### Jeremiah

## Chapter 5

1‘Now, run through JeruSalem’s streets…  
 Yes, seek and search in her squares…  
 See if you can find just one righteous man…  
 A single trustworthy person.  
 Then to such a one, I’ll be kind,’ said the Lord.  
  
 2‘As Jehovah lives, they often say,  
 But, when they swear oaths, aren’t they lying?’  
  
3[And I, Jeremiah, said:],  
  
 ‘O Jehovah,  
  
 ‘Your eyes have searched for those who are true;  
 But, when You whipped them, they felt no pain…  
 Even when You brought destruction on them,  
 They had still failed to learn…  
 Their faces remained as solid as rocks,  
 And they refused to turn back to You.  
  
 4‘But perhaps it’s only the poor  
 Who don’t understand the ways of the Lord,  
 Or comprehend the fairness of God.  
 5So I’ll go and speak to the wealthy…  
 For they’ll recognize the ways of the Lord  
 And [trust in] the fairness of God.  
  
 ‘But look! Together, they’ve broken their yokes  
 And they have torn off their bonds.  
 6And because of this, lions have attacked…  
 Then, out of the woods came a wolf,  
 Which entered their homes and [consumed] them,  
 As leopards kept watch in their cities.  
  
 ‘That’s how those who leave Him are hunted,  
 Since none have shown Him respect,  
 And their rejection [of God] has grown worse.’  
  
7[And the Lord said]:  
  
 ‘What sort of kindness should they expect  
 Now that their sons have all left me?  
 Because they swear oaths by those who aren’t gods,  
 I’ve become filled with [their disrespect].  
 For they’re even committing adultery,  
 And whores find rest in their homes!  
  
 8‘Like horses, they snort and are sex crazed…  
 Each one for the wife of his neighbor.  
 9So for this, shouldn’t I come to visit?’ ...asked the Lord,  
 ‘Shouldn’t my soul now take vengeance  
 Upon a nation that’s acting this way?  
  
 10‘So her battle towers, they will scale,  
 And they’ll knock them down until none remain…  
 Yes, these are the ones who will do it!  
 They’ll destroy everything that supports them,  
 For [their badness] didn’t come from Jehovah!  
  
 11‘Jehovah says:  
  
 ‘They have not shown Me any respect…  
 Not the houses of IsraEl or of Judah.  
 12And about their Lord, they have lied;  
 For they’ve said:  
  
 ‘These things will not happen…  
 What’s bad won’t really come upon us…  
 Neither famine nor sword will we see.  
  
 13‘For [His] Prophets are really just windbags,  
 And they don’t [speak] the word of Jehovah;  
 So it will happen to them, not to us!’  
  
 14‘But because of this, says Jehovah the Almighty…  
 Because you have said all these things,  
 I’ve put My words like flames in your mouths,  
 And they’ll consume you like wood [on a fire]!’  
  
 15‘O house of IsraEl, pay attention:  
 For, from a far-away land  
 I’m bringing a nation against you,’ said the Lord,  
 ‘Which speaks a tongue that you won’t understand.  
  
 16‘The quivers of their mighty are like open tombs,  
 17And they’ll consume your harvests and bread,  
 As well as your sons and your daughters.  
  
 ‘They’ll eat your sheep and your calves…  
 They’ll devour your vineyards and fig groves,  
 As well as all of your olives.  
 They’ll thresh your fortified cities with swords  
 (Those places that you have relied on).  
  
 18‘And in that day,’ said the Lord;  
 ‘God won’t allow you to come to fulfillment.  
 19And when you ask why this happened,  
 Jehovah will give this reply:  
  
 ‘I did it because you have left Me  
 And served strange gods in My land.  
 So, you will now have to serve strangers  
 In a land that is no longer yours.’  
  
 20‘So, to the house of Jacob, announce all these things,  
 And let it be heard throughout Judah:  
  
 21‘Pay attention, you foolish and heartless…  
 You who have eyes that can’t see,  
 And you who have ears that can’t hear.  
  
 22‘Why have you failed to show fear,  
 And not bowed to your faces before Me?  
 For, I’m the One who ordered the sands  
 To be the limits of the seas!  
 It’s the order [that I gave] throughout the ages  
 That the seas cannot go beyond them…  
 Its [waves] may never disturb them…  
 No way can they ever defeat them.  
 So, no matter how great the waves roar,  
 They can’t pass beyond the limits I’ve set.  
  
 23‘But these people have hearts that don’t listen,  
 So they continue to resist My persuasion…  
 They’ve turned aside and they’ve left [Me]!  
  
 24‘They haven’t said in their hearts:  
  
 ‘We should fear Jehovah our God…  
 The One who gives rain in its seasons  
 (Both the early and late rains),  
 And that orders full harvests for us!’  
  
 25‘But, by your lawless deeds, you have turned from these things…  
 By your sins, you’ve removed what’s good from yourselves.  
 26For among My own people, the godless are found…  
 Those who set snares to corrupt other men,  
 As they devise plans to do evil.  
  
 27‘As a trap is set to catch many birds…  
 With treachery, their homes are now filled.  
 And because of this, they are famous and rich…  
 They have grown fat on injustice!  
 28The side of orphans, they never take,  
 And they don’t give justice to widows.  
  
 29‘Am I not watching such things,’ asks Jehovah?  
 Won’t My soul bring vengeance upon them?  
  
 30‘So, this is why things have changed…  
 This is why they’ll shudder throughout the whole land!  
 31For their prophets now prophesy lies  
 As their priests are applauding and clapping their hands.  
 So, since this is what My people have loved,  
 I must now do this bad thing!’