### Jeremiah

## Chapter 44

1Then the Word of Jehovah once again came to JeremiAh concerning the Judeans that were living in the land of Egypt… Those who had settled near the watchtower, or in TahPanHes, or in Memphis, or in the land of Pathros.  
  
He said:  
  
 2‘Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl says this:  
  
 ‘You have witnessed all the bad things  
 That I brought upon JeruSalem  
 And upon the cities of Judah;  
 For {Look!} they have lain desolate down to this day…  
 No one lives there at all,  
 3Because of their wicked faces,  
 And what they did to make Me feel bitter  
 By burning incense to gods they’ve not known…  
 Which you and your fathers have done also!  
  
 4‘So [each morning], I sent them My servants the Prophets  
 To tell them not to do those bad things…  
 Those disgusting things that I’ve hated.  
 5But they chose not to listen to Me,  
 Or lean their ears to pay any attention  
 And then turn from their evil ways  
 Of burning incense before other gods.  
  
 6‘So My anger and rage dripped upon them.  
 And now, all the cities of Judah  
 (All those surrounding JeruSalem)  
 Have been desolated and burned…  
 They lie unwalked to this day.’  
  
 7‘So Jehovah (IsraEl’s Almighty God) asks you this:  
  
 ‘Why are you still bringing evil  
 Into your lives, O My people…  
 Upon your women, your infants, and babies,  
 So there’ll be no survivors in Judah?  
  
 8‘For you continue to make Me feel bitter  
 By the things that you do with your hands,  
 When you burn incense to other gods  
 In the land of Egypt where you’ve gone to live.  
 So now, you’ll be cut off and cursed,  
 And scorned among all the nations!  
  
 9‘Have you forgotten all the evils  
 That your fathers have committed [in the past]…  
 The evil deeds of Judea’s kings…  
 The evils of all of your rulers,  
 And the bad things your women have done  
 In JeruSalem and in Judah…  
 10And which they’re still doing today?  
  
 ‘For, they have not learned to fear Me,  
 Nor have they followed the orders  
 That I set before them and their fathers.  
  
 11‘It’s because of this,’  
 Said IsraEl’s God, Jehovah of Armies;  
 ‘{Look!} Against you, I’ve now set My face  
 Because of all the bad things you’ve done  
 Since the time that I sent destruction to Judah.  
  
 12‘So I’ll take the remnant of Judah  
 That went down to Egypt to live,  
 And I’ll cause them to fail throughout the whole land…  
 Yes, from their least to their greatest.  
 They’ll all fall by the broadsword and famine…  
 They’ll be cursed, scorned, and destroyed!  
  
 13‘I’ll visit those who’ve settled in Egypt  
 The same as I visited JeruSalem…  
 I’ll bring the same broadswords, famines, and plagues,  
 14Which [JeruSalem’s people] could not escape.  
  
 ‘So, none of the remnant of Judah  
 That went down to Egypt and hoped to return,  
 Will be allowed to go back again.  
 There’s no way that they’ll ever return…  
 Except for a few who’ll escape.’  
  
15Well, [none of the men] would reply to JeremiAh, because they all knew that their women were burning incense to other gods. And at the time, there was a great gathering of the women among all those who had settled in the land of Egypt at Pathros.  
  
And there, these women said:  
  
 16‘We won’t pay any attention to the words that you’ve spoken to us in the Name of Jehovah, 17and we’ll do whatever we choose to do… We’ll keep on burning incense to the Queen of Heaven! Yes, we’ll keep on offering her [food and drink] as our fathers, our kings, our rulers, and the rest of us have done in Judah and around JeruSalem in the past… Back when we were better off… Back when we had enough bread to eat and things weren’t so bad!  
  
 18‘For it was only after we stopped burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and offering her [food and drink] that things became worse and we started falling by the sword and from famine!  
  
 19‘Haven’t you noticed all that has happened since we stopped burning incense to the Queen of Heaven… Back when we (without the aid of our husbands) made cakes and offered drinks to her?’  
  
20Then JeremiAh replied to all the people (the mighty men, the women, and everyone else who had responded to him) saying:  
  
 21‘When it comes to the incense that you’ve burned in the cities of Judah and in JeruSalem (you, your ancestors, your kings, your rulers, and the rest of the people of the land); Jehovah hasn’t forgotten this! Yes, it has reached all the way up to His heart!  
  
 22‘And it’s because He was unable to bear all your wicked deeds and the disgusting things you were doing that He brought desolation upon your land… He made it an unwalked place and a curse to this day!  
  
 23‘For you stood there before Him and burned incense – sinning against Jehovah – and you didn’t pay any attention to the voice of the Lord, or to His instructions, His Laws, or His proofs. Rather, you went and took up all these evil practices that you’ve continued to do down to this day.’  
  
24And JeremiAh said to the women and to all the people:  
  
 ‘Hear the Word of Jehovah, all you Judeans who are now living in Egypt!  
  
 25‘For Jehovah the God of IsraEl says that you and your women have brought this [upon yourselves] by your own mouths and your own hands, when you said that you will continue to acknowledge and burn incense to the Queen of Heaven, and to offer [food and drink] before her.  
  
 ‘So, you still plan to continue making offerings before her, do you? 26Well, because of this, hear the Word of Jehovah all you in Judah and those of you who have settled in the land of Egypt:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I have sworn this oath by My Name,’ said Jehovah,  
 ‘That My Name won’t remain in the mouths of these Jews,  
 Because they have failed to say:  
  
 ‘O Jehovah, our Lord;  
 Come and live among us in Egypt!’  
  
 27‘{Look!} I’ll be zealous about bringing them harm (not the good)!  
 So those Jews that are living in Egypt  
 Will fall by the broadsword and famine  
 Until [they all] cease to be!  
  
 28‘Just the [few] that escape from the sword  
 Will ever return to Judea…  
 And there will be very few!  
  
 ‘Then, all the remnant of Judah  
 (Those who went and started living in Egypt)  
 Will know whose words have proved to be true…  
 If it’s My words, or those [of their gods].  
  
 29‘And this is your sign,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘That I will visit this place,  
 So you’ll know that My words have stuck upon you  
 Because of your evil deeds:  
  
 30‘{Look!} I’ll hand the house of Egypt’s King HophRa  
 To his enemies and those who are seeking his life,  
 As I handed Judah’s King ZedekiAh  
 To his enemy NebuChadNezzar,  
 Who was seeking his life.’