### Jeremiah

## Chapter 31

1Then the Lord told me this:  
  
 ‘They’ll be the race of IsraEl’s God…  
 Yes they’ll be His people once more.’  
  
  
2And the Lord said:  
  
 ‘Although they found it hot in the desert  
 When they were destroyed by the sword;  
 IsraEl will again find places to rest!  
  
 3‘For they’ll see Jehovah off in the distance,  
 And this is what He will say:  
  
 ‘With the love of the ages, I’ve loved you,  
 So I’ve drawn you close to show mercy on you…  
 4I will rebuild you and you’ll be rebuilt,  
 O virgin daughter of IsraEl.  
  
 ‘Your tambourines will be raised once again  
 And you’ll play them before the assembly.  
 5You will also plant vineyards again  
 Upon Samaria’s mountains…  
 Yes, you will go planting and plant,  
 And you will go praising and praise!  
  
 6‘Then, on the day that I call out to you;  
 On Ephraim’s mountains, the watchmen will cry:  
  
 ‘Get up and go to Mount Zion…  
 Return to Jehovah your God!’  
  
 7‘Then Jehovah said this concerning [the people of] Jacob:  
  
 ‘Be glad and shout to those leading the nations…  
 Do it… Shout loudly in praise!  
 Say, ‘Jehovah has rescued His people…  
 Those IsraElites who survived!’  
  
 8‘Look… From the north, I will lead them,  
 And I’ll gather them from the ends of the earth  
 To observe a [glorious] Passover…  
 They’ll return, and they’ll have many children!  
  
 9‘Although when they left, they did so in tears;  
 I’ll send them comfort and lead them to rest  
 Along straight roads with [pure] streams…  
 It’s a path from which they’ll not stray.  
 Then I’ll be IsraEl’s Father again,  
 And [a Father] to Ephraim, My firstborn.’  
  
 10‘O nations, hear the word of Jehovah  
 And announce it as far as the islands!  
 Say, ‘The One who blew IsraEl off like the chaff  
 Will gather them back once again,  
 And like a grazing flock, He will guard them!’  
  
 11‘For Jehovah will [pay] Jacob’s ransom,  
 And from mighty hands, He will save them…  
 12Then in joy, they’ll come back to Zion.  
  
 ‘And there in a land filled with grain,  
 They will find good things from their God…  
 Wine, olive oil, fruit, cattle, and sheep.  
 So their lives will then be like fruit trees,  
 And they will go hungry no more.  
  
 13‘Then the virgins will all be rejoicing,  
 And men young and old will be shouting in joy.  
 For their mourning will be changed into cries of glee…  
 They’ll be happy, and He’ll bring them comfort.  
  
 14‘Then I’ll magnify the lives of the Priests  
 And [the lives of] the sons of Levi…  
 My people will own many good things!’  
  
 ‘Jehovah said:  
  
 15‘A voice was heard crying from RamAh…  
 The sounds of weeping, wailing, and grief.  
 It was RachEl crying over her sons…  
 She refused to accept any comfort,  
 Because they aren’t here anymore.  
  
 16‘Then to her, Jehovah said this:  
  
 ‘Stop crying and dry the tears from your eyes,  
 For you’ll be paid a wage for your work…  
 They’ll be returned from their enemies’ lands,  
 17And there is still hope for those who survived,’ says Jehovah,  
 For your sons will return to their borders.  
  
 18‘Then I heard Ephraim grieving;  
 So I listened and he told Me this:  
  
 ‘You beat me and I was corrected;  
 For I had acted like a [wild] calf.  
 But You turned me around and now I’ve returned;  
 For, You are Jehovah, my God!  
  
 19‘Captivity brought a change to my mind  
 In that day when You brought me shame.  
 But, after I moaned, I then understood…  
 Plainly, I showed You that I had accepted  
 That, from my youth, [I deserved] all the scorn.’  
  
 20‘Yes, Ephraim is My dearly loved son…  
 A child in whom I find joy.  
 And because My words are within him,  
 I will never forget him.  
  
