### Jeremiah

## Chapter 21

1The following are the words that came to JeremiAh from Jehovah after King ZedekiAh had sent PashUr (son of MelchiAh) and ZephaniAh (son of MaAseJah) the Priest to him to say this:  
  
 2‘Go beg to Jehovah for us, because the king of Babylon has us surrounded! [Ask] if the Lord will send wonders and drive that king from [our walls].’  
  
3So the Lord then told JeremiAh:  
  
 ‘Give this reply [from Jehovah] to King ZedekiAh:  
  
 ‘I’ll turn back the weapons of war in your hands  
 That you’re using to fight those Chaldeans  
 Who have come to oppress you,  
 And that are outside of your walls;  
 4Then, I’ll bring them into your city.  
  
 5‘For, I will wage war against you  
 With My outstretched hand and My mighty arm  
 In [My] anger and rage.  
  
 6‘I’ll strike all those who live in this city  
 In a slaughter of men and their cattle…  
 Yes, they will all be destroyed!  
  
 7‘And then,’ said Jehovah,  
 I’ll hand over Judah’s King ZedekiAh,  
 As well as all of his servants,  
 Along with those who live in this city  
 Who’ll survive death from the famine  
 And the swords in the hands of those seeking their lives.  
  
 ‘By the mouth of the sword, they’ll cut them to bits…  
 They will not spare or feel pity!’  
  
 8‘Then, speak to these people and tell them…  
 Yes, tell them that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘{Look!} Before your faces, I’ve put life and death.  
 9And those who stay in this city  
 Will die by famine or by the sword.  
 But those who leave to join the Chaldeans  
 (Those men who have you surrounded) will live…  
 Your [reward] will be your own lives!  
  
 10‘For against this city, I’ve now set My face  
 To do just bad things, not good,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘It’s going to be handed to Babylon’s king,  
 And he will then burn it in fire.  
  
 11‘O house of the kings of Judea;  
 Hear the Word of Jehovah!  
 12And to you, the house of [King] David;  
 Against you, Jehovah said this:  
  
 ‘In the morning, discuss the judgment on you,  
 And then get yourselves straightened out.  
 Rescue those being shredded  
 From the hands of those who are doing them wrong!  
  
 ‘Don’t let My anger be lit like a fire;  
 For, after it has been kindled,  
 No one will come here to put it out!  
  
 13‘Look… It’s Me that’s coming against  
 All you who live in these [mountains],  
 And you who live in the plains…  
 Those who have asked, ‘Whom must we fear?’  
 And, ‘Who could enter our homes?’  
  
 14‘Yes, I am the One who is watching  
 And the One who will light the fire,  
 Which will burn everything that’s around [you]!’