

LESSON 43

Jeremiah 30-52; Lamentations

OVERVIEW:

Scattering and gathering of Israel. Gospel to be restored for the last time. Jews to be in captivity for 70 years. Ephraim has the birthright and will make a covenant with the Lord in the last days. The overall theme of Jeremiah is covenant.

SCRIPTURES:

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JEREMIAH CHAPTER 30

In the last days, Judah and Israel shall be gathered to their own lands—David their king (Christ) shall reign over them.

1 THE word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

2 Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book.

3 For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people ^aIsrael and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to ^breturn to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.

4 ¶ And these *are* the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah.

5 For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.

6 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?

7 Alas! for that ^aday *is* great, so that none *is* like it: it *is* even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

8 For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, *that I will break his ^ayoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more ^bserve (or enslave, or exploit him) themselves of him:* (Chapters 30–33 deal with the prophet's predictions of the restoration of Israel and Judah in the last days and of the Lord's making a new and everlasting covenant with them. They have great meaning for Latter-day Saints and should be studied carefully. Elder Ezra Taft Benson spoke of the latter-day gathering as having "three phases: the gathering of Israel to the land of Zion, the American hemisphere; the return of the Ten Tribes from the countries of the north; and the reestablishment of the Jews in Palestine as God's chosen people. "This miracle of the return of the Jews was to be one of the events to precede Christ's second coming, and the scriptures are very clear with reference to this fact. Isaiah said that they shall gather 'the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth' and 'set them in their own land,' that they will 'build the old waste,' and 'repair the waste cities.' (See Isa. 11:11–12.) "Jeremiah, who predicted so clearly their dispersion, also states that the Lord will 'cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it,' and 'build them, as at the first.' (Jer. 30:3; 33:7.)" (In Conference Report, Apr. 1950, p. 75.) Jeremiah 30:3 has several meanings. It refers to the return of the Jews after seventy years of captivity in Babylon. It also refers to the restoration of the Jews to their homeland in the last days after they have been scattered for the second time. And it refers to the return of the lost tribes from the lands of the north. Note that the Lord will bring them. The yoke spoken of in verse 8 is the yoke of oppression of Nebuchadnezzar. Doctrine and Covenants 113:9–10 explains what the "bonds" are that are spoken of in Jeremiah 30:8. Institute Manual, 254)

9 But they shall serve the LORD their God, and ^aDavid their king, (Jesus Christ) whom I will raise up unto them.

10 ¶ Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will ^asave thee **from afar**, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make *him* afraid.

11 For I *am* with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full ^aend of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

12 For thus saith the LORD, ^aThy bruise *is* incurable, ~~and thy wound is~~ (although thy wounds are) grievous.

13 ~~There Is~~ (there) none to plead thy cause, that thou mayest be bound up(?); ~~thou~~ Hast (thou) no healing medicines(?).

14 (Have) all thy ^alovers ~~have~~ forgotten thee(?); (do) they (not) seek thee ~~not~~(?); For I have ^bwounded thee (or caused thee to be wounded) with the ^cwound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a ^dcruel one, for the multitude of thine ~~iniquity~~ (iniquities); *because* thy sins ~~were~~ (are) increased.

15 Why criest thou for thine affliction? (Is) ^athy ^bsorrow ~~is~~ incurable(?) (It was) for the multitude of thine ~~iniquity~~ (iniquities); (and) *because* thy ^csins ~~were~~ (are) increased; I have done these things unto thee.

16 ~~Therefore~~ (But) all they that devour thee shall be devoured; and all thine adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; and they that spoil thee shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon thee will I give for a prey.

17 For I will restore ^ahealth unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, *saying*, This *is* Zion, whom no man seeketh after.

18 ¶ Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have ^amercy on his dwellingplaces; and the city shall be builded upon her own heap, and ^bthe palace shall remain after the manner thereof.

19 And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will ^amultiply* them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be ^bsmall.

20 Their children also shall be as aforetime, and their congregation shall be established before me, and I will punish all that oppress them.

21 And their nobles shall be of ^athemselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them; and I will cause him to ^bdraw near, and he shall approach unto me: for who *is* this that engaged his heart to approach unto me? saith the LORD.

22 And ye shall be my ^apeople, and I will be your God.

23 Behold, the ^awhirlwind of the LORD goeth forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind: it shall fall with ^bpain upon the head of the wicked.

24 The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have done *it*, and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the ^alatter days ye shall ^bconsider it. (In the last days, these prophecies will be fully understood. It is the Lord Jesus Christ who saves. He is Israel's Savior and Redeemer. He does not, however, ignore the sins of His people (see v. 11). The "lovers" who forgot Israel were the false gods that Jehovah's unfaithful wife, Israel, sought after. No one came to the rescue but the Lord, who has always loved Israel and who promised: "They [the Chaldeans] that devour thee shall be devoured" (by the Medes and Persians). The Assyrians were destroyed by the Babylonians; the Babylonians by the Medes and Persians; the Egyptians and Persians by the Greeks. All these empires have now vanished, but the Jews still exist as a distinct people. In the latter days Israel will be the Lord's people, and He will be their God as He desired in the beginning. The Lord promised Israel: "In the latter days ye shall consider [or fully understand] it." Only now, in the last days, as these promises are realized, can one fully understand what Jeremiah and the other prophets were saying. Institute Manual, 254))

CHAPTER 31

In the last days, Israel shall be gathered—Ephraim has the birthright as the firstborn—The Lord will make a new covenant with them, to be inscribed in the heart—Then shall they all know the Lord.

1 AT the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the ^afamilies of Israel, and they shall be my people.

2 Thus saith the LORD, The people *which were* left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; *even* Israel, when I went to cause him to rest.

3 The LORD hath appeared ^aof old (Heb from afar) unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have ^bloved thee with an everlasting ^clove: therefore with lovingkindness have I ^ddrawn thee. (to me)

4 Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry.

5 Thou shalt yet plant vines upon the mountains of Samaria: the planters shall plant, and shall eat *them* as common things.

6 For there shall be a day, *that* the ^awatchmen (latter day prophets) upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to ^bZion unto the LORD our God.

7 For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, ^asave thy people, the remnant of Israel.

8 Behold, I will bring them from the ^anorth country, and gather them from the ^bcoasts (Heb ends) of the earth, *and* with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither. (Note the word “thither.” They would be gathered to other lands, not Israel or Jerusalem, which would have been “hither.”)

9 They shall come with ^aweeping, (They will weep because they knew they rejected Christ) and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a ^bfather to Israel, and ^cEphraim is my ^dfirstborn. (Birthright blessings)

10 ¶ Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare *it* in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will ^agather him, and keep him, as a shepherd *doth* his flock. (According to Oliver Cowdery, several of the verses of this chapter were quoted by Moroni to Joseph Smith.)

11 For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ^aransomed (Heb delivered or freed) him from the hand of *him that was* stronger than he.

12 Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, (Tabernacle Choir) and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not ^asorrow any more at all.

13 Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together (stake youth dances): for I will turn their ^amourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.

14 And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my ^agoodness, saith the LORD. (Even though Judah is about to suffer captivity and death, there is hope of a brighter day in the latter days. Even though church members are not paid for their services, they will be satisfied for the blessings of the Lord. These verses picture the great joy and happiness that will accompany the return of Israel. The promises of great abundance (see v. 12) and rejoicing (see v. 13) and the end of sorrow (see vv. 15–16) are exactly opposite to the promises given in other chapters of tragedy, desolation, and lamentation for Judah. Though Judah did not heed Jeremiah’s warning and his dire predictions came to pass, the hope of a brighter day was clearly given here. While the ultimate fulfillment of these verses is yet in the future, Elder LeGrand Richards saw a parallel between verses 7–14 and the early history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Saints left Nauvoo with weeping and with supplications. They did not leave their beautiful homes because they wanted to. He saw the rivers of waters they walked by in a straight way as being the North Platte River, by which they

traveled about six hundred miles. Singing in the height of Zion refers to the Tabernacle Choir, according to Elder Richards. Their mourning being turned into joy (see v. 13) refers to the Saints finding joy with one another in dancing and other activities as well as in testimony meetings. “While the members of the Priesthood in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are not paid for their services, and thousands of them have left their families for years at a time to do missionary work in the nations of the earth, paying their own expenses and without remuneration from the Church, yet, in their hearts, they feel they are better paid than any other religious leaders in the world, because of the joy and satisfaction the Lord plants in their hearts, which could not possibly be purchased with money. Thus He has satiated ‘the soul of the priests with fatness,’ and His people are satisfied with His goodness.” (Richards, *Israel! Do You Know?* pp. 179–80; see also pp. 177–79.)

15 ¶ Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in ^aRamah, (most lofty situated border town of the two kingdoms) lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they *were* not. (Rachel is weeping for her children which are killed.)

16 Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be ^arewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy.

17 And there is hope ^ain thine ^bend, (for thy future) saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border. (“The lamentation of Rachel is heard at Ramah, as the most loftily situated border-town of the two kingdoms, whence the wailing that had arisen sounded far and near, and could be heard in Judah. . . . The destruction of the people of Israel by the Assyrians and Chaldeans is a type of the massacre of the infants at Bethlehem [as cited by Matthew in his gospel (Matthew 2:18)], in so far as the sin which brought the children of Israel into exile laid a foundation for the fact that Herod the Idumean became king over the Jews, and wished to destroy the true King and Saviour of Israel that he might strengthen his own dominion.” (C. F. Keil and F. Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament*, 8:2:25–26.))

18 ¶ I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself *thus*; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: ^aturn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou *art* the LORD my God.

19 Surely ^aafter that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon *my* thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth.

20 *Is* Ephraim my dear son? *is he* ^aa pleasant child? (or a child in whom I delight) for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD.

21 Set thee up waymarks, make thee ^ahigh heaps (Heb signposts): set thine heart toward the highway, *even* the way *which* thou wentest: turn again, O virgin of Israel, turn again to these thy cities.

22 ¶ How long wilt thou go about, O thou ^abacksliding (unruly or apostate) daughter? for the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man. (To encompass with love and care. The woman is the church, who will lovingly embrace the Savior.)

23 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; As yet they shall use this speech in the land of Judah and in the cities thereof, when I shall bring again their captivity; The LORD bless thee, O habitation of justice, and mountain of holiness.

24 And there shall dwell in Judah itself, and in all the cities thereof together, husbandmen, and they *that* go forth with flocks.

25 For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.

26 Upon this I awaked, and beheld; and my sleep was sweet unto me.

27 ¶ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man, and with the seed of beast.

28 And it shall come to pass, *that* like as I have ^awatched over them, to ^bpluck up, and to ^cbreak down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I ^dwatch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the LORD.

29 In those days they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour ^agrape, and the children's teeth are set on edge.

30 But every one shall ^adie for his own ^biniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge. (The sins of the parents are no longer a stigma upon the children.)

31 ¶ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a ^anew ^bcovenant with the house of ^cIsrael, and with the house of Judah: (The restoration of the gospel.)

32 Not according to the ^acovenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was ~~an~~ husband unto them, saith the LORD(;):

33 But this *shall be* the ^acovenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my ^blaw in their inward parts, and write it in their ^chearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all ^aknow me, (Joseph Fielding Smith taught: "The Lord has promised that the time shall come when every man shall be his own teacher, that is, he will know because of righteous living what to do. He will be so filled with the Spirit of the Lord that he will be guided and directed in doing right without the necessity of someone coming into his home to set it in order. Now is a good time for us to begin. Doctrines of Salvation, 1:319) from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD; for I will forgive their ^biniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. (The Prophet Joseph Smith said: "The time has at last arrived when the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has set his hand again the second time to recover the remnants of his people...and with them to bring in the fullness of the Gentiles, and establish that covenant with them, which was promised when their sins should be taken away. This covenant has never (before) been established with the house of Israel, nor with the house of Judah. Christ, in the days of his flesh, proposed to make a covenant with them, but they rejected Him and His proposals, and in consequence thereof, they were broken off, and no covenant was made with them at that time. But their unbelief has not rendered the promise of God of none effect: no, for there was another day limited in David, which was the day of His power; and then His people, Israel, should be a willing people – and He would write His law in their hearts, and print it in their thoughts; their sins and their iniquities He would remember no more. TPJS, p. 14 He also said: "The day must come when no man need say to his neighbor, "Know ye the Lord." For all shall know him (who remain), from the least to the greatest. How is this to be done? It is to be done by this sealing power and the Other Comforter spoken of, which will be manifested by revelation. Discourse of 27 June 1839, recorded in Willard Richard's "Pocket Companion", p. 4)

35 ¶ Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the ^asun for a light by ^bday, *and* the ^cordinances (or established courses) of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts *is* his name:

36 If those ^aordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, *then* the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. (If the saving ordinances are done away, so will Israel be done away.)

37 Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.

38 ¶ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the city shall be ^abuilt to the LORD from the tower of Hananeel unto the gate of the corner.

39 And the measuring ^aline shall yet go forth over against it upon the hill Gareb, and shall compass about to Goath.

40 And the whole valley of the dead bodies, and of the ashes, and all the fields unto the brook of Kidron, unto the corner of the horse gate toward the east, *shall be* ^aholy unto the LORD; it shall not be plucked up, nor thrown down any more for ever.

CHAPTER 32

Jeremiah is imprisoned by Zedekiah—The prophet purchases land to symbolize the return of Israel to their land—The Lord will gather Israel and make an everlasting covenant with them.

1 THE word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which *was* the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar.

2 For then the king of Babylon's army ^abesieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which *was* in the king of Judah's house.

3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, Wherefore dost thou prophesy, and say, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it;

4 And Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him mouth to mouth, and his eyes shall behold his eyes;

5 And he shall lead Zedekiah to ^aBabylon, and there shall he be until I visit him, saith the LORD: though ye fight with the Chaldeans, ye shall not prosper.

6 ¶ And Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

7 Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle shall come unto thee, saying, Buy thee my field that *is* in Anathoth: for the right of redemption *is* thine to buy *it*.

8 So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that *is* in Anathoth, which *is* in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance *is* thine, and the redemption *is* thine; buy *it* for thyself. Then I knew that this *was* the word of the LORD.

9 And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that *was* in Anathoth, and ^aweighed him the money, *even* seventeen shekels of silver.

10 And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed *it*, and took witnesses, and weighed *him* the money in the balances.

11 So I took the evidence of the purchase, *both* that which was sealed *according* to the law and custom, and that which was open:

12 And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto ^aBaruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the ^bbook of the purchase (or deed), before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison.

13 ¶ And I charged Baruch before them, saying,

14 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Take these ^aevidences (or documents), this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days.

15 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land.

16 ¶ Now when I had delivered the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed unto the LORD, saying,

17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, *and* there is nothing too ^ahard for thee:

18 Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, *is* his name,

19 Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes *are* open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to ^agive every one according to his ^bways, and according to the fruit of his doings:

20 Which hast set signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, *even* unto this day, and in Israel, and among *other* men; and hast made thee a name, as at this day;

21 And hast brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror;

22 And hast given them this land, which thou didst swear to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey;

23 And they came in, and possessed it; but they obeyed not thy voice, neither walked in thy law; they have done nothing of all that thou commandedst them to do: therefore thou hast caused all this evil to come upon them:

24 Behold the mounts, they are come unto the city to take it; and the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans, that fight against it, because of the sword, and of the famine, and of the pestilence: and what thou hast spoken is come to pass; and, behold, thou seest *it*.

25 And thou hast said unto me, O Lord GOD, Buy thee the field for money, and take witnesses; for the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.

