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Yirmiyah

(Jeremiah)

Introduction

The prophet Yirmiyah/Jeremiah, started his vocation as a prophet around 627 B.C. and continued for just under fifty years until around 580 B.C. During that long period serving as a prophet,he warned the people concerning the coming destruction of the nation of Yehudah/Judah due to their wickedness including the worshipping of false gods. Then in due course, Yirmiyah saw the fulfilment of what he'd prophesied when Yerushalem was captured by King Nevukadnetsar from Bavel. Yirmiyah witnessed the demolition of the city and Yahweh's temple, and the forced exile of many people to Bavel. Then he prophesied the return of some people from captivity, and the rebuilding of the nation.
Yirmiyah's account is divided into five main sections: 1. Yirmiyah's calling; 2. Yahweh's messages to the nation of Yehudah and its teachers during the reigns of Yoshiyah/Josiah, Yehoyakim/Jehoiakim, Yehoyakin/Jehoiakin, and Tsidkiyah/Zedekiah; 3. all the persecution of people according what Yirmiyah's secretary Baruk wrote, including the various prophecies, and the important events in Yirmiyah's life; 4. what was said by Yahweh concerning the various foreign nations; and 5. the other messages concerning Yerushalem's destruction, and the capture of the people who would be exiled to Bavel.
Yirmiyah was a merciful person and full of love towards his people, and so he disliked having to present Yahweh's judgements to them. Parts of this account documents his personal sufferings due to his calling by Yahweh to become a prophet. Yahweh's messages were like fire in his heart that he couldn't hide.
This document also writes about a new agreement coming at a future time, and that that agreement would be kept by Yahweh's people even with no teacher driving them because it would be written onto their hearts. (31:31-34)

Main components of this document

Yirmiyah's calling *1:1-19*
The prophecies during the reigns of Yoshiyah, Yehoyakim, Yehoyakin, and Tsidkiyah *2:1–25:38*
Yirmiyah's persecution *26:1–45:5*
The prophecies for nations *46:1–51:64*
Yerushalem's destruction *52:1-34*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

Introduction · Southern kingdom

1:1 These are the messages from Hilkiyah's son, Yirmiyah (Jeremiah)—one of the priests who were in Anatot in Benyamin's territory. **2** Yahweh's messages started coming to him when Yehudah's (Judah's) King Yoshiyah (Josiah) (Amon's son) was in the thirteenth year of his reign.[1] **3** It continued through the reign of Yoshiyah's son, King Yehoyakim[2] until the end of the eleventh year of the reign of Yoshiyah's son, King Hizkiyah (Hezekiah)—Yerushalem (Jerusalem) was exiled in the fifth month of that year.[3]

Yirmiyah's calling

4 Now Yahweh's message came to me:

5 "Before I formed you in your mother, I already knew you,
and before you came out of the womb, I had a plan for you.
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

6 But I said, "Oh no, Yahweh, my master. Listen, I don't know how to speak, because I'm just a young lad."

7 but Yahweh told me, "Don't say that you're only a child, because you must go to everyone I send you to and you must tell them everything that I command you to say. **8** Don't be afraid of them, because I'll be with you to rescue you." That's Yahweh's message.

9 Then Yahweh stretched out his hand and touched my mouth and said, "Listen, I've put my messages into your mouth. **10** I'm appointing you today over the nations and kingdoms—to uproot and to break down, to destroy and to pull down, to build and to plant."

Yahweh encourages Yirmiyah · Southern kingdom

11 Another time, Yahweh's message came to me, saying, "Yirmiyah (Jeremiah), what do you see?"

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

12 Then Yahweh told me, "You've done well to see that, because I keep watch[4] on my message to make sure it happens."

13 Then Yahweh asked me a second time what I was seeing, and I replied, "I see a pot full of boiling water and it's tipping towards the north."

14 "Yes, disaster will come from the north and be released onto all the inhabitants of this region," Yahweh continued. **15** "Listen, I'm about to summon all the clans of the northern kingdoms, and they'll come and attack the walls around Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and all of Yehudah's (Judah's) other cities, then each king will place his throne at the entrance to Yerushalem's gates." That is Yahweh's declaration. **16** "That's how I'll judge my people for their wickedness as they've abandoned me and sacrificed to other gods and bowed down to idols that they made with their own hands. **17** So Yirmiyah (Jeremiah), get yourself ready and go and tell them everything that I'll tell you. Don't be scared in front of them or else I'll scare you right there in front of them! **18** And listen, today I've you as strong as a fortified city and an iron pillar and bronze walls, as far as the kings of Yehudah are concerned, along with their officials and priests, and the general population. **19** They'll oppose you but they won't be able to defeat you because I'll be with you to rescue you," says Yahweh.

Yisrael has deviated from Yahweh · Both kingdoms

2:1 Then Yahweh gave me a message **2** to proclaim to Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) ears:

"Yahweh says: I remember your loyal commitment when you were all young
and your love when you were committed to me.
You all followed after me in the wilderness
where no crops were planted.

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1 RV 1:2 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 22:3–23:27; 2Ch 34:8–35:19.

2 RV 1:3 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 23:36–24:7; 2Ch 36:5-8.

3 RV 1:3 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 24:18–25:21; 2Ch 36:11-21.

4 RV 1:12 · Note There's a play on words in the original here, as the Hebrew word for 'keeping watch' has the same consonants as the word for 'almond'.

Readers' Version

3 Yisrael (Israel) was set apart for Yahweh—the firstfruits of his harvest.
All those who devoured it became guilty—calamity came to them.
That is Yahweh's declaration.

Yisrael's ancestors turned away · Both kingdoms

4 Listen to Yahweh's message you descendants of Ya'akov (Jacob),
and all you clans that are part of Yisrael (Israel).
5 Yahweh asks: what injustices did you ancestors find in me,
that caused them to become distant from me.
They chased after vanity and became vain.
6 They didn't try to find out where Yahweh was—
the one brought led them out of Mitsrayim (Egypt)
then led them through the wilderness with its pits and desert areas.
It was a region of deep darkness without water—
an area that no one passes through, let alone lives in.
7 Then I took you to the Karmel region
to eat its fruit and other good things.
However you came and defiled my land
and made the inheritance that I gave you into something detestable.
8 The priests didn't ask where Yahweh was,
and the handlers of the law didn't know me.
The shepherds rebelled against me,
and the prophets prophesied by Ba'al
and they went after things that wouldn't profit them.

Yahweh's case against his people · Both kingdoms

9 Yahweh declares: I will bring a case against you all,
and I'll contend against your children and your grandchildren.
10 If you all cross over west to the coasts of Kupros (Cyprus) Island and look,
or head east to Kedar, ask around and pay careful attention
to see if something like this has ever happened before.
11 Has a country ever swapped out its gods (not that they were actual gods)?
But my people have exchanged their greatness for something of no benefit.
12 You heavens, be appalled and shudder.
Become utterly desolate.
That's what Yahweh says
13 because my people have done two evil things:
1. They've abandoned the spring of living water
and 2. They've gone and dug wells for themselves—broken cisterns that can't hold any water.

Yisrael's punishment for abandonment · Both kingdoms

14 Is Yisrael (Israel) a slave? Was it born into slavery?
Why has it been carried off as plunder?
15 Young lions roared at it—
they've made their voice heard.
They've made the land into wasteland—
its cities have become ruins without any inhabitants.
16 Also the people from Nof (Memphis) and Tahfanhes have shaved your heads.
17 Didn't you bring this on yourself by abandoning your god, Yahweh
at the time when he was leading you along the right path.
18 So now, what's the point of travelling to Mitsrayim (Egypt) to drink from Shihor's waters?
And why bother taking a trip to Ashur (Assyria) to drink the river water?
19 Your own wickedness will punish you
and your turning away will rebuke you.
So see and know that it's evil and bitter to abandon your god Yahweh,
and you no longer have respect for me.
That's Commander-in-chief Yahweh's declaration.

Yisrael refuses to worship Yahweh · Both kingdoms

20 I broke off your yoke from long ago.
I tore your chains to pieces and you said that you wouldn't disobey,
because you'd been lying down with prostitutes on every high hill and under every leafy tree.

Readers' Version

21 I myself had planted you as a choice vine
from a reliable seed,
but how you've changed yourself into some
degenerate, wild vine,
22 because even if you wash yourself with
bleach or use heaps of soap,
your guilt remains as a stain in front of me.
That is the declaration of my master, Yahweh.
23 How can you say, 'I'm not defiled—I haven't
worshipped the Baals'?
Consider your conduct in the valley.
Recognise what you've done:
behaving like a young, female camel that flits
here and there.
24 You're like a wild, female donkey, accus-
tomed to the wilderness in its desire for the
wind.
No one can hold her back when she's in heat.
All those searching for her won't give up try-
ing to find her at mating time.
25 Keep your feet from becoming bare, and
your throat from thirst,
but you've said that it's hopeless,
as you love foreign gods and feel obliged to
follow them.
26 It's like the shame
felt by a thief who gets
caught.

Yisrael deserves their punishment · Both kingdoms

So too, you Israelis will be shamed:
the people, their kings and officials, and their
priests and prophets
27 who say to the tree, 'You're my father,'
and to the standing stone, 'You gave birth to
me.'
Yes, they show their backs to me, not their
faces,
but when calamity comes, they'll say, 'Do
something and rescue us!'
28 So where then are the gods that you made
for yourself?
Let them take action if they can save you at
the time of your calamity,
because you have as many gods and you have
cities in Yehudah (Judah).
29 Why do you all complain to me, when all of
you have rebelled against me?
That is Yahweh's declaration.
30 It was a waste of time when I beat your
sons—they wouldn't accept discipline.
You've all killed your prophets like a destruc-
tive lion.
31 You in this generation, pay attention to
Yahweh's message.
Have I been a wilderness to Yisrael (Israel), or
a land of thick darkness?
Why would my people say that they've now
gone their own ways
and so won't come back to me again?
32 Would a young woman forget to wear her
jewelry,
or a bride forget to wear her wedding sashes?
However my people have forgotten me for
such a long time.
33 You've become very good at finding love—
you could even teach prostitutes a thing or
two!
34 The blood of innocent, poor people was
even found on your clothes—
it wasn't because you caught them breaking
in, but you did it anyway
35 then you said, 'But I'm innocent—surely
he's not angry at me.'
Listen, I'm about to judge you because you
said that you didn't sin.
36 Why are you constantly changing your al-
liances?
You'll be disappointed by Mitsrayim (Egypt)
just like you were disappointed by Ashur (As-
syria).
37 What's more, you'll be removed from this
place will your hands on your head,
because Yahweh has rejected the ones that
you put your confidence in
→and they won't be of any help to you.
3:1 Listen, if a man di-
vorced his wife and she

Yisrael is unfaithful · Both kingdoms

left and married another man,
surely he wouldn't move in with her again?
Wouldn't the country end up totally im-
moral?
Now you've acted like a prostitute with many
partners—
would you then return to me?
That is Yahweh's declaration.

Readers' Version

2 Look up at the barren hilltops and see.
Is there anywhere there where you haven't given yourself?
You sat by the paths waiting for them like an Aravi waiting in the wilderness,
and so you've polluted the nation by your acts of prostitution and wickedness.
3 That's why the showers have been withheld
and the late rains never came,
yet you have the look of a prostitute who refuses to be ashamed.
4 Even now you say that I'm your father,
or that I'm your close friend from since you were young.
5 Will he be angry forever?
Or permanently keep watch?
Listen, you say that, but you do all the wicked things that you can.

Yehudah is also unfaithful · Southern kingdom

6 At the time when Yoshiyah (Josiah) was king of Yehudah (Judah),[5] Yahweh asked me, "Do you see what faithless Yisrael (Israel) has done? She herself has walked up every high hill, and has been a prostitute underneath every green tree. 7 However I thought that after she'd done all those things, she'd return to me, but she hasn't, and her treacherous sister, Yehudah, saw her. 8 So I saw that because of all those situations where faithless Yisrael had committed adultery, I had given her divorce notice to her and sent her away. But her sister Yehudah, acting treacherously, wasn't worried and she went out and also prostituted herself. 9 Because she took her prostitution lightly, the nation became immoral and committed adultery with standing stones and trees. 10 Then after all that, that treacherous sister Yehudah didn't return to me with sincerity, but with deception. That is Yahweh's declaration.

Hope for unfaithful Yisrael · Northern kingdom

11 Then Yahweh told me: Unfaithful Yisrael (Israel) has actually been more upright than treacherous Yehudah (Judah)! 12 Go up north and tell them:
Unfaithful Yisrael, Yahweh declares:
Return to me—
I won't continue to be angry at you, because I'm faithful.
That's Yahweh's declaration.
13 However you must recognise your disobedience
because you've rebelled against your god, Yahweh,
and you've extended your connections to foreign gods under every leafy tree,
and you haven't listened to my voice.
That's Yahweh's declaration.
14 Return you unfaithful children, Yahweh declares,
because I'm your husband.
Then I'll take you all—one from a city and a couple from a clan—and I'll bring you to Tsiyon (Zion),
15 and I'll give you shepherds who'll be faithful to me,
and they will guide you with knowledge and insight.
16 Then when you're fruitful and multiply in the land, Yahweh says,
they'll no longer talk about having the chest containing Yahweh's agreement.
They won't call it to mind or remember it,
and they won't miss it or want a new one made again.
17 At that time, they'll call Yerushalem (Jerusalem) Yahweh's throne,
and they'll be gathered there from all the nations to honour Yahweh's name,
and they won't want to behave again according to the evil in their own stubborn minds.
18 In those days, the people of Yehudah (Judah) will join the people of Yisrael (Israel),
coming from the northern lands to the land that I gave your ancestors as an inheritance.

The sinning of Yisrael · Both kingdoms

19 Then I thought to myself about how I'd accept you to be my children,
and give you a desirable land—an inheritance

5 **RV 3:6 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 22:1–23:30; 2Ch 34:1–35:27.

Readers' Version

that all nations consider very beautiful.
I decided that you'll all call me 'my father',
and then you all won't turn away from me.
20 However, like a woman who deals treacherously with her companion,
so too you've all dealt treacherously with me, you Israeli people.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
21 A sound of weeping is heard on the barren hilltops—
the Israeli people begging for mercy
because they've followed paths of disobedience
and they've forgotten their god, Yahweh.
22 Come back, you unfaithful children—I will cure your faithlessness.
Say, look, we're coming back to you because you're our god, Yahweh.
23 Deception definitely comes from the hills—a commotion of mountains.
Our god Yahweh is certainly Yisrael's (Israel's) salvation.
24 From our youth, that shameful idol worship has consumed our ancestors' hard work—
their sheep and cattle, and their sons and daughters.
25 Let us lie down in our shame, and let our humiliation cover us,
because we've disobeyed our god, Yahweh.
Our ancestors and then we ourselves, haven't listened to the voice of our god, Yahweh.

A call to turn back · Northern kingdom

4:1 Yahweh says:
If you'll return, Yisrael (Israel),
yes, if you'll return to me
and remove those detestable idols away from me without wavering,
2 and if you promise as Yahweh lives, in truth, justice, and righteousness,
then the nations will bless themselves in him,
and it's him that they'll boast about.
3 Yes, tells the people from Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and across all Yehudah (Judah):
Plough your unploughed ground, but don't sow thornbushes.[6]

4 Circumcise yourselves to Yahweh by removing the foreskins from your hearts
you people of Yerushalem and Yehudah,
so that my rage doesn't burst out and burn like fire,
because there wouldn't be anyone to extinguish it due to the wickedness of your behaviour.

The coming punishment of Yehudah · Southern kingdom

5 Announce in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and declare in Yehudah (Judah) to blow the horn in the land.
Call out loudly to gather together and enter the fortified cities.
6 Lift up a banner towards Tsiyon (Zion) and get to safety.
Don't stand still because I'm about to bring calamity from the north with horrific destruction.
7 A lion has come up from its thicket,
and a destroyer of nations has set out.
He's come out from his place to make your country into a wasteland.
Your cities will be reduced to ruins with no inhabitants.
8 So put on sackcloth—mourn and wail
because Yahweh's burning anger hasn't turned away from us.
9 Yahweh says that at that time,
the king and his officials will lose heart
and the priests and prophets will be astonished.
10 Then I replied, "Oh now! My master Yahweh,
you've certainly completely deceived Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and also this people,
saying, 'It will be well for you all.' Yet the sword will come for our throats."
11 When that happens, Yerushalem and this people will be told:
A scorching wind will come from the bare hills in the wilderness.
It won't be coming just to winnow the grain and blow away the chaff—

6 **RV 4:3 · Cross-ref.** Hos 10:12.

Readers' Version

12 it'll be a strong blast from me.
Then I'll speak judgements against them.
13 Listen, he goes up like the clouds,
and his chariots are like the storm wind.
His horses are faster than eagles.
→We won't end well because we'll be devastated.
14 Yerushalem (Jerusalem), wash the evil from your heart so that you can be saved.
How much longer will you hold onto your wicked thoughts for,
15 because a voice from Dan declares trouble
and disaster is proclaimed from Efrayim's (Ephraim's) hill?
16 Remind the nations—
listen, announce to Yerushalem:
They're coming from a distant land to lay siege against you,
and they raise their voice against Yehudah's (Judah's) cities.
17 They'll surround Yerushalem like the watchmen around a field because it rebelled against me.
That's Yahweh's declaration.
18 Your conduct and your actions have brought that to you, Yerushalem.
That's your punishment—it's bitter and it'll pierce to your heart.

Yirmiyah's sorrow for the country · Southern kingdom

19 My inward parts, my insides!
I writhe with chest pains.
My heart is pounding—I won't stay silent,
→because my soul, you hear the sound of the trumpet—an alarm for battle.
20 Destruction followed by more destruction has been proclaimed,
because all the land has been devastated.
Suddenly my tents are devastated—
my tent fabrics gone in a moment.
21 How long do I have to watch the enemy's banner for?
How long will that trumpet sound go on for?
22 Yes, my people are foolish—they don't know me.
They're like stupid children who don't understand anything.
They've very clever at doing what's evil
and they don't know how to do what's good.

Yirmiyah's vision about destruction · Southern kingdom

23 I saw the land, and wow, it was formless and empty,
and the skies didn't have any light.
24 I saw the mountains, and wow, they were quaking,
and all the hills shook back-and-forth.
25 I looked, and wow, there were no more people,
and all the birds had flown away.
26 I saw, and wow, the orchard had turned into a wilderness,
and all the cities had been pulled down out of Yahweh's sight
due to his burning anger,
27 because Yahweh says this:
The entire country will become desolate,
^but I won't completely destroy it.
28 The land will mourn after that,
and the skies will darken from above,
because I've revealed my resolution,
^and I won't change my mind or turn back from it.
29 The city people will flee from the sound of approaching horsemen and archers.
They'll head into the thickets and up onto the cliffs.
→Every city will be abandoned without anyone living in them.
30 So you,[7] what will you do for the devastated one?
You dress in scarlet, adorning yourself with gold jewelry.
You make your eyes look bigger with makeup, but it won't help—
your lovers reject you and they're coming for your life.
31 Yes, I hear a sound like a woman in labour—

7 RV 4:30 · Note The Hebrew has a female you pronoun (as used for the city), which doesn't match the male form of devastated. Many modern versions have What will you do, devastated one? despite the gender mismatch.

Readers' Version

distress like a woman giving birth to her first child—
the sound of Tsiyon's (Zion's) daughter as she gasps for breath.
She spreads out her hands saying,
'I fear for my life because of those murderers.'

Yerushalem's corruption · Southern kingdom

5:1 Roam around Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) streets and look and observe,
and search around its plazas.
If you can find one person there who values justice and strives to be faithful,
then I'll forgive the city.
2 Even when they make an oath in Yahweh's name,
it'll still be a lie.
3 Yahweh, don't you look for honesty?
You struck them but they don't even react.
You brought them to an end, but they refuse to accept correction.
They make their faces harder than rock and refuse to change.
4 Then I thought that maybe they're just poor people?
They act foolishly because they're not educated about Yahweh's way
or what their god requires of them?
5 So I'll go to the leaders and speak to them,
because they know Yahweh's way and what their god requires.
However, all of them have broken out from under his yoke,
and torn off the chains.
6 Because of that, a lion from a thicket will attack them.
A wolf from the wilderness will devastate them.
A leopard lies in wait outside their cities—
→everyone who goes out from them will be torn to pieces
because their disobedience is extensive
and their disloyalty is substantial.
7 How could I forgive you for that?
Your children have abandoned me and have made oaths by things that are not gods.
I satisfied them, but they committed adultery
and ritually cut themselves[8] at the prostitute's house.
8 They were well-fed, lusty horses,
each man neighing at his neighbour's wife.
9 Yahweh asks:
Shouldn't I punish them for these things?
Shouldn't I avenge myself on a nation like that?
10 Go along the rows in the vineyard and destroy them,
but don't completely destroy them—
break off their shoots because they don't belong to Yahweh.
11 No, Yisrael's (Israel's) and Yehudah's (Judah's) people had indeed dealt treacherously with me.
That is Yahweh's declaration.

Yahweh rejects Yisrael · Southern kingdom

12 They've denied Yahweh and said:
He doesn't exist and nothing bad will happen us,
and we'll never experience war or famine.
13 The prophets are full of air and don't have any message.
So let what they say, happen to them.
14 So Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this:
Because you've spoken those words,
I'll put my messages in your mouth as a fire
and this people group will be the wood that it consumes.
15 Listen you Israelis to Yahweh's declaration:
I'm about to bring to you all a nation from far away—
it's an enduring nation that's been around for a long time.
You won't know their language or understand what they say.
16 Its quiver is like an open tomb.
All of them are warriors.
17 It will consume your grain and your food.
They'll devour your sons and daughters, and

8 RV 5:7 · Note Many translations follow the Septuagint here rather than the Hebrew, and end up with something like gathered together. (Of course, the prostitute here refers to idol worship.)

Readers' Version

your flocks and your cattle.
They'll strip your grapevines and your fig trees.
With their swords, they'll shatter your fortified cities that you were trusting in.
18 But Yahweh says:
Even in those days, I won't completely destroy you all.
19 When the people ask why Yahweh's doing that, you'll tell them:
You rejected me and served foreign gods in your own country,
so you'll all serve strangers in a land that doesn't belong to you.

Yahweh warns his people · Southern kingdom

20 Declare this to Ya'akov's (Jacob's) descendants,
and proclaim it in Yehudah (Judah):
21 Please listen to this, you foolish, heartless people.
They have eyes but do not see,
and they have ears, but do not hear.[9]
22 Yahweh declares:
Should you all respect and strive to obey me,
and shouldn't you tremble in front of me?
It was me who designated the sand as the boundary for the ocean—
it's a permanent line and the sea doesn't go past it.
The waters surge but get no further,
and the waves roar, but can't get past it.[10]
23 But this group of people has a stubborn and rebellious heart.
They've turned aside and gone away.
24 They don't say to themselves:
Please, let's strive to obey our god Yahweh—
the one who gives the autumn and spring rains at the appropriate time.
He decides on the harvest weeks for us.
25 Your disobedience has diverted those things,
and your sins have withheld goodness from you all
26 because there are wicked influencers among my people.
They lie in wait like a bird-catcher.
They set a trap and catch people.
27 Their homes are full of deceit like a cage full of birds.
→so that's how they've become rich and powerful.
28 They've become fat and slick.
They also disobey by doing evil.
They don't plead the cause of those who are fatherless,
and they're successful, yet they haven't insisted on justice for the poor.
29 Yahweh says:
Why shouldn't I punish them for all that behaviour?
Why shouldn't I avenge myself on a nation like this one?
30 Something horrible and shocking has happened in the country:
31 The prophets prophesy with lies,
and the priests rule by their own authority,
and my people love it this way,
but what will you all do when it comes to its end?

Yerushalem's last warning · Southern kingdom

6:1 Get out of Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and get yourselves to safety, you people of Benyamin,
and blow a trumpet in Tekoa.
Send up a signal from Beyt-Hakerem
because disaster and terrible destruction looms from the north.
2 Although it's beautiful and delicate,
I will destroy Tsiyon's (Zion's) daughter.
3 Shepherds and their flocks will go and pitch

9 **RV 5:21 · Cross-ref.** Isa 6:9-10; Eze 12:2; Mrk 8:18.
10 **RV 5:22 · Cross-ref.** Yob 38:8-11.

Readers' Version

their tents all around it.[11]
Each one will graze their own area.
4 Prepare for battle.
Take action and let's attack at midday.
It won't be good for us if the day is ending
because the evening shadows get longer.
5 Take action and attack at night
and destroy its palaces.
6 Commander-in-chief Yahweh says:
Cut down trees for timber
and mound up a ramp against Yerushalem (Jerusalem).
→That city must be punished as it's full of oppression.
7 Just as a well keeps its water fresh,
so too she keeps her evil fresh.
Violence and oppression can be heard there.
I always see sickness and deadly diseases.
8 Take note of my warning Yerushalem
in case I turn away from you—
in case I make you desolate—
a land that's not inhabited.

Yisrael's disobedience · Southern kingdom

9 Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this:
Those who remain in Yisrael (Israel)
will be picked over like gleaning the last few grapes off a vine.
Return your hand over the branches like a grape-picker.
10 Who should I speak to and warn so they can list?
Wow, their ears are so closed that they can't pay attention.
Wow, Yahweh's message has become offensive to them—
they don't enjoy hearing it.
11 Now I'm filled with Yahweh's rage.
I'm tired of holding it in.
Pour it out on the children in the street
and on the young men who gather together,
because a husband will be captured with his wife—
the very elderly as well.
12 Then their houses will be turned over to others,
along with their fields and wives
because I'll stretch out my hand
against the land's inhabitants.
That's Yahweh's declaration
13 because from the smallest to the greatest,
they're all greedy for dishonest gain.
From a prophet to the priest, everyone deals in lies.
14 They've lightly bandaged my people's wound
by saying, 'Peace, peace,' but there wasn't any peace.[12]
15 Were they ashamed when they did something disgusting?
No, they weren't ashamed—
they didn't even know how to be humiliated
so therefore they'll fall among the fallen.
At the time when I punish them, they'll stumble.
That's what Yahweh says.[13]

Yisrael rejects Yahweh's messages · Southern kingdom

16 Yahweh says this:
Stand at the crossroads and look,
and ask about the ancient paths.
'Where is the path of the good?' Then walk along it
and find rest for your spirit.
But they say, 'We won't walk on it.'
17 I set watchmen over you.
Pay attention to the sound of the trumpet,
But they said, 'We won't pay attention.'
18 Therefore listen you nations,
and you congregation, know what will happen to them.

11 RV 6:3 · Note Many English translations interpret these 'shepherds' with their 'flocks' to be leaders of foreign nations with their armies implementing the destruction mentioned in the previous verse, i.e., the ones battling in the next verse. However, we've chosen to interpret the flocks grazing the city surrounds as the follow-on *after* the destruction, before the next verse goes *back in time* to give more details of how the destruction will occur.

