

**Jeremiah's Prophecy to Judah—Threats and Promises (c. 620–609 BC)****Jeremiah 16****Jeremiah Forbidden to Marry**

1 The word of the LORD also came to me saying,

2 “You shall not take a wife for yourself nor have sons or daughters in this place.”

3 For thus says the LORD concerning the sons and daughters born in this place, and concerning their mothers who bear them, and their fathers who beget them in this land:

4 They will die of deadly diseases, they will not be lamented or buried; they will be as dung on the surface of the ground and come to an end by sword and famine, and their carcasses will become food for the birds of the sky and for the beasts of the earth.”

**Jeremiah Forbidden to Mourn or Feast**

5 For thus says the LORD, “Do not enter a house of mourning, or go to lament or to console them; for I have withdrawn My peace from this people,” declares the LORD, “My lovingkindness and compassion.

6 Both great men and small will die in this land; they will not be buried, they will not be lamented, nor will anyone gash himself or shave his head for them.

7 Men will not break *bread* in mourning for them, to comfort anyone for the dead, nor give them a cup of consolation to drink for anyone’s father or mother.

8 Moreover you shall not go into a house of feasting to sit with them to eat and drink.”

**Judah's Coming Punishment**

9 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “Behold, I am going to eliminate from this place, before your eyes and in your time, the voice of rejoicing and the voice of gladness, the voice of the groom and the voice of the bride.

10 Now when you tell this people all these words, they will say to you, ‘For what reason has the LORD declared all this great calamity against us? And what is our iniquity, or what is our sin which we have committed against the LORD our God?’

11 Then you are to say to them, ‘*It is* because your forefathers have forsaken Me,’ declares the LORD, ‘and have followed other gods and served them and bowed down to them; but Me they have forsaken and have not kept My law.

12 You too have done evil, *even* more than your forefathers; for behold, you are each one walking according to the stubbornness of his own evil heart, without listening to Me.

13 So I will hurl you out of this land into the land which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers; and there you will serve other gods day and night, for I will grant you no favor.’

**God Foresees a Future Restoration**

14 “Therefore behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when it will no longer be said, ‘As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’

15 but, ‘As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them.’ For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers.

**Futility of Hiding from God**

16 “Behold, I am going to send for many fishermen,” declares the LORD, “and they will fish for them; and afterwards I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them from every mountain and every hill and from the clefts of the rocks.

17 For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes.

18 I will first doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted My land; they have filled My inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable idols and with their abominations.”

### All Nations Will One Day Acknowledge the Lord

- 19 O LORD, my strength and my stronghold,  
And my refuge in the day of distress,  
To You the nations will come  
From the ends of the earth and say,  
“Our fathers have inherited nothing but falsehood,  
Futility and things of no profit.”
- 20 Can man make gods for himself?  
Yet they are not gods!
- 21 “Therefore behold, I am going to make them know—  
This time I will make them know  
My power and My might;  
And they shall know that My name is the LORD.”

## Jeremiah’s Prophecy to Judah—Further Warnings and Exhortations (c. 620–609 BC)

### Jeremiah 17

#### Judah’s Indelible Sin

- 1 The sin of Judah is written down with an iron stylus;  
With a diamond point it is engraved upon the tablet of their heart  
And on the horns of their altars,
- 2 As they remember their children,  
So they *remember* their altars and their Asherim  
By green trees on the high hills.
- 3 O mountain of Mine in the countryside,  
I will give over your wealth and all your treasures for booty,  
Your high places for sin throughout your borders.
- 4 And you will, even of yourself, let go of your inheritance  
That I gave you;  
And I will make you serve your enemies  
In the land which you do not know;  
For you have kindled a fire in My anger  
Which will burn forever.

#### A Choice of Curse or Blessing

- 5 Thus says the LORD,  
“Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind  
And makes flesh his strength,  
And whose heart turns away from the LORD.
- 6 “For he will be like a bush in the desert  
And will not see when prosperity comes,  
But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness,  
A land of salt without inhabitant.
- 7 “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD  
And whose trust is the LORD.
- 8 “For he will be like a tree planted by the water,

That extends its roots by a stream  
And will not fear when the heat comes;  
But its leaves will be green,  
And it will not be anxious in a year of drought  
Nor cease to yield fruit. [cf. [Ps 1:3](#)]

### **The Incurable Condition of the Human Heart**

- 9 “The heart is more deceitful than all else  
And is desperately sick;  
Who can understand it?  
10 “I, the LORD, search the heart,  
I test the mind,  
Even to give to each man according to his ways,  
According to the results of his deeds.  
11 “As a partridge that hatches eggs which it has not laid,  
So is he who makes a fortune, but unjustly;  
In the midst of his days it will forsake him,  
And in the end he will be a fool.”

### **Jeremiah’s Appeal for Vindication**

- 12 A glorious throne on high from the beginning  
Is the place of our sanctuary.  
13 O LORD, the hope of Israel,  
All who forsake You will be put to shame.  
Those who turn away on earth will be written down,  
Because they have forsaken the fountain of living water, even the LORD.  
14 Heal me, O LORD, and I will be healed;  
Save me and I will be saved,  
For You are my praise.  
15 Look, they keep saying to me,  
“Where is the word of the LORD?  
Let it come now!”  
16 But as for me, I have not hurried away from *being* a shepherd after You,  
Nor have I longed for the woeful day;  
You Yourself know that the utterance of my lips  
Was in Your presence.  
17 Do not be a terror to me;  
You are my refuge in the day of disaster.  
18 Let those who persecute me be put to shame, but as for me, let me not be put to shame;  
Let them be dismayed, but let me not be dismayed.  
Bring on them a day of disaster,  
And crush them with twofold destruction!

### **Warning About Sabbath Observance**

- 19 Thus the LORD said to me, “Go and stand in the public gate, through which the kings of Judah come in and go out, as well as in all the gates of Jerusalem;  
20 and say to them, ‘Listen to the word of the LORD, kings of Judah, and all Judah and all inhabitants of Jerusalem who come in through these gates:

21 Thus says the LORD, “Take heed for yourselves, and do not carry any load on the sabbath day or bring anything in through the gates of Jerusalem.

22 You shall not bring a load out of your houses on the sabbath day nor do any work, but keep the sabbath day holy, as I commanded your forefathers.

23 Yet they did not listen or incline their ears, but stiffened their necks in order not to listen or take correction.

24 But it will come about, if you listen attentively to Me,” declares the LORD, “to bring no load in through the gates of this city on the sabbath day, but to keep the sabbath day holy by doing no work on it,

25 then there will come in through the gates of this city kings and princes sitting on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their princes, the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and this city will be inhabited forever.

26 They will come in from the cities of Judah and from the environs of Jerusalem, from the land of Benjamin, from the lowland, from the hill country and from the Negev, bringing burnt offerings, sacrifices, grain offerings and incense, and bringing sacrifices of thanksgiving to the house of the LORD.

27 But if you do not listen to Me to keep the sabbath day holy by not carrying a load and coming in through the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its gates and it will devour the palaces of Jerusalem and not be quenched.”””

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