26 ¶ Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying,

27 Behold, I *am* the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?

28 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the Chaldeans, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and he shall take it:

29 And the Chaldeans, that fight against this city, shall come and set fire on this city, and burn it with the houses, upon whose ^aroofs they have offered incense unto Baal, and poured out drink offerings unto other gods, to provoke me to anger.

30 For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have only done evil before me from their youth: for the children of Israel have only provoked me to ^aanger with the work of their hands, saith the LORD.

31 For this city hath been to me *as* a provocation of mine anger and of my fury from the day that they built it even unto this day; that I should remove it from before my face,

32 Because of all the evil of the children of Israel and of the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke me to anger, they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

33 And they have turned unto me the ^aback, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching *them*, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction.

34 But they set their abominations in ^athe house, (*ie the Temple*) which is called by my name, to defile it.

35 And they built the high places of Baal, which *are* in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through *the* ^afire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

36 ¶ And now therefore thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city, whereof ye say, It shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence;

37 Behold, I will ^agather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will ^bbring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:

38 And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:

39 And I will give them one ^aheart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the ^bgood of them, and of their children after them:

40 And I will make an ^aeverlasting ^bcovenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

41 Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.

42 For thus saith the LORD; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them.

43 And fields shall be bought in this land, whereof ye say, *It is* desolate without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.

44 Men shall buy fields for money, and subscribe evidences, and ^aseal *them*, and take witnesses in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, and in the cities of the mountains, and in the cities of the ^bvalley, (Heb coastal plain) and in the cities of the south: for I will cause their ^ccaptivity to return, saith the LORD.

CHAPTER 33

Judah and Israel shall be gathered—Christ the Branch of righteousness is promised—The Seed of David shall reign forever.

1 MOREOVER the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the second time, while he was yet shut up in the court of the prison, saying,

2 Thus saith the LORD the maker thereof, the LORD that formed it, to establish it; the LORD *is* his name;

3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and ^ashew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

4 For thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city, and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah, which are thrown down by the mounts, and by the sword;

5 They come to fight with the Chaldeans, but *it is* to fill them with the dead bodies of men, whom I have slain in mine anger and in my fury, and for all whose wickedness I have hid my face from this city.

6 Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure *them*, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.

7 And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to ^areturn, and will build them, as at the first.

8 And I will ^acleanse *them* from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.

9 ¶ And it shall be to me a name of joy, a ^apraise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

10 Thus saith the LORD; Again there shall be heard in this place, which ye say *shall be* desolate without man and without beast, *even* in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, that are desolate, without man, and without inhabitant, and without beast,

11 The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the LORD of hosts (:)—for the LORD *is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever: ~~and of~~ (unto) *them* that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the LORD.

12 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Again in this place, which is desolate without man and without beast, and in all the cities thereof, shall be an habitation of shepherds causing *their* flocks to ^alie down.

13 In the cities of the mountains, in the cities of the vale, and in the cities of the south, and in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, shall the flocks pass again under the hands of him that ^atelleth *them*, (Heb counts) saith the LORD.

14 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will ^aperform that good thing which I have ^bpromised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

15 ¶ In those days, and at that time, will I cause the ^aBranch (Jesus Christ) of righteousness to grow up unto ^bDavid; and he shall ^cexecute judgment (or do justice) and righteousness in the ^dland. (or earth) (Jesus Christ)

16 In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this *is the name* wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.

17 ¶ For thus saith the LORD; David shall never ^awant (or lack) a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel;

18 Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually.

19 ¶ And the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, saying,

20 Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and ^anight in their season;

21 *Then* may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers.

22 As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.

23 Moreover the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying,

24 Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families which the LORD hath chosen, he hath even cast them off? thus they have despised my people, that they should be no more a nation before them.

25 Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant *be* not with day and night, *and if* I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth;

26 Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, *so* that I will not take *any* of his seed *to be* rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them.

CHAPTER 34

Jeremiah prophesies the captivity of Zedekiah—The Jews shall be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

1 THE word which came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and all his army, and all the kingdoms of the earth of his dominion, and all the people, fought against Jerusalem, and ^aagainst all the cities thereof, saying,

2 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of ^aBabylon, and he shall burn it with fire:

3 And thou shalt not escape out of his hand, but shalt surely be taken, and delivered into his hand; and thine eyes shall behold the eyes of the king of ^aBabylon, and he shall speak with thee mouth to mouth, and thou shalt go to Babylon.

4 Yet hear the word of the LORD, O Zedekiah king of Judah; Thus saith the LORD of thee, Thou shalt not die by the sword:

5 *But* thou shalt die in peace: and with the burnings of thy fathers, the former kings which were before thee, so shall they burn *odours* for thee; and they will lament thee, *saying*, Ah lord! for I have pronounced the word, saith the LORD.

6 Then Jeremiah the prophet spake all these words unto Zedekiah king of Judah in Jerusalem,

7 When the king of Babylon's army fought against Jerusalem, and against all the cities of Judah that were left, against Lachish, and against Azekah: for these defenced cities remained of the cities of Judah.

8 ¶ *This is* the word that came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, after that the king Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people which *were* at Jerusalem, to proclaim ^aliberty unto them;

9 That every man should let his manservant, and every man his maidservant, *being* an Hebrew or an Hebrewess, go free; that none should ^aserve himself of them (or enslave them), *to wit*, of a Jew his brother. (“During the early period of the siege of Jerusalem, the men of the city released their Hebrew slaves. This may have been done partly because the old law required the release of slaves as provided

for in Exo. 21:1 and Deut. 15:2, and partly because of the need of manpower to defend the besieged city. At any rate, the release was guaranteed by a solemn covenant. Then the advance of the Egyptians seems to have caused the Babylonians to lift the siege. In spite of their solemn oath, and by ignoring the claims of brotherly love and ordinary justice, the men of the city proceeded to re-enslave their unfortunate brethren. This unrighteous act immediately brought down the Lord's denunciation and terrible condemnation." (Sidney B. Sperry, *The Voice of Israel's Prophets*, pp. 182–83.)

10 Now when all the princes, and all the people, which had entered into the covenant, heard that every one should let his manservant, and every one his maidservant, go free, that none should serve themselves of them any more, then they obeyed, and let *them* go.

11 But afterward they ^aturned (ie turned back on their word), and caused the servants and the handmaids, whom they had let go free, to return, and brought them into subjection for servants and for handmaids.

12 ¶ Therefore the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

13 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; I made a covenant with your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondmen, saying,

14 At the end of ^aseven years let ye go every man his brother an Hebrew, which hath been sold unto thee; and when he hath served thee six years, thou shalt let him go free from thee: but your fathers hearkened not unto me, neither inclined their ear.

15 And ye were now turned, and had done right in my sight, in proclaiming liberty every man to his neighbour; and ye had made a covenant before me in the house which is called by my name:

16 But ye turned and ^apolluted (Heb profaned) my name, and caused every man his servant, and every man his handmaid, whom ye had set at liberty at their pleasure, to return, and brought them into subjection, to be unto you for servants and for handmaids.

17 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Ye have not hearkened unto me, in proclaiming ^aliberty, every one to his brother, and every man to his neighbour: behold, I proclaim a liberty for you, saith the LORD, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will make you to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

18 And I will give the men that have transgressed my covenant, which have not performed the words of the covenant which they had made before me, when they ^acut the calf in twain, and ^bpassed between the parts thereof,

19 The princes of Judah, and the princes of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, and the priests, and all the people of the land, which passed between the parts of the calf;

20 I will even ^agive them into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of them that seek their life: and their dead bodies shall be for meat unto the fowls of the heaven, and to the beasts of the earth.

21 And Zedekiah king of Judah and his princes will I give into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of them that seek their life, and into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which are gone up from you.

22 Behold, I will command, saith the LORD, and cause them to return to this city; and they shall fight against it, and take it, and burn it with fire: and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without an inhabitant.

CHAPTER 35

The Rechabites are commended and blessed for their obedience—They are given a new commandment.

(This chapter goes back in time to the reign of Jehoiakim, son of Josiah (see Jeremiah 25). In it Jeremiah set before the Jews the righteous example of the Rechabites who, having made a covenant never to drink wine, refused to drink it when offered it by Jeremiah in the house of God. (These people had moved to Jerusalem to escape the invading Babylonians.) Jeremiah was commanded to place the example of the Rechabites before the people of Judah (see vv. 13–14). The message was clear: the Rechabites observed

their covenants faithfully, even though they were not the covenant people of the Lord. The Jews were transgressors of the Lord's commands and broke their promises to God at every turn. Thus on the Jews would come "all the evil that I [the Lord] have pronounced against them" (v. 17). Institute Manual, 248)

1 THE word which came unto Jeremiah from the LORD in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying,

2 Go unto the house of the ^aRechabites, and speak unto them, and bring them into the house of the LORD, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink.

3 Then I took Jaazaniah the son of Jeremiah, the son of Habaziniah, and his brethren, and all his sons, and the whole house of the Rechabites;

4 And I brought them into the house of the LORD, into the chamber of the sons of Hanan, the son of Igdaliah, a man of God, which *was* by the chamber of the princes, which *was* above the chamber of Maaseiah the son of Shallum, the keeper of the door:

5 And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pots full of wine, and cups, and I said unto them, Drink ye wine.

6 But they said, We will drink no wine: for ^aJonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, *neither* ye, nor your sons for ever:

7 Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have *any*: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye *be* strangers.

8 Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our father in all that he hath charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, nor our daughters;

9 Nor to build houses for us to dwell in: neither have we vineyard, nor field, nor seed:

10 But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed, and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us.

11 But it came to pass, when Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came up into the land, that we said, Come, and let us go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans, and for fear of the army of the Syrians: so we dwell at Jerusalem.

12 ¶ Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying,

13 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Go and tell the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will ye not receive instruction to hearken to my words? saith the LORD.

14 The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, that he commanded his sons not to drink wine, are performed; for unto this day they drink none, but obey their father's commandment(;) notwithstanding I have spoken unto you, ~~rising~~ (commanding you to rise) early(,) and speaking (to you,); but ye hearkened not unto me.

15 I have sent also unto you all my servants the ^aprophets, ~~rising~~ (commanding them to rise) up early and sending *them*, saying, ^bReturn ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me.

16 Because the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have performed the commandment of their father, which he commanded them; but this people hath not hearkened unto me:

17 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring upon Judah and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the evil that I have pronounced against them: because I have spoken unto them, but they have not ^aheard; (or obeyed) and I have called unto them, but they have not answered.

18 ¶ And Jeremiah said unto the house of the Rechabites, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Because ye have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts, and done according unto all that he hath commanded you:

19 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not want a man to stand before me for ever.

CHAPTER 36

Baruch writes the prophecies of Jeremiah and reads them in the house of the Lord—Jehoiakim the king burns the book, and judgment comes upon him—Jeremiah dictates the prophecies again and adds many more.

(“In the fourth year of the reign of Jehoiakim the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, bidding him commit to writing all the addresses he had previously delivered, that Judah might, if it were possible, still regard the threatenings and return (vers. 1–3). In accordance with this command, he got all the words of the Lord written down in a book by his attendant Baruch, with the further instruction that this should be read on the fast-day in the temple to the people who came out of the country into Jerusalem (vers. 4–8). When, after this, in the ninth month of the fifth year of Jehoiakim, a fast was appointed, Baruch read the prophecies to the assembled people in the chamber of Gemariah in the temple. Michaiah the son of Gemariah mentioned the matter to the princes who were assembled in the royal palace; these then sent for Baruch with the roll, and made him read it to them. But they were so frightened by what was read to them that they deemed it necessary to inform the king regarding it (vers. 9–19). At their advice, the king had the roll brought and some of it read before him; but scarcely had some few columns been read, when he cut the roll into pieces and threw them into the pan of coals burning in the room, at the same time commanding that Baruch and Jeremiah should be brought to him; but God hid them (vers. 20–26). After this roll had been burnt, the Lord commanded the prophet to get all his words written on a new roll, and to predict an ignominious fate for King Jehoiakim; whereupon Jeremiah once more dictated his addresses to Baruch (vers. 27–32).” (Keil and Delitzsch, *Commentary*, 8:2:93.))

- 1 AND it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,
- 2 Take thee a ^aroll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this ^bday.
- 3 It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.
- 4 Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and ^aBaruch ^bwrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.
- 5 And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, I am ^ashut up (Heb under arrest, or in confinement); I cannot go into the house of the LORD:
- 6 Therefore go thou, and read in the roll, which thou hast written from my mouth, the words of the LORD in the ears of the people in the LORD’s house upon the ^afasting day: and also thou shalt read them in the ears of all Judah that come out of their cities.
- 7 It may be they will present their supplication before the LORD, and will ^areturn every one from his evil way: for great is the anger and the fury that the LORD hath pronounced against this people.
- 8 And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading in the book the words of the LORD in the LORD’s house. (All of Jeremiah’s words were written in a book.)
- 9 And it came to pass in the fifth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, in the ninth month, that they proclaimed a fast before the LORD to all the people in Jerusalem, and to all the people that came from the cities of Judah unto Jerusalem.
- 10 Then read Baruch in the book the words of Jeremiah in the house of the LORD, in the chamber of Gemariah the son of ^aShaphan the scribe, in the higher court, at the entry of the new gate of the LORD’s house, in the ears of all the people.
- 11 ¶ When Michaiah the son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan, had heard out of the book all the words

of the LORD,

12 Then he went down into the king's house, into the scribe's chamber: and, lo, all the ^aprinces (or officers or officials) sat there, even Elishama the scribe, and Delaiah the son of Shemaiah, and ^bElnathan the son of Achbor, and Gemariah the son of Shaphan, and Zedekiah the son of Hananiah, and all the princes.

13 Then Michaiah declared unto them all the words that he had heard, when Baruch read the book in the ears of the people.

14 Therefore all the princes sent Jehudi the son of Nethaniah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Cushi, unto Baruch, saying, Take in thine hand the roll wherein thou hast read in the ears of the people, and come. So Baruch the son of Neriah took the roll in his hand, and came unto them.

15 And they said unto him, Sit down now, and read it in our ears. So Baruch read it in their ears.

16 Now it came to pass, when they had heard all the words, they were ^aafraid both one and other, and said unto Baruch, We will surely tell the king of all these words.

17 And they asked Baruch, saying, Tell us now, How didst thou write all these words at his mouth?

18 Then Baruch answered them, He pronounced all these words unto me with his mouth, and I wrote them with ink in the book.

19 Then said the princes unto Baruch, Go, hide thee, thou and Jeremiah; and let no man know where ye be.

20 ¶ And they went in to the king into the court, but they laid up the roll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe, and told all the words in the ears of the king.

21 So the king sent Jehudi to fetch the roll: and he took it out of Elishama the scribe's chamber. And Jehudi read it in the ears of the king, and in the ears of all the princes which stood beside the king.

22 Now the king sat in the ^awinterhouse in the ninth month: and there was a fire on the hearth burning before him.

23 And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth. (Jeremiah's book is burned by the king)

24 Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, neither the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words.

25 Nevertheless Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah had made intercession to the king that he would not burn the roll: but he would not hear them.

26 But the king commanded Jerahmeel the son of ^aHammelech, (Heb the king) and Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to take Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet: but the LORD ^bhid them.

27 ¶ Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, after that the king had burned the roll, and the words which Baruch wrote at the mouth of Jeremiah, saying,

28 Take thee again another roll, and ^awrite in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned. (Jeremiah's book is re-written.)

29 And thou shalt say to Jehoiakim king of Judah, Thus saith the LORD; Thou hast burned this roll, saying, Why hast thou written therein, saying, The king of Babylon shall certainly come and destroy this land, and shall cause to cease from thence man and beast?

