### Jeremiah

## Chapter 1

1These are the words of God which came to JeremiAh (son of HilkiAh), a Priest who lived in AnathOth, in the land of BenJamin.  
  
2God’s words came to him in the days of JosiAh (son of AmMon) the king of Judah in the 13th year of his reign.  
  
3All of this happened from the time of JehoiAkim (son of JosiAh) the king of Judah, until the 11th year of ZedekiAh (son of JosiAh) the king of Judah – and [the beginning of] the captivity of JeruSalem, [which happened] in the 5th month.  
  
  
4The Word of Jehovah came to me and said:  
  
 5‘I knew you before you were formed in the womb  
 And before you came from the belly.  
 So I chose you and I made you holy  
 To serve as a Prophet to the nations.’  
  
6But I said:  
  
 ‘O Great Being… O Lord… O Jehovah,  
  
 ‘{Look!} I don’t know how to speak, for I’m just a young man.’  
  
7And the Lord told me:  
  
 ‘Don’t say that you’re just a young man;  
 For you’ll go to whomever I send you  
 And you’ll speak whatever I tell you to say!  
 8So, don’t be afraid when you go before them,  
 Since I’m with you and I will protect you.’  
  
9Then the Lord stuck his hand out towards me and touched my mouth, and said:  
  
 ‘Look! I’m putting my words in your mouth.  
 10For I’ve appointed you over nations and kingdoms  
 To root out, cut down, and set free,  
 And then to rebuild and replant.’  
  
  
11Thereafter, the Word of Jehovah came to me again and asked:  
  
 ‘What do you see now, JeremiAh?’  
  
And I said:  
  
 ‘I see a walnut walking stick.’  
  
12Then the Lord said to me:  
  
 ‘You are [very observant];  
 And I’m [watching to see if you’ll] do as I [say].’  
  
13Then the Word of Jehovah came to me a second time and asked:  
  
 ‘What do you see now?’  
  
And I replied:  
  
 ‘I see a kettle over a fire, and the front side of it is facing the north.’  
  
14Then the Lord said to me:  
  
 ‘Thus, from the face of the north,  
 All those who are bad will be burned away  
 From among those who live in the land.  
 15For, {Look!} this is what was said by Jehovah:  
  
 ‘From the north, I’ll be gathering kingdoms  
 That will come, and then, they’ll each place their thrones  
 On the thresholds of JeruSalem’s gates,  
 And on the walls of the cities of Judah.  
  
 16‘Then I’ll speak My judgments against them  
 For all the bad things they’ve done…  
 [I’ll speak of] how they have left Me  
 And sacrificed to gods that they’ve never known,  
 Then they bowed before the works of their hands.’  
  
 17‘So arise and wrap up your waist,  
 And say to them what I’ll tell you to say!  
 Don’t be afraid when you go there,  
 Nor be in terror before them;  
 For, this was said by Jehovah:  
  
 ‘I’m with you and I will [protect] you.’  
  
 18‘{Look!} So today, I’ve turned you into a fort…  
 A fortified wall made of brass  
 To resist Judah’s rulers and kings,  
 And to oppose the people of your land.’  
  
19And the Lord said:  
  
 ‘Although they will wage war against you,  
 There’s no way that they’ll be able to win;  
 For I’m with you and I will [protect] you.’