



Arabic Simplified Text

v4.9

Jeremiah

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Jeremiah

,This is the message of Jeremiah son of Hilkiyah, who wrote this. He was a priest¹ 1
Yahweh started² .from the town of Anathoth in the area where the tribe of Benjamin lives
.to give him these messages when Josiah had been ruling Judah for almost thirteen years
Yahweh continued to give him messages when Josiah's son Jehoiakim was the king, and³
.he continued to do that until Zedekiah had been the king of Judah for almost eleven years
.It was in the fifth month of that year that the people of Jerusalem were exiled to Babylonia

,One day Yahweh gave me this message⁴

.I knew you before I finished forming you in your mother's womb⁵

,I set you apart for my honor before you were born
".and I appointed you to be my prophet for all the nations

I replied, "O, Yahweh my God, do you not see that I am not qualified to speak for⁶
"!you? I am very young

Yahweh replied, "Do not say that you are too young, because you must go to everyone to⁷
And you⁸ .whom I will send you, and you must tell them everything that I tell you to say
must not be afraid of the people to whom you will speak, because I will protect you from
"!being harmed by them. This will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it

Then it was as though Yahweh touched my mouth and said, "Listen to me! I have put my⁹
.Today I am appointing you to warn nations and kingdoms¹⁰ .message into your mouth
You will tell them that I will completely destroy and get rid of some of them and that I will
".establish others and cause them to be prosperous

"?Then Yahweh showed something to me, and said, "Jeremiah, what do you see¹¹

".I replied, "I see a branch from an almond tree

Yahweh said, "That is correct. And because the word for 'almond' resembles the¹²
word for 'watching', it means that I am watching what will happen, and I will make certain
".that what I have said to you about destroying nations will happen

"?Then Yahweh spoke to me again and said, "What do you see now¹³

”I replied, “I see a pot full of boiling water. It is in the north, tipping toward me

Yahweh replied, “Yes! It means that from the north great trouble will spread over¹⁴
.this land, like boiling water pouring from a pot

:Listen to what I say¹⁵

I am summoning the armies of the kingdoms that are north of Judah to come to
.Jerusalem

Their kings will set up their thrones at the gates of this city to indicate that they are now
.the kings of Judah

Their armies will attack and break down the walls of this city, and they will do the
.same thing to all the other towns in Judah

;I will punish my people because of all the evil things that they have done¹⁶
.they have abandoned me and they offer offerings of worship to false gods
!They worship idols that they have made with their own hands

So, get up and put on your clothes to get ready for action! Then go to the people of¹⁷
Judah and tell them everything that I tell you to say. Do not be afraid of them, because if

But¹⁸ !you are afraid of them, I will punish you as an example right in front of them
listen! I will cause you to be strong, like a city that has strong walls around it. You will be
as strong as an iron pillar or a bronze wall. Even the royal officials, the priests, and the
They will oppose you, but they will not¹⁹ .general populace will not be able to defeat you
be able to defeat you, because I will be with you and will protect you. That will surely
”!happen because I, Yahweh, have said it

to proclaim to everyone in Jerusalem. He² Yahweh gave me another message¹ 2
,said that I should tell them this

I, Yahweh, remember in your favor that you followed me and trusted in our covenant“
.long ago

;You tried to please me like a bride tries to please her husband
,You loved me
.and you followed me through the desert

;At that time you Israelites were set apart to me³
.you belonged to me like the first part of the harvests belong to me
,I promised to punish all those who harmed you, my people
.and send disasters on them

”.This is the way it will always be since I, Yahweh, said that it would happen

Listen to what Yahweh says, descendants of Jacob, all you people of Israel. You must⁴
.listen to what Yahweh says

,He says⁵

?What sin did I commit that caused your ancestors to turn far away from me“

,They worshiped worthless idols

.and they themselves became worthless

,They should have said⁶

We need Yahweh. He is the one who brought us safely out of Egypt‘

.and led us through a desert plain where there were a lot of pits

We need Yahweh. He is the one who led us

,where there was no water and where it was very dangerous

’.through a land where no one lives or even travels

,But when I, Yahweh, brought you into a very fertile land⁷

in order that you could enjoy all the fruit and other good things that you would

,harvest

you caused the land that I promised to give to you to be unfit for me

.and to become disgusting to me

Your priests also did not ask⁸

.if I was still with them

!Those who teach God’s laws are not faithful to me themselves

.And your leaders have rebelled against me

,Your prophets gave you messages from their god Baal

.and they worship worthless idols

.So I, Yahweh, will accuse you in court⁹

!In future years, I will also bring your children and your grandchildren to trial

.That will happen because I, Yahweh, have said that it will happen

,If you go west to the island of Cyprus¹⁰

,or if you go east to Kedar land

,and if you ask people in those places

they will tell you that no people from their countries have ever done the wicked

!things that you people have done

No people of any nation have ever abandoned their gods that they thought were¹¹

glorious

,and started to worship gods that are not really gods

,but you people have abandoned me, your glorious God
 .and are worshiping gods that are useless

¹²It is as though everything in the sky is dismayed about what you have done
 it is as though they tremble and are very horrified. I, Yahweh, see and declare this to
 .you

¹³:You, my people, have done two evil things
 ,you have rejected me, the one who is like a fountain where you can obtain fresh water
 and you are worshiping gods that are like pits in the ground
 .that are cracked and which are not able to hold any water

¹⁴;You Israelite people, you were certainly not slaves when you were born
 ?so why were you captured by your enemies

¹⁵,Your enemies roared like lions
 .and they destroyed your land
 ,Now your towns have been burned
 .and no one lives in them

¹⁶Soldiers from Memphis and Tahpenes, cities in Egypt, have defeated you
 .and shaved your heads to show that you are their slaves

¹⁷,But it is because you abandoned me, Yahweh your God
 .that these disasters have happened to you, since I had been leading you to safety

¹⁸So why are you trying to make an alliance with the rulers of Egypt who live near the
 ?Shihor

Why are you trying to make an alliance with the rulers of Assyria who live near the
 ?Euphrates River

¹⁹.It is because you have been very wicked that I will punish you
 .It is because you have turned away from me that I will condemn you
 When I do that, you will realize that bitter and evil things will happen to you because
 ,you have forsaken me, Yahweh, your God
 .and you no longer have an awesome respect for me
 That will certainly happen because I, the Lord, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies
 .in heaven, have said it

²⁰.Long ago, you stopped obeying me and you would not allow me to lead you
 .You refused to worship me, even though I saved you from being slaves
 .Instead, you worship idols that are under trees on the top of every hill
 You love and worship those idols instead of me just like an unfaithful man loves a
 .prostitute instead of his wife

,It is as though you were the best grapevine that I could plant²¹
 .and I planted you so you would grow from the very best seed
 So how could you change yourself from the best grapevine into becoming like a vine
 ?that is disgusting and rotten
 ,Your guilt from your sins is like very bad stains on a cloth²²
 .and you cannot get rid of those stains even by using very strong soap
 .This is true because I, Yahweh, have said it
 .You say that you have not sinned²³
 You claim to be acceptable to God
 .and that you have not worshiped the images of Baal
 But think about the disgusting things that you do very eagerly in Hinnom Valley outside
 .Jerusalem
 You are like desperate female camels running here and there to find male camels to
 .mate with
 .You are like wild female donkeys that live in the desert²⁴
 ,They sniff the air to find where the male donkeys are
 .and there is no one who can restrain their lust
 The male donkeys that want to mate with them only wear themselves out chasing after
 ;them
 .because at mating time they find them easily
 You constantly run here and there to find idols to worship, with the result that your²⁵
 ,sandals are worn out
 .and your throats have become dry
 ,I told you to stop doing that but you said that you could not stop
 and you said that you loved those foreign gods
 !and had to worship them
 .A robber is disgraced when he is caught²⁶
 And all of you, including your kings and priests and prophets, are similarly
 .disgraced
 ',You call a piece of wood that is carved to become a sacred idol, your 'father²⁷
 '.and you call a stone that you have set up, your 'mother
 You have rejected me
 ,but when you experience troubles
 !you call for me to rescue you
 ?Why do you not shout to the gods that you made²⁸

Why do you not plead with them to rescue you
 ?when you experience disasters
 !For you have as many gods as you have cities and towns in Judah
 ,You complain that it was wrong for me not to have rescued you²⁹
 but you have all rebelled against me, Yahweh, the one who is speaking to you right
 .now
 ,I punished some of you³⁰
 .but you did not learn anything from my doing that
 ,Instead you have killed many of the prophets that I sent to you
 .like fierce lions kill other animals
 .You people of Israel, pay attention to what I say³¹
 ;I have certainly never abandoned you in a desert
 .I have never left you in a very dark land
 So, why do you, my people, say that you are free from my control
 ?and that you will not return to worship me anymore
 ,A young woman would certainly never forget to wear her jewelry³²
 ,and a bride would never forget to wear her wedding dress
 .but you my people have forgotten me for many years
 .You know how to easily find gods from other countries whom you can love³³
 You can find them more easily than a prostitute can find men to sleep with. You
 !could teach her about infidelity
 You also have the blood of poor people on your clothes; the very people you have³⁴
 ;murdered
 !people who were innocent! You did not catch them robbing you
 !Yet you say, 'I have done nothing wrong'³⁵
 '.I am sure that Yahweh will not be angry with me for much longer
 But I will punish you severely
 .for claiming that you have not sinned
 ,Previously you requested the army of Assyria to help you³⁶
 .but they were not able to help you
 ,Now you have requested the army of Egypt to help you
 .but they will not be able to help you, either
 ,They will capture you, and you will be their prisoners³⁷

.very ashamed with your hands on your heads
,That will happen because Yahweh has rejected those nations that you are relying on
”.and they will not be able to help you at all

,People know that if a man divorces his wife and then she marries another man“¹ 3

.her first husband certainly must not take her back again to be his wife again

.She would be ceremonially unclean and she has broken the law of Yahweh

.This nation is like this woman

!But you have more idols than prostitutes have men whom they have slept with

.So, why should I accept you if you return to me?” it is Yahweh who says this

.Look up at the barren hilltops“²

On every hilltop you have given yourselves to the idols

.in the way a prostitute gives herself to her lovers

You sat along the roadsides like an Arab nomad who is always waiting in the desert for
;someone to come

.but you are waiting to have sex with those who pass by

,Your unfaithfulness is the worship of idols

.and your prostitution is just like your idol worship

,The whole land is made unacceptable to Yahweh

and your worship of idols is your prostitution and your wickedness is what made
.you unclean

.That is why I have not sent you any rain at the times of the year when you needed it³

But you are like prostitutes

.who are not at all ashamed for what they have done

!Now each of you says to me, ‘You are my father⁴

!You have loved me ever since I was young

’!So surely you will not be angry with me forever⁵

!You promised you would not obey me, and you did what you said

!And you sinned over and over again

”!But you will not quit sinning

One day when Josiah was the king of Judah, Yahweh said to me, “Have you seen⁶
what the people of Israel have done? They have turned away from me, like a woman who
has abandoned her husband and sleeps with other men. They have gone up on every hilltop
I thought that they would return to⁷ .and under every shady tree and worshiped idols there
.me, but they did not. And their brothers, the people of Judah, were watching all of this

So I sent the people of Israel away to other countries, as a man writes a note saying that⁸
he is divorcing his wife and then sends her away because she has committed adultery. But I
.realized that, just as the people of Israel, the people of Judah were not at all afraid of me
Instead, they acted just as the people of Israel had done. They also turned away from me
.and began worshiping idols, just as women who leave their husbands and go to other men
They did not care that worshiping idols offended me, so they have made the entire land⁹
The people of Judah have¹⁰ .unacceptable to me by worshiping idols of wood and stone
,pretended to return to me, but they have not been sincere. This is true because I, Yahweh
”.have said it

,Then Yahweh said to me, “Jeremiah, the people of Israel have turned away from me¹¹
So go and tell this to the people of¹² .but what the people of Judah have done is worse
,Israel

:Yahweh says this to you Israelite people who have turned away from him‘

.I am merciful

.I will not continue to be angry with you forever

.So return to me

,But you must admit that you are guilty¹³

,and that you have rebelled against me, Yahweh, your God

,that you have worshiped idols under big trees everywhere

.and you have not obeyed me

.You have turned away from me

,But you belong to me¹⁴

!so come back to me, my children

,If you do, I will take you, one from each city and two from each clan

.and bring you back to Jerusalem

If you do that, I will appoint for you leaders with whom I am pleased¹⁵

.who will guide you well because they will know and understand what pleases me

,And when you become very numerous in your land¹⁶

you will not need to talk about the Sacred Chest that contained the Ten

.Commandments

,You will not think about it

’.and you will not want to make a new one

.At that time people will say that my throne is in Jerusalem¹⁷

,People from all nations will come there to worship me
 and they will no longer stubbornly do the evil things that they desire in their inner
 .beings
 At that time you people of Israel and Judah will return from being exiled in lands to¹⁸
 .the north
 .You will return to the land that I gave to your ancestors to belong to them forever
 .You people of Israel, I wanted to accept you to be my children¹⁹
 .I wanted to give you this delightful land
 !It is a land more desirable than the land of any other nation
 ,I wanted you to call me your father
 .and I wanted you to never stop honoring me
 ”.But you have abandoned me like women who have abandoned their husbands²⁰
 .That is what Yahweh said, and I told it to the people of Israel
 .Then God said, “People will hear a noise on the barren hilltops²¹
 It will be the noise made by people weeping and pleading for God to be merciful to
 .them
 ,They will be admitting that they have forgotten Yahweh their God
 .and that they turned away from behaving as God wanted them to
 !You Israelite people, come back to me²²
 ”.If you do that, I will cause you to never turn away from me again
 ,The people will reply, “We are returning to you
 .because you are Yahweh, our God
 .When we worshiped idols on the mountains, we did not get any help²³
 Even though we shouted very loudly in our worship, every promise we believed
 .turned out to be lies and only lies
 !We now know that trusting in Yahweh our God is the only way Israel will be rescued
 From the time when we were young, the shameful god Baal has taken away from us²⁴
 .everything that our ancestors worked hard to acquire
 He has taken away their flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, their sons and their
 .daughters
 ,So, now we should lie down feeling very ashamed²⁵
 ,because we and our ancestors have sinned against Yahweh our God
 ”.and we have never obeyed him

Yahweh says, “You Israelite people, if you come back to anyone, it should be to¹ 4
 .me
 ,If you get rid of those detestable idols
 ,if you do not go away from me again
 ’,and if you declare, ‘Just as surely as Yahweh lives²
 ,when you take your oaths
 ,and if you are truthful, just, and righteous
 then the people in the other nations of the world
 ,will ask me to bless them as I have blessed you
 ”.and they will all come and honor me
 ,This is what Yahweh says to the people of Jerusalem and the other cities in Judah³
 Cause your inner beings to be ready to receive my messages“
 .like farmers plow up hard ground in order that they can plant seed in it
 ,Just as farmers do not waste good seed by sowing seeds among thorny plants
 I do not want to waste my time telling you messages that you are not ready to
 .receive
 .Show that your inner beings and your minds are devoted to me⁴
 If you do not do that, my being angry with you
 because of all the sins that you have committed
 .will be like a fire that will be impossible to extinguish
 ;Declare this to all the people in Jerusalem and the rest of Judea⁵
 .blow the trumpets everywhere in the land to warn the people
 Tell them that they should flee to
 .the cities that have high walls around them
 Shout to the people of Jerusalem⁶
 ,and run away now. Do not delay
 because I am about to bring a terrible disaster upon you
 .that will come from the north
 An army that has destroyed many nations will attack you⁷
 .like a lion that comes out of its den to attack other animals
 The soldiers of that army
 .are already marching toward your land
 .They will destroy your cities and leave them without any people still living in them

So, put on rough clothes⁸

and weep and beat your breasts

,to show that you are very sorry for what you have done

.because Yahweh is still very angry with us

Yahweh declares that at the time when Yahweh punishes you, the king of Judah and⁹

.all his officials will be very afraid

”.The priests and the prophets will be terrified

Then I replied, “Yahweh my God, you completely deceived the people by telling¹⁰
them that there would be peace in Jerusalem, but now our enemies are ready to slaughter us

”!with their swords

,When that happens, Yahweh will say to the people of Jerusalem¹¹

.A huge army will come to attack you“

.They will not be like a gentle breeze that separates the wheat from the chaff

.They will be like a very hot wind that blows in from the desert

.They will be like a strong blast that I will send¹²

”.Now I am declaring that I will punish you

;And the people in Jerusalem will say, “Our enemies are about to rush down on us¹³

.their chariots are like whirlwinds

.Their horses are faster than eagles

!It will be terrible for us

,You people of Jerusalem cleanse your inner beings¹⁴

.in order that Yahweh will rescue you

?How long will you continue to think about doing evil deeds

From the city of Dan in the far north to the hills of Ephraim a few miles north of¹⁵

”.Jerusalem messengers are proclaiming that disasters are coming

,So I said this to the people in other nations¹⁶

,and also announced it in Jerusalem

;Yahweh says that an army is coming to Jerusalem from far away“

.they will shout a battle cry against the cities of Judah

They will set up tents around Jerusalem like people set up temporary shelters around¹⁷

.a field at harvest time

.That will happen because the people of Judah have rebelled against me

;You will be punished very severely¹⁸

.it will be as though a sword has stabbed your hearts
 But you are causing those things to happen to you
 ”.because of the evil things that you have done
 ;Then I said to myself, “I am extremely anguished¹⁹
 .the pain in my inner being is very severe
 !My heart beats wildly
 But I cannot remain silent
 because I have heard our enemies blowing their trumpets
 !to announce that the battle against Judah will start immediately
 Disasters will occur one after another²⁰
 .until the whole land is ruined
 ;Suddenly all our tents will be destroyed
 .even the curtains inside the tents will be ripped apart
 ?How long will this battle continue²¹
 How long will I continue to see the enemy battle flags
 ?and hear the sound of their trumpets being blown
 !Yahweh says: My people are very foolish²²
 .They do not have a relationship with me
 They are like stupid children
 .who do not understand anything
 ,They very cleverly do what is wrong
 .but they do not know how to do what is good
 God gave me a vision in which I saw²³
 .that the earth was barren and without form
 ,I looked at the sky
 .and there was no light there
 ,I looked at the mountains and hills²⁴
 .and they shook and moved from side to side
 I looked and saw that all there were no more people²⁵
 .and all the birds had flown away
 .I looked and saw that the fields that previously were fertile had become a desert²⁶
 ;The cities were all ruined
 ”.they had all been destroyed by Yahweh because he was extremely angry
 ,This is what Yahweh is saying²⁷

,the entire land of Judah will be ruined“
 .but I will not destroy it completely
 ,I will do to my people what I said that I would do²⁸
 .and I will not change my mind
 So when that happens, it will be as though the earth will mourn
 .and the sky will become very dark
 ,When the people hear the sound of the enemy cavalry and archers marching²⁹
 .they will be terrified as they flee from their cities
 ,Some of them will find places to hide in the bushes
 .and others will run toward the quarries to escape being killed by their enemies
 ;All the cities in Judah will be abandoned
 .not one person will remain in them
 ,So you who will surely be destroyed³⁰
 ?what will you do then
 Even though you have worn beautiful clothes and jewelry
 ,and paint around your eyes
 ,those things will not help you
 ,because the people in other countries that you think love you really despise you
 .and they will try to kill you
 ,It is as though I already hear the people in Jerusalem crying very loudly³¹
 ;as a woman cries when she is giving birth to her first child
 ,she gasps for breath and pleads for someone to help her
 and she shouts, ‘Something terrible is happening to me; they are about to murder
 ”!me

.Yahweh said to the people of Jerusalem, “Go up and down every street¹ **5**
 ,Search in the marketplaces to find people who do what is fair
 .who try to be faithful to me
 ,If you find even one person like that
 .I will forgive the people of Jerusalem and not destroy their city
 ,But when the people there swear an official oath by Yahweh’s life²
 ”.they are lying
 .So I prayed, “Yahweh, you are certainly searching for people who are faithful to you³
 .You punished your people, but they did not pay any attention
 .You crushed them, but they ignored what you were telling them to do

They were extremely stubborn
 ”.and refused to return to you
 Then I thought, “We cannot expect these people to act righteously, because they are⁴
 ;poor
 .they do not have any sense
 ;They do not know the way Yahweh wants them to conduct their lives
 .they do not know what God requires them to do
 ,So, I will go and talk to their leaders⁵
 ”.because they surely know how God wants them to conduct their lives
 ,But they also have stopped obeying Yahweh
 .and they will not allow him to lead them
 ;Because of that, lions will come out of the forests and kill them⁶
 ;wolves from the desert will attack them
 .leopards that lurk outside their cities will maul anyone who walks outside the cities
 Those things will happen because the people have sinned very much against God
 .and have turned away from him very frequently
 ;Yahweh says, “I cannot forgive these people⁷
 .even their children have abandoned me
 When they solemnly declare something, they ask their gods to show that what they say
 .is true
 ,I gave my people everything that they needed
 but they often went to the high places on the hills, where they worshiped their idols
 .and committed adultery there
 ,Just like well fed male horses neigh, wanting to mate with female horses⁸
 .each of the men desires to sleep with his neighbor’s wife
 ?Should I not punish them for this⁹
 !I will certainly get revenge on this nation whose people behave like that
 .The people of Judah and Israel are like a vineyard¹⁰
 Go along the rows in their vineyards
 ,and get rid of most of the people
 .but do not kill all of them
 ,These people do not belong to me
 ,so get rid of them
 .like a gardener lops off branches from a vine

.The people of Israel and Judah have turned away from me completely¹¹
,They have lied about me and said¹²
!He cannot do anything to help us‘
!He will not punish us
!He will not send disasters on us
!We will not experience wars or famines
!What God’s prophets say is nothing but wind¹³
!They do not have messages from God
””!And because they have not believed me, all of these things will happen to them
So, this is what Yahweh, the commander of the armies of angels in heaven, has said¹⁴
,to me
,Because my people are saying those things“
,I will give you a message to tell them that will be like a fire
!and these people will be like wood that the fire will burn up completely
:Listen to Yahweh’s declaration, you people of Israel¹⁵
.I will bring the army of a distant nation to attack you
.It is a very powerful nation that has existed for a long time
,They speak a language that you do not know
.and which you will not be able to understand
,Their soldiers are all very strong¹⁶
.and the arrows from their quivers will send many Judean men to their graves
,They will eat the food that you have harvested from your fields¹⁷
.even though it should be your own children who eat your bread
.They will kill your flocks of sheep and herds of cattle
.They will eat your grapes and your figs
They will also destroy your cities that have high walls around them
.and kill the people with their swords
.But even when those things happen, I will not get rid of all of you¹⁸
’?And when the people ask, ‘Why is Yahweh doing this to us¹⁹
,you will tell them, ‘You rejected him and worshiped foreign gods in your own land
””.so now you will become slaves of foreigners in a land that is not your land
,Yahweh instructed me to proclaim this message to the people of Israel and Judah²⁰

!Listen to this, you people who so are foolish, and you who have no understanding“²¹

.You have eyes, but you cannot see

.Yes, you have ears, but you cannot hear anything

?Why do you not have any awesome respect for me²²

!You should tremble when you are in my presence

I, Yahweh, am the one who put a barrier along the shores

.so that the waters of the ocean cannot cross it and flood the land

.The waves roll and roar, but they cannot go past that barrier

.But you people are not like the waves that obey me²³

,You people are very stubborn and rebellious

.and have constantly turned away from me

,You do not say to yourselves²⁴

,Let us have an awesome respect for Yahweh our God‘

,the one who sends us rain at the times that we need it

’.the one who causes the grain to become ripe at the harvest season

It is because of the wrong things that you have done, that those good things have not²⁵

.happened

It is because of the sins that you have committed that you have been prevented from

.receiving those blessings

Among my people are wicked people who hide along the roads to ambush people²⁶

.like men who hunt birds put nets to catch them

,Like a hunter has a cage full of birds that he has captured²⁷

their homes are full of things that they have gotten by deceiving others

.so now they are very rich and powerful

They are big and fat²⁸

because they eat rich food, and there is no limit to the evil deeds that they have

.done

In court, they do not help ordinary people get judges to decide fairly for them, and

.they do not try to defend orphans

.They do not even want to listen to them in court

.So I will certainly punish them for doing those things²⁹

.I, Yahweh, declare that I will certainly get revenge on their nation

:Very appalling things are happening in this country³⁰

Prophets speak only lies³¹

,and priests rule by their own authority
!yet you people like that
?But when you start to experience disasters, what will you do

,You people in Jerusalem who are from the tribe of Benjamin¹ **6**
!flee from this city
!Blow the trumpets in the city of Tekoa south of Jerusalem
Send up a smoke signal in the city of Beth Hakerem
!to warn the people of the coming danger
,A powerful army will come against you from the north
.and they will cause great destruction
,Jerusalem is like a beautiful woman²
.but it will soon be destroyed
Enemy kings, the shepherds of foreign people groups, will come with their armies³
,and set up their tents around the city
and each king will choose a part of the city for his soldiers to destroy as shepherds
.divide their pastures for their flocks of sheep
,The kings will tell their troops⁴
.Make the sacrifices necessary to get ready for battle‘
,We should attack them before noontime
,but even if we arrive there late in the afternoon
we will attack them at night⁵
’’.and tear down their fortresses

,Yahweh, the commander of the armies of angels in heaven, says this⁶
I will command those soldiers to cut down the trees outside Jerusalem“
!and to build ramps up to the top of the city walls
This city must be punished
.because everyone there continually oppresses others
,Its people keep doing wicked deeds⁷
.just as a well keeps producing water
.The noise from people doing violent and destructive actions is heard everywhere
.I continually see people who are suffering and wounded
,Listen to what I am warning you, you people of Jerusalem⁸
because if you do not listen, I will reject you

,and cause your land to become desolate

”.a land where no one lives

,Yahweh, the commander of the angel armies, says this⁹

Your enemies will cause your country to become as desolate as a vineyard from“
.which all the grapes have been completely stripped from the vines
Their soldiers will seize the possessions of those who remain in Israel after the others
have been exiled
.like farmers go to the vines again to pick any grapes that were left

?Who can I, Jeremiah, speak to? Who would listen to me, even if I spoke to them¹⁰

.The ears of the Israelite people are unable to hear what I have to tell them

.See! the message Yahweh gave me to tell them is offensive to them

”!When they hear the message of Yahweh, they hate what I tell them

,After hearing this I became very angry¹¹

.as Yahweh is angry, and I could not hold myself back any longer

,So Yahweh said to me

.Tell the children in the streets and the young men who gather together“

;Tell the men and their wives

.tell the very old people, also

,Tell the men that I will give their houses to their enemies¹²

,and I will give their property and their wives to them, also

!when I punish the people who live in this land

,Everyone is trying to get money by tricking others¹³

.from the the least important people to the most important people

.Even my prophets and priests, they all lie to get what they want

They act as though the sins of my people are like small wounds that they can easily¹⁴

.treat

They tell the people that everything will go well with them, but that is not true; things

.will not go well with them

They should be ashamed about the disgusting things that they do, but they are not¹⁵

.ashamed at all. They do not even know how to blush

So, they also will be among those who will be killed. They will be destroyed when I

