Jeremiah

1 The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of
the priests in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin.
2 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 It also came 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, when Jerusalem went into exile in the
fifth month.
4 The word of the LORD came to me:
5 “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you;
before you were born, I consecrated you.
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”
6 Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! I do not know
how to speak, for I am a youth.”
7 But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am a
youth,’ for you must go to everyone to whom I
send you and speak whatever I command you.
8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you
to deliver you,” declares the LORD.
9 Then the LORD reached out his hand and
touched my mouth. The LORD said to me, “Look,
I have put my words in your mouth.
10 See, today I have appointed you over
nations and kingdoms, to uproot and tear down,
to destroy and demolish, to build and to plant.”

11 The word of the LORD came to me: “What
do you see, Jeremiah?” I said, “I see an almond
branch.”
12 The LORD said to me, “You have seen well,
for I am watching over my word to carry it out.”
13 The word of the LORD came to me a second
time: “What do you see?” I said, “I see a boiling
pot, tilted away from the north.”
14 Then the LORD said to me, “From the north
disaster will break loose upon all who live in the
land.
15 For I am calling all the clans of the northern
kingdoms,” declares the LORD. “They will come,
and each will set his throne at the entrance to
Jerusalem’s gates, against all its surrounding
walls and against all the cities of Judah.
16 I will pronounce my judgments against
them for all their wickedness: they have
forsaken me, burned incense to other gods, and
bowed down to the work of their own hands.
17 But you, gird your waist, stand up, and tell
them everything I command you. Do not be
dismayed before them, or I will make you
dismayed before them.
18 Look, today I have made you a fortified city,
an iron pillar, and bronze walls against the
whole land—against the kings of Judah, its
officials, its priests, and the people of the land.
19 They will fight against you, but they will not
prevail over you, for I am with you,” declares
the LORD, “to deliver you.”

2

1 The word of the LORD came to me:

2 “Go and proclaim within Jerusalem’s hearing:
This is what the LORD says: ‘I remember
your devotion in your youth, your love as
a bride, how you followed me through the
wilderness, through a land that had not
been sown.
3 Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of
his harvest.
All who devoured him became guilty;
disaster came upon them,’ declares the
LORD.”

4 Hear the word of the LORD, house of Jacob and
all the clans of the house of Israel.
5 This is what the LORD says: “What wrong did
your ancestors find in me, that they went
far from me?
They followed what was worthless and
became worthless themselves.
6 They did not ask, ‘Where is the LORD, who
brought us up from the land of Egypt, who
led us through the wilderness, through a
land of deserts and pits, a land of drought
and deep darkness, a land no one passed
through and no one inhabited?’
7 I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit
and its good things.
But you came and defiled my land and
made my inheritance an abomination.
8 The priests did not ask, ‘Where is the LORD?’
Those who handled the law did not know
me.
The shepherds rebelled against me;

the prophets prophesied by Baal and
followed things that could not help.
9 Therefore I will still bring my case against
you," declares the LORD, "and I will bring
my case against your children's children.
10 Cross over to the coastlands of Kittim and
look;
send to Kedar and examine carefully.
See whether anything like this has ever
happened.
11 Has a nation exchanged its gods, though they
are no gods?
Yet my people have exchanged their glory
for what cannot help.
12 Be appalled at this, heavens;
shudder and be utterly desolate," declares
the LORD.
13 "For my people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken me, the fountain of
living waters, and hewn out cisterns for
themselves, broken cisterns that cannot
hold water.
14 Is Israel a slave?
Was he born a slave in the household?
Why has he become plunder?
15 Young lions have roared against him;
they have raised their voices.
They have made his land a waste;
his cities are burned, without an inhabitant.
16 Even the people of Memphis and Tahpanhes
have laid bare the crown of your head.
17 Have you not brought this on yourself by
forsaking the LORD your God when he
was leading you along the way?

18 And now, why take the road to Egypt to drink
the waters of Shihor?
Why take the road to Assyria to drink the
waters of the River?
19 Your own wickedness will discipline you, and
your apostasies will rebuke you.
Know and see how evil and bitter it is to
forsake the LORD your God and have no
fear of me," declares the Lord GOD of
hosts.
20 "Long ago I broke your yoke and tore off your
bonds, but you said, 'I will not serve!' For
on every high hill and under every leafy
tree you sprawled as a prostitute.
21 I planted you as a choice vine, entirely from
genuine seed.
How then have you turned into the
degenerate shoots of a foreign vine before
me?
22 Though you wash yourself with washing soda
and use soap in abundance, the stain of
your guilt remains before me," declares
the Lord GOD.
23 "How can you say, 'I have not defiled myself;
I have not followed the Baals'?
Look at your way in the valley;
acknowledge what you have done.
You are a swift young she-camel, entangling
her paths,
24 a wild donkey accustomed to the wilderness,
sniffing the wind in her craving.
Who can restrain her in her heat?
None who seek her need tire themselves;
in her month they will find her.

25 Keep your feet from going bare and your
throat from thirst.
But you said, ‘It is hopeless!
No, for I love strangers, and I will go after
them.’
26 As a thief is ashamed when caught, so the
house of Israel is ashamed—they, their
kings, their officials, their priests, and
their prophets.
27 They say to a piece of wood, ‘You are my
father,’ and to a stone, ‘You gave me birth.’
They have turned their backs to me,
rather than their faces.
But in their time of disaster they say, ‘Rise
up and save us!’
28 Where are the gods you made for yourself?
Let them rise up, if they can save you in
your time of disaster!
For you have as many gods as cities, Judah.

29 Why do you bring your case against me?
You have all rebelled against me,” declares
the LORD.
30 “In vain I struck your children;
they accepted no discipline.
Your own sword devoured your prophets
like a ravaging lion.
31 You of this generation, consider the word of
the LORD!
Have I been a wilderness to Israel, or a land
of deep darkness?
Why do my people say, ‘We are free;
we will no longer come to you’?

32 Does a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride
her sashes?
Yet my people have forgotten me for days
beyond counting.
33 How skillfully you prepare your way to seek
love!
So you have even taught wicked women
your ways.
34 Even on the skirts of your clothes is found the
lifeblood of the innocent poor.
You did not catch them breaking in.
Yet despite all this,
35 you say, ‘I am innocent;
surely his anger has turned away from me.’
Look, I will bring you to judgment for
saying, ‘I have not sinned.’
36 Why do you wander about so much, changing
your way?
You will be put to shame by Egypt, just as
you were put to shame by Assyria.
37 From there too you will leave with your hands
on your head, for the LORD has rejected
those you trust, and you will not prosper
through them.”

3

1 He says, “If a man divorces his wife and she
leaves him and marries another man, will
he return to her again?
Would not that land be thoroughly defiled?
You have prostituted yourself with many
lovers, and would you return to me?”
declares the LORD.

2 “Lift your eyes to the bare heights and look.
Where have men not slept with you?
You sat by the roads waiting for them, like
an Arab in the wilderness.
You have defiled the land with your
prostitution and your wickedness.
3 So the showers were withheld, and the spring
rain did not come.
Yet you had the forehead of a prostitute;
you refused to be ashamed.
4 Have you not just now called to me, ‘My Father,
you are the companion of my youth’?
5 ‘Will he hold a grudge forever?
Will he keep his anger to the end?’ Look,
this is what you have said, yet you have
done all the evil you could.”

6 In the days of King Josiah, the LORD said to me,
“Have you seen what faithless Israel has
done?
She went up on every high mountain and
under every leafy tree and prostituted
herself there.
7 I said, ‘After she has done all this, she will
return to me.’ But she did not return, and
her treacherous sister Judah saw it.
8 I saw that, though I had sent faithless Israel
away and given her a certificate of
divorce because of all her adulteries, her
treacherous sister Judah did not fear.
She too went and prostituted herself.

9 Because she took her prostitution lightly, she
defiled the land and committed adultery
with stone and wood.
10 Yet despite all this, her treacherous sister
Judah did not return to me with her
whole heart, but only in pretense,"
declares the LORD.

11 Then the LORD said to me, "Faithless Israel
has shown herself more righteous than
treacherous Judah.
12 Go and proclaim these words toward the
north: Return, faithless Israel, declares
the LORD.
I will not look on you in anger, for I am
merciful, declares the LORD.
I will not hold a grudge forever.
13 Only acknowledge your guilt: you have
rebelled against the LORD your God,
scattered your favors among strangers
under every leafy tree, and have not
obeyed my voice, declares the LORD.
14 Return, faithless children, declares the LORD,
for I am your husband.
I will take you, one from a city and two from
a clan, and bring you to Zion.
15 I will give you shepherds after my own heart,
who will feed you with knowledge and
understanding.
16 When you multiply and become fruitful in the
land in those days, declares the LORD,
they will no longer say, 'The ark of the

covenant of the LORD.' It will not come to
mind;
they will not remember it or miss it, nor will
another be made.
17 At that time they will call Jerusalem the
Throne of the LORD, and all the nations
will gather to it, to the name of the LORD,
to Jerusalem.
They will no longer follow the stubbornness
of their evil hearts.

18 In those days the house of Judah will walk
with the house of Israel, and together they
will come from the land of the north to
the land I gave your ancestors as an
inheritance.
19 I said, 'How I would place you among my
children and give you a desirable land,
the most beautiful inheritance among the
hosts of nations!' I said you would call me
'My Father' and would not turn away
from following me.
20 But as a wife is treacherous to her companion,
so you have been treacherous to me,
house of Israel," declares the LORD.
21 A voice is heard on the bare heights, the
weeping and pleading of the people of
Israel, because they have twisted their
way and forgotten the LORD their God.
22 "Return, faithless children;
I will heal your faithlessness."
"Here we are;
we come to you, for you are the LORD our
God.

23 Surely the hills are a deception, the tumult on
the mountains!
Surely in the LORD our God is the salvation
of Israel.
24 From our youth the shameful thing has
devoured the fruit of our ancestors'
labor—their flocks and herds, their sons
and daughters.
25 Let us lie down in our shame, and let our
disgrace cover us, for we have sinned
against the LORD our God, we and our
ancestors, from our youth to this day.
We have not obeyed the voice of the LORD
our God."

4

1 "If you return, Israel," declares the LORD,
"return to me.
If you remove your abominations from my
presence and do not wander away,
2 and if you swear, 'As the LORD lives,' in truth,
justice, and righteousness, then the
nations will bless themselves in him, and
in him they will glory."

3 For this is what the LORD says to the men of
Judah and to Jerusalem: "Break up your
fallow ground, and do not sow among
thorns.
4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD;
remove the foreskins of your hearts, men of
Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, or my
wrath will break out like fire and burn

with no one to quench it, because of your
evil deeds."
5 Announce in Judah and proclaim in Jerusalem:
"Blow the trumpet in the land!"
Cry out at the top of your voice and say,
"Gather together!
Let us enter the fortified cities!"
6 "Raise a banner toward Zion!
Seek refuge;
do not delay, for I am bringing disaster from
the north and great destruction.
7 A lion has come up from his thicket;
a destroyer of nations has set out.
He has left his place to make your land a
waste.
Your cities will be ruined, without an
inhabitant."
8 For this, put on sackcloth, lament and wail, for
the fierce anger of the LORD has not
turned away from us.

9 "On that day," declares the LORD, "the king will
lose heart, and so will the officials.
The priests will be appalled, and the
prophets will be astounded."
10 Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD!
You have surely deceived this people and
Jerusalem completely, saying, 'You will
have peace,' while the sword reaches life
itself!"
11 At that time it will be said to this people and to
Jerusalem, "A scorching wind from the
bare heights in the wilderness is coming

toward the daughter of my people,
neither to winnow nor to cleanse.
12 A wind too strong for that comes at my
bidding.
Now I too will pronounce judgments against
them."
13 Look, he comes up like clouds;
his chariots are like a whirlwind, his horses
swifter than eagles.
Woe to us, for we are devastated!
14 Wash the evil from your heart, Jerusalem, so
that you may be saved.
How long will your wicked thoughts lodge
within you?
15 For a voice announces from Dan and
proclaims disaster from the hill country of
Ephraim.
16 Tell the nations;
proclaim concerning Jerusalem: "Besiegers
are coming from a distant land, raising
their voices against the cities of Judah.
17 They surround her like keepers of a field,
because she has rebelled against me,"
declares the LORD.
18 "Your ways and your deeds have brought this
upon you.
This is your disaster—how bitter it is!
It has reached your very heart."

19 My insides, my insides!
I writhe in pain at the walls of my heart.
My heart pounds within me;

I cannot keep silent, for you have heard, my
soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm
of war.
20 Disaster upon disaster is announced, for the
whole land is devastated.
Suddenly my tents are destroyed, my tent
curtains in an instant.
21 How long must I see the banner and hear the
sound of the trumpet?

22 “For my people are foolish;
they do not know me.
They are senseless children, without
understanding.
They are skilled at doing evil, but they do
not know how to do good.”
23 I looked at the earth, and there it was, without
form and void;
at the heavens, and their light was gone.
24 I looked at the mountains, and there they
were, trembling;
all the hills were shaking.
25 I looked, and there was no one;
all the birds of the heavens had fled.
26 I looked, and the fertile land was a wilderness;
all its cities were torn down before the
LORD, before his fierce anger.

27 For this is what the LORD says: “The whole
land will be desolate, yet I will not make a
complete end of it.
28 For this the earth will mourn, and the heavens
above will grow dark, because I have
spoken, I have purposed it.

I have not relented, and I will not turn back
from it."
29 At the sound of horsemen and archers, every
city flees.
They go into the thickets and climb among
the rocks.
Every city is abandoned, and no one lives in
them.
30 And you, devastated one, what will you do?
Though you clothe yourself in scarlet, adorn
yourself with gold jewelry, and enlarge
your eyes with paint, you beautify
yourself in vain.
Your lovers despise you;
they seek your life.
31 For I hear a cry like a woman in labor, anguish
like a woman bearing her first child—the
cry of the daughter of Zion, gasping for
breath, spreading out her hands: "Woe to
me!
My soul faints before the killers!"

5

1 "Go through the streets of Jerusalem;
look and find out.
Search her squares.
If you can find one person who acts justly
and seeks faithfulness, I will pardon her.
2 Though they say, 'As the LORD lives,' they are
surely swearing falsely."
3 LORD, do your eyes not look for faithfulness?
You struck them, but they felt no pain;
you consumed them, but they refused to
accept discipline.

They made their faces harder than rock;
they refused to return.
4 Then I said, “Surely these are only the poor.
They act foolishly because they do not know
the way of the LORD, the requirements of
their God.
5 I will go to the prominent men and speak with
them, for they know the way of the LORD,
the requirements of their God.”
But they too had all broken the yoke and
torn off the bonds.
6 Therefore a lion from the forest will strike
them down, a wolf of the desert will
devastate them, and a leopard will watch
over their cities.
Everyone who goes out from them will be
torn to pieces, because their
transgressions are many and their
apostasies have increased.
7 “How can I pardon you for this?
Your children have forsaken me and sworn
by those who are no gods.
I fed them to the full, but they committed
adultery and thronged to a prostitute’s
house.
8 They were well-fed horses, up early, each
neighing for his neighbor’s wife.
9 Shall I not punish them for these things?”
declares the LORD.
“Shall I not avenge myself on a nation like
this?

10 Go up through her vineyard rows and destroy,
but do not make a complete end.

Strip away her branches, for they do not
belong to the LORD.
11 For the house of Israel and the house of Judah
have been utterly treacherous to me,"
declares the LORD.
12 They have denied the LORD and said, "It is not
he!
Disaster will not come upon us;
we will see neither sword nor famine.
13 The prophets will become wind;
the word is not in them.
Let this be done to them!"

14 Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of
hosts, says: "Because you have spoken
these words, look, I am making my words
in your mouth a fire and this people
wood, and it will consume them.
15 Look, I am bringing a nation against you from
far away, house of Israel," declares the
LORD.
"It is an enduring nation, an ancient nation,
a nation whose language you do not know
and whose speech you do not understand.
16 Its quiver is like an open grave;
all of them are mighty warriors.
17 It will devour your harvest and your bread;
they will devour your sons and daughters.
It will devour your flocks and herds;
it will devour your vines and fig trees.
It will shatter with the sword the fortified
cities in which you trust.
18 Yet even in those days," declares the LORD, "I
will not make a complete end of you.

19 And when you ask, ‘Why has the LORD our
God done all these things to us?’ you are
to tell them: ‘Just as you have forsaken me
and served foreign gods in your own land,
so you will serve foreigners in a land that
is not yours.’

20 Announce this in the house of Jacob and
proclaim it in Judah:
21 Hear this, foolish and senseless people, who
have eyes but do not see, who have ears
but do not hear.
22 Do you not fear me?”
declares the LORD.
“Do you not tremble before me?
I placed the sand as a boundary for the sea,
a lasting decree that it cannot cross.
Though its waves toss, they cannot prevail;
though they roar, they cannot cross it.
23 But this people has a stubborn and rebellious
heart;
they have turned aside and gone away.
24 They do not say in their hearts, ‘Let us fear the
LORD our God, who gives the rain in its
season, the fall rain and the spring rain,
and keeps for us the appointed weeks of
harvest.’
25 Your iniquities have turned these things away,
and your sins have withheld good from
you.
26 For wicked men are found among my people.
They lurk like crouching birdcatchers;
they set a trap and catch people.

27 Like a cage full of birds, their houses are full
of deceit;
therefore they have become great and rich.
28 They have grown fat and sleek;
they even surpass the deeds of the wicked.
They do not judge the case, the case of the
fatherless, yet they prosper;
they do not defend the rights of the needy.
29 Shall I not punish them for these things?"
declares the LORD.
"Shall I not avenge myself on a nation like
this?

30 An appalling and horrifying thing has
happened in the land:
31 the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests
rule with their support, and my people
love it this way.
But what will you do when the end comes?"

6

1 Flee for safety, people of Benjamin, out of
Jerusalem!
Blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and raise a
signal over Beth-haccherem, for disaster
looms from the north, and great
destruction.
2 "I will destroy the lovely and delicate daughter
of Zion.
3 Shepherds with their flocks will come against
her;
they will pitch their tents all around her,
each grazing his own portion."
4 "Consecrate war against her!

Rise up;
let us attack at noon!
Woe to us, for the day is declining and the
evening shadows are growing long!
5 Rise up; let us attack by night and destroy her
palaces!”

6 For this is what the LORD of hosts says: “Cut
down trees and build a siege ramp against
Jerusalem.
This is the city to be punished;
oppression fills her.
7 As a well brings forth its water, so she brings
forth her wickedness.
Violence and destruction are heard in her;
sickness and wounds are continually before
me.
8 Accept discipline, Jerusalem, or I will turn
away from you;
or I will make you a desolation, an
uninhabited land.”

9 This is what the LORD of hosts says: “They will
thoroughly glean the remnant of Israel
like a vine.
Pass your hand over the branches again,
like a grape gatherer.”
10 To whom can I speak and give warning, so
that they will listen?
Look, their ears are uncircumcised;
they cannot pay attention.
Look, the word of the LORD is an offense to
them;
they take no pleasure in it.

11 I am full of the wrath of the LORD;
I am weary of holding it in.
"Pour it out on the children in the street and
on the young men gathered together, for
husband and wife alike will be taken, the
aged and the very old.
12 Their houses will pass to others, their 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 to the greatest, all are
greedy for unjust gain;
from prophet to priest, all practice deceit.
14 They have treated the wound of my people
lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there
is no peace.
15 Were they ashamed when they committed an
abomination?
No, they were not ashamed at all;
they did not even know how to blush.
Therefore they will fall among the fallen;
when I punish them, they will stumble," says
the LORD.

16 This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the
roads and look;
ask for the ancient paths, where the good
way is, and walk in it.
Then you will find rest for your souls.
But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'
17 I appointed watchmen over you: 'Listen to the
sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We
will not listen.'
18 Therefore hear, nations;

know, assembly, what is happening among
them.
19 Hear, earth!
Look, I am bringing disaster on this people,
the fruit of their thoughts, because they
have not listened to my words and have
rejected my law.
20 What use to me is frankincense brought from
Sheba, or fragrant cane from a distant
land?
Your burnt offerings are not acceptable, and
your sacrifices do not please me."

21 Therefore this is what the LORD says: "Look, I
am putting stumbling blocks before this
people.
Fathers and sons together will stumble over
them;
neighbor and friend will perish."

22 This is what the LORD says: "Look, a people is
coming from the land of the north;
a great nation is being stirred up from the
farthest parts of the earth.
23 They grasp bow and javelin;
they are cruel and show no mercy.
Their voice roars like the sea, and they ride
on horses, arrayed like warriors for battle
against you, daughter of Zion."
24 We have heard the report of them, and our
hands fall limp.
Anguish has gripped us, pain like a woman
in labor.

25 Do not go out into the field or walk along the
road, for the enemy has a sword;
terror is on every side.
26 Daughter of my people, put on sackcloth and
roll in ashes.
Mourn as for an only son, with bitter
lamentation, for suddenly the destroyer
will come upon us.
27 “I have made you a tester among my people, a
fortress, so that you may know and test
their ways.
28 They are all stubborn rebels, going about as
slanderers;
they are bronze and iron, all of them
spreading corruption.
29 The bellows blow fiercely;
the lead is consumed by the fire.
In vain the refiner keeps refining;
the wicked are not separated out.
30 They are called rejected silver, for the LORD
has rejected them.”

7

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:
2 “Stand at the gate of the LORD’s house and proclaim this word there: Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah who enter these gates to bow down to the LORD.
3 This is what the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, says: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place.

