### Jeremiah

## Chapter 29

1These are the words of the scroll that JeremiAh the Prophet sent from JeruSalem to the elders that had already been relocated, as well as to the priests and false prophets… To all the people whom NebuChadNezzar had moved from JeruSalem to Babylon 2after King JeconiJah, his queen, his eunuchs, and all the freemen, servants, and craftsman had been taken from JeruSalem.  
  
3[He sent it] by the hand of ElAsah (son of ShaPhan) and GemariJah (son of HilkiJah). For they were the ones whom ZedekiAh king of Judah had sent to the king of the Babylonian [Empire] that lived in [the city of] Babylon.  
  
[The scroll] said:  
  
 4‘Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, says this  
 To those who were carried away  
 (Those whom He’d moved from JeruSalem to Babylon):  
  
 5‘Build houses and get ready to live there…  
 Plant gardens and then eat their fruits…  
 6Take wives and also have children…  
 Father both daughters and sons!  
  
 ‘Then, take [mates] for your daughters and sons;  
 And they’ll also give birth to daughters and sons…  
 They’ll multiply and not be reduced!  
  
 7‘Yes, seek peace in the land where I’ve sent you,  
 And pray to Jehovah on its behalf;  
 For, in its peace, you’ll find peace!  
  
 8‘Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, also said this:  
  
 ‘Don’t believe the false prophets among you…  
 Do not be influenced by those  
 Who say that you will find comfort…  
 And pay no attention to the things that they’ve dreamed!  
  
 9‘For, there will be those who will come in My Name,  
 And they will prophesy falsely;  
 But by Me, they were not sent!’ says Jehovah.  
  
 10‘Then, this is what I was told by Jehovah:  
  
 ‘After the 70 years  
 Upon Babylon have been fulfilled,  
 I’ll come to visit and do as I said…  
 I’ll bring you people back to your [homes].  
  
 11‘I’ll work out a way that’s peaceful, not bad,  
 To bring you back from this place.  
 12Then you can pray to Me and I’ll hear you…  
 13You can search for Me and you’ll find Me.  
 And if wholeheartedly, you’ll search for Me,  
 14By you, I will be found!’  
  
 15‘But you say that the Lord has put Prophets among those who are living in Babylon. 16Well, Jehovah says this to the king who is sitting on the throne of David and to all the people who are living in this city, as well as to all your brothers that didn’t leave and weren’t taken into captivity along with you… 17Yes, [concerning these prophets], Jehovah of Armies said this:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’ll send them the sword, famines, and plagues…  
 Like a bad fig, I will make them…  
 [A fig] that’s too rotten to eat.  
  
 18‘I’ll pursue them with swords, famines, and plagues,  
 Then scatter them to all the kingdoms of earth.  
 And to confusion, hissing, and scorn they’ll be cursed  
 Among all the nations where I’ll send them.  
  
 19‘For they’ve paid no attention to My words,’ said Jehovah,  
 ‘That I spoke to them through My servants, the Prophets…  
 Those whom I sent and rose early [each day],  
 But to whom, they chose not to listen,’ said Jehovah.  
  
 20‘Yet, those of you who’ve been moved away  
 From JeruSalem to Babylon,  
 Have also ignored the Word of Jehovah.  
  
 21‘For Jehovah once spoke against Ahab (son of KolaiJah)  
 And ZedekiAh (son of MaAseJah)  
 Who prophesied lies to you in His Name.  
 And this is what He has said about them:  
  
 ‘{Look!} To Babylon’s king, I will hand them,  
 And he’ll cut them down in front of your eyes.  
 22So when Babylon’s Jews speak curses, they’ll say:  
  
 ‘May Jehovah do the same thing to you  
 That He did to ZedekiAh and Ahab…  
 Those who Babylon’s king fried in fires.’  
  
 23‘For, JeruSalem’s people are lawless…  
 They’re committing adultery with their countrymen’s wives.  
 Yet [their prophets] are saying things in My Name  
 That I didn’t tell them to say…  
 And I am the witness [against them],’ says Jehovah!  
  
  
24Then [the Lord instructed me] to say this to ShemaiAh the NeHelamite:  
  
 ‘Although you were not sent in My Name;  
 You wrote to the Priest, ZephaniAh,  
 Saying that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 25‘I’m the One who appointed you as the Priest  
 To take the place of JehoiAda  
 And to be in charge of the Temple,  
 As well as to be over the prophets.  
  
 26‘And now, I tell you to put every man  
 Who acts [like a prophet], in prison…  
 Put them in the [lowest of] dungeons.  
  
 27‘So, why haven’t you joined in and scolded  
 JeremiAh from [the city of] AnathOth  
 Who has served as a Prophet to you?’  
  
 28‘For to us who are living in Babylon  
 And in its most-distant places,  
 He says that freedom is still far away.  
 So, they should build houses and dwell there…  
 Plant gardens and then eat their fruits.’  
  
29Well, after the Prophet JeremiAh read this letter in the ears of ZephaniAh, 30the Word of Jehovah came to him again and said:  
  
 31‘Send [a message] to those who’ve been sent away  
 And say that Jehovah has brought condemnation  
 Upon ShemaiAh the NeHeLamite.  
  
 ‘He said:  
  
 ‘Since ShemaiAh has prophesied before you  
 Despite the fact that I didn’t send him,  
 And he urged you to trust in the bad things you do…  
 32Yes, because of this,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘I’ll visit ShemaiAh and all of his kind,  
 And there won’t be a man left among them  
 Who will see the good I’ll do among you,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘For he’s preached a turning from Me.’