

## Read the Bible in A Year: Chronological

### Readings for August 23-29, 2020

We continue the events in Israel and Judah during this time in their history. If you recall, the people of Israel had been exiled to Assyria (see the purple lines on the map below), and the King of Assyria had repopulated the cities of Israel (Samaria) with gentiles from other lands (see red line below). Judah has faced years of struggle with Babylon, having two kings and two waves of captives already sent into exile in Babylon. Now Judah continues to face threats from Egypt and Assyria, and the Babylonian forces have laid siege to Jerusalem. The prophets continue to speak words of judgement and hope to the people in captivity and under siege.



### Ezekiel 24:15-25:17

#### Ezekiel's wife dies

The LORD's word came to me: Human one, I am about to take the delight of your eyes away from you in a single stroke. Don't mourn or weep. Don't even let your tears well up. Sigh inwardly; be deathly still. Don't perform mourning rites, but bind on your turban and put your shoes on your feet. And don't cover your upper lip or eat in human company.

I spoke with the people in the morning, and by evening my wife was dead. The next morning I did as I was commanded. The people asked, "Won't you tell us what your actions mean for us?"

So I said to them, The LORD's word came to me: Say to the house of Israel, the LORD God proclaims: I'm about to make my sanctuary impure, the pride of your strength, the delight of your eyes. Your heart's desire, the sons and daughters you left behind, will fall by the sword. You will do as I have done. You will neither cover your upper lip nor eat in human company. Your turbans will be on your heads, your sandals on your feet. You won't mourn or weep. You will waste away in your guilt, all of you groaning to each other. Ezekiel is your sign. You will do everything that he has done. When this happens, you will know that I am the LORD God.

And you, human one: On the day that I take from them their proud stronghold—their crowning joy, the delight of their eyes—and their sons and daughters, whose fate weighs on them, on that day, a refugee will come to you so that you yourself will hear the news. On that day your mouth will be opened to the refugee, and you will speak and no longer be silent. You will be their sign, and they will know that I am the LORD.

### **Against the neighboring nations**

The LORD's word came to me: Human one, face the Ammonites and prophesy against them. Say to the Ammonites: Hear the LORD God's word! The LORD God proclaims: You laughed when my sanctuary was degraded, when Israel's fertile land was laid waste, and when the house of Judah went into exile; therefore, I'm handing you over to people in the east for them to take possession. They will set up their encampments against you, establish residence, devour your fruit, and drink your milk. I'll make Rabbah into pastureland for camels and Ammon a resting place for flocks. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

The LORD God proclaims: Because you clapped your hands and stamped your feet when you rejoiced with utter contempt for Israel's fertile land, I'm about to overpower you. Nations will plunder you. I will cut you off from the peoples, remove you from the lands, and utterly destroy you. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

The LORD God proclaims: Because Moab and Seir say, "Aha! The house of Judah has become like all the nations," I'll open up the flank of Moab from the cities at its border, the land's splendid cities, Beth-jeshimoth, Baal-meon, and Kiriathaim. I'll hand it over, along with the Ammonites, to people in the east for them to take possession. And so Ammon will no longer be remembered among the nations. I'll execute judgments in Moab, and they will know that I am the LORD.

The LORD God proclaims: Edom acted with excessive force against the house of Judah. The Judeans were guilty, but Edom's vengeance was excessive. So the LORD God now proclaims: I'll overpower Edom, eliminate all living creatures, and make it a wasteland from Teman to Dedan. They will fall by the sword. I will execute my vengeance in Edom through my people Israel's power. They will act in Edom according to my anger and fury, and they will know my vengeance. This is what the LORD God says.

The LORD God proclaims: When the Philistines set out to right the wrongs done to them, they enacted revenge with utter contempt and old hatreds. So now the LORD God proclaims: I will overpower the Philistines, eliminate the Cherethites, and obliterate all who are left along the coastline. I will act against them with great vengeance and with wrathful punishments. When I execute my vengeance against them, they will know that I am the LORD.

## **Jeremiah 34 and 21**

### **Lessons on obedience and disobedience**

Jeremiah received the LORD's word when Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar and his army, and all the countries and people he ruled, were attacking Jerusalem and all its towns. The LORD, the God of Israel, proclaims, Go and speak to Judah's King Zedekiah and say to him: The LORD proclaims, I'm handing this city over to the king of Babylon, and he will burn it down. You won't escape but will be captured and handed over to him. You will see the king of Babylon with your very own eyes and speak to him personally, and you will be taken to Babylon. Even so, hear the LORD's word, King Zedekiah of Judah: This is what the LORD proclaims about you: You won't die in battle; you will die a peaceful death. As burial incense was burned to honor your ancestors, the kings who came before you, so it will be burned to honor you as people mourn, "Oh, master!" I myself promise this, declares the LORD.

The prophet Jeremiah delivered this message to Judah's King Zedekiah in Jerusalem when the army of the king of Babylon was attacking Jerusalem and all the remaining Judean towns, Lachish and Azekah—the only fortified towns still standing in Judah.

Jeremiah received the LORD's word after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to proclaim liberty for their slaves: everyone was to free their male and female Hebrew slaves and no longer hold a Judean brother or sister in bondage. So all the officials and people who entered into this covenant agreed to free their male and female slaves and no longer hold them in bondage; they obeyed the king's command and let them go. <sup>11</sup> But afterward they broke their promise, took back the men and women they had freed, and enslaved them again.

Then the LORD's word came to Jeremiah: The LORD, the God of Israel, proclaims: I made a covenant with your ancestors when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. I said that every seventh year each of you must free any Hebrews who have been sold to you. After they have served you for six years, you must set them free. But your ancestors didn't obey or pay any attention to me. Recently you turned about and did what was right in my sight; each of you proclaimed liberty for the other and made a covenant before me in the temple that bears my name. But then you went back on your word and made my name impure; each of you reclaimed the men and women you had set free and forced them to be your slaves again.

Therefore, the LORD proclaims: Since you have defied me by not setting your fellow citizens free, I'm setting you free, declares the LORD, free to die by the sword, disease, and famine! And I will make you an object of horror for all nations on earth. I will make those who disregarded my covenant, violating its terms that they agreed to in my presence, like the calf they cut in two and then walked between the halves of its carcass. The officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the eunuchs and priests, and all the people who passed through the pieces of the calf I will hand over to their enemies who seek to kill them. And their corpses will become food for birds and wild animals. I will hand over Judah's King Zedekiah and his officials to their enemies who seek to kill them: namely, the army of Babylon's king, which has just withdrawn from you. I'm about to issue orders, declares the LORD, that the army of Babylon return to this city. They will wage war against it, capture it, and burn it down along with other Judean cities. I will make Judah a wasteland, without inhabitants.

### **Verdict against king and city**

Jeremiah received the LORD's word when King Zedekiah sent Pashhur, Malchiah's son, and the priest Zephaniah, Maaseiah's son, to him with an appeal: "Speak to the LORD on our behalf because Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar is attacking us. Perhaps the LORD will perform one of his mighty deeds and force him to withdraw from us."

Jeremiah answered them: This is what you should tell Zedekiah: The LORD, the God of Israel, says: I'm going to turn your own weapons against you, yes, the weapons you are using to fight the king of Babylon and the Babylonians who have surrounded you! I will round them up in the center of the city. Then I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and strong arm in fierce anger and rage. I will strike down those within this city—both people and animals—and they will die of a terrible plague. Afterward, declares the LORD, I will deliver Judah's King Zedekiah, his servants, and those in this city who have survived plague, war, and famine to Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar and to their enemies who seek to do them harm. He will put them to the sword without pity, mercy, or compassion.

This is what you should tell this people: The LORD says: I'm setting before you the way of life and the way of death. Whoever stays in the city will die by the sword, famine, and disease. But whoever leaves the city and surrenders to the Babylonians will live; yes, their lives will be spared. I have set my face against this city for harm and not for good, declares the LORD; it will be delivered to the king of Babylon, who will set it on fire.

### **Judah: Hear the LORD's word**

House of Judah! This is what the LORD says: House of David! The LORD proclaims: Begin each morning by administering justice, rescue from their oppressor those who have been robbed, or else my anger will

spread like a wildfire, with no one to put it out, because of your evil deeds. I am against you, you who live in the valley, like a rock of the plain, declares the LORD, and who say, “Who will come down to attack us? Who will breach our fortresses? I will punish you based on what you have done, declares the LORD. I will set your forests on fire; the flames will engulf everything around you.