 ‘It was because of this, that I hurried;  
 For, when it comes to showing him mercy,  
 I will show mercy upon him,’ said Jehovah.  
  
 21‘So erect the road signs and guideposts,  
 And give your hearts to your shoulders,  
 For they will be [coming back home]!  
 Yes return, O IsraEl, the virgin…  
 Return to the cities where they’re mourning [your loss]!’  
  
22[And Jeremiah? said:]  
  
O My daughter,  
  
When will you return from those places  
 Where you were being disgraced?  
 For the Lord has made new places for you  
 Where it will be safe to do planting,  
 And where people can travel in safety.  
  
[And the Lord said:]  
  
 23‘Then Jehovah of Armies (IsraEl’s God) told me this:  
  
 ‘Once more, you’ll be speaking of Me  
 In the land of Judah and in all your towns,  
 When I bring back those who were carried away!’  
  
 ‘So, praise Jehovah on His Holy Mount!  
 24For, those who live in the cities of Judah  
 And the farmers [that dwell] in His land  
 Will grow once again, along with their flocks!  
  
 25[For Jehovah says:]  
  
 ‘To thirsty souls, I’ll send something to drink,  
 And all hungry souls, I will fill.  
 26Then, when you wake up [in the morning],  
 You’ll see that your sleep has been peaceful.  
  
 27‘Look! The days are coming,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘When I’ll sow both IsraEl and Judah  
 With the ‘seeds’ of men and the ‘seeds’ of wild beasts.  
  
 28‘It’ll be as when I watched over them  
 (Not when I brought them destruction).  
 And then, over them, I’ll be watchful…  
 They’ll be rebuilt and replanted,’ said Jehovah.  
  
 29‘In those days, no way will they say,  
 ‘Although it was the fathers that ate unripe grapes,  
 The teeth of their children felt chills.’  
 30For then, only sinners will die  
 Because of the bad things they do,  
 And those eating green grapes will feel their own chills.  
  
 31‘Look… The days are coming,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘When I’ll make an arrangement with IsraEl’s house,  
 As well as with the houses of Judah.  
  
 ‘I’ll conclude a New Sacred Agreement  
 32That’s unlike the one that I made with their fathers  
 In the day that I grabbed their hands  
 To lead them from Egypt’s land.  
 But because they didn’t keep My Sacred Agreement,  
 I had to let them go,‘ says Jehovah.  
  
 33‘So, this is My [New] Sacred Agreement  
 That I will conclude with IsraEl then,’ said Jehovah,  
 I will put My Laws in their minds,  
 And into their hearts, I will write them.  
 Then, they’ll be My people and I’ll be their God.  
  
 34‘There’s no way they’ll then teach their neighbors and brothers  
 That they must learn of Jehovah;  
 For, all will know Me from the least to the great.  
 And when it comes to their errors and sins…  
 I will kindly forget them!’  
  
 35‘Yet, this is what Jehovah [says]...  
 The One who appointed the sun  
 To serve as light for the day,  
 And the moon and the stars as light for the nights…  
 The One who brought the roar of the seas,  
 As well as the sounds of their waves…  
 Jehovah the Almighty, is His Name:  
  
 36‘If these Laws should [be voided] before Me,  
 Then the race of IsraEl will no longer stand  
 As a nation before Me  
 Throughout the rest of the days.’  
  
 37‘Jehovah says:  
  
 ‘If the skies can be raised even higher  
 And the floor of the ground can be lowered,  
 I can reject the race of IsraEl, says Jehovah,  
 For all the things that they’ve done.’  
  
 38‘But, look! The days are coming,’ said the Lord,  
 ‘When the city of Jehovah will be rebuilt.  
 [It’s walls will run] from the HananEl Tower  
 All the way to the gate at the corner…  
 39To the hills of Gareb, I’ll measure it out  
 And surround it with most precious stones.  
  
 ‘From the Valley of Phagarim and its ashes,  
 And from AsaRemOth to the Wadi of Cedars,  
 Then east to the corner of the Horse Gate,  
 It’ll be a Holy Place to Jehovah,  
 And its roots won’t be pulled up again…  
 Throughout the age, it won’t be destroyed.’