30 Therefore thus saith the LORD of Jehoiakim king of Judah; He shall have none to sit upon the throne of David: and his dead body shall be cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost.

31 And I will punish him and his seed and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring upon them, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and upon the men of Judah, all the evil that I have pronounced against them; but they hearkened not.

32 ¶ Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the ^ascribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were ^badded besides unto them many like words.

CHAPTER 37

Jeremiah prophesies that Egypt shall not save Judah from Babylon—He is cast into a dungeon—Zedekiah transfers him to the court of the prison.

(When King Jehoiachin rebelled against Babylon, he was deposed and his uncle, Zedekiah, was placed on the throne. By this time it should have been obvious that Jeremiah's prophecies were coming to pass. Twice Nebuchadnezzar had come, and twice he had humbled Judah. But Zedekiah was no wiser than his brother, Jehoiakim, and his nephew, Jehoiachin. He too began to look for ways to break the Babylonian yoke. Ignoring the repeated warnings of Jeremiah, he rebelled, and once again the Babylonians came against Jerusalem. It was in this setting that the events of these chapters took place. Jerusalem was under siege, and Jeremiah's counsel to surrender was not welcome. He was viewed as a traitor and a subversive. At this point an army of the pharaoh moved north to meet Nebuchadnezzar's forces (see Jeremiah 37:5). Nebuchadnezzar temporarily pulled away from Jerusalem to meet the threat from the south. The hopes of the Jews soared, but again Jeremiah dashed them to pieces. He prophesied that the Egyptian army would return to Egypt (see v. 7) and that the siege would be reimposed. So helpless would Judah be, according to Jeremiah, that even if the entire Chaldean army were wounded in the battle with Egypt, they would still succeed in destroying Jerusalem (see vv. 8–10). During the time that the siege was lifted, Jeremiah decided to return to the land of Benjamin, probably to visit his hometown. His enemies seized this opportunity to make their move. Accusing him of fleeing to join the Chaldeans, the Jewish leaders had Jeremiah arrested, beaten, and thrown into prison (see vv. 11–15). The weak, vacillating character of King Zedekiah manifested itself. He called Jeremiah to him secretly, asking if there was any word from the Lord concerning Jerusalem's fate (see vv. 16–17). Yet when the other leaders demanded Jeremiah's death for preaching surrender (see Jeremiah 38:1–4), Zedekiah responded weakly, "Behold, he is in your hand: for the king is not he that can do any thing against you" (v. 5). But when Jeremiah's friends pleaded for his life, Zedekiah relented and had him secretly delivered out of the prison (see vv. 7–13). Jeremiah's sarcastic question to Zedekiah is recorded in Jeremiah 37:19. The false prophets had promised that the Babylonians would not come against Jerusalem and the captives already taken would be returned. At that time Jeremiah cited the words of Moses for determining the true from the false prophets. Now, with the Babylonians surrounding the city, Jeremiah asked where all those other prophets were. Jeremiah's word had been proven true, and he was in prison. Their word had been proven false, and where were they? Chapter 39 of Jeremiah details the fall of Jerusalem and the tragic end of Zedekiah and his family. Because Jeremiah had foretold Babylon's eventual success, he was released by the Chaldeans and allowed to remain in Jerusalem as a free person (see vv. 11–14). Institute Manual, 248-49)

1 AND ^aking ^bZedekiah the son of Josiah reigned instead of ^cConiah the son of ^dJehoiakim, whom Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon made king in the land of Judah.

2 But neither he, nor his servants, nor the people of the land, did hearken unto the words of the LORD, which he spake by the prophet Jeremiah.

3 And Zedekiah the king sent Jehucal the son of Shelemiah and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest to the prophet Jeremiah, saying, Pray now unto the LORD our God for us.

4 Now Jeremiah came in and went out among the people^(;): for they had not put him into prison.

5 Then Pharaoh's army was come forth out of Egypt: and when the Chaldeans that besieged Jerusalem heard tidings of them, they departed from Jerusalem.

6 ¶ Then came the word of the LORD unto the prophet Jeremiah, saying,

7 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say to the king of Judah, that sent you unto me to inquire of me; Behold, Pharaoh's ^aarmy, which is come forth to help you, shall return to ^bEgypt into their own land.

8 And the Chaldeans shall come again, and fight against this city, and take it, and ^aburn it with fire.

9 Thus saith the LORD; Deceive not yourselves, saying, The Chaldeans shall surely depart from us: for they shall not depart.

10 For though ye had smitten the whole army of the Chaldeans that fight against you, and there remained but wounded men among them, yet should they rise up every man in his tent, and burn this city with fire.

11 ¶ And it came to pass, that when the army of the Chaldeans was broken up from Jerusalem for fear of Pharaoh's army,

12 Then Jeremiah went forth out of Jerusalem to go into the land of Benjamin, to separate himself thence in the midst of the people.

13 And when he was in the gate of Benjamin, a captain of the ward was there, whose name was Irijah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Hananiah; and he took Jeremiah the prophet, saying, Thou ^aallest (or art deserting) away to the Chaldeans.

14 Then said Jeremiah, It is false; I fall not away to the Chaldeans. But he hearkened not to him: so Irijah took Jeremiah, and brought him to the princes.

15 Wherefore the princes were wroth with ^aJeremiah, and smote him, and put him in prison in the house of Jonathan the scribe: for they had made that the ^bprison.

16 ¶ When (And) Jeremiah was entered into the dungeon, and into the ^acabins, (or cells) and Jeremiah had (he) remained there many days(.); 1 Nephi 7:14 For behold, the ^aSpirit of the Lord ^bceaseth soon to strive with them; for behold, they have ^crejected the prophets, and ^dJeremiah have they cast into prison. And they have sought to take away the ^elife of my father, insomuch that they have driven him out of the land.

17 Then Zedekiah the king sent, and took him out: and the king asked him secretly in his house, and said, Is there any word from the LORD? And Jeremiah said, There is: for, said he, thou shalt be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon.

18 Moreover Jeremiah said unto king Zedekiah, What have I offended against thee, or against thy servants, or against this people, that ye have put me in prison?

19 Where are now your prophets which prophesied unto you, saying, The king of Babylon shall not come against you, nor against this land? (Jeremiah asks the king a very sarcastic question.)

20 Therefore hear now, I pray thee, O my lord the king: let my supplication, I pray thee, be accepted before thee; that thou cause me not to return to the house of Jonathan the scribe, lest I die there.

21 Then Zedekiah the king commanded that they should commit Jeremiah into the court of the prison, and that they should give him daily a piece of ^abread out of the bakers' street, until all the bread in the city were spent. Thus Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison. Omni 1:15 Behold, it came to pass that Mosiah discovered that the people of ^aZarahemla came out from Jerusalem at the time that ^bZedekiah, king of Judah, was carried away captive into Babylon. Helaman 6: 10 Now the land south was called ^aLehi and the land north was called ^bMulek, which was after the ^cson of Zedekiah; for the Lord did bring Mulek into the land north, and Lehi into the land south. Helaman 8:21 And now will you dispute that ^aJerusalem was destroyed? Will ye say that the ^bsons of Zedekiah were not slain, all except it were ^cMulek? Yea, and do ye not behold that the seed of Zedekiah are with us, and they were driven out of the land of Jerusalem? But behold, this is not all—

CHAPTER 38

The princes cast Jeremiah into a miry dungeon—He is freed by Ebed-melech, an Ethiopian, and put in the court of the prison—He counsels Zedekiah concerning the war.

1 THEN Shephatiah the son of Mattan, and Gedaliah the son of ^aPashur, and Jucal the son of Shelemiah, and ^bPashur the son of Malchiah, heard the words that Jeremiah had spoken unto all the people, saying,

2 Thus saith the LORD, He that remaineth in this city shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth forth to the Chaldeans shall live; for he shall have his life for a prey, and shall live.

3 Thus saith the LORD, This city shall surely be given into the hand of the king of ^aBabylon's army, which shall take it.

4 Therefore the ^aprinces (or officers, or rulers) said unto the king, We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: for thus he weakeneth the hands of the men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words unto them: for this man seeketh not the ^bwelfare of this people, but the hurt.

5 Then Zedekiah the king said, Behold, he is in your hand: for the king ^ais not he that can do any thing against you. (or cannot prevail against you in any matter)

6 Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the son of ^aHammelech, (Heb the king) that was in the court of the prison: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire.

7 ¶ Now when Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, one of the eunuchs which was in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the dungeon; the king then sitting in the gate of Benjamin;

8 Ebed-melech went forth out of the king's house, and spake to the king, saying,

9 My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon; and he is like to die for hunger in the place where he is: for there is no more ^abread in the city.

10 Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, saying, Take from hence thirty men with thee, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he die.

11 So Ebed-melech took the men with him, and went into the house of the king under the treasury, and took thence ^aold cast clouts (Heb worn-out clothes) and old rotten rags, and let them down by cords into the dungeon to Jeremiah.

12 And Ebed-melech the Ethiopian said unto Jeremiah, Put now these old cast clouts and rotten rags under thine armholes under the cords. And Jeremiah did so.

13 So they drew up Jeremiah with cords, and took him up out of the dungeon: and Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison.

14 ¶ Then Zedekiah the king sent, and took Jeremiah the prophet unto him into the third entry that is in the house of the LORD: and the king said unto Jeremiah, I will ask thee a thing; hide nothing from me.

15 Then Jeremiah said unto Zedekiah, If I declare it unto thee, wilt thou not surely put me to death? and if I give thee counsel, wilt thou not hearken unto me?

16 So Zedekiah the king sware secretly unto Jeremiah, saying, As the LORD liveth, that made us this soul, I will not put thee to death, neither will I give thee into the hand of these men that seek thy life.

17 Then said Jeremiah unto Zedekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; If thou wilt assuredly go forth unto the king of Babylon's princes, then thy soul shall live, and this city shall not be burned with fire; and thou shalt live, and thine house:

18 But if thou wilt not go forth to the king of Babylon's princes, then shall this city be given into the hand of the Chaldeans, and they shall burn it with fire, and thou shalt not escape out of their hand.

19 And Zedekiah the king said unto Jeremiah, I am afraid of the Jews that ^aare fallen (Heb have deserted to) to the Chaldeans, lest they deliver me into their hand, and they ^bmock me. (Heb maltreat)

20 But Jeremiah said, They shall not deliver thee. Obey, I beseech thee, the voice of the LORD, which I speak unto thee: so it shall be well unto thee, and thy soul shall live.

21 But if thou refuse to go forth, this is the word that the LORD hath shewed me:

22 And, behold, all the women that are left in the king of Judah's house shall be brought forth to the king of Babylon's princes, and those women shall say, Thy friends have set thee on, and have prevailed against thee: thy feet are sunk in the mire, and they are turned away back.

23 So they shall bring out all thy wives and thy ^achildren to the Chaldeans: and thou shalt not escape out

of their hand, but shalt be taken by the hand of the king of Babylon: and thou shalt cause this city to be burned with fire.

24 ¶ Then said Zedekiah unto Jeremiah, Let no man know of these words, and thou shalt not die.

25 But if the princes hear that I have talked with thee, and they come unto thee, and say unto thee, Declare unto us now what thou hast said unto the king, hide it not from us, and we will not put thee to death; also what the king said unto thee:

26 Then thou shalt say unto them, I presented my supplication before the king, that he would not cause me to return to Jonathan's house, to die there.

27 Then came all the princes unto Jeremiah, and asked him: and he told them according to all these words that the king had commanded. So they left off speaking with him; for the matter was not perceived.

28 So Jeremiah abode in the court of the prison until the day that Jerusalem was taken: and he was there when Jerusalem was taken.

The Babylonians overtook Zedekiah and sent him to Nebuchadnezzar, who apparently had remained at headquarters in Riplah in Syria. There Zedekiah's sons were killed before his eyes – all but Mulek, who was taken by the hand of the Lord to America. Then Nebuchadnezzar had Zedekiah's eyes put out and sent him to Babylon where he died.

CHAPTER 39

Jerusalem is taken and the people captivated—Jeremiah and Ebed-melech, the Ethiopian, are preserved.

1 IN the ^aninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, came Nebuchadnezzar ^bking of Babylon and all his army against ^cJerusalem, and they besieged it.

2 And in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth *day* of the month, the city was broken up.

3 And all the princes of the king of Babylon came in, and sat in the middle ^agate, *even* Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim, Rab-saris, Nergal-sharezer, Rab-mag, with all the residue of the princes of the king of Babylon.

4 ¶ And it came to pass, *that* when ^aZedekiah the king of Judah saw them, and all the men of war, then they fled, and went forth out of the city by night, by the way of the king's garden, by the gate betwixt the two walls: and he went out the way of the plain.

5 But the Chaldeans' army pursued after them, and overtook ^aZedekiah in the ^bplains of Jericho: and when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he ^cgave judgment upon him. (or pronounced sentence)

6 Then the king of Babylon ^aslew the ^bsons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah.

7 Moreover he put out Zedekiah's ^aeyes, and bound ^bhim with chains, to carry him to Babylon.

8 ¶ And the ^aChaldeans ^bburned the king's house, and the houses of the people, with fire, and ^cbrake down the walls of Jerusalem.

9 Then Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard carried away captive into Babylon the remnant of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that ^afell to him (or had deserted), with the rest of the people that remained.

10 But ^aNebuzar-adan the captain of the guard left of the poor of the people, which had nothing, in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time.

11 ¶ Now Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon gave charge concerning Jeremiah to Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard, saying,

12 Take him, and ^alook well to him (Heb keep your eyes on him), and do him no harm; but do unto him even as he shall say unto thee.

13 So Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard sent, and Nebushasban, Rab-saris, and Nergal-sharezer, Rab-mag, and all the king of Babylon's princes;

14 Even they sent, and took Jeremiah out of the court of the prison, and committed him unto ^aGedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, that he should carry him home: so he dwelt among the people.

15 ¶ Now the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, while he was shut up in the court of the prison, saying,

16 Go and speak to Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring my words upon this city for evil, and not for good; and they shall be *accomplished* in that day before thee.

17 But I will deliver thee in that day, saith the LORD: and thou shalt not be given into the hand of the men of whom thou *art* afraid.

18 For I will surely deliver thee, and thou shalt not fall by the sword, but thy ^alife shall be for a prey unto thee: because thou hast put thy trust in me, saith the LORD.

CHAPTER 40

The king of Babylon makes Gedaliah governor over the remnant of Jews left in Judah—Jeremiah is freed and dwells among them.

(“Earlier, we mentioned the fact that after the fall of Jerusalem Jeremiah was liberated and permitted to stay in Palestine. As a matter of fact, he was first taken in chains with all the other captured Jews as far as Ramah, a town about five miles north of Jerusalem. Here the Babylonian ‘captain of the guard’ loosed his bonds, ‘gave him an allowance and a present,’ and sent him back to Gedaliah, the new governor of Judah, with instructions permitting him to dwell among the people or to go wherever he chose. (40:1–6) “Following Gedaliah’s appointment as governor of Judah, many Jews in the lands round about regained confidence and returned to their own country. But one of them, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, seems to have been sent by Baalis, the king of Ammon, for the express purpose of slaying Gedaliah. (40:14) The good governor was warned of this, but he would not believe those who had informed him of the plot. The result was that he and the Jews and Chaldeans with him at Mizpah were slain in cold blood by Ishmael and his fellow conspirators. (41:1–3) Other Jews met their death at the hands of Ishmael, but he escaped to Ammon before he could be apprehended. (41:4–15) “After this incident, Jeremiah was approached by the people of Judah, who asked him to pray to God in their behalf and ask His advice and counsel. The prophet did pray, and the Lord advised the people to stay in Judah and be blessed. They were told not to be afraid of the king of Babylon; the Lord would save them and deliver them from his hand and have compassion upon them. On the other hand, if they went to Egypt to escape war and hunger, they should be severely disappointed. They were told that famine, pestilence, and the sword would be their terrible lot. (42:1–22) But the stubborn Jews refused to heed the Lord’s words through Jeremiah and proceeded into Egypt, taking the hapless prophet and his scribe Baruch with them. (43:1–7) “At Tahpanhes, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah predicting the destruction of Egypt at the hands of the same Nebuchadnezzar who had destroyed Jerusalem: [Jeremiah 43:8–13]. “Thus the disobedient Jews who had escaped from troubles in Judah would meet them head-on in Egypt. (See also 44:12–14.) Jeremiah continued to castigate them for their idolatrous worship of the ‘queen of heaven,’ but they refused to heed his words. (44:15–30).” (Sperry, *Voice of Israel’s Prophets*, pp. 184–85.))

