### Jeremiah

## Chapter 20

1Well, when PashUr son of ImMer (the Priest who had been anointed as the leader of the Temple of Jehovah) heard what JeremiAh was prophesying, 2he had him beaten and thrown into the dungeon near the Upper Gate of the House of BenJamin, which was near the Temple of Jehovah.  
  
3Then the next morning, as PashUr was leading JeremiAh out of the dungeon, JeremiAh said to him:  
  
 ‘Jehovah won’t call your name PashUr anymore. Rather, He’s going to call you Refugee. 4Because, Jehovah says this:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I will hand over you and your friends,  
 And you’ll be taken away from this place.  
 Then, each one will be cut down by enemy swords…  
 And your eyes will see it all happen.  
  
 ‘Then I’ll hand over Judah to Babylon’s king,  
 And he’ll move the people away  
 Or cut them to pieces with swords.  
  
 5‘I’ll remove the strength from this city  
 – All its works and all the king’s treasures –  
 And give them into their enemy’s hands.  
  
 ‘Then to Babylon, they all will be led;  
 6And you and all that live in your house  
 Will be taken to Babylon as captives,  
 And that is the place where you’ll die…  
 It’s where you’ll be entombed with your friends  
 To whom you prophesied lies.’  
  
7Then I said:  
  
 ‘You’ve deceived me, O Lord… Yes, I was truly deceived! Although You’ve held on and won, I’m the butt of their laughter every day and I’m the one they’re all sneering at! 8So from now on, I’m just going to laugh at the bitterness and call for more misery and rebellion, since all that speaking the word of Jehovah has brought me is scorn and taunting every day.’  
  
9And I said:  
  
 ‘There’s no way that I’m going to [speak of] Jehovah anymore… I won’t even mention His Name!’  
  
However, soon it became like a fire that burned and blazed in my bones and made me weak on the inside, until I was no longer able to bear it. [So I said:]  
  
 10‘I’ve heard that they’ve said in their meetings:  
  
 ‘We should all rise up against him…  
 Yes, let’s stand together against him  
 As well as against all his friends!  
  
 ‘Let’s ignore what he says will be coming…  
 Yes, let him keep on being deceived.  
 For against him, we will prevail,  
 And then, we’ll take vengeance upon him!’  
  
 11‘However, Jehovah is with me,  
 As a warrior that’s making me strong.  
 So, they have chased me in vain…  
 And although they will all meet with shame,  
 They’ll fail to see their dishonor,  
 Which will not be forgotten throughout ages.  
  
 12‘O Lord,  
  
 ‘Try me according to Your righteous ways…  
 Examine my kidneys and heart.  
 May I witness Your punishment on them…  
 For before You, I’ve laid out my pleas for defense.  
  
 13‘So, sing to Jehovah and praise Him,  
 Because He’ll save the lives of the poor  
 From the hands of those who have power!  
  
 14‘O cursed is the day I was born…  
 May the day that my mother gave birth  
 Never be longed for again!  
  
 15‘And may that person be cursed  
 Who brought this as news to my father:  
 ‘Rejoice, for you have a male child!’  
 16May he be as the cities that did not repent  
 And were destroyed by Jehovah!  
  
 ‘Let him hear their cries in the mornings,  
 As well as their shouting at noon!  
 17For [God] failed to kill me in my mother’s womb  
 And let it serve as my tomb throughout the ages.  
  
 18‘Why did I come from the womb…  
 Just to see all of this misery  
 And to spend all my days in such shame?’