”.punish them

,This is also what Yahweh said to the Israelite people¹⁶

.Stand at the crossroads and look at the people who pass by“
 .Ask them what was the good behavior that their ancestors had long ago
 .And when they tell you, behave that way
 .If you do that, you will find rest for yourselves
 !But you said that you did not want to do that
 .I sent my prophets who were like watchmen¹⁷
 They told you to listen carefully when the trumpets blow to warn you that your
 ,enemies are approaching
 .but you did not want to listen
 :Therefore, you people in the other nations, listen to this¹⁸
 .Pay attention to what is going to happen to the Israelite people
 !Listen, all of you¹⁹
 .I am going to cause disasters to happen to the Israelite people
 That is what will happen to them because they have refused to listen to what I told
 .them
 .They have refused to obey my laws
 You Israelite people, when you burn frankincense that came from Sheba²⁰
 ,and when you offer to me sweet-smelling anointing oil that came from far away
 .I will not be pleased with your sacrifices
 ;I will not accept the sacrifices that are completely burned on the altar
 .I am not pleased with any of your sacrifices
 .Therefore, I will put obstacles on the roads on which my people will travel²¹
 Men and their sons and people’s neighbors and friends will stumble over those
 ;obstacles and fall down
 ”.everyone will die
 ,Yahweh also says this²²
 .You will see a huge army marching toward you from the north“
 .An army of a great nation very far away is preparing to attack you
 ;They have bows and arrows and spears²³
 .they are very cruel, and do not act mercifully to anyone
 ,As they ride along on their horses
 ;the horses’ feet sound like the roaring of the ocean waves
 they are riding in battle formation

”.to attack you people of Jerusalem
 ,The people of Jerusalem say to each other²⁴
 ;We have heard reports about the enemy“
 .so we are very frightened, with the result that we are weak
 ,We are very afraid, and worried
 .like women who are about to give birth to babies
 ,So, do not go out into the fields! Do not go on the roads²⁵
 ;because the enemy soldiers have swords and they are everywhere
 ”.they are coming from all directions, and we are extremely afraid
 ,So I, Jeremiah, say to you²⁶
 My dear people, put on rough clothes and sit in ashes“
 .to show how much you are grieving
 ,Mourn loudly and cry very much
 .as a mother would cry when her only son has died
 ,For your enemies are very near
 ”.and they are going to destroy everything

,Then Yahweh said to me²⁷
 Jeremiah, I have caused you to become like someone who heats metal very hot to“
 .completely burn the impurities
 .You will examine my people’s behavior
 :You will find out that they are very stubborn rebels²⁸
 .they are always slandering others
 ;Their inner beings are as hard as bronze or iron
 .they all continually deceive others
 A metalworker causes the bellows to blow very hard to make the fire very hot to²⁹
 .completely burn up the impurities
 ,But just as a fire does not cause all the waste material to run off
 .it is impossible to separate the people from their wicked deeds
 ;I, Yahweh, have rejected them³⁰
 ”.I say that they are like worthless silver

Go to the entrance of my“² ,Yahweh gave me another message. He said to me¹ **7**
 house and give this message to the people: You people of Judah, who worship here, listen

,This is what Yahweh, commander of the angel armies³ .to this message from Yahweh says to you: ‘If you improve your ways and start doing what is right, I will allow you to But some people are repeatedly saying to you, “The temple of⁴ .remain living in your land ”.Yahweh is here, so we will be safe; he will not allow us and the temple to be destroyed I will act⁵ .But do not pay attention to what they say, because they are deceiving you mercifully to you only if you change your behavior and stop doing evil things, and if you and if you stop oppressing foreigners who live in your⁶ ,start to act fairly toward others country, and orphans and widows, and if you stop murdering people and worshiping foreign If you do what I have told you, I will allow you to stay in this land that I promised⁷ .gods .to your ancestors long ago that it would belong to them and their descendants forever

People are repeatedly telling you, “The temple is here, so we are safe,” and you are⁸ trusting that what they are saying is true. But those people are deceiving you; what they say You think that you can steal things, murder people, commit adultery, tell lies⁹ .is worthless .in court, and worship Baal and all those other gods that you did not know about previously Then you think you can come here and stand in front of this temple, which is my¹⁰ temple, and say “Nothing bad will happen to us!”, while you continue to do all those Perhaps you do not know that you have made this temple, which is¹¹ .disgusting things my temple, to become like a cave where thieves hide. But I, Yahweh, am telling you that I !have seen all these things

Long ago I put my sacred tent in the district of Shiloh, to be a place where people¹² ,would worship me. Think about how I destroyed it because my people, the Israelite people And while you were continually doing those wicked¹³ .did many wicked things there things, I told you about it many times, but you refused to listen. I called out to you, but you Therefore, just as I destroyed Shiloh, I will now destroy this¹⁴ .refused to answer me temple that was built for people to worship me, this temple that you trust in, in this place And I will expel you from this land and send you¹⁵ .that I gave to you and your ancestors ”.to other countries far away from me, just as I did to your relatives, the people of Israel

Yahweh said to me, “Jeremiah, do not pray for these people any longer. Do not call¹⁶ .out on their behalf or plead for me to help them, because I will not pay any attention to you Do you see the wicked things that they are doing in the streets of Jerusalem and in the¹⁷ The children gather firewood and their fathers make fires on the¹⁸ ?other towns in Judah altars to burn sacrifices. The women knead dough to make cakes to offer to their goddess Asherah who is called the Queen of Heaven. And on their altars they pour out offerings of But I¹⁹ !wine to their other idols. All of those things cause me to become extremely angry am not the one whom they are hurting; they are really hurting themselves by doing these

:So Yahweh the Lord says this²⁰ ”!things for which they should be very ashamed Because I am extremely angry with what happens at this place, I will punish these people“ severely; my being very angry will be like a fire that will not be extinguished, and I will ”.destroy the people, their animals, their fruit trees, and their crops

Therefore, this is what Yahweh, commander of the armies of angels, the God of²¹ Israel, says: “Take away your offerings that you bring to burn completely on your altars and

When I led your²² !your other sacrifices; do not give them to me; eat them yourselves ancestors out of Egypt, it was not offerings to be completely burned on the altar or other What I told them was, ‘Obey me; if you do that, I²³ .sacrifices that I wanted from them ,will be your God and you will be my people. If you do the things that I want you to do .But your ancestors would not pay any attention to me²⁴ ’.everything will go well for you

They continued to do the evil things that they wanted to do, everything that in their stubborn inner beings they desired to do. Instead of coming closer to me, they went further From the day that your ancestors left Egypt until now, I have continued²⁵ .away from me But you, my people, have not listened to me or²⁶ .to send my prophets to you repeatedly paid attention to what I said; you have been stubborn, and you have done more sinful things ”.than your ancestors did

Then Yahweh said to me, “When you tell all this to my people, they will not listen to²⁷ Say to them, ‘You people of Judah²⁸ .you. When you call to them, they will not answer .have not obeyed Yahweh, your God; you have not accepted it when he tried to correct you ’.No one among you is truthful; you do not say anything that is true; you speak only lies

So, tell them to cut off their hair to show that they are mourning; tell them to go up²⁹ ,into the barren hills and sing a sad funeral song

Because I have completely rejected this generation of people who have made me Yahweh says this: “The people of Judah have done many things that I say³⁰ ”.angry are evil. They have set up their disgusting idols in my temple, causing it to become an They have built altars at Topheth in Hinnom³¹ .unacceptable place to worship me Valley outside Jerusalem, and they sacrifice their sons and daughters on those altars. I So they should³² !never commanded them to do that; it was not even in my thoughts beware! There will be a time when that place will no longer be called Topheth or the Hinnom Valley; instead, it will be called the Valley of Slaughter. There will be a huge number of people who will be buried there, with the result that there will be no space to The corpses of my people that are not buried and are left on the³³ .bury more bodies ground will be eaten by vultures and wild animals, and there will be no one to shoo There will be no one singing and laughing anymore in the streets of³⁴ .them away

,Jerusalem; there will be no more joyful voices of bridegrooms and brides in Judah
”.because the land will be completely destroyed

Yahweh says, “After your enemies have destroyed you, then they will break¹ 8
open the graves of your kings and other officials who lived in Judah, and the graves of your
They will take out their bones² .priests and prophets and other people who lived there
from their graves and dishonor them by scattering them on the ground under the sun and
the moon and the stars—those are the gods which my people loved and served and
worshiped. No one will gather up their bones and bury them again; they will remain
And all the people of this wicked nation who are still³ .scattered on the ground like dung
alive and whom I have exiled to other countries will say, ‘We would prefer to die than to
continue to stay alive here in these countries.’ That will be true because I, Yahweh, have
”.said it

Yahweh said to me, “Jeremiah, tell the people that this is what I, Yahweh, am saying⁴
?to them: ‘When people fall down, they get up again, do they not

When people are going along a road and find out that they are walking on the wrong
? road, they go back and find the correct road, do they not

Yes, they do, so why do these people of Judah continue trusting in those idols that⁵
?have deceived them

They continue turning away from me and betray my covenant, even though I have
.warned them of what will happen

.I have listened carefully to what they say, but they do not say what they should say⁶
.Not one of them is sorry for having sinned

No one says, “I have done wicked things.” They are sinning and doing what they want
;to

Charging into sinful behavior with the excitement of a horse that is running into a
.battle

,Even the stork knows when the seasons change⁷

!and the dove, the swallow, and the crane understanding the time of their migration

.But my people do not know what I, Yahweh, require them to do

Your men who teach you the laws that Moses wrote have been saying false things⁸
.about those laws

So, why do they continue saying, “We are very wise because we have the laws of
?”Yahweh

Those teachers, who think that they are wise, will be ashamed and dismayed when⁹
they are taken to other countries by their enemies
Because they sinned by rejecting what I told them. Truly, they were not very wise to do
!that
So, I will give their wives to other men; I will give their fields to the enemy soldiers¹⁰
.who conquer them
All the people, including those who are least important and those who are most
important, they all are trying to get money by tricking others
.Even my prophets and priests, they all lie to get what they want
They act as though the sins of my people are like small wounds that they can easily¹¹
.treat
They tell the people that everything will go well with them, but that is not true; things
.will not go well with them
They should be ashamed when they do disgusting things, but they do not even know¹²
.how to show on their faces that they are ashamed about their sins
So, they also will be among those who will be killed. They will be destroyed when I
.punish them
I will allow their enemies to take away the figs and grapes that the people would¹³
.have harvested from their fields. Their fruit trees will all wither
They will not receive all the blessings that I prepared for them. This will certainly
”.happen because I, Yahweh, have said it
Then the people will say, “Why should we wait here in these small towns? We¹⁴
should go to the cities that have high walls around them, but even if we do that we will
,be killed there
Because Yahweh our God has decided that we must be destroyed; it is as though he has
.given us a cup of poison to drink, because we sinned against him
.We hoped that things would go well for us, but things have not gone well¹⁵
We hoped that we would recover and be strong again, but only things that terrify us are
.happening to us
People far north in the Israelite city of Dan can already hear the snorting of the¹⁶
horses of those who are preparing to attack us. It is as though the entire land is shaking
;as their army approaches
”.they are coming to destroy our land and everything in it, the people and the cities
Yahweh says, “I will send those enemy soldiers to Judah, and they will be like¹⁷
.poisonous snakes among you

No one will be able to stop them from attacking you; they will attack you like snakes
”.do, and kill you

My grief for the people of Judah has overwhelmed any sense of happiness. I am¹⁸
.very sad in my inner being

?Throughout our land, the people ask, “Has Yahweh abandoned Jerusalem¹⁹

Is he, our city’s king, no longer there?” Yahweh replies, “If they want me to be in
”?Jerusalem, why do the people worship idols and foreign gods

The people say, “The harvest season is finished, the summer has ended, but Yahweh²⁰
”.still has not rescued us from our enemies

I cry because my people have been crushed. I mourn, and I am completely²¹
.dismayed

I ask, “Surely there is medicinal balm in the region of Gilead! Surely there are²²
”!doctors there

.But my people have been badly wounded in their spirits, and nothing can heal them

I wish that my head could produce as many tears as water from a spring, and“¹ 9
,that my eyes were like a fountain of tears

.since I cry night and day for all of my people who have been killed by their enemies

I wish that I could leave my people and forget them, and go and live in a shack in the²
,desert

because they have not remained faithful to Yahweh; they are a mob of people who
.deceive others

.They use their tongues to tell lies just as people shoot arrows with bows³

They are powerful, but not because they are faithful, but they go about doing wicked
.things. “They do not know me,” Yahweh says

Do not trust your neighbors and even your brothers! They all are as deceitful as Jacob⁴
.was

.They slander each other and tell lies about each other

.They deceive their friends and never tell the truth⁵

They lie continually and, because of that, they have become skilled liars; they do one
.oppressive deed after another until they grow tired from sinning so much

Jeremiah, everyone living around you is a deceiver. Not one of them will admit that I⁶
.am God

:Therefore I, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, say this⁷

Listen carefully to what I say: I will test my people, like a metalworker puts metal in a
.hot fire to completely burn out the impure bits
Because of all the evil things that my people have done, there is absolutely nothing else
.that I can do

.What they say injures people like poisoned arrows do⁸

They say to their neighbors, 'I hope things will go well for you,' while they are
.planning to kill them

?Should I not punish them for doing that⁹

”!Yes, I should certainly get revenge on the people of a nation that does things like that

So, I will weep and wail for the people who live in the mountains and in the¹⁰
.pastures

.because those areas will be desolate, and no one will live there

,There will be no cattle there to call to each other

.and all the birds and wild animals will have fled to other places

,Yahweh also says, “I will cause Jerusalem to become a heap of ruins¹¹

.and only jackals will live there

;I will destroy the towns of Judah, with the result that they will be completely deserted

”.no people will live there

.I said, “Only people who are very wise can understand these things¹²

.Only those who have been taught by Yahweh can explain these things to others

The wise people are the only ones who can explain why the land will be completely
ruined

”.with the result that everyone will be afraid to travel through it

Yahweh replied, “These things will happen because my people have rejected my¹³

Instead, they¹⁴ .laws which I gave to them; they have not obeyed me or my instructions
have stubbornly done the things that they wanted in their inner beings to do. They have

So¹⁵ .worshiped the idols that represent the god Baal, which is what their ancestors did
,now listen to what I, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the God of the Israelites
:say: What I will do will be like giving these people bitter things to eat and poison to drink

I will scatter them to many nations which neither they nor their ancestors have known¹⁶
anything about; I will enable their enemies to strike them with swords until I have
”.destroyed them

:This is what Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, says¹⁷

,Think about what is happening“

.then summon those women who mourn when someone has died

,Tell them to come quickly and start to wail¹⁸
 .with the result that tears will stream down from your eyes
 ,Listen to the people of Jerusalem calling out, saying¹⁹
 !We have been ruined‘
 !We have experienced a terrible disaster
 ,Now we are very ashamed
 because our houses have been destroyed by our enemies, and we are being forced to
 ’.leave our land
 .You women, listen to what Yahweh says²⁰
 .Pay attention to his words
 .Teach your daughters to wail
 .Teach each other how to sing funeral songs
 You must learn to sing funeral songs because people will be dying in your houses²¹
 .and in palaces
 ,There will be no more children playing in the streets
 .there will be no more young men gathering in the city squares
 ;There will be corpses scattered across the fields like dung²²
 ,their dead bodies will lie there like grain that has been cut by reapers
 .and there will be no one still alive to bury them
 :Yahweh says this²³
 ,Wise men should not boast about their being wise“
 ;strong men should not boast about their being strong
 .and rich people should not boast about their being rich
 Instead, those who want to boast should boast about their knowing me²⁴
 ,and about understanding that I am Yahweh
 ,that I am kind and just and righteous
 ,that I faithfully love people
 .and that I am delighted with people who act that way

There will be a time when I will punish all those people who have changed their²⁵⁻²⁶
 ,bodies by circumcising them but who have not changed their inner beings: The Egyptian
 the Moab, of Edom, and of the Ammon people groups, all those who live close to desert
 areas far from Judah. I will even punish the people of Israel because they are only
 ”.circumcised on the outside, and physically, and not on the inside, in their inner self

:You people of Israel, listen to what Yahweh says¹ 10

Do not act like the people of other nations act, and do not be terrified by strange²
things that you see in the sky
even though they cause the people of other nations to be terrified
The customs of the people of other nations are worthless. For example, they cut down³
a tree in the forest
Then a skilled worker cuts a section of it and uses his chisel to carve an idol from
that section
Then people decorate the idol with silver and gold⁴
Then they fasten it securely with nails in order that it will not topple over
Then the idol stands there like a scarecrow in a field of cucumbers⁵
It cannot speak
and people must carry it
because it cannot walk
Do not be afraid of idols
because they cannot harm anyone
and they cannot do anything good to help anyone
Yahweh, there is no one like you⁶
You are great, and you are very powerful
You are the king of all the nations⁷
Everyone should revere you
because that is what you deserve
Among all the wise people on the earth
and in all the kingdoms where they live
there is no one like you
Those people who think that they are very wise are stupid and foolish⁸
The idols that they worship are only made of wood
Those idols certainly cannot teach them anything
People hammer silver from Tarshish and gold from Uphaz into sheets⁹
and then they give those sheets of silver and gold to skilled workers to cover the
idols
Then they put on those idols expensive purple robes
that are made by skilled workers

;But Yahweh is the only true God¹⁰

,he is the all-powerful God

.the king who rules forever

;When he is angry, all the earth shakes

and the people of the nations cannot endure what he does when he is angry with
.them

You Israelite people, tell this to those people: “Those idols did not make the sky and¹¹
”.the earth, and they will disappear from the earth

;But Yahweh made the earth by his power¹²

he made firm ground to stand on by his wisdom

.and stretched out the sky by his understanding

;When he speaks loudly, there is thunder in the sky¹³

.he causes clouds to form over every part of the earth

He sends lightning with the rain

.and releases the winds from his storehouses

!People are as senseless as animals and know nothing of what God desires¹⁴

those who make idols are always disappointed

.because their idols do nothing for them

;The images that they make are not real gods

.they are lifeless

;Idols are worthless; they are just objects that make a mockery of the true God¹⁵

.there will be a time when they all will be destroyed

;But the God whom we Israelites worship is not like those idols¹⁶

;he is the one who created everything that exists

;we, the tribe of Israel, belong to him

.he is the commander of the angel armies

:Yahweh says this to the people of Jerusalem¹⁷

,The army of your enemies surrounds your city“

.so gather up your possessions and prepare to leave the city

I will soon throw you out of this land¹⁸

,and cause you to experience great troubles

”.with the result that you will begin to think of me again

,The people replied, “It is as though we have been badly wounded¹⁹

;and we are very grieved
 ,It is as though we have a very serious illness
 .and we must endure the pain
 ;It is as though our great tent is destroyed²⁰
 ;the ropes that held it up have been cut
 ;our children have gone away from us and will not return
 .there are no people left to rebuild our great tent
 ;Our leaders have become just like animals²¹
 ,they no longer ask Yahweh to guide them
 ,so they will no longer prosper
 .and all those over whom they rule will be scattered
 Listen! Our enemies' armies in the north are making a very great noise²²
 .as they march toward us
 ,The towns in Judah will be destroyed
 ".and they will become a place where jackals live
 ;Yahweh, I know that no person controls what will happen to him²³
 .no one is able to direct the events that he will experience
 .So correct us, but do it gently²⁴
 ,Do not correct us when you are angry
 .because we would die if you did that
 ;Punish all the nations whose people do not acknowledge that you are God²⁵
 ,punish all the nations whose people do not worship you
 because they are completely destroying us people of Israel
 .and they are causing our land to soon be only a desert

Listen to the agreement that² :This is another message that Yahweh told me¹ **11**
 I made with the ancestors of the people of Jerusalem and the other cities in Judah. Then tell
 Then tell them that I, Yahweh, the God whom the Israelite³ .that agreement to them again
 people worship, said that I will curse everyone who does not obey what was written in that
 It is the same agreement that I made with their⁴ .agreement that I made with them
 ;ancestors when I brought them out of Egypt. What happened to them in Egypt was terrible
 it was as though they were living in a hot furnace. When I brought them out of Egypt, I told
 them to obey me, and to do everything that I had commanded them to do. I also told them
 Now tell⁵ .that if they obeyed me, they would be my people and I would be their God

these people that if they obey me, I will do what I promised to do for their ancestors. I will
”.enable them to continue living in this very fertile land in which they now live

”.I replied, “Yahweh, I trust you that what you have said will happen

Then Yahweh said to me, “Go into the streets of Jerusalem and to the other cities in⁶
Judah. Proclaim my message to the people. Tell them to listen to the agreement that I made

When I brought their ancestors out of Egypt, I⁷ .with their ancestors and to obey it
solemnly pleaded with them many times to obey me, and I am still pleading with them
But they did not obey me or even pay any attention to me. Everyone continued to⁸ .now
be stubborn and to do the evil things that they wanted to do. I commanded them to do what
was written in the agreement, but they refused. So I punished them in all the ways that I
”.promised that I would

Then Yahweh said to me, “The people of Jerusalem and the other cities in Judah are⁹
Their ancestors refused to do what I told them to do, and now¹⁰ .rebellious against me
these people have returned to committing the sins that their ancestors committed. They are
worshiping other gods. The people of Israel disobeyed the agreement that I made with their
”,So now I, Yahweh¹¹ .ancestors, and now the people of Judah have done the same thing
am warning them that I will cause disasters to come to them, and they will not escape. And
When that happens, the¹² .when they call out for me to help them, I will not pay attention
people in Jerusalem and other cities in Judah will offer sacrifices and burn incense to their
gods and ask for their help, but those gods will not be able to save them when those
There are now as many gods in Judah as there are towns in¹³ .disasters come to them
Judah; the people of Jerusalem have erected as many altars to burn incense to those gods as
”.there are streets in Jerusalem

Jeremiah, do not pray for these people, and do not plead with me to rescue them. If¹⁴
you plead with me, I will not pay attention; and if they call out to me for help when they
”.are in distress, I will not listen to them

,Then Yahweh said¹⁵

The people of Judah whom I love certainly no longer have a right to come to my“
”,temple
”.because they continually do many evil things
They think that continually making sacrifices of meat to me certainly will protect them
”,from disasters
”.with the result that they will be able to rejoice
I previously said that they were like an olive tree full of green leaves¹⁶

,with a lot of good olives on it
;but now I will send their enemies to attack them furiously
.it is as though I will break off their branches, and their city will be destroyed by fire
It is as though the people of Judah and Israel were a beautiful olive tree that I¹⁷
Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, planted
but now, by burning incense to their god Baal, they have caused me to become very
.angry
”.So now I have decided to destroy them

Before he did¹⁹ .Yahweh revealed to me that my enemies were planning to kill me¹⁸
that, I was like a lamb that was being led away to be slaughtered; I did not know what they
were planning to do. I did not know that they were saying, “Let us get rid of this tree and its
fruit,” so I did not know that they intended to kill me, in order that no one would remember
.me

,Then I prayed, “Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, you judge people justly²⁰
.and you examine everything that we are thinking
Allow me to watch you getting revenge on the people who want to kill me
”.because I trust that you will do for me what is right

It was the men of my own town, Anathoth, who wanted to kill me, and they told me²¹
So²² .that they would kill me if I did not stop prophesying what Yahweh told me to say
Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, said about them, “I will punish them. Their
.young men will be killed in wars, and their children will die because they have no food
I have set a time when I will bring disasters to the people of Anathoth, and when that²³
”.happens, none of them will remain alive

Yahweh, whenever I tell you that I am unhappy about what is happening to¹ 12
.me
.you always act justly

:So now allow me to ask about one more thing that I do not understand
?Why are wicked people often very prosperous
?Why do things go very well for dishonest people
You allow them to prosper²
.like trees that grow tall and bear a lot of fruit
They always say good things about you
.but in their inner beings, they are really far from you

.But Yahweh, you know me very well³
 .You see what I do and you are able to know what I am thinking
 Set them apart like we separate the sheep out of the herd so
 .that on the day of slaughter they will be butchered
 .This land is becoming very dry and even the grass is withering⁴
 Even the wild animals and the birds have all died
 .because the people who live in this land are very wicked
 ,All this has happened because the people have said
 ”!Yahweh does not know what has happened to us“
 ,Then to show me that I needed to be prepared to endure even greater difficulties⁵
 ,Yahweh said to me
 ;It is as though you have become exhausted from racing against men“
 ?so how will you be able to race against horses
 ,If you only prepare to run on open ground
 what will happen to you when you are running through the thick foliage near the
 ?Jordan River
 .Already your brothers and other members of your own family oppose you⁶
 .They plot against you and they say bad things about you
 ,So even if they say nice things about you
 !do not trust them
 ,I have abandoned my Israelite people⁷
 .the people whom I chose to belong to me
 .I have allowed their enemies to conquer the people whom I love
 .My people have become to me like a lion in the forest⁸
 ,It is as though they roar at me like a lion
 .so now I hate them
 My chosen people have become like speckled birds⁹
 .that are surrounded by vultures waiting to eat their flesh
 Tell all the wild animals to come
 .and eat the flesh until they are full
 Many rulers from other countries have come with their armies and devastated my¹⁰
 people
 .whom I care for like a farmer takes care of his vineyard
 .They have caused my beautiful land to become a barren desert where no one lives

;They have caused it to become completely empty¹¹

.So now it is as though I am mourning the death of a loved one

,The whole land is desolate

.and no one worries about it

.The soldiers of our enemies have marched across all the barren hilltops¹²

,But I, Yahweh, am using those armies to punish your land from one end to the other

.and no one will escape

,It is as though my people planted wheat¹³

.but now they are harvesting thorns

,They have become very tired because of much hard work

.but they have gained nothing from all that work

,They will be very disappointed because their harvests will be very small

”.and that will happen because I, Yahweh, am extremely angry with them

This is also what Yahweh said to me: “I will punish the evil nearby nations that have¹⁴

been trying to take away the land that I gave to my Israelite people. I will force them to

But¹⁵ .leave their own lands. But I will throw the people of Judah out of their lands, also

later I will act mercifully toward those nations again, and I will bring them back to their

And if the people of the¹⁶ .own lands again. Each clan will come back to its own land

,other nations whose armies have invaded Israel learn the religious customs of my people

and if they learn that I am listening when they solemnly promise that they will do

something, like they taught my people to believe that their god Baal was listening when

they made solemn promises, I will cause them to become prosperous, and they also will be

But I will expel any nation whose people refuse to obey me, and I will¹⁷ .my people

”.destroy that nation and its people. That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it

One day Yahweh said to me, “Go and buy a linen waistcloth. Put it on, but do¹ 13

,So I bought a very nice waistcloth, which is what Yahweh told me to do² ”.not wash it

.and I put it on

He said, “Go to the Euphrates River⁴ .Then later Yahweh gave me another message³

So I went to the river and did what⁵ ”.and hide your waistcloth in a crevice in the rocks

.Yahweh told me to do

A long time later, Yahweh said to me, “Go back to the river and get the waistcloth⁶

So I went to the Euphrates River and dug out the waistcloth⁷ ”.that I told you to hide there

.from the crevice in which I had hidden it. But it was ruined, and useless

What happened to your waistcloth shows“⁹ :Then Yahweh gave me this message⁸
that I will destroy the things that the people of Jerusalem and other places in Judah are very
Those wicked people refuse to pay attention to what I say. They stubbornly do¹⁰ .proud of
just what they desire to do; they worship other gods. Therefore, they will become
Just like a waistcloth clings closely to a man’s¹¹ .completely useless, like your waistcloth
waist, I wanted the people of Israel and Judah to cling closely to me. I wanted them to be
my people, people who would praise me and honor me. But they would not pay attention to
.me

So, tell this to them: ‘Yahweh, the God whom you Israelite people worship, says that¹²
every leather wineskin should be filled with wine.’ And when you tell that to them, they
And then¹³ ’!will reply, ‘Of course we know that all wineskins should be filled with wine
you must tell them, ‘No, that is not what Yahweh means. What he said means that he will
cause this land to be filled with people who are drunk. That will include all of you—the
,king who sits on the throne that King David previously sat on, the priests and the prophets
He is saying, ‘I will cause a drunken brawl¹⁴ ’.and even the common people of Jerusalem
among you. Even parents will brawl with their children. I will not pity you or act mercifully
”’.toward you at all; pitying you will not prevent me from getting rid of you

