### Jeremiah

## Chapter 27

1It was at the beginning of the reign of JehoiAkim (son of JosiAh) the king of Judah, that these words came to JeremiAh from Jehovah. [Editor note: These words are factually incorrect, and are probably an interpolation introduced in the Hebrew Masoretic text, not present in the original Greek Septuagint ordering of Jeremiah.]  
  
2The Lord said:  
  
 ‘Now, make some shackles for yourself  
 And a collar [of iron] to be put ‘round your neck.  
 3Then send them to the kings of Edom and MoAb,  
 And to those of AmMon, Sidon, and Tyre  
 By the hands of those who have come here  
 To see ZedekiAh, king of Judah.  
  
 4‘Tell them that they must say to their Lords  
 That IsraEl’s God Jehovah of Armies said this:  
  
 5‘I’m the One who created the earth and its people,  
 And all cattle on the face of the ground  
 By means of My strength and My mighty arm,  
 And I’ll hand it to whomever I choose.  
  
 6‘So now, I have given all of your lands  
 To NebuChadNezzar (Babylon’s King),  
 [And all the people] must start serving him,  
 As must all the beasts in the fields,  
 7As well as your sons and the sons of your sons  
 Throughout the time that I’ve set for your land…  
  
 ‘Yes, all of this is now his!  
  
 ‘Many nations and kings will start serving him,  
 8And upon any nation or kingdom  
 That refuses to serve King NebuChadNezzar  
 (That won’t wear his yoke on their necks),  
 I’ll send the sword, famine, and plague,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘Until they yield to his hand.  
  
 9‘So don’t listen to what your false prophets say  
 (Those who through dreams prophecy,  
 Or those who give omens through potions)  
 When they tell you not to serve Babylon’s king;  
 10For they are just lying to you,  
 And then you’ll be driven out of your land…  
 For I’ll drive you out and [destroy] you!  
  
 11‘To the nation that puts its neck in the yoke  
 And chooses to serve Babylon’s king;  
 I’ll allow them to stay in their land, says Jehovah,  
 ‘They’ll continue to work there and live.’  
  
  
12So I went and spoke all these words to ZedekiAh the king of Judah. I told him:  
  
 ‘If you’ll put your neck in the yoke of Babylon’s king 13and work for him and his men, you’ll live!  
  
 ‘Why should you and your people choose to die by the sword, famines, and plagues, as Jehovah told the nations would happen to them if they don’t wish to serve Babylon’s king?  
  
 14‘You shouldn’t listen to the words of those prophets when they tell you that you must not serve him, for they’re prophesying unrighteous things! 15Jehovah says that He didn’t send them, and what they’re prophesying in His Name is unrighteous, so He’ll have to destroy both them and you…  
  
 ‘Yes, you’ll die along with those prophets who are lying to you!’  
  
  
16Then I spoke to the priests and to all the people, and told them that Jehovah said this:  
  
 ‘Don’t listen to the words of the prophets  
 When they speak prophecies and they tell you  
 That the items of the Temple of Jehovah  
 Will soon be returned from Babylon.  
 For, they are lying to you!  
  
 17‘No, do not listen to them…  
 Serve Babylon’s king and you’ll live…  
 Why bring your city to ruin?’  
  
18[Then I said]:  
  
 ‘If they truly are Prophets  
 And if they really have the word of Jehovah;  
 Then, have them all come here and meet me,  
 So that the things which are left in the Temple  
 And the things that belong to Judea’s kings  
 (Whatever is left in JeruSalem)  
 Will not be taken to Babylon.  
  
 19‘For Jehovah sent me this warning  
 About the [Temple’s sacred] columns,  
 And about the [Sacred] Sea and its base,  
 As well as about all the rest that is left,  
 20Which Babylon’s king didn’t already take  
 When he removed JehoiAkim’s son, JeconiJah…  
 The king of Judah and all of his rulers,  
 Then took them from Judah and JeruSalem,  
 And carried them to Babylon.  
  
 21‘For Jehovah of Armies (the God of IsraEl)  
 Said this about the things left behind  
 At the Temple of Jehovah,  
 And all that is left in the homes of the kings  
 In Judah and JeruSalem:  
  
 22‘To Babylon, it will be carried,  
 And there is where it will stay  
 Until the day that I come to visit,  
 And they bring it back to this place.’