

THE MISSION OF GOD

hope for broken people

APRIL

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MAY

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RESTORATION FOR ISRAEL AND JUDAH

30 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ² “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you. ³ For behold, days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah, says the Lord, and I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall take possession of it.”

⁴ These are the words that the Lord spoke concerning Israel and Judah:

⁵ “Thus says the Lord:

We have heard a cry of panic,
of terror, and no peace.

⁶ Ask now, and see,
can a man bear a child?

Why then do I see every man
with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor?
Why has every face turned pale?

⁷ Alas! That day is so great
there is none like it;
it is a time of distress for Jacob;
yet he shall be saved out of it.

⁸ “And it shall come to pass in that day, declares the Lord of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off your neck, and I will burst your bonds, and foreigners shall no more make a servant of him. ⁹ But they shall serve the Lord their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.

¹⁰ “Then fear not, O Jacob my servant, declares the Lord,
nor be dismayed, O Israel;

for behold, I will save you from far away,
and your offspring from the land of their captivity.

Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease,
and none shall make him afraid.

¹¹ For I am with you to save you,
declares the Lord;

I will make a full end of all the nations
among whom I scattered you,
but of you I will not make a full end.

I will discipline you in just measure,
and I will by no means leave you unpunished.

¹² “For thus says the Lord:

Your hurt is incurable,
and your wound is grievous.

¹³ There is none to uphold your cause,
no medicine for your wound,
no healing for you.

¹⁴ All your lovers have forgotten you;
they care nothing for you;

for I have dealt you the blow of an enemy,
the punishment of a merciless foe,

because your guilt is great,
because your sins are flagrant.

¹⁵ Why do you cry out over your hurt?
Your pain is incurable.

Because your guilt is great,
because your sins are flagrant,
I have done these things to you.

¹⁶ Therefore all who devour you shall be devoured,
and all your foes, every one of them, shall go into captivity;

those who plunder you shall be plundered,
and all who prey on you I will make a prey.

¹⁷ For I will restore health to you,
and your wounds I will heal,

declares the Lord,

because they have called you an outcast:

‘It is Zion, for whom no one cares!’

¹⁸ “Thus says the Lord:

Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob
and have compassion on his dwellings;

the city shall be rebuilt on its mound,
and the palace shall stand where it used to be.

¹⁹ Out of them shall come songs of thanksgiving,
and the voices of those who celebrate.

I will multiply them, and they shall not be few;
I will make them honored, and they shall not be small.

²⁰ Their children shall be as they were of old,
and their congregation shall be established before me,
and I will punish all who oppress them.

²¹ Their prince shall be one of themselves;
their ruler shall come out from their midst;

I will make him draw near, and he shall approach me,
for who would dare of himself to approach me?

declares the Lord.

²² And you shall be my people,
and I will be your God.”

²³ Behold the storm of the Lord!

Wrath has gone forth,
a whirling tempest;
it will burst upon the head of the wicked.

²⁴ The fierce anger of the Lord will not turn back
until he has executed and accomplished
the intentions of his mind.

In the latter days you will understand this.

THE LORD WILL TURN MOURNING TO JOY

31 “At that time, declares the Lord, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel,
and they shall be my people.”

² Thus says the Lord:

“The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

³ the Lord appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

⁴ Again I will build you, and you shall be built,

O virgin Israel!

Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines

and shall go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

⁵ Again you shall plant vineyards

on the mountains of Samaria;

the planters shall plant

and shall enjoy the fruit.

⁶ For there shall be a day when watchmen will call

in the hill country of Ephraim:

‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion,

to the Lord our God.’”

⁷ For thus says the Lord:

“Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,

and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,

‘O Lord, save your people,
the remnant of Israel.’

⁸ Behold, I will bring them from the north country

and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,

the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,

and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back,

I will make them walk by brooks of water,

in a straight path in which they shall not stumble,

for I am a father to Israel,

and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ ‘Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,

and declare it in the coastlands far away;

say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him,

and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.’

¹¹ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob

and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,

and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,

and over the young of the flock and the herd;

their life shall be like a watered garden,

and they shall languish no more.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,

and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy;

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance,
and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness,
declares the Lord.”

¹⁵ Thus says the Lord:

“A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.”

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord:

“Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears,
for there is a reward for your work,
declares the Lord,
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

¹⁷ There is hope for your future,

declares the Lord,
and your children shall come back to their own country.

¹⁸ I have heard Ephraim grieving,

“You have disciplined me, and I was disciplined,
like an untrained calf;
bring me back that I may be restored,
for you are the Lord my God.

¹⁹ For after I had turned away, I relented,

and after I was instructed, I struck my thigh;
I was ashamed, and I was confounded,
because I bore the disgrace of my youth.’

²⁰ Is Ephraim my dear son?

Is he my darling child?

For as often as I speak against him,

I do remember him still.

Therefore my heart yearns for him;

I will surely have mercy on him,
declares the Lord.

²¹ “Set up road markers for yourself;
make yourself guideposts;
consider well the highway,
the road by which you went.

Return, O virgin Israel,
return to these your cities.

²² How long will you waver,
O faithless daughter?

For the Lord has created a new thing on the earth:
a woman encircles a man.”

²³ Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: “Once more they shall use these words in the land of Judah and in its cities, when I restore their fortunes:

“‘The Lord bless you, O habitation of righteousness,
O holy hill!’

²⁴ And Judah and all its cities shall dwell there together, and the farmers and those who wander with their flocks. ²⁵ For I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish.” ²⁶ At this I awoke and looked, and my sleep was pleasant to me.

²⁷ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and the

seed of beast. ²⁸ And it shall come to pass that as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring harm, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, declares the Lord. ²⁹ In those days they shall no longer say:

“‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’

³⁰ But everyone shall die for his own

iniquity. Each man who eats sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge.

THE NEW COVENANT

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the

Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

³⁵ Thus says the Lord,

who gives the sun for light by day

and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night,

who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—

the Lord of hosts is his name:

³⁶ “If this fixed order departs

from before me, declares the Lord,

then shall the offspring of Israel cease

from being a nation before me forever.”

³⁷ Thus says the Lord:

“If the heavens above can be measured,

and the foundations of the earth below can be explored,

then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel

for all that they have done,

declares the Lord.”

³⁸ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when the city shall be rebuilt for the Lord from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. ³⁹ And the measuring line shall go out farther, straight to the hill Gareb, and shall then turn to Goah. ⁴⁰ The

whole valley of the dead bodies and the ashes, and all the fields as far as the brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be sacred to the Lord. It shall not be plucked up or overthrown anymore forever.”

APR 24

JEREMIAH BUYS A FIELD DURING THE SIEGE

32 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. ² At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah. ³ For Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him, saying, “Why do you prophesy and say, ‘Thus says the Lord: Behold, I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall capture it; ⁴ Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him face to face

and see him eye to eye. ⁵ And he shall take Zedekiah to Babylon, and there he shall remain until I visit him, declares the Lord. Though you fight against the Chaldeans, you shall not succeed?”

⁶ Jeremiah said, “The word of the Lord came to me: ⁷ Behold, Hanamel the son of Shallum your uncle will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.’ ⁸ Then Hanamel my cousin came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the Lord, and said to me, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.’ Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord.

⁹ “And I bought the field at Anathoth from Hanamel my cousin, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. ¹⁰ I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. ¹¹ Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions and the open copy. ¹² And I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel my cousin, in the presence of the witnesses who

signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. ¹³ I charged Baruch in their presence, saying, ¹⁴ ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware vessel, that they may last for a long time. ¹⁵ For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.’

JEREMIAH PRAYS FOR UNDERSTANDING

¹⁶ “After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed to the Lord, saying: ¹⁷ ‘Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. ¹⁸ You show steadfast love to thousands, but you repay the guilt of fathers to their children after them, O great and mighty God, whose name is the Lord of hosts, ¹⁹ great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are open to all the ways of the children of man, rewarding each one according to his ways and according to the fruit of his deeds. ²⁰ You have shown signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, and

to this day in Israel and among all mankind, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day. ²¹ You brought your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders, with a strong hand and outstretched arm, and with great terror. ²² And you gave them this land, which you swore to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey. ²³ And they entered and took possession of it. But they did not obey your voice or walk in your law. They did nothing of all you commanded them to do. Therefore you have made all this disaster come upon them. ²⁴ Behold, the siege mounds have come up to the city to take it, and because of sword

and famine and pestilence the city is given into the hands of the Chaldeans who are fighting against it. What you spoke has come to pass, and behold, you see it. ²⁵ Yet you, O Lord God, have said to me, “Buy the field for money and get witnesses”—though the city is given into the hands of the Chaldeans.”

²⁶ The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: ²⁷ “Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me? ²⁸ Therefore, thus says the Lord: Behold, I am giving this city into the hands of the Chaldeans and into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he shall capture it. ²⁹ The Chaldeans who are fighting against this city shall come and set this city on fire and burn it, with the houses on whose roofs offerings have been made to Baal and drink offerings have been poured out to other gods, to provoke me to anger. ³⁰ For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight from their youth.

The children of Israel have done nothing but provoke me to anger by the work of their hands, declares the Lord. ³¹ This city has aroused my anger and wrath, from the day it was built to this day, so that I will remove it from my sight ³² because of all the evil of the children of Israel and the children of Judah that they did to provoke me to anger—their kings and their officials, their priests and their prophets, the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ³³ They have turned to me their back and not their face. And though I have taught them persistently, they have not listened to receive instruction. ³⁴ They set up their abominations in the house that is called by my name, to defile it. ³⁵ They built the high places of Baal in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to offer up their sons and daughters to Molech, though I did not command them, nor did it enter into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE; I WILL BE THEIR GOD

³⁶ “Now therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, ‘It is given into

the hand of the king of Babylon by sword, by famine, and by pestilence’:

³⁷ Behold, I will gather them from all

the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety. ³⁸ And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. ³⁹ I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. ⁴⁰ I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. ⁴¹ I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.

