Jeremiah

1 These are the words of Jeremiah son of
Hilkiah, one of the priests in Anathoth in the
territory of Benjamin.
2 The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah in
the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of
Amon king of Judah,
3 and through the days of Jehoiakim son of
Josiah king of Judah, until the fifth month of the
eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of
Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into
exile.
4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying:

5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I set you apart
and appointed you as a prophet to the
nations."
6 "Ah, Lord GOD," I said, "I surely do not know
how to speak, for I am only a child!"
7 But the LORD told me:

"Do not say,
'I am only a child.'
For to everyone I send you,
you must go,
and all that I command you,
you must speak.
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,
touched my mouth, and said to me:

"Behold, I have put my words
in your mouth.
10 See, I have appointed you today
over nations and kingdoms
to uproot and tear down,
to destroy and overthrow,
to build and plant."
11 And the word of the LORD came to me,
asking, "Jeremiah, what do you see?"
"I see a branch of an almond tree," I replied.
12 "You have observed correctly," said the
LORD, "for I am watching* over my word to
accomplish it."
13 Again the word of the LORD came to me,
asking, "What do you see?"
"I see a boiling pot," I replied, "and it is tilting
toward us from the north."
14 Then the LORD said to me, "Disaster from
the north will be poured out on all who live in
the land.
15 For I am about to summon all the clans and
kingdoms of the north," declares the LORD.

"Their kings will come and set up their thrones
at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem.
They will attack all her surrounding walls
and all the other cities of Judah.

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* **1:12 1:12** The Hebrew for *watching* sounds like the Hebrew for *almond tree.*

16 I will pronounce my judgments against them
for all their wickedness,
because they have forsaken me,
and they have burned incense to other gods
and worshiped the works of their own
hands.
17 Get yourself ready.† Stand up and tell them
everything that I command you. Do not be
intimidated by them, or I will terrify you before
them.
18 Now behold, this day I have made you like 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 will never
overcome you, since I am with you to deliver
you," declares the LORD.

2

1 Now the word of the LORD came to me,
saying,
2 "Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem
that this is what the LORD says:

'I remember the devotion of your youth,
your love as a bride,
how you followed me in the wilderness,
in a land not sown.
3 Israel was holy to the LORD,
the firstfruits of his harvest.
All who devoured her
were found guilty;

† **1:17 1:17** Hebrew *Gird up your loins.*

disaster came upon them,' "
declares the LORD.
4 Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob,
and all you families of the house of Israel.
5 This is what the LORD says:

"What fault did your fathers find in me
that they strayed so far from me?
They followed worthless idols,
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 darkness,
a land where no one travels and no one
lives?'

7 I brought you into a fertile land
to eat its fruit and bounty,
but you came and defiled my land
and made my inheritance detestable.
8 The priests did not ask,
'Where is the LORD?'
The experts in the law no longer knew me,
and the leaders rebelled against me.
The prophets prophesied by Baal
and followed useless idols.

9 Therefore, I will contend with you again,
declares the LORD,
and I will bring a case
against your children's children.

10 Cross over to the coasts of Cyprus*
and take a look;
send to Kedar and consider carefully;
see if there has ever been anything like this:
11 Has a nation ever changed its gods?
(Yet they are not gods at all.)
But my people have exchanged their Glory†
for useless idols.
12 Be stunned by this, O heavens;
be shocked and utterly appalled,"
declares the LORD.
13 "For my people have committed two evils:

They have forsaken me,
the fountain of living water,
and they have dug their own cisterns—
broken cisterns that cannot hold water.
14 Is Israel a slave?
Was he born into slavery?
Why then has he become prey?
15 The young lions have roared at him;
they have sounded their voices.
They have laid waste his land;
his cities lie in ruins, without inhabitant.
16 The men of Memphis‡ and Tahpanhes
have shaved the crown of your head.
17 Have you not brought this on yourself
by forsaking the LORD your God
when he led you in the way?

18 Now what will you gain on your way to Egypt

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* **2:10 2:10** Hebrew *Kittim* † **2:11 2:11** Or *their glorious God*
‡ **2:16 2:16** Hebrew *Noph*

to drink the waters of the Nile§?
What will you gain on your way to Assyria
to drink the waters of the Euphrates*?
19 Your own evil will discipline you;
your own apostasies will reprimand you.
Consider and realize
how evil and bitter it is
for you to forsake the LORD your God
and to have no fear of me,"
declares the Lord GOD of Hosts.
20 "For long ago I broke your yoke
and tore off your chains,†
and you said, 'I will not transgress!'‡
Indeed, on every high hill
and under every green tree
you lay down as a prostitute.
21 I had planted you like a choice vine
from the very best seed.
How could you turn yourself before me
into a rotten, wild vine?
22 Although you wash with lye
and use an abundance of soap,
the stain of your guilt
is still before me,"
declares the Lord GOD.
23 "How can you say, 'I am not defiled;
I have not run after the Baals'?
Look at your behavior in the valley;
acknowledge what you have done.
You are a swift young she-camel

§ **2:18 2:18** Hebrew *of Shihor*, a branch of the Nile River * **2:18 2:18** Hebrew *the River* † **2:20 2:20** LXX *you broke your yoke and tore off your chains* ‡ **2:20 2:20** Qere; Ketiv *I will not serve*

galloping here and there,
24 a wild donkey at home in the wilderness,
sniffing the wind in the heat of her desire.§
Who can restrain her passion?
All who seek her need not weary themselves;
in mating season they will find her.
25 You should have kept your feet from going
bare
and your throat from being thirsty.
But you said, 'It is hopeless!
For I love foreign gods,
and I must go after them.'

26 As the thief is ashamed when he is caught,
so the house of Israel is disgraced.
They, their kings, their officials,
their priests, and their prophets
27 say to a tree, 'You are my father,'
and to a stone, 'You gave me birth.'*
They have turned their backs to me
and not their faces.
Yet in the time of trouble, they say,
'Rise up and save us!'
28 But where are the gods you made for
yourselves?
Let them rise up in your time of trouble
and save you if they can;
for your gods are as numerous
as your cities, O Judah.

29 Why do you bring a case against me?

§ **2:24 2:24** Qere; Ketiv *his desire* * **2:27 2:27** Ketiv; Qere *you gave us birth*

You have all rebelled against me,"
declares the LORD.
30 "I have struck your sons in vain;
they accepted no discipline.
Your own sword has devoured your prophets
like a voracious lion."
31 You people of this generation, consider the
word of the LORD:

"Have I been a wilderness to Israel
or a land of dense darkness?
Why do my people say,
'We are free to roam;
we will come to you no more'?
32 Does a maiden forget her jewelry
or a bride her wedding sash?
Yet my people have forgotten me
for days without number.

33 How skillfully you pursue love!
Even the most immoral of women
could learn from your ways.
34 Moreover, your skirts are stained
with the blood of the innocent poor,
though you did not find them breaking in.

But in spite of all these things
35 you say, 'I am innocent.
Surely his anger will turn from me.'
Behold, I will judge you,
because you say, 'I have not sinned.'

36 How impulsive you are,
constantly changing your ways!

You will be disappointed by Egypt
just as you were by Assyria.
37 Moreover, you will leave that place
with your hands on your head,
for the LORD has rejected those you trust;
you will not prosper by their help.”

3

1 “If a man divorces his wife
and she leaves him to marry another,
can he ever return to her?
Would not such a land be completely
defiled?
But you have played the harlot with many
lovers—
and you would return to me?”
declares the LORD.
2 “Lift up your eyes to the barren heights and see.
Is there any place where you have not been
violated?
You sat beside the highways waiting for your
lovers,
like a nomad in the desert.
You have defiled the land
with your prostitution and wickedness.
3 Therefore the showers have been withheld,
and no spring rains have fallen.
Yet you have the brazen look of a prostitute;
you refuse to be ashamed.

4 Have you not just called to me,
‘My Father, you are my friend from youth.
5 Will he be angry forever?
Will he be indignant to the end?’

This you have spoken,
but you keep doing all the evil you can."
6 Now in the days of King Josiah, the LORD
said to me, "Have you seen what faithless Israel
has done? She has gone up on every high hill
and under every green tree to prostitute herself
there.
7 I thought that after she had done all these
things, she would return to me. But she did not
return, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it.
8 I saw* that because faithless Israel had
committed adultery, I gave her a certificate of
divorce and sent her away. Yet that unfaithful
sister Judah had no fear and prostituted herself
as well.
9 Indifferent to her own infidelity, Israel had
defiled the land and committed adultery with
stones and trees.
10 Yet in spite of all this, her unfaithful sister
Judah did not return to me with all her heart,
but only in pretense," declares the LORD.
11 And the LORD said to me, "Faithless Israel
has shown herself more righteous than
unfaithful Judah.
12 Go, proclaim this message toward the north:

'Return, O faithless Israel,' declares the LORD.
'I will no longer look on you with anger,
for I am merciful,' declares the LORD.
'I will not be angry forever.
13 Only acknowledge your guilt,

* **3:8 3:8** DSS, one LXX manuscript, and Syriac *She saw*

that you have rebelled against the LORD
your God.
You have scattered your favors to foreign gods
under every green tree
and have not obeyed my voice,' "
declares the LORD.
14 "Return, O faithless children," declares the
LORD, "for I am your master, and I will take
you—one from a city and two from a
family—and bring you to Zion.
15 Then I will give you shepherds after my
own heart, who will feed you with knowledge
and understanding."
16 "In those days, when you multiply and
increase in the land," declares the LORD, "they
will no longer discuss the ark of the covenant of
the LORD. It will never come to mind, and no
one will remember it or miss it, nor will another
one be made.
17 At that time they will call Jerusalem The
Throne of the LORD, and all the nations will be
gathered in Jerusalem to honor the name of the
LORD. 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 they will come
together from the land of the north to the land
that I gave to your fathers as an inheritance.

19 Then I said, 'How I long to make you my sons
and give you a desirable land,
the most beautiful inheritance
of all the nations!'
I thought you would call me 'Father'

and never turn away from following me.
20 But as a woman may betray her husband,
so you have betrayed me, O house of Israel,"
declares the LORD.
21 A voice is heard on the barren heights,
the children of Israel weeping and begging
for mercy,
because they have perverted their ways
and forgotten the LORD their God.

22 "Return, O faithless children,
and I will heal your faithlessness."

"Here we are. We come to you,
for you are the LORD our God.
23 Surely deception comes from the hills,
and commotion from the mountains.
Surely the deliverance of Israel
is in the LORD our God.
24 From our youth, that shameful god
has consumed what our fathers have
worked for—
their flocks and herds,
their sons and daughters.
25 Let us lie down in our shame;
let our disgrace cover us.
We have sinned against the LORD our God,
both we and our fathers;
from our youth even to this day
we have not obeyed the voice of the LORD
our God."

4

1 "If you will return, O Israel,

return to me," declares the LORD.
"If you will remove your detestable idols from
my sight
and no longer waver,
2 and if you can swear, 'As surely as the LORD
lives,'
in truth, in justice, and in righteousness,
then the nations will be blessed by him,
and in him they will glory."

3 For this is what the LORD says to the men of
Judah and Jerusalem:

"Break up your unplowed ground,
and do not sow among the thorns.
4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD,
and remove the foreskins of your hearts,
O men of Judah and people of Jerusalem.
Otherwise, my wrath will break out like fire
and burn with no one to extinguish it,
because of your evil deeds."
5 Announce in Judah, proclaim in Jerusalem,
and say:

"Blow the ram's horn throughout the land.
Cry aloud and say,
'Assemble yourselves
and let us flee to the fortified cities.'
6 Raise a signal flag toward Zion.
Seek refuge! Do not delay!
For I am bringing disaster from the north,
and terrible destruction.
7 A lion has gone up from his thicket,

and a destroyer of nations has set out.
He has left his lair
to lay waste your land.
Your cities will be reduced to ruins
and lie uninhabited.
8 So put on sackcloth,
mourn and wail,
for the fierce anger of the LORD
has not turned away from us."

9 "In that day," declares the LORD,
"the king and officials will lose their courage.
The priests will tremble in fear,
and the prophets will be astounded."
10 Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD, how completely you have deceived this people and Jerusalem by saying, 'You will have peace,' while a sword is at our throats."
11 At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem, "A searing wind from the barren heights in the desert blows toward the daughter of my people, but not to winnow or to sift;
12 a wind too strong for that comes from me.
Now I also pronounce judgments against them."

13 Behold, he advances like the clouds,
his chariots like the whirlwind.
His horses are swifter than eagles.
Woe to us, for we are ruined!
14 Wash the evil from your heart, O Jerusalem,
so that you may be saved.
How long will you harbor
wicked thoughts within you?
15 For a voice resounds from Dan,

proclaiming disaster from the hills of
Ephraim.
16 Warn the nations now!
Proclaim to Jerusalem:
"A besieging army comes from a distant land;
they raise their voices against the cities of
Judah.
17 They surround her like men guarding a field,
because she has rebelled against me,"
declares the LORD.
18 "Your ways and deeds
have brought this upon you.
This is your punishment; how bitter it is,
because it pierces to the heart!"
19 My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain!
Oh, the pain in my chest!
My heart pounds within me;
I cannot be silent.
For you, O my soul, have heard* the sound of
the horn,
the alarm of battle.
20 Disaster after disaster is proclaimed,
for the whole land is laid waste.
My tents are destroyed in an instant,
my curtains in a moment.
21 How long must I see the signal flag
and hear the sound of the horn?

22 "For my people are fools;
they have not known me.
They are foolish children,
without understanding.

* **4:19 4:19** Qere; Ketiv *I have heard*

They are skilled in doing evil,
but they know not how to do good."

23 I looked at the earth,
and it was formless and void;
I looked to the heavens,
and they had no light.
24 I looked at the mountains,
and behold, they were quaking;
all the hills were swaying.
25 I looked, and no man was left;
all the birds of the air had fled.
26 I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert.
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,
but I will not finish its destruction.
28 Therefore the earth will mourn
and the heavens above will grow dark.
I have spoken, I have planned,
and I will not relent or turn back."

29 Every city flees
at the sound of the horseman and archer.
They enter the thickets
and climb among the rocks.
Every city is abandoned;
no inhabitant is left.

30 And you, O devastated one, what will you do,

though you dress yourself in scarlet,
though you adorn yourself with gold jewelry,
though you enlarge your eyes with paint?
You adorn yourself in vain; your lovers despise you;
they want to take your life.
31 For I hear a cry like a woman in labor,
a cry of anguish like one bearing her first child—
the cry of the Daughter of Zion gasping for breath,
stretching out her hands to say,
"Woe is me,
for my soul faints before the murderers!"

5

1 "Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem.
Look now and take note; search her squares.
If you can find a single person,
anyone who acts justly,
anyone who seeks the truth,
then I will forgive the city.
2 Although they say, 'As surely as the LORD lives,'
they are swearing falsely."

3 O LORD, do not your eyes look for truth?
You struck them, but they felt no pain.
You finished them off,
but they refused to accept discipline.
They have made their faces harder than stone
and refused to repent.

4 Then I said, "They are only the poor;

they have played the fool,
for they do not know the way of the LORD,
the justice of their God.
5 I will go to the powerful
and speak to them.
Surely they know the way of the LORD,
the justice of their God."

But they too, with one accord, had broken the yoke
and torn off the chains.
6 Therefore a lion from the forest will strike them down,
a wolf from the desert will ravage them.
A leopard will lie in wait near their cities,
and everyone who ventures out will be torn to pieces.
For their rebellious acts are many,
and their unfaithful deeds are numerous.

7 "Why should I forgive you?
Your children have forsaken me
and sworn by gods that are not gods.
I satisfied their needs, yet they committed adultery
and assembled at the houses of prostitutes.
8 They are well-fed, lusty stallions,
each neighing after his neighbor's wife.
9 Should I not punish them for these things?"
declares the LORD.
"Should I not avenge myself
on such a nation as this?
10 Go up through her vineyards and ravage them,

but do not finish them off.
Strip off her branches,
for they do not belong to the LORD.
11 For the house of Israel and the house of Judah
have been utterly unfaithful to me,"
declares the LORD.
12 They have lied about the LORD and said:

"He will not do anything; harm will not come to us;
we will not see sword or famine.
13 The prophets are but wind,
for the word is not in them.
So let this befall them.*"
14 Therefore this is what the LORD God of Hosts says:

"Because you have spoken this word,
I will make my words a fire in your mouth
and this people the wood it consumes.
15 Behold, I am bringing a distant nation against you,
O house of Israel," declares the LORD.
"It is an established nation,
an ancient nation,
a nation whose language you do not know
and whose speech you do not understand.
16 Their quivers are like open graves;
they are all mighty men.
17 They will devour your harvest and food;
they will consume your sons and daughters;
they will eat up your flocks and herds;
they will feed on your vines and fig trees.

* **5:13 5:13** Or *So let their own predictions befall them.*

With the sword they will destroy
the fortified cities in which you trust."
18 "Yet even in those days," declares the LORD,
"I will not make a full end of you.
19 And when the people ask, 'For what offense
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
land, so will you serve foreigners in a land that
is not your own.' "

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

21 "Hear this,
O 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,
the One who set the sand as the boundary
for the sea,
an enduring barrier it cannot cross?
The waves surge, but they cannot prevail.
They roar but cannot cross it.

23 But these people have stubborn and rebellious
hearts.
They have turned aside and gone away.
24 They have not said in their hearts,
'Let us fear the LORD our God,

who gives the rains, both autumn and spring, in season,
who keeps for us the appointed weeks of harvest.'

25 Your iniquities have diverted these from you;
your sins have deprived you of my bounty.
26 For among my people are wicked men;
they watch like fowlers lying in wait;
they set a trap to catch men.
27 Like cages full of birds,
so their houses are full of deceit.
Therefore they have become powerful and rich.

28 They have grown fat and sleek,
and have excelled in the deeds of the wicked.
They have not taken up the cause of the fatherless,
that they might prosper;
nor have they defended
the rights of the needy.
29 Should I not punish them for these things?"
declares the LORD.
"Should I not avenge myself
on such a nation as this?

30 A horrible and shocking thing
has happened in the land.
31 The prophets prophesy falsely,
and the priests rule by their own authority.
My people love it so,
but what will you do in the end?

6

1 “Run for cover, O sons of Benjamin;
flee from Jerusalem!
Sound the ram’s horn in Tekoa;
send up a signal over Beth-haccherem,
for disaster looms from the north,
even great destruction.
2 Though she is beautiful and delicate,
I will destroy the Daughter of Zion.*
3 Shepherds and their flocks
will come against her;
they will pitch their tents all around her,
each tending his own portion:
4 ‘Prepare for battle against her;
rise up, let us attack at noon.
Woe to us, for the daylight is fading;
the evening shadows grow long.
5 Rise up, let us attack by night
and destroy her fortresses!’ ”
6 For this is what the LORD of Hosts says:

“Cut down the trees
and raise a siege ramp against Jerusalem.
This city must be punished;
there is nothing but oppression in her midst.
7 As a well gushes its water,
so she pours out her evil.
Violence and destruction resound in her;
sickness and wounds are ever before me.
8 Be forewarned, O Jerusalem,
or I will turn away from you;

* **6:2** **6:2** Or *To a lovely and delicate woman I have likened the Daughter of Zion*

I will make you a desolation,
a land without inhabitant."
9 This is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"They will glean the remnant of Israel
as thoroughly as a vine.†
Pass your hand once more like a grape gatherer
over the branches."

10 To whom can I give this warning?
Who will listen to me?
Look, their ears are closed,‡
so they cannot hear.
See, the word of the LORD has become offensive
to them;
they find no pleasure in it.
11 But I am full of the LORD's wrath;
I am tired of holding it back.

"Pour it out on the children in the street,
and on the young men gathered together.
For both husband and wife will be captured,
the old and the very old alike.
12 Their houses will be turned over to others,
their fields and wives as well,
for I will stretch out my hand
against the inhabitants of the land,"
declares the LORD.
13 "For from the least of them to the greatest,
all are greedy for gain;
from prophet to priest,
all practice deceit.

† **6:9 6:9** LXX *Glean …* ‡ **6:10 6:10** Hebrew *uncircumcised*

14 They dress the wound of my people
with very little care,
saying, ‘Peace, peace,’
when there is no peace at all.
15 Are they ashamed of the abomination they
have committed?
No, they have no shame at all;
they do not even know how to blush.
So they will fall among the fallen;
when I punish them, they will collapse,”
says the LORD.
16 This is what the LORD says:

“Stand at the crossroads and look.
Ask for the ancient paths: ‘Where is the
good way?’
Then walk in it, and you will find rest for your
souls.
But they said, ‘We will not walk in it!’
17 I appointed watchmen over you and said,
‘Listen for the sound of the ram’s horn.’
But they answered, ‘We will not listen!’
18 Therefore hear, O nations,
and learn, O congregations,
what will happen to them.
19 Hear, O earth! I am bringing disaster on this
people,
the fruit of their own schemes,
because they have paid no attention to my word
and have rejected my instruction.
20 What use to me is frankincense from Sheba
or sweet cane from a distant land?
Your burnt offerings are not acceptable;
your sacrifices do not please me.”

21 Therefore this is what the LORD says:

“I will lay stumbling blocks before this people;
fathers and sons alike will be staggered;
friends and neighbors will perish.”
22 This is what the LORD says:

“Behold, an army is coming
from the land of the north;
a great nation is stirred up
from the ends of the earth.
23 They grasp the bow and javelin;§
they are cruel and merciless.
Their voice roars like the sea,
and they ride upon horses,
lined up like men in formation
against you, O Daughter of Zion.”

24 We have heard the report;
our hands hang limp.
Anguish has gripped us,
pain like that of a woman in labor.
25 Do not go out to the fields;
do not walk the road.
For the enemy has a sword;
terror is on every side.
26 O daughter of my people,
dress yourselves in sackcloth and roll in ashes.
Mourn with bitter wailing,
as you would for an only son,
for suddenly the destroyer

§ **6:23 6:23** Or *spear*

will come upon us.

27 “I have appointed you to examine my people
like ore,*
so you may know and try their ways.
28 All are hardened rebels,
walking around as slanderers.
They are bronze and iron;
all of them are corrupt.
29 The bellows blow fiercely,
blasting away the lead with fire.†
The refining proceeds in vain,
for the wicked are not purged.
30 They are called rejected silver,
because the LORD has rejected them.”