4 Do not trust in deceptive words, saying,
‘These are the temple of the LORD, the temple of
the LORD, the temple of the LORD!’
5 For if you truly amend your ways and your
deeds, if you truly practice justice between a
person and his neighbor,
6 if you do not oppress the foreigner, the
fatherless, or the widow, do not shed innocent
blood in this place, and do not follow other gods
to your own harm,
7 then I will let you dwell in this place, in the
land I gave your ancestors, from ages past to
ages to come.
8 Look, you are trusting in deceptive words
that cannot help.
9 Will you steal, murder, commit adultery,
swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and follow
other gods you have not known,
10 then come and stand before me in this
house that bears my name and say, ‘We are
safe!’—only to go on doing all these
abominations?
11 Has this house that bears my name become
a den of robbers in your eyes? Look, I myself
have seen it, declares the LORD.
12 Go now to my place in Shiloh, where I first
made my name dwell, and see what I did to it
because of the wickedness of my people Israel.
13 And now, because you have done all these
things, declares the LORD, and I spoke to you,
speaking early and persistently, but you did not
listen, and I called you, but you did not answer,
14 I will do to the house that bears my name, in

which you trust, and to the place I gave you and your ancestors, just what I did to Shiloh.
15 I will cast you out of my presence, just as I cast out all your brothers, all the descendants of Ephraim.
16 As for you, do not pray for this people. Do not lift up a cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with me, for I will not listen to you.
17 Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?
18 The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough to make cakes for the queen of heaven and to pour out drink offerings to other gods, to provoke me to anger.
19 Is it me they provoke? declares the LORD. Is it not themselves, to their own shame?"
20 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: "Look, my anger and my wrath will be poured out on this place, on people and animals, on the trees of the field and the fruit of the ground. It will burn and will not be quenched."
21 This is what the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, says: "Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat the meat!
22 For on the day I brought your ancestors out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to them or command them concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices.
23 But this is what I commanded them: 'Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you will be my people. Follow the entire path I command you, so that it may go well with you.'

24 But they did not listen or incline their ears.
They followed their own counsels, the
stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went
backward rather than forward.
25 From the day your ancestors came out of
the land of Egypt to this day, I have sent you all
my servants the prophets, day after day, rising
early and sending them.
26 Yet they did not listen to me or incline their
ears; they stiffened their necks and did worse
than their ancestors.
27 You are to speak all these words to them,
but they will not listen to you. You will call to
them, but they will not answer you.
28 Tell them, 'This is the nation that did not
obey the voice of the LORD its God or accept
discipline. Faithfulness has perished; it has been
cut off from their mouths.'

29 Cut off your hair and cast it away;
raise a lament on the bare heights, for the
LORD has rejected and forsaken the
generation of his wrath.

30 For the people of Judah have done evil in
my sight," declares the LORD. "They have set
their abominations in the house that bears my
name, defiling it.
31 They have built the high places of Topheth
in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom to burn their
sons and daughters in the fire—something I did
not command, nor did it enter my mind.
32 Therefore look, the days are coming,"
declares the LORD, "when it will no longer be

called Topheth or the Valley of the Son of
Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter. They will
bury in Topheth because there is no other place.
33 The corpses of this people will be food for
the birds of the heavens and the animals of the
earth, with no one to frighten them away.
34 I will put an end in the cities of Judah and
the streets of Jerusalem to the sound of joy and
the sound of gladness, the voice of the
bridegroom and the voice of the bride, for the
land will become a waste."

8

1 "At that time," declares the LORD, "they will
take from their graves the bones of the kings of
Judah, the bones of its officials, the bones of the
priests, the bones of the prophets, and the bones
of the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
2 They will spread them before the sun, the
moon, and all the host of heaven, which they
loved, which they served, which they followed,
which they sought, and to which they bowed
down. They will not be gathered or buried; they
will be like dung on the surface of the ground.
3 All the remnant left of this evil clan will
choose death over life, in all the places where I
have driven those who remain," declares the
LORD of hosts.

4 "Tell them: This is what the LORD says: When
people fall, do they not get up?
When someone turns away, does he not
return?

5 Why then has this people, Jerusalem, turned
away in perpetual apostasy?
They cling to deceit;
they refuse to return.
6 I have listened attentively, but they do not
speak rightly.
No one repents of his wickedness, saying,
'What have I done?' Each returns to his
course like a horse charging into battle.
7 Even the stork in the heavens knows her
appointed times;
the turtledove, the swallow, and the crane
keep the time of their coming.
But my people do not know the
requirements of the LORD.
8 How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of
the LORD is with us'?
Look, the lying pen of the scribes has made
it a lie!
9 The wise are put to shame;
they are dismayed and caught.
Look, they have rejected the word of the
LORD, so what wisdom do they have?

10 Therefore I will give their wives to others and
their fields to new possessors, for from
the least to the greatest, all are greedy for
unjust gain;
from prophet to priest, all practice deceit.
11 They have treated the wound of the daughter
of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,'
when there is no peace.

12 Were they ashamed when they committed an
abomination?
No, they were not ashamed at all;
they did not know how to blush.
Therefore they will fall among the fallen;
at the time of their punishment, they will
stumble, says the LORD.

13 I will utterly sweep them away, declares the
LORD.
There will be no grapes on the vine, no figs
on the fig tree, and the leaf will wither.
What I have given them will pass away from
them."
14 "Why are we sitting here?
Gather together;
let us enter the fortified cities and perish
there, for the LORD our God has doomed
us to perish and given us poisoned water
to drink, because we have sinned against
the LORD.
15 We looked for peace, but no good came;
for a time of healing, but there was only
terror."
16 The snorting of his horses is heard from Dan;
at the sound of his stallions' neighing the
whole land trembles.
They come and devour the land and all that
fills it, the city and those who live in it.

17 "For look, I am sending serpents among you,
vipers that cannot be charmed, and they
will bite you," declares the LORD.

18 Oh, for comfort in sorrow!
My heart is sick within me.
19 Listen to the cry of the daughter of my people
from a distant land: “Is the LORD not in Zion?
Is her King not in her?”
“Why have they provoked me to anger with
their carved images, with their worthless
foreign idols?”
20 “The harvest is past, the summer has ended,
and we have not been saved.”
21 I am broken by the brokenness of the
daughter of my people;
I mourn, and horror has gripped me.
22 Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?
Why then has the health of the daughter of
my people not been restored?

9

1 Oh, that my head were water and my eyes a
fountain of tears, that I might weep day
and night for the slain of the daughter of
my people!
2 Oh, that I had a travelers' lodging in the
wilderness, so I could leave my people
and go away from them!
For they are all adulterers, an assembly of
traitors.
3 “They bend their tongues like a bow for lies;
they have grown strong in the land, but not
through faithfulness.
They go from evil to evil, and they do not
know me,” declares the LORD.

4 “Let each of you beware of his neighbor, and do
not trust any brother, for every brother is
a thorough deceiver, and every neighbor
goes about slandering.
5 Each deceives his neighbor, and they do not
speak the truth.
They have taught their tongues to speak lies;
they weary themselves doing wrong.
6 You live in the midst of deceit;
through deceit they refuse to know me,”
declares the LORD.

7 Therefore this is what the LORD of hosts says:
“Look, I will refine them and test them, for
what else can I do because of the daughter
of my people?
8 Their tongue is a deadly arrow;
it speaks deceit.
With his mouth a man speaks peace to his
neighbor, but within he lays an ambush
for him.
9 Shall I not punish them for these things?”
declares the LORD.
“Shall I not avenge myself on a nation like
this?”

10 I will raise weeping and wailing over the
mountains, a lament over the wilderness
pastures, for they are burned, with no one
passing through, and the sound of
livestock is no longer heard.
From the birds of the heavens to the
animals, all have fled and gone.

11 “I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, a den
of jackals, and make the cities of Judah a
desolation, without an inhabitant.”

12 Who is wise enough to understand this?
To whom has the mouth of the LORD
spoken, so that he can explain it?
Why has the land perished, burned like a
wilderness where no one passes through?

13 The LORD said, “Because they have forsaken
my law, which I set before them, and have
not obeyed my voice or walked according
to it.
14 They have followed the stubbornness of their
hearts and the Baals, as their ancestors
taught them.”

15 Therefore this is what the LORD of hosts, the
God of Israel, says: “Look, I will feed this
people wormwood and give them
poisoned water to drink.
16 I will scatter them among nations that neither
they nor their ancestors have known, and
I will send the sword after them until I
have consumed them.”

17 This is what the LORD of hosts says: “Consider,
and call for the mourning women to
come;
send for the skillful women to come.
18 Let them hurry and raise a lament over us, so
that our eyes may run with tears and our
eyelids flow with water.

19 For a sound of wailing is heard from Zion:
‘How we are devastated!
We are deeply ashamed, for we have left the land, for they have torn down our dwellings.’ ”

20 Hear the word of the LORD, women;
let your ears receive the word of his mouth.
Teach your daughters wailing, and each woman her neighbor a lament.

21 For death has climbed through our windows
and entered our palaces, cutting off children from the streets and young men from the squares.

22 Say, “This is what the LORD declares: Human corpses will fall like dung on the surface of the field, like cut grain behind the reaper, with no one to gather it.”

23 This is what the LORD says: “Let the wise not boast in their wisdom, let the mighty not boast in their might, let the rich not boast in their riches.

24 But let the one who boasts boast in this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness on the earth, for in these things I delight,” declares the LORD.

25 “Look, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will punish all who are circumcised only in the flesh:

26 Egypt, Judah, Edom, the Ammonites, Moab,
and all who clip the hair at their temples and
live in the wilderness. For all the nations are
uncircumcised, and the whole house of Israel is
uncircumcised in heart."

10

1 Hear the word the LORD has spoken
concerning you, house of Israel.
2 This is what the LORD says: "Do not learn the
way of the nations, and do not be terrified
by the signs of the heavens, though the
nations are terrified by them.
3 For the customs of the peoples are worthless:
someone cuts a tree from the forest, and a
craftsman's hands work it with an adze.
4 They adorn it with silver and gold;
they fasten it with nails and hammers so
that it will not move.
5 They are like scarecrows in a cucumber patch;
they cannot speak.
They must be carried, for they cannot walk.
Do not fear them, for they can do no harm,
nor can they do any good."

6 There is none like you, LORD;
you are great, and your name is great in
might.
7 Who would not fear you, King of the nations?
For this is your due.
Among all the wise of the nations and in all
their kingdoms, there is none like you.
8 They are all senseless and foolish;
the instruction of idols is nothing but wood.

9 Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish, and
gold from Uphaz, the work of a craftsman
and a goldsmith's hands.
Blue and purple are their clothing;
they are all the work of skilled men.
10 But the LORD is the true God;
he is the living God and the everlasting King.
At his wrath the earth trembles, and the
nations cannot endure his indignation.
11 You are to tell them, "The gods who did not
make the heavens and the earth will perish from
the earth and from beneath these heavens."

12 He made the earth by his power, established
the world by his wisdom, and stretched
out the heavens by his understanding.
13 When his voice sounds, the waters roar in the
heavens;
he raises clouds from the ends of the earth.
He makes lightning for the rain and brings
the wind out of his storehouses.
14 Every person is senseless, without knowledge;
every goldsmith is put to shame by his
carved image, for his cast image is a lie,
and there is no breath in them.
15 They are worthless, a work of delusion;
at the time of their punishment they will
perish.
16 The Portion of Jacob is not like these, for he is
the one who formed all things, and Israel
is the tribe of his inheritance.
The LORD of hosts is his name.

17 Gather your belongings from the ground, you
who live under siege.

18 For this is what the LORD says: “Look, this
time I am slinging out the inhabitants of
the land;
I will distress them so that they feel it.”

19 Woe to me because of my brokenness!
My wound is grievous.
But I said, “Surely this is my sickness, and I
must bear it.”
20 My tent is destroyed, and all my cords are
torn.
My children have gone from me and are no
more.
There is no one to spread my tent again or
raise its curtains.
21 For the shepherds have become senseless and
have not sought the LORD;
therefore they have not prospered, and all
their flock is scattered.

22 Listen, a report is coming!
A great uproar comes from the land of the
north, to make the cities of Judah a
desolation, a den of jackals.

23 I know, LORD, that a person’s way is not his
own;
it is not for a man who walks to direct his
steps.
24 Discipline me, LORD, but with justice, not in
your anger, lest you bring me to nothing.

25 Pour out your wrath on the nations that do not
know you and on the clans that do not call
on your name, for they have devoured
Jacob, devoured him and consumed him,
and laid waste his dwelling.

11

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the
LORD:
2 “Hear the words of this covenant, and speak
them to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of
Jerusalem.
3 Tell them: This is what the LORD, the God of
Israel, says: Cursed is the man who does not
obey the words of this covenant,
4 which I commanded your ancestors on the
day I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out
of the iron furnace. I said, ‘Obey my voice and
do all that I command you. You will be my
people, and I will be your God,’
5 so that I might fulfill the oath I swore to your
ancestors, to give them a land flowing with milk
and honey, as it is today.” Then I answered,
“Amen, LORD.”
6 The LORD said to me, “Proclaim all these
words in the cities of Judah and in the streets of
Jerusalem: Hear the words of this covenant and
do them.
7 For I solemnly warned your ancestors from
the day I brought them up from the land of
Egypt to this day, warning them early and
persistently: ‘Obey my voice.’

8 But they did not listen or incline their ears;
each followed the stubbornness of his evil heart.
So I brought upon them all the words of this
covenant, which I commanded them to do, but
they did not do them."
9 The LORD said to me, "A conspiracy has been
found among the men of Judah and the
inhabitants of Jerusalem.
10 They have returned to the iniquities of their
early ancestors, who refused to listen to my
words; they have followed other gods to serve
them. The house of Israel and the house of
Judah have broken my covenant, which I made
with their ancestors."
11 Therefore this is what the LORD says: "Look,
I am bringing disaster upon them from which
they cannot escape. 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 and cry out to the gods to
whom they burn incense, but those gods will not
save them at all in their time of disaster.
13 For you have as many gods as cities, Judah,
and you have set up as many altars to the
shameful thing as there are streets in
Jerusalem—altars for burning incense to Baal.
14 As for you, do not pray for this people or lift
up a cry or prayer for them, for I will not listen
when they cry to me because of their disaster.

15 What is my beloved doing in my house, after
her many evil schemes?
Consecrated meat will pass away from you.

When you do evil, then you rejoice!
16 The LORD called you a flourishing olive tree,
beautiful in fruit and form.
With the sound of a great tumult he has set
fire to it, and its branches are broken.
17 The LORD of hosts, who planted you, has
pronounced disaster against you because of the
evil the house of Israel and the house of Judah
have done to their own harm, provoking me to
anger by burning incense to Baal."

18 The LORD made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their deeds.
19 But I was like a gentle lamb led to slaughter.
I did not know they were plotting against
me: "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit;
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name is remembered no more."
20 But you, LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who test the inward parts and the heart,
let me see your vengeance on them, for I
have laid my case before you.
21 Therefore this is what the LORD says
concerning the men of Anathoth who seek your
life and say, "Do not prophesy in the name of the
LORD, so that you will not die by our hands"—
22 therefore this is what the LORD of hosts
says: "Look, I will punish them. Their young
men will die by the sword; their sons and
daughters will die by famine.
23 No remnant of them will remain, for I will
bring disaster upon the men of Anathoth in the
year of their punishment."

12

1 You are righteous, LORD, when I bring my case
before you.
Yet I would speak with you about justice:
Why does the way of the wicked prosper?
Why do all who act treacherously live at
ease?
2 You planted them, and they have taken root;
they grow and bear fruit.
You are near in their mouths, but far from
their inward parts.
3 But you, LORD, know me;
you see me and test my heart toward you.
Drag them away like sheep for slaughter;
set them apart for the day of killing.

4 How long will the land mourn and the grass of
every field wither?
Because of the wickedness of those who live
in it, animals and birds have perished, for
they say, “He will not see our end.”
5 “If you have raced with men on foot and they
have wearied you, how will you compete
with horses?
If you feel secure in a land of peace, how
will you fare in the thickets of the Jordan?
6 For even your brothers and your father's
household—even they have betrayed you;
even they have shouted after you at the top
of their voices.
Do not believe them, though they speak
kindly to you.

7 I have forsaken my house;
I have abandoned my inheritance.
I have given the beloved of my soul into the hands of her enemies.
8 My inheritance has become to me like a lion in the forest;
she has raised her voice against me, so I have hated her.
9 Is my inheritance to me a speckled bird of prey?
Are birds of prey all around her?
Go, gather all the wild animals;
bring them to devour her!
10 Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard and trampled my plot;
they have made my delightful plot a desolate wilderness.
11 It has been made a desolation;
desolate, it mourns before me.
The whole land is desolate, because no one takes it to heart.
12 Destroyers have come upon all the bare heights in the wilderness, for the sword of the LORD devours from one end of the land to the other;
no flesh has peace.

13 They have sown wheat and reaped thorns;
they have exhausted themselves without gain.
Be ashamed of your harvests because of the fierce anger of the LORD.”
14 This is what the LORD says: “Concerning all my evil neighbors who encroach on the

inheritance I gave my people Israel, look, I am
uprooting them from their land, and I will
uproot the house of Judah from among them.
15 After I uproot them, I will again have
compassion on them and bring them back, each
to his inheritance and each to his land.
16 And if they truly learn the ways of my
people, swearing by my name, 'As the LORD
lives,' just as they taught my people to swear by
Baal, then they will be built up among my
people.
17 But if they do not listen, I will uproot that
nation, utterly uproot and destroy it," declares
the LORD.

13

1 This is what the LORD said to me: "Go and
buy yourself a linen sash, put it around your
waist, and do not put it in water."
2 So I bought the sash according to the word of
the LORD and put it around my waist.
3 The word of the LORD came to me a second
time:
4 "Take the sash you bought, which is around
your waist. Get up and go to the Euphrates, and
hide it there in a crevice in the rock."
5 So I went and hid it by the Euphrates, as the
LORD had commanded me.
6 After many days the LORD said to me, "Get
up and go to the Euphrates and take from there
the sash I commanded you to hide there."
7 So I went to the Euphrates, dug, and took the
sash from the place where I had hidden it. Look,
the sash was ruined; it was good for nothing.

8 The word of the LORD came to me:
9 “This is what the LORD says: In the same way
I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride
of Jerusalem.
10 This evil people, who refuse to listen to my
words, who follow the stubbornness of their
hearts and go after other gods to serve them and
bow down to them, will be like this sash, good
for nothing.
11 For just as a sash clings to a man’s waist, so I
made the whole house of Israel and the whole
house of Judah cling to me, declares the LORD,
to be my people, my renown, my praise, and my
glory. But they did not listen.
12 Tell them this word: This is what the LORD,
the God of Israel, says: ‘Every jar will be filled
with wine.’ They will say to you, ‘Do we not
know very well that every jar will be filled with
wine?’
13 Then tell them: This is what the LORD says:
I am filling all the inhabitants of this land with
drunkenness—the kings who sit on David’s
throne, the priests, the prophets, and all the
inhabitants of Jerusalem.
14 I will smash them against one another,
fathers and sons together, declares the LORD. I
will not pity or spare or have compassion to
keep me from destroying them.”

15 Hear and pay attention;
do not be proud, for the LORD has spoken.
16 Give glory to the LORD your God before he
brings darkness, before your feet stumble

on the twilight mountains.
You will look for light, but he will turn it to
deep darkness and make it thick gloom.
17 But if you do not listen, my soul will weep in
secret because of your pride.
My eyes will weep bitterly and run with
tears, because the LORD's flock has been
taken captive.

18 Say to the king and the queen mother,
"Humble yourselves;
sit down, for your glorious crown has fallen
from your heads."
19 The cities of the Negev are shut, and there is
no one to open them.
All Judah has been taken into exile, carried
into exile completely.

20 Lift your eyes and see those coming from the
north.
Where is the flock entrusted to you, your
beautiful flock?
21 What will you say when he sets over you as
rulers those you yourself cultivated as
close friends?
Will pains not seize you like a woman in
labor?
22 And if you say in your heart, "Why have these
things happened to me?"—it is because of
your great iniquity that your skirts have
been lifted and your heels have suffered
violence.
23 Can a Cushite change his skin, or a leopard its
spots?

Then you too can do good, you who are
accustomed to doing evil!
24 “I will scatter them like stubble driven by the
desert wind.
25 This is your lot, the portion I have measured
out for you,” declares the LORD, “because
you have forgotten me and trusted in
falsehood.
26 I myself will lift your skirts over your face, so
that your shame is seen.
27 Your adulteries, your neighing, the lewdness
of your prostitution—on the hills, in the
field, I have seen your abominations.
Woe to you, Jerusalem!
Will you not be clean?
How much longer?”

14

1 The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah
concerning the droughts:
2 Judah mourns, and her gates languish;
they mourn on the ground, and the cry of
Jerusalem rises.
3 Her nobles send their servants for water.
They come to the cisterns and find no water;
they return with their vessels empty.
Ashamed and humiliated, they cover their
heads.
4 Because the ground is cracked from the lack of
rain in the land, the farmers are ashamed;
they cover their heads.
5 Even the doe in the field gives birth and
abandons her young, because there is no
grass.

6 The wild donkeys stand on the bare heights,
panting for air like jackals;
their eyes fail because there is no
vegetation.
7 Though our iniquities testify against us, LORD,
act for your name's sake.
For our apostasies are many;
we have sinned against you.
8 Hope of Israel, its Savior in time of distress,
why are you like a foreigner in the land,
like a traveler who turns aside to spend
the night?
9 Why are you like a man stunned, like a warrior
unable to save?
Yet you are in our midst, LORD, and we bear
your name.
Do not abandon us!

10 This is what the LORD says concerning this
people: "They have loved to wander;
they have not restrained their feet.
The LORD does not accept them;
now he will remember their iniquity and
punish their sins."

11 The LORD said to me, "Do not pray for the
good of this people.
12 When they fast, I will not listen to their cry;
when they offer burnt offerings and grain
offerings, I will not accept them.
Instead, I will consume them by sword,
famine, and plague."

