### Jeremiah

## Chapter 3

1‘If a man releases his woman  
 And she [then moves in with] another…  
 Then, if she thereafter [also leaves him],  
 Can she return [to first one] again?  
 For, once she has been defiled,  
 Isn’t she always defiled?  
  
 ‘Yet, after [you’ve had] many shepherds,  
 You want to come back to Me, said Jehovah.  
 2So now, raise your eyes to see the right way…  
 See how you’ve been defiled!  
  
 ‘For you sat by the road [and waited] for them  
 Alone and defiled like a crow  
 In this land of your evil and whoring.  
  
 3‘You’ve stumbled and had many shepherds,  
 And because you looked like a whore,  
 You have brought shame on them all.  
  
 4‘Yet, didn’t you call Me [your] Father…  
 The One who founded your virgin condition!  
 5[And wasn’t it you who once said],  
 Throughout the age, I’ll still be a virgin…  
 I’ll guard this state ‘til I’ve won?  
 {Look!} Yet, although you made such a vow,  
 You went and did this vile thing!’  
  
  
6Well, it was during the days of King JosiAh that the Lord came and said this to me:  
  
 ‘You saw what the house of IsraEl has done…  
 For she’s climbed upon every high mountain  
 And crawled under every tree in the woods,  
 And there, she’s committing [adultery].  
  
 7‘Then, after she does all her whoring;  
 Although I’ve told her to turn from this badness,  
 She still refuses to stop.  
  
 ‘So when I saw that Judah had broken [her vows];  
 8I knew that in order to benefit all,  
 I had to stand up [for what’s right].  
  
 ‘For the house of IsraEl fell into seduction,  
 And then she committed adultery.  
 So with a certificate of divorce I sent her away.  
  
 ‘But the [vow]-breaker Judah wasn’t bothered by this,  
 And she continued in her whoring ways.  
 9For, whoring was nothing to her…  
 She even did it with wood and stone things…  
 10Her heart refused to turn back,  
 And all she offered was lies.’  
  
  
11Then the Lord said this to me:  
  
 ‘Even IsraEl was better than this [vow]-breaker Judah;  
 12So, go to the north and then read these words…  
 Tell [those in the north] that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘O house of IsraEl, if you’ll come back to Me,  
 Against you, I’ll not set My face…  
 I will show mercy upon you, says Jehovah,  
 And throughout the age, I won’t be outraged.  
  
 13‘Just be aware of your sins!  
 For you’ve shown disrespect to Jehovah your God…  
 [Your love] you’ve given to strangers  
 Beneath every tree in the woods,  
 And you chose not to do what I said, says Jehovah.  
  
 14‘So return, you sons who’ve revolted, says God,  
 And I’ll be your Lord once again.  
 I’ll choose one man from each city,  
 And I will choose two from each family;  
 Then, I will take them to Zion  
 15And appoint these ones whom My heart has chosen  
 To serve as shepherds for you,  
 And with higher knowledge, they’ll watch over you.  
  
 16‘Then, as you grow and spread in the land, says Jehovah;  
 In those days, they’ll not speak anymore  
 Of IsraEl’s Holy Chest of the Sacred Agreement…  
 No, it won’t come into their hearts…  
 It won’t be named or examined…  
 This won’t be done anymore!  
  
 17‘For, in those days and during that time,  
 JeruSalem will everafter be known  
 As the place of the Throne of Jehovah,  
 And it’s where all the nations will gather  
 With no wicked thoughts in their hearts.  
  
 18‘And in those days, the houses of IsraEl and Judah  
 Will become one [nation] again.  
 They’ll be gathered from the lands of the north  
 To the place that I gave to their fathers.’  
  
19Well at that, I shouted:  
  
 ‘May it happen, O Lord!  
  
 ‘For You told me that You will let me have children again, and that I will receive a choice piece of land… The inheritance of the Almighty God… [The God] that will be over all the nations! Yes, Father; you’ve called me, and now I’ll never turn away from You!’  
  
20But the Lord said:  
  
 ‘The house of IsraEl has left me,  
 Like a woman who’s rejected her man.  
 21And for this, her lips will thereafter weep.  
  
 ‘So, tell IsraEl’s sons to turn back and beg,  
 Because their ways have led them to sin,  
 And they’ve forgotten their Most Holy God.  
 22So sons; it is time to turn back…  
 Turn back and I’ll heal your broken condition!’  
  
[And I said]:  
  
 ‘Look… That’s how we’ll be with You then, for You are our God Jehovah, 23and all the powers of the hills and mountains are really the powers of our Lord… Our God who is IsraEl’s Savior!  
  
 24‘However, the efforts of our fathers have been eaten away by shame since the time of their youth, and now all their calves and sheep (their sons and daughters) 25go to bed in shame and they’re covered by their dishonor. Yes, like our fathers, we have sinned before God from the time of our youth down to this day, and we’ve failed to pay attention to the voice of our God Jehovah!’