

Jeremiah's Prophecy to Judah—The Broken Covenant (c. Nisan [April] 622 BC)

Jeremiah 11–12

The Broken Covenant

11:1 The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh, saying,

2 “Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the people of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem,

3 and say to them, ‘Thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel: “The man is cursed who does not obey the words of this covenant,

4 which I commanded your ancestors in the day of my bringing them from the land of Egypt, from the furnace of iron, saying, ‘Listen to my voice and do according to all that I command you, so will you be my people, and I will be your God.’

5 in order to keep the oath that I swore to your ancestors, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as *it is* this day.”’ Then I answered and said, “Let it be so, O Yahweh.”

6 And Yahweh said to me, “Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying, ‘Hear the words of this covenant and do them,

7 for I solemnly admonished your ancestors in the day of my leading them out from the land of Egypt and up to this day, admonishing persistently, saying, “Obey my voice.”

8 But they did not obey and they did not incline their ear. Instead each one walked in the stubbornness of his evil heart. Therefore, I brought on them all the words of this covenant which I commanded *them* to do, and they did not *do it*.”

Inescapable Punishment of the Covenant Breakers

9 And Yahweh said to me, “A conspiracy is found among the people of Judah and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

10 They have turned back to the iniquities of their former ancestors, who refused to obey my words, and they have gone after other gods, to serve them. The house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant that I made with their ancestors.”

11 Therefore thus says Yahweh, “I *am* about to bring on them disaster from which they will not be able to escape. Though they cry out to me, yet I will not listen to them.

12 Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry out to the gods *to* whom they *are* making smoke offerings, but they will certainly not save them in the time of their trouble.

13 For the number of your towns are your gods, *O* Judah, and the number of the streets of Jerusalem *are the* altars you have set up to the shameful things, to make smoke offerings to Baal.

Jeremiah Forbidden to Pray for the People

14 Therefore you must not pray for this people, and you must not lift up for them a cry of entreaty, or a prayer, for I *will* not listen in the time of their calling to me, in the time of their trouble.

15 What rights has my beloved in my house
when she has done many wicked things?

Can the flesh of holiness pass over you?

For you engage in your wickedness, then you exult.

16 Yahweh called your name, ‘A leafy olive tree, beautiful with fine fruit.’

With the sound of a great storm he will set fire to it,
and its branches will be good for nothing.

17 And Yahweh of hosts, the *one who* planted you,

has spoken evil against you,
because of the evil of the house of Israel and the house of Judah,
that they have done to themselves,
to provoke me to anger by making smoke offerings to Baal.”

A Plot against Jeremiah's Life

18 Moreover, Yahweh let *it be* made known to me, and I knew.
Then you showed me their deeds.

19 And I *was* like a gentle ram-lamb that is brought to slaughter,
and I did not know that they planned plans against me, *saying*,
“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
and let us cut him off from *the* land of *the* living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered.”

20 But *O* Yahweh of hosts, who judges *in* righteousness,
who tests *the* inmost being, and *the* mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have revealed my legal case.

God's Assurance of Punishment of the Conspirators

21 Therefore thus says Yahweh concerning the people of Anathoth who seek your life, saying, "You shall not prophesy in the name of Yahweh or you will die by our hand."

22 Therefore thus says Yahweh of hosts: "Look, I *am about to* punish them. The young men will die by the sword. Their sons and their daughters will die by the famine.

23 And a remnant will not be *left* for them, for I will bring disaster to the people of Anathoth, the year of their punishment."

Jeremiah's Question about the Prosperity of the Wicked

12:1 You *will be* in the right, O Yahweh, when I complain to you.

Even so, let me speak *my* claims with you.

Why does *the* way of *the* wicked succeed?

All those who deal treacherously with treachery are at ease.

2 Not only do you plant them, they take root.

They grow, but also they produce fruit.

You *are* near in their mouths,

but far from their inmost beings.

3 But you, O Yahweh, you know me,

you see me, and you test *that* my heart *is* with you.

Tear them apart like sheep for *the* slaughtering,

and set them apart for *the* day of slaughter.