## **Ezekiel 29:1-16; 30:20-31:18**

### **Against Egypt**

In the tenth year, on the twelfth day of the tenth month, the LORD’s word came to me: Human one, face Pharaoh, Egypt’s king, and prophesy against him and against all of Egypt. Speak and say, The LORD God proclaims: I’m against you, Pharaoh, Egypt’s king, great crocodile lurking in the Nile’s canals, who says, “The Nile is all mine; I made it for myself!” I will set hooks in your jaws; I will make the fish from the Nile’s canals cling to your scales. I will drag you out of the Nile’s canals, and also all the fish from the Nile’s canals clinging to your scales. I will fling you out into the desert, and also all the fish from the Nile’s canals. You will fall on the open ground, and won’t be gathered or retrieved.

I’ve given you to the beasts of the earth and the birds in the sky for food. Everyone living in Egypt will know that I am the LORD.

Because they were a flimsy crutch for the house of Israel— when they took you in hand, you would splinter and make their shoulders sore; when they leaned on you, you would break, bringing them to their knees— now the LORD God proclaims: I’m bringing a sword against you, and I will cut off from you human and beast. The land of Egypt will be turned into a wasteland and ruins. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

Because you said, “The Nile is mine; I made it,” I’m against you and against the Nile’s canals. I will make the land of Egypt into an utter ruin, a wasteland, from Migdol to Syene and as far as its boundary with Cush. No foot, animal or human, will walk across it, and it won’t be inhabited for forty years. I will make the land of Egypt the most desolate of wastelands and its cities the most devastated of ruined cities. It will be a wasteland for forty years, and the Egyptians will be scattered among the nations and dispersed throughout the lands.

The LORD God proclaims: At the end of forty years, I will gather the Egyptians from among the nations where they are scattered. I will improve their circumstances and bring them back to the land of Pathros, the land of their origin. Egypt will be a lowly kingdom there. Out of all the kingdoms, it will be the lowliest. It will never again exalt itself over the nations, and I will make it small to keep it from ruling the nations. The house of Israel will never again bring guilt on itself by faithlessly turning to Egypt for help, for they will know that I am the LORD God.

In the eleventh year, on the seventh day of the first month, the LORD’s word came to me: Human one, I’ve broken the arm of Pharaoh, Egypt’s king, and it hasn’t been set so that it might heal, nor has it been braced or wrapped up so that it might be strong enough to grasp a sword.

So now the LORD God proclaims: I’m against Pharaoh, and I will break his arms, both the sound one and the broken one, and I’ll make the sword fall out of his hand. I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them throughout the earth. I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and I will put my sword into his hand. When I break the arms of Pharaoh, he will groan like a dying man in his presence. I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, but the arms of Pharaoh will fall. They will know that I am the LORD, when I put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon and he uses it against the land of Egypt. When I scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them throughout the earth, they will know that I am the LORD.

## **Egypt is not Assyria**

In the eleventh year, on the first day of the third month, the LORD's word came to me: Human one, say to Pharaoh, Egypt's king, and his troops:

With whom do you compare in your greatness? Consider Assyria, a cedar of Lebanon: beautiful branches, dense shade, towering height; indeed, its top went up between the clouds. Waters nourished it; the deep raised it up, because its streams flowed around the place where it was planted. From there, water trickled down to all the other trees of the field. And so it became higher than all the trees of the field. Its branches became abundant; its boughs grew long. Because of the plentiful water, it grew freely. All the birds in the sky made nests in its branches; all the beasts of the field gave birth under its boughs, and in its shade, every great nation lived. It became beautiful in its greatness and in its lush foliage, because it took root in plentiful water. No cedar was its equal in God's garden. The fir trees didn't have anything like its branches, and the plane trees had nothing like its boughs. None of the trees in God's garden could compare to it in its beauty. As for its beauty—I made it so, with its abundant foliage. All the trees of Eden envied it, all that were in God's garden.

So now the LORD God proclaims:

Consider the fate of those who tower high! When it allowed its branches to reach up among the clouds, it became arrogant. So I handed it over to the most powerful nation, who continually acted treacherously against it. I banished it! Foreigners, the worst of the nations, cut it down and left it to lie among the hills. All its branches fell among the valleys, and its boughs were broken off in the earth's deep ravines. All the earth's peoples departed from its shade and abandoned it. On its trunk roost all the birds in the sky, and on its boughs lie all the beasts of the field.

All this has happened so that no other well-watered tree would tower high or allow its branches to reach among the clouds. Nor would their leaders achieve the towering stature of such well-watered trees. Certainly, all of them are consigned to death, to the world below, among human beings who go down to the pit.

The LORD God proclaims: On the day that it went down to the underworld, I caused mourning. I blocked off the deep sea against it. I dried up its rivers and restrained the mighty waters. I made Lebanon go into mourning for it, and all the trees of the field languished on its account. When it was felled, the nations quaked at the sound. When I cast it down into the underworld, with those who go down to the pit, all the trees of Eden were comforted in the world below, the choicest and the best of Lebanon, all the trees that depended on water. His allies, those among the nations who lived under his shade, these also went down with him to the underworld, to those who are slain by the sword.

Are you like any of these in glory or greatness among Eden's trees? Then you too will go down with Eden's trees to the world below. You will lie among the uncircumcised, with those who are slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and his entire horde. This is what the LORD God says.

## **Jeremiah 32-33**

### **Nothing is too hard for the LORD**

Jeremiah received the LORD's word in the tenth year of Judah's King Zedekiah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar's rule. At that time, the army of the Babylonian king had surrounded Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined to the prison quarters in the palace of Judah's king. Judah's King Zedekiah had Jeremiah sent there after questioning him: "Why do you prophesy, 'This is what the LORD says: I'm handing this city over to the king of Babylon, and he will occupy it; and Judah's King Zedekiah will be captured and handed over to the king of Babylon; he will speak to the king of Babylon personally and see him with his very own eyes. And Zedekiah will be carried off to Babylon to live out his days until I punish him, declares the LORD. If you make war against the Babylonians, you will fail.'"

Jeremiah said, The LORD's word came to me: Your cousin Hanamel, Shallum's son, is on his way to see you; and when he arrives, he will tell you: "Buy my field in Anathoth, for by law you are next in line to purchase it." And just as the LORD had said, my cousin Hanamel showed up at the prison quarters and told me, "Buy my field in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for you are next in line and have a family obligation to purchase it." Then I was sure this was the LORD's doing.

So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out for him seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, had it witnessed, and weighed out the silver on the scales. Then I took the deed of purchase—the sealed copy, with its terms and conditions, and the unsealed copy— and gave it to Baruch, Neriah's son and Mahseiah's grandson, before my cousin Hanamel and the witnesses named in the deed, as well as before all the Judeans who were present in the prison quarters. I charged Baruch before all of them: "The LORD of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims: Take these documents—this sealed deed of purchase along with the unsealed one—and put them into a clay container so they will last a long time. The LORD of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims: Houses, fields, and vineyards will again be bought in this land."

After I had given the documents to Baruch, Neriah's son, I prayed to the LORD: LORD God, you created heaven and earth by your great power and outstretched arm; nothing is too hard for you! You act with mercy toward thousands upon thousands, but you also bring the consequences of the fathers' sins on their children after them. Great and mighty God, whose name is the LORD of heavenly forces, marvelous are your purposes, and mighty are your deeds. You are aware of all the ways of humanity, and you reward us for how we live and what we do even now. You have performed signs and wonders in the land of Egypt as you do to this very day in Israel and everywhere else. That's why you are so renowned. With a strong hand, an outstretched arm, and with awesome power, yes, with signs and wonders, you brought your people Israel out of the land of Egypt. You gave them this land that you promised to their ancestors, a land full of milk and honey. They entered and took possession of it, but they didn't obey you or follow your Instruction. In fact, they didn't do anything you commanded them. So you brought upon them this disaster. Now the siege ramps are in place to take the city. And the Babylonians are about to capture it by war, famine, and disease. What you have pronounced is now happening, as you can see. So why tell me, LORD God, Buy the field for money and make sure there are witnesses, when the city is under Babylonian control?

