### Jeremiah

## Chapter 51

1The Lord said:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’ll awaken a wind that burns and destroys  
 Against Babylon’s people  
 And all the Chaldeans who live there.  
  
 2‘Against Babylon, I’ll be sending the proud  
 Who’ll insult her and wipe out her land.  
 Woe to Babylon and those round-about  
 In the day that she is oppressed.  
  
 3‘Let the bowman stretch tight his bow  
 And strap on all of his weapons!  
 Do not spare her young men…  
 Wipe all her armies away…  
 4May all in the land of Chaldea fall dead.  
  
 ‘May their [mercenary troops] be pierced through and fall.  
 5For, IsraEl and Judah aren’t the widows  
 Of Jehovah the Almighty God.  
  
 ‘It was because their land was filled with injustice,  
 And from IsraEl’s holy ways, they had strayed,  
 That they were allowed to be captured.  
  
 6‘So, those in Babylon’s midst should now flee…  
 Each man should save his own soul!  
 In her unrighteous ways, don’t get involved,  
 Since it’s time for her to be punished…  
 To be repaid for the bad things she’s done!  
  
 7‘Within the hands of Jehovah,  
 Babylon is like a gold cup  
 From whose wine, the earth became drunk.  
 For she forced all the nations to drink it,  
 And this is why they are reeling.  
  
 8‘So, Babylon will fall and be broken;  
 Then the [time to] lament her will come when they’ll say:  
  
 ‘Bring an ointment to heal all her wounds,  
 And to see if she can be saved!’  
  
 9‘Although we treated her, she couldn’t be healed…  
 So, all should return to their lands,  
 Since heaven has approached to pass judgment on her…  
 Before the stars, she has been exposed.’  
  
10Yes, Jehovah’s brought judgment upon her;  
 So come, let’s announce it in Zion…  
 For, this is the work of Jehovah our God.  
  
 11‘Prepare your bows… Fill your quivers;  
 For, the spirit of the king of the Medes  
 Has now been aroused by Jehovah  
 To bring His rage against Babylon  
 And to wipe her away.  
 Yes, this is the vengeance from God…  
 He’s getting revenge for His people.  
  
 12‘Raise the flags on Babylon’s walls!  
 Prepare the watchmen and ready the shields!  
 For Jehovah’s about to do what He said  
 Against those who are dwelling in Babylon.  
  
 13‘O you who camp between waters  
 And you who [put trust in] your treasures;  
 The limit has finally been reached  
 As to what your bowels can hold.  
  
 14‘For Jehovah has now sworn this oath  
 By [the power of] His mighty arm, [saying]:  
  
 ‘I’ll fill you with men; like locusts they’ll come…  
 And they’ll shout as they are attacking!’  
  
 15‘He’s the Mighty One who created the earth…  
 The One, who in His great wisdom  
 Prepared mankind’s habitation,  
 And the One who with great understanding,  
 Stretched out the heavens above it.  
  
 16‘With His voice, He sends waters down from the skies,  
 And He brings the clouds from the ends of the earth.  
 He sends lightning along with the rain,  
 And from His treasures, He then draws the light.  
  
 17‘He has proven all men to be foolish,  
 [And foolish] is the knowledge of their goldsmiths;  
 For, they have cast idols and they have carved gods,  
 Which are unable to breathe.  
  
 18‘So their deeds are wasted and scornful,  
 And they’ll be destroyed when He visits.  
 19Yet, this won’t be the portion of Jacob…  
 Their inheritance is the One who shaped all,  
 Whose Name is Jehovah of Armies!  
  
 [‘He says:]  
  
 20‘So before Me, lay out your items of war,  
 And I’ll scatter [many] nations before you…  
 Over many kings, I will raise you,  
 21And before you, I’ll scatter their horses and riders,  
 As well as their chariots and horsemen.  
  
 22‘I’ll scatter before you, their husbands and wives…  
 I’ll scatter their elders and children.  
 Before you, I’ll scatter their young men and virgins,  
 23And I’ll scatter their shepherds and flocks.  
  
 ‘I’ll scatter before you their farmers and farms…  
 Governors and commanders, I’ll scatter.  
 24Before your eyes, I will pay back  
 Those of Chaldea and Babylon  
 For the evils they committed against Zion, said Jehovah.  
  
 25‘Look… I’m against you, you mount of corruption,  
 And I oppose your iron that corrupts the whole earth.  
 So I’ll stretch My hand out against you,  
 Then upon you, I will roll rocks,  
 As I set your mountain on fire!  
  
 26‘No way will your stones then be carried  
 To be used as foundation blocks…  
 You’ll be wiped away throughout the ages,’ said Jehovah.  
  
 27‘So, raise the banners throughout the whole earth…  
 Signal the nations with trumpets;  
 Then, make them holy against her…  
 The Araratites and the AshKenazi!  
  
 ‘Bring many weapons against her…  
 Bring horses like locusts, upon her!  
 28Drag many nations [to fight] her…  
 The king of the Medes and the rest of the earth…  
 Their leaders and all their commanders!  
  
 29‘Then the earth will be shaken and reel  
 By Jehovah’s plans against Babylon,  
 Since He’s arranged the extinction of Babylon’s land  
 So that no one will live there again!  
  
 30‘Babylon’s soldiers will fail to wage war…  
 They’ll just sit in their forts as they’re losing control.  
 They’ll become like women whose tents are ablaze,  
 And then, her bars will be broken.  
  
 31‘Those chasing will meet others chasing,  
 As they pursue the announcers  
 Who will meet with those who proclaim,  
 And make the announcement to Babylon’s king  
 That his great city was captured,  
 32And the last of his moats have been breached…  
 That his ramparts have been burned by fire,  
 And all of his men have surrendered.  
  