12 RV 6:14 · Cross-ref. Eze 13:10.

13 RV 6:12-15 · Cross-ref. Jer 8:10-12.

Readers' Version

19 Listen, you earth.
Yes, I will bring disaster to this people—
the fruit of their own plans
because they paid no attention to my messages
and they rejected my instructions.
20 What difference does it make to me if they burn frankincense that came from Sheva?
Or if they have good cane from a distant land?
Your burnt offerings aren't acceptable,
and your sacrifices don't please me.
21 So Yahweh says this:
Listen, I'll give this group of people a stumbling block,
and they'll trip over it—
fathers and sons together,
both a neighbour and his friend.
22 Yahweh says this:
The coming, northern army · Southern kingdom
Listen, an army is about to come from a northern country,
and a powerful nation will be roused from the remotest parts of the world.
23 They carry bows and spears.
It's cruel and they have no mercy.
They make a noise like the sea roaring
and they ride in battle formation on horses
against you, Tsiyon's (Zion's) daughter.
24 We felt weak when we heard the reports about them.
Distress took hold of us and we're in agony like a woman about to give birth.
25 Don't go out to the countryside,
and don't walk on the road
because of the enemy's sword.
There's terror all around.
26 My people's daughter, dress yourself in sackcloth
and roll in ashes.
Go into mourning as if you'd lost an only child—
a time of bitter wailing
because the destroyer will suddenly come against us.
27 I've appointed you to examine my people like ore,
so you can observe their conduct, and test them.
28 They're all stubborn rebels who go around slandering others.
They're all like bronze and iron, behaving corruptly.
29 The bellows fan the fire
but after the thorough refining, the lead remains.
The evil people haven't been separated out.
30 They'll be called 'rejected silver'
because Yahweh has rejected them.

Yirmiyah's preaching in the temple · Southern kingdom

7:1 Yahweh's message came to Yirmiyah (Jeremiah):
2 Stand at the gate at Yahweh's temple and proclaim this message, saying:
Listen to Yahweh's message,
all you people of Yehudah (Judah) who enter these gates to worship Yahweh.
3 Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says that
you all must improve your ways,
and make them right
so that I'll allow you all to live in this land.
4 Don't trust in deceptive words that say,
'Yahweh's temple is here.'
'Yahweh's temple, Yahweh's temple.'
5 Yes, if you all really make your behaviour good,
and everyone really acts fairly towards their neighbours,
6 and you all don't oppress strangers, orphans, or widows,
and don't shed innocent blood in this place
or follow after other gods that will harm you,
7 then I'll allow you all to live in this place in the land that I gave to your ancestors from ancient times and for the future to come.
8 Listen, you're all relying on deceptive messages which can't profit. 9 Will you all keep stealing and murdering, committing adultery and telling lies in court, offering incense to Ba'al and following other gods that you didn't previously know. 10 Then you all come here and stand in front of this temple that's associated with my name, and say that you're saved while

Readers' Version

you all continue to do all those disgusting
things. 11 This house which bears my name has
become a robbers' den in your eyes.[14] Listen,
I've also seen it. That is Yahweh's utterance.
12 But please go to my place in Shiloh where I
had previously had my tent and my name
resided, and see what I did to destroy that place
due to the wickedness of my people, Yisrael (Is-
rael).[15] 13 So now Yahweh declares that because
you've all been doing those things, and I've spo-
ken to you all over and over again but you
wouldn't listen, and I called you all but you
wouldn't answer, 14 then I'll do what I did to
Shiloh, to this house that's called by my
name—the temple that you've all trusted in,
and the place that I gave to you and your ances-
tors. 15 I'll throw you all away where I can't see
you just as I threw out all your relatives, all of
Yisrael's (Israel's; Heb. Efrayim) descendants,
from the northern kingdom.

Yehudah's consistent disobedience · Southern kingdom

16 And you, Yirmiyah
(Jeremiah), don't pray on
behalf of this group of
people, and don't cry out
for help, or pray for them, or petition me about
them, because I won't listen to you. 17 Don't
you see what they do in Yehudah's (Judah's)
cities and in Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's)
streets? 18 The sons are gathering firewood,
and the fathers are kindling the fire, and the
women are kneading dough to make cakes for
'the queen of the heavens'[16] and pouring out
drink offerings for other gods so as to provoke
me to anger. 19 Yahweh declares that it's not
me they're provoking, but rather it's them-
selves that they're hurting to their own shame.
20 So my master Yahweh, says this: "Listen, my
anger and rage will gush out onto this
place—onto people and animals, and trees in
the countryside and crops in the ground. It will
burn and not be extinguished."

21 Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Comman-
der-in-chief Yahweh says: "Instead of wasting
time burning up your sacrifices, just eat the
meat yourselves, 22 because on the day when I
brought your ancestors out from Mitsrayim
(Egypt), I didn't immediately give them orders
about burnt offerings and sacrifices. 23 What I
told them was, 'Listen to my voice, and I'll be
your god, and you all will be my people. Follow
all the instructions that I'll give you so that ev-
erything will go well for you all.' 24 But they
didn't turn their heads towards him and listen,
and they enacted schemes from the stubborn-
ness of their own evil hearts—going backwards
instead of forwards 25 from the day that their
ancestors left Mitsrayim even until today. Then
I sent my servants the prophets to you all—ris-
ing early each day and sending them. 26 How-
ever, they didn't listen to me, and they stiff-
ened their necks and turned their heads—doing
even more evil than their ancestors.

27 So pass all these messages on to them, even
though they won't listen to you.

You'll call to them, but they won't answer
you. 28 Tell them that this is a nation that
doesn't listen to the voice of its god Yahweh,
and doesn't accept discipline.

'The Slaughter Valley' · Southern kingdom

29 Shave your head in
mourning and throw the
hair away.

Sing a mourning song on the barren heights
because Yahweh has rejected and abandoned
the generation who made him angry.

30 Yes, Yahweh says that Yehudah's (Judah's)
people have done what I consider evil—putting
disgusting things in the temple that's associ-
ated with my name, and so have defiled it.
31 They've built hilltop shrines to Tofet in Hi-
nom Valley outside Yerushalem (Jerusalem)[17]
to burn their sons and daughters in fire—some-
thing I've never commanded or even consid-

14 RV 7:11 · Cross-ref. Mat 21:13; Mrk 11:17; Luk 19:46.

15 RV 7:12-14 · Cross-ref. Josh 18:1; Psa 78:60; Jer 26:6.

16 RV 7:18 · Cross-ref. Jer 44:17-19.

17 RV 7:31 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 23:10; Jer 32:35.

Readers' Version

ered.[18] 32 So listen, Yahweh says, that days are coming because of that that, when it'll no longer be called 'Tofet' or 'Hinom Valley', but rather, 'The Slaughter Valley', because so many people will be buried in Tofet that they'll run out of space. 33 Then the people's corpses will become food for the vultures and the wild animals, and there'll be no one left to frighten them away. 34 Then in Yehudah's cities and Yerushalem's streets, I'll halt the sounds of joy and gladness, even wedding celebrations,[19] because the region will become a wasteland.

8:1 Yahweh declares that they will bring the bones of Yehudah's kings out from their graves at that time, as well as the bones of their leaders, priests, and prophets, along with the bones of Yerushalem's inhabitants. 2 Then they'll spread them out under the sun, moon, and stars—the heavenly bodies that they loved and served, and that they followed after and searched for, and that they bowed down to. Those bones won't be collected up, and they won't be buried again. They'll be like dung across the surface of the land. 3 The remnant of that evil group of people in all those places where I banished them, will choose death rather than life. That is Commander-in-chief Yahweh's declaration.

Sin and punishment · Southern kingdom

4 Then Yahweh says to tell them:

Don't people get back up when they fall down?

Don't they come back after they've turned the wrong way?

5 So Why do these people from Yerushalem (Jerusalem) turn and away, then continue to be unfaithful?

They keep hold of deceitfulness and refuse to come back.

6 I've listened carefully but they don't say the right things.

None of them wants to give up their wickedness.

^All of them carry on their own ways, like a horse rushing forward in battle.

7 Even the stork as it flies, knows the seasons.

The dove, swallow, and thrush stick to their migration times,

^yet my people do know what Yahweh expects of them.

8 How can you all say that you're wise and that you have Yahwehs instructions?

Honestly, the quills of deceitful scribes have made it into a lie.

9 The wise will be put to shame—

they will be dismayed and trapped.

Yes, they've rejected Yahweh's message.

What wisdom do they really have?

10 Because of that, I'll give their wives to others,

and their fields to those who dispossess them,

because they're all prospering by taking advantage of others—

prophets and priests are all behaving deceptively.

11 They lightly treated the fracture of my people's daughter,

saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there's no peace.[20]

12 Were they ashamed when they did something disgusting?

Even when confronted, they weren't ashamed—

they didn't know how to be humiliated

so they'll fall like the others.

They'll stumble at the time of their punishment says Yahweh.[21]

13 I'll bring their harvests to an end, says Yahweh.

There won't be any grapes on their vines, or figs on their trees.

Even the leaves will wither,

and what I gave them, will rot away.

14 Why are we just sitting here?

18 **RV 7:31 · Cross-ref.** Lev 18:21.

19 **RV 7:34 · Cross-ref.** Jer 16:9; 25:10; Rev 18:23.

20 **RV 8:11 · Cross-ref.** Eze 13:10.

21 **RV 8:10-12 · Cross-ref.** Jer 6:12-15.

Readers' Version

→Let's go into the fortified cities together so
we can die there,
because our god Yahweh is going to cause us
to perish,
and he'll make us drink poisoned water be-
cause we've sinned against him.
15 We had hoped for peace, but nothing good
came.
We hoped for a time of healing, but wow, got
terror.
16 The snorting of his stallions could be heard
from Dan.
The whole earth shakes from the sound of the
neighing of his powerful horses.
They are coming to destroy the land and ev-
erything in it,
and the city and everyone living in it.
17 Yes, listen, I'll send snakes[22] among you
all—
vipers that can't be charmed,
→and they'll bite you all, says Yahweh.
18 My sorrow is beyond
comfort.
My heart is faint within
me.

Yirmiyah's sorrow about Yehudah · Southern kingdom

19 Listen, it's the sound of a cry for help from
my people's daughter from a far away land.
Isn't Yahweh in Tsiyon (Zion)?
Is its king no longer there?
Why have they provoked me to anger with
their idols and with useless foreign gods?
20 The harvest has passed, summer has ended,
and we haven't been rescued.
21 I'm broken because of the brokenness of
my people's daughter.
I'm in mourning and overwhelmed by depres-
sion.
22 Is there no medicine in Gilead?
Isn't there a doctor there?
Why isn't my people's daughter getting
healed?
9:1 If only my head was water, and my eyes
were a fountain of tears,
→then I'd weep day and night for my peo-
ple's slain daughter.
2 Who will give me a lodging place for trav-
ellers in the desert?
Then I would leave my people and walk away
from them,
because all of them are adulterers—
a treacherous group of people.
3 They bend their tongues like bows—
chasing lies rather than faithfulness.
They grow strong in the land
because they go from evil to evil and they
don't know me.
That's Yahweh's declaration.
4 Let each person beware of his neighbour,
and don't rely on any relative,
because brothers consistently betray,
and neighbours go around slandering.
5 Every one will deceive their neighbour,
and they won't tell the truth—
they teach their tongues to tell lies.
→They wear themselves out being disobedi-
ent.
6 Your residence is in the middle of deceit—
because of deceit they refuse to know me.
That's Yahweh's declaration.
7 Because of that, Commander-in-chief Yah-
weh says,
I'm about to refine them and test them,
because how else should I act towards my
people's daughter.
8 Their tongue is a deadly arrow—
it speaks out deceit.
With his mouth, a man speaks peace with his
neighbours,
while in his mind, he's planning his ambush.
9 Shouldn't I punish them for those things?
Yahweh says.
Shouldn't I avenge myself against a nation
like that?
10 On the mountains I'll take up weeping and
wailing,
and a funeral song out in the wilderness pas-
tures,
because they're left desolate as no one passes
through there.
They don't hear the sound of cattle or birds

22 **RV 8:17 · Note** This could likely be referring to enemy warriors, not literal snakes.

Readers' Version

or wild animals—
they've fled and gone away.
11 Then I'll make Yerushalem (Jerusalem) into piles of ruins—
a place for jackals to live in—
and I'll make Yehudah's (Judah's) cities into uninhabited wastelands.
12 Who is the person that's wise and understands this?
Who has Yahweh's mouth spoken to so that they can declare it—
concerning why the nation has perished and been destroyed
like the wilderness with no one passing through it?
13 Then Yahweh said, "Because they abandoned my instructions that I gave to them,
and they don't listen to my voice or follow what say,
14 and they're guided by their own stubborn minds,
and follow after the Ba'al that their ancestors taught them about,
15 then Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this:
Listen, I'm about to feed them bitter food
and give them poison water to drink.
16 Then I'll scatter them among nations that neither they nor their ancestors knew anything about,
and I'll send an army after them until I've finished them off.

The requesting of people of Yerushalem · Southern kingdom

17 Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this:
Consider that and summon funeral wailers to come—
get the most skillful women to come.
18 Let them hurry and start wailing about us,
→so our eyes have tears running down them,
and our eyelids flow with water,
19 because the sound of mourning can be heard from Tsiyon (Zion):
'We've been so devastated.
We're terribly ashamed, because we've left the land
because they tore down our houses.'
20 So now hear Yahweh's message, you women.
Let your ear receive the message from his mouth,
and teach your daughters a mourning song,
and each woman teach her neighbour a funeral song,
21 because death has come up into our windows.
It enters into our fortresses,
cutting off children from the street
and young men from the open plazas.
22 Yahweh says to pass this on:
Human corpses will fall like dung across the ground's surface
and like fallen grain after the harvesters have finished,
and there's no one to collect them.
23 Yahweh says this:
Don't let the wise person boast about their wisdom,
and don't let the warrior boast about his strength.
Don't let the rich person boast about their riches,
24 because if they want to boast, let them boast about this:
Understanding and knowing me because I'm Yahweh,
demonstrating loyal commitment, justice, and righteousness on the earth
because I take pleasure in those things.[23]
That is Yahweh's declaration.
25 Listen, Yahweh declares that there's a time coming
when I will punish all those who've been physically circumcised:
26 the Mitsrim (Egyptians), Yehudim (Jews), Edomim, Amonim, and Moavim,
and all those who trim the corners of their beards, those living in the wilderness,
because all the uncircumcised nations and all the Israelis have uncircumcised hearts.

23 **RV 9:24 · Cross-ref.** 1Cor 1:31; 2Cor 10:17.

Readers' Version

Idolatry versus true worship · Southern kingdom

10:1 Listen to the message that Yahweh is telling you all, you Israelis. **2** This is what Yahweh says:
Don't imitate the ways of other nations,
and don't be dismayed by signs in the skies,
just because those other nations are,
3 because the customs of those groups of people are worthless.
Yes, they cut down a tree from a forest,
and a craftsman does his handywork with his tools,
4 then they overlay it with gold and silver.
They use hammer and nails to securely fasten it
so that it won't topple over.
5 Those idols are like a scarecrow in a cucumber field,
not being able to speak.
What's more, they have to be carried because they can't walk.
Don't be afraid of them because they can't harm anyone,
but at the same time, there's no good in them either.
6 There's no one like you, Yahweh.
You're powerful and have a reputation for your strength.
7 Who wouldn't respect and obey you, king of the nations
because that's what you deserve?[24]
Yes, among all the wise people of the word,
and among all their kingdoms,
there's no one like you.
8 Those 'wise' people are both stupid and foolish all at once—
instructed by an idol that's just a piece of wood.
9 They brought hammered silver from Tarshish and gold from Ufaz—
the work of a craftsman and from the hands of the refiners.
Then they put violet and purple clothing on them—
all the work of skillful people.
10 However, Yahweh is the true god.
He is the living god and permanent king.
When he's angry, the earth shakes,
and the nations can't endure his indignation.
11 You need to tell them this:
The gods that didn't make the heavens and earth
will perish from the earth and from under these skies.

Praising Yahweh · Southern kingdom

12 Yahweh made the earth using his power.
He established the world by his wisdom,
and with his understanding, he stretched out the skies.
13 When he projects his voice, there's a rush of waters in the skies,
and he brings clouds up from the ends of the earth.
He made lightning for the rain,
and sends out wind from his storehouse.
14 Every person has become stupid from knowledge.
Every metalworker is put to shame by idols
because his molten image is a deception and there's no life in them.
15 They're worthless—a work of mockery.
They'll perish at the time for their punishment.
16 Ya'akov's (Jacob's) inheritance isn't like that
because he's the one who made everything,
and the Israelis are his inheritance.
His name is Commander-in-chief Yahweh.

Coming destruction for Yehudah · Southern kingdom

17 Gather your stuff and leave the land,
you who are living under siege
18 because Yahweh says this:
Listen, I'm flinging out the inhabitants of the land at this time,
and I'll cause them distress so that they can find me.
19 Oh dear, poor me. My fracture, my wound is severe,
but I said that this is a sickness and I will en-

24 RV 10:7 · Cross-ref. Rev 15:4.

dure it.
20 My tent has been devastated, and all of my
tent ropes have been snapped.
My sons have gone off and left me.
There's no one to pitch my tent again,
or to hang up my tent curtains.
21 Yes, the shepherds are stupid and haven't
asked Yahweh for direction
so therefore they haven't prospered, and all
their flock has been scattered.
22 Listen, it sounds like news has arrived
plus there's a loud rumble from a land in the
north
coming to make Yehudah's (Judah's) cities
into deserted places for jackals to live in.
23 Yahweh, I know that a person's life path-
way isn't their own—
no one who walks, directs their own steps.
24 Discipline me, Yahweh, only in justice and
not in anger
in case you reduce me to nothing.
25 Pour your fury out on the nations that
don't know you.
and on the families that don't call out to you
to help them,
because they've consumed Ya'akov (Jacob).
Yes, they've completely destroyed him and
ruined his farmland.

The broken agreement · Both kingdoms

11:1 Yahweh's message
came to Yirmiyah
(Jeremiah) to say: 2 Listen
to the words of this agreement and tell them to
everyone in Yehudah (Judah), including those
who live in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) 3 and tell
them, "Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh says that
anyone who won't listen to the words of this
agreement will be cursed. 4 It's the same agree-
ment that I commanded for your ancestors at
the time when I brought them out of the iron
furnace that was Mitsrayim (Egypt), telling
them: 'Listen to my voice and follow the in-
structions that I've given you all, and then
you'll be my people, and I'll become your god
5 in order to fulfill the promise that I made to
your ancestors to give them a land that's flow-
ing with milk and honey, as it is right now.' "
"So be it, Yahweh," I answered.
6 Then Yahweh told me, "Proclaim all these
things in Yehudah's cities, including in
Yerushalem's streets. Tell them to listen to the
words of this agreement and carry them out
7 because I solemnly warned your ancestors at
the time when I brought them out of Mitsrayim
until today, repeatedly warning them to listen
to my voice. 8 However, they didn't listen or
even pay any attention to me, and each one of
them stubbornly followed their own evil de-
sires, so I ordered all the consequences from
not obeying the agreement, to come to them."
9 Then Yahweh told me, "A conspiracy has
been found across Yehudah, and including
Yerushalem's inhabitants. 10 They've returned
to the evil ways of their ancestors from the past
who refused to listen to my messages, and then
they followed after other gods to serve them.
The people of both Yisrael (Israel) and Yehudah
broke the agreement that I made with the an-
cestors. 11 So now, listen: Yahweh says that I'm
about to bring calamity to them which they
won't be able to avoid, and they'll cry out to me
for help but I won't listen to them. 12 Then
Yehudah's cities, including those living in
Yerushalem, will go and cry out to the gods for
help that they've been burning incense to, but
those gods won't be able to rescue them from
their calamity 13 because there are now as
many gods in Yehudah as you all have cities,
and as many incense altars for Ba'al in
Yerushalem as you all have streets. 14 Yirmiyah
(Jeremiah), don't pray for those people, and
don't plead with me to rescue them, because I
won't be listening when they call out to me for
help during their difficulties.
15 "My dear Yehudah, what right do you have
to be in my temple after doing so much evil?
You offer holy sacrifices then go and happily
do wicked things.
16 Yahweh called you a luxuriant olive tree
with beautiful, good-looking fruit.
^Now he'll kindle a fire with a loud roar on its
branches that have gone bad.
17 Commander-in-chief Yahweh who planted
you, has decided that you'll experience evil be-
cause of the evil done by the peoples of Yisrael

Readers' Version

(Israel) and Yehudah when they've provoked me to anger by offering incense to Ba'al.

A plot against Yirmiyah · Southern kingdom

18 Then Yahweh revealed something to me which I understood once he showed me their preparations. **19** I was like a tame lamb being led to be slaughtered, and I didn't know that they had made plans against me, saying, 'Let's destroy the tree with its fruit, and cut him off from the land of the living. Then his name won't be remembered any longer.'

20 Then I prayed, "Commander-in-chief Yahweh who always judges fairly, examining our inner thoughts and motives, let me see your vengeance on them, because I've presented my case to you."

21 So Yahweh said it was some men of Anatot[25] who were wanting to kill me, saying that I mustn't prophesy in Yahweh's name or else they'd make sure that I die. **22** Therefore Commander-in-chief Yahweh says, "Listen, I'm about to punish them. Their young men will die by the sword, and their children will die from famine. **23** There won't be any of them left, because I will bring calamity to the people from Anatot at the time of their punishment."

Yirmiyah queries Yahweh · Southern kingdom

12:1 Yahweh, you do what's right when I bring you a case.

→Nevertheless, I want to talk with you about justice:

Why do wicked people prosper?

Why are treacherous people able to relax?

2 You planted them like trees and they've taken root,

then they've grown and produced fruit.

They're full of talk about you,

but they're really far from you.

3 but Yahweh, you know me.

You see me, and test my heart toward you.

Drag them away like sheep doing to slaughter,

and reserve a time for them to be slaughtered.

4 How much longer will the land be dry for with the plants in the countryside withering up?

Even the wild animals and birds have diminished in number,

because people have said that he won't see what will happen to us.

Yahweh's response to Yirmiyah

5 If you've run with foot soldiers and they've worn you out,

how will you compete with horses?

If you're falling to the ground in a safe region,

how will you do in the thickets by the Yarden (Jordan) river?

6 Even your brothers and other family members are working against you.

They speak out against you.

Don't trust them when they say good things about you.

Yahweh's distress about his people · Southern kingdom

7 I've abandoned my country.

I've walked away from my inheritance.

I've given my dearly loved one into the hand of its enemies.

8 My inheritance become like a lion in a forest for me.

That country always speaks against me so I hate it.

9 My inheritance is like a speckled bird of prey to me,

with other birds of prey all around it.

Go and get all the wild animals from the countryside to come and eat.

10 Many shepherds (foreign rulers) have ruined my vineyard—

they've trampled my area.

They've made my desirable region into a desolate wasteland.

11 They've made it into a wasteland—it's mourning to me.

All the land has been made desolate because there's no one who cares about it.

12 Destroyers have come to all the bare hilltops in the wilderness,

because a sword is devouring for Yahweh,

25 RV 11:21 · Note Yirmiyah's home town—see 1:1.

Readers' Version

from each end of the land.
There's no peace for any living thing.
13 People have sown wheat and harvested thorns.
They've wearied themselves but not profited,
and they were ashamed by your low production
resulting from Yahweh's fierce anger.

The what was said of God concerning the nations surrounding Yisrael · Southern kingdom

14 Yahweh says this: All my evil neighbours who touch the inheritance that I gave to my Israeli people, listen, I'll uproot them from the land, and I'll uproot Yehudah's (Judah's) descendants from among them.
15 Then after I've uprooted them, I'll have compassion on them again, and I'll bring them back—each one back to their own inheritance and their own land. 16 If they'll properly learn the ways of my people, to make promises using my name saying, 'As Yahweh lives,' instead of how my people were taught to make promises by Ba'al, then they'll prosper and be my people again. 17 However if they won't listen when I uproot the nation, then I'll uproot it to destroy it. That is Yahweh's declaration.

Yirmiyah buries a loincloth · Southern kingdom

13:1 Yahweh told me this: Go and buy yourself a linen loincloth and put it on, but don't let it get near water. 2 So I bought a loincloth as Yahweh had told me to, and I put it on. 3 Then Yahweh gave me a second instruction, saying: 4 Take the loincloth that you bought and you're wearing, and pack up and go to Perat (Euphrates)[26] and bury it in a crack in the rock. 5 So I went and hid it at Perat just as Yahweh had told me to.
6 Then after many days, Yahweh told me to get ready and go to Perat to retrieve the loincloth that he'd told me to bury there. 7 So I went to Perat and dug the loincloth out from the crack that I'd hidden it in, but wow, it was ruined and totally worthless.
8 Then Yahweh gave me this message: 9 Yahweh says that I'll rot away the pride of Yehudah (Judah), including the pride of the great Yerushalem (Jerusalem). 10 That wicked nation that refused to listen to my messages, who are following their own stubborn desires and have followed other god by serving them and bowing down to them, let that nation become like that loincloth that's no good for anything.
11 Yahweh declares that just like a loincloth is hitched to someone's hips, so too I've made all those from Yisrael (Israel) and Yehudah cling to me, to be my people who would bring me fame, praise, and honour, but they didn't listen.

Filled with wine · Southern kingdom

12 So you must pass this message along to them: Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh says that every jar will be filled with wine, and they'll tell you, 'Of course we know that every jar will be filled with wine.' 13 So tell them that Yahweh says this: Listen, I'm about to fill all the inhabitants of this land with drunkenness—the kings that sit of David's throne, the priests and prophets, and all of Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) inhabitants. 14 Then Yahweh declares: I'll cause a drunken brawl among brothers, parents, and children. I won't pity you or have compassion, and I won't spare them from destruction.

Yirmiyah warns against pride · Southern kingdom

15 Listen and pay attention.
Don't be arrogant, because Yahweh has spoken.
16 Give honour to your god Yahweh before he brings darkness,
and before he causes you all to stumble on the mountains at twilight,
because you're hoping for light, but he'll turn the place into deep darkness—into a dark cloud.
17 But if you all won't listen,
I'll weep in private because of your arrogance.
Tears will run down my eyes because Yahweh's flock has been taken captive.
18 Tell the king and the queen mother to take a low seat

26 RV 13:4 · Note About 6km away from Anatot. It's possible that the Perat River is being referred to here, although less likely as that was a trip of over a thousand kilometres.

Readers' Version

because their splendid crowns have been removed from their heads.
19 The cities of the Negev have been shut up,
and there's no one to open them again.
Yehudah (Judah) has been taken into exile—
they've all been taken far away.
20 Look up and see them coming from the north.
Where's the flock that was given to you—those beautiful sheep?
21 What will you say when the allies that you taught, he sets over you?
Won't labour pains hit you like a woman giving birth?
22 Then as a country you'll ask why those things have happened to you.
It's the magnitude of your disobedience that's caused your skirt to be lifted
and your body to be treated with violence.
23 An Kushi (Ethiopian) person can't change their skin colour
and a leopard can't change its spots.
Similarly you all aren't able to do good
as you're all so accustomed to doing evil.
24 I'll scatter them like straw that's blown across the wilderness by the wind.
25 Yahweh declares that that's your part of your inheritance
as you've forgotten me and trusted in lies.
26 So I'll also pull your skirt up over your face
and then your shame will become visible.
27 I've seen your adultery and neighing—
the wickedness of your prostitution on the hills and across the countryside.
I've seen your detestable behaviour.
You won't end well, Yerushalem (Jerusalem).
How long will you remain 'unclean'?