Then the LORD's word came to Jeremiah: I am the LORD, the God of all living things! Is anything too hard for me? Therefore, the LORD proclaims: I'm handing this city over to the Babylonians and King Nebuchadnezzar, who will capture it. They will enter the city, set it on fire, and burn it down—including the houses on whose roofs offerings have been made to Baal and drink offerings to other gods, which made me especially angry. The people of Israel and Judah have done nothing but evil in my eyes since their youth; the people of Israel and Judah have done nothing but anger me by the work of their hands, declares the LORD. This city has enraged me from the day it was built to this very day, and so it must be removed from my sight— because of all the evil done by the people of Israel and Judah to make me angry—they, their kings and officials, their priests and prophets, the men of Judah, and those who live in Jerusalem. They turned their backs to me and not their faces; and though I taught them over and over, they wouldn't accept my correction. They set up their disgusting idols in the temple that bears my name and violated it; and they built shrines to Baal in the Ben-hinnon Valley, where they sacrifice their sons and daughters to Molech, though I never commanded them—nor did it even cross my mind—that they should do such detestable things, leading Judah to sin.

You have been saying, "This city will be handed over to the king of Babylon through sword, famine, and disease." But this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I will gather them from all the countries where I have scattered them in my fierce anger and rage. I will bring them back to this place to live securely. They will be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one mind so that they may worship me all the days of their lives, for their own good and for the good of their children after them. I will make an everlasting covenant with them, never to stop treating them graciously. I will put into their hearts a sense of awe for me so that they won't turn away from me. I will

rejoice in treating them graciously, and I will plant them in this land faithfully and with all my heart and being.

The LORD proclaims: Just as I brought this great disaster on this people, so I will bring on them all the good I promised them. Fields will be bought in this land, a land you have said is bleak and uninhabited and in the possession of the Babylonians. Fields will be bought, and deeds will be signed, sealed, and witnessed in the land of Benjamin and in the outlying areas of Jerusalem, in the towns of Judah and in the highlands, in the towns of the western foothills and the arid southern plain; for I will bring them back from their captivity, declares the LORD.

### **Restoration of Judah and Israel**

While he was still confined to the prison quarters, the LORD's word came to Jeremiah a second time: The LORD proclaims, the LORD who made the earth, who formed and established it, whose name is the LORD: Call to me and I will answer and reveal to you wondrous secrets that you haven't known.

This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, proclaims about the houses of this city and the palaces of the kings of Judah that were torn down to defend against the siege ramps and weapons of the invading Babylonians. They will be filled with the corpses of those slain in my fierce anger. I hid my face from the people of this city because of all their evil deeds, but now I will heal and mend them. I will make them whole and bless them with an abundance of peace and security. I will bring back the captives of Judah and Israel, and I will rebuild them as they were at first. I will cleanse them of all the wrongdoing they committed against me, and I will forgive them for all of their guilt and rebellion. Then this city will bring me great joy, praise, and renown before all nations on earth, when they hear of all the good I provide for them. They will be in total awe at all the good and prosperity I provide for them.

The LORD proclaims: You have said about this place, "It is a wasteland, without humans or animals." Yet in the ravaged and uninhabited towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem, the sounds of joy and laughter and the voices of the bride and the bridegroom will again be heard. So will the voices of those who say, as thank offerings are brought to the LORD's temple, "Give thanks to the LORD of heavenly forces, for the LORD is good and his kindness lasts forever." I will bring back the captives of this land as they were before, says the LORD.

The LORD of heavenly forces proclaims: This wasteland, without humans or animals—and all its towns—will again become pastures for shepherds to care for their flocks. Shepherds will again count their flocks in the towns of the highlands, the western foothills and the arid southern plain, in the land of Benjamin, as well as in the outlying areas of Jerusalem and the towns of Judah, says the LORD.

The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from David's line, who will do what is just and right in the land. In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is what he will be called: The LORD Is Our Righteousness. The LORD proclaims: David will always have one of his descendants sit on the throne of the house of Israel. And the levitical priests will always have someone in my presence to make entirely burned offerings and grain offerings, and to present sacrifices.

Then the LORD's word came to Jeremiah: This is what the LORD says: If one could break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night so that they wouldn't come at their proper time, only then could my covenant with my servant David and my covenant with the levitical priests who minister before me be broken; only then would David no longer have a descendant to rule on his throne. And just as the stars in the sky can't be numbered and the sand on the shore can't be counted, so I will increase the descendants of my servant David and the Levites who minister before me.

Then the LORD's word came to Jeremiah: Aren't you aware of what people are saying: "The LORD has rejected the two families that he had chosen"? They are insulting my people as if they no longer belong

to me. The LORD proclaims: I would no sooner break my covenant with day and night or the laws of heaven and earth than I would reject the descendants of Jacob and my servant David and his descendants as rulers for the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will restore the captives and have compassion on them.

## Ezekiel 26-28

### Proclamation against Tyre

In the eleventh year, on the first day of the month, the LORD's word came to me: Human one, because Tyre laughed at Jerusalem: "The gate of the peoples is broken, she lies open before me, she is destroyed, but I will succeed!" The LORD God now proclaims: Tyre, I'm now against you! Just as the sea hurls up its waves, I will bring many nations up against you. When they destroy the walls of Tyre and throw down its towers, I will scrape off all its dirt and make it into a bare rock, a place for drying nets in the middle of the sea. I have spoken! This is what the LORD God says. It will become prey for the nations, and its towns around it will be put to the sword. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

The LORD God proclaims: I'm bringing Nebuchadrezzar against Tyre, the king of Babylon from the north, the greatest of all kings, with horses, chariots, and charioteers, an assembly, a great army. The towns around you he will destroy with the sword. Then he will build towers against you, erect siege ramps against you, and set up shields. He will pound his battering ram against your walls; with crowbars he will tear down your towers. The dust from all his horses will cover you when he enters your gates as one who enters a breached city. Your walls will quake at the thundering of the charioteers and chariot wheels. His horses' hooves will trample all your courtyards; he will cut down your people with the sword, and the monuments to your strength he will bring down to the ground. They will destroy your wealth, plunder your goods, tear down your walls, and raze your fine houses. Your stone, lumber, and rubble they will dump into the sea.

I will bring an end to your cacophonous songs; the sound of your lyres will never be heard again. I will make you into a bare rock, a place for drying nets, and you will never be rebuilt. I, the LORD, have spoken. This is what the LORD God says.

Thus says the Lord GOD to Tyre: Shall not the coastlands shake at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan, when slaughter goes on within you? Then all the princes of the sea shall step down from their thrones; they shall remove their robes and strip off their embroidered garments. They shall clothe themselves with trembling, and shall sit on the ground; they shall tremble every moment, and be appalled at you. And they shall raise a lamentation over you, and say to you:

How you have vanished from the seas,  
O city renowned,  
once mighty on the sea,  
you and your inhabitants,  
who imposed your terror  
on all the mainland!  
Now the coastlands tremble  
on the day of your fall;  
the coastlands by the sea  
are dismayed at your passing.

For thus says the Lord GOD: When I make you a city laid waste, like cities that are not inhabited, when I bring up the deep over you, and the great waters cover you, then I will thrust you down with those who descend into the Pit, to the people of long ago, and I will make you live in the world below, among primeval ruins, with those who go down to the Pit, so that you will not be inhabited or have a place in the land of the living. I will



bring you to a dreadful end, and you shall be no more; though sought for, you will never be found again, says the Lord GOD.

### **Lamentation over Tyre**

The word of the LORD came to me: Now you, mortal, raise a lamentation over Tyre, and say to Tyre, which sits at the entrance to the sea, merchant of the peoples on many coastlands, Thus says the Lord GOD:

O Tyre, you have said, "I am perfect in beauty." Your borders are in the heart of the seas; your builders made perfect your beauty. They made all your planks of fir trees from Senir; they took a cedar from Lebanon to make a mast for you. From oaks of Bashan they made your oars; they made your deck of pines from the coasts of Cyprus, inlaid with ivory. Of fine embroidered linen from Egypt was your sail, serving as your ensign; blue and purple from the coasts of Elishah was your awning. The inhabitants of Sidon and Arvad were your rowers; skilled men of Zemer were within you, they were your pilots. The elders of Gebal and its artisans were within you, caulking your seams; all the ships of the sea with their mariners were within you, to barter for your wares. Paras and Lud and Put were in your army, your mighty warriors; they hung shield and helmet in you; they gave you splendor. Men of Arvad and Helech were on your walls all around; men of Gamad were at your towers. They hung their quivers all around your walls; they made perfect your beauty.

