

Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—God's Message to Egypt (January 17, 588 BC)

Ezekiel 29:1–16

The Crocodile of the Nile

1 In the tenth year, in the tenth *month*, on the twelfth *day* of the month, the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,
 2 “Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and prophesy against him and against Egypt, all of it.
 3 Speak, and you must say, ‘thus says the Lord Yahweh:

“Look! I am against you,
 Pharaoh, king of Egypt,
 the great sea monster,
 the *one* lying down
 in the midst of his Nile streams,
 who says to me, “*It is my Nile, and I made it for myself.*”

4 And so I will put hooks in your jawbones,
 and I will make the fish of your Nile streams stick to your scales,
 and I will bring you up from the midst of your Nile streams,
 and all of the fish of your Nile streams *which* cling to your scales.
 5 And I will fling you *to* the desert,
 you and all the fish of your Nile streams.
 On the surface of the field you will fall;
 you will not be gathered,
 and you will not be assembled.
 To the animals of the field
 and to the birds of the heavens
 I will give you as food.
 6 And all of the inhabitants of Egypt will know that I *am* Yahweh,
 because of their being a staff of reed for the house of Israel.
 7 When they took hold of you with the hand, you snapped,
 and you split their every shoulder.
 And when they leaned on you, you broke,
 and you caused all of their loins to wobble.”

Judgment on Egypt

8 Therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Look! I *am* bringing on you *a* sword, and I will cut off from you human and animal.
 9 And the land of Egypt will become *a* desolation and ruins, and they will know that I *am* Yahweh because he said, ‘The Nile *is* mine!
 And I, I made *it!*’
 10 Therefore look! I *am* against you and against your Nile streams, and I will make the land of Egypt into ruins, *a* pile of rubble, *a*
 desolation from Migdol *to* Syene and up to the boundary of Cush.
 11 A foot of a human will not pass over it, and a foot of an animal will not pass over it, and so it will not be inhabited *for* forty years.
 12 And I will make the land of Egypt a desolation in the midst of desolated countries, and its cities *to be* in the midst of ruined cities.
 They will be *a* desolation *for* forty years, and I will scatter Egypt among the nations, and I will disperse them among the countries.”

Future Restoration for Egypt

13 For thus says the Lord Yahweh: “At the end of forty years I will gather Egypt from the peoples *among* whom they were scattered.
 14 And I will restore the fortunes of Egypt, and I will bring them back *to* the land of Pathros, to the land of their origin, and they will
 be a lowly kingdom there.
 15 Of *all* the kingdoms it will be *the most* lowly, and it will not exalt itself again over the nations, and I will make them small *so as* not
 to rule over the nations.
 16 And it will not be again for the house of Israel an object of trust, bringing to remembrance *their* guilt when they turned back to
 them, and they will know that I *am* the Lord Yahweh.”

Jeremiah Buys a Field (c. 588 BC)

Jeremiah 32

Synopsis of Jeremiah's Current Condition

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh in the tenth year of Zedekiah the king of Judah, that *was* the eighteenth year of
 Nebuchadnezzar.

2 Now at that time the army of the king of Babylon *was* laying siege to Jerusalem and Jeremiah the prophet was confined in the courtyard of the guard that *was in* the palace of the king of Judah,
 3 where Zedekiah, the king of Judah, had confined him, saying, “Why *are* you prophesying, saying, ‘Thus says Yahweh, “Look, I *am* going to give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will capture it,
 4 and Zedekiah, the king of Judah, will not escape from the hand of the Chaldeans, but surely he will be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will speak face to face with him and he will see him eye to eye,
 5 and *to* Babylon he will bring Zedekiah, and there he will be until my attending to him,” declares Yahweh. “If you fight against the Chaldeans, you will not be successful” ‘?”

