### Jeremiah

## Chapter 10

1‘O house of IsraEl; listen to the Word of Jehovah!  
 2‘Don’t learn the ways of the gentiles  
 And don’t [follow] the [zodiac] signs…  
 These things that are feared by the nations,  
 3For the customs of the nations are worthless!  
  
 ‘An idol is a tree that they’ve cut from the woods,  
 Or it’s something that someone has cast [in a mold].  
 4They adorn them with silver and gold,  
 And nail them in place with a hammer…  
 They [nail them tight] so they cannot move.  
  
 5‘But they’re just carved pieces of silver…  
 So, they are unable to speak,  
 And they also have to be carried,  
 For they can’t lift themselves into place!  
  
 ‘Thus, there is no reason to fear them,  
 For nothing in them can do bad or good.  
 6They aren’t like You, O Jehovah;  
 For You’re great… And great is the strength of Your Name.  
  
 7‘Who won’t fear You, O King of the Nations?  
 For to You come the wise from all lands;  
 Because, in each of their kingdoms,  
 They have no gods that are like You.  
 8[For their idols] are foolish and thoughtless,  
 Since trees can just teach foolish things.  
  
 9‘It’s by the hands of skilled goldsmiths  
 That silver from TarShish is melded  
 Into gold that comes from Uphaz…  
 But it’s all just the workings of craftsmen!  
 10Then they deck those things in purple and blue.  
  
 11‘As a result, tell them this:  
  
 ‘Let these gods that didn’t make the skies or the ground  
 Be destroyed from all lands under heaven!  
 12For, it was Jehovah who made the earth…  
 By His might, He erected man’s home.  
 Then, in His intelligence and wisdom,  
 Above it, He stretched out the heavens.  
  
 13‘He gathers all the waters under the skies  
 And [assembles] the clouds to the ends of the earth.  
 He made the lightning and rain,  
 And from His treasuries, He brings forth the winds.  
  
 14‘The knowledge of men, He disgraces;  
 And goldsmiths are shamed by the idols they carve.  
 For false gods are just cast in ovens,  
 And there is no spirit within them.  
  
 15‘They are foolish works that are made to be mocked;  
 And in that time [when God] comes to visit,  
 They will all be destroyed.  
  
 16‘But this isn’t the portion of Jacob;  
 For the One who shaped everything  
 (IsraEl’s inheritance and scepter)  
 Is named Jehovah of Armies!  
 17And from the [nations], He will gather supporters  
 Who will dwell among His elected.’  
  
18Then the Lord said:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’ll stumble those who live in this land,  
 And squeeze them to [show all that they’ve done].  
 19So, woe to you, for you’ll be destroyed,  
 And your wounds will be very painful.’  
  
Then I said:  
  
 ‘But I’ve already been wounded… And this has surely come from you! 20For my tent is in such a miserable condition that it is almost totally destroyed… Its coverings of skins have been ripped apart, my sons and my sheep are all gone, there are no walls for my tent, and I have no place to store its leather! 21Even my shepherds have been acting stupidly. For since they’ve also failed to search for Jehovah, they’ve allowed all of my sheep to be scattered and confused in their pastures.  
  
 22‘{Look!} We’ve received a report that the sounds of great shaking can be heard from the land in the north, and that orders have been given to wipe out our cities… To scatter us like the nest of an ostrich!  
  
 23But I know, O Lord, that our people don’t know the right way to go, and we don’t even know how to walk a straight path. 24So, correct us in fairness, O Lord… Don’t send your rage and allow only a few of us to remain! 25Pour out your rage on the nations [instead]… On those kingdoms that really don’t know you, and on those who don’t call on [God’s] Name. For IsraEl has already been completely consumed, all of our pastures lie desolate, and now they’re getting ready to come and consume the rest of Jacob!’