

14 The words of Jonadab, son of Rechab, have been carried out, as he commanded his children to not drink wine, and they drink no wine until this day, because they have been obedient to the command of their father. Yet I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you have not been obedient to me,

15 Yes, I have sent all my servants the prophets to you, rising up early and sending them to say, Each one, turn back from his wicked way, make your

works good, do not walk after foreign gods to serve them, and return to the land that I gave to you and your fathers. Yet you did not incline your ears, or listen to me.

16 For the sons of Jonadab, son of Rechab, carried out the command of their father that he commanded them, but this people have not been obedient to me.

17 Therefore, thus says the Lord* God of Israel, Now I am bringing into Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, all the distress that I spoke against them, because I spoke to them, but they did not listen, and I called to them, but they did not answer.

18 Then to the house of the Rechabites, Jeremiah spoke, Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Because you have been obedient to the command of Jonadab, your father, you kept all his commands, and you did according to all he commanded you,

19 Therefore, thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, There will not fail a man of Jonadab, son of Rechab, who will stand before me for all time.

Chapter 36

In the fourth year of Jehoiakim, son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord*, saying:

2 Take for yourself a roll of a book, and write upon it all the words that I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah, and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you during the days of Josiah and until this day.

3 Perhaps the house of Judah will hear of all the distress that I plan to make for them, in order that each one may turn back from his wicked way, and I may grant a pardon for their iniquity and sin.

4 Then Jeremiah summoned Baruch, son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a roll of a book from the mouth of Jeremiah, all the words of the Lord* that he had spoken to him.

5 Jeremiah gave instructions to Baruch, saying, I am shut in. I am not able to go into the house of the Lord*.

6 So you will go and read of the roll on which you wrote from my mouth, the words of the Lord*, on a day of fasting, in the hearing of the people of the house of the Lord*, and also in the hearing of all Judah coming in from their cities, you will read them.

7 Perhaps their supplication will fall before the Lord*, and each one will turn back from his wicked way, for great is the anger and wrath that the Lord* spoke against this people.

8 So Baruch, son of Neriah, did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet instructed him, to read the words of the Lord* in the book (in) the house of the Lord*.

9 Now it was in the fifth year of Jehoiakim, son of Josiah, king of Judah, in the ninth month, all the people in Jerusalem, and all the people coming in from the cities of Judah into Jerusalem, proclaimed a fast before the Lord*,
10 And Baruch read in the book the words of Jeremiah (in) the house of the Lord*, in the room of Gemariah, son of Shaphan, the scribe, in the upper courtyard of the entrance of the New Gate of the house of the Lord*, in the hearing of all the people.

11 Michaiah, the son of Gemaria, son of Shaphan, heard all the words of the Lord* from the book,

12 And he went down to the house of the king, to the room of the scribe, and now there were all the rulers seated: Elishama, the scribe, Delaiah, son of Shemaiah, Elnathan, son of Achbor, Gemariah, son of Shaphan, and Zedekiah, son of Hananiah, and all the rulers.

13 Then Michaiah told all the words that he heard, when Baruch read the book in the hearing of the people,

14 And all the rulers sent to Baruch, Jehudi, son of Netaniah, son of Shelemiah, son of Cushi, saying, The roll that you read from in the hearing of the people, take in your hand and come. So Baruch, son of Neriah, took the roll in his hand, and came to them.

15 They said to him, Sit down and read it in our hearing. So Baruch read (it) in their hearing,

16 And as they listened to all the words, each one turned in fear to his friend, and said to Baruch, We must surely report all these words to the king.

17 Then they asked Baruch, saying, Declare to us, how did you write all these words, from his mouth?

18 Baruch said to them, He proclaimed all these words from his mouth to me, and I wrote on the book in ink.

19 Then the rulers said to Baruch, Go, hide yourselves, you and Jeremiah. Do not let anyone know where you are.

20 So they came to the king (in) the courtyard, they deposited the roll in the room of Elishama, the scribe, and they reported all the words in the hearing of the king.

21 Then the king sent Jehudi to get the roll, so he took it from the room of Elishama, the scribe, and Jehudi read it in the hearing of the king, and all the rulers standing beside the king.

22 The king was sitting (in) the autumn house in the ninth month, and with the fire-jar burning in front of him,

23 And it was when Jehudi had read three columns, then a fourth, that he cut the roll with a pen knife, and threw (it) into the fire that was in the fire-jar, until all the roll was consumed on the fire that was over the fire-jar.

24 Yet they were not afraid, nor did they tear their clothing, the king or any of those who served him, who heard all these words.

25 Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah even urged the king not to burn the roll, but he did not listen to them.

26 Then the king commanded Jerahmeel, son of the king, Seraiah, son of Azriel, and Shelemiah, son of Abdeel, to take Baruch the scribe, and Jeremiah the prophet captive, but the Lord* was hiding them.

27 The word of the Lord* came to Jeremiah, after the king burned the roll, the words that Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah, saying:

28 Go back. Take for yourself another roll, and write upon it all the words that were on the first roll that Jehoiakim, king of Judah, burned.

29 Then to Jehoiakim, king of Judah, you will say, Thus says the Lord*, You have burned this roll, saying, Why did you write on it to say that the king of Babylon will surely come in and destroy this land, and remove man and animal from it?

30 Therefore, thus says the Lord* concerning Jehoiakim, king of Judah, He will not have anyone who sits on the throne of David, and his corpse will be thrown to the heat of the day, and to the frost of the night.

31 So I will visit upon him, his offspring, and his servants, their iniquity, and I will bring upon them, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and everyone of Judah all the distress that I spoke against them, but they did not listen.

32 Then Jeremiah took another roll and gave it to Baruch, son of Neriah, the scribe, and he wrote upon it, from the mouth of Jeremiah, all the words of the book that Jehoiakim burned in the fire, and yet many words like them were added to them.

Chapter 37

King Zedekiah, son of Josiah, reigned in place of Coniah, son of Jehoiakim, whom Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, made king in the land of Judah.

2 Yet he, those who served him, and the people of the land, did not listen to the words of the Lord* that he spoke by the hand of Jeremiah the prophet.

3 Nevertheless, Zedekiah, the king, sent Jehucal, son of Shelemiah, and Zephaniah, son of Maaseiah, the priest, to Jeremiah the prophet, saying, Pray now on our behalf to the Lord* our God.

4 For Jeremiah would come in and go out in the midst of the people, and they did not put him in the prison house.

5 Now the army of Pharaoh went out from Egypt, and the Chaldeans, the adversaries against Jerusalem, heard the report of them, and they went up from Jerusalem.

6 Then the word of the Lord* came to Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

7 Thus says the Lord* God of Israel, Thus you will say to the king of Judah, the one who sent you to me, to seek me, Now the army of Pharaoh who went out for help to you, is returning to its own land, Egypt,

8 Then the Chaldeans will return, and they will wage war against this city, they will capture it, and they will burn it with fire.

9 Thus says the Lord*, Do not deceive yourselves, saying, The Chaldeans will surely depart from us, for they will not depart.

10 For if you should strike the entire army of the Chaldeans who are fighting with you, and there be left over among them severely wounded men, each one in his tent would rise up, and burn this city with fire.

11 Then it was when the army of the Chaldeans got away from Jerusalem, from the presence of the army of Pharaoh,

12 That Jeremiah went out from Jerusalem to go to the land of Benjamin, to receive from there a portion of land in the middle of the people.

13 Now he was in the Gate of Benjamin, and there was a sentinel, and his name was Irijah, son of Shelemiah, son of Hananiah. He took hold of Jeremiah the prophet, saying, You have fallen away to the Chaldeans!

14 But Jeremiah said, It is false. I have not fallen away to the Chaldeans, but he did not listen to him, and Irijah took hold of Jeremiah, and brought him to the officers.

15 Then the officers were full of wrath against Jeremiah, and they struck him, and put him in prison, the house of Jonathan the scribe, for they had made it for the prison house.

16 When Jeremiah had gone to the prison, and into the cells, and Jeremiah had stayed there many days,

17 King Zedekiah sent, took him back, and the king asked him in his house, secretly, and he said, Is there a word from the Lord*? Jeremiah said, There is, and he said, You will be given into the hand of the king of Babylon.

18 Then Jeremiah said to King Zedekiah, What is my sin against you, those who serve you, or this people, that you have put me into the prison house?

