### Jeremiah

## Chapter 50

1These are the words that the Lord spoke against Babylon and the land of the Chaldea through the mouth of JeremiAh, the Prophet.  
  
[The Lord said:]  
  
 2‘Announce it to all of the nations…  
 Make it heard and erect a sign…  
 Let them all know, do not hide it!  
 [Tell them what Jehovah said, and] say:  
  
 ‘Babylon has now been captured,  
 And to Bel, disgrace has arrived.  
 MeroDach has been [destroyed]…  
 All of his idols were shamed,  
 And have now been [carried away].  
  
 3‘For a nation from the north came against her  
 And brought her land to extinction.  
 So, no one will ever live there again…  
 None from among men or beasts.  
  
 4‘During those days and at that time,  
 They will be entered and shaken,’ says Jehovah.  
 ‘Then the sons of IsraEl and Judah  
 Will get together and leave her.’  
  
[The Lord continues:]  
  
 ‘Before Jehovah, they’ll be weeping [in joy],  
 For they will be seeking their God.  
 5They’ll ask for directions to Zion,  
 And that’s where they’ll set their faces to go.  
  
 ‘In Jehovah, they will seek refuge,  
 And they’ll remember His Sacred Agreement.  
  
 [‘Jehovah says:]  
  
 6‘For my people became as sheep that were lost,  
 Since their shepherds had pushed them into the hills…  
 They led them astray from mountain to hill,  
 And then, they just walked away.  
  
 7‘So, those who found them consumed them…  
 Their enemies said, We won’t spare them  
 Because they’ve sinned against God  
 In those pastures [that He gave] to their fathers.  
  
 8‘So, flee from Babylon’s midst…  
 Get out of the land of Chaldea…  
 Escape like sheep being chased by wild beasts!  
 9For {Look!} against Babylon, I will be bringing  
 A great nation from the lands in the north,  
 Which will then come and attack her,  
 And take [her people] as captives…  
 For the arrows of their finest of warriors  
 Won’t return without seeing success.  
  
 10‘Then all the Chaldeans will be plundered,  
 And those who loot her will take what they want,’ said Jehovah.  
  
 11‘For, she was glad and found glory  
 When My inheritance was plundered by her…  
 She leaped like a calf in My pasture,  
 And then, she gored like a bull.  
  
 12‘So, she will bring shame to her mother,  
 And become the least of the nations…  
 A barren parched land, and a desert.’  
  
 ‘{Look!} It will lie empty as a place that’s unwalked;  
 13For because of the rage of Jehovah,  
 She will no longer be lived in…  
 Yes, everyone there will be gone.  
 And those who travel through Babylon,  
 Will look sadly and whistle at her fate.  
  
 14‘So, come and lay siege against Babylon…  
 Stretch tight your bows and then shoot her down!  
 Don’t spare the arrows in your attack,  
 For against Jehovah, she’s sinned.  
  
 15‘Then tie up her hands and lead her away…  
 Raze her parapets and all of her walls!  
 For, this is vengeance from God…  
 Do to her as she once did to you!  
  
 16‘May Babylon’s offspring be taken away  
 (Those who [swing] sickles in the harvest)  
 Before the swords of the Greeks,  
 Who will carry them back to their people,  
 As they are going back home!  
  
 [‘Jehovah says:]  
  
 17‘IsraEl was a flock that had strayed,  
 So lions pushed them out [of their land].  
 Assyria’s king ate them first,  
 And then Babylon’s king chewed on their bones.  
  
 18‘But because of the things they will do,’ says Jehovah of Armies;  
 ‘{Look!} I’ll take vengeance on Babylon’s king and his land,  
 As I’ve done to Assyria’s king.  
  
 19‘Then I’ll bring IsraEl back to their pastures,  
 And in BaShan and CarMel, they’ll feed…  
 Yes, upon Ephraim’s mountains,  
 And in GileAd, their souls will be filled.  
  
 20‘In those days and at that time,’ says Jehovah;  
 ‘In IsraEl, you’ll search for unrighteous ways,  
 But they will no longer exist.  
 And if they search throughout Judah for sins,  
 They won’t be able to find them…  
 They’ll only find kindness from those who return.  
  
 21‘So, go to that land and attack her…  
 Attack all the people who live there…  
 Punish the ones who once clapped their hands…  
 Wipe them away with the sword,’ says Jehovah…  
 ‘Do to them, what I told you to do!  
  
 22‘There’s the sound of destruction and war  
 In the land of Chaldea.  
 23For they’ll be defeated and smashed  
 By the hammer of the whole earth…  
 O how the nations will bring  
 Extinction upon Babylon!  
  