1 THE word ~~that~~ (which) came to Jeremiah from the LORD, after that Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard had let him go from Ramah, when he had taken him being bound in chains among all that were carried away captive of Jerusalem and ^aJudah, which were carried away captive unto Babylon.

2 And the captain of the guard took Jeremiah, and said unto him, The LORD thy God hath pronounced this evil upon this place.

3 Now the LORD hath brought *it*, and done according as he hath said: because ye have ^asinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed his voice, therefore this ^bthing is come upon you.

4 And now, behold, I loose thee this day from the chains which *were* upon thine hand. If it seem good unto thee to come with me into Babylon, come; and I will look well unto thee: but if it seem ill unto thee to come with me into Babylon, forbear: behold, all the land *is* before thee: whither it seemeth good and convenient for thee to go, thither go.

5 Now while he was not yet gone back, *he said*, Go back also to ^aGedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon hath made governor over the cities of Judah, and dwell with him among the people: or go wheresoever it seemeth convenient unto thee to go. So the captain of the guard gave him ^bvictuals (Heb a food allowance) and a reward, and let him go.

6 Then went Jeremiah unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam to Mizpah; and dwelt with him among the people that were left in the land. (Jeremiah is allowed to go wherever he wants.)

7 ¶ Now when all the captains of the forces which *were* in the fields, *even* they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam governor in the land, and had committed unto him men, and women, and children, and of the ^apoor of the land, of them that were not carried away captive to Babylon;

8 Then they came to Gedaliah to Mizpah, even Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and ^aJohanan 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 Maachathite, they and their men.

9 And Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan sware unto them and to their men, saying, Fear not to serve the Chaldeans: dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you.

10 As for me, behold, I will dwell at Mizpah to serve the Chaldeans, which will come unto us: but ye, gather ye wine, and summer fruits, and oil, and put *them* in your vessels, and dwell in your cities that ye have taken.

11 Likewise when all the Jews that *were* in Moab, and among the Ammonites, and in Edom, and that *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;

12 Even all the Jews returned out of all places whither they were driven, and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah, unto Mizpah, and gathered wine and summer fruits very much.

13 ¶ Moreover Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the ^acaptains of the forces that *were* in the fields, came to Gedaliah to Mizpah,

14 And said unto him, Dost thou certainly know that Baalis the king of the Ammonites hath sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to slay thee? But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam believed them not.

15 Then Johanan the son of Kareah spake to Gedaliah in Mizpah secretly, saying, Let me go, I pray thee, and I will slay Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and no man shall know *it*: wherefore should he slay thee, that all the Jews which are gathered unto thee should be scattered, and the remnant in Judah perish?

16 But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam said unto Johanan the son of Kareah, Thou shalt not do this thing: for thou speakest falsely of Ishmael.

CHAPTER 41

Ishmael kills Gedaliah and carries people of Mizpah captive—They are rescued by Johanan.

1 NOW it came to pass in the seventh month, *that* Ishmael the son of Nethaniah the son of Elishama, of the seed royal, and the princes of the king, even ten men with him, came unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam to Mizpah; and there they did eat bread together in Mizpah.

2 Then arose Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and the ten men that were with him, and smote 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.

3 Ishmael also slew all the Jews that were with him, *even* with Gedaliah, at Mizpah, and the Chaldeans that were found there, *and* the men of war.

4 And it came to pass the second day after he had slain Gedaliah, and no man knew *it*,

5 That there came certain from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, *even* fourscore men, having their beards shaven, and their clothes rent, and having cut themselves, with offerings and incense in their hand, to bring *them* to the house of the LORD.

6 And Ishmael the son of Nethaniah went forth from Mizpah to meet them, weeping all along as he went: and it came to pass, as he met them, he said unto them, Come to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam.

7 And it was *so*, when they came into the midst of the city, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah slew them, *and cast them* into the midst of the pit, he, and the men that *were* with him.

8 But ten men were found among them that said unto Ishmael, Slay us not: for we have treasures in the field, of wheat, and of barley, and of oil, and of honey. So he forbore, and slew them not among their brethren.

9 Now the pit wherein Ishmael had cast all the dead bodies of the men, whom he had slain because of Gedaliah, *was* it which Asa the king had made for fear of Baasha king of Israel: *and* Ishmael the son of Nethaniah filled it with *them that were* slain.

10 Then Ishmael carried away captive all the residue of the people that *were* in Mizpah, *even* the king's ^adaughters, and all the people that remained in Mizpah, whom Nebuzar-adan 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.

11 ¶ 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,

12 Then they took all the men, and went to fight with Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and found him by the ^agreat waters (or many pools) that *are* in Gibeon.

13 Now it came to pass, *that* when all the people which *were* with Ishmael saw Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that *were* with him, then they were glad.

14 So all the people that Ishmael had carried away captive from Mizpah ^acast about and returned (Heb turned around and came back), and went unto Johanan the son of Kareah.

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

16 Then took Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that *were* with him, all the remnant of the people whom he had recovered from Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, from Mizpah, after *that* he had slain Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, *even* mighty men of war, and the women, and the children, and the ^aeunuchs (or courtiers, or officials), whom he had brought again from Gibeon:

17 And they departed, and dwelt in the habitation of Chimham, which is by Beth-lehem, to go to enter into Egypt,

18 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.

CHAPTER 42

Jeremiah promises Johanan and the remnant of Judah peace and safety if they remain in Judah, but a sword and famine and pestilence if they go to Egypt.

1 THEN all the captains of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least even unto the greatest, came near,

2 And said unto Jeremiah the prophet, Let, we beseech thee, our supplication be accepted before thee, and pray for us unto the LORD thy God, *even* for all this remnant; (for we are left *but* a few of many, as thine eyes do behold us:)

3 That the LORD thy God may shew us the way wherein we may walk, and the thing that we may do.

4 Then Jeremiah the prophet said unto them, I have heard *you*; behold, I will ^apray unto the LORD your God according to your words; and it shall come to pass, *that* whatsoever thing the LORD shall answer you, I will declare *it* unto you; I will keep nothing back from you.

5 Then they said to Jeremiah, The LORD be a true and ^afaithful witness between us, if we do not even according to all things for the which the LORD thy God shall send thee to us.

6 Whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil, we will obey the ^avoice of the LORD our God, to whom we send thee; that it may be well with us, when we obey the voice of the LORD our God.

7 ¶ And it came to pass after ten days, that the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah.

8 Then called he Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces which *were* with him, and all the people from the least even to the greatest,

9 And said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto whom ye sent me to present your supplication before him;

10 If ye will still abide in this land, then will I build you, and not pull ~~you~~ down, ~~and~~ I will plant you, and not pluck ~~you~~ up: for ^aI repent me of (and I will turn away) the evil that I have done unto you. (ie I feel compassion regarding the punishment I bring upon you.)

11 Be not afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom ye are afraid; be not afraid of him, saith the LORD: for I *am* with you to save you, and to deliver you from his hand.

12 And I will shew mercies unto you, that he may have mercy upon you, and cause you to return to your own land.

13 ¶ But if ye say, We will not dwell in this land, neither obey the voice of the LORD your God,

14 Saying, No; but we will go into the land of Egypt, where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the ^atrumpet (Heb shofar, or alarm), nor have hunger of bread; and there will we dwell:

15 And now therefore hear the word of the LORD, ye remnant of Judah; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; If ye wholly set your ^afaces to enter into Egypt, and go to sojourn there;

16 Then it shall come to pass, *that* the sword, which ye feared, shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine, whereof ye were afraid, shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there ye shall die.

17 So shall it be with all the men that set their faces to go into Egypt to sojourn there; they shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: and none of them shall remain or escape from the evil that I will bring upon them.

18 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; As mine anger and my fury hath been poured forth upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem; so shall my fury be poured forth upon you, when ye shall enter into Egypt: and ye shall be an ^aexecration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach; and ye shall see this place no more.

19 ¶ The LORD hath said concerning you, O ye remnant of Judah; Go ye not into ^aEgypt: know certainly that I have admonished you this day.

20 For ye ^adissembled (Heb have deceived your souls) in your hearts, when ye sent me unto the LORD your God, saying, Pray for us unto the LORD our God; and according unto all that the LORD our God shall say, so declare unto us, and we will do *it*.

21 And *now* I have this day declared *it* to you; ~~but~~ (that) ye have not ^aobeyed the voice of the LORD your God, nor *anything* for the which he hath sent me unto you.

22 Now therefore know certainly that ye shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, in the place whither ye desire to go *and* to sojourn.

CHAPTER 43

Johanan carries Jeremiah and the remnant of Judah into Egypt—Jeremiah prophesies that Babylon shall conquer Egypt.

1 AND it came to pass, *that* when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking unto all the people all the words of the LORD their God, for which the LORD their God had sent him to them, *even* all these words,
2 Then spake Azariah the son of Hoshaiah, and ^aJohanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men, saying unto Jeremiah, Thou speakest falsely: the LORD our God hath not sent thee to say, Go not into Egypt to sojourn there:
3 But ^aBaruch the son of Neriah setteth thee on against us, for to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, that they might put us to death, and carry us away captives into Babylon.
4 So Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the ^acaptains of the forces, and all the people, obeyed not the voice of the LORD, to dwell in the land of Judah.
5 But Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces, took all the remnant of Judah, that were returned from all nations, whither they had been driven, to dwell in the land of Judah;
6 *Even* men, and women, and children, and the king's ^adaughters, and every person that ^bNebuzar-adan the captain of the guard had left with ^cGedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet, and Baruch the son of Neriah.
7 So they came into the land of ^aEgypt: for they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: thus came they *even* to ^bTahpanhes.
8 ¶ Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah in Tahpanhes, saying,
9 Take great stones in thine hand, and hide them in the clay in the brickkiln, which *is* at the entry of Pharaoh's house in Tahpanhes, in the sight of the men of Judah;
10 And say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will send and take ^aNebuchadrezzar 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.
11 And when he cometh, he shall ^asmite the land of Egypt, *and deliver such as are* for death to death; and such *as are* for captivity to captivity; and such *as are* for the sword to the sword.
12 And I will kindle a fire in the houses of the ^agods of Egypt; and he shall burn them, and carry them away ^bcaptives: and he shall array himself with the land of Egypt, as a shepherd putteth on his garment; and he shall go forth from thence in peace.
13 He shall break also the images of Beth-shemesh, that *is* in the land of Egypt; and the houses of the gods of the Egyptians shall he burn with fire.

CHAPTER 44

Jeremiah prophesies that the Jews in Egypt, save a small remnant, shall be destroyed because they worship false gods.

1 THE word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews which dwell in the land of Egypt, which dwell at ^aMigdol, and at ^bTahpanhes, and at ^cNoph, and in the country of Pathros, saying,
2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Ye have seen all the ^aevil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, and upon all the cities of Judah; and, behold, this day they *are* a ^bdesolation, and no man dwelleth therein,
3 Because of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke me to anger, in that they went to ^aburn incense, *and* to serve other ^bgods, whom they knew not, *neither* they, ye, nor your fathers.
4 Howbeit I ^asent unto you all my servants the prophets, ~~rising~~ (commanding them to rise) early and sending *them*, saying, Oh, do not this ^babominable thing that I hate.

5 But they ^ahearkened not, nor inclined their ear to turn from their ^bwickedness, to burn no incense unto other gods.

6 Wherefore my fury and mine anger was poured forth, and was kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are wasted *and* desolate, as at this day.

7 Therefore now thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; Wherefore commit ye *this* great ^aevil against your souls, to cut off from you man and woman, child and suckling, out of Judah, to leave you none to remain;

8 In that ye ^aprovoke me unto wrath with the ^bworks of your hands, burning incense unto other gods in the land of Egypt, whither ye be gone to dwell, that ye might ^ccut yourselves off, and that ye might be a curse and a reproach among all the nations of the earth?

9 Have ye forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, and the wickedness of the kings of Judah, and the wickedness of their ^awives, 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? (If we don't remember history, we are bound to repeat the mistakes made in the past.)

10 They are not ^ahumbled *even* unto this day, neither have they ^bfearing, nor walked in my law, nor in my statutes, that I set before you and before your fathers.

11 ¶ Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will set my ^aface against you for evil, and to cut off all Judah.

12 And I will take the remnant of Judah, that have set their ^afaces to go into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, and they shall all be ^bconsumed, *and* fall in the land of Egypt; they shall *even* be consumed by the sword *and* by the famine: they shall die, from the least even unto the greatest, by the sword *and* by the famine: and they shall be an ^cexecration, *and* an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach.

13 For I will ^apunish them that dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence:

14 So that none of the remnant of Judah, which are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall escape or remain, that they should return into the land of Judah, to the which they have a desire to return to dwell there: for none shall return but such as shall escape.

15 ¶ Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying,

16 *As for* the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not ^ahearken unto thee.

17 But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our ^aown mouth, to burn incense unto ^bthe queen of heaven (ie the fertility goddess, such as the Babylonian Ishtar), and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for *then* had we plenty of ^cvictuals, and were well, and saw no evil.

18 But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have ^awanted (Heb lacked) all *things*, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine.

19 And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men?

20 ¶ Then Jeremiah said unto all the people, to the men, and to the women, and to all the people which had given him *that* answer, saying,

21 The incense that ye burned in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, ye, and your fathers, your kings, and your princes, and the people of the land, did not the LORD ^aremember them, and came it *not* into his mind?

22 So that the LORD could no longer bear, because of the evil of your doings, *and* because of the abominations which ye have committed; therefore is your land a ^adesolation, and an astonishment, and a

curse, without an inhabitant, as at this day. (The Lord gives us time to repent, but eventually if refuse to repent, he will punish.)

23 Because ye have burned incense, and because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not ^aobeyed the voice of the LORD, nor walked in his law, nor in his statutes, nor in his testimonies; therefore this ^bevil is happened unto you, as at this day.

24 Moreover Jeremiah said unto all the people, and to all the women, Hear the word of the LORD, all Judah that *are* in the land of ^aEgypt:

25 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying; Ye 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 unto her: ye will surely accomplish your vows, and surely perform your vows.

26 Therefore hear ye the word of the LORD, all Judah that dwell in the land of Egypt; Behold, I have ^asworn by my great ^bname, saith 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, The Lord GOD liveth.

27 Behold, I will ^awatch over them for evil, and not for good: and all the men of Judah that *are* in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine, until there be an end of them.

28 Yet a small number that ^aescape the sword shall return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah, and all the remnant of Judah, that are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall know whose ^bwords shall stand, mine, or theirs.