19 Where are your prophets that prophesy to you, saying, The king of Babylon will not come in against you, or against this land.

20 Now, please listen, my lord, O king. Let my supplication fall before you, and do not return me to the house of Jonathan, the scribe, so that I do not die there.

21 Thus King Zedekiah gave a command that they should entrust Jeremiah to the court of the guard, and give a loaf of bread to him each day out of the bakers' street, until all the bread from the city was exhausted. So Jeremiah stayed in the court of the guard.

Chapter 38

Shephatiah, son of Mattan, Gedaliah, son of Pashhur, Jucal, son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur, son of Malchiah, listened to the words that Jeremiah spoke to all the people, saying:

2 Thus says the Lord*, Anyone who stays in this city will die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, but anyone who goes out to the Chaldeans will live, and he will have his life for a spoil; yes, he will live.

3 Thus says the Lord*, This city will surely be given into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon, which also will capture it.

4 Then the officers said to the king, Please let death be appointed to this man, for he is weakening the hands of the men of war who remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, to speak to them according to all these words, for this man is not seeking for shalom of this people, only for harm.

5 So King Zedekiah said, Now he is in your hand, for there is nothing the king is able to do against you.

6 Then they took Jeremiah, and threw him into the dungeon of Malchiah, a son of the king, which was in the court of the guard, and they let down Jeremiah by cords. Now there was no water in the dungeon but only mire, and Jeremiah was sinking down into the mire,

7 But Ebed-Melech, the Ethiopian, one of the eunuchs, heard (and he was in the house) that they had put Jeremiah into the dungeon. Now the king was sitting in the Gate of Benjamin.

8 So Ebed-Melech went out from the house of the king, and he spoke to the king, saying,

9 My lord! O king! These men have done evil, with all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have thrown into the dungeon, and he may die from hunger at the bottom of it, because of the famine, when there is no more bread in the city.

10 So the king commanded Ebed-Melech, the Ethiopian, saying, Take thirty men with you from here, and lift up Jeremiah out of the dungeon before he dies.

11 Then Ebed-Melech took the men with him, and entered into the house of the king beneath the treasury, and from there he took worn-out clouts and rags, and let them down with ropes to Jeremiah, into the dungeon.

12 Ebed-Melech, the Ethiopian, said to Jeremiah, Put the worn-out clouts and rags under your elbows from beneath against the ropes, and Jeremiah did so.

13 So they drew Jeremiah up by the ropes, and they lifted him out of the dungeon, then Jeremiah stayed in the court of the guard.

14 Then King Zedekiah sent for and took Jeremiah the prophet back to himself, to the third entrance of the house of the Lord*, and the king said to Jeremiah, I am asking of you a word, do not hide anything from me,

15 But Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, If I declared (it) to you, would you not surely put me to death? If I advised you, you would not listen to me.

16 But King Zedekiah swore to Jeremiah in secrecy, saying, The Lord* lives, who made this life for us, surely I will not kill you, nor give you into the hand of these men who seek your life.

17 Jeremiah then said to Zedekiah, Thus says the Lord* God of hosts, the God of Israel, Surely if you will go over to the officers of the king of Babylon, then you will live, this city will not be burned with fire, and you and your house will live,

18 But if you will not go over to the officers of the king of Babylon, then this city will be given into the hand of the Chaldeans, they will burn it with fire, and you will not escape from their hand.

19 King Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, I am fearful of the Jews that have fallen away to the Chaldeans, lest they give me into their hand, and they deal ruthlessly with me.

20 Jeremiah said, They will not give (you) over. Please be obedient to the voice of the Lord*, to that I have spoken to you, and it will be good for you, and you will live.

21 But if you refuse to go over, this is the word that the Lord* showed me:

22 Even now, all the women who remain in the house of the king of Judah will be brought out to the officers of the king of Babylon, and they will say, Your friends have instigated and prevailed against you. Your feet have sunk in the mire, and turned back,

23 And all your wives and children will go over to the Chaldeans, and you will not escape from their hand, for by the hand of the king of Babylon you will be seized, and this city will burn in fire.

24 Then Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, Do not let anyone know about these matters, and you will not die.

25 If the officers hear that I spoke to you, and say to you, Report now to us what you said to the king. Do not hide it from us, and we will not kill you, or, What did the king say to you?

26 Then you will say to them, I made a supplication for favor to me in front of the king, to not return me to the house of Jonathan to die there.

27 All the officers came to Jeremiah, they asked him, and he reported to them according to all these words that the king commanded. Then they stopped speaking to him, for the matter was not being regarded.

28 So Jeremiah stayed in the court of the guard until the day that Jerusalem was captured, and so it was as Jerusalem was captured.

Chapter 39

In the ninth year of Zedekiah, king of Judah, in the tenth month, Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, and all his army, entered into Jerusalem, and they laid siege against it.

2 In the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, the city was broken into,

3 And all the officers of the king of Babylon entered in and sat in the Middle Gate: Nergal-Sarezer, Samgar-Nebo, Sarsakim, Rabsaris (Nergal-Sarezer, the chief soothsayer), and all the rest of the officers of the king of Babylon.

4 When Zedekiah, king of Judah, and all the men of war, saw them, then they fled, and went out at night from the city by way of the garden of the king, through the gate between the twin walls, and he went out (by) way of the Jordan valley.

5 Then the army of the Chaldeans pursued after them, they overtook Zedekiah in the Jordan valley of Jericho, they took him, they brought him up to Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, to Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he pronounced judgment on him,

6 And the king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah in his sight in Riblah, and slaughtered all the nobility of Judah.

7 Then he put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and they bound him in fetters to bring him to Babylon.

8 The Chaldeans burned the house of the king, and the houses of the people, with fire, and they broke down the walls of Jerusalem.

9 But Nebuzar-adan, chief bodyguard, took into exile to Babylon the rest of the people left in the city, and those fallen away, that fell away to him, and the rest of the people who remained.

10 Some of the poor people that had nothing, Nebuzar-adan, chief bodyguard, left in the land of Judah, and he gave them vineyards and fields on that day.

11 Now Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, gave a command concerning Jeremiah into the hand of Nebuzar-adan, chief bodyguard, saying:

12 Take him, keep your eyes on him, and do not do anything bad to him, but as he speaks to you, so do with him.

13 So he sent Nebuzar-adan, chief bodyguard, Nebushasban, Rabsaris, Nergal-Sarezer, the chief soothsayer, and all the chiefs of the king of Babylon,

14 And they sent for, and took Jeremiah from the court of the guard, gave him to Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, to bring him to the house, and he dwelled in the midst of the people.

15 The word of the Lord* came to Jeremiah while he was shut up in the court of the guard, saying:

16 Go and say to Ebed-Melech, the Ethiopian, saying, Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Now I am bringing my word to this city, for harm and not for good, and it will happen on that day,

17 But I will rescue you on that day, declares the Lord*, and you will not be given into the hand of the men that you are in fear of from their presence.

18 For surely I will make an escape for you, you will not fall by the sword, and you will have your life for a spoil, for you trust in me, declares the Lord*.

Chapter 40

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord* after Nebuzar-adan, chief bodyguard, sent him from Ramah, when he took him, and he was bound in manacles, in the middle of all the exiles of Jerusalem and Judah that were exiled into Babylon.

2 The chief bodyguard took Jeremiah, and said to him, The Lord* your God spoke this harm against this place,

3 And the Lord* came, and he did according to what he spoke, for you have sinned against the Lord*, and you have not listened to his voice, so this thing has come to you.

4 So now, look, I have freed you out of the manacles that were on your hand. If it is good in your sight to come with me (to) Babylon, come, and I will set my eyes upon you, but if it is bad in your sight to come with me (to) Babylon, stop. Look, all the land is in front of you. It will be according to what is good and right in your sight to go there.

5 (But he had not yet gone back) Return to Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, whom the the king of Babylon has made overseer over the cities of Judah, and abide with him in the middle of the city, unless it is according to all (that is) right in your sight to go away. Then the chief bodyguard gave to him a food allowance and a present, and sent him off.

6 So Jeremiah went to Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, to Mizpah, and he dwelled with him in the middle of the people who remained in the land.

7 When all the officers of the armies that were in the field heard, they and their men, that the king of Babylon made Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, overseer in the land, and that he made him overseer of men, women, and children, and some of the poorest of the land, from those who were not exiled to Babylon,

8 There came to Gedaliah in Mizpah, Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, Johanan and Jonathan, sons of Kareah, Seraiah, son of Tanhumeth, the sons of Ephai the Netophathite, and Jezaniah, son of a Maachathite, they and their men.