13 Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD!
Look, the prophets are telling them, ‘You
will not see the sword, and you will not
have famine;
instead, I will give you true peace in this
place.’ ”

14 The LORD said to me, “The prophets are
prophesying lies in my name.
I did not send them or command them or
speak to them.
They are prophesying to you a false vision,
divination, worthless things, and the
deceit of their own hearts.

15 Therefore this is what the LORD says
concerning the prophets who prophesy in
my name, though I did not send them, and
who say, ‘There will be no sword or
famine in this land’: By sword and famine
those prophets will perish.
16 And the people to whom they prophesy will
be thrown into the streets of Jerusalem
because of famine and sword.
There will be no one to bury them—them,
their wives, their sons, and their
daughters.
I will pour out their own wickedness upon
them.
17 Tell them this word: ‘Let my eyes run with
tears night and day, and let them not
cease, for the virgin daughter of my
people has been broken by a crushing
blow, a very grievous wound.

18 If I go out to the field, look, those slain by the
sword!
If I enter the city, look, those sick with
famine!
For both prophet and priest wander through
the land without understanding.' "

19 Have you utterly rejected Judah?
Does your soul loathe Zion?
Why have you struck us, with no healing for
us?
We looked for peace, but no good came;
for a time of healing, but there was only
terror.
20 We acknowledge our wickedness, LORD, and
the iniquity of our ancestors, for we have
sinned against you.
21 For your name's sake, do not spurn us;
do not dishonor your glorious throne.
Remember your covenant with us;
do not break it.
22 Can any of the worthless idols of the nations
bring rain?
Can the heavens give showers?
Are you not the one, LORD our God?
We put our hope in you, for you have made
all these things.

15

1 The LORD said to me, "Even if Moses and Samuel stood before me, my soul would not incline toward this people. Send them out of my presence; let them go.

2 When they ask you, ‘Where shall we go?’ tell
them: This is what the LORD says: Those
destined for death, to death; those destined for
the sword, to the sword; those destined for
famine, to famine; those destined for captivity,
to captivity.
3 I will appoint four kinds of destroyers against
them, declares the LORD: the sword to kill, dogs
to drag away, the birds of the heavens and the
animals of the earth to devour and destroy.
4 I will make them an object of horror to all
the kingdoms of the earth because of Manasseh
son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, for what he did
in Jerusalem.
5 For who will pity you, Jerusalem?
Who will mourn for you?
Who will turn aside to ask about your
welfare?
6 You have forsaken me, declares the LORD;
you keep going backward.
So I will stretch out my hand against you
and destroy you;
I am weary of relenting.
7 I will winnow them with a winnowing fork at
the gates of the land.
I will bereave my people and destroy them,
for they have not turned from their ways.
8 Their widows will be more numerous before
me than the sand of the seas.
I will bring a destroyer at noon against the
mother of a young man;
I will suddenly bring anguish and terrors
upon her.

9 She who bore seven languishes;
she breathes out her life.
Her sun has set while it is still day;
she is ashamed and humiliated.
I will give their remnant to the sword before
their enemies, declares the LORD.”

10 Woe to me, my mother, that you gave birth to
me, a man of strife and contention to the
whole land!
I have neither lent nor borrowed, yet
everyone curses me.

11 The LORD said, “Surely I will set you free for
your good;
surely I will make the enemy plead with you
in a time of disaster and a time of distress.
12 Can iron break iron from the north, or
bronze?
13 I will give your wealth and your treasures as
plunder, without payment, because of all
your sins throughout all your territory.
14 I will make you cross over with your enemies
into a land you do not know, for a fire has
been kindled in my anger;
it will burn against you.”

15 You know, LORD.
Remember me, attend to me, and avenge me
on my persecutors.
In your patience, do not take me away;
know that for your sake I bear reproach.
16 Your words were found, and I ate them;

your words became the joy and gladness of
my heart, for I bear your name, LORD,
God of hosts.

17 I did not sit in the company of revelers and
rejoice.
Because of your hand I sat alone, for you
filled me with indignation.

18 Why is my pain unending and my wound
incurable, refusing to heal?
Will you be to me like a deceptive stream,
like waters that cannot be trusted?

19 Therefore this is what the LORD says: "If you
return, I will restore you, and you will
stand before me.
If you separate the precious from the
worthless, you will be as my mouth.
Let them turn to you, but you must not turn
to them.
20 I will make you a fortified bronze wall to this
people.
They will fight against you, but they will not
prevail over you, for I am with you to save
you and deliver you," declares the LORD.
21 "I will deliver you from the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the
ruthless."

16

1 The word of the LORD came to me:
2 "Do not take a wife or have sons and
daughters in this place."

3 For this is what the LORD says concerning
the sons and daughters born in this place, the
mothers who bear them, and the fathers who
bring them into the world in this land:
4 “They will die of deadly diseases. They will
not be mourned or buried; they will be like dung
on the surface of the ground. They will perish
by sword and famine, and their corpses will be
food for the birds of the heavens and the
animals of the earth.”

5 For this is what the LORD says: “Do not enter
a house of mourning; do not go to lament or
console them, for I have withdrawn my peace
from this people, declares the LORD, my
steadfast love and my compassion.
6 Great and small will die in this land. They
will not be buried or mourned; no one will cut
himself or shave his head for them.
7 No one will break bread to comfort those
mourning the dead, nor give them the cup of
consolation to drink for their father or mother.
8 Do not enter a house of feasting to sit with
them to eat and drink.

9 For this is what the LORD of hosts, the God of
Israel, says: Look, before your eyes and in your
days I will put an end in this place to the sound
of joy and the sound of gladness, the voice of the
bridegroom and the voice of the bride.
10 When you tell this people all these words,
they will ask you, ‘Why has the LORD
pronounced all this great disaster against us?
What is our iniquity, and what is the sin we
have committed against the LORD our God?’

11 Tell them: ‘Because your ancestors forsook
me, declares the LORD, and followed other gods,
served them, and bowed down to them. They
forsook me and did not keep my law.
12 And you have done worse than your
ancestors. Look, each of you follows the
stubbornness of his evil heart, refusing to listen
to me.
13 So I will hurl you out of this land into a land
neither you nor your ancestors have known.
There you will serve other gods day and night,
where I will show you no favor.’

14 Therefore look, the days are coming,
declares the LORD, when it will no longer be
said, ‘As the LORD lives, who brought the people
of Israel up from the land of Egypt,’
15 but, ‘As the LORD lives, who brought the
people of Israel up from the land of the north
and from all the lands where he had driven
them.’ I will bring them back to their land,
which I gave their ancestors.

16 Look, I am sending for many fishermen,
declares the LORD, and they will catch them.
After that I will send for many hunters, and they
will hunt them from every mountain, every hill,
and the crevices of the rocks.
17 For my eyes are on all their ways; they are
not hidden from me, nor is their iniquity
concealed from my eyes.
18 First I will repay them double for their
iniquity and their sin, because they have defiled
my land with the carcasses of their detestable

idols and filled my inheritance with their
abominations."

19 LORD, my strength and my stronghold, my
refuge in the day of distress, to you the
nations will come from the ends of the
earth and say, "Our ancestors inherited
only lies, worthless things with no benefit
in them."
20 Can a person make gods for himself?
They are no gods!
21 "Therefore look, I will make them know;
this time I will make them know my hand
and my might, and they will know that my
name is the LORD."

17

1 "The sin of Judah is written with an iron stylus,
with a hard-stone point;
it is engraved on the tablet of their heart
and on the horns of your altars.
2 Their children remember their altars and their
Asherah poles beside the leafy trees, on
the high hills.
3 My mountain in the open country, I will give
your wealth and all your treasures as
plunder, and your high places, because of
sin throughout your territory.
4 You yourself will relinquish the inheritance I
gave you, and I will make you serve your
enemies in a land you do not know, for
you have kindled a fire in my anger that
will burn forever."

5 This is what the LORD says: “Cursed is the man
who trusts in man and makes flesh his
arm, whose heart turns away from the
LORD.
6 He will be like a shrub in the desert and will
not see when good comes.
He will live in the parched places of the
wilderness, in a salt land where no one
lives.

7 Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.
8 He will be like a tree planted by water, sending
its roots toward the stream.
It will not fear when heat comes;
its foliage will remain green.
In a year of drought it will not be anxious or
cease bearing fruit.
9 The heart is deceitful above all things and
incurably sick;
who can know it?
10 I, the LORD, search the heart and test the
inward parts, to give each man according
to his way, according to the fruit of his
deeds.

11 Like a partridge brooding over eggs it did not
lay is one who gains wealth unjustly.
In the middle of his days his wealth will
leave him, and in the end he will be a
fool.”
12 A glorious throne, exalted from the beginning,
is the place of our sanctuary.
13 LORD, Hope of Israel, all who forsake you will
be put to shame.

“Those who turn away from me will be
written in the earth, for they have
forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living
waters.”

14 Heal me, LORD, and I will be healed;
save me, and I will be saved, for you are my
praise.
15 Look, they say to me, “Where is the word of
the LORD?
Let it come now!”
16 But I have not hurried away from being a
shepherd following you, nor have I
desired the day of calamity.
You know;
what came from my lips was before you.
17 Do not be a terror to me;
you are my refuge in the day of disaster.
18 Let my persecutors be put to shame, but do
not let me be put to shame;
let them be dismayed, but do not let me be
dismayed.
Bring upon them the day of disaster, and
break them with double destruction.
19 This is what the LORD said to me: “Go and stand at the gate of the people, through which the kings of Judah enter and leave, and at all the gates of Jerusalem.
20 Tell them: Hear the word of the LORD, kings of Judah, all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem who enter these gates.
21 This is what the LORD says: Guard your lives, and do not carry a burden on the Sabbath day or bring it through the gates of Jerusalem.

22 Do not carry a burden out of your houses on
the Sabbath day, and do not do any work. Keep
the Sabbath day holy, as I commanded your
ancestors.
23 But they did not listen or incline their ears;
they stiffened their necks, refusing to listen or
accept discipline.
24 But if you truly listen to me, declares the
LORD, bringing no burden through the gates of
this city on the Sabbath day and keeping the
Sabbath day holy by doing no work on it,
25 then kings and officials sitting on David's
throne will enter the gates of this city, riding in
chariots and on horses—they and their officials,
the men of Judah and the inhabitants of
Jerusalem. This city will be inhabited forever.
26 They will come from the cities of Judah,
from around Jerusalem, from the land of
Benjamin, from the lowlands, from the hill
country, and from the Negev, bringing burnt
offerings, sacrifices, grain offerings, and
frankincense, and bringing thank offerings to
the house of the LORD.
27 But if you do not listen to me by keeping the
Sabbath day holy and refraining from carrying
burdens through the gates of Jerusalem on the
Sabbath day, I will kindle a fire in its gates. It
will consume the palaces of Jerusalem and will
not be quenched."

18

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the
LORD:

2 “Get up and go down to the potter’s house,
and there I will cause you to hear my words.”
3 So I went down to the potter’s house, and
there he was, working at the wheel.
4 The vessel he was making from clay was
spoiled in the potter’s hand, so he made it into
another vessel, as seemed right to the potter to
make.

5 The word of the LORD came to me:
6 “Can I not do with you as this potter does,
house of Israel?” declares the LORD. “Look, like
clay in the potter’s hand, so you are in my hand,
house of Israel.

7 At one moment I may speak concerning a
nation or a kingdom, to uproot, tear down, and
destroy it.
8 But if that nation against which I have
spoken turns from its evil, I will relent
concerning the disaster I planned to bring upon
it.

9 At another moment I may speak concerning
a nation or a kingdom, to build and plant it.
10 But if it does evil in my sight and does not
obey my voice, I will relent concerning the good
I said I would do for it.

11 Now tell the men of Judah and the
inhabitants of Jerusalem: This is what the LORD
says: Look, I am shaping disaster against you
and devising a plan against you. Turn back,
each of you, from his evil way, and amend your
ways and your deeds.

12 But they will say, ‘It is hopeless! We will
follow our own plans, and each of us will act
according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.’ ”

13 Therefore this is what the LORD says: “Ask
among the nations: Who has heard
anything like this?
Virgin Israel has done a most horrifying
thing.
14 Does the snow of Lebanon leave the rocks of
the open country?
Are the cold flowing waters from afar ever
cut off?
15 Yet my people have forgotten me;
they burn incense to worthless things.
They have been made to stumble in their
ways, the ancient paths, and to walk on
side paths, an unpaved road,
16 making their land a desolation, an object of
perpetual hissing.
Everyone who passes by it will be appalled
and shake his head.
17 Like an east wind I will scatter them before
the enemy;
I will show them my back and not my face
in the day of their disaster.”

18 Then they said, “Come, let us devise plans
against Jeremiah, for instruction will not perish
from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor
the word from the prophet. Come, let us strike
him with the tongue and pay no attention to any
of his words.”

19 Listen to me, LORD, and hear the voice of my
adversaries.
20 Should good be repaid with evil?
For they have dug a pit for my life.
Remember how I stood before you to speak
good on their behalf, to turn your wrath
away from them.
21 Therefore give their children over to famine
and hand them over to the power of the
sword.
Let their wives be bereaved and widowed;
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
you suddenly bring a raiding band against
them, for they have dug a pit to catch me
and hidden snares for my feet.
23 But you, LORD, know all their plans to put me
to death.
Do not forgive their iniquity or blot out their
sin from before you.
Let them be overthrown before you;
deal with them in the time of your anger.

19

1 This is what the LORD says: “Go and buy a
potter’s earthenware jar. Take with you some of
the elders of the people and some of the elder
priests.
2 Go out to the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, at
the entrance of the Potsherd Gate, and proclaim
there the words I tell you.

3 Say: ‘Hear the word of the LORD, kings of
Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. This is what
the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, says: Look, I
am bringing disaster on this place that will
make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle.
4 For they have forsaken me and made this
place foreign; they have burned incense in it to
other gods that neither they nor their ancestors
nor the kings of Judah have known. They have
filled this place with the blood of the innocent.
5 They have built the high places of Baal to
burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to
Baal—something I did not command or speak of,
nor did it enter my mind.
6 Therefore look, the days are coming, declares
the LORD, when this place will no longer be
called Topheth or the Valley of the Son of
Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter.
7 I will bring the plans of Judah and Jerusalem
to nothing in this place. I will make them fall by
the sword before their enemies and by the hand
of those who seek their lives. I will give their
corpses as food to the birds of the heavens and
the animals of the earth.
8 I will make this city a desolation and an
object of hissing. Everyone who passes by it will
be appalled and hiss at all its wounds.
9 I will make them eat the flesh of their sons
and the flesh of their daughters; each will eat
the flesh of his neighbor in the siege and distress
with which their enemies and those who seek
their lives will oppress them.’
10 Then break the jar in the sight of the men

who go with you.
11 Tell them: ‘This is what the LORD of hosts
says: In the same way I will break this people
and this city, as one breaks a potter’s vessel that
can never be repaired. They will bury in
Topheth because there is no other place to bury.
12 This is what I will do to this place and its
inhabitants, declares the LORD; I will make this
city like Topheth.
13 The houses of Jerusalem and the houses of
the kings of Judah will be unclean like the place
of Topheth—all the houses on whose roofs they
burned incense to all the host of heaven and
poured out drink offerings to other gods.’ ”
14 Then Jeremiah returned from Topheth,
where the LORD had sent him to prophesy. He
stood in the courtyard of the LORD’s house and
said to all the people:
15 “This is what the LORD of hosts, the God of
Israel, says: Look, I am bringing upon this city
and all its towns all the disaster I have
pronounced against it, because they have
stiffened their necks, refusing to listen to my
words.”

20

1 Pashhur the priest, son of Immer, who was
chief officer in the house of the LORD, heard
Jeremiah prophesying these words.
2 Pashhur struck Jeremiah the prophet and
put him in the stocks at the Upper Benjamin
Gate of the LORD’s house.
3 The next day Pashhur released Jeremiah
from the stocks. Jeremiah said to him, “The

LORD has not named you Pashhur, but
Magor-missabib.
4 For this is what the LORD says: ‘Look, I will
make you a terror to yourself and to all your
friends. They will fall by the sword of their
enemies while your eyes look on. I will give all
Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and
he will carry them into exile in Babylon and
strike them down with the sword.
5 I will give all the wealth of this city, all the
fruit of its labor, and all its precious things; I will
give all the treasures of the kings of Judah into
the hand of their enemies. They will plunder
them, take them, and carry them to Babylon.
6 And you, Pashhur, and all who live in your
house will go into captivity. You will come to
Babylon; there you will die and there you will be
buried, you and all your friends to whom you
prophesied lies.’ ”

7 You enticed me, LORD, and I was enticed;
you overpowered me and prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.
8 For whenever I speak, I cry out;
I proclaim, “Violence and destruction!”
For the word of the LORD has become a
reproach and a mockery to me all day
long.
9 When I say, “I will not mention him or speak
any more in his name,” it is like a burning
fire in my heart, shut up in my bones.
I grow weary of holding it in, and I cannot.

10 For I hear the whispering of many: “Terror on
every side!
Denounce him, and we will denounce him!”
All my close friends watch for my
stumbling: “Perhaps he can be enticed;
then we can prevail over him and take our
revenge on him.”
11 But the LORD is with me like a fearsome
warrior.
Therefore my persecutors will stumble and
will not prevail.
They will be greatly ashamed because they
have not succeeded;
their everlasting disgrace will not be
forgotten.
12 LORD of hosts, who test the righteous, who see
the inward parts and the heart, let me see
your vengeance on them, for I have laid
my case before you.

13 Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hand of evildoers.

14 Cursed be the day I was born!
Let the day my mother gave birth to me not
be blessed.
15 Cursed be the man who brought my father the
news, “A son, a boy, has been born to you!”
and made him very glad.
16 Let that man be like the cities the LORD
overthrew without relenting.

Let him hear a cry in the morning and a
battle shout at noon,
17 because he did not kill me in the womb, so
that my mother would have been my
grave and her womb pregnant forever.
18 Why did I come out of the womb to see toil
and sorrow, and my days end in shame?

21

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the
LORD when King Zedekiah sent Pashhur son of
Malchijah and the priest Zephaniah son of
Maaseiah to him, saying,
2 "Please inquire of the LORD for us, for
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon is making war
against us. Perhaps the LORD will deal with us
according to all his wondrous works, so that he
may withdraw from us."
3 Jeremiah said to them, "Tell Zedekiah:
4 This is what the LORD, the God of Israel,
says: Look, I am turning back the weapons of
war in your hands, with which you fight against
the king of Babylon and the Chaldeans besieging
you outside the wall, and I will gather them into
the midst of this city.
5 I myself will fight against you with an
outstretched hand and a strong arm, in anger,
fury, and great wrath.
6 I will strike the inhabitants of this city, both
people and animals; they will die of a great
plague.
7 Afterward, declares the LORD, I will give
Zedekiah king of Judah, his servants, the people,

and those left in this city who survive plague,
sword, and famine into the hand of
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, into the hand
of their enemies, and into the hand of those who
seek their lives. He will strike them down with
the edge of the sword; he will not spare them or
have pity or compassion.
8 Tell this people: This is what the LORD says:
Look, I am setting before you the way of life and
the way of death.
9 Whoever stays in this city will die by sword,
famine, and plague. But whoever goes out and
surrenders to the Chaldeans besieging you will
live; he will have his life as plunder.
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 And to the house of the king of Judah: Hear
the word of the LORD.
12 House of David, this is what the LORD says:
Administer justice in the morning, and
deliver the one who has been robbed
from the hand of the oppressor, or my
wrath will break out like fire and burn
with no one to quench it, because of the
evil of their deeds.
13 Look, I am against you, inhabitant of the
valley, rock of the plain, declares the
LORD, you who say, 'Who will come down
against us?
Who will enter our dwellings?'

14 I will punish you according to the fruit of your
deeds, declares the LORD.
I will kindle a fire in her forest, and it will
consume everything around her."

22

1 This is what the LORD says: "Go down to the
house of the king of Judah and speak this word
there.
2 Say: Hear the word of the LORD, king of
Judah who sits on David's throne, you, your
servants, and your people who enter these gates.
3 This is what the LORD says: Practice justice
and righteousness; deliver the one who has
been robbed from the hand of the oppressor. Do
no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the
fatherless, or the widow, and do not shed
innocent blood in this place.
4 For if you truly do this, kings sitting on
David's throne will enter the gates of this house,
riding in chariots and on horses, each with his
servants and his people.
5 But if you do not listen to these words, I
swear by myself, declares the LORD, that this
house will become a ruin.

6 For this is what the LORD says concerning the
house of the king of Judah: You are Gilead
to me, the summit of Lebanon, yet surely I
will make you a wilderness, uninhabited
cities.
7 I will consecrate destroyers against you, each
with his weapons;

they will cut down your choice cedars and
cast them into the fire.
8 Many nations will pass by this city, and each
will say to his neighbor, ‘Why has the
LORD done this to this great city?’
9 They will answer, ‘Because they forsook the
covenant of the LORD their God, bowed
down to other gods, and served them.’ ”

10 Do not weep for the dead or mourn for him.
Weep bitterly for the one who goes away,
for he will never return or see his native
land again.

11 For this is what the LORD says concerning
Shallum son of Josiah, king of Judah, who
reigned in place of his father Josiah and
went away from this place: “He will not
return here again.
12 He will die in the place where they carried
him into exile and will see this land no
more.

13 Woe to him who builds his house without
righteousness and his upper rooms
without justice, who makes his neighbor
work for nothing and does not give him
his wages!
14 He says, ‘I will build myself a spacious house
with roomy upper chambers.’ He cuts out
windows for it, panels it with cedar, and
paints it vermilion.
15 Does competing in cedar make you a king?