29 ¶ And this *shall be* a sign unto you, saith the LORD, that I will punish you in this place, that ye may know that my words shall surely stand against you for evil:

30 Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give ^aPharaoh-hophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies, and into the hand of them that seek his life; as I gave ^bZedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, his enemy, and that sought his life.

CHAPTER 45

Jeremiah promises Baruch that his life shall be preserved.

(“The passage is a kind of appendix that belongs with ch. 36, and is valuable for insight it gives into Baruch’s own life. He too could be beset by despair as was Jeremiah, and could say ‘Woe is me’ (v. 3). It may be that as he dictated Jeremiah’s words of judgment, and knew in his heart that they were true and would certainly come to pass, he became depressed at it all and was filled with foreboding about his own future. He was deeply involved in Jeremiah’s affairs. He wrote down his oracles for the first and second scrolls in 605/4 B.C. He certainly continued to record the prophet’s sayings thereafter and went with him to Egypt, where he probably continued his work as a scribe. It is not impossible that Baruch eventually returned to Judah or even journeyed to Babylon to join the exiles there, and was able to relate what took place in Egypt, although there is no evidence one way or the other. At times he was associated with Jeremiah in dangerous situations (36:19, 26; 43:3). Much of the present book of Jeremiah must go back either directly or indirectly to him.” (J. A. Thompson, *The Book of Jeremiah*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament, p. 683.))

1 THE word that Jeremiah the prophet spake unto ^aBaruch the son of Neriah, when he had written these words in a book at the mouth of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying,

2 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto thee, O Baruch;

3 Thou didst say, Woe is me now! for the LORD hath added grief to my sorrow; I fainted in my sighing, and I find no ^arest.

4 ¶ Thus shalt thou say unto him, The LORD saith thus; Behold, *that* which I have built will I ^abreak down, and that which I have planted I will ^bpluck up, even ^cthis whole land. (Heb text adds: for it is mine)

5 And ^aseekest thou great things for thyself? seek *them* not: for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the LORD: but thy ^blife will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest.

CHAPTER 46

Jeremiah prophesies the conquest of Egypt by Babylon—Jacob shall be saved and return to his own land.

1 THE word of the LORD which came to Jeremiah the prophet against the ^aGentiles;

2 Against Egypt, against the army of ^aPharaoh-necho king of Egypt, which was by the river Euphrates in Carchemish, which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon smote in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah.

3 Order ye the buckler and shield, and draw near to battle.

4 Harness the horses; and get up, ye horsemen, and stand forth with *your* helmets; furbish the spears, and put on the ^abrigandines. (or armor)

5 Wherefore have I seen them dismayed and ^aturned away back? (Heb retreating) and their mighty ones are beaten down, and are fled apace, and look not back: *for fear was* round about, saith the LORD.

6 Let not the swift flee away, nor the mighty man escape; they shall stumble, and fall toward the north by the river Euphrates.

7 Who *is* this *that* cometh up as a ^aflood, whose waters are moved as the rivers?

8 Egypt riseth up like ^aa flood, (Heb the river) and *his* waters are moved like the rivers; and he saith, I will go up, and will cover the earth; I will destroy the city and the inhabitants thereof.

9 Come up, ye horses; and rage, ye chariots; and let the mighty men come forth; the Ethiopians and the Libyans, that handle the shield; and the ^aLydians, that handle and bend the bow.

10 For this *is* the ^aday of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be ^bsatiated (or sated) and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts hath a ^csacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.

11 Go up into Gilead, and take ^abalm, O virgin, the daughter of Egypt: in vain shalt thou use many medicines; *for* thou shalt not be cured.

12 The nations have heard of thy ^ashame, and thy cry hath filled the land: for the mighty man hath stumbled against the mighty, and they are fallen both together.

13 ¶ The word that the LORD spake to Jeremiah the prophet, how Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon should come and smite the land of ^aEgypt.

14 Declare ye in Egypt, and publish in ^aMigdol, and publish in Noph and in ^bTahpanhes: say ye, Stand fast, and prepare thee; for the sword shall devour round about thee.

15 Why are thy ^avaliant *men* swept away? they stood not, because the LORD did drive them.

16 He made many to fall, yea, one fell upon another: and they said, Arise, and let us go again to our own people, and to the land of our nativity, from the oppressing sword.

17 They did cry there, Pharaoh king of Egypt *is but* a noise; he hath passed the time appointed.

18 As I live, saith the King, whose name *is* the LORD of hosts, Surely as Tabor *is* among the mountains, and as Carmel by the sea, *so* shall he come.

19 O thou daughter dwelling in Egypt, furnish thyself to go into ^acaptivity: for Noph shall be waste and desolate without an inhabitant.

20 Egypt *is like* a very fair heifer, *but* destruction cometh; it cometh out of the north.

21 Also her hired men *are* in the midst of her like fatted bullocks; for they also are turned back, *and* are fled away together: they did not stand, because the day of their calamity was come upon them, *and* the time of their visitation.

22 The voice thereof shall go like a serpent; for they shall march with an army, and come against her with axes, as hewers of wood.

23 They shall cut down her forest, saith the LORD, though it cannot be searched; because they are more than the grasshoppers, and *are* innumerable.

24 The daughter of Egypt shall be confounded; she shall be delivered into the hand of the people of the north.

25 The ^aLORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saith; Behold, I will punish ^bthe multitude of ^cNo, (Heb Amon of Thebes) and ^dPharaoh, and Egypt, with their ^egods, and their kings; even Pharaoh, and *all* them that trust in him:

26 And I will deliver them into the hand of those that seek their lives, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of his servants: and afterward it shall be ^ainhabited, as in the days of old, saith the LORD.

27 ¶ But fear not thou, O my servant ^aJacob, and be not dismayed, O Israel: for, behold, I will save thee from afar off, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and **Jacob shall return**, and be in rest and at ease, and none shall make *him* afraid.

28 Fear thou not, O Jacob my servant, saith the LORD: for I *am* with thee; for I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have driven thee: but I will not make a full end of thee, but correct thee in measure; yet will I not leave thee wholly unpunished. (The restoration of Israel will happen in the last days.)

CHAPTER 47

Jeremiah foretells desolation and destruction upon the Philistines.

1 THE word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet against the ^aPhilistines, before that Pharaoh smote Gaza.

2 Thus saith the LORD; Behold, ^awaters rise up out of the north, and shall be an overflowing flood, and shall overflow the land, and all that is therein; the city, and them that dwell therein: then the men shall cry, and all the inhabitants of the land shall howl.

3 At the noise of the stamping of the hoofs of his strong *horses*, at the rushing of his chariots, *and at* the rumbling of his wheels, the fathers shall not look back to *their* children for feebleness of hands;

4 Because of the day that cometh to spoil all the Philistines, *and* to cut off from ^aTyrus and Zidon every helper that remaineth: for the LORD will spoil the Philistines, the remnant of the country of Caphtor.

5 Baldness is come upon Gaza; Ashkelon is cut off *with* the remnant of their valley: how long wilt thou cut thyself?

6 O thou sword of the LORD, how long *will it be* ere thou be quiet? put up thyself into thy scabbard, rest, and be still.

7 How can it be quiet, seeing the LORD hath given it a charge against Ashkelon, and against the sea shore? there hath he appointed it.

CHAPTER 48

Judgment and destruction shall come upon Moab for their contempt of God.

1 AGAINST ^aMoab thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Woe unto Nebo! for it is spoiled: Kiriathaim is confounded *and* taken: Misgab is confounded and dismayed.

2 *There shall be* no more praise of Moab: in Heshbon they have devised evil against it; come, and let us cut it off from *being* a nation. Also thou shalt be cut down, O Madmen; the sword shall pursue thee.

3 A voice of crying *shall be* from ^aHoronaim, spoiling and great destruction.

4 ^aMoab is destroyed; her little ones have caused a cry to be heard.

5 For in the going up of Luhith continual weeping shall go up; for in the going down of Horonaim the enemies have heard a cry of destruction.

6 Flee, save your lives, and be like the ^aheath in the wilderness.

7 ¶ For because thou hast trusted in thy ^aworks and in thy treasures, thou shalt also be taken: and Chemosh shall go forth into ^bcaptivity *with* his priests and his princes together.

8 And the spoiler shall come upon every city, and no city shall escape: the valley also shall perish, and the plain shall be destroyed, as the LORD hath spoken.

9 Give wings unto Moab, that it may flee and get away: for the cities thereof shall be desolate, without any to dwell therein.

10 ^aCursed *be* he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed *be* he that keepeth back his sword from blood.

11 ¶ Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath ^asettled (Heb relaxed his guard) on his ^blees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.

12 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will send unto him ^awanderers, (Heb tilters (those who empty things out)) that shall cause him to wander, and shall empty his vessels, and break their bottles.

13 And Moab shall be ^aashamed of Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed of Beth-el their confidence.

14 ¶ How say ye, We *are* mighty and strong men for the war?

15 Moab is spoiled, and gone up *out of* her cities, and his chosen young men are gone down to the slaughter, saith the King, whose name *is* the LORD of hosts.

16 The calamity of Moab *is* near to come, and his affliction hasteth fast.

17 All ye that are about him, bemoan him; and all ye that know his name, say, How is the strong staff broken, *and* the beautiful rod!

18 Thou daughter that dost inhabit Dibon, come down from *thy* glory, and sit in thirst; for the spoiler of Moab shall come upon thee, *and* he shall destroy thy strong holds.

19 O inhabitant of ^aAroer, stand by the way, and espy; ask him that fleeth, and her that escapeth, *and* say, What is done?

20 Moab is confounded; for it is broken down: ^ahowl and cry; tell ye it in Arnon, that Moab is spoiled,

21 And judgment is come upon the plain country; upon Holon, and upon Jahazah, and upon Mephaath,

22 And upon Dibon, and upon Nebo, and upon Beth-diblathaim,

23 And upon Kiriathaim, and upon Beth-gamul, and upon Beth-meon,

24 And upon ^aKerioth, and upon ^bBozrah, and upon all the cities of the land of Moab, far or near.

25 The ^ahorn of Moab is cut off, and his arm is broken, saith the LORD.

26 ¶ Make ye him ^adrunken: for he magnified *himself* against the LORD: Moab also shall wallow in his vomit, and he also shall be in derision.

27 For was not Israel a derision unto thee? was he found among thieves? for since thou spakest of him, thou skippedst for joy.

28 O ye that dwell in Moab, leave the cities, and dwell in the rock, and be like the dove *that* maketh her nest in the sides of the hole's mouth. (Weren't there any who heeded the prophet and escaped?)

29 We have heard the ^apride of Moab, (he is exceeding proud) his loftiness, and his arrogancy, and his pride, and the haughtiness of his heart.

30 I know his wrath, saith the LORD; but *it shall* not *be* so; his lies shall not so effect *it*.

31 Therefore will I howl for Moab, and I will cry out for all Moab; *mine heart* shall mourn for the men of Kir-heres.

32 O vine of Sibmah, I will weep for thee with the weeping of Jazer: thy ^aplants (Heb branches) are gone over the sea, they reach *even* to the sea of Jazer: the spoiler is fallen upon thy summer fruits and upon thy vintage.

33 And joy and ^agladness is taken from the plentiful field, and from the land of Moab; and I have caused wine to fail from the winepresses: none shall tread with shouting; *their* ^bshouting (or cheering) shall be no shouting.

34 From the cry of ^aHeshbon *even* unto Elealeh, *and even* unto Jahaz, have they uttered their voice, from Zoar *even* unto Horonaim, *as a* heifer of three years old: for the waters also of Nimrim shall be desolate.

35 Moreover I will cause to cease in Moab, saith the LORD, him that offereth in the high places, and him that burneth incense to his gods.

36 Therefore mine ^aheart shall sound for Moab like pipes, and mine heart shall sound like ^bpipes (or flutes) for the men of Kir-heres: because the ^criches *that* he hath gotten are perished.

37 For every head shall be ^abald, and every beard clipped: upon all the hands shall be cuttings, and upon the loins sackcloth. (Slaves)

38 *There shall be* lamentation generally upon all the housetops of Moab, and in the streets thereof: for I have broken Moab like a ^avessel wherein *is* no pleasure, saith the LORD.

39 They shall howl, *saying*, How is it broken down! how hath Moab turned the back with shame! so shall Moab be a derision and a dismaying to all them about him.

40 For thus saith the LORD; Behold, he shall fly as an ^aeagle, and shall spread his wings over Moab.

41 ^aKerioth is taken, and the strong holds are ^bsurprised, (Heb captured) and the mighty men's hearts in Moab at that day shall be as the heart of a woman in her pangs.

42 And Moab shall be destroyed from *being* a people, because he hath ^amagnified *himself* against the LORD.

43 Fear, and the pit, and the snare, shall be upon thee, O inhabitant of Moab, saith the LORD.

44 He that fleeth from the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that getteth up out of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for I will bring upon it, *even* upon Moab, the year of their visitation, saith the LORD.

45 They that fled stood under the shadow of Heshbon because of the force: but a fire shall come forth out of ^aHeshbon, and a flame from the midst of Sihon, and shall devour the corner of ^bMoab, and the crown of the head of the tumultuous ones.

46 Woe be unto thee, O Moab! the people of Chemosh perisheth: for thy sons are taken captives, and thy daughters captives.

47 ¶ Yet will I ^abring again (or turn away, remove) the captivity of ^bMoab in the latter days, saith the LORD. Thus far *is* the judgment of Moab.

CHAPTER 49

Judgment and destruction shall come upon the Ammonites, Edom, Kedar, Hazor, and Elam.

1 CONCERNING the Ammonites, thus saith the LORD; Hath Israel no sons? hath he no heir? why *then* doth their king inherit Gad, and his people dwell in his cities?

2 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will cause an alarm of war to be heard in ^aRabbah of the ^bAmmonites; and it shall be a desolate heap, and her ^cdaughters (or villages) shall be burned with fire: then shall Israel be heir unto them that were his heirs, saith the LORD.

3 Howl, O Heshbon, for Ai is spoiled: cry, ye daughters of Rabbah, gird you with sackcloth; lament, and run to and fro by the hedges; for their king shall go into ^acaptivity, *and* his priests and his princes together.

4 Wherefore gloriest thou in the valleys, thy flowing valley, O backsliding daughter? that trusted in her^a treasures, *saying*, Who shall come unto me?

5 Behold, I will bring a fear upon thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts, from all those that be about thee; and ye shall be driven out every man right forth; and none shall gather up him that wandereth.

6 And afterward I will^a bring again (or turn away, remove) the captivity of the children of Ammon, saith the LORD.

7 ¶ Concerning^a Edom, thus saith the LORD of hosts; *Is* wisdom no more in Teman? is counsel perished from the^b prudent? is their wisdom vanished?

8 Flee ye, turn back, dwell deep, O inhabitants of Dedan; for I will bring the calamity of Esau upon him, the time *that* I will visit him.

9 If grapegatherers come to thee, would they not leave *some* gleaning grapes? if^a thieves by night, they will destroy till they have enough.

10 But I have made^a Esau bare, I have uncovered his secret places, and he shall not be able to hide himself: his^b seed is spoiled, and his brethren, and his neighbours, and he *is* not.

11 Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve *them* alive; and let thy^a widows trust in me.

12 For thus saith the LORD; Behold, they whose judgment *was* not to^a drink of the cup have assuredly drunken; and *art* thou he *that* shall altogether go unpunished? thou shalt not go unpunished, but thou shalt surely drink *of it*.