THE LORD PROMISES PEACE

33 The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still shut up in the court of the guard: ² “Thus says the Lord who made the earth, the Lord who formed it to establish it—the Lord is his name: ³ Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. ⁴ For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city and the houses of the kings of

⁴² “For thus says the Lord: Just as I have brought all this great disaster upon this people, so I will bring upon them all the good that I promise them. ⁴³ Fields shall be bought in this land of which you are saying, ‘It is a desolation, without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.’ ⁴⁴ Fields shall be bought for money, and deeds shall be signed and sealed and witnessed, in the land of Benjamin, in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, in the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the Shephelah, and in the cities of the Negeb; for I will restore their fortunes, declares the Lord.”

Judah that were torn down to make a defense against the siege mounds and against the sword: ⁵ They are coming in to fight against the Chaldeans and to fill them with the dead bodies of men whom I shall strike down in my anger and my wrath, for I have hidden my face from this city because of all their evil. ⁶ Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security. ⁷ I will

restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as they were at first. ⁸ I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me. ⁹ And this city shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them. They shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the prosperity I provide for it.

“Give thanks to the Lord of hosts,
for the Lord is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!”

For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the Lord.

¹² “Thus says the Lord of hosts: In this place that is waste, without man or beast, and in all of its cities, there shall again be habitations of shepherds resting their flocks. ¹³ In the cities of the hill country, in the cities

¹⁰ “Thus says the Lord: In this place of which you say, ‘It is a waste without man or beast,’ in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man or inhabitant or beast, there shall be heard again ¹¹ the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord:

of the Shephelah, and in the cities of the Negeb, in the land of Benjamin, the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, flocks shall again pass under the hands of the one who counts them, says the Lord.

THE LORD’S ETERNAL COVENANT WITH DAVID

¹⁴ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In

those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

¹⁷ “For thus says the Lord: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, ¹⁸ and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever.”

¹⁹ The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: ²⁰ “Thus says the Lord: If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and night will not come at their appointed time, ²¹ then also my covenant with David my servant may be broken, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and my covenant with the Levitical priests

my ministers. ²² As the host of heaven cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the offspring of David my servant, and the Levitical priests who minister to me.”

²³ The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: ²⁴ “Have you not observed that these people are saying, ‘The Lord has rejected the two clans that he chose’? Thus they have despised my people so that they are no longer a nation in their sight. ²⁵ Thus says the Lord: If I have not established my covenant with day and night and the fixed order of heaven and earth, ²⁶ then I will reject the offspring of Jacob and David my servant and will not choose one of his offspring to rule over the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and will have mercy on them.”

ZEDEKIAH TO DIE IN BABYLON

34 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army and all the kingdoms of the earth under his dominion and all the peoples were fighting against Jerusalem and all of its cities: ² “Thus

says the Lord, the God of Israel: Go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: Behold, I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire. ³ You shall not escape from his hand but shall

surely be captured and delivered into his hand. You shall see the king of Babylon eye to eye and speak with him face to face. And you shall go to Babylon.’⁴ Yet hear the word of the Lord, O Zedekiah king of Judah! Thus says the Lord concerning you: ‘You shall not die by the sword.’⁵ You shall die in peace. And as spices were burned for your fathers, the former kings who were before you, so people shall burn spices for you and lament for you, saying, “Alas, lord!” For I have spoken the word, declares the Lord.”

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

⁸ The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to make a proclamation of liberty to them,⁹ that everyone should set free his Hebrew slaves, male and female, so that no

one should enslave a Jew, his brother.¹⁰ And they obeyed, all the officials and all the people who had entered into the covenant that everyone would set free his slave, male or female, so that they would not be enslaved again. They obeyed and set them free.¹¹ But afterward they turned around and took back the male and female slaves they had set free, and brought them into subjection as slaves.¹² The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah from the Lord:¹³ “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I myself made a covenant with your fathers when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, saying,¹⁴ ‘At the end of seven years each of you must set free the fellow Hebrew who has been sold to you and has served you six years; you must set him free from your service.’ But your fathers did not listen to me or incline their ears to me.¹⁵ You recently repented and did what was right in my eyes by proclaiming liberty, each to his neighbor, and you made a covenant before me in the house that is called by my name,¹⁶ but then you turned around and profaned my name when each of you took back his male and female slaves, whom you had set free according to their desire, and you brought them into subjection to be your slaves.

¹⁷ “Therefore, thus says the Lord: You have not obeyed me by proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother and to his neighbor; behold, I proclaim to you liberty to the sword, to pestilence, and to famine, declares the Lord. I will make you a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. ¹⁸ And the men who transgressed my covenant and did not keep the terms of the covenant that they made before me, I will make them like the calf that they cut in two and passed between its parts— ¹⁹ the officials of Judah, the officials of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, the priests, and all the people of the land who passed between the parts

of the calf. ²⁰ And I will give them into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their lives. Their dead bodies shall be food for the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth. ²¹ And Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials I will give into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their lives, into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon which has withdrawn from you. ²² Behold, I will command, declares the Lord, and will bring them back to this city. And they will fight against it and take it and burn it with fire. I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without inhabitant.”

THE OBEDIENCE OF THE RECHABITES

35 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: ² “Go to the house of the Rechabites and speak with them and bring them to the house of the Lord, into one of the chambers; then offer them wine to drink.” ³ So I took Jaazaniah the son of Jeremiah, son of Habazziniah and his brothers and all his sons and the whole house of the Rechabites. ⁴ I brought them to the house of the Lord into the chamber of

the sons of Hanan the son of Igdaliah, the man of God, which was near the chamber of the officials, above the chamber of Maaseiah the son of Shallum, keeper of the threshold. ⁵ Then I set before the Rechabites pitchers full of wine, and cups, and I said to them, “Drink wine.” ⁶ But they answered, “We will drink no wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, ‘You shall not drink wine, neither you nor your sons forever. ⁷ You shall not build a house;

you shall not sow seed; you shall not plant or have a vineyard; but you shall live in tents all your days, that you may live many days in the land where you sojourn.’⁸ We have obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, in all that he commanded us, to drink no wine all our days, ourselves, our wives, our sons, or our daughters,⁹ and not to build houses to dwell in. We have no vineyard or field or seed,¹⁰ but we have lived in tents and have obeyed and done all that Jonadab our father commanded us.¹¹ But when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against the land, we said, ‘Come, and let us go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans and the army of the Syrians.’ So we are living in Jerusalem.”

¹² Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: ¹³ “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Go and say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will you not receive instruction and listen to my words? declares the Lord. ¹⁴ The command that Jonadab the son of Rechab gave to his sons, to drink no wine, has been kept, and they drink none to this day, for they have obeyed

their father’s command. I have spoken to you persistently, but you have not listened to me. ¹⁵ I have sent to you all my servants the prophets, sending them persistently, saying, ‘Turn now every one of you from his evil way, and amend your deeds, and do not go after other gods to serve them, and then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to you and your fathers.’ But you did not incline your ear or listen to me. ¹⁶ The sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have kept the command that their father gave them, but this people has not obeyed me. ¹⁷ Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing upon Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the disaster that I have pronounced against them, because I have spoken to them and they have not listened, I have called to them and they have not answered.”

¹⁸ But to the house of the Rechabites Jeremiah said, “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Because you have obeyed the command of Jonadab your father and kept all his precepts and done all that he commanded you, ¹⁹ therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Jonadab the son of Rechab shall never lack a man to stand before me.”

JEHOIAKIM BURNS JEREMIAH'S SCROLL

36In the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ² “Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah until today.

³ It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the disaster that I intend to do to them, so that every one may turn from his evil way, and that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.”

⁴ Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the Lord that he had spoken to him. ⁵ And Jeremiah ordered Baruch, saying, “I am banned from going to the house of the Lord, ⁶ so you are to go, and on a day of fasting in the hearing of all the people in the Lord’s house you shall read the words of the Lord from the scroll that you have written at my dictation. You shall read them also in the hearing of all the men of Judah who come out of their cities. ⁷ It may be that their plea

for mercy will come before the Lord, and that every one will turn from his evil way, for great is the anger and wrath that the Lord has pronounced against this people.” ⁸ And Baruch the son of Neriah did all that Jeremiah the prophet ordered him about reading from the scroll the words of the Lord in the Lord’s house.

⁹ In the fifth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, in the ninth month, all the people in Jerusalem and all the people who came from the cities of Judah to Jerusalem proclaimed a fast before the Lord. ¹⁰ Then, in the hearing of all the people, Baruch read the words of Jeremiah from the scroll, in the house of the Lord, in the chamber of Gemariah the son of Shaphan the secretary, which was in the upper court, at the entry of the New Gate of the Lord’s house.

¹¹ When Micaiah the son of Gemariah, son of Shaphan, heard all the words of the Lord from the scroll, ¹² he went down to the king’s house, into the secretary’s chamber, and all the officials were sitting there: Elishama the secretary, Delaiah

the son of Shemaiah, Elnathan the son of Achbor, Gemariah the son of Shaphan, Zedekiah the son of Hananiah, and all the officials.¹³ And Micaiah told them all the words that he had heard, when Baruch read the scroll in the hearing of the people.¹⁴ Then all the officials sent Jehudi the son of Nethaniah, son of Shelemiah, son of Cushi, to say to Baruch, "Take in your hand the scroll that you read in the hearing of the people, and come." So Baruch the son of Neriah took the scroll in his hand and came to them.¹⁵ And they said to him, "Sit down and read it." So Baruch read it to them.¹⁶ When they heard all the words, they turned one to another in fear. And they said to Baruch, "We must report all these words to the king."¹⁷ Then they asked Baruch, "Tell us, please, how did you write all these words? Was it at his dictation?"¹⁸ Baruch answered them, "He dictated all these words to me, while I wrote them with ink on the scroll."¹⁹ Then the officials said to Baruch, "Go and hide, you and Jeremiah, and let no one know where you are."