9 Then Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, swore to them and to their men, saying, Do not fear to serve the Chaldeans. Dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon, and it will be good for you,

10 And me, I am now dwelling in Mizpah, to serve the Chaldeans before me that have come to us, but you, collect wine, summer fruit, and oil, put (them) into your vessels, and dwell in your cities that you have taken hold of.

11 Also when all the Jews that were in Moab, and with the Ammonites, and in Edom, and that were in all the lands, heard that the king of Babylon gave a remnant to Judah, and that he made Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, overseer over them,

12 Then all the Jews returned from all the places where they were deported, and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah at Mizpah, and collected wine and summer fruit in abundance.

13 Johanan, son of Kareah, and all the officers of the armies that were in the field came to Gedaliah at Mizpah,

14 And they said to him, Surely you know that Baalis, king of the Ammonites, has sent Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, to strike you fatally, but Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, did not believe them.

15 So Johanan, son of Kareah, spoke to Gedaliah secretly in Mizpah, saying, Please let me go, and I will strike down Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, and no

one will know. Why should he strike you fatally, and all Judah who are gathered to you, be scattered, and the remnant of Judah perish?
16 But Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, said to Johanan, son of Kareah, Do not do this thing, for you spoke a lie against Ishmael.

Chapter 41

Then it was in the seventh month that Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, son of Elishama, of the royal lineage, the chiefs of the king, and ten men with him, came to Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, at Mizpah, and they ate food together there in Mizpah.

2 Then Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, rose up, and the ten men that were with him, and they struck Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, with the sword, and he killed him, (he) who was overseer for the king of Babylon in the land.

3 Ishmael also struck down all of the Jews that were with him, with Gedaliah, in Mizpah, and the Chaldeans who were found there, the men of war.

4 It was on the second day after the killing of Gedaliah, and no one knew (it),

5 That men came from Shechem, Shiloh, and Samaria, eighty men, with shaven beards and torn clothing, and having cut themselves, and a grain offering and frankincense in their hands, to bring into the house of the Lord*.

6 So Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, went out to meet them, from Mizpah, walking along weeping. It was when he encountered them, that he said to them, Come to Gedaliah, son of Ahikam.

7 When they came to the middle of the city, then Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, slaughtered them into the middle of a pit, he and the men that were with him,

8 But there were ten men found among them, that said to Ishmael, Do not kill us, for we have hidden treasure in the field: wheat, barley, oil, and honey. So he stopped, and did not kill them into the midst of their brothers.

9 Now the pit that Ishmael threw all the corpses of the men, whom he struck down by the side of Gedaliah, was that which King Asa had made because of the presence of Baasha, king of Israel. Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, filled it with the slain.

10 Then Ishmael took captive all the remnant of the people that were in Mizpah; the daughters of the king, and all the people remaining in Mizpah,

of whom Nebuzar-adan, chief bodyguard, made Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, overseer. Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, took them captive, and then went out to cross over to the Ammonites.

11 Now Johanan, son of Kareah, and all the officers of the armies that were with him, heard of all the evil that Ishmael, son of Ahikam, had done,

12 And he took all the men, and they went to fight against Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, and found him by the great waters that are in Gibeon.

13 Then when all the people that were with Ishmael saw Johanan, son of Kareah, and all the officers of the armies that were with him, they were glad,

14 And all the people that Ishmael took captive from Mizpah turned around, turned back, and went over to Johanan, son of Kareah.

15 Then Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, fled with eight men away from the presence of Johanan, and he went over to the Ammonites.

16 So Johanan, son of Kareah, and all the officers of the armies that were with him, took all the rest of the people that he brought back from Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, from Mizpah, after he struck down Gedaliah, son of Ahikam; young men, men of war, women, children, and eunuchs, who he brought back from Gibeon.

17 So they went along, and they stayed in the lodging place of Chimham that was near Bethlehem, to go on to enter into Egypt,

18 Away from the presence of the Chaldeans, for they were in fear from their presence, for Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, had struck down Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had made overseer in the land.

Chapter 42

Then all the officers of the armies, Johanan, son of Kareah, Jezeniah, son of Hoshaiah, and all the people, from the least to the greatest, drew near,

2 And they said to Jeremiah the prophet, Please let our supplication for favor fall before you, and pray on behalf of us to the Lord* your God, on behalf of all this remnant, for few of us are remaining out of many, as your eyes see us,

3 So the Lord* your God may declare to us the path that we should walk in, and the word that we should carry out.

4 Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, I have listened. Now I will pray to the Lord* your God according to your words, and everything the Lord* answers you, I will report it. I will not hold back a word from you.

5 They said to Jeremiah, Let the Lord* be for a true and faithful witness against us, if we do not so do according to all that the Lord* your God sends you concerning us.

6 Whether good or bad, we will be obedient to the voice of the Lord* our God whom we are sending you to, in order that it will be well for us, if we are obedient to the voice of the Lord* our God.

7 It was at the end of ten days, that the word of the Lord* came to Jeremiah,
8 And he called to Johanan, son of Kareah, all the officers of the armies who were with him, and all the people, from the least to the greatest,

9 And he said to them, Thus says the Lord* God of Israel, whom you sent me to, to offer your supplication for favor before him.

10 If you will indeed remain in this land, then I will build you up, and not tear (you) down, and I will plant you, and not uproot (you), for I will have regret concerning the distress that I made for you.

11 Do not be afraid of the presence of the king of Babylon, whose presence you fear. Do not be afraid of him, declares the Lord*, for I will be with you, to save you and rescue you from his hand.

12 I will also give compassion to you, so that he will show compassion to you, and bring you back to your land,

13 But if you say, we will not remain in this land, to not be obedient to the voice of the Lord* your God,

14 Saying, No, for we will go (to) the land of Egypt, so that we will not see war, nor hear the sound of the shofar, nor go hungry for food, so we will dwell there.

15 Then now, therefore, hear the word of the Lord*, O remnant of Judah. Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, If you firmly set your faces to go (to) Egypt, and you go to sojourn there,

16 Then it will be that the sword that you are afraid of will overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine that you are anxious about will keep close behind you there in Egypt, and there you will die.

17 So it will be that all those who set their faces to go (to) Egypt to sojourn there will die, by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, and there will not be a survivor among them, or one who escapes from the presence of the distress I am bringing upon them.

18 For thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, As my anger and wrath were poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so will my wrath be poured out upon you when you enter into Egypt, and you will be for a curse, for horror, for contempt, and for a disgrace, and you will see this place no more.

19 The Lord* has spoken over you, O remnant of Judah. Do not go into Egypt. You surely know, for I have protested against you today,
20 That you have made an error against your (own) lives, for you have sent me to the Lord* your God, saying, Pray on our behalf to the Lord* our God, and according to all that the Lord* says to us, so declare it to us, and we will do it.
21 I have reported (it) to you today, but you have not listened to the voice of the Lord* your God, and to all that he sent me concerning you.
22 So now, know for sure that by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, you will die in the place where you have desired to go to sojourn.

Chapter 43

It was when Jeremiah completed speaking to all the people, all the words of the Lord* their God, that the Lord* their God sent him concerning them, all these words,

2 That Azariah, son of Hoshiah, and Johanan, son of Kareah, and all the insolent men, said to Jeremiah, You spoke a lie! The Lord* our God did not send you, saying, Do not go to Egypt to sojourn there.

3 For Baruch, son of Neriah, instigated you against us, for the purpose of giving us into the hand of the Chaldeans, to kill us, or to take us into exile in Babylon.

4 So Johanan, son of Kareah, was not obedient to the voice of the Lord*, nor were any of the officers of the armies, nor were any of the people, to stay in the land of Judah.

5 Johanan, son of Kareah, and all the officers of the armies, took all the remnant of Judah who returned from all the nations where they had been deported, to sojourn in the land of Judah;

6 The men, women, and children, even the daughters of the king, and every person that Nebuzar-adan, chief bodyguard, let remain with Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet, and Baruch, son of Neriah,

7 And they entered into the land of Egypt, for they were not obedient to the voice of the Lord*, but they went as far as Tahpanhes.

