### Jeremiah

## Chapter 11

1Then these words came to JeremiAh from the Lord. He said:  
  
 2‘Listen to these words about [God’s] Sacred Agreement,  
 And then read them to the people of Judah,  
 As well as to those in JeruSalem.  
 3This is what IsraEl’s God Jehovah declared:  
  
 ‘Cursed is the man who pays no regard  
 To the words of the Sacred Agreement  
 That I made with your fathers  
 On the day that I led them from Egypt…  
 From out of that furnace of iron.  
  
 4‘If you’ll pay close attention to My voice  
 And do all the things that I tell you to do,  
 You’ll be My people and I’ll be your God.  
 5I’ll reestablish My oath  
 (The oath that I swore to your fathers)  
 To give them this land of honey and milk  
 That has flowed to them to this day.’  
  
And I replied:  
  
 ‘May it be so, O my Lord.’  
  
6And the Lord said to me:  
  
 ‘Read these words in the cities of Judah  
 And at JeruSalem’s [gates].  
 Then, tell them to pay close attention  
 To the words of the Sacred Agreement,  
 And be sure to obey them!  
  
 7‘For, we bore witness together,  
 And I’ve testified to your fathers  
 From the day that I led them from Egypt  
 Down to this very day…  
 I came to them early each morning  
 In order to witness to them.  
 I told them to hear the words of my voice!  
 But, they wouldn’t listen or turn an ear…  
 They just followed the bad thoughts in their hearts.  
  
 ‘Although they agreed to the words of this Contract  
 And to the things that I said they must do;  
 8Thereafter, they just didn’t do them.  
  
 9‘So, because of this, tell them that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 A conspiracy has been found among Judah’s men  
 And among those who live in JeruSalem!  
 10To their father’s bad ways, they’ve returned…  
 The ways of those who had lived before them,  
 And who also refused to listen to Me.  
 {Look!} For, those in the houses of IsraEl and Judah  
 Are following and serving strange gods…  
 They’ve annulled My Agreement with their fathers!  
  
 11‘And because of this,’ says Jehovah;  
 ‘{Look!} I’ll bring an evil upon them  
 That they won’t be able to end.  
  
 ‘Then, once again, they’ll start calling to Me,  
 But this time, I will not listen.  
 12And [what happens to] those in the cities of Judah,  
 Will [be worse] than for those in JeruSalem.  
  
 ‘So then, they’ll have to call to their gods…  
 Those to whom they burn incense…  
 Those who can’t save them in times of [distress].  
  
 13‘Now, each town in Judah has its own gods,  
 And there are shrines on all of JeruSalem’s streets  
 Where they burn incense to [a] BaAl.  
  
 14‘So, you must not pray for these people…  
 Don’t beg or petition for them!  
 For when they call, I won’t listen  
 In their time of distress.  
  
 15‘Now, disgusting things are done in My House  
 By those for whom I’ve shown love!  
 So, will vows and holy meat atone for their bad…  
 Are they putting their hope in such things?’  
  
 16‘As a pretty olive tree providing much shade  
 Was the sight of those who called on His Name.  
 Then I heard the sound of it being chopped down…  
 It was lit on fire [and burned]…  
 So her tender branches were wasted.  
  
 17‘Yet, it was planted by Jehovah of Armies…  
 The One against whom they spoke evil.  
 So, on the houses of IsraEl and Judah  
 There also came very bad things  
 That they brought on themselves by provoking His rage…  
 By their burning incense to [a] BaAl.’  
  
18[But I said]:  
  
 ‘O Lord,  
  
 ‘Please tell me about it so I’ll know, because you’re the only one who’s fully aware of what they’re doing! 19However, I’m just an innocent lamb who doesn’t know he’s being led to the sacrifice; for they’re even plotting and making plans against me, saying:  
  
 ‘Come, let’s give him wood for his bread…  
 From the land of the living, let’s wipe him away,  
 And make sure that his name is forgotten!’  
  
 20‘O Jehovah of Armies; please judge them fairly over such things… Try their kidneys and hearts! May I [live to] see Your punishment on them… But remember that I’ve acted uprightly.’  
  
21It was because of this that the Lord then replied concerning the men of AnathOth that were seeking my life. For these were the ones who were saying to me:  
  
 ‘Don’t prophesy in the Name of Jehovah anymore, for if you do, we’ll kill you!’  
  
22So concerning them, Jehovah of Armies said this:  
  
 ‘Look! I’ll pay them a visit,  
 Then, all their young men will die by the sword,  
 And their sons and daughters will starve.  
  
 23‘None of them will remain;  
 For, to those who are living in AnathOth,  
 I will be bringing what’s bad  
 In the year that I come to visit.’