²⁰ So they went into the court to the king, having put the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the secretary, and they reported all the words to the

king.²¹ Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the secretary. And Jehudi read it to the king and all the officials who stood beside the king.²² It was the ninth month, and the king was sitting in the winter house, and there was a fire burning in the fire pot before him.²³ As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a knife and throw them into the fire in the fire pot, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the fire pot.²⁴ Yet neither the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words was afraid, nor did they tear their garments.²⁵ Even when Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them.²⁶ And the king commanded Jerahmeel the king's son and Seraiah the son of Azriel and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel to seize Baruch the secretary and Jeremiah the prophet, but the Lord hid them.

²⁷ Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words that Baruch wrote at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah:²⁸ "Take another scroll and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which Jehoiakim the king of

Judah has burned. ²⁹ And concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah you shall say, ‘Thus says the Lord, You have burned this scroll, saying, “Why have you written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and will cut off from it man and beast?”’ ³⁰ Therefore thus says the Lord concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: He shall have none to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat by day and the frost by night. ³¹ And I will punish him and his offspring and his servants for their iniquity. I will bring

upon them and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem and upon the people of Judah all the disaster that I have pronounced against them, but they would not hear.”’

³² Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, who wrote on it at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And many similar words were added to them.

MAY 8

JEREMIAH WARNS ZEDEKIAH

37 Zedekiah the son of Josiah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon made king in the land of Judah, reigned instead of Coniah the son of Jehoiakim. ² But neither he nor his servants nor the people of the land listened to the words of the Lord that he spoke through Jeremiah the prophet.

³ King Zedekiah sent Jehucal the son of Shelemiah, and Zephaniah the priest, the son of Maaseiah, to

Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “Please pray for us to the Lord our God.” ⁴ Now Jeremiah was still going in and out among the people, for he had not yet been put in prison. ⁵ The army of Pharaoh had come out of Egypt. And when the Chaldeans who were besieging Jerusalem heard news about them, they withdrew from Jerusalem.

⁶ Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet: ⁷ “Thus says the Lord, God of Israel: Thus shall you say to the king of Judah who sent

you to me to inquire of me, ‘Behold, Pharaoh’s army that came to help you is about to return to Egypt, to its own land. ⁸ And the Chaldeans shall come back and fight against this city. They shall capture it and burn it with fire. ⁹ Thus says the Lord, Do not deceive yourselves, saying, “The Chaldeans

will surely go away from us,” for they will not go away. ¹⁰ For even if you should defeat the whole army of Chaldeans who are fighting against you, and there remained of them only wounded men, every man in his tent, they would rise up and burn this city with fire.”

JEREMIAH IMPRISONED

¹¹ Now when the Chaldean army had withdrawn from Jerusalem at the approach of Pharaoh’s army, ¹² Jeremiah set out from Jerusalem to go to the land of Benjamin to receive his portion there among the people. ¹³ When he was at the Benjamin Gate, a sentry there named Irijah the son of Shelemiah, son of Hananiah, seized Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “You are deserting to the Chaldeans.” ¹⁴ And Jeremiah said, “It is a lie; I am not deserting to the Chaldeans.” But Irijah would not listen to him, and seized Jeremiah and brought him to the officials. ¹⁵ And the officials were enraged at Jeremiah, and they beat him and imprisoned him in the house of Jonathan the secretary, for it had been made a prison.

¹⁶ When Jeremiah had come to the dungeon cells and remained there many days, ¹⁷ King Zedekiah sent for him and received him. The king questioned him secretly in his house and said, “Is there any word from the Lord?” Jeremiah said, “There is.” Then he said, “You shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon.” ¹⁸ Jeremiah also said to King Zedekiah, “What wrong have I done to you or your servants or this people, that you have put me in prison? ¹⁹ Where are your prophets who prophesied to you, saying, ‘The king of Babylon will not come against you and against this land’? ²⁰ Now hear, please, O my lord the king: let my humble plea come before you and do not send me back to the house of Jonathan the secretary, lest I die there.” ²¹ So King Zedekiah

gave orders, and they committed Jeremiah to the court of the guard. And a loaf of bread was given him daily from the bakers' street, until

all the bread of the city was gone. So Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.

JEREMIAH CAST INTO THE CISTERN

38 Now Shephatiah the son of Mattan, Gedaliah the son of Pashhur, Jucal the son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur the son of Malchiah heard the words that Jeremiah was saying to all the people: ² “Thus says the Lord: He who stays in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, but he who goes out to the Chaldeans shall live. He shall have his life as a prize of war, and live.” ³ Thus says the Lord: This city shall surely be given into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon and be taken.” ⁴ Then the officials said to the king, “Let this man be put to death, for he

is weakening the hands of the soldiers who are left in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm.” ⁵ King Zedekiah said, “Behold, he is in your hands, for the king can do nothing against you.” ⁶ So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern of Malchiah, the king's son, which was in the court of the guard, letting Jeremiah down by ropes. And there was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.

JEREMIAH RESCUED FROM THE CISTERN

⁷ When Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, a eunuch who was in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern—the king was sitting in the Benjamin Gate— ⁸ Ebed-melech went from the king's house and said to the king, ⁹ “My lord the king,

these men have done evil in all that they did to Jeremiah the prophet by casting him into the cistern, and he will die there of hunger, for there is no bread left in the city.” ¹⁰ Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, “Take thirty men with

you from here, and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies.”¹¹ So Ebed-melech took the men with him and went to the house of the king, to a wardrobe in the storehouse, and took from there old rags and worn-out clothes, which he let down to Jeremiah in the cistern by ropes.¹²

Then Ebed-melech the Ethiopian said to Jeremiah, “Put the rags and clothes between your armpits and the ropes.” Jeremiah did so.¹³ Then they drew Jeremiah up with ropes and lifted him out of the cistern. And Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.

JEREMIAH WARNS ZEDEKIAH AGAIN

¹⁴ King Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah the prophet and received him at the third entrance of the temple of the Lord. The king said to Jeremiah, “I will ask you a question; hide nothing from me.”¹⁵ Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, “If I tell you, will you not surely put me to death? And if I give you counsel, you will not listen to me.”¹⁶ Then King Zedekiah swore secretly to Jeremiah, “As the Lord lives, who made our souls, I will not put you to death or deliver you into the hand of these men who seek your life.”

¹⁷ Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, “Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the God of Israel: If you will surrender to the officials of the king of Babylon, then your life shall be spared, and this city shall not be burned with fire, and you and your house shall live.”¹⁸ But if you do not surrender to the officials

of the king of Babylon, then this city shall be given into the hand of the Chaldeans, and they shall burn it with fire, and you shall not escape from their hand.”¹⁹ King Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, “I am afraid of the Judeans who have deserted to the Chaldeans, lest I be handed over to them and they deal cruelly with me.”²⁰ Jeremiah said, “You shall not be given to them. Obey now the voice of the Lord in what I say to you, and it shall be well with you, and your life shall be spared.”²¹ But if you refuse to surrender, this is the vision which the Lord has shown to me:²² Behold, all the women left in the house of the king of Judah were being led out to the officials of the king of Babylon and were saying,

“Your trusted friends have deceived you
and prevailed against you;
now that your feet are sunk in the mud,
they turn away from you.”

²³ All your wives and your sons shall be led out to the Chaldeans, and you yourself shall not escape from their hand, but shall be seized by the king of Babylon, and this city shall be burned with fire.”

²⁴ Then Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, “Let no one know of these words, and you shall not die. ²⁵ If the officials hear that I have spoken with you and come to you and say to you, ‘Tell us what you said to the king and what the king said to you; hide nothing from

us and we will not put you to death,’ ²⁶ then you shall say to them, ‘I made a humble plea to the king that he would not send me back to the house of Jonathan to die there.’” ²⁷ Then all the officials came to Jeremiah and asked him, and he answered them as the king had instructed him. So they stopped speaking with him, for the conversation had not been overheard. ²⁸ And Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard until the day that Jerusalem was taken.

THE FALL OF JERUSALEM

39In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and besieged it. ² In the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, a breach was made in the city. ³ Then all the officials of the king of Babylon came and sat in the middle gate: Nergal-sar-ezer of Samgar, Nebu-sar-sekim the

Rab-saris, Nergal-sar-ezer the Rab-mag, with all the rest of the officers of the king of Babylon. ⁴ When Zedekiah king of Judah and all the soldiers saw them, they fled, going out of the city at night by way of the king’s garden through the gate between the two walls; and they went toward the Arabah. ⁵ But the army of the Chaldeans pursued them and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho.

And when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, at Riblah, in the land of Hamath; and he passed sentence on him.⁶ The king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah at Riblah before his eyes, and the king of Babylon slaughtered all the nobles of Judah.⁷ He put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him in chains to take him to Babylon.⁸ The Chaldeans burned the king's house and the house of the

people, and broke down the walls of Jerusalem.⁹ Then Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, carried into exile to Babylon the rest of the people who were left in the city, those who had deserted to him, and the people who remained.¹⁰ Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, left in the land of Judah some of the poor people who owned nothing, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time.

THE LORD DELIVERS JEREMIAH

¹¹ Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon gave command concerning Jeremiah through Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, saying,¹² “Take him, look after him well, and do him no harm, but deal with him as he tells you.”¹³ So Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, Nebushazban the Rab-saris, Nergal-sar-ezer the Rab-mag, and all the chief officers of the king of Babylon¹⁴ sent and took Jeremiah from the court of the guard. They entrusted him to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, that he should take him home. So he lived among the people.

court of the guard:¹⁶ “Go, and say to Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will fulfill my words against this city for harm and not for good, and they shall be accomplished before you on that day.’¹⁷ But I will deliver you on that day, declares the Lord, and you shall not be given into the hand of the men of whom you are afraid.¹⁸ For I will surely save you, and you shall not fall by the sword, but you shall have your life as a prize of war, because you have put your trust in me, declares the Lord.”