8 Then the word of the Lord* came to Jeremiah in Tahpanhes, saying:

9 Take in your hand large stones, and hide them in the mortar of the quadrangle that is in the entrance of the house of Pharaoh in Tahpanhes, in the sight of the Jewish men,

10 And say to them, Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Now I am sending for and will select Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, my servant, I will set his throne on top of these stones that I hid, and he will spread out his royal pavilion over them.

11 Yes, he will come, and he will strike down the land of Egypt, so that those for death are to death, and those for captivity are to captivity, and those for the sword are to the sword.

12 Then I will spark a fire in the houses of the gods of Egypt, and he will burn them, and capture them, and he will wrap himself with the land of Egypt, like a shepherd wraps himself in a robe, then he will go out from there in shalom.

13 He will also shatter the pillars of Beth Shemesh that are in Egypt, and he will burn with fire the houses of the gods of Egypt.

Chapter 44

The word that came to Jeremiah against all the Jews who were dwelling in the land of Egypt, those dwelling in Migdol, in Tahpanhes, in Noph, and in the land of Pathros, saying:

2 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, You have seen all the distress that I have brought upon Jerusalem, and upon all the cities of Judah, and there they are! A desolation (to) this day, and there is no one dwelling in them,

3 Because of the presence of their wickedness they did to provoke me, to make sacrifices smoke, to provide a service for foreign gods whom they do not know, neither they, nor you, nor your fathers.

4 I even sent to you all my servants, the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Do not do this abominable thing that I hate!

5 Yet they did not listen, nor did they incline their ears, to repent of their wicked deeds, to not offer sacrifices in smoke to foreign gods.

6 Then my wrath and anger was poured out, it kindled in the cities of Judah, and the streets of Jerusalem, and they came to desolation and ruins, as it is this day.

7 So now, thus says the Lord* God of hosts, the God of Israel, Why are you doing a great evil to your souls, to cut off for you, man and woman, child and babe, from among Judah, to leave over no remnant for you,

8 To provoke me with the deeds of your hands, to offer sacrifices in smoke to foreign gods in the land of Egypt, where you went to sojourn, to the end

that you will be cut off, and be for a curse, and for a disgrace, among all the nations of the earth?

9 Have you forgotten the wicked deeds of your fathers, or of the kings of Judah, or of their wives, or your wicked deeds, or the wicked deeds of your wives, that they did in the land of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem?

10 They have not been crushed to this day, and they neither fear nor walk according to my Torah or my statutes, which I gave in front of you and your fathers.

11 Therefore, thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Now I am setting my face against you for distress, and to cut off all of Judah,

12 And I will take the remnant of Judah that set their faces to go to the land of Egypt to sojourn there, and they will all be destroyed in the land of Egypt; they will fall. From the least to the greatest, they will be destroyed. By sword and by famine they will die, and they will be for an execration, a desolation, a curse, and a disgrace.

13 So I will visit upon the inhabitants of the land of Egypt, as I visited upon Jerusalem, by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence,

14 And the remnant of Judah who went to sojourn in the land of Egypt, will not have a fugitive or survivor, nor will they return to the land of Judah, where they desire with their affections to dwell, for they will not return, except those who flee.

15 Then all the men who knew that their wives were offering sacrifices in smoke to foreign gods, all the wives who were of standing, a great assembly, and all the people who dwelled in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying:

16 The word that you spoke to us in the name of the Lord*, there were none of us listening to you!

17 For we will surely do every word that comes out from our mouth, to offer sacrifices in smoke to the queen of the heavens, and pour out drink offerings to her, as we, our fathers, our kings, and our rulers, in the cities of Judah, and the streets of Jerusalem, have done. Then we had our fill of food, and we were well, and we did not see misery,

18 But when we ceased to offer a sacrifice in smoke to the queen of the heavens, and pour out to her a drink offering, we lacked everything, and we were consumed by the sword and famine.

19 When we offered sacrifices in smoke to the queen of the heavens, and poured out drink offerings to her, was it apart from our men that we made cakes to her, to make an image of her, and pour out drink offerings to her?

20 Then Jeremiah said to all the people, to the men, women, and all the people who answered him a word, saying:

21 The incense that you offered sacrifices in smoke in the cities of Judah, and the streets of Jerusalem, you and your fathers, your kings and their rulers, and the people of this land, has the Lord* not remembered it, and has it not ascended upon his heart?

22 Thus the Lord* was not able to suffer any longer from the presence of the wickedness of your deeds, and the abominations that you have done, so your land has been for a waste, a devastation, and a curse, without an inhabitant, as it is this day.

23 From the evidence that you have offered sacrifices in smoke, that you have sinned against the Lord*, and you have not been obedient to the voice of the Lord*, nor have you walked according to his Torah, nor his statutes, nor his testimonies, therefore this misery has met you, as it is this day.

24 Then Jeremiah said to all the people, even to all the women, Hear the word of the Lord*, all (you of) Judah who are in the land of Egypt,

25 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, saying, You and your women, so you have spoken with your mouths, and accomplished with your hands, saying, We will certainly perform our vows that we vowed, to offer sacrifices in smoke to the queen of the heavens, and to pour out drink offerings to her. You will surely establish and perform your vows.

26 Therefore, hear the word of the Lord*, all (you of) Judah, who are dwelling in the land of Egypt, Now I swear by my great name, says the Lord*, that my name will no longer be proclaimed by the mouth of anyone of Judah, who would say, The Lord God* lives, in all the land of Egypt.

27 Now I am keeping watch over them, for misery, and not for well-being, and everyone of Judah who are in the land of Egypt will be destroyed by the sword and by famine, until they are at an end,

28 And those who escape the sword that return from the land of Egypt will be men few in number, and all the remnant of Judah who came to the land of Egypt to sojourn there will know, whose word was proven, between me and them.

29 So this will be a sign to you, declares the Lord*, that I will visit you in this place, in order that you might know that my words have been fulfilled upon you for distress:

30 Thus says the Lord*, Now I am giving Pharaoh Hophra, king of Egypt, into the hand of his enemies, and those who desire his life, as I gave Zedekiah, king of Judah, into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, his enemy, and one who desired his life.

Chapter 45

The word that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch, son of Neriah, when he had written all these words from the mouth of Jeremiah in a book, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim, son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying:

2 Thus says the Lord* God of Israel to you, Baruch,

3 Woe to me, you say, for the Lord* has added sorrow to my pain. I have become weary in my groaning, and I have not found relief.

4 Thus you will say to him, Thus says the Lord*, Behold, what I have built I am tearing down, and with what I have planted, I am rooting out, and so with all of that land,

5 But you, should you desire for yourself great things, do not desire (them), for now I am bringing distress upon all flesh, but I will give to you your life for a spoil over all the places where you will walk.

Chapter 46

The word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah the prophet against the nations.

2 Against Egypt: Concerning the army of Pharaoh Necho, king of Egypt, that was by the Euphrates River in Carchemish, which Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, struck down in the fourth year of Jehoiakim, son of Josiah, king of Judah,

3 Arrange the small shield and the large shield in order, and draw near to the battle!

4 Harness the horses, mount up the steeds, and set yourselves in helmets! Polish the lances, and put on the armor!

5 What have I seen? They are shattered, driven back to the rear, their valiant men are struck down, they are hastily fleeing, and not showing a sign of turning. There is terror on every side, declares the Lord*.

6 Let the swift horse not flee, and let the valiant man not escape. To the north, by the side of the Euphrates, they stagger and fall.

7 What is this that rises up like the Nile? Like rivers, his water reels back and forth.

8 Egypt is like the Nile. He rises up, and like rivers, the water reels back and forth, and he says, I will rise up. I will cover the earth. I will destroy a city and the inhabitants in it.

9 Go up, (you) horses! Drive like madmen, O charioteers! Let the valiant men go forth! Ethiopia and Libya are wielding the shield, and the Lydians are grasping and bending the bow.

10 For this day is for the Lord God* of hosts, a day of vengeance, to avenge himself of his adversaries, and the sword is devouring, being satisfied, and drinking its fill of their blood, for it is a sacrifice to the Lord God* of hosts in a land of the North, by the Euphrates River.

11 Go up to Gilead, and take balm, O virgin daughter of Egypt. For you use many remedies in vain. There is no healing for you.

12 The nations hear of your disgrace, and the land is dull of your outcry, for valiant man by valiant man, they stagger. They fall at the same time, the two of them.