Did your father not eat and drink and
practice justice and righteousness?
Then it went well with him.
16 He judged the case of the poor and needy;
then it went well.
Is this not what it means to know me?
declares the LORD.
17 But your eyes and your heart are set only on
your unjust gain, on shedding innocent
blood, and on practicing oppression and
violence.

18 Therefore this is what the LORD says
concerning Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king
of Judah: They will not mourn for him,
‘Alas, my brother!
Alas, sister!’ They will not mourn for him,
‘Alas, lord!
Alas, his majesty!’
19 He will have the burial of a donkey, dragged
away and thrown beyond the gates of
Jerusalem.

20 Go up to Lebanon and cry out;
raise your voice in Bashan, and cry out from
Abarim, for all your lovers have been
broken.
21 I spoke to you in your prosperity, but you said,
‘I will not listen.’ This has been your way
from your youth: you have not obeyed my
voice.
22 The wind will shepherd all your shepherds,
and your lovers will go into captivity.

Then you will be ashamed and humiliated
because of all your wickedness.
23 You who dwell in Lebanon, nesting among the
cedars, how you will be pitied when
pangs come upon you, pain like a woman
in labor!
24 As I live, declares the LORD, even if Coniah
son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were a
signet ring on my right hand, I would tear
you off from there.
25 I will give you into the hand of those who seek
your life, into the hand of those you fear,
into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of
Babylon, and into the hand of the
Chaldeans.
26 I will hurl you and your mother, who bore
you, into another land where neither of
you was born, and there you will die.
27 They will not return to the land to which they
long to return."

28 Is this man Coniah a despised, shattered
image, or a vessel no one wants?
Why have he and his offspring been hurled
away, cast into a land they do not know?
29 Earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the
LORD!

30 This is what the LORD says: "Record this man
as childless, a man who will not prosper
in his days, for none of his offspring will
succeed in sitting on David's throne and
ruling again in Judah."

23

1 “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and
scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the
LORD.
2 Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of
Israel, says concerning the shepherds who
shepherd my people: “You have scattered my
sheep and driven them away, and you have not
attended to them. Look, I will punish you for the
evil of your deeds,” declares the LORD.
3 “I myself will gather the remnant of my
sheep from all the lands where I have driven
them and bring them back to their pasture.
They will be fruitful and multiply.
4 I will raise up shepherds over them who will
shepherd them. They will no longer fear or be
dismayed, and none will be missing,” declares
the LORD.

5 “Look, the days are coming,” declares the
LORD, “when I will raise up for David a righteous
Branch. He will reign as king and act wisely,
practicing justice and righteousness in the land.
6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel
will dwell securely. This is the name by which
he will be called: ‘The LORD Our Righteousness.’

7 Therefore look, the days are coming,”
declares the LORD, “when they will no longer
say, ‘As the LORD lives, who brought the people
of Israel up from the land of Egypt,’
8 but, ‘As the LORD lives, who brought up and
led the offspring of the house of Israel from the
land of the north and from all the lands where I

had driven them.' They will dwell in their own land."

9 Concerning the prophets: My heart is broken within me;
all my bones tremble.
I am like a drunken man, like a man overcome by wine, because of the LORD and his holy words.
10 For the land is full of adulterers;
because of the curse the land mourns, and the wilderness pastures have dried up.
Their course is evil, and their might is not used rightly.
11 "For both prophet and priest are profane;
even in my house I have found their wickedness," declares the LORD.
12 "Therefore their way will be to them like slippery places in the darkness;
they will be driven on and fall in it.
For I will bring disaster upon them in the year of their punishment," declares the LORD.
13 "Among the prophets of Samaria I saw folly:
they prophesied by Baal and led my people Israel astray.

14 But among the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrifying thing: they commit adultery and walk in lies.
They strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns from his wickedness.
To me they are all like Sodom, and her inhabitants like Gomorrah.

15 Therefore this is what the LORD of hosts says
concerning the prophets: Look, I will feed
them wormwood and give them poisoned
water to drink, for from the prophets of
Jerusalem profaneness has gone out into
the whole land."

16 This is what the LORD of hosts says: "Do not
listen to the words of the prophets who
prophesy to you.
They fill you with empty hopes;
they speak a vision from their own hearts,
not from the mouth of the LORD.
17 They keep saying to those who despise me,
'The LORD has spoken: You will have
peace.' And to everyone who follows the
stubbornness of his heart they say, 'No
disaster will come upon you.'
18 For who has stood in the council of the LORD
to see and hear his word?
Who has paid attention to my word and
heard?

19 Look, the storm of the LORD has gone forth in
wrath, a whirling storm;
it will whirl upon the heads of the wicked.
20 The anger of the LORD will not turn back until
he has carried out and fulfilled the
purposes of his heart.
In the latter days you will understand it
fully.
21 I did not send the prophets, yet they ran;
I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied.

22 But if they had stood in my council, they
would have made my people hear my
words and turned them from their evil
way and from the evil of their deeds.

23 Am I a God nearby," declares the LORD, "and
not a God far away?
24 Can a man hide in secret places so that I
cannot see him?"
declares the LORD.
"Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?"
declares the LORD.
25 "I have heard what the prophets say who
prophesy lies in my name: 'I have dreamed! I
have dreamed!'
26 How long will this be in the hearts of the
prophets who prophesy lies, prophets of the
deceit of their own hearts,
27 who plan to make my people forget my
name through the dreams they tell one another,
just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal?
28 Let the prophet who has a dream tell the
dream, but let the one who has my word speak
my word faithfully. What has straw to do with
grain?" declares the LORD.
29 "Is not my word like fire," declares the
LORD, "and like a hammer that shatters rock?
30 Therefore look, I am against the prophets,"
declares the LORD, "who steal my words from
one another.
31 Look, I am against the prophets," declares
the LORD, "who use their tongues and declare,
'An oracle!'

32 Look, I am against those who prophesy
lying dreams," declares the LORD. "They tell
them and lead my people astray by their lies and
their recklessness. I did not send them or
command them, and they do not benefit this
people at all," declares the LORD.
33 "When this people, or a prophet or a priest,
asks you, 'What is the LORD's burden?' tell
them, 'What burden? I will forsake you, declares
the LORD.'
34 As for the prophet or priest or anyone of the
people who says, 'The LORD's burden,' I will
punish that man and his household.
35 This is what each of you is to say to his
neighbor and his brother: 'What has the LORD
answered? What has the LORD spoken?'
36 But you must no longer mention 'the LORD's
burden,' for each man's own word will be his
burden. You have perverted the words of the
living God, the LORD of hosts, our God.
37 This is what you are to say to the prophet:
'What has the LORD answered you? What has
the LORD spoken?'
38 But if you say, 'The LORD's burden,' then this
is what the LORD says: Because you have said
these words, 'The LORD's burden,' although I
sent word to you not to say, 'The LORD's burden,'
39 therefore look, I will utterly forget you and
cast you out of my presence, you and the city I
gave you and your ancestors.
40 I will bring upon you everlasting reproach
and everlasting disgrace that will not be
forgotten."

24

1 The LORD showed me two baskets of figs set
before the temple of the LORD, after
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried
Jeconiah son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, the
officials of Judah, the craftsmen, and the
metalworkers into exile from Jerusalem and
brought them to Babylon.
2 One basket had very good figs, like the first
ripe figs; the other basket had very bad figs, so
bad they could not be eaten.
3 The LORD said to me, “What do you see,
Jeremiah?” I said, “Figs. The good figs are very
good, and the bad figs are very bad, so bad they
cannot be eaten.”
4 The word of the LORD came to me:
5 “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel,
says: Like these good figs, so I will look with
favor on the exiles of Judah whom I sent from
this place to the land of the Chaldeans.
6 I will set my eyes on them for their good and
bring them back to this land. I will build them
up and not tear them down; I will plant them
and not uproot them.
7 I will give them a heart to know me, that I
am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will
be their God, for they will return to me with
their whole heart.
8 But like the bad figs, so bad they cannot be
eaten—this is what the LORD says—so I will
treat Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials, the
remnant of Jerusalem left in this land, and those
living in the land of Egypt.

9 I will make them a horror and a calamity to
all the kingdoms of the earth, a reproach and a
proverb, a taunt and a curse in all the places
where I drive them.
10 I will send sword, famine, and plague
against them until they are consumed from the
land I gave them and their ancestors."

25

1 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning
all the people of Judah in the fourth year of
Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah, which
was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of
Babylon.
2 Jeremiah the prophet spoke it to all the
people of Judah and all the inhabitants of
Jerusalem:
3 "From the thirteenth year of Josiah son of
Amon, king of Judah, to this day, these
twenty-three years, the word of the LORD has
come to me. I have spoken to you early and
persistently, but you have not listened.
4 The LORD has sent you all his servants the
prophets, rising early and sending them, but you
have not listened or inclined your ears to hear.
5 They said, 'Turn back, each of you, from his
evil way and from the evil of your deeds, and
dwell in the land the LORD gave you and your
ancestors, from ages past to ages to come.
6 Do not follow other gods to serve them and
bow down to them; do not provoke me to anger
with the work of your hands, and I will do you
no harm.'

7 Yet you have not listened to me, declares the
LORD, provoking me to anger with the work of
your hands, to your own harm.

8 Therefore this is what the LORD of hosts says:
Because you have not listened to my words,
9 look, I will send for all the clans of the north,
declares the LORD, and for Nebuchadnezzar
king of Babylon, my servant. I will bring them
against this land, its inhabitants, and all these
surrounding nations. I will devote them to
destruction and make them a horror, an object
of hissing, and everlasting ruins.
10 I will banish from them the sound of joy
and the sound of gladness, the voice of the
bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the
sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp.
11 This whole land will become a ruin and a
desolation, and these nations will serve the king
of Babylon for seventy years.
12 When seventy years are complete, declares
the LORD, I will punish the king of Babylon, that
nation, and the land of the Chaldeans for their
iniquity, and I will make it an everlasting
desolation.
13 I will bring upon that land all the words I
have spoken against it, all that is written in this
book, which Jeremiah prophesied against all the
nations.
14 For many nations and great kings will also
enslave them, and I will repay them according
to their deeds and the work of their hands."

15 For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel,
said to me: "Take from my hand this cup of the

wine of wrath, and make all the nations to
whom I send you drink it.
16 They will drink, stagger, and go mad
because of the sword I am sending among them."
17 So I took the cup from the LORD's hand and
made all the nations to whom the LORD sent me
drink:
18 Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, its kings
and officials, to make them a ruin, a horror, an
object of hissing, and a curse, as they are this
day;
19 Pharaoh king of Egypt, his servants, his
officials, and all his people;
20 all the mixed peoples, all the kings of the
land of Uz, all the kings of the land of the
Philistines—Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and the
remnant of Ashdod;
21 Edom, Moab, and the Ammonites;
22 all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon,
and the kings of the coastlands across the sea;
23 Dedan, Tema, Buz, and all who clip the hair
at their temples;
24 all the kings of Arabia and all the kings of
the mixed peoples who live 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, one
with another, and all the kingdoms of the world
on the surface of the earth. The king of
Sheshach will drink after them.
27 "Tell them: This is what the LORD of hosts,
the God of Israel, says: Drink, get drunk, vomit,
fall, and do not rise, because of the sword I am

sending among you.
28 If they refuse to take the cup from your
hand and drink, tell them: This is what the
LORD of hosts says: You will surely drink!
29 For look, I am beginning to bring disaster on
the city that bears my name, and will you go
unpunished? You will not go unpunished, for I
am summoning a sword against all the
inhabitants of the earth, declares the LORD of
hosts.
30 You are to prophesy all these words against
them and tell them:
The LORD will roar from on high and raise his
voice from his holy dwelling.
He will roar mightily against his fold;
like those treading grapes, he will give a
shout against all the inhabitants of the
earth.
31 The uproar reaches the ends of the earth, for
the LORD has a case against the nations;
he will enter into judgment with all flesh.
He will give the wicked over to the sword,
declares the LORD.

32 This is what the LORD of hosts says: Look,
disaster is going out from nation to
nation, and a great storm is being stirred
up from the farthest parts of the earth.
33 On that day those slain by the LORD will lie
from one end of the earth to the other.
They will not be mourned, gathered, or
buried;
they will be like dung on the surface of the
ground.

34 Wail, shepherds, and cry out!
Wallow, leaders of the flock, for the days of your slaughter and scattering have come.
You will fall like a precious vessel.
35 The shepherds will have no way to flee, and
the leaders of the flock no escape.
36 Listen to the cry of the shepherds and the
wailing of the leaders of the flock, for the
LORD is devastating their pasture.
37 The peaceful pastures are laid waste because
of the fierce anger of the LORD.
38 Like a lion he has left his lair, for their land
has become a desolation because of the
fury of the oppressor and because of his
fierce anger."

26

1 At the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD:
2 "This is what the LORD says: Stand in the courtyard of the LORD's house and speak to those coming from all the cities of Judah to bow down in the LORD's house. Speak all the words I command you to speak to them; do not omit a word.
3 Perhaps they will listen and each turn from his evil way, so that I may relent concerning the disaster I plan to bring upon them because of the evil of their deeds.
4 Tell them: This is what the LORD says: If you do not listen to me by walking in my law, which I have set before you,

5 and by listening to the words of my servants
the prophets whom I send you, rising early and
sending them, though you have not listened,
6 then I will make this house like Shiloh and
this city a curse to all the nations of the earth."

7 The priests, the prophets, and all the people
heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the
LORD's house.
8 When Jeremiah finished speaking all that the
LORD had commanded him to speak to all the
people, the priests, the prophets, and all the
people seized him, saying, "You must die!
9 Why have you prophesied in the name of the
LORD, 'This house will be like Shiloh, and this
city will be a ruin, without an inhabitant'?" All
the people gathered against Jeremiah in the
LORD's house.
10 When the officials of Judah heard these
things, they came up from the king's house to
the LORD's house and sat at the entrance of the
LORD's New Gate.

11 The priests and prophets said to the officials
and all the people, "This man deserves a
sentence of death, for he has prophesied against
this city, as you have heard with your own ears."
12 Jeremiah said to all the officials and all the
people, "The LORD sent me to prophesy against
this house and this city all the words you have
heard.
13 Now amend your ways and your deeds, and
obey the voice of the LORD your God. Then the
LORD will relent concerning the disaster he has
pronounced against you.

14 As for me, here I am in your hands. Do with
me what seems good and right to you.
15 But know for certain that if you put me to
death, you will bring innocent blood upon
yourselves, this city, and its inhabitants, for the
LORD has truly sent me to you to speak all these
words in your hearing."
16 Then the officials and all the people said to
the priests and prophets, "This man does not
deserve a sentence of death, for he has spoken
to us in the name of the LORD our God."
17 Some of the elders of the land stood up and
said to the whole assembly of the people:
18 "Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days
of Hezekiah king of Judah. He said to all the
people of Judah, 'This is what the LORD of hosts
says: Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem
will become a heap of ruins, and the mountain
of the house will become wooded heights.'
19 Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah
put him to death? Did he not fear the LORD and
seek the LORD's favor, and did the LORD not
relent concerning the disaster he had
pronounced against them? We are bringing
great disaster upon our own lives!"
20 There was also a man prophesying in the
name of the LORD, Uriah son of Shemaiah from
Kiriath-jearim. He prophesied against this city
and this land in words like all those of Jeremiah.
21 When King Jehoiakim, all his warriors, and
all the officials heard his words, the king sought
to put him to death. Uriah heard of it, was
afraid, fled, and went to Egypt.

22 King Jehoiakim sent men to Egypt. He sent
Elnathan son of Achbor and men with him to
Egypt.
23 They brought Uriah out of Egypt and took
him to King Jehoiakim, who struck him down
with the sword and threw his corpse into the
graves of the common people.
24 But Ahikam son of Shaphan supported
Jeremiah, so that he was not given into the
hands of the people to be put to death.

27

1 At the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim
son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to
Jeremiah from the LORD:
2 This is what the LORD said to me: “Make
yourself bonds and yoke bars, and put them on
your neck.
3 Send them to the king of Edom, the king of
Moab, the king of the Ammonites, the king of
Tyre, and the king of Sidon by the messengers
coming to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah.
4 Give them this charge for their masters: This
is what the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,
says: This is what you are to tell your masters:
5 I made the earth, the people and the animals
on the surface of the earth, by my great power
and my outstretched arm, and I give it to
whoever seems right to me.
6 Now I have given all these lands into the
hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, my
servant. I have also given him the wild animals
to serve him.

7 All the nations will serve him, his son, and
his son's son, until the time for his own land
comes. Then many nations and great kings will
enslave him.
8 But the nation or kingdom that will not serve
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon or put its neck
under the yoke of the king of Babylon—that
nation I will punish with sword, famine, and
plague, declares the LORD, until I have
consumed them by his hand.
9 So do not listen to your prophets, your
diviners, your dreams, those who interpret
omens for you, or your sorcerers, who tell you,
'You will not serve the king of Babylon.'
10 For they prophesy lies to you, to remove you
far from your land, so that I drive you out and
you perish.
11 But the nation that puts its neck under the
yoke of the king of Babylon and serves him, I
will leave in its own land, declares the LORD. It
will cultivate it and live in it."
12 I also spoke to Zedekiah king of Judah
according to all these words: "Put your necks
under the yoke of the king of Babylon; serve him
and his people, and live.
13 Why should you and your people die by
sword, famine, and plague, as the LORD has
spoken concerning the nation that will not serve
the king of Babylon?
14 Do not listen to the words of the prophets
who tell you, 'You will not serve the king of
Babylon,' for they prophesy lies to you.
15 'I did not send them, declares the LORD, yet

they prophesy lies in my name, so that I drive
you out and you perish, you and the prophets
who prophesy to you.' "
16 I also spoke to the priests and all this
people: "This is what the LORD says: Do not
listen to the words of your prophets who
prophesy to you, 'Look, the vessels of the LORD's
house will now be brought back from Babylon
very soon,' for they prophesy lies to you.
17 Do not listen to them; serve the king of
Babylon and live. Why should this city become a
ruin?
18 If they are prophets, and if the word of the
LORD is with them, let them intercede with the
LORD of hosts, so that the vessels left in the
LORD's house, in the house of the king of Judah,
and in Jerusalem do not go to Babylon.
19 For this is what the LORD of hosts says
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 Jeconiah son of
Jehoiakim, king of Judah, into exile from
Jerusalem to Babylon, along with all the nobles
of Judah and Jerusalem—
21 this is what the LORD of hosts, the God of
Israel, says concerning the vessels left in the
LORD's house, the house of the king of Judah,
and Jerusalem:
22 'They will be brought to Babylon and
remain there until the day I attend to them,
declares the LORD. Then I will bring them up
and restore them to this place.' "

28

1 In that same year, at the beginning of the
reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fourth
year, in the fifth month, the prophet Hananiah
son of Azzur, from Gibeon, spoke to me in the
LORD's house before the priests and all the
people:
2 "This is what the LORD of hosts, the God of
Israel, says: I have broken the yoke of the king
of Babylon.
3 Within two full years I will bring back to this
place all the vessels of the LORD's house that
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took from this
place and carried to Babylon.
4 I will also bring back to this place Jeconiah
son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the
exiles of Judah who went to Babylon, declares
the LORD, for I will break the yoke of the king of
Babylon."
5 Then Jeremiah the prophet spoke to
Hananiah the prophet before the priests and all
the people standing in the LORD's house.
6 Jeremiah the prophet said, "Amen! May the
LORD do so! May the LORD fulfill the words you
have prophesied, bringing the vessels of the
LORD's house and all the exiles back from
Babylon to this place.
7 But listen now to this word I speak in your
hearing and in the hearing of all the people:
8 The prophets who were before me and
before you from ancient times prophesied war,
disaster, and plague against many lands and
great kingdoms.

9 As for the prophet who prophesies peace,
when that prophet's word comes to pass, it will
be known that the LORD has truly sent him."
10 Then Hananiah the prophet took the yoke
bar from the neck of Jeremiah the prophet and
broke it.
11 Hananiah said before all the people, "This is
what the LORD says: In the same way, within
two full years I will break the yoke of
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck
of all the nations." Then Jeremiah the prophet
went his way.

12 The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah
after Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke
bar from the neck of Jeremiah the prophet:
13 "Go and tell Hananiah: This is what the
LORD says: You have broken wooden yoke bars,
but in their place you will make iron yoke bars.
14 For this is what the LORD of hosts, the God
of Israel, says: I have put an iron yoke on the
neck of all these nations, so that they serve
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and they will
serve him. I have also given him the wild
animals."
15 Jeremiah the prophet said to Hananiah the
prophet, "Listen, Hananiah! The LORD has not
sent you, yet you have made this people trust in
a lie.
16 Therefore this is what the LORD says: Look,
I am sending you away from the face of the
earth. This year you will die, because you have
spoken rebellion against the LORD."
17 Hananiah the prophet died in that same

year, in the seventh month.