4 How long will the land mourn, and the vegetation of every field dry up, because of the wickedness of those who live in it?

The animals and *the* birds are swept away,

because they have said, "He does not see our future."

God's Answer

5 "If you run with foot soldiers and they have made you weary, then how will you compete with horses?

If you have fallen in a peaceful land,

then how will you do in the thickets of the Jordan?

6 For even your relatives, and the house of your father, even they have dealt treacherously with you, even they call loudly after you.

You must not trust in them, though they speak kindly to you.

God's Rejection of His Inheritance

7 I have forsaken my house, I have abandoned my inheritance.

I have given the beloved one of my heart into the hand of her enemies.

8 My inheritance has become to me like a lion in the forest.

She has lifted up against me her voice; therefore I hate her.

9 The lair of *the* hyena *is* my inheritance to me,

the birds of prey *are* all around her.

Go, gather all of the animals of the field,

bring *them* to come and devour.

10 Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard,

they have trampled down my plot of land.

They have made my pleasant field

like the desert of desolation.

11 They have made it a desolation.

Desolate, it mourns to me.

All the land is made desolate,

but there is no person taking *it* to heart.

12 Upon all *the* barren heights in the desert destroyers have come,

for *the* sword of Yahweh devours,

from *one* end of *the* land to the *other* end of the land,

there is no peace for all flesh.

13 They have sown wheat and they have reaped thorns.

They are exhausted, they do not profit.

And they will be ashamed of your produce,
because of the burning anger of Yahweh.”

A Conditional Promise for Israel’s Neighbors

14 Thus says Yahweh concerning all of the evil neighbors who touch the inheritance that I gave as an inheritance *to* my people Israel: “Look, I *am* about to drive them out from their land, and the house of Judah I will drive out from among them.

15 And then after my driving them out, I will once again have compassion on them, and I will bring them back, each one to his inheritance, and each one to his land.

16 And then, if they diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, ‘as Yahweh lives,’ even as they taught my people to swear by Baal, then they will live in the midst of my people.

17 But if they do not listen, then I will completely uproot and destroy that nation.” declares Yahweh.

Josiah Renews the Covenant (c. Nisan [April] 622 BC)

2 Kings 23:1–3

2 Chronicles 34:29–32

1 So the king sent *word*,
and all of the elders of Judah and Jerusalem gathered to him.
2 Then the king went up *to* the temple of Yahweh, and all of the men of Judah and all of the inhabitants of Jerusalem *were* with him, *including* the priests, the prophets, and all of the people from smallest to greatest; and in their hearing he read all of the words of the scroll of the covenant that had been found in the temple of Yahweh.
3 Then the king stood by the pillar, and he made a covenant before Yahweh, to go after Yahweh and to keep his commands and his warnings and his statutes, with all of *his* heart and with his all of his soul, to keep the words of this covenant written on this scroll.
Then all of the people joined in the covenant.

29 Then they sent *word* to the king,
and he gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.
30 And the king went up to the house of Yahweh with all the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, with the priests and the Levites —all the people from great to small— and they read in their ears all the words of the scroll of the covenant that was found in the house of Yahweh.
31 And the king stood at his position. And he made the covenant before Yahweh, to walk after Yahweh and to keep his commands and statutes and regulations with all his heart and with all his soul, to do the words of the covenant that *were* written on this scroll.
32 Then he obligated all who were found in Jerusalem and in Benjamin, that the inhabitants of Jerusalem would do according to the covenant of God, the God of their ancestors.

Josiah Celebrates the Passover (14–21 Nisan [April] 622 BC)

2 Kings 23:21–23

2 Chronicles 35:1–19

21 Then the king commanded all of the people, saying, “Keep the Passover to Yahweh your God, as has been written on the scroll of this covenant.”