13 For I have sworn by myself, saith the LORD, that^a Bozrah shall become a desolation, a reproach, a waste, and a curse; and all the^b cities thereof shall be perpetual wastes;

14 I have heard a^a rumour (or report) from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent unto the^b heathen, (Heb nations, or gentiles) *saying*, Gather ye together, and come against her, and rise up to the battle.

15 For, lo, I will make thee small among the heathen, *and* despised among men.

16 Thy terribleness hath deceived thee, *and* the^a pride of thine heart, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill: though thou shouldest make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the LORD.

17 Also^a Edom shall be a desolation: every one that goeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss at all the plagues thereof.

18 As in the overthrow of^a Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour *cities* thereof, saith the LORD, no man shall abide there, neither shall a son of man dwell in it.

19 Behold, he shall come up like a^a lion from the swelling of Jordan against the habitation of the strong: but I will suddenly make him run away from her: and who *is* a chosen *man*, *that* I may appoint over her? for who *is* like me? and who will appoint me the time? and who *is* that shepherd that will stand before me?

20 Therefore hear the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Edom; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the inhabitants of Teman: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitations desolate with them.

21 The earth is^a moved at the noise of their fall, at the cry the noise thereof was heard in the Red sea.

22 Behold, he shall come up and fly as the eagle, and spread his wings over Bozrah: and at that day shall the heart of the mighty men of Edom be as the heart of a woman in her pangs.

23 ¶ Concerning Damascus. Hamath is confounded, and Arpad: for they have heard evil tidings: they are fainthearted; *there is* sorrow on the sea; it cannot be quiet.

24 Damascus is waxed feeble, *and* turneth herself to flee, and fear hath seized on *her*: anguish and^a sorrows have taken her, as a woman in travail.

25 How is the city of^a praise not^b left, (Heb forsaken) the city of my joy!

26 Therefore her young men shall fall in her streets, and all the men of war shall be cut off in that day, saith the LORD of hosts.

27 And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall consume the palaces of Ben-hadad.

28 ¶ Concerning ^aKedar, (or Arabia) and concerning the kingdoms of Hazor, which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon shall smite, thus saith the LORD; Arise ye, go up to Kedar, and spoil the men of the east.

29 Their ^atents and their flocks shall they take away: they shall take to themselves their ^bcurtains, (or tent cloths) and all their vessels, and their camels; and they shall cry unto them, ^cFear is on every side.

30 ¶ Flee, get you far off, dwell deep, O ye inhabitants of Hazor, saith the LORD; for ^aNebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath taken counsel against you, and hath conceived a purpose against you.

31 Arise, get you up unto the wealthy nation, that dwelleth without care, saith the LORD, which have neither gates nor bars, *which* dwell alone.

32 And their camels shall be a booty, and the multitude of their cattle a spoil: and I will scatter into all winds them *that are* in the utmost corners; and I will bring their calamity from all sides thereof, saith the LORD.

33 And Hazor shall be a dwelling for ^adragons (Heb jackals), and a desolation for ever: there shall no man abide there, nor *any* son of man dwell in it.

34 ¶ The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet against ^aElam in the beginning of the reign of ^bZedekiah king of Judah, saying,

35 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, the chief of their might.

36 And upon Elam will I bring the four winds from the four ^aquarters (Heb ends, or extremities) of heaven, and will scatter them toward all those winds; and there shall be no nation whither the outcasts of Elam shall not come.

37 For I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies, and before them that seek their life: and I will bring ^aevil (or calamity, of disaster) upon them, *even* my fierce anger, saith the LORD; and I will send the sword after them, till I have consumed them:

38 And I will set my throne in Elam, and will destroy from thence the king and the princes, saith the LORD.

39 ¶ But it shall come to pass in the **latter days**, *that* I will bring again the captivity of Elam, saith the LORD.

CHAPTER 50

Babylon shall be destroyed and never rise again—Scattered Israel shall be brought again into the lands of her inheritance.

1 THE ^aword that the LORD spake against Babylon *and* against the land of the Chaldeans by Jeremiah the prophet.

2 Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, *and* conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, ^aBel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces.

3 For out of the ^anorth there cometh up a nation against her, which shall make her land desolate, and none shall ^bdwell therein: they shall remove, they shall depart, both man and beast.

4 ¶ In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the children of Israel shall ^acome, they and the children of Judah ^btogether, going and ^cweeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God.

5 They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, *saying*, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a ^aperpetual (or everlasting) ^bcovenant *that* shall not be forgotten.

6 My people hath been lost sheep: their ^ashepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away *on* the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace.

7 All that found them have devoured them: and their adversaries said, We ^aoffend not (Heb are not guilty), because they have sinned against the LORD, the habitation of justice, even the LORD, the hope of their fathers.

8 ^aRemove out of the midst of Babylon, and go forth out of the land of the ^bChaldeans, and be as the he goats before the flocks.

9 ¶ For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the ^anorth country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their ^bbarrows *shall be* as of a mighty expert man; none shall return ^cin vain. (Heb empty)

10 And Chaldea shall be a spoil: all that spoil her shall be satisfied, saith the LORD.

11 Because ye were glad, because ye rejoiced, O ye destroyers of mine heritage, because ye are grown fat as the heifer at grass, and bellow as bulls;

12 Your mother shall be sore confounded; she that bare you shall be ashamed: behold, the ^ahindmost (or last) of the nations *shall be* a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert.

13 Because of the wrath of the LORD it shall not be inhabited, but it shall be wholly desolate: every one that goeth by Babylon shall be astonished, and hiss at all her plagues.

14 Put yourselves in array against Babylon round about: all ye that bend the bow, shoot at her, spare no arrows: for she hath sinned against the LORD.

15 Shout against her round about: she hath ^agiven (ie submitted) her hand: her foundations are fallen, her walls are thrown down: for it *is* the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance upon her; as she hath done, do unto her.

16 Cut off the sower from Babylon, and him that handleth the sickle in the time of harvest: for fear of the oppressing sword they shall turn every one to his ^apeople, and they shall flee every one to his own ^bland.

17 ¶ Israel *is* a scattered sheep; the lions have driven *him* away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath ^abroken his bones.

18 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria.

19 And I will ^abring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead.

20 In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and *there shall be* none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will ^apardon them whom I reserve.

21 ¶ Go up against the land of Merathaim, *even* against it, and against the inhabitants of Pekod: waste and utterly destroy after them, saith the LORD, and do according to all that I have commanded thee.

22 A sound of battle *is* in the land, and of great destruction.

23 How is the hammer of the whole earth cut asunder and broken! how is Babylon become a desolation among the nations!

24 I have laid a snare for thee, and thou art also taken, O Babylon, and thou wast not aware: thou art found, and also caught, because thou hast striven against the LORD.

25 The LORD hath opened his armoury, and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation: for this *is* the work of the Lord GOD of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans.

26 Come against her from the utmost border, open her storehouses: cast her up as heaps, and destroy her utterly: let nothing of her be left.

27 Slay all her bullocks; let them go down to the slaughter: woe unto them! for their day is come, the time of their ^avisitation. (or punishment)

28 The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, the vengeance of his temple.

29 Call together the archers against Babylon: all ye that bend the bow, camp against it round about; let none thereof escape: recompense her according to her work; according to all that she hath done, do unto her: for she hath been proud against the LORD, against the Holy One of Israel.

30 Therefore shall her young men fall in the streets, and all her men of war shall be cut off in that day, saith the LORD.

31 Behold, I *am* against thee, *O thou* most proud, saith the Lord GOD of hosts: for thy day is come, the time *that* I will visit thee.

32 And the most proud shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up: and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about him.

33 ¶ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The children of Israel and the children of Judah *were* oppressed together: and all that took them captives held them fast; they refused to let them go.

34 Their Redeemer *is* strong; the LORD of hosts *is* his name: he shall thoroughly ^aplead their cause, that he may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon.

35 ¶ A sword *is* upon the Chaldeans, saith the LORD, and upon the inhabitants of Babylon, and upon her princes, and upon her wise *men*.

36 A sword *is* upon the liars; and they shall dote: a sword *is* upon her mighty men; and they shall be dismayed.

37 A sword *is* upon their horses, and upon their chariots, and upon all the ^amingled people that *are* in the midst of her; and they shall become as women: a sword *is* upon her ^btreasures; and they shall be robbed.

38 A ^adrought *is* upon her waters; and they shall be ^bdried up: for it *is* the land of graven images, and they are mad upon *their* idols.

39 Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell *there*, and the ^aowls (Heb daughters of the ostrich) shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation.

40 As God overthrew ^aSodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour *cities* thereof, saith the LORD; *so* shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein.

41 Behold, a people shall come from the ^anorth, and a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the ^bcoasts of the earth. (Heb remote parts)

42 They shall hold the bow and the lance: they *are* ^acruel, and will not shew mercy: their voice shall roar like the sea, and they shall ride upon horses, *every one* put in array, like a man to the battle, against thee, O daughter of Babylon.

43 The king of Babylon hath heard the report of them, and his hands waxed feeble: anguish took hold of him, *and* pangs as of a woman in travail.

44 Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan unto the habitation of the strong: but I will make them suddenly run away from her: and who *is* a chosen *man*, *that* I may appoint over her? for who *is* like me? and who will appoint me the time? and who *is* that ^ashepherd that will stand before me?

45 Therefore hear ye the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Babylon; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make *their* habitation desolate with them.

46 At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth is ^amoved, and the cry is heard among the nations.

CHAPTER 51

Judgments and destruction and desolation shall come upon Babylon for her sins—Israel is commanded: Flee ye from Babylon—Israel is the Lord's rod to destroy all kingdoms.

1 THUS saith the LORD; Behold, I will raise up against ^aBabylon, and against them that dwell in the midst of them that rise up against me, a destroying ^bwind;

2 And will send unto Babylon ^afanners, (or strangers who shall scatter her) that shall fan her, and shall empty her land: for in the day of trouble they shall be against her round about.

3 Against *him that* bendeth let the archer bend his bow, and against *him that* lifteth himself up in his brigandine: and spare ye not her young men; destroy ye utterly all her host.

4 Thus the slain shall fall in the land of the Chaldeans, and *they that are* thrust through in her streets.

5 For Israel *hath not been* ^aforsaken, nor Judah of his God, of the LORD of hosts; though their land was filled with sin against the Holy One of Israel.

6 Flee ^aout of the midst of ^bBabylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this *is* the time of the LORD's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence.

7 Babylon *hath been* a golden cup in the LORD's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.

8 Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: ^ahowl for her; take ^bbalm for her pain, if so be she may be healed.

9 We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own ^acountry: for her ^bjudgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up *even* to the skies.

10 The LORD hath ^abrought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God.

11 Make bright the arrows; gather the shields: the LORD hath raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes: for his device *is* against Babylon, to destroy it; because it *is* the vengeance of the LORD, the vengeance of his temple.

12 Set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong, set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes: for the LORD hath both devised and done that which he spake against the inhabitants of Babylon.

13 O thou that dwellest upon many ^awaters, abundant in ^btreasures, thine end is come, *and* the measure of thy covetousness.

14 The LORD of hosts hath ^asworn by himself, *saying*, Surely I will fill thee with men, as with caterpillers; and they shall lift up a shout against thee.

15 He hath ^amade the earth by his ^bpower, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heaven by his ^cunderstanding.

16 When he uttereth *his* voice, *there is* a multitude of waters in the heavens; and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth: he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.

17 Every man is brutish by *his* knowledge; every founder is confounded by the ^agraven image: for his molten image *is* falsehood, and *there is* no breath in them.

18 They *are* vanity, the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

19 The portion of Jacob *is* not like them; for he *is* the ^aformer of all things (or creator): and *Israel is* the rod of his inheritance: the LORD of hosts *is* his name.

20 Thou *art* my battle axe *and* weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms;

21 And with thee will I break in pieces the horse and his rider; and with thee will I break in pieces the chariot and his rider;

22 With thee also will I break in pieces man and woman; and with thee will I break in pieces old and young; and with thee will I break in pieces the young man and the maid;

23 I will also break in pieces with thee the shepherd and his flock; and with thee will I break in pieces the husbandman and his yoke of oxen; and with thee will I break in pieces captains and rulers.

24 And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their ^aevil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD.

25 Behold, I *am* against thee, O ^adestroying mountain (ie Babylon), saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.

26 And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations; but thou shalt be desolate for ever, saith the LORD.

27 Set ye up a ^astandard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against her, call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashchenaz; appoint a captain against her; cause the horses to come up as the rough caterpillers.

28 Prepare against her the nations with the kings of the Medes, the captains thereof, and all the rulers thereof, and all the land of his dominion.

29 And the land shall tremble and sorrow: for every purpose of the LORD shall be performed against Babylon, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without an inhabitant.

30 The mighty men of Babylon have ^aforborn to fight (or ceased), they have remained in *their* holds: their might hath failed; they became as ^bwomen: they have burned her dwellingplaces; her bars are broken.

31 One ^apost (Heb runner) shall run to meet another, and one messenger to meet another, to ^bshew (Heb tell, or inform) the king of ^cBabylon that his city is ^dtaken at *one* end, (or captured completely)

32 And that the passages are stopped, and the reeds they have burned with fire, and the men of war are affrighted.

33 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; The daughter of Babylon *is* like a threshingfloor, *it is* time to thresh her: yet a little while, and the time of her ^aharvest shall come.

34 Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon hath devoured me, he hath crushed me, he hath made me an empty vessel, he hath swallowed me up like a ^adragon (Heb sea-monster), he hath filled his belly with my delicates, he hath cast me out.

35 The violence done to me and to my flesh *be* upon Babylon, shall the inhabitant of Zion say; and my blood upon the inhabitants of Chaldea, shall Jerusalem say.

36 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will plead thy cause, and take vengeance for thee; and I will ^adry up her sea, and make her springs dry.

37 And ^aBabylon shall become heaps, a dwellingplace for ^bdragons (Heb jackals), an astonishment, and an hissing, without an inhabitant.

38 They shall roar together like lions: they shall yell as lions' whelps.

39 In their heat I will make their feasts, and I will make them drunken, that they may rejoice, and sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the LORD.

40 I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams with he goats.

41 How is ^aSheshach taken! and how is the praise of the whole earth surprised! how is Babylon become an astonishment among the nations!

42 The sea is come up upon Babylon: she is covered with the multitude of the waves thereof.

43 Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth *any* son of man pass thereby.

44 And I will punish Bel in Babylon, and I will bring forth out of his mouth that which he hath swallowed up: and the nations shall not flow together any more unto him: yea, the wall of Babylon shall fall.

45 My people, go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the LORD.

46 And lest your heart faint, and ye fear for the rumour that shall be heard in the land; a rumour shall both come *one* year, and after that in *another* year *shall come* a rumour, and violence in the land, ruler against ruler.

47 Therefore, behold, the days come, that I will do judgment upon the graven images of Babylon: and her whole land shall be confounded, and all her slain shall fall in the midst of her.

48 Then the heaven and the earth, and all that *is* therein, shall ^asing (or be jubilant) for Babylon: for the spoilers shall come unto her from the ^bnorth, saith the LORD.

49 As Babylon *hath caused* the slain of Israel to fall, so at Babylon shall fall the slain of all the earth.

50 Ye that have escaped the sword, go away, stand not still: remember the LORD afar off, and let Jerusalem come into your mind.

51 We are ^aconfounded (Heb *ashamed*), because we have heard reproach: shame hath covered our faces: for strangers are come into the ^bsanctuaries of the LORD's house.

52 Wherefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will do judgment upon her graven images: and through all her land the wounded shall groan.

53 Though Babylon should mount up to heaven, and though she should fortify the height of her strength, yet from me shall spoilers come unto her, saith the LORD.