29

1 These are the words of the letter Jeremiah
the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the
remaining elders of the exiles, to the priests, the
prophets, and all the people whom
Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from
Jerusalem to Babylon.
2 This was after King Jeconiah, the queen
mother, the palace officials, the officials of Judah
and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the
metalworkers had left Jerusalem.
3 He sent it by Elasah son of Shaphan and
Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king
of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar
king of Babylon. It said:
4 “This is what the LORD of hosts, the God of
Israel, says to all the exiles whom I carried into
exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:
5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens
and eat their fruit.
6 Take wives and have sons and daughters.
Take wives for your sons and give your
daughters in marriage, so that they bear sons
and daughters. Multiply there, and do not
decrease.
7 Seek the peace of the city to which I have
exiled you, and pray to the LORD on its behalf,
for in its peace you will have peace.
8 For this is what the LORD of hosts, the God of
Israel, says: Do not let your prophets and
diviners among you deceive you, and do not

listen to the dreams you yourselves cause to be dreamed.
9 For they prophesy lies to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.
10 For this is what the LORD says: When seventy years are complete for Babylon, I will attend to you and fulfill my good word to you by bringing you back to this place.
11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for peace and not for harm, to give you a future and a hope.
12 You will call on me and go and pray to me, and I will listen to you.
13 You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart.
14 I will be found by you, declares the LORD. I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.
15 Because you have said, 'The LORD has raised up prophets for us in Babylon,'
16 this is what the LORD says concerning the king who sits on David's throne and all the people living in this city, your brothers who did not go into exile with you:
17 This is what the LORD of hosts says: Look, I am sending sword, famine, and plague against them, and I will make them like rotten figs, so bad they cannot be eaten.
18 I will pursue them with sword, famine, and plague and make them a horror to all the

kingdoms of the earth, a curse, a desolation, an
object of hissing, and a reproach among all the
nations where I have driven them.
19 For they did not listen to my words, declares
the LORD, which I sent to them by my servants
the prophets, rising early and sending them.
And you have not listened, declares the LORD.
20 But you, all the exiles whom I sent from
Jerusalem to Babylon, hear the word of the
LORD.
21 This is what the LORD of hosts, the God of
Israel, says concerning Ahab son of Kolaiah and
Zedekiah son of Maaseiah, who prophesy lies to
you in my name: Look, I will give them into the
hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and
he will strike them down before your eyes.
22 All the exiles of Judah in Babylon will take
up a curse from them: 'May the LORD make you
like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of
Babylon roasted in the fire.'
23 For they have done a disgraceful thing in
Israel, committed adultery with their neighbors'
wives, and spoken lying words in my name that
I did not command them. I am the one who
knows and is a witness, declares the LORD."
24 To Shemaiah the Nehelamite you are to say:
25 "This is what the LORD of hosts, the God of
Israel, says: Because you sent letters in your
own name to all the people in Jerusalem, to the
priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah, and to all the
priests, saying,
26 'The LORD has made you priest in place of
Jehoiada the priest, to be in charge in the LORD's

house of every madman who prophesies, so that you put him in the stocks and a neck clamp.
27 Why then have you not rebuked Jeremiah of Anathoth, who prophesies to you?
28 For he has sent word to us in Babylon: The exile will be long. Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit.' "
29 Zephaniah the priest read this letter in the hearing of Jeremiah the prophet.
30 The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:
31 "Send word to all the exiles: This is what the LORD says concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite: Because Shemaiah has prophesied to you, though I did not send him, and has made you trust in a lie,
32 therefore this is what the LORD says: Look, I will punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his offspring. He will have no one dwelling among this people, nor will he see the good I will do for my people, declares the LORD, because he has spoken rebellion against the LORD."

30

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:
2 "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you.
3 For look, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel and Judah, says the LORD. I will bring them back to the land I gave their ancestors, and they will possess it."

4 These are the words the LORD spoke
concerning Israel and Judah:
5 For this is what the LORD says: “We have heard
a cry of terror, of dread and not of peace.
6 Ask and see: Can a male give birth?
Why then do I see every man with his hands
on his hips like a woman in labor, and
every face turned pale?
7 Alas, that day is great;
there is none like it.
It is a time of distress for Jacob, yet he will
be saved out of it.
8 On that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will
break his yoke from your neck and tear
off your bonds.
Foreigners will no longer enslave him.
9 Instead, they will serve the LORD their God
and David their king, whom I will raise up
for them.

10 But you, my servant Jacob, do not fear,
declares the LORD;
do not be dismayed, Israel.
Look, I will save you from afar and your
offspring from the land of their captivity.
Jacob will return and be quiet and at ease,
with no one to make him afraid.
11 For I am with you to save you, declares the
LORD.
Though I make a complete end of all the
nations where I scattered you, I will not
make a complete end of you.
I will discipline you with justice, and I will
by no means leave you unpunished.

12 For this is what the LORD says: Your hurt is
incurable, and your wound is grievous.
13 No one pleads your case;
for your wound there are no remedies or
healing.
14 All your lovers have forgotten you;
they do not seek you.
For I have struck you with the blow of an
enemy, with cruel discipline, because your
iniquity is great and your sins are many.
15 Why do you cry out over your hurt?
Your pain is incurable.
Because your iniquity is great and your sins
are many, I have done these things to you.
16 Therefore all who devour you will be
devoured;
all your adversaries, every one of them, will
go into captivity.
Those who plunder you will be plundered,
and all who loot you I will give over to
looting.
17 For I will restore your health and heal your
wounds, declares the LORD, because they
have called you an outcast: 'This is Zion,
for whom no one cares.'

18 This is what the LORD says: Look, I will
restore the fortunes of Jacob's tents and
have compassion on his dwellings.
The city will be rebuilt on its own mound,
and the palace will stand in its proper
place.

19 From them will come thanksgiving and the
sound of rejoicing.
I will multiply them, and they will not
decrease;
I will honor them, and they will not be
insignificant.
20 His children will be as before, and his
congregation will be established before
me.
I will punish all his oppressors.
21 His prince will be one of his own, and his
ruler will come from his midst.
I will bring him near, and he will approach
me, for who is this who has pledged his
heart to approach me?
declares the LORD.
22 You will be my people, and I will be your God."

23 Look, the storm of the LORD has gone forth in
wrath, a sweeping storm;
it will whirl upon the heads of the wicked.
24 The fierce anger of the LORD will not turn
back until he has carried out and fulfilled
the purposes of his heart.
In the latter days you will understand it.

31

1 "At that time," declares the LORD, "I will be
the God of all the clans of Israel, and they will be
my people."

2 This is what the LORD says: "The people who
survived the sword found grace in the

wilderness, when I went to give Israel
rest."
3 From afar the LORD appeared to me: "I have
loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have drawn you with steadfast
love.
4 Again I will build you, and you will be rebuilt,
virgin Israel.
Again you will adorn yourself with your
tambourines and go out in the dance of
those who rejoice.
5 Again you will plant vineyards on the
mountains of Samaria;
the planters will plant and enjoy the fruit.
6 For a day is coming when watchmen will cry
out in the hill country of Ephraim, 'Get up!
Let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God!' "

7 For this is what the LORD says: "Sing with joy
for Jacob, and shout for the foremost of
the nations.
Proclaim, praise, and say, 'Save your people,
LORD, the remnant of Israel!'
8 Look, I am bringing them from the land of the
north and gathering them from the
farthest parts of the earth.
Among them are the blind and the lame, the
pregnant woman and the woman in labor
together;
a great assembly will return here.
9 They will come with weeping;
amid their pleas I will lead them.

I will guide them beside streams of water,
on a straight path where they will not
stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and
Ephraim is my firstborn.

10 Hear the word of the LORD, nations;
proclaim it in the distant coastlands.
Say, 'The one who scattered Israel will
gather him and guard him as a shepherd
guards his flock.'
11 For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and
redeemed him from the hand of one
stronger than he.
12 They will come and sing for joy on the heights
of Zion;
they will stream toward the bounty of the
LORD, toward grain, new wine, oil, and
the young of flocks and herds.
Their life will be like a watered garden, and
they will languish no more.
13 Then the virgin will rejoice in the dance, and
young men and old together.
I will turn their mourning into joy, comfort
them, and give them gladness instead of
sorrow.
14 I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and
my people will be satisfied with my
goodness," declares the LORD.

15 This is what the LORD says: "A voice is heard
in Ramah, lamentation and bitter
weeping: Rachel weeping for her

children, refusing to be comforted for her
children, because they are no more."

16 This is what the LORD says: "Restrain your
voice from weeping and your eyes from
tears, for there is a reward for your labor,"
declares the LORD.
"They will return from the land of the
enemy.
17 There is hope for your future," declares the
LORD.
"The children will return to their own
territory.

18 I have surely heard Ephraim lamenting: 'You
disciplined me, and I was disciplined, like
an untrained calf.
Turn me back, and I will return, for you are
the LORD my God.
19 After I returned, I repented;
after I came to understand, I struck my
thigh.
I was ashamed and humiliated, for I bore
the reproach of my youth.'
20 Is Ephraim not a precious son to me, a child in
whom I delight?
Whenever I speak of him, I still remember
him.
Therefore my heart yearns for him;
I will surely have compassion on him,"
declares the LORD.

21 "Set up road markers for yourself;
place signposts.

Set your heart on the highway, the road you
traveled.
Return, virgin Israel;
return to these cities of yours.
22 How long will you wander, faithless daughter?
For the LORD has created a new thing in the
land: a woman will surround a man."
23 This is what the LORD of hosts, the God of
Israel, says: "When I restore their fortunes, they
will again say these words in the land of Judah
and its cities: 'May the LORD bless you, dwelling
of righteousness, holy mountain!'
24 Judah and all its cities will dwell there
together, farmers and those who travel with the
flock.
25 For I will refresh the weary soul and fill
every languishing soul."
26 At this I awoke and looked, and my sleep
had been sweet to me.
27 "Look, the days are coming," declares the
LORD, "when I will sow the house of Israel and
the house of Judah with the seed of man and the
seed of animals.
28 Just as I watched over them to uproot, tear
down, demolish, destroy, and bring disaster, so I
will watch over them to build and plant,"
declares the LORD.
29 "In those days they will no longer say, 'The
fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the
children's teeth are set on edge.'
30 Instead, each will die for his own iniquity;
whoever eats sour grapes will have his own
teeth set on edge.

31 Look, the days are coming," declares the
LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with
the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
32 It will not be like the covenant I made with
their ancestors on the day I took them by the
hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my
covenant which they broke, though I was their
husband," declares the LORD.
33 "But this is the covenant I will make with
the house of Israel after those days," declares the
LORD. "I will put my law within them and write
it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they
will be my people.
34 No longer will each teach his neighbor or
each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for
they will all know me, from the least to the
greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive
their iniquity and remember their sin no more."

35 This is what the LORD says, who gives the sun
for light by day, the ordinances of the
moon and stars for light by night, who
stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the
LORD of hosts is his name:
36 "If these ordinances depart from before me,"
declares the LORD, "then the offspring of
Israel will also cease to be a nation before
me forever."

37 This is what the LORD says: "If the heavens
above can be measured and the
foundations of the earth below explored,
then I too will reject all the offspring of

Israel for all they have done," declares the LORD.

38 "Look, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the city will be rebuilt for the LORD from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate.
39 The measuring line will extend farther to the hill of Gareb and turn toward Goah.
40 The whole valley of the corpses and the ashes, and all the fields as far as the Kidron Brook, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, will be holy to the LORD. It will never again be uprooted or torn down."

32

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar.
2 At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was confined in the courtyard of the guard at the house of the king of Judah.
3 Zedekiah king of Judah had confined him there, saying, "Why do you prophesy, 'This is what the LORD says: Look, I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will capture it.
4 Zedekiah king of Judah will not escape from the hand of the Chaldeans, but will surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon. He will speak with him face to face, and his eyes will see his eyes.

5 He will take Zedekiah to Babylon, and there
he will remain until I attend to him, declares the
LORD. Though you fight against the Chaldeans,
you will not succeed'?"

6 Jeremiah said, "The word of the LORD came
to me:
7 'Look, Hanamel son of Shallum your uncle is
coming to you to say: Buy my field in Anathoth,
for you have the right of redemption to buy it.'
8 Then Hanamel, my uncle's son, came to me
in the courtyard of the guard according to the
word of the LORD. He said, 'Please buy my field
in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for you
have the right of inheritance and redemption.
Buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was
the word of the LORD.
9 So I bought the field at Anathoth from
Hanamel, my uncle's son, and weighed out for
him about seven ounces of silver.
10 I wrote the deed and sealed it, called
witnesses, and weighed the silver on the scales.
11 I took the deed of purchase, the sealed one
with its terms and conditions, and the open one,
12 and gave the deed of purchase to Baruch
son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, in the presence
of Hanamel my uncle, the witnesses who signed
the deed of purchase, and all the Jews sitting in
the courtyard of the guard.
13 I charged Baruch in their presence:
14 'This is what the LORD of hosts, the God of
Israel, says: Take these documents, this sealed
deed of purchase and this open deed, and put
them in an earthenware vessel, so that they may

last many days.

15 For this is what the LORD of hosts, the God
of Israel, says: Houses, fields, and vineyards will
again be bought in this land.'

16 After giving the deed of purchase to Baruch
son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD:
17 'Ah, Lord GOD! Look, you made the heavens
and the earth by your great power and your
outstretched arm. Nothing is too difficult for
you.
18 You show steadfast love to thousands and
repay the iniquity of fathers into the laps of
their children after them—the great and mighty
God, whose name is the LORD of hosts.
19 You are great in counsel and mighty in
deeds; your eyes are open to all the ways of
mankind, to give each man according to his
ways and the fruit of his deeds.
20 You have performed signs and wonders in
the land of Egypt to this day, in Israel and among
mankind, and have made a name for yourself,
as it is today.
21 You brought your people Israel out of the
land of Egypt with signs and wonders, a strong
hand, an outstretched arm, and great terror.
22 You gave them this land, which you swore
to their ancestors to give them, a land flowing
with milk and honey.
23 They entered and possessed it, but did not
obey your voice or walk in your laws. They did
none of all you commanded them to do, so you
brought all this disaster upon them.

24 Look, the siege ramps have reached the city
to capture it, and the city is being given into the
hand of the Chaldeans fighting against it,
because of sword, famine, and plague. What you
spoke has happened, and you yourself see it.
25 Yet you have said to me, Lord GOD: Buy the
field with silver and call witnesses—though the
city is being given into the hand of the
Chaldeans.' "
26 The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:
27 "Look, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is
anything too difficult for me?
28 Therefore this is what the LORD says: Look,
I am giving this city into the hand of the
Chaldeans and into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar
king of Babylon, and he will capture it.
29 The Chaldeans fighting against this city will
come, set fire to it, and burn it, along with the
houses on whose roofs they burned incense to
Baal and poured out drink offerings to other
gods to provoke me to anger.
30 For the people of Israel and the people of
Judah have done only evil in my sight from their
youth; the people of Israel have only provoked
me to anger with the work of their hands,
declares the LORD.
31 This city has provoked my anger and my
wrath from the day they built it to this day, so I
will remove it from my presence,
32 because of all the evil the people of Israel
and Judah have done to provoke me to
anger—they, their kings, their officials, their
priests, their prophets, the men of Judah, and

the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
33 They turned their backs to me and not their
faces. Though I taught them, rising early and
teaching them, they did not listen or accept
discipline.
34 They set their abominations in the house
that bears my name, defiling it.
35 They built the high places of Baal in the
Valley of the Son of Hinnom to hand their sons
and daughters over to Molech—something I did
not command them, nor did it enter my mind
that they should do this abomination, causing
Judah to sin.
36 Now therefore this is what the LORD, the
God of Israel, says concerning this city of which
you say, 'It is given into the hand of the king of
Babylon by sword, famine, and plague':
37 Look, I am gathering them from all the
lands where I drove them in my anger, my fury,
and my great wrath. I will bring them back to
this place and make them dwell securely.
38 They will be my people, and I will be their
God.
39 I will give them one heart and one way, so
that they fear me always, for their own good
and the good of their children after them.
40 I will make an everlasting covenant with
them: I will not turn away from doing them
good. I will put the fear of me in their hearts, so
that they do not turn away from me.
41 I will rejoice over them in doing them good,
and I will faithfully plant them in this land with
all my heart and all my soul.

42 For this is what the LORD says: Just as I
have brought all this great disaster upon this
people, so I will bring upon them all the good I
am promising them.
43 Fields will be bought in this land of which
you say, 'It is a desolation, without people or
animals, given into the hand of the Chaldeans.'
44 They will buy fields with silver, write and
seal deeds, and call witnesses in the land of
Benjamin, around Jerusalem, in the cities of
Judah, in the cities of the hill country, in the
cities of the lowlands, and in the cities of the
Negev, for I will restore their fortunes," declares
the LORD.

33

1 The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah a
second time while he was still confined in the
courtyard of the guard:
2 Thus says the LORD who made it, the LORD
who formed it to establish it—the LORD is his
name:
3 "Call to me, and I will answer you and tell
you great and hidden things that you have not
known.
4 For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel,
concerning the houses of this city and the
houses of the kings of Judah that have been torn
down to resist the siege ramps and the sword:
5 They come to fight the Chaldeans, only to fill
these houses with the corpses of those I struck
down in my anger and wrath. I have hidden my
face from this city because of all their
wickedness.

6 But look, I will bring her health and healing.
I will heal them and reveal to them an
abundance of peace and faithfulness.
7 I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the
fortunes of Israel and rebuild them as at first.
8 I will cleanse them from all the iniquity with
which they sinned against me, and I will forgive
all the iniquities with which they sinned against
me and rebelled against me.
9 She will be to me a name of joy, praise, and
glory before all the nations of the earth who
hear of all the good I do for them. They will fear
and tremble at all the good and all the peace I
give her."
10 Thus says the LORD: "In this place that you
call desolate, without people or animals—in the
cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem,
desolate, without people, inhabitants, or
animals—there will again be heard
11 the voice of joy and the voice of gladness,
the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the
bride, the voices of those saying, 'Give thanks to
the LORD of hosts, for the LORD is good, for his
steadfast love endures forever,' as they bring
thank offerings to the house of the LORD. For I
will restore the fortunes of the land as at first,
says the LORD."
12 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "In this
desolate place, without people or animals, and
in all its cities, there will again be pastures
where shepherds make their flocks lie down.
13 In the cities of the hill country, the lowlands,
and the Negev, in the land of Benjamin, around

Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, flocks will
again pass under the hands of the one who
counts them, says the LORD.
14 Look, the days are coming, declares the
LORD, when I will fulfill the good word I spoke
to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
15 In those days and at that time I will cause a
Branch of righteousness to spring up for David,
and he will carry out justice and righteousness
in the land.
16 In those days Judah will be saved and
Jerusalem will dwell securely. This is what she
will be called: 'The LORD Our Righteousness.'
17 For thus says the LORD: David will never
lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of
Israel,
18 and the Levitical priests will never lack a
man before me to offer burnt offerings, burn
grain offerings, and make sacrifices continually."
19 The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:
20 "Thus says the LORD: If you can break my
covenant with the day and my covenant with
the night, so that day and night no longer come
at their appointed time,
21 then my covenant with David my servant
can also be broken, so that he has no son to
reign on his throne, and my covenant with the
Levitical priests, my ministers.
22 As the host of heaven cannot be counted
and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I
will multiply the offspring of David my servant
and the Levites who minister to me."
23 The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

24 “Have you not seen what these people are
saying? ‘The LORD has rejected the two families
he chose.’ They despise my people, so that they
no longer consider them a nation.
25 Thus says the LORD: If my covenant with
day and night does not stand, if I have not
established the ordinances of heaven and earth,
26 then I will also reject the offspring of Jacob
and David my servant, refusing to take from his
offspring rulers over the offspring of Abraham,
Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes
and have compassion on them.”

34

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from
the LORD when Nebuchadnezzar king of
Babylon and his entire army, all the kingdoms of
the earth under his rule, and all the peoples
were fighting against Jerusalem and all its cities:
2 “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Go
and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah. Tell him,
‘Thus says the LORD: Look, 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 his hand. You will surely
be captured and given into his hand. Your eyes
will see the eyes of the king of Babylon, and he
will speak with you face to face. You will go to
Babylon.
4 Yet hear the word of the LORD, Zedekiah
king of Judah. Thus says the LORD concerning
you: You will not die by the sword.

5 You will die in peace. As they burned spices
for your fathers, the former kings who preceded
you, so they will burn them for you and lament
for you, saying, “Alas, master!” For I have spoken
the word, declares the LORD.’ ”

6 Jeremiah the prophet spoke all these words
to Zedekiah king of Judah in Jerusalem,
7 while the army of the king of Babylon was
fighting against Jerusalem and the cities of
Judah that remained—Lachish and Azekah, for
these were the fortified cities remaining among
the cities of Judah.

8 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from
the LORD after King Zedekiah made a covenant
with all the people in Jerusalem to proclaim
freedom to them:
9 Everyone was to set free his male and female
Hebrew slaves, so that no one would keep a
fellow Jew, his brother, in slavery.
10 All the officials and all the people who had
entered the covenant agreed to set their male
and female slaves free and no longer enslave
them. They obeyed and set them free.
11 But afterward they turned back and
brought back the male and female slaves they
had set free, forcing them into slavery again.

12 Then the word of the LORD came to
Jeremiah from the LORD:
13 “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I
made a covenant with your fathers on the day I
brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the
house of slavery, saying,

14 ‘At the end of seven years, each of you must
release his fellow Hebrew who has been sold to
you and has served you six years. You must let
him go free from your service.’ But your fathers
did not listen to me or incline their ear.
15 You yourselves had turned today and done
what was right in my eyes by proclaiming
freedom, each to his neighbor. You made a
covenant before me in the house that bears my
name.
16 But you turned back and profaned my
name. Each of you brought back his male and
female slaves whom you had set free to live as
they wished, and you forced them to be your
slaves again.

17 Therefore thus says the LORD: You have not
obeyed me by proclaiming freedom, each to his
brother and each to his neighbor. Look, I
proclaim freedom for you, declares the
LORD—freedom to the sword, to pestilence, and
to famine. I will make you a horror to all the
kingdoms of the earth.
18 I will hand over the men who violated my
covenant, who did not carry out the words of the
covenant they made before me when they cut
the calf in two and passed between its pieces:
19 the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the
eunuchs, the priests, and all the people of the
land who passed between the pieces of the calf.
20 I will give them into the hand of their
enemies and those who seek their lives. Their
corpses will be food for the birds of the heavens
and the animals of the earth.