The terrible drought
· Southern kingdom

14:1 This is Yahweh's message to Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) regarding droughts:
2 Yehudah (Judah) is in mourning and its gates are neglected.
They're mourning for the land
and Yerushalem (Jerusalem) is crying out in distress.
3 The leading citizens send their servants out for water,
but when they get to the wells, they didn't find any.
They return with empty containers—
ashamed and humiliated, and with their heads covered in grief.
4 The ground is cracked open because there hasn't been any rain.
The farmers are ashamed—they've covered their heads in grief,
5 because even the doe in the countryside abandoned her newborn fawn as there was no grass.
6 Wild donkeys stand on bare hills and pant for breath like jackals—
their eyes have failed because there's no vegetation.
7 Even though our transgressions testify against us,
do something, Yahweh, for the sake of your reputation
because we sinned against you with our frequent rebellion.
8 You are Yisrael's (Israel's) hope—the one who rescues it at a time of distress.
Why would you act like a stranger in the land—
like a traveller who's stopped in to stay the night.
9 Why are you like someone just standing there with their mouth open—
like a warrior who's powerless to save someone?
You're here among us, Yahweh, and we've been calling out to you to rescue us.
Don't abandon us.
10 This is what Yahweh says about this nation:
They love to wander, so they've gone wherever their feet take them,
→but Yahweh hasn't accepted them.
Now he'll remember their wickedness
and he'll punish them for their disobedience.
11 Yahweh told me, "Don't pray for good to come to this nation 12 because even if they fast, I won't listen to their petition, and when they offer up a burnt offering and a grain offering, I won't be accepting them, because I'm bringing an end to them by the sword, and famine, and

Readers' Version

disease."

13 Then I said, "Oh no, my master Yahweh. Listen, the prophets are telling the people that they won't experience war or famine because you'll give them ongoing peace in this place."

14 "The prophets use my name but speak deceitfully," Yahweh answered. "I didn't appoint them and I didn't send them, and I didn't give them a false vision. The worthless prophecies that they're proclaiming to you all come from their own minds." **15** Therefore Yahweh says, "Now those prophets who I never sent but who are using my name and say that no war or famine will happen in this region, well those prophets will meet their own ends through war and famine. **16** Then the people that they prophesied to will be thrown out into Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) streets because of famine and war. No one will be there to bury them or their wives, sons, or daughters, as I'll pour their wickedness out onto them.

17 Then you'll pass this message onto them:

Day and night the tears run down my eyes.

Don't let them stop, because of the terrible damage

as my virgin daughter has been shattered—

my people have received a very severe wound.

18 If I go out into the countryside, wow, I see those who were killed by the sword.

Then if I go into the city, wow, there's diseases caused by famine,

because both prophets and priests have gone into a land that they weren't familiar with.

Pleading for mercy · Southern kingdom

19 Have you completely rejected Yehudah (Judah)?

Do you really hate Tsiyon (Zion)?

Why have you struck us when there's no healing for us?

We eagerly hoped for peace, but there was nothing good.

We hoped for a time of healing, but wow, we got terror!

20 Yahweh, we acknowledge our wickedness—

the transgression of our ancestors.

Yes, we've sinned against you.

21 For the sake of your reputation, don't reject us.

Don't treat the place hosting your wonderful throne with contempt.

Remember your agreement with us, and don't break it.

22 Do those useless idols from other countries send rain?

Do they cause showers to fall?

Isn't it you, our god Yahweh, who does that?

We eagerly wait for you, because you're the one who does all those things.

Yehudah's coming destruction · Southern kingdom

15:1 Then Yahweh told me, "Even if Mosheh (Moses)[27] or Shmuel (Samuel)[28] were standing in front of me, I still wouldn't be in favour of this group of people. Send them out away from me, and let them go away. **2** If anyone comes to ask you where they should go, tell them that this is what Yahweh says:

Those who are destined for death, will die.

Those for the sword, will die in war.

Those for famine, will suffer starvation.

Those for exile, will be taken away in captivity.[29]

3 Yahweh declares that he'll assign them to four groups:

1. killed by the sword,
2. dragged away by wild dogs,
3. assigned to the birds of prey, and
4. assigned to be devoured and destroyed by wild animals.

4 Because of what Yehudah's (Judah's) King Menasheh (Manasseh) did in Yerushalem (Jerusalem),[30] I'll make people in all the world's nations be horrified by them.

27 **RV 15:1 · Cross-ref.** Exo 32:11-14; Num 14:13-19.

28 **RV 15:1 · Cross-ref.** 1Sam 7:5-9.

29 **RV 15:2 · Cross-ref.** Rev 13:10.

30 **RV 15:4 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 21:1-16; 2Ch 33:1-9.

Readers' Version

5 Yes, who will feel sorry for you, Yerushalem,
and who will show sympathy for you?
Who will go out of their way to ask about your welfare?
6 Yahweh declares: You've forsaken me—
you've turned your back on me
so I've used my power against you to destroy you.
I'm tired of letting you off.
7 So I'll winnow them with a pitchfork at the country's gates.
I'll make them childless, thus destroying my people
as they haven't turned from their own ways.
8 I'll make more widows for them than sand grains on the beach.
I'll send a destroyer against the mothers of their young men at midday.
I'll make shock and horror fall on them suddenly.
9 The mother who has borne seven children will waste away.
She'll gasp—her sun will set while it is still daytime.
She'll be ashamed and embarrassed, because I will give those who remain
to be killed by the sword in their enemies' presence.
That is Yahweh's declaration.

Yirmiyah's complaint to Yahweh · Southern kingdom

10 Poor me, mother,
that you gave birth to me—
a man of strife and contention throughout the entire region.
I haven't lent money or borrowed it
yet they all curse me.
11 Yahweh said,
Won't I rescue you for good?
Won't I make your enemies plead with you
in a time of evil and distress?
12 Can anyone break iron—
iron from the north, or bronze?
13 I'll give your wealth and treasures to your enemies as plunder without them having to pay
as the price for all your sins committed across all your territories.
14 Then I'll make you serve your enemies in a land that you hadn't been to before
because the fire of my anger towards you all has been kindled and will burn.
15 Yahweh, you know my situation.
Take note of my situation and bring your vengeance to those harassing me.
Don't be patient with them and let them take me away.
Know that I suffer reproach for your sake.
16 Your messages were found and I consumed them.
Your message to me made me happy and gave me cause for celebration
because I bear your name, Commander-in-chief Yahweh, god of armies.
17 I didn't sit among the gathering of the merry makers,
but rather, I enjoyed feeling your presence.
I sat alone because you'd filled me with indignation.
18 Why is my pain ongoing and my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?
Will you be like a spring that lets me down when its supply is unreliable?
19 So Yahweh said this:
If you return to me, then I'll restore you and you'll stand in front of me
because if you separate out the foolish things from the precious things,
you will be like my mouth. The people will come back to you,
but you yourself mustn't go back to them.
20 I'll make you like an impenetrable bronze wall to this people,
and they'll fight against you.
However, they won't defeat you,
because I'll be with you to save you, and to rescue you.
That is Yahweh's declaration. 21 Then I'll rescue you from the plots of wicked people
and I'll buy your freedom from the ruthless people.

Yirmiyah advised not to marry · Southern kingdom

16:1 Then Yahweh gave me a message, telling me:
2 Don't get married and don't have children in this place 3 because Yah-

Readers' Version

weh says this to the children born in this place and to the parents who brought them into this world:

4 They'll die from disease and not be mourned or buried—
they'll be like dung on the ground.
They'll come to their ends through war and famine,
and their corpses will become food for the birds and the wild animals.

5 Yes, Yahweh says this:
Don't enter a home where there's a funeral.
Don't go to mourn or to show sympathy to them,
because I've withdrawn my peace from this people,
as well as my compassion and loyal commitment.
That is Yahweh's declaration. **6** Both the important people and the ordinary people will die in this land.
They won't be buried and no one will mourn for them,
or cut themselves or shave off their hair to show grief for them.

7 No one must share any food to comfort those in mourning because of the deaths,
and no one must give a comforting cup to his father or mother.

8 Don't go to a dining establishment to sit with them to eat and drink

9 because Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this:
Listen, right in front of your eyes, in your lifetime and in this place,
I'm about to make the sounds of happiness and gladness cease—
including the sounds of brides and grooms.[31]

10 Then when you pass on all these messages to the people, they'll ask you:
Why has Yahweh decreed all this terrible calamity against us,
and what wickedness or sin have we committed against our god Yahweh?

11 So give them this declaration from Yahweh:
It's because your ancestors followed after foreign gods and served them and bowed down to them.
They abandoned me and didn't follow my instructions.

12 Then you yourselves have done even more wickedness than your ancestors,
and everyone of you is walking by the stubbornness of their wicked heart—
not listening to me.

13 So I will throw you all out of this land,
to a land that neither you or your ancestors have been to.

Return from exile · Southern kingdom

14 Now listen, Yahweh declares:
Because of that the days are coming when they'll no longer say,
'As Yahweh, the one who brought the Israelis out of Mitsrayim (Egypt), lives.'

15 Instead they'll say:
'As Yahweh lives, the one who brought the Israelis back from the land of the north
and from the lands where he had driven them,'
because I'll bring them back to the land that I gave to their ancestors.

The coming punishment · Southern kingdom

16 Listen, Yahweh declares:
I'll send for many fishermen to fish the people out.
After that, I'll send for many hunters
to hunt them from under every mountain and hill, and from the crevices in the rocks

17 because I'm watching everything they do
and their wicked behaviour can't be hidden from me.

18 Firstly, I'll pay back double for their disobedience and wickedness,
because of their polluting my land with their detestable carvings,
and because they filled my inheritance with their disgusting idols."

Yirmiyah thanks for safety · Southern kingdom

19 Yahweh, you're my fortress and my refuge—
my place of safety in

31 RV 16:9 · Cross-ref. Jer 7:34; 25:10; Rev 18:23.

Readers' Version

any distressing time.
The nations will go to you from the ends of the earth and say,
"Surely our ancestors inherited lies—
Those idols are a waste of time and there's no profit in them.
20 Can people make their own gods?
Well, they're not gods at all!
21 So listen, I'm about to demonstrate that at this time—
I'll reveal my power and activity to them
and then they'll know that my name is Yahweh.

Yehudah's sin and punishment · Southern kingdom

17:1 Yehudah's (Judah's) sin is written with an iron stylus that has a diamond point.
It's engraved on the tablet which is their hearts, and on the projecting corners of your altars.
2 Even their children remember their altars and their Asherah poles
that were beside the luxuriant trees and on the high hills—
3 even on my mountain in the countryside.
I'll give your wealth and all your treasures to be plundered by others
because of your sin on your hilltop shrines throughout all your territories.
4 You'll have to let go the inheritance that I gave you.
I'll make your serve your enemies in a land that you've never been to,
because you've ignited a fire in my anger which will burn forever.

Various sayings

5 Yahweh says this:
Anyone who trusts in humankind will be cursed—
trusting in their own physical strength turns their hearts away from Yahweh.
6 They're like shrubs in the desert, unable to see any good coming,
and they'll live in dry parts of the wilderness that's salty and with no one else living there.
7 The person who trusts in Yahweh will be blessed,
as they put their confidence in him.
8 That person will be like a tree planted by a stream
that sends its roots out to the water.
It has nothing to fear when the heat comes and its leaves stay green.
It has nothing to be afraid of in a drought year
and it won't stop producing fruit.[32]
9 Human motives are the most deceitful of all.
They can't be cured—who can determine them?
10 I am Yahweh who searches the mind.
I test the motives.[33]
I give to everyone according to the results of their actions.[34]
11 A partridge hatches an egg that it didn't lay.
Someone might get rich by unjust means
but right in the middle of their life it'll leave them
and in the end, that person will be a fool.

Yirmiyah's request to Yahweh

12 The place of our sanctuary from the beginning has been like a splendid throne on a high place.
13 You, Yahweh are the one that Yisrael (Israel) puts their hope in.
All who abandon you will be put to shame.
Those who turn away from you will be written on the ground,
because they've forsaken Yahweh—the fountain of living waters.
14 Heal me, Yahweh, and I'll be healed.
Rescue me, and I'll be rescued,
because you are the one I praise.
15 Listen, they're asking me,
Where is Yahweh's message? Let it come.
16 As for me, I didn't run from being a shepherd following you.

32 RV 17:8 · Cross-ref. Psa 1:3.
33 RV 17:10 · Cross-ref. Rev 2:23.
34 RV 17:10 · Cross-ref. Psa 62:12.

Readers' Version

I didn't long for the day of disaster.
You know everything I said—it was said in your presence.
17 Don't become a terror to me.
You're my place of safety when disaster comes.
18 Let my pursuers be ashamed, but don't let me be ashamed.
Let them be dismayed, but don't let me be dismayed.
Send the day of disaster against them
and shatter them with a double share of destruction.
19 Yahweh told me this:
Go and stand in at gate of the people where Yehudah's (Judah's) kings come and go,
then in all the other gates of Yerushalem (Jerusalem).
20 Tell the people:
Listen to Yahweh's message, you kings of Yehudah and all you people of Yehudah,
and all of Yerushalem's residents who go in through those gates.
21 Yahweh says this:
Be careful for the sake of your lives
and on the rest day, don't carry a load to bring it to Yerushalem's gates.[35]
22 Don't bring a load out from your homes on the rest day.
Don't do any work, but set apart the rest day,
just as I instructed your ancestors to do.
23 They did not listen or pay attention,
but stubbornly refused to listen to me, nor did they accept discipline.
24 Yahweh declares that if you carefully listen to me
and don't bring a load to this city's gates on the rest day
but instead set apart the rest day for Yahweh, and don't do any work on it,
25 then kings, princes, and those who sit on David's throne
will come to this city's gates in chariots and on horses.

Observing the rest day · Southern kingdom

They'll come along with their leaders from Yehudah (Judah) including Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) residents,
and this city will be inhabited forever.
26 They'll come from Yehudah's cities including from all around Yerushalem,
from the Benyamin region and the foothills,
from the mountains, and from the Negev desert,
bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, grain offerings and frankincense,
as well as those who bring thank offerings to Yahweh's residence.
27 But if you don't listen to me
and don't set apart the rest day
and don't carry heavy loads to enter Yerushalem's gates on the rest day,
then I'll light a fire at its gates that will incinerate Yerushalem's fortresses,
and that won't be able to be put out.

Yirmiyah visits the potter · Southern kingdom

18:1 Yahweh's message came to Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) to say, **2** "Get ready and go down to the potter's house, and I'll give you my messages there."
3 So I went down to pottery factory, and wow, he was on his potter's wheel. **4** However, the container that he was making with his hand on the clay was ruined, so he started again and make it into another container that he was pleased with.
5 Then Yahweh gave me this message: **6** Like that potter, shouldn't I be able to do what I want with you Israelis? Yahweh declares that you Israelis are in my hand like that clay in the potter's hand. **7** One time, I might declare to a nation or a kingdom that it will be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed. **8** and later on, that nation that I spoke to might turn away from its evil, and then I'll cancel the destruction that I'd planned for them. **9** Another time, I might declare that a nation or kingdom will be established, or strengthened, **10** however if I see it doing evil and not listening to my voice, then I'll cancel the good that I'd said I'd do to it.

35 RV 17:21 · Cross-ref. Neh 13:15-22.

Readers' Version

11 So now, speak to the people of Yehudah (Judah) including Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) residents and tell them that Yahweh says, "Listen, I'm about to devise a plan against you all and prepare calamity for you. Each of you needs to turn back from their evil activities and improve your behaviour and your activities." **12** However, they'll say, "Don't waste your time because we'll continue with our plans, and each of us will do whatever wicked things that we want!"

Yisrael deserts Yahweh · Southern kingdom

13 Because of that, Yahweh says this:
Ask the nations if
they've ever heard anything like this?
The virgin Yisrael (Israel) has done something extremely horrible.
14 Does the snow in Levanon ever disappear off its rocky slopes?
Do the cool waters stop flowing?
15 Yet my people have forgotten me.
They offer incense to useless idols
that have made them stumble on the ancient paths
that haven't had any maintenance.
16 Their land will become a wasteland—forever mocked at.
Everyone who passes by will be appalled
and will wag their heads.
17 I'll scatter them before their enemies like the east wind from the desert does.
I won't look at them but will turn my back when their disaster comes.

A plot against Yirmiyah · Southern kingdom

The people
18 Then the people said,
Come on, let's decide what to do about Yirmiyah (Jeremiah),
because we have plenty of instructions from the priests,
advice from the wise men,
and messages from the prophets.
Yirmiyah
19 Yahweh, pay attention to me
and listen to the what my enemies are saying.
20 Should good be repaid with evil,
because they're digging a pit for me?
Remember how I stood in front of you to tell you their good points—
to turn back your rage from them.
21 Therefore, hand their children over to famine,
and send war to punish them.
Let their wives be childless and become widowed,
and let their husbands die from disease—
their young men killed in battle.
22 Let a cry of distress be heard from their houses
when you send raiders to surprise them,
because they've dug a pit to capture me in
and have hidden traps for me to step into.
23 But you, Yahweh, know all their deadly plots against me.
Don't forgive their wickedness.
Don't erase their disobedience from your sight.
Let them be overthrown as you watch
at the time when you deal with them in your anger.

The shattered flask · Southern kingdom

19:1 Then Yahweh said this:
Take some of the elders and some of the priests,
and go and buy a clay flask from the potter.
2 Then go out to the Ben-Hinom Valley[36] by the Broken Pottery Gate,
and then proclaim the words that I'll tell you there.
3 Tell them:
You kings of Yehudah (Judah) and you residents of Yerushalem (Jerusalem),
listen to Yahweh's message.
Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says,
Listen, I'm about to send calamity to this place,
and the ears of everyone who hears about it will tingle.
4 I'm doing that because they've abandoned me and defiled this place—

36 RV 19:2 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 23:10; Jer 7:30-32; 32:34-35.

Readers' Version

they've burnt incense to other 'gods',
that neither they or their ancestors or Yehudah's kings used to know.
Then they've filled this place with the blood of the innocent.
5 They built hilltop shrines to burn their children in the fire as offerings to Ba'al,
something I never instructed or talked about,
nor did it even enter my mind.[37]
6 So Yahweh declares that the time is coming when this place will no longer be called Tofet or the Valley of Ben-Hinom, but rather, the 'Slaughter Valley'. 7 Then I'll confound Yehudah and Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) plans in this place, and I'll have them struck down by their enemies' swords and by those who want to kill them, and I'll give their dead bodies to the birds and the wild animals for food. 8 Then I'll make that city into a wasteland that's something to scoff at—everyone who passes by will be appalled and will mock it because of all its disasters. 9 I'll cause them to eat the flesh of their children and of their neighbours during the distress caused by the siege imposed by the enemies who want to kill them.
10 Then as the men who went with you watch, you must break that pottery flask 11 and tell them that Commander-in_chief Yahweh says this:
I'll shatter this nation and this city, just like someone shatters a piece of pottery that can never be repaired again. They'll bury the dead in Tofet until they run out of room. 12 Yahweh declares that I'll do that to this place and its residents—making this city like Tofet 13 and Yerushalem's houses including the houses of Yehudah's kings will be defiled like that place, Tofet—all the houses on whose rooftops they burnt incense to all the constellations and poured out drink offerings to other 'gods'.
14 Then Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) returned from Tofet where Yahweh had sent him to prophesy, and he stood in the temple courtyard and proclaimed to all the people, 15 "This is what Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh, says: 'Listen, every disaster that I've pronounced against these people, I'm about to send to this city and to all the villages around it, because they've been stubborn and failed to take notice of my messages.' "

Yirmiyah's conflict with Pashhur · Southern kingdom

20:1 The priest, Pashhur (Imer's son) who was a supervisor, heard Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) prophesying those words at Yahweh's house, 2 and he struck the prophet Yirmiyah. Then he placed him in the stocks that were at the upper gate of Benyamin hear Yahweh's house. 3 The next day, when Pashhur released Yirmiyah from the stocks, Yirmiyah said to him, "Yahweh won't call you 'Pashhur', but 'Magor-Misaviv' (which means 'surrounded by terror'), 4 because Yahweh says this: Listen, I'll make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends. They'll fall by their enemies' swords before your very eyes, and then I'll hand Yehudah (Judah) over to the Babylonian king, and he'll carry them away to Bavel (Babylon) and put them to death. 5 I'll give away all the wealth of this city—all its products and valuables, and all the treasures of Yehudah's kings—to their enemies. They'll plunder it, seize it, and carry it off to Bavel. 6 Then you, Pashhur will be taken into captivity along with all the others in your home. You'll be taken to Bavel, and you'll die there and be buried—you and all your friends who you've prophesied these lies to.

Yirmiyah's complaint to Yahweh · Southern kingdom

7 Yahweh, you've deceived me, and I was deceived.
You've overcome me and prevailed.
I'm laughed at all day long—
everyone mocks me.
8 Yes, whenever I speak, I call out loudly.
I proclaim violence and destruction
because Yahweh's message has become a reproach and derision for me, all day long.
9 If I say that I won't mention him
and won't speak in his name anymore,
then his message becomes a fire burning in

37 **RV 19:5 · Cross-ref.** Lev 18:21.

Readers' Version

my heart—
shut up in my bones.
Then I get worn out holding it in,
and I can't continue to do it.
10 Yes, I've heard many people whispering
that terror is all around.
They want to publicly denounce me.
All my trusted friends watch for my fall:
"Perhaps he can be deceived
so that we may prevail against him
and take out our vengeance on him."
11 However Yahweh is like a fearsome warrior with me,
therefore my persecutors will stumble and won't prevail.
Because they won't succeed, they'll be totally put to shame—
an everlasting disgrace that'll never be forgotten.
12 Commander-in-chief Yahweh, who examines the righteous people,
who sees the thoughts and motives,
let me see your vengeance on them,
→because I've made my case known to you.
13 Sing to Yahweh.
Praise Yahweh because he's rescued the lives of those who are oppressed from the clutch of those who do evil.
14 Let the day when I was born be cursed.[38]
Don't let the day that my mother gave birth to me be blessed.
15 Let the man who brought the news to my father be cursed—
The one who said, 'You now have a son,' causing great celebration.
16 Let that man be like the cities that Yahweh overthrew without having compassion on them.
Let him hear a cry for help in the dawn and a battle cry at noontime,
17 because he didn't kill me in the womb—
→making my mother become my tomb—her womb forever pregnant.
18 Why did I come out from the womb to see trouble and sorrow,
and to end my days in shame?

Yerushalem's future destruction · Southern kingdom

21:1 Then Yahweh gave Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) a message when King Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah) sent Malkiyah's son Pashhur and Ma'aseyah's son Tsefanyah (Zephaniah) the priest to him, and they said, 2 "Please request Yahweh's advice on our behalf, because the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) is attacking us.[39] Perhaps Yahweh will do miracles for us like he has in the past, and will make him stop attacking us and leave."
3 So Yirmiyah told them to tell King Tsidkiyah that 4 Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh says this: Listen, I'm about to make your own weapons ineffective that you're all using to fight the Babylonian king and the Kasdim (Chaldeans) who are laying siege to you from outside the wall, and I'll gather them[40] in the middle of this city. 5 Then I myself will fight you all with all my strength and power in my anger and rage and terrible fury, 6 and I'll kill this city's inhabitants—people and animals will all die from terrible, deadly diseases. 7 Then Yahweh declares that after that I'll hand over Yehudah's (Judah's) King Tsidkiyah along with his officers, and the people in this city who survive the deadly diseases and sword and famine, to the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar, and to their enemies who want to kill them. He'll kill them with the sword—he won't spare them or show pity or compassion.
8 Then you must tell this to the people: Yahweh says that I'm about to give you the choice between the path to life and the path to death. 9 Anyone who stays in this city will die from war, famine, or deadly diseases, but anyone who goes out and falls to their knees in front of the Babylonians who've surrounded

38 **RV 20:14-18 · Cross-ref.** Yob 3:1-19.

39 **RV 21:2 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 25:1-11; 2Ch 36:17-21.

40 **RV 21:4 · Note** This last part of the sentence is left quite literal, as it's ambiguous in the Hebrew, what or who the 'them' is referring to here.

Readers' Version

you all, will live They'll escape with their lives that way **10** because I've already decided to harm this city rather than doing good. Yahweh declares that this city will be handed over to the Babylonian king and he'll burn it down.

Yahweh's punishment for Yehudah's kings · Southern kingdom

11 As for Yehudah's (Judah's) king, listen to this message from Yahweh **12** for David's descendants:

Administer justice every morning
and rescue anyone who's been robbed, from their oppressor,
otherwise my fury will go out like fire
and burn, but no one will be able to extinguish it
because of your wicked activities.

13 Yahweh declares: listen you inhabitants from the valley
and you on the rocky plain.
You all say that no one can swoop down on you,
or be able to enter your hiding places,
14 however I will punish you all according to the results of your actions.
Yahweh declares:
I'll start a fire in your forest
and it'll consume everything around it.

The message for Yehudah's king · Southern kingdom

22:1 Yahweh told me to go down to Yehudah's (Judah's) palace and proclaim this message: **2** Listen to Yahweh's message for Yehudah's king who sits on David's throne, along with your officials and your people who enter these doorways. **3** Yahweh says that you must administer justice and do what's right. Rescue anyone who's been robbed, from their oppressor. Don't mistreat any foreigner or orphan or widow. Don't be violent, and don't shed innocent blood in this place, **4** because if you carefully do those things, then the kings who sit on David's throne will enter through the gates of this palace riding in chariots or on horses, along with their officials and their people. **5** However, if you take no notice of those instructions, then Yahweh solemnly promises that this palace will become a pile of rubble,[41] **6** because this is what Yahweh says about the palace of Yehudah's king:

To me, you're like the Gilead forests or like Levanon's summit.
However, I'll make you into a wilderness—
cities that aren't inhabited.
7 I'll appoint destroyers against you—
each warrior with his weapons.
They'll cut down your choicest cedars
and throw them onto the fire.
8 Then many nations will pass by this city and ask each other why Yahweh has done that to this great city? **9** Someone else will answer that it's because they abandoned the agreement with their god Yahweh, and bowed down to their gods and served them.

Yirmiyah's message about King Yoshiyah/Josiah · Southern kingdom

10 Don't weep for King Yoshiyah (Josiah) who was killed
and don't mourn because he died.
Instead, weep bitterly for his son, King Yehoahaz who's about to be exiled
because he won't return again and see his native land again.
11 Yes, Yahweh says this about Yoshiyah's son Yehoahaz[42] who reigned instead of his father, who then left this place. He won't return there again[43] **12** because he'll die in the place where they took him into exile, and he won't ever see this country again.

Yirmiyah's message about Yehoyakim · Southern kingdom

13 The king[44] who built his house by doing what's not right
and built his upper rooms by unjustly forcing people to work,
→won't end well.