Jeremiah Buys a Field at Anathoth from His Cousin Hanamel

6 And Jeremiah said, “The word of Yahweh came to me, saying,
 7 ‘Look, Hanamel, the son of Shallum, your uncle, *is* going to come to you, saying, “Buy for yourself my field that *is* at Anathoth, for you have the right of redemption to buy *it*.””
 8 Then Hanamel, the son of my uncle, came to me, to the courtyard of the guard according to the word of Yahweh, and he said to me, ‘Please buy my field that *is* at Anathoth, that *is* in the land of Benjamin, for to you *is* the claim of possession, and to you the redemption; buy *it* for yourself.’ Then I knew that this *was* the word of Yahweh.
 9 And I bought the field from Hanamel, the son of my uncle, that *was* at Anathoth. And I weighed out to him the money, seventeen silver shekels.
 10 And I signed on the letter and sealed *it*, and I called witnesses as witness, and I weighed out the money on a set of scales.
 11 Then I took the deed of the purchase, the sealed *copy containing* the commandments and the rules, together with the *one* that was open.
 12 And I gave the deed of the purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel, *the son of my* uncle, and in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of the purchase, in the presence of the Judeans who were sitting in the courtyard of the guard.
 13 And I commanded Baruch in their presence, saying,
 14 ‘Thus says Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel, “Take these deeds, this deed of the purchase, the sealed one, and this opened deed, and you must put them in an earthenware jar so that they may be kept preserved many days.”
 15 For thus says Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel: “Houses and fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land.””

Jeremiah’s Prayer

16 And I prayed to Yahweh—after giving my deed of the purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah—saying,
 17 ‘Ah Lord Yahweh! Look, you made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm. Nothing is too difficult for you,
 18 showing loyal love to the thousands, and repaying the guilt of parents into the laps of their children after them. Powerful, great, mighty, his name *is* Yahweh of hosts,
 19 great in counsel and great *in* deed, whose eyes *are* opened to all the ways of the children of humankind, to give to each one according to his ways and according to the fruit of his deeds,
 20 who accomplished signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, up to this day, and in Israel, and among humankind, and you have made for yourself a name, as *it is* this day.
 21 And you brought out your people Israel from the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with an arm stretched out, and with great terror.
 22 And you gave to them this land, which you swore to their ancestors to give to them, a land flowing with milk and honey.
 23 And they entered and took possession of it, but they did not listen to your voice, and they did not follow your law. They did nothing of all that you commanded to them to do, and you caused to happen *to* them all this disaster.
 24 Look, the siege ramps have come up *to* the city to capture it, and the city has been given into the hand of the Chaldeans who are fighting against it, because of the sword, the famine, and the plague, and what you spoke happened, and look, you *are* seeing *it*.
 25 Yet you have said to me, Lord Yahweh, “Buy for yourself the field with the money, and call witnesses as witness,” though the city has been given into the hand of the Chaldeans.”

God’s Answer to Jeremiah’s Prayer

26 And the word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah, saying,
 27 “Look, I *am* Yahweh, *the* God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for me?”
 28 Therefore thus says Yahweh: “Look, I *am* going to give this city into the hand of the Chaldeans, and into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, and he will capture it.
 29 And the Chaldeans, who are fighting against this city, will come and set this city on fire, and they will burn it, and the houses where they have made smoke offerings on their roofs to Baal, and *where* they have devoted libations to other gods, in order to provoke me to anger.
 30 For the people of Israel and the people of Judah were doing only evil in my eyes from their youth, for the people of Israel *were*

only provoking me to anger by the work of their hands,” declares Yahweh.

31 “For this city has been for me *a cause* of my anger and of my wrath from the day that they built it even until this day, *so I will* remove it from my sight,

32 because of all the evil of the people of Israel and the people of Judah that they did to provoke me to anger—they, their kings, their officials, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

33 And they have turned to me *their backs* and not *their faces*, though I have taught them over and over again, but they *were* not listening to accept discipline.

34 And they set up their abominations in the house that is called by my name, to defile it.

35 And they built the high places of Baal that *are* in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to present as offerings their sons and their daughters to Molech, which I had not commanded them, and it had not come to my mind to do this detestable thing in order to cause Judah to sin.”

The Promise of Future Restoration and a New Covenant

36 “So now therefore, thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, concerning this city, *of which you are* saying, ‘It will be given into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, and by the famine, and by the plague’:

37 Look, I *am* going to gather them from all the lands *to which I driven* them in my anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath, and I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell in safety.

38 And they will be for me a people, and I will be for them God.

39 And I will give to them one heart and one way, to revere me forever, for good to them, and to their children after them.

40 And I will make with them an everlasting covenant that I will not turn away from them, my doing good *to them*, and my reverence I will put in their hearts so that *they will* not turn aside from me.

41 And I will rejoice over them to do good *to them*, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness with all my heart, and with all my inner self.”