21 I will also give Zedekiah king of Judah and
his officials into the hand of their enemies and
those who seek their lives, into the hand of the
army of the king of Babylon that has withdrawn
from you.
22 Look, I will give the command, declares the
LORD, and bring them back to this city. They
will fight against it, capture it, and burn it with
fire. I will make the cities of Judah a desolation
without inhabitants."

35

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from
the LORD in the days of Jehoiakim son of Josiah,
king of Judah:
2 "Go to the family of the Rechabites and speak
with them. Bring them to the house of the LORD,
into one of the chambers, and give them wine to
drink."
3 So I took Jaazaniah son of Jeremiah, son of
Habazziniah, his brothers, all his sons, and the
entire family of the Rechabites.
4 I brought them into the house of the LORD,
to the chamber of the sons of Hanan son of
Igdaliah, the man of God. It was beside the
chamber of the officials, above the chamber of
Maaseiah son of Shallum, the keeper of the
threshold.
5 I set pitchers full of wine and cups before the
members of the Rechabite family and said to
them, "Drink some wine."
6 But they said, "We will not drink wine, for
Jonadab son of Rechab, our father, commanded

us, ‘Neither you nor your sons shall ever drink
wine.
7 You shall not build a house, sow seed, or
plant or own a vineyard. Instead, you shall live
in tents all your days, so that you may live a long
time in the land where you reside as foreigners.’
8 We have obeyed Jonadab son of Rechab, our
father, in everything he commanded us. We
have drunk no wine all our days, neither we nor
our wives, our sons, or our daughters.
9 We have built no houses to live in, and we
have no vineyard, field, or seed.
10 We have lived in tents and have obeyed and
done everything Jonadab our father
commanded us.
11 But when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon
came up against the land, we said, ‘Come, let us
go to Jerusalem to escape the army of the
Chaldeans and the army of Aram.’ So we have
been living in Jerusalem.”

12 The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:
13 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of
Israel: Go and say to the men of Judah and the
inhabitants of Jerusalem, “The LORD declares:
Will you not accept correction and listen to my
words?
14 The words of Jonadab son of Rechab, who
commanded his sons not to drink wine, have
been carried out. They have drunk none to this
day, for they obey their father’s command. But I
have spoken to you, early and persistently, and
you have not listened to me.
15 I have sent you all my servants the

prophets, sending them early and persistently,
saying, 'Turn now, each of you, from your evil
way. Make your deeds right, and do not follow
other gods to serve them. Then you will dwell in
the land I gave to you and your fathers.' But you
have not inclined your ear or listened to me.
16 The sons of Jonadab son of Rechab have
carried out their father's command to them, but
these people have not listened to me.
17 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of
hosts, the God of Israel: Look, I am bringing on
Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all
the disaster I have spoken against them, because
I spoke to them and they did not listen; I called
to them and they did not answer."
18 Jeremiah said to the family of the
Rechabites, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the
God of Israel: Because you have obeyed the
command of Jonadab your father, kept all his
commands, and done everything he
commanded you,
19 therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the
God of Israel: Jonadab son of Rechab will never
lack a man to stand before me."

36

1 In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah,
king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from
the LORD:
2 "Take a scroll and write on it all the words I
have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah,
and all the nations, from the day I first spoke to
you, in the days of Josiah, until today.

3 Perhaps the house of Judah will hear of all
the disaster I plan to bring on them, so that each
may turn from his evil way and I may forgive
their iniquity and sin."

4 Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and
Baruch wrote on a scroll, at Jeremiah's dictation,
all the words the LORD had spoken to him.
5 Then Jeremiah commanded Baruch, "I am
under restraint and cannot enter the house of
the LORD.
6 So you must go and read from the scroll the
words of the LORD that you wrote at my
dictation. Read them in the house of the LORD
on a day of fasting, in the hearing of the people
and of all Judah who come from their cities.
7 Perhaps their plea will come before the
LORD, and each will turn from his evil way, for
great is the anger and wrath that the LORD has
pronounced against this people."
8 Baruch son of Neriah did everything
Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading
from the scroll the words of the LORD in the
house of the LORD.

9 In the fifth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah,
king of Judah, in the ninth month, all the people
in Jerusalem and all those who had come to
Jerusalem from the cities of Judah proclaimed a
fast before the LORD.
10 Baruch read Jeremiah's words from the
scroll in the house of the LORD, in the hearing of
all the people. He read from the chamber of
Gemariah son of Shaphan the scribe, in the
upper courtyard, at the entrance of the New

Gate of the house of the LORD.
11 Micaiah son of Gemariah, son of Shaphan,
heard all the words of the LORD read from the
scroll.
12 He went down to the king's house, to the
scribe's chamber. There all the officials were
seated: Elishama the scribe, Delaiah son of
Shemaiah, Elnathan son of Achbor, Gemariah
son of Shaphan, Zedekiah son of Hananiah, and
all the other officials.
13 Micaiah told them all the words he had
heard when Baruch read from the scroll in the
hearing of the people.
14 All the officials sent Jehudi son of
Nethaniah, son of Shelemiah, son of Cushi, to
Baruch, saying, "Take in your hand the scroll
you read in the hearing of the people, and
come." Baruch son of Neriah took the scroll in
his hand and went to them.
15 They said to him, "Please sit down and read
it to us." So Baruch read it to them.
16 When they heard all the words, they turned
to one another in fear and said to Baruch, "We
must certainly tell the king all these words."
17 They asked Baruch, "Please tell us how you
wrote all these words at his dictation."
18 Baruch said to them, "He dictated all these
words to me, and I wrote them with ink on the
scroll."
19 The officials said to Baruch, "Go and hide,
you and Jeremiah. Let no one know where you
are."
20 They went to the king in the courtyard,
leaving the scroll in the chamber of Elishama
the scribe, and reported all the words in the

king's hearing.
21 The king sent Jehudi to get the scroll. He
brought it from the chamber of Elishama the
scribe and read it in the hearing of the king and
all the officials standing beside him.
22 The king was sitting in the winter house in
the ninth month, with a fire burning in a brazier
before him.
23 Whenever Jehudi had read three or four
columns, the king cut them off with the scribe's
knife and threw them into the fire in the brazier,
until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire
in the brazier.
24 Neither the king nor any of his servants
who heard all these words were afraid or tore
their clothes.
25 Although Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah
pleaded with the king not to burn the scroll, he
did not listen to them.
26 The king commanded Jerahmeel the king's
son, Seraiah son of Azriel, and Shelemiah son of
Abdeel to seize Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah
the prophet. But the LORD hid them.
27 After the king burned the scroll and the
words Baruch had written at Jeremiah's
dictation, the word of the LORD came to
Jeremiah:
28 "Take another scroll and write on it all the
former words that were on the first scroll, which
Jehoiakim king of Judah burned.
29 Concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah, you
shall say, 'Thus says the LORD: You burned this
scroll, saying, "Why have you written in it that
the king of Babylon will surely come and destroy

this land and wipe out its people and animals?"

30 Therefore thus says the LORD concerning
Jehoiakim king of Judah: He will have no one to
sit on David's throne. His corpse will be thrown
out to the heat by day and the frost by night.
31 I will punish him, his offspring, and his
servants for their iniquity. I will bring on them,
the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the men of
Judah all the disaster I spoke against them, but
they did not listen.' "

32 Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to
Baruch son of Neriah, the scribe. At Jeremiah's
dictation he wrote on it all the words of the
scroll Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the
fire, and many similar words were added to
them.

37

1 King Zedekiah son of Josiah, whom
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon made king in
the land of Judah, reigned in place of Coniah son
of Jehoiakim.
2 But neither he nor his servants nor the
people of the land listened to the words of the
LORD spoken through Jeremiah the prophet.
3 King Zedekiah sent Jehucal son of Shelemiah
and Zephaniah son of Maaseiah, the priest, to
Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "Please pray to the
LORD our God for us."
4 Jeremiah was still coming and going among
the people, for they had not yet put him in
prison.

5 Pharaoh's army had marched out of Egypt.
When the Chaldeans besieging Jerusalem heard
the news about them, they withdrew from
Jerusalem.
6 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah
the prophet:
7 Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Say
this to the king of Judah who sent you to inquire
of me: "Look, Pharaoh's army, which came out to
help you, will return to its own land, Egypt.
8 The Chaldeans will return, fight against this
city, capture it, and burn it with fire.
9 Thus says the LORD: Do not deceive
yourselves by saying, 'The Chaldeans will surely
leave us,' for they will not leave.
10 Even if you struck down the entire Chaldean
army fighting against you, and only wounded
men remained among them, each would rise in
his tent and burn this city with fire."
11 When the Chaldean army withdrew from
Jerusalem because of Pharaoh's army,
12 Jeremiah left Jerusalem to go to the land of
Benjamin to receive his share there among the
people.
13 When he was at the Benjamin Gate, a
captain of the guard named Irijah son of
Shelemiah, son of Hananiah, seized Jeremiah
the prophet and said, "You are deserting to the
Chaldeans!"
14 Jeremiah said, "That is false! I am not
deserting to the Chaldeans." But Irijah would not
listen to him. He seized Jeremiah and brought
him to the officials.

15 The officials were angry with Jeremiah, beat
him, and put him in prison in the house of
Jonathan the scribe, for they had made it a
prison.
16 Jeremiah entered the dungeon and the cells
and remained there many days.
17 King Zedekiah sent for him and questioned
him secretly in his house: “Is there any word
from the LORD?” Jeremiah said, “There is.” And
he said, “You will be given into the hand of the
king of Babylon.”
18 Jeremiah said to King Zedekiah, “How have I
sinned against you, your servants, or this
people, that you have put me in prison?
19 Where are your prophets who prophesied
to you, saying, ‘The king of Babylon will not
come against you or this land’?
20 Now please listen, my lord the king. Please
let my plea come before you. Do not send me
back to the house of Jonathan the scribe, or I
will die there.”
21 King Zedekiah gave the command, and
Jeremiah was placed under guard in the
courtyard of the guard. He was given a loaf of
bread each day from the Bakers’ Street until all
the bread in the city was gone. So Jeremiah
remained in the courtyard of the guard.

38

1 Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son of
Pashhur, Jucal son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur
son of Malchiah heard the words Jeremiah was
speaking to all the people:

2 “Thus says the LORD: Whoever stays in this
city will die by sword, famine, and pestilence.
But whoever goes out to the Chaldeans will live;
he will have his life as plunder and 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 will capture it.”
4 The officials said to the king, “Please have this
man put to death, because by saying these things
he weakens the hands of the soldiers remaining
in this city and the hands of all the people. This
man seeks their harm, not their welfare.”
5 King Zedekiah said, “Look, he is in your
hands, for the king can do nothing against you.”
6 They took Jeremiah and threw him into the
cistern of Malchiah the king's son, in the
courtyard of the guard. They lowered Jeremiah
with ropes. There was no water in the cistern,
only mud, and Jeremiah sank into the mud.

7 Ebed-melech the Cushite, a eunuch in the
king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah
in the cistern. The king was sitting at the
Benjamin Gate.
8 Ebed-melech went out of the king's house
and said to the king,
9 “My lord the king, these men have done evil
in everything they have done to Jeremiah the
prophet by throwing him into the cistern. He
will die of hunger there, for there is no more
bread in the city.”
10 The king commanded Ebed-melech the
Cushite, “Take thirty men from here under your

command and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of
the cistern before he dies."
11 Ebed-melech took the men under his
command and went into the king's house, to a
place beneath the treasury. He took old rags and
worn-out clothes from there and lowered them
by ropes to Jeremiah in the cistern.
12 Ebed-melech the Cushite said to Jeremiah,
"Please put these old rags and worn-out clothes
under your armpits, beneath the ropes."
Jeremiah did so.
13 They pulled Jeremiah up with the ropes and
lifted him out of the cistern. Jeremiah remained
in the courtyard of the guard.

14 King Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah the prophet
and brought him to the third entrance of the
house of the LORD. The king said to Jeremiah, "I
will ask you something. Hide nothing from me."
15 Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "If I tell you, will
you not surely put me to death? And if I advise
you, you will not listen to me."
16 King Zedekiah swore secretly to Jeremiah,
"As the LORD lives, who gave us this life, I will
not put you to death or give you into the hand of
these men who seek your life."

17 Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "Thus says the
LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel: If you
indeed go out to the officials of the king of
Babylon, your life will be spared, this city will
not be burned with fire, and you and your
household will live.
18 But if you do not go out to the officials of the
king of Babylon, this city will be given into the

hand of the Chaldeans, and they will burn it
with fire. You will not escape their hand."
19 King Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, "I am afraid
of the Jews who have deserted to the Chaldeans.
I may be given into their hands, and they will
mistreat me."
20 Jeremiah said, "They will not hand you over.
Please obey the voice of the LORD in what I am
telling you. Then it will go well with you, and
your life will be spared.
21 But if you refuse to go out, this is what the
LORD has shown me:
22 Look, all the women remaining in the house
of the king of Judah are being brought out to the
officials of the king of Babylon, and they are
saying, 'Your trusted friends have misled you
and prevailed over you. Your feet have sunk
into the mud, and they have turned back.'
23 All your wives and sons will be brought out
to the Chaldeans, and you will not escape their
hand. You will be captured by the king of
Babylon, and you will cause this city to be
burned with fire."
24 Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, "Let no one know
these words, and you will not die.
25 If the officials hear that I have spoken with
you and come and say to you, 'Please tell us
what you said to the king. Hide nothing from us,
and we will not put you to death. What did the
king say to you?'
26 then you shall tell them, 'I was presenting
my plea before the king, that he would not send
me back to Jonathan's house to die there.' "

27 All the officials came to Jeremiah and
questioned him, and he told them everything
the king had commanded. They stopped
questioning him, for the conversation had not
been overheard.
28 Jeremiah remained in the courtyard of the
guard until the day Jerusalem was captured.
And this is what happened when Jerusalem was
captured:

39

1 In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah,
in the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of
Babylon came with his entire army against
Jerusalem and besieged it.
2 In Zedekiah's eleventh year, on the ninth day
of the fourth month, the city was breached.
3 All the officials of the king of Babylon came
in and sat at the Middle Gate: Nergal-sharezer,
Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim the Rab-saris,
Nergal-sharezer the Rab-mag, and all the rest of
the officials of the king of Babylon.
4 When Zedekiah king of Judah and all the
soldiers saw them, they fled. They left the city
by night by way of the king's garden, through
the gate between the two walls, and the king
went toward the Arabah.
5 The Chaldean army pursued them and
overtook Zedekiah on the plains of Jericho. They
captured him and brought him up to
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon at Riblah in
the land of Hamath, and he pronounced
judgment on him.

6 The king of Babylon slaughtered Zedekiah's
sons before his eyes at Riblah. The king of
Babylon also slaughtered all the nobles of Judah.
7 He put out Zedekiah's eyes and bound him
with bronze shackles to take him to Babylon.
8 The Chaldeans burned the king's house and
the houses of the people with fire and tore down
the walls of Jerusalem.
9 Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took
into exile to Babylon the rest of the people who
remained in the city, the deserters who had
deserted to him, and the rest of the people who
remained.
10 But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard
left in the land of Judah some of the poor people
who had nothing. On that day he gave them
vineyards and fields.
11 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon gave
Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard these
orders concerning Jeremiah:
12 "Take him and look after him. Do him no
harm, but do for him whatever he tells you."
13 So Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard,
Nebushazban the Rab-saris, Nergal-sharezer the
Rab-mag, and all the chief officers of the king of
Babylon sent orders.
14 They had Jeremiah brought out of the
courtyard of the guard and entrusted him to
Gedaliah son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, to take
him home. So he lived among the people.
15 The word of the LORD had come to
Jeremiah while he was confined in the
courtyard of the guard:

16 “Go and say to Ebed-melech the Cushite,
‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel:
Look, I am bringing my words upon this city for
disaster, not for good. They will be fulfilled
before you on that day.
17 But I will deliver you on that day, declares
the LORD. You will not be given into the hand of
the men you fear.
18 For I will surely rescue you. You will not fall
by the sword, but you will have your life as
plunder, because you have trusted in me,
declares the LORD.’ ”

40

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from
the LORD after Nebuzaradan the captain of the
guard released him from Ramah. He had taken
Jeremiah while he was bound in chains among
all the exiles from Jerusalem and Judah who
were being taken to Babylon.
2 The captain of the guard took Jeremiah and
said to him, “The LORD your God pronounced
this disaster against this place.
3 The LORD has brought it about and done as
he said. Because you sinned against the LORD
and did not obey his voice, this has happened to
you.
4 Now look, today I am freeing you from the
chains on your hands. If it seems good to you to
come with me to Babylon, come, and I will look
after you. But if it seems bad to you to come
with me to Babylon, do not come. Look, the

whole land is before you. Go wherever it seems
good and right to you to go."
5 While Jeremiah had not yet turned back, he
added, "Return to Gedaliah son of Ahikam, son of
Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon appointed
over the cities of Judah, and live with him
among the people. Or go wherever it seems right
to you to go." The captain of the guard gave him
provisions and a gift and sent him on his way.
6 Jeremiah went to Gedaliah son of Ahikam at
Mizpah and lived with him among the people
who remained in the land.
7 All the commanders of the troops in the open
country, they and their men, heard that the king
of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah son of
Ahikam over the land and had entrusted to him
the men, women, children, and poor of the land
who had not been taken into exile to Babylon.
8 They came to Gedaliah at Mizpah: Ishmael
son of Nethaniah, Johanan and Jonathan the
sons of Kareah, Seraiah son of Tanhumeth, the
sons of Ephai the Netophathite, and Jezaniah
son of the Maacathite, they and their men.
9 Gedaliah son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan,
swore to them and their men, "Do not be afraid
to serve the Chaldeans. Live in the land and
serve the king of Babylon, and it will go well
with you.
10 As for me, I will stay at Mizpah to stand
before the Chaldeans who come to us. But you,
gather wine, summer fruit, and oil, put them in
your vessels, and live in the cities you have
occupied."

11 All the Jews in Moab, among the
Ammonites, in Edom, and in all the other lands
also heard that the king of Babylon had left a
remnant in Judah and appointed Gedaliah son
of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, over them.
12 All these Jews returned from all the places
to which they had been driven and came to the
land of Judah, to Gedaliah at Mizpah. They
gathered wine and summer fruit in great
abundance.
13 Johanan son of Kareah and all the
commanders of the troops in the open country
came to Gedaliah at Mizpah
14 and said to him, “Do you know for certain
that Baalis king of the Ammonites has sent
Ishmael son of Nethaniah to take your life?” But
Gedaliah son of Ahikam did not believe them.
15 Johanan son of Kareah spoke secretly to
Gedaliah at Mizpah, saying, “Please let me go
and strike down Ishmael son of Nethaniah, and
no one will know. Why should he take your life,
so that all the Jews gathered around you are
scattered and the remnant of Judah perishes?”
16 But Gedaliah son of Ahikam said to Johanan
son of Kareah, “Do not do this, for what you are
saying about Ishmael is false.”

41

1 In the seventh month, Ishmael son of
Nethaniah, son of Elishama, of royal descent
and one of the king’s chief officers, came with
ten men to Gedaliah son of Ahikam at Mizpah.
They ate bread together there at Mizpah.

2 Ishmael son of Nethaniah and the ten men
with him rose and struck down Gedaliah son of
Ahikam, son of Shaphan, with the sword. He
killed the man the king of Babylon had
appointed over the land.
3 Ishmael also struck down all the Jews who
were with Gedaliah at Mizpah and the Chaldean
soldiers who were there.
4 On the day after Gedaliah was killed, while
no one knew about it,
5 eighty men came from Shechem, Shiloh, and
Samaria with shaved beards, torn clothes, and
cuts on their bodies. They carried grain
offerings and frankincense to bring to the house
of the LORD.
6 Ishmael son of Nethaniah went out from
Mizpah to meet them, weeping as he went.
When he met them, he said, “Come to Gedaliah
son of Ahikam.”
7 When they entered the city, Ishmael son of
Nethaniah and the men with him slaughtered
them and threw them into the cistern.
8 But ten men among them said to Ishmael, “Do
not kill us, for we have supplies hidden in the
field—wheat, barley, oil, and honey.” So he held
back and did not kill them with their brothers.
9 The cistern into which Ishmael threw all the
corpses of the men he had struck down because
of Gedaliah was the one King Asa had made
because of Baasha king of Israel. Ishmael son of
Nethaniah filled it with the slain.
10 Ishmael took captive all the rest of the
people in Mizpah—the king’s daughters and all
the people remaining in Mizpah whom

Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had
entrusted to Gedaliah son of Ahikam. Ishmael
son of Nethaniah took them captive and set out
to cross over to the Ammonites.

11 Johanan son of Kareah and all the
commanders of the troops with him heard of all
the evil Ishmael son of Nethaniah had done.
12 They took all their men and went to fight
Ishmael son of Nethaniah. They found him by
the great waters at Gibeon.
13 When all the people with Ishmael saw
Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders
of the troops with him, they rejoiced.
14 All the people Ishmael had taken captive
from Mizpah turned around and went back to
Johanan son of Kareah.
15 But Ishmael son of Nethaniah escaped from
Johanan with eight men and went to the
Ammonites.

16 Johanan son of Kareah and all the
commanders of the troops with him took all the
rest of the people he had recovered from
Ishmael son of Nethaniah, who had taken them
from Mizpah after striking down Gedaliah son
of Ahikam. These were the soldiers, women,
children, and eunuchs he had brought back
from Gibeon.
17 They went and stayed at Geruth-chimham
near Bethlehem, intending to go to Egypt,
18 because of the Chaldeans. They were afraid
of them because Ishmael son of Nethaniah had
struck down Gedaliah son of Ahikam, whom the
king of Babylon had appointed over the land.