41 RV 22:5 · Cross-ref. Mat 23:38; Luk 13:35.

42 RV 22:11 · Note Called 'Shallum' here in the Hebrew.

43 RV 22:11 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 23:31-34; 2Ch 36:1-4.

44 RV 22:13 · Note Referring here to Yehudah's King Yehoyakim—see verse 24.

Readers' Version

He forced the citizens to work without getting paid—
not giving them their wages.
14 He'd decided to build himself a large house with spacious upper rooms,
so he cut out large windows for it, and panelled it with cedar,
and painted it with red ochre.
15 Does having the best cedar make you a better king?
Didn't your father Yoshiyah (Josiah) eat and drink well?
However, he administered justice and did what was right
→so things went well for him.
16 He took up the cause of the poor and needy,
→so things went well for him.
Yahweh declares that that's what it means to know me,
17 but your desires and motives are only focused on your dishonest gain,
on shedding innocent blood,
and on oppression and practicing extortion.
18 Therefore this is what Yahweh says about Yehoyakim, son of Yehudah's (Judah's) King Yoshiyah (Josiah):[45]
They won't mourn for him saying, 'Oh no, my brother! Oh no, my sister!'
They won't mourn for him saying, 'Oh no, my master! Oh no, his splendour!'
19 He'll be buried just like a donkey would be—
dragged away and thrown somewhere outside Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) gates.

Yirmiyah's message about Yerushalem's fate · Southern kingdom

20 You people of Yehudah (Judah), go up to Levanon and cry out.
Shout in the Bashan region.
Cry out from the Avarim mountains,
because all your 'lovers' have been destroyed.
21 I warned you when you were still secure—
you said that you wouldn't listen.
That's been your way since your youth,
that you haven't taken any notice of my instructions.
22 The wind will drive away all your 'shepherds',
and your 'lovers' will go into captivity.
Then you'll be ashamed and humiliated because of all your wickedness.
23 You who live in Levanon,
nested there among the cedars,
but how you'll groan when your labour pains come to you,
like a woman giving birth.

Judgement for Yehoyakin · Southern kingdom

24 Yahweh declares by his life:
Even if you, Yehoyakin,[46][47] son of Yehudah's (Judah's) King Yehoyakim, were the signet ring on my right hand, I would tear you off **25** because I'm handing you over to the ones who are wanting to kill you and to those that you're afraid of—to Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) and his Kasdim (Chaldeans). **26** I'll hurl you and your mother who bore you, into another land—a country where you're both foreigners and you'll both die there. **27** Although they'll long to return to this land, they'll never return here.
28 Is this man Yehoyakin a despised, shattered pot—
a jar that no one wants
Why will before hurled out along with his descendants,
and thrown into a country that they're not familiar with?
29 Land, land, land, Listen to Yahweh's message.
30 Yahweh says this:
Record this man as being childless—
a man who won't prosper in his lifetime.
None of his descendants will prosper
to sit on David's throne
or to rule over Yehudah (Judah) again.

45 **RV 22:18 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 23:36–24:6; 2Ch 36:5-7.

46 **RV 22:24 · Note** Called 'Shallum' here in the Hebrew and in verse 28.

47 **RV 22:24 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 24:8-15; 2Ch 36:9-10.

Readers' Version

Returning under new shepherds · Southern kingdom

23:1 Yahweh declares that the shepherds who destroy and scatter the flock from my pasture won't end well. **2** Therefore, this is what Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh says about the shepherds who tend My people: Yahweh declares that you've all scattered my flock and driven them away, and haven't looked after them. Listen, I'm about to punish you all for your wicked actions. **3** Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock from all the countries that I've banished them to and I'll return them to their pasture, where they'll be fruitful and multiply. **4** Yahweh declares that I'll appoint shepherds over them who'll look after them, and then they'll no longer be afraid or dismayed, nor will any go missing. **5** Listen, Yahweh declares that the time is coming
when I will appoint a righteous branch for David
and he will reign wisely as king
and will administer justice and righteousness in the land.[48]
6 At that time, Yehudah (Judah) will be rescued and Yisrael will live in security,
and this is the name that he'll be known by: Yahweh who does what is right for us.
7 Listen, Yahweh declares that the time is coming when they'll no longer say, 'As surely as Yahweh lives, who brought the Israelis out from Mitsrayim (Egypt).' **8** Instead they'll say, 'As surely as Yahweh lives, who brought and led the Israelis out of the land in the north and all the other lands that he'd banished them to.' Then they'll live in their own land again.

Lying prophets · Southern kingdom

9 As for the prophets,
I feel broken inside and all my bones tremble.
I've become like a drunkard—like a man overcome by wine,
because of Yahweh—because of his holy words.
10 Yes, the land is full of adulterers—
the land mourns because of the curse,
and the pastures in the wilderness have dried up—
their course is evil and their power is misused.
11 Yes, both prophet and priest are compromised—
even in my house I've discovered their wickedness.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
12 Therefore their path will become slippery.
They'll be pushed into the darkness and will fall into it
because I'll send them disaster in the year of their punishment.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
13 Among the prophets in Shomron (Samaria), I've seen offensive behaviour:
they prophesied by Ba'al and led my people Yisrael (Israel) astray.
14 Also, among the prophets in Yerushalem (Jerusalem), I've seen horrible things:
They commit adultery and walk in lies.
They empower those who do evil,
→so that no one turns their back on wickedness.
They're all like Sedom to me.
The people in Yerushalem are like Amorah (Gomorrah),[49]
15 therefore this is what Commander-in-chief Yahweh says about the prophets:
I'll feed them wormwood
and give them poisoned water to drink,
because ungodliness has spread throughout the land
starting from Yerushalem's prophets.
16 This is what Commander-in-chief Yahweh says:
Don't listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you.
They are filling you all with false hopes.
They speak visions from their own minds,
not from Yahweh's mouth.
17 They keep telling those who despise me,
that Yahweh says that you'll all have peace.

48 RV 23:5-6 · Cross-ref. Jer 33:14-16.

49 RV 23:14 · Cross-ref. Gen 18:20; Eze 16:49.

Readers' Version

They tell everyone who practises their own stubborn ways
that no harm will come to them.
18 But which of them has attended Yahweh's council meeting
where he could see what's happening and hear his message?
Who has paid attention to his message and obeyed it?
19 Listen, the storm of Yahweh's rage is going out,
and the storm is creating a whirlwind that's whirling around the heads of those who are wicked.
20 Yahweh's anger won't turn back until he's carried out his plans and purposes.
In the final days, you'll all understand it.
21 I didn't send those prophets, yet they rushed to proclaim their messages.
I didn't speak to them, yet they still prophesied.
22 If they had in fact attended my council meeting,
they would have proclaimed my messages to my people
and turned them back from their wickedness and their wicked activities.
23 Yahweh declares:
Am I a god who's only nearby, but who isn't also a god from far away?
24 Would someone hide themself in some place and think that I couldn't see them? Yahweh asks.
Don't I fill the heavens and the earth? declares Yahweh.
25 Those prophets who prophesy lies in my name, I've heard them say, 'I had a dream. I had a dream!' **26** How long will this go on, with prophets who prophesy lies from their own minds, but who are prophesying from the deceitfulness of their own hearts. **27** They're planning on making my people forget my name with the dreams that they report, each one to his neighbour, just as their ancestors forgot my name in favour of Ba'al's name. **28** Let the prophet who has a dream, report that dream. However, the one who I've declared something to, let him declare my message truthfully. What does straw have to do with grain? That is Yahweh's declaration. **29** Isn't my message like fire, and like a hammer that shatters rock? That is Yahweh's declaration. **30** So listen, Yahweh declares that I'm against the prophets who steal my messages from someone else. **31** Yes, I'm against those prophets who speak their own messages by claim that the messages came from me. **32** Yahweh declares that indeed, I'm against those who prophesy false dreams and retell them to lead my people astray with their reckless lies. It wasn't me who sent or commanded them, and they're of no benefit at all to those people. That is Yahweh's declaration.

False prophets · Southern kingdom

33 Now when this people group or a prophet or priest asks you, 'What is Yahweh's burden?'[50] you should tell them, 'You are the burden and I'll abandon you.' That is Yahweh's declaration. **34** As for the prophet or priest or anyone who claims that he knows Yahweh's burden, I'll punish that man and his household. **35** This is what each of you should ask their friend or relative: 'What did Yahweh answer?' or 'What has Yahweh said?' **36** But don't refer anymore to Yahweh's burden, because each person's message becomes the burden, so you all end up perverting the words of the living god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh, our god. **37** This is what you should ask to the prophet, 'What answer did Yahweh give you?' or 'What did Yahweh say?' **38** However if you say, 'Yahweh's burden', then this is what Yahweh says: Because you said those words, 'Yahweh's burden,' after I sent you all a message saying, 'Don't say, "Yahweh's burden,' **39** therefore listen, I'll definitely forget you and will remove you all out of my presence—both you and your ancestors, and the city that I gave you. **40** Then I'll put permanent shame on you all, and continual insults that

50 RV 23:33 · Note The Hebrew word translated 'burden' could alternatively mean 'message of doom' here and through to verse 40, except that it's also used to describe the people.

won't be forgotten.

Two baskets of figs · Southern kingdom

24:1 After the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) had carried away Yehoyakin, son of Yehudah's (Judah's) King Yehoyakim, as well as Yehudah's officials and Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) craftsmen and metalsmiths, and had taken them to Bavel (Babylon),[51] Yahweh showed me two baskets of figs placed in front of his temple. **2** One basket of figs was very good like early, ripe figs, but the figs in the other basket were so bad that they weren't edible. **3** Then Yahweh asked me, "Yirmiyah (Jeremiah), what do you see?"

"Figs," I replied. "Some figs that look very good, and others that are so bad they're inedible."

4 Then Yahweh gave me this message: **5** Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Yahweh, says this: I'll look favourably at the exiles from Yehudah just like those good figs, the exiles that I've sent out from this place to Bavel. **6** I'll give them my favour and restore them to this land. I'll build them up, and not tear them down. I'll plant them, and not uproot them. **7** Then I will give them a desire to know me, because I'm Yahweh. They'll be my people and I will be their god, so they will turn to me wholeheartedly.

8 But Yahweh declares that just like those bad figs that are inedible will be discarded, I'll act in that same way towards Yehudah's King Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah), along with his officials and the rest of Yerushalem (Jerusalem) who remain in this land or go to stay in the land of Mitsrayim (Egypt). **9** I'll turn them into something horrifying—a disaster, right there in the sight of all the world's kingdoms—a disgrace and a subject for proverbs, taunts, and curses in every place that I'll drive them into. **10** I'll send armies, famine, and disease against them until they're destroyed from the land that I gave to them and their ancestors.

Exile to Bavel foretold · Southern kingdom

25:1 This is the message that came to Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) concerning all the people of Yehudah (Judah) in the fourth year of the reign of Yehoyakim (son of Yehudah's King Yoshiyah (Josiah)), which was the first year of the reign of the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar). **2** The prophet Yirmiyah proclaimed this to all the people across Yehudah including all of Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) inhabitants, saying: **3** Yahweh's messages have been coming to me for twenty-three years since the thirteenth year of the reign of Yehudah's king Yoshiyah (Yoshiyah, Amon's son), and I've passed them on to you all over and over again, but you haven't taken any notice of them. **4** Yahweh sent all his servants the prophets to you again and again, but you all haven't listened or paid any attention. **5** Those prophets said, 'Let everyone turn from their wicked ways and their evil activities, and return to the land that Yahweh gave in ancient times to your ancestors and to all of you as a permanent inheritance. **6** So don't walk after other gods to worship them or to bow down to them, and don't provoke him with things you make with your hands, and then he won't harm you all.' **7** But Yahweh declares that you all haven't listened to me, because with what you've made, you've provoked me to do harm to you.

8 So Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this: Since all of you haven't listen to my messages, **9** listen, I'm about to send out a command to fetch all the northern peoples. Yahweh declares that I will bring my servant, the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar and his armies against this land and its inhabitants, and against all the nations around you. I will mark them for destruction and turn them into a horror—something to be hissed at, and permanent ruins. **10** I'll put an end to the sounds of gladness and celebration, the sounds of brides and grooms,[52] and the sound of the millstones and the light of the

51 RV 24:1 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 24:12-16; 2Ch 36:10.

52 RV 25:10 · Cross-ref. Jer 7:34; 16:9.

Readers' Version

lamp.[53] **11** Then all of this land will become a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the Babylonian king for seventy years.[54]

12 Then after seventy years have passed, then I'll punish the king of Bavel (Babylon) and that nation—the land of the Kasdim (Chaldeans)—for their wickedness, and make it into a permanent wasteland. That is Yahweh's declaration. **13** Then I'll carry out all the messages that I'd spoken against that land, and everything written in this document that Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) has prophesied against all the nations. **14** Yes many other nations and great kings will also make slaves out of those nations. I'll repay them for everything they've done.

The punishment of God of nations

15 Yes Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh told me,
"Take this cup of the wine of fury from my hand, and all the nations that I'm sending you to, make them drink it. **16** They'll drink and then stagger around and act like mad people when they see the deadly army that I'm sending out to them.

17 So I took the cup from Yahweh's hand and made all the nations that he'd sent me to, drink from it, **18** as well as Yehudah's (Judah's) cities including Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and its king and officials—to turn them into ruins and something terrifying, and into something to hiss and curse at, as they are until this present day. **19** Those nations included:

Mitsrayim's (Egypt's) King Par'oh (Pharaoh), his officials, his leaders, and all his people,

20 all people of mixed heritage and all the kings of the land of Uts (Uz),

all the kings of the land of Peleshet: Ashkelon, Azah (Gaza), Ekron, and the remnant from Ashdod,

21 Edom, Moav (Moab), and the Amonim,

22 all the kings of Tsor (Tyre) and Tsidon (Sidon),

the kings from the coastlands across the sea,

23 Dedan, Teyma, Buz,

and all who cut the corners of their hair,

24 all the Aravi kings,

and all the kings of the mixed tribes who live in the desert,

25 all the kings from Zimri, Eylam, and Maday (Media),

26 all the kings of the north, both near and far, one after another,

all the kingdoms around the world.

And after all of them, the Babylonian[55] king will drink it too.

27 Then Yahweh told me to tell them, 'Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh, says this: Drink and become drunk, then vomit, fall down, and don't get up again until the deadly army arrives that I'm sending among you.' **28** Then if any of the above refuse to take the cup from your hand to drink, tell me, 'Commander-in-chief Yahweh says that you certainly must drink it, **29** because listen, I'm about to bring disaster to the city that is called by my name, and should you yourselves be free from punishment? You won't be free, because I'm calling a deadly army against all the inhabitants of the land.'
That is Commander-in-chief Yahweh's declaration.

30 You must prophesy all these messages against them, telling them:

'Yahweh will roar from the heights

and he'll shout with his voice from his sacred residence,

and he will roar mightily against his land,

and he will shout, like those who tread grapes in a wine-pressing pit

against all those who live on the earth.

31 The uproar will be heard even at the ends of the earth

because Yahweh brings a charge against the nations.

He will pass judgement on all humankind

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53 RV 25:10 · Cross-ref. Rev 18:22-23.

54 RV 25:11 · Cross-ref. 2Ch 36:21; Jer 29:10; Dan 9:2.

55 RV 25:26 · Note 'Babylon' here in the Hebrew is 'Sheshak', which is Hebrew for 'Babylon' with the letters substituted in a simple code.

Readers' Version

and have the wicked killed in war.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
32 Commander-in-chief says this:
Listen, disaster is spreading from nation to nation.
A terrible storm is rising from the ends of the earth.
33 Then those killed that day by Yahweh will be spread from one end of the earth to the other. They won't be mourned over, gathered, or buried—they'll be like dung lying on the ground.
34 Wail, you shepherds, and call out for help.
Roll around in the dust, you leaders of the flock,
because the time has come for your slaughter.
You'll all be scattered when you fall, like fragments of broken pottery.
35 There's no safe place for the shepherds to go to.
There'll be no escape for the leaders of the flock.
36 Hear the shepherds' cries of distress
and the wails of the leaders of the flock,
→because Yahweh is destroying their pastures.
37 So the peaceful pastures will be devastated
because of Yahweh's fierce anger.
38 He's left his den like a young lion would,
because their land will become a horror
due to the oppressor's anger and Yahweh's fierce angry.

Wanting a death sentence for Yirmiyah · Southern kingdom

26:1 Near the beginning of the reign of Yehoyakim (Yoshiyah's (Josiah's) son), this message came from Yahweh: **2** Yahweh says this: Stand in the courtyard of my temple and speak about all of Yehudah's (Judah's) cities who come to worship at my residence. Proclaim all the messages that I've commanded you to say to them—don't hold anything back. **3** Maybe they'll listen and everyone will turn from their wicked ways, and then I would turn back the disaster that I'm planning to send to them because of their wicked behaviour, **4** so you need to tell them that Yahweh says this:
If you don't listen to me so as to follow my instructions that I've given to you all, **5** if you don't listen to the words of my servants the prophets that I've been regularly sending to you, and indeed you haven't listened, **6** then I'll destroy this house like I did at Shiloh[56] and I'll turn this city into a curse to/for all the nations in the world.
7 The priests, the prophets, and all the people heard Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) proclaiming those words at Yahweh's temple. **8** Then as soon as Yirmiyah had finished saying everything that Yahweh had commanded him to tell all the people, the priests and the prophets and all the people seized him and threatened to kill him, saying: **9** Why have you prophesied in Yahweh's name and said that this temple will be destroyed like Shiloh, and that this city will become desolate, with no inhabitants?" Then all the people gathered together against Yirmiyah at Yahweh's residence.
10 Then Yehudah's (Judah's) officials heard about what was going on, and they went up from the palace to the temple where they sat in the gateway at the New Gate at Yahweh's residence. **11** Then the priests and the prophets spoke to the officials and to all the people, saying, "It's right for this man to die, because he prophesied against this city, as you've all heard with your own ears."
12 So Yirmiyah spoke to all the officials and all the people and said, "Yahweh has sent me out to prophesy to say all the words that you have heard, against both this temple and this city. **13** So now, improve your ways and your practices, and listen to the voice of your god Yahweh so that he'll relent concerning the disaster that he's proclaimed against you all. **14** As for me, here I am in your hands—do to me whatever you think is right and proper. **15** However, you must surely know that if you kill me, then you're all bringing innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and its inhabitants, be-

56 RV 26:6 · Cross-ref. Josh 18:1; Psa 78:60; Jer 7:12-14.

cause Yahweh has truly sent me to you to proclaim all these messages for you all to hear."
16 Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and to the prophets, "This man doesn't deserve to be sentenced to death, because he's spoken to us in the name of our god, Yahweh."
17 Then some of Yehudah's (Judah's) elders stepped forward and spoke to all the people who were gathered there, 18 "Mikah (from Morashet) prophesied during the lifetime of Yehudah's King Hizkiyah (Hezekiah), and he told all the people from Yehudah that Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this:

Tsiyon (Zion), a field will be ploughed,
and Yerushalem (Jerusalem) will become heaps of ruins,
and the temple hill will become an overgrown forest.[57]

19 Did Yehudah's King Hizkiyah or anyone else in Yehudah put him to death? Didn't Hizkiyah respect and honour Yahweh and ask for his favour, and didn't Yahweh relent from sending the disaster that he had pronounced against them? It seems that we're about to bring great harm on ourselves."
20 Now there was another man prophesying in Yahweh's name of Yahweh: Uriyah (son of Shemayah from Kiryat-Yearim) who prophesied against this city and against this land with similar messages to Yirmiyah (Jeremiah). 21 When King Yehoyakim and all his warriors and all the officials heard his words, the king wanted to put him to death. However when Uriyah heard about it, he became afraid, and he fled and went to Mitsrayim (Egypt). 22 However, King Yehoyakim sent Akbor's son Elnatan and several other men to Mitsrayim to get Uriyah. 23 They brought Uriyah back from Mitsrayim and took him to King Yehoyakim who ran him through with a sword and threw his corpse into the public graveyard.
24 However, Shafan's son Ahikam supported Yirmiyah and didn't allow the people to kill him.

Yirmiyah wears a yoke · Southern kingdom

27:1 At the beginning of the reign of Yehudah's (Judah's) King Yehoyakim (son of Yoshiyah (Josiah) Yoshiyah), this message came to Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) from Yahweh,[58] 2 telling him this:
Make yourself a wooden ox yoke with bars, and tie it to your neck. 3 Use it to send messages to the kings of Edom, Moav (Moab), Amon, Tsor (Tyre), and Tsidon (Sidon), through the ambassadors from those countries who've come to Yerushalem (Jerusalem) to meet with King Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah) 4 to tell them that Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says to give their masters this message: 5 I myself made the earth and the people and animals that are on the earth, by my direct actions and my great strength, and I give it to whoever I see fit. 6 Now I've personally handed over all these lands to my servant, the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar), and I've also given the animals in the countryside to him to serve him. 7 All the nations will serve him and his son and then his grandson, until the time of his own land comes due. Yes, it will, and then many nations and great kings will make him serve them.
8 Any nation or kingdom that won't serve the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar and that won't put its neck into his yoke, then I'll punish that nation with war and famine and disease until I've used King Nevukadnetsar to finish them off. That is Yahweh's declaration, 9 so don't you all keep listening to your 'prophets', and to your diviners and dreamers, and to your soothsayers and sorcerers—all those who keep telling you that you all won't serve the Babylonian king, 10 because they're prophesying lies to you, so as to remove you all far away from on your land. Yes, I will drive you all out and you'll die in a foreign land. 11 However, the nation that brings its neck into the Babylonian king's yoke and serves him, I'll let that nation remain

57 **RV 26:18 · Cross-ref.** Mic 3:12.
58 **RV 27:1 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 24:18-20; 2Ch 36:11-13.

on its land, and it will cultivate it and live there. That's is Yahweh's declaration.

12 Then to Yehudah's (Judah's) King Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah), I passed on those same words, saying, "Put your necks into the yoke of the Babylonian king, and serve him and his people, and live. **13** Why would you and your people die from war, famine, and disease, as Yahweh has said will come to any nation that doesn't serve the Babylonian king? **14** So don't listen to the messages from the prophets who are speaking to you when they tell you all not to serve the king of Bavel (Babylon) as they're prophesying lies to you **15** because I didn't send them. Yahweh declares that they're using my name to prophesy lies so that I'll drive you out, and you'll all perish—both you and the prophets who are prophesying to you." **16** Then I told the priests and all those people that Yahweh says: Don't listen to the words of your prophets who are prophesying to you and saying that the utensils from Yahweh's temple will soon be brought back from Bavel, because they're prophesying lies to you. **17** Don't listen to them. Serve the Babylonian king and live. Why should this city become a ruin? **18** If they were prophets who really have access to Yahweh's message, then please let them intercede with Commander-in-chief Yahweh so that the utensils remaining in Yahweh's temple and in Yehudah's king's palace and in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) don't end up being taken to Bavel.

19 Yes, Commander-in-chief Yahweh has spoken about the bronze pillars and the large, bronze water basin, and concerning the bronze stands and the rest of the utensils remaining in this city, **20** which the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) didn't take when he exiled Yehudah's King Yekaneyah (son of Yehoyakim) from Yerushalem to Bavel, along with all the leading citizens of Yehudah including Yerushalem. **21** Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says about the utensils remaining in Yahweh's temple and in the palace of the king of Yehudah and Yerushalem: **22** They'll be taken to Bavel and they'll remain there until the time when I punish those Babylonians, and then I'll bring them back and restore them to this place. That is Yahweh's declaration.

Yirmiyah vs Prophet Hananyah · Southern kingdom

28:1 In the fifth month of the fourth year of the reign of Yehudah's (Judah's) King Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah),[59] Azur's son Hananyah who was a 'prophet' from Giveon, said to me in Yahweh's temple as priests and all the people watched, saying, **2** "Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says: I've broken the yoke of the Babylonian king. **3** Within two years, I, myself, will bring back here all the utensils from Yahweh's residence that the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) got from this place and took to Bavel (Babylon). **4** I, myself, will also bring Yekaneyah (the son of Yehudah's King Yehoyakim) back to this place, and all the exiles from Yehudah that were taken to Bavel, because I'll break the yoke of the Babylonian king. That is Yahweh's declaration."

5 Then the prophet Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) spoke to the prophet Hananyah, as the priests and all the people standing in Yahweh's temple watched, **6** saying, "Let it be so—may Yahweh do all that. May Yahweh confirm your messages that you prophesied, to bring the temple utensils back to this place, along with all the exiles from Bavel. **7** However, please listen to this message that I, myself, am speaking as you and all the people listen: **8** The prophets who preceded both me and you, prophesied long ago that many nations and powerful kingdoms would experience wars, terrible suffering, and deadly diseases. **9** The prophet who prophesies about peace, that prophet will be known as 'a truthful prophet sent by Yahweh' only when his message comes to pass."

10 Then the prophet Hananyah took the yoke bar off the prophet Yirmiyah's neck, and broke it. **11** Then as all the people watched, he said, "This is what Yahweh says: Just like that, I'll

59 RV 28:1 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 24:18-20; 2Ch 36:11-13.

Readers' Version

break the yoke of the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) off the neck of all the nations within two more years."

Then the prophet Yirmiyah left the gathering.

12 After the prophet Hananyah broke the yoke bar that had been on the prophet Yirmiyah's neck, Yahweh's message came to Yirmiyah saying, **13** "Go and tell Hananyah this: 'Yahweh says that you've broken wooden yoke bars, but in their place, you'll make yoke bars out of iron,' **14** because Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says, 'I've put an iron yoke bar on the neck of all these nations to serve the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar, and they will indeed serve him. I've also given him the animals from the countryside.' "

15 Then the prophet Yirmiyah told the prophet Hananyah, "Listen, please, Hananyah. Yahweh hasn't sent you, and you yourself have made this people group put their trust in things that aren't true. **16** Because of that, Yahweh says this: 'Listen, I'm removing you from this world. You'll die this very year, because you have said things that would cause the people to rebel against Yahweh.' "

17 The prophet Hananyah then died in the seventh month of that year.

Yirmiyah's letter to the exiled Yehudim · Southern kingdom

29:1 The prophet Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) sent a letter from Yerushalem (Jerusalem) to the remainder of the elders of the exile, and to the priests, and to the prophets, and to all the people that Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) had exiled from Yerushalem to Bavel (Babylon)[60] **2** after the removal from Yerushalem of King Yekaneyah and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Yehudah (Judah) and Yerushalem, plus the craftsmen and the metalsmiths. **3** He sent it with Shafan's son Eleasah and Hilkiyah's son Gemaryah, who Yehudah's King Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah) sent to the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar in Bavel. The letter said,

4 Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this to all of you that I've exiled from Yerushalem to Bavel: **5** Build houses and live in them, and plant gardens and eat their fruit. **6** Marry and have children. Find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage so that they also have children. Increase in number there—don't become fewer. **7** In addition, the city that I've sent you all into exile to, work to make it more prosperous and pray to Yahweh for it, because if it prospers, its prosperity will belong to all of you. **8** That's because Yisrael's god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this: Don't let your prophets and diviners who are among you deceive you, and don't listen to your dreams that you wishfully dream, **9** because those prophets are prophesying using my name but not being truthful—I didn't send them. That is Yahweh's declaration.