.You people of Judah, pay very careful attention¹⁵
.Do not be proud, because Yahweh has spoken to you
It is as though he is ready to bring darkness on you¹⁶
and to cause you to stumble and fall as you walk on the hills when it is becoming
.dark

.So praise Yahweh your God before that happens
,If you do not do that, you will look for light
.but all you will see is darkness and gloom
,And if you still refuse to heed what he says¹⁷
what will happen to you because of your being proud will cause me to cry when I
.am alone

My eyes will be filled with tears
,because you, Yahweh’s people
,whom he takes care of like a shepherd takes care of his flock
.will all be captured by your enemies and taken to other countries

,You people of Judah, say to the king and to his mother¹⁸
Come down from sitting on your thrones“
,and humbly sit in the dirt

".because your enemies will soon snatch from your heads your glorious crowns
 ,The towns in the southern Judean wilderness will be surrounded by your enemies¹⁹
 and no one will be able to get through their lines to rescue the people in those
 .towns
 ;You people of Judah will be captured and taken away
 .you will all be exiled
 :You leaders of Jerusalem, open your eyes and look²⁰
 .the enemy armies are ready to march down from the north
 When that happens, what will happen to the people of Judah who are like a beautiful
 ,flock of sheep
 ?people that he gave to you to take care of
 What will you say when Yahweh appoints people from other countries to rule over²¹
 ,you
 ?people who you mistakenly thought were your friends
 ,You will suffer very much pain
 .like a woman who is about to give birth to a baby
 "You will ask yourselves, "Why is this happening to us²²
 .I will reply that it is because of your many sins
 That is why soldiers of the invading armies will lift up the skirts of your women and
 .rape them
 ,A man from Ethiopia certainly cannot change the color of his black skin²³
 .and a leopard certainly cannot change its spots
 ,Similarly, you cannot start doing what is good
 .because you have always done what is evil
 Yahweh says, "I will scatter you like chaff²⁴
 .that is blown away by the wind from the desert
 ,That is what is certainly going to happen to you²⁵
 ,the things that I have determined will happen to you
 ,because you have forgotten me
 .and you are trusting in false gods
 It is as though I myself will pull your skirts up over your faces²⁶
 and cause you to be very ashamed because everyone will be able to see your private
 .parts
 ;I have seen that you act like men who are eager to commit adultery²⁷
 .you are like male horses that whinny when they desire to mate with a female horse

.I have seen that you worship disgusting idols in the fields and on the hills
You people of Jerusalem, terrible things will happen to you because you will not be
!obedient and live a good life
”?How long will it be until you are acceptable to me again

After there had been no rain in Judah for a long time, Yahweh gave Jeremiah¹ 14

:this message

;The people in Judah are very distressed²
;people are sitting on the ground and mourning
.in all of Jerusalem people are crying loudly
,The rich people send their servants to wells to get water³
.but all the wells are dry
;The servants return with empty pitchers
they cover their heads
.because they are ashamed and humiliated
The ground is extremely dry and cracked open⁴
.because there has been no rain
,The farmers are ashamed that they cannot raise a crop
.so they also cover their heads
,Even the does abandon their newborn babies⁵
.because there is no grass in the fields for them to eat
,The wild donkeys stand on the barren hills⁶
.panting like thirsty jackals
They become blind
.because there is no grass to eat
,The people say, “Yahweh, if we have turned away from you and sinned many times⁷
!we now know that we are being punished because of our sins
Please help us
.in order that everyone can see that you are very great and keep your promises
You are the one whom we Israelites confidently expect to do good things for us⁸
.when we have many troubles
?So, why do you not help us
,You act as though you are a stranger in our land
.like you are someone who is staying here for only one night

?Are you also surprised about the terrible things that are happening to us⁹
Why do you act like you are unable to save anyone, even though you are a strong
?warrior
Yahweh, you are here among us
and others know that we are your people
"!so do not abandon us

:And this is what Yahweh says to those people¹⁰

;You love to wander away from me"
.you run from one idol to another
,Therefore, now I will no longer accept you
".and I will punish you for your sins

When they¹². Then Yahweh said to me, "Do not pray for these people anymore¹¹
fast, I will not pay any attention. When they bring to me their offerings of animals to be
completely burned on the altar and their offerings of flour, I will not accept them. Instead, I
".will get rid of them by wars, by famines, and by diseases

Then I replied to him, "Yahweh my God, their prophets are telling the people that¹³
they will not experience wars or famines. They are telling the people that you will surely
".allow us to have peace in our land for many years

Yahweh replied to me, "Those prophets say that they are speaking what I tell them¹⁴
to say, but they are telling lies. I did not send them, so what they are saying is false. They
say that they have received visions from me, and that they are telling things that I have
revealed to them, but that is not true. They are saying foolish things that they have only
So this is what I say about those prophets who are predicting¹⁵. thought of themselves
what will happen, saying that I told them those things: They are saying that we Israelites
will not die from wars or famines, but I did not send those prophets. And they themselves
And the people to whom they are predicting these¹⁶. will die from wars or from famines
things, they and their wives and their sons and their daughters, will also die from wars or
from famines. Their corpses will be thrown into the streets of Jerusalem, and there will not
.be anyone to bury them. I will punish them like they deserve to be punished

:So, Jeremiah, tell this to them about yourself¹⁷

.Day and night my eyes are full of tears'
.I cannot stop crying
,I cry for my people

.who are very precious to me, as if they were my daughters
;I cry for them because they have been severely wounded
.and they will not recover or heal from this severe wound

,If I go out into the fields¹⁸

.I see corpses of people who have been slaughtered by our enemies

,If I walk along the streets of the city

.I see corpses of people who died from hunger

,The prophets and the priests travel through the land, preaching to people

””. but they do not know what they are doing

:Then I prayed this¹⁹

?Yahweh, have you completely rejected the people of Judah“

?Do you really despise the people of Jerusalem

,Why have you wounded us very badly

?with the result that we will never be healed

,We hoped that we would have peace

.but there was no peace

,We hoped that there would be a time when we would be healed

.but all that we received were things that terrified us

,Yahweh, we admit that we are wicked people²⁰

.and that our ancestors also did many wicked things

.We have all sinned against you

,But Yahweh, in order that we may honor you²¹

.do not despise us

.Do not dishonor the city where your glorious throne is

,Please do not forget us

.and do not break your agreement with us

Those idols that have been brought from other nations certainly cannot bring rain to²²

,us

.and the sky certainly cannot cause rain to fall

.Yahweh our God, you are the only one who can do things like that

”.So we will confidently expect you to help us

Then Yahweh said this to me: “Even if Moses and Samuel could come back¹ 15
from their graves and stand in front of me and plead with me for these Israelite people, I

.would not act mercifully toward these people. I would tell you to send them away from me
And if they ask you, ‘Where shall we go?’, tell them, ‘This is² !Cause them to leave me
:what Yahweh says

:The ones that I say must die, will die
.The ones that I say must die in wars, will die in wars
.The ones that I say must die from hunger, will die from hunger
The ones that I say must be captured and taken to other countries, will be captured and
.taken to other countries

I will send four things that will get rid of them: I will send enemy soldiers using³
swords to kill them. I will send wild dogs to drag away their corpses. I will send vultures to
.eat their corpses. And I will send other wild animals to eat what remains of their corpses
Because of the wicked things that King Manasseh did in Jerusalem, I will cause people in⁴
all the kingdoms of the earth to be horrified concerning what will happen in Judah to my
.people

.You people of Jerusalem, no one will feel sorry for you⁵
.No one will weep for you
.No one will wish that you would not be hurt
;You people have abandoned me⁶
.you have continued to walk away from me
;So, I will lift up my fist to smash you
.I am tired of acting mercifully toward
At the gates of your cities, I will scatter you like a farmer scatters the chaff from his⁷
.grain by winnowing it

.You, my people, have refused to turn away from your evil behavior
;So, I will get rid of you
.and I will even cause your children to be killed
I will cause there to be more widows in Judah⁸
.than there are grains of sand on the seashore
I will bring on you an enemy army
.that will destroy your young men and cause their mothers to weep
.I will cause you to suddenly experience great suffering and become very terrified
;A woman who has seven children will become faint and gasp for breath⁹
;it will be as though her daylight will become darkness
;because most of her children will be dead

.and she will be disgraced and humiliated
 .And her children who are still alive, I will enable your enemies to kill them
 ”.That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it

 ;I said to my mother, “I am very sad¹⁰

 ;I wish that you had not given birth to me
 .everyone in this land opposes me and quarrels with me
 I have not made anyone angry by lending or borrow money and then quarreling about
 ,it
 ”.but everyone curses me anyway

 ,But Yahweh replied to me¹¹

 .Jeremiah, I will take care of you“
 ,And at times when you have the most troubles
 .I will come on your behalf and protect you from your enemy
 ,People of Judah, you know how strong iron is when it is mixed with bronze¹²
 .it is very hard and good for weapons
 That iron mixed with bronze metal is just like the strength of your enemies when they
 ,attack Judah from the north
 .no one will be able to stop them
 ,I will give all the valuable possessions of your people to their enemies¹³
 .without them paying for it
 Your people will lose everything valuable
 .because of all the sins that they have committed throughout the country
 ,I will tell their enemies to force them to become their prisoners¹⁴
 ,to take them to other lands that they have not experienced
 .and force them to become their slaves
 ;That will happen because I am extremely angry with your people
 ”.my anger is like a burning fire
 .Then I said, “Yahweh, you know what is happening to me¹⁵
 .Please come and help me
 .Punish those who are persecuting me
 Please do not continue to be patient with them
 .and do not allow me to die now
 .It is for your sake that I am suffering

;Yahweh my God, you are the commander of the angel armies¹⁶
 ,when you spoke to me
 ,I was delighted with your message; it caused me to be joyful
 and I eagerly accepted what you said
 .because I belong to you
 ,When the people were carousing together¹⁷
 ;I never joined them
 .I sat alone, because you are the one who controls what I do
 .I was very angry with those people because of their sins
 ?So, why do you allow me to continue to suffer¹⁸
 .It seems that my wounds cannot be healed
 .Sometimes you help me, sometimes you do not help me
 It seems that you are as undependable as a brook that has water in it only during
 ;certain seasons
 ”.you are like a spring that has dried up
 :Then Yahweh replied to me saying this¹⁹
 ,If you begin again to trust in me“
 ,I will restore you
 .in order that you can continue to serve me
 ,If you proclaim good messages and not worthless ones
 .you will continue to be the one who speaks what I tell you to say
 ;You must cause the people to pay attention to what you say
 .you must not pay attention to what they say
 ,They will fight against you²⁰
 .but I will protect you, like people are protected from their enemies by a bronze wall
 ,They will not defeat you
 ,because I will be with you
 .and I will protect and rescue you
 ,Truly, I will keep you safe from those wicked people²¹
 .I will rescue you when you are seized by cruel people
 ”.That will happen because I, Yahweh, have said it

Do not get married and“² ,Yahweh gave me another message. He said to me¹ 16

because this is what I, Yahweh, say about the children who are³ ,have children in this land
Many of them will die from terrible⁴ :born in this city, and about their mothers and fathers
diseases. And no one will mourn for them. No one will even bury their corpses; the corpses
will lie on the ground, scattered like manure. Others will die in wars or from hunger, and
”.then their corpses will become food for vultures and wild animals

This is also what Yahweh said to me: “Do not go to funerals to mourn or to show⁵
those whose relatives have died that you feel sorry for them, because I have stopped
protecting them, and I have caused that things will not go well for them. I have stopped
Very many people will die in⁶ .faithfully loving them and acting mercifully toward them
this land, including those who are important and those who are not important. And no one
will mourn for them, or even bury their corpses. No one will cut himself or shave his head
,No one will bring food to comfort those who are mourning⁷ .to show that he is very sad
not even if it is their father or their mother who is mourning. No one will give them a cup
.of wine to cheer them up

And do not go into the houses where people are feasting. Do not eat or drink anything⁸
I want you to do this because this is what I, Yahweh, commander of the angel⁹ .with them
armies, say: ‘While you are still alive and seeing it happen, I will cause there to be no more
singing and laughing in this land. There will be no more joyful voices of bridegrooms and
,brides

When you tell these things to the people, they will ask, ‘Why has Yahweh declared¹⁰
that these terrible things will happen to us? What have we done for which we deserve to be
’?punished like this? What sin have we committed against Yahweh our God

Then this is what you must tell them that I am replying to them: ‘It is because your¹¹
.ancestors turned away from me, Yahweh. They worshiped other gods and served them
But you who are living now have¹² .They abandoned me and did not obey my commands
done more wicked things than your ancestors did! Each of you stubbornly does the evil
So, I will throw you out¹³ .things that he desires and refuses to pay attention to what I say
of this land, and I will send you to a land that you and your ancestors have never known
about. There you will worship other gods day and night. And I will not act mercifully
,toward you

But there will be a time when people who are solemnly promising to do something¹⁴
will no longer say, ‘I will do this, just as surely as Yahweh lives—the one who brought the
Instead, they will say ‘I will do this, just as surely as¹⁵ ’.Israelite people here from Egypt

Yahweh lives—the one who brought us Israelite people back to our own land, from the lands to the north and from all the other lands to which he had exiled us.’ They will be able to say that because some day I will bring your descendants back to this land that I gave to
.your ancestors

But now I am summoning your enemies who will seize them like fishermen catch¹⁶ fish. I am summoning those who will search for them on every mountain and hill, and in I am watching them carefully. I see¹⁷ .every cave, like hunters search for animals to kill Because of all the¹⁸ . every sin that they commit. They will not be able to hide from me wicked things that they have done, I will punish them twice as much as I would punish other people. I will do that because they have caused my own land to become unacceptable to me because of their worshiping lifeless statues of detestable gods, and also because they
”.have filled my land with the other evil things that they have done

Then I prayed, saying, “Yahweh, you are the one who strengthens me and protects¹⁹
;me
.you are the one to whom I go when I have troubles
,Some day people from nations all over the world will come to you and say
;Our ancestors left us only something that was false‘
.they worshiped idols that are completely worthless
;No one can make their own gods²⁰
”.the gods that they make are only idols; they are not real gods
;Then Yahweh said, “Now I will show my power to the people of Judah²¹
.I will show them that I am truly very powerful
”.Then, finally, they will know that I, Yahweh, am the true God

Yahweh said, “It is as though a list of the sins committed by the people of¹ 17
Judah is engraved with an iron chisel, or engraved using the fine point of a very hard
,stone
.on their inner beings and on the altars where they worship their idols
,Even their children remember when they went to the altars²
,and they went up to the poles that represent the goddess Asherah
and there they worshiped underneath all the big trees
.and on all the high hills
,I will give my mountain as plunder, along with all your wealth and all your treasures³
.because of your idolatry and your worship on the hills
They will take your possessions away

.because you sinned against Yahweh throughout your land
 .The wonderful land that I gave to you will no longer belong to you⁴
 ,I will tell your enemies to take you to a land that you do not know about
 .and you will become their slaves
 ;I will do that because I am extremely angry with you
 ”.my being angry is like a fire that will burn forever

 :This is also what Yahweh says⁵

 ,Those who trust in human beings to help them are cursed“
 those who rely on their own strength
 .and turn away from me with their inner beings
 ,They are like dry bushes in the desert⁶
 .they are people who will not experience any good things
 Those people will live in the barren desert
 .in a salty area, where no one can safely abide
 ,But Yahweh is pleased with those who trust in him⁷
 .and who confidently expect him to take care of them
 ,Those people are like fruit trees that have been planted along a riverbank⁸
 .trees that have roots that go down into the wet ground beside the water
 ,They are trees whose leaves remain green when it becomes hot
 trees that continue to bear fruit when there are many months in which there is no
 .rain
 ,Human minds are extremely corrupt⁹
 .and we cannot change that
 .It is also completely impossible for anyone to understand that
 ,But I, Yahweh, search what is in everyone’s inner being¹⁰
 .and I examine what they are thinking
 ,I will give all people reward or punishment
 ”.what they deserve for what they have done
 .I know some people who become rich by doing things that are unjust¹¹
 .They are like birds that hatch eggs that they did not lay
 So, when those people have lived only half of the years that they expect to live, they
 .will disappear
 .Then other people will realize that those people have been foolish

Yahweh, your temple is like a glorious throne¹²

.that has been on a high hill since it was built

,You are the one whom we Israelite people confidently expect to bless us¹³

and all those who turn away from you will be disgraced and feel what it is like to be
separated from you

because they have abandoned you, who are like a fountain where people obtain
fresh water

.Yahweh, please heal me, because if you heal me, I will truly be healed¹⁴

.If you rescue me, I will truly be safe, because you are the only one whom I praise

,People often ridicule me and say¹⁵

,You tell us messages that you say came from Yahweh“

?but why have the things that you predicted not happened

Yahweh, you appointed me to take care of your people like a shepherd takes care of¹⁶

,his sheep; I have not abandoned that work

and you know that I have not previously wanted this time of disaster to come to
people who ridicule me

.And you know everything that I have said to your people

!Do not cause me to be terrified¹⁷

.When disasters come, you are the one to whom I will go to be safe

,So now, cause those who persecute me to be ashamed and dismayed¹⁸

.but do not do things to me that will cause me to be ashamed and dismayed

!Cause them to be terrified

!Do to them many things that will completely destroy them

This is what Yahweh said to me: “Go to the city gates in Jerusalem. First go to the¹⁹
gate where the kings of Judah go in and out of the city, and then go to each of the other

Say to the people at each gate, ‘You kings of Judah and everyone else who is²⁰ .gates
living in Jerusalem and all you other people of Judah who enter these gates, listen to this

!He says, “Listen to this warning carefully if you want to live²¹ !message from Yahweh
!Stop doing work on Sabbath days! Stop carrying loads through these gates on those days

,Do not carry loads out of your houses or do any other work on Sabbath days! Instead²²
but they did not²³ ,cause Sabbath days to be holy. I commanded your ancestors to do that
listen to me or obey me. When I did things to correct them, they stubbornly refused to pay

But I say that if you obey me, and if you do not²⁴ .attention to what I said or to accept it
carry loads through these gates on Sabbath days or do any other work on Sabbath days, and

kings of Judah and their officials will continue²⁵ ,if you dedicate the Sabbath days to me to go in and out of these gates. There will always be someone who is a descendant of King David ruling here in Jerusalem. Kings and their officials will go in and out of these gates And²⁶ .riding in chariots and on horses, and there will be people living in this city forever people will come to Jerusalem bringing offerings to be completely burned on the altar and other offerings. They will bring to the temple grain offerings and incense and offerings to thank me. People will bring these offerings from the towns in Judah and the villages near Jerusalem and from the land where the tribe of Benjamin lives and from the western But if you do not pay attention to²⁷ .foothills and from the southern Judean wilderness what I say, and if you refuse to dedicate the Sabbath days to me, and if you continue to carry loads through these gates into the city on Sabbath days, I will burn these gates completely. The fire will spread to the palaces, and no one will be able to put out that fire.”””.”

Go to the shop of the man“² ,Yahweh gave another message to me. He said¹ 18
So I went to that shop, and I saw³ ”.who makes clay pots. I will give you a message there But⁴ .the man who makes pots. He was working at the wheel that he uses to form pots when he finished making one jar, it was not as good as he hoped it to be. So, he took the .clay and formed it into another jar, shaping it as he desired to

Perhaps the people of Israel think that I“⁶ :Then Yahweh gave me this message⁵ cannot do to them like this man who makes pots has done. But what they think is wrong. I can control what happens to them like this man controls what he does with the clay in his ,There may be a time when I proclaim that I will get rid of a nation or kingdom⁷ .hands But if the people⁸ .like someone pulls up a plant with its roots, and smash it, and destroy it of that nation repent of doing evil things, I will not send to them the disasters that I planned And there may be a time when I proclaim that I will establish a nation or⁹ .to send But if the people of that nation start to do evil things¹⁰ .kingdom and cause it to be strong .and refuse to obey me, then I will not bless them as I said that I would do

Therefore, Jeremiah, go and warn all the people in Jerusalem and in other places in¹¹ Judah. Say to them, ‘This is what Yahweh says: I am planning a disaster that I will send to you. So, each of you should turn from your evil behavior and start doing what is right, in ’!order that good things will come to you instead

.But the people will say back to you, ‘It is useless for you to say these things to us¹² ””.We will continue to be stubborn and behave as wickedly as we want to

:So this is what Yahweh said in response¹³

.Ask the people who live in other nations if they have ever heard of such a thing“

!My Israelite people, who have been pure like virgins, have done a terrible thing

The snow certainly never completely disappears from the rocky slopes of the¹⁴
.mountains in Lebanon

.The cold streams that flow down from those distant mountains never cease flowing

:But my people are not as reliable as those streams¹⁵

.They have abandoned me

.They burn incense to honor worthless idols

It is as though they have stumbled as they walked along well known and reliable roads

.and now, instead, they are walking on dirt paths

,Therefore, their land will become desolate¹⁶

.and people who see it will hiss to ridicule it from now on

;All the people who pass by will be appalled

.they will shake their heads to show that they are shocked

I will scatter the people when their enemies attack them¹⁷

.like dust is scattered by an east wind

,And when they experience all these disasters

”.I will turn my back on them and refuse to help them

Then the people said, “Come, we should plan to attack Jeremiah. We have many¹⁸
priests who teach us God’s laws, wise men who give us good advice, and prophets who tell
us what will happen. We do not need Jeremiah! So we should slander him and not pay
”.attention to anything that he says

!Then I prayed, “Yahweh, please listen to me¹⁹

.And listen to what my enemies are saying about me

,I am doing things that are good²⁰

.so it is disgusting that they are paying me back by doing evil things to me

.It is as though they have dug a pit for me to fall into and die

,Do not forget that one time I stood in front of you and pleaded for you to help them

and I tried to prevent you from punishing them, even though you were very angry
.with them

!So now, allow their children to die from hunger²¹

!Or cause them to be killed by their enemies’ swords

!Cause their wives to become widows, whose children are all dead

!Cause their husbands to be killed in battles
Cause people to scream in their homes²²
!when enemy soldiers suddenly come into their houses
.Cause all these things to happen to them because they want to kill me
.It is as though they have dug a pit for me to fall into
.and they have hidden traps along my path
.Yahweh, you know all the things that they are planning to do to kill me²³
Do not forgive them for their crimes
.or blot out the record of their sins
;Cause them to be destroyed
"!punish them because of your being angry with them

This is another message that Yahweh gave to me: "Go and buy a clay jar from¹ 19
a man who makes them. Then take with you some of the elders of the people and leaders of
Go out of the city past the Broken Pottery Gate, to the place overlooking the² .the priests
,Say to them³ .dump for broken pottery in the Hinnom Valley. Then give them a message
This message is for you kings of Judah and other people of Jerusalem. Listen to what
Yahweh is saying! The God of Israel, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, says that he
That⁴ .will bring a terrible disaster on Jerusalem. Those who hear about it will be stunned
will happen because you Israelite people have stopped worshiping me, and have caused this
place to be a place where you worship foreign gods. You burn sacrifices to gods that neither
you nor your ancestors nor even the kings of Judah ever heard about. And you have filled
You have built⁵ .this place with the blood of innocent people whom you have killed
houses on the top of many hills to honor your god Baal, and at those places you have killed
your own children and offered them to be sacrifices to Baal. I never commanded you to do
,So⁶ !that, I never spoke about doing that, and never even considered allowing that
beware, because I, Yahweh, say that there will be a time when this garbage dump will no
In this⁷ .longer be called Topheth or Hinnom Valley; it will be called Slaughter Valley
.place I will ruin the plans of you people who live in Jerusalem and in other places in Judah
I will allow your enemies who want to kill you to kill many of you with their swords. Then
.I will allow your corpses to remain on the ground to be food for vultures and wild animals
I will completely destroy Jerusalem and cause it to become a heap of ruins that people⁸
will despise. All the people who pass by will be appalled, and they will be shocked when
I will enable your enemies who want to kill you⁹ .they see that the city has been destroyed
to surround the city for a long time. Then the food will be all gone, and you people will be

extremely hungry, with the result that you people in the city will eat the flesh of your own
'.children and your neighbors' children

Jeremiah, after you tell that to them, while the people who are with you are¹⁰
,Then say to them, 'This is what Yahweh¹¹ .watching, smash the jar that you brought
commander of the angel armies, says: Just like this jar has been smashed and cannot be
repaired, I will smash this city of Jerusalem and other places in Judah. You will bury some
.of your corpses here in this dump, until there is no more space to bury any more corpses
That is what I will do to this city and to you people who live here. I will make you unfit¹²
The houses in Jerusalem¹³ .to worship me, and this city will be like you, just as Topheth is
and the palaces of the kings of Judah will be unfit, like this place will be. All the houses
where you burned incense on the rooftops to honor the stars that you worshiped, and where
you poured out wine to be an offering to your gods, will become unfit for anyone who
''' .worships me to live in

Then I returned from the garbage dump where Yahweh had sent me to tell them that¹⁴
message, and I stood in the courtyard of Yahweh's temple and said this to all the people
This is what Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, says: 'I will'¹⁵ :who were there
bring a disaster to this city and to the villages around it like I promised, because you people
''' .have stubbornly refused to pay attention to what I said to you

Pashhur son of Immer, was a priest who supervised the temple guards. He¹ 20
So he arrested me. Then he commanded guards² .heard these things that I had prophesied
The³ .to whip me and fasten my feet in stocks at the Benjamin Gate of Yahweh's temple
next day, when Pashhur released me, I said to him, "Pashhur, Yahweh is giving you a new
because Yahweh says⁴ ',name. From now on, your name will be 'Surrounded by Terror
this to you: 'I will cause you and your loved ones to be terrified. You will watch them being
killed by your enemies' swords. I will enable the army of the king of Babylon to capture the
people of Judah. Those soldiers will take some of the people to Babylon, and they will kill
And I will enable their soldiers to take away other things in⁵ .others with their swords
Jerusalem: all your wealth and the produce of your hard work. They will take to Babylon
And as for you, Pashhur, they⁶ .all the very valuable things that belonged to your kings
will take you and all your family to Babylon. You and your family and all your friends who
''' .have prophesied things that are lies will die there and be buried there

:One day I said this to Yahweh⁷

Yahweh, when you chose me to be a prophet, you deceived me so that I would agree to"
.do this work

.You forced me to become a prophet
 .But now everyone ridicules me
 .They make fun of me all the day
 ,When I tell people your messages, I shout saying⁸
 'Yahweh is going to cause you to experience violence and destruction'
 ,So because I tell them those messages from you
 .they insult me and scoff at me all the day
 ',But if I would say, 'I will never mention Yahweh or say anything about him'⁹
 ;it would be as though your message would burn in my inner being like a fire
 .it would be like a fire in my bones
 ,Sometimes I try to remain silent and not proclaim your messages
 .but I am not able to do that
 ,I hear many people whispering about me¹⁰
 saying 'He is the man who proclaims that there will be things that cause us to be
 .terrified everywhere
 'We must tell the authorities what he is saying! We must denounce him
 .Even my best friends are waiting for me to say something that is wrong
 ,They are saying, 'Perhaps we can cause him to say something wrong
 '.and if he does, we will be able to defeat him
 ,But you, Yahweh, are helping me like a strong warrior¹¹
 so it is as though he will cause those who persecute me to stumble, and they will not
 .defeat me
 They will be completely disgraced because of being unable to gain any advantage over
 ;me
 .and other people will never forget that they were disgraced
 ,Yahweh, commander of the angel armies¹²
 ;you examine all those who are righteous
 .you know all that is in their inner beings and what they think
 ,Allow me to see you getting revenge on those who want to harm me
 ".because I came to you to petition for what is right
 !Sing to Yahweh¹³
 !Praise Yahweh
 ,He rescues poor and needy people
 .from those who are wicked
 .But I hope that the day that I was born will be cursed¹⁴