42

1 All the commanders of the troops, Johanan
son of Kareah, Jezaniah son of Hoshaiah, and all
the people, from the least to the greatest,
approached
2 and said to Jeremiah the prophet, “Please let
our plea come before you. Pray to the LORD
your God for us, for this entire remnant, for we
are left few out of many, as your own eyes see.
3 May the LORD your God tell us the way we
should go and what we should do.”
4 Jeremiah the prophet said to them, “I have
heard you. I will pray to the LORD your God as
you have asked. Everything the LORD answers
you I will tell you. I will withhold nothing from
you.”
5 They said to Jeremiah, “May the LORD be a
true and faithful witness against us if we do not
do everything the LORD your God sends you to
tell us.
6 Whether good or bad, we will obey the voice
of the LORD our God, to whom we are sending
you, so that it may go well with us when we
obey the voice of the LORD our God.”

7 After ten days, the word of the LORD came to
Jeremiah.
8 He called Johanan son of Kareah, all the
commanders of the troops with him, and all the
people, from the least to the greatest,
9 and said to them, “Thus says the LORD, the
God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present
your plea:

10 ‘If you indeed remain in this land, I will
build you up and not tear you down; I will plant
you and not uproot you, for I regret the disaster
I have brought on you.
11 Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon,
whom you fear. Do not be afraid of him,
declares the LORD, for I am with you to save you
and deliver you from his hand.
12 I will grant you compassion, and he will
have compassion on you and bring you back to
your own land.’
13 But if you say, ‘We will not remain in this
land,’ refusing to obey the voice of the LORD
your God,
14 and say, ‘No, we will go to the land of Egypt,
where we will see no war, hear no trumpet, and
have no hunger for bread. We will live there,’
15 then hear the word of the LORD, remnant of
Judah. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of
Israel: ‘If you are determined to enter Egypt and
go to reside there,
16 then the sword you fear will overtake you
there in the land of Egypt, and the famine you
dread will follow close after you there in Egypt,
and there you will die.
17 All the men who are determined to enter
Egypt to reside there will die by sword, famine,
and pestilence. None of them will survive or
escape the disaster I am bringing on 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 my wrath
will be poured out on you when you enter

Egypt. You will become an object of
imprecation, horror, cursing, and reproach, and
you will never see this place again.'
19 The LORD has spoken concerning you,
remnant of Judah: 'Do not go to Egypt.' Know
for certain that I have warned you today.
20 For you have deceived yourselves. You sent
me to the LORD your God, saying, 'Pray to the
LORD our God for us. Tell us everything the
LORD our God says, and we will do it.'
21 I have told you today, but you have not
obeyed the voice of the LORD your God or
anything he sent me to tell you.
22 So now know for certain that you will die by
sword, famine, and pestilence in the place
where you desire to go and reside."

43

1 When Jeremiah finished speaking to all the
people all the words of the LORD their God,
everything the LORD their God had sent him to
tell them,
2 Azariah son of Hoshaiah, Johanan son of
Kareah, and all the arrogant men said to
Jeremiah, "You are speaking falsely! The LORD
our God did not send you to say, 'Do not enter
Egypt to reside there.'
3 Baruch son of Neriah is inciting you against
us, to give us into the hand of the Chaldeans, to
put us to death and take us into exile to
Babylon."
4 So Johanan son of Kareah, all the
commanders of the troops, and all the people

did not obey the LORD's command to remain in
the land of Judah.
5 Johanan son of Kareah and all the
commanders of the troops took the entire
remnant of Judah who had returned from all the
nations to which they had been driven, to reside
in the land of Judah:
6 the men, women, children, the king's
daughters, and every person Nebuzaradan the
captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah son
of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, as well as Jeremiah
the prophet and Baruch son of Neriah.
7 They entered the land of Egypt, for they did
not obey the voice of the LORD, and they came
as far as Tahpanhes.
8 The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah in
Tahpanhes:
9 "Take large stones in your hands and hide
them in the mortar of the brick pavement at the
entrance to Pharaoh's house in Tahpanhes, in
the sight of the men of Judah.
10 Say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts,
the God of Israel: Look, I will send for
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, my servant,
and bring him here. I will set his throne above
these stones I have hidden, and he will spread
his royal canopy over them.
11 He will come and strike the land of Egypt:
those destined for death, to death; those for
captivity, to captivity; and those for the sword,
to the sword.
12 I will kindle a fire in the temples of the gods
of Egypt. He will burn them and carry the gods

away captive. He will wrap himself in the land
of Egypt as a shepherd wraps himself in his
cloak, and he will leave there in peace.
13 He will break the pillars of Beth-shemesh in
the land of Egypt and burn the temples of the
gods of Egypt with fire.' "

44

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah
concerning all the Jews living in the land of
Egypt, in Migdol, Tahpanhes, Memphis, and the
land of Pathros:
2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of
Israel: You have seen all the disaster I brought
on Jerusalem and all the cities of Judah. Look,
today they lie in ruins, with no one living in
them,
3 because of the evil they did to provoke me to
anger, going to burn incense and serve other
gods whom neither they nor you nor your
fathers had known.
4 I sent you all my servants the prophets,
sending them early and persistently, saying,
'Please do not do this abominable thing that I
hate.'
5 But they did not listen or incline their ear to
turn from their evil and stop burning incense to
other gods.
6 So my wrath and anger were poured out and
burned in the cities of Judah and the streets of
Jerusalem. They became ruins and a desolation,
as they are today.

7 Now thus says the LORD, the God of hosts,
the God of Israel: Why are you doing such great
harm to yourselves, cutting off man and woman,
child and nursing infant from Judah, leaving
yourselves no remnant,
8 provoking me to anger with the works of
your hands by burning incense to other gods in
the land of Egypt, where you have come to
reside? Why bring about your own destruction
and become a curse and a reproach among all
the nations of the earth?
9 Have you forgotten the evil of your fathers,
the evil of the kings of Judah, the evil of his
wives, your own evil, and the evil of your wives,
which they committed in the land of Judah and
the streets of Jerusalem?
10 To this day they have not humbled
themselves or feared, nor have they walked in
my law and my statutes that I set before you and
your fathers.
11 Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the
God of Israel: Look, I am setting my face against
you for disaster and to cut off all Judah.
12 I will take the remnant of Judah who
determined to enter the land of Egypt to reside
there, and they will all perish in the land of
Egypt. They will fall by the sword and perish by
famine. From the least to the greatest, they will
die by sword and famine and become an object
of imprecation, horror, cursing, and reproach.
13 I will punish those living in the land of
Egypt as I punished Jerusalem, by sword,
famine, and pestilence.

14 None of the remnant of Judah who have
come to reside in the land of Egypt will escape
or survive to return to the land of Judah, where
they long to return and live. They will not
return, except for fugitives."
15 Then all the men who knew that their wives
were burning incense to other gods, all the
women standing there, a great assembly, and all
the people living in the land of Egypt, in Pathros,
answered Jeremiah:
16 "As for the word you have spoken to us in
the name of the LORD, we will not listen to you.
17 We will certainly do everything we have
promised with our mouths: burn incense to the
queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to
her, as we and our fathers, our kings and
officials did in the cities of Judah and the streets
of Jerusalem. Then we had plenty of bread,
were well, and saw no disaster.
18 But since we stopped burning incense to the
queen of heaven and pouring out drink
offerings to her, we have lacked everything and
have perished by sword and famine.
19 When we burned incense to the queen of
heaven and poured out drink offerings to her,
did we make cakes bearing her image and pour
out drink offerings to her without our
husbands?"
20 Jeremiah said to all the people, to the men,
the women, and all the people who had given
him that answer:
21 "The incense you burned in the cities of
Judah and the streets of Jerusalem—you and

your fathers, your kings and officials, and the people of the land—did the LORD not remember it, and did it not come to his mind?
22 The LORD could no longer bear the evil of your deeds and the abominations you committed. So your land became a ruin, a horror, and a curse, without inhabitants, as it is today.
23 Because you burned incense and sinned against the LORD, did not obey the voice of the LORD, and did not walk in his law, his statutes, and his testimonies, this disaster has come upon you, as it has today."
24 Jeremiah said to all the people and all the women, "Hear the word of the LORD, all Judah in the land of Egypt:
25 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'You and your wives have spoken with your mouths and carried it out with your hands, saying, "We will certainly fulfill the vows we made to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her." Go ahead, confirm your vows! Carry out your vows!
26 Therefore hear the word of the LORD, all Judah living in the land of Egypt. Look, I have sworn by my great name, says the LORD, that my name will no longer be invoked by the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, "As the Lord GOD lives."
27 Look, I am watching over them for disaster, not for good. All the men of Judah in the land of Egypt will perish by sword and famine until they are consumed.

28 Those who escape the sword will return
from the land of Egypt to the land of Judah, few
in number. All the remnant of Judah who came
to the land of Egypt to reside there will know
whose word will stand, mine or theirs.
29 This will be the sign to you, declares the
LORD, that I am punishing you in this place, so
that you may know that my words against you
for disaster will surely stand.

30 Thus says the LORD: Look, I am giving
Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hand of
his enemies and those who seek his life, as I
gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, his enemy
who sought his life.' "

45

1 This is the word Jeremiah the prophet spoke
to Baruch son of Neriah when he wrote these
words on a scroll at Jeremiah's dictation, in the
fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of
Judah:

2 Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel,
concerning you, Baruch:
3 "You said, 'Alas for me! The LORD has added
grief to my pain. I am weary with my sighing
and have found no rest.' "
4 Say this to him: "Thus says the LORD: Look,
what I built I am tearing down, and what I
planted I am uprooting—the whole land.
5 Are you seeking great things for yourself? Do
not seek them. For look, I am bringing disaster

on all flesh, declares the LORD. But I will give
you your life as plunder in every place you go."

46

1 This is the word of the LORD that came to
Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations:
2 Concerning Egypt, the army of Pharaoh Neco
king of Egypt that was by the Euphrates River at
Carchemish, which Nebuchadnezzar king of
Babylon defeated in the fourth year of
Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah:
3 "Prepare the small shield and the large shield,
and advance to battle!
4 Harness the horses!
Mount, you horsemen!
Take your positions with helmets on!
Polish the spears!
Put on your armor!
5 Why do I see them dismayed and retreating?
Their warriors are beaten down;
they flee in haste and do not look back.
Terror on every side!
declares the LORD.
6 Let the swift not flee;
let the warrior not escape.
In the north, beside the Euphrates River,
they have stumbled and fallen.
7 Who is this rising like the Nile, whose waters
surge like rivers?
8 Egypt rises like the Nile, and its waters surge
like rivers.
It says, 'I will rise and cover the earth.
I will destroy the city and those who live in
it.'

9 Charge, horses!
Rage, chariots!
Let the warriors come out: Cush and Put,
who carry the shield, and the Ludim, who
handle and bend the bow.
10 That day belongs to the Lord GOD of hosts, a
day of vengeance, to take vengeance on
his foes.
The sword will devour and be satisfied, and
drink its fill of their blood, for the Lord
GOD of hosts has a sacrifice in the
northern land beside the Euphrates River.
11 Go up to Gilead and get balm, virgin daughter
Egypt.
In vain you multiply remedies;
there is no healing for you.
12 The nations have heard of your shame, and
your cry has filled the earth, for warrior
has stumbled against warrior, and both
have fallen together."

13 This is the word the LORD spoke to
Jeremiah the prophet concerning the coming of
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to strike the
land of Egypt:
14 "Declare it in Egypt!
Proclaim it in Migdol, Memphis, and
Tahpanhes!
Say, 'Take your position and prepare, for the
sword has devoured all around you.'
15 Why have your mighty ones been swept away?
Not one stood, for the LORD drove him
down.
16 He made many stumble;

one fell upon another.
They said, ‘Rise, let us return to our own
people and our native land, away from
the oppressing sword.’
17 There they cried, ‘Pharaoh king of Egypt is
only noise!
He has let the appointed time pass.’
18 As I live, declares the King, whose name is the
LORD of hosts, like Tabor among the
mountains and Carmel by the sea, he will
come.
19 Pack your belongings for exile, daughter
dwelling in Egypt, for Memphis will
become a desolation, laid waste without
inhabitants.

20 Egypt is a beautiful heifer, but a gadfly is
coming from the north—it is coming!
21 Even the mercenaries in her midst are like
fattened calves.
They too have turned and fled together;
they did not stand, for the day of their
calamity has come upon them, the time of
their punishment.
22 Her voice sounds like a serpent as it moves,
for they advance in force and come
against her with axes, like woodcutters.
23 They will cut down her forest, declares the
LORD, though it is impenetrable, for they
are more numerous than locusts and
cannot be counted.
24 Daughter Egypt is put to shame, given into the
hand of the people of the north.”

25 The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, says,
“Look, I am bringing punishment on
Amon of Thebes, on Pharaoh, Egypt, her
gods and kings, on Pharaoh and those
who trust in him.
26 I will give them into the hand of those who
seek their lives, into the hand of
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his
servants.
Afterward she will be inhabited as in the
days of old, declares the LORD.

27 But do not fear, Jacob my servant, and do not
be dismayed, Israel.
Look, I will save you from far away, and
your offspring from the land of their
captivity.
Jacob will return and be quiet and at ease,
with no one to make him afraid.

28 Do not fear, Jacob my servant, declares the
LORD, for I am with you.
I will make a complete end of all the nations
to which I have driven you, but I will not
make a complete end of you.
I will discipline you with justice and will by
no means leave you unpunished.”

47

1 This is the word of the LORD that came to
Jeremiah the prophet concerning the Philistines,
before Pharaoh struck Gaza:

2 “Thus says the LORD: Look, waters are rising
from the north.
They will become an overflowing torrent
and flood the land and all that fills it, the
city and those who live in it.
People will cry out, and all the inhabitants
of the land will wail

3 at the sound of the pounding hooves of his
stallions, the rumbling of his chariots, and
the roar of his wheels.
Fathers will not turn back to their children,
for their hands hang weak,

4 because of the day that is coming to destroy all
the Philistines and cut off from Tyre and
Sidon every remaining helper.
For the LORD is destroying the Philistines,
the remnant of the coastland of Caphtor.

5 Baldness has come upon Gaza;
Ashkelon has been silenced.
Remnant of their valley, how long will you
cut yourself?

6 Alas, sword of the LORD!
How long will you be without rest?
Return to your sheath!
Rest and be still!

7 How can you rest?
The LORD has given it a command;
he has appointed it there, against Ashkelon
and the seacoast.”

48

1 Concerning Moab, thus says the LORD of hosts,
the God of Israel: “Woe to Nebo, for it is devastated!
Kiriathaim is put to shame and captured;
the stronghold is put to shame and shattered.
2 Moab’s praise is no more.
In Heshbon they have devised disaster against her: ‘Come, let us cut her off as a nation.’ You too, Madmen, will be silenced;
the sword will pursue you.
3 A cry comes from Horonaim: devastation and great destruction!
4 Moab is broken;
her little ones make their cries heard.
5 For on the ascent to Luhith, weeping rises upon weeping.
On the slope down to Horonaim they hear the anguished cry of destruction.
6 Flee! Save your lives!
Be like a shrub in the wilderness.
7 Because you trusted in your works and your treasures, you too will be captured.
Chemosh will go into exile together with his priests and officials.
8 The destroyer will come against every city, and no city will escape.
The valley will perish, and the plateau will be destroyed, as the LORD has spoken.
9 Give wings to Moab, for she will surely fly away.

Her cities will become a desolation, with no
one living in them.
10 Cursed is the one who does the LORD's work
carelessly, and cursed is the one who
keeps his sword from blood.
11 Moab has been at ease since his youth;
he has rested on his dregs.
He has not been poured from vessel to
vessel or gone into exile.
So his taste has remained in him, and his
aroma has not changed.

12 Therefore look, the days are coming, declares
the LORD, when I will send him pourers
who will pour him out.
They will empty his vessels and smash their
jars.
13 Moab will be ashamed of Chemosh, as the
house of Israel was ashamed of Bethel, in
which they trusted.
14 How can you say, 'We are warriors, valiant
men for battle'?
15 Moab is devastated;
the destroyer has gone up against her cities,
and Moab's finest young men have gone
down to slaughter, declares the King,
whose name is the LORD of hosts.
16 Moab's calamity is near, and his disaster is
coming very swiftly.
17 Mourn for him, all his neighbors and all who
know his name.
Say, 'How the mighty staff is broken, the
glorious rod!'

18 Come down from your glory and sit in thirst,
daughter dwelling in Dibon, for the
destroyer of Moab has come up against
you and ruined your fortresses.
19 Stand beside the road and watch, inhabitant
of Aroer.
Ask the fleeing man and the escaping
woman, 'What has happened?'
20 Moab is put to shame, for he is shattered.
Wail and cry out!
Announce in Arnon that Moab is devastated.
21 Judgment has come upon the land of the
plateau, upon Holon, Jahzah, and
Mephaath,
22 upon Dibon, Nebo, and Beth-diblathaim,
23 upon Kiriathaim, Beth-gamul, and Beth-meon,
24 upon Kerioth, Bozrah, and all the cities of the
land of Moab, far and near.
25 Moab's horn is cut off, and his arm is broken,
declares the LORD.
26 Make him drunk, for he exalted himself
against the LORD.
Moab will wallow in his vomit, and he too
will become a laughingstock.
27 Was Israel not a laughingstock to you?
Was he found among thieves, that whenever
you spoke of him you shook your head?
28 Leave the cities and dwell in the rock,
inhabitants of Moab.
Be like a dove that nests at the sides of a
cavern's mouth.
29 We have heard of Moab's pride—he is very
proud—his loftiness, arrogance, pride,
and haughty heart.

30 I know his insolence, declares the LORD, but it
is empty.
His boasts accomplish nothing.
31 Therefore I wail for Moab;
I cry out for all Moab.
There is moaning for the men of Kir-heres.
32 More than the weeping for Jazer, I weep for
you, vine of Sibmah.
Your branches crossed the sea;
they reached the sea of Jazer.
The destroyer has fallen upon your summer
fruit and your grape harvest.
33 Joy and gladness have been taken from the
fruitful land and the land of Moab.
I have stopped the wine from the
winepresses.
No one treads with joyful shouts;
the shouts are not shouts of joy.
34 From the cry of Heshbon to Elealeh and Jahaz,
they raise their voices, from Zoar to
Horonaim and Eglath-shelishiyah.
Even the waters of Nimrim will become
desolate.
35 I will put an end in Moab, declares the LORD,
to the one who offers on the high place
and burns incense to his gods.
36 Therefore my heart moans for Moab like
flutes, and my heart moans like flutes for
the men of Kir-heres, because the wealth
he acquired has perished.
37 Every head is bald, and every beard is clipped.
There are cuts on every hand and sackcloth
around every waist.

38 On all the rooftops of Moab and in her
squares there is nothing but lamentation,
for I have broken Moab like a vessel no
one wants, declares the LORD.
39 How he is shattered!
Wail!
How Moab has turned his back in shame!
Moab has become a laughingstock and a
terror to all his neighbors.

40 For thus says the LORD: Look, one swoops like
an eagle and spreads his wings over
Moab.
41 Kerioth is captured, and the strongholds are
seized.
On that day the hearts of Moab's warriors
will be like the heart of a woman in labor.
42 Moab will be destroyed as a people, for he
exalted himself against the LORD.
43 Terror, pit, and snare are upon you, inhabitant
of Moab, declares the LORD.
44 The one who flees from terror will fall into the
pit, and the one who climbs out of the pit
will be caught in the snare.
For I will bring upon her, upon Moab, the
year of their punishment, declares the
LORD.
45 In the shadow of Heshbon the fugitives stand
exhausted.
But fire has gone out from Heshbon, a flame
from the midst of Sihon.
It has devoured the temples of Moab and
the crowns of the heads of the tumultuous
people.
46 Woe to you, Moab!

The people of Chemosh have perished, for
your sons have been taken captive and
your daughters into captivity.
47 Yet I will restore the fortunes of Moab in the
latter days, declares the LORD."
Thus far is the judgment of Moab.

49

1 Concerning the Ammonites, thus says the
LORD: "Has Israel no sons?
Has he no heir?
Why has Malcam taken possession of Gad,
and why do his people dwell in its cities?
2 Therefore look, the days are coming, declares
the LORD, when I will sound the battle cry
against Rabbah of the Ammonites.
She will become a desolate mound, and her
villages will be burned with fire.
Then Israel will take possession of those
who took possession of him, says the
LORD.
3 Wail, Heshbon, for Ai is devastated!
Cry out, daughters of Rabbah!
Put on sackcloth, lament, and run back and
forth among the enclosures, for Malcam
will go into exile together with his priests
and officials.
4 Why do you boast in your valleys, your
overflowing valley, faithless daughter,
who trusts in her treasures and says,
'Who will come against me?'
5 Look, I am bringing terror upon you from all
around you, declares the Lord GOD of
hosts.

Each of you will be driven straight ahead,
with no one to gather the fugitives.
6 But afterward I will restore the fortunes of the
Ammonites, declares the LORD."

7 Concerning Edom, thus says the LORD of hosts:
"Is there no longer wisdom in Teman?
Has counsel perished from the discerning?
Has their wisdom vanished?
8 Flee! Turn back!
Dwell in deep places, inhabitants of Dedan!
For I am bringing Esau's calamity upon him,
the time of his punishment.
9 If grape gatherers came to you, would they not
leave some gleanings?
If thieves came by night, they would destroy
only as much as they wanted.
10 But I have stripped Esau bare and uncovered
his hiding places, and he cannot hide.
His offspring, brothers, and neighbors are
devastated, and he is no more.
11 Leave your orphans;
I will keep them alive.
Let your widows trust in me.