1 Josiah kept the Passover to Yahweh in Jerusalem.

And they slaughtered the Passover *sacrifice* on the fourteenth day of the first month.
2 And he set the priests at their posts and encouraged them in the service of the house of Yahweh.
3 And he said to the Levites who *were* teaching all Israel, who were sanctified to Yahweh, “Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, built. There is no *need* to carry it on *your* shoulders. Now serve Yahweh your God and his people Israel.
4 And prepare yourselves according to your families, according to your working groups, according to the decree of David king of Israel and according to the decree of Solomon his son.
5 And stand in the sanctuary according to the clans of your families for your brothers, the lay people, and a part of the family of the Levites.
6 And slaughter the Passover *lamb* and consecrate yourself and prepare for your brothers to do according to the word of Yahweh by the hand of Moses.
7 Then Josiah provided for the lay people sheep, lambs, and young goats, all for the Passover for all who were found *there*,

<p>22 For they had not kept this Passover from the days of the judges who had judged over Israel or <i>during</i> the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah.</p> <p>23 But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, this Passover was kept for Yahweh in Jerusalem.</p>	<p>to the sum of thirty thousand, along with three thousand bulls. These <i>were</i> the possession of the king.</p> <p>8 And his officials contributed a freewill offering to the people, to the priests, and to the Levites. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, commanders of the house of God, gave to the priests two thousand six hundred Passover <i>lambs</i> and three hundred bulls.</p> <p>9 Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethanel his brothers, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jehozabad, commanders of the Levites, contributed to the Levites five thousand Passover <i>lambs</i> and five hundred bulls.</p> <p>10 And when the work had been completed, the priests stood at their positions and the Levites in their working groups according to the command of the king.</p> <p>11 And they slaughtered the Passover <i>lamb</i>, and the priests sprinkled <i>the blood</i> from their hand, and the Levites flayed <i>the sacrifices</i>.</p> <p>12 And they set aside the burnt offerings to give them to the clans of the families for the lay people, to offer to Yahweh according to what is written in the scroll of Moses. And thus they did with the bulls.</p> <p>13 Then they roasted the Passover <i>lamb</i> in the fire according to the ordinance. And they boiled the holy offerings in pots, in kettles, and in dishes and brought it quickly to the lay people.</p> <p>14 And afterward they prepared for themselves and for the priests, since the priests, the descendants of Aaron, <i>were busy</i> with offering the burnt offerings and the fat until night. So the Levites prepared for themselves and for the priests, the descendants of Aaron.</p> <p>15 And the singers, the descendants of Asaph, <i>were</i> at their stations according to the decree of David and Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, the seer of the king. And the gatekeepers <i>were</i> at each gate. They did not need to depart from their service, for their brothers the Levites had made preparations for them.</p> <p>16 So all the service of Yahweh was prepared on that day to keep the Passover and to sacrifice burnt offerings on the altar of Yahweh, according to the command of King Josiah.</p> <p>17 And the Israelites who were present kept the Passover at that time, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days.</p> <p>18 And there was no Passover like it kept in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet. And none of the kings of Israel kept a Passover like that which Josiah and the priests and the Levites, and all of Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, kept.</p> <p>19 In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah this Passover was kept.</p>
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Josiah Removes Idolatry That Had Appeared Since His Twelfth Year (c. Iyyar [May] 622 BC)

2 Kings 23:24–27	2 Chronicles 34:33
<p>24 Moreover, the mediums and the spiritists, the household gods and the idols, and all of the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, Josiah removed</p> <p>in order to establish the words of the law written on the scroll that Hilkiah the priest had found <i>in</i> the temple of Yahweh.</p> <p>25 There was not a king like him before him, who turned to Yahweh with all of his heart and with all of his soul and with all</p>	<p>33 And Josiah removed</p> <p>all the detestable things from the whole land that belonged to the Israelites and obligated all who were found in Israel to serve Yahweh their God.</p>

of his might according to the law of Moses, nor did one arise like him afterwards.

26 However, Yahweh did not turn from the fierceness of his great anger which was kindled against Judah because of all of the provocations *with* which Manasseh had provoked him.

27 Yahweh had said, “Even Judah I will remove from my face, as I have removed Israel; I will reject this city that I have chosen, even Jerusalem and the house *of* which I said, ‘My name shall be there!’”

All his days they did not turn aside from following Yahweh, the God of their ancestors.

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