54 A sound of a cry *cometh* from Babylon, and great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans:

55 Because the LORD hath spoiled Babylon, and destroyed out of her the great voice; when her waves do roar like great waters, a noise of their voice is uttered:

56 Because the spoiler is come upon her, *even* upon Babylon, and her mighty men are taken, every one of their bows is broken: for the LORD God of recompences shall surely requite.

57 And I will make drunk her princes, and her wise *men*, her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men: and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the King, whose name *is* the LORD of hosts.

58 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; and the people shall labour in ^avain, and the folk in the fire, and they shall be weary.

59 ¶ The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah into Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. And *this* Seraiah *was* a ^aquiet prince. (or *quartermaster*)

60 So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon, *even* all these ^awords that are written against Babylon.

61 And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, and shalt see, and shalt read all these words;

62 Then shalt thou say, O LORD, thou hast spoken against this place, to ^acut it off, that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be ^bdesolate for ever.

63 And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, *that* thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates:

64 And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary. Thus far *are* the words of Jeremiah.

CHAPTER 52

Jerusalem besieged and taken by the Chaldeans—Many people and the vessels of the house of the Lord carried into Babylon.

(Chapter 52 is a summary of the book of Jeremiah)

1 ^aZEDEKIAH *was* one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

2 And he did *that which was* evil in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.

3 For through the anger of the LORD it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, till he had cast them out from his presence, that ^aZedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

4 ¶ And it came to pass in the ^aninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth *day* of the month, *that* Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it, and built ^bforts (or *siege-walls*) against it round about.

5 So the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah.

6 And in the fourth month, in the ninth *day* of the month, the ^afamine was sore in the city, so that there was no ^bbread (or *food*) for the people of the land.

7 Then the ^acity was broken up, and all the men of war fled, and went forth out of the city by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, which *was* by the king's garden; (now the Chaldeans *were* by the city round about:) and they went by the way of the plain.

8 ¶ But the army of the Chaldeans ^apursued after the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him.

9 Then they took the king, and carried him up unto the king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath; where he gave judgment upon him.

10 And the king of Babylon slew the ^asons of Zedekiah before his eyes: he ^bslew also all the princes of Judah in Riblah.

11 Then he put out the ^aeyes of Zedekiah; and the king of Babylon bound him in chains, and ^bcarried him to ^cBabylon, and put him in prison till the day of his death.

12 ¶ Now in the fifth month, in the tenth *day* of the month, which *was* the nineteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzar-adan, captain of the guard, *which* served the king of Babylon, into Jerusalem,

13 And ^aburned the house of the LORD, and the king's house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, and all the houses of the great *men*, ^bburned he with fire:

14 And all the army of the Chaldeans, that *were* with the captain of the guard, brake down all the ^awalls of Jerusalem round about.

15 Then Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard ^acarried away captive *certain* of the poor of the people, and the residue of the people that remained in the city, and those that ^bfell away (or had deserted), that fell to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the multitude.

16 But Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard left *certain* of the poor of the land for vinedressers and for husbandmen.

17 Also the ^apillars of brass that *were* in the house of the LORD, and the bases, and the brasen ^bsea that *was* in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans brake, and carried all the brass of them to Babylon.

18 The ^acaldrons (or pans) also, and the shovels, and the ^bsnuffers (ie instruments to extinguish lamps), and the bowls, and the spoons, and all the vessels of brass wherewith they ministered, took they away.

19 And the basons, and the firepans, and the bowls, and the caldrons, and the candlesticks, and the spoons, and the cups; *that which was* of gold *in* gold, and *that which was* of silver *in* silver, took the captain of the guard away.

20 The two pillars, one ^asea, and ^btwelve brasen ^cbulls that *were* under the bases, which king Solomon had made in the house of the LORD: the brass of all these vessels was without weight.

21 And *concerning* the pillars, the height of one pillar *was* eighteen cubits; and ^aa fillet of twelve ^bcubits did compass it; (Heb a line; ie its circumference was twelve cubits, about eighteen feet, or five and one half meters.) and the thickness thereof *was* four fingers: *it was* hollow.

22 And a ^achapter (or decorative head of column) of brass *was* upon it; and the height of one chapter *was* five cubits, with network and pomegranates upon the chapters round about, all *of* brass. The second pillar also and the pomegranates *were* like unto these.

23 And there were ^aninety and six pomegranates on a side; *and* all the pomegranates upon the network *were* an hundred round about.

24 ¶ And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three keepers of the door:

25 He took also out of the city an ^aeunuch, (or officer) which had the charge of the men of war; and seven ^bmen of them that were near the king's person, which were found in the city; and the principal scribe of the host, who mustered the people of the land; and threescore men of the people of the land, that were found in the midst of the city.

26 So Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard took them, and brought them to the king of Babylon to Riblah.

27 And the king of Babylon smote them, and put them to death in Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah was carried away ^acaptive out of his own land.

28 This *is* the people whom Nebuchadrezzar carried away captive: in the seventh year three thousand Jews and three and twenty:

29 In the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar he carried away captive from Jerusalem eight hundred thirty and two persons:

30 In the three and twentieth year of Nebuchadrezzar Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard carried away ^acaptive of the Jews seven hundred forty and five persons: all the persons *were* four thousand and six hundred.

31 ¶ And it came to pass in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, in the five and twentieth *day* of the month, *that* Evil-merodach king of Babylon in the *first* year of his reign lifted up the head of ^aJehoiachin king of Judah, and brought him forth out of prison,

32 And spake ^akindly unto him, and set his throne above the throne of the ^bkings that *were* with him in Babylon,

33 And changed his prison garments: and he did continually eat bread before him all the days of his life.

34 And *for* his diet, there was a continual ^adiet (or allowance) given him of the king of Babylon, every day a portion until the day of his death, all the days of his life.

Lamentations

OVERVIEW:

Jeremiah laments the miserable estate of Jerusalem—Jerusalem herself complains of her deep sorrow. Misery and sorrow and desolation prevail in Jerusalem. Jeremiah speaking for Judah bewails the calamity, but trusts in the Lord and prays for deliverance. The estate of Zion is pitiful because of sin and iniquity. Jeremiah recites in prayer the sorrowful estate of Zion.

(Poetry is used in many cultures to express poignant feeling, and the entire book of Lamentations is written in carefully constructed poetry. Chapters 1–2 and 4 form *acrostics*. Each has twenty-two verses, each beginning with one of the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet, in alphabetical order. Ellis T. Rasmussen wrote that “part of the effect of alphabetic acrostic poetry is to convey the impression that the poem covers the whole spectrum of the feelings with which the poem is concerned” (*A Latter-day Saint Commentary on the Old Testament* [1993], 577–78). Chapter 3 has sixty-six verses (three times twenty-two) and is also acrostic. In that chapter the first three verses begin with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, the next three with the second letter, and so on. Chapter 5 has twenty-two verses but is not acrostic (see Bible Dictionary, “Lamentations, book of,” p. 722).)

BIBLE DICTIONARY LAMENTATIONS, BOOK OF

Or, Dirges over the fall of Jerusalem and the nation. Written by Jeremiah. The poems are acrostic, chs. 1, 2, 4 having each 22 verses beginning with the successive letters of the alphabet; ch. 3 has 66 verses, every three beginning each with one letter; ch. 5 is not alphabetical. This beautiful little book is very instructive, e.g., in regard to the scenes in the city, and the feelings of the people, ch. 4; the deep impression made by the destruction of the holy city and temple by Jehovah’s own hand (Lam. 1: 21; Lam. 2: 1-11; Lam. 3: 42-44); the feeling of sin awakened by it and the deep sense of national humiliation. The date of the book must be some years after the fall of the city, of which the writer was an eye-witness.

SCRIPTURES:

THE LAMENTATIONS OF JEREMIAH CHAPTER 1

Jeremiah laments the miserable estate of Jerusalem—Jerusalem herself complains of her deep sorrow.

1 HOW doth the city sit solitary, *that was* full of people! *how* is she become as a ^awidow! *she that was* great among the nations, *and* ^bprincess among the provinces, *how* is she become tributary! (Jerusalem has lost its prior glory due to wickedness. Church membership alone will not save us. We must be righteous.)

2 ^aShe weepeth sore in the night, and her tears *are* on her cheeks: among all her ^blovers she hath none to ^ccomfort *her*: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies.

3 Judah is gone into ^acaptivity because of affliction, and because of great servitude: *she dwelleth among the heathen, she findeth no* ^brest: all her persecutors overtook her between the straits.

4 The ways of Zion do ^amourn, because none come to the ^bsolemn feasts: all her gates are desolate: her priests sigh, her virgins are afflicted, and she *is* in bitterness.

5 Her adversaries are the chief, her enemies prosper; for the LORD hath ^aafflicted her for the multitude of her ^btransgressions: her children are gone into captivity before the enemy.

6 And from the daughter of Zion all her ^abeauty is departed: her princes are become like harts *that* find no pasture, and they are gone without strength before the pursuer.

7 Jerusalem remembered in the days of her affliction and of her miseries all her pleasant things that she had in the days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the enemy, and none did help her: the adversaries saw her, *and* did ^amock at her sabbaths.

8 ^aJerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she is ^bremoved: all that honoured her despise her, because they have seen her ^cnakedness: yea, she sigheth, and turneth backward.

9 Her ^afilthiness *is* in her skirts; she remembereth not her last ^bend; therefore she came down wonderfully: she had no comforter. O LORD, behold my affliction: for the enemy hath magnified *himself*.

10 The adversary hath spread out his hand upon all her pleasant things (temple furniture): for she hath seen *that* the heathen entered into her ^asanctuary, whom thou didst command *that* they should not enter into thy ^bcongregation.

11 All her people sigh, they seek ^abread; they have given their pleasant things for meat to relieve the soul: see, O LORD, and consider; for I am become vile. (Tradition has long ascribed the book of Lamentations to Jeremiah, though some modern critics question whether all of the book was written by him. Keil and Delitzsch concluded after an extensive examination of the arguments against Jeremiah's authorship "that the tradition which ascribes the Lamentations to the prophet Jeremiah as their author is as well-founded as any historical tradition whatsoever" (*Commentary*, 8:2:349–50). The writer of Lamentations wrote to reveal Judah's pathetic condition as a despoiled people at the hands of the Babylonians. He likened abandoned Jerusalem to a woman whose husband was dead (see v. 1). All her "lovers" (the false gods she worshiped) abandoned her to her enemies (see vv. 2–3). All of this came about because of Judah's wickedness (see vv. 5–8). Even the Lord forsook her in the hour of her affliction. Her enemies "mock[ed] at her sabbaths" (v. 7). The heading to the book of Lamentations in the Hebrew texts is *aychah* which is translated as "alas! how . . ." (Keil and Delitzsch, *Commentary*, 8:2:335). It was customary in ancient Judah to compose and sing lamentations about departed friends or relatives. Jeremiah did the same for his beloved Jerusalem. The "pleasant things" in verses 10–11 are allusions, in part, to the precious vessels taken from the temple by the enemy. The few valuable items

left had been sold to help relieve the hunger and distress that had come upon the people. InSTITUTE Manual, 250)

12 ¶ *Is it* nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my ^asorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted *me* in the day of his fierce ^banger.

13 From above hath he sent fire into my bones, and it prevaieth against them: he hath spread a ^anet for my feet, he hath turned me back: he hath made me desolate *and* faint all the day.

14 The yoke of my transgressions is bound by his hand: they are wreathed, *and* come up upon my neck: he hath made my strength to fall, the Lord hath delivered me into *their* hands, *from whom* I am not able to rise up.

15 The Lord hath trodden under foot all my mighty ^amen in the midst of me: he hath called an assembly against me to crush my young men: the Lord hath trodden the virgin, the daughter of Judah, *as* in a winepress.

16 For these *things* I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, because the comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me: my children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed.

17 ^aZion spreadeth forth her hands, *(in prayer)* *and there is none* to comfort her: the LORD hath commanded concerning Jacob, *that* his adversaries *should be* round about him: Jerusalem is as a menstruous woman among them.

18 ¶ *The LORD is righteous; for I have rebelled against his commandment:* hear, I pray you, all people, and behold my sorrow: my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity.

19 I called for my lovers, *(the nations I aligned with, the idols I worshipped)* *but* they deceived me: my priests and mine elders gave up the ghost in the city, while they sought their meat to relieve their souls.

20 Behold, O LORD; for I *am* in distress: my ^abowels are troubled; mine heart is turned within me; for I have grievously ^brebelled: abroad the ^csword bereaveth, at home *there is* as death.

21 They have heard that I sigh: *there is* none to comfort me: all mine enemies have heard of my trouble; they are glad that thou hast done *it*: thou wilt bring the day *that* thou hast called, and they shall be like unto me.

22 *Let all their wickedness come before thee; and do unto them, as thou hast done unto me for all my transgressions: for my sighs are many, and my heart is faint.* (Jeremiah employed vivid images to depict Judah's great distress, likening it to fire in the bones, a net for the feet, a yoke around the neck, the crushing of grapes in a winepress. Each allusion is an apt one. The image of the yoke or bands around the neck is also used in Isaiah 52:2. According to the interpretation given in Doctrine and Covenants 113:10, the bands on Israel's neck "are the curses of God upon her, or the remnants of Israel in their scattered condition among the Gentiles." Judah's seventy-year captivity in Babylon was like that described in these scriptures. In her captive condition, none appeared to comfort Judah. She put forth her hands in a plea for help, but no one responded (see Lamentations 1:16–17). Her false "lovers" and former allies deserted her (see v. 19). Zion was in great distress. She knew then that her wickedness was the cause of her sorrowful state. (See vv. 20–22.) InSTITUTE Manual, 150)

CHAPTER 2

Misery and sorrow and desolation prevail in Jerusalem.

1 HOW hath the Lord covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger, *and* cast down from heaven unto the earth the beauty of Israel, and remembered not his ^afootstool in the day of his anger!

2 The Lord hath swallowed up all the habitations of Jacob, and hath not ^apitied: he hath thrown down in his wrath the strong holds of the daughter of Judah; he hath brought *them* down to the ground: he hath polluted the kingdom and the princes thereof.

3 He hath cut off in *his* fierce anger all the horn of Israel: he hath ^adrawn back his right hand from before the enemy, and he ^bburned against Jacob like a flaming fire, *which* devoureth round about.

4 He hath bent his bow like an ^aenemy: he stood with his right hand as an adversary, and slew all *that were* pleasant to the eye in the tabernacle of the daughter of Zion: he poured out his fury like fire.

5 The Lord was as an enemy: he hath swallowed up Israel, he hath swallowed up all her palaces: he hath destroyed his strong holds, and hath increased in the daughter of Judah ^amourning and lamentation.

6 And he hath violently taken away his tabernacle, as *if it were of* a garden: he hath destroyed his places of the assembly: the LORD hath caused the solemn feasts and ^asabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and hath despised in the indignation of his anger the king and the priest.

7 The Lord hath cast off his altar, he hath abhorred his sanctuary, he hath given up into the hand of the enemy the ^awalls of her palaces; they have made a noise in the house of the LORD, as in the day of a solemn feast.

8 The LORD hath purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion: he hath stretched out a line, he hath not withdrawn his hand from destroying: therefore he made the rampart and the wall to ^alament; they languished together.

9 Her ^agates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes *are* ^bamong the Gentiles: the law *is no more*; her ^cprophets also find no ^dvision from the LORD.