12 For thus says the LORD: Look, those whose
judgment was not to drink the cup will
surely drink it.
Will you go entirely unpunished?
You will not go unpunished;
you will surely drink.
13 For I have sworn by myself, declares the
LORD, that Bozrah will become a horror, a

reproach, a ruin, and a curse, and all her
cities will be ruins forever."
14 I have heard a report from the LORD, and a
messenger has been sent among the
nations: "Gather together and come
against her!
Rise for battle!"
15 "For look, I have made you small among the
nations, despised among mankind.
16 The terror you inspire and the pride of your
heart have deceived you, you who dwell
in the clefts of the rock and occupy the
height of the hill.
Though you make your nest high like the
eagle, I will bring you down from there,
declares the LORD.
17 Edom will become a horror.
Everyone who passes by her will be
horrified and hiss at all her wounds.
18 As when Sodom, Gomorrah, and their
neighbors were overthrown, says the
LORD, no one will live there;
no human being will reside in her.
19 Look, one will come up like a lion from the
thickets of the Jordan against a secure
pasture.
In an instant I will drive him away from her,
and I will appoint over her whomever I
choose.
For who is like me?
Who can summon me to court?
What shepherd can stand before me?

20 Therefore hear the plan the LORD has made
against Edom and the purposes he has
devised against the inhabitants of Teman:
Surely the least of the flock will drag them
away;
surely he will devastate their pasture
because of them.
21 At the sound of their fall the earth trembles;
the sound of the cry is heard at the Red Sea.
22 Look, one rises and swoops like an eagle and
spreads his wings over Bozrah.
On that day the hearts of Edom's warriors
will be like the heart of a woman in labor."

23 Concerning Damascus: "Hamath and Arpad
are put to shame, for they have heard bad
news.
They melt in fear.
There is anxiety on the sea;
it cannot be still.
24 Damascus has grown weak and turned to flee.
Trembling has seized her;
anguish and pains have gripped her like a
woman in labor.
25 How has the city of praise not been
abandoned, the city of my joy?
26 Therefore her young men will fall in her
squares, and all her soldiers will be
silenced on that day, declares the LORD of
hosts.
27 I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus,
and it will consume the palaces of
Ben-hadad."

28 Concerning Kedar and the kingdoms of Hazor,
which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon
struck, thus says the LORD: “Rise and go
up against Kedar!
Devastate the people of the east!
29 They will take their tents and flocks, carry
away their tent curtains, all their goods,
and their camels, and cry against them,
‘Terror on every side!’
30 Flee! Go far away!
Dwell in deep places, inhabitants of Hazor,
declares the LORD.
For Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has
made a plan against you and devised a
purpose against them.
31 Rise and go up against a nation at ease,
dwelling securely, declares the LORD.
It has neither gates nor bars;
they dwell alone.
32 Their camels will become plunder, and their
abundant livestock will become spoil.
I will scatter to every wind those who clip
the hair at their temples, and from every
side I will bring their calamity, declares
the LORD.
33 Hazor will become a dwelling for jackals, a
desolation forever.
No one will live there;
no human being will reside in her.”

34 This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning Elam, at the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah:

35 “Thus says the LORD of hosts: Look, I am
breaking the bow of Elam, the chief of
their might.
36 I will bring against Elam the four winds from
the four ends of heaven and scatter them
to all these winds.
There will be no nation to which the
outcasts of Elam do not come.
37 I will terrify Elam before their enemies and
those who seek their lives.
I will bring disaster upon them, my burning
anger, declares the LORD.
I will send the sword after them until I have
consumed them.
38 I will set my throne in Elam and destroy the
king and officials there, declares the
LORD.
39 But in the latter days I will restore the
fortunes of Elam, declares the LORD.”

50

1 This is the word the LORD spoke against
Babylon, against the land of the Chaldeans,
through Jeremiah the prophet:
2 “Declare it among the nations and proclaim it!
Raise a banner!
Proclaim it;
hide nothing!
Say, ‘Babylon is captured!
Bel is put to shame;
Merodach is shattered.
Her images are put to shame, and her idols
are shattered.’
3 For a nation has come up against her from the
north.

It will make her land a desolation, with no
one living in it.
People and animals alike have fled and gone
away.
4 In those days and at that time, declares the
LORD, the people of Israel and the people
of Judah will come together.
They will go along weeping and seek the
LORD their God.
5 They will ask the way to Zion, their faces
turned toward her: ‘Come and join
yourselves to the LORD in an everlasting
covenant that will not be forgotten.’

6 My people have been lost sheep.
Their shepherds have led them astray,
making them wander on the mountains.
They have gone from mountain to hill and
forgotten their resting place.
7 All who found them devoured them.
Their enemies said, ‘We are not guilty, for
they sinned against the LORD, the
dwelling of righteousness, the LORD, the
hope of their fathers.’

8 Flee from the midst of Babylon!
Go out from the land of the Chaldeans!
Be like male goats at the head of the flock.
9 For look, I am stirring up and bringing against
Babylon an assembly of great nations
from the northern land.
They will line up against her, and from there
she will be captured.

Their arrows are like those of a skilled
warrior who does not return
empty-handed.
10 Chaldea will become plunder.
All who plunder her will have their fill,
declares the LORD.
11 Because you rejoice and exult, plunderers of
my inheritance, because you frolic like a
heifer threshing grain and neigh like
stallions,
12 your mother will be greatly ashamed;
she who bore you will be humiliated.
Look, she will be the last of the nations, a
wilderness, a dry land, and a desert.
13 Because of the LORD's wrath she will not be
inhabited, but will be utterly desolate.
Everyone who passes by Babylon will be
horrified and hiss at all her wounds.
14 Line up against Babylon on every side, all you
who bend the bow!
Shoot at her;
spare no arrows, for she has sinned against
the LORD.
15 Raise the battle cry against her on every side!
She has surrendered;
her foundations have fallen, and her walls
have been torn down.
This is the LORD's vengeance.
Take vengeance on her!
Do to her as she has done!
16 Cut off from Babylon the sower and the one
who wields the sickle at harvesttime.
Because of the oppressing sword, each will
turn to his own people and flee to his own
land.

17 Israel is a scattered sheep driven away by
lions.
First the king of Assyria devoured him, and
last Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon
broke his bones.

18 Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the
God of Israel: Look, I am punishing the
king of Babylon and his land as I punished
the king of Assyria.
19 I will bring Israel back to his pasture.
He will graze on Carmel and Bashan, and
his appetite will be satisfied in the hill
country of Ephraim and Gilead.
20 In those days and at that time, declares the
LORD, the iniquity of Israel will be sought,
but there will be none, and the sins of
Judah, but they will not be found, for I
will forgive those I leave as a remnant.
21 Go up against the land of Merathaim and
against the inhabitants of Pekod!
Pursue them, lay waste, and devote them to
destruction, declares the LORD.
Do everything I have commanded you.

22 The sound of battle is in the land, and great
destruction!
23 How the hammer of the whole earth has been
cut down and broken!
How Babylon has become a horror among
the nations!
24 I set a snare for you, Babylon, and you were
caught without knowing it.

You were found and seized, for you
challenged the LORD.

25 The LORD has opened his armory and brought
out the weapons of his indignation, for
the Lord GOD of hosts has work to do in
the land of the Chaldeans.

26 Come against her from the farthest border!
Open her storehouses!
Pile her up in heaps and devote her to
destruction!
Let no remnant of her remain.

27 Strike down all her bulls!
Let them go down to slaughter!
Woe to them, for their day has come, the
time of their punishment.

28 There is the sound of those fleeing and
escaping from the land of Babylon, to
announce in Zion the vengeance of the
LORD our God, vengeance for his temple.

29 Summon the archers against Babylon, all who
bend the bow!
Encamp all around her;
let no one escape.
Repay her according to her deeds;
do to her everything she has done, for she
has acted arrogantly against the LORD,
against the Holy One of Israel.

30 Therefore her young men will fall in her
squares, and all her soldiers will be
silenced on that day, declares the LORD.

31 Look, I am against you, proud one, declares
the Lord GOD of hosts, for your day has
come, the time of your punishment.
32 The proud one will stumble and fall, and no
one will raise him up.
I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it will
devour everything around him.

33 Thus says the LORD of hosts: The people of
Israel and the people of Judah are
oppressed together.
All their captors hold them fast and refuse
to let them go.
34 Their Redeemer is strong;
the LORD of hosts is his name.
He will surely plead their cause, to give rest
to the earth and unrest to the inhabitants
of Babylon.
35 A sword against the Chaldeans, declares the
LORD, against the inhabitants of Babylon,
her officials, and her wise men!
36 A sword against the liars, and they will
become fools!
A sword against her warriors, and they will
be dismayed!
37 A sword against his horses and chariots and
all the mixed peoples within her, and they
will become like women!
A sword against her treasures, and they will
be plundered!
38 A drought upon her waters, and they will dry
up, for it is a land of carved images, and
they are mad over their terrifying idols.

39 Therefore desert creatures and hyenas will
dwell there, and ostriches will live in her.
She will never again be inhabited, nor will
anyone dwell there from generation to
generation.
40 As when God overthrew Sodom, Gomorrah,
and their neighbors, declares the LORD,
no one will live there;
no human being will reside in her.
41 Look, a people is coming from the north;
a great nation and many kings are stirring
from the farthest parts of the earth.
42 They wield bow and javelin;
they are cruel and show no mercy.
Their voice roars like the sea, and they ride
on horses, lined up like a man for battle
against you, daughter Babylon.
43 The king of Babylon has heard the report of
them, and his hands have grown weak.
Anguish has seized him, pains like those of a
woman in labor.
44 Look, one will come up like a lion from the
thickets of the Jordan against a secure
pasture.
In an instant I will drive them away from
her, and I will appoint over her whomever
I choose.
For who is like me?
Who can summon me to court?
What shepherd can stand before me?
45 Therefore hear the plan the LORD has made
against Babylon and the purposes he has
devised against the land of the Chaldeans:

Surely the least of the flock will drag them
away;
surely he will devastate the pasture because
of them.
46 At the sound of Babylon's capture the earth
trembles, and a cry is heard among the
nations."

51

1 Thus says the LORD: "Look, I am stirring up a
destroying wind against Babylon and the
inhabitants of Leb-kamai.
2 I will send foreigners to Babylon, and they will
winnow her and empty her land, for they
will surround her on the day of disaster.
3 Let the archer bend his bow against her, and
let him rise against her in his armor.
Do not spare her young men;
devote her entire army to destruction.
4 They will fall slain in the land of the Chaldeans,
pierced through in her streets."
5 For Israel and Judah have not been widowed of
their God, the LORD of hosts, though their
land is full of guilt against the Holy One of
Israel.
6 Flee from the midst of Babylon!
Let each save his life!
Do not perish in her iniquity, for this is the
time of the LORD's vengeance.
He is repaying her.
7 Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD's hand,
making the whole earth drunk.
The nations drank her wine;
therefore the nations went mad.

8 Suddenly Babylon has fallen and is shattered.
Wail for her!
Get balm for her pain;
perhaps she can be healed.
9 “We tried to heal Babylon, but she was not
healed.
Leave her, and let us go, each to his own
land, for her judgment has reached
heaven and risen to the skies.”
10 “The LORD has brought our vindication to
light.
Come, let us recount in Zion the work of the
LORD our God.”
11 Sharpen the arrows!
Take up the shields!
The LORD has stirred up the spirit of the
kings of Media, for his purpose against
Babylon is to destroy her.
This is the LORD’s vengeance, vengeance for
his temple.
12 Raise a banner against the walls of Babylon!
Strengthen the guard!
Post watchmen!
Prepare ambushes!
For the LORD has both planned and done
what he spoke against the inhabitants of
Babylon.
13 You who dwell by many waters, rich in
treasures, your end has come, the
measure of your unjust gain.
14 The LORD of hosts has sworn by himself: “I
will surely fill you with men like locusts,
and they will raise a shout against you.”

15 He made the earth by his power, established
the world by his wisdom, and stretched
out the heavens by his understanding.
16 When he utters his voice, the waters roar in
the heavens.
He raises the clouds from the ends of the
earth, makes lightning for the rain, and
brings the wind out of his storehouses.
17 Every person is foolish, without knowledge.
Every goldsmith is put to shame by his
carved image, for his cast image is a lie,
and there is no breath in them.
18 They are worthless, a work of mockery.
At the time of their punishment they will
perish.
19 The Portion of Jacob is not like them, for he is
the one who formed all things, including
the tribe of his inheritance.
The LORD of hosts is his name.

20 "You are my hammer, my weapon of war.
With you I will shatter nations, and with
you I will destroy kingdoms.
21 With you I will shatter horse and rider, and
with you I will shatter chariot and driver.
22 With you I will shatter man and woman, and
with you I will shatter old man and youth,
and with you I will shatter young man
and virgin.
23 With you I will shatter shepherd and flock,
and with you I will shatter farmer and
team, and with you I will shatter
governors and deputies.

24 I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of
Chaldea for all the evil they did in Zion
before your eyes, declares the LORD.

25 Look, I am against you, destroying mountain,
who destroys the whole earth, declares
the LORD.
I will stretch out my hand against you, roll
you down from the rocks, and make you a
burned mountain.
26 No one will take from you a cornerstone or a
foundation stone, for you will be a
desolation forever, declares the LORD."
27 Raise a banner in the land!
Blow the trumpet among the nations!
Consecrate nations against her!
Summon against her the kingdoms of
Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz!
Appoint a commander against her!
Bring up horses like bristling locusts!
28 Consecrate nations against her: the kings of
Media, her governors, all her deputies,
and all the land of his dominion.
29 The earth trembles and writhes, for the
LORD's purposes against Babylon stand, to
make the land of Babylon a desolation
without inhabitants.
30 Babylon's warriors have stopped fighting;
they remain in their strongholds.
Their strength has failed;
they have become like women.
Her dwellings have been set on fire, and her
bars are broken.

31 Runner runs to meet runner, and messenger
to meet messenger, to tell the king of
Babylon that his city has been captured at
one end.
32 The crossings have been seized, the reed beds
burned with fire, and the soldiers are
terrified.

33 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of
Israel: “Daughter Babylon is like a
threshing floor when it is time to tread it.
In a little while the time of her harvest will
come.”
34 “Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has
devoured me and thrown me into
confusion.
He has made me an empty vessel,
swallowed me like a monster, filled his
belly with my delicacies, and cast me out.
35 Let the violence done to me and my flesh be
upon Babylon,” the inhabitant of Zion will
say.
“Let my blood be upon the inhabitants of
Chaldea,” Jerusalem will say.

36 Therefore thus says the LORD: “Look, I will
plead your cause and take vengeance for
you.
I will dry up her sea and make her spring
run dry.
37 Babylon will become heaps of ruins, a
dwelling for jackals, a horror and an
object of hissing, without inhabitants.

38 They will roar together like young lions and
growl like lion cubs.
39 When they are heated, I will prepare their
feast and make them drunk, so that they
may exult, sleep an everlasting sleep, and
never wake, declares the LORD.
40 I will bring them down like lambs to slaughter,
like rams with male goats.
41 How Sheshach has been captured, the praise
of the whole earth seized!
How Babylon has become a horror among
the nations!
42 The sea has risen over Babylon;
she is covered by its many waves.
43 Her cities have become a desolation, a dry
land and a desert, a land where no one
lives and through which no human being
passes.
44 I will punish Bel in Babylon and take out of
his mouth what he has swallowed.
The nations will no longer stream to him.
Even Babylon's wall has fallen.
45 Come out of her, my people!
Let each save his life from the burning
anger of the LORD!
46 Do not let your heart grow faint or be afraid at
the report heard in the land.
One year a report will come, and the next
year another report;
there will be violence in the land, ruler
against ruler.
47 Therefore look, the days are coming when I
will punish Babylon's carved images.

Her whole land will be put to shame, and all
her slain will fall in her midst.
48 The heavens and the earth and all that is in
them will shout for joy over Babylon, for
destroyers will come against her from the
north, declares the LORD."
49 Babylon must fall because of the slain of
Israel, just as the slain of all the earth
have fallen because of Babylon.
50 You who have escaped the sword, go!
Do not stand still!
Remember the LORD from far away, and let
Jerusalem come to your mind.
51 "We are ashamed, for we have heard
reproach.
Dishonor has covered our faces, for
foreigners have entered the holy places of
the house of the LORD."

52 "Therefore look, the days are coming, declares
the LORD, when I will punish her carved
images, and the mortally wounded will
groan throughout her land.
53 Though Babylon rises to heaven and fortifies
her lofty stronghold, destroyers will come
against her from me, declares the LORD.

54 A cry sounds from Babylon, and great
destruction from the land of the
Chaldeans!
55 For the LORD is devastating Babylon and
silencing her mighty din.
Their waves roar like many waters;
the clamor of their voices resounds.

56 For a destroyer has come against her, against
Babylon.
Her warriors are captured, and their bows
are shattered, for the LORD is a God of
recompense;
he will surely repay.

57 I will make her officials and wise men drunk,
her governors, deputies, and warriors.
They will sleep an everlasting sleep and
never wake, declares the King, whose
name is the LORD of hosts."

58 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Babylon's broad
walls will be utterly razed, and her high
gates burned with fire.
Peoples will labor for nothing, and nations
for the fire, and they will grow weary."

59 This is the command Jeremiah the prophet gave Seraiah son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, when he went with Zedekiah king of Judah to Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. Seraiah was the officer in charge of lodging.
60 Jeremiah wrote in one scroll all the disaster that would come upon Babylon, all these words written against Babylon.
61 Jeremiah said to Seraiah, "When you arrive in Babylon, see that you read all these words.
62 Then say, 'LORD, you have spoken against this place to destroy it, so that no one will live in it, neither people nor animals, but it will be a desolation forever.'

63 When you have finished reading this scroll,
tie a stone to it and throw it into the midst of the
Euphrates.
64 Then say, 'In this way Babylon will sink and
never rise because of the disaster I am bringing
upon her, and they will grow weary.' " Thus far
are the words of Jeremiah.

52

1 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he
became king, and he reigned eleven years in
Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal
daughter of Jeremiah, from Libnah.
2 He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as
Jehoiakim had done.
3 Because of the LORD's anger, this happened
to Jerusalem and Judah until he cast them out of
his presence. Zedekiah rebelled against the king
of Babylon.
4 In the ninth year of his reign, on the tenth
day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of
Babylon came with his entire army against
Jerusalem. They encamped against it and built
siege works all around it.
5 The city remained under siege until the
eleventh year of King Zedekiah.
6 On the ninth day of the fourth month, the
famine had become severe in the city, and there
was no bread for the people of the land.
7 The city was breached, and all the soldiers
fled. They left the city by night through the gate
between the two walls beside the king's garden,

though the Chaldeans surrounded the city. They
went toward the Arabah.
8 The Chaldean army pursued the king and
overtook Zedekiah on the plains of Jericho, and
his entire army scattered away from him.
9 They captured 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 The king of Babylon slaughtered Zedekiah's
sons before his eyes. He also slaughtered all the
officials of Judah at Riblah.
11 He put out Zedekiah's eyes and bound him
with bronze shackles. The king of Babylon
brought him to Babylon and put him in prison
until the day of his death.
12 On the tenth day of the fifth month, in the
nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of
Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard,
who served the king of Babylon, came to
Jerusalem.
13 He burned the house of the LORD, the king's
house, and all the houses of Jerusalem. Every
great house he burned with fire.
14 The entire Chaldean army with the captain
of the guard tore down all the walls around
Jerusalem.
15 Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took
into exile some of the poor people, the rest of
the people remaining in the city, the deserters
who had deserted to the king of Babylon, and
the rest of the craftsmen.
16 But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard
left some of the poor of the land to be

vinedressers and farmers.
17 The Chaldeans broke up the bronze pillars
of the house of the LORD, the stands, and the
bronze Sea in the house of the LORD, and
carried all their bronze to Babylon.
18 They also took the pots, shovels, wick
trimmers, sprinkling bowls, ladles, and all the
bronze utensils used in the service.
19 The captain of the guard took the basins,
firepans, sprinkling bowls, pots, lampstands,
ladles, and cups for drink offerings—whatever
was made of gold and whatever was made of
silver.
20 The two pillars, the one Sea, and the twelve
bronze bulls beneath the stands, which King
Solomon had made for the house of the
LORD—the bronze of all these vessels was
beyond weighing.
21 Each pillar was about twenty-seven feet
high, and a cord about eighteen feet long went
around it. It was hollow, with walls about three
inches thick.
22 A bronze capital was on top of it, about
seven and a half feet high. Latticework and
pomegranates surrounded the capital, all of
bronze. The second pillar and its pomegranates
were like these.
23 There were ninety-six pomegranates facing
outward. All the pomegranates around the
latticework numbered one hundred.
24 The captain of the guard took Seraiah the
chief priest, Zephaniah the second priest, and
the three keepers of the threshold.
25 From the city he took one eunuch who was

in charge of the soldiers, seven men with access
to the king's presence who were found in the
city, the army commander's scribe who
mustered the people of the land, and sixty men
of the people of the land who were found in the
city.
26 Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took
them and brought them to the king of Babylon
at Riblah.
27 The king of Babylon struck them down and
put them to death at Riblah in the land of
Hamath. So Judah was taken into exile from his
land.
28 These are the people Nebuchadnezzar took
into exile: in the seventh year, 3,023 Jews;
29 in Nebuchadnezzar's eighteenth year, 832
persons from Jerusalem;
30 in Nebuchadnezzar's twenty-third year,
Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took into
exile 745 Jews. The total was 4,600 persons.

31 In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of
Jehoiachin king of Judah, on the twenty-fifth day
of the twelfth month, Evil-merodach king of
Babylon, in the year he began to reign, lifted up
the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah and
brought him out of prison.
32 He spoke kindly to him and set his throne
above the throne of the kings who were with
him in Babylon.
33 Jehoiachin changed out of his prison clothes
and ate bread regularly in the king's presence
all the days of his life.

34 For his provision, a regular allowance was
given him by the king of Babylon, a daily
portion day by day, until the day of his death, all
the days of his life.

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