Tarshish did business with you out of the abundance of your great wealth; silver, iron, tin, and lead they exchanged for your wares. Javan, Tubal, and Meshech traded with you; they exchanged human beings and vessels of bronze for your merchandise. Beth-togarmah exchanged for your wares horses, war horses, and mules. The Rhodians traded with you; many coastlands were your own special markets; they brought you in payment ivory tusks and ebony. Edom did business with you because of your abundant goods; they exchanged for your wares turquoise, purple, embroidered work, fine linen, coral, and rubies. Judah and the land of Israel traded with you; they exchanged for your merchandise wheat from Minnith, millet, honey, oil, and balm. Damascus traded with you for your abundant goods—because of your great wealth of every kind—wine of Helbon, and white wool. Vedan and Javan from Uzal entered into trade for your wares; wrought iron, cassia, and sweet cane were bartered for your merchandise. Dedan traded with you in saddlecloths for riding. Arabia and all the princes of Kedar were your favored dealers in lambs, rams, and goats; in these they did business with you. The merchants of Sheba and Raamah traded with you; they exchanged for your wares the best of all kinds of spices, and all precious stones, and gold. Haran, Canneh, Eden, the merchants of Sheba, Asshur, and Chilmad traded with you. These traded with you in choice garments, in clothes of blue and embroidered work, and in carpets of colored material, bound with cords and made secure; in these they traded with you. The ships of Tarshish traveled for you in your trade.

So you were filled and heavily laden in the heart of the seas. Your rowers have brought you into the high seas. The east wind has wrecked you in the heart of the seas. Your riches, your wares, your merchandise, your mariners and your pilots, your caulkers, your dealers in merchandise, and all your warriors within you, with all the company that is with you, sink into the heart of the seas on the day of your ruin. At the sound of the cry of your pilots the countryside shakes, and down from their ships come all that handle the oar. The mariners and all the pilots of the sea stand on the shore and wail aloud over you, and cry bitterly. They throw dust on their heads and wallow in ashes; they make themselves bald for you, and put on sackcloth, and they weep over you in bitterness of soul, with bitter mourning. In their wailing they raise a lamentation for you, and lament over you: "Who was ever destroyed like Tyre in the midst of the sea? When your wares came from the seas, you satisfied many peoples; with your abundant wealth and merchandise you enriched the kings of the earth. Now you are wrecked by the seas, in the depths of the waters; your merchandise and all your crew have sunk with you. All the inhabitants of the coastlands are appalled at you; and their kings are horribly afraid, their faces are convulsed. The merchants among the peoples hiss at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever."

### **Proclamation against the King of Tyre**

The word of the LORD came to me: Mortal, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord GOD:

Because your heart is proud and you have said, "I am a god; I sit in the seat of the gods, in the heart of the seas," yet you are but a mortal, and no god, though you compare your mind with the mind of a god. You are indeed wiser than Daniel; no secret is hidden from you; by your wisdom and your understanding you have amassed wealth for yourself, and have gathered gold and silver into your treasuries. By your great wisdom in trade you have increased your wealth, and your heart has become proud in your wealth. Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you compare your mind with the mind of a god, therefore, I will bring strangers against you, the most terrible of the nations; they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom and defile your splendor. They shall thrust you down to the Pit, and you shall die a violent death in the heart of the seas. Will you still say, "I am a god," in the presence of those who kill you, though you are but a mortal, and no god, in the hands of those who wound you? You shall die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of foreigners; for I have spoken, says the Lord GOD.

### **Lamentation over the King of Tyre**

Moreover the word of the LORD came to me: Mortal, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD:

You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, carnelian, chrysolite, and moonstone, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald; and worked in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. With an anointed cherub as guardian I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked among the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day that you were created, until iniquity was found in you. In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and the guardian cherub drove you out from among the stones of fire. Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you. By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade, you profaned your sanctuaries. So I brought out fire from within you; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you. All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever.

### **Proclamation against Sidon**

The word of the LORD came to me: Mortal, set your face toward Sidon, and prophesy against it, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am against you, O Sidon, and I will gain glory in your midst. They shall know that I am the LORD when I execute judgments in it, and manifest my holiness in it; for I will send pestilence into it, and bloodshed into its streets; and the dead shall fall in its midst, by the sword that is against it on every side. And they shall know that I am the LORD. The house of Israel shall no longer find a pricking brier or a piercing thorn among all their neighbors who have treated them with contempt. And they shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

### **Future Blessing for Israel**

Thus says the Lord GOD: When I gather the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and manifest my holiness in them in the sight of the nations, then they shall settle on their own soil that I gave to my servant Jacob. They shall live in safety in it, and shall build houses and plant vineyards. They shall live in safety, when I execute judgments upon all their neighbors who have treated them with contempt. And they shall know that I am the LORD their God.

## **Jerusalem falls to Babylon**

**On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine became so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. Then a breach was made in the city wall; the king with all the soldiers fled by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, by the king's garden, though the Chaldeans were all around the city. They went in the direction of the Arabah. But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho; all his army was scattered, deserting him. Then they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, who passed sentence on him. They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, then put out the eyes of Zedekiah; they bound him in fetters and took him to Babylon. (2 Kings 25:3-7)**

### **Jeremiah 52:6-11; 39:2-40:6**

On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine became so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. Then a breach was made in the city wall; and all the soldiers fled and went out from the city by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, by the king's garden, though the Chaldeans were all around the city. They went in the direction of the Arabah. But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered, deserting him. Then they captured the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he passed sentence on him.

The king of Babylon killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and also killed all the officers of Judah at Riblah. He put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in fetters, and the king of Babylon took him to Babylon, and put him in prison until the day of his death.

In the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, a breach was made in the city. When Jerusalem was taken, all the officials of the king of Babylon came and sat in the middle gate: Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim the Rabsaris, Nergal-sharezer the Rabmag, with all the rest of the officials of the king of Babylon. When King Zedekiah of Judah and all the soldiers saw them, they fled, going out of the city at night by way of the king's garden through the gate between the two walls; and they went toward the Arabah. But the army of the Chaldeans pursued them, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and when they had taken him, they brought him up to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, at Riblah, in the land of Hamath; and he passed sentence on him.

The king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah at Riblah before his eyes; also the king of Babylon slaughtered all the nobles of Judah. He put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in fetters to take him to Babylon. The Chaldeans burned the king's house and the houses of the people, and broke down the walls of Jerusalem. Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard exiled to Babylon the rest of the people who were left in the city, those who had deserted to him, and the people who remained. Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left in the land of Judah some of the poor people who owned nothing and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time.

### **Jeremiah, Set Free, Remembers Ebed-melech**

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon gave command concerning Jeremiah through Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, saying, "Take him, look after him well and do him no harm, but deal with him as he may ask you." So Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, Nebushazban the Rabsaris, Nergal-sharezer the Rabmag, and all the chief officers of the king of Babylon sent and took Jeremiah from the court of the guard. They entrusted him to Gedaliah son of Ahikam son of Shaphan to be brought home. So he stayed with his own people.

The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah while he was confined in the court of the guard: Go and say to Ebed-melech the Ethiopian: Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I am going to fulfill my words against this city for evil and not for good, and they shall be accomplished in your presence on that day. But I will save you on that day, says the LORD, and you shall not be handed over to those whom you dread. For I will surely save you, and you shall not fall by the sword; but you shall have your life as a prize of war, because you have trusted in me, says the LORD.

### **Jeremiah with Gedaliah the Governor**

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD after Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had let him go from Ramah, when he took him bound in fetters along with all the captives of Jerusalem and Judah who were being exiled to Babylon. The captain of the guard took Jeremiah and said to him, “The LORD your God threatened this place with this disaster; and now the LORD has brought it about, and has done as he said, because all of you sinned against the LORD and did not obey his voice. Therefore this thing has come upon you. Now look, I have just released you today from the fetters on your hands. If you wish to come with me to Babylon, come, and I will take good care of you; but if you do not wish to come with me to Babylon, you need not come. See, the whole land is before you; go wherever you think it good and right to go. If you remain, then return to Gedaliah son of Ahikam son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon appointed governor of the towns of Judah, and stay with him among the people; or go wherever you think it right to go.” So the captain of the guard gave him an allowance of food and a present, and let him go. Then Jeremiah went to Gedaliah son of Ahikam at Mizpah, and stayed with him among the people who were left in the land.