¹⁵ The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah while he was shut up in the

JEREMIAH REMAINS IN JUDAH

40The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord after Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had let him go from Ramah, when he took him bound in chains along with all the captives of Jerusalem and Judah who were being exiled to Babylon. ² The captain of the guard took Jeremiah and said to him, “The Lord your God pronounced this disaster against this place. ³ The Lord has brought it about, and has done as he said. Because you sinned against the Lord and did not obey his voice, this thing has come upon you. ⁴ Now, behold, I release you today from the chains on your hands. If it seems good to you to come with me to Babylon, come, and I will look after you well, but if it seems wrong to you to come with me to Babylon, do not come. See, the whole land is before you; go wherever you think it good and right to go. ⁵ If you remain, then return to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon appointed governor of the cities of Judah, and dwell with him among the people. Or go wherever you think it right to go.” So the captain of the

guard gave him an allowance of food and a present, and let him go. ⁶ Then Jeremiah went to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, at Mizpah, and lived with him among the people who were left in the land.

⁷ When all the captains of the forces in the open country and their men heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam governor in the land and had committed to him men, women, and children, those of the poorest of the land who had not been taken into exile to Babylon, ⁸ they went to Gedaliah at Mizpah— Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, Johanan the son of Kareah, Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth, the sons of Ephai the Netophathite, Jezaniah the son of the Maacathite, they and their men. ⁹ Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, swore to them and their men, saying, “Do not be afraid 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, I will dwell at Mizpah, to represent you before the Chaldeans who will come to us. But as for you, gather wine and summer fruits and oil, and store them in your vessels, and dwell in your cities

that you have taken.”¹¹ Likewise, when all the Judeans who were in Moab and among the Ammonites and in Edom and in other lands heard that the king of Babylon had left a remnant in Judah and had appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, as governor over them,¹² then all the Judeans returned from all the places to which they had been driven and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah at Mizpah. And they gathered wine and summer fruits in great abundance.

¹³ Now Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces in the open country came to Gedaliah at Mizpah¹⁴ and said to him, “Do you know that

Baalis the king of the Ammonites has sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to take your life?” But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam would not believe them.¹⁵ Then Johanan the son of Kareah spoke secretly to Gedaliah at Mizpah, “Please let me go and strike down Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and no one will know it. Why should he take your life, so that all the Judeans who are gathered about you would be scattered, and the remnant of Judah would perish?”¹⁶ But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam said to Johanan the son of Kareah, “You shall not do this thing, for you are speaking falsely of Ishmael.”

GEDALIAH MURDERED

41 In the seventh month, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, son of Elishama, of the royal family, one of the chief officers of the king, came with ten men to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, at Mizpah. As they ate bread together there at Mizpah,² Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and the ten men with him rose up and struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, with the sword, and killed him, whom the king of Babylon

had appointed governor in the land.³ Ishmael also struck down all the Judeans who were with Gedaliah at Mizpah, and the Chaldean soldiers who happened to be there.

⁴ On the day after the murder of Gedaliah, before anyone knew of it,⁵ eighty men arrived from Shechem and Shiloh and Samaria, with their beards shaved and their clothes torn, and their bodies gashed, bringing grain offerings and incense to present at

the temple of the Lord. ⁶ And Ishmael the son of Nethaniah came out from Mizpah to meet them, weeping as he came. As he met them, he said to them, “Come in to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam.” ⁷ When they came into the city, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and the men with him slaughtered them and cast them into a cistern. ⁸ But there were ten men among them who said to Ishmael, “Do not put us to death, for we have stores of wheat, barley, oil, and honey hidden in the fields.” So he refrained and did not put them to death with their companions.

⁹ Now the cistern into which Ishmael had thrown all the bodies of the men whom he had struck down along with Gedaliah was the large cistern that King Asa had made for defense against Baasha king of Israel; Ishmael the son of Nethaniah filled it with the slain. ¹⁰ Then Ishmael took captive all the rest of the people who were in Mizpah, the king’s daughters and all the people who were left at Mizpah, whom Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, had committed to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam. Ishmael the son of Nethaniah took them captive and set out to cross over to the Ammonites.

¹¹ But when Johanan the son of Kareah

and all the leaders of the forces with him heard of all the evil that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had done, ¹² they took all their men and went to fight against Ishmael the son of Nethaniah. They came upon him at the great pool that is in Gibeon. ¹³ And when all the people who were with Ishmael saw Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces with him, they rejoiced. ¹⁴ So all the people whom Ishmael had carried away captive from Mizpah turned around and came back, and went to 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 Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces with him took from Mizpah all the rest of the people whom he had recovered from Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, after he had struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam—soldiers, women, children, and eunuchs, whom Johanan brought back from Gibeon. ¹⁷ And they went and stayed at Geruth Chimham near Bethlehem, intending to go to Egypt ¹⁸ because of the Chaldeans. For they were afraid of them, because Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had made governor over the land.

WARNING AGAINST GOING TO EGYPT

42 Then all the commanders of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah and Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least to the greatest, came near ² and said to Jeremiah the prophet, “Let our plea for mercy come before you, and pray to the Lord your God for us, for all this remnant—because we are left with but a few, as your eyes see us—³ that the Lord your God may show us the way we should go, and the thing that we should do.” ⁴ Jeremiah the prophet said to them, “I have heard you. Behold, I will pray to the Lord your God according to your request, and whatever the Lord answers you I will tell you. I will keep nothing back from you.” ⁵ Then they said to Jeremiah, “May the Lord be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act according to all the word with which the Lord your God sends you to us. ⁶ Whether it is good or bad, we will obey the voice of the Lord our God to whom we are sending you, that it may be well with us when we obey

the voice of the Lord our God.”

⁷ At the end of ten days the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah. ⁸ Then he summoned Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces who were with him, and all the people from the least to the greatest, ⁹ and said to them, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your plea for mercy before him: ¹⁰ If you will remain in this land, then I will build you up and not pull you down; I will plant you, and not pluck you up; for I relent of the disaster that I did to you. ¹¹ Do not fear the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid. Do not fear him, declares the Lord, for I am with you, to save you and to deliver you from his hand. ¹² I will grant you mercy, that he may have mercy on you and let you remain in your own land. ¹³ But if you say, ‘We will not remain in this land,’ disobeying the voice of the Lord your God ¹⁴ and saying, ‘No, we will go to the land of Egypt, where we shall not see war or hear the sound of the trumpet or be hungry for bread, and we will dwell there,’ ¹⁵ then hear the

word of the Lord, O remnant of Judah. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: If you set your faces to enter Egypt and go to live there, ¹⁶ then the sword that you fear shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine of which you are afraid shall follow close after you to Egypt, and there you shall die. ¹⁷ All the men who set their faces to go to Egypt to live there shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. They shall have no remnant or survivor from the disaster that I will bring upon them.

¹⁸ “For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: As my anger and my wrath were poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so my wrath will be poured out on you when you go to Egypt. You shall become an

execration, a horror, a curse, and a taunt. You shall see this place no more.

¹⁹ The Lord has said to you, O remnant of Judah, ‘Do not go to Egypt.’ Know for a certainty that I have warned you this day ²⁰ that you have gone astray at the cost of your lives. For you sent me to the Lord your God, saying, ‘Pray for us to the Lord our God, and whatever the Lord our God says, declare to us and we will do it.’ ²¹ And I have this day declared it to you, but you have not obeyed the voice of the Lord your God in anything that he sent me to tell you. ²² Now therefore know for a certainty that you shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence in the place where you desire to go to live.”

JEREMIAH TAKEN TO EGYPT

43 When Jeremiah finished speaking to all the people all these words of the Lord their God, with which the Lord their God had sent him to them, ² Azariah the son of Hoshaiiah and Johanan the son of Kareah and all the insolent men said to Jeremiah, “You are telling a lie. The Lord our God did not send you to say, ‘Do not go to Egypt to live

there,’ ³ but Baruch the son of Neriah has set you against us, to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, that they may kill us or take us into exile in Babylon.” ⁴ So Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces and all the people did not obey the voice of the Lord, to remain in the land of Judah. ⁵ But Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the

forces took all the remnant of Judah who had returned to live in the land of Judah from all the nations to which they had been driven—⁶ the men, the women, the children, the princesses, and every person whom Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan; also Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch the son of Neriah.⁷ And they came into the land of Egypt, for they did not obey the voice of the Lord. And they arrived at Tahpanhes.

⁸ Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah in Tahpanhes: ⁹ “Take in your hands large stones and hide them in the mortar in the pavement that is at the entrance to Pharaoh’s palace in Tahpanhes, in the sight of the men of Judah,¹⁰ and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God

of Israel: Behold, I will send and take Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will set his throne above these stones that I have hidden, and he will spread his royal canopy over them.¹¹ He shall come and strike the land of Egypt, giving over to the pestilence those who are doomed to the pestilence, to captivity those who are doomed to captivity, and to the sword those who are doomed to the sword.¹² I shall kindle a fire in the temples of the gods of Egypt, and he shall burn them and carry them away captive. And he shall clean the land of Egypt as a shepherd cleans his cloak of vermin, and he shall go away from there in peace.¹³ He shall break the obelisks of Heliopolis, which is in the land of Egypt, and the temples of the gods of Egypt he shall burn with fire.’”

JUDGMENT FOR IDOLATRY

44 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Judeans who lived in the land of Egypt, at Migdol, at Tahpanhes, at Memphis, and in the land of Pathros,² “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: You have seen all the disaster that I brought

upon Jerusalem and upon all the cities of Judah. Behold, this day they are a desolation, and no one dwells in them,³ because of the evil that they committed, provoking me to anger, in that they went to make offerings and serve other gods that they knew not,

neither they, nor you, nor your fathers.

