### Jeremiah

## Chapter 16

1Then the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:  
  
 2‘Don’t take another wife in this place  
 And don’t father more daughters or sons.  
 3For, concerning the sons and the daughters  
 That have been born in this place…  
 And concerning the mothers that gave them birth,  
 And those in this land that are fathers,  
 [Your God Jehovah says this]:  
  
 4‘They’ll die by death and disease,  
 And not be entombed or lamented…  
 As examples, they’ll lie on the face of the ground!  
  
 ‘Most will fall by the sword,  
 And starvation will kill all the rest.  
 Their corpses will serve as food for wild beasts  
 And for the birds in the skies.’  
  
5And the Lord told me:  
  
 ‘Don’t join in their [funeral processions],  
 And for them, don’t mourn or lament,  
 Since I’m the one who took peace away,  
 Along with compassion and mercy.  
  
 6‘So the great and the small of this land will all die  
 And they won’t be lamented or buried…  
 No one will beat their chests over them,  
 Nor cut on themselves or shave their heads.  
  
 7‘No way will there be feasts of mourning…  
 No bread will be broken to console  
 Those who are mourning their dead.  
 Nor will any drinks be provided  
 For the deaths of their fathers and mothers.  
  
 8‘So don’t enter their homes for a banquet…  
 Don’t sit beside them to eat or to drink;  
 9For thus says Jehovah, IsraEl’s God:  
  
 ‘{Look!} Before your eyes, I’ll remove them,  
 And during your [life, this will happen].  
 There’ll be no sounds of gladness or joy,  
 Nor the voices of grooms and their brides.  
  
 10‘Now, when you say this to the people, they’ll ask:  
  
 ‘Why has Jehovah pronounced such bad things…  
 What wrongs have we really done…  
 How have we sinned against God?’  
  
 11‘And this must be your reply:  
  
 It’s because your fathers have left Me,’ says Jehovah;  
 And they have followed strange gods…  
 They bowed before them and served them…  
 They’ve abandoned Me and not kept My Laws…  
 12And you’re more wicked than them!  
  
 ‘{Look!} For you’ve chased all the evil that pleases your hearts,  
 And you have refused to obey Me.  
 13So I’ll drive you away from this land  
 To a land that is strange to your fathers and you,  
 Where you’ll serve strange gods day and night…  
 Those who will show you no mercy!  
  
 14‘Yes, because of this, days will come when they’ll say:  
  
 ‘As Jehovah is living…  
 The One who led IsraEl from Egypt...’  
  
 15‘But then, they will also be saying:  
  
 ‘As Jehovah is living…  
 The One who led IsraEl back  
 From the lands in the north,  
 And from everywhere else they were taken...’  
  
 ‘For then, I will bring them back to their land…  
 This land that I gave to their fathers.  
  
 16‘{Look!} To them, I will send men who fish,’ says Jehovah,  
 And they will go fishing for them.  
 I will also send out the hunters  
 Who’ll hunt for them on the mountains and hills  
 And even in holes among rocks.  
  
 17‘But My eyes are now watching their ways,  
 So they can’t hide their offenses from Me.  
 18And it’s because of all their unrighteous ways…  
 For the sins with which they’ve ruined My land…  
 For the disgusting things of their rotting flesh  
 And for filling My inheritance with their lawless deeds,  
 That I will pay them back double!  
  
 19‘But thereafter, they will be saying:  
  
 ‘O Jehovah, our helper and strength…  
 Our refuge during hard times…  
 To You, all the nations will come  
 From the ends of the earth.’  
  
 ‘And they will also be saying:  
  
 ‘How false were the idols that our fathers acquired;  
 Because, in them, there was no hope at all…  
 20Although each man made his own gods,  
 None of these really proved to be gods!’  
  
 21‘{Look!} At that time, I will show them My hand…  
 Yes, I will show them My might.  
 Then they’ll learn that My Name is Jehovah!’