10 "Because this is what Yahweh says: When seventy years have passed for Bavel,[61] I'll visit take notice of you all again, and I'll implement my good message about you—to bring you all back to this place, **11** because I know the plans that I have for you all: plans for peaceful well-being—not to bring you all harm, but rather a future with hope. That is Yahweh's declaration. **12** Then you'll all call out to me for help, and you'll come and pray to me, and I'll listen to you all. **13** You'll search for me, and you'll find me, because you'll all want to follow me with complete sincerity.[62] **14** Then, Yahweh has declared, I'll let myself be found by you all, and I'll bring you back from captivity. I'll gather you all from all the nations and all the places that I banished you to, and I'll bring you all back to the place that I sent you into exile from. That is Yahweh's declaration.

15 Because you've all said that Yahweh has appointed prophets for you there in Bavel, **16** then Yahweh has something to say about the king sitting on David's throne and about all the peo-

60 RV 29:1-2 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 24:12-16; 2Ch 36:10.

61 RV 29:10 · Cross-ref. 2Ch 36:21; Jer 25:11; Dan 9:2.

62 RV 29:13 · Cross-ref. Deu 4:29.

ple living in this city—your relatives who didn't
go into exile with you. 17 So Commander-in-chief Yahweh says: Listen, I'm about to
send war, famine and deadly diseases against
them. I'll make them like rotten figs that are so
bad they're inedible. 18 Yes, I'll chase after
them with war, famine, and deadly diseases,
and I'll make them become a horror to all the
world's kingdoms—a curse and a desolation,
and a reproach and something to be hissed at
by all the nations where I've driven them,
19 because they didn't listen to my messages
that I sent to them over and over again via my
servants the prophets, but all you exiles didn't
listen. That is Yahweh's declaration.
20 But all you exiles that I sent away from
Yerushalem (Jerusalem) to Bavel, listen to Yahweh's message:
21 Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh, says this about Kolayah's
son Ahav and Ma'aseyah's son Tsidkiyah
(Zedekiah), who are both prophesying untruths
to you in my name: Listen, I'm handing them
over to the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar
(Nebuchadnezzar), and he'll kill them right in
front of you. 22 Then because of them, a new
curse phrase will be taken on by all the Jewish
exiles in Bavel, which goes, "May Yahweh make
you like Tsidkiyah and Ahav, who were roasted
in the fire by the Babylonian king," 23 because
they did something shameful in Yisrael and
they have committed adultery with the wives
of their neighbours, and they spoke untrue
messages in my name that I hadn't commanded
them to. I am the one who knows that and I'm a
witness. That is Yahweh's declaration.

Message to false prophet Shemayah · Southern kingdom

24 Yahweh told me to
tell Shemayah (the Nehelami) this: 25 Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says
this: Because you sent letters in your name to
all the people in Yerushalem (Jerusalem), and
to the priest Tsefanyah (Zephaniah)
(Ma'aseyah's son), and to all the priests, to tell
Tsefanyah:
26 Yahweh has made you, Tsefanyah, priest in
place of the priest Yehoyada, to be overseer in
Yahweh's temple over every man who raves out
loud, making himself a prophet, and you must
put him in the stocks with an iron collar
around his neck. 27 So why haven't you rebuked
Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) the Antoti who's prophesying to you all, 28 because he's sent a letter to
us here in Bavel (Babylon) saying, "Your exile
will last a long time. Build houses and live in
them. Plant gardens and eat their fruit."
29 The priest Tsefanyah read that letter to the
prophet Yirmiyah, 30 then Yahweh gave this
message to Yirmiyah: 31 Send to all the exiles to
tell them: This is what Yahweh says about Shemayah the Nehelami: Because Shemayah has
prophesied to you all, even though I didn't send
him, and he made you trust what's not true,
32 therefore Yahweh says this: Listen, I will
punish Shemayah the Nehelami and his descendants. None of his family will live among
this people, and he won't experience the good
things that I'll do for my people, because he's
encouraged rebellion against Yahweh. That is
Yahweh's declaration.

Yahweh's promises to his people · Both kingdoms

30:1 Yahweh gave Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) a message, saying: 2 Yisrael's
(Israel's) god, Yahweh says this: Write down on
a scroll all the messages that I've given you,
3 because listen to Yahweh's declaration: The
time is coming when I'll restore my people of
Yisrael and Yehudah (Judah) from captivity,
and I'll bring them back to the land that I have
to their ancestors, and they'll take possession
of it again.
4 Now these are the messages that Yahweh
spoke concerning Yisrael and Yehudah:
5 Yes, Yahweh says this:
A cry of panic and terror has been heard,
and there's no peace.
6 Please ask and find out: can males give
birth?
Why do I see every strong man with his hands
on his hips like a woman in labour?
And why has everyone's faces gone so pale?
7 Oh dear, that will be a terrible day like nothing that's come before.
It'll be a distressing time for Ya'akov (Jacob),

Readers' Version

→but he'll be rescued from it.
8 Then Commander-in-chief Yahweh declares
that at that time I'll break his yoke off your
neck, and I'll pull your chains apart, and for-
eigners will no longer enslave your country.
9 Then they'll serve their god Yahweh, and
their king on David's throne who I'll appoint
for them.
10 Then Yahweh declares:
Then you, my servant Ya'akov, don't be afraid,
and don't be dismayed, Yisrael (Israel),
because listen, I'm rescuing you from afar,
and your offspring from the land where they
were held captive.
Yisrael will return and be left alone and at
ease,
and there won't be anyone making it afraid.[63]
11 Yahweh declares:
Yes, I'm with you to rescue you,
because I'll completely destroy all the nations
that I've scattered you to,
but I won't completely destroy you.
I'll discipline you according to justice,
but I won't just let you off what you deserve.
12 Yes, Yahweh says this:
Your fracture is incurable.
Your wound is severe.
13 There's no one pleading your cause.
There's no medicines for your wound.
There's no healing for you.
14 All your lovers have forgotten you—
they don't care about you.
Yes, I've struck you like an enemy would,
with the discipline of a cruel person,
due to the severity of your wickedness.
You've disobeyed so frequently.
15 Why do you cry out about your fracture—
about your incurable pain?
Your wickedness has been severe.
You've disobeyed so often
→so I've done those things to you.
16 Because of that, all those who devoured
you will be devoured,
and all of your adversaries, every one of
them, will go into captivity.
Then the ones plundering you will become
like plunder,
and all those preying on you, I'll give to you
as spoil.
17 Yes, I'll bring healing to you,
and I'll heal you from your wounds
because they've called you an outcast.
'She is Tsiyon (Zion)—no one cares about her.'
That is Yahweh's declaration.
18 Yahweh says this:
Listen, I'm restoring the fortune of Ya'akov's
(Jacob's) descendants,
and I will have compassion on the places
where they live.
Each city will be rebuilt on its mound,
and each fortress will sit on its proper place.
19 Then thanksgiving will go out from them,
and the sound of those laughing.
I'll multiply them, and they won't diminish in
number,
→and I'll make them honoured—
they won't become insignificant.
20 Then its children will be as in former times,
and its community will be established under
my supervision,
and I'll punish all those who oppress it.
21 Its king will be from among it,
and its ruler will come from its middle.
Then I'll bring it near, and it will approach
me,
because who is this that has pledged its heart
to approach me?
That is Yahweh's declaration.
22 You'll be my people
and I'll become your god.
23 Listen, Yahweh's storm of rage has gone
out—
a storm whirling around the heads of wicked
people.
24 Yahweh's burning anger won't turn back
until he's established and completed what
he's planned.
You'll all understand it in the days to come.

63 RV 30:10-11 · Cross-ref. Jer 46:27-28.

Readers' Version

Yisrael's return home · Both kingdoms

31:1 Yahweh declares that at that time, I'll be the god to all of Yisrael's (Israel's) families, and they'll be my people.
2 Yahweh says this:
A people, the survivors after being attacked in war,
found favour in the wilderness,
Yisrael going to find a peaceful place.
3 From far off, Yahweh appeared to me: I've always loved you
therefore I've displayed loyal commitment to help you endure.
4 I'll rebuild you, and you'll be restored, Yisrael's pretty daughter.
Again you'll adorn yourself with your tambourines,
and will go out in the dance of those celebrating.
5 You'll plant vineyards again on the Shomron (Samaria) hills.
The planters will plant and make them productive.
6 Yes, there'll be a day when the watchers in the Efrayim (Ephraim) hill country will call out,
'Get ready and let's go up to our god Yahweh at Tsiyon (Zion),'
7 because Yahweh says this:
"Sing for Yisrael (Israel) (Ya'akov (Jacob)) with gladness,
and shout for this leader of the nations.
Cause it to be heard, praise, and say,
'Yahweh, save your people, the remnant of Yisrael.'
8 Listen, I'm bringing them back from the land in the north,
and I'll gather them from the remote parts of the world.
Among them are the blind and the lame,
and pregnant women together with those giving birth.
A large number of people will return here.
9 They'll be weeping as they come,
and as they request me, I'll bring them out.
I'll cause them to walk to streams of water on a straight road.
They won't stumble on it.
because I've become a father for Yisrael (Israel),
and Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim), he's my firstborn.
10 Listen to Yahweh's message, you nations,
and declare it in the coastlands from far off, and say,
'The one scattering Yisrael will gather him back,
and he'll protect him like a shepherd of his flock,
11 because Yahweh has ransomed Yisrael (Ya'akov (Jacob))
and paid the price to free it from the power of a nation that's stronger than it.
12 Then they'll come and sing on Tsiyon's (Zion's) heights,
and they'll be radiant about Yahweh's goodness:
about the grain, about the new wine and the fresh oil,
and about the young from the flock and the herd.
Their soul will be like a watered garden,
and they won't be weakened again.
13 Then the young women will celebrate with dancing,
along with the young and old men together.
I'll turn their mourning into happiness and I'll comfort them,
and I'll give them reason for celebration rather than sorrow.
14 I'll satisfy the priests' appetites for good food
and my people will be pleased by my goodness.
That is Yahweh's declaration.

Yahweh's mercy towards Yisrael · Both kingdoms

15 Yahweh says this,
"A voice is heard in Ramah, wailing,
bitter weeping.
Rahel (Rachel)[64] is weeping over her sons.
She refuses to be comforted over her sons,

64 RV 31:15 · Cross-ref. Gen 35:16-19.

Readers' Version

because he is no more."[65]
16 Yahweh says this,
"Don't cry any more,
and keep the tears out of your eyes,
→because there's a reward for your work,
→and they'll return from the enemy's country."
That is Yahweh's declaration.
17 There's hope for your future,
and your children will return to their border.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
18 I've heard Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim) upset at itself, saying,
You disciplined me,
and I was disciplined like an untrained calf.
Restore me so I can return
because you're my god Yahweh.
19 Yes, after I turned away, I repented,
and after I was instructed, I slapped my thigh.
I was ashamed and also humiliated
because I still bore the reproach from my youthful rebellion.
20 Isn't Yisrael a precious son to me,
or a child that I really liked?
Yes, as often as I speak against him,
I still continually remember him.
Therefore I groan deep down for him.
I'll always feel compassionate towards him.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
21 Set signposts up for yourself.
Place markers where you can see them.
Set the highway as your goal—
the path that you went on.
Yisrael's (Israel's) young daughter, return—
return to those cities of yours.
22 How much longer will you waver, you apostate daughter?
Yes, Yahweh has created something new in the land—
a woman protects[66] a man.

Yisrael's future peace/prosperity · Both kingdoms

23 Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this:
When I restore the prosperity of Yehudah (Judah) and its cities,
again they'll restore this saying,
'May Yahweh bless you—
Yahweh who's the repository of righteousness—
mountain of holiness.'
24 Then Yehudah and all its cities will live in the land together—
farmers, and also shepherds who roam around with their flocks,
25 because I satisfy those who are weary,
and I refresh everyone who's become faint.
26 After that, I woke up and looked around,
and I'd had a good sleep.
27 Yahweh declares:
Listen, there's a time coming when I'll sow the Yisrael (Israel) and Yehudah (Judah) regions with the seeds of people and animals so they'll multiply all around.
28 Just like how I supervised them to uproot and tear down,
and to overthrow and destroy and do harm,
now I'll keep watch as they build and plant.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
29 Then at that time, they'll no longer say:
'The parents ate sour grapes,
→but it's the teeth of the children that are set on edge.'[67]
30 because everyone will die for their own disobedience,
i.e., whoever eats sour grapes will have their own teeth set on edge.
31 Listen, Yahweh declares that the time is coming when I'll make a new agreement with the people of Yisrael (Israel) and Yehudah (Judah).[68] 32 It won't be like the agreement that I made with their ancestors at the time when I took hold of their hand to bring them out from

65 **RV 31:15 · Cross-ref.** Mat 2:18.
66 **RV 31:22 · Note** Heb. 'surrounds'—the intended meaning of this last line isn't certain.
67 **RV 31:29 · Cross-ref.** Eze 18:2.
68 **RV 31:31 · Cross-ref.** Mat 26:28; Mrk 14:24; Luk 22:20; 1Cor 11:25; 2Cor 3:6.

Readers' Version

Mitsrayim (Egypt), when they broke my agreement even though I was a husband to them. That is Yahweh's declaration. **33** Yes, Yahweh declares that this is the agreement that I'll make with the Israeli people after that time: I'll put my law inside them—writing it on their heart,[69] and I will be their god, and they will be a people for me. **34** Then each man will no longer teach his neighbour or his brother, saying, 'Know Yahweh', because all of them will know me—from the smallest of them to the greatest, because I'll forgive their disobedience, and I won't remember their wickedness any longer.[70]

35 Yahweh says this:

I'm the one who gives the sun for light during the day,
and the moon and the stars for light at night.
He stirs up the ocean, so that its waves roar,
His name is Commander-in-chief Yahweh.

36 Yahweh declares that if these elements stopped working,
then Yisrael (Israel) would also permanently cease to exist as a nation.

37 Yahweh says this:

If the skies above could be measured and be searched out,
as well as the foundations of the earth below,
then I would also reject all of Yisrael's descendants
for everything that they've done.

That is Yahweh's declaration.

38 Listen, Yahweh declares that the time is coming when the city will be rebuilt for Yahweh—from Hananel's tower all the way to the Corner Gate. **39** After that, the measuring line will be stretched over Garev Hill and around to Go'ah. **40** Then all the valley of the corpses and ashes, and all the fields as far as the Kidron brook, to the corner of the Horses Gate toward the east, will be holiness to Yahweh. It won't be uprooted, and it'll never be overthrown again.

Yirmiyah buys a field · Southern kingdom

32:1 This was the message that came to Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) from Yahweh in the tenth year of the reign of Yehudah's (Judah's) King Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah), the eighteenth year of Nevukadnetsar's (Nebuchadnezzar's) reign.[71] **2** The army of the Babylonian king had besieged Yerushalem (Jerusalem), and the prophet Yirmiyah was imprisoned in the guards' courtyard at the palace of Yehudah's king. **3** Yehudah's king Tsidkiyah had imprisoned him there after asking, "Why do you prophesy and say that Yahweh says: Listen, I'm about to hand this city over to the Babylonian king and he'll capture it. **4** Yehudah's King Tsidkiyah definitely won't escape from the power of the Kasdim (Chaldeans), because he'll be handed over to the Babylonian king and they'll speak face-to-face to each other. **5** He'll take Tsidkiyah to Bavel (Babylon) where he'll remain until I've dealt with him. No, you all won't succeed in fighting against the Babylonians. That is Yahweh's declaration.

6 Then Yirmiyah said: Yahweh gave me a message, saying: **7** Listen, your cousin Hanamel (your uncle Shalum's son) is coming to see you and will ask you to buy his field in Anatot, because you have the right to buy it. **8** Then just as Yahweh had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the guards' courtyard and he asked me, "Buy my field that is in Anatot in the Benyamin region, because you have the right to inherit it so the right to buy it belongs to you. Buy it for yourself." Then I knew that this was Yahweh's message. **9** So I bought the field in Anatot from my cousin Hanamel, and I weighed out seventeen shekels of silver for him. **10** Then I wrote in a scroll and sealed it, and had witnesses witness it and the weight of the silver on the scales. **11** Next I took that sealed purchase deed with the price and conditions, as well as an unsealed copy. **12** I gave the sealed purchase document to Baruk (son of Neriyah, son of

69 RV 31:33 · Cross-ref. Heb 10:16.

70 RV 31:34 · Cross-ref. Heb 10:17.

71 RV 32:1 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 25:1-7.

Readers' Version

Mahseyah) in front of my cousin Hanamel and the witnesses who'd signed the purchase agreement, as well as all the Yehudim (Jews) who were sitting in the guards' courtyard. 13 Then still in front of them, I instructed Baruk, 14 Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this: Take these documents, both this receipt of purchase that's sealed and the unsealed copies, and put them into a clay jar so they'll last for a long time, 15 because Yisrael's god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this: Houses, fields, and vineyards will again be bought in this land.

Yirmiyah's prayer · Southern kingdom

16 After I'd given the purchase deed to Neriyah's son Baruk, I prayed to Yahweh, saying: 17 Oh no, master Yahweh. Listen, you alone made the heavens and the earth by taking action and using your incredible strength. Nothing you say is too difficult for you to do. 18 You show loyal commitment to thousands, and pour people's guilt into their children's laps after them. You are the strong and powerful god—your name is Commander-in-chief Yahweh. 19 You are very wise and do incredible things, because your eyes are open to all the people's ways—to give each person what their conduct and actions deserve. 20 You did miracles and amazing things in Mitsrayim (Egypt), remembered to this day, and you've made a name for yourself in Yisrael (Israel) and among humankind. 21 You brought your people Yisrael out from Mitsrayim using miracles and amazing things and by taking action and using your incredible strength, along with great terror. 22 Then you gave them this land which you had promised their ancestors that you'd give them—a land flowing with milk and honey. 23 So they entered and took possession of it, but they didn't listen to your voice or follow your instructions. They didn't do anything that you'd ordered them to do so you've brought all this calamity onto them.

24 Look, the siege mounds have reached up to the city to capture it, and it's been handed over to the Kasdim (Chaldeans) who've been fighting it. Everything you said would happen has, including war, famine, and deadly diseases, and you're there watching it. 25 Then you yourself told me, 'Use silver to buy yourself a field, and have witnesses witness it, even though this city is being handed over to the Kasdim.'

26 Then Yahweh gave Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) this message: 27 Listen, I'm Yahweh, the god of all mankind. Is there anything that's too difficult for me to do? 28 Therefore Yahweh says this, 'Listen, I'm about to hand this city over to the Babylonians—the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) will capture it.[72] 29 The soldiers who are fighting against this city will come and set fire to this city and burn it. Those people who worship Ba'al on their flat roofs, and who poured out drink offerings to other gods in order to provoke me, will now have their houses burnt down 30 because the people of Yisrael (Israel) and Yehudah (Judah) have certainly been people who've been doing evil in front of me since their youth. The people of Yisrael have certainly offended me with the practices and activities. That is Yahweh's declaration. 31 Yahweh declares that the people of this city has provoked my anger and fury since the day that they built it, and then right up to the present day, so I'll will remove it right out of my sight, 32 because of all the wicked things that the people of Yisrael and Yehudah have done to provoke me—their kings, princes, priests, prophets, and every person in Yehudah including Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) inhabitants. 33 They turned their backs to me instead of their faces, even though I had eagerly taught them. I tried to teach them, but they wouldn't listen or receive correction. 34 They set up their detestable idols in the house that is called by my name, in order to defile it, 35 and they built hilltop shrines for Ba'al along the Ben-Hinom Valley in order to pass their sons and daughters through the fire for

72 RV 32:28 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 25:1-11; 2Ch 36:17-21.

Readers' Version

Molek.[73] I didn't command them to do that—it never entered my mind that they should do that detestable thing and so cause Yehudah to sin.'[74][75]

Promised restoration · Southern kingdom

36 So now Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh has something to say about this city that you've all been talking about, saying, 'It's been handed over to the Babylonian king due to war, famine, and deadly diseases.' **37** Listen, I'll gather them back from every land where I had banished them to in my rage, fury, and great anger. I'm about to bring them back to this place and enable them to live in security, **38** and then they'll be my people and I'll be their god. **39** I'll give them a united vision and a single way to honour me every day so that it'll turn out good for them and for their descendants after them. **40** Then I'll make a permanent agreement with them, that I won't turn away from doing good to them. I'll set honour for me in their minds, so that they'll never turn away from me. **41** Then I'll take pleasure in doing good to them. I'll faithfully plant them in this land with all my heart and all my life **42** because Yahweh says this, 'Just as I have brought all this great disaster on this people, so too I'll bring on them all the good things that I've said I'd do for them. **43** Then people will buy fields in this land, about which you've been saying, "This land is ruined, without people or even animals living on it. It's been handed over to the Babylonians." **44** They'll use silver to buy fields and will write in sealed scrolls. They'll assemble witnesses in the Benyamin region, all around Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and Yehudah's (Judah's) other cities of Yehudah, in the cities in the hill country and in the lowlands, and in the cities of the Negev, because I'll bring back their fortunes. That is Yahweh's declaration.

Promised blessings · Southern kingdom

33:1 Then while Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) was still locked in the guards' courtyard, Yahweh gave him a second message, saying, **2** Yahweh, the maker of the earth, who formed and established it and who's known by his name Yahweh, says: **3** Call out to me, and I'll answer you. I'll tell you amazing things that you haven't previously known or understood. **4** Yes, Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Yahweh, says this about the houses in this city and the palaces of Yehudah's (Judah's) king that were torn down to be used against the siege ramps and the attackers: **5** The Babylonians are coming to fight, and to fill the houses with the corpses of the people that I'll kill in my rage and fury when I turn my back on this city because of all their wickedness. **6** Listen, I'm about to bring a cure and healing, because I'll heal them and will bring bountiful peace and prosperity to them, and justice. **7** I'll bring back the fortunes of Yehudah and Yisrael—I'll build them up as they were before. **8** Then I'll purify them from all the evil that they've committed against me—I'll pardon all the times that they disobeyed me, and all the ways that they rebelled against me. **9** Then this city will become an object of joy for me—a song of praise and honour for all the nations of the earth who'll hear about all the good things that I'm going to do for it. Then the people in the city will be respectful and tremble because of all the good things and the peace and prosperity that I'll give to it.

10 Yahweh says this: In this place that you're all talking about, saying, "It's desolate—a place where neither people or animals live," in Yehudah's cities including Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) streets that are indeed desolate with no people or animals around, there'll be heard again **11** the sounds of happiness and celebration. You'll all hear the sounds of the bride and groom, and those who bring thank offerings to Yahweh's temple will be heard saying,

"Give thanks to Commander-in-chief Yahweh,
because Yahweh is good,

73 **RV 32:35 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 23:10; Jer 7:31.

74 **RV 32:34-35 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 23:10; Jer 7:30-31; 19:1-6.

75 **RV 32:35 · Cross-ref.** Lev 18:21.

Readers' Version

and his loyal commitment lasts forever!"[76]
Yes, I'll restore the fortunes of the land to what
they were before, says Yahweh.
12 Commander-in-chief Yahweh says: 'In this
desolate place where no people or animals are
living, around all its cities there'll again be pas-
tures where shepherds can rest their flocks.
13 In the cities in the hill country, the lowlands,
and the Negev, in the Benyamin region, and all
around Yerushalem and in Yehudah's other
cities, the flocks will again pass be counted by
their shepherds,' says Yahweh.
14 Yahweh declares: Listen, the time is coming
when I'll do what I've promised for the people
of Yisrael (Israel) and Yehudah. 15 In those days
and at that time, I'll make a righteous branch
grow for David, and he'll do what's fair and
right throughout the land. 16 Yehudah will be
rescued in those days, and Yerushalem will live
in security, because it'll be called, 'Yahweh is
the one who does what's right for us,' 17 be-
cause Yahweh says this: 'There'll always be one
of David's descendants reigning over Yisrael,[77]
18 and there'll always be a Levitical priest to
stand in front of me to sacrifice burnt offerings,
to burn grain offerings, and to offer other sac-
rifices.'[78]
19 Then Yahweh gave Yirmiyah (Jeremiah)
this message: 20 Yahweh says this: 'If you all can
break my contract with day and night so that
there'll no longer be day or night at their
proper times, 21 then my agreement with my
servant David my servant could also be broken,
so that he would no longer have a descendant
to sit on his throne. The same is true for my
agreement with my servants, the priests from
Levi tribe. 22 As the stars in the skies can't be
counted, and as the sand grains on the
seashores can't be measured, so I'll increase the
descendants of my servant David, as well as the
Levites who work for me.'
23 Yahweh gave Yirmiyah this message:
24 Haven't you noticed what this people group
has declared when they said, 'The two clans
that Yahweh chose, now he's rejected them'? In
that way they despise my people, saying that
they no longer deserve to be a nation as far as
they're concerned. 25 But I, Yahweh say this:
Didn't I establish the permanent contract with
day and night, and determine the laws of the
universe and this planet? 26 In the same way,
would I now reject Ya'akov's (Jacob's) descen-
dants and not bring a ruler for the descendants
of Avraham, Yitshak (Isaac), and Ya'akov out of
them. No, because I'll restore their fortunes
and show mercy towards them.

The warning for Tsidkiyah/Zedekiah · Southern kingdom

34:1 Yahweh gave this
message to Yirmiyah
(Jeremiah) when the
Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnez-
zar), along with all the world's kingdoms, do-
mains, and people groups under his control,
was attacking Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and
Yehudah's (Judah's) other cities, saying:[79] 2 Yis-
rael's (Israel's) god Yahweh says to go and
speak to Yehudah's King Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah)
and tell him that Yahweh says this: Listen, I'm
about to hand this city over to the Babylonian
king, and he'll set it on fire. 3 You won't escape
from his power, because you'll definitely be
captured and handed over to him and you'll
talk face-to-face with the king of Bavel (Baby-
lon) as you're taken to Bavel. 4 However King
Tsidkiyah, listen to Yahweh's message—you
won't be killed by being run through with a
sword 5 but actually you'll die in peace. They'll
cremate your body as was done for your ances-
tors, the previous kings, and they'll mourn for
you saying, 'Oh no, master!' That's the promise
that Yahweh has declared. 6 So the prophet Yir-
miyah passed on all those messages to Yehu-
dah's King Tsidkiyah in Yerushalem 7 when the
Babylonian king's army had attacked
Yerushalem and Yehudah's remaining fortified

76 RV 33:11 · Cross-ref. 1Ch 16:34; 2Ch 5:13; 7:3; Ezr 3:11; Psa 100:5; 106:1; 107:1; 118:1; 136:1.

77 RV 33:17 · Cross-ref. 2Sam 7:12-16; 1Ki 2:4; 1Ch 17:11-14.

78 RV 33:18 · Cross-ref. Num 3:5-10.

79 RV 34:1 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 25:1-11; 2Ch 36:17-21.

Readers' Version

cities of Lakish and Azekah.