⁴ Yet I persistently sent to you all my servants the prophets, saying, ‘Oh, do not do this abomination that I hate!’ ⁵

But they did not listen or incline their ear, to turn from their evil and make no offerings to other gods. ⁶ Therefore my wrath and my anger were poured

out and kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, and they became a waste and a desolation,

as at this day. ⁷ And now thus says the Lord God of hosts, the God of Israel:

Why do you commit this great evil against yourselves, to cut off from you man and woman, infant and child,

from the midst of Judah, leaving you no remnant? ⁸ Why do you provoke me to anger with the works of your hands, making offerings to other gods

in the land of Egypt where you have come to live, so that you may be cut off and become a curse and a taunt

among all the nations of the earth? ⁹ Have you forgotten the evil of your fathers, the evil of the kings of Judah,

the evil of their wives, your own evil, and the evil of your wives, which they committed in the land of Judah and in

the streets of Jerusalem? ¹⁰ They have

not humbled themselves even to this day, nor have they feared, nor walked in my law and my statutes that I set before you and before your fathers.

¹¹ “Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will set my face against you for harm, to cut off all Judah. ¹² I will take the remnant of Judah who have set their faces to come to the land of Egypt to live, and they shall all be consumed. In the land of Egypt they shall fall; by the sword and by famine they shall be consumed. From the least to the greatest, they shall die by the sword and by famine, and they shall become an oath, a horror, a curse, and a taunt. ¹³ I will punish those who dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence, ¹⁴ so that none of the remnant of Judah who have come to live in the land of Egypt shall escape or survive or return to the land of Judah, to which they desire to return to dwell there. For they shall not return, except some fugitives.”

¹⁵ Then all the men who knew that their wives had made offerings to other gods, and all the women who stood by, a great assembly, all the people who lived in Pathros in the

land of Egypt, answered Jeremiah: ¹⁶ “As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the Lord, we will not listen to you. ¹⁷ But we will do everything that we have vowed, make offerings to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we did, both we and our fathers, our kings and our officials, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, and prospered, and saw no disaster. ¹⁸ But since we left off making offerings to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine.” ¹⁹ And the women said, “When we made offerings to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, was it without our husbands’ approval that we made cakes for her bearing her image and poured out drink offerings to her?”

²⁰ Then Jeremiah said to all the people, men and women, all the people who had given him this answer: ²¹ “As for the offerings that you offered in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, you and your fathers, your kings and your officials, and the people of the land, did not the Lord remember them? Did it not come

into his mind? ²² The Lord could no longer bear your evil deeds and the abominations that you committed. Therefore your land has become a desolation and a waste and a curse, without inhabitant, as it is this day. ²³ It is because you made offerings and because you sinned against the Lord and did not obey the voice of the Lord or walk in his law and in his statutes and in his testimonies that this disaster has happened to you, as at this day.”

²⁴ Jeremiah said to all the people and all the women, “Hear the word of the Lord, all you of Judah who are in the land of Egypt. ²⁵ Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: You and your wives have declared with your mouths, and have fulfilled it with your hands, saying, ‘We will surely perform our vows that we have made, to make offerings to the queen of heaven and to pour out drink offerings to her.’ Then confirm your vows and perform your vows! ²⁶ Therefore hear the word of the Lord, all you of Judah who dwell in the land of Egypt: Behold, I have sworn by my great name, says the Lord, that my name shall no more be invoked by the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, ‘As the Lord God lives.’ ²⁷ Behold, I am watching over them

for disaster and not for good. All the men of Judah who are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, until there is an end of them. ²⁸ And those who escape the sword shall return from the land of Egypt to the land of Judah, few in number; and all the remnant of Judah, who came to the land of Egypt to live, shall know whose word will stand, mine or theirs. ²⁹ This shall be the sign to you, declares the Lord, that I

MESSAGE TO BARUCH

45The word that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch the son of Neriah, when he wrote these words in a book at the dictation of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: ² “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch: ³ You said, ‘Woe is me! For the Lord has added sorrow to my pain. I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest.’ ⁴ Thus shall you say to

will punish you in this place, in order that you may know that my words will surely stand against you for harm: ³⁰ Thus says the Lord, Behold, I will give Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies and into the hand of those who seek his life, as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who was his enemy and sought his life.”

him, Thus says the Lord: Behold, what I have built I am breaking down, and what I have planted I am plucking up—that is, the whole land. ⁵ And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not, for behold, I am bringing disaster upon all flesh, declares the Lord. But I will give you your life as a prize of war in all places to which you may go.”

JUDGMENT ON EGYPT

46 The word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations.

² About Egypt. Concerning the army of Pharaoh Neco, king of Egypt, which was by the river

³ “Prepare buckler and shield,
and advance for battle!

⁴ Harness the horses;
mount, O horsemen!

Take your stations with your helmets,
polish your spears,
put on your armor!

⁵ Why have I seen it?

They are dismayed
and have turned backward.

Their warriors are beaten down
and have fled in haste;

they look not back—
terror on every side!

declares the Lord.

⁶ “The swift cannot flee away,
nor the warrior escape;
in the north by the river Euphrates
they have stumbled and fallen.

⁷ “Who is this, rising like the Nile,

Euphrates at Carchemish and which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon defeated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah:

like rivers whose waters surge?

⁸ Egypt rises like the Nile,

like rivers whose waters surge.

He said, 'I will rise, I will cover the earth,

I will destroy cities and their inhabitants.'

⁹ Advance, O horses,

and rage, O chariots!

Let the warriors go out:

men of Cush and Put who handle the shield,

men of Lud, skilled in handling the bow.

¹⁰ That day is the day of the Lord God of hosts,

a day of vengeance,

to avenge himself on his foes.

The sword shall devour and be sated

and drink its fill of their blood.

For the Lord God of hosts holds a sacrifice

in the north country by the river Euphrates.

¹¹ Go up to Gilead, and take balm,

O virgin daughter of Egypt!

In vain you have used many medicines;

there is no healing for you.

¹² The nations have heard of your shame,

and the earth is full of your cry;

for warrior has stumbled against warrior;

they have both fallen together."

¹³ The word that the Lord spoke to Jeremiah the prophet about the coming of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to strike the land of Egypt:

¹⁴ "Declare in Egypt, and proclaim in Migdol;

proclaim in Memphis and Tahpanhes;

say, 'Stand ready and be prepared,

for the sword shall devour around you.’

¹⁵ Why are your mighty ones face down?

They do not stand

because the Lord thrust them down.

¹⁶ He made many stumble, and they fell,

and they said one to another,

‘Arise, and let us go back to our own people

and to the land of our birth,

because of the sword of the oppressor.’

¹⁷ Call the name of Pharaoh, king of Egypt,

‘Noisy one who lets the hour go by.’

¹⁸ ‘As I live, declares the King,

whose name is the Lord of hosts,

like Tabor among the mountains

and like Carmel by the sea, shall one come.

¹⁹ Prepare yourselves baggage for exile,

O inhabitants of Egypt!

For Memphis shall become a waste,

a ruin, without inhabitant.

²⁰ ‘A beautiful heifer is Egypt,

but a biting fly from the north has come upon her.

²¹ Even her hired soldiers in her midst

are like fattened calves;

yes, they have turned and fled together;

they did not stand,

for the day of their calamity has come upon them,

the time of their punishment.

²² ‘She makes a sound like a serpent gliding away;

for her enemies march in force

and come against her with axes

like those who fell trees.

²³ They shall cut down her forest,
declares the Lord,

though it is impenetrable,

because they are more numerous than locusts;
they are without number.

²⁴ The daughter of Egypt shall be put to shame;

she shall be delivered into the hand of a people from the north.”

²⁵ The Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, said: “Behold, I am bringing punishment upon Amon of Thebes, and Pharaoh and Egypt and her gods and her kings, upon Pharaoh and those who trust in him. ²⁶ I will deliver them

into the hand of those who seek their life, into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his officers. Afterward Egypt shall be inhabited as in the days of old, declares the Lord.

²⁷ “But fear not, O Jacob my servant,
nor be dismayed, O Israel,

for behold, I will save you from far away,

and your offspring from the land of their captivity.

Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease,

and none shall make him afraid.

²⁸ Fear not, O Jacob my servant,

declares the Lord,

for I am with you.

I will make a full end of all the nations

to which I have driven you,

but of you I will not make a full end.

I will discipline you in just measure,

and I will by no means leave you unpunished.”

JUDGMENT ON THE PHILISTINES

4⁷The word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the Philistines, before Pharaoh struck down Gaza.

² “Thus says the Lord:

Behold, waters are rising out of the north,
and shall become an overflowing torrent;
they shall overflow the land and all that fills it,
the city and those who dwell in it.

Men shall cry out,
and every inhabitant of the land shall wail.

³ At the noise of the stamping of the hoofs of his stallions,
at the rushing of his chariots, at the rumbling of their wheels,
the fathers look not back to their children,
so feeble are their hands,

⁴ because of the day that is coming to destroy
all the Philistines,
to cut off from Tyre and Sidon
every helper that remains.

For the Lord is destroying the Philistines,
the remnant of the coastland of Caphtor.

⁵ Baldness has come upon Gaza;
Ashkelon has perished.

O remnant of their valley,
how long will you gash yourselves?

⁶ Ah, sword of the Lord!
How long till you are quiet?

Put yourself into your scabbard;
rest and be still!

⁷ How can it be quiet
when the Lord has given it a charge?

Against Ashkelon and against the seashore
he has appointed it.”

JUDGMENT ON MOAB

48 Concerning Moab.

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel:

“Woe to Nebo, for it is laid waste!

Kiriathaim is put to shame, it is taken;
the fortress is put to shame and broken down;
² the renown of Moab is no more.

In Heshbon they planned disaster against her:

‘Come, let us cut her off from being a nation!’
You also, O Madmen, shall be brought to silence;
the sword shall pursue you.

³ “A voice! A cry from Horonaim,
‘Desolation and great destruction!’

⁴ Moab is destroyed;
her little ones have made a cry.

⁵ For at the ascent of Luhith
they go up weeping;
for at the descent of Horonaim
they have heard the distressed cry of destruction.

⁶ Flee! Save yourselves!
You will be like a juniper in the desert!