10 The elders of the daughter of Zion sit upon the ^aground, *and* keep ^bsilence: they have cast up dust upon their heads; they have girded themselves with ^csackcloth: the virgins of Jerusalem hang down their heads to the ground. (Judah's pitiful condition, caused by her iniquities, had come about by God's power. In Lamentations 2:1–10, God was credited with having brought about Judah's present calamity as a punishment for her former wickedness. "The writer evidently could not get the harrowing scenes out of his mind. The elders or heads of families who shared in the administration were powerless to do anything. Grave magistrates and light-hearted maidens alike were reduced to grief-stricken silence (v. 10).") (D. Guthrie and J. A. Motyer, eds., *The New Bible Commentary: Revised*, p. 661.) Institute Manual, 250)

11 Mine eyes do fail with ^atears, my ^bbowels are troubled, my liver is poured upon the earth, for the ^cdestruction of the daughter of my people; because the children and the sucklings swoon in the streets of the city.

12 They say to their mothers, Where *is* corn and wine? when they swooned as the wounded in the streets of the city, when their soul was poured out into their mothers' bosom.

13 What thing shall I take to witness for thee? what thing shall I liken to thee, O daughter of Jerusalem? what shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort thee, O ^avirgin daughter of Zion? for thy breach *is* great like the sea: who can heal thee?

14 Thy ^aprophets have seen ^bvain and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment.

15 All that ^apass by ^bclap *their* hands at thee; they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, *saying, Is this the city that men call* The ^cperfection of ^dbeauty, The ^ejoy of the whole earth?

16 All thine ^aenemies have opened their mouth against thee: they ^bhiss and gnash the teeth: they say, We have swallowed *her* up: certainly this *is* the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen *it*.

17 The LORD hath done *that* which he had ^adevised; he hath fulfilled his word that he had commanded in the days of old: he hath thrown down, and hath not pitied: and he hath caused *thine* enemy to rejoice over thee, he hath set up the horn of thine adversaries.

18 Their heart cried unto the Lord, O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night: give thyself no rest; let not the apple of thine eye cease.

19 Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street.

20 ¶ Behold, O LORD, and consider to whom thou hast done this. Shall the women ^aeat their fruit, *and* children of a span long? shall the priest and the prophet be slain in the sanctuary of the Lord?

21 The young and the old lie on the ground in the streets: my virgins and my young men are fallen by the sword; thou hast ^aslain *them* in the day of thine anger; thou hast killed, *and* not pitied.
 22 Thou hast called as in a solemn day my terrors round about, so that in the day of the LORD's anger none escaped nor remained: those that I have swaddled and brought up hath mine enemy consumed. (Jerusalem was an object not only of pity but of scorn. Innocent babies wasted away in her streets, crying in vain for food (see vv. 11–12). The prophets that Judah did listen to were untrue to their task of crying out against iniquity. They spoke flattering words and thus encouraged Judah in her transgressions. Hence, Jerusalem was a hiss and a byword in the eyes of the nations (see vv. 13–14). Clearly, there was nothing about Jerusalem in which to rejoice. In verses 18–22 she called the Lord's attention to her doleful plight. Her tears were real tears of godly sorrow for her iniquities as well as for her temporal losses to the Babylonians. Institute Manual, 250)

CHAPTER 3

Jeremiah speaking for Judah bewails the calamity, but trusts in the Lord and prays for deliverance.

(Lamentations 3:1–66 contains the writer's individual lament over his and his people's distressed condition. His thoughts were expressed in a Hebrew poetic form. "In true prophetic vein the elegist puts himself alongside his countrymen and entreats them to return to the Lord and to seek reconciliation with Him. Let them examine themselves in the light of His commandments which they have transgressed, and let the lifting up of their *hands to God in heaven* be accompanied by the lifting up of their *hearts* also, *i.e.* let their prayers for pardon be true and sincere. Let them know too what it feels like to be unpardoned, to be under God's judgment still (v. 42b), and they will come to appreciate all the more the wonder of His forgiveness." (Guthrie and Motyer, *New Bible Commentary*, p. 662.) Still, it would not be easy to obtain pardon. The rest of chapter 3 indicates that in spite of God's unwillingness to hear, the petitioner will continue to plead for relief. Verses 61–66 contain a plea that the Lord will also reward Judah's enemies for their harsh and evil ways. Institute Manual, 250-51)

1 I *AM* the man *that* hath seen affliction by the rod of his wrath.
 2 He hath led me, and brought *me into* darkness, but not *into* light.
 3 Surely against me is he turned; he turneth his hand *against me* all the day.
 4 My flesh and my skin hath he made old; he hath broken my bones.
 5 He hath builded against me, and compassed *me* with gall and travail.
 6 He hath set me in dark places, as *they that be* dead of old.
 7 He hath ^ahedged me about, that I cannot get out: he hath made my chain heavy.
 8 Also when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer.
 9 He hath inclosed my ways with hewn stone, he hath made my paths crooked.
 10 He *was* unto me *as* a bear lying in wait, *and as* a lion in secret places.
 11 He hath turned aside my ways, and pulled me in pieces: he hath made me desolate.
 12 He hath bent his bow, and set me as a mark for the arrow.
 13 He hath caused the arrows of his quiver to enter into my reins.
 14 I was a ^aderision to all my people; *and* their song all the day.
 15 He hath filled me with bitterness, he hath made me drunken with wormwood.
 16 He hath also broken my teeth with gravel stones, he hath covered me with ashes.
 17 And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgot prosperity.
 18 And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the LORD:
 19 Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.
 20 My soul hath *them* still in remembrance, and is humbled in me.
 21 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

22 ¶ *It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*
 23 *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*
 24 The LORD *is* my ^aportion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.
 25 The LORD *is* ^agood unto them that ^bwait for him, to the soul *that* ^cseeketh him.
 26 *It is good that a man should both* ^ahope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.
 27 *It is good for a man that he* ^abear the yoke in his ^byouth.
 28 He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne *it* upon him.
 29 He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope.
 30 He giveth *his* ^acheek to him that smiteth him: he is filled full with ^breproach.
 31 For the Lord will not cast off for ever:
 32 But though he cause grief, yet will he have ^acompassion according to the multitude of his mercies.
 33 For he doth not ^aafflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.
 34 To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth,
 35 To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the most High,
 36 To subvert a man in his cause, the Lord approveth not.
 37 ¶ Who *is* he *that* saith, and it cometh to pass, *when* the Lord commandeth *it* not?
 38 Out of the mouth of the most High proceedeth not evil and good?
 39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?
 40 Let us ^asearch and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.
 41 Let us ^alift up our heart with *our* hands unto God in the heavens.
 42 We have transgressed and have rebelled: thou hast not pardoned.
 43 Thou hast covered with anger, and persecuted us: thou hast ^aslain, thou hast not pitied.
 44 Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that *our* prayer should not pass through.
 45 Thou hast made us *as* the offscouring and refuse in the midst of the people.
 46 All our ^aenemies have opened their mouths against us.
 47 Fear and a snare is come upon us, desolation and destruction.
 48 Mine eye runneth down with ^arivers of water for the ^bdestruction of the daughter of my people.
 49 Mine eye trickleth down, and ceaseth not, without any intermission,
 50 Till the LORD look down, and behold from heaven.
 51 Mine eye affecteth mine heart because of all the daughters of my city.
 52 Mine enemies chased me sore, like a bird, without cause.
 53 They have cut off my life in the dungeon, and cast a stone upon me.
 54 Waters flowed over mine head; *then* I said, I am cut off.
 55 ¶ I called upon thy name, O LORD, out of the low dungeon.
 56 Thou hast heard my voice: hide not thine ear at my breathing, at my cry.
 57 Thou ^adrewest near in the day *that* I called upon thee: thou saidst, Fear not.
 58 O Lord, thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul; thou hast redeemed my life.
 59 O LORD, thou hast seen my wrong: judge thou my cause.
 60 Thou hast seen all their vengeance *and* all their imaginations against me.
 61 Thou hast heard their reproach, O LORD, *and* all their imaginations against me;
 62 The lips of those that rose up against me, and their ^adevice against me all the day.
 63 Behold their sitting down, and their rising up; I *am* their musick.
 64 ¶ Render unto them a recompence, O LORD, according to the work of their hands.
 65 Give them sorrow of heart, thy curse unto them.
 66 Persecute and destroy them in anger from under the heavens of the LORD.

CHAPTER 4

The estate of Zion is pitiful because of sin and iniquity.

(In Lamentations 4:1–22 the writer returned to his former theme and the mournful dirge began again. Various groups were responsible for Jerusalem’s suffering. First, the “sons of Zion” once “comparable to fine gold” (v. 2) had become inferior vessels like those made of earthen clay. The mothers of Judah, unlike the monsters (whales and other large fish) of the sea who feed their young properly, had neglected their children. Wickedness was everywhere. Verses 8–10 depict the bitter hunger experienced during the siege of Jerusalem, which finally led some to eat their own children. Institute Manual, 251)

1 HOW is the gold become dim! *how* is the most fine gold changed! the stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street.

2 The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter!

3 Even the sea monsters draw out the breast, they give suck to their young ones: the daughter of my people *is become* ^acruel, like the ostriches in the wilderness.

4 The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask ^abread, *and* no man breaketh *it* unto them.

5 They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets: they that were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills.

6 For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her. (Those who sin against the greater light receive the greater condemnation)

7 Her Nazarites were purer than snow, they were whiter than milk, they were more ruddy in body than rubies, their polishing *was* of sapphire:

8 Their visage is blacker than a coal; they are not known in the streets: their skin cleaveth to their bones; it is withered, it is become like a stick.

9 *They that be* slain with the sword are better than *they that be* slain with hunger: for these pine away, stricken through for *want of* the fruits of the field.

10 The hands of the pitiful ^awomen have ^bsodden their own children: they were their ^cmeat in the destruction of the daughter of my people.

11 The LORD hath accomplished his fury; he hath poured out his fierce anger, and hath kindled a fire in Zion, and it hath devoured the foundations thereof.

12 The kings of the earth, and all the inhabitants of the world, would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy should have entered into the gates of Jerusalem.

13 ¶ For the ^asins of her prophets, *and* the iniquities of her priests, that have shed the blood of the ^bjust in the midst of her,

14 They have wandered *as blind men* in the streets, they have polluted themselves with blood, so that men could not touch their garments.

15 They cried unto them, Depart ye; *it is* unclean; depart, depart, touch not: when they fled away and wandered, they said among the heathen, They shall no more sojourn *there*.

16 The anger of the LORD hath divided them; he will no more regard them: they respected not the persons of the priests, they favoured not the ^aelders.

17 As for us, our eyes as yet failed for our vain help: in our watching we have watched for a ^anation *that* could not save *us*.

18 They hunt our steps, that we cannot go in our streets: our end is near, our days are fulfilled; for our ^aend is come.

19 Our persecutors are ^aswifter than the eagles of the heaven: they pursued us upon the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wilderness.

20 The breath of our nostrils, the ^aanointed of the LORD, was taken in their ^bpits, of whom we said, Under his shadow we shall live among the heathen.

21 ¶ Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of ^aEdom, that dwellest in the land of ^bUz; the ^ccup also shall pass through unto thee: thou shalt be drunken, and shalt make thyself naked.

22 ¶ The punishment of thine iniquity is accomplished, O daughter of Zion; he will no more carry thee away into captivity: he will visit thine iniquity, O daughter of Edom; he will discover thy sins. (Edom, at the time of Jerusalem's capture, had sought to enrich herself through Judah's tragedy (compare Obadiah 1:10–16), and her actions at that time were bitterly resented by the Jews (see Ezekiel 25:12–14; Psalm 137:7–9). But the Jews could console themselves with the thought that whereas their own punishment was now accomplished, that of Edom was still to come: "The cup also shall pass through unto thee" (Lamentations 4:21). Institute Manual, 251)

CHAPTER 5

Jeremiah recites in prayer the sorrowful estate of Zion.

(Lamentations 5:1–22 is a prayer for aid. The Lord alone held the key to Judah's deliverance. Her plight was very sad, and her sins had made it so. "Water and wood are mentioned in ver. 4 as the greatest necessities of life, without which it is impossible to exist. Both of these they must buy for themselves, because the country, with its waters and forests, is in the possession of the enemy. The emphasis lies on 'our water . . . our wood.' What they formerly had, as their own property, for nothing, they must now purchase." (Keil and Delitzsch, *Commentary*, 8:2:448.) Institute Manual, 251)

- 1 REMEMBER, O LORD, what is come upon us: consider, and behold our reproach.
- 2 Our inheritance is turned to ^astrangers, our houses to aliens.
- 3 We are orphans and fatherless, our mothers *are* as widows.
- 4 We have drunken our water for money; our wood is sold unto us.
- 5 Our necks *are* under ^apersecution: we labour, *and* have no rest.
- 6 We have given the hand *to* the Egyptians, *and to* the Assyrians, to be satisfied with bread.
- 7 Our ^afathers have ^bsinned, *and are* not; and we have borne their iniquities.
- 8 Servants have ruled over us: *there is* none that doth deliver *us* out of their hand.
- 9 We gat our bread with *the peril of* our lives because of the sword of the wilderness.
- 10 Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine.
- 11 They ravished the women in Zion, *and* the maids in the cities of Judah.
- 12 Princes are hanged up by their hand: the faces of elders were not honoured.
- 13 They took the young men to grind, and the children fell under the wood.
- 14 The elders have ceased from the gate, the young men from their musick.
- 15 The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning.
- 16 The crown is fallen *from* our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!
- 17 For this our heart is faint; for these *things* our eyes are dim.
- 18 Because of the mountain of Zion, which is desolate, the foxes walk upon it.
- 19 Thou, O LORD, remainest for ever; thy throne from generation to generation.
- 20 Wherefore dost thou forget us for ever, *and* forsake us so long time?
- 21 ^aTurn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old.
- 22 But thou hast utterly rejected us; thou art very wroth against us.

(Jeremiah was a living prophet in his day. The evil people, particularly the leaders of Judah, cast aside his words as naught. He delivered the message that the Lord gave him, but he ended up in prison. Eventually he was driven out of Israel and compelled to live in Egypt. President Ezra Taft Benson has said: "As a prophet reveals the truth it divides the people. The honest in heart heed his words, but the unrighteous either ignore the prophet or fight him. When the prophet points out the sins of the world, the

worldly either want to close the mouth of the prophet, or else act as if the prophet didn't exist, rather than repent of their sins. Popularity is never a test of truth. Many a prophet has been killed or cast out. As we come closer to the Lord's second coming, you can expect that as the people of the world become more wicked, the prophet will be less popular with them." ("Fourteen Fundamentals in Following the Prophet," in *1980 Devotional Speeches of the Year* [Provo: Brigham Young University Press, 1981], p. 29). It is the living prophet who really upsets the world. "Even in the Church," said Elder Spencer W. Kimball, "many are prone to garnish the sepulchres of yesterday's prophets and mentally stone the living ones" ("To His Servants the Prophets," *Instructor*, Aug. 1960, p. 257). Why? Because the living prophet tells us what we need to know and do now, and the world prefers that prophets either be dead or mind their own business. Some would-be authorities on politics want the prophet to keep still about politics. Some would-be authorities on evolution want the prophet to keep still about evolution. The list goes on and on. "How we respond to the words of a living prophet when he tells us what we need to know, but would rather not hear, is a test of our faithfulness" (Benson, "Fourteen Fundamentals in Following the Prophet," p. 28). Those who covenant with God are bound to Him in righteousness. Ancient Judah cut that tie when she rebelled against the Lord and failed to heed Jeremiah's words. The result was that she was carried away captive into Babylon. Institute Manual, 251)