 33‘For Jehovah of Armies (the God of IsraEl) says this:  
  
 ‘The palace of Babylon’s king  
 Will become a floor to do threshing…  
 And now is the season for threshing,  
 Because it’s time for the harvest!’  
  
 34‘[And those living in Zion will say:]  
  
 ‘By NebuChadNezzar, Babylon’s King,  
 I was crushed and divided…  
 He caught up with me in the darkness;  
 Then, like a beast, he swallowed me down,  
 And his belly was filled with My good things.  
 35So in misery and in great trouble,  
 To Babylon, I was taken,  
 And my blood was laid upon those Chaldeans.’  
  
 [‘And God says:]  
  
 36‘But because of this,’ says Jehovah,  
 {Look!} I will judge your opponents  
 And send My vengeance to them for the ways  
 That they will be punishing you.  
  
 ‘I’ll destroy her [rivers] and dry up her springs,  
 37And Babylon will become an extinction  
 – A den for wild beasts and for snakes –  
 Which won’t be lived in again.  
  
 38‘As lions and their cubs are aroused in the heat,  
 I’ll give them a drink that will make them all drunk…  
 I’ll stupefy them and put them to sleep,  
 39Which will be a sleep for the ages  
 From which they’ll never awaken,’ says Jehovah.  
  
 40‘I’ll bring them like lambs for the slaughter…  
 Like rams that are mixed among [goats].  
  
 41‘Thereafter, Sheshach will be captured,  
 And the earth’s boastful ones will be hunted…  
 For, Babylon will not be great again  
 Among the rest of the nations.  
  
 42‘May Babylon be covered up by ‘the sea’…  
 May she be covered by the roar of its ‘waves’…  
 43May all her cities meet with destruction,  
 And may her land become dry and unwalked.  
  
 ‘Nothing alive will go there again,  
 Nor will sons of men ever rest there.  
 44For, I will take vengeance upon Babylon,  
 And from her mouth, I’ll snatch what she ate.  
 No more will nations gather with her,  
 And even her walls will soon fall.’  
  
45So, get out of her midst, O my people…  
 Let each man save his own life  
 From the anger and rage of Jehovah.  
  
[The Lord continues:]  
  
 46‘And don’t let your hearts be consumed…  
 Don’t fear the reports that are heard in that land;  
 For in one year, there’ll come a report,  
 And in the next, another will come  
 Of misery and sin in that land,  
 And of one leader ruling another.  
  
 [‘And Jehovah says:]  
  
 47‘Because of this, {Look!} days will come  
 When I’ll bring vengeance on Babylon’s idols.  
 Then, all in their land will be shamed,  
 As in her midst, the slain will be falling.  
  
 48‘Heaven and earth will be joyful,  
 As well as all those who live there.  
 For her destroyer will come from the north,’ says Jehovah.  
 49‘And as Babylon murdered the IsraElites,  
 The slain will fall in Babylon’s land.  
  
 50‘So flee, O you who’ve been saved from the sword,  
 For you should stay there no longer!  
 Then speak of Jehovah in far-away lands…  
 And JeruSalem should remain in your hearts!  
  
 [‘You should say:]  
  
 51‘We were shamed when we heard of our scorn,  
 And in dishonor, we covered our faces;  
 For, foreigners entered our Most Holy Place…  
 They entered the Temple of Jehovah!’  
  
 [‘And Jehovah continues:]  
  
 52‘And because of this, {Look!} days will come,’ said Jehovah,  
 ‘When I’ll take vengeance upon her carved idols,  
 And the slain will fall in her land.  
  
 53‘So if Babylon could climb up into the skies  
 And fortify her strength in the heights;  
 I’d still send those who’d destroy her,’ said Jehovah.  
  
 54‘So from Babylon, you will hear cries,  
 As destruction comes to the Chaldeans.  
 55Jehovah will remove Babylon…  
 With the sounds of waves, He’ll destroy her,  
 And to her voice, He’ll bring ruin.  
  
 56‘Misery will come upon Babylon,  
 For her warriors will soon all be captured,  
 And terror will come to her bowmen…  
 Yes, this is her payback from God.  
  
 57‘The Lord will repay her with what she is due,  
 And he’ll make them all [reel like] drunks…  
 Yes, her governors, commanders, and wise men,’  
 Says the King, Jehovah the Almighty.  
  
 58‘And thus says Jehovah the Almighty:  
  
 ‘The broad walls of Babylon will fall,  
 And her gates will fail and be burned;  
 For the nations and peoples will tire of her pride.’  
  
59These were the words that the Lord had instructed JeremiAh the Prophet to say to SeraiAh (son of NeriAh and grandson of MaAseJah) [back] when he went with ZedekiAh (the king of Judah) into Babylon in the 4th year of his reign (SeraiAh was in charge of the gifts that were [brought to the king]).  
  
60Then JeremiAh wrote of all the bad things that were to come upon Babylon in a scroll, including all the rest of these words that were written against Babylon.  
  
61JeremiAh also told SeraiAh that when he got to Babylon, he was to read all of these words to [the people of Babylon], and then say:  
  
 62‘It was Jehovah that spoke ill of this place…  
 He’s the One who said He’d destroy it  
 So that no one will ever live here again…  
 Neither man nor beast, throughout the ages.’  
  
63[Then JeremiAh told him:]  
  
 ‘Then, when you finish reading this scroll, tie it to a rock and toss it into the EuPhrates, and tell them:  
  
 64‘This is how Babylon will sink  
 And not be raised up again…  
 She’ll vanish, because of the bad things He’ll bring.’  
  
Yes, these were all the words of JeremiAh.