### Jeremiah

## Chapter 22

1Then the Lord said:  
  
 ‘So now, go to the [palace] of Judah’s king,  
 And these are the words you must speak there:  
  
 2‘O you king of Judea,  
 Hear the Word of Jehovah…  
 Yes, you who are sitting upon David’s throne…  
 You, as well as your servants,  
 And all the people who enter your gates!’  
  
 3‘Tell him that this is what was said by Jehovah:  
  
 ‘You must [learn to] be righteous and fair,  
 And rescue those being plundered  
 From the hands of those who are doing them wrong!  
  
 ‘Don’t tyrannize strangers, orphans, or widows…  
 Don’t be irreverent anymore…  
 And stop shedding innocent blood in this place!  
  
 4‘For, if you [continue] doing such things,  
 Their kings will enter the gates of this house,  
 And on David’s throne, they will sit.  
 Yes, they, their children, and people  
 Will come here on chariots and horses!  
  
 5‘If you choose not to listen to Me,  
 I swear this oath by Myself,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘On your house, I will bring desolation!’  
  
 6‘And Jehovah said this against the [palace] of the king of Judah:  
  
 ‘You’re the same as GileAd to Me;  
 For, you are Lebanon’s head.  
 So, shouldn’t I wipe you away  
 And leave your cities deserted?  
  
 7‘I’ll bring annihilation upon you  
 By a man who carries the axe.  
 He’ll cut down all your fine cedars,  
 And throw them into a fire.  
  
 8‘Then, nations will [march] through this city,  
 And each man will ask his companion:  
  
 ‘Why did [God] let this happen?’  
  
 9‘And the other will give this reply:  
  
 ‘Because they abandoned their Sacred Agreement  
 With Jehovah their God…  
 Because they bowed to and served other gods.’  
  
 10‘So don’t weep or feel sorry for those who will die…  
 Rather, weep for those who’ll be carried away.  
 For, they will never return  
 Or see the land of their fathers again.'  
  
  
11The Lord also said these words against ShalLum (JehoiAkim) king of Judah (son of [King] JosiAh), who reigned in place of his [brother] who’d been carried] off [to Egypt].  
  
He said:  
  
 ‘You will never return here,  
 12And you’ll die where I’ll have you taken…  
 So this land will never see you again!  
  
 13‘For your [palace] was built on injustice,  
 And unfairly, its rooms were constructed,  
 Since you made your neighbors work without pay…  
 You didn’t even pay them their wages!  
  
 14‘A well-designed house, you’ve built for yourself,  
 With windows and good ventilation,  
 And cedar walls that are painted vermillion.  
 15But, should you have started to rule  
 Because you disliked your father?  
  
 ‘Of food and drink, he had plenty,  
 Because he was fair, honest, and just!  
 16But, you have not [seen the need]  
 To judge the humble in fairness,  
 Or to be just with the poor!  
  
 ‘Jehovah asks:  
  
 ‘Have you done this because you don’t know Me?’  
  
 17‘{Look!} There is nothing good in your eyes or your heart,  
 And your desire is just to gain wealth.  
 So, you are shedding innocent blood  
 And committing such evils as murder!’  
  
  
18Then the Lord said this against JehoiAkim, king of Judah:  
  
 'Because of all that he’s done,  
 Woe [will come to] this man.  
 So let no one feel sorry for him,  
 And no one should wail, ‘O my brother!’  
  
 ‘Over him, they should never weep,  
 Or say, ‘Too bad for you, O my Lord!’  
 19For, he’ll be buried like a donkey…  
 He’ll be scraped up and tossed from JeruSalem’s [walls]!  
  
 20‘Now, go up to Lebanon and shout…  
 Go to BaShan and call to the ends of the sea,  
 [And you’ll see that] your lovers have been beaten!  
  
 21‘I’ve spoken to you of your sins,  
 And you said that you’d pay me no heed.  
 This has been your way since your youth…  
 You’ve paid no attention to my voice!  
  
 22‘So your shepherds will just tend the wind,  
 And your lovers will be taken as captives.  
 Then, you’ll be shamed and disgraced  
 Before all of those with whom you’ve made love.  
  
 23[‘For Jehovah says:]  
  
 ‘O you who call Lebanon [your home],  
 And you who nest among cedars;  
 You’ll groan like a [woman] about to give birth;  
 For, pangs of grief are coming to you!  
  
 24‘As I live,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘King ConiJah (JehoiAkim’s son)  
 Will become a seal on My right hand;  
 For, from your place, I will take you  
 25And hand you to the man who is seeking your life…  
 The one before whom you are cautious…  
 To the hands of King NebuChadNezzar  
 And to the hands of all his Chaldeans.  
  
 26‘I’ll throw you and the mother who bore you  
 Into a land where you were not born…  
 And then you will die in that place!  
 27So, to this land that’s the love of your life,  
 You will never return.  
  
 28‘ConiJah will also meet with disgrace…  
 And like a pot [that’s been thrown] in the trash;  
 He’ll be thrown in a land that he’s never known.’  
  
 29‘O land, hear the Word of Jehovah:  
  
 30‘Record this king as one who’s been banished,  
 And thereafter, proclaim this in public:  
  
 ‘Nothing will grow from his ‘seed’  
 That will ever sit upon David’s throne,  
 Or rule in Judah again!’