⁷ For, because you trusted in your works and your treasures,
you also shall be taken;
and Chemosh shall go into exile
with his priests and his officials.

⁸ The destroyer shall come upon every city,
and no city shall escape;

the valley shall perish,
and the plain shall be destroyed,
as the Lord has spoken.

⁹ “Give wings to Moab,
for she would fly away;
her cities shall become a desolation,
with no inhabitant in them.

¹⁰ “Cursed is he who does the work of the Lord with slackness, and cursed is he
who keeps back his sword from bloodshed.

¹¹ “Moab has been at ease from his youth
and has settled on his dregs;
he has not been emptied from vessel to vessel,
nor has he gone into exile;
so his taste remains in him,
and his scent is not changed.

¹² “Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I shall send to him pourers who will pour him, and empty his vessels and break his jars in pieces. ¹³ Then Moab shall be ashamed of Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed of Bethel, their confidence.

¹⁴ “How do you say, ‘We are heroes
and mighty men of war’?

¹⁵ The destroyer of Moab and his cities has come up,
and the choicest of his young men have gone down to slaughter,
declares the King, whose name is the Lord of hosts.

¹⁶ The calamity of Moab is near at hand,
and his affliction hastens swiftly.

¹⁷ Grieve for him, all you who are around him,
and all who know his name;
say, ‘How the mighty scepter is broken,

the glorious staff?

¹⁸ “Come down from your glory,
and sit on the parched ground,
O inhabitant of Dibon!

For the destroyer of Moab has come up against you;
he has destroyed your strongholds.

¹⁹ Stand by the way and watch,
O inhabitant of Aroer!

Ask him who flees and her who escapes;
say, ‘What has happened?’

²⁰ Moab is put to shame, for it is broken;
wail and cry!

Tell it beside the Arnon,
that Moab is laid waste.

²¹ “Judgment has come upon the
tableland, upon Holon, and Jahzah,
and Mephaath, ²² and Dibon, and
Nebo, and Beth-diblathaim, ²³ and
Kiriathaim, and Beth-gamul, and
Beth-meon, ²⁴ and Kerioth, and
Bozrah, and all the cities of the land
of Moab, far and near. ²⁵ The horn of
Moab is cut off, and his arm is broken,
declares the Lord.

²⁶ “Make him drunk, because he
magnified himself against the Lord,
so that Moab shall wallow in his
vomit, and he too shall be held in
derision. ²⁷ Was not Israel a derision
to you? Was he found among thieves,
that whenever you spoke of him you
wagged your head?

²⁸ “Leave the cities, and dwell in the rock,
O inhabitants of Moab!

Be like the dove that nests
in the sides of the mouth of a gorge.

²⁹ We have heard of the pride of Moab—

he is very proud—
of his loftiness, his pride, and his arrogance,
and the haughtiness of his heart.

³⁰ I know his insolence, declares the Lord;
his boasts are false,
his deeds are false.

³¹ Therefore I wail for Moab;
I cry out for all Moab;
for the men of Kir-hareseth I mourn.

³² More than for Jazer I weep for you,
O vine of Sibmah!

Your branches passed over the sea,
reached to the Sea of Jazer;
on your summer fruits and your grapes
the destroyer has fallen.

³³ Gladness and joy have been taken away
from the fruitful land of Moab;

I have made the wine cease from the winepresses;
no one treads them with shouts of joy;
the shouting is not the shout of joy.

³⁴ “From the outcry at Heshbon even
to Elealeh, as far as Jahaz they utter
their voice, from Zoar to Horonaim
and Eglath-shelishiyah. For the waters
of Nimrim also have become desolate.

³⁵ And I will bring to an end in Moab,
declares the Lord, him who offers
sacrifice in the high place and makes
offerings to his god. ³⁶ Therefore my
heart moans for Moab like a flute, and
my heart moans like a flute for the

men of Kir-hareseth. Therefore the
riches they gained have perished.

³⁷ “For every head is shaved and
every beard cut off. On all the hands
are gashes, and around the waist is
sackcloth. ³⁸ On all the housetops
of Moab and in the squares there is
nothing but lamentation, for I have
broken Moab like a vessel for which
no one cares, declares the Lord. ³⁹

How it is broken! How they wail! How
Moab has turned his back in shame!

So Moab has become a derision and a
horror to all that are around him.”

⁴⁰ For thus says the Lord:

“Behold, one shall fly swiftly like an eagle
and spread his wings against Moab;

⁴¹ the cities shall be taken
and the strongholds seized.

The heart of the warriors of Moab shall be in that day
like the heart of a woman in her birth pains;

⁴² Moab shall be destroyed and be no longer a people,
because he magnified himself against the Lord.

⁴³ Terror, pit, and snare
are before you, O inhabitant of Moab!

declares the Lord.

⁴⁴ He who flees from the terror
shall fall into the pit,
and he who climbs out of the pit
shall be caught in the snare.

For I will bring these things upon Moab,
the year of their punishment,
declares the Lord.

⁴⁵ “In the shadow of Heshbon
fugitives stop without strength,
for fire came out from Heshbon,
flame from the house of Sihon;
it has destroyed the forehead of Moab,
the crown of the sons of tumult.

⁴⁶ Woe to you, O Moab!
The people of Chemosh are undone,

for your sons have been taken captive,
and your daughters into captivity.
⁴⁷ Yet I will restore the fortunes of Moab
in the latter days, declares the Lord.”
Thus far is the judgment on Moab.

JUDGMENT ON AMMON

49 Concerning the Ammonites.

Thus says the Lord:

“Has Israel no sons?

Has he no heir?

Why then has Milcom dispossessed Gad,
and his people settled in its cities?

² Therefore, behold, the days are coming,
declares the Lord,

when I will cause the battle cry to be heard
against Rabbah of the Ammonites;

it shall become a desolate mound,
and its villages shall be burned with fire;

then Israel shall dispossess those who dispossessed him,
says the Lord.

³ “Wail, O Heshbon, for Ai is laid waste!

Cry out, O daughters of Rabbah!

Put on sackcloth,

lament, and run to and fro among the hedges!

For Milcom shall go into exile,
with his priests and his officials.

⁴ Why do you boast of your valleys,
O faithless daughter,
who trusted in her treasures, saying,

‘Who will come against me?’

⁵ Behold, I will bring terror upon you,

declares the Lord God of hosts,

from all who are around you,

and you shall be driven out, every man straight before him,

with none to gather the fugitives.

⁶ “But afterward I will restore the fortunes of the Ammonites, declares the Lord.”

JUDGMENT ON EDOM

⁷ Concerning Edom.

Thus says the Lord of hosts:

“Is wisdom no more in Teman?

Has counsel perished from the prudent?

Has their wisdom vanished?

⁸ Flee, turn back, dwell in the depths,

O inhabitants of Dedan!

For I will bring the calamity of Esau upon him,

the time when I punish him.

⁹ If grape gatherers came to you,

would they not leave gleanings?

If thieves came by night,

would they not destroy only enough for themselves?

¹⁰ But I have stripped Esau bare;

I have uncovered his hiding places,

and he is not able to conceal himself.

His children are destroyed, and his brothers,

and his neighbors; and he is no more.

¹¹ Leave your fatherless children; I will keep them alive;

and let your widows trust in me.”

¹² For thus says the Lord: “If those who did not deserve to drink the cup must drink it, will you go unpunished? You shall not go unpunished, but you must drink. ¹³ For I have sworn by myself,

declares the Lord, that Bozrah shall become a horror, a taunt, a waste, and a curse, and all her cities shall be perpetual wastes.”

¹⁴ I have heard a message from the Lord,
and an envoy has been sent among the nations:
“Gather yourselves together and come against her,
and rise up for battle!

¹⁵ For behold, I will make you small among the nations,
despised among mankind.

¹⁶ The horror you inspire has deceived you,
and the pride of your heart,
you who live in the clefts of the rock,
who hold the height of the hill.

Though you make your nest as high as the eagle’s,
I will bring you down from there,
declares the Lord.

¹⁷ “Edom shall become a horror. Everyone who passes by it will be horrified and will hiss because of all its disasters. ¹⁸ As when Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring cities were overthrown, says the Lord, no man shall dwell there, no man shall sojourn in her. ¹⁹ Behold, like a lion coming up from the jungle of the Jordan against a perennial pasture, I will suddenly make him run away from her. And I will appoint over

her whomever I choose. For who is like me? Who will summon me? What shepherd can stand before me? ²⁰ Therefore hear the plan that the Lord has made against Edom and the purposes that he has formed against the inhabitants of Teman: Even the little ones of the flock shall be dragged away. Surely their fold shall be appalled at their fate. ²¹ At the sound of their fall the earth shall tremble; the sound of their cry shall

be heard at the Red Sea. ²² Behold, one shall mount up and fly swiftly like an eagle and spread his wings against

Bozrah, and the heart of the warriors of Edom shall be in that day like the heart of a woman in her birth pains.”

JUDGMENT ON DAMASCUS

²³ Concerning Damascus:

“Hamath and Arpad are confounded,
for they have heard bad news;

they melt in fear,

they are troubled like the sea that cannot be quiet.

²⁴ Damascus has become feeble, she turned to flee,
and panic seized her;

anguish and sorrows have taken hold of her,
as of a woman in labor.

²⁵ How is the famous city not forsaken,
the city of my joy?

²⁶ Therefore her young men shall fall in her squares,
and all her soldiers shall be destroyed in that day,
declares the Lord of hosts.

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

JUDGMENT ON KEDAR AND HAZOR

²⁸ Concerning Kedar and the kingdoms of Hazor that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon struck down.

Thus says the Lord:

“Rise up, advance against Kedar!

Destroy the people of the east!

²⁹ Their tents and their flocks shall be taken,
their curtains and all their goods;

their camels shall be led away from them,

and men shall cry to them: ‘Terror on every side!’

³⁰ Flee, wander far away, dwell in the depths,

O inhabitants of Hazor!

declares the Lord.

For Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon

has made a plan against you

and formed a purpose against you.

