### Jeremiah

## Chapter 13

1Then the Lord said:  
  
 ‘Now, go buy a loin cloth of linen,  
 And thereafter, wrap it around you…  
 But, do not wash it in water.’  
  
2So I went out and bought the loincloth, just as I was told by the Word of Jehovah, and I wrapped it around my loins. 3Then the Word of Jehovah came to me a second time saying:  
  
 ‘Now you should take off the loincloth  
 (The one whom you’ve wrapped ‘round your loins),  
 4Then get up and go to the River EuPhrates,  
 And hide it in a hole among rocks!’  
  
5So I went and hid it by the EuPhrates, just as the Lord had told me to do.  
  
6Then after many days, the Lord said to me:  
  
 ‘Now, get up and go back to the River EuPhrates…  
 Go search and bring back that loincloth…  
 The one I told you to hide there.’  
  
7So I went back to the EuPhrates and dug up the loincloth from the place where I’d hidden it… And {Look!} it was ruined… There’s no way that it could have been used after that.  
  
8Then the Word of Jehovah came and told me [and said]:  
  
 9‘This is what Jehovah has said:  
  
 ‘Like this, I’ll corrupt the insolence of Judah  
 Because of JeruSalem’s insolent ways…  
 10The insolence of those who don’t wish to obey…  
 Those who follow in the wicked ways of their hearts  
 By chasing and serving strange gods,  
 Then bowing to their faces before them.  
  
 ‘They will become like this loincloth,  
 Which will never be useful again.  
 11For, just as this cloth hugs the loins of a man,  
 I’ve stuck by the houses of IsraEl and Judah,’ says Jehovah.  
  
 ‘They’d have been a famous people to Me  
 And a reason for boasting and glory…  
 But they have paid Me no heed!  
  
 12‘So, speak these words to those people…  
 Say that IsraEl’s God Jehovah says this:  
  
 ‘Your leather bags will be filled with wine!’  
  
 ‘And when they ask:  
  
 ‘Don’t you think that we already know  
 That our leather bags will be filled with wine?  
 Why have you have said this to us?’  
  
 13‘Tell them that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’ll fill those in this land with strong drink…  
 Their kings (David’s sons) that sit on their thrones,  
 As well as their priests and their prophets,  
 Along with all those living in Judah  
 And those who live in JeruSalem.  
  
 14‘Then, I will send them away…  
 Each man will be torn from his brother,  
 And all sons will be torn from their fathers.  
 And thereafter, I will not miss them,’ says Jehovah…  
 ‘I won’t spare them or pity their ruin.’  
  
15So, hear this… Yes listen, and then give up hope!  
For, this is what the Lord said:  
  
 ‘Give glory to Jehovah, your God…  
 16Give glory before it gets dark…  
 Before your feet stumble amid mountain shade  
 Where you’ll wait for light in the shadow of death,  
 But where you will only find darkness!  
  
 17‘For, if you choose not to listen,  
 You’ll weep in secret, because of your pride;  
 And there, your eyes will shed tears  
 For the scattered flock of Jehovah.  
  
 18‘Now, go and say this to your king:  
  
 ‘Your rulers must sit down and humble themselves,  
 For their wreaths of glory will be knocked from their heads.  
  
 19‘The cities towards the south will be also closed,  
 And not be opened again.  
 Then the people of Judah will be resettled  
 In a complete relocation.  
  
 20‘So, raise your eyes, O JeruSalem,  
 And see what’s coming to you from the north!  
  
 ‘And where is the flock that was given to you…  
 [Yes, where are] the sheep of your glory?  
 21What will you say when those people arrive  
 And you’ll have to teach them hard lessons  
 Against yourselves and your rule?  
  
 ‘Won’t labor pangs then control you  
 As though you’re a woman about to give birth?  
  
 22‘And if you should ask in your heart,  
 ‘Why has this happened to me?’  
 It’s because your sins have been great!  
 So your butt will now be uncovered  
 To be an example to your heels.  
  
 23‘If Ethiopians could change their skin color  
 Or leopards could change all their spots;  
 You’d also be able to do what is good  
 And learn [not to do] any evil.  
  
 24‘So, your people will be scattered by [God]…  
 Like twigs that are blown in the desert by winds.  
 25Yes, this is your portion and lot,  
 Because of the ways you’ve opposed [Him],’ said the Lord.  
  
 ‘For, you forgot [Him] and trusted in lies.  
 26So, to your faces, I’ll now show your butts…  
 Your dishonor will be exposed before all.  
  
 27‘Yes I’ve seen your snorting and adultery…  
 Your disgusting acts and the whoring  
 That you’ve done in your hills and in all your fields.  
  
 ‘So, woe to you, O JeruSalem,  
 Because you’re too dirty to follow me,  
 And for you, there’s no hope any longer!’