### Jeremiah

## Chapter 17

1‘Thus says Jehovah:  
  
 All the sins of Judah have been inscribed  
 With a stylus of iron…  
 In the tablets of their hearts, they’ve been clawed,  
 And upon the horns of their altars.  
  
 2‘So their sons will remember their altars,  
 As well as their sacred poles,  
 Which were found under every tree in the woods  
 And upon every high hill.  
  
 3‘And on the mountains, there in your plains,  
 I will give your wealth and treasures as loot  
 For the sins [you’ve committed] upon these high peaks.  
  
 4‘Then the inheritance that I gave to you will be gone,  
 And you’ll have to serve people who hate you  
 In a land that you’ve never known.  
 For you’ve kindled the fire of My wrath,  
 Which will blaze against you throughout the rest of this age.’  
  
  
5Then the Lord said:  
  
 ‘Cursed is the man who has any hope;  
 For, although his flesh is still on his arms,  
 His heart is far from Jehovah.  
 6So he’ll be like a tree in the desert,  
 And when good things arrive, he won’t see them.  
 For in a desert of salt, he’ll be planted…  
 In a brackish land, where no one has lived.  
  
 7‘But, praised is the man who relies on the Lord  
 And puts his hope in Jehovah.  
 8For he’ll be like a tree planted near water  
 That shoots its roots into moisture.  
  
 ‘He’ll have no fear of sweltering heat  
 And grow fat like a tree in the woods.  
 He’ll have nothing to fear in the year of the drought,  
 And he’ll keep on producing good fruit.  
  
 9‘Since hearts are the deepest of things,  
 Who can know [what’s inside] a man?  
 10But, I can examine the hearts,  
 And I also put the kidneys on trial,  
 Then repay each one for his ways  
 By the fruits of the things that he’s done.  
  
 11‘As a partridge calls out to [eggs] that won’t hatch,  
 Is the man who is rich but unfair.  
 For in the last half of his days,  
 He will lose all his wealth…  
 And this [will prove] that he’s been a fool.’  
  
  
12[O Lord],  
  
Our Holy Place is Your glorious throne,  
 Which we’ve held in esteem since most ancient times.  
 13But, IsraEl now awaits the disgrace  
 That will come upon those who have left You.  
  
So, may the names of those who’ve rebelled  
 Be written deep under the ground,  
 Since they’ve left their Lord and the source of their life!  
  
14Make the Sabbath days holy again…  
 Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed…  
 Save me and I’ll be delivered,  
 For, You are my reasons for boasting!  
  
15They ask:  
  
 ‘Where is this Word of Jehovah?  
 May [whatever He says] come upon us!’  
  
16But I’ve never tired of following You,  
 And I’ve had no desire to do what they’ve done.  
  
You know all the things that have come from my lips…  
 Before Your face, they’re all here!  
 17So, please don’t push me away…  
 Protect me when that bad day arrives!  
  
18May those who chase me be shamed,  
 And may I not bring disgrace on myself.  
 Although they may come to know terror,  
 May terror never come upon me.  
 Yes, bring that bad day upon them…  
 Double the destruction upon them!  
  
19And then the Lord said this to me:  
  
 ‘Go stand at the gates of the sons of your people  
 (The gates through which kings of Judah now walk …  
 Those gates through which they must pass).  
 Yes, go and stand at each of those gates,  
 20And this is what you should tell them:  
  
 ‘O you kings of Judea…  
 You kings of Judah and JeruSalem  
 And all the rest that enter these gates;  
 Hear the Word of Jehovah!  
  
 21‘For Jehovah has said you can save yourselves  
 By not carrying loads here on the Sabbaths…  
 Don’t carry anything through JeruSalem’s gates  
 22Or from your homes on the Sabbaths.  
 He told you not to do any work,  
 And to keep the Sabbath days holy;  
 Since, that’s what He told your fathers to do!’  
  
 23‘But, they’ll not turn and listen to you…  
 They’ll have stiffer necks than their fathers…  
 They’ll not pay attention or do what you say.’  
  
  
24Then the Lord [told me to say this to them]:  
  
 ‘If you will just listen to Me  
 And not carry goods through these gates on the Sabbaths…  
 If you’ll treat the Sabbaths as holy  
 By refusing to do any work;  
 Then, kings and rulers will enter these gates  
 Who will still sit upon David’s throne.  
  
 25‘They’ll come through here with horses and chariots,  
 And I will appoint them the rulers  
 Of Judah and JeruSalem…  
 Then they’ll settle in this city throughout the ages.  
  
 26‘And at that time, [the people] will come  
 From Judah and JeruSalem.  
 And from BenJamin’s land they’ll come also…  
 From the mountains and fields in the south.  
  
 ‘Here they’ll be bringing burnt-offerings,  
 Along with incense and frankincense,  
 As well as offerings of praise and thanksgiving…  
 Here to the Temple of Jehovah.  
  
 27‘But, if you should choose not to listen  
 And not treat My Sabbaths as holy…  
 If you continue to lift and tote loads  
 Through JeruSalem’s gates on the Sabbaths;  
 I’ll kindle a fire inside of these gates  
 To devour JeruSalem’s plazas…  
 A fire that won’t be extinguished!’