7

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,
2 “Stand in the gate of the house of the LORD and proclaim this message: Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who enter through these gates to worship the LORD.
3 Thus says the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel: Correct your ways and deeds, and I will let you live in this place.
4 Do not trust in deceptive words, saying:

‘This is the temple of the LORD,
the temple of the LORD,

* **6:27 6:27** Or *to examine my people, a fortress* † **6:29 6:29** Qere; Ketiv *the lead from their fire*

the temple of the LORD.'
5 For if you really correct your ways and
deeds, if you act justly toward one another,
6 if you no longer oppress the foreigner and
the fatherless and the widow, and if you no
longer shed innocent blood in this place or
follow other gods to your own harm,
7 then I will let you live in this place, in the
land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.
8 But look, you keep trusting in deceptive
words to no avail.
9 Will you steal and murder, commit adultery
and perjury, burn incense to Baal, and follow
other gods that you have not known,
10 and then come and stand before me in this
house, which bears my Name, and say, 'We are
delivered, so we can continue with all these
abominations'?
11 Has this house, which bears my Name,
become a den of robbers in your sight? Yes, I too
have seen it, declares the LORD.
12 But go now to the place in Shiloh where I
first made a dwelling for my Name, 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 because I have
spoken to you again and again* but you would
not listen, and I have called to you but you
would not answer,

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* **7:13 7:13** Literally *I have spoken to you, rising up early and speaking,*

14 therefore what I did to Shiloh I will now do
to the house that bears my Name, the house in
which you trust, the place that I gave to you and
your fathers.
15 And I will cast you out of my presence, just
as I have cast out all your brothers, all the
descendants of Ephraim.
16 As for you, do not pray for these people, do
not offer a plea or petition on their behalf, and
do not beg 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 sons gather wood, the fathers light the
fire, and the women knead the dough to make
cakes for the Queen of Heaven; they pour out
drink offerings to other gods to provoke me to
anger.
19 But am I the One they are provoking?
declares the LORD. Is it not themselves they
spite, to their own shame?
20 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says:
Behold, my anger and my fury will be poured
out on this place, on man and beast, on the trees
of the field and the produce of the land, and it
will burn and not be extinguished.
21 This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of
Israel, says: Add your burnt offerings to your
other sacrifices and eat the meat yourselves!
22 For when I brought your fathers out of the
land of Egypt, I did not merely command them
about burnt offerings and sacrifices,
23 but this is what I commanded them: Obey
me, and I will be your God, and you will be my

people. You must walk in all the ways I have
commanded you, so that it may go well with you.
24 Yet they did not listen or incline their ear,
but they followed the stubborn inclinations of
their own evil hearts. They went backward and
not forward.
25 From the day your fathers came out of the
land of Egypt until this day, I have sent you all
my servants the prophets again and again.†
26 Yet they would not listen to me or incline
their ear, but they stiffened their necks and did
more evil than their fathers.
27 When you tell them all these things, they
will not listen to you. When you call to them,
they will not answer.
28 Therefore you must say to them, 'This is the
nation that would not listen to the voice of the
LORD their God and would not receive
correction. Truth has perished; it has
disappeared from their lips.
29 Cut off your hair and throw it away. Raise
up a lamentation on the barren 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 up
their abominations in the house that bears my
Name, and so have defiled it.
31 They have built the high places of Topheth
in the Valley of Ben-hinnom so they could burn
their sons and daughters in the fire—something

† **7:25 7:25** Literally *I have sent you all my servants the prophets daily, rising up early and sending (them).*

I never commanded, nor did it even enter my
mind.
32 So behold, the days are coming, declares the
LORD, when this place will no longer be called
Topheth and the Valley of Ben-hinnom, but the
Valley of Slaughter. For they will bury the dead
in Topheth until there is no more room.
33 The corpses of this people will become food
for the birds of the air and the beasts of the
earth, and there will be no one to scare them
away.
34 I will remove from the cities of Judah and
the streets of Jerusalem the sounds of joy and
gladness and the voices of the bride and
bridegroom, for the land will become a
wasteland."

8

1 "At that time," declares the LORD, "the bones
of the kings of Judah, the bones of the officials,
the bones of the priests, the bones of the
prophets, and the bones of the people of
Jerusalem will be removed from their graves.
2 They will be exposed to the sun and moon,
and to all the host of heaven which they have
loved, served, followed, consulted, and
worshiped. Their bones will not be gathered up
or buried, but will become like dung lying on the
ground.
3 And wherever I have banished them, the
remnant of this evil family will choose death
over life," declares the LORD of Hosts.
4 So you are to tell them this is what the LORD
says:

“Do men fall and not get up again?
Does one turn away and not return?
5 Why then have these people turned away?
Why does Jerusalem always turn away?
They cling to deceit;
they refuse to return.
6 I have listened and heard;
they do not speak what is right.
No one repents of his wickedness,
asking, ‘What have I done?’
Everyone has pursued his own course
like a horse charging into battle.
7 Even the stork in the sky
knows her appointed seasons.
The turtledove, the swift, and the thrush*
keep their time of migration,
but my people do not know
the requirements of the LORD.

8 How can you say, ‘We are wise,
and the Teaching of the LORD is with us,’
when in fact the lying pen of the scribes
has produced a deception?
9 The wise will be put to shame;
they will be dismayed and trapped.
Since they have rejected the word of the LORD,
what wisdom do they really have?

10 Therefore I will give their wives to other men
and their fields to new owners.
For from the least of them to the greatest,

* **8:7 8:7** The precise identification of some of these birds is uncertain.

all are greedy for gain;
from prophet to priest,
all practice deceit.
11 They dress the wound of the daughter of my people
with very little care,
saying, ‘Peace, peace,’
when there is no peace at all.
12 Are they ashamed of the abomination they have committed?
No, they have no shame at all;
they do not even know how to blush.
So they will fall among the fallen;
when I punish them, they will collapse,
says the LORD.

13 I will surely make an end of them,†
declares the LORD.
There will be no grapes on the vine,
nor figs on the tree,
and even the leaf will wither.
Whatever I have given them will be lost to them.”
14 Why are we just sitting here?
Gather together,
let us flee to the fortified cities and perish there,
for the LORD our God has doomed us.
He has given us poisoned water to drink,
because we have sinned against the LORD.
15 We hoped for peace,
but no good has come,
for a time of healing,

† **8:13 8:13** Or (with a different vocalization) *I will take away their harvest*

but there was only terror.

16 The snorting of enemy horses
is heard from Dan.
At the sound of the neighing of mighty steeds,
the whole land quakes.
They come to devour the land and everything in it,
the city and all who dwell in it.

17 “For behold, I will send snakes among you,
vipers that cannot be charmed,
and they will bite you,”
declares the LORD.
18 My sorrow is beyond healing;‡
my heart is faint within me.
19 Listen to the cry of the daughter of my people
from a land far away:

“Is the LORD no longer in Zion?
Is her King no longer there?”

“Why have they provoked me to anger
with their carved images,
with their worthless foreign idols?”

20 “The harvest has passed, the summer has ended,
but we have not been saved.”

21 For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am crushed.

‡ **8:18 8:18** Or *O my Comforter in sorrow,*

I mourn; horror has gripped me.
22 Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is no physician there?
Why then has the health of the daughter of my people
not been restored?
23 Oh, that my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears!
I would weep day and night
over the slain daughter of my people.

9

1 If only I had a traveler's lodge in the wilderness,
I would abandon my people and depart from them,
for they are all adulterers,
a crowd of faithless people.

2 "They bend their tongues like bows;
lies prevail over truth in the land.
For they proceed from evil to evil,
and they do not take me into account,"
declares the LORD.
3 "Let everyone guard against his neighbor;
do not trust any brother,
for every brother deals craftily,
and every friend spreads slander.
4 Each one betrays his friend;
no one tells the truth.
They have taught their tongues to lie;
they wear themselves out committing iniquity.

5 You dwell* in the midst of deception;
in their deceit they refuse to know me,"
declares the LORD.
6 Therefore this is what the LORD of Hosts
says:

"Behold, I will refine them and test them,
for what else can I do
because of† the daughter of my people?
7 Their tongues are deadly arrows;
they speak deception.
With his mouth a man speaks peace to his
neighbor,
but in his heart he sets a trap for him.
8 Should I not punish them for these things?
declares the LORD.
Should I not avenge myself
on such a nation as this?"

9 I will take up a weeping and wailing for the
mountains,
a dirge over the wilderness pasture,
for they have been scorched so no one passes
through,
and the lowing of cattle is not heard.
Both the birds of the air and the beasts have fled;
they have gone away.

10 "And I will make Jerusalem a heap of rubble,
a haunt for jackals;‡
and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation,

* **9:5 9:5** That is, Jeremiah dwells (the Hebrew is singular) † **9:6 9:6** LXX *because of the wickedness of* ‡ **9:10 9:10** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

without inhabitant."

11 Who is the man wise enough to understand
this? To whom has the mouth of the LORD
spoken, that he may explain it? Why is the land
destroyed and scorched like a desert, so no one
can pass through it?
12 And the LORD answered, "It is because they
have forsaken my law, which I set before them;
they have not walked in it or obeyed my voice.
13 Instead, they have followed the
stubbornness of their hearts and gone after the
Baals, as their fathers taught them."
14 Therefore this is what the LORD of Hosts,
the God of Israel, says: "Behold, I will feed this
people wormwood and give them poisoned
water to drink.
15 I will scatter them among the nations that
neither they nor their fathers have known, and I
will send a sword after them until I have
finished them off."
16 This is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"Take note, and summon the wailing women;
send for the most skillful among them.
17 Let them come quickly
and take up a lament over us,
that our eyes may overflow with tears,
and our eyelids may gush with water.
18 For the sound of wailing
is heard from Zion:
'How devastated we are!
How great is our shame!
For we have abandoned the land

because our dwellings have been torn
down.' "

19 Now, O women, hear the word of the LORD.
Open your ears to the word of his mouth.
Teach your daughters to wail,
and one another to lament.
20 For death has climbed in through our
windows;
it has entered our fortresses
to cut off the children from the streets,
the young men from the town squares.
21 Declare that this is what the LORD says:

"The corpses of men will fall like dung
upon the open field,
like newly cut grain behind the reaper,
with no one to gather it."
22 This is what the LORD says:

"Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom,
nor the strong man in his strength,
nor the wealthy man in his riches.
23 But let him who boasts boast in this,
that he understands and knows me,
that I am the LORD,
who exercises loving devotion,§
justice and righteousness on the earth—
for I delight in these things,"

§ **9:23 9:23** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

declares the LORD.
24 “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the
LORD, “when I will punish all who are
circumcised only in the flesh—
25 Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab, and all
the inhabitants of the desert who clip the hair of
their temples. For all these nations are
uncircumcised, and the whole house of Israel is
uncircumcised in heart.”

10

1 Hear the word that the LORD speaks to you,
O house of Israel.
2 This is what the LORD says:

“Do not learn the ways of the nations
or be terrified by the signs in the heavens,
though the nations themselves are terrified
by them.
3 For the customs of the peoples are worthless;
they cut down a tree from the forest;
it is shaped with a chisel
by the hands of a craftsman.
4 They adorn it with silver and gold
and fasten it with hammer and nails,
so that it will not totter.

5 Like scarecrows in a cucumber patch,
their idols cannot speak.
They must be carried
because they cannot walk.
Do not fear them, for they can do no harm,
and neither can they do any good.”

6 There is none like you, O LORD.
You are great, and your name is mighty in power.
7 Who would not fear you, O King of nations?
This is your due.
For among all the wise men of the nations,
and in all their kingdoms,
there is none like you.

8 But they are altogether senseless and foolish,
instructed by worthless idols made of wood!
9 Hammered silver is brought from Tarshish,
and gold from Uphaz—
the work of a craftsman
from the hands of a goldsmith.
Their clothes are blue and purple,
all fashioned by skilled workers.
10 But the LORD is the true God;
he is the living God and eternal King.
The earth quakes at his wrath,
and the nations cannot endure his indignation.
11 Thus you are to tell them: “These gods, who have made neither the heavens nor the earth, will perish from this earth and from under these heavens.”*

12 The LORD made the earth by his power;
he established the world by his wisdom
and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.
13 When he thunders,

* **10:11 10:11** The original text of this verse is in Aramaic.

the waters in the heavens roar;
he causes the clouds to rise
from the ends of the earth.
He generates the lightning with the rain
and brings forth the wind from his
storehouses.

14 Every man is senseless and devoid of
knowledge;
every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols.
For his molten images are a fraud,
and there is no breath in them.
15 They are worthless, a work to be mocked.
In the time of their punishment they will
perish.

16 The Portion of Jacob is not like these,
for he is the Maker of all things,
and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance—
the LORD of Hosts is his name.
17 Gather up your belongings from this land,
you who live under siege.
18 For this is what the LORD says:

"Behold, at this time I will sling out
the inhabitants of the land
and bring distress upon them
so that they may find it so."†

19 Woe to me because of my brokenness;
my wound is grievous!
But I said, "This is truly my sickness,

† **10:18 10:18** Or (with a different vocalization) *so that they may be found* or *captured*

and I must bear it."
20 My tent is destroyed,
and all its ropes are snapped.
My sons have departed from me
and are no more.
I have no one left to pitch my tent
or set up my curtains.

21 For the shepherds have become senseless;
they do not seek the LORD.
Therefore they have not prospered,
and all their flock is scattered.
22 Listen! The sound of a report is coming—
a great commotion from the land to the north.
It will make the cities of Judah a desolation,
a haunt for jackals.‡

23 I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not his own;
no one who walks directs his own steps.
24 Correct me, O LORD,
but only with justice—
not in your anger,
or you will bring me to nothing.

25 Pour out your wrath on the nations
that do not acknowledge you,
and on the families
that do not call on your name.
For they have devoured Jacob;

‡ **10:22 10:22** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

they have consumed him and finished him
off;
they have devastated his homeland.

11

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from
the LORD:
2 “Listen to the words of this covenant and tell
them to the men of Judah and the residents of
Jerusalem.
3 You must tell them that 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 forefathers when I
brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the
iron furnace, saying, ‘Obey me, and do
everything I command you, and you will be my
people, and I will be your God.’
5 This was in order to establish the oath I
swore to your forefathers, to give them a land
flowing with milk and honey, as it is to this day.”
“Amen, LORD,” I answered.
6 Then the LORD said to me, “Proclaim all
these words in the cities of Judah and in the
streets of Jerusalem, saying: Hear the words of
this covenant and carry them out.
7 For from the time I brought your fathers out
of the land of Egypt until today, I strongly
warned them again and again,* saying, ‘Obey
my voice.’

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* **11:7 11:7** Literally *I earnestly warned them, rising up early and warning (them),*

8 Yet they would not obey or incline their ears,
but each one followed the stubbornness of his
evil heart. So I brought on them all the curses of
this covenant I had commanded them to follow
but they did not keep."

9 And the LORD told me, "There is a conspiracy
among the men of Judah and the residents of
Jerusalem.
10 They have returned to the sins of their
forefathers who refused to obey my words. They
have followed other gods to serve them. The
house of Israel and the house of Judah have
broken the covenant I made with their fathers.
11 Therefore this is what the LORD says: 'I am
about to bring upon them a disaster that they
cannot escape. They will cry out to me, but I will
not listen to them.
12 Then the cities of Judah and the residents of
Jerusalem will go and cry out to the gods to
which they have been burning incense, but
these gods certainly will not save them in their
time of disaster.
13 Your gods are indeed as numerous as your
cities, O Judah; the altars of shame you have set
up—the altars to burn incense to Baal—are as
many as the streets of Jerusalem.'

14 As for you, do not pray for these people. Do
not raise up a cry or a prayer on their behalf, for
I will not be listening when they call out to me
in their time of disaster.

15 What right has my beloved in my house,
having carried out so many evil schemes?

Can consecrated meat avert your doom? When
you are wicked,
then you rejoice.
16 The LORD once called you a flourishing olive
tree,
beautiful with well-formed fruit.
But with a mighty roar he will set it on fire,
and its branches will be consumed.
17 The LORD of Hosts, who planted you, has
decreed disaster against you on account of the
evil that the house of Israel and the house of
Judah have brought upon themselves, provoking
me to anger by burning incense to Baal."
18 And the LORD informed me, so I knew.
Then you showed me their deeds.
19 For I was like a gentle lamb led to slaughter;
I did not know that they had plotted against
me:
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit;
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
that his name may be remembered no
more."

20 O LORD of Hosts, who judges righteously,
who examines the heart† and mind,
let me see your vengeance upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.
21 Therefore this is what the LORD says
concerning the people of Anathoth who are
seeking your life and saying, "You must not
prophesy in the name of the LORD, or you will
die by our hand."

† **11:20 11:20** Hebrew *the kidneys*

22 So this is what the LORD of Hosts says: “I
will punish them. Their young men will die by
the sword, their sons and daughters by famine.
23 There will be no remnant, for I will bring
disaster on the people of Anathoth in the year of
their punishment.”

12

1 Righteous are you, O LORD,
when I plead before you.
Yet about your judgments
I wish to contend with you:

Why does the way of the wicked prosper?
Why do all the faithless live at ease?
2 You planted them, and they have taken root.
They have grown and produced fruit.
You are ever on their lips,
but far from their hearts.*
3 But you know me, O LORD;
you see me and test my heart toward you.
Drag away the wicked like sheep to the slaughter
and set them apart for the day of carnage.
4 How long will the land mourn
and the grass of every field be withered?
Because of the evil of its residents,
the animals and birds have been swept
away,
for the people have said,
“He cannot see what our end will be.”
5 “If you have raced with men on foot
and they have worn you out,

* **12:2 12:2** Hebrew *their kidneys*

how can you compete with horses?
If you stumble in a peaceful land,
how will you do in the thickets of the
Jordan?
6 Even your brothers—
your own father's household—
even they have betrayed you;
even they have cried aloud against you.
Do not trust them,
though they speak well of 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 roared against me;
therefore I hate her.
9 Is not my inheritance to me
like a speckled bird of prey
with other birds of prey† circling against
her?
Go, gather all the beasts of the field;
bring them to devour her.

10 Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard;
they have trampled my plot of ground.
They have turned my pleasant field
into a desolate wasteland.
11 They have made it a desolation;
desolate before me, it mourns.

† **12:9 12:9** Or *like a speckled hyena with birds of prey*

All the land is laid waste,
but no man takes it to heart.
12 Over all the barren heights in the wilderness
the destroyers have come,
for the sword of the LORD devours
from one end of the earth to the other.
No flesh has peace.

13 They have sown wheat but harvested thorns.
They have exhausted themselves to no avail.
Bear the shame of your harvest
because of the fierce anger of the LORD."
14 This is what the LORD says: "As for all my evil neighbors who attack the inheritance that I bequeathed to my people Israel, I am about to uproot them from their land, and I will uproot the house of Judah from among them.
15 But after I have uprooted them, I will once again have compassion on them and return each one to his inheritance and to his land.
16 And if they will diligently learn the ways of my people and swear by my name, saying, 'As surely as the LORD lives'—just as they once taught my people to swear by Baal—then they will be established among my people.
17 But if they will not obey, then I will uproot that nation; I will uproot it and destroy it, declares the LORD."

13

1 This is what the LORD said to me: "Go and buy yourself a linen loincloth and put it around your waist, but do not let it touch water."

2 So I bought a loincloth in accordance with
the word of the LORD, and I put it around my
waist.
3 Then the word of the LORD came to me a
second time:
4 “Take the loincloth that you bought and are
wearing, and go at once to Perath* and hide it
there in a crevice of the rocks.”
5 So I went and hid it at Perath, as the LORD
had commanded me.
6 Many days later the LORD said to me, “Arise,
go to Perath, and get the loincloth that I
commanded you to hide there.”
7 So I went to Perath and dug up the loincloth,
and I took it from the place where I had hidden
it. But now it was ruined—of no use at all.
8 Then 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 These evil people, who refuse to listen to my
words, who follow the stubbornness of their
own hearts, and who go after other gods to
serve and worship them, they will be like this
loincloth—of no use at all.
11 For just as a loincloth clings to a man’s
waist, so I have made the whole house of Israel
and the whole house of Judah cling to me,
declares the LORD, so that they might be my
people for my renown and praise and glory. But
they did not listen.

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* **13:4 13:4** Or possibly *to the Euphrates*; similarly in verses 5–7

12 Therefore you are to tell them that this is
what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Every
wineskin shall be filled with wine.’
And when they reply, ‘Don’t we surely know
that every wineskin should be filled with wine?’
13 then you are to tell them that this is what
the LORD says: ‘I am going to fill with
drunkenness all who live in this land—the kings
who sit on David’s throne, the priests, the
prophets, and all the people of Jerusalem.
14 I will smash them against one another,
fathers and sons alike, declares the LORD. I will
allow no mercy or pity or compassion to keep
me from destroying them.’ ”
15 Listen and give heed. Do not be arrogant,
for the LORD has spoken.
16 Give glory to the LORD your God
before he brings darkness,
before your feet stumble
on the dusky mountains.
You wait for light,
but he turns it into deep gloom and thick
darkness.
17 But if you do not listen,
I will weep in secret because of your pride.
My eyes will overflow with tears,
because the LORD’s flock has been taken
captive.

18 Say to the king
and to the queen mother:
“Take a lowly seat,

for your glorious crowns have fallen from
your heads."

19 The cities of the Negev have been shut tight,
and no one can open them.
All Judah has been carried into exile,
wholly taken captive.
20 Lift up your eyes and see
those coming from the north.
Where is the flock entrusted to you,
the sheep that were your pride?

21 What will you say when he sets over you
close allies whom you yourself trained?
Will not pangs of anguish grip you,
as they do a woman in labor?
22 And if you ask yourself,
"Why has this happened to me?"
It is because of the magnitude of your iniquity
that your skirts have been stripped off
and your body has been exposed.†
23 Can the Ethiopian‡ change his skin,
or the leopard his spots?
Neither are you able to do good—
you who are accustomed to doing evil.

24 "I will scatter them like chaff
driven by the desert wind.
25 This is your lot,
the portion I have measured to you,"

† **13:22 13:22** Literally *and your heels have suffered violence*
‡ **13:23 13:23** Hebrew *that Cushite*; that is, probably a person from the upper Nile region

declares the LORD,
“because you have forgotten me
and trusted in falsehood.
26 So I will pull your skirts up over your face,
that your shame may be seen.
27 Your adulteries and lustful neighings,
your shameless prostitution
on the hills and in the fields—
I have seen your detestable acts.
Woe to you, O Jerusalem!
How long will you remain unclean?”

14

1 This is the word of the LORD that came to
Jeremiah concerning the drought:

2 “Judah mourns
and her gates languish.
Her people wail for the land,
and a cry goes up from Jerusalem.
3 The nobles send their servants for water;
they go to the cisterns, but find no water;
their jars return empty.
They are ashamed and humiliated;
they cover their heads.
4 The ground is cracked
because no rain has fallen on the land.
The farmers are ashamed;
they cover their heads.
5 Even the doe in the field deserts her newborn
fawn
because there is no grass.
6 Wild donkeys stand on barren heights;

they pant for air like jackals;*
their eyes fail for lack of pasture."

7 Although our iniquities testify against us, O
LORD,
act for the sake of your name.
Indeed, our rebellions are many;
we have sinned against you.
8 O Hope of Israel,
its Savior in times of distress,
why are you like a stranger in the land,
like a traveler who stays but a night?
9 Why are you like a man taken by surprise,
like a warrior powerless to save?
Yet you are among us, O LORD,
and we are called by your name.

Do not forsake us!
10 This is what the LORD says about this
people:

"Truly they love to wander;
they have not restrained their feet.
So the LORD does not accept them;
he will now remember their iniquity
and punish them for their sins."
11 Then the LORD said to me, "Do not pray for
the well-being of this people.
12 Although they may fast, I will not listen to
their cry; although they may offer burnt
offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept

* **14:6 14:6** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

them. Instead, I will finish them off by sword
and famine and plague."
13 "Ah, Lord GOD!" I replied, "Look, the
prophets are telling them, 'You will not see the
sword or suffer famine, but I will give you
lasting peace in this place.' "
14 "The prophets are prophesying lies in my
name," replied the LORD. "I did not send them or
appoint them or speak to them. They are
prophesying to you a false vision, a worthless
divination, the futility and delusion of their own
minds.
15 Therefore this is what the LORD says about
the prophets who prophesy in my name: I did
not send them, yet they say, 'No sword or famine
will touch this land.'
By sword and famine these very prophets will
meet their end!
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 or their wives, their sons or their
daughters. I will pour out their own evil upon
them.
17 You are to speak this word to them:

'My eyes overflow with tears;
day and night they do not cease,
for the virgin daughter of my people
has been shattered by a crushing blow,
a severely grievous wound.
18 If I go out to the country,
I see those slain by the sword;

if I enter the city,
I see those ravaged by famine!
For both prophet and priest
travel to a land they do not know.' "
19 Have you rejected Judah completely?
Do you despise Zion?
Why have you stricken us
so that we are beyond healing?
We hoped for peace,
but no good has come,
and for the time of healing,
but there was only terror.
20 We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD,
the guilt of our fathers;
indeed, we have sinned against you.