.I do not want anyone to celebrate that day when my mother gave birth to me

,And as for that man who brought to my father the news¹⁵

and caused him to be very happy, by saying

”,Your wife has given birth to a son for you“

.I hope that he also will be cursed

,Allow him to be destroyed like the cities that Yahweh destroyed long ago¹⁶

.without acting mercifully toward them

,Cause that man to hear the people wailing in the morning

.and to hear the enemy soldiers shout their battle cries at noon

.I want that to happen to him because he did not kill me when I was born¹⁷

,I wish that I had died in my mother’s womb

.and that my mother’s body would have been like my grave

,I have continually experienced much trouble and sorrow¹⁸

;and I am disgraced now when I am about to die

?why was it necessary for me to be born

Yahweh gave me another message when King Zedekiah of Judah sent a man¹ 21

named Pashhur son of Malkijah, and a priest named Zephaniah son of Maaseiah, to talk to

The army of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon is“² ,me. They pleaded with me, saying attacking Judah. Please speak to Yahweh for us. Ask him if he will help us. Perhaps he will force Nebuchadnezzar’s army to leave by performing a miracle for us, like the miracles he ”.performed previously

This is what Yahweh, the“⁴ ,I replied to them, “Go back to King Zedekiah. Tell him³ God whom we Israelites worship, says: “I will cause your weapons to be useless in fighting against the king of Babylon and his army that is outside the walls of Jerusalem, attacking. I I myself will fight against your army⁵ .will enable them to enter into the center of this city

I will send a very terrible⁶ .with my very great power, because I am very angry with you plague on the people of this city, and on their domestic animals, and many of them will

And Yahweh says there are many people in this city who want to kill you. So, he⁷ ”.die will enable the army of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and other people in this city to capture you, King Zedekiah, and your officials, and all the other people who do not die from the plague. His army will slaughter your soldiers; they will not act mercifully toward ’.you or pity you at all

And tell this to all the people: ‘Yahweh says that you must decide whether you want⁸

Everyone who remains in Jerusalem will die. They will be⁹ .to die or to remain alive killed in battles or die from being hungry or from diseases. But those who surrender to the .army of Babylon that is surrounding your city will remain alive. They will escape dying

This will happen because I, Yahweh, have decided to cause this city to experience¹⁰ disasters, not to experience something good. The army of the king of Babylon will capture
””.this city and will destroy it completely by fire

Yahweh also told me to say this to the family of the king of Judah: “Listen to this¹¹

:This is what he says to you descendants of King David¹² !message from Yahweh

.Every day, make fair decisions for the people whom you judge‘

.Help those who have been robbed

.Rescue them from robbers and abusers

,If you do not do that

,I will be angry and punish you with a fire that will be impossible to extinguish

.because of all the sins that you have committed

,I will fight against you people of Jerusalem¹³

.you who live on top of a rocky hill above the valley

,I will fight against you people who boast, saying

”.No one can attack us and break through our defenses“

;I will punish you for your wicked deeds like you deserve to be punished¹⁴

It will be as though I will light a fire in your forests

””.that will burn up everything around you

This is another message that Yahweh gave to me: “Go down to the palace of¹ 22

You are the king of Judah. You are the ruler, like² :the king of Judah and say this to him

to what Yahweh³ King David was. You and your officials and your people must listen

says: “Act fairly and justly. Do what is right. Help those who have been robbed. Rescue people from those who oppress them. Stop doing evil deeds. Do not mistreat those who

have come here from other countries, and do not mistreat orphans and widows. Stop

If you obey these commands carefully, there will always be⁴ .murdering here in Jerusalem

some descendant of King David who will be ruling here in Jerusalem. The king and his

.officials and other people will ride through the gates of the city in chariots and on horses

But if you refuse to pay attention to these commands, I, Yahweh, solemnly declare, that⁵

”””.this palace will become a pile of rubble

:And this is what Yahweh says about the house of the king of Judah⁶

I like this palace, like I like the forests in the region of Gilead“

.and the mountains in Lebanon

,But I will cause this palace to become a desert

.a place that no one lives in

;I will select troops who will destroy this palace⁷

.each soldier will use his own tools to wreck the building

They will cut into pieces the beautiful big cedar beams

”.and throw them into a fire

,People from many nations will walk past the ruins of this city and say to each other⁸

,And other people will reply⁹ ”?Why did Yahweh destroy this city that was very great“

He did it because his people stopped obeying the agreement that they had made with“

”.Yahweh their God. Instead, they worshiped other gods

;Yahweh also says, “Do not mourn for King Josiah¹⁰

.do not cry because he has died

,Instead, mourn for King Jehoahaz, his son

,because he will be captured and taken to another country

”.and he will never return to see his own country, Judah, again

Jehoahaz became king after his father, King Josiah, died, but Jehoahaz was captured and¹¹

taken to Babylonia. And this is what Yahweh says about him: “He also will never return to

He will die in that country where they have taken him as a captive and will never¹² .Judah

”.see his own country again

,And Yahweh said to me, “Terrible things will happen to King Jehoahaz’s brother¹³

.King Jehoiakim

.He unjustly forced men to build his palace

The rooms on the upper level were built by men who were forced unjustly to do that

;work

;he forced his neighbors to work for nothing

.he did not pay them anything

He said, ‘I will force my workers to build a huge beautiful palace¹⁴

.with very large rooms and many windows

They will cover the walls with fragrant cedar panels

””.and paint them bright red

!But it is certainly not having a beautiful cedar palace that causes a king to be great¹⁵

.Jehoiakim's father, Josiah, also had plenty of things to eat and drink

,But Josiah always did things that are right and just

.and that is why God blessed him

,Josiah acted justly and helped poor and needy people¹⁶

.so things went well for him

.Yahweh says, "That is the way a person should behave who knows me

But Jehoiakim, you are greedy and desire only to obtain things by acting¹⁷

.dishonestly

,You murder innocent people

,you oppress poor people

".and you treat people cruelly and violently

:Therefore, this is what Yahweh says about Jehoiakim son of King Josiah¹⁸

.When he dies, people will not mourn for him"

'!They will not say to each other, 'It is very sad; we are so sorry

,The people whom he ruled will not mourn for him, saying

We are sad that our king is dead; we are so sorry that the wonderful things that'

'.happened while he was king are ended

;When he dies, people will do to his corpse what they do to a dead donkey¹⁹

!his corpse will be dragged out of Jerusalem and dumped outside the gates

,You people of Judah, go to the mountains in Lebanon and weep²⁰

,shout in the mountains of the Bashan region

,call out in mourning in the mountains of Moab

.because all your friends in those areas have been destroyed

,When you were prosperous, I warned you²¹

'.but you replied, 'We will not pay attention to what you say

;You have been acting like that since you were young

.you have never obeyed me

;So, now I will punish all your leaders²²

.it will be as though they have been blown away by the wind

.They will be captured by your enemies and taken to another country

When that happens, you will truly be ashamed and disgraced

.because of all the wicked things that you have done

,Now, your king enjoys living in the cedar rooms in his palace²³

,but soon he will be punished

and then he will groan

”.like a woman who is giving birth to a baby

Yahweh says this: “Jehoiachin son of King Jehoiakim of Judah, as surely as I am²⁴
alive, I will punish you. Even if you were the ring on my finger that shows that I am the
You are afraid of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and his²⁵ .king, I would pull you off
I²⁶ .huge army, because they are wanting to kill you. I will enable them to capture you
.will expel you and your mother from this land, and you will be taken to another country
You will never return to this²⁷ .Neither of you were born there, but you will both die there
”.land that you will very much desire to return to

Someone said, “Jehoiachin will be like a broken pot²⁸

.that is despised and which no one wants

.He and his children will be exiled to a foreign land

”.I want the people in this land to listen carefully to this message from Yahweh²⁹

:This is what Yahweh says³⁰

In the record about the kings of Judah, write down that it will be as though this man“

,Jehoiachin had no children

,and that he has not been successful during his life

because none of his children will ever become king

”.to rule over the people of Judah

—Yahweh declares, “Terrible things will happen to the leaders of my people¹ 23

those who are like shepherds of the people who are like my sheep—because they have

So, this is² .scattered my people and sent them away, and have not taken care of them
what I, Yahweh, the God whom the Israelite people worship, say to those leaders: ‘Instead
of taking care of my people and leading them to places where they are safe like a shepherd
does for his sheep, you have scattered them. So I will punish you for the evil things that

But later I will gather those who are still alive, from the countries where I³ .you have done
have forced them to go. I will bring them back to their own country, where they will have

Then I will appoint other leaders for my⁴ .many children, and their number will increase
people, leaders who will take care of them. And my people will never be afraid of anything
””.again, and none of them will be like a lost sheep that has been driven off by its shepherd

,Yahweh also says⁵

Some day I will appoint for you a righteous man“
.who will be a descendant of King David
.As king, he will do what is just and right for all the people in the nation
,At that time, he will save all the Israelite people from their enemies⁶
.and they will be safe
And his name will be
””.Yahweh, the one who does what is right for us‘

Yahweh also says that at that time, people who are solemnly promising to do⁷
something will no longer say, “I will do it as surely as Yahweh lives, who rescued the
Instead, they will say, “I will do it as surely as Yahweh⁸ ”.Israelite people from Egypt
lives, who brought us Israelite people back to our own land, from the land to the northeast
and from all the other countries to which he had exiled us.” And they will live in their own
.land again

I am very sad in my deepest emotions because of the sacred message that Yahweh has⁹
;spoken about what will happen to the false prophets

.it is as though all my bones shake
I stagger like a man who is drunk
,after drinking a lot of wine
;The land is full of people who commit adultery¹⁰
.and Yahweh has cursed the land
,Even the pastures in the desert are all dried up
,because the people do what is evil
.and the false prophets use their power to do things that are not just
;Yahweh says, “Even the priests and the prophets are ungodly¹¹
.they do wicked things even in his temple
.Therefore, it will be as though the paths that they walk on are slippery¹²
,It will be as though they are being chased in the darkness
,and there they will fall down
because I will cause them to experience disasters
.at the time that I will punish them
”.That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it

;Previously I saw that the prophets in Samaria were doing something that was wrong¹³
they were prophesying, saying that Baal gave them the messages that they were
,proclaiming

.and they were deceiving my people
 .And now I have seen the prophets in Jerusalem doing terrible things¹⁴
 They commit adultery
 .and habitually tell lies
 ,They encourage evil people to continue to do evil things
 .with the result that the people do not stop sinning
 .Those prophets are as wicked as the people in Sodom and Gomorrah were
 So, this is what Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, says about those false¹⁵
 :prophets
 I will give those prophets bitter things to eat“
 ,and poison to drink
 ”.because it is because of them that this land is filled with people who do wicked deeds
 :This is what Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, says¹⁶
 ,Do not pay any attention to what those false prophets say to you“
 .because they are just fooling you
 ,They tell you about visions that they have only thought in their own minds
 .not about visions that I have given them
 ,They habitually say to those who hate me¹⁷
 ’.Yahweh says that you will have peace‘
 ,And they say to those who stubbornly do what they want to do
 ’.Nothing bad will happen to you because of your doing those things‘
 But none of them has ever been in a council meeting in heaven¹⁸
 .in order to listen to a message from me
 .None of them has paid attention to anything that Yahweh has said
 ;So, Yahweh will punish them; it will be like a great storm¹⁹
 it will come down like a whirlwind, swirling around the heads of those wicked
 .people
 Yahweh will not stop being angry²⁰
 .until he has completely accomplished all that he has planned
 ”.In the future, you will understand all of this clearly
 ,Yahweh also says, “I have not appointed those prophets²¹
 .but they run around telling people their messages
 ,I did not speak to them

.but they continue to prophesy²²
If they had been in my council meetings²²
,they would have been able to speak messages from me
“ .and they would have caused people to turn away from committing evil deeds
?Yahweh also says, “Am I a God who is only nearby²³
.No, I am a God who is far away, also
So, no one can hide in some secret place²⁴
.with the result that I cannot see him
!I am everywhere, in heaven and on the earth
!That is what I, Yahweh, say

I have heard those prophets prophesy lies, saying that they are telling people²⁵
messages from me. They say, ‘Listen to me tell you the dream I received from God last
How long will they continue to do this? How long will²⁶ ’!night! I really had this dream
?those lying prophets continue to prophesy things that come only from their own minds
,They think that because of the dreams that they tell to each other, people will forget me²⁷
Allow those²⁸ .like their ancestors forgot about me when they started to worship Baal
false prophets to tell people their dreams, but those who have messages that really come
from me should proclaim those messages faithfully. I, Yahweh, say that like straw and grain
are certainly very different, my messages and the message from those false prophets are
It is as though my messages burn like a fire and is like a²⁹ . certainly very different
.hammer that smashes rocks into pieces when it affects someone’s heart

Therefore, I, Yahweh say, I oppose all those prophets who steal messages from each³⁰
I oppose those prophets who speak³¹ .other and claim that those messages came from me
I oppose those³² .their own messages but claim that those messages came from me
prophets who falsely say that I told them something in a vision, but they are only telling
lies that cause my people to sin. I did not send those prophets. I did not even appoint them
,to be prophets. And they have no messages that will benefit my people at all. That is what I
”.Yahweh, declare

Yahweh said to me, “If one of those prophets or priests or one of the other people³³
asks you, ‘What problem has Yahweh told you about now?’, you must reply, ‘He has not
And³⁴ ’!given me anything to say to you! Instead, Yahweh says that he will abandon you
if any prophet or priest or anyone else falsely says, ‘I have a prophecy from Yahweh,’ I will
,What you should continually ask each other is³⁵ .punish that person and his family
But instead³⁶ ’?When you spoke to Yahweh, what did he reply? What is he saying to us‘

you are only concerned with your own ideas and with twisting the true message from the
This is what you³⁷ .true God, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, whom we worship
should ask each prophet: ‘What did Yahweh reply when you talked to him? What is he
If he replies, ‘What I told you is a prophecy from Yahweh’ then let him³⁸ ’?saying to us
know I will punish him, because I told my true prophets not to give any messages to this
.people right now

.So I, Yahweh, will get rid of you false prophets. I will expel you from my presence³⁹
.And I will get rid of this city that I gave to you and to your ancestors
I will cause people to make fun of you forever. People will never forget that you⁴⁰
”.were disgraced

The army of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon captured Jehoiachin, the son¹ 24
of Jehoiakim, the king of Judah, and his officials, and all his skilled workers and took them
to Babylon. After that happened, Yahweh gave me a vision. In the vision I saw two baskets
One basket was full of good figs, like² .of figs that had been placed in front of the temple
the kind that ripen first. The other basket was filled with figs that were bad, with the result
.that they could not be eaten

”?Then Yahweh said to me, “Jeremiah, what do you see³

I replied, “I see some figs. Some are very good ones, but some are very bad, with the
”.result that no one would eat them

This is what I, Yahweh, the God whom the⁵ :Then Yahweh gave me this message⁴
Israelite people say that they worship, say: The good figs represent the people of Judah
and I will not exile⁶ .whom I exiled to Babylonia. I sent them there for their own good
them again, instead I will bring them back to this land and let them build up houses and
I will⁷ .cities again. They will be like plants that grow and prosper and are never cut down
enable them to desire to know in their inner beings that I am Yahweh. They will be my
.people, and I will be their God, because they will return to me sincerely

But I, Yahweh, also say, the bad figs represent Zedekiah, the king of Judah, and his⁸
officials, and all the other people who remain in Jerusalem, and those who have gone to
I will cause them to experience⁹ .Egypt. I will do to them like people do to rotten figs
calamities, with the result that people in every nation on the earth will be horrified, and will
hate them because they are evil people. Wherever I scatter them, people will make fun of
And I will¹⁰ .them, and say that they are disgraced, and ridicule them, and curse them

cause them to experience wars and famines and diseases, until they have disappeared from
".Israel, this land which I gave to them and to their ancestors

After Jehoiakim had been ruling Judah for almost four years, Yahweh gave¹ 25
me this message for all the people of Judah. It was during the year that King
Jeremiah spoke this message to all the people² .Nebuchadnezzar started to rule in Babylon
Yahweh has been giving me messages for³ :in Jerusalem and other places in Judah
twenty-three years. He started giving me messages when Josiah son of Amon, had been
ruling Judah for almost thirteen years. And I have faithfully told you those messages, but
.you have not paid any attention to them

Many times Yahweh has sent to you the prophets who served him, but you have not⁴
Each time their message was⁵ .listened to them or paid any attention to what they said
this: 'Turn from all your evil behavior, from all the evil things that you have continually
been doing. If you do that, you will be able to stay in this land that Yahweh gave to you and
Do not cause Yahweh to become angry by⁶ .to your ancestors, to belong to you forever
serving and worshiping idols that you have made with your hands. If you do not cause him
'to be angry, he will not punish you

And Yahweh says, 'But you would not pay attention to the messages that I gave to⁷
those prophets. You caused me to become extremely angry by your worshiping idols that
.you had made with your own hands. That resulted in my punishing you

So now, I, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, say that because you have not⁸
I will gather all the armies of the nations that will come⁹ ,paid attention to what I said
from the northeast. I have appointed King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to lead them. I have
appointed him to do my work for me. I will bring those armies to attack this land, all the
people living in it, and even nearby countries. I will completely destroy them, and cause
them to be places that people are horrified about, and that people will ridicule, places that
.I will cause happy singing and laughing to cease in your land¹⁰ .will be ruined forever
There will no longer be brides and bridegrooms talking joyfully. There will not be the
.sound of people grinding grain with millstones. There will be no lamps lit in your houses
All of this land will become a desert where no one will live. And the people of Israel¹¹
and of the nearby countries will be exiled to Babylonia and work for the kings of Babylon
.for seventy years

Then, after they have been in Babylonia for seventy years, I will punish the king of¹²
Babylonia and his people for the sins that they have committed. I will cause Babylonia to
I will cause them to experience all the terrible things that¹³ .become a wasteland forever

Jeremiah has written about—all the punishments that he predicted will happen to all those
The leaders of many nations will cause the people of Babylonia to become their¹⁴ .nations
slaves, like the people of Babylonia caused my people to become slaves. I will punish them
””.like they deserve for having caused my people to suffer

Then Yahweh, the God of Israel, gave me a vision. In the vision he was holding a¹⁵
cup of wine. He said, “Take from me this cup that is full of wine that represents
punishment. I will cause all the leaders of the nations to which I will send you to drink
When they drink the wine, they will stagger and act like¹⁶ .some of the wine in this cup
crazy people, because they will realize that I will massacre many of their people with
”.swords

So, in the vision, I took that cup full of wine from Yahweh, and I took it to all the¹⁷
nations to which he sent me, and caused the leaders of those nations to drink some of that
I went to Jerusalem and the other towns in Judah, and the king and the other¹⁸ .wine
officials drank some of the wine from that cup. And, starting from that day, they all
,eventually were removed from having authority, and became people whom others ridiculed
,In the vision Egypt had to drink some of the wine¹⁹ .who were despised, and cursed
and foreigners who were²⁰ ,including the king and his officials and many of his people
,living there. In the vision the land of Uz and the cities and kings of Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron
,Then the vision about the kings of Edom²¹ .and Ashdod had to drink some of the wine
Then there were more visions about the kings of the cities of²² .Moab, and Ammon began
Tyre and Sidon across the Mediterranean Sea, about the kings who had to drink some of the
In the vision the religious leaders of the cities of Dedan, Tema, and Buz, which²³ .wine
In the²⁴ .were cities in Arabia and other distant places, they had to drink some of the wine
and the kings of the²⁵ vision other places in Arabia and the kings of tribes in the desert
and kings in countries to the north that are near²⁶ ,Zimri, Elam, and Media people groups
to Israel and to countries that are far from Israel, one after the other—all the kingdoms in
.the world had to drink, and finally the king of Babylon had to drink some of the wine

,Then in the vision Yahweh said to me, “Tell them that this is what Yahweh²⁷
commander of the angel armies, the God of Israel, says: ‘Drink from this cup some of the
wine that represents the punishment that I will give you. Drink a lot of it and become drunk
and vomit. You will fall down and not get up again, because I will cause you to be killed in
If any of those to whom you give this wine refuse to drink²⁸ .wars that I will send to you
I²⁹ .it, tell them that Yahweh, commander of the angel armies says that they must drink it
,am starting to bring disaster to my own people. They will not be exempt from punishment

,for I am sending wars to all the nations on the earth. That will surely happen because I
'Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, have said it

:Now tell them all those things that I have said, and also say this to them³⁰

!Yahweh will shout to them from the highest places like a lion roars'

!He will call out with a shout from the holy place where he lives

!He will roar like a lion against his people because of their sins

,Like those who shout so loudly when they are treading the grapes

!he will shout so that everyone who lives on the earth can hear him

,Even people in very remote places around the earth will hear him shouting³¹

.because he will say why he will judge and punish all the nations

.He will cause the wicked people to be slaughtered with swords

'.That will surely happen because Yahweh has said it

:Then tell them that this is what Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, says³²

!Listen to this'

.Disasters will happen to one nation after another

Punishment from me will arise like a great storm

.from the most distant places on the earth

When that happens, the corpses of those whom I have caused to be slaughtered will³³

.fill the earth from the east to the west

.And no one will mourn for them, and no one will gather their corpses to bury them

.They will be scattered on the ground like manure

!You evil leaders, they call out for someone to help them³⁴

.You who were the leaders of my people, fell down and and they rolled in the dust

!Now is time for you to be slaughtered

You will fall down and be shattered like a fragile vase shatters when it falls to the
.ground

;Those who should have taken care of my people will not find any place to hide³⁵

.there will be no place for the leaders of my people to find safety

You are the ones who take care of my people now crying out for help, and those who³⁶

—were the leaders of my people they cry and beg for help

.while I, Yahweh, am destroying your nation

Your peaceful meadows will become a wasteland³⁷

.because Yahweh will severely punish it

,Yahweh will leave his dwelling like a lion leaves its den to attack other animals³⁸

.and he will cause your land to become desolate

””.He is very angry with you and will make your enemies angry at you

Soon after Jehoiakim son of Josiah, became the king of Judah, Yahweh gave¹ 26

This is what I, Yahweh, am telling you: Stand in the courtyard in front“² :me this message of my temple, and speak to all the people from the various towns in Judah who come there

If you do³ .to worship me. Tell them everything that I tell you; do not leave out anything tell them everything, perhaps they will pay attention, and each one of them will turn away from his evil behavior. Then I will change my mind, and not bring on them the disaster that

Say to⁴⁻⁵ .I was planning to bring on them because of the evil things that they have done them, ‘This is what Yahweh says: I sent to you the prophets who serve me, to tell you what you should do. I sent them to you many times, but you have not paid attention to what they

said. If you will not pay attention to what I say and do not obey the message that I have I will destroy this⁶ ,given to you, and if you do not pay attention to what the prophets say temple like I destroyed Shiloh, the place where the sacred tent was put. And I will cause Jerusalem to be a place whose name people in every nation on the earth will say when they
””.curse someone

Jeremiah did what Yahweh told him to do. The priests, the false prophets, and many⁷
But as soon⁸ .other people listened to him as he told them that message outside the temple as Jeremiah finished telling them everything that Yahweh had commanded him to say, they

Why are you prophesying that this⁹ !all seized him and said, “You must be executed temple will be destroyed like Shiloh was destroyed? Why are you saying that this city will be destroyed, and that no one will live here anymore? All the people surrounded Jeremiah
.as he stood in front of the temple

When the officials of Judah heard about all this that was happening, they rushed¹⁰
from the palace and sat down at the gate of the temple named The New Gate, to judge
The priests and the prophets told the officials and the other people who¹¹ .Jeremiah’s case were there, “This man should be executed, because he has prophesied that this city will be
”!destroyed, and you yourselves have heard him say that

,Then Jeremiah replied to the officials and the other people. He said to them¹²
Yahweh sent me to prophesy all the things that you heard me say about what will happen“
But if you change your behavior and stop sinning, and start¹³ .to this temple and this city to obey Yahweh our God, he will change his mind, and not send to you the disasters that he
As for me, I am not able to free myself from your grasp. So you¹⁴ .said that he would send

But you need to know that if you kill me, you¹⁵ .can do to me whatever you want to do ,will be killing a man who is innocent. And you and everyone else in this city will be guilty because the truth is that it was Yahweh who sent me to speak every word that you have ”.heard me say

,Then the officials and the other people said to the priests and the false prophets¹⁶ This man does not deserve to be executed, because he has spoken to us the message that“ ”!Yahweh gave him

Then some of the elders stood up and spoke to all the people who were gathered¹⁷ They said, “Remember what Micah, the prophet from Moresheth, prophesied¹⁸ .there :during the years that Hezekiah was the king of Judah. He told the people of Judah this

:This is what Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, says‘ ;Some day Mount Zion will be plowed like fields are plowed .Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins

But¹⁹ ’.There will be a large clump of trees on top of the hill where the temple is now did Hezekiah or anyone else in Judah kill Micah for saying that? No! Instead, Hezekiah revered Yahweh, and pleaded that he would act mercifully toward them. So, Yahweh .changed his mind about sending to them the terrible disaster that he said he would send ”!And now if we kill Jeremiah, we are going to bring even worse disaster on ourselves

At that time, Uriah son of Shemaiah from the city of Kiriath Jearim was also²⁰ prophesying from Yahweh. He was predicting that the city and the rest of the land would When King Jehoiakim and²¹ .experience the same disasters that Jeremiah was predicting his army officers and officials heard what Uriah was saying, the king sent someone to kill Then²² .Uriah. But Uriah heard about it, and became very afraid, and he escaped to Egypt .King Jehoiakim sent Elnathan son of Achor along with several other men to Egypt They captured Uriah and took him back to Jerusalem to King Jehoiakim. The king then²³ commanded a soldier to kill Uriah with a sword. Then they buried his corpse in a place However, Ahikam son of Shaphan defended me, and²⁴ .where poor people are buried .persuaded the officials not to allow the mob to murder Jeremiah

Soon after Zedekiah son of Josiah became the king of Judah, Yahweh gave a¹ 27

This is what he said to me: “Make a yoke and bonds, then fasten them² .message to me Then send them to the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and³ .around your own neck Sidon, and give them to the ambassadors from those countries who have come to Jerusalem Tell them to give this message to their kings: This is what⁴ .to talk to King Zedekiah

With my very⁵ :Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, whom Israel worships, says great power I created the earth and the people and the animals that are on the earth. And I

And now I am going to enable King⁶ .can give those things to anyone whom I want to Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, who does what I want him to do, to control your countries. I

The people of all the⁷ .am going to enable him to rule everything, even the wild animals nations will work for him, and later for his son, and later for his grandson, until the time for them to rule is finished. Then the armies of many great kings from many nations will
'conquer Babylon

But now I tell you that you must do what the king of Babylon wants you to do, like⁸
an ox that has a yoke on its neck must do what its master wants it to do. I will punish any nation that refuses to do that. I will cause those people to experience war and famine and
So, do not pay attention⁹ .diseases, until the armies of Babylon have conquered that nation
to your false prophets and fortune tellers and people who predict what will happen by
working magic or by talking with spirits of dead people. Those people say not to serve him
Those people are all liars. If¹⁰ .because the king of Babylon will not conquer your country
you believe what they say, it will result in your being exiled from your land. I will cause
But the people of any country¹¹ .you to be taken from your land, and you will die far away
who do what the king of Babylon wants them to do will remain in their own country and be
,able to plant their crops as they always have done. That will surely happen because I
".Yahweh, have said it