### **2 Kings 25:8-21**

In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month—which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. He burned the house of the LORD, the king’s house, and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down. All the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls around Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried into exile the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had defected to the king of Babylon—all the rest of the population. But the captain of the guard left some of the poorest people of the land to be vinedressers and tillers of the soil.

The bronze pillars that were in the house of the LORD, as well as the stands and the bronze sea that were in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans broke in pieces, and carried the bronze to Babylon. They took away the pots, the shovels, the snuffers, the dishes for incense, and all the bronze vessels used in the temple service, as well as the firepans and the basins. What was made of gold the captain of the guard took away for the gold, and what was made of silver, for the silver. As for the two pillars, the one sea, and the stands, which Solomon had made for the house of the LORD, the bronze of all these vessels was beyond weighing. The height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, and on it was a bronze capital; the height of the capital was three cubits; latticework and pomegranates, all of bronze, were on the capital all around. The second pillar had the same, with the latticework.

The captain of the guard took the chief priest Seraiah, the second priest Zephaniah, and the three guardians of the threshold; from the city he took an officer who had been in command of the soldiers, and five men of the king’s council who were found in the city; the secretary who was the commander of the army who mustered the people of the land; and sixty men of the people of the land who were found in the city. Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them, and brought them to the king of Babylon at

Riblah. The king of Babylon struck them down and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah went into exile out of its land.

### **Jeremiah 52:12-27**

In the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month—which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard who served the king of Babylon, entered Jerusalem. He burned the house of the LORD, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down. All the army of the Chaldeans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down all the walls around Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried into exile some of the poorest of the people and the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had defected to the king of Babylon, together with the rest of the artisans. But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left some of the poorest people of the land to be vinedressers and tillers of the soil.

The pillars of bronze that were in the house of the LORD, and the stands and the bronze sea that were in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans broke in pieces, and carried all the bronze to Babylon.

They took away the pots, the shovels, the snuffers, the basins, the ladles, and all the vessels of bronze used in the temple service. The captain of the guard took away the small bowls also, the firepans, the basins, the pots, the lampstands, the ladles, and the bowls for libation, both those of gold and those of silver. As for the two pillars, the one sea, the twelve bronze bulls that were under the sea, and the stands, which King Solomon had made for the house of the LORD, the bronze of all these vessels was beyond weighing. As for the pillars, the height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, its circumference was twelve cubits; it was hollow and its thickness was four fingers. Upon it was a capital of bronze; the height of the capital was five cubits; latticework and pomegranates, all of bronze, encircled the top of the capital. And the second pillar had the same, with pomegranates. There were ninety-six pomegranates on the sides; all the pomegranates encircling the latticework numbered one hundred.

The captain of the guard took the chief priest Seraiah, the second priest Zephaniah, and the three guardians of the threshold; and from the city he took an officer who had been in command of the soldiers, and seven men of the king's council who were found in the city; the secretary of the commander of the army who mustered the people of the land; and sixty men of the people of the land who were found inside the city. Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them, and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. And the king of Babylon struck them down, and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah went into exile out of its land.

### **2 Chronicles 36:15-21**

*The LORD, the God of their ancestors, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place; but they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words, and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD against his people became so great that there was no remedy. Therefore he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their youths with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or young woman, the aged or the feeble; he gave them all into his hand. All the vessels of the house of God, large and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his officials, all these he brought to Babylon. They burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious vessels. He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until*

*the land had made up for its sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.*

**The Book of Lamentations is a collection of songs written shortly after the fall of Jerusalem. The songs are likely written by the prophet, Jeremiah, and contain words of lament and sorrow over the condition of God's land and God's people.**

## **Lamentations 1-5**

### **The Sorrows of Jerusalem**

How lonely sits the city that was full of people!  
How she has become like a widow, who was once great among the nations!  
She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave!  
She weeps sorely in the night, her tears are on her cheeks;  
among all her lovers she has none to comfort her.  
All her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies.  
Judah has gone into captivity, under affliction and great servitude;  
she dwells among the nations, she finds no rest;  
all her persecutors overtook her in the midst of distress.  
The roads to Zion mourn because no one comes to the solemn feasts.  
All her gates are desolate; her priests sigh, her virgins are afflicted, and she herself suffers bitterly.  
Her adversaries have become her masters, her enemies prosper;  
for the LORD has afflicted her because of the multitude of her transgressions.  
Her children have gone into captivity before the enemy.  
From the daughter of Zion all her beauty has departed.  
Her princes have become like deer that find no pasture;  
they fled without strength before the pursuer.  
In the days of her affliction and misery Jerusalem remembers all her pleasant things  
that she had in the days of old.  
When her people fell into the hand of the enemy, there was no one to help her.  
The adversaries saw her and mocked at her desolation.  
Jerusalem has sinned grievously; therefore she has become vile.  
All who honored her despise her, for they have seen her nakedness;  
she herself sighs and turns away.  
Her uncleanness is in her skirts; she took no thought of her future;  
therefore her fall is astounding; she has no comforter.  
"O LORD, look upon my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed!"  
The adversary has spread his hand over all her precious things;  
for she has seen the nations enter her sanctuary,  
those whom You commanded not to enter Your congregation.  
All her people groan, as they search for bread;  
they trade their treasures for food to restore their strength.  
Look, O LORD, and consider, for I am despised.  
Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?  
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,  
which was brought upon me, which the LORD has inflicted  
on the day of His fierce anger.  
From on high He has sent fire into my bones, and it prevailed against them;  
He has spread a net for my feet;  
He turned me back; He has made me desolate and faint all the day long.

The yoke of my transgressions was bound;  
 by His hand they were fastened together; they were set upon my neck.  
 He made my strength fail; the Lord delivered me into the hands  
 of those whom I am not able to withstand.  
 The Lord has trampled underfoot all my mighty men in my midst;  
 He has called an assembly against me to crush my young men;  
 The Lord has trodden the virgin daughter of Judah as in a winepress.  
 For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears;  
 for the comforter, who should relieve my soul, is far from me.  
 My children are desolate for the enemy has prevailed.  
 Zion spreads out her hands, but there is no one to comfort her;  
 the LORD has commanded against Jacob that his neighbors should be his adversaries;  
 Jerusalem has become a filthy thing among them.  
 The LORD is in the right, for I have rebelled against His commandment.  
 Hear now, all peoples, and see my sorrow;  
 my virgins and my young men have gone into captivity.  
 I called for my lovers, but they deceived me;  
 my priests and my elders perished in the city,  
 while they sought food to restore their strength.  
 Look, O LORD, for I am in distress; my soul is greatly troubled;  
 my heart is overturned within me, for I have grievously rebelled.  
 In the street the sword bereaves, at home it is like death.  
 They have heard my groaning, yet there is no one to comfort me.  
 All my enemies have heard of my trouble; they are glad that You have done it.  
 Bring the day that You have announced, that they become like me.  
 Let all their wickedness come before You, and do to them  
 as You have done to me for all my transgressions;  
 for my groans are many, and my heart is faint.

### **The Anger of God Over Jerusalem**

How the Lord has covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in His anger!  
 He has cast down from heaven to the earth the beauty of Israel;  
 He has not remembered His footstool in the day of His anger.

The Lord has swallowed up without mercy all the habitations of Jacob;  
 In His wrath He has thrown down the strongholds of the daughter of Judah;  
 He has brought them down to the ground; He has profaned the kingdom and its princes.

He has cut off in fierce anger all the might of Israel;  
 He has drawn back His right hand from before the enemy.  
 He has burned against Jacob like a flaming fire, devouring all around.

He has bent His bow like an enemy, with his right hand set like an adversary;  
 He has killed all who were pleasant to His eye;  
 in the tabernacle of the daughter of Zion, He has poured out His fury like fire.

The Lord has become like an enemy;  
 He has swallowed up Israel, He has swallowed up all her palaces;  
 He has destroyed her strongholds and has increased mourning and lamentation  
 in the daughter of Judah.