13 The word that the Lord* spoke to Jeremiah the prophet (about) Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon coming to strike the land of Egypt,

14 Declare in Egypt, proclaim in Migdol, and in Noph and Tahpanhes. Say, Station yourself, and make yourself ready, for the sword is devouring from all sides of you.

15 Why do your mighty ones lie prostrate? He cannot stand, for the Lord* has thrust him out.

16 He made many stagger. One even fell against his friend, and they said, Arise, and let us return to our people, and to the land of our birth, away from the presence of the sword of the oppressor.

17 There they call Pharaoh, king of Egypt, Crash! He has let the appointed time pass by.

18 I live, declares the king, the Lord* of hosts is his name, for like Tabor is in the mountains, and Carmel is by the sea, he will come.

19 Make equipment of exile for yourself, O dweller of the daughter of Egypt, for Noph will be for a devastation, and will fall in ruins, without an inhabitant.

20 Egypt is a pretty heifer. A gadfly comes into her from the North.

21 Even her mercenaries are in her midst like calves in a stall, for they have all turned back, and fled at the same time. They have not made a stand, for the day of their distress has come upon them, the time of their punishment.

22 Her sound goes along like a snake, because they march along in an army, and with axes they come against her, like gatherers of wood.

23 They are cutting down her forest, declares the Lord*, because it was not searched out, for they are more numerous than a locust swarm, and too many for them to count.

24 The daughter of Egypt is ashamed. She is given into the hand of the people of the North.

25 The Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel says, Now I am visiting upon Amon from No, and upon Pharaoh and Egypt, and upon her gods, and upon her kings, yes, upon Pharaoh and those who trust in him.

26 I will give them into the hand of those who seek their lives, yes, into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, and the hand of those who serve him, but after that, she will be settled as in days past, declares the Lord*.

27 But you, do not fear, my servant Jacob, and do not be dismayed, O Israel, for, behold, I am saving you from a distance, your offspring from the land of their captivity, and Jacob will return, he will be undisturbed, he will rest securely, and no one will make him afraid.

28 (As for) you, do not fear, my servant Jacob, for I am with you, for I will make an end of all the nations where I banished you, but I will not make an end of you, yet I will chasten you justly, and not leave you exempt from punishment.

Chapter 47

The word of the Lord* that came to Jeremiah the prophet against the Philistines, before Pharaoh attacked Gaza,

2 Thus says the Lord*, Behold, water is rising from the North, it will become a torrent, and it will surely overflow the land and its entirety, and the inhabitants in it. Then everyone will cry out, and all who dwell in the land will howl,

3 From the sound of the stomping of hooves, from the rattling of his chariots, the rumbling of its wheels. The fathers do not turn to the children due to sinking hands,

4 Because the day is coming to devastate all the Philistines, to cut off from Tyre and Sidon every survivor who aids (them), for the Lord* is devastating the Philistines, the rest of the coast-land of Caphtor.

5 Baldness enters into Gaza. Ashkelon is destroyed (with) the rest of their valley. How long will you cut yourselves?

6 Woe, the sword of the Lord*! How long will you not be silent? Gather yourself into your sheath, be at rest, and stand still.

7 How can it stay silent when the Lord* has given a command for it? Against Ashkelon and the coast of the sea, there he has appointed it.

Chapter 48

Against Moab: Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Woe to Nebo, for it is devastated. Kirjathaim is put to shame and captured. Misgab is put to shame and shattered.

2 There is no longer a song of praise of Moab. In Heshbon they devise evil against her. Come, and let us cut her off from being a nation. Even you, O Madmen, will be destroyed. The sword will go out after you.

3 A sound of a cry from Horonaim, Ruin, and a great breach!

4 Moab is crushed! Her youth make the cry heard.

5 For (on) the ascent to Luhite, continual weeping goes up, while on the down slope (to) Horonaim, they hear the foes' cry of, Breach!

6 Flee! Save your lives! Yes, you must become like a tree in the desert.

7 For on account of your trust in your works and your storehouses, you will indeed be caught in a snare, and Chemosh will go away into exile, his priests and his princes together.

8 The spoiler will come to every city, no city will escape, the valley will perish, and the plain will be destroyed. The Lord* has said that.

9 Give wings to Moab, for surely she must go away, and her cities will be for a devastation. They will be without an inhabitant in them.

10 Cursed is he who does the work of the Lord* in slackness, and withholds his sword from blood.

11 Moab rested securely from his youth, he was undisturbed on the lees, and not emptied out from vessel to vessel, for into exile he never went. Therefore his taste has remained within him, and his odor has not changed.

12 Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord*, that I will send tippers to him, they will tip him over, empty his vessels, and dash their bottles to pieces.

13 Then Moab will be ashamed due to Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed due to Bethel, their confidence.

14 How can you say, We are valiant men, and men of strength for war?

15 Moab is desolate, and he will go up (from) his cities, but the best of his young men will go down to the slaughter, declares the king, the Lord* of hosts is his name.

16 Near to come is the calamity of Moab, and his distress will (come) very quickly.

17 Lament for him, (you) on all his sides, and all who know his name. Say, How was the rod of strength, the glorious staff, broken?

18 Come down from glory, and sit in thirst, O daughter who dwells in Dibon, for the spoiler of Moab comes up against you. He has ruined your fortifications.

19 Stand along the way, and watch closely, O dweller of Aroer. Ask him who flees, or her who slips away. Say, What has happened?

20 Moab is put to shame, for he is shattered. Howl and cry out! Declare in Arnon that Moab is devastated.

21 Judgment has come to the table-land, to Holon, and Jahzah, and Mephaath,
22 And Dibon, and Nebo, and Beth Diblathaim,
23 And Kirjathaim, and Beth Gamul, and Beth Meon,
24 And Kerioth, and Bozrah, and all the cities of the land of Moab, far and near.
25 The horn of Moab is chopped off, and his arm is shattered, declares the Lord*.
26 Make him helpless and disgraced, for he has magnified (himself) above the Lord*. Moab will splash into his own vomit, and he will also be for derision.
27 Was not Israel a derision to you? Was he found among robbers? For as often as your words were of him, you would wag your head in scorn.
28 Abandon the cities, and dwell in the cliffs, O dwellers of Moab, and be like a dove that makes a nest in the space across the mouth of a pit.
29 We have heard the exaltation of Moab, very proud, his haughtiness, his pride, and his majesty, the loftiness of his mind.
30 I know his arrogance, declares the Lord*, and it is not right. His boastings have not made (it) right.
31 Therefore I lament over Moab, and I cry out for Moab, all of him. I will groan concerning the men of Kir Heres.
32 Aside from my weeping for Jazer, I will weep for you, O vine of Sibma. Your tendrils crossed over the sea, They reached to the sea of Jazer. The spoiler has fallen upon your summer fruit and your vintage.
33 The joy and gladness has been taken away from the garden-land, and the land of Moab, for I have caused the wine from the wine-presses to fail. It will not be treaded out. There is shouting, (but) the shouting is not vineyard shouting.
34 From the cry of distress of Heshbon, to Elealeh, to Jahaz, they have lifted up their voice, (and) from Zoar, to Horonaim, the third Eglath, for even the waters of Nimreem are for waste.
35 I will also cause to fail for Moab, declares the Lord*, one who offers sacrifices (in) a high place, or offers sacrifices in smoke to his gods.
36 Therefore to Moab, my heart, like flutes, will murmur, and to the men of Kir Heres, my heart, like flutes will murmur, because the riches he made will have perished.
37 For every head is bald, and every beard clipped. Upon each pair of hands are cuttings, and upon the loins sackcloth.

38 Upon every rooftop of Moab, and in every one of his plazas, is wailing, for I have broken Moab like a vessel in which there is no delight, declares the Lord*.

39 How shattered he is, they howl. How he turns (his) back! Moab is ashamed, and for derision, and for terror on all his sides.

40 For thus says the Lord*, Behold, one will dart through the air like an eagle, and spread his wings over Moab.

41 Kerioth is captured, the strongholds seized. So the heart of the valiant men of Moab will be like the heart of a woman suffering travail on that day.

42 Thus Moab will be annihilated from (being) a people, for he magnified (himself) against the Lord*.

43 Terror, a trench, and a trap will be upon you, O dweller of Moab, declares the Lord*.

44 He who flees from the face of terror will fall into the trench, and he who goes up from the trench will be captured in the trap, for I will bring against him, against Moab, the year of their punishment, declares the Lord*.

