### Jeremiah

## Chapter 6

1‘O sons of BenJamin, be strong  
 There in JeruSalem’s midst.  
 But, you should start blowing your trumpets…  
 From the House in the Vineyards, sound the alarm!  
 For, bad things now loom in the north,  
 And a great destruction is headed your way!  
  
 2‘O you daughter of Zion;  
 Your haughty ways will soon be removed!  
 3For to you, will come shepherds and flocks  
 That will pitch their tents all around you,  
 And there, each one will tend his own lot.  
  
 4[‘They’ll say:]  
  
 ‘Get ready to wage war against her…  
 Arise, and we will attack her at noon!  
 But, woe to us, for the day is now gone  
 And the shadows of daylight have failed.  
 5So, let’s get up and attack her at night,  
 Then wipe her to her foundations!’  
  
 6‘For, thus says Jehovah of Armies:  
  
 ‘Cut down all of her trees…  
 Against that city of liars, send troops…  
 Complete your tyranny against her!  
  
 7‘Just like the cool taste of well water,  
 You must cool off her evil.  
 Since disrespect and misery are in her,  
 Throw it back in her face!  
  
 8‘O you [who live] in JeruSalem;  
 In misery, with whips, you’ll be lashed,  
 But My soul won’t totally leave you…  
 I won’t make you a land that is no longer walked  
 And which won’t be lived in again.’  
  
 9‘For, thus says Jehovah of Armies:  
  
 ‘Glean them as you’d glean grapes  
 (Those few who’ll be left in IsraEl)…  
 Return as the picker returns to his [vines]!  
  
 10‘To whom should I be saying these things…  
 Yes, whom can I tell that will listen?  
 {Look!} For, because their ears are uncircumcised,  
 They are unable to hear.  
 And since, Jehovah’s words are something they scorn,  
 {Look!} They’ll be unwilling to listen!  
  
 11[‘Jehovah says:]  
  
 ‘But although I waited, My rage wasn’t filled,  
 And I didn’t completely finish them off…  
 So I’ll pour it out on their children  
 And upon their groups of young men.  
  
 ‘Their women and men will be taken away  
 Along with the elders and those who’ve lived many days.  
 12Then their houses will be given to others,  
 Along with their women and fields.’  
  
 ‘Jehovah says:  
  
 ‘Against all in this land, I’ll stretch out My hand…  
 13Against all from the small to the great…  
 All those who are filled with their own lawless ways.  
  
 ‘For their priests and all their false prophets  
 Have each acted in falsehood.  
 14And although they claim to bring healing,  
 They are just bringing contempt.  
 They also claim there is peace…  
 But, where indeed is this peace?  
  
 15‘So now they’ll be shamed, because they have failed.  
 But, even though they’ll be disgraced,  
 They’ll refuse to accept their dishonor.  
 And because of this, they will fall…  
 They’ll perish when I come to visit,’ says Jehovah.  
  
  
 16‘And Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘Now, stand in the roads and behold…  
 [Consider the] paths of the ages;  
 Then, choose the best road and travel that way  
 As you search for ways to clean up your lives!  
  
 ‘But because you have said, ‘We won’t go,’  
 17I’m appointing watchmen for you,  
 And you must listen for the sounds of their trumpets!  
  
 ‘But, although you’ll say, ‘We won’t listen,’  
 18The nations [that are coming] will listen,  
 As will those who are tending their flocks.  
  
 19‘O land, pay attention and look,  
 For I’m bringing what’s bad on your people…  
 It’s the fruitage of their rejection [of Me].  
 For, because they’ve ignored My words and My Laws,  
 I have pushed them away.  
  
 20‘Why offer frankincense from SheBa to Me,  
 And cinnamon from far away lands?  
 For, your whole burnt-offerings, I will not accept,  
 Since your sacrifices delight Me no more.  
  
 21‘Because of this,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘Upon them, I’m bringing a weakness…  
 Yes, fathers and sons will be weak,  
 And their neighbors and loved ones will die.’  
  
 22‘Then Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘{Look!} From the north, a people are coming  
 Who’ll awaken the nations to the ends of the earth…  
 23They’ll come with their spears and their bows,  
 And on you, they will not show mercy.  
  
 ‘Their sounds are like the roar of the sea,  
 And with horses and chariots, they will attack…  
 They’ll bring the fire of war against you,  
 O you daughters of Zion.’  
  
24About them, we have heard the reports,  
 And the things that we’ve heard have made our hands weak…  
 Anguish has grabbed hold of us  
 Like the pangs of a woman about to give birth!  
  
25So, don’t go out to the fields,  
 And do not walk on the roads,  
 For they’re filled with enemies who are carrying swords!  
  
[And the Lord continues:]  
  
 ‘So, you daughters of My people;  
 [It’s time for you] to wear sackcloth…  
 Strew ashes and mourn for your loved ones,  
 26And in pity for yourselves, beat your breasts;  
 For misery will suddenly come upon you.  
  
 27‘Among you (you people on trial),  
 I’ve appointed someone who’ll judge you;  
 And as you’re tried, you’ll know I’m the One  
 Who is judging your ways.  
  
 28‘Yet, none have been willing to listen,  
 Because they all walk crooked paths…  
 They’re corrupted like brass touching iron.  
  
 29‘Because the forge bellows have failed,  
 It’s in vain that the smith works his silver;  
 For their wicked ways will not melt.  
  
 30‘So, call out and tell them  
 That their silver has all been rejected…  
 Yes, they’ve been rejected by [God].’