After I gave that message to those ambassadors, I gave the same message to King¹²
Zedekiah of Judah. I said to him, "If you want to remain alive, do what the king of Babylon
It would be foolish for you not to do that, because the¹³ .and his officials want you to do
result would be that you and your people would die by your enemies' swords or by famine
or diseases, which Yahweh will cause any nation to experience that refuses to allow the
,Do not pay attention to those prophets who say to you¹⁴ .king of Babylon to rule them
'Do not obey the king of Babylon since he will not conquer your country.' They are liars'
This is what Yahweh says: 'I have not appointed those prophets. They are saying that I¹⁵
gave them messages, but they are lying. So, if you believe them, I will expel you from this
"'land. And you and all those prophets will die in Babylon

Then I spoke to the priests and the other people, and I said, "This is what Yahweh¹⁶
says: 'Do not believe your prophets who tell you that all the gold items that were taken
from my temple by soldiers from Babylon will soon be returned from Babylon, because
Do not pay attention to what they say. Surrender to¹⁷ .what they are prophesying is a lie
the king of Babylon. If you do that, you will remain alive. If you do not do that, this entire
If they are really prophets who speak messages from me, tell¹⁸ .city will be destroyed

them to plead to me, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, that the soldiers from Babylon will not be allowed to take away to Babylon the valuable items that still remain in

I say this¹⁹ .the temple and in the king's palace and in the other palaces in Jerusalem because the huge pillars that are in front of the temple and the large tank that was called "The Sea" and the ten water carts and all the other items that are used for offering sacrifices"

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon left those things here when he²⁰ .are still in this city exiled Jehoiachin, the son of Jehoiakim, the king of Judah, to Babylon, along with all the Yahweh, commander²¹ .other leaders of Jerusalem and the leaders of other places in Judah of the angel armies, says this about all those valuable things that are still outside the temple

They will all be carried away to Babylon. And²² :and in the palace of the king of Judah they will stay there until I say that they should be brought back to Jerusalem. Then they
""will be brought back here. That is what I, Yahweh, say

These things occurred when Zedekiah was beginning his rule as king of¹ 28

Judah. It happened on the fourth year and fifth month of his rule, that Azzur's son Hananiah, a prophet from the city of Gibeon, spoke to Jeremiah in the courtyard of the Temple. This is what he² ,temple, while all the priests and other people were listening. He said Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, whom Israel worships, says: 'I will cause the Within two years, I will cause to be brought back to³ .king of Babylon to stop ruling you this temple all the valuable things that King Nebuchadnezzar's soldiers took from this And I will also bring back to this place Jehoiachin, who was⁴ .temple and took to Babylon the son of the Jehoiakim, the King of Judah, and all the other people who were captured and taken to Babylon. The king of Babylon has forced you to do what he wants, like someone puts a yoke on the neck of an ox to force it to do what he wants it to do. But I will
""cause that to end. That will happen because I, Yahweh, have said it

Jeremiah replied to Hananiah in front of all the priests and other people whom were⁵

He said, "I want that to be true! I desire that what you have⁶ .standing outside the temple predicted will happen just as you said! I hope that he will cause men from Babylon to bring back all the valuable things that were in this temple, and all the people who were taken to Many⁸ .But now listen to what I say to you while all these people are listening⁷ .Babylon years ago, those who were prophets before you and I became prophets spoke messages about many nations and great kingdoms. They predicted that wars and disasters and plagues So now you or any other prophet who predicts that things⁹ .would occur in those nations will go well for us must show that your message is correct. Only if what you predict
".actually happens will we know that you were truly appointed by Yahweh

Then he said this to all¹¹. Then Hananiah took the yoke off my neck and broke it¹⁰ the people who were there: “This is what Yahweh says: ‘Just like Hananiah has broken this yoke, within two years I will cause King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to stop forcing the people to do what he wants, which has been like a heavy yoke on all their necks.’” After Hananiah said that, Jeremiah left the temple area

Soon after Hananiah had broken the yoke that was around the neck of Jeremiah¹² Go and say this to Hananiah: ‘Yahweh, Commander’¹³: Yahweh gave this message to me of the angel armies, whom Israel worships, says that you have broken a wooden yoke, but I have forced the people of all these nations to¹⁴. that he will replace it with an iron yoke become slaves of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. That is like an iron yoke around their necks. I have put everything, even wild animals, under his control

Then Jeremiah went to Hananiah and said to him, “Hananiah, listen to this: Yahweh¹⁵ has not appointed you; instead, you have told lies to the people, and they have believed Therefore, this is what Yahweh says: ‘You will soon die. Before the end of this’¹⁶. your lies year, you will die, because you have encouraged people to act against Yahweh

Hananiah died two months later¹⁷

After King Jehoiachin, his mother, his palace officials, other officials in¹⁻² **29** Judah and Jerusalem, and all the various kinds of craftsmen had been exiled to Babylon Jeremiah wrote a letter to the elders, the priests, the prophets and all the other people who He gave the³. had been taken from Jerusalem to Babylon by soldiers of Nebuchadnezzar letter to Elasah son of Shaphan, and to Gemariah son of Hilkiah, when they were about to go to Babylon to be ambassadors from King Zedekiah to King Nebuchadnezzar. This is the letter that Jeremiah wrote, the message that Yahweh gave him

This is what Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the God whom Israel⁴ worships, says to all you people who were captured here in Jerusalem and taken there to Build houses there, and plan to stay there because you will be there for many’⁵: Babylon Get married and⁶. years. Plant gardens, and eat the food that is produced in the gardens have children. Then when they grow up, choose wives for your sons, and husbands for your daughters, in order that they also may have children. In that way, the number of your people Also, do things that will cause things to go well for the other’⁷. will increase, not decrease people there in the city where I sent you. Pray that things will go well for the people in that city, because if things go well for them, things will go well for you, also

This is what Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the God whom Israel⁸ worships, says: “There are false prophets and fortune tellers among you. Do not allow them because⁹ ,to deceive you. Do not pay attention to them when they tell you their dreams they are telling you lies, saying that I have given them the messages that they are telling”.you. But, I have not appointed them

This is also what Yahweh says: “After you and your children have been in Babylon¹⁰ for seventy years, I will help you, and do for you the things that I promised, and I will I, Yahweh, know what I have planned for you. I¹¹ .enable you to return here to Jerusalem am planning to cause things to go well for you, not to cause you to experience disasters. I am planning to give you many things that you can confidently expect to receive in the At that time, when you go to worship me and¹² .future that your people will survive to see If you earnestly desire for me¹³ .call out my name in prayer, I will listen to what you pray I will help you. I will cause you to no¹⁴ .to bless you, you will see that I will answer you longer be slaves in Babylon. I will gather you from all the nations to which I have exiled you, and I will bring you back here to your own land, to the place from which you were”.taken

.Some of you say that Yahweh has appointed prophets for you there in Babylon¹⁵ But this is what Yahweh says about the king who rules here in Jerusalem, and about all¹⁶ the other people who are still living here—your relatives who were not taken to Babylon Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, says this: “I will cause them to¹⁷ .with you experience wars and famines and diseases. I will cause them to become like bad figs that I will not stop causing them to¹⁸ .are very rotten, with the result that no one can eat them experience wars and famines and diseases. And I will scatter them all around the world. In every country where I force them to be taken, I will cause them to be people whom others That will happen because they have refused to¹⁹ .curse and be horrified about and mock .pay attention to my messages, messages that I gave to the prophets whom I sent to them And you who have been exiled to Babylon have not paid attention to them, either.” That is .what Yahweh says

Therefore, you people who have been exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon, listen to²⁰ This is what Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the²¹ .this message from Yahweh God whom Israel worships,, says about Ahab son of Kolaiah, and about Zedekiah son of :Maaseiah, who are telling lies to you, saying that they are giving messages from him They will be seized and taken to King Nebuchadnezzar, who will cause them to be“ Because of what will happen to them, all you people²² .executed while you are watching who have been taken from Judah to Babylon will say this when they curse someone: ‘I hope that Yahweh will do to you the same thing that he did to Zedekiah and Ahab, whom

They have done²³ .the king of Babylon caused to be killed by being burned in a fire
'terrible things to my Israelite people. They have committed adultery with their neighbors
wives, and they have spoken lies, saying that they were messages from me. They have said
".things that I did not tell them to say, and I, Yahweh, have heard them say those things

Yahweh told me to send this message to Shemaiah, a man from Nehelam who was²⁴

This is what Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the God²⁵ :living in Babylon
whom Israel worships, says: "You wrote a letter that no one told you to write. You sent it to
Zephaniah the priest, son of Maaseiah, and you sent copies to the other priests and all the
:other people here in Jerusalem. This is what you wrote to him

Zephaniah, Yahweh has appointed you to be the priest instead of Jehoiada, to²⁶
supervise those who work in the temple. Anyone who acts like a crazy man and who claims
So why have²⁷ .that he is a prophet, you should put his arms and legs and head into stocks
you not done anything to stop Jeremiah, the man from Anathoth, who pretends that he is a
He sent a letter to us who are here in Babylon, saying that we will²⁸ ?prophet among you
,be here for a long time. He said that therefore we should build houses and plan to stay here
""and plant gardens, and eat the food that is produced in the gardens

But when Zephaniah the priest received the letter from you, he brought it to me and²⁹
Send this message to all the³¹ :Then Yahweh gave me this message³⁰ .read it to me
people from Judah who are there in Babylon: Say that this is what Yahweh says about
Shemaiah, the man from Nehelam: 'I did not appoint him, but he has deceived you and
.So, I will punish him and his family³² .caused you to believe the lies that he prophesied
.He has incited you to rebel against me. Because of that, all of his descendants will soon die
I will do many good things for you, my people, but he and his descendants will not see
those things, because they will be dead. That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have
""!said it

I, Yahweh, the God of² ,Yahweh gave Jeremiah another message. He said¹ 30

I want you to³ .Israel am telling you to write down everything that I have said to you
know that some day I will free my people, the people of Israel and Judah, from being slaves
in Babylon. I will bring them back to this land that I gave to their ancestors, and this land
".will belong to them again. That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it

.Yahweh gave to me another message concerning the people of Israel and Judah⁴

:This is what he said⁵

;I hear people screaming because they are terrified“

.there is no peace in the land

:But think about this⁶

.Men certainly do not give birth to babies
,Therefore, why do strong men stand there
,with their faces very white
,with their hands pressed against their stomachs
?like women who are about to give birth to babies

;Terrible things will soon happen⁷

!That will be a terrible day

.There has never been such a time

,It will be a time when my Israelite people will experience great trouble
”.but finally they will be saved from their sufferings

:Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, says this⁸

,At that time it will be as though I will sever the ropes that are around my people“
.and I will free them from being slaves
.People in other countries will no longer enslave them
,My people will again serve me, Yahweh, their God⁹
;and they will serve a king who is a descendant of King David
.and I will appoint this king for them

,So, you people of Israel who serve me¹⁰
,do not be dismayed now
;because some day I will bring you back from distant places
.I will bring your descendants back home from the land where they had been exiled
,Then you Israelite people will again live peacefully and safely
.and there will not be any nation that will cause you to be terrified

;I, Yahweh, say that I will be with you and will rescue you¹¹

.I will completely destroy the nations to which I have scattered you
.But I will not completely destroy you
I will punish you for your many sins, but I will punish you only as severely as you
:deserve
”.I would be doing wrong if I did not to punish you at all

:Yahweh also says this¹²

;You have suffered very much“
.it is as though you have a terrible wound that cannot be cured

,There is no one to help you¹³
 .no one to put a bandage on your wound
 .There is no medicine that will heal you
 All your allies have deserted you¹⁴
 .and they do not want to help you anymore
 ,It is true that I have punished you severely
 ,like your enemies would wound you
 because you have committed many sins
 .and you are very guilty
 ,Because that is true, why do you protest about my punishing you¹⁵
 ?as though I had caused a wound that could not be cured
 ,It was necessary for me to punish you
 because you had committed many sins
 .and you were very guilty
 ;But some day all those who are trying to destroy you will be destroyed¹⁶
 .all your enemies will be exiled to other nations
 All those who have stolen things from you
 ,will have their valuable possessions stolen
 .and all those who attack you will be attacked
 ,Everyone says that you are outcasts¹⁷
 ”.and that you live in Jerusalem, a city that no one cares about
 ,But Yahweh says
 I will heal your injuries“
 ”.and cause you to be healthy again
 :This is what Yahweh says¹⁸
 I will bring the people of Israel back from the lands to which they were taken“
 .and enable them to possess their land and their houses again
 ,When that happens, Jerusalem will be rebuilt on top of its ruins
 .and the king’s palace will be rebuilt as a place of justice
 ,People will again sing joyfully to thank me¹⁹
 ;and I will cause there to be more people in Jerusalem, not fewer
 .I will cause them to be honored, not despised

.Their children will prosper like they did before²⁰
,I will cause them to be a group of people who worship me
.and I will punish any nation that oppresses them
,One of their own people will be their king²¹
,and I will invite him to come close to me to worship me
because no one would dare to come close to me
.if I did not invite him
,You Israelite people will be my people²²
”.and I will be your God
;Yahweh will punish your enemies²³
;it will be like a great storm
.it will come down like a whirlwind, swirling around the heads of wicked people
He will not stop being angry²⁴
.until he completely accomplishes all that he has planned
.In the future, you will understand all of this clearly

Yahweh says that at that time, he will be the God who is worshiped by all the¹ 31
.clans in Israel, and they will be his people

:This is what Yahweh says²

Those people who remained alive and were not killed by their enemies’ swords“
;were blessed by me even in the desert
.where they survived

,Long ago I, Yahweh, said to your ancestors, the Israelite people³

.I have loved you and I will continue to love you forever‘
,By faithfully loving you I have brought you close to myself

And now I tell you, my Israelite people who I will think of like a chaste woman, that⁴
.I will cause you to be a nation again

.You will joyfully dance as you play your tambourines

,Again you will plant your vineyards on the hills of Samaria⁵

.and you will eat the grapes that grow there

, There will be a time when watchmen will call out from the hills of Samaria⁶

Come, let us go up to Jerusalem‘

”!to worship Yahweh, our God

:And now Yahweh also says this⁷

!Sing joyfully about what I have done for the people of Israel“

!Shout about your nation, the greatest nation

,Shout joyfully, praising me and saying

,Yahweh, has rescued his people‘

’!the ones who were still alive

,Do that because I will bring them back from the northeast⁸

.from the most distant places on the earth

,Among them will be blind people and lame people

.women who are pregnant and women who are having labor pains

!They will be a huge group of people

,They will be weeping as they return⁹

.and they will be praying to me

,I will guide them along streams of water

.on level paths where they will not stumble

;I will do this because I am like a father to the Israelite people

”.it is as though Israel is my oldest son

.People in the nations of the world, listen to this message from Yahweh¹⁰

.Then proclaim it to people who live along the coasts far away

Yahweh scattered his people, but he will gather them again and will take care of them

.like a shepherd takes care of his sheep

Yahweh will buy his Israelite people back¹¹

.from those who conquered them because they were more powerful than his people

Yahweh’s people will return to Jerusalem¹²

.and shout joyfully on the slopes of Zion Hill

—They will rejoice about the things that Yahweh has abundantly given to them

grain and new wine and olive oil

.and young sheep and cattle

,They themselves will be like a well-watered garden

.and they will no longer feel worn out

,The young women will dance joyfully¹³

.and all the men, young ones and old ones, will join with them

;I will cause them to rejoice instead of mourning
.I will comfort them and cause them to be happy instead of being sad
,The priests will have plenty of things to eat and drink¹⁴
.and all my people will be filled with the good things that I give them
”!That will certainly happen because I, Yahweh, have said it

:Yahweh also says this¹⁵

;Women were weeping in Ramah, on the border between Israel and Judah“
.they were mourning and crying very loudly
The women who were the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh, the two grandsons of
,Rachel the wife of Jacob, were weeping about their children
and no one could comfort them
.because their children were all dead

:But now this is what Yahweh says¹⁶

,Do not cry anymore‘
.because I will reward you for the good things you have done for your children
.Your children will return from the land where their enemies have taken them
I, Yahweh, am telling you that there are things that you can confidently expect me to¹⁷
.do for you in the future
,Your children will return to their own land

,I have heard the people of Israel grieving very much and saying to me¹⁸

,You punished us severely‘
.like calves are beaten by their owners to train them for pulling a plow
,So bring us back to obey you again
,because we are ready to return to you
.because you alone are Yahweh, our God

,We turned away from you¹⁹

;but we repented
.after you caused us to realize that we were guilty
We beat our hands on our legs to show that we were very ashamed of the sins that
,we committed when we were young

:But I, Yahweh, say this²⁰

.The Israelite people certainly are still my dear children
,It is often necessary for me to threaten to punish them

.but I still love them
 ,That is why I have not forgotten them
 .and I will certainly act mercifully toward them
 ;You Israelite people, set up road signs²¹
 put up posts along the roads
 .to mark the road on which you walked when you were taken from Jerusalem
 ,My precious Israelite people
 .come back to your towns here
 ,You people who have been like daughters who have forsaken their parents²²
 ?how long will you continue to wander away from me
 :I, Yahweh, will cause something to happen on the earth that is new
 ”!the women of Israel will be protecting their husbands as they travel back here

This is what Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the God whom Israel²³
 worships, says: “When I bring them back from the countries to which they have been
 exiled, all the people from the towns in Judah will again say, ‘I hope that Yahweh will bless
 The people of Judah²⁴ ’!this my home, the holy place where righteous people will live
 who live in the towns, including the farmers and the shepherds, will all live together
 I will enable weary people to be refreshed with drinks of water, and enable²⁵ .peacefully
 ”.people who are very exhausted to become strong again

I, Jeremiah, woke up after dreaming all those things, and I looked around. I had²⁶
 !slept very delightfully

Then Yahweh said to me, “There will be a time when I will greatly increase the²⁷
 Previously, I²⁸ .number of people and the number of livestock here in Israel and Judah
 caused their enemies to remove the people from their land and to destroy their land and to
 bring many disasters to it. But in the future, I will enable them to build houses and to plant
 .crops here in Israel again. That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it

Previously the people often said, ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, but it is the²⁹
 children’s teeth that ache.’ They meant that it was not fair for them to be punished for their
 .ancestors’ sins. But when I bring them back to their land, they will no longer say that

But now all people will die because of the sins that they themselves have committed. It³⁰
 ,I³¹ ’.will be more like ‘The person who eats sour grapes will have his own teeth aching
 Yahweh, say this: ‘There will be a time when I will make a new agreement with the people
 This new agreement will not be like the³² .of Israel and with the people of Judah
 agreement that I made with their ancestors when I took them by their hands and led them

out of Egypt. They disobeyed that agreement, even though I loved them like husbands love
This is what I, Yahweh, say: ‘This is the new agreement that I will make³³’.their wives
with the people of Israel some day: I will put my laws in their minds and write them on
And it will not be³⁴.their inner beings. I will be their God, and they will be my people
necessary for them to teach their neighbors or their relatives and say, “You need to know
,Yahweh,” because everyone, including both unimportant people and very important people
will already know me. And I will forgive them for having been very wicked, and I will
”’.never think again about the sins that they have committed

,Yahweh is the one who causes the sun to give light during the day³⁵

.and who causes the moon and the stars to give light during the night

.He stirs up the seas, with the result that waves roar

,His name is Yahweh, commander of the angel armies

:and this is what he says

I will not permanently reject my Israelite people³⁶

.any more than I will get rid of the laws that control the universe

:And this is what I say³⁷

No one can measure the sky‘

.and no one can find out what is supporting the earth

Similarly, I cannot reject the descendants of Jacob

’.because of all the evil things that they have done

!That is certain, because I, Yahweh, have said it

I, Yahweh, also say that there will be a time when everything in Jerusalem will be³⁸
rebuilt for me, from the tower of Hananel at the northeast corner, west to the gate named

Workers will stretch a measuring line over Gareb Hill all the way³⁹.the Corner Gate

And the whole area, including the place where corpses and ashes are⁴⁰.southwest to Goah

thrown in the Kidron Valley, and all the fields to the east as far as the Horse Gate, will

become set apart for me. And the city of Jerusalem will never again be captured or

”.destroyed

After Zedekiah had been ruling Judah for almost ten years, Yahweh gave me¹ 32

another message, during the time that Nebuchadnezzar had been ruling Babylonia for

His army had surrounded Jerusalem, and Jeremiah was in a prison².almost eighteen years

King Zedekiah had put³.area in the courtyard where the guards of the king’s palace stayed

,me there. I continued to prophesy there about what would happen. I continued to say .Yahweh says that he is about to allow the army of the king of Babylon to capture this city“

And the soldiers of Babylonia will most definitely capture King Zedekiah and take him⁴
Then his soldiers will take Zedekiah⁵ .to the king of Babylon for a face to face encounter to Babylon, and he will remain there until I arrange for him to be punished. And if he tries to fight against the soldiers from Babylonia, he will not succeed.” King Zedekiah asked .Jeremiah why he continued to say that, but Yahweh had said this would be so

Your cousin“⁷ ,At that time, Yahweh gave Jeremiah another message. He said⁶
Hanamel son of Shallum your uncle, will come to you. He will say to you, ‘Buy my field at Anathoth, your hometown. Because you are my closest relative, it is written in our laws
”’.that you have the right to buy it before I ask if anyone else wants to buy it

And just as Yahweh had predicted, my cousin Hanamel came to see me in the⁸
courtyard of the palace. He said, “Please buy my field at Anathoth in the area where the descendants of Benjamin live. It is written in our laws that you have the right to buy it before I ask if anyone else wants to buy it.” When he said that, I knew that the message that .I had received was truly from Yahweh

So, I bought the field at Anathoth. I paid Hanamel almost two hundred grams of⁹
I signed the paper on which it was written that I was buying it, while others¹⁰ .silver for it
Then I took two copies of¹¹ .were watching. Then I weighed the silver and gave it to him the paper. One was sealed and the other was not sealed. On both of them was written the and I gave them to Baruch son¹² price and conditions of the purchase. I took both copies of Neraiah, and the grandson of Mahseiah. I did this while my cousin Hanamel, the other witnesses who had signed the paper, and other men of Judah who were there in the .courtyard, were watching

,This is what Yahweh“¹⁴ ,Then, while they were all listening, I said to Baruch¹³
commander of the angel armies, the God whom Israel worships, says: ‘Take both copies of Do that because¹⁵ .this paper and put them in a clay jar, to preserve them for a long time ,this is what I, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the God whom Israel worships say: Some day people will again own property in this land, and they will buy and sell
”’.houses and vineyards and fields

:After I had given the papers to Baruch, I prayed to Yahweh, saying this¹⁶
.Yahweh, you are my Lord! You made the sky and the earth by your very great power“¹⁷

You show thousands of people that you will¹⁸ .Nothing is too difficult for you to do always be faithful to your covenant with them, but people suffer the consequences of the sins that their parents have committed. You are the great and powerful God. You are

You make wise plans and you do mighty¹⁹ .Yahweh, commander of the angel armies
You²⁰ .deeds. You see how all people behave, and you do to them what they deserve
performed many miracles in Egypt, and you continue to perform miracles here in Israel and
You²¹ .everywhere else in the world. Because of that, you have become very famous
brought our Israelite ancestors out of Egypt by performing many great miracles, using your
You gave to us Israelite people²² .very great power, causing our enemies to be terrified
.this land that you solemnly promised to give to our ancestors, a land that is very fertile
Our ancestors came here and conquered this land and started to live in it, but they²³
refused to obey you or to do what you commanded them to do. Because of that, you have
.caused them to experience all these disasters

And now, the army of Babylonia has built ramps up against our city walls in order to²⁴
attack our city. Because of our enemies' swords and because of famines and diseases, they
will be able to conquer it easily. The things that you said would happen have now
And it is evident that the Babylonian army will soon conquer this city. So²⁵ .happened
now, I do not understand why you told me to buy this field with my silver, while others
"!were watching. It seems that I have just been wasting my money by doing that

I am Yahweh, the God who rules over²⁷ :Then Yahweh gave me this message²⁶
.every living thing in the world. There is absolutely nothing that is too difficult for me to do

So, this is what I say: It is true that I will enable the Babylonian army and King²⁸
The soldiers of Babylonia who are now outside the²⁹ .Nebuchadnezzar to capture this city
walls around the city will enter and burn this city. They will burn down all the houses
where people caused me to become angry by burning incense on the tops of their roofs to
.honor Baal and by pouring out offerings of wine to other gods

The people of Israel and Judah have continually done only evil things from the time³⁰
that they became a nation. They have caused me to become very angry by all their evil
From the time that this city was built until now, the people of this city have done³¹ .deeds

The people of³² .only things that caused me to be very angry. So now I will destroy it
Israel and Judah, including their kings, their officials, the priests, the false prophets, and all
the other people in Jerusalem have committed many sins that have caused me to become
My people have turned away from me and have refused to return to me. Even³³ .angry
though I taught them things many times, they would not pay attention to what I taught

They have set up their detestable idols even in my³⁴ .them, and they would not obey me
They have built on the hilltops places to worship Baal in Ben³⁵ .own temple and defiled it
Hinnom Valley outside Jerusalem, and there they sacrifice their sons and daughters to their
god Molech. I never commanded them to do such horrible deeds. I never even considered

ordering such a terrible thing. And by doing it they have caused all the people of Judah to
".be guilty of having sinned

But now I will say something more about this city. You people of Jerusalem have³⁶
been saying, 'The army of the king of Babylon will conquer it, either by their swords or
I will³⁷ :because of famines or diseases.' But this is what I, the God of Israel, say
certainly bring my people back here again, from all the countries to which I will force them
to go because I am extremely angry with them. I will bring them back to this city and allow
I will give³⁹ .They will be my people, and I will be their God³⁸ .them to live here safely
them one way of thinking and behaving, in order that they may revere me, for their good
I will make an agreement with them that will last⁴⁰ .and for the good of their descendants
forever: I will never stop doing good things for them, and they will always honor me; they
I will be happy to do good things for them, and I will⁴¹ .will never stop worshiping me
surely enable them to return to this land and remain here; I will do that with all my inner
'being and all my strength

And this is also what I, Yahweh, say: 'I have caused them to experience all these⁴²
.disasters. Similarly, some day I will do for them all the good things that I have promised
By buying land you, Jeremiah, have predicted that some day people will buy and sell⁴³
fields in this land about which you people of Jerusalem now say, "The Babylonian soldiers
have destroyed it. It is now desolate. It is a land where there are no longer any people or
But some day people will again buy and sell fields here. People will sign⁴⁴ ".animals
documents about buying those fields, and other people will witness them doing that. That
will happen in the land where the descendants of Benjamin live and here in the villages
,near Jerusalem, in other towns in Judah, in the hill country and in the foothills to the west
and in the southern Judean wilderness. Some day I will cause them to prosper again. That
""will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it

,While Jeremiah was still being guarded in the courtyard of the palace¹ 33
This is what I, the one who made the earth, who² :Yahweh gave him this second message
.formed it and put it in its place, say to the people of Jerusalem: 'My name is Yahweh
Call out to me, and then I will tell you great and wonderful things that you have not³
This is what I, Yahweh, the God of Israel, say: 'The men in this city have⁴ '.known before
torn down some of their houses, and even parts of the king's palace, to get materials to
strengthen the walls around the city, in order that the soldiers of Babylonia would not be
able to break through the walls after they climb up the ramps that they have built against
You are expecting to fight against the⁵ .the walls, and kill the inhabitants with their swords
army from Babylonia, but what will happen is that the houses of this city will be filled with

the corpses of the men of this city whom I will allow to be killed because I am extremely angry with them. I have abandoned them because of all the wicked things that they have done.