42 “For thus says Yahweh, ‘Just as I have brought to this people all this great disaster, so I *will* bring upon them all the good that I promise to them.

43 And the fields will be bought in this land *of which you are* saying, “It is a desolation, without humankind or animals. It has been given into the hand of the Chaldeans.”

44 They will buy fields with money, and they will sign the deeds, and they will seal *them*, and they will call witnesses as witness in the land of Benjamin, and in the surroundings of Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, and in the cities of the hill country, and in the cities of the Shephelah, and in the cities of the Negev, for I will restore their fortunes,’ declares Yahweh.”

Encouragement in the Guardhouse (c. 588/587 BC)

Jeremiah 33

The Rebuilding of Judah and Jerusalem

1 And the word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah *a second time* while he *was* still held back in the courtyard of the guard, saying,

2 “Thus says Yahweh who made *the earth*, Yahweh who formed it to establish it, Yahweh *is* his name:

3 ‘Call to me, and I will answer you, and I will tell you *great things* and inaccessible *things that you have not known.*’

4 For thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah, that were torn down *to make a defense* against the siege ramps and against the sword:

5 ‘*They are* coming to fight against the Chaldeans, and to fill them with the corpses of the people whom I will strike in my anger and in my wrath, for whom I have hidden my face from this city because of all their wickedness.

6 Look, I *am* going to bring healing and health to it, and I will heal them, and I will reveal to them abundance of peace and reliability.

7 And I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and I will rebuild them as in the beginning.

8 And I will cleanse them from all their guilt that they sinned against me, and I will forgive all their iniquities that they sinned against me, and that they rebelled against me.

The Restoration of Joy and Thanks

9 And it will be to me a name of jubilation, a praise, and a glory before all the nations of the earth, who will hear all the good that I *will do for* them, and they will fear, and they will tremble because of all the good, and because of all the prosperity that I *will* provide for it.’

10 “Thus says Yahweh: ‘Again will be heard in this place, *of which you are* saying, “It is a waste, without people and without animals,” in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without people and without inhabitants and without animals,

The Restoration of Pastures and Flocks

11 *the* voice of jubilation, and *the* voice of joy, *the* voice of *the* bridegroom, and *the* voice of *the* bride, *the* voices of *those who* say, “Praise Yahweh of hosts, for Yahweh *is* good, for his loyal love *is* forever,” *the voices of those who* bring thank offerings *to the* house

of Yahweh, for I will restore the fortunes of the land as in the beginning,' says Yahweh.

12 Thus says Yahweh of hosts: 'Again there will be in this waste place, without people and animals, and in all its towns, pasture for shepherds allowing *their* flock to lie down.

13 In the towns of the hill country, in the towns of the Shephelah, and in the towns of the Negev, and in the land of Benjamin, and in the surroundings of Jerusalem, and in the towns of Judah, flocks will again pass under *the* hands of *the* counter,' says Yahweh.

The Restoration of the Davidic Dynasty and the Levitical Priesthood

14 'Look, days *are* coming,' declares Yahweh, 'and I will fulfill the good promise that I promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

15 In those days and in that time I will make a branch of righteousness sprout for David, and he will execute justice and righteousness in the land.

16 In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely, and this *is* what they shall call it: "Yahweh *is* our righteousness."

17 For thus says Yahweh: 'A man who sits on the throne of the house of Israel will not be cut off for David.

18 And for the priests, a man from the Levites *who* offers burnt offerings and *who* burns grain offerings and *who* brings sacrifices will not be cut off before me forever."

19 And the word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah, saying,

20 "Thus says Yahweh: 'If you could break my covenant *with* the day, and my covenant *with* the night, so that day and night *would* not come at their time,

21 then my covenant could be broken with David my servant, from having a son who could rule on his throne, and with the Levites, the priests, my ministers.

22 As the host of heaven cannot be counted, and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I will make numerous the offspring of David my servant and the Levites *who* minister to me."

23 And the word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah, saying,

24 "Have you not seen how these people speak, saying, 'The two clans whom Yahweh chose, he has also rejected them'? Thus they spurn my people from being a nation before them *any* longer.

25 Thus says Yahweh: 'If my covenant *with* day and *with* night, *the* regulations of heaven and earth, I had not established,

26 then the offspring of Jacob and David my servant I would reject, from choosing rulers from his offspring over the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; for I will restore their fortunes and I will have compassion on them."

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