The restoration of slaves · Southern kingdom

8 Yahweh gave a message to Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) after King Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah) had made an agreement with all the people in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) that they'd free 9 their male and female Ivri (Hebrew) slaves—no one should force a fellow Yehudi (Jew) to work for them. 10 So all the leaders and people formally agreed that each person would free their male and female slaves, and they put it into practice—taking them from their work and setting them free. 11 However, after that they changed their minds and retrieved the male and female slaves that they'd freed, then forced them to work as slaves again.

12 Then Yahweh gave me this message to tell them: 13 Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh says that I personally made an agreement with your ancestors on the day that I brought them out from their lives of slavery in Mitsrayim (Egypt). That was when I said that 14 at the end of every seven years, you all must release any fellow Ivrim (Hebrews) who had sold themselves to you and served you for six years, releasing them as free people.[80] However, your ancestors did not listen to me or show any desire to obey me. 15 Now recently, you yourselves repented and began to do what I've said is right. You all made a solemn agreement at my temple that carries my name, that you'd monitor each other to free your slaves. 16 But then you all turned and profaned my name by retrieving your male and female slaves which you'd released as free people, and then forced them to work as slaves again, 17 therefore Yahweh says this: You yourselves haven't listened to me—you all should have declared your fellow Israelis to be free. So listen, I'm about to proclaim 'freedom' for you: freedom to experience war, deadly diseases, and famine, because I'm going to make you a horrible thing in the sight of every kingdom in the world. That is Yahweh's declaration. 18 Then I'll deal with the people who've broken my agreement, who didn't respect the intent of the agreement that they established in front of me when they cut a bull in two and walked between the two halves, 19 when the leaders of Yehudah (Judah) and Yerushalem (Jerusalem), the officials and the priests, and all the people of the land walked between the two sections of the bull. 20 I'll hand them over to their enemies and to those who want to see them dead. Their bodies will be food for the birds in the skies and the animals on the ground. 21 I'll hand Yehudah's King Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah) and his leaders over to their enemies and to those who want to see them dead, and to the army of the Babylonian king who's attacking you. 22 This is Yahweh's declaration: Listen, I'm about to order them back to battle against this city, and they'll capture it and set it on fire. Then I'll make Yehudah's other cities into deserted wastelands.

Praising the faithful Rekavites · Southern kingdom

35:1 Several years earlier, when Yehoyakim son of Yoshiyah (Josiah) was the king of Yehudah (Judah), Yahweh had given Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) this message:[81] 2 Go to the Rekavi clan and talk with them, then bring them into one of the rooms in my temple, and give them wine to drink. 3 So I took Ya'azanyah (son of Yirmiyah, son of Havatsanyah) and his brothers and his sons, and all the rest of the Rekavi clan, 4 and I took them to the rooms of the sons of Hanan (son of Yigdalyah, man of God) at the temple. Those rooms were beside the leaders' room, which was above the room of Ma'aseyah (Shalum's son), the gatekeeper. 5 Then I placed bowls and cups of wine in front of the Rekavites and told them to drink some.

6 But they responded, "We don't drink wine, because our ancestor, Rekav's son Yonadav, commanded all of us and our descendants not to ever drink any wine. 7 He also told us not to build any houses, or to plant any crops or vineyards, saying that we must always live in tents, so that we'd have long lives in the land that

80 **RV 34:14 · Cross-ref.** Exo 21:2; Deu 15:12.

81 **RV 35:1 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 23:36–24:6; 2Ch 36:5-7.

we're staying in as foreigners. 8 We've obeyed the voice of our ancestor, Rekav's son Yonadav in everything that he commanded us and we, our wives, and our children have never drunk wine in our lives. 9 We'll never build houses to live in, or own any vineyards, fields, or seed. 10 We've lived in tents, and we've followed everything that our ancestor Yonadav told us, 11 but when the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) attacked the land, we decided that we must move to Yerushalem (Jerusalem) to escape from the Babylonian and Aramean armies, so now we're all living in Yerushalem.

12 Then Yahweh gave this message to Yirmiyah (Jeremiah), saying that 13 Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says to go and ask the people in Yehudah (Judah), including those who live in Yerushalem: Won't you all accept correction and listen to my messages? This is Yahweh's declaration: 14 Rekav's son Yonadav told his descendants not to drink any wine and they've followed that to this very day. In contrast, I've personally and consistently spoken to all of you but you haven't taken any notice of what I've said. 15 I persistently sent all my servants, the prophets, out to you all to tell each person to turn from their wicked behaviour and start doing good instead, and to stop following after other gods and serving them. Then they'd live on the land that I gave to your ancestors and to all of you, however, you all won't listen to me or pay attention to me. 16 Yes, Yonadav's descendants have followed the instructions that their ancestor gave them, but this people, refuses to obey me, 17 so Yisrael's god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh, says this: Listen, I'm sending all the disasters that I pronounced for Yehudah, including everyone living in Yerushalem. I'm sending them against them because I spoke to them, but they wouldn't listen. I called to them, but they wouldn't answer.

18 Then Yirmiyah told the Rekavi clan that Yisrael's god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this: You've all listened to the commands of your ancestor Yonadav and have kept them all. You've obeyed everything that he commanded you all to do, 19 so Yisrael's god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this: There'll always be someone descended from Rekav's son Yonadav to serve me.

Baruk reads out Yahweh's messages at the temple · Southern kingdom

36:1 In the fourth year of the reign Yehudah's (Judah's) King Yehoyakim (son of Yoshiyah (Josiah)), Yahweh gave this message to Yirmiyah (Jeremiah):[82] 2 Get a scroll for yourself and write all the messages on it that I've told you concerning Yisrael (Israel) and Yehudah, and all the other nations. Do this for everything I have said, back from the time of Yoshiyah until the present time. 3 Perhaps Yehudah's people will hear about all the disasters that I intend to bring on them and then turn away from their wicked ways, so I can forgive them for their wickedness and their disobedience.

4 Then Yirmiyah called Neriyah's son Baruk, and Yirmiyah dictated all the messages that Yahweh had given to him, for Baruk to record on a scroll. 5 Then Yirmiyah instructed Baruk saying, "I'm restrained from entering Yahweh's residence 6 so you must go and read from the scroll that you wrote at my dictation. On the day of the fast, you must read Yahweh's messages so that all the people in the temple will hear them as well as the people from the rest of Yehudah's cities. Proclaim these messages to them. 7 Perhaps Yahweh will take notice of their pleas for mercy. Perhaps everyone will turn from their wicked ways, since the anger and fury that Yahweh has proclaimed against this nation is severe. 8 So Neriyah's son Baruk did everything that the prophet Yirmiyah had told him to—he read Yahweh's messages aloud at Yahweh's temple.

9 In the ninth month of the next year, all the people in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and the visitors to the city from the rest of Yehudah, announced a fast to honour Yahweh. 10 Again

82 **RV 36:1 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 24:1; 2Ch 36:5-7; Dan 1:1-2.

Readers' Version

Baruk read Yirmiyah's messages aloud at Yahweh's temple, from the room of Gemaryah (son of the scribe Shafan) in the upper courtyard, by the entrance gate to Yahweh's residence. He did this so that all the people could hear it.

The messages get read to the officials · Southern kingdom

11 When Mikayah (son of Gemaryah son of Shafan) heard all Yahweh's messages from the scroll, **12** he went down to the secretary's room in the palace, and wow, all the officials were sitting there: Elishama the secretary, Shemayah's son Delayah, Akbor's son Elnatan, Shafan's son Gemaryah, and Hananyah's son Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah), along with all the other officials. **13** When Mikayah reported to them all the messages that he'd heard Baruk read aloud for the people to hear, **14** the officials sent Yehudi (Jew) (son of Netanyah son of Shelemyah son of Kushi) to Baruk. Yehudi ordered Baruk, "Take the scroll in your hand, the scroll from which you were reading in the hearing of the people, and come." So Neriyah's son Baruk took the scroll and went to the officials **15** where they told him to sit down and read it to them, so Baruk read out the messages. **16** When they heard it all, they were afraid and decided together that they needed to report it all to the king, **17** and they asked Baruk, "How come you wrote down all these messages from Yirmiyah (Jeremiah)?"

18 "He dictated them to me," he replied, "and I just wrote them down on the scroll."

19 Then the officials told Baruk, "Go and hide, and Yirmiyah as well. Don't let anyone know where you two are."

King Yehoyakim burns the scroll · Southern kingdom

20 Then they left the scroll in the secretary Elishama's room and went out to the king in the courtyard and told him everything they'd heard. **21** The king sent Yehudi (Jew) to get the scroll, and he went and got it from the secretary Elishama's room. Then Yehudi read it aloud for the king and all the officials who were standing beside him to hear. **22** That month, the king was in his winter house and a brazier was burning in front of him. **23** Whenever Yehudi had read a couple of columns, the king would slice it off with a knife and toss it into the fire until the entire scroll was gone, **24** but neither the king or any of his servants were afraid of the messages (and they didn't tear their clothes to indicate repentance— **25** Elnatan, Delayah, and Gemaryah had urged the king not to burn the scroll, but he hadn't taken any notice of them). **26** Then the king ordered a relative Yerahme'el, Azriel's son Serayah, and Avdeel's son Shelemyah to arrest the scribe Baruk and the prophet Yirmiyah (Jeremiah), but Yahweh had hidden them.

Yirmiyah rewrites the scroll · Southern kingdom

27 After the king had burnt the scroll with the messages on it that Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) had dictated to Baruk, Yahweh gave this message to Yirmiyah: **28** Get yourself another scroll and write down all the messages that were on the original scroll that Yehudah's (Judah's) King Yehoyakim burnt. **29** Then you must tell the king that Yahweh says: You burnt that scroll, asking why it was written that the Babylonian king would come and destroy this land and leave it without people or animals. **30** Now Yahweh says about King Yehoyakim: No descendant of his will ever sit on David's throne. As for him, his corpse will be thrown out into the heat of the day and the frost at night. **31** I'll punish him, his descendants, and his servants for their wickedness. The disasters that I've threatened them with, but which they ignored, I'll send onto them and all Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) inhabitants, and onto every person in the rest of Yehudah.

32 So Yirmiyah got another scroll and gave it to Baruk, son of Neriyah the scribe. Yirmiyah again dictated all the messages that had been on the scroll burnt by Yehudah's King Yehoyakim, and Baruk wrote them onto the scroll, along with several other similar messages.

Yirmiyah's response to Tsidkiyah/Zedekiah · Southern kingdom

37:1 By now Yoshiyah's (Josiah's) son Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah) reigned as king instead of Yehoyakim's son Yehoyakin. The Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) had made Tsid-

Readers' Version

kiyah king over the Yehudah (Judah) region.[83]
2 However, Tsidkiyah, his servants, and his people wouldn't listen to Yahweh's messages that he'd given via the prophet Yirmiyah (Jeremiah).

3 Eventually, King Tsidkiyah, Shelemyah's son Yehukal, and Tsefanyah (Zephaniah) son of Ma'aseyah the priest, sent a message to the prophet Yirmiyah requesting him, "Pray on our behalf to our god, Yahweh. **4** At that time, Yirmiyah was still coming and going among the people, because he hadn't yet been put in prison. **5** Par'oh's (Pharaoh's) army had come out of Mitsrayim (Egypt), and the Babylonians who were besieging Yerushalem (Jerusalem) heard the news about them and retreated from Yerushalem.

6 Then Yahweh gave Yirmiyah this message to proclaim: **7** Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Yahweh told me that you people should say this to Yehudah's king who sent you all to consult me: Listen Par'oh's army which was coming out to help you all is about to return back to its own country, Mitsrayim. **8** Then the Babylonians will return and attack this city, then they'll capture it and burn it down. **9** Yahweh says not to deceive yourselves that the Babylonians have left, because they won't leave, **10** because even if you all defeated the entire Babylonian army that's attacking you so that only wounded men were left in their tents, they would get up and burn down this city.

Yirmiyah is arrested and imprisoned · Southern kingdom

11 Then when the Babylonian army had left Yerushalem (Jerusalem) to avoid Par'oh's (Pharaoh's) army, **12** Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) left the city to go to the Benyamin region to take possession of a section of land there among his people. **13** As he went through the Benyamin gate, a chief guard named Yiriyah (son of Shelemyah, son of Hananyah) was there. He seized the prophet Yirmiyah and claimed that he was deserting to the Babylonians.

14 But Yirmiyah disputed, "That's a lie—I'm not deserting to the Babylonians." However Yiriyah wouldn't listen to him and he arrested him and took him to the officials. **15** The officials were angry at Yirmiyah and they had him beaten and put in prison. (The place had been the house of the scribe Yonatan (Jonathan), but it had been converted into a prison.) **16** So Yirmiyah was kept there in an underground cell for several days.

17 Then King Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah) sent someone to fetch Yirmiyah, and in his house, the king asked him privately, "Is there any message from Yahweh?"

"There is a message," Yirmiyah answered. "You'll be handed over to the Babylonian king." **18** Then Yirmiyah asked the king, "What crime have I committed against you or your servants or your people, that you've had me put in prison? **19** Where are all the other prophets who prophesied to you all that the Babylonian king wouldn't come here? **20** But now, my master the king, please listen to this appeal: Don't return me to the scribe Yonatan's house, or I'll die there."

21 So King Tsidkiyah ordered that Yirmiyah be held in the guards' courtyard, and he was given a loaf of bread every day from the bakers' street, until the time when all the bread in the city ran out. But Yirmiyah remained confined in the guards' courtyard.

Yirmiyah is placed down a shaft · Southern kingdom

38:1 Four officials, Matan's son Shefatyah, Pashhur's son Gedalyah, Shelemyah's son Yehukal, and Malkiyah's son Pashhur heard the messages that Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) was telling all the people, saying: **2** Yahweh says this: Anyone who stays in this city will be killed by fighting, famine, or deadly diseases, but anyone who goes out to the Babylonians will survive—they won't be killed. **3** Yahweh says that this city will definitely be taken over and captured by the Babylonian king.

4 So those officials went to King Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah) and requested that Yirmiyah be exe-

83 RV 37:1 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 24:17; 2Ch 36:10.

cuted because (they claimed) his messages were discouraging their warriors defending the city and discouraging all the people. They claimed that he wasn't advancing the people's safety, but causing harm.

5 "All right," King Tsidkiyah replied. "Do whatever you want with him, because no king can argue against all of you." **6** So they took Yirmiyah and put him into the water storage cistern carved out by the king's son Malkiyah. It was right there in the guards' courtyard, and they lowered Yirmiyah down with ropes. There wasn't any water left in the cistern, but it was still muddy at the bottom and he sank down into the mud.

7 Now the Kushi Eved-Melek was one of the trusted servants in the king's house and he heard that they had put Yirmiyah down into the cistern. Meanwhile, the king was sitting at the Benyamin Gate. **8** So Eved-Melek left the palace and went and spoke with the king, **9** "My master the king, those men have been evil in the way they've mistreated the prophet Yirmiyah. They threw him into a cistern so he'd die in it from hunger, since there's no food left in the city." **10** Then the king ordered Eved-Melek to take command of thirty of the king's men to go and get the prophet Yirmiyah out of the cistern so he wouldn't die down there. **11** So Eved-Melek led the men to a storeroom for clothing under the king's house where they got some rags and worn-out clothes. Then they let them down by ropes to Yirmiyah in the cistern **12** and told him to use the rags and old clothes under his armpits to protect him from being hurt by the ropes. Yirmiyah did that, **13** then they pulled him up with the ropes—that's how they got him up out from the mud in the cistern. Then he stayed in the guards' courtyard.

King Tsidkiyah's advice to Yirmiyah · Southern kingdom

14 One day King Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah) summoned the prophet Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) to meet him at the third entrance to the temple and told him, "I want to ask you something. Don't refuse to answer honestly and truthfully."

15 "Ha, if I tell you the truth, you'll order me to be executed," Yirmiyah replied. "And if I give you good advice, you won't take any notice of what I say."

16 But King Tsidkiyah privately promised Yirmiyah, "As our creator Yahweh lives, I won't execute you or hand you over to those men who want to see you dead."

17 "Okay," Yirmiyah answered the king, "Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this: If you indeed go out to the Babylonian king's officials, then you'll live, and this city won't be burnt down. You and your family would live. **18** But if you don't go out to his officials, then this city will be handed over to the Babylonians. They'll burn it down, and you wouldn't be able to escape from their power."

19 "But I'm afraid of the Yehudim (Jews) who've already deserted to the Babylonians," the king confided to Yirmiyah. "You see, I might be handed over to them and they might treat me cruelly."

20 "The Babylonians won't hand you over to those Yehudim," Yirmiyah responded. "Obey Yahweh's message from Yahweh that I'm passing on to you, so that things will go well for you, and so that you'll live through this. **21** However, if you refuse to surrender, then this is what Yahweh has shown me: **22** Listen king of Yehudah (Judah), all the women who are left in your palace will be taken out to the Babylonian king's commanders. Those women will tell you,

'You were deceived by your friends—they've ruined you.

Now your feet are stuck in the mud, and your friends have turned away.'

23 Yes, all your wives and children will be taken out to the Babylonians and you yourself won't escape from them either. You'll be taken captive by the Babylonian king, and this city will be burnt down."

24 Then Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah) told Yirmiyah, "Don't tell anyone else what we spoke about or you might die. **25** If the officials hear that I've have talked with you, and if they come and demand, 'Tell us what you said to the king—don't hide it from us or we'll kill you,' **26** then you

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must tell them, 'I was just pleading to the king not to return me to the dungeon in Yonatan's (Jonathan's) house or I'd die there.' **27** Then sure enough the officials came to Yirmiyah and questioned him and he answered them as the king had instructed him. They couldn't say anything else because they hadn't heard the conversation, **28** so Yirmiyah remained in the guards' courtyard until the day that Yerushalem (Jerusalem) was captured.[84]

The fall of Yerushalem · Southern kingdom

39:1 In the tenth month of the ninth year of the reign of Yehudah's (Judah's) King Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah), the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) came against Yerushalem (Jerusalem) with his large army and besieged it. **2** On the ninth day of the fourth month of Tsidkiyah's eleventh year,[85] the city was broken into. **3** Then all of the Babylonian king's officials came and sat at the middle gate, including the top official Nevu-Sar-Sekim, and Samgar-Nevu and Sarsekim.

4 When Yehudah's King Tsidkiyah and all his warriors saw what was happening, they left at nighttime through the gate between the two walls beside the king's garden and fled towards the Yarden (Jordan) river plains. **5** However the Babylonian army chased after them and overtook the king down in the plains near Yeriho (Jericho). They took him back up to the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar at Rivlah in the Hamat region, and he pronounced his judgement on him. **6** The king had Tsidkiyah's sons slaughtered at Rivlah as their father was forced to watch, and Yehudah's officials were also executed. **7** Then they gouged out Tsidkiyah's eyes and put him in chains to be taken to Bavel (Babylon). **8** Then the Babylonians burnt down the palace and the other houses, and tore down Yerushalem's walls. **9** The rest of the people who'd stayed in the city, including those who'd previously deserted, were exiled to Bavel under the supervision of the chief bodyguard Nevuzar-Adan. **10** However, he allowed the poorest people who didn't own anything to remain in Yehudah—allocating vineyards and fields for them to work.

Yirmiyah is released · Southern kingdom

11 Now the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) had given an order to his chief bodyguard Nevuzar-Adan about finding Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) **12** and keeping him safe and unharmed—even to care for him and do anything that he requested. **13** So Nevuzar-Adan, the top servant Nevu-Shazban, the high official Nergal-Shar-Etser, and all the Babylonian king's most important officials **14** sent out men to fetch Yirmiyah from the guards' courtyard. They handed him over to Gedalyah (son of Ahikam, son of Shafan) to take him home, so Yirmiyah stayed there among the people.

Hope for Eved-Melek · Southern kingdom

15 While Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) had still been held in the guards' courtyard, Yahweh had given him this message: **16** Go and tell Eved-Melek the Kushi (Ethiopian) that Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this: Listen, I'm about to fulfill my messages against this city for disaster and not for good, and they'll all come true right in front of your eyes on that day. **17** But Yahweh declares that I'll rescue you from those people that you're afraid of **18** because I'll definitely save your life. You won't be killed by the soldiers, but Yahweh declares that because you put your trust in me, your life will be saved.

Yirmiyah returns to Gedalyah · Southern kingdom

40:1 The chief bodyguard Nevuzar-Adan had found Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) chained up among all the exiles from Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and the rest of Yehudah (Judah) to be taken to Bavel (Babylon), and had released him at Ramah.

2 The chief bodyguard took Yirmiyah aside and told him, "Your god Yahweh decreed this disaster for this place, **3** then he caused it to

84 **RV 38:28 · Cross-ref.** Eze 33:21.

85 **RV 39:2 · Note** i.e., about eighteen months later (in 586 B.C.).

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happen. Yahweh did just as he'd decreed, since you people sinned against him and didn't obey him. That's why all this has happened to you people. **4** But now listen, I've released you today from your chains. If you choose to come with me to Bavel, I'll look after you, but if you don't want to, then look around and go wherever you think best. **5** Or why don't you return to Gedalyah (son of Ahikam, son of Shafan) who the Babylonian king has put in charge of Yehudah's cities. Stay among the people with him, or go wherever you think best." Then the king's chief bodyguard gave him food and a gift, and sent him away. **6** So Yirmiyah went to Gedalyah's place and stayed with him among the people who were left behind in the land.

Yehudah's governor Gedalyah · Southern kingdom[86]

7 Now some commanders of Yehudi (Jew) soldiers who were still in the countryside, along with their men heard that the Babylonian king had made Ahikam's son Gedalyah governor over the land.[87] They also heard that he'd put him in charge of the men, women, and children who were the poorest people in the land—those who hadn't been exiled to Bavel (Babylon). **8** So they went to Gedalyah at Mitspah. Those who went were Netanyah's son Yishmael (Ishmael), Kareah's sons Yohanan and Yonatan (Jonathan), Tanhumet's son Serayah, the sons of Ofay the Netofati, and Ma'akati's son Yezanyah, and their men. **9** Gedalyah (son of Ahikam, son of Shafan) made a promise to them and their men, saying, "Don't be afraid to serve the Babylonian officials. Live in the land and serve the Babylonian king, and it will go well with you. **10** See, I'm living in Mitspah to meet with the Babylonians who came to us. So harvest wine, summer fruit, and oil and store them in your containers. Live in the cities that you've occupied." **11** Then all the Yehudim (Jews) in Moav (Moab), among the people of Amon, and in Edom, and in every land heard that the Babylonian king had allowed a small number of people to stay in Yehudah (Judah), and that he'd appointed Gedalyah (son of Ahikam, son of Shafan) over them. **12** So all the Yehudim from every place that they'd be driven into, came back to Yehudah to Gedalyah at Mitspah, and they harvested a lot of wine and summer fruit.

The murder of Gedalyah · Southern kingdom[88]

13 Some time later, Kareah's son Yonatan (Jonathan) and all the army commanders from the countryside, came to Gedalyah at Mitspah, **14** and asked him, "Do you realise that the Amoni King Ba'alis has sent Netanyah's son Yishmael (Ishmael) to assassinate you?" However Ahikam's son Gedalyah didn't believe them **15** so Kareah's son Yohanan spoke privately to Gedalyah at Mitspah, "Allow me to go and kill Netanyah's Yishmael. No one will suspect me. Why should he kill you? Why allow all of Yehudah (Judah) that has been gathered to you to be scattered and the remnant destroyed?"

16 However Ahikam's son Gedalyah replied to Kareah's son Yohanan, "No, don't do that, because you're lying about Yishmael."

41:1 However, in the seventh month, Yishmael (son of Netanyah, son of Elishama from the royal family) and some officers of the king came—he had ten men with him. They came to Ahikam's son Gedalyah at Mitspah and had a meal together.[89] **2** Then Yishmael and the ten men who were with him, stood up and attacked with their swords. Yishmael killed Gedalyah, who the Babylonian king had put in charge of the region, **3** and they killed all the Yehudim (Jews) who were with Gedalyah there at Mitspah, as well as the Babylonian soldiers who were there.

4 The next day before anyone found out that Gedalyah had been murdered, **5** eighty men from Shekem, Shiloh, and from Shomron

86 **RV 40:7 · Parallel** 2 Kgs 25:22-24

87 **RV 40:7-9 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 25:22-24.

88 **RV 40:13 · Parallel** 2 Kgs 25:25-26

89 **RV 41:1-3 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 25:25.

Readers' Version

(Samaria) came who had shaved off their beards, torn their clothes, and cut themselves in mourning. They were carrying grain offerings and incense to be offered at Yahweh's residence. 6 Netanyah's son Yishmael went out of Mitspah to meet them, weeping as he went. When he reached them, he told them to come and see what had happened to Ahikam's son Gedalyah. 7 Then as they reached the middle of the town, Yishmael and his men slaughtered them and threw their bodies into a cistern.

8 However, ten of them bargained with Yishmael about some wheat, barley, oil, and honey that they'd left out in the countryside, so he didn't kill them along with the others. 9 The water storage cistern when Yishmael had thrown all the bodies of those he'd killed including Gedalyah, had been dug by King Asa in defence against Yisrael's (Israel's) King Baesha. Now Netanyah's son Yishmael had filled it with dead bodies. 10 Next Yishmael captured the remaining people in Mitspah, including the king's daughters and all the others who the chief bodyguard Nevuzar-Adan had assigned to Ahikam's son Gedalyah. So Netanyah's son Yishmael captured them to hand over to the Amonim.

11 Meanwhile Kareah's son Yohanan and all the army commanders with him, heard about all the evil things that Netanyah's son Yishmael had done, 12 so they took all their men to fight against Yishmael. They came across him at the large pool near Giveon city 13 When all the people who'd been captured by Yishmael saw Yohanan and all the army commanders they were very relieved. 14 So all those people that Yishmael had captured were freed and went back with Kareah's son Yohanan. 15 Unfortunately, Netanyah's son Yishmael escaped from Yohanan, along with eight of his men, and they went to the Amonim.

16 Then Kareah's son Yohanan and all the army commanders with him, took all the people from Mitspah who'd been rescued from Netanyah's son Yishmael after he'd killed Ahikam's son Gedalyah. They took those warriors, and women and children and court-officials that they'd saved at Giveon, 17 and went and stayed at Gerut-Kimham near Beyt-Lehem (Bethlehem), getting ready to go to Mitsrayim (Egypt) 18 because of the Babylonians. (They worried about their response because Netanyah's son Yishmael had assassinated Ahikam's son Gedalyah who'd been appointed in the region by the Babylonian king.)

The people ask Yirmiyah to pray · Southern kingdom

42:1 Then all the army commanders, as well as Kareah's son Yohanan, Hoshayah's son Yezanyah, and all the people from the less prominent to the most important officials approached the prophet Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) 2 and asked him, "Please listen to our request. Please ask your god Yahweh our on behalf of all of us who are left here, because there's not very many of us left as you can see. 3 Ask your god Yahweh to tell us what we should do and where we should go."

4 "Sure, I've heard your concerns," the prophet Yirmiyah responded. "Listen, Ill pray to your god Yahweh as you've all requested. Whatever Yahweh answers, I'll tell you. I'll keep nothing back from you all."