He has violently taken away His tabernacle as if it were a garden;  
 He has destroyed His place of assembly;

the LORD has caused the solemn feasts and Sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion.  
In his fierce indignation He has despised the king and the priest.

The Lord has scorned His altar, He has disowned His sanctuary;  
He has given up the walls of her palaces into the hand of the enemy.  
They have made a noise in the house of the LORD as on the day of a solemn feast.

The LORD has purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion.  
He has stretched out a line; He has not withdrawn His hand from destroying;  
therefore He caused the rampart and the wall to lament; they languished together.

Her gates have sunk into the ground; He has destroyed and broken her bars.  
Her king and her princes are among the nations;  
the Law is no more, and her prophets find no vision from the LORD.

The elders of the daughter of Zion sit on the ground in silence;  
they throw dust on their heads and gird themselves with sackcloth.  
The virgins of Jerusalem bow their heads to the ground.

My eyes fail with tears, my spirit is greatly troubled;  
my bile is poured on the ground because of the destruction of the daughter of my people,  
because the children and infants faint in the streets of the city.

They say to their mothers, "Where is grain and wine?"  
when they faint like a wounded man in the streets of the city,  
as their life is poured out on their mothers' bosom.

What can I say for you, to what shall I liken you,  
O daughter of Jerusalem?  
What shall I compare with you, that I may comfort you,  
O virgin daughter of Zion?  
For your devastation is great like the sea; who can heal you?

Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions;  
they have not revealed your iniquity, to bring back your captives,  
but have seen for you oracles that are false and misleading.

All who pass by clap their hands at you;  
they hiss and shake their heads at the daughter of Jerusalem, saying,  
"Is this the city that men call the perfection of beauty, the joy of the whole earth?"

All your enemies have opened their mouth against you;  
they hiss and gnash their teeth.  
They say, "We have swallowed her up!  
Certainly this is the day that we longed for; we have found it; we have seen it."

The LORD has done what He planned;  
He has fulfilled His word that He had commanded in the days of old.  
He has thrown down and has not pitied, and He has caused the enemy to rejoice over you;  
He has exalted the power of your adversaries.

Their heart cried to the Lord:  
O wall of the daughter of Zion, let your tears run down like a river day and night;  
give yourself no rest, your eyes no respite!

Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the watches;  
pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord.



Lift your hands to Him for the lives of your young children,  
who faint for hunger at the head of every street.

Look, O LORD, and consider! To whom have You done this?  
Should the women eat their offspring, the children who were born healthy?  
Should the priest and the prophet be killed in the sanctuary of the Lord?

The young and the old lie on the ground in the streets;  
my virgins and my young men have fallen by the sword;  
You have killed them in the day of Your anger, You have slaughtered and not pitied.

You have invited as to a feast day the terrors all around;  
in the day of the LORD's anger no one escaped or survived;  
those whom I held and raised my enemy destroyed.

### **The Prophet's Anguish**

I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of His wrath.  
He has driven and brought me into darkness without any light.  
Surely against me has He turned His hand continually, the whole day long.

My flesh and my skin He has made waste away; He has broken my bones;  
He has besieged and enveloped me with gall and travail.  
He has set me in dark places, like the dead of long ago.

He has hedged me in so that I cannot get out; He has made my chain heavy.  
Even when I cry for help, He shuts out my prayer.  
He has blocked my ways with hewn stone; He has made my paths crooked.

He is to me a bear lying in wait, a lion in hiding.  
He has turned aside my ways and torn me in pieces; He has made me desolate.  
He has bent His bow and set me as a target for the arrow.

He has caused the arrows of His quiver to pierce my inward parts.  
I have become the derision of all my people, their mocking song all the day.  
He has filled me with bitterness, He has sated me with wormwood.

He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and covered me with ashes.  
My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten prosperity.  
So I say, "My strength and my hope from the LORD have perished."

Remember my affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.  
Surely my soul remembers and is humbled within me.  
But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed; His compassions do not fail.  
They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.  
"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him."

The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.  
It is good that a man should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.  
It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth.

Let him sit alone in silence when it is laid on him;  
let him put his mouth in the dust— there may yet be hope.  
Let him give his cheek to the one who strikes, and let him be filled with insults.

For the Lord will not cast off forever.  
But though He causes grief, yet He will have compassion according to the abundance of His mercies.  
For He does not afflict from His heart, nor grieve the sons of men.

To crush underfoot all the prisoners of the earth,  
to turn aside the justice due a man in the presence of the Most High,  
to subvert a man in his cause, the Lord does not approve.

Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it?  
Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad proceed?  
Why should a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

Let us search and try our ways, and return to the LORD!  
Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven:  
We have transgressed and rebelled; You have not pardoned.

You have covered Yourself with anger and pursued us; You have killed and not pitied.  
You have covered Yourself with a cloud, so that no prayer should pass through.  
You have made us filthy refuse in the midst of the peoples.

All our enemies have opened their mouths against us.  
Panic and snare have come upon us, desolation and destruction.  
My eyes flow with rivers of tears for the destruction of the daughter of my people.

My eyes flow and do not cease, without respite, until the LORD from heaven looks down and sees.  
My eyes bring suffering to my soul at the fate of all the daughters of my city.

My enemies chased me like a bird, without cause.  
They cut off my life in the pit and cast stones on me.  
Waters flowed over my head; I said, "I am cut off!"

I called on Your name, O LORD, from the lowest pit.  
You have heard my plea: "Do not close Your ear to my cry for help!"  
You drew near on the day I called on You, and You said, "Do not fear!"

O Lord, You have pleaded the case for my soul; You have redeemed my life.  
O LORD, You have seen the wrong done to me; judge my case.  
You have seen all their vengeance, all their schemes against me.

You have heard their reproach, O LORD, all their schemes against me,  
the lips of my enemies and their devices against me all the day.  
Look at their sitting down and their rising up; I am their mocking song.

Render to them a recompense, O LORD, according to the work of their hands.  
Give them hardness of heart; may Your curse be upon them!  
In Your anger pursue and destroy them from under Your heavens, O LORD!

## The Punishment of Zion

How the gold has become dim! How the most fine gold has changed!  
The stones of the sanctuary lie scattered at the head of every street.

The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold,  
how they are esteemed as earthen pots, the work of a potter's hands!

Even the jackals offer the breast; they nurse their young,  
yet the daughter of my people has become cruel, like ostriches in the wilderness.

The tongue of the infant cleaves to the roof of his mouth for thirst;  
the children beg for bread, but no one divides it for them.

Those who once ate delicacies are desolate in the streets;  
those who were brought up in scarlet embrace ash heaps.

For the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the sin of Sodom,  
which was overthrown in a moment, and no hands were wrung for her.

Her princes were purer than snow, whiter than milk;  
their bodies were more ruddy than rubies, their appearance like sapphire.

Their form is blacker than coal; they are not recognized in the streets;  
their skin cleaves to their bones, it has become as dry as wood.

Those killed by the sword are better off than those who die of hunger,  
for they pine away, stricken for want of the fruits of the field.

The hands of compassionate women have boiled their own children;  
they became their food in the destruction of the daughter of my people.

The LORD has fulfilled His fury, He has poured out His fierce anger.  
He kindled a fire in Zion, and it has devoured its foundations.

The kings of the earth, and all the inhabitants of the world, would not have believed  
that the adversary and the enemy could enter the gates of Jerusalem.

This was for the sins of her prophets and the iniquities of her priests,  
who poured out in her midst the blood of the righteous.

They wandered, blind, in the streets;  
they have defiled themselves with blood, so that no one could touch their garments.

They cried out to them, "Depart! Unclean! Depart, depart, do not touch us!"  
Therefore they fled and wandered; men among the nations said, "They shall live with us no longer."

The presence of the LORD scattered them; He will regard them no more;  
they do not respect the priests, nor show favor to the elders.

Our eyes failed us, watching vainly for help;  
in our watchtowers we watched for a nation that could not save us.

They tracked our steps so that we could not walk in our streets.  
Our end drew near; our days were numbered, for our end had come.

Our pursuers were swifter than the eagles of the skies.  
They pursued us on the mountains; they lay in wait for us in the wilderness.

The breath of our life, the anointed king of the LORD, was captured in their traps,  
of whom we said, "Under his shadow we shall live among the nations."

Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, you who dwell in the land of Uz!  
The cup shall also pass to you; you shall become drunk and strip yourself bare.

The punishment of your iniquity, O daughter of Zion, is accomplished; He shall exile you no longer.  
He shall punish your iniquity, O daughter of Edom; He will expose your sins!

### **A Prayer for Restoration**

Remember, O LORD, what has come upon us; look, and see our reproach!  
Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our homes to foreigners.

We have become orphans and fatherless; our mothers are like widows.

We must pay for the water we drink; our wood is sold to us.

Our pursuers are at our necks; we labor and have no rest.

We have given our hand to Egypt and to Assyria, to be satisfied with bread.

Our fathers sinned and are no more, but we bear their iniquities.

Slaves rule over us; there is no one to deliver us from their hand.

We get our bread at the peril of our lives, because of the sword in the wilderness.

<sup>1</sup>Our skin is hot as an oven, because of the terrible famine.

They ravished the women in Zion, the virgins in the cities of Judah.

Princes were hung up by their hands, the faces of elders were not honored.

Young men ground at the millstones; boys staggered under loads of wood.

The elders have left the city gate, the young men stopped their music.

The joy of our hearts has ceased; our dancing has turned into mourning.

The crown has fallen from our head; woe to us, for we have sinned!

For this our heart is faint; for these things our eyes grow dim;  
because of Mount Zion, which is desolate, with foxes walking upon it.

You, O LORD, remain forever;

Your throne endures from generation to generation.

Why do You forget us forever, and forsake us for so long a time?

Restore us to Yourself, O LORD, that we may return!

Renew our days as of old, unless You have utterly rejected us,  
and are very angry with us.

**The very short book of Obadiah records a prophetic "vision" given by the Lord to a man named Obadiah. The only thing known about this prophet is his name. The book was probably written in the first half of the Babylonian exile, after Babylon attacked Jerusalem and prior to Babylon's conquest of Edom, about 30 years after the fall of Jerusalem.**

## The Book of Obadiah

### Judgment on Edom

The vision of Obadiah.

Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom

(We have heard a report from the LORD and a messenger has been sent among the nations, saying: “Rise up! Let us rise up against it for battle!”):

See, I will make you small among the nations; you will be greatly despised. The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, whose dwelling is high; you say in your heart, “Who will bring me down to the ground?” Though you ascend high like the eagle, and though you set your nest among the stars, I will bring you down from there, says the LORD.

If thieves came to you, if robbers by night— how you have been destroyed!— would they not steal only what they want? If grape gatherers come to you, would they not leave gleanings? How *the things of Esau* have been ransacked! How his hidden treasures hunted out! All your confederates have driven you to the border; your allies have deceived and prevailed against you. *Those who eat your bread* have set a trap for you. You will not detect it.

On that day, says the LORD, I will destroy the wise out of Edom, and understanding out of Mount Esau. Your mighty men shall be shattered, O Teman, so that everyone from Mount Esau will be cut off.

### Edom’s Violence Against Jacob

For the slaughter and the violence done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever. On the day that you stood aside, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth, and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots on Jerusalem, you also were like one of them. But you should not have gloated on the day of your brother, on the day of his misfortune; you should not have rejoiced over the children of Judah on the day of their destruction; you should not have boasted on the day of distress. You should not have entered the gate of My people on the day of their calamity. You should not have gloated over *the disaster of Judah* on the day of his calamity; you should not have seized his wealth on the day of his calamity. You should not have stood at the crossroad to cut off his fugitives; you should not have handed over his survivors, on the day of distress.

### The Day of the LORD Is Near

For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations; as you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head. For as you have drunk on My holy mountain, all the nations shall drink continually; they shall drink and swallow and shall be as though they had never been. But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, and it shall be holy; and the house of Jacob shall possess those who dispossessed them. The house of Jacob shall be a fire, the house of Joseph a flame, but the house of Esau stubble, they shall burn them and consume them, and there shall be no survivors from the house of Esau, for the LORD has spoken.

## The Restoration of Israel

Those of the Negev shall possess Mount Esau, and those of the Shephelah the land of the Philistines. They shall possess the fields of Ephraim and the fields of Samaria, and Benjamin shall possess Gilead. The exiles of this army of the sons of Israel, *shall inherit the land* of the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad shall inherit the cities of the Negev. Saviors shall go up to Mount Zion to rule Mount Esau, and the kingdom shall be the LORD's.

### Gedaliah, Governor of Judah

Over the people who remained in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left, he appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan. When all the captains of the armies, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah, they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah, that is, Ishmael son of Nethaniah, Johanan son of Kareah, Seraiah son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah son of the Maakathite, they and their men. Gedaliah swore to them and to their men, "Do not be afraid of being the servants of the Chaldeans. Live in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will go well for you." But in the seventh month, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal line, came with ten men and struck down Gedaliah. He died along with the Judeans and Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah. Then all the people, both small and great, and the captains of the armies arose and went to Egypt, because they were afraid of the Chaldeans. (2 Kings 25:22-26)

Now all the captains of the forces which were in the fields, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam governor in the land and had committed men to him, and women, and children, and some of the poorest of the land who were not carried away captive to Babylon. Then they came to Gedaliah to Mizpah, even Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and Johanan and Jonathan the sons of Kareah, and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth, and the sons of Ephai the Netophathite, and Jezaniah the son of a Maakathite, they and their men. Then Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan swore to them and to their men, saying, "Do not be afraid to serve the Chaldeans. Dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will be well with you. <sup>1</sup>As for me, I will dwell at Mizpah to serve the Chaldeans who will come to us. But you, gather wine and summer fruits and oil, and put them in your vessels and dwell in your cities that you have taken."

Likewise, also all the Jews who were in Moab, and among the Ammonites, and in Edom, and who were in all the countries, heard that the king of Babylon had left a remnant of Judah, and that he had set over them Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan. Then all the Jews returned out of all places wherever they were driven and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah at Mizpah, and gathered very much wine and summer fruits.

Moreover Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that were in the fields, came to Gedaliah at Mizpah, and said to him, "Do you certainly know that Baalis, the king of the Ammonites, has sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to slay you?" But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam did not believe them.

Then Johanan the son of Kareah spoke to Gedaliah in Mizpah secretly, saying, "Let me go, please, and I will slay Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and no man shall know it. Why should he slay you so that all the Jews who are gathered to you should be scattered and the remnant in Judah perish?"

But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam said to Johanan the son of Kareah, “You shall not do this thing, for you speak falsely of Ishmael.”

In the seventh month Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama of the royal seed, and the officials of the king, even ten men with him, came to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam to Mizpah. While they were eating bread together in Mizpah, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and the ten men that were with him arose and struck Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan with the sword and slew him, whom the king of Babylon had made governor over the land. Ishmael also slew all the Jews who were with him, even with Gedaliah at Mizpah, and the Chaldeans who were found there, and the men of war.

On the day after he had slain Gedaliah, when no one knew it, eighty men came from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, having their beards shaven, and their clothes torn, and their bodies gashed, with offerings and incense in their hands to bring them to the house of the LORD. Then Ishmael the son of Nethaniah went out from Mizpah to meet them, weeping all along as he went. As he met them, he said to them, “Come to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam!” Yet it was so when they came into the midst of the city that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, he and the men who were with him, slew them and cast them into the midst of the cistern. But ten men were found among those who said to Ishmael, “Do not slay us, for we have stores in the field, of wheat and barley, and of oil and honey.” So he refrained and did not slay them among their brothers. Now the cistern in which Ishmael had cast all the dead bodies of the men, whom he had slain because of Gedaliah, was what Asa the king had made because of Baasha the king of Israel. And Ishmael the son of Nethaniah filled it with those who were slain.

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

But when Johanan the son of Kareah and all the captains of the forces that were with him heard of all the evil that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had done, then they took all the men and went to fight with Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and found him by the great waters that are in Gibeon. And when all the people who were with Ishmael saw Johanan the son of Kareah and all the captains of the forces that were with him, they were glad. So all the people whom Ishmael had carried away captive from Mizpah turned about and returned, and went to Johanan the son of Kareah. But Ishmael the son of Nethaniah escaped from Johanan with eight men and went to the Ammonites.