21 For the sake of your name do not despise us;
do not disgrace your glorious throne.
Remember your covenant with us;
do not break it.
22 Can the worthless idols of the nations bring
rain?
Do the skies alone send showers?
Is this not by you, O LORD our God?
So we put our hope in you,
for you have done all these things.

15

1 Then the LORD said to me: "Even if Moses and Samuel should stand before me, my heart would not go out to this people. Send them from my presence, and let them go!

2 If they ask you, ‘Where shall we go?’ you are
to tell them that 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;
and those destined for captivity, to captivity.’
3 I will appoint over them four kinds of
destroyers, declares the LORD: the sword to kill,
the dogs to drag away, and the birds of the air
and beasts of the earth to devour and destroy.
4 I will make them a horror to all the kingdoms
of the earth because of what Manasseh son of
Hezekiah king of Judah did in Jerusalem.

5 Who will have pity on you, O Jerusalem?
Who will mourn for you?
Who will turn aside
to ask about your welfare?
6 You have forsaken me, declares the LORD.
You have turned your back.
So I will stretch out my hand against you
and I will destroy you;
I am weary of showing compassion.

7 I will scatter them with a winnowing fork
at the gates of the land.
I will bereave and destroy my people
who have not turned from their ways.
8 I will make their widows more numerous
than the sand of the sea.
I will bring a destroyer at noon
against the mothers of young men.
I will suddenly bring upon them

anguish and dismay.

9 The mother of seven will grow faint;
she will breathe her last breath.
Her sun will set while it is still day;
she will be disgraced and humiliated.
And the rest I will put to the sword
in the presence of their enemies,"
declares the LORD.
10 Woe to me, my mother,
that you have borne me,
a man of strife and conflict
in all the land.
I have neither lent nor borrowed,
yet everyone curses me.
11 The LORD said:

"Surely I will deliver you for a good purpose;
surely I will intercede with your enemy
in your time of trouble,
in your time of distress.
12 Can anyone smash iron—
iron from the north—or bronze?
13 Your wealth and your treasures
I will give up as plunder,
without charge for all your sins
within all your borders.
14 Then I will cause your enemies
to bring you into a land* you do not know,
for my anger will kindle a fire

* **15:14 15:14** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac (see also Jeremiah 17:4) *Then I will enslave you to your enemies in a land*

that will burn against you."

15 You understand, O LORD;
remember me and attend to me.
Avenge me against my persecutors.
In your patience, do not take me away.
Know that I endure reproach for your honor.
16 Your words were found, and I ate them.
Your word became my joy†
and my heart's delight.
For I bear your name,
O LORD God of Hosts.
17 I never sat with the band of revelers,
nor did I celebrate with them.
Because your hand was on me, I sat alone,
for you have filled me with indignation.
18 Why is my pain unending,
and my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
You have indeed become like a mirage to me—
water that is not there.
19 Therefore this is what the LORD says:

"If you return, I will restore you;
you will stand in my presence.
And if you speak words that are noble instead of worthless,
you will be my spokesman.
It is they who must turn to you,
but you must not turn to them.
20 Then I will make you a wall to this people,

† **15:16 15:16** Qere; Ketiv *your words*

a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you
but will not overcome you,
for I am with you to save 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 Then the word of the LORD came to me,
saying,
2 “You must not marry or have sons or
daughters in this place.”
3 For this is what the LORD says concerning
the sons and daughters born in this place, and
the mothers who bore them, and the fathers
who fathered them in this land:
4 “They will die from deadly diseases. They
will not be mourned or buried, but will lie like
dung on the ground. They will be finished off by
sword and famine, and their corpses will
become food for the birds of the air and beasts
of the earth.”
5 Indeed, this is what the LORD says: “Do not
enter a house where there is a funeral meal. Do
not go to mourn or show sympathy, for I have
removed from this people my peace, my loving
devotion, and my compassion,” declares the
LORD.
6 “Both great and small will die in this land.
They will not be buried or mourned, nor will
anyone cut himself or shave his head for them.

7 No food will be offered to comfort those who
mourn the dead; not even a cup of consolation
will be given for the loss of a father or mother.
8 You must not enter a house where there is
feasting and sit down with them to eat and
drink.
9 For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God
of Israel, says: I am going to remove from this
place, before your very eyes and in your days,
the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of the
bride and bridegroom.
10 When you tell these people all these things,
they will ask you, 'Why has the LORD
pronounced all this great disaster against us?
What is our iniquity? What is the sin that we
have committed against the LORD our God?'
11 Then you are to answer them: 'It is because
your fathers have forsaken me, declares the
LORD, and followed other gods, and served and
worshiped them. They abandoned me and did
not keep my instruction.
12 And you have done more evil than your
fathers. See how each of you follows the
stubbornness of his evil heart instead of obeying
me.
13 So I will cast you out of this land into a land
that neither you nor your fathers have known.
There you will serve other gods day and night,
for I will show you no favor.'
14 Yet behold, the days are coming, declares
the LORD, when they will no longer say, 'As
surely as the LORD lives, who brought the
Israelites up out of the land of Egypt.'

15 Instead they will say, ‘As surely as the LORD
lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the
land of the north and all the other lands to
which he had banished them.’ For I will return
them to their land that I gave to their
forefathers.
16 But for now I will send for many fishermen,
declares the LORD, and they will catch them.
After that I will send for many hunters, and they
will hunt them down on every mountain and
hill, even from the clefts of the rocks.
17 For my eyes are on all their ways. They are
not hidden from my face, and their guilt is not
concealed from my eyes.
18 And I will first repay them double their
iniquity and their sin, because they have defiled
my land with the carcasses of their detestable
idols, and they have filled my inheritance with
their abominations.”

19 O LORD, my strength and my fortress,
my refuge in the day of distress,
the nations will come to you
from the ends of the earth, and they will say,
“Our fathers inherited nothing but lies,
worthless idols of no benefit at all.
20 Can man make gods for himself?
Such are not gods!”

21 “Therefore behold, I will inform them,
and this time I will make them know
my power and my might;
then they will know
that my name is the LORD.

17

1 “The sin of Judah is written with an iron stylus,
engraved with a diamond point
on the tablets of their hearts
and on the horns of your altars.*
2 Even their children remember their altars and
Asherah poles
by the green trees and on the high hills.
3 O my mountain in the countryside,
I will give over your wealth
and all your treasures as plunder,
because of the sin of your high places,
within all your borders.
4 And you yourself will relinquish
the inheritance that I gave you.
I will enslave you to your enemies
in a land that you do not know,
for you have kindled a fire in my anger;
it will burn forever.”
5 This is what the LORD says:

“Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind,
who makes mere flesh his strength†
and turns his heart from the LORD.
6 He will be like a shrub in the desert;
he will not see when prosperity comes.
He will dwell in the parched places of the desert,
in a salt land where no one lives.

7 But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.
8 He is like a tree planted by the waters

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* **17:1 17:1** Some Hebrew manuscripts and Vulgate *their altars*
† **17:5 17:5** Hebrew *arm*

that sends out its roots toward the stream.
It does not see‡ when the heat comes,
and its leaves are always green.
It does not worry in a year of drought,
nor does it cease to produce fruit.

9 The heart is deceitful above all things
and beyond cure.
Who can understand it?
10 I, the LORD, search the heart;
I examine the mind§
to reward a man according to his ways,*
by what his deeds deserve.
11 Like a partridge hatching eggs it did not lay
is the man who makes a fortune unjustly.
In the middle of his days his riches will desert
him,
and in the end he will be the fool."
12 A glorious throne, exalted from the beginning,
is the place of our sanctuary.
13 O LORD, the hope of Israel,
all who abandon you will be put to shame.
All who turn away will be written in the dust,
for they have abandoned the LORD,
the fountain of living water.

14 Heal me, O LORD, and I will be healed;
save me, and I will be saved,
for you are my praise.
15 Behold, they keep saying to me,
"Where is the word of the LORD?

‡ **17:8 17:8** Qere; Ketiv *fear*
§ **17:10 17:10** Hebrew *kidneys*
* **17:10 17:10** Qere; Ketiv *his way*

Let it come now!”
16 But I have not run away from being your
shepherd;
I have not desired the day of despair.
You know that the utterance of my lips
was spoken in your presence.

17 Do not become 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 terrified,
but do not let me be terrified.
Bring upon them the day of disaster
and shatter 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 go in and out; and stand at all the other gates of Jerusalem.
20 Say to them, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah, all people of Judah and Jerusalem who enter through these gates.
21 This is what the LORD says: Take heed for yourselves; do not carry a load or bring it through the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day.
22 You must not carry a load out of your houses or do any work on the Sabbath day, but you must keep the Sabbath day holy, just as I commanded your forefathers.
23 Yet they would not listen or incline their ear, but they stiffened their necks and would not listen or receive my discipline.

24 If, however, you listen carefully to me, says
the LORD, and bring no load through the gates
of this city on the Sabbath day, and keep the
Sabbath day holy, and do no work on it,
25 then kings and princes will enter through
the gates of this city. They will sit on the throne
of David, riding in chariots and on horses with
their officials, along with the men of Judah and
the residents of Jerusalem, and this city will be
inhabited forever.
26 And people will come from the cities of
Judah and the places around Jerusalem, from
the land of Benjamin, and from the foothills,†
the hill country, and the Negev, bringing burnt
offerings and sacrifices, grain offerings and
frankincense, and thank offerings to the house
of the LORD.
27 But if you do not listen to me to keep the
Sabbath day holy by not carrying a load while
entering the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath
day, then I will kindle an unquenchable fire in
its gates to consume the citadels of Jerusalem.' "

18

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from
the LORD:
2 "Go down at once to the potter's house, and
there I will give you my message."
3 So I went down to the potter's house and saw
him working at the wheel.

† **17:26 17:26** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

4 But the vessel that he was shaping from the
clay became flawed in his hand; so he formed it
into another vessel, as it seemed best for him to
do.
5 Then the word of the LORD came to me,
saying,
6 "O house of Israel, declares the LORD, can I
not treat you as this potter treats his clay? Just
like clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my
hand, O house of Israel.
7 At any time I might announce that a nation
or kingdom will be uprooted, torn down, and
destroyed.
8 But if that nation I warned turns from its
evil, then I will relent of the disaster I had
planned to bring.
9 And if at another time I announce that I will
build up and establish a nation or kingdom,
10 and if it does evil in my sight and does not
listen to my voice, then I will relent of the good I
had intended for it.
11 Now therefore, tell the men of Judah and
the residents of Jerusalem that this is what the
LORD says: 'Behold, I am planning a disaster for
you and devising a plan against you. Turn now,
each of you, from your evil ways, and correct
your ways and deeds.'
12 But they will reply, '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:

"Inquire among the nations:
Who has ever heard things like these?

Virgin Israel has done a most terrible thing.
14 Does the snow of Lebanon
ever leave its rocky slopes?
Or do its cool waters flowing from a distance
ever run dry?
15 Yet my people have forgotten me.
They burn incense to worthless idols
that make them stumble in their ways,
leaving the ancient roads
to walk on rutted bypaths
instead of on the highway.
16 They have made their land a desolation,
a perpetual object of scorn;
all who pass by will be appalled
and shake their heads.
17 I will scatter them before the enemy
like the east wind.
I will show them my back and not my face
in the day of their calamity."
18 Then some said, "Come, let us make plans
against Jeremiah, for the law will never be lost
to the priest, nor counsel to the wise, nor an
oracle to the prophet. Come, let us denounce
him and pay no heed to any of his words."

19 Attend to me, O LORD.
Hear what my accusers are saying!
20 Should good be repaid with evil?
Yet they have dug a pit for me.
Remember how I stood before you
to speak good on their behalf,
to turn your wrath from them.

21 Therefore, hand their children over to famine;
pour out the power of the sword upon them.
Let their wives become childless and widowed;
let their husbands be slain by disease,
their young men struck down by the sword
in battle.
22 Let a cry be heard from their houses
when you suddenly bring raiders against
them,
for they have dug a pit to capture me
and have hidden snares for my feet.

23 But you, O LORD, know all their deadly plots
against me.
Do not wipe out their guilt
or blot out their sin from your sight.
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 clay jar from a potter. Take some of the elders of the people and leaders of the priests,
2 and go out to the Valley of Ben-hinnom near the entrance of the Potsherd Gate.
Proclaim there the words I speak to you,
3 saying, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and residents of Jerusalem. This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: I am going to bring such disaster on this place that the ears of all who hear of it will ring,
4 because they have abandoned me and made this a foreign place. They have burned incense

in this place to other gods that neither they nor
their fathers nor the kings of Judah have ever
known. They have filled this place with the
blood of the innocent.
5 They have built high places to Baal on which
to burn their children in the fire as offerings to
Baal—something I never commanded or
mentioned, nor did it even enter my mind.
6 So behold, the days are coming, declares the
LORD, when this place will no longer be called
Topheth or the Valley of Ben-hinnom, but the
Valley of Slaughter.
7 And in this place I will ruin* the plans of
Judah and Jerusalem. I will make them fall by
the sword before their enemies, by the hands of
those who seek their lives, and I will give their
carcasses as food to the birds of the air and the
beasts of the earth.
8 I will make this city a desolation and an
object of scorn.† All who pass by will be
appalled and will scoff at all her wounds.
9 I will make them eat the flesh of their sons
and daughters, and they will eat one another's
flesh in the siege and distress inflicted on them
by their enemies who seek their lives.'
10 Then you are to shatter the jar in the
presence of the men who accompany you,
11 and you are to proclaim to them that this is
what the LORD of Hosts says: I will shatter this
nation and this city, like one shatters a potter's

* **19:7 19:7** The Hebrew term for *ruin* sounds like the Hebrew for *jar*; see verses 1 and 10. † **19:8 19:8** Literally *and a hissing*

jar that can never again be repaired. They will
bury the dead in Topheth until there is no more
room to bury them.

12 This is what I will do to this place and to its
residents, 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 defiled like that place,
Topheth—all the houses on whose rooftops 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, and
he stood in the courtyard of the house of the
LORD and proclaimed to all the people,
15 "This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of
Israel, says: 'Behold, I am about to bring on this
city and on all the villages around it every
disaster I have pronounced against them,
because they have stiffened their necks so as not
to heed my words.' "

20

1 When Pashhur the priest, the son of Immer
and the chief official in the house of the LORD,
heard Jeremiah prophesying these things,
2 he had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put
in the stocks at the Upper Gate of Benjamin,
which was by the house of the LORD.

3 The next day, when Pashhur released
Jeremiah from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him,

“The LORD does not call you Pashhur, but
Magor-missabib.*
4 For this is what the LORD says: ‘I will make
you a terror to yourself and to all your friends.
They will fall by the sword of their enemies
before your very eyes. And I will hand Judah
over to the king of Babylon, and he will carry
them away to Babylon and put them to the
sword.
5 I will give away all the wealth of this city—all
its products and valuables, and all the treasures
of the kings of Judah—to their enemies. They
will plunder them, seize them, and carry them
off to Babylon.
6 And you, Pashhur, and all who live in your
house, will go into captivity. You will go to
Babylon, and there you will die and be
buried—you and all your friends to whom you
have prophesied these lies.’ ”
7 You have deceived me, O LORD, and I was
deceived.
You have overcome me and prevailed.
I am 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 to me
a reproach and derision all day long.

9 If I say, “I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,”

* **20:3 20:3** *Magor-missabib* means *terror on every side* or *the man who lives in terror*.

his message becomes a fire burning in my heart,
shut up in my bones,
and I become weary of holding it in,
and I cannot prevail.
10 For I have heard the whispering of many:
"Terror is on every side!
Report him; let us report him!"
All my trusted friends
watch for my fall:
"Perhaps he will be deceived
so that we may prevail against him
and take our vengeance upon him."

11 But the LORD is with me like a fearsome warrior.
Therefore, my persecutors will stumble and will not prevail.
Since they have not succeeded, they will be utterly put to shame,
with an everlasting disgrace that will never be forgotten.
12 O LORD of Hosts, who examines the righteous,
who sees the heart† and mind,
let me see your vengeance upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

13 Sing to the LORD!
Praise the LORD!
For he rescues the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

14 Cursed be the day I was born!

† **20:12 20:12** Hebrew *kidneys*

May the day my mother bore me never be
blessed.
15 Cursed be the man who brought my father the
news,
saying, “A son is born to you,”
bringing him great joy.
16 May that man be like the cities
that the LORD overthrew without
compassion.
May he hear an outcry in the morning
and a battle cry at noon,
17 because he did not kill me in the womb
so that my mother might have been my
grave,
and her womb forever enlarged.
18 Why did I come out of the womb
to see only trouble and sorrow,
and to end my days in shame?

21

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from
the LORD when King Zedekiah sent to him
Pashhur son of Malchijah and the priest
Zephaniah son of Maaseiah. They said,
2 “Please inquire of the LORD on our behalf,
since Nebuchadrezzar* king of Babylon is
waging war against us. Perhaps the LORD will
perform for us something like all his past
wonders, so that Nebuchadrezzar will withdraw
from us.”

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* **21:2 21:2** A variant of *Nebuchadnezzar*; Jeremiah uses both spellings, and each verse follows its own Hebrew.

3 But Jeremiah answered, “You are to tell Zedekiah that
4 this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says:
‘I will turn against you the weapons of war in your hands, with which you are fighting the king of Babylon and the Chaldeans† who besiege you outside the wall, and I will assemble their forces in the center of this city.
5 And I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and a mighty arm, with anger, fury, and great wrath.
6 I will strike down the residents of this city, both man and beast. They will die in a terrible plague.’
7 ‘After that,’ declares the LORD, ‘I will hand over Zedekiah king of Judah, his officers, and the people in this city who survive the plague and sword and famine, to Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and to their enemies who seek their lives. He will put them to the sword; he will not spare them or show pity or compassion.’
8 Furthermore, you are to tell this people that this is what the LORD says: ‘Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death.
9 Whoever stays in this city will die by sword and famine and plague, but whoever goes out and surrenders to the Chaldeans who besiege you will live; he will retain his life like a spoil of war.
10 For I have set my face against this city to bring disaster and not good, declares the LORD.

† **21:4 21:4** That is, the Babylonians; also in verse 9

It will be delivered into the hand of the king of
Babylon, who will destroy it with fire.'
11 Moreover, tell the house of the king of Judah
to hear the word of the LORD.
12 O house of David, this is what the LORD
says:

'Administer justice every morning,
and rescue the victim of robbery
from the hand of his oppressor,
or my wrath will go forth like fire
and burn with no one to extinguish it
because of your evil deeds.‡

13 Behold, I am against you who dwell above the
valley,
atop the rocky plateau—
declares the LORD—
you who say, "Who can come against us?
Who can enter our dwellings?"
14 I will punish you as your deeds deserve,
declares the LORD.
I will kindle a fire in your forest
that will consume everything around you.' "

22

1 This is what the LORD says: "Go down to the
palace of the king of Judah and proclaim this
message there,
2 saying, 'Hear the word of the LORD, O king of
Judah, who sits on the throne of David—you and

‡ **21:12 21:12** Qere; Ketiv *their evil deeds*

your officials and your people who enter these gates.
3 This is what the LORD says: Administer
justice and righteousness. Rescue the victim of
robbery from the hand of his oppressor. Do no
wrong or violence to the foreigner, the
fatherless, or the widow. Do not shed innocent
blood in this place.
4 For if you will indeed carry out these
commands, then kings who sit on David's throne
will enter through the gates of this palace riding
on chariots and horses—they and their officials
and their people.
5 But if you do not obey these words, then I
swear by myself, declares the LORD, that this
house will become a pile of rubble.' "
6 For this is what the LORD says concerning
the house of the king of Judah:

"You are like Gilead to me,
like the summit of Lebanon;
but I will surely turn you into a desert,
like cities that are uninhabited.
7 I will appoint destroyers against you,
each man with his weapons,
and they will cut down the choicest of your
cedars
and throw them into the fire.
8 And many nations will pass by this city and
ask one another, 'Why has the LORD done such a
thing to this great city?'
9 Then people will reply, 'Because they have
forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God
and have worshiped and served other gods.' "

10 Do not weep for him who is dead;
do not mourn his loss.
Weep bitterly for him who is exiled,
for he will never return
to see his native land.
11 For this is what the LORD says concerning
Shallum* son of Josiah, king of Judah, who
succeeded his father Josiah but has gone forth
from this place: “He will never return,
12 but he will die in the place to which he was
exiled; he will never see this land again.”
13 “Woe to him who builds his palace by
unrighteousness,
and his upper rooms without justice,
who makes his countrymen serve without pay,
and fails to pay their wages,
14 who says, ‘I will build myself a great palace,
with spacious upper rooms.’
So he cuts windows in it,
panels it with cedar,
and paints it with vermilion.

15 Does it make you a king to excel† in cedar?
Did not your father have food and drink?
He administered justice and righteousness,
and so it went well with him.
16 He took up the cause of the poor and needy,
and so it went well with him.
Is this not what it means to know me?”
declares the LORD.
17 “But your eyes and heart are set on nothing

* **22:11 22:11** *Shallum* was also called *Jehoahaz*. † **22:15 22:15** Or *because you enclose yourself*

except your own dishonest gain,
on shedding innocent blood,
on practicing extortion and oppression."
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, my sister!'
They will not mourn for him:
'Alas, my master! Alas, his splendor!'
19 He will be buried like a donkey,
dragged away and thrown outside the gates
of Jerusalem.
20 Go up to Lebanon and cry out;
raise your voice in Bashan;
cry out from Abarim,
for all your lovers have been crushed.

21 I warned you when you were secure.
You said, 'I will not listen.'
This has been your way from youth,
that you have not obeyed my voice.
22 The wind will drive away all your shepherds,
and your lovers will go into captivity.
Then you will be ashamed and humiliated
because of all your wickedness.
23 O inhabitant of Lebanon,‡
nestled in the cedars,
how you will groan when pangs of anguish
come upon you,

‡ **22:23 22:23** That is, the palace in Jerusalem; see 1 Kings 7:2.

agony like a woman in labor.”
24 “As surely as I live,” declares the LORD,
“even if you, Coniah§ son of Jehoiakim king of
Judah, were a signet ring on my right hand, I
would pull you off.
25 In fact, I will hand you over to those you
dread, who want to take your life—to
Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and to the
Chaldeans.*
26 I will hurl you and the mother who gave
you birth into another land, where neither of
you were born—and there you both will die.
27 They will never return to the land for which
they long.”

28 Is this man Coniah a despised and shattered
pot,
a jar that no one wants?
Why are he and his descendants hurled out
and cast into a land they do not know?
29 O land, land, land,
hear the word of the LORD!
30 This is what the LORD says:

“Enroll this man as childless,
a man who will not prosper in his lifetime.
None of his descendants will prosper
to sit on the throne of David
or to rule again in Judah.”

§ **22:24 22:24** *Coniah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; also in verse 28.
* **22:25 22:25** That is, the Babylonians

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 about the shepherds who tend my
people: “You have scattered my flock and driven
them away, and have not attended to them.
Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your
deeds, declares the LORD.
3 Then I myself will gather the remnant of my
flock from all the lands to which I have banished
them, and I will return them to their pasture,
where they will be fruitful and multiply.
4 I will raise up shepherds over them who will
tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or
dismayed, nor will any go missing, declares the
LORD.