However, there will be a time when I will cause the people in this city to be healthy⁶ I will bring the⁷ and strong again. I will enable them to be prosperous and have peace people of Judah and Israel back from the lands to which they were exiled. I will enable I will get rid of their guilt for all the sins that they have⁸ them to rebuild their towns When⁹ committed against me, and I will forgive them for their sin of rebelling against me that happens, all the nations of the world will rejoice, and they will praise me and honor me. They will hear about all the good things that I have done for this city and, because of that, they will revere me, and they will tremble because I have caused the people in this city to have peace and to prosper.

And this is also what I, Yahweh, say: 'You people have said that this is a land where¹⁰ there are no longer any people or animals. But in the streets of Jerusalem that are now some day people will again be happy¹¹, completely empty, and in the other towns in Judah and laugh. Brides and bridegrooms will again sing joyfully. And many other people will also sing joyfully as they bring their offerings to me to thank me for what I have done for them. They will sing this song

,We thank you, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies“ because you are good to us ”.You faithfully hold to your covenant with us forever

They will sing that because I will cause the people of this land to be as prosperous as they were before

,This land is now desolate. There are no people or animals living here. But I¹² Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, say this: 'In this land there will again be pastures Shepherds will again count their sheep as the¹³ where shepherds will lead their sheep sheep walk by, outside the towns in the hill country, in the western foothills, in the southern Judean wilderness, in the land where the descendants of Benjamin live, around Jerusalem and outside all the other towns in Judah.' That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it

Listen to this! I, Yahweh, say that there will be a time when I will do for the people¹⁴ of Israel and Judah all the good things that I promised to do for them

.At that time I will appoint a righteous man who will be a descendant of King David¹⁵ Throughout the land, he will do what is just and right

,At that time, the people of Judah will be rescued from their enemies¹⁶

.and the people of Jerusalem will be safe

And people will say that the name of the city is ‘Yahweh is the one who does right for

And this is also what I, Yahweh, say: ‘There will be descendants of King David¹⁷’.us

And there will always be priests who are descendants of Levi¹⁸.ruling Israel forever
who stand in front of me and offer sacrifices that will be completely burned on the altar

’’.and who will burn food offerings and other sacrifices

This is what I, Yahweh, say: ‘You’²⁰:Then Yahweh gave Jeremiah this message¹⁹

.certainly cannot annul my promise to cause nighttime to follow daytime each day

Similarly, you cannot annul the promise that I made with King David, who served me²¹
well, that there will always be descendants of his who will rule Judah. The same is true for

No²².my agreement with the descendants of Levi who are priests who do work for me
.one can count the stars in the sky, and no one can count the grains of sand at the seashore
Similarly, I will cause there to be a huge number of descendants of David and descendants
’’.of Levi who will work for me

Surely you know that some’²⁴, Yahweh gave another message to me. He said²³
,people are saying, ‘Yahweh chose two groups, the people of Judah and the people of Israel
and later abandoned them.’ The people who are saying this are despising my people; they

But this is what I²⁵.are saying that Israel no longer deserves to be considered a nation
say: ‘I will not reject my people any quicker than I will change my laws that control the day

Similarly, I will never abandon the descendants of²⁶.and the night, the sky and the earth
David or the other descendants of Jacob, and I will always allow descendants of David to
rule the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will bring them back to their land, and
’’.I will act mercifully toward them

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came with the armies of all the kingdoms¹ 34
,that he ruled, and they fought against Jerusalem and the other towns in Judah. At that time
Go to Zedekiah the King of Judah, and say to him, ‘This’²:Yahweh gave me this message
is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: “I am about to enable the army of the king of
;You will not escape from them³.Babylon to capture this city, and they will burn it down
they will capture you and take you to the king of Babylon. You will meet him and speak
.with him face to face; then they will take you to Babylon

But King Zedekiah, listen to what Yahweh has promised: “You will not be killed in a⁴
you will die peacefully. When you die, people will burn incense to honor you just⁵;battle
as they did for your ancestors who were kings before you became king. They will mourn

for you, calling out, ‘We are very sad that our king is dead!’ I, Yahweh, promise that will
””””.happen

At that time the army of Babylonia had⁷ .So I took that message to King Zedekiah⁶
surrounded Jerusalem and Lachish and Azekah. Those three cities were the only three cities
.in Judah that had high walls around them that still had not been captured

He decreed that⁹ .King Zedekiah had decreed that the people must free their slaves⁸
the people must free their Hebrew slaves, both the men slaves and the women slaves. No
The officials and¹⁰ .one would be allowed to force a fellow Jew to continue to be his slave
but later they changed their¹¹ ,the rest of the people had obeyed what the king decreed
.minds. They forced the men and women whom they had freed to become their slaves again

,I, Yahweh, the God of Israel“¹³ :So Yahweh gave me this message to tell to them¹²
made an agreement with your ancestors long ago, when I rescued them from being slaves in

I told them that they must free all their Hebrew slaves after the slaves had¹⁴ .Egypt
.worked for them for six years. But your ancestors did not pay any attention to what I said

Recently, you obeyed my command and stopped doing what was wrong and did what¹⁵
was right. You made a solemn agreement at my temple that you would free your slaves, and
But now you have disregarded what you solemnly promised, and¹⁶ .then you freed them
you have shown contempt for what I said by taking back the women and men whom you
had freed and said they could live wherever they wanted to. Now you have forced them to
.be your slaves again

Therefore, this is what I, Yahweh, say: ‘Because you have not obeyed me by freeing¹⁷
your fellow Israelites, I will free you to be destroyed by the swords of your enemies and by
famines and diseases. All the nations of the earth will be horrified because of what happens

Because you have disregarded what I said in my agreement with you, I will¹⁸⁻¹⁹ .to you
do to you just what you did to the calves that you cut in half to show that you would surely
do what you solemnly promised that you would do. I will enable your enemies to cut you
into pieces, you officials of Judah and you officials of Jerusalem, and you officials in the
palace, and you priests and all you common people. I will do that because you have ignored
I will enable your enemies²⁰ .the fact that you had solemnly promised to free your slaves
to capture you, and they will kill you. And your bodies will be food for vultures and wild
.animals

I will enable the army of the king of Babylon to capture King Zedekiah and his²¹
,officials. Although the king of Babylon and his army have left Jerusalem for a short time
I will summon them back again. This time, they will fight against this city and capture it²²

and burn it down. I will make sure that all the towns in Judah are destroyed, with the result
””.that no one will live there anymore

Several years earlier, when Jehoiakim son of Josiah was the king of Judah¹ 35

.Go to the place where families of the Rekab clan live“² :Yahweh gave me this message
Invite them to my temple. When they arrive, take them into one of the inside rooms and
””.offer them some wine

So I went to see Jaazaniah and all his brothers and sons who represented the Rekab³
.clan. Jaazaniah was a son of another man named Jeremiah and grandson of Habazziniah
I took them to the temple, and we went into the room where the sons of Igdaliah’s son⁴
Hanan, who was a prophet, stayed. That room was next to the room that was used by the
men who were in charge of the entrances to the temple. It was above the room that
.belonged to Maaseiah, who was the temple gatekeeper and the son of Shallum

,I set jugs of wine and some cups in front of them and urged them to drink some⁵
but they refused. They said, “We do not drink wine, because our ancestor Jonadab son of⁶
And⁷ .Rekab, commanded us, saying ‘You and your descendants must never drink wine
you must not build houses or plant vineyards or other crops. Instead, you must always live
So⁸ ’.in tents. If you obey those commands, you all will live for many years in this land
we have obeyed him in all those matters. We have never drunk wine. Our wives and our
We have not built houses or planted⁹ .sons and our daughters have also never drunk wine
We have lived in tents. We have obeyed all¹⁰ .vineyards or other crops or worked in fields
But when the army of King¹¹ .the commands that Jonadab, our ancestor, gave us
Nebuchadnezzar attacked this country, we said, ‘We must go to Jerusalem to escape from
””.the armies of Babylonia and Aram.’ So, we came to Jerusalem and we are living here

This is what I, Yahweh, commander of“¹³ :Then Yahweh gave this message to me¹²
the angel armies, the God whom Israel worships, say: ‘Go and tell this to the people in
Jerusalem and in other places in Judah: “Why do you not listen to me or learn something
The Rekab clan still do not drink wine, because their ancestor¹⁴ ?about how to obey me
Jonadab told them to not do that. In contrast, I have spoken to you many times, but you
,Many times I sent prophets to you. They told you¹⁵ .ignored me and refused to obey me
Turn away from your wicked behavior, and do things that you should do. Stop worshipping‘
other gods, in order that you will be able to live peacefully in this land that I gave to you
The¹⁶ .and your ancestors.’ But you would not pay attention to what I said or obey me
descendants of Jonadab have obeyed their ancestor, but you have refused to pay attention to
.what I told you

Therefore, this is what I, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the God whom¹⁷ Israel worships, say: ‘You have refused to listen to me and you did not answer when I called you. Therefore, I will cause the people in Jerusalem and other places in Judah to
””””.experience all the disasters that I said that I would cause to happen

,Then Jeremiah turned to the Rekab clan and said, “This is what Yahweh¹⁸ commander of the angel armies, the God whom Israel worships, says: ‘You have obeyed ,Therefore¹⁹ .what your ancestor Jonadab told you. You have obeyed all his instructions this is what Yahweh says: “There will always be descendants of Jonadab who will do work
””””.for me

When Jehoiakim son of Josiah had been the king of Judah for almost four¹ 36
Get a scroll, and write on it the messages that I“² :years, Yahweh gave this message to me ,have given to you regarding Israel, Judah, and the other nations. Write all of the messages starting from the time that I gave you the first message, when Josiah was the king, up until
When the people of Judah hear again about all the disasters that I plan to cause³ .now them to experience, perhaps each one of them will repent. If they do that, I will be able to
”.forgive them for the wrong things that they have done

So Jeremiah summoned Baruch son of Neraiah. Then, as Jeremiah dictated to him all⁴ Then Jeremiah⁵ .the messages that Yahweh had spoken to him, he wrote them on a scroll
So, you go to the⁶ .said to him, “I am not allowed to leave here and go to the temple temple on the next day when the people are fasting, and read to them the messages from Yahweh that you wrote while I dictated them to you. Read them aloud to all the people who
Perhaps they⁷ .are there, including the people of Judah who come there from their towns will turn from their evil behavior and request Yahweh to act mercifully toward them. They must do that, because Yahweh is very angry with them and has threatened to punish them
”.severely

Baruch did what Jeremiah told him to do. He went to the temple and read to the⁸ He did it on the ninth month, on a day when⁹ .people all those messages from Yahweh their leaders had proclaimed that all the people in Jerusalem, and the people who had come there from other towns in Judah, should fast to please Yahweh. This happened when
Baruch read to all the people the¹⁰ .Jehoiakim had been king for almost five years messages that he had written on the scroll. He read them while he was in the temple, in the room where Gemariah stayed. He was the son of Shaphan, who had previously been the king’s secretary. That room was close to the upper courtyard of the temple, near the
.entrance to the temple that is called the New Gate

When Micaiah son of Gemariah, and grandson of Shaphan, heard these messages¹¹ he went down to the secretary's room in the palace, where all the king's¹² ,from Yahweh ,officials were meeting. Elishama the king's secretary was there. Delaiah son of Shemaiah Elnathan son of Acbor, Gemariah, Zedekiah son of Hananiah, and all the other officials of When Micaiah told them about the messages that Baruch had¹³ .the king were also there the officials sent Jehudi son of Nethaniah, and grandson of¹⁴ ,been reading to the people Shelemiah and great-grandson of Cushai, to tell Baruch to come and read the messages to They said to him, "Please sit¹⁵ .them, also. So Baruch took the scroll and went to them .down and read it to us." So Baruch did what they requested

After they had heard all the messages, they were afraid. They looked at each other¹⁶ ,Then they asked Baruch¹⁷ "!"and then they said, "We must tell these messages to the king ""How did you get this scroll? Did Jeremiah dictate to you all the messages on this scroll"

Baruch replied, "Yes, Jeremiah dictated them to me, and I wrote them with ink on¹⁸ ".this scroll

Then the officials told Baruch, "You and Jeremiah must both hide. Do not tell¹⁹ "!"anyone where you are

They put the scroll in the room of Elishama, the king's secretary. Then they went to²⁰ the king, who was in the courtyard, and reported to him everything that Baruch had read to .them

Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll. Jehudi brought it from Elishama's room²¹ It was in the²² .and read it to the king, while all the king's officials were standing there cold season, and the king was in a part of the palace where he stayed when it was cold. He Each time Jehudi finished reading three or²³ .was sitting in front of a fire to keep warm four columns, the king cut off that section of the scroll with a knife and threw it into the Neither the²⁴ .fire. He did that, section by section, until the entire scroll was burned up king nor his officials showed that they were afraid that God would punish them. They did ,Elnathan²⁵ .not tear their clothes to show that they were sorry for what they had done Delaiah, and Gemariah pleaded with the king not to burn the scroll, but he did not pay any

Then the king commanded his son Jerahmeel, Seraiah son of Azriel, and²⁶ .attention Shelemiah son of Abdeel to arrest Baruch and me. But they were unable to do that because .Yahweh had hidden us

After the king had burned the scroll on which were written the messages that I had²⁷ Get another scroll, and tell Baruch to write²⁸ :dictated to Baruch, Yahweh said this to me

everything again, the same messages that he had written on the scroll that King Jehoiakim
Then go to the king and say to him, ‘Yahweh says this: You burned the scroll²⁹ .burned
because you did not like what was written on it, that the king of Babylon would surely
.come with his army and destroy this land and get rid of all the people and the animals
Now this is what I, Yahweh, say about you, Jehoiakim: None of your descendants will³⁰
rule this kingdom. Your corpse will be thrown out on the ground and not buried; it will be
I will punish you³¹ .under the hot sun during the days and struck by frost during the nights
and your family and your officials for their sins. And I will cause the people of Jerusalem
,and the people of the other towns in Judah to experience all the disasters that I promised
”””!because you all would not pay attention to what I said

So Jeremiah took another scroll, and again he dictated the messages to Baruch. He³²
wrote everything that had been written on the other scroll, the one that King Jehoiakim had
.burned in the fire. But this time, Jeremiah added more messages

,After Jehoiakim died, his son Jehoiachin became king for only three months¹ **37**
after which King Josiah’s son Zedekiah became the king of Judah. Nebuchadnezzar, the
But King Zedekiah and his palace² .king of Babylon, appointed him to be the new king
officials and the other people in the land paid no attention to the messages that Yahweh
.gave me

However, one day King Zedekiah sent Jehukal son of Shelemiah, and Zephaniah the³
priest, son of Maaseiah, to me. They requested me to pray to Yahweh our God for our
.nation

At that time Jeremiah had not yet been put in prison, so he could go and come⁴
.wherever and whenever he wanted to, without being hindered

At that time, the army of Hophra, the king of Egypt, came to the southern border of⁵
Judah. When the army of Babylonia heard about that, they stopped surrounding Jerusalem
.and left there to fight against the army from Egypt

I, Yahweh, the God of Israel, say this: The“⁷ :Then Yahweh gave this message to me⁶
king of Judah has sent messengers to you to ask me what is going to happen. Tell the king
that even though the army of the king of Egypt came to help him, they are about to return to
Then the army of Babylonia will return here, capture this city, and burn⁸ .Egypt
.everything in it

,So, this is what Jeremiah said to you Israelites: ‘You should not deceive yourselves⁹
.thinking that the army from Babylonia has gone and will not return. That is not true

And even if your soldiers could destroy almost all of the soldiers from Babylonia who¹⁰,are attacking you, and allow only those who were wounded to remain alive in their tents
””.those men would come out of their tents and completely burn this city

When the army from Babylonia left Jerusalem because the army from Egypt was¹¹
Jeremiah started to leave the city. He intended to go to the area where the¹²,approaching
descendants of Benjamin live, in order to take possession of my share of the property from

But as he was walking out the Benjamin Gate, the head guard seized¹³.my family
Jeremiah and said, “You are deserting us and going to the soldiers from Babylonia!” The
.man who seized him was Irijah son of Shelemiah, and grandson of Hananiah

”!But Jeremiah protested and said, “That is not true! I was not intending to do that¹⁴
But Irijah would not pay attention to what Jeremiah said. He took Jeremiah to the king’s
They were very angry with him. They commanded the guards to beat Jeremiah¹⁵.officials
and then to put him in the house where Jonathan the king’s secretary stayed. They had
.changed Jonathan’s house to make it become a prison

They put Jeremiah in a dungeon in that prison, and he remained there for several¹⁶

Then King Zedekiah secretly sent a servant to him, who took Jeremiah to the¹⁷.days
palace. There the king asked him, “Do you have any messages from Yahweh?” Jeremiah
”.replied, “Yes, the message is that you will be put into the hands of the king of Babylon

Then Jeremiah asked the king, “What crime have I committed against you or against¹⁸
your officials or against the Israelite people, with the result that you have commanded that I
Your prophets predicted that the army of the king of Babylon would¹⁹?be put in a prison
Your majesty, I plead²⁰?not attack you or this land. Why were their messages not fulfilled
with you to listen to me. Do not send me back to the dungeon in the house of Jonathan your
”.secretary, because if you do that, I will die there

.So King Zedekiah commanded that Jeremiah not be sent back to the prison cell²¹

Instead, he was allowed to be watched by the guards in the courtyard of the palace. The
king also commanded that they should bring him a loaf of fresh bread every day, until there
.was no bread left in the city. So they put Jeremiah in that courtyard and he remained there

Four officials, Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son of Pashhur, Jehukal¹ 38
son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur son of Malkijah, heard what Jeremiah had been telling all
He had been telling them that Yahweh was saying, “Everyone who stays in².the people
Jerusalem will die. They will be killed by their enemies’ swords or from famines or from
diseases. But those who surrender to the Babylonian army will remain alive. They will

Yahweh also says that the army of the king of Babylon³ .escape; they will not be killed
”.will certainly capture this city

!So those officials went to the king and said, “This man Jeremiah should be executed⁴
Because of what he is saying, he is discouraging our soldiers who remain in the city. He is
also discouraging the people. He is not saying things that will help us; he is saying things
”.that will defeat us

King Zedekiah said, “All right, do to him what you want to; I do not have the power⁵
”.to stop you

So those officials took Jeremiah from his cell and lowered him by ropes into a cistern⁶
in the courtyard. The cistern belonged to Malkijah, who was a son of the king. There was
.no water in the cistern, but there was a lot of mud, so he sank down deep into the mud

But Ebed-Melek, a palace official from Ethiopia, heard someone say that Jeremiah⁷
.was in the well. At that time the king was deciding people’s cases at the Benjamin Gate
Your majesty, those men“⁹ ,Ebed-Melek went out of the palace and said to the king⁸
have done a very evil thing. They have put the prophet Jeremiah in a well. Almost all the
food in the city is gone, so no one will be able to bring him any food, and as a result he will
”!die from hunger

So the king told Ebed-Melek, “Take thirty of my men with you, and pull Jeremiah¹⁰
”!out of the well, in order that he does not die

So Ebed-Melek took charge of those thirty men; they went into a room in the palace¹¹
below the room where people had stored things. There they found some old rags and
discarded clothing. They took those things and went to the well. They fastened them to a
Then Ebed-Melek called down to me, “Put these rags¹² .rope and lowered the rope to me
underneath your armpits, to protect you from being injured by the ropes!” So Jeremiah did
Then they pulled him out of the well. So he stayed in the courtyard where the¹³ .that
.palace guards were

One day King Zedekiah summoned Jeremiah, and he was brought to the king, who¹⁴
was waiting for him at the entrance of the temple. He said to Jeremiah, “I want to ask you
”.something. I want you to answer me truthfully, and to not conceal anything

Jeremiah replied, “If I tell you the truth, you will command that I be executed. And¹⁵
”.if I give you good advice, you will not pay attention to what I say

But King Zedekiah secretly promised him, “Tell me the truth! And as surely as¹⁶
Yahweh lives, I will not cause you to be executed, and I will not put you into the hands of
”.those who are wanting to kill you

So then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, “This is what Yahweh, commander of the angel¹⁷
armies, the God whom Israel worships, says: ‘If you surrender to the officers of the king of
But if you¹⁸ .Babylon, you and your family will be spared, and this city will not be burned
refuse to surrender to them, you will not escape. And the army from Babylonia will capture
”.this city and completely burn it

,The king replied, “But I am afraid to surrender to the soldiers from Babylon¹⁹
because their officers may put me into the hands of the people of Judah who have already
”.joined the soldiers from Babylonia, and those people from Judah will mistreat me

Jeremiah replied, “If you obey Yahweh by doing what I tell you to do, they will not²⁰
put you into the hands of our people. Things will go well for you, and you will remain
.But if you refuse to surrender, I will tell you what Yahweh has revealed to me²¹ .alive
All the women who remain in your palace will be brought out and given to the officers²²
:of the king of Babylon. Then those women will say to you

,You had friends whom you thought you could trust‘
.but they have deceived you and caused you to make a wrong decision
Now it is as though you are stuck in mud
,and your friends have abandoned you

All of your wives and children in the city will be led out to the soldiers from²³
,Babylonia, and you also will not escape. The soldiers of the king of Babylon will seize you
”.and they will burn down this city

Then Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, “Do not tell anyone what you told me; if you tell²⁴
,If my officials find out that I talked to you²⁵ .anyone, the king’s officials may kill you
.perhaps they will come to you and say, ‘Tell us what you and the king were talking about
If that happens, just tell them that you pleaded²⁶ ’.If you do not tell us, we will kill you
with me not to send you back to the dungeon in Jonathan’s house, because you were afraid
”.that you would die if you were put there again

And that is what happened. The king’s officials came to Jeremiah and asked why the²⁷
king had summoned him. But he told them what the king told him to tell them. So they did
not ask Jeremiah any more questions, because no one had heard what the king and Jeremiah
.had said to each other

So Jeremiah remained being guarded in the courtyard of the palace, until the day²⁸
that the army of Babylonia captured Jerusalem

After King Zedekiah had been ruling Judah for almost nine years, King¹ 39
Nebuchadnezzar came in the tenth month of the year with his army, and they surrounded
One and a half years later, after Zedekiah had been ruling for almost eleven² .Jerusalem
years, in the eleventh year and fourth month, soldiers from Babylonia broke through the
Then all the officers of the king of³ .city wall. Then they rushed in and captured the city
.Babylon came in and sat down at the Middle Gate to decide what they would do to the city
They included Nergal-Sharezer, Samgar Nebo, Sarsekim who was one of the chief
.administrative officers, Nergal-Sharezer, the king's advisor, and many other officials

When King Zedekiah and all his soldiers realized that the army of Babylonia had⁴
broken into the city, they fled. They waited until it was dark. Then they went out of the city
through the king's garden, through the gate that was between the two walls. Then they
.started running toward the plain along the Jordan

But the soldiers from Babylonia pursued the king, and they caught him on the plains⁵
.near Jericho. They took him to the king of Babylon, who was at Riblah in the Hamath
They⁶ .There Nebuchadnezzar told his soldiers what they should do to punish Zedekiah
Then⁷ .forced Zedekiah to watch while they killed his sons and all the officials from Judah
they gouged out Zedekiah's eyes. They fastened him with bronze chains and took him to
.Babylon

Meanwhile, the Babylonian army burned the palace and all the other buildings in⁸
Then Nebuzaradan, the captain of the⁹ .Jerusalem. And they tore down the city walls
king's bodyguards, forced to go to Babylon most of the other people who remained in the
But he allowed some of the¹⁰ .city and the Jews who had joined the soldiers of Babylonia
.very poor people to remain in Judah, and he gave them vineyards and fields to take care of

King Nebuchadnezzar had previously told the captain of the guard, Nebuzaradan to¹¹
Make sure that no one harms him. Take care of him, and do for¹² ,find Jeremiah. He said
So he and Nebushazban, who was one of their¹³ ".him whatever he requests you to do
chief officers, and Nergal-Sharezer the king's advisor, and other officers of the king of
.sent some men to bring Jeremiah out of the courtyard outside of the palace¹⁴ Babylon
They took him to Gedaliah who was the son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan. Then
Gedaliah took Jeremiah to his home, and he stayed in Judah among his own people who
.had been allowed to remain there

But while Jeremiah was still being guarded in the palace courtyard, Yahweh gave¹⁵

Say this to Ebed-Melek, the official from Ethiopia: ‘This is what¹⁶ :him this message Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the God whom Israel worships, says: I will do to this city everything that I said that I would do. Everthing I told you would be done, and you

But I promise to rescue you from the people you are¹⁷ .will see it with your own eyes You trusted me, so I will save¹⁸ !afraid of. This is what I, Yahweh, have promised to you ,you. You will not be killed by our enemies’ swords. You will live. That will surely happen
””.because I, Yahweh, have said it

The soldiers from Babylonia captured Jeremiah and many other people from¹ 40

Jerusalem and other places in Judah. They planned to take them to Babylon. So they .fastened chains around their wrists and took them to Ramah, a town north of Jerusalem Nebuzaradan, the² :While they were there, Jeremiah was released. This is how it happened captain of the king’s guards, found that Jeremiah was there. He summoned Jeremiah and .said to him, “Yahweh your God said that he would cause this land to experience a disaster ,And now he has caused it to happen. He has done just what he said that he would do³

But today I am⁴ .because you people sinned against Yahweh and refused to obey him going to take the chains off your wrists and release you. If you want to come with me to ,Babylon, that will be fine. I will take care of you. But if you do not want to come with me do not come. Stay here. Look, the entire country is available; you can choose whatever part you want to go to. You can go wherever you think it is best.” Then he took the chains off

He said, “If you decide to stay here, go to Gedaliah. The king of⁵ .Jeremiah’s wrists Babylon appointed him to be the governor of Judah. You will be allowed to stay here with
”.the people that he is governing. But you can do whatever you want to

Then Nebuzaradan gave Jeremiah some food and some money, and he allowed him to .go

He returned to Gedaliah at Mizpah, and he stayed in Judah with the people who still⁶ .remained in the land

The Israelite soldiers who had not surrendered to the army of Babylonia were⁷ roaming around in the countryside. Then their leaders heard someone say that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah to be the governor of the very poor people who were still

So they went to talk to Gedaliah at⁸ .in Judah, who had not been taken to Babylon Mizpah. Those who went included Ishmael son of Nethaniah, Johanan and Jonathan the sons of Kareah, Seraiah son of Tanhumeth, the sons of Ephai from Netophath, and Jezaniah Gedaliah solemnly promised that the⁹ .from Maacah, and the soldiers who were with them soldiers from Babylonia would not harm them. He said, “Do not be afraid to do things for

them. Stay here in this land and do things for the king of Babylon. If you do that, things
As for me, I will stay here at Mizpah to be your representative to¹⁰ .will go well for you
the officials from Babylonia who come to talk with us. But you should return to your
towns, and eat the things that are produced on your land. Harvest the grapes and the fruit
”.that ripens in the summer and the olives, make wine and olive oil, and store it

Then the Jews who had fled to Moab, Ammon, Edom, and other nearby countries¹¹
heard people say that the king of Babylon had allowed a few people to remain in Judah, and
.So they began to return to Judah¹² .that he had appointed Gedaliah to be their governor
,They stopped at Mizpah to talk with Gedaliah. Then they went to various places in Judea
.and they harvested a great amount of grapes and summer fruit

Some time later, Johanan and all the other leaders of the Israelite soldiers who had¹³
They said to¹⁴ .not surrendered to the army of Babylonia came to Gedaliah at Mizpah
him, “Do you know that Baalis, the king of the people of Ammon, has sent Ishmael son of
.Nethaniah to assassinate you?” But Gedaliah did not believe what they said