5 "We promise to do everything that your god Yahweh tells us to do," they told Yirmiyah. "If we don't, then Yahweh can be a true and faithful witness against us. 6 Whether it's good or bad, we'll obey the instructions from our god Yahweh who we're asking you to speak to, so that it may be well with us when we obey his response."

Yahweh's answer to Yirmiyah's prayer · Southern kingdom

7 After ten days, Yahweh's response came to Yirmiyah (Jeremiah), 8 so he called Kareah's son Yohanan and all the army commanders, as well as all the people from the less prominent to the most important officials, 9 then he told them, "You all sent me to Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh to pass on your requests and here's his reply: 10 If you all stay in this region, then I'll build you up and not tear you down. I'll plant you and not pull you all out, because I'm upset about the harm that I've done to you all. 11 Don't be afraid of the Babylonian king any more. This is Yahweh's

declaration: Don't be afraid of him because I'm with you all to save you and to rescue you from his clutches, **12** because I'll give you all mercy. I'll have compassion on you, and I'll restore you all back to your country.

13 However, suppose that you all decide not to listen to the words of your god Yahweh, and decide not to stay in this region, **14** and if you all say that you'll go to Mitsrayim (Egypt) to live there where there's no war, and no trumpets signalling, and no shortage of food, **15** Now you remaining people listen to Yahweh's message: Yisrael's god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says that if you all do decide to go and stay down in Mitsrayim, **16** then the war that you all fear will overtake you in Mitsrayim. The famine that you're anxious about will follow you all to Mitsrayim, and then you'll die there, **17** i.e., anyone who decides to go to live as foreigners in Mitsrayim, will die from war, famine, or deadly diseases. There won't be any survivors from the calamities that I'd send onto them.

18 Yes, Yisrael's god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this: Just as my anger and rage was poured out on Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) inhabitants, in the same way my anger would be poured out on all of you if you go to Mitsrayim. You'd become an object of cursing and a horror, something to be used as a curse word, and something dishonourable, and you'd never see this place again.

19 Then Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) continued: Yahweh has spoken to you all, the remaining people of Yehudah (Judah). Don't go down to Mitsrayim as you know that I've definitely warned you all against that today. **20** Yes, you made a life and death mistake when you sent me to your god Yahweh, and asked me to ask him for instructions for you and when you all said that you'd do everything that he says, **21** because I've reported all that to you today. However, you haven't listened to your god Yahweh's message, or to anything that he sent me to tell you all about. **22** So now, you should definitely be aware that you'll die from war, famine, and deadly diseases where you all wanted to go and live as foreigners.

Yirmiyah gets taken to Mitsrayim · Southern kingdom

43:1 When Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) had finished passing on Yahweh's messages that their god Yahweh had told him to say, **2** Hoshayah's son Azaryah, Kareah's son Yohanan, and all the arrogant men told Yirmiyah, "You're lying to us. Our god Yahweh didn't send you to tell us not to go and live in Mitsrayim (Egypt). **3** It's because Neriyah's son Baruk is inciting you against us so that we'll stay here and get captured by the Babylonians to be either put to death or be taken as exiles to Bavel (Babylon)."

4 So Kareah's son Yohanan, all the army officers, and all the rest of the people, refused to take notice of Yahweh's instructions to remain living in the Yehudah (Judah) region. **5** Then Yohanan and all the army commanders gathered all those remaining Yehudi (Jew) people together, who'd come from all the other countries that they'd previously been driven away to and returned to live in Yehudah.[90] **6** That included men and women, children, the king's daughters, and all the people that Nevuzar-Adan, the king's chief bodyguard Nevuzar-Adan had left with Gedalyah (son of Ahikam, son of Shafan), and including the prophet Yirmiyah and Neriyah's son Baruk. **7** Then they went to Mitsrayim because they took no notice of Yahweh's instructions and they arrived at Tahfanhes.

8 In Tahfanhes, Yahweh gave Yirmiyah a message: **9** Get some large stones and while the people from Yehudah are watching, push them into the mortar in the pavement at the entrance to Par'oh's (Pharaoh's) palace at Tahfanhes. **10** Then tell the Yehudim (Jews) that Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief says: Listen, I'm about to send messengers to my servant the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar), to summon him here. I'll place his throne over the top of those hidden stones, and he'll spread his royal tent over them.

90 RV 43:5-7 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 25:26.

Readers' Version

11 He'll come here to attack Mitsrayim and he'll
kill those that I've assigned to die, and similarly
for those to be taken captive or run through
with a sword. 12 Then he'll light a fire in the
temples of Mitsrayim's gods. Nevukadnetsar
will either burn them or carry them away. He'll
clean Mitsrayim out just like shepherds pick
lice off their clothes, and then he'll quietly
leave 13 after smashing the stone pillars at
Beyt-Shemesh (Heliopolis) and burning the
temples of Mitsrayim's gods.

Yahweh's message to the Yehudim in Mitsrayim

44:1 Yahweh spoke to
Yirmiyah (Jeremiah)
about all the Yehudim
(Jews) who lived in Migdol, Tahfanhes, and Nof
(Memphis) in northern/lower Mitsrayim
(Egypt), as well as those in Patros in south-
ern/upper Mitsrayim: 2 Yisrael's (Israel's) god,
Commander-in-chief Yahweh says that you
yourselves have seen all the disasters that I
sent to Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and Yehudah's
(Judah's) other cities. See, they're just ruins to-
day without anyone living in them. 3 That's be-
cause of the wicked things they did to provoke
me to anger by going to burn incense and to
worship other gods that neither they them-
selves, nor you, nor your ancestors had ever
heard about before. 4 I repeatedly sent all my
servants, the prophets, to them to tell the peo-
ple to stop doing those detestable things that I
hate, 5 but they didn't listen. They refused to
take any notice of it, or to stop their wicked ac-
tivities like burning incense to other gods. 6 So
my anger and rage was poured out and burnt in
Yehudah's cities and Yerushalem's streets like a
fire and they're still desolate ruins to this day.

7 So now Yisrael's god, Commander-in-chief
Yahweh asks why you all insist on bringing this
terrible harm onto yourselves that'll see men
and women, children and babies from Yehudah,
eliminated without even leaving a remnant.
8 You've provoked me to anger by what you've
all done with your own two hands, by burning
incense to other gods in Mitsrayim where
you've all gone to live as foreigners. You've cut
yourselves off so as to become a curse word and
a reproach among all the nations in the world.
9 Have you all forgotten the wicked things done
by your ancestors and also by Yehudah's kings
and their wives? Have you forgotten the evil
committed by yourselves and your wives in
Yehudah and on Yerushalem's streets? 10 To
this day, they still haven't humbled themselves.
They don't respect the instructions or regula-
tions that I gave them and their ancestors, and
so they don't follow them.

11 Therefore Yisrael's god, Comman-
der-in-chief says this: Listen, I'm about to start
working against you all to bring disaster and
destroy all Yehudah. 12 I'll eliminate the small
group of Yehudim (Jews) that has made up
their minds to go to live as foreigners in Mit-
srayim. I'll do that so that they'll all die there
Mitsrayim—from either war or famine, and
from the least to the very prominent people
they'll die and will become a curse word, a hor-
ror story, and something to ridicule and mock.
13 I will punish those living in Mitsrayim just
like I punished Yerushalem with war, famine,
and deadly diseases 14 so that none of the re-
maining people from Yehudah who've gone to
live in Mitsrayim will escape or survive or be
able to return to Yehudah when they want to
return and live there. None of them will return
except a few who escaped from there.

15 Then all the men who knew that their
wives were burning incense to other gods, and
all the women who were in the great assembly,
and all the people who were living in Lower
and Upper Mitsrayim, answered Yirmiyah
(Jeremiah): 16 Concerning that message that
you told us in Yahweh's name, we're not listen-
ing to you 17 because we'll certainly do every-
thing that we said we'd do. We'll burn incense
to the queen of the skies and pour out drink of-
ferings to her just as we, our ancestors, our
kings, and our leaders did in Yehudah's cities
and on Yerushalem's streets. Then we'll have
plenty of food and will prosper, and won't ex-
perience distress. 18 Whenever we didn't do
those things—not offering incense to the queen
of the skies and not pouring out drink offerings
to her—we were all suffering from poverty and
dying from by war and famine.

Readers' Version

19 The women said, "When we were offering
incense to the queen of the skies and pouring
out drink offerings to her, and when we were
making cakes in her image and pouring out
drink offerings to her, did you think we were
doing it behind our husbands' backs?"
20 Then Yirmiyah responded to all those
who'd answered him including both men and
women. He told them all this message: 21 Didn't
Yahweh remember the incense that you all
burned in Yehudah's cities and on
Yerushalem's streets—you and your ancestors,
your kings and leaders, and the people of the
land, and didn't it come back to his mind?
22 Eventually, he could no longer bear it be-
cause of your wicked behaviour, i.e., because of
the detestable things that you all did. Then
your land became a deserted wasteland and a
curse, without inhabitants as it is today. 23 Be-
cause you all burnt incense to other gods and
sinned against Yahweh, and because you
wouldn't listen to his voice, his instructions, his
regulations, or his promises, this disaster has
come against you as you all can see today.
24 Then Yirmiyah told all the people, includ-
ing all those women, "Listen to Yahweh's mes-
sage, all of you from Yehudah who are now
here in Mitsrayim (Egypt). 25 Yisrael's (Israel's)
god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says that
both you and your wives have said out loud and
confirmed with your actions that you'll all cer-
tainly carry out your vows to worship the
queen of the skies and to pour out drink offer-
ings to her. So then, go ahead and do those
things to fulfill your wows. 26 So then all of
Yehudah who're staying Mitsrayim, listen to
Yahweh's message: Yahweh says, listen, I've
promised by my powerful name that none of
the men from Yehudah who're living here in
Mitsrayim will call on my name any more, i.e.,
you'll all no longer say, 'As our master Yahweh
lives.' 27 Listen, I'm watching over them for dis-
aster and not for good. Every Yehudi (Jew) per-
son in Mitsrayim will meet their end through
war or famine until they're all eliminated.
28 Then a few survivors from the battles will re-
turn from Mitsrayim to Yehudah region—only a
small number of them. In that way, all the re-
maining Yehudim (Jews) who went to live in
Mitsrayim will know whose word will
stand—mine or theirs. 29 Yahweh declares that
this will be the sign for you all: I'm going to
punish you all in this place so that you'll know
that what I've said will come to pass, resulting
in harm for all of you. 30 Yahweh says: Listen,
I'm about to hand the Mitsri (Egyptian) king,
Par'oh (Pharaoh) Hofra over to his enemies and
to those who want to kill him. It'll be the same
as when I handed Yehudah's King Tsidkiyah
(Zedekiah) king of Yehudah over to the Babylo-
nian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnez-
zar)—his enemy who wanted him dead.[91]

Yahweh's promise to Baruk

45:1 This is the message
that the prophet Yir-
miyah (Jeremiah) dictated to Neriyah's son
Baruk to have it written on a scroll in the
fourth year of the reign of Yehudah's (Judah's)
King Yehoyakim (son of Yoshiyah (Josiah)):[92]
2 Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh says this to you
Baruk: 3 You've said, 'I'm not doing well be-
cause Yahweh has piled sorrow on top of my
pain. I'm exhausted from groaning and I can't
find any peace.'
4 Yahweh says to tell Baruk, Listen, I'm about
to tear down what I've built throughout the
world, and to pull out what I've planted. 5 But
maybe you're hoping for great things for your-
self? Don't hope for that, because listen, disas-
ter is coming for all humanity, but wherever
you go, I'm giving you your life as your 'spoil of
war'. That is Yahweh's declaration.

Judgement for Mitsrayim

46:1 These are the mes-
sages that Yahweh gave
the prophet Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) about other
nations: 2 This is about the army of the Mitsri
(Egyptian) king Par'oh (Pharaoh) Nekoh who
was at Karkemish by the Perat (Euphrates)
river. That was the army that the Babylonian

91 RV 44:30 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 25:1-7.

92 RV 45:1 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 24:1; 2Ch 36:5-7; Dan 1:1-2.

Readers' Version

King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) defeated in the fourth year of the reign of Yehudah's (Judah's) King Yehoyakim, son of Yoshiyah (Josiah):[93]

3 Get the small shield and the large shields ready,
and go out for battle.
4 Harness on the horses to the chariots
Mount up on the horses and take your stand with your helmets on.
Polish the spears and put on your armour.
5 What am I seeing here?
They're filled with terror and they're retreating,
because their warriors will be crushed.
They're fleeing for safety without looking back.
Terror is all around.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
6 Don't let the swift one flee,
and don't let the warrior escape.
They'll stumble and fall there
in the north by the Perat (Euphrates) River,
7 Who's this coming who rises like the Nile,
whose waters surge up and down like the rivers?
8 Mitsrayim (Egypt) rises like the Nile,
like rivers of water that rise and fall, saying,
'I'll go up and I will cover the earth.
I'll destroy cities and their inhabitants.
9 Go up, you horses.
Be angry, you chariots.
Let the soldiers go out,
Kush (Ethiopia) and Libya,
men skillful with a shield,
and Ludia, men skillful at using bows and arrows.'
10 That day will be the day of vengeance for the master, Commander-in-chief Yahweh, when he'll avenge himself on his enemies.
The sword will devour and be satisfied—it'll drink its fill of their blood
because there'll be a sacrifice to the master, Commander-in-chief Yahweh
in the northern land by the Perat (Euphrates) River.
11 Go up to Gilead and obtain medicine, you virgin daughter of Mitsrayim (Egypt).
It's vain to put that much medicine on yourself—there's no cure for you.
12 The nations have heard about your disgrace.
The world is filled with your wailing,
because warrior stumbles against warrior—
both of them fall together.

Nevukadnetsar's arrival

13 When the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) was coming to attack Mitsrayim (Egypt), Yahweh gave the prophet Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) this message:[94]

14 Announce in Mitsrayim, and proclaim it in Migdol, Nof (Memphis), and Tahfanhes:
'Take your station and prepare to defend yourself,
because everyone around you will be killed.'
15 Why are your powerful warriors lying face down on the ground?
They can't stand against the enemy,
because I Yahweh, have pushed them to the ground.
16 He increases the numbers of those who stumble.
Each soldier falls against the next one.
They're saying, 'Get ready.
Let's go back to our own people, to our native land.
Let's leave this oppressive war.
17 There in Mitsrayim (Egypt) they'll call out,
'Our King Par'oh (Pharaoh) is all noise—
he's let his opportunity slip away.
18 The king whose name is Commander-in-chief Yahweh declares:
'As surely as I live
an invader is coming
who's as tall as Mt. Tavor among the mountains,
and like Mt. Karmel by the sea.
19 You inhabitants of Mitsrayim,

93 RV 46:2-26 · Cross-ref. Isa 19:1-25; Eze 29:1–32:32.

94 RV 46:13 · Cross-ref. Jer 43:10-13.

Readers' Version

pack your own baggage to carry into exile,
because Nof (Memphis) will become a wasteland—
it will lie in ruins and no one will live there.
20 Mitsrayim is a very beautiful young cow,
but a stinging insect is coming from the north.
It's on its way.
21 Its hired soldiers are like calves that have been protected and well-fed,
but they'll also turn away and run away.
They won't stand together, because the day of their disaster is coming against them—
it's time for their punishment.
22 Mitsrayim hisses like a snake and crawls away,
because her enemies are coming with a show of strength.
They're coming toward her like woodcutters with axes.
23 Yahweh declares that they'll cut down the forest
so there'll be nowhere to hide
because their soldiers will be more numerous than locusts
and no one will even be able to count them.
24 Mitsrayim's inhabitants will be humiliated—
they'll be handed over to those northern people.
25 Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says, "Listen, I'm about to punish Amon the god of No (Thebes) city, Mitsrayim (Egypt) and her other gods, its kings the Par'ohs (Pharaohs), and all those who trust in them. **26** I'll hand them over to those who want them dead, and over to Bavel's (Babylon's) King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) and his servants. But after that, Mitsrayim will be inhabited as in past times. That is Yahweh's declaration.

Yahweh's rescue of Ya'akov's descendants

27 But you, my servant Ya'akov (Jacob) (meaning Yisrael (Israel)), don't be afraid.
Don't be dismayed, Yisrael, because listen,
I'm about to bring you back from far away,
and your descendants from the land of their captivity.
Then Ya'akov will return, find peace, and be secure,
and there'll be no one to terrify him.[95]
28 This is Yahweh's declaration:
You, my servant Ya'akov, don't be afraid,
because I'm with you,
so I'll send complete destruction to all the nations that I drove you into.
But I won't completely destroy you,
although I'll discipline you fairly,
and I certainly won't leave you unpunished."

Yahweh's message to the Pelishtim

47:1 This is Yahweh's message that he gave to the prophet Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) concerning the Pelishtim before Par'oh (Pharaoh) attacked Azah (Gaza).[96] **2** Yahweh says this:
Listen, armies are rising in the north like floods of water.
They'll be like an overflowing river.
Then they'll overflow the land and everything in it—
its cities and its inhabitants.
So everyone will shout out for help,
and all the land's inhabitants will wail.
3 At the sound of the stamping of their powerful horses' hooves,
at the clattering of their chariots and the noise of their wheels,
fathers won't help their children because of their own helplessness.
4 The day is coming that will devastate all of the Pelishtim—
to cut every survivor off from Tsor (Tyre) and Tsidon (Sidon) who wants to help them,
because Yahweh is devastating the Pelishtim—
the remnant who originally came from the island of Kaftor.
5 The people of Azah (Gaza) will shave their

95 RV 46:27-28 · Cross-ref. Jer 30:10-11.

96 RV 47:1-7 · Cross-ref. Isa 14:29-31; Eze 25:15-17; Yoel 3:4-8; Amos 1:6-8; Zeph 2:4-7; Zech 9:5-7.

Readers' Version

heads in mourning.
The remnant in Ashkelon's valley will be silenced.
How much longer will you cut yourself in mourning for?
6 Oh no, sword of Yahweh, how long will it be until you stop?
Get back to your scabbard. Stop and be silent.
7 How can it stop when Yahweh has commanded it,
when he has ordered it to attack Ashkelon and the other cities along the coast?

Moav's punishment

48:1 Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says to Moav (Moab):
Nevo won't end well because it'll be devastated.
Kiryatayim has been humiliated and captured.
Its fortress has been disgraced and shattered.[97]
2 No one will praise Moav again.
Their enemies in Heshbon plotted disaster against them, saying,
Let's go and destroy it as a nation.
Madmen will be silenced after the sword finishes with you.
3 Listen, a cry of distress is coming from Horonayim,
where there's ruin and terrible destruction.
4 Moav has been destroyed.
Its workers have made their cries heard.
5 They weeps as they climb Luhit hill,
because on the way down to Horonayim,
shouts of distress will heard because of the destruction.
6 Flee, save your lives
so you'll be like a juniper bush in the wilderness.
7 Because of your trust in your practices and your wealth,
you too will be captured.
Then Kemosh will go away into captivity,
along with its priests and leaders.
8 The destroyer will come to every city—no city will escape.
The valley will perish and the plain will be devastated, as Yahweh has said.
9 Give wings to Moav (Moab), because it must certainly fly away.
Its cities will become a wasteland without anyone living in them.
10 Anyone who's slack doing Yahweh's work should be cursed.
Anyone who's afraid to use his sword to kill should be cursed.

Moav's cities destroyed

11 Moav (Moab) has felt secure since it was young.
It's like its wine that's never been poured from container to container.
It's never gone into captivity.
so it still tastes as good as ever—
its nice aroma hasn't changed.
12 But Yahweh declares that the time is coming
when I'll send along those who'll tip it over
and empty out all its pots and smash its jars.
13 Then Moav will be ashamed of their god Kemosh
just as Yisrael's (Israel's) people were ashamed of the golden calf that they put their trust in at Beyt-El (Bethel).
14 How can you Moav soldiers say, 'We are warriors,
powerful fighting men'?
15 Moav will be devastated and its cities attacked.
Its finest young men have gone down to the place of slaughter.
That is the king's declaration—his name is Commander-in-chief Yahweh.
16 Moav's disaster is coming soon.
Calamity is rushing towards it.
17 You surrounding nations, wail,
and all you who know Moav's fame, shout
'Oh no, the strong staff, the splendid rod, has been broken.'
18 Come down from your place of honour
and sit on the ground that's dry and thirsty,

97 RV 48:1-47 · Cross-ref. Isa 15:1–16:14; 25:10-12; Eze 25:8-11; Amos 2:1-3; Zeph 2:8-11.

Readers' Version

you daughter living in Divon city,
because the one who'll destroy Moav will attack you—
the one who'll destroy your fortifications.
19 You people who live in Aroer city,
stand on the road and watch.
Ask the escaping men and women what happened there.
20 Moav has been humiliated because it's been shattered.
Wail and cry out.
Tell the people at the Arnon river that Moav's been devastated.
21 Now punishment has come to Moav's (Moab's) high plateau:
to Holon, Yahats, Mofa'at, **22** Divon, Nevo, Beyt-Divlatayim, **23** Kiryatayim, Beyt-Gamul, Beyt-Me'on, **24** Keriyot, and Batserah, and all of Moav's towns, both near and far. **25** Moav's power will be terminated and its dominance will be broken.
26 Make Moav (Moab) drunk, because it acted proudly against Yahweh.

Moav's humiliation

Let Moav wallow in its vomit,
and let it be an object of ridicule.
27 Didn't Moav make Yisrael (Israel) an object of ridicule?
Weren't they thought of as thieves,
such that you shook your head when you spoke about them.
28 Abandon the cities and camp on the cliffs, you inhabitants of Moav,
and become like a dove that's nesting over the mouth of a hole in the rocks.
29 We've heard about Moav's pride,
about its arrogance, haughtiness, pride, boastfulness,
and the conceit in its heart.
30 This is Yahweh's declaration:
I myself know its arrogance
and their hollow boasting about things they haven't even done.
31 So I'll wail for Moav,
and I'll cry out for all of Moav.
I'll lament for the people of Kir-Heres.
32 I'll weep for you more than I did for Yazer, you vine of Sivmah.
Your tendrils passed across the Salt Sea and reached as far as Yazer.
A destroyer has attacked your summer fruit and your grape harvest,
33 so celebration and happiness have been taken away from the fruit trees and from Moav itself.
I've put an end to the wine from their wine-pressing pits.
They won't tread the grapes with happy shouts—
any shouts won't be shouts of celebration.
34 From the shouts at Heshbon as far as El'aleh, their sound is heard at Yahats, from Tsoar to Horonayim and Eglat-Shelishiyah, since even the water at Nimrim has dried up.
35 I will put an end to anyone in Moav who makes sacrifices on the hilltop shrines and burns incense to his gods. That is Yahweh's declaration.
36 Because of all that, I groan inwardly for Moav and Kir-Hareset, like a flute at a funeral, knowing that all the wealth that they acquired will be lost. **37** Yes, every head will be shaved and all their beards will be clipped. They'll all have cuts on their hands and be wearing sackcloth around their waists. **38** There's wailing coming from every flat roof and from all the plazas in Moav because I've destroyed Moav like pottery that no one wants. That is Yahweh's declaration. **39** How it's been shattered. How they keep wailing. Moav turns its back in shame—it will become an object of derision and a terror to all those who are around it **40** because Yahweh says this:
Listen, the enemy will swoop down like an eagle and spread out his wings against Moav.
41 Keriyot has been captured, and its fortresses have been seized,
because on that day, Moav's soldiers will be apprehensive like women in labour.
42 Then Moav will be destroyed and no longer be a people group,
because they thought they were better than Yahweh.
43 Terror, and pits and traps, are coming to

Readers' Version

you inhabitants of Moav.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
44 Anyone who flees because of terror will fall into a pit,
and anyone who climbs out of the pit will be caught in a trap,
because I will bring this on them in the year when I punish them.
That is Yahweh's declaration. **45** Those who flee will stand in the shadow of Heshbon city without any strength,
because will go out from Heshbon—flame from the middle of Sihon.
It'll devour Moav's forehead and the top of the heads of the rebellious people.
46 You won't end well Moav. You worshippers of Kemosh will be destroyed
because your sons and daughters will be captured and taken away.
47 However, in future years, Moav's judgement will end and I will restore Moav from captivity.
That is Yahweh's declaration.

Yahweh's judgement for the Amonim

49:1 Yahweh says this about the Amonim:
Doesn't Yisrael (Israel) have any children of its own?
Is there no one to inherit anything in Yisrael?
Why does the god Molek occupy Gad,
and its people live in their cities?[98] **2** So listen, Yahweh declares that the time is coming
when I'll sound the signal for battle against Amon's capital city Rabah,
so it'll become a deserted heap and its villages will be set on fire,
because Yahweh says that Yisrael will drive out those who initially drove them out. **3** Wail, Heshbon, because Ay will be devastated.
Cry out and put on sackcloth, you daughters of Rabah.
Mourn and run back and forth trying to figure out what to do
because Molek is going into captivity along with its priests and leaders.
4 Why do you brag about your fertile valleys, you faithless daughter?
You who trust in your wealth and think that no one would ever attack you.
5 Listen, this is the declaration of my master, Commander-in-chief Yahweh:
I'm about to bring terror to you from all those who surround you.
You'll all be driven away ahead of it
and there won't be anyone to gather those running away.
6 However in future years, I'll restore Amon's people from captivity.
That is Amon's captivity.

Yahweh's judgement for Edom

7 Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this about Edom:[99]
Isn't there any wisdom left in Teyman district?
Has good advice disappeared from those who have understanding?
Has their wisdom become corrupted?
8 Turn and run away.
Stay in deep caves, you inhabitants of Dedan,
because I'm bringing Esav's (Esau's) disaster onto Edom when I punish it.
9 If grape harvesters came to you, wouldn't they at least leave a little bit behind?
If thieves came in the night, wouldn't they steal only as much as they needed?
10 However, I'll strip Esav (i.e., Edom) bare.
I've uncovered his secret places so he can't hide himself.
His descendants and other relatives and neighbours will be devastated and destroyed.
11 Leave your orphans behind.
I'll take care of their lives,
and your widows can rely on me.
12 Yes, Yahweh says this: Listen, even those who didn't deserve it, must certainly drink some of the cup of suffering. Did you think you yourself would escape being punished? You won't, because you'll certainly be included in it
13 because Yahweh declares that I've solemnly

98 RV 49:1-6 · Cross-ref. Eze 21:28-32; 25:1-7; Amos 1:13-15; Zeph 2:8-11.

99 RV 49:7-22 · Cross-ref. Isa 34:5-17; 63:1-6; Eze 25:12-14; 35:1-15; Amos 1:11-12; Oba 1-14; Mal 1:2-5.

Readers' Version

promised that Batserah will become a horror, a disgrace, a devastation, and an object for cursing. All its cities will be forever ruined.

14 I've heard a report from Yahweh,
and a messenger has been sent out to the nations,
'Gather together and attack Edom.
Get ready for battle.' **15** Yes, listen, I've made you minor compared to the other nations,
despised among humankind.

16 As for your fearsomeness, your arrogance has deceived you, inhabitants of places on the cliff—
you who've occupied the highest hills so that you may make your nest high like an eagle.
I'll bring you down from there.
That is Yahweh's declaration.