5 Behold, the days are coming,
declares the LORD,
when I will raise up for David’s line*
a righteous branch,
and he will reign wisely as king
and will administer justice and
righteousness in the land.
6 In his days Judah will be saved,
and Israel will dwell securely.
And this is his name by which he will be called:
The LORD Is our Righteousness.†

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* **23:5 23:5** Or *up for David* † **23:6 23:6** Hebrew *YHWH Tsidqenu*; or *The LORD our Righteousness*

7 So behold, the days are coming, declares the
LORD, when they will no longer say, ‘As surely
as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up
out of the land of Egypt.’
8 Instead they will say, ‘As surely as the LORD
lives, who brought and led the descendants of
the house of Israel up out of the land of the
north and all the other lands to which he had
banished them.’ Then they will dwell once more
in their own land.”
9 As for the prophets:

My heart is broken within me,
and all my bones tremble.
I have become like a drunkard,
like a man overcome by wine,
because of the LORD,
because of his holy words.
10 For the land is full of adulterers—
because of the curse, the land mourns
and the pastures of the wilderness have
dried up—
their course is evil
and their power is misused.

11 “For both prophet and priest are ungodly;
even in my house I have found their
wickedness,”
declares the LORD.
12 “Therefore their path will become slick;
they will be driven away into the darkness
and fall into 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 an offensive thing:
They prophesied by Baal
and led my people Israel astray.
14 And among the prophets of Jerusalem
I have seen a horrible thing:
They commit adultery
and walk in lies.
They strengthen the hands of evildoers,
so that no one turns his back on wickedness.
They are all like Sodom to me;
the people of Jerusalem are like Gomorrah.”
15 Therefore this is what the LORD of Hosts
says concerning the prophets:

“I will feed them wormwood
and give them poisoned water to drink,
for from the prophets of Jerusalem
ungodliness has spread throughout the
land.”
16 This is what the LORD of Hosts says:

“Do not listen to the words of the prophets who
prophesy to you.
They are filling you with false hopes.
They speak visions from their own minds,
not from the mouth of the LORD.
17 They keep saying to those who despise me,
‘The LORD says that you will have peace,’
and to everyone who walks in the stubbornness
of his own heart,
‘No harm will come to you.’

18 But which of them has stood in the council of
the LORD
to see and hear his word?
Who has given heed to his word‡
and obeyed it?
19 Behold, the storm of the LORD
has gone out with fury,
a whirlwind swirling down
upon the heads of the wicked.
20 The anger of the LORD will not turn back
until he has fully accomplished the
purposes of his heart.
In the days to come
you will understand this clearly.

21 I did not send these prophets,
yet they have run with their message;
I did not speak to them,
yet they have prophesied.
22 But if they had stood in my council,
they would have proclaimed my words to
my people
and turned them back
from their evil ways and deeds."

23 "Am I only a God nearby," declares the
LORD, "and not a God far away?"
24 "Can a man hide in secret places where I
cannot see him?" declares the LORD.
"Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?"
declares the LORD.

‡ **23:18 23:18** Qere; Ketiv *my word*

25 “I have heard the sayings of the prophets
who prophesy lies in my name: ‘I had a dream! I
had a dream!’
26 How long will this continue in the hearts of
these prophets who prophesy falsehood, these
prophets of the delusion of their own minds?
27 They suppose the dreams that they tell one
another will make my people forget my name,
just as their fathers forgot my name through the
worship of Baal.
28 Let the prophet who has a dream retell it,
but let him who has my word speak it truthfully.
For what is straw compared to grain?” declares
the LORD.
29 “Is not my word like fire,” declares the
LORD, “and like a hammer that smashes a rock?”
30 “Therefore behold,” declares the LORD, “I am
against the prophets who steal from one another
words they attribute to me.”
31 “Yes,” declares the LORD, “I am against the
prophets who wag their own tongues and
proclaim, ‘The LORD declares it.’ ”
32 “Indeed,” declares the LORD, “I am against
those who prophesy false dreams and retell
them to lead my people astray with their
reckless lies. It was not I who sent them or
commanded them, and they are of no benefit at
all to these people,” declares the LORD.
33 “Now when this people or a prophet or
priest asks you, ‘What is the burden of the
LORD?’ you are to say to them, ‘What burden? I
will forsake you, declares the LORD.’

34 As for the prophet or priest or anyone who
claims, ‘This is the burden of the LORD,’ I will
punish that man and his household.
35 This is what each man is to say to his friend
and to his brother: ‘What has the LORD
answered?’ or ‘What has the LORD spoken?’
36 But refer no more to the burden of the
LORD, for each man’s word becomes the
burden, so that you pervert the words of the
living God, the LORD of Hosts, our God.
37 Thus you are to say to the prophet: ‘What
has the LORD answered you?’ and ‘What has the
LORD spoken?’
38 But if you claim, ‘This is the burden of the
LORD,’ then this is what the LORD says: Because
you have said, ‘This is the burden of the LORD,’
and I specifically told you not to make this claim,
39 therefore I will surely forget you and will
cast you out of my presence, both you and the
city that I gave to you and your fathers.
40 And I will bring upon you everlasting
shame and perpetual humiliation that will
never be forgotten.”

24

1 After Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon had
carried away Jeconiah* son of Jehoiakim king of
Judah, as well as the officials of Judah and the
craftsmen and metalsmiths from Jerusalem, and
had brought them to Babylon,† the LORD

* **24:1 24:1** *Jeconiah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; see 2 Kings 24:12.
† **24:1 24:1** Or *metalsmiths, and had brought them from Jerusalem to Babylon*

showed me two baskets of figs placed in front of the temple of the LORD.

2 One basket had very good figs, like those that ripen early, but the other basket contained very poor figs, so bad they could not be eaten.

3 “Jeremiah,” the LORD asked, “what do you see?”

“Figs!” I replied. “The good figs are very good, but the bad figs are very bad, so bad they cannot be eaten.”

4 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

5 “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Like these good figs, so I regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I have sent away from this place to the land of the Chaldeans.‡

6 I will keep my eyes on them for good and will return them 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 all their heart.

8 But like the bad figs, so bad they cannot be eaten,’ says the LORD, ‘so will I deal with Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials, and the remnant of Jerusalem—those remaining in this land and those living in the land of Egypt.

9 I will make them a horror and an offense to all the kingdoms of the earth, a disgrace and an

‡ **24:5 24:5** That is, the Babylonians

object of scorn, ridicule, and cursing wherever I
have banished them.
10 And I will send against them sword and
famine and plague, until they have perished
from the land that I gave to them and their
fathers.' "

25

1 This is 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 Nebuchadrezzar king
of Babylon.
2 So the prophet Jeremiah spoke to all the
people of Judah and all the residents of
Jerusalem as follows:
3 "From the thirteenth year of Josiah son of
Amon king of Judah until this very
day—twenty-three years—the word of the LORD
has come to me, and I have spoken to you again
and again,* but you have not listened.
4 And the LORD has sent all his servants the
prophets to you again and again,† but you have
not listened or inclined your ear to hear.
5 The prophets told you, 'Turn now, each of
you, from your evil ways and deeds, and you
can dwell in the land that the LORD has given to
you and your fathers forever and ever.
6 Do not follow other gods to serve and
worship them, and do not provoke me to anger

* **25:3 25:3** Literally *I have spoken to you, rising up early and speaking,* † **25:4 25:4** Literally *to you, rising up early and sending (them),*

with the works of your hands. Then I will do
you no harm.'
7 'But to your own harm, you have not listened
to me,' declares the LORD, 'so you have provoked
me to anger with the works of your hands.'
8 Therefore this is what the LORD of Hosts
says: 'Because you have not obeyed my words,
9 behold, I will summon all the families of the
north, declares the LORD, and I will send for my
servant Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, whom
I will bring against this land, against its
residents, and against all the surrounding
nations. So I will devote them to destruction‡
and make them an object of horror and
contempt, an everlasting desolation.
10 Moreover, I will banish from them the
sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of the
bride and bridegroom, the sound of the
millstones, and the light of the lamp.
11 And this whole land will become a desolate
wasteland, and these nations will serve the king
of Babylon for seventy years.
12 But when seventy years are complete, I will
punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the
land of the Chaldeans,§ for their guilt, declares
the LORD, and I will make it an everlasting
desolation.
13 I will bring upon that land all the words I
have pronounced against it, all that is written in

‡ **25:9 25:9** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. § **25:12 25:12** That is, the Babylonians

this book, which Jeremiah has prophesied
against all the nations.
14 For many nations and great kings will
enslave them, and I will repay them according
to their deeds and according to the work of their
hands.' "
15 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 from it.
16 And they will drink and stagger and go out
of their minds, because of the sword that I will
send among them."
17 So I took the cup from the LORD's hand and
made all the nations drink from it, each one to
whom the LORD had sent me,
18 to make them a ruin, an object of horror
and contempt and cursing, as they are to this
day—Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, its kings
and officials;
19 Pharaoh king of Egypt, his officials, his
leaders, and all his people;
20 all the mixed tribes; all the kings of Uz; all
the kings of the Philistines: Ashkelon, Gaza,
Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod;
21 Edom, Moab, and the Ammonites;
22 all the kings of Tyre and Sidon; the kings of
the coastlands across the sea;
23 Dedan, Tema, Buz, and all who cut the
corners of their hair;
24 all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of
the mixed tribes who dwell in the desert;
25 all the kings of Zimri, Elam, and Media;

26 all the kings of the north, both near and far,
one after another—all the kingdoms on the face
of the earth. And after all of them, the king of
Sheshach* will drink it too.
27 "Then you are to tell them that this is what
the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says:
'Drink, get drunk, and vomit. Fall down and
never get up again, because of the sword I will
send among you.'
28 If they refuse to take the cup from your
hand and drink it, you are to tell them that this
is what the LORD of Hosts says: 'You most
certainly must drink it!
29 For behold, I am beginning to bring disaster
on the city that bears my Name, so how could
you possibly go unpunished? You will not go
unpunished, for I am calling down a sword
upon all the inhabitants of the earth, declares
the LORD of Hosts.'
30 So you are to prophesy all these words
against them and say to them:

'The LORD will roar from on high;
he will raise his voice from his holy
habitation.
He will roar loudly over his pasture;
like those who tread the grapes,
he will call out with a shout
against all the inhabitants of the earth.
31 The tumult will resound to the ends of the
earth

* **25:26 25:26** *Sheshach* is a code name for Babylon.

because the LORD brings a charge against
the nations.
He brings judgment on all mankind
and puts the wicked to the sword,' "
declares the LORD.
32 This is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"Behold! Disaster is spreading
from nation to nation;
a mighty storm is rising
from the ends of the earth."
33 Those slain by the LORD on that day will be
spread from one end of the earth to the other.
They will not be mourned, gathered, or buried.
They will be like dung lying on the ground.
34 Wail, you shepherds, and cry out;
roll in the dust, you leaders of the flock.
For the days of your slaughter have come;
you will fall and be shattered like fine
pottery.†
35 Flight will evade the shepherds,
and escape will elude the leaders of the
flock.
36 Hear the cry of the shepherds,
the wailing of the leaders of the flock,
for the LORD is destroying their pasture.
37 The peaceful meadows have been silenced
because of the LORD's burning anger.
38 He has left his den like a lion,
for their land has been made a desolation

† **25:34 25:34** LXX *you will fall like the best of the rams*

by the anger‡ of the oppressor,
and because of the fierce anger of the LORD.

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 house of the LORD and speak
all the words I have commanded you to speak to
all the cities of Judah who come to worship
there. Do not omit a word.
3 Perhaps they will listen and turn—each from
his evil way of life—so that I may relent of the
disaster I am planning to bring upon them
because of the evil of their deeds.
4 And you are to tell them that this is what the
LORD says: 'If you do not listen to me and walk
in my law, which I have set before you,
5 and if you do not listen to the words of my
servants the prophets, whom I have sent you
again and again* even though you did not listen,
6 then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I
will make this city an object of cursing among
all the nations of the earth.' "
7 Now the priests and prophets and all the
people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in
the house of the LORD,

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‡ **25:38 25:38** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX (see also Jeremiah 46:16 and Jeremiah 50:16) *sword* * **26:5 26:5** Literally *I have sent you, rising up early and sending (them),*

8 and as soon as he had finished telling all the
people everything the LORD had commanded
him to say, the priests and prophets and all the
people seized him, shouting, “You must surely
die!
9 How dare you prophesy in the name of the
LORD that this house will become like Shiloh
and this city will be desolate and deserted!”
And all the people assembled against
Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.
10 When the officials of Judah heard these
things, they went up from the king's palace to
the house of the LORD and sat there at the
entrance of the New Gate of the LORD.
11 Then the priests and prophets said to the
officials and all the people, “This man is worthy
of death, for he has prophesied against this city,
as you have heard with your own ears!”
12 But Jeremiah said to all the officials and all
the people, “The LORD sent me to prophesy
against this house and against this city all the
words that you have heard.
13 So now, correct your ways and deeds, and
obey the voice of the LORD your God, so that he
might relent of the disaster he has pronounced
against you.
14 As for me, here I am in your hands; do to
me what you think is good and right.
15 But know for certain that if you put me to
death, you will bring innocent blood upon
yourselves, upon this city, and upon its
residents; for truly the LORD has sent me to
speak all these words in your hearing.”

16 Then the officials and all the people told the
priests and prophets, “This man is not worthy 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† the Moreshite prophesied in the
days of Hezekiah king of Judah and told all the
people of Judah that this is what the LORD of
Hosts says:

‘Zion will be plowed like a field,
Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble,
and the temple mount a wooded ridge.’‡

19 Did Hezekiah king of Judah or anyone else
in Judah put him to death? Did Hezekiah not
fear the LORD and seek his favor, and did not
the LORD relent of the disaster he had
pronounced against them? But we are about to
bring great harm on ourselves!”
20 Now there was another man prophesying in
the name of the LORD, Uriah son of Shemaiah
from Kiriath-jearim. He prophesied against this
city and against this land the same things that
Jeremiah did.§
21 King Jehoiakim and all his mighty men and
officials heard his words, and the king sought to
put him to death. But when Uriah found out
about it, he fled in fear and went to Egypt.

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† **26:18 26:18** Qere; Ketiv *Micaiah* ‡ **26:18 26:18** Micah 3:12
§ **26:20 26:20** Literally *according to all the words of Jeremiah*

22 Then King Jehoiakim sent men to Egypt:
Elnathan son of Achbor along with some other
men.
23 They brought Uriah out of Egypt and took
him to King Jehoiakim, who had him put to the
sword and his body thrown into the burial place
of the common people.
24 Nevertheless, Ahikam son of Shaphan
supported Jeremiah, so he was not handed over
to 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 for yourself a yoke out of leather straps
and put it on your neck.
3 Then send them to the kings of Edom, Moab,
Ammon, Tyre, and Sidon through the envoys
who have come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of
Judah.
4 Give them a message from the LORD of
Hosts, the God of Israel, to relay to their masters:
5 By my great power and outstretched arm, I
made the earth and the men and beasts on the
face of it, and I give it to whom I please.
6 So now I have placed all these lands under
the authority of my servant Nebuchadnezzar

* **27:1 27:1** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; a few Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac (see also verses 3 and 12, and Jeremiah 28:1) *Zedekiah* † **27:1 27:1** Most LXX manuscripts do not include this verse.

king of Babylon. I have even made the beasts of the field subject to him.
7 All nations will serve him and his son and grandson, until the time of his own land comes; then many nations and great kings will enslave him.
8 As for the nation or kingdom that does not serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and does not place its neck under his yoke, I will punish that nation by sword and famine and plague, declares the LORD, until I have destroyed it by his hand.
9 But as for you, do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your interpreters of dreams, your mediums, or your sorcerers who declare, 'You will not serve the king of Babylon.'
10 For they prophesy to you a lie that will serve to remove you from your land; I will banish you and you will perish.
11 But the nation that will put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will leave in its own land, to cultivate it and reside in it, declares the LORD."
12 And to Zedekiah king of Judah I spoke the same message: "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 and famine and plague, as the LORD has decreed against any nation that does not serve the king of Babylon?
14 Do not listen to the words of the prophets who say, 'You must not serve the king of

Babylon,' for they are prophesying to you a lie.
15 For I have not sent them, declares the LORD,
and yet they are prophesying falsely in my
name; therefore I will banish you, and you will
perish—you and the prophets who prophesy to
you."

16 Then I said to the priests and to all this
people, "This is what the LORD says: Do not
listen to the words of your prophets who
prophesy to you, saying, 'Look, very soon now
the articles from the house of the LORD will be
brought back from Babylon.' They are
prophesying to you a lie.
17 Do not listen to them. Serve the king of
Babylon and live! Why should this city become a
ruin?

18 If they are indeed prophets and the word of
the LORD is with them, let them now plead with
the LORD of Hosts that the articles remaining in
the house of the LORD, in the palace of the king
of Judah, and in Jerusalem, not be taken to
Babylon.

19 For this is what the LORD of Hosts says
about the pillars, the sea, the bases, and the rest
of the articles that remain 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.

‡ **27:20 27:20** *Jeconiah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; see 2 Kings 24:12.

21 Yes, this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God
of Israel, says about the articles that remain in
the house of the LORD, in the palace of the king
of Judah, and in Jerusalem:
22 'They will be carried to Babylon and will
remain there until the day I attend to them
again,' declares the LORD. 'Then I will bring
them back and restore them to this place.' "

28

1 In the fifth month of that same year, the
fourth year, near the beginning of the reign of
King Zedekiah of Judah, the prophet Hananiah
son of Azzur, who was from Gibeon, said to me
in the house of the LORD in the presence of 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 years I will restore to this place
all the articles of the house of the LORD that
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon removed from
here and carried to Babylon.
4 And I will restore to this place Jeconiah* son
of Jehoiakim king of Judah, along with all the
exiles from Judah who went to Babylon,'
declares the LORD, 'for I will break the yoke of
the king of Babylon.' "
5 Then the prophet Jeremiah replied to the
prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests

* **28:4 28:4** *Jeconiah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; see 2 Kings 24:12.

and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD.
6 “Amen!” Jeremiah the prophet said. “May the LORD do so! May the LORD fulfill the words you have prophesied, and may he restore the articles of his house and all the exiles back to this place from Babylon.
7 Nevertheless, listen now to this message I am speaking in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people.
8 The prophets of old who preceded you and me prophesied war, disaster, and plague against many lands and great kingdoms.
9 As for the prophet who prophesies peace, only if the word of the prophet comes true will the prophet be recognized as one the LORD has truly sent.”
10 Then the prophet Hananiah took the yoke off the neck of Jeremiah the prophet and broke it.
11 And in the presence of all the people Hananiah proclaimed, “This is what the LORD says: ‘In this way, within two years I will break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon off the neck of all the nations.’ ”
At this, Jeremiah the prophet went on his way.
12 But shortly after Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke off his neck, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:
13 “Go and tell Hananiah that this is what the LORD says: ‘You have broken a yoke of wood, but in its place you have fashioned a yoke of iron.’

14 For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God
of Israel, says: ‘I have put a yoke of iron on the
neck of all these nations to make them serve
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and they will
serve him. I have even given him control of the
beasts of the field.’ ”
15 Then the prophet Jeremiah said to the
prophet Hananiah, “Listen, Hananiah! The
LORD did not send you, but you have persuaded
this people to trust in a lie.
16 Therefore this is what the LORD says: ‘I am
about to remove you from the face of the earth.
You will die this year because you have
preached rebellion against the LORD.’ ”
17 And in the seventh month of that very year,
the prophet Hananiah died.

29

1 This is the text of the letter that Jeremiah the
prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving
elders among the exiles and to the priests, the
prophets, and all the others Nebuchadnezzar
had carried into exile from Jerusalem to
Babylon.
2 (This was after King Jeconiah,* the queen
mother, the court officials, the officials of Judah
and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the
metalsmiths had been exiled from Jerusalem.)
3 The letter was entrusted to Elasah son of
Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom

* **29:2 29:2** *Jeconiah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin*; see 2 Kings 24:12.

Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King
Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It stated:
4 This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of
Israel, says to all the exiles who were carried
away from Jerusalem to Babylon:
5 “Build houses and settle down. Plant gardens
and eat their produce.
6 Take wives and have sons and daughters.
Take wives for your sons and give your
daughters in marriage, so that they too may
have sons and daughters. Multiply there; do not
decrease.
7 Seek the prosperity of the city to which I
have sent you as exiles. Pray to the LORD on its
behalf, for if it prospers, you too will prosper.”
8 For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God
of Israel, says: “Do not be deceived by the
prophets and diviners among you, and do not
listen to the dreams you elicit from them.
9 For they are falsely prophesying to you in my
name; I have not sent them, declares the LORD.”†
10 For this is what the LORD says: “When
Babylon’s seventy years are complete, I will
attend to you and confirm my promise to restore
you to this place.
11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares
the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm
you, to give you a future and a hope.
12 Then you will call upon me and come and
pray to me, and I will listen to you.

† **29:9 29:9** Some translators close the written portion of this letter later in the chapter.

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,
and I will restore your fortunes‡ and gather you
from all the nations and places to which I have
banished you, declares the LORD. I will restore
you to the place from which I sent you into
exile."
15 Because you may say, "The LORD has raised
up for us prophets in Babylon,"
16 this is what the LORD says about the king
who sits on David's throne and all the people
who remain in this city, your brothers who did
not go with you into exile—
17 this is what the LORD of Hosts says:
"I will send against them sword and famine
and plague, and I will make them like rotten
figs, so bad they cannot be eaten.
18 I will pursue them with sword and famine
and plague. I will make them a horror to all the
kingdoms of the earth—a curse, a desolation,
and an object of scorn and reproach among all
the nations to which I banish them.
19 I will do this because they have not listened
to my words, declares the LORD, which I sent to
them again and again§ through my servants the
prophets. And neither have you exiles listened,
declares the LORD."
20 So hear the word of the LORD, all you exiles
I have sent away from Jerusalem to Babylon.

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‡ **29:14 29:14** Or *restore you from captivity* § **29:19 29:19** Literally *I sent to them, rising up early and sending (to them)*

21 This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of
Israel, says about Ahab son of Kolaiah and
Zedekiah son of Maaseiah, who are prophesying
to you lies in my name: “I will deliver them to
Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and he will
kill them before your very eyes.
22 Because of them, all the exiles of Judah who
are in Babylon will use this curse: ‘May the
LORD make you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom
the king of Babylon roasted in the fire!’
23 For they have committed an outrage in
Israel by committing adultery with the wives of
their neighbors and speaking lies in my name,
which I did not command them to do. I am he
who knows, and I am a witness, declares the
LORD.”
24 You are to tell Shemaiah the Nehelamite that
25 this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of
Israel, says: “In your own name you have sent
out letters to all the people of Jerusalem, to the
priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah, and to all the
priests, saying:
26 ‘The LORD has appointed you priest in place
of Jehoiada, to be the chief officer in the house
of the LORD, responsible for any madman who
acts like a prophet—you must put him in stocks
and neck irons.
27 So now, why have you not rebuked
Jeremiah of Anathoth, who poses as a prophet
among you?
28 For he has sent to us in Babylon, claiming:
Since the exile will be lengthy, build houses and
settle down; plant gardens and eat their
produce.’ ”

29 (Zephaniah the priest, however, had read
this letter to Jeremiah the prophet.)
30 Then the word of the LORD came to
Jeremiah:
31 “Send a message telling all the exiles 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 this is what the LORD says: ‘I will surely
punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his
descendants. He will have no one left among
this people, nor will he see the good that I will
bring to my people, declares the LORD, for he
has preached rebellion against the LORD.’ ”

30

1 This is 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 that I have
spoken to you.
3 For behold, the days are coming, declares the
LORD, when I will restore the fortunes of* my
people Israel and Judah, declares the LORD. I
will restore them to the land that I gave to their
fathers, and they will possess it.’ ”
4 These are the words that the LORD spoke
concerning Israel and Judah.
5 Yes, this is what the LORD says:

“A cry of panic is heard—

* **30:3 30:3** Or *restore from captivity*

a cry of terror, not of peace.
6 Ask now, and see:
Can a male give birth?
Why then do I see every man
with his hands on his stomach like a woman
in labor
and every face turned pale?
7 How awful that day will be!
None will be like it!
It is the time of Jacob's distress,
but he will be saved out of it.