Then Johanan the son of Kareah and all the captains of the forces that were with him took all the remnant of the people whom he had recovered from Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, from Mizpah, after he had slain Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, even mighty men of war, and the women, and the children, and the eunuchs, whom he had brought back from Gibeon. And they departed and lived in the habitation of Geruth Kimham, which is by Bethlehem, intending to go to Egypt, because of the Chaldeans. For they were afraid of them, because Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had slain Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon made governor in the land. (Jeremiah 40:7-41:18)

## **Jeremiah 42-44**

### **Jeremiah Warns Against Going to Egypt**

Then all the captains of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiiah, and all the people from the least even to the greatest came near, and said to Jeremiah the prophet, “Please let our supplication be accepted before you, and pray for us to the LORD your God, even for all

this remnant. For we are left but a few out of many, as your eyes now see us. Pray that the LORD your God may show us the way in which we should walk and the thing that we should do.”

Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, “I have heard you. I will pray to the LORD your God according to your words. And it shall come to pass, that whatever the LORD will answer you, I will declare it to you. I will keep nothing back from you.”

Then they said to Jeremiah, “May the LORD be a true and faithful witness against us, if we do not act according to all things for which the LORD your God shall send you to us. Whether it is good or whether it is bad, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God, to whom we send you so that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the LORD our God.”

At the end of ten days the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah. Then he called Johanan the son of Kareah and all the captains of the forces that were with him and all the people from the least even to the greatest, and said to them, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your supplication before Him: If you will still abide in this land, then I will build you up and not pull you down, and I will plant you and not pluck you up; for I will relent of the disaster that I have brought on you. Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon of whom you are now afraid. Do not be afraid of him, says the LORD. For I am with you to save you and to deliver you from his hand. I will show mercies to you so that he may have mercy on you and cause you to return to your own land.

“But if you say, ‘We will not dwell in this land,’ so as not to obey the voice of the LORD your God, <sup>14</sup>saying, ‘No, but we will go into the land of Egypt where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor have hunger for bread, and there we will dwell,’ now therefore hear the word of the LORD, O remnant of Judah. Thus says the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel: If you wholly set your faces to enter Egypt, and go to dwell there, then it shall come to pass that the sword which you feared shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt and the famine of which you were afraid shall follow close after you there in Egypt. And there you shall die. So it shall be with all the men who set their faces to go into Egypt to sojourn there. They shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. And none of them shall remain or escape from the disaster that I will bring upon them. For thus says the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel: As My anger and My fury have been poured out upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so will My fury be poured out upon you when you go to Egypt. And you will be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach. And you shall see this place no more.

“The LORD has said concerning you, O remnant of Judah, Do not go into Egypt! Know certainly that I have admonished you this day. For you have only deceived yourselves when you sent me to the LORD your God, saying, ‘Pray for us to the LORD our God. And according to all that the LORD our God shall say, so declare to us, and we will do it.’ Now I have this day declared it to you. But you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God, or anything for which He has sent me to you. Now therefore certainly know that you will die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, in the place wherever you desire to go and to sojourn.”

### **Jeremiah Taken to Egypt**

When Jeremiah had finished speaking to all the people all these words of the LORD their God, with which the LORD their God had sent him to them, Azariah the son of Hoshaiiah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men said to Jeremiah, “You speak falsely. The LORD our God has not sent you to say, ‘Do not go into Egypt to sojourn there.’ But Baruch the son of Neriah sets you against us to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, that they might put us to death and carry us away captives into Babylon.”

So Johanan the son of Kareah and all the captains of the forces and all the people did not obey the voice of the LORD to dwell in the land of Judah. But Johanan the son of Kareah and all the captains of the forces took all the remnant of Judah who had returned from all nations wherever they had been driven to dwell in the land of Judah, even men, and women, and children, and the king’s daughters, and every



person that Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet, and Baruch the son of Neriah. So they came into the land of Egypt because they did not obey the voice of the LORD. Thus they entered as far as Tahpanhes.

Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah in Tahpanhes, saying: Take some large stones in your hand and hide them in the clay in the brick kiln which is at the entrance of Pharaoh's house in Tahpanhes, in the sight of the men of Judah, and say to them, Thus says the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel: I will send and take Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will set his throne upon these stones that I have hid; and he shall spread his royal pavilion over them. When he comes, he shall ravage the land of Egypt and deliver whoever is *meant* for death to death, and whoever is *meant* for captivity to captivity, and whoever is *meant* for the sword to the sword. <sup>12</sup> I will kindle a fire in the houses of the gods of Egypt and he shall burn them and carry them away captives. And he shall array himself with the land of Egypt, as a shepherd puts on his garment, and he shall depart from there in peace. He shall also break the images of Heliopolis that is in the land of Egypt, and the houses of the gods of the Egyptians he shall burn with fire.

### **Idolatry Leads to Judgment**

The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews which dwell in the land of Egypt, who dwell at Migdol, and Tahpanhes, and Memphis, and in the country of Pathros, saying, Thus says the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel: You have seen all the calamity that I have brought upon Jerusalem and upon all the cities of Judah. Look at them; today they are a desolation, and no man dwells in them, because of their wickedness, which they have committed to provoke Me to anger, in that they went to burn incense and to serve other gods, whom they did not know; they nor you nor your fathers. However, I sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, "Oh, do not do this abominable thing that I hate." But they did not listen nor incline their ear to turn from their wickedness, not to burn incense to other gods. Therefore My fury and My anger was poured out and was kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are ruined and desolate, as it is this day.

Now thus says the LORD God of Hosts, the God of Israel: Why are you committing this great evil against your souls, to cut off from you man and woman, child and infant, out of Judah, leaving you no one to remain, provoking Me to wrath with the works of your hands, burning incense to other gods in the land of Egypt, where you have gone to dwell, so that you might cut yourselves off and become a curse and a reproach among all the nations of the earth? Have you forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, and the wickedness of the kings of Judah, and the wickedness of their wives, and your own wickedness, and the wickedness of your wives, which they have committed in the land of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? They are not humbled even to this day, nor have they feared, nor have they walked in My law and My statutes that I set before you and before your fathers.

Therefore thus says the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel: I will set My face against you for disaster, and to cut off all Judah. I will take the remnant of Judah who have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, and they all will be consumed and fall in the land of Egypt. They will even be consumed by the sword and by the famine. They will die, from the least even to the greatest, by the sword and by the famine; and they will be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach. For I will punish those who dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem; by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. So none of the remnant of Judah who have gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there will escape or remain, with the result that they return into the land of Judah to which they have a desire to return to dwell there. For no one shall return except those who escape.

Then all the men who knew that their wives had burned incense to other gods and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people who lived in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying: "As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we will not listen to you. But we will certainly do whatever we have vowed, to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our officials,

in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, and were well off, and saw no disaster. But since we left off burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have been in want of all things and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine.”

*The women also said,* “When we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make her cakes to worship her and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands?”

### **Calamity for the Jews**

Then Jeremiah said to all the people, to the men and to the women, and to all the people who had given him such an answer: “The incense offerings that you burned in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, you, and your fathers, your kings, and your officials, and the people of the land, did not the LORD remember them and did they not come into His mind? So the LORD could no longer bear it because of the evil of your deeds and because of the abominations which you have committed. Therefore your land is a desolation, and an astonishment, and a curse, without an inhabitant, as it is this day. Because you have burned incense and because you have sinned against the LORD and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, nor walked in His law, nor in His statutes, nor in His testimonies, therefore this calamity has happened to you, as it is this day.”

Moreover Jeremiah said to all the people and to all the women, “Hear the word of the LORD, all Judah who are in the land of Egypt. Thus says the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel: You and your wives have both spoken with your mouths and fulfilled with your hand, saying, ‘We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and to pour out drink offerings to her.’

“Proceed to accomplish your vows and surely perform your vows! Yet hear the word of the LORD, all Judah who dwells in the land of Egypt: I have sworn by My great name, says the LORD, that My name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, ‘As the Lord GOD lives.’ I will watch over them for disaster and not for good. And all the men of Judah who are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine until there is an end of them. Yet a small number who escape the sword shall return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah, and all the remnant of Judah who have gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there will know whose words will stand, Mine or theirs.

“This will be a sign to you, says the LORD, that I will punish you in this place so that you may know that My words shall surely stand against you for disaster. Thus says the LORD: I will give Pharaoh Hophra the king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies and into the hand of those who seek his life, just as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who was his enemy, and sought his life.”