17 Edom will become a horror to everyone passing by it.
Those who do will be appalled and hiss about all its disasters.

18 Yahweh says that just like the overthrow of Sedom and Amorah (Gomorrah) and their neighbours,[100]
no one will live there—no human would want to stay there.

19 Listen, he'll go up like a lion from the forests along the Yarden (Jordan) river to the green pasturelands,
because I'll quickly make Edom flee from it,
and I'll chose someone to be charge of it.
Indeed, no one else is like me, and who can challenge my decision?
What shepherd can stand against me?

20 So listen to the plans that Yahweh has decided against Edom—
the intentions that he's formed against Teyman's inhabitants.
They'll be dragged away, even the smallest flock.
→Their pasturelands will be turned into ruined places.

21 The ground will shake at the sound of their falling.
The sound of distressed shouts will be heard right across at the Red Sea.

22 Listen, someone will ascend like an eagle, and swoop down and spread his wings over Batserah.
Then on that day, Edom's soldiers will be apprehensive like women in labour."

Yahweh's judgement for Damesek

23 Concerning Damesek (Damascus):
Hamat and Arpad will be ashamed, because they've heard bad news.
They'll melt away—
they'll become as troubled as an ocean that cannot stay calm.[101]

24 Damesek will be disheartened.
It turns away to flee in panic.
Distress and pangs of pain seize it like a woman giving birth.

25 How has that widely praised city been abandoned—
the town that gave me happiness.

26 Therefore its young men will fall in its plazas,
and all the fighting men will perish on that day.
That is the declaration of Commander-in-chief Yahweh,

27 because I'll light a fire on the wall around Damesek (Damascus),
and it will burn up Ben-Hadad's fortresses.

Yahweh's judgement for Kidar and Hatsor

28 Concerning Kedar tribe and Hatsor's kingdoms (which were about to be attacked by Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar)) Yahweh says this:
Take action and attack Kedar and destroy those eastern people.

29 Their tents and their flocks will be taken,
along with their tent curtains and all of their equipment.
Their camels will be led away from them,
and warriors surrounding them will call out things that terrify them.

30 Yahweh says to you inhabitants of Hatsor:

100 RV 49:18 · Cross-ref. Gen 19:24-25.

101 RV 49:23-27 · Cross-ref. Isa 17:1-3; Amos 1:3-5; Zech 9:1.

Readers' Version

Quickly, flee, hide in deep caves,
because the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) has made a plan
and plotted out his destiny for you all.
31 Yahweh says to the Babylonians:
Take action and attack that nation at ease—
that lives in safety.
They don't have gates with bars across them,
and its people live by themselves.
32 Their camels will become plunder,
and their many livestock will become war plunder.
Then those who cut the corners of their hair, I'll scatter to every wind
and I'll bring disaster on them from every direction.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
33 Hatsor will become a home for jackals—a permanent wasteland.
No one will live there—no human would want to stay there.

Yahweh's judgement for Eylam

34 At the beginning of the reign of Yehudah's (Judah's) King Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah), Yahweh gave this message about Eylam to the prophet Yirmiyah (Jeremiah). 35 Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this:
Listen, I'm about to break the power of Eylam's archers—
their main initial attack force.
36 Then I'll bring four winds against Eylam from four different directions,
and I will scatter them to all of those winds.
There's no nation that those banished from Eylam won't go to.
37 So I'll shatter Eylam in front of their enemies and those who want to see them dead.
In my furious anger, I'll send disaster against them,
and then I'll send war to follow them until I've annihilated them.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
38 Yahweh declares that I'll put my throne in Eylam,
and will destroy its king and leaders from there, 39 however in future years, I'll restore Eylam's people from captivity.
That is Yahweh's declaration.

Yahweh's judgement for Bavel

50:1 Yahweh gave the prophet Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) this message concerning Bavel (Babylon), the country of the Kasdim (Chaldeans):[102]
2 Make a report to the nations and get them to listen to it.
Raise a signal flag and cause them to listen—don't conceal it.
Tell them that Bavel will be captured and their 'god' Merodak (also called 'Bel') will be humiliated.
Merodak will be completely disgraced—
its replicas will be humiliated as its idols will be shattered.
3 A nation from the north will come against it, and make their land into ruins.
No one will live in it—people and animals will all flee away.

The return of Yisrael and Yehudah · Both kingdoms

4 Yahweh declares that at a future time, the people of Yisrael (Israel) and the people of Yehudah (Judah),
will join together to go to their god Yahweh with weeping and a desire to worship him.
5 They'll ask the way to Tsiyon (Zion) and will set off toward it
to join themselves to Yahweh with a permanent commitment that will never be forgotten.
6 My people have been a lost flock.
Their shepherds have led them astray in the mountains.
They've gone from hill to hill.
They went—they'd forgotten the place where they'd lived.
7 Everyone who found them devoured them
and their enemies told themselves that they weren't guilty
because the people they attacked had sinned against Yahweh who was their true home—
Yahweh, who their ancestors had placed their hope in.

102 RV 50:1–51:64 · Cross-ref. Isa 13:1–14:23; 47:1-15.

Readers' Version

8 You Yehudim (Jews), leave Bavel (Babylon).
Get out from the land of the Kasdim (Chaldeans).[103]
Be like male goats that leave ahead of the rest of the flock,
9 because listen, I'm about to set in motion and raise up a group of powerful nations from the north against Bavel.
They'll line up against her—Bavel will be captured from there.
Their arrows will be like a skilled warrior who always returns and never empty-handed.
10 The land of the Kasdim (Chaldeans) will become plunder. **Bavel's fall**
All those who plunder it will take everything they want.
That is Yahweh's declaration
11 because you're so happy Bavel (Babylon)—your people celebrate the plundering of my inheritance.
You skip around like a calf stamping in its pasture.
You neigh like a powerful horse.
12 Your mother will be terribly ashamed—
the one who bore you will be embarrassed.
Listen, she'll become the least of nations—
a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert.
13 Due to Yahweh's severe anger, Bavel won't remain inhabited, but will become a complete ruin.
Everyone who passes by will be appalled, and will hiss because of all its wounds.
14 You armies, line yourselves up all around Bavel—
everyone who uses a bow and arrows must shoot at it.
Don't hold back any of your arrows, because it has disobeyed Yahweh.
15 Shout together all of you who are around the city.
It has surrendered—its towers have been taken over.
Its walls are torn down, because that is Yahweh's vengeance.
Avenge yourselves on Bavel—
do to it just like what it's done to others.
16 Destroy both the Babylonian farmer who sows seed
and the one who uses a sickle at harvest time.
Instead of the oppressor's sword, let each person return to their own people—
let everyone flee back to their own region.
17 Yisrael (Israel) is like **Yisrael's return**
sheep that were scattered and driven away by lions.
Firstly, the Assyrian king devoured its meat,
then after that, the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) chomped on its bones.
18 Therefore Yisrael's god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh, says this:
Listen, I'm about to punish the Babylonian king and his country,
just as I punished the Assyrian king.
19 Then I'll restore Yisrael to its homeland—
it will graze on Mt. Karmel and in the Bashan region.
then it will be satisfied in the hill country of Efrayim (Ephraim) and Gilead.
20 Yahweh says that at that time,
Yisrael's disobedience won't exist
and no wickedness will be found in Yehudah (Judah)
because I'll forgive those that I leave as a remnant.
21 Go up against the Meratayim region in Bavel (Babylon) **Yahweh's judgement for Bavel**
as well as Pekod's inhabitants.
Attack them and ensure that they're eliminated.
That is Yahweh's declaration—make sure to do everything that I'm commanding you to do.
22 There's a sound of battle and terrible destruction across the land.
23 How the 'hammer' of all the lands has itself been cut apart and destroyed.
How Bavel has become an object of horror among the nations.
24 I set a trap for you and you were caught,

103 RV 50:8 · Cross-ref. Rev 18:4.

Readers' Version

Bavel, and you didn't even know it.
You were found and captured, because you went against Yahweh.
25 Yahweh has opened his armoury and is bringing out the weapons for carrying out his anger.
There's work for the master, Commander-in-chief Yahweh, in Bavel—the land of the Kasdim (Chaldeans).
26 Come to it from far away.
Open its store-houses full of grain.
Pile everything up in heaps.
Completely destroy everything—don't leave anyone alive.
27 Kill all its young bulls—send them off for slaughter.
They won't end well because their moment has come—the time for their punishment.
28 There's the sound of those fleeing—escaping from Bavel (Babylon)
to announce in Tsiyon (Zion) that our god Yahweh is taking vengeance—
vengeance for what was done to his temple.
29 Summon the archers against Bavel—all those who use bows and arrows.
Surround it completely and don't let anyone escape.
Repay it for what it's done.
Do to it what it did to others[104]
because it had defied Yahweh, Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one,
30 so their young men will fall in the town squares,
and all their fighting men will be killed on that day.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
31 Listen, Commander-in-chief Yahweh declares:
I'm against you, you proud nation
because your time is up, you proud one—
the time has come for me to punish you.
32 So the proud one will stumble and fall,
and no one will be there to help it up.
I'll light a fire in its cities and it will devour everything around it.
33 Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this:
The Yisrael's (Israel's) people are oppressed,
as are the people from Yehudah (Judah).
All those who captured them have kept hold of them—
they've refused to let them go.
34 The one who paid the price to free them is strong.
His name is Commander-in-chief Yahweh.
He'll successfully plead their case,
in order to bring peace and stability to the land,
and to cause turmoil for Bavel's (Babylon's) inhabitants.
35 Yahweh declares that war is coming to the Kasdim (Chaldeans)
including its inhabitants, leaders, and wise men.
36 War is coming for empty talkers and they'll become fools.
Battles are coming against its warriors, and they'll be terrified.
37 Attacks are coming against their horses,
their chariots and all of Bavel's foreign mercenaries,
so they'll become like women.
Armed raids are coming against its storerooms,
→and they'll all be looted.
38 A drought is coming on its water supplies so they'll dry up,
because it's a land full of idols,
and the people do mad things trying to appease them.
39 So jackals and other desert animals will live there,
along with ostriches that will breed there.[105]
People will never live there again—
future generations won't live there.
40 Just like the overthrow of Sedom and Amorah (Gomorrah) and its neighbours,[106]

104 RV 50:29 · Cross-ref. Rev 18:6.

105 RV 50:39 · Cross-ref. Rev 18:2.

106 RV 50:40 · Cross-ref. Gen 19:24-25.

Readers' Version

Yahweh declares that no one will live there—no human would want to stay there.
41 Listen, a people group is coming from the north—
a powerful nation and many kings are being stirred up from the farthest parts of the world.
42 They'll be carrying bows and spears.
They're cruel and will show no mercy.
The sound of them coming will be like the roar of the sea
They'll be riding horses in formation,
organised for battle, against you, daughter of Bavel (Babylon).
43 The Babylonian king will hear their report
and his hands will fall limp in distress—
he'll be in anguish like a woman giving birth.
44 Listen, there'll be one who comes like a lion
from the thickets along the Yarden (Jordan),
up to the watered pastureland
because I'll act quickly to cause them to run away from there,
and I'll appoint someone specially chosen for it,
because who is like me, and who can summon me to come?
What shepherd is able to resist me?
45 So listen to the plans that Yahweh has decided against Bavel (Babylon)—
the plans that he has planned against the land of the Kasdim (Chaldeans).
They'll definitely be dragged away—even the smallest flock.
Their pasturelands will be ruined.
46 The sound of Bavel being conquered Bavel will make the earth quake,
and their cry of distress will be heard right across the continent.

Yahweh says more against Bavel

51:1 Yahweh says this:
Listen, I'm about to stir up a destructive wind against Bavel (Babylon)
and against the Babylonian people.
2 I'll send foreigners into Bavel, and they'll shake it down and devastate its land,
because they'll come against it from all sides on that disastrous day.
3 Don't let the archers shoot their arrows
Don't let their soldiers put on their armour.
Don't spare their young men—
Destroy their army completely.
4 Their wounded will fall in the land of the Kasdim (Chaldeans).
Those who're stabbed will fall in its streets,
5 because Yisrael (Israel) and Yehudah (Judah) haven't been abandoned by their god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh,
even though their[107] own land is filled with offenses committed against Yisrael's holy one.
6 Escape quickly from out of Bavel (Babylon)—each person must save themself.
Don't die there because of their wickedness
because now is the time of Yahweh's vengeance.
He'll repay Bavel for everything they've done.
7 Bavel was like a golden cup in Yahweh's hand that made all the world drunk—
nations drank its wine and went mad.[108]
8 Suddenly Bavel will fall and be destroyed.
Wail for it—give it medicine for its pain—perhaps it can be healed?
9 We tried to heal Bavel, but it never recovered,
so leave it and let everyone go back to their own region,
because its guilt has reached up to the heavens—
it's piled up to the clouds.[109]
10 Yahweh has now decided that we've served our time.
Let's go and tell everyone in Tsiyon (Zion) what our god Yahweh has done.
11 Sharpen your arrows and strap on your shields.
Yahweh is stirring up the spirit of the kings of the Madim (Medes) in his plan to destroy Bavel

107 RV 51:5 · Note This pronoun could refer either to Yisrael and Yehudah, or to Bavel, so other translations might take the alternative rendering here.

108 RV 51:7 · Cross-ref. Rev 17:2-4; 18:3.

109 RV 51:9 · Cross-ref. Rev 18:5.

Readers' Version

because of Yahweh's vengeance—revenge for their destruction of his temple.
12 Lift up your banner over Bavel's walls.
Reinforce the guards. Assign watchmen.
Prepare your ambushes because Yahweh will do what he has said concerning Bavel's inhabitants.
13 You people who live by many water supplies[110] and who are rich with treasures, your end has come.
The thread of your life is now cut short.
14 Commander-in-chief Yahweh has made an oath by his own life:
'I'll fill you with men, like a swarm of locusts,
and they'll shout out against you.'

A song praising Yahweh

15 He has made the earth by his power.
He set the world in place by his wisdom.
By his understanding he stretched out the skies.
16 When he makes thunder, there's the roar of waters in the skies,
because he brings the mist up from the ends of the earth.
He makes lightning to go with the rain
and sends out wind from his storehouses.
17 All people have become ignorant—without knowledge.
Every metalworker is put to shame by his idols.
→because his cast images are lifeless frauds.
18 They are the worthless work of mockers
who'll perish at the time of their punishment.
19 Yisrael's (Israel's) god is not like those,
because he's the one who formed everything.
Yisrael is the tribe of his inheritance.
Commander-in-chief Yahweh is his name.

Yahweh's hammer

20 You are my sledge-hammer—my weapon for battle—
→With you I'll smash nations and destroy kingdoms.
21 With you I'll smash horses and their riders.
With you I'll smash chariots and their drivers.
22 With you I'll smash men and women.
With you I'll smash the old and the young.
With you I'll smash the young men and young women.
23 With you I'll smash the shepherds and their flocks.
With you I will smash the plowmen and their teams of cattle.
With you I'll smash the governors and officials.

Bavel's punishment

24 I'll repay Bavel (Babylon) and all the Kasdim (Chaldeans)
for all the evil they did in Tsiyon (Zion) as you watched.[111]
That is Yahweh's declaration.
25 Listen, Yahweh declares that I'm against you,
you mountain of destruction that destroys the whole earth.
I'll stretch my hand out against you, and roll you down from the cliffs,
and turn you into a charred mountain
26 so they won't quarry any stone from you to construct a building's corner or foundation.
because you'll become a permanent wasteland.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
27 Lift up a banner over the earth.
Blow the trumpet across the nations.
Call the nations to attack it: Ararat, Mini, and Ashkenaz.
Appoint a commander to attack it.
Bring in horses like swarming locusts.
28 Prepare the nations to attack it:
The kings of the Madim (Medes) and their governors,
all of their officials and all the land under their control.
29 The land will shake and writhe in agony,
since Yahweh's plans against Bavel (Babylon) will be fulfilled:
→to make Bavel into a deserted wasteland.
30 The Babylonian soldiers have given up the

110 RV 51:13 · Cross-ref. Rev 17:1.

111 RV 51:24 · Note The segment 'as you watch(ed)' could also apply to Bavel getting repaid, so other translations might choose differently here.

Readers' Version

fight—they stay in their fortresses.
Their strength has run out—they've become like women.
The locking bars across its gates are broken and its homes are on fire.
31 A messenger runs across to pass the news onto another messenger,
and a runner tells another runner to report to the Babylonian king
that his city has been taken over from one end to the other.
32 The fords over the river have been seized
the reed marshes have been burnt off,
and Bavel's (Babylon's) soldiers are terrified
33 Yes, Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh, says this:
The daughter of Bavel is like a threshing floor—it's time to trample it down.
In a little while, the time will come for it to be harvested.
34 The Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) has devoured me.
He's driven me into confusion and made me into an empty pot.
Like a monster, he's swallowed me—filled his stomach with my delicacies,
→and then he spat me out.
35 The one who lives in Tsiyon (Zion) will say,
'May the violence done to me and to my flesh be on Bavel.'
Yerushalem (Jerusalem) will say,
'May my blood be on Kasdim's inhabitants.'
36 Therefore Yahweh says this:

Yahweh's assistance to Yisrael

Listen, I'm about to plead your case and bring about vengeance for you
because I'll dry up Bavel's (Babylon's) river and make its springs run dry.
37 Bavel will become heaps of rubble without any inhabitants—
a den of jackals, a horror, and something to whistle at.
38 The Babylonians will roar together like young lions.
They will growl like lion cubs.
39 When they become hot with greed, I'll make a feast for them
and I'll get them drunk so they can celebrate.
→Then they'll enter into permanent sleep and not wake up.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
40 I'll send them down to the slaughter,
like lambs, rams, and male goats.
41 Wow, Bavel (Babylon) (Heb. Sheshak) has been captured.

Punishing Bavel and its god

The city praised by the whole world has been seized.
Wow, Bavel has become a horror among the nations.
42 The sea has come up over Bavel.
It's been covered by its violent waves.
43 Its cities have become a wasteland, a dry, wilderness region—
an area that no one lives in, and no human being even passes through.
44 I'll punish Bavel's god Bel
and I'll pull what he swallowed back out of his mouth,
Then the nations will no longer go streaming to him to placate him.
What's more, Bavel's walls will fall.
45 Come out from Bavel, my people.
Each of you should save their own life from Yahweh's furious anger.
46 Don't be discouraged or afraid due to the report that's heard in the land,
as there'll be a report one year and the again the year after.
There'll be violence will in the world—ruler will be against ruler.
47 Therefore, listen, the time is coming when I'll punish the Bavel's carved idols.
People across their country will be ashamed,
and their slaughtered soldiers will all fall right there in their country.
48 Then the heavens and the earth, and everyone in them will celebrate over Bavel's fall[112]
because destroyers from the north will come for it

112 RV 51:48 · Cross-ref. Rev 18:20.

Readers' Version

That is Yahweh's declaration. 49 As Bavel has made Yisrael's (Israel's) slain warriors fall,
so too their slain will fall in Bavel.[113]

Yahweh's message to Israelis in Bavel

50 You all who escaped from being killed in war,
go away—don't stay still.
Remember Yahweh even though you're all far away.
Start bringing Yerushalem (Jerusalem) to mind.
51 We're ashamed because we've heard insults—
our feeling of being disgraced can be seen on our faces,
because foreigners have entered the sacred places in Yahweh's house.
52 So Yahweh declares:
Listen, the time is coming when I'll punish Bavel's (Babylon's) carved idols,
and their wounded people will groan across that entire region.
53 Yes, even if Bavel built tall towers or fortified their highest fortresses,
destroyers that I've sent would still go there.
That is Yahweh's declaration.

More on Bavel's destruction

54 A cry of distress came from Bavel (Babylon)—
terrible destruction from the land of the Kasdim (Chaldeans)
55 because Yahweh is about to destroy Bavel.
He's causing its loud voice to die away.
Their enemies roar like violent ocean waves—
their noise becomes very prominent
56 because a destroyer has come against it, against Bavel,
and their soldiers have been captured.
Their weapons are shattered because Yahweh is a god of vengeance—
he'll definitely repay them fully.
57 I'll make its princes, advisors, officials, and its soldiers drunk,
and they will sleep in a permanent stupor and never wake up.
That is the king's declaration—Commander-in-chief Yahweh is his name.
58 Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this:
Bavel's (Babylon's) thick walls will be completely demolished,
and its tall gates will be set on fire.
The peoples coming to their aid will waste their time trying—
everything that the nations try to do for it will be burnt up.

Yirmiyah's message to be read out in Bavel

59 This is the message that the prophet Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) commanded Serayah (son of Neriyah, son of Mahseyah)
when he went with Yehudah's (Judah's) King Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah) to Bavel (Babylon) in the fourth year of his reign.
Now Serayah was a chief officer,
60 and Yirmiyah had written on a scroll about all the disaster that was going to come to Bavel—
all these messages that were written about Bavel.
61 Then Yirmiyah told Serayah, "When you go to Bavel, ensure that you read these messages aloud 62 and then pray, 'Yahweh, you yourself have declared that you would destroy this place, and then that no man or animal will live in it and it'll be desolate forever.' 63 Then when you've finished reading out this scroll, tie a stone to it and throw it into the middle of the Perat (Euphrates) River.[114] 64 Say, 'Bavel will sink like that. It won't ever recover from the disaster that I'm sending against it, and they'll become irrelevant'
Yirmiyah's messages end here.

Yerushalem's fall and Tsidkiyah's end · Southern kingdom[115]

52:1 Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah) was twenty-one when he began to reign and he reigned from Yerushalem (Jerusalem) for

113 RV 51:49 · Cross-ref. Rev 18:24.

114 RV 51:63-64 · Cross-ref. Rev 18:21.

115 RV 52:1 · Parallel 2 Kgs 24:18–25:7

Readers' Version

eleven years. His mother's name was Hamutal. (She was the daughter of Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) from Livnah.) **2** He did what was evil in Yahweh's sight just as his father Yehoyakim had done. **3** All these events happened in Yerushalem and across the rest of Yehudah (Judah) because of Yahweh's anger, until he drove them out of his sight.

Then Tsidkiyah rebelled against the Babylonian king, **4** so on the 10th of the tenth month of the ninth year of King Tsidkiyah's reign, the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) came and surrounded Yerushalem with all his army. They took action to put the city under siege[116] **5** and the it remained under siege until the eleventh year of King Tsidkiyah's reign. **6** By the 9th of the fourth month, the famine was so severe in the city that there was no more food for the residents. **7** Then the city was broken into,[117] and all the fighting men fled out of the city at night by the way of the gate that was between the two walls near the king's garden, even though the Kasdim (Chaldeans) were all around the city. So they went in the direction of the Aravah plain along the Yarden (Jordan) river. **8** But the Chaldean army chased after the king, and overtook Tsidkiyah in the Yarden river plains near Yeriho (Jericho). All his army was then scattered away from him. **9** They captured the king and brought him up to the Babylonian king at Rivlah in Hamat region, where he passed sentence on him. **10** Then the Babylonian king slaughtered Tsidkiyah's sons right there in front of his eyes, and he also slaughtered all of Yehudah's leaders there at Rivlah. **11** Then he had Tsidkiyah's eyes gouged out, shackled him with bronze chains, and took him to Bavel (Babylon) where the Babylonian king put him in prison until he died there.[118]

The Babylonians destroy the temple · Southern kingdom[119]

12 Then on the 10th of the fifth month in the nineteenth year of the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar's (Nebuchadnezzar's) reign, Nevuzar-Adan came to Yerushalem (Jerusalem). He was the commander of the king's bodyguards and a servant of the Babylonian king. **13** He burnt down Yahweh's house,[120] the king's palace, and all the homes in Yerushalem, as well as every important building in the city. **14** As for the walls all around Yerushalem, they were pulled down by the Babylonian army who were with the commander of the bodyguards. **15** Some of the poorer people and the rest of the people who remained in the city, as well as those who'd defected to the Babylonian king, and the rest of the craftsmen were taken into exile by Nevuzar-Adan, **16** However, Nevuzar-Adan, the commander of the bodyguards, left some of the poorest people to work the vineyards and the fields.

17 As for the bronze pillars that were part of Yahweh's temple, and the large bronze basin called 'The Sea', and the stands that were in it, the Kasdim (Chaldeans) broke them into pieces and carried all the bronze back to Bavel (Babylon).[121] **18** The pots, shovels, lamp trimmers, bowls, and all the bronze utensils that the priests had used when serving in the temple, were all taken away by the Kasdim. **19** Also, the basins and incense burners, the bowls, pots, lampstands, pans, and basins that were made of gold or silver, were taken away by the commander of the king's bodyguards. **20** The two pillars, the large bronze basin known as 'The Sea', and the twelve bronze bulls that were under the stands, things that Shelomoh (Solomon) had made for Yahweh's temple, contained too much bronze to weigh. **21** (Each pillar was eight me-

116 **RV 52:4 · Cross-ref.** Eze 24:2.

117 **RV 52:7 · Cross-ref.** Eze 33:21.

118 **RV 52:11 · Cross-ref.** Eze 12:13.

119 **RV 52:12 · Parallel** 2 Kgs 25:8-17

120 **RV 52:13 · Cross-ref.** 1Ki 9:8.

121 **RV 52:17-23 · Cross-ref.** 1Ki 7:15-47.

Readers' Version

tres high with a circumference of nearly six metres. Each pillar was hollow with a 8cm thick wall **22** with a bronze capital on the top. Each capital was over two metres high, with bronze latticework and bronze pomegranates all around. **23** There were ninety-six pomegranates on the sides of each capital, and another hundred pomegranates above the surrounding latticework.)

The people of Yehudah are exiled to Bavel · Southern kingdom[122]

24 The commander of the bodyguards took the high priest Serayah prisoner, along with the second-level priest Tsefanyah (Zephaniah), and the three gatekeepers. **25** From the city, he took an army commander prisoner, as well as seven of the king's advisers who were still in the city. He also took prisoner the king's army recruitment officer, along with sixty important men from the country who were in the city. **26** Then Nevuzar-Adan, the commander of the bodyguards, took them to the Babylonian king at Rivlah, **27** and the king put them to death there at Rivlah in the Hamat region.

So Yehudah's (Judah's) people were taken out of their country and into exile. **28** These were the people who Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) exiled:

In Nevukadnetsar's seventh year, 3,023 Yehudim (Jews).

29 In his eighteenth year, he took 832 people from Yerushalem (Jerusalem).

30 In his twenty-third year, Nevuzar-Adan, the commander of the king's bodyguards, exiled 745 Yehudi (Jew) people.

All those exiles totalled 4,600 people.

31 Some time later on the 25th of the twelfth month of the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Yehudah's (Judah's) King Yehoyakin, Bavel's (Babylon's) King Evil-Merodak (in the first year of his reign) released King Yehoyakin from prison. **32** He spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat more honourable than that of the other exiled kings who were with him in Bavel. **33** Evil-Merodak supplied new clothes for Yehoyakin to wear, and he ate regularly at the king's table for the rest of his life. **34** He was also given a daily allowance by the king for the rest of his life.

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122 RV 52:24 · Parallel 2 Kgs 25:18-21, 27-30