8 On that day,
declares the LORD of Hosts,
I will break his yoke off your neck
and tear off your bonds,
and no longer will strangers enslave him.†
9 Instead, they will serve the LORD their God
and David their king,
whom I will raise up for them.

10 As for you, O Jacob my servant, do not be
afraid,
declares the LORD,
and do not be dismayed,
O Israel.
For I will surely save you out of a distant place,
your descendants from the land of their
captivity!
Jacob will return to quiet and ease,
with no one to make him afraid.
11 For I am with you to save you,

† **30:8 30:8** LXX *the yoke off their necks … their bonds … enslave them*

declares the LORD.
Though I will completely destroy all the nations
to which I have scattered you,
I will not completely destroy you.
Yet I will discipline you justly,
and will by no means leave you
unpunished."
12 For this is what the LORD says:

"Your injury is incurable;
your wound is grievous.
13 There is no one to plead your cause,
no remedy for your sores,
no recovery for you.
14 All your lovers have forgotten you;
they no longer seek you,
for I have struck you as an enemy would,
with the discipline of someone cruel,
because of your great iniquity
and your numerous sins.

15 Why do you cry out over your wound?
Your pain has no cure!
Because of your great iniquity
and your numerous sins
I have done these things to you.

16 Nevertheless, all who devour you will be
devoured,
and all your adversaries—every one of
them—
will go off into exile.
Those who plundered you will be plundered,

and all who raided you will be raided.
17 But I will restore your health and heal your
wounds,
declares the LORD,
because they call you an outcast,
Zion, for whom no one cares."

18 This is what the LORD says:

"I will restore the fortunes of‡ Jacob's tents
and have compassion on his dwellings.
And the city will be rebuilt on her own ruins,
and the palace will stand in its rightful
place.
19 Thanksgiving will proceed from them,
a sound of celebration.
I will multiply them, and they will not be
decreased;
I will honor them, and they will not be
belittled.
20 Their children will be as in days of old,
and their congregation will be established
before me;
and I will punish all their oppressors.
21 Their leader will be one of their own,
and their ruler will arise from their midst.
And I will bring him near, and he will approach
me,
for who would dare on his own to approach
me?"
declares the LORD.
22 "And you will be my people,
and I will be your God."

‡ **30:18 30:18** Or *restore from captivity*

23 Behold, the storm of the LORD
has gone out with fury,
a whirlwind swirling down
upon the heads of the wicked.
24 The fierce anger of the LORD will not turn
back
until he has fully accomplished the
purposes of his heart.
In the days to come
you will understand this.

31

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

"The people who survived the sword
found favor in the wilderness
when Israel went to find rest."
3 The LORD appeared to me in the past,
saying:*

"I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have drawn you with loving
devotion.
4 Again I will build you, and you will be rebuilt,
O Virgin Israel.
Again you will take up your tambourines
and go out in joyful dancing.
5 Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of
Samaria;

* **31:3 31:3** Or *The LORD appeared to me from afar, saying*; LXX *to him*

the farmers will plant and enjoy the fruit.
6 For there will be a day when watchmen will
call out
on the hills of Ephraim,
‘Arise, let us go up to Zion,
to the LORD our God!’ ”
7 For this is what the LORD says:

“Sing with joy for Jacob;
shout for the foremost of the nations!
Make your praises heard, and say,
‘O LORD, save your people,
the remnant of Israel!’

8 Behold, I will bring them from the land of the
north
and gather them from the farthest parts of
the earth,
including the blind and the lame,
expectant mothers and women in labor.
They will return as a great assembly!

9 They will come with weeping,
and by their supplication I will lead them;
I will make them walk beside streams of waters,
on a level path where they will not stumble.
For I am Israel’s Father,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.”

10 Hear, O nations, the word of the LORD,
and proclaim it in distant coastlands:

“The One who scattered Israel will gather them
and keep them

as a shepherd keeps his flock.
11 For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and redeemed him from the hand that had
overpowered him.
12 They will come and shout for joy on the
heights of Zion;
they will be radiant over the bounty of the
LORD—
the grain, new wine, and oil,
and the young of the flocks and herds.
Their life will be like a well-watered garden,
and never again will they languish.

13 Then the maidens will rejoice with dancing,
young men and old as well.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
and give them comfort and joy for their
sorrow.
14 I will fill the souls of the priests abundantly,
and will fill my people with my goodness,"
declares the LORD.
15 This is what the LORD says:

"A voice is heard in Ramah,
mourning and great weeping,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."
16 This is what the LORD says:

"Keep your voice from weeping
and your eyes from tears,
for the reward for your work will come,
declares the LORD.

Then your children will return
from the land of the enemy.
17 So there is hope for your future,
declares the LORD,
and your children will return
to their own land.

18 I have surely heard Ephraim's† moaning:

'You disciplined me severely,
like an untrained calf.
Restore me, that I may return,
for you are the LORD my God.
19 After I returned, I repented;
and after I was instructed, I struck my thigh
in grief.
I was ashamed and humiliated
because I bore the disgrace of my youth.'

20 Is not Ephraim a precious son to me,
a delightful child?
Though I often speak against him,
I still remember him.
Therefore my heart yearns for him;‡
I have great compassion for him,"
declares the LORD.
21 "Set up the road markers,
put up the signposts.
Keep the highway in mind,
the road you have traveled.
Return, O Virgin Israel,

† **31:18 31:18** That is, the northern kingdom of Israel; also in verse 20 ‡ **31:20 31:20** Hebrew *my bowels yearn for him*

return to these cities of yours.
22 How long will you wander,
O faithless daughter?
For the LORD has created a new thing in the land—
a woman will shelter§ a man."

23 This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: "When I restore their fortunes,* they will once again speak this word in the land of Judah and in its cities: 'May the LORD bless you, O righteous dwelling place, O holy mountain.'
24 And Judah and all its cities will dwell together in the land, the farmers and those who move with the flocks,
25 for I will refresh the weary soul and replenish all who are weak."
26 At this I awoke and looked around. My sleep had been most pleasant to me.
27 "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 of beast.
28 Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, to demolish, destroy, and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant," declares the LORD.
29 "In those days, it will no longer be said:

'The fathers have eaten sour grapes,

§ **31:22 31:22** Or *will surround* or *will return to*
* **31:23 31:23** Or *restore them from captivity*

and the teeth of the children are set on
edge.'
30 Instead, each will die for his own iniquity. If
anyone eats the sour grapes, his own teeth will
be set on edge.

31 Behold, the days are coming, declares the
LORD,
when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.
32 It will not be like the covenant
I made with their fathers
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of the land of Egypt—
a covenant they broke,
though I was a husband to them,†"
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 in their minds
and inscribe it on their hearts.
And I will be their God,
and they will be my people.
34 No longer will each man teach his neighbor or
his brother,
saying, 'Know the LORD,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,
declares the LORD.
For I will forgive their iniquities

† **31:32 31:32** LXX *for they did not abide in my covenant, and I disregarded them*; see also Syriac.

and will remember their sins no more."
35 Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for
light by day, who sets in order 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 "Only if this fixed order departed from my
presence,
declares the LORD,
would Israel's descendants ever cease
to be a nation before me."
37 This is what the LORD says:

"Only if the heavens above could be measured
and the foundations of the earth below
searched out
would I reject all of Israel's descendants
because of all they have done,"
declares the LORD.
38 "The days are coming,"‡ declares the LORD,
"when this city will be rebuilt for me, from the
tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate.
39 The measuring line will once again stretch
out straight to the hill of Gareb and then turn
toward Goah.
40 The whole valley of the dead bodies and
ashes, and all the fields as far as the Kidron
Valley, to the corner of the Horse Gate to the
east, will be holy to the LORD. It will never again
be uprooted or demolished."

‡ **31:38 31:38** Qere; Ketiv *Behold, the days*

32

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from
the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of
Judah, which was the eighteenth year of
Nebuchadrezzar.
2 At that time the army of the king of Babylon
was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the
prophet was imprisoned in the courtyard of the
guard, which was in the palace of the king of
Judah.
3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned
him, saying: “Why are you prophesying like
this? You claim that the LORD says, ‘Behold, I am
about to deliver 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 hands of the Chaldeans,* but he will surely
be delivered into the hand of the king of
Babylon, and will speak with him face to face
and see him eye to eye.
5 He will take Zedekiah to Babylon, where he
will stay until I attend to him, declares the
LORD. If you fight against the Chaldeans, you
will not succeed.’ ”
6 Jeremiah replied, “The word of the LORD
came to me, saying:
7 Behold! Hanamel, the son of your uncle
Shallum, is coming to you to say, ‘Buy for
yourself my field in Anathoth, for you have the
right of redemption to buy it.’

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* **32:4 32:4** That is, the Babylonians; also in verses 5, 24, 25, 28, 29, and 43

8 Then, as the LORD had said, my cousin
Hanamel came to me in the courtyard of the
guard and urged me, 'Please buy my field in
Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for you own
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 in Anathoth from my
cousin Hanamel, and I weighed out seventeen
shekels of silver.†

10 I signed and sealed the deed, called in
witnesses, and weighed out the silver on the
scales.

11 Then I took the deed of purchase—the
sealed copy with its terms and conditions, as
well as the open copy—

12 and I gave this deed to Baruch son of
Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, in the sight of my
cousin Hanamel and the witnesses who were
signing the purchase agreement and all the Jews
sitting in the courtyard of the guard.

13 In their sight I instructed Baruch,

14 "This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of
Israel, says: Take these deeds—both the sealed
copy and the open copy of the deed of
purchase—and put them in a clay jar to
preserve them for a long time.

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."

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† **32:9 32:9** *17 shekels* is approximately 6.8 ounces or 193.8 grams of silver.

16 After I had given the deed of purchase to
Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD:
17 “Oh, Lord GOD! You have made the heavens
and the earth by your great power and
outstretched arm. Nothing is too difficult for
you!
18 You show loving devotion to thousands but
lay the iniquity of the fathers into the laps‡ of
their children after them, O great and mighty
God whose name is the LORD of Hosts,
19 the One great in counsel and mighty in
deed, whose eyes are on all the ways of the sons
of men, to reward each one according to his
ways and according to the fruit of his deeds.
20 You performed signs and wonders in the
land of Egypt, and you do so to this very day,
both in Israel and among all mankind. And you
have made a name for yourself, as is the case to
this day.
21 You brought your people Israel out of the
land of Egypt with signs and wonders, with a
strong hand and an outstretched arm, and with
great terror.
22 You gave them this land that you had sworn
to give their fathers, a land flowing with milk
and honey.
23 They came in and possessed it, but they did
not obey your voice or walk in your law. They
failed to perform all that you commanded them
to do, and so you have brought upon them all
this disaster.

‡ **32:18 32:18** Hebrew *into the bosom*

24 See how the siege ramps are mounted
against the city to capture it. And by sword and
famine and plague, the city has been given into
the hands of the Chaldeans who are fighting
against it. What you have spoken has happened,
as you now see!

25 Yet you, O Lord GOD, have said to me, 'Buy
for yourself the field with silver and call in
witnesses, even though the city has been
delivered into the hands of the Chaldeans!' "

26 Then the word of the LORD came to
Jeremiah:

27 "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh.
Is anything too difficult for me?

28 Therefore this is what the LORD says:
Behold, I am about to deliver this city into the
hands of the Chaldeans and of Nebuchadrezzar
king of Babylon, who will capture it.

29 And the Chaldeans who are fighting against
this city will come in, set it on fire, and burn it,
along with the houses of those who provoked
me to anger by burning incense to Baal on their
rooftops and by pouring out drink offerings to
other gods.

30 For the children of Israel and of Judah have
done nothing but evil in my sight from their
youth; indeed, they have done nothing but
provoke me to anger by the work of their hands,
declares the LORD.

31 For this city has aroused my wrath and fury
from the day it was built until now. Therefore I
will remove it from my presence

32 because of all the evil the children of Israel
and of Judah have done to provoke me to
anger—they, their kings, their officials, their
priests and prophets, the men of Judah, and the
residents of Jerusalem.
33 They have turned their backs to me and not
their faces. Though I taught them again and
again,§ they would not listen or respond to
discipline.

34 They have placed their abominations in the
house that bears my Name, and so have defiled
it.
35 They have built the high places of Baal in
the Valley of Ben-hinnom to make their sons and
daughters pass through the fire to
Molech—something I never commanded them,
nor had it ever entered my mind, that they
should commit such an abomination and cause
Judah to sin.

36 Now therefore, about this city of which you
say, 'It will be delivered into the hand of the king
of Babylon by sword and famine and plague,'
this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says:
37 I will surely gather my people from all the
lands to which I have banished them in my
furious anger and great wrath, and I will return
them to this place and make them dwell in
safety.
38 They will be my people, and I will be their
God.

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§ **32:33 32:33** Literally *I taught them, rising up early and teaching,*

39 I will give them one heart and one way, so
that they will always fear me for their own good
and for the good of their children after them.
40 I will make an everlasting covenant with
them: I will never turn away from doing good to
them, and I will put my fear in their hearts, so
that they will never turn away from me.
41 Yes, I will rejoice in doing them good, and I
will faithfully plant them in this land with all my
heart and with all my soul.
42 For this is what the LORD says: Just as I
have brought all this great disaster on this
people, so I will bring on them all the good I
have promised them.
43 And fields will be bought in this land about
which you are saying, 'It is a desolation, without
man or beast; it has been delivered into the
hands of the Chaldeans.'
44 Fields will be purchased with silver, and
deeds will be signed, sealed, and witnessed in
the land of Benjamin, in the areas surrounding
Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah—the cities
of the hill country, the foothills,* and the
Negev—because I will restore their fortunes,†
declares the LORD."

33

1 While Jeremiah was still confined in the
courtyard of the guard, the word of the LORD
came to him a second time:

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* **32:44 32:44** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea † **32:44 32:44** Or *restore them from captivity*

2 “Thus says the LORD who made it,* the LORD
who formed it and established it, the LORD is his
name:
3 Call to me, and I will answer and show you
great and unsearchable things you do not know.
4 For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel,
says about the houses of this city and the palaces
of the kings of Judah that have been torn down
for defense against the siege ramps and the
sword:
5 They are coming to fight the Chaldeans† and
to fill those places with the corpses of the men I
will strike down in my anger and in my wrath. I
have hidden my face from this city because of
all its wickedness.
6 Nevertheless, I will bring to it health and
healing, and I will heal its people and reveal to
them the abundance of peace and truth.
7 I will restore the fortunes of Judah and
Israel‡ and will rebuild them as in former times.
8 And I will cleanse them from all the iniquity
they have committed against me, and will
forgive all their sins of rebellion against me.
9 So this city will bring me renown, joy, praise,
and glory before all the nations of the earth,
who will hear of all the good I do for it. They
will tremble in awe because of all the goodness
and prosperity that I will provide for it.
10 This is what the LORD says: In this place you
say is a wasteland without man or beast, in the

* **33:2 33:2** LXX *who made the earth* † **33:5 33:5** That is, the Babylonians; or *The Chaldeans are coming to fight* ‡ **33:7 33:7** Or *restore Judah and Israel from captivity*

cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem
that are deserted—inhabited by neither man
nor beast—there will be heard again
11 the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of
the bride and bridegroom, and the voices of
those bringing thank offerings into the house of
the LORD, saying:

‘Give thanks to the LORD of Hosts,
for the LORD is good;
his loving devotion endures forever.’

For I will restore the fortunes of the land§ as
in former times, says the LORD.
12 This is what the LORD of Hosts says: In this
desolate place, without man or beast, and in all
its cities, there will once more be pastures for
shepherds to rest their flocks.
13 In the cities of the hill country, the foothills,*
and the Negev, in the land of Benjamin and the
cities surrounding Jerusalem, and in the cities of
Judah, the flocks will again pass under the hands
of the one who counts them, says the LORD.
14 Behold, the days are coming,
declares the LORD,
when I will fulfill the gracious promise
that I have spoken
to the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.
15 In those days and at that time

§ **33:11 33:11** Or *restore the land from captivity* * **33:13 33:13** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

I will cause to sprout for David a righteous
branch,
and he will administer justice
and righteousness in the land.
16 In those days Judah will be saved,
and Jerusalem will dwell securely,
and this is the name by which it will be called:
The LORD our Righteousness.†
17 For this is what the LORD says: David will
never lack a man to sit on the throne of the
house of Israel,
18 nor will the priests who are Levites ever fail
to have a man before me to offer burnt
offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to present
sacrifices."
19 And the word of the LORD came to
Jeremiah:
20 "This is what the LORD says: If you can
break my covenant with the day and my
covenant with the night, so that day and night
cease to occupy their appointed time,
21 then my covenant may also be broken with
David my servant and with my ministers the
Levites who are priests, so that David will not
have a son to reign on his throne.
22 As the hosts of heaven cannot be counted
and as the sand on the seashore cannot be
measured, so too will I multiply the descendants
of my servant David and the Levites who
minister before me."
23 Moreover, the word of the LORD came to
Jeremiah:

† **33:16 33:16** Hebrew *YHWH Tsidqenu*

24 “Have you not noticed what these people are
saying: ‘The LORD has rejected the two families
he had chosen’? So they despise my people and
no longer regard them as a nation.
25 This is what the LORD says: If I have not
established my covenant with the day and the
night and the fixed order of heaven and earth,
26 then I would also reject the descendants of
Jacob and of my servant David, so as not to take
from his descendants rulers over the
descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I
will restore their fortunes‡ and will have
compassion on them.”

34

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from
the LORD when Nebuchadrezzar king of
Babylon, all his army, all the earthly kingdoms
under his control, and all the other nations were
fighting against Jerusalem and all its
surrounding cities.
2 The LORD, the God of Israel, told Jeremiah to
go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah and tell
him that this is what the LORD says: “Behold, I
am about to deliver this city into the hand of the
king of Babylon, and he will burn it down.
3 And you yourself will not escape his grasp,
but will surely be captured and delivered into
his hand. You will see the king of Babylon eye to
eye and speak with him face to face; and you
will go to Babylon.

‡ **33:26 33:26** Or *restore them from captivity*

4 Yet hear the word of the LORD, O Zedekiah
king of Judah. This is what the LORD says
concerning you: You will not die by the sword;
5 you will die in peace. As spices were burned
for your fathers, the former kings who preceded
you, so people will burn spices for you and
lament, 'Alas, O master!' For I myself have
spoken this word, declares the LORD."
6 In Jerusalem, then, Jeremiah the prophet
relayed all these words to Zedekiah king of
Judah
7 as the army of the king of Babylon was
fighting against Jerusalem and the remaining
cities of Judah—against Lachish and Azekah.
For these were the only fortified cities
remaining in Judah.
8 After King Zedekiah had made a covenant
with all the people in Jerusalem to proclaim
liberty, the word came to Jeremiah from the
LORD
9 that each man should free his Hebrew slaves,
both male and female, and no one should hold
his fellow Jew in bondage.
10 So all the officials and all the people who
entered into this covenant agreed that they
would free their male and female slaves and no
longer hold them in bondage. They obeyed and
released them,
11 but later they changed their minds and took
back the male and female slaves they had freed,
and they forced them to become slaves again.
12 Then the word of the LORD came to
Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

13 “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel,
says: I made a covenant with your forefathers
when I brought them out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery, saying:
14 Every seventh year, each of you must free
his Hebrew brother who has sold himself to you.
He may serve you six years, but then you must
let him go free. But your fathers did not listen or
incline their ear.
15 Recently you repented and did what pleased
me; each of you proclaimed freedom for his
neighbor. You made a covenant before me in the
house that bears my Name.
16 But now you have changed your minds and
profaned my name. Each of you has taken back
the male and female slaves whom you had set at
liberty to go wherever they wanted, and you
have again forced them to be your slaves.
17 Therefore this is what the LORD says: You
have not obeyed me; you have not proclaimed
freedom, each man for his brother and for his
neighbor. So now I proclaim freedom for you,
declares the LORD—freedom to fall by sword, by
plague, and by famine! I will make you a horror
to all the kingdoms of the earth.
18 And those who have transgressed my
covenant and have not fulfilled the terms of the
covenant they made before me, I will treat like
the calf they cut in two in order to pass between
its pieces.
19 The officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the
court officials, the priests, and all the people of

the land who passed between the pieces of the calf,
20 I will deliver into the hands of their enemies who seek their lives. Their corpses will become food for the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth.
21 And I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials into the hands of their enemies who seek their lives, to the army of the king of Babylon that had withdrawn from you.

22 Behold, I am going to give the command, declares the LORD, and I will bring them back to this city. They will fight against it, capture it, and burn it down. And I will make the cities of Judah a desolation, without inhabitant."

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 house of the Rechabites, speak to them, and bring them to one of the chambers of the house of the LORD to offer them a drink of wine."
3 So I took Jaazaniah son of Jeremiah, the son of Habazziniah, and his brothers and all his sons—the entire house of the Rechabites—
4 and I brought them into the house of the LORD, to a chamber occupied by the sons of Hanan son of Igdaliah, a man of God. This room was near the chamber of the officials, which was above the chamber of Maaseiah son of Shallum the doorkeeper.

5 Then I set pitchers full of wine and some
cups before the men of the house of the
Rechabites, and I said to them, “Drink some
wine.”
6 “We do not drink wine,” they replied, “for our
forefather Jonadab* son of Rechab commanded
us, ‘Neither you nor your descendants are ever
to drink wine.
7 Nor are you ever to build a house or sow
seed or plant a vineyard. Those things are not
for you. Instead, you must live in tents all your
lives, so that you may live a long time in the
land where you wander.’
8 And we have obeyed the voice of our
forefather Jonadab son of Rechab in all he
commanded us. So we have not drunk wine all
our lives—neither we nor our wives nor our
sons and daughters.
9 Nor have we built houses in which to live,
and we have not owned any vineyards or fields
or crops.
10 But we have lived in tents and have obeyed
and done exactly as our forefather Jonadab
commanded us.
11 So when Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon
marched into the land, we said: ‘Come, let us go
into Jerusalem to escape the armies of the
Chaldeans† and the Arameans.’ So we have
remained in Jerusalem.”
12 Then the word of the LORD came to
Jeremiah:

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* **35:6 35:6** *Jonadab* is a variant of *Jehonadab*; here and throughout this chapter; see 2 Kings 10:15. † **35:11 35:11** That is, the Babylonians

13 “This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of
Israel, says: Go and tell the men of Judah and
the residents of Jerusalem: ‘Will you not accept
discipline and obey my words?’ declares the
LORD.
14 The words of Jonadab son of Rechab have
been carried out. He commanded his sons not to
drink wine, and they have not drunk it to this
very day because they have obeyed the
command of their forefather. But I have spoken
to you again and again,‡ and you have not
obeyed me!
15 Again and again I have sent you§ all my
servants the prophets, proclaiming: ‘Turn now,
each of you, from your wicked ways, and correct
your actions. Do not go after other gods to serve
them. Live in the land that I have given to you
and your fathers.’ But you have not inclined
your ear or listened to me.
16 Yes, the sons of Jonadab son of Rechab
carried out the command their forefather gave
them, but these people have not listened to me.
17 Therefore this is what the LORD God of
Hosts, the God of Israel, says: ‘Behold, I will
bring to Judah and to all the residents of
Jerusalem all the disaster I have pronounced
against them, because I have spoken to them but
they have not obeyed, and I have called to them
but they have not answered.’ ”

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‡ **35:14 35:14** Literally *But I have spoken to you, rising up early and speaking,* § **35:15 35:15** Literally *Rising up early and sending (you), I have sent you*

18 Then Jeremiah said to the house of the
Rechabites: “This is what the LORD of Hosts, the
God of Israel, says: ‘Because you have obeyed
the command of your forefather Jonadab and
have kept all his commandments and have done
all that he charged you to do,
19 this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of
Israel, says: Jonadab son of Rechab will never
fail to have 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 during the reign of Josiah until today.
3 Perhaps when the people of Judah hear
about all the calamity I plan to bring upon them,
each of them will turn from his wicked way.
Then I will forgive their iniquity and their sin.”
4 So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and
at the dictation of Jeremiah, Baruch wrote on a
scroll all the words that the LORD had spoken to
Jeremiah.
5 Then Jeremiah commanded Baruch, “I am
restricted; I cannot enter the house of the LORD;
6 so you are to go to the house of the LORD on
a day of fasting, and in the hearing of the people
you are to read the words of the LORD from the
scroll you have written at my dictation. Read

them in the hearing of all the people of Judah who are coming from their cities.