45 Those who flee stand in the shadow of Heshbon without strength, for a fire goes out from Heshbon, and a flame from the midst of Sihon, and it consumes a temple of Moab, and the scalp of the sons of roaring.

46 Woe to you, Moab! The people of Chemosh perish, for your sons and daughters are taken into captivity,

47 Yet I will return the captives of Moab in the last days. (To this point is the judgment of Moab.)

Chapter 49

Against the Ammonites: Thus says the Lord*, Does Israel have no sons? Does he have no one who is an heir? Then why does Milcom dispossess Gad, and his people dwell in his cities?

2 Therefore, now the days are coming, declares the Lord*, that I will make the shout of war heard by Rabbah of the Ammonites, it will be for a ruin-heap of devastation, and its villages will be kindled by fire, then Israel will possess his inheritance, says the Lord*.

3 Howl, O Heshbon, for Ai is devastated. Cry out, O daughters of Rabbah! Gird on sackcloth! Wail, and run to and fro by the walls, for Milcom will go into exile, his priests and his princes at the same time.

4 Why do you boast about your fertile valley in the open country, O apostate daughter, who trusts in her storehouses, saying, Who can come up against me?

5 Now I am bringing terror upon you, declares the Lord God* of hosts, from all your sides, and you will be an outcast, each one like the one before, and there is no one who will gather for the wanderer.

6 Yet after that, I will return the captives of the Ammonites, declares the Lord*.

7 Against Edom: Thus says the Lord* of hosts, Is there no longer wisdom in Teman? Has counsel perished from the people? Is their wisdom let loose?

8 Flee! Be turned back! Make a deep (place) to dwell, O inhabitants of Dedan, for I am bringing the calamity of Esau upon him, (at) the time I visit him.

9 If grape-gatherers came to you, would they not leave over a gleaning? If robbers came in the night, they would spoil that which was sufficient for them,

10 But I am laying Esau bare, I am revealing his hiding places, and he may hide himself, (but) will not be able to. His offspring, brothers, and neighbors will be destroyed, and he will not exist.

11 Leave your fatherless ones. I will keep them alive, and you can trust your widows to me.

12 For thus says the Lord*, Observe that it was not their judgment to drink the cup that they will surely drink of, but you are that (one). Will you indeed be exempt from punishment? You will not be exempt from punishment, for you will surely drink.

13 For I swear by myself, declares the Lord*, that Bozrah will be for devastation, for a disgrace, for desolation, and for a curse, and all her cities will be for an everlasting desolation.

14 I have heard a report from the Lord*, and an envoy has been sent to the nations. Gather together, come against her, and rise up for war!

15 For now I will make you small among the nations, despised by mankind.

16 Horror to you! The presumption of your heart has deceived you. You who dwell in retreats of the cliff, who hold the height of the hill so you can make your nest high like an eagle, I will bring you down from there, declares the Lord*.

17 Edom will be for a devastation. Anyone who passes by her will be appalled, and will hiss over all her wounds.

18 As the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, and their inhabitants, says the Lord*, no one will dwell there,, and no son of man will sojourn into her.

19 Behold, like a lion, he would ascend from the majesty of the Jordan to a permanent abode, for I would in a moment drive him away from her. So who is the young man that I should appoint to her, for who is like me, who will summon (me) to him, and who is this shepherd who can stand before me?

20 Therefore, hear the counsel of the Lord* that he has advised against Edom, and his plans that he has planned against the inhabitants of Teman. Surely the least of the sheep will drag them away. Surely he will make their abode desolate for them.

21 From the sound of their falling, the earth shakes. The cry is heard on the Red Sea. It is her voice.

22 Behold, like an eagle he ascends, he darts through the air, he spreads out over Bozrah, and the heart of the valiant men of Bozrah will be like the heart of a woman suffering travail on that day,

23 Against Damascus: Hamath and Arpad are ashamed, for they have heard an evil report. They are helpless. There is anxiety at sea. It cannot stay quiet.

24 Damascus is losing heart. She makes a turn to flee, and panic has taken hold of her. Distress and anguish has seized her, like one who is giving birth.

25 How can the city of praise not be deserted, a town of my rejoicing?

26 Therefore, her young men will fall in her plazas, and all the men of war will be silenced on that day, declares the Lord* of hosts,

27 And I will kindle a fire on the wall of Damascus, and it will consume the citadels of Ben-Hadad.

28 Against Kedar, and the kingdoms of Hazor that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, struck: Thus says the Lord*, Arise! Ascend up to Kedar, and bring to ruin the men of the East.

29 They will take their tents and their flocks. They will carry off their tent curtains, all their vessels, and their camels for themselves, and they will cry out to them, Magor-Missabib!

30 Flee! Take rapid flight! Make deep places to dwell, O inhabitants of Hazor, declares the Lord*, for Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, has counseled against you, and has devised plans together with them.

31 Arise, go up to a nation at ease, one that dwells in security, declares the Lord*, no doors and no bars to it, who abide in isolation.

32 Their camels will also be for plunder, the abundance of their cattle will be for a spoil, and I will scatter them to every wind of those clipped on the temples, and bring their calamity from all sides of them.

33 Hazor will be for a lair of jackals, a devastation forever. No one will dwell there, and no son of man will sojourn into her.

34 The word of the Lord* that came to Jeremiah the prophet against Elam in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah, saying:

35 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, Now I am breaking the bow of Elam, the chief of their strength,

36 And I will bring in the four winds from the four corners of the heavens against Elam. I will scatter them to all these winds, and there will not be a nation where the banished of Elam will not go.

37 I will cause Elam to be shattered before their enemies, and before those who seek their life. I will bring upon them misery with the burning of my anger, declares the Lord*, and I will send the sword after them until I have consumed them.

38 Then I will set my throne in Elam, and from there I will cause the king and his princes to perish, declares the Lord*.

39 Yet it will be in the last days (that) I will return the captives of Elam, declares the Lord*.

Chapter 50

The word that the Lord* spoke against Babylon, against the land of the Chaldeans, by the hand of Jeremiah the prophet.

2 Report to the nations. Declare and lift up a standard. Declare, do not conceal! Say, Babylon is captured. Bel is put to shame. Merodach is shattered. Her carved gods are put to shame. Her idols are shattered.

3 For a nation from the North goes up against her, which will make her land for devastation, and there will be no inhabitant within her. From man, even to beast, they take flight. They go away.

4 In those days, and in that time, declares the Lord*, the people of Israel, they and the people of Judah will go out together. They will walk along weeping, and seek after the Lord* their God.

5 They will ask the way (to) Zion in front of them. Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord*, an everlasting covenant (that) will not be forgotten.

6 My people are lost sheep. Their shepherds have caused them to wander about the mountains. They have turned them back. They go from mountain to hill. They have forgotten their dwelling place.

7 All those who find them devour them, and their adversaries say, We are not guilty, because they have sinned against the Lord*, the habitation of righteousness, and the hope of their fathers, the Lord*.

8 Take flight from the midst of Babylon, yes, from the land of the Chaldeans. Let them go, and be like the he-goats in front of the flock.

9 For now I am stirring up and bringing up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from a land of the North, and they will arrange a battle against her. From there she will be captured. His arrows will be as a skillful valiant man. They will not return in vain.

10 Then the Chaldeans will be for a spoil. All who plunder her will be satisfied, declares the Lord*.

11 Since you are glad, and you rejoice, O plunderers of my inheritance, since you spring about like a calf shooting up, and neigh like mighty horses,

12 Your mother will be very much ashamed, Your birth mother will blush. Behold, it is the lowest of nations: a wilderness, a desert, and a steppe.

13 From the wrath of the Lord* she cannot be inhabited, and will be a devastation, all of her. Anyone who passes by Babylon will be appalled, and will hiss at all her beatings.

14 Arrange a battle against Babylon from all sides. All (you) archers, shoot at her! Do not spare in regard to the arrow, for she has sinned against the Lord*.

15 Shout in triumph over her from all sides! She has put up her hand. Her buttresses have fallen. Her walls are torn down. Yes, it is the vengeance of the Lord* (over) her. Take vengeance against her! As she has done, do to her.

16 Cut down the sower from Babylon, and he who handles the sickle in the time of harvest. Each one will turn toward his people, and each one will flee toward his land, away from the presence of the sword of the oppressors.