Later Johanan talked with Gedaliah privately. He said, “Allow me to go and murder¹⁵
Ishmael secretly. It would not be good to allow him to come and murder you! If you are
killed, what will happen to all the Jews who have returned to this area? They will be
”!scattered, and the other people who remain in Judah will all be killed

But Gedaliah said to Johanan, “No, I will not allow you to do that. I think that you¹⁶
”.are lying about Ishmael

Ishmael son of Nethaniah was a member of the king’s family. He had been¹ **41**
one of King Zedekiah’s important officials. In the seventh month of that year, he went to
,Mizpah with ten other men to talk with Gedaliah. While they were eating together
—Ishmael and the other ten men jumped up, and with their swords they killed Gedaliah²
Ishmael and the³ !the man whom the king of Babylon had appointed to be their governor
other men also killed all the Jews and the Babylonians who his soldiers found with
.Gedaliah at Mizpah

,The next day, before anyone had found out that Gedaliah had been murdered⁴
eighty men from Shechem, Shiloh, and Samaria came to worship at the temple of⁵
Yahweh in Mizpah. They had shaved off their beards and torn their clothes and cut
themselves to show that they were mourning. And they had brought grain offerings and
,Ishmael son of Nethaniah went out of the city to meet them⁶ .incense to burn on the altar

weeping as he went. When he reached them, he said, “Come and see what has happened to
”!Gedaliah

But as soon as they had all entered the town, Ishmael and his men killed most of them⁷
There were only ten of them whom they spared. They⁸ .and threw their corpses into a well
,were not killed because they promised to Ishmael that if he allowed them to remain alive
.they would bring him lots of wheat and barley and olive oil and honey that they had hidden

The well where Ishmael’s men had thrown the corpses of the men whom they had⁹
murdered was the deep well that King Asa’s men had dug in order that they would have
water in the city if the army of King Baasha of Israel would surround the city. Ishmael’s
.men filled that well with corpses

Then Ishmael and his men captured the king’s daughters and some of the other¹⁰
people who had been left in Mizpah by the chief Babylonian guard Nebuzaradan so that
Gedaliah would take care of them. Ishmael and his men took those people and started back
.toward the Ammon area

But Johanan son of Kareah and all the other leaders of the Israelite soldiers who had¹¹
not surrendered to the army of Babylonia heard about what Ishmael son of Nethaniah and
So they immediately went with all their men to stop them. They¹² .his men had done
When all the people¹³ .caught up with them at the large pool near the city of Gibeon
,whom Ishmael and his men had captured saw Johanan and the soldiers who were with him
So all those who had been captured in Mizpah escaped, and they¹⁴ .they shouted joyfully
But Ishmael son of Nethaniah and eight of his men escaped and¹⁵ .started to help Johanan
Then Johanan son of Kareah and the men who were with him¹⁶ .fled to the Ammon area
gathered together all the people whom they had rescued at Gibeon. They included soldiers
and women and children and some of the king’s palace officials. They were all people
They took them¹⁷ .whom Ishmael and his men had captured after they had killed Gedaliah
.all to Geruth Kimham village near Bethlehem. And they all prepared to go to Egypt
They were worried about what the soldiers of Babylonia would do to them when they¹⁸
found out that Ishmael had killed Gedaliah, who had been appointed by the king of
.Babylonia to be their governor

Then Johanan son of Kereah and Jezaniah son of Hoshaiiah, and all the other¹ 42
leaders of the Israelite soldiers who had not surrendered to the army of Babylonia, and
,many other people, including those who were important and those who were not important
They said, “Please listen to our request and pray to Yahweh our God for all² .came to me
of us. Although we were previously a huge number of people, you can see that now we are

Pray that Yahweh our God will show³ .only a small number of people who have survived
”.us what we should do and where we should go

I replied, “Okay, I will pray to Yahweh our God, like you have requested, and I will⁴
”.tell you what he says. I will tell you everything

They replied to me, “We know that Yahweh our God will be a faithful witness against⁵

We are requesting you to ask⁶ .us if we refuse to do everything that he tells us to do
Yahweh our God what we should do. When he replies, we will obey him, whether we like
what he says or not. We will do that because we know that things will go well for us if we
”.obey him

So I summoned⁸ .So I prayed to Yahweh, and ten days later he gave me his reply⁷
Johanan son of Kereah and all the other leaders of the and all the other people, including
I said to them, “You told⁹ .those who were important and those who were not important
:me to tell Yahweh, the God of Israel what you were requesting. This is what he replied
You should stay here in this land. If you do that, I will cause your nation to be strong¹⁰
and not be weak. I will cause you to prosper and not be exiled again. I will stop the
But do not be afraid of the king of Babylon¹¹ .disasters that I made you experience
I will be¹² .anymore, because I will be with you. I will rescue you from his power
merciful to you by causing him to act kindly toward you. So as a result, he will allow you
,to stay here in your land

;But if you refuse to obey Yahweh our God, and if you say ‘We will not stay here¹³
instead, we will go to Egypt. There we will not experience any wars, we will not hear¹⁴
Listen¹⁵ ’.trumpets signaling our soldiers to prepare for battles, and we will not be hungry
now! you people who are left in Judah! Listen to what Yahweh, commander of the angel
,armies, the God whom Israel worships, says to you: ‘If you are determined to go to Egypt
you will experience those wars and famines that you are¹⁶ ,and if you go and live there
That is what will happen to all you who are¹⁷ .afraid of, and you will all die there
determined to go to Egypt and live there. Some of you will be killed by the swords of your
enemies, and others of you will die from famines and from diseases. None of you will
,escape the disasters that I will bring on you

And Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the God whom Israel worships, also¹⁸
says this: ‘Because I was very angry, I severely punished all the people of Jerusalem. I will
do the same things to you when you go to Egypt. The result will be that people will curse
,you. They will be horrified about what has happened to you. They will make fun of you
,and you will never see this land again

This is the message that Yahweh gave me concerning the Judeans who were¹ 44

living in northern Egypt—in Migdol, Tachpanches, and Memphis—and in the region of
This is what I, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the² :Pathros in southern Egypt
God whom Israel worships, say: You saw the disaster that I caused the people in Jerusalem
.and the other towns in Judah to experience. Those towns are now ruined and deserted
That happened because I was extremely angry with them on account of their being very³
wicked. They burned incense to other gods and worshiped them. They were gods that you
Many⁴ .previously did not know about, and your ancestors also did not know about them
times I sent my prophets who served me, to say to them, ‘Do not do those abominable
.But my people would not pay any attention to what I said to them⁵ ’!things that I hate
They would not turn away from their wicked behavior, or stop burning incense to worship
So I poured out the consequences of my great anger on them. My punishment⁶ .other gods
fell on the streets of Jerusalem and on the other towns in Judah like a fire. It caused those
.towns to be ruined and deserted, and they are still like that

,So now I, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the God whom Israel worships⁷
ask you: Why are you causing yourselves to experience these disasters? Do you not realize
that because of what you are doing, soon there will be no more men or women or children
Why are you⁸ ?or infants left among you who have come here to Egypt from Judah
provoking me and causing me to be very angry by burning incense to the idols that you
have made here in Egypt? If you continue doing this, you will destroy yourselves, and you
.will cause yourselves to be people whom all the nations on the earth will curse and despise
,Have you forgotten how I punished your ancestors for the wicked things that they did⁹
and how I punished the kings and queens of Judah for what they did, and you and your
wives for the sins that you committed in the streets of Jerusalem and the other towns in
Up until this day you have not humbled yourselves or revered me. You have not¹⁰ ?Judah
.obeyed the laws and decrees that I gave to you and your ancestors

Therefore, this is what I, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the God whom¹¹
Israel worships, say: I am determined to cause all of you to experience disasters and to get
You people from Judah who have survived were determined to¹² .rid of everyone in Judah
come and live here in Egypt. So I will get rid of all of you here in Egypt. Every one of you
will die, including those who are important and those who are not important. Some of you
will be killed by your enemies’ swords, some will die from famines. You will become
I will punish you here¹³ .people whom others curse, be horrified about, and make fun of
'in Egypt like I punished others in Jerusalem, some of whom were killed by their enemies
None of you people who¹⁴ .swords and some of whom died from famines or diseases
came from Judah and now live in Egypt, none of you will be successful in any attempt to

escape from Egypt, you will not grow in numbers while you live in Egypt, and you will not be able to return to Judah, even though you desire to return to Judah, you will not be able to go back there to live and make your homes. None of you will be able to return to Judah except only a very small number of you who will be able to escape from Egypt and to return Judah and live there

Then a large group of the people who had started to live in northern Egypt and southern Egypt, including all the men who knew that their wives had been burning incense to other gods, and all the women who were standing there, said this to me saying that Yahweh gave messages to you, but we will not pay any attention to your messages. We will certainly do everything that we said that we would do. We will burn incense to worship our goddess Asherah, the Queen of Heaven, and we will pour out offerings of wine to her, just like we and our ancestors and our kings and their officials have always done in the streets of Jerusalem and in the other towns in Judah. At that time But we had plenty of food, and we were prosperous and we did not have any troubles ever since we stopped burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and giving her offerings of wine, we have had many troubles, and some of our people have been killed by our enemies or died from hunger

And the women said, “Furthermore, we burned incense and poured out wine offerings to the Queen of Heaven, and we also made small cakes that resembled her idol, to offer to her, and we poured drinks to honor her. But our husbands certainly knew about and approved of what we were doing

Do not think that, Then I said to all the men and women who had answered me Yahweh did not know that you and your ancestors and your kings and their officials and all the other people in Judah were burning incense to worship idols in the streets of Jerusalem It was because Yahweh could no longer endure your wicked actions and the detestable things that you were doing that he caused your land to be a place whose name people say when they curse someone, a land that is ruined and which has no one living in it. And your land is still like that because you burned incense to worship idols and committed other sins against Yahweh that you experienced all those disasters. It is because you have not obeyed him or obeyed his laws and decrees and commandments

Then Jeremiah said to all of them, including the women, “All you people of Judah, This is what Yahweh who are here in Egypt, listen to this message from Yahweh commander of the angel armies, the God whom Israel worships, says to you men: ‘You and your wives have said that you would continue to do what you promised, to burn incense and pour out wine to the goddess whom you call the Queen of Heaven. And you have

proved by your actions that you intend to continue to do that. So go ahead and continue
'doing what you have promised to do for her

But now, all you people from Judah who are now living here in Egypt, listen to this²⁶
message from Yahweh. He says, 'I have solemnly declared, using my great name, that soon
none of you people from Judah who are here in Egypt will ever again use my name. There
,will be none of you who, when you solemnly promise to do something, will ever again say

Because I will be watching over you, not to²⁷ ".I will do it as surely as Yahweh lives"
.cause good things to happen to you but to cause things to happen that will harm you
'Almost everyone from Judah who is now here in Egypt will be killed by their enemies
Only a very few²⁸ .swords or die from famine until almost all of you have come to an end
of you will not die by the sword and will return to Judah. When that happens, all those who
'came to Egypt will find out whose words were true, theirs or mine

And Yahweh also says, 'I will do something that will prove to you that everything²⁹
I will cause³⁰ .that I have said will happen, and that I will punish you here in this place
Hophra, the king of Egypt, to be captured by his enemies who want to kill him, just like I
caused King Zedekiah of Judah to be captured by the soldiers of King Nebuchadnezzar of
""Babylon

After Jehoiakim son of King Josiah had been ruling Judah for almost four¹ 45
years, Baruch son of Neriah wrote down all the messages that the prophet Jeremiah had
Baruch, Yahweh, the God of Israel, has a² ,dictated. Jeremiah gave a message and he said
You have said, 'Terrible things are happening to me! I have endured³ .message for you
much pain already. And now Yahweh is causing me to be very sad, in addition to my having
'!pain. I am exhausted from my groaning, and I am unable to rest

.But Baruch, this is what Yahweh says: 'I will destroy this nation that I established⁴
This nation is like a tree that I planted and that I will now pull up with its roots. I will do
So, should you desire that people do things to honor you in⁵ .this everywhere in the world
a special way? Do not desire that. It is true that I will cause all these people to experience a
""great disaster, but wherever you go, I will protect you, and you will not be killed

These are messages that Yahweh gave to the prophet Jeremiah about other¹ 46
.nations

After Jehoiakim son of King Josiah, had been ruling Judah for almost four years, this²
message about Egypt was given to me by Yahweh. It was when the army of King Necho of

Egypt was defeated by the army of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon at Carchemish by the
.Euphrates River

,This is what Yahweh said: “The officers of the army of Egypt are saying to their troops

Prepare your small and large shields³

!and march out to fight the battle

,Put harnesses on your horses⁴

.and get on their backs

;Get into your positions for the battle

.put on your helmets

,Sharpen your spears

’!and put on your armor

?But what do I see⁵

.I see that the soldiers of Egypt will be terrified and will be fleeing

,Even the bravest of their soldiers will be running away

!without even looking backward

!I, Yahweh, say that their soldiers will be terrified on all sides

,Even the fastest runners will try to run away⁶

.but even the greatest of their warriors will not escape

,In the north, by the Euphrates River

.they will stumble and fall

What group is this that will be covering the land⁷

?like the water of the Nile River covers the land when it floods and its waves surge

The kingdom of Egypt rises and falls⁸

,like the Nile that surging with a flood of water

and Egypt will boast that they will cover the earth

.and will destroy cities and the people who live in them

!You riders of horses, charge into the battle⁹

!You drivers of chariots, drive furiously like a crazy person

All you warriors from Ethiopia and Libya

,who carry your shields

you warriors from Lydia

,who shoot arrows

!you come

:say this

.As surely as I live, an army is coming to fight against the army of Egypt‘

,They will be extremely powerful

,as though they were as tall as Tabor Hill

.or as high as Mount Carmel, close to the Mediterranean Sea

,All you people who live in Egypt¹⁹

.pack your possessions and prepare to be exiled

;Memphis will be destroyed

.it will become a ruin, and no people will be living there

,Egypt is like a beautiful young cow²⁰

but a powerful king from the northeast is surely coming to attack it

.like a horsefly bites a cow

’The mercenaries that Egypt has hired are like fat calves because of the Egyptians²¹

;money

;but they also will turn around and run away

,they will not stand there and fight

,because it will be a day when there will be a great disaster for Egypt

.a day when their people will be greatly punished

,The soldiers of Egypt will run away²²

.as silently as a snake slithers away

;The army of the enemy will advance

they will march along carrying their axes

.like men who cut down trees

I, Yahweh, say that they will kill the soldiers of Egypt²³

,as though they were cutting down a forest of trees

.because the enemy soldiers will be as numerous as a swarm of locusts

;The people of Egypt will be humiliated²⁴

’.they will be conquered by people from the northeast

I, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the God whom Israel worships, say, ‘I²⁵
will punish Amon, the god whom the people of the city of Thebes worship, and all the other

I will²⁶ .gods in Egypt. I will punish the king of Egypt and all those who trust in him
cause them to be captured by those who want to kill them—Nebuchadnezzar the king of
Babylon, and his army officers. But many years later, people will live in Egypt again. That
’.will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it

,But you people of Israel who serve me²⁷
 ,do not be at all dismayed now
 ;because some day I will bring you back from distant places
 .I will bring your descendants from the land to which they were exiled
 ,Then you Israelite people will again live peacefully and safely
 .and there will not be any nation to cause you to be terrified
 ,I, Yahweh, say to you people of Israel who serve me²⁸
 ,Do not be afraid‘
 .because I will be with you
 ,I will completely destroy the nations among whom I have scattered you
 .but I will not completely get rid of you
 :I will punish you, but I will punish you only as severely as you deserve
 ’’.it would be wrong if I did not punish you at all

.Yahweh gave to the prophet Jeremiah a message about the people of Philistia¹ 47
 The message was given to him before the city of Gaza in Philistia was captured by the army
 .of Egypt

:This is what Yahweh said²

An army will be coming from the northeast“
 .that will cover the land like a flood
 ;They will destroy the land and everything in it
 .they will destroy people and cities
 ;People will scream out for help
 .and everyone in the land will wail in mourning
 ,They will hear the sound of the hooves of the enemy horses³
 .and they will hear the rumble of the wheels of their enemies’ chariots
 ;Men will run away
 they will not stop to help their own children but
 . will be completely weak and helpless
 ,It will be the time for all the people of Philistia to be destroyed⁴
 and the time to stop the remaining soldiers from being able to help the people living
 .in the cities of Tyre and Sidon
 ,I, Yahweh, will destroy the people of Philistia
 .those whose ancestors long ago came from Island of Crete

;The people of Gaza will be humiliated⁵
 .they will shave off all the hair on their heads to indicate that they are ashamed
 .The people of the city of Ashkelon will all be silent because they will be mourning
 ,All you people who live along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea who are still alive
 ”?how long will you gash yourselves because you are mourning
 The people of Philistia say, “Yahweh, when will you tell our enemies to stop killing⁶
 ?us with their swords
 ”!Tell them to put them back into their sheaths and allow them to stay there
 ,But it would not be right for their swords to stay there⁷
 ;because Yahweh has commanded their enemies to do something more
 Yahweh intends to tell them to attack all the people living in Ashkelon and in other
 .cities along the coast

This is a message about Moab. Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the¹ **48**
 ,God whom Israel worships, says
 ;Terrible things will happen to the city of Nebo“
 .it will soon be ruined
 !the city of Kiriathaim will be put to shame. It is taken
 .The defended fortress will be ruined, and its people will become ashamed
 ;No one will boast about Moab again²
 .the enemies of Moab will plan to destroy the capital city, Heshbon
 ’.They will say, ‘Come, let us cause Moab to no longer be a nation
 ;You also, You Madmen! you also will be silenced
 .enemy armies will pursue you to kill you
 ;Listen to the people of Horonaim screaming³
 . they will be wailing because their town was completely destroyed
 ;All of Moab will be ruined⁴
 .even the little children will cry loudly
 They will cry bitterly⁵
 .as they climb up Luhith hill
 .Others will wail on the road down to Horonaim
 .They were so very sad because their town was completely destroyed
 !Someone will say to them, ‘Flee⁶
 ’!Hide in the desert

;But you trusted that because you were rich and powerful, you would be safe⁷
 .so you will be captured
 Your god Chemosh and all his priests and officials
 .will be taken away to distant lands
 ;All the towns in Moab will be destroyed⁸
 .none of them will escape
 ,Towns in the valleys and on the plateau will all be destroyed
 .because Yahweh has said that is what will happen
 ,Someone should help all the people in Moab to run away⁹
 ,so that their land will be empty
 ”.so that no one will live in it any longer
 ;May Yahweh punish anyone who will not eagerly do what he desires¹⁰
 .may he curse anyone who refrains from using his sword to kill the people in Moab
 ;The people of Moab have always felt secure¹¹
 .they have never been exiled
 They are like wine that has been left undisturbed in a container for many days to give it
 ,good flavor
 ,so now it is smells good
 .and it tastes good
 ;But Yahweh says that there will be a time when he will send enemies to attack them¹²
 they will get rid of the people of Moab like people pour out wine on the ground
 .and then smash the wine jar
 Then the people of Moab will be ashamed of their god Chemosh that they had¹³
 ,trusted in, because it did not help them
 like the Israelite people were ashamed because their gold statue of a calf was
 .smashed at Bethel
 ;The soldiers of Moab previously said, “We are warriors¹⁴
 ”!we have fought bravely in battles
 But now our king, who is called Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, says that¹⁵
 .the country of Moab and all the towns in it will be destroyed
 .Their fine young men will all be slaughtered
 .Moab will very soon be destroyed¹⁶
 .They will soon experience disaster
 ,You people who live in nations near Moab¹⁷

,who know that it is very famous
,should mourn for Moab
”. and say, “Its glorious power is completely ended
,You people of the city of Dibon, stop being proud because of being honored¹⁸
,and sit in the dust where you will thirst for water
because those who will destroy other places in Moab will attack your city
.and destroy your fortifications
,You people of the city of Aroer¹⁹
.stand along the road and watch
,Shout to the men and women who will be fleeing from Moab
”?What has happened there“
,They will reply²⁰
”!Moab is ruined and we are disgraced“
. So weep and wail
.Proclaim to Amon that Moab has been destroyed
:Yahweh is punishing the towns of Moab that are on the plateau²¹
,Holon and Jahaz and Mephaath
,Dibon and Nebo and Beth Diblathaim²²
,Kiriathaim and Beth Gamul and Beth Meon²³
.Kerioth and Bozrah²⁴
He is punishing cities that are near each other and towns that are far away from each
.other
;Yahweh says, “The power of Moab will be finished²⁵
.it is as though it will have a broken arm
,You people of Moab thought you were powerful enough to rebel against me²⁶
;Yahweh
.so now I will cause you all to stagger like drunken people
You people of Moab will wallow in your own vomit
.and be ridiculed
?Did you not ridicule the people of Israel²⁷
,Did you think they were nothing but thieves
,so that you shook your head at them with scorn
?and despised them every time you spoke about them
,You people who live in Moab²⁸

.you should abandon your towns and go and live in caves
 ”.Be like pigeons that make their nests in the entrances of caves
 ;We have all heard that the people of Moab are very proud²⁹
 .they are extremely proud and conceited
 ,But Yahweh says, “I know about that³⁰
 but it is useless for them to boast
 .because it will accomplish nothing
 ;So now I will wail for Moab³¹
 .I will cry about all its people
 .I will moan for the men of the city of Kir Hareseth, the old capital of Moab
 You people of the city of Sibmah, you have many vineyards, and I will be sad when³²
 .they are destroyed
 It is as though the branches of your vines extend across the Dead Sea to the city of
 !Jazer, but the enemies of Moab will take your grapes and wine from you
 ;But no one will be joyful or happy in Moab now³³
 .your fruit and grapes that ripen in the summer will soon be destroyed
 ,There will be no grape juice coming from the winepresses
 .so there will be no wine
 People will not shout joyfully
 ;as they tread on the grapes
 ,people will shout
 .but they will not be shouting joyfully
 Instead, the sound of their wailing will rise from the city of Heshbon to the town of³⁴
 ,Elealeh and the village of Jahaz
 .from the city of Zoar as far as the town of Horonaim Eglath Shelishiyah
 .Even the water in the stream of Nimrim will be dried up
 ,I, Yahweh, say that I will get rid of the people who offer sacrifices on the hilltops³⁵
 .those who burn incense to their gods
 I moan for the people of Moab and Kir Hareseth³⁶
 ,like someone playing a funeral song on a flute
 .because all their wealth will disappear
 .The men will shave their heads and their beards to show that they are mourning³⁷
 .They all will slash their hands and wear rough cloth around their waists

In every home and in the town plazas in Moab there will be people who are³⁸
 ,mourning
 because I will have destroyed Moab
 .like someone smashes an old jar that no one wants anymore
 !Moab will be completely shattered with terror³⁹
 !And you will hear the people wailing loudly
 .They will be disgraced
 .Moab will become a nation that people ridicule
 .The people in nearby countries will be horrified about what has happened there
 :This is what I, Yahweh, say⁴⁰
 Look! Their enemies will be swooping down over Moab‘
 .like an eagle swoops down to seize an animal
 ,Its cities will be captured⁴¹
 .its fortresses will be seized
 ,Even their warriors will be afraid
 .like a woman who is about to give birth
 ,Moab boasted against me, Yahweh⁴²
 .so it will be destroyed
 .I, Yahweh, say that you people of Moab will be terrified, and fall into pits and traps⁴³
 .Those who are terrified and try to run away will fall into deep pits⁴⁴
 ,Whoever climbs out of a pit will be caught in a trap
 ’.because I will punish them at the time that I have appointed
 ,The people will flee as far as the city of Heshbon⁴⁵
 ,but they will not be able to go any further
 ,because a fire will burn in Heshbon
 ,which is the city where King Sihon lived long ago
 and it will burn up all the people in Moab
 .who noisily boasted very much
 !You people of Moab, terrible things will happen to you⁴⁶
 .You people who worship your god Chemosh, you will be destroyed
 .Your sons and your daughters will be captured and taken away to other countries
 .But some day, I will enable the people of Moab to return to their land again⁴⁷
 ”.That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it

.That is the end of what Jeremiah prophesied about Moab

This message is about the people who descended from Ammon. This is what¹ 49

:Yahweh says

There are plenty of Israelite people left“

.to occupy the land of the tribe of Gad

?So, why are the people who worship the god Molech living in those towns

There will be a time when I will sound the battle cry²

.for their enemies to attack their capital city, Rabbah

,Then it will become a heap of ruins

.and all the nearby towns will be burned

Then the people of Israel will again possess the land

.that the people of Ammon took away from them

,You people of the city of Heshbon, wail³

.because the city of Ai will be destroyed

;You women in the city of Rabbah, weep

;put on rough clothing to show you are mourning

,run back and forth in confusion inside the city walls

because your god Molech, along with its priests and officials, will be taken away in
.exile

,Why do you brag about your valleys⁴

?your valleys that are so fruitful, you faithless daughter

You think that your wealth will bring you protection against your enemies

’?and so you dare to ask, “Who is there who can come against me

,But listen to this: I, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies⁵

.will cause you to become terrified

,You will all be forced to flee to other countries from the enemies all around you

.and no one will be able to bring you together again

.But some day I will enable the Ammonite people to return to their land⁶

”.That will surely happen, because I, Yahweh, have said it

This message is about the people of Edom. This is what Yahweh, commander of the⁷

:angel armies, says

!It seems that there are no longer any wise people in Teman district in Edom“

.There are no people left who can give others good advice
.The people who were wise have disappeared
,You people of the city of Dedan, in the south of Edom⁸
,turn and flee and hide in deep caves
,because I am causing disaster to happen to all the people of Edom
!I will punish you
Those who harvest grapes⁹
.always leave some on the vines
,When thieves come at night
.they surely steal only as much as they want
,But I will cause everything in Edom to be destroyed, and there will be nothing left¹⁰
.and there will be no place for people to hide
,Many of the children, their relatives and their neighbors, will die
.and Edom will not exist anymore
,Leave behind the orphans because I will take care of them¹¹
”.and the widows also will be able to depend on me to help them

And this is also what Yahweh says: “If those who do not deserve to suffer must¹²
.suffer, you people of Edom must suffer much more! You will not escape being punished
I, Yahweh, have solemnly promised, using my own name, that your chief city Bozrah¹³
will become a place that people will be horrified about. It will be a heap of ruins. People
will make fun of it and use its name when they curse people. All the nearby towns and
”.villages will be ruined forever

:I heard this message from Yahweh¹⁴

,I have sent an ambassador to many nations“
.to tell them to gather together to attack Edom
”!They must prepare for battle

,And Yahweh says to the people of Edom¹⁵

.I will cause your nation to become very unimportant among the other nations“
.They will all despise your country
,You have caused people of other nations to be terrified¹⁶
,and you have been very proud
.but you have deceived yourselves