 24‘They’ll attack her and she will be captured  
 Before those in Babylon know  
 That they’ll be relocated and taken away;  
 For it’s Me, Jehovah, whom they have opposed!  
  
25The Lord has opened His storehouse  
 And withdrawn the things of his rage  
 To do the work of Jehovah of Armies  
 Within the land of Chaldea.  
  
26So, because it’s her time, you must open her stores,  
 Then search her through like a cave…  
 And thereafter, you should destroy her…  
 Don’t leave a trace [of where she has been]!  
  
27Then, dry up all of her fruits  
 And carry them down to the slaughter!  
 Woe to them, for their day has arrived…  
 The time for them to be punished!  
  
28There’s the sound of [people] who are fleeing…  
 From Babylon’s lands, they are running.  
 So announce Jehovah’s vengeance to Zion…  
 God’s vengeance over what they did to His Temple.  
  
29Urge many to come against Babylon…  
 Tell all to stretch tight their bows!  
 Around her, set up your camps  
 And allow no one to escape.  
  
Pay her back for the things she has done…  
 Do to her as she once did to you!  
 For Jehovah’s the One whom she has opposed…  
 IsraEl’s Most Holy God.  
  
 [‘Jehovah continues:]  
  
 30‘It’s because of this, that she’ll fall.  
 And all the young men in her squares,  
 As well as all of her warriors,  
 Will be [run through] in that day,’ says Jehovah.  
  
 31‘Look! I’m the One who’s against you, O proud one,’  
 Says Jehovah of Armies,  
 ‘And your day has finally come…  
 The day for you to be punished!  
  
 32‘The insolence you had will now fall  
 And no one will raise it again.  
 In her woods, I’ll kindle a fire  
 To devour everything that’s around her.’  
  
 33‘Jehovah of Armies also said:  
  
 ‘To the sons of IsraEl, you were tyrants,  
 And to the sons of Judah, you were even [more cruel]…  
 You’ve been tyrants to all whom you’ve captured,  
 And let no one return to their homes.  
  
 34‘But the Almighty will ransom them back  
 (Jehovah the Almighty is His Name).  
 He judges His opponents in fairness,  
 Before He takes them away from their lands.  
 And now, He is sending His rage  
 To those who are living in Babylon.  
  
 35‘Bring a sword upon the Chaldeans,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘And upon all of Babylon’s people…  
 Upon all her great men and experts!  
  
 36‘Bring a sword against her clairvoyants,  
 And prove them all to be fools!  
 Bring a sword against all her soldiers,  
 And let them each receive wounds!  
  
 37‘Bring a sword upon all their horses,  
 And upon their chariots also.  
 Then those in her midst will be acting like girls!  
  
 ‘Bring a sword upon all her treasures…  
 [Yes, haul them away] as your loot!  
  
 38‘And although she’s relied on her waters,  
 They will soon be disgraced.  
 For, they are a land of carved idols  
 Before which, those in the islands have bowed.  
 39So their idols will be sent to those islands,  
 Where among chained demons, they’ll dwell.’  
  
[The Lord continues:]  
  
 ‘Throughout the ages, she’ll not be lived in again…  
 Through generations, no one will camp there.  
 40For as God destroyed Sodom and GomorRah,  
 As well as the places round-about them,’ said the Lord,  
 ‘There’s no way that men will live there again,  
 Nor will sons of men ever stay there.  
  
 41‘{Look!} There are people who are coming from the far north…  
 A great nation will come from the ends of the earth  
 Along with many [great] kings,  
 42All brandishing arrows and swords.  
  
 ‘They will be very audacious;  
 For, they will act without mercy,  
 And their voices [will roar] like the seas.  
  
 ‘O you daughters of Babylon;  
 They’ll come against you on horses,  
 And with fire, as they’re preparing for war.  
  
 43‘Babylon’s king will hear the report,  
 And then his hands will grow weak…  
 He’ll be gripped with pangs like a woman giving birth.  
  
 [‘Jehovah continues:]  
  
 44‘{Look!} Like a lion, he’ll ascend from the JorDan,  
 And he’ll go to a place called AiTham.  
 Then quickly, I’ll drive them upon her…  
 I’ll set all their young men against her.  
  
 ‘For who else is like Me and who can resist…  
 What shepherd can stand before Me?  
  
 45‘So, hear the plan of Jehovah…  
 His plans against Babylon  
 And the equipment that He has devised  
 Against those in the land of Chaldea.  
  
 ‘Surely their lambs will all be destroyed…  
 Surely their fields will be captured!  
  
 46‘From the sounds of Babylon’s conquest,  
 All on the earth will be shaken,  
 And her cries will be heard in all nations.’