7 Perhaps they will bring their petition before the LORD, and each one will turn from his wicked way; for great are the anger and fury that the LORD has pronounced against this people."

8 So Baruch son of Neriah did everything that Jeremiah the prophet had commanded him. In the house of the LORD he read the words of the LORD from the scroll.

9 Now in the ninth month of the fifth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, a fast before the LORD was proclaimed to all the people of Jerusalem and all who had come there from the cities of Judah.

10 From the chamber of Gemariah son of Shaphan the scribe, which was in the upper courtyard at the opening of the New Gate of the house of the LORD, Baruch read from the scroll the words of Jeremiah in the hearing of all the people.

11 When Micaiah son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan, heard all the words of the LORD from the scroll,

12 he went down to the scribe's chamber in the king's palace, where all the officials were sitting: 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 And Micaiah reported to them all the words he had heard Baruch read from the scroll in the hearing of the people.

14 Then all the officials sent word to Baruch
through Jehudi son of Nethaniah, the son of
Shelemiah, the son of Cushi, saying, “Bring the
scroll that you read in the hearing of the people,
and come here.”

So Baruch son of Neriah took the scroll and
went to them.

15 “Please sit down,” they said, “and read it in
our hearing.”

So Baruch read it in their hearing.

16 When they had heard all these words, they
turned to one another in fear and said to
Baruch, “Surely we must report all these words
to the king.”

17 “Tell us now,” they asked Baruch, “how did
you write all these words? Was it at Jeremiah’s
dictation?”

18 “It was at his dictation,” Baruch replied. “He
recited all these words to me and I wrote them
in ink on the scroll.”

19 Then the officials said to Baruch, “You and
Jeremiah must hide yourselves and tell no one
where you are.”

20 So the officials went to the king in the
courtyard. And having stored the scroll in the
chamber of Elishama the scribe, they reported
everything to the king.

21 Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll,
and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the
scribe. And Jehudi read it in the hearing of the
king and all the officials who were standing
beside him.

22 Since it was the ninth month, the king was
sitting in his winter quarters with a fire burning
before him.
23 And as soon as Jehudi had read three or
four columns, Jehoiakim would cut them off
with a scribe's knife and throw them into the
firepot, until the entire scroll had been
consumed by the fire.
24 Yet in hearing all these words, the king and
his servants did not become frightened or tear
their garments.
25 Even though Elnathan, Delaiah, and
Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll,
he would not listen to them.
26 Instead, the king commanded Jerahmeel, a
son of the king, as well as Seraiah son of Azriel
and Shelemiah son of Abdeel, to seize Baruch
the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet. But the
LORD had hidden them.
27 After the king had burned the scroll
containing the words that Baruch had written at
Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the LORD came
to Jeremiah:
28 "Take another scroll and rewrite on it the
very words that were on the original scroll,
which Jehoiakim king of Judah has burned.
29 You are to proclaim concerning Jehoiakim
king of Judah that this is what the LORD says:
You have burned the scroll and said, 'Why have
you written on it that the king of Babylon would
surely come and destroy this land and deprive it
of man and beast?'
30 Therefore this is what the LORD says about
Jehoiakim king of Judah: He will have no one to

sit on David's throne, and his body will be
thrown out and exposed to heat by day and frost
by night.
31 I will punish him and his descendants and
servants for their iniquity. I will bring on them,
on the residents of Jerusalem, and on the men of
Judah, all the calamity about which I warned
them but they did not listen."
32 Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave
it to the scribe Baruch son of Neriah, and at
Jeremiah's dictation he wrote on it all the words
of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had
burned in the fire. And many similar words
were added to them.

37

1 Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon made
Zedekiah son of Josiah the king of Judah, and he
reigned in place of Coniah* son of Jehoiakim.
2 But he and his officers and the people of the
land refused to obey the words that the LORD
had spoken through Jeremiah the prophet.
3 Yet King Zedekiah sent Jehucal† son of
Shelemiah and Zephaniah the priest, the son of
Maaseiah, to Jeremiah the prophet with the
message, "Please pray to the LORD our God for
us!"
4 Now Jeremiah was free to come and go
among the people, for they had not yet put him
in prison.

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* **37:1 37:1** *Coniah* is a variant of *Jehoiachin.* † **37:3 37:3** *Jehucal* is a variant of *Jucal*; see Jeremiah 38:1.

5 Pharaoh's army had left Egypt, and when the
Chaldeans‡ who were besieging Jerusalem heard
the report, they withdrew from Jerusalem.

6 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah
the prophet:
7 "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel,
says that you are to tell the king of Judah, who
sent you to me: Behold, Pharaoh's army, which
has marched out to help you, will go back to its
own land of Egypt.
8 Then the Chaldeans will return and fight
against this city. They will capture it and burn it
down.
9 This is what the LORD says: Do not deceive
yourselves by saying, 'The Chaldeans will go
away for good,' for they will not!
10 Indeed, if you were to strike down the
entire army of the Chaldeans that is fighting
against you, and only wounded men remained
in their tents, they would still get up and burn
this city down."

11 When the Chaldean army withdrew from
Jerusalem for fear of Pharaoh's army,
12 Jeremiah started to leave Jerusalem to go to
the land of Benjamin to claim his portion there§
among the people.
13 But when he reached the Gate of Benjamin,
the captain of the guard, whose name was Irijah
son of Shelemiah, the son of Hananiah, seized

‡ **37:5 37:5** That is, the Babylonians; also in verses 8, 9, 13, and 14

§ **37:12 37:12** Literally *to divide from there*

him and said, “You are deserting to the Chaldeans!”
14 “That is a lie,” Jeremiah replied. “I am not deserting to the Chaldeans!”
But Irijah would not listen to him; instead, he arrested Jeremiah and took him to the officials.
15 The officials were angry with Jeremiah, and they beat him and placed him in jail in the house of Jonathan the scribe, for it had been made into a prison.
16 So Jeremiah went into a cell in the dungeon and remained there a long time.
17 Later, King Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah and received him in his palace, where he asked him privately, “Is there a word from the LORD?”
“There is,” Jeremiah replied. “You will be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon.”
18 Then Jeremiah asked King Zedekiah, “How have I sinned against you or your servants or these people, that you have put me in prison?
19 Where are your prophets who prophesied to you, claiming, ‘The king of Babylon will not come against you or this land’?
20 But now please listen, O my lord the king. May my petition come before you. Do not send me back to the house of Jonathan the scribe, or I will die there.”
21 So King Zedekiah gave orders for Jeremiah to be placed in the courtyard of the guard and given a loaf of bread daily from the street of the bakers, until all the bread in the city was gone. So Jeremiah remained in the courtyard of the guard.

38

1 Now Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son
of Pashhur, Jucal* son of Shelemiah, and
Pashhur son of Malchijah heard that Jeremiah
had been telling all the people:
2 "This is what the LORD says: Whoever stays
in this city will die by sword and famine and
plague, but whoever surrenders to the
Chaldeans† will live; he will retain his life like a
spoil of war, and he will live.
3 This is what the LORD says: This city will
surely be delivered into the hands of the army
of the king of Babylon, and he will capture it."
4 Then the officials said to the king, "This man
ought to die, for he is discouraging‡ the warriors
who remain in this city, as well as all the people,
by speaking such words to them; this man is not
seeking the well-being of these people, but their
ruin."
5 "Here he is," replied King Zedekiah. "He is in
your hands, since the king can do nothing to
stop you."
6 So they took Jeremiah and dropped him into
the cistern of Malchiah, the king's son, which
was in the courtyard of the guard. They lowered
Jeremiah with ropes into the cistern, which had
no water but only mud, and Jeremiah sank
down into the mud.
7 Now Ebed-melech the Cushite,§ a eunuch* in

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* **38:1 38:1** *Jucal* is a variant of *Jehucal*; see Jeremiah 37:3.
† **38:2 38:2** That is, the Babylonians; also in verses 18, 19, and 23 ‡ **38:4 38:4** Literally *weakening the hands of* § **38:7 38:7** Probably from the upper Nile region * **38:7 38:7** Or *court official*

the royal palace, heard that Jeremiah had been
put into the cistern. While the king was sitting at
the Gate of Benjamin,
8 Ebed-melech went out from the king's palace
and said to the king,
9 "My lord the king, these men have acted
wickedly in all that they have done to Jeremiah
the prophet. They have dropped him into the
cistern, where he will starve to death, for there
is no more bread in the city."

10 So the king commanded Ebed-melech the
Cushite, "Take thirty men from here with you
and pull Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern
before he dies."

11 Then Ebed-melech took the men with him
and went to the king's palace, to a place below
the storehouse. From there he took old rags and
worn-out clothes and lowered them with ropes
to Jeremiah in the cistern.

12 Ebed-melech the Cushite cried out to
Jeremiah, "Put these worn-out rags and clothes
under your arms to pad the ropes." Jeremiah did
so,
13 and they pulled him up with the ropes and
lifted him out of the cistern. And Jeremiah
remained in the courtyard of the guard.

14 Then King Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah the
prophet and received him at the third entrance
to the house of the LORD. "I am going to ask you
something," said the king to Jeremiah. "Do not
hide anything from me."

15 “If I tell you,” Jeremiah replied, “you will
surely put me to death. And even if I give you
advice, you will not listen to me.”
16 But King Zedekiah swore secretly to
Jeremiah, “As surely as the LORD lives, who has
given us this life, I will not kill you, nor will I
deliver you into the hands of these men who are
seeking your life.”
17 Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, “This is
what the LORD God of Hosts, the God of Israel,
says: ‘If you indeed surrender to the officers of
the king of Babylon, then you will live, this city
will not be burned down, and you and your
household will survive.
18 But if you do not surrender to the officers of
the king of Babylon, then this city will be
delivered into the hands of the Chaldeans. They
will burn it down, and you yourself will not
escape their grasp.’ ”
19 But King Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, “I am
afraid of the Jews who have deserted to the
Chaldeans, for the Chaldeans may deliver me
into their hands to abuse me.”
20 “They will not hand you over,” Jeremiah
replied. “Obey the voice of the LORD in what I
am telling you, that it may go well with you and
you may live.
21 But if you refuse to surrender, this is the
word that the LORD has shown me:
22 All the women who remain in the palace of
the king of Judah will be brought out to the
officials of the king of Babylon, and those
women will say:

‘They misled you and overcame you—
those trusted friends of yours.
Your feet sank into the mire,
and they deserted you.’
23 All your wives and children will be brought
out to the Chaldeans. And you yourself will not
escape their grasp, for you will be seized by the
king of Babylon, and this city will be burned
down.”
24 Then Zedekiah warned Jeremiah, “Do not let
anyone know about this conversation, or you
will die.
25 If the officials hear that I have spoken with
you, and they come and demand of you, ‘Tell us
what you said to the king and what he said to
you; do not hide it from us, or we will kill you,’
26 then tell them, ‘I was presenting to the king
my petition that he not return me to the house
of Jonathan to die there.’ ”
27 When all the officials came to Jeremiah and
questioned him, he relayed to them the exact
words the king had commanded him to say. So
they said no more to him, for no one had
overheard the conversation.
28 And 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, Nebuchadrezzar king of

† **38:28 38:28** LXX does not include this sentence.

Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his
entire army and laid siege to the city.
2 And on the ninth day of the fourth month of
Zedekiah's eleventh year, the city was breached.
3 Then all the officials of the king of Babylon
entered and sat in the Middle Gate:
Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsekim* the
Rabsaris,† Nergal-sharezer the Rabmag,‡ 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 at
night by way of the king's garden, through the
gate between the two walls, and they went out
along the route to the Arabah.§
5 But the army of the Chaldeans* pursued
them and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of
Jericho. They seized him and brought him up to
Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon at Riblah in the
land of Hamath, where he pronounced
judgment on him.
6 There at Riblah the king of Babylon
slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his
eyes, and he also killed all the nobles of Judah.
7 Then he put out Zedekiah's eyes and bound
him with bronze chains to take him to Babylon.

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* **39:3 39:3** Or *Nergal-sharezer of Samgar, Nebo-sarsekim* † **39:3 39:3** Hebrew *Rabsaris* is the title of the chief eunuch in the Assyrian military; also in verse 13. ‡ **39:3 39:3** Hebrew *Rabmag* is the title of the chief soothsayer or chief of princes in the Assyrian military; also in verse 13. § **39:4 39:4** Or *the Jordan Valley* * **39:5 39:5** That is, the Babylonians; also in verse 8

8 The Chaldeans set fire to the palace of the
king and to the houses of the people, and they
broke down the walls of Jerusalem.
9 Then Nebuzaradan captain of the guard
carried away to Babylon the remnant of the
people who had remained in the city, along with
the deserters who had defected to him, and the
rest of the people who remained.
10 But Nebuzaradan captain of the guard left
behind in the land of Judah some of the poor
people who had no property, and at that time he
gave them vineyards and fields.
11 Now Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon had
given orders about Jeremiah through
Nebuzaradan captain of the guard, saying,
12 "Take him, look after him, and do not let any
harm come to him; do for him whatever he
says."
13 So Nebuzaradan captain of the guard,
Nebushazban† the Rabsaris, Nergal-sharezer the
Rabmag, and all the captains of the king of
Babylon
14 had Jeremiah brought from the courtyard of
the guard, and they turned him over to Gedaliah
son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, to take him
home. So Jeremiah remained among his own
people.
15 And while Jeremiah had been confined in
the courtyard of the guard, the word of the
LORD had come to him:

† **39:13 39:13** *Nebushazban* is possibly a variant of *Nebo-sarsekim*; see verse 3.

16 “Go and tell Ebed-melech the Cushite that
this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel,
says: ‘I am about to fulfill my words against this
city for harm and not for good, and on that day
they will be fulfilled before your eyes.
17 But I will deliver you on that day, declares
the LORD, and you will not be delivered into the
hands of the men whom you fear.
18 For I will surely rescue you so that you do
not fall by the sword. Because you have trusted
in me, you will escape with your life like a spoil
of war, declares the LORD.’ ”

40

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from
the LORD after Nebuzaradan captain of the
guard had released him at Ramah, having found
him bound in chains among all the captives of
Jerusalem and Judah who were being exiled to
Babylon.

2 The captain of the guard found Jeremiah and
said to him, “The LORD your God decreed this
disaster on this place,
3 and now the LORD has fulfilled it; he has
done just as he said. Because you people have
sinned against the LORD and have not obeyed
his voice, this thing has happened to you.
4 But now, behold, I am freeing you today from
the chains that were on your wrists. If it pleases
you to come with me to Babylon, then come, and
I will take care of you. But if it seems wrong to
you to come with me to Babylon, go no farther.

Look, the whole land is before you. Wherever it
seems good and right to you, go there."
5 But before Jeremiah turned to go,
Nebuzaradan added, "Return to Gedaliah son of
Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, whom the king of
Babylon has appointed over the cities of Judah,
and stay with him among the people, or go
anywhere else that seems right." Then the
captain of the guard gave him a ration and a gift
and released him.
6 So Jeremiah went to Gedaliah son of Ahikam
at Mizpah and stayed with him among the
people who were left in the land.
7 When all the commanders and men of the
armies in the field heard that the king of
Babylon had appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam
over the land and that he had put him in charge
of the men, women, and children who were the
poorest of the land and had not been exiled 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, the son of Shaphan,
swore an oath to them and their men, assuring
them, "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.

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* **40:8 40:8** *Jezaniah* is a variant of *Jaazaniah*; see 2 Kings 25:23.
† **40:9 40:9** That is, the Babylonians; also in verse 10

10 As for me, I will stay in Mizpah to represent
you before the Chaldeans who come to us. As
for you, gather wine grapes, summer fruit, and
oil, place them in your storage jars, and live in
the cities you have taken."
11 When all the Jews in Moab, Ammon, Edom,
and all the other lands heard that the king of
Babylon had left a remnant in Judah and had
appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of
Shaphan, over them,
12 they all returned from all the places to
which they had been banished and came to the
land of Judah, to Gedaliah at Mizpah. And they
gathered an abundance of wine grapes and
summer fruit.
13 Meanwhile, Johanan son of Kareah and all
the commanders of the armies in the field came
to Gedaliah at Mizpah
14 and said to him, "Are you aware 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 Then Johanan son of Kareah spoke privately
to Gedaliah at Mizpah. "Let me go and kill
Ishmael son of Nethaniah," he said. "No one will
know it. Why should he take your life and
scatter all the people of Judah who have
gathered to you, so that the remnant of Judah
would perish?"
16 But Gedaliah son of Ahikam said to Johanan
son of Kareah, "Do not do such a thing! What
you are saying about Ishmael is a lie."

41

1 In the seventh month, Ishmael son of
Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, who was a
member of the royal family and one of the king's
chief officers, came with ten men to Gedaliah
son of Ahikam at Mizpah, and they ate a meal
together there.
2 Then Ishmael son of Nethaniah and the ten
men who were with him got up and struck down
Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan,
with the sword, killing the one whom the king of
Babylon had appointed to govern the land.
3 Ishmael also killed all the Jews who were
with Gedaliah at Mizpah, as well as the
Chaldean* soldiers who were there.
4 On the second day after the murder of
Gedaliah, when no one yet knew about it,
5 eighty men who had shaved off their beards,
torn their garments, and cut themselves came
from Shechem, Shiloh, and Samaria, carrying
grain offerings and frankincense for the house
of the LORD.
6 And Ishmael son of Nethaniah went out from
Mizpah to meet them, weeping as he went.
When Ishmael encountered the men, he said,
"Come to Gedaliah son of Ahikam."
7 And when they came into the city, Ishmael
son of Nethaniah and the men with him
slaughtered them and threw them into a cistern.
8 But ten of the men among them said to
Ishmael, "Do not kill us, for we have hidden
treasure in the field—wheat, barley, oil, and

* **41:3 41:3** Or *Babylonian*

honey!" So he refrained from killing them with the others.

9 Now the cistern into which Ishmael had
thrown all the bodies of the men he had struck
down along with Gedaliah was the one that King
Asa had made† for fear of Baasha king of Israel.
Ishmael son of Nethaniah filled it with the slain.

10 Then Ishmael took captive all the remnant
of the people of Mizpah—the daughters of the
king along with all the others who remained in
Mizpah—over whom Nebuzaradan captain of
the guard had appointed Gedaliah son of
Ahikam. Ishmael son of Nethaniah took them
captive and set off to cross over to the
Ammonites.

11 When Johanan son of Kareah and all the
commanders of the armies with him heard of all
the crimes that Ishmael son of Nethaniah had
committed,

12 they took all their men and went to fight
Ishmael son of Nethaniah. And they found him
near the great pool in Gibeon.

13 When all the people with Ishmael saw
Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders
of the army with him, they rejoiced,

14 and all the people whom Ishmael had taken
captive at Mizpah turned and went over to
Johanan son of Kareah.

15 But Ishmael son of Nethaniah and eight of
his men escaped from Johanan and went to the
Ammonites.

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† **41:9 41:9** LXX *was a large cistern that King Asa had made*

16 Then Johanan son of Kareah and all the
commanders of the armies with him took the
whole remnant of the people from Mizpah
whom he had recovered from Ishmael son of
Nethaniah after Ishmael had killed Gedaliah son
of Ahikam: the soldiers, women, children, and
eunuchs‡ he had brought back from Gibeon.
17 And they went and stayed in Geruth
Chimham, near Bethlehem, in order to proceed
into Egypt
18 to escape the Chaldeans.§ For they were
afraid of the Chaldeans because Ishmael son of
Nethaniah had struck down Gedaliah son of
Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had
appointed over the land.

42

1 Then all the commanders of the forces, along
with Johanan son of Kareah, Jezaniah* son of
Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least to
the greatest, approached
2 Jeremiah the prophet and said, “May our
petition come before you; pray to the LORD your
God on behalf of this entire remnant. For few of
us remain of the many, as you can see with your
own eyes.
3 Pray that the LORD your God will tell us the
way we should walk and the thing we should
do.”
4 “I have heard you,” replied Jeremiah the
prophet. “I will surely pray to the LORD your

‡ **41:16 41:16** Or *court officials* § **41:18 41:18** That is, the Babylonians * **42:1 42:1** LXX *Azariah*; see Jeremiah 43:2.

God as you request, and I will tell you
everything that the LORD answers. I will not
withhold a word from you."

5 Then they said to Jeremiah, "May the LORD
be a true and faithful witness against us if we do
not act upon every word that the LORD your
God sends you to tell us.
6 Whether it is pleasant or unpleasant, 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 and he summoned Johanan son of Kareah,
all the commanders of the forces who were with
him, and all the people from the least to the
greatest.

9 Jeremiah told them, "Thus says the LORD, the
God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present
your petition:
10 'If you will indeed stay in this land, then I
will build you up and not tear you down; I will
plant you and not uproot you, for I will relent of
the disaster I have brought upon you.

11 Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon,
whom you now fear; do not be afraid of him,
declares the LORD, for I am with you to save you
and deliver you from him.
12 And I will show you compassion, and he
will have compassion on you and restore you to
your own land.'

13 But if you say, ‘We will not stay in this land,’
and you thus disobey the voice of the LORD your
God,
14 and if you say, ‘No, but we will go to the
land of Egypt and live there, where we will not
see war or hear the sound of the ram’s horn or
hunger for bread,’
15 then hear the word of the LORD, O remnant
of Judah! This is what the LORD of Hosts, the
God of Israel, says: ‘If you are determined to go
to Egypt and reside there,
16 then the sword you fear will overtake you
there in the land of Egypt, and the famine you
dread will follow on your heels into Egypt, and
you will die there.
17 So all who resolve to go to Egypt to reside
there will die by sword and famine and plague.
Not one of them will survive or escape the
disaster I will bring upon them.’

18 For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God
of Israel, says: ‘Just as my anger and wrath were
poured out on the residents of Jerusalem, so will
my wrath be poured out on you if you go to
Egypt. You will become an object of cursing and
horror, of vilification and disgrace, and you will
never see this place again.’

19 The LORD has told you, O remnant of Judah,
‘Do not go to Egypt.’ Know for sure that I have
warned you today!
20 For you have deceived yourselves by
sending me to the LORD your God, saying, ‘Pray
to the LORD our God on our behalf, and as for

all that the LORD our God says, tell it to us and we will do it.'
21 For I have told you today, but you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God in all he has sent me to tell you.
22 Now therefore, know for sure that by sword and famine and plague you will die in the place where you desire to go to reside."