³¹ “Rise up, advance against a nation at ease,

that dwells securely,

declares the Lord,

that has no gates or bars,

that dwells alone.

³² Their camels shall become plunder,

their herds of livestock a spoil.

I will scatter to every wind

those who cut the corners of their hair,

and I will bring their calamity

from every side of them,

declares the Lord.

³³ Hazor shall become a haunt of jackals,

an everlasting waste;

no man shall dwell there;

no man shall sojourn in her.”

JUDGMENT ON ELAM

³⁴ The word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning Elam, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah.

³⁵ Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, the mainstay of their might. ³⁶ And I will bring upon Elam the four winds from the four quarters of heaven. And I will

scatter them to all those winds, and there shall be no nation to which those driven out of Elam shall not come.³⁷ I will terrify Elam before their enemies and before those who seek their life. I will bring disaster upon them, my fierce anger, declares the Lord. I will send the sword after them, until I have

consumed them,³⁸ and I will set my throne in Elam and destroy their king and officials, declares the Lord.

³⁹ “But in the latter days I will restore the fortunes of Elam, declares the Lord.”

JUDGMENT ON BABYLON

50 The word that the Lord spoke concerning Babylon, concerning the land of the Chaldeans, by Jeremiah the prophet:

² “Declare among the nations and proclaim, set up a banner and proclaim, conceal it not, and say:

‘Babylon is taken,
Bel is put to shame,
Merodach is dismayed.

Her images are put to shame,
her idols are dismayed.’

³ “For out of the north a nation has come up against her, which shall make her land a desolation, and none shall dwell in it; both man and beast shall flee away.

⁴ “In those days and in that time, declares the Lord, the people of Israel and the people of Judah shall come together, weeping as they come, and they shall seek the Lord their God.⁵ They shall ask the way to Zion, with

faces turned toward it, saying, ‘Come, let us join ourselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant that will never be forgotten.’

⁶ “My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray, turning them away on the mountains. From mountain to hill they have gone. They have forgotten their fold.⁷ All who found them have devoured them, and their enemies have said, ‘We

are not guilty, for they have sinned against the Lord, their habitation of righteousness, the Lord, the hope of their fathers.’

⁸ “Flee from the midst of Babylon, and go out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be as male goats before the flock. ⁹ For behold, I am stirring up and bringing against Babylon a gathering of great

nations, from the north country. And they shall array themselves against her. From there she shall be taken. Their arrows are like a skilled warrior who does not return empty-handed. ¹⁰ Chaldea shall be plundered; all who plunder her shall be sated, declares the Lord.

¹¹ “Though you rejoice, though you exult,
O plunderers of my heritage,
though you frolic like a heifer in the pasture,
and neigh like stallions,

¹² your mother shall be utterly shamed,
and she who bore you shall be disgraced.

Behold, she shall be the last of the nations,
a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert.

¹³ Because of the wrath of the Lord she shall not be inhabited
but shall be an utter desolation;
everyone who passes by Babylon shall be appalled,
and hiss because of all her wounds.

¹⁴ Set yourselves in array against Babylon all around,
all you who bend the bow;
shoot at her, spare no arrows,
for she has sinned against the Lord.

¹⁵ Raise a shout against her all around;
she has surrendered;
her bulwarks have fallen;
her walls are thrown down.

For this is the vengeance of the Lord:

take vengeance on her;
do to her as she has done.

¹⁶ Cut off from Babylon the sower,
and the one who handles the sickle in time of harvest;
because of the sword of the oppressor,
every one shall turn to his own people,
and every one shall flee to his own land.

¹⁷ “Israel is a hunted sheep driven away by lions. First the king of Assyria devoured him, and now at last Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has gnawed his bones. ¹⁸ Therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing punishment on the king of Babylon and his land, as I punished the king of Assyria. ¹⁹ I will restore Israel to his

pasture, and he shall feed on Carmel and in Bashan, and his desire shall be satisfied on the hills of Ephraim and in Gilead. ²⁰ In those days and in that time, declares the Lord, iniquity shall be sought in Israel, and there shall be none, and sin in Judah, and none shall be found, for I will pardon those whom I leave as a remnant.

²¹ “Go up against the land of Merathaim,
and against the inhabitants of Pekod.
Kill, and devote them to destruction,
declares the Lord,
and do all that I have commanded you.

²² The noise of battle is in the land,
and great destruction!

²³ How the hammer of the whole earth
is cut down and broken!
How Babylon has become
a horror among the nations!

²⁴ I set a snare for you and you were taken, O Babylon,
and you did not know it;
you were found and caught,
because you opposed the Lord.

²⁵ The Lord has opened his armory
and brought out the weapons of his wrath,
for the Lord God of hosts has a work to do
in the land of the Chaldeans.

²⁶ Come against her from every quarter;
open her granaries;
pile her up like heaps of grain, and devote her to destruction;
let nothing be left of her.

²⁷ Kill all her bulls;
let them go down to the slaughter.
Woe to them, for their day has come,
the time of their punishment.

²⁸ “A voice! They flee and escape from
the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion
the vengeance of the Lord our God,
vengeance for his temple.

²⁹ “Summon archers against Babylon,
all those who bend the bow. Encamp
around her; let no one escape. Repay
her according to her deeds; do to her

according to all that she has done. For
she has proudly defied the Lord, the
Holy One of Israel. ³⁰ Therefore her
young men shall fall in her squares,
and all her soldiers shall be destroyed
on that day, declares the Lord.

³¹ “Behold, I am against you, O proud one,
declares the Lord God of hosts,
for your day has come,
the time when I will punish you.

³² The proud one shall stumble and fall,

with none to raise him up,
and I will kindle a fire in his cities,
and it will devour all that is around him.

³³ “Thus says the Lord of hosts: The Redeemer is strong; the Lord of hosts
people of Israel are oppressed, and the is his name. He will surely plead their
people of Judah with them. All who cause, that he may give rest to the
took them captive have held them fast; earth, but unrest to the inhabitants of
they refuse to let them go. ³⁴ Their Babylon.

³⁵ “A sword against the Chaldeans, declares the Lord,
and against the inhabitants of Babylon,
and against her officials and her wise men!

³⁶ A sword against the diviners,
that they may become fools!

A sword against her warriors,
that they may be destroyed!

³⁷ A sword against her horses and against her chariots,
and against all the foreign troops in her midst,
that they may become women!

A sword against all her treasures,
that they may be plundered!

³⁸ A drought against her waters,
that they may be dried up!

For it is a land of images,
and they are mad over idols.

³⁹ “Therefore wild beasts shall dwell overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and
with hyenas in Babylon, and ostriches their neighboring cities, declares the
shall dwell in her. She shall never Lord, so no man shall dwell there, and
again have people, nor be inhabited no son of man shall sojourn in her.
for all generations. ⁴⁰ As when God

⁴¹ “Behold, a people comes from the north;
a mighty nation and many kings
are stirring from the farthest parts of the earth.

⁴² They lay hold of bow and spear;
they are cruel and have no mercy.

The sound of them is like the roaring of the sea;
they ride on horses,

arrayed as a man for battle
against you, O daughter of Babylon!

⁴³ “The king of Babylon heard the report of them,
and his hands fell helpless;
anguish seized him,
pain as of a woman in labor.

⁴⁴ “Behold, like a lion coming up
from the thicket of the Jordan against
a perennial pasture, I will suddenly
make them run away from her, and
I will appoint over her whomever
I choose. For who is like me? Who
will summon me? What shepherd
can stand before me? ⁴⁵ Therefore
hear the plan that the Lord has made

against Babylon, and the purposes
that he has formed against the land of
the Chaldeans: Surely the little ones
of their flock shall be dragged away;
surely their fold shall be appalled
at their fate. ⁴⁶ At the sound of the
capture of Babylon the earth shall
tremble, and her cry shall be heard
among the nations.”

THE UTTER DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON

51 Thus says the Lord:

“Behold, I will stir up the spirit of a destroyer
against Babylon,

against the inhabitants of Leb-kamai,

² and I will send to Babylon winnowers,

and they shall winnow her,
and they shall empty her land,
when they come against her from every side
on the day of trouble.

³ Let not the archer bend his bow,
and let him not stand up in his armor.

Spare not her young men;
devote to destruction all her army.

⁴ They shall fall down slain in the land of the Chaldeans,
and wounded in her streets.

⁵ For Israel and Judah have not been forsaken
by their God, the Lord of hosts,
but the land of the Chaldeans is full of guilt
against the Holy One of Israel.

⁶ "Flee from the midst of Babylon;
let every one save his life!
Be not cut off in her punishment,
for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance,
the repayment he is rendering her.

⁷ Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand,
making all the earth drunken;
the nations drank of her wine;
therefore the nations went mad.

⁸ Suddenly Babylon has fallen and been broken;
wail for her!

Take balm for her pain;
perhaps she may be healed.

⁹ We would have healed Babylon,
but she was not healed.

Forsake her, and let us go

each to his own country,
for her judgment has reached up to heaven
and has been lifted up even to the skies.

¹⁰ The Lord has brought about our vindication;
come, let us declare in Zion
the work of the Lord our God.

¹¹ “Sharpen the arrows!
Take up the shields!

The Lord has stirred up the spirit of destroy it, for that is the vengeance
the kings of the Medes, because his of the Lord, the vengeance for his
purpose concerning Babylon is to temple.

¹² “Set up a standard against the walls of Babylon;
make the watch strong;
set up watchmen;
prepare the ambushes;
for the Lord has both planned and done
what he spoke concerning the inhabitants of Babylon.

¹³ O you who dwell by many waters,
rich in treasures,
your end has come;
the thread of your life is cut.

¹⁴ The Lord of hosts has sworn by himself:
Surely I will fill you with men, as many as locusts,
and they shall raise the shout of victory over you.

¹⁵ “It is he who made the earth by his power,
who established the world by his wisdom,
and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

¹⁶ When he utters his voice there is a tumult of waters in the heavens,
and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth.