;You live in caves in the rock cliffs
 .you think that you are safe there because you live high up there
 ,But even if you make your homes as high up as the eagles' nests
 .I will cause you to come crashing down
 ;Edom will become a place about which people are horrified¹⁷
 people who pass by will be horrified and will gasp
 .when they see the destruction
 Edom will be destroyed as completely as Sodom and Gomorrah and the nearby¹⁸
 .towns were destroyed long ago
 .As a result, no one—not a single person—will live there anymore
 I will come to Edom suddenly as a lion comes out of the jungle¹⁹
 .and leaps on sheep that are eating in good pastures
 .I will quickly chase the people of Edom from their land
 ;And then I will appoint for them a leader whom I will choose
 .I can do that because there is no one like me who can object to what I do
 .No ruler can oppose me
 :Listen to what I have planned to do to the people of Teman and the rest of Edom²⁰
 ,even the little children will be dragged away
 .and I will completely get rid of the people who live there
 ,When Edom is destroyed, the noise will be extremely great²¹
 ,with the result that the earth will shake
 .and the wailing of the people will be heard as far away as the Sea of Reeds
 Look! The enemy troops will swoop down over Bozrah²²
 .like an eagle spreads its wings when it swoops down to seize an animal
 On that day, even the strongest warriors of Edom will be afraid
 ”.like a woman who is about to give birth
 :This message is about Damascus. This is what Yahweh says²³
 ,The people in the nearby cities of Hamath and Arpad will be ashamed“
 .because they have heard bad news about Damascus
 ,They are very anxious and restless
 .like a sea in a big storm
 ,The people of Damascus have become very weak²⁴
 .and they all have panicked and run away in terror

The people are anguished and in pain
 .like a woman experiences who is about to give birth
 But even now the people of that famous city have not yet abandoned it. That was the²⁵
 .city that gave me joy
 .Its young men will fall in the streets²⁶
 .Its soldiers will all be killed in one day
 And I, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, will start a fire to burn the walls²⁷
 ,that surround Damascus
 ”.and the palaces of King Ben Hadad will be burned down

 This is a message about the Kedar people and the kingdom of Hazor that²⁸
 :Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon is attacking. This is what Yahweh said

 I will cause an army to advance to attack Kedar“
 .and destroy those people who live east of Judah
 .Enemies will capture their tents and their flocks of sheep²⁹
 They will take away the curtains of their tents, their camels, and all of their other
 .possessions
 ,Everywhere men will shout
 ’!We are terrified because terrible things are happening all around us‘
 !So I, Yahweh, say, ‘Run away quickly³⁰
 ,You people who live in Hazor, go and hide in deep caves
 ;because King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon wants to attack you with his army
 ’!he is planning to destroy you
 ,But I say to Nebuchadnezzar³¹
 ;Go up and attack that nation whose people feel secure‘
 they do not have allies who will help them and do not have walls with gates that
 .have bars in them
 .Your troops will seize their camels and other livestock³²
 . I will scatter in every direction those people who will be in great mourning
 .I will bring disasters to them from every direction
 ,Hazor will become a place where jackals live³³
 .and it will be deserted forever
 ;No one will live there again
 ””.no people will settle there

The prophet Jeremiah received this message from Yahweh when King Zedekiah was³⁴
.starting to rule Judah

:This is what Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, says³⁵

;The men of Elam are famous archers“
.that is how they have made their country very powerful
. But I will get rid of them

I will bring their enemies from every direction³⁶
.and they will scatter the people of Elam in all of those directions
.The people of Elam will be exiled to every nation on the earth

,Because I am very angry with the people of Elam³⁷

;I will enable their enemies to smash Elam
.I will cause the people of Elam to experience great disasters
I will enable their enemies, who want to kill them, to pursue them and kill them with
swords

.until I completely get rid of all of them

, I, Yahweh, will judge them there³⁸

.and then I will get rid of their king and his officials

.But some day, I will enable the people of Elam to return to their land³⁹

”.That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it

Yahweh gave to Jeremiah the prophet a message about Babylon and the¹ 50
.country of Babylonia

:This is what Yahweh says²

;Proclaim a message among the nations“
;do not withhold any of it
raise up a signal flag
.to announce that Babylon will be captured
,Its chief god Marduk, whose other name is Bel, will be completely disgraced
.and all the other statues and idols will be shattered

The army of a nation will come from the north to attack Babylon³
,and destroy the city very thoroughly
.with the result that no one will live there again

”.Both people and animals will run away
 ,But I, Yahweh, say that in the future, when that is about to happen“⁴
 .the people of Israel and the people of Judah will join together
 They will be weeping
 .and wanting to worship me, their God
 ,They will inquire about the road to Jerusalem⁵
 .and then they will start traveling toward it
 ,They will say to each other
 ’!We must return to Yahweh again‘
 .They will make an everlasting agreement with me that they will never forget
 .My people have been like lost sheep⁶
 Their leaders have caused them to abandon me
 .like shepherds who have allowed their sheep to wander in the hills and mountains
 My people are like sheep
 .that do not know the path to return to the sheepfold
 .All their enemies who found them attacked them⁷
 ,They said, ‘We did not sin by attacking them
 ;because they sinned against Yahweh
 ;he is the one who provides what they need
 ;he is the one to whom they should have remained faithful
 ’.he is the one whom their ancestors confidently expected to help them
 !But now, I say to the leaders of my people, ‘Depart from Babylon⁸
 !Leave the land of Babylonia
 ;Act like male goats that go in front of the rest of the flock
 .lead my people back to their own land
 Do that because I am going to gather an army of great nations to the north of⁹
 .Babylon
 .They will join together to attack Babylon and will capture it
 Their arrows will be like skilled warriors
 .that always hit what they are aiming at
 ,Babylonia will be conquered¹⁰
 .and those who conquer it will take away everything they want
 ””.That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it
 ,You people of Babylon who plundered my chosen people“¹¹

.now you are very happy
 ,You run around joyfully like a calf in a meadow
 .and are happy like stallions are happy when they are neighing
 .But soon your people will be very disgraced as a result of being conquered¹²
 ;Your country will be the most insignificant nation
 .it will be a wilderness, a dry land and a desert plain
 ,Because I, Yahweh, am angry with you people of Babylon¹³
 .I will cause your city to become completely deserted
 All who pass by will be horrified
 .and will gasp because of the destruction there
 ,All you nations that surround Babylon¹⁴
 !prepare to attack it
 ;Tell your archers to shoot at their enemies
 ,shoot all of your arrows at them and do not hold back
 .because the people of Babylon have sinned against me, Yahweh
 .Shout victorious war cries against Babylon from all sides of the city¹⁵
 ;The soldiers of Babylon will surrender
 .the towers and walls will be torn down
 ,It is I, Yahweh, who will be getting revenge on the people of Babylon
 .and I will use you to get revenge
 !Do to the people of Babylon what they have done to others
 Take away from Babylon those who plant crops¹⁶
 !and those who reap the harvests
 ,Because of the swords carried by those who will attack Babylon
 the people in Babylon who have come from other countries
 ”.should all run away; they should go back to their own countries
 The Israelite people are like sheep“¹⁷
 .that have been scattered by lions
 .First the army of the king of Assyria defeated them
 .Then the army of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon smashed them
 So this is what I, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the God whom Israel¹⁸
 :worships, say
 ,Now I will punish the king of Babylon and the people of his land‘
 .like I punished the king of Assyria

And I will bring the people of Israel back to their own land¹⁹
 where they will eat the food that grows in the fields of the regions of Carmel and
 ,Bashan
 .and the people in the hill areas of Ephraim and Gilead will have all they want to eat
 At that time, there will not be people in Israel and in Judah who are still guilty for²⁰
 , having sinned
 ”.because I will forgive the small group of people whom I enable to still be alive
 So, I, Yahweh, say to the enemies of Babylonia, ‘Attack the people who live in the’²¹
 region of Merathaim
 .and the people in the region of Pekod of Babylonia
 ,Pursue them to kill them, and completely get rid of every single one of them
 .as I have commanded you to do
 ;Shout your battle cries throughout the land²²
 .shout when you are causing great destruction
 ,The army of Babylon is like the most powerful hammer on the earth²³
 .but it will be completely shattered
 ’.Babylon, one of the nations, will be a complete ruin
 ,You people of Babylon, listen²⁴
 ;because I have set a trap for you without your awareness
 ,you will be caught in that trap
 .because you fought against me
 ,It is as though I have opened the place where I store my weapons²⁵
 and I have brought out all the weapons
 .to use against the people with whom I am angry
 I, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, have a lot of work to do
 .to punish the people of Babylonia
 .So, you enemies of Babylonia, come from distant lands and attack it²⁶
 ,Break open the places where they store the grain
 .and pile up the rubble like heaps of grain
 ;Destroy everything completely
 .do not leave anything that is not destroyed
 ;Destroy all the young warriors who are as strong as bulls²⁷
 .take them to where you will slaughter them
 ,It will be terrible for them

.because it will be time for them to be punished

Listen to the people who have fled and escaped from Babylon²⁸
while they tell in Jerusalem how I, Yahweh, have gotten revenge against those who
.destroyed my temple in Jerusalem

;Summon archers to come to attack Babylon²⁹
surround the city
.in order that no one will escape
, Do to the people of Babylon what they have done to others
.because they have defied me, the Holy One of the Israelite people

;The young men of Babylon will fall in the streets³⁰
all their soldiers will be killed in one day. This will happen because I, Yahweh, have
!declared it

:I, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, say this³¹
,You arrogant people‘
;it is now the time
.it is the day when I will punish you
,Your land is full of proud people³²
, but you will stumble and fall
.and no one will lift you up again
I will light a fire in the cities of Babylonia
’.that will burn up everything that is nearby

:I, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, also say this³³
;The people of Israel and Judah were oppressed‘
those who captured them guarded them carefully and would not allow them to leave
.Babylon

.But Yahweh is strong, and he will free them³⁴
;Yahweh is the Commander of the angel armies
He will defend his people
,and enable them to return to their land where they will have peace
.but the people of Babylonia will not have peace

;He will send enemy soldiers carrying swords to strike the people of Babylonia³⁵
they will strike the officials and wise men
.and all the other people who live in Babylon

They will strike their false prophets with swords³⁶
 .and they will become foolish
 ,They will strike the strongest warriors of Babylonia
 .and they will all be terrified
 They will strike their horses and chariots³⁷
 ,and the foreign mercenaries who are in the army of Babylonia
 .and they will all become as weak as women
 They will seize all the valuable things there in Babylon
 .and take them away
 .Yahweh will cause the streams to become dry³⁸
 ,He will do all those things because the entire land of Babylonia is filled with idols
 .and those horrible idols have caused the people who worship them to become crazy
 ;Soon only jackals and other wild creatures will live there³⁹
 .and it will be a place where ostriches live
 ;People will never live there again
 . it will be uninhabited forever
 Yahweh God will destroy Babylon like he destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and the⁴⁰
 ;nearby towns
 .no one will ever live there again
 .Look! A great army will come from the north⁴¹
 A great nation far away with many kings is preparing to attack you people of
 .Babylon
 ;Their army has bows and arrows and spears⁴²
 .they are very cruel, and do not act mercifully to anyone
 ,As they ride along on their horses
 ;the sound of the horses' hooves is like the roaring of the ocean waves
 they are riding in battle formation
 .to attack you, you people of Babylon
 ,The king of Babylon heard their report⁴³
 ”.The enemy is approaching“
 .So he was frightened and became weak
 ,Fear and anguish gripped him
 ”.like a woman who is about to give birth to a baby
 I, Yahweh, will come to Babylon suddenly like a lion comes out of the jungle⁴⁴

.and leaps on the sheep that are eating the good pastureland
.I will quickly chase the people of Babylonia from their land
;And then I will appoint for them a leader whom I will choose
I will do that because there is no one like me who can say that what I have done is not
.right

.No ruler can oppose me
Listen to what I have planned to do to the people of Babylon city and the rest of⁴⁵
:Babylonia

,even the little children will be dragged away
.and I will completely destroy the people who live there
,When Babylon is destroyed, the noise will be extremely loud⁴⁶
,with the result that the earth will shake
””.and the wailing of the people will be heard by the people of other nations

:This is what Yahweh says¹ 51

,I will inspire an army to destroy Babylon like a powerful wind“
.and also to destroy the people of Babylonia in Leb Kamai
I will send a foreign army to come to get rid of Babylonia²
.like a strong wind that blows away chaff
They will attack from every direction
.on that day of disaster
I will tell them, ‘Do not allow the archers of Babylon to have time to put on their³
armor
.or draw their bows
.Do not spare the young men of Babylon
,Completely destroy their army
;Their soldiers will fall dead in Babylonia⁴
.they will die after being impaled by spears in the streets
I, Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, whom Israel worships, have not⁵
.abandoned Israel and Judah
Even though their land was filled with people who sinned against me, the Holy God
,of Israel
.I am still their God
!You people of Israel and Judah, flee from Babylon⁶

!Run to escape
 !Do not stay there and be killed when the people of Babylon are punished
 ;It will be the time when Yahweh gets revenge
 .He will do to them what they deserve
 Babylon has been like a gold cup in Yahweh's hand, a cup that is full of wine⁷
 .that caused people all over the earth who drank some of it to become drunk
 ,It is as though the rulers of the nations drank the wine from Babylon
 .and it caused them to become crazy
 .But suddenly Babylon will be conquered⁸
 !Weep for its people
 ;Give them medicine for their wounds
 ".perhaps they can be healed
 ,We foreigners would have tried to heal them⁹
 .but now they cannot be healed
 ,So we will not try to help them; we will abandon them
 ,and return to our own lands
 because it is as though the punishment they are receiving reaches up to the clouds in the
 ;sky
 .it is very great, with the result that no one can measure it
 ;Yahweh has vindicated us¹⁰
 .so let us proclaim in Jerusalem everything that Yahweh our God has done for us
 !You enemy soldiers, sharpen your arrows¹¹
 ,Fill up your quivers for battle
 because Yahweh has incited your kings of Media and Persia to march with their armies
 .to Babylon and to destroy it
 That is how Yahweh will get revenge on those foreigners who entered his temple in
 .Jerusalem and defiled it
 !Lift up a battle flag close to the walls of Babylon¹²
 ,Reinforce the guards
 !and tell the watchmen to stand in their positions
 ,Prepare an ambush
 because Yahweh is about to accomplish all that he has planned to do to the people
 .of Babylon
 ,Babylon is a city near the great Euphrates River¹³
 ,a city in which there are many rich people

;but it is time for Babylon to be finished
 .the time for the city to exist is ended
 Yahweh, commander of the angel armies has solemnly promised, using his own¹⁴
 ,name
 ;Your cities will be filled with your enemies“
 ;I will cause them to be like a swarm of locusts
 ”.and they will shout triumphantly when they conquer your city
 ;Yahweh created the earth by his power¹⁵
 ,he established it by his wisdom
 .and he stretched out the sky by his understanding
 ;When he speaks loudly, there is thunder in the sky¹⁶
 .he causes clouds to form in every part of the earth
 He sends lightning with the rain
 .and releases the winds from his storehouses
 ;People are as senseless as a beast, and they know very little¹⁷
 ,those who make idols are always disappointed
 .because their idols do nothing for them
 ;The images that they make are not real gods
 .they are lifeless
 ;Idols are worthless; they deserve to be ridiculed¹⁸
 .there will be a time when they will all be destroyed
 ;But the God of Israel is not like those idols¹⁹
 ;he is the one who created everything that exists
 ;we, the tribe of Israel, belong to him
 .his name is Yahweh, commander of the angel armies
 ,Yahweh says about the army of Babylonia²⁰
 ;You are like my weapons of war and my war club“
 with your power I shatter nations
 .and destroy many kingdoms
 :With your power I shatter armies of other nations²¹
 .I destroy their horses and their riders, their chariots and their chariot drivers
 ,With your power I shatter men and women²²
 ,old people and children
 .young men and young women

,With your power I shatter shepherds and their flocks of sheep²³

,farmers and their oxen

”.governors and their officials

,But, Yahweh also says²⁴

Soon I will repay you people in Babylon and in the rest of Babylonia“

.for all the evil things that you have done in Jerusalem

Babylonia is like a great mountain²⁵

.from which bandits descend to plunder people all over the earth

.But I, Yahweh, am the enemy of you people of Babylonia

.I will raise my fist to strike you

I will knock you down from the cliffs

.and cause you to be only a huge pile of burned rubble

;Your city will be abandoned forever²⁶

.even the stones in your city will never again be used for buildings

”.Your city will be completely destroyed

!Tell the nations to lift up a battle flag²⁷

!Tell them to blow their trumpets of war

!Gather all their armies to fight against Babylon

.Prepare the nations to attack Babylon

Summon the armies of the kingdoms north of Babylonia—from Ararat, Minni, and

.Ashkenaz

,Appoint a commander for them

;and bring a great number of horses

there must be a huge number of horses; that huge number will resemble a swarm of

.locusts

,Prepare the armies of other nations²⁸

,armies that will be led by the kings of Media and Persia

.their governors and their officials

When they attack Babylon, it will be as though the earth will shake and writhe in²⁹

,pain

because those armies will accomplish everything that Yahweh has planned to do to

.Babylon

,Then the nations will destroy it completely

.with the result that no one will live there again

.When their enemies attack, the strongest warriors in Babylon will not fight³⁰
 .They will remain in their barracks, without any strength
 .They will be as timid as women
 The enemy soldiers will burn the buildings in the city
 .and break the bars of the city gates into pieces
 ,Messengers will go quickly, one after another³¹
 .to tell the king that his city has been captured
 The places at which people can cross the river to escape from the city will be³²
 .blocked
 ,The dry reeds in the marshes will be set on fire
 .and the soldiers of Babylon will be terrified
 ;This is what Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, whom Israel worships, says³³
 Babylon is like wheat on the ground where it is about to be threshed“
 .by animals tramping on it
 ”.Very soon their enemies will trample on the city of Babylon
 The army of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, has attacked and crushed us³⁴
 ,Israelites
 .and we have no strength left
 It is as though they have swallowed us like a great monster
 ,that filled its belly with all our tasty parts
 .and then has spit out what it did not like
 ,So the people of Jerusalem say to Yahweh³⁵
 Cause the people of Babylon to suffer“
 !like they caused us to suffer
 ”!Cause the people of Babylonia to be punished for killing our people
 :And this is what Yahweh replies to the people of Jerusalem³⁶
 ,I will be like your lawyer to defend you“
 .and I will avenge you
 I will dry up the river in Babylon
 .and all the springs of water
 ,Babylon will become a heap of ruins³⁷
 .a place where jackals live
 ;It will become a place that people are horrified about and will ridicule

.it will be a place where no one lives
;The people of Babylon will all roar like young lions³⁸
.they will growl like baby lions
,But while they are extremely hungry³⁹
.I will prepare a different kind of feast for them
,I will cause them to drink wine until they are very drunk
.with the result that they will fall asleep
!But they will never wake up from that sleep
,I will bring them down to a place where they will be slaughtered⁴⁰
like someone who takes lambs or rams or goats to where they will be slaughtered
.for sacrifices
;People all over the earth now honor Babylon⁴¹
.they say that it is a great city
.But it will become a place about which people of all nations are horrified
.The enemies of Babylon will cover the city like huge waves of the sea⁴²
,The towns in Babylonia will be a horror, a dry and desert plain⁴³
and it will be a land in which no one lives
.and which no one walks through
,And I will punish Bel, the god that the people of Babylon worship⁴⁴
.and I will cause the people to give back what they have stolen
.People of other nations will no longer come to worship Bel
”.And the walls of Babylon will collapse
!Yahweh also says, “My people, come out of Babylon⁴⁵
!Flee to escape
Run, because I, Yahweh, am extremely angry with the people of Babylon, and I will
!get rid of them
Do not be discouraged or afraid⁴⁶
.when you hear reports about what is happening in Babylon
,People will report rumors like that every year
,rumors about violent things being done in the land
.and rumors about leaders fighting against each other
.But it will soon be the time for me to get rid of the carved idols in Babylon⁴⁷
,People all over the land will be ashamed because of being defeated
.and the corpses of their soldiers will lie in the streets

,Then all the angels in heaven and all the people on the earth will rejoice⁴⁸
 .because from the north will come armies that will destroy Babylon
 Like the soldiers of Babylon killed the people of Israel⁴⁹
 ,and also killed others all over the world
 .the people of Babylon must also be killed
 !You Israelite people who have not been killed, get out of Babylon⁵⁰
 !Do not wait
 ,Even though you are in a land far away from Israel
 ”!think about Yahweh, and think about Jerusalem
 ,The Israelite people say⁵¹
 .We are ashamed“
 ,We are completely disgraced
 ”.because foreigners have entered Yahweh’s temple and defiled it
 Yahweh replies, “That is true, but there will soon be a time when I will destroy the⁵²
 ,carved idols in Babylon
 .and throughout Babylonia there will be wounded people who will groan
 ,Even if the walls around Babylon could extend up to the sky⁵³
 ,and if its walls were extremely strong
 .I will send armies that will destroy the city
 ”.That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it
 !Listen to the people of Babylon shouting for help⁵⁴
 !And listen to the sounds of things being destroyed all over Babylonia
 .Yahweh will be destroying Babylon⁵⁵
 .He will cause the loud noises in the city to cease
 .Enemy troops will surge against the city like a great wave⁵⁶
 They will capture the city’s mighty soldiers
 .and break their weapons
 ;That will happen because Yahweh is a God who punishes his enemies justly
 .he will punish them as they deserve
 ,Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, says⁵⁷
 I will cause the city officials and wise men, the army captains and soldiers, to become“
 .drunk
 ,They will fall asleep

”!but they will never wake up again

,Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, also says⁵⁸

.The thick walls around Babylon will be flattened to the ground“

.The city gates will be burned

,People from other countries will work hard to save the city

,but it will be in vain

”.because everything that they have built will be destroyed by fire

Seraiah, son of Neraiah and grandson of Mahseiah, was an important servant of⁵⁹

King Zedekiah. After Zedekiah had been ruling Judah for almost four years, the prophet Jeremiah gave him a message. This was when Seraiah was about to go to Babylon with the

Now Jeremiah had written on a scroll a list of all the disasters that he had written⁶⁰ .king

Jeremiah said to Seraiah, “When⁶¹ .about, disasters that would soon happen to Babylon

Then⁶² .you arrive in Babylon, read aloud everything that I have written on this scroll

pray, ‘Yahweh, you said that you will thoroughly destroy Babylon, with the result that

’.people and animals will no longer live there. You said that it will be desolate forever

Then, when you have finished reading what is written on the scroll, tie it to a heavy⁶³

Then say, ‘In the same way, Babylon and its⁶⁴ .stone and throw it into the Euphrates River people will disappear and never exist again, because of the disasters that Yahweh will bring

”’.to it

.This is the end of Jeremiah’s messages

Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became the king of Judah. He¹ 52

ruled in Jerusalem for eleven years. His mother was Hamutal, the daughter of a man named

Zedekiah did many things that Yahweh says are evil, like his² .Jeremiah from Libnah

The events described here happened because Yahweh was³ .father Jehoiakim had done angry with the people of Jerusalem and of other places in Judah, and finally he exiled them

.and said that he did not want to have anything to do with them anymore

So, on the tenth day of the tenth⁴ .Then Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon

month, when Zedekiah had been ruling for almost nine years, King Nebuchadnezzar of

Babylon led his entire army to attack Jerusalem. They surrounded the city and built dirt

They continued to⁵ .ramps up to the top of the city walls to enable them to attack the city

.surround Jerusalem until Zedekiah had been ruling for almost eleven years

When Zedekiah had been ruling for almost eleven years, on the ninth day of the⁶ fourth month of that year, the famine in the city had become very severe, and there was no
Then the soldiers of Babylonia broke through a section⁷ .more food for the people to eat
of the city wall, and all the Israelite soldiers fled. But because the city was surrounded by
.soldiers from Babylonia, Zedekiah and the Israelite soldiers waited until it became dark
.Then they left the city through the gate between the two walls behind the king's garden
But the soldiers of Babylonia pursued⁸ .Then they ran toward the plain along the Jordan
King Zedekiah, and they caught up with him on the plains near Jericho. He was alone
The soldiers of Babylonia⁹ .because all his men had all deserted him and had scattered
took him to the king of Babylon, who was at Riblah in the region of Hamath. There the
They forced¹⁰ .king of Babylon told his soldiers what they should do to punish Zedekiah
Then they¹¹ .Zedekiah to watch while they killed his sons and all the officials from Judah
gouged out Zedekiah's eyes. They fastened him with bronze chains and took him to
.Babylon. They put him in a prison, and he remained there until the day that he died

On the tenth day of the fifth month of that year, which was when King¹²
Nebuchadnezzar had been ruling for almost nineteen years, Nebuzaradan, who was the
.captain of the king's bodyguards and one of the king's officials, arrived in Jerusalem
He commanded his soldiers to burn down the temple of Yahweh, the king's palace, and¹³
.all the houses in Jerusalem. They also destroyed all the important buildings in the city
Then he supervised the soldiers from Babylonia while they tore down the walls on all¹⁴
Then Nebuzaradan forced to go to Babylon some of the poorest¹⁵ .sides of Jerusalem
people, those Israelites who had said they would support the king of Babylon, the rest of
But Nebuzaradan¹⁶ .the craftsmen, and other people who had remained in Jerusalem
allowed some of the very poor people to remain in Judah to take care of the vineyards and
.fields

The soldiers from Babylonia broke into pieces the huge bronze pillars that were in¹⁷
front of the temple, and the large bronze water tank called "The Sea," and the ten bronze
They also took away the basins for¹⁸ .water carts, and they took all the bronze to Babylon
holding the ashes from the burned sacrifices, the shovels for cleaning out the ashes, the
tools for snuffing out the wicks of the lamps, the basins for holding the blood of the
sacrificed animals, the dishes for incense, and all the other bronze items that were used
Nebuzaradan also told his soldiers to take¹⁹ .when they made sacrifices at the temple
away the small bowls, the dishes for burning incense, the basins, pots, lampstands, bowls
for incense, and the bowls used for pouring out the wine offerings. They took all the other
.items that were made of pure gold or silver

The bronze from the two pillars, the large water tank called “The Sea” and the²⁰ twelve statues of oxen that were beneath it, and the water carts, was more than they could weigh. Those things had been made for the temple during the time that Solomon was the king. Each of the pillars was 27 feet tall and 18 feet around. They were hollow, and each²¹ .king The bronze head on the top of each pillar was seven²² .had sides that were 3 inches thick and one-half feet high and was decorated all around with a bronze network of figures that represented pomegranates²³ .There was a total of one hundred figures of pomegranates on .the network at the top, 96 of which could be seen from the ground

When Nebuzaradan returned to Babylon, he took with him as prisoners Seraiah the²⁴ high priest, Zephaniah who was Seraiah’s deputy, and the three men who guarded the temple. He found some other people who were hiding in the city. So²⁵ .entrances to the temple from them he took a commander of the army of Judah, seven of the king’s advisors, the army commander’s chief secretary who was in charge of recruiting soldiers for the army. Nebuzaradan took them all to the king of Babylon, who was²⁶ .and sixty other soldiers. There at Riblah in the Hamath region, the king of Babylon commanded²⁷ .still at Riblah .that they all be executed

The number of²⁸ .Many of the people of Judah were forced to leave their own land people who were captured and sent to Babylon at that time, when Nebuchadnezzar had been ruling for almost seven years, was 3,023²⁹ .Then, when he had been ruling for .almost eighteen years, his soldiers took 832 more from Jerusalem to Babylonia³⁰ .When he had been ruling almost twenty-three years, he sent Nebuzaradan to Jerusalem again, and he brought back 745 more Israelites to Babylonia. That was a total of 4,600 Israelites who .were taken to Babylonia

-After King Jehoiachin of Judah had been in prison in Babylon for almost thirty³¹ seven years, Awel-Marduk became the king of Babylon. He was kind to Jehoiachin and ordered that he be released from prison. That was on the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month of the year that Awel-Marduk became king³² .He always spoke kindly to Jehoiachin and gave him a position in which he was honored more than all the other kings .who had been exiled to Babylon³³ .He supplied new clothes for Jehoiachin, to replace the clothes that he had been wearing in prison. He also allowed Jehoiachin to eat with him .every day, all during the rest of his life³⁴ .Every day, the king of Babylon gave him some .money to buy the things that he needed. That continued until the day that Jehoiachin died