17 A scattered ram is Israel; lions have thrust (him) out. At first the king of Assyria devoured (him), but this last time Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, (devoured) his bones.

18 Therefore, thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, Now I am bringing punishment to the king of Babylon and his land, as I brought punishment to the king of Assyria,

19 And I will return Israel to his abode. He will graze in Carmel and Bashan, and in Mount Ephraim and Gilead his appetite will be satisfied.

20 In those days, and at that time, declares the Lord*, the iniquity of Israel may be sought for, but there will be none, and the sin of Judah, but they will not be found, for I will grant a pardon to those whom I have left.

21 Go up against the land of Merathiam [Babylon], against her and the inhabitants of Pekod. Attack and bring destruction after them, declares the Lord*. Yes, do according to all that I have commanded you.

22 The sound of war is in the land, and a great crashing.

23 How chopped down and broken it is, the forge-hammer of all the earth! How for a devastation is Babylon among all the nations.

24 I laid a bait for you, and were captured indeed, O Babylon, but you were not aware. You were found, and also seized, for you engaged in strife against the Lord*.

25 The Lord* has opened his storehouse, and has come out with the weapons of his indignation, for it is the work of the Lord* God of hosts against the land of the Chaldeans.

26 Enter into her from everywhere! Open her granaries. Cast her up like a heap of grain, and destroy her. Do not let there be a remnant (left) to her.

27 Attack all her steers! Let them down to the slaughter. Woe upon them, for their day has come, the time of her punishment.

28 The sound is of those taking flight, and those escaping, from the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the Lord* our God, the vengeance of his temple.

29 Summon the archers against Babylon, all who bend the bow. Encamp by her around all sides. Let there not be a fugitive to her. Make recompense to her according to her actions. According to all she has done, do to her, for she has acted presumptuously against the Lord*, against the holy one of Israel.

30 Therefore, her young men will fall in her plazas, and all her men of war will be silenced on that day, declares the Lord*.

31 Behold, I am against you, O presumptuous one, declares the Lord* God of hosts, for your day has come, the time of your punishment.

32 The presumptuous one will stumble, he will fall, and there will be no one to pick him up, as I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it will consume everything surrounding him.

33 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, the children of Israel and Judah together are oppressed, and all of their captors have kept hold of them. They have refused to release them.

34 Their redeemer is strong, the Lord* of hosts is his name. He will surely plead their cause, in order to give rest to the land, and to give a shaking to the inhabitants of Babylon.

35 A sword is against the Chaldeans, declares the Lord*, yes, against the inhabitants of Babylon, her rulers, and her wise men.

36 A sword is against her idle talkers, and they will be revealed as fools. A sword is against her valiant men, and they will be shattered.

37 A sword is against his horses and his chariot, and against all the mixed company in the midst of her, and women will own them. The sword is against her storehouses, and they will be taken for a spoil.

38 Dryness is against her waters, and they will be dried up. For she is a land of idols, and they will act like madmen about dreadful idols.

39 Therefore, wild beasts will dwell with jackals, even ostriches will dwell in her, and she will never again be inhabited; she will remain unsettled from generation to generation.

40 As when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and those abiding in it, declares the Lord*, no one will dwell there, nor will a son of man sojourn in her.

41 Behold, a people comes from the North, and a great nation, and many kings will be incited from the remote parts of the earth.

42 They will take hold of bow and javelin. They will be cruel and show no mercy. Their sound will roar like a sea, and upon horses they will mount and ride. They are arrayed in battle order like a man of war against you, O daughter of Babylon.

43 The king of Babylon hears their report, and his hands drop. Distress has taken hold of him, anguish as one giving birth.

44 Behold, like a lion, he would ascend from the majesty of the Jordan to a permanent abode, for I would in a moment drive him away from her. So who is the young man that I should appoint to her, for who is like me, who will summon (me) to him, and who is this shepherd who can stand before me?

45 Therefore, hear the counsel of the Lord* that he has advised against Babylon, and his plans that he has planned against the land of the Chaldeans. Surely the least of the sheep will drag them away. Surely he will make their abode desolate for them.

46 From the sound of Babylon being seized, the earth is made to quake, and a cry of distress is heard among the nations.

Chapter 51

Thus says the Lord*, Now I am stirring up against Babylon, yes, against the inhabitants of Leb Kamai, a wind of destruction,

2 And I will send foreigners against Babylon, and they will scatter her and empty out her land, for they will be against her from all sides on the day of distress.

3 The archer must bend the bow against (her), and lift himself up in his armor against (her), but do not have pity on her young men. Destroy all her army.

4 The pierced will fall in the land of the Chaldeans, and the slain will be in her streets.

5 For Israel and Judah are not severed from their God, from the Lord* of hosts, although their land had their fill of guilt, according to the Holy One of Israel.

6 Flee from the midst of Babylon, and each one save his life, but do not be silenced about her iniquity, for it is the time of the vengeance of the Lord* (upon) her, the recompense he will repay to her.

7 The golden cup of Babylon was in the hand of the Lord*, that made the whole earth drink. The nations drank from her wine, thus the nations acted like madmen.

8 Suddenly, Babylon falls, and she is destroyed. Wail over her! Take balsam for her pain! Perhaps she will be healed.

9 We have treated Babylon, but she is not healed. Abandon her, and let each one of us go to his land, for her judgment has reached the heavens, yes, it is lifted up to the clouds.

10 The Lord* has brought forth our righteousness. Come, and let us declare in Zion what the Lord* our God has done!

11 Polish the arrows! Fill the quivers! The Lord* is stirring up the spirit of the kings of Media, for his purpose is against Babylon to destroy her, for the vengeance of the Lord* is the vengeance of his temple.

12 Lift up a standard against the walls of Babylon! Shore up the guards. Station the watchmen. Make ready those who lie in wait, for even (as) the Lord* has purposed, he also is doing what he has spoken against the inhabitants of Babylon.

13 O dwellers by many waters, abundant in treasure, your end is coming, the measure of your unjust gain.

14 The Lord* of hosts swears on his being, I will indeed satiate you, every man like a locust, and they will sing over you, cheering.

15 He made the earth by his strength, he established the world by his wisdom, and he stretched out the heavens by his understanding.

16 At the sound of his uttering, he put the roar of water in the heavens, and he made rising mist ascend from the ends of the earth. He made lightning for the rain, and the wind came out from his storehouses.

17 Everyone is dull-hearted, apart from knowledge. Every goldsmith brings shame because of an image, for his molten image is a lie, and there is no breath in it.

18 They are worthless, a work to be mocked. In the time of their visitation they will perish.

19 Not like these is the portion of Jacob, for he is the creator of all, and one tribe is his property. The Lord* of hosts is his name.

20 You have been a war-club to me, (one of) the weapons of war, and with you I have shattered nations, with you I have destroyed kingdoms,

21 With you I have shattered horse and his rider, with you I have shattered chariot and its driver,

22 With you I have shattered man and woman, with you I have shattered old man and boy, with you I have shattered young man and virgin,

23 With you I have shattered shepherd and his flock, with you I have shattered farmer and his ox, and with you I have shattered governors and rulers,

24 But I will recompense to Babylon, and to all the inhabitants of the Chaldeans, in your sight, all their evil that they have done in Zion, declares the Lord*.

25 Now I am against you, O mountain of destruction, destroyer of all the earth, and I will stretch out my hand against you, roll you down from the cliffs, and make you into a burnt-out volcano.

26 They will not take a stone from you for a corner-stone, nor a stone for foundations, because you will be for devastation forever.

27 Lift up a standard in the land! Blow the shofar among the nations! Consecrate nations against her. Summon the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz against her. Appoint a marshal against her. Bring up the horse like a bristling locust.

28 Consecrate the nations against her, with the kings of Media, her governors, all her rulers, and every land under their imperial rule.

29 The earth will quake, and be in severe anguish, for the plans of the Lord* against Babylon will be fulfilled, to set the land of Babylon for devastation, without an inhabitant.

30 The valiant men of Babylon have ceased to fight. They remain in their strongholds. Their strength is dry. They are for women. They have set her dwelling places on fire. Her gate-bars are broken.

31 A runner runs to meet a runner, and a messenger to meet a messenger, to announce to the king of Babylon that his entire city has been captured.

