### Jeremiah

## Chapter 2

1Then the Word of Jehovah came to me again and said:  
  
 2‘Go and yell in JeruSalem’s ears…  
 Tell them that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘I remembered the mercy you had in your youth  
 And the love that you had for perfection  
 When you obeyed IsraEl’s Most Holy One.’  
  
 ‘Yes, this was said by Jehovah,  
 IsraEl’s Most Holy Lord.  
 3For, IsraEl is Holy to Jehovah,  
 And because they are His first born,  
 He’s offended by those who are chewing them up,  
 And on those doing this, He’s bringing bad things.  
  
 4‘O house of Jacob (you families of the house of IsraEl);  
 Hear the word of Jehovah!  
 5For Jehovah is asking you this:  
  
 ‘What defect in Me, did your fathers find  
 That they’d leave Me to act in this way  
 And start following after such foolish things?  
  
 6‘They no longer ask, ‘Where’s Jehovah…  
 The One who led us through the desert from Egypt…  
 Through that vast land of no water or fruit…  
 A land through which no man can travel…  
 A land where none can survive?’  
  
 7‘For I led you to CarMel, where you ate its fruits,  
 As well as its other good things…  
 Then you entered My land and defiled it,  
 And My inheritance, you turned into something that’s foul.  
  
 8‘But the priests don’t ask, ‘Where’s Jehovah?’  
 So, those who were resisting the Law  
 Weren’t prompted to turn back to Me.  
 Your shepherds also showed no respect,  
 And your prophets spoke prophecies by BaAl,  
 So they followed after things that were worthless!  
  
 9‘But, despite all of this, I still chose them, says Jehovah;  
 And the sons of their sons, I’ve [accepted].  
  
 10‘Now, go to the Island of Cyprus and see…  
 Yes, send to Kedar and you’ll understand!  
 See if the gods of those nations  
 Have ever had any effect…  
 Then you’ll know that they really aren’t gods!  
  
 11‘Yet, My people have left all their glory  
 For things that do them no good!  
 12And by this, the heavens were amazed…  
 [It caused them to] shudder, says Jehovah.  
  
 ‘To Me, My people did two wicked things:  
  
 • 13They abandoned the spring of the waters of life,  
 • And they dug cracked cisterns that cannot hold water.  
  
 14‘Is IsraEl a slave or a native-born son;  
 For, why did he choose to be plundered?  
 15Now, lions are roaring before him  
 That are ordered to wipe out his land.  
 So his cities will be cut to the ground,  
 Then no one can live there again!  
  
 16‘The sons of Memphis and TahPanhes…  
 Those who know you, are laughing at you!  
 17And this happened because you have left Me,  
 Says Jehovah, your God.  
  
 18‘Now, what are the ways of Egypt to you  
 That you would [long for] their waters?  
 And what are the ways of Assyria to you  
 That you’d wish to drink from their rivers?  
  
 19‘So because you’ve left Me, I’ll discipline you…  
 For your evil ways, I will scold You…  
 You’ll see it happen and then you will know  
 How bitter are the ways of turning from Me,  
 Says Jehovah, your God!  
  
 20‘I’ve come to think [poorly] of you,’  
 Says Jehovah your God.  
 ‘For, throughout the ages, you’ve broken My yoke  
 And you have ripped off My bonds.  
  
 ‘You said:  
  
 ‘I won’t be [Your] servant;  
 But I’ll climb up every high hill  
 And bow beneath every shade tree…  
 And there is where I’ll go whoring!’  
  
 21‘Yet I planted you to be My grapevine  
 For the purpose of bearing the fruitage of truth.  
 So, why did you then turn so bitter  
 And become a grapevine that’s strange?  
  
 22‘Now, if I would wash you in lye,  
 And if I’d use plenty of soap,  
 You’d still be spotted in your sins before Me.  
  
 23‘How can you say you’re not dirty  
 And that you’ve not chased after BaAl?  
 See how you’re acting in graveyards…  
 Yes, you know all the things that you’ve done!  
  
 24‘Upon desert waters, her ways have been spread,  
 And she’s driven by the winds of desires.  
 So to them, she’s been handed over,  
 To turn her away from her [evil].  
  
 ‘Now those searching for her won’t get tired,  
 And she will be humbled when they arrive.  
  
 25‘Although she should divert her feet from this path  
 And turn her throat from this thirst,  
 This is what she’s still saying:  
  
 ‘I will act like a man;  
 So, I will chase after strangers,  
 And with them, I will make love!’  
  
 26‘As a thief is shamed when he’s caught,  
 Is how IsraEl’s sons will be shamed…  
 Yes they, their kings, and their rulers,  
 As well as their prophets and priests.  
  
 27‘For they’ve said to a tree, ‘You’re my father;’  
 And they’ve said to a stone, ‘You gave me life.’  
  
 ‘Yet, although they have all turned their backs  
 (But not their faces) towards Me;  
 When hard times arrive, they’ll still say:  
  
 ‘O Jehovah, please save us!’  
  
 28‘Will [your idols] still save you in difficult times,  
 And will [you turn] to these gods that you’ve made?  
  
 ‘In Judah, each city now has its own gods,  
 And in all of JeruSalem’s streets  
 They offer sacrifices to BaAl.  
 29So, why are you even talking to me?’  
  
 ‘Jehovah says:  
  
 ‘You’ve been irreverent and lawless towards Me,  
 30And it’s in vain that I’ve spanked you like children;  
 For, from My correction, you’ve failed to learn!  
  
 ‘So, although your prophets were devoured by swords,  
 And although lions came and wiped them away,  
 This hasn’t [taught you] to fear Me.  
  
 31‘Therefore, hear the Word of Jehovah,  
 For Jehovah is asking you this:  
  
 ‘To IsraEl, am I now a desert…  
 Am I a land that’s barren to you?  
  
 ‘Why is it that My people say:  
  
 ‘Because you aren’t our Lord anymore,  
 We’ll no longer be coming before You’?  
  
 32‘Will the bride forget her tiara,  
 And will virgins forget the bands for their breasts?  
 Yet, I’ve been forgotten by you  
 Through too many days to be counted.  
  
 33‘What good can you make of your ways,  
 So that you can seek [My] affection again?  
 It just won’t do any good,  
 Because you’ve made yourselves wicked.  
  
 ‘All of your ways are now dirty,  
 And innocent blood is found in your hands.  
 34No, I don’t find [their bodies] in ditches,  
 But [hanging] from every [tall] tree.  
 35Yet you still say, I’m not guilty…  
 So, please turn back You rage!  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’m the One who’s passing judgment on you  
 When you say that you have not sinned!  
 36And for you, I’ve come to feel great disdain  
 Because of the things that you’re doing.  
  
 ‘Therefore, by Egypt, you will be disgraced,  
 As Assyria has disgraced you before.  
 37You’ll be taken from here with your hands on your heads,  
 For Jehovah has thrust you away…  
 And then, none of your hopes will succeed.’