He makes lightning for the rain,
and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

¹⁷ Every man is stupid and without knowledge;
every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols,
for his images are false,
and there is no breath in them.

¹⁸ They are worthless, a work of delusion;
at the time of their punishment they shall perish.

¹⁹ Not like these is he who is the portion of Jacob,
for he is the one who formed all things,
and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance;
the Lord of hosts is his name.

²⁰ “You are my hammer and weapon of war:
with you I break nations in pieces;
with you I destroy kingdoms;

²¹ with you I break in pieces the horse and his rider;
with you I break in pieces the chariot and the charioteer;

²² with you I break in pieces man and woman;
with you I break in pieces the old man and the youth;
with you I break in pieces the young man and the young woman;

²³ with you I break in pieces the shepherd and his flock;
with you I break in pieces the farmer and his team;
with you I break in pieces governors and commanders.

²⁴ “I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea before your very eyes
for all the evil that they have done in Zion, declares the Lord.

²⁵ “Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain,
declares the Lord,

which destroys the whole earth;
I will stretch out my hand against you,
and roll you down from the crags,

and make you a burnt mountain.

²⁶ No stone shall be taken from you for a corner
and no stone for a foundation,
but you shall be a perpetual waste,
declares the Lord.

²⁷ “Set up a standard on the earth;
blow the trumpet among the nations;
prepare the nations for war against her;
summon against her the kingdoms,
Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz;
appoint a marshal against her;
bring up horses like bristling locusts.

²⁸ Prepare the nations for war against her,
the kings of the Medes, with their governors and deputies,
and every land under their dominion.

²⁹ The land trembles and writhes in pain,
for the Lord’s purposes against Babylon stand,
to make the land of Babylon a desolation,
without inhabitant.

³⁰ The warriors of Babylon have ceased fighting;
they remain in their strongholds;
their strength has failed;
they have become women;
her dwellings are on fire;
her bars are broken.

³¹ One runner runs to meet another,
and one messenger to meet another,
to tell the king of Babylon
that his city is taken on every side;

³² the fords have been seized,

the marshes are burned with fire,
and the soldiers are in panic.

³³ For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel:

The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor

at the time when it is trodden;

yet a little while

and the time of her harvest will come.”

³⁴ “Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon has devoured me;

he has crushed me;

he has made me an empty vessel;

he has swallowed me like a monster;

he has filled his stomach with my delicacies;

he has rinsed me out.

³⁵ The violence done to me and to my kinsmen be upon Babylon,”

let the inhabitant of Zion say.

“My blood be upon the inhabitants of Chaldea,”

let Jerusalem say.

³⁶ Therefore thus says the Lord:

“Behold, I will plead your cause

and take vengeance for you.

I will dry up her sea

and make her fountain dry,

³⁷ and Babylon shall become a heap of ruins,

the haunt of jackals,

a horror and a hissing,

without inhabitant.

³⁸ “They shall roar together like lions;

they shall growl like lions’ cubs.

³⁹ While they are inflamed I will prepare them a feast

and make them drunk, that they may become merry,

then sleep a perpetual sleep
and not wake, declares the Lord.

⁴⁰ I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter,
like rams and male goats.

⁴¹ “How Babylon is taken,
the praise of the whole earth seized!

How Babylon has become
a horror among the nations!

⁴² The sea has come up on Babylon;
she is covered with its tumultuous waves.

⁴³ Her cities have become a horror,
a land of drought and a desert,
a land in which no one dwells,
and through which no son of man passes.

⁴⁴ And I will punish Bel in Babylon,
and take out of his mouth what he has swallowed.

The nations shall no longer flow to him;
the wall of Babylon has fallen.

⁴⁵ “Go out of the midst of her, my people!
Let every one save his life
from the fierce anger of the Lord!

⁴⁶ Let not your heart faint, and be not fearful
at the report heard in the land,
when a report comes in one year
and afterward a report in another year,
and violence is in the land,
and ruler is against ruler.

⁴⁷ “Therefore, behold, the days are coming
when I will punish the images of Babylon;
her whole land shall be put to shame,

and all her slain shall fall in the midst of her.

⁴⁸ Then the heavens and the earth,

and all that is in them,

shall sing for joy over Babylon,

for the destroyers shall come against them out of the north,

declares the Lord.

⁴⁹ Babylon must fall for the slain of Israel,

just as for Babylon have fallen the slain of all the earth.

⁵⁰ “You who have escaped from the sword,

go, do not stand still!

Remember the Lord from far away,

and let Jerusalem come into your mind:

⁵¹ “We are put to shame, for we have heard reproach;

dishonor has covered our face,

for foreigners have come

into the holy places of the Lord’s house.’

⁵² “Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,

when I will execute judgment upon her images,

and through all her land

the wounded shall groan.

⁵³ Though Babylon should mount up to heaven,

and though she should fortify her strong height,

yet destroyers would come from me against her,

declares the Lord.

⁵⁴ “A voice! A cry from Babylon!

The noise of great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans!

⁵⁵ For the Lord is laying Babylon waste

and stilling her mighty voice.

Their waves roar like many waters;

the noise of their voice is raised,

⁵⁶ for a destroyer has come upon her,
upon Babylon;
her warriors are taken;
their bows are broken in pieces,
for the Lord is a God of recompense;
he will surely repay.

⁵⁷ I will make drunk her officials and her wise men,
her governors, her commanders, and her warriors;
they shall sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake,
declares the King, whose name is the Lord of hosts.

⁵⁸ “Thus says the Lord of hosts:
The broad wall of Babylon
shall be leveled to the ground,
and her high gates
shall be burned with fire.
The peoples labor for nothing,
and the nations weary themselves only for fire.”

⁵⁹ The word that Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, when he went with Zedekiah king of Judah to Babylon, in the fourth year of his reign. Seraiah was the quartermaster. ⁶⁰ Jeremiah wrote in a book all the disaster that should come upon Babylon, all these words that are written concerning Babylon. ⁶¹ And Jeremiah said to Seraiah: “When you come to Babylon, see that you read all these words, Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

⁶² and say, ‘O Lord, you have said concerning this place that you will cut it off, so that nothing shall dwell in it, neither man nor beast, and it shall be desolate forever.’ ⁶³ When you finish reading this book, tie a stone to it and cast it into the midst of the Euphrates, ⁶⁴ and say, ‘Thus shall Babylon sink, to rise no more, because of the disaster that I am bringing upon her, and they shall become exhausted.’”

THE FALL OF JERUSALEM RECOUNTED

⁵² Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. ² And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. ³ For because of the anger of the Lord it came to the point in Jerusalem and Judah that he cast them out from his presence.

And Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon. ⁴ And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came with all his army against Jerusalem, and laid siege to it. And they built siegeworks all around it. ⁵ So the city was besieged till the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. ⁶ On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was so severe in the city that there

was no food for the people of the land.

⁷ Then a breach was made in the city, and all the men of war fled and went out from the city by night by the way of a gate between the two walls, by the king's garden, and the Chaldeans were around the city. And they went in the direction of the Arabah. ⁸ But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him. ⁹ Then they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he passed sentence on him. ¹⁰ The king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and also slaughtered all the officials of Judah at Riblah. ¹¹ He put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in chains, and the king of Babylon took him to Babylon, and put him in prison till the day of his death.

THE TEMPLE BURNED

¹² In the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month—that was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of

Babylon—Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard, who served the king of Babylon, entered Jerusalem.

¹³ And he burned the house of the Lord, and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down. ¹⁴ And all the army of the Chaldeans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down all the walls around Jerusalem.

¹⁵ And Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive some of the poorest of the people and the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon, together with the rest of the artisans. ¹⁶ But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and plowmen.

¹⁷ And the pillars of bronze that were in the house of the Lord, and the stands and the bronze sea that were in the house of the Lord, the Chaldeans broke in pieces, and carried all the bronze to Babylon. ¹⁸ And they took away the pots and the shovels and the snuffers and the basins and the dishes for incense and all the vessels of bronze used in the temple service;

¹⁹ also the small bowls and the fire pans and the basins and the pots and the lampstands and the dishes for incense and the bowls for drink offerings. What was of gold the captain of the guard took away as gold, and what was of silver, as silver. ²⁰ As for the two pillars, the one sea, the twelve bronze bulls that were under the sea, and the stands, which Solomon the king had made for the house of the Lord, the bronze of all these things was beyond weight. ²¹ As for the pillars, the height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, its circumference was twelve cubits, and its thickness was four fingers, and it was hollow. ²² On it was a capital of bronze. The height of the one capital was five cubits. A network and pomegranates, all of bronze, were around the capital. And the second pillar had the same, with pomegranates. ²³ There were ninety-six pomegranates on the sides; all the pomegranates were a hundred upon the network all around.

THE PEOPLE EXILED TO BABYLON

²⁴ And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest and the

three keepers of the threshold; ²⁵ and from the city he took an officer who had been in command of the men

of war, and seven men of the king's council, who were found in the city; and the secretary of the commander of the army, who mustered the people of the land; and sixty men of the people of the land, who were found in the midst of the city. ²⁶ And Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. ²⁷ And the king of Babylon struck them down and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was taken into exile out of its land.

²⁸ This is the number of the people whom Nebuchadnezzar carried away captive: in the seventh year, 3,023 Judeans; ²⁹ in the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar he carried away captive from Jerusalem 832 persons; ³⁰ in the twenty-third year of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive of the Judeans 745 persons; all the persons were 4,600.

JEHOIACHIN RELEASED FROM PRISON

³¹ And in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-fifth day of the month, Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, graciously freed Jehoiachin king of Judah and brought him out of prison. ³² And he spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat above the

seats of the kings who were with him in Babylon. ³³ So Jehoiachin put off his prison garments. And every day of his life he dined regularly at the king's table, ³⁴ and for his allowance, a regular allowance was given him by the king, according to his daily needs, until the day of his death, as long as he lived.