32 The passages have been seized, they have burned the rushes with fire, and the men of war are terrified.

33 For thus says the Lord* of hosts, the God of Israel, The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor (in) the time of her treading. Yet a little while, and the time of harvest will come for her.

34 Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, has devoured me. He has set me (for) an empty vessel. He has swallowed me like a dragon. He has filled his belly from my delicacies. He has rinsed me away.

35 The violence against me and my flesh are upon Babylon, let the inhabitants of Zion say, and my blood is upon the inhabitants of the Chaldeans, let Jerusalem say.

36 Therefore, thus says the Lord*, Now I am contending your cause. I will take vengeance for you, I will dry up her sea, and I will make her spring dry.

37 Babylon will be for a heap of ruins, a habitation of jackals, a devastation, and an object of derision, without an inhabitant.

38 Like young lions, they roar at the same time. They growl like whelps of lions.

39 When they become heated, I will prepare a banquet for them. Then I will make them drunk, in order that they become jubilant, then they will sleep a long-lasting sleep and not wake up, declares the Lord*.

40 I will cast them down like he-lambs to the slaughter, like rams along with he-goats.

41 How has Sheshach been captured, and the object of praise of all the earth been seized? How has Babylon become for a devastation among the nations?

42 The sea goes up over Babylon. She is covered with the abundance of its waves.

43 Her cities are for a devastation, a land of drought and desert, a land in which no one dwells, and which no son of man will pass through.

44 I will visit upon Bel in Babylon, I will bring forth that which he has swallowed out of his mouth, and the nations will no longer stream to him. Even the wall of Babylon will fall.

45 Go out from the midst of her, O my people, and let each one save his life from the burning of the anger of the Lord*,

46 Lest your heart be timid, and you become fearful of the report that is heard in the land, and the report that comes in one year, and the report in the following year, that violence will be in the land, and ruler against ruler.

47 Therefore, behold, the days are coming when I will visit upon all the idols of Babylon, and all her land will be ashamed, and all her wounded will fall in the middle of her.

48 Then they will give a joyous shout over Babylon, the heavens and the earth, and all who are in them, for from the North the destroyers will come into her, declares the Lord*.

49 Indeed, Babylon is to fall (for) the slain of Israel, (for) also the slain of all the earth fell to Babylon.

50 O fugitives from the sword, go! Do not stand still! Remember the Lord* from a distance, and let Jerusalem ascend upon your heart.

51 We are ashamed, for we have heard the reproach. The disgrace covers our faces, for strangers have come in upon the sanctuaries of the house of the Lord*.

52 Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord*, when I will visit upon her idols, and in all of her land, the pierced will groan.

53 If Babylon could ascend to the heavens, and fortify the height of her strength, from me the destroyers would come to her, declares the Lord*.

54 The voice is a cry from Babylon, and a great crushing from the land of the Chaldeans.

55 For the Lord* will destroy Babylon, and he will cause the great voice to vanish, when their waves roar like many waters, and the roar of their voice is uttered.

56 For the destroyer is coming against her, against Babylon, and her valiant men will be captured. She will be shattered by their bows, for the God of recompense, the Lord*, will surely recompense.

57 I will make her princes and wise men, her governors, rulers, and valiant men drink, and they will sleep a long-lasting sleep, and will not wake up, declares the king, the Lord* of hosts is his name.

58 Thus says the Lord* of hosts, The thick walls of Babylon will be laid totally bare, and her high gates will burn in fire, thus the nations will toil for what is empty, and the people will grow weary satisfying a fire.

59 The word that Jeremiah the prophet charged to Seraiah, son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, when he went with Zedekiah, king of Judah, to Babylon in the fourth year of his reign, and Seraiah was his security officer.

60 Jeremiah wrote about all the distress that would come to Babylon into one book, all these words written against Babylon.

61 Then Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When you come into Babylon, then you will look around, and you will read out all these words,

62 And you will say, O Lord*, you have spoken against this place to cut it off, so that there will not be one who dwells in it, from a man even to an animal, for it will be (in) ruins forever.

63 So when you finish reading this book, you will bind a stone on it, and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates,

64 And you will say, Thus will Babylon sink and not rise, but they will be exhausted from the presence of all the misery that I will bring upon her. To this point, those are the words of Jeremiah.

Chapter 52

Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he ruled eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother was Hamutal, daughter of Jeremiah, from Libnah,

2 And he did evil in the sight of the Lord*, according to all that Jehoakim had done.

3 For it was the cause of the anger of the Lord* that was against Jerusalem and Judah, until he threw them out of his presence, when Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

4 It was the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, (that) Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, he and all his army, came against Jerusalem, and they made camp by it, and they built a bulwark all around against it,

5 And the city came into a state of siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

6 In the fourth month, by the ninth day of the month, the famine became severe in the city, and there was no food for the people of the land.

7 Then the city was broken into, and all the men of war fled, and went out away from the city (at) night (by) way of the gate between the twin walls that were by the garden of the king, while the Chaldeans were by the city all around. So they went by way of the steppe,

8 But the army of the Chaldeans chased after the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho, and all his army were scattered away from him.

9 Then they seized the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon, at Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he pronounced judgment on him,

10 And the king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah in his sight. He slaughtered all the princes of Judah in Riblah.

11 He also blinded the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in fetters of bronze. Then the king of Babylon brought him to Babylon, and put him in the prison until the day of his death.

12 Now in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month, it being the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzar-adan, chief bodyguard, who served the king of Babylon, entered into Jerusalem.

13 He burned the house of the Lord*, the house of the king, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every house of the great he burned with fire.

14 Then all the army of the Chaldeans that were with the chief bodyguard broke down the walls surrounding Jerusalem.

15 Nebuzar-adan, chief bodyguard, then carried away into exile some of the poorest of the people, the rest of the people who remained in the city, and those who deserted that fell in with the king of Babylon, and the rest of the master-workmen,

16 But some of the poorest of the land, Nebuzar-adan, chief bodyguard, left behind for vinedressers and husbandmen.

17 The bronze pillars that were of the house of the Lord*, and the bases and the bronze sea that were in the house of the Lord*, the Chaldeans broke into pieces, and they carried all their bronze into Babylon,

18 And they took the pots, the shovels, the snuffers, the bowls, the pans, and all the vessels of bronze with which they ministered.

19 Of the basins, the bowls, the fire-pans, the pots, the menorahs, the pans, and the sacrificial bowls, the chief bodyguard took what was gold (for) the gold, and what was silver (for) the silver.

20 There were two pillars, one sea, and twelve oxen of bronze underneath, the bases that King Solomon made for the house of the Lord*. There could not be a weight for their bronze of all these utensils.

21 The pillars were eighteen cubits high (for) each pillar, and a measuring line of twelve cubits would go around it. Its thickness was four fingers. It was hollowed out,

22 And the capital over it was bronze, and the height of one capital was five cubits, with the net ornament and pomegranates around the capital on all sides, all of bronze, and like these for the second pillar and pomegranates.

23 There were ninety-six pomegranates on the sides. All the pomegranates were one hundred all around on the net ornament.

24 The chief bodyguard took Seraiah, the head priest, and Zephaniah, the second priest, and three doorkeepers,

25 And from the city he took one eunuch who was an officer over the men of war, and seven men from those who had access to the king who were encountered in the city, and a secretary, an officer of the army who organized the people of the land for war, and sixty men from the people of the land, who were found in the middle of the city.

26 Then Nebuzar-adan, chief bodyguard, took them, and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah,

27 And the king of Babylon struck them down and killed them in Riblah, in the land of Hamath. So Judah went into exile away from its land.

28 These are the people whom Nebuchadnezzar took into exile: in the seventh year, three thousand and twenty-three Jews,

29 In the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar from Jerusalem, eight hundred and thirty-two,

30 In the twenty-third year of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzar-adan, chief bodyguard, took seven hundred and forty-five Jewish lives into exile. All the lives were four thousand and six hundred.

31 Now it was in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin, king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-fifth day of the month, Evil-

Merodach, king of Babylon, in the year he became king, lifted up the head of Jehoiachin, king of Judah, and he brought him out from the prison house,
32 And he spoke good words with him, and put his throne higher as compared to the throne of the kings who were with him in Babylon.
33 He changed his garments of imprisonment. He also ate food in his presence continually, all the days of his life,
34 And his meal allowance was a continual allowance. It was given to him from the king of Babylon, a portion day-by-day until the day of his death, all the days of his life.