43

1 When Jeremiah had finished telling all the people all the words of the LORD their God—everything that the LORD had sent him to say—
2 Azariah son of Hoshaiah, Johanan son of Kareah, and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, "You are lying! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, 'You must not go to Egypt to reside there.'
3 Rather, Baruch son of Neriah is inciting you against us to deliver us into the hands of the Chaldeans,* so that they may put us to death or exile us to Babylon!"
4 So Johanan son of Kareah, all the commanders of the forces, and all the people disobeyed the command of the LORD to stay in the land of Judah.
5 Instead, Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces took the whole remnant of Judah, those who had returned to the land of Judah from all the nations to which they had been scattered,

* **43:3 43:3** That is, the Babylonians

6 the men, the women, the children, the king's
daughters, and everyone whom Nebuzaradan
captain of the guard had allowed to remain with
Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, as
well as Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch son of
Neriah.
7 So they entered the land of Egypt because
they did not obey the voice of the LORD, and
they went as far as Tahpanhes.
8 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah
at Tahpanhes:
9 "In the sight of the Jews, pick up some large
stones and bury them in the clay of the brick
pavement at the entrance to Pharaoh's palace at
Tahpanhes.
10 Then tell them that this is what the LORD of
Hosts, the God of Israel, says: 'I will send for my
servant Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and I
will set his throne over these stones that I have
embedded, and he will spread his royal pavilion
over them.
11 He will come and strike down the land of
Egypt, bringing death to those destined for
death, captivity to those destined for captivity,
and the sword to those destined for the sword.
12 I will kindle a fire in the temples of the gods
of Egypt, and Nebuchadnezzar will burn those
temples and take their gods as captives.† So he
will wrap himself with the land of Egypt as a
shepherd wraps himself in his garment, and he
will depart from there unscathed.

† **43:12 43:12** Literally *and he will burn them and take them captive*

13 He will demolish the sacred pillars of
Beth-shemesh‡ in the land of Egypt, and he will
burn down the temples of the gods of Egypt.' "

44

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah
concerning all the Jews living in the land of
Egypt*—in Migdol, Tahpanhes, and
Memphis†—and in the land of Pathros:‡
2 "This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of
Israel, says: You have seen all the disaster that I
brought against Jerusalem and all the cities of
Judah; and behold, they lie today in ruins and
desolation
3 because of the evil they have done.
They provoked me to anger by continuing to
burn incense and to serve other gods that
neither they nor you nor your fathers ever
knew.
4 Yet I sent you all my servants the prophets
again and again,§ saying: 'Do not do this
detestable thing that I hate.'
5 But they did not listen or incline their ears;
they did not turn from their wickedness or stop
burning incense to other gods.
6 Therefore my wrath and anger poured out
and burned in the cities of Judah and in the

‡ **43:13 43:13** That is, *house of the sun*, probably Heliopolis; LXX *the pillars of Heliopolis in On* or *the pillars of Heliopolis in Egypt*
* **44:1 44:1** Or *Lower Egypt* or *northern Egypt*; also in verse 15
† **44:1 44:1** Hebrew *Noph* ‡ **44:1 44:1** Or *Upper Egypt* or *southern Egypt*; also in verse 15 § **44:4 44:4** Literally *the prophets, rising up early and sending (them),*

streets of Jerusalem, so that they have become
the desolate ruin they are today.

7 So now, this is what the LORD God of Hosts,
the God of Israel, says: Why are you doing such
great harm to yourselves by cutting off from
Judah man and woman, child and infant,
leaving yourselves without a remnant?
8 Why are you provoking me to anger by the
work of your hands by burning incense to other
gods in the land of Egypt, where you have gone
to reside?

As a result, you will be cut off and will become
an object of cursing and reproach among all the
nations of the earth.
9 Have you forgotten the wickedness of your
fathers and of the kings of Judah and their
wives, as well as the wickedness that you and
your wives committed in the land of Judah and
in the streets of Jerusalem?
10 To this day they have not humbled
themselves or shown reverence, nor have they
followed my instruction or the statutes that I set
before you and your fathers.

11 Therefore this is what the LORD of Hosts,
the God of Israel, says: I will set my face to bring
disaster and to cut off all Judah.
12 And I will take away the remnant of Judah
who have resolved to go to the land of Egypt to
reside there; they will meet their end. They will
all fall by the sword or be consumed by famine.
From the least to the greatest, they will die by
sword or famine; and they will become an

object of cursing and horror, of vilification and reproach.
13 I will punish those who live in the land of Egypt, just as I punished Jerusalem, by sword and famine and plague,
14 so that none of the remnant of Judah who have gone to reside in Egypt will escape or survive to return to the land of Judah, where they long to return and live; for none will return except a few fugitives."
15 Then all the men who knew that their wives were burning incense to other gods, and all the women standing by—a great assembly—along with all the people living in the land of Egypt and in Pathros,* said to Jeremiah,
16 "As for the word you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we will not listen to you!
17 Instead, we will do everything we vowed to do: We will burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and offer drink offerings to her, just as we, our fathers, our kings, and our officials did in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem.
At that time we had plenty of food and good things, and we saw no disaster.
18 But from the time we stopped burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been perishing by sword and famine."

* **44:15 44:15** That is, in Lower and Upper Egypt; possibly *in the land of Egypt at Pathros*

19 “Moreover,” said the women, “when we
burned incense to the Queen of Heaven and
poured out drink offerings to her, was it without
our husbands’ knowledge that we made
sacrificial cakes in her image and poured out
drink offerings to her?”
20 Then Jeremiah said to all the people, both
men and women, who were answering him,
21 “As for the incense you burned in the cities
of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem—you,
your fathers, your kings, your officials, and the
people of the land—did the LORD not remember
and bring this to mind?
22 So the LORD could no longer endure the evil
deeds and detestable acts you committed, and
your land became a desolation, a horror, and an
object of cursing, without inhabitant, as it is this
day.
23 Because you burned incense and sinned
against the LORD and did not obey the voice of
the LORD or walk in his instruction, his statutes,
and his testimonies, this disaster has befallen
you, as you see today.”
24 Then Jeremiah said to all the people,
including all the women, “Hear the word of the
LORD, all those of Judah who are in the land of
Egypt.
25 This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of
Israel, says: As for you and your wives, you have
spoken with your mouths and fulfilled with your
hands your words: ‘We will surely perform our
vows that we have made to burn incense to the
Queen of Heaven and to pour out drink

offerings to her.' Go ahead, then, do what you
have promised! Keep your vows!
26 Nevertheless, hear the word of the LORD, all
you people of Judah living in Egypt: Behold, I
have sworn by my great name, says the LORD,
that never again will any man of Judah living in
the land of Egypt invoke my name or say, 'As
surely as the Lord GOD lives.'
27 I am watching over them for harm and not
for good, and every man of Judah who is in the
land of Egypt will meet his end by sword or
famine, until they are finished off.
28 Those who escape the sword will return
from Egypt to Judah, few in number, and the
whole remnant of Judah who went to dwell in
the land of Egypt will know whose word will
stand, mine or theirs!
29 This will be a sign to you that I will punish
you in this place, declares the LORD, so that you
may know that my threats of harm against you
will surely stand.
30 This is what the LORD says: Behold, I will
deliver Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the
hands of his enemies who seek his life, just as I
delivered Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand
of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, the enemy
who was seeking his life."

45

1 This is the word that Jeremiah the prophet
spoke to Baruch son of Neriah when he wrote
these words on a scroll at the dictation of

Jeremiah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of
Josiah, king of Judah:
2 “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel,
says to you, Baruch:
3 You have said, ‘Woe is me because the LORD
has added sorrow to my pain! I am worn out
with groaning and have found no rest.’ ”
4 Thus you shall say to him:* “This is what the
LORD says: Throughout the land I will demolish
what I have built and uproot what I have
planted.
5 But as for you, do you seek great things for
yourself? Stop seeking! For I will bring disaster
on every living creature, declares the LORD, but
wherever you go, I will grant your life as a spoil
of war.”

46

1 This is the word of the LORD about the
nations—the word that came to Jeremiah the
prophet
2 concerning Egypt and the army of Pharaoh
Neco king of Egypt, which was defeated at
Carchemish on the Euphrates River by
Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon in the fourth
year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of
Judah:

3 “Deploy your shields, small and large;
advance for battle!
4 Harness the horses; mount the steeds;
take your positions with helmets on!

* **45:4 45:4** Or *Thus Jeremiah was to say to Baruch:*

Polish your spears;
put on armor!

5 Why am I seeing this?

They are terrified,
they are retreating;
their warriors are defeated,
they flee in haste without looking back;
terror is on every side!"
declares the LORD.
6 "The swift cannot flee,
and the warrior cannot escape!
In the north by the River Euphrates
they stumble and fall.

7 Who is this, rising like the Nile,
like rivers whose waters churn?
8 Egypt rises like the Nile,
and its waters churn like rivers,
boasting, 'I will rise and cover the earth;
I will destroy the cities and their people.'

9 Advance, O horses! Race furiously, O chariots!
Let the warriors come forth—
Cush* and Put carrying their shields,
men of Lydia drawing the bow.
10 For that day belongs to the Lord GOD of Hosts,
a day of vengeance against his foes.
The sword will devour until it is satisfied,
until it is quenched with their blood.
For the Lord GOD of Hosts will hold a sacrifice

* **46:9 46:9** That is, the upper Nile region

in the land of the north by the River
Euphrates.

11 Go up to Gilead for balm,
O Virgin Daughter of Egypt!
In vain you try many remedies,
but for you there is no healing.
12 The nations have heard of your shame,
and your outcry fills the earth,
because warrior stumbles over warrior
and both of them have fallen together."
13 This is the word that the LORD spoke to
Jeremiah the prophet about the coming of
Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon to strike the
land of Egypt:

14 "Announce it in Egypt, and proclaim it in
Migdol;
proclaim it in Memphis† and Tahpanhes:
'Take your positions and prepare yourself,
for the sword devours those around you.'
15 Why have your warriors been laid low?
They cannot stand, for the LORD has thrust
them down.
16 They continue to stumble;
indeed, they have fallen over one another.
They say, 'Get up! Let us return to our people
and to the land of our birth,
away from the sword of the oppressor.'

17 There they will cry out:

† **46:14 46:14** Hebrew *Noph*; also in verse 19

‘Pharaoh king of Egypt was all noise;
he has let the appointed time pass him by.’

18 As surely as I live, declares the King,
whose name is the LORD of Hosts,
there will come one who is like Tabor among the mountains
and like Carmel by the sea.
19 Pack your bags for exile,
O daughter dwelling in Egypt!
For Memphis will be laid waste,
destroyed and uninhabited.

20 Egypt is a beautiful heifer,
but a gadfly from the north is coming against her.
21 Even the mercenaries among her
are like fattened calves.
They too will turn back;
together they will flee, they will not stand their ground,
for the day of calamity is coming upon them—
the time of their punishment.

22 Egypt will hiss like a fleeing serpent,‡
for the enemy will advance in force;
with axes they will come against her
like woodsmen cutting down trees.
23 They will chop down her forest, declares the LORD,
dense though it may be,

‡ **46:22 46:22** Hebrew *nachash*; translated in most cases as *snake*

for they are more numerous than locusts;
they cannot be counted.
24 The Daughter of Egypt will be put to shame;
she will be delivered into the hands of the
people of the north."
25 The LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says:
"Behold, I am about to punish Amon god of
Thebes,§ along with Pharaoh, Egypt with her
gods and kings, and those who trust in Pharaoh.
26 I will deliver them into the hands of those
who seek their lives—of Nebuchadrezzar king of
Babylon and his officers. But after this, Egypt
will be inhabited as in days of old, declares the
LORD.

27 But you, O Jacob my servant, do not be afraid,
and do not be dismayed, O Israel.
For I will surely save you out of a distant place,
your descendants from the land of their
captivity!
Jacob will return to quiet and ease,
with no one to make him afraid.
28 And you, my servant Jacob, do not be afraid,
declares the LORD, for I am with you.
Though I will completely destroy all the nations
to which I have banished you,
I will not completely destroy you.
Yet I will discipline you justly,
and will by no means leave you
unpunished."

§ **46:25 46:25** Hebrew *Amon of No*

47

1 This is the word of the LORD that came to
Jeremiah the prophet about the Philistines
before Pharaoh struck down Gaza.
2 This is what the LORD says:

"See how the waters are rising from the north
and becoming an overflowing torrent.
They will overflow the land and its fullness,
the cities and their inhabitants.
The people will cry out,
and all who dwell in the land will wail
3 at the sound of the galloping hooves of
stallions,
the rumbling of chariots,
and the clatter of their wheels.
The fathers will not turn back for their sons;
their hands will hang limp.

4 For the day has come
to destroy all the Philistines,
to cut off from Tyre and Sidon
every remaining ally.
Indeed, the LORD is about to destroy the
Philistines,
the remnant from the coasts of Caphtor.*
5 Baldness has come to Gaza;†
Ashkelon will be silenced.
O remnant of their valley,‡
how long will you gash yourself?

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* **47:4 47:4** That is, Crete † **47:5 47:5** Or *The people of Gaza will shave their heads in mourning* ‡ **47:5 47:5** That is, the Mediterranean coast or plain

6 ‘Alas, O sword of the LORD,
how long until you rest?
Return to your sheath;
cease and be still!’

7 How can it rest
when the LORD has commanded it?
He has appointed it against Ashkelon
and the shore of its coastland.”

48

1 Concerning Moab, this is what the LORD of
Hosts, the God of Israel, says:

“Woe to Nebo,
for it will be devastated.
Kiriathaim will be captured and disgraced;
the fortress will be shattered and
dismantled.
2 There is no longer praise for Moab;
in Heshbon* they devise evil against her:
‘Come, let us cut her off from nationhood.’

You too, O people of Madmen,† will be silenced;
the sword will pursue you.
3 A voice cries out from Horonaim:
‘Devastation and great destruction!’
4 Moab will be shattered;
her little ones will cry out.‡

* **48:2 48:2** The Hebrew for *Heshbon* sounds like the Hebrew for *plot*. † **48:2 48:2** The name of the Moabite town *Madmen* sounds like the Hebrew for *silenced*. ‡ **48:4 48:4** LXX *her cries are heard as far away as Zoar*

5 For on the ascent to Luhith
    they weep bitterly as they go,
and on the descent to Horonaim
    cries of distress resound
    over the destruction:
6 ‘Flee! Run for your lives!
    Become like Aroer in the desert.§’

7 Because you trust in your works and treasures,
    you too will be captured,
and Chemosh will go into exile
    with his priests and officials.
8 The destroyer will move against every city,
    and not one town will escape.
The valley will also be ruined,
    and the high plain will be destroyed,
    as the LORD has said.

9 Give wings to Moab,
    for she would fly away;*
her cities will become desolate,
    with no one to dwell in them.
10 Cursed is the one who is remiss
    in doing the work of the LORD,
and cursed is he who withholds
    his sword from bloodshed.

11 Moab has been at ease from youth,
    settled like wine on its dregs;
he has not been poured from vessel to vessel
    or gone into exile.
So his flavor has remained the same,

§ **48:6 48:6** Or *like a juniper* or *like a wild donkey* * **48:9 48:9** Or *Put salt on Moab, for she will be laid waste*

and his aroma is unchanged.
12 Therefore behold, the days are coming,
declares the LORD,
when I will send to him wanderers,
who will pour him out.
They will empty his vessels
and shatter his jars.
13 Then Moab will be ashamed of Chemosh,
just as the house of Israel was ashamed
when they trusted in Bethel.

14 How can you say, 'We are warriors,
mighty men ready for battle'?
15 Moab has been destroyed
and its towns have been invaded;
the best of its young men
have gone down in the slaughter,
declares the King,
whose name is the LORD of Hosts.
16 Moab's calamity is at hand,
and his affliction is rushing swiftly.
17 Mourn for him, all you who surround him,
everyone who knows his name;
tell how the mighty scepter is shattered—
the glorious staff!

18 Come down from your glory; sit on parched
ground,
O daughter dwelling in Dibon,
for the destroyer of Moab has come against you;
he has destroyed your fortresses.
19 Stand by the road and watch,
O dweller of Aroer!

Ask the man fleeing or the woman escaping,
'What has happened?'
20 Moab is put to shame, for it has been
shattered.
Wail and cry out!
Declare by the Arnon
that Moab is destroyed.

21 Judgment has come upon the high plain—
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 towns of
Moab,
those far and near.

25 The horn of Moab has been cut off,
and his arm is broken,"
declares the LORD.
26 "Make him drunk,
because he has magnified himself against
the LORD;
so Moab will wallow in his own vomit,
and he will also become a laughingstock.
27 Was not Israel your object of ridicule?
Was he ever found among thieves?
For whenever you speak of him
you shake your head.

28 Abandon the towns and settle among the
rocks,

† **48:21 48:21** *Jahzah* is a variant of *Jahaz*; see verse 34.

O dwellers of Moab!
Be like a dove
that nests at the mouth of a cave.
29 We have heard of Moab's pomposity,
his exceeding pride and conceit,
his proud arrogance and haughtiness of heart.
30 I know his insolence,"
declares the LORD,
"but it is futile.
His boasting is as empty as his deeds.

31 Therefore I will wail for Moab;
I will cry out for all of Moab;
I will moan for the men of Kir-heres.‡
32 I will weep for you, O vine of Sibmah,
more than I weep for Jazer.
Your tendrils have extended to the sea;§
they reach to the Sea of Jazer.*
The destroyer has descended
on your summer fruit and grape harvest.
33 Joy and gladness are removed from the orchard
and from the fields of Moab.
I have stopped the flow of wine from the presses;
no one treads them with shouts of joy;
their shouts are not for joy.

34 There is a cry from Heshbon to Elealeh;

‡ **48:31 48:31** *Kir-heres* is a variant of *Kir-hareseth*; also in verse 36; see Isaiah 16:7. § **48:32 48:32** Probably the Dead Sea
* **48:32 48:32** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; two Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *even to Jazer*

they raise their voices to Jahaz,
from Zoar to Horonaim and Eglath-shelishiyah;
for even the waters of Nimrim have dried up.

35 In Moab, declares the LORD,
I will bring an end
to those who make offerings on the high places
and burn incense to their gods.
36 Therefore my heart laments like a flute for Moab;
it laments like a flute for the men of Kir-heres,
because the wealth they acquired has perished.

37 For every head is shaved
and every beard is clipped;
on every hand is a gash,
and around every waist is sackcloth.
38 On all the rooftops of Moab
and in the public squares,
everyone is mourning;
for I have shattered Moab like an unwanted jar,"
declares the LORD.
39 "How shattered it is! How they wail!
How Moab has turned his back in shame!
Moab has become an object of ridicule and horror
to all those around him."
40 For this is what the LORD says:

"Behold, an eagle swoops down

and spreads his wings against Moab.
41 Kirioth has been taken,
and the strongholds seized.
In that day the heart of Moab's warriors
will be like the heart of a woman in labor.
42 Moab will be destroyed as a nation
because he vaunted himself against the
LORD.

43 Terror and pit and snare await you, O dweller
of Moab,"
declares the LORD.
44 "Whoever flees the panic
will fall into the pit,
and whoever climbs from the pit
will be caught in the snare.
For I will bring upon Moab
the year of their punishment,"
declares the LORD.
45 "Those who flee will stand helpless in
Heshbon's shadow,
because fire has gone forth from Heshbon
and a flame from within Sihon.
It devours the foreheads of Moab
and the skulls of the sons of tumult.
46 Woe to you, O Moab!
The people of Chemosh have perished;
for your sons have been taken into exile
and your daughters have gone into captivity.
47 Yet in the latter days I will restore the fortunes
of Moab,†"
declares the LORD.
Here ends the judgment on Moab.

† **48:47 48:47** Or *restore Moab from captivity*

49

1 Concerning the Ammonites, this is what the
LORD says:

“Has Israel no sons?
Is he without heir?
Why then has their king* taken possession of
Gad?
Why have his people settled in their cities?
2 Therefore, behold, the days are coming,
declares the LORD,
when I will sound the battle cry
against Rabbah of the Ammonites.
It will become a heap of ruins,
and its villages will be burned.
Then Israel will drive out their dispossessors,
says the LORD.
3 Wail, O Heshbon, for Ai has been destroyed;
cry out, O daughters of Rabbah!
Put on sackcloth and mourn;
run back and forth within your walls,
for their king† will go into exile
together with his priests and officials.
4 Why do you boast of your valleys—
your valleys so fruitful,‡
O faithless daughter?
You trust in your riches and say,
‘Who can come against me?’

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* **49:1 49:1** LXX, Syriac and Vulgate *Milcom*, a variant of *Molech*; also in verse 3; see Leviticus 18:21 and 1 Kings 11:7. † **49:3 49:3** LXX, Syriac and Vulgate *Milcom*; see verse 1. ‡ **49:4 49:4** Or *your valleys flowing*

5 Behold, I am about to bring terror upon you,
declares the Lord GOD of Hosts,
from all those around you.
You will each be driven headlong,
with no one to regather the fugitives.
6 Yet afterward I will restore the fortunes of the
Ammonites,§”
declares the LORD.
7 Concerning Edom, this is what the LORD of
Hosts says:

“Is there no longer wisdom in Teman?
Has counsel perished from the prudent?
Has their wisdom decayed?
8 Turn and run!
Lie low, O dwellers of Dedan,
for I will bring disaster on Esau
at the time I punish him.

9 If grape gatherers came to you,
would they not leave some gleanings?
Were thieves to come in the night,
would they not steal only what they wanted?
10 But I will strip Esau bare;
I will uncover his hiding places,
and he will be unable to conceal himself.
His descendants will be destroyed
along with his relatives and neighbors,
and he will be no more.

11 Abandon your orphans; I will preserve their
lives.

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§ **49:6 49:6** Or *restore the Ammonites from captivity*

Let your widows trust in me."
12 For this is what the LORD says: "If those who
do not deserve to drink the cup must drink it,
can you possibly remain unpunished? You will
not go unpunished, for you must drink it too.
13 For by myself I have sworn, declares the
LORD, that Bozrah will become a desolation, a
disgrace, a ruin, and a curse, and all her cities
will be in ruins forever."

14 I have heard a message from the LORD;
an envoy has been sent to the nations:
"Assemble yourselves to march against her!
Rise up for battle!"

15 "For behold, I will make you small among
nations,
despised among men.
16 The terror you cause
and the pride of your heart
have deceived you,
O dwellers in the clefts of the rocks,*
O occupiers of the mountain summit.
Though you elevate your nest like the eagle,
even from there I will bring you down,"
declares the LORD.
17 "Edom will become an object of horror.
All who pass by will be appalled
and will scoff at all her wounds.
18 As Sodom and Gomorrah were overthrown
along with their neighbors,"
says the LORD,

* **49:16 49:16** Or *of Sela*

“no one will dwell there;
no man will abide there.
19 Behold, one will come up like a lion
from the thickets of the Jordan to the
watered pasture.
For in an instant I will chase Edom from her
land.
Who is the chosen one I will appoint for
this?
For who is like me, and who can challenge me?
What shepherd can stand against me?”

