### Jeremiah

## Chapter 18

1This message came to JeremiAh from Jehovah. 2He said:  
  
 ‘Get up and go to the house of the potter  
 And hear the words that I’ll say there.’  
  
3So I went to the house of the potter, and {Look!} there I found the man making a [pot] on his stone. 4However, the pot that he was making then fell apart, so he reshaped it into one that he was pleased with.  
  
5It was then that the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:  
  
 6‘Now, Jehovah is asking this question:  
  
 ‘O House of IsraEl;  
 Can’t I shape you in the same way  
 That the potter just [reshaped this pot]?  
 For, O house of IsraEl;  
 Like clay in the hands of a potter  
 Is what you are in My hands.  
  
 7‘So, when I speak of bringing an end  
 To any nation or kingdom,  
 And I plan to destroy them and lift them away;  
 8If the nation should turn from the bad,  
 I can then change My mind  
 About the bad things that I’d planned.  
  
 9‘And when I speak of building a nation or kingdom,  
 10And they [choose to be] wicked before Me,  
 Refusing to hear what I say;  
 About the good things of which I had planned,  
 I can then change My mind.’  
  
 11‘So, say this to those men of Judea  
 And to those who live in JeruSalem…  
 Tell them that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I will shape bad things against you  
 And devise against you, a plot,  
 Unless you turn from your evil ways  
 And change your bad ways to good!  
  
 12‘Yet, this is what they’ll say in reply:  
  
 ‘We’ll act like men and do as we please…  
 We’ll do whatever is bad in our hearts!’  
  
 13‘And because of this, thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘Go and ask the gentiles this question:  
 Have you heard better reasons to shudder  
 Than what IsraEl, the virgin, has done?  
  
 14‘Will snow leave the rocks on the mountains?  
 Will rain not fall when it’s blown by the wind?  
 15Yet, because My own people forgot Me,  
 It’s in vain that they’re burning incense to Me,  
 And they’ll now grow weak in their paths.  
  
 ‘On the roads of the ages, they will not walk;  
 For, since they don’t know the right way to go,  
 16They’ve ordered extinction upon their own land…  
 A hissing [that will last] throughout the ages.  
  
 ‘Then, all that go there will be stupefied,  
 And they will just shake their heads.  
 17For, enemies will blow them away  
 As though they are flames in the wind…  
 Yes, I’ll show them the rear not the front  
 In the day that they’re being destroyed!’  
  
  
18Well after that, [the people] started saying:  
  
 ‘We need to come up with a plot [to destroy] JeremiAh, for the Law won’t really pass away, nor will the wisdom or words of [our] prophets. Come on, let’s beat him on his tongue so we won’t have to listen to his words anymore!’  
  
19Hear me, O Lord,  
  
Hear the [results] of my righteous deeds! 20Should I be repaid with evil for the good [that I’m doing]? For right now they’re meeting and talking about doing something evil to my life!  
  
Please remember [all the times] that I stood here before You and asked You to do good things for them… When I urged You to turn from Your rage against them! 21But now, because of [these things that they’re saying], please bring a famine upon all their sons and hand them over to those who are carrying swords! Let their women become childless and widows… May all of their husbands be killed, and may all their young men fall by the sword! 22Let there be cries in their homes as You set looters upon them… For now they’re plotting to arrest me and they’re hiding snares to catch me!  
  
23Yes, You know, O Lord, that they’re planning to kill me; so don’t overlook their errors and sins, and wipe them away from before You. Let their failures always remain in Your [eyes], and then deal with them in the day of Your rage!