### Jeremiah

## Chapter 12

1[And I said]:  
  
 ‘You are righteous, O Lord; so, let me plead my case before You, and I’ll leave it for you to decide.  
  
 ‘Why do the irreverent [seem to] succeed,  
 And the wicked and disrespectful continue to prosper?  
 2Yet, they were planted and rooted by you,  
 And they produced children and fruitage.  
 So it seems as though you are near to their mouths  
 But far away from their kidneys.  
  
 3‘You know me, O Lord,  
 And before you, my heart has been tried.  
 So, may they be gathered like flocks  
 That are dedicated for slaughter!  
  
 4‘How long will the land have to mourn  
 And all the grass in the fields become dry  
 Because of their evil deeds?  
 Although they offer God cattle and birds,  
 They say He doesn’t see what they’re doing.’  
  
5[And the Lord replied]:  
  
 ‘Since your feet get so tired when they run,  
 How can you be ridden like a horse?  
 Why have you trusted that there will be peace  
 And why do you whinny for the JorDan?  
  
 6‘For, even your brothers and the house of your father  
 Have failed to pay attention to you…  
 Behind your back, they are yelling at you!  
 So, don’t trust them when they speak kind words.’  
  
7[And I said]:  
  
 ‘I have abandoned my home…  
 My inheritance, I have forsaken…  
 And into the hands of her enemies  
 I’ve given the love of my life.  
  
 8‘For [she], (my inheritance) has now become  
 Like a lion that lives in the woods…  
 She roared, so I started to hate her.  
  
 9‘She’s become a den of hyenas,  
 And [this den] is now her protection.  
 So, gather to her the beasts of the fields  
 And let them go there to eat her!’  
  
10[And the Lord replied]:  
  
 ‘Many shepherds have corrupted my vineyard…  
 Yes, they have tainted my portion…  
 They’ve turned my portion into a land that’s unwalked!  
  
 11‘So, destruction and extinction is what I have planned.  
 And because of me, the land will all be destroyed.  
 Yet, the people have failed to take this to heart.  
  
 12‘Then, through every pass in the desert  
 Will come those who bring misery…  
 Those who will use my sword to consume.  
 And from one end of the land to the other;  
 There won’t be any peace for all flesh.  
  
 13‘For, although I once planted wheat there,  
 Thorn-bushes is all that it [grew]…  
 So, all of my efforts were wasted.  
 Therefore, be ashamed of your prideful words  
 And for speaking in scorn to Jehovah!’  
  
14Then the Lord said:  
  
 ‘When it comes to the wicked around you  
 (Those who have touched my belongings…  
 IsraEl, my people and portion);  
 {Look!} From their land, I will take them away…  
 I’ll uproot the people of Judah.  
  
 15‘But, after I drive them away,  
 I will also let them return,  
 And I will show mercy upon them.  
 Yes I’ll let them return and resettle  
 In the land they received from their fathers…  
 I’ll return each one to his [home].  
  
 16‘And if my people should learn the right way  
 Then start swearing their oaths by [God’s] Name…  
 If they’ll say, As Jehovah is living,  
 As they’re now swearing by [a] BaAl;  
 I’ll let them return and rebuild their homes.  
  
 17‘But, if they should choose not to return,  
 I will lift that nation away…  
 I’ll remove them and then I’ll destroy them,’ said the Lord.