20 Therefore hear the plans
that the LORD has drawn up against Edom
and the strategies he has devised
against the people of Teman:
Surely the little ones of the flock will be dragged
away;
certainly their pasture will be appalled at
their fate.†
21 At the sound of their fall the earth will quake;
their cry will resound to the Sea of Reeds.‡
22 Look! An eagle will soar and swoop down,
spreading its wings over Bozrah.
In that day the hearts of Edom’s mighty men
will be like the heart of a woman in labor.
23 Concerning Damascus:

“Hamath and Arpad are put to shame,
for they have heard a bad report;
they are agitated like the sea;§

† **49:20 49:20** Or *their pasture will be made desolate because of them* ‡ **49:21 49:21** Or *the Red Sea* § **49:23 49:23** Hebrew *on the sea* or *by the sea*

their anxiety cannot be calmed.
24 Damascus has become feeble;
she has turned to flee.
Panic has gripped her;
anguish and pain have seized her
like a woman in labor.

25 How is the city of praise not forsaken,
the town that brings me joy?
26 For her young men will fall in the streets,
and all her warriors will be silenced in that day,"
declares the LORD of Hosts.
27 "I will set fire to the walls of Damascus;
it will consume the fortresses of Ben-hadad."
28 Concerning Kedar and the kingdoms of Hazor, which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon defeated, this is what the LORD says:

"Rise up, advance against Kedar,
and destroy the people of the east!
29 They will take their tents and flocks,
their tent curtains and all their goods.
They will take their camels for themselves.
They will shout to them: 'Terror is on every side!'

30 Run! Escape quickly!
Lie low, O residents of Hazor,"
declares the LORD,
"for Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon
has drawn up a plan against you;
he has devised a strategy against you.*

* **49:30 49:30** Qere; Ketiv *them*

31 Rise up, advance against a nation at ease,
one that dwells securely,"
declares the LORD.
"They have no gates or bars;
they live alone.

32 Their camels will become plunder,
and their large herds will be spoil.
I will scatter to the wind in every direction
those who shave their temples;
I will bring calamity on them
from all sides,"
declares the LORD.
33 "Hazor will become a haunt for jackals,†
a desolation forever.
No one will dwell there;
no man will abide there."
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 This is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"Behold, I will shatter Elam's bow,
the mainstay of their might.
36 I will bring the four winds against Elam
from the four corners of the heavens,
and I will scatter them
to all these winds.
There will not be a nation
to which Elam's exiles will not go.
37 So I will shatter Elam before their foes,
before those who seek their lives.
I will bring disaster upon them,

† **49:33 49:33** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

even my fierce anger,"
declares the LORD.
"I will send out the sword after them
until I finish them off.
38 I will set my throne in Elam,
and destroy its king and officials,"
declares the LORD.
39 "Yet in the days to come,
I will restore the fortunes of Elam,‡"
declares the LORD.

50

1 This is the word that the LORD spoke
through Jeremiah the prophet concerning
Babylon and the land of the Chaldeans:*

2 "Announce and declare to the nations;
lift up a banner and proclaim it;
hold nothing back when you say,
'Babylon is captured;
Bel is put to shame;
Marduk is shattered,
her images are disgraced,
her idols are broken in pieces.'

3 For a nation from the north will come against
her;
it will make her land a desolation.
No one will live in it;
both man and beast will flee."
4 "In those days and at that time,
declares the LORD,

‡ **49:39 49:39** Or *restore Elam from captivity* * **50:1 50:1** That is, the Babylonians; also in verses 8, 25, 35, and 45

the children of Israel and the children of Judah
will come together, weeping as they come,
and will seek the LORD their God.
5 They will ask the way to Zion
and turn their faces toward it.
They will come and join themselves to the LORD
in an everlasting covenant
that will never be forgotten.

6 My people are lost sheep;
their shepherds have led them astray,
causing them to roam the mountains.†
They have wandered from mountain to hill;
they have forgotten their resting place.
7 All who found them devoured them,
and their enemies said,
'We are not guilty,
for they have sinned against the LORD, their true pasture,
the LORD, the hope of their fathers.'

8 Flee from the midst of Babylon;
depart‡ from the land of the Chaldeans;
be like the he-goats that lead the flock.
9 For behold, I stir up and bring against Babylon
an assembly of great nations from the land of the north.
They will line up against her;
from the north she will be captured.
Their arrows will be like skilled warriors
who do not return empty-handed.

† **50:6 50:6** Qere; Ketiv *on the wayward mountains* ‡ **50:8 50:8** Qere; Ketiv *they will depart*

10 Chaldea§ will be plundered;
all who plunder her will have their fill,"
declares the LORD.
11 "Because you rejoice,
because you sing in triumph—
you who plunder my inheritance—
because you frolic like a heifer treading grain
and neigh like stallions,
12 your mother will be greatly ashamed;
she who bore you will be disgraced.
Behold, she will be the least of the nations,
a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert.

13 Because of the wrath of the LORD,
she will not be inhabited;
she will become completely desolate.
All who pass through Babylon will be horrified
and will hiss at all her wounds.

14 Line up in formation around Babylon,
all you who draw the bow!
Shoot at her! Spare no arrows!
For she has sinned against the LORD.
15 Raise a war cry against her on every side!
She has thrown up her hands in surrender;
her towers have fallen;
her walls are torn down.

Since this is the vengeance of the LORD,
take out your vengeance upon her;
as she has done,
do the same to her.

§ **50:10 50:10** Or *Babylonia*

16 Cut off the sower from Babylon,
and the one who wields the sickle at harvest time.
In the face of the oppressor's sword,
each will turn to his own people,
each will flee to his own land.
17 Israel is a scattered flock,
chased away by lions.
The first to devour him
was the king of Assyria;
the last to crush his bones
was Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon."
18 Therefore this is what the LORD of Hosts,
the God of Israel, says:

"I will punish the king of Babylon and his land
as I punished the king of Assyria.
19 I will return Israel to his pasture,
and he will graze on Carmel and Bashan;
his soul will be satisfied
on the hills of Ephraim and Gilead.

20 In those days and at that time,
declares the LORD,
a search will be made for Israel's guilt,
but there will be none,
and for Judah's sins,
but they will not be found;
for I will forgive
the remnant I preserve.
21 Go up against the land of Merathaim,
and against the residents of Pekod.

Kill them* and devote them to destruction.†
Do all that I have commanded you,"
declares the LORD.
22 "The noise of battle is in the land—
the noise of great destruction.
23 How the hammer of the whole earth
lies broken and shattered!
What a horror Babylon has become
among the nations!

24 I laid a snare for you, O Babylon,
and you were caught before you knew it.
You were found and captured
because you challenged the LORD.
25 The LORD has opened his armory
and brought out his weapons of wrath,
for this is the work of the Lord GOD of Hosts
in the land of the Chaldeans.

26 Come against her
from the farthest border.
Break open her granaries;
pile her up like mounds of grain.
Devote her to destruction;
leave her no survivors.
27 Kill all her young bulls;
let them go down to the slaughter.
Woe to them, for their day has come—
the time of their punishment.

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* **50:21 50:21** LXX *Avenge, O sword,* † **50:21 50:21** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering; also in verse 26.

28 Listen to the fugitives and refugees
from the land of Babylon,
declaring in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God,
the vengeance for his temple.
29 Summon the archers against Babylon,
all who string the bow.
Encamp all around her;
let no one escape.
Repay her according to her deeds;
do to her as she has done.
For she has defied the LORD,
the Holy One of Israel.
30 Therefore, her young men will fall in the streets,
and all her warriors will be silenced in that day,"
declares the LORD.
31 "Behold, I am against you, O arrogant one,"
declares the Lord GOD of Hosts,
"for your day has come,
the time when I will punish you.
32 The arrogant one will stumble and fall
with no one to pick him up.
And I will kindle a fire in his cities
to consume all those around him."
33 This is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"The sons of Israel are oppressed,
and the sons of Judah as well.
All their captors hold them fast,
refusing to release them.
34 Their Redeemer is strong;
the LORD of Hosts is his name.

He will fervently plead their case
so that he may bring rest to the earth,
but turmoil to those who live in Babylon.

35 A sword is against the Chaldeans,
declares the LORD,
against those who live in Babylon,
and against her officials and wise men.
36 A sword is against her false prophets,
and they will become fools.
A sword is against her warriors,
and they will be filled with terror.
37 A sword is against her horses and chariots
and against all the foreigners in her midst,
and they will become like women.
A sword is against her treasuries,
and they will be plundered.
38 A drought is upon her waters,
and they will be dried up.
For it is a land of graven images,
and the people go mad over idols.‡

39 So the desert creatures and hyenas will live
there
and ostriches§ will dwell there.
It will never again be inhabited
or lived in from generation to generation.
40 As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah
along with their neighbors,"
declares the LORD,
"no one will dwell there;

‡ **50:38** **50:38** Or *go mad with fear* § **50:39** **50:39** Literally *daughters of an ostrich* or *daughters of an owl*

no man will abide there.

41 Behold, an army is coming from the north;
a great nation and many kings are stirred up
from the ends of the earth.
42 They grasp the bow and javelin;*
they are cruel and merciless.
Their voice roars like the sea,
and they ride upon horses,
lined up like men in formation
against you, O Daughter of Babylon.
43 The king of Babylon has heard the report,
and his hands hang limp.
Anguish has gripped him,
pain like that of a woman in labor.

44 Behold, one will come up like a lion
from the thickets of the Jordan to the
watered pasture.
For in an instant I will chase Babylon from her
land.
Who is the chosen one I will appoint for
this?
For who is like me, and who can challenge me?
What shepherd can stand against me?"

45 Therefore hear the plans
that the LORD has drawn up against
Babylon
and the strategies he has devised
against the land of the Chaldeans:

* **50:42 50:42** Or *spear*

Surely the little ones of the flock will be dragged
away;
certainly their pasture will be made
desolate because of them.
46 At the sound of Babylon's capture the earth
will quake;
a cry will be heard among the nations.

51

1 This is what the LORD says:

"Behold, I will stir up against Babylon
and against the people of Leb-kamai*
the spirit of a destroyer.
2 I will send strangers to Babylon
to winnow her and empty her land;
for they will come against her from every side
in her day of disaster.

3 Let the archer bend† his bow,
and let him rise up in his armor.‡
Do not spare her young men;
devote all her army to destruction!§
4 And they will fall slain in the land of the
Chaldeans,*
and pierced through in her streets.

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* **51:1 51:1** *Leb-kamai* is a code name for Chaldea, that is, Babylonia. † **51:3 51:3** Ketiv adds *bend* a second time, not read ‡ **51:3 51:3** Some Hebrew manuscripts and ancient versions *Do not let the archer bend his bow or put on his armor* § **51:3 51:3** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. * **51:4 51:4** That is, the Babylonians; also in verse 54

5 For Israel and Judah have not been abandoned
by their God, the LORD of Hosts,
though their land is full of guilt
before the Holy One of Israel."

6 Flee from Babylon! Escape with your lives!
Do not be destroyed in her punishment.
For this is the time of the LORD's vengeance;
he will pay her what she deserves.
7 Babylon was a gold cup in the hand of the
LORD,
making the whole earth drunk.
The nations drank her wine;
therefore the nations have gone mad.

8 Suddenly Babylon has fallen and been
shattered.
Wail for her; get her balm for her pain;
perhaps she can be healed.

9 "We tried to heal Babylon,
but she could not be healed.
Abandon her!
Let each of us go to his own land,
for her judgment extends to the sky
and reaches to the clouds."

10 "The LORD has brought forth our vindication;
come, let us tell in Zion
what the LORD our God has accomplished."

11 Sharpen the arrows!

Fill the quivers![†]
The LORD has aroused the spirit
of the kings of the Medes,
because his plan is aimed at Babylon
to destroy her,
for it is the vengeance of the LORD—
vengeance for his temple.

12 Raise a banner against the walls of Babylon;
post the guard;
station the watchmen;
prepare the ambush.
For the LORD has both devised and
accomplished
what he spoke against the people of
Babylon.
13 You who dwell by many waters,
rich in treasures,
your end has come;
the thread of your life is cut.
14 The LORD of Hosts has sworn by himself:

"Surely I will fill you up with men as with
locusts,
and they will shout in triumph over you."
15 The LORD made the earth by his power;
he established the world by his wisdom
and stretched out the heavens by his
understanding.
16 When he thunders,
the waters in the heavens roar;

[†] **51:11 51:11** Hebrew *shelatim*, of uncertain meaning; literally *Fill the shields!*, or *Take up the shields!*; LXX *quivers*

he causes the clouds to rise
from the ends of the earth.
He generates the lightning with the rain
and brings forth the wind from his
storehouses.

17 Every man is senseless and devoid of
knowledge;
every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols.
For his molten images are a fraud,
and there is no breath in them.
18 They are worthless, a work to be mocked.
In the time of their punishment they will
perish.
19 The Portion of Jacob is not like these,
for he is the Maker of all things,
and of the tribe of his inheritance—
the LORD of Hosts is his name.
20 "You are my war club,
my weapon for battle.
With you I shatter nations;
with you I bring kingdoms to ruin.
21 With you I shatter the horse and rider;
with you I shatter the chariot and driver.
22 With you I shatter man and woman;
with you I shatter the old man and the
youth;
with you I shatter the young man and the
maiden.
23 With you I shatter the shepherd and his flock;
with you I shatter the farmer and his oxen;
with you I shatter the governors and
officials.

24 Before your very eyes I will repay
Babylon and all the dwellers of Chaldea‡
for all the evil they have done in Zion,"
declares the LORD.
25 "Behold, I am against you,
O destroying mountain,
you who devastate the whole earth,
declares the LORD.
I will stretch out my hand against you;
I will roll you over the cliffs
and turn you into a charred mountain.
26 No one shall retrieve from you a cornerstone
or a foundation stone,
because you will become desolate forever,"
declares the LORD.
27 "Raise a banner in the land!
Blow the ram's horn among the nations!
Prepare the nations against her.
Summon the kingdoms against her—
Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz.
Appoint a captain against her;
bring up horses like swarming locusts.
28 Prepare the nations for battle against her—
the kings of the Medes,
their governors and all their officials,
and all the lands they rule.

29 The earth quakes and writhes
because the LORD's intentions against
Babylon stand:
to make the land of Babylon a desolation,
without inhabitant.

‡ **51:24 51:24** That is, Babylonia; also in verse 35

30 The warriors of Babylon have stopped
fighting;
they sit in their strongholds.
Their strength is exhausted;
they have become like women.
Babylon's homes have been set ablaze,
the bars of her gates are broken.
31 One courier races to meet another,
and messenger follows messenger,
to announce to the king of Babylon
that his city has been captured from end to
end.
32 The fords have been seized,
the marshes set on fire,
and the soldiers are terrified."

33 For this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God
of Israel, says:

"The Daughter of Babylon is like a threshing
floor
at the time it is trampled.
In just a little while
her harvest time will come."

34 "Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon has
devoured me;§
he has crushed me.
He has set me aside like an empty vessel;
he has swallowed me like a monster;
he filled his belly with my delicacies

§ **51:34 51:34** Qere; Ketiv *devoured us*, and likewise *us* for *me* with crushed, set aside, swallowed, and vomited out

and vomited me out.*
35 May the violence done to me
and to my flesh
be upon Babylon,"
says the dweller of Zion.

"May my blood be on the dwellers of Chaldea,"
says Jerusalem.
36 Therefore this is what the LORD says:

"Behold, I will plead your case
and take vengeance on your behalf;
I will dry up her sea
and make her springs run dry.
37 Babylon will become a heap of rubble,
a haunt for jackals,†
an object of horror and scorn,
without inhabitant.
38 They will roar together like young lions;
they will growl like lion cubs.
39 While they are flushed with heat,
I will serve them a feast,
and I will make them drunk
so that they may revel;
then they will fall asleep forever and never
wake up,
declares the LORD.
40 I will bring them down like lambs to the
slaughter,
like rams with male goats.

* **51:34** **51:34** Or *expelled me* † **51:37** **51:37** Or *serpents* or *dragons*

41 How Sheshach‡ has been captured!
The praise of all the earth has been seized.
What a horror Babylon has become
among the nations!
42 The sea has come up over Babylon;
she is covered in turbulent waves.
43 Her cities have become a desolation,
a dry and arid land,
a land where no one lives,
where no son of man passes through.
44 I will punish Bel in Babylon.
I will make him spew out what he
swallowed.
The nations will no longer stream to him;
even the wall of Babylon will fall.

45 Come out of her, my people!
Save your lives, each of you,
from the fierce anger of the LORD.
46 Do not let your heart grow faint,
and do not be afraid
when the rumor is heard in the land;
for a rumor will come one year—
and then another the next year—
of violence in the land
and of ruler against ruler.

47 Therefore, behold, the days are coming
when I will punish the idols of Babylon.
Her entire land will suffer shame,
and all her slain will lie fallen within her.
48 Then heaven and earth and all that is in them

‡ **51:41 51:41** *Sheshach* is a code name for Babylon.

will shout for joy over Babylon
because the destroyers from the north
will come against her,"
declares the LORD.
49 "Babylon must fall
on account 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,
depart and do not linger!
Remember the LORD from far away,
and let Jerusalem come to mind."

51 "We are ashamed because we have heard
reproach;
disgrace has covered our faces,
because foreigners have entered
the holy places of the LORD's house."

52 "Therefore, behold, the days are coming,"
declares the LORD,
"when I will punish her idols,
and throughout her land the wounded will
groan.
53 Even if Babylon ascends to the heavens
and fortifies her lofty stronghold,
the destroyers I send will come against her,"
declares the LORD.

54 "The sound of a cry
comes from Babylon,
the sound of great destruction
from the land of the Chaldeans!
55 For the LORD will destroy Babylon;

he will silence her mighty voice.
The waves will roar like great waters;
the tumult of their voices will resound.

56 For a destroyer is coming against her—
against Babylon.
Her warriors will be captured,
and their bows will be broken,
for the LORD is a God of retribution;
he will repay in full.
57 I will make her princes and wise men drunk,
along with her governors, officials, and warriors.
Then they will fall asleep forever
and not wake up,"
declares the King,
whose name is the LORD of Hosts.
58 This is what the LORD of Hosts says:

"Babylon's thick walls will be leveled,
and her high gates consumed by fire.
So the labor of the people will be for nothing;
the nations will exhaust themselves to fuel the flames."
59 This is the message that Jeremiah the prophet gave to the quartermaster Seraiah son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, when he went to Babylon with King Zedekiah of Judah in the fourth year of Zedekiah's reign.
60 Jeremiah had written on a single scroll about all the disaster that would come upon Babylon—all these words that had been written concerning Babylon.

61 And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, “When you
get to Babylon, see that you read all these words
aloud,
62 and say, ‘O LORD, you have promised to cut
off this place so that no one will
remain—neither man nor beast. Indeed, it will
be desolate forever.’
63 When you finish reading this scroll, tie a
stone to it and cast it into the Euphrates.
64 Then you are to say, ‘In the same way
Babylon will sink and never rise again, because
of the disaster I will bring upon her. And her
people will grow weary.’ ”

Here end the words of Jeremiah.

52

1 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem
eleven years. His mother’s name was Hamutal
daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah.
2 And Zedekiah did evil in the sight of the
LORD, just as Jehoiakim had done.
3 For because of the anger of the LORD, all this
happened in Jerusalem and Judah, until he
finally banished them from his presence.

And Zedekiah also rebelled against the king of
Babylon.
4 So in the ninth year of Zedekiah’s reign, on
the tenth day of the tenth month,
Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon marched
against Jerusalem with his entire army. They
encamped outside the city and built a siege wall
all around it.

5 And the city was kept under siege until King
Zedekiah's eleventh year.
6 By the ninth day of the fourth month, the
famine in the city was so severe that the people
of the land had no food.
7 Then the city was breached; and though the
Chaldeans* had surrounded the city, all the men
of war fled the city by night by way of the gate
between the two walls near the king's garden.
They headed toward the Arabah,†
8 but the army of the Chaldeans pursued the
king and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of
Jericho, and his whole army deserted him.
9 The Chaldeans seized the king and brought
him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the
land of Hamath, where he pronounced
judgment on Zedekiah.
10 There at Riblah the king of Babylon
slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his
eyes, and he also killed all the officials of Judah.
11 Then he put out Zedekiah's eyes, bound him
with bronze shackles, and took him to Babylon,
where he kept him in custody until his dying
day.
12 On the tenth day of the fifth month, in the
nineteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar's reign over
Babylon, Nebuzaradan captain of the guard, a
servant of the king of Babylon, entered
Jerusalem.

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* **52:7 52:7** That is, the Babylonians; similarly in verses 8, 9, 14, and 17 † **52:7 52:7** Or *the Jordan Valley*

13 He burned down the house of the LORD, the
royal palace, and all the houses of
Jerusalem—every significant building.
14 And the whole army of the Chaldeans under
the captain of the guard broke down all the
walls around Jerusalem.
15 Then Nebuzaradan captain of the guard
carried into exile some of the poorest people
and those who remained in the city, along with
the deserters who had defected to the king of
Babylon and the rest of the craftsmen.
16 But Nebuzaradan captain of the guard left
behind some of the poorest of the land to tend
the vineyards and fields.
17 Moreover, the Chaldeans broke up the
bronze pillars and stands and the bronze Sea in
the house of the LORD, and they carried all the
bronze to Babylon.
18 They also took away the pots, shovels, wick
trimmers, sprinkling bowls, dishes, and all the
articles of bronze used in the temple service.
19 The captain of the guard also took away the
basins, censers, sprinkling bowls, pots,
lampstands, pans, and drink offering
bowls—anything made of pure gold or fine
silver.
20 As for the two pillars, the Sea, the twelve
bronze bulls under the movable stands‡ that
King Solomon had made for the house of the
LORD, the weight of the bronze from all these
articles was beyond measure.

‡ **52:20 52:20** LXX *the twelve bronze bulls under the Sea*; compare 2 Kings 25:16.

21 Each pillar was eighteen cubits tall and
twelve cubits in circumference;§ each was
hollow, four fingers thick.*
22 The bronze capital atop one pillar was five
cubits high,† with a network of bronze
pomegranates all around. The second pillar,
with its pomegranates, was similar.
23 Each capital had ninety-six pomegranates
on the sides, and a total of a hundred
pomegranates were above the surrounding
network.
24 The captain of the guard also took away
Seraiah the chief priest, Zephaniah the priest of
second rank, and the three doorkeepers.
25 Of those still in the city, he took a court
official who had been appointed over the men of
war, as well as seven trusted royal advisers. He
also took the scribe of the captain of the army,
who had enlisted the people of the land, and
sixty men of the people of the land who were
found in the city.
26 Nebuzaradan captain of the guard took
them and brought them to the king of Babylon
at Riblah.
27 There at Riblah in the land of Hamath, the
king of Babylon struck them down and put them
to death. So Judah was taken into exile, away
from its own land.

§ **52:21 52:21** Each pillar was approximately 27 feet high and 18 feet in circumference (8.2 meters high and 5.5 meters in circumference). * **52:21 52:21** *4 fingers* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters. † **52:22 52:22** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters.

28 These are the people Nebuchadrezzar
carried away:

in the seventh year, 3,023 Jews;
29 in Nebuchadrezzar's eighteenth year, 832
people from Jerusalem;
30 in Nebuchadrezzar's twenty-third year,
Nebuzaradan captain of the guard carried
away 745 Jews.
So in all, 4,600 people were taken away.
31 On the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month
of the thirty-seventh year of the exile of
Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the first year of the
reign of Evil-merodach king of Babylon, he
pardoned‡ Jehoiachin king of Judah and
released him from prison.
32 And he spoke kindly to Jehoiachin and set
his throne above the thrones of the other kings
who were with him in Babylon.
33 So Jehoiachin changed out of his prison
clothes, and he dined regularly at the king's
table for the rest of his life.
34 And the king of Babylon provided
Jehoiachin a daily portion for the rest of his life,
until the day of his death.

‡ **52:31 52:31** Literally *he lifted up the head of*

Masoretic English Tanakh

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