### Jeremiah

## Chapter 7

1Then the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh and said:  
  
 ‘Go stand at the gate of [the Temple],  
 And against them, you must read these words:  
  
 2‘O Judah,  
 ‘Hear the Word of Jehovah,  
 For Jehovah of Armies (the God of IsraEl) says this:  
  
 3‘If you’ll set right the things that you’re doing,  
 And if you’ll choose to straighten your paths,  
 I’ll settle you here in this place.  
  
 4‘But you can’t rely on your lies anymore;  
 For they’ll be no help when you’re shouting:  
  
 ‘O the Temple of Jehovah!  
 O the Temple of [God]!’  
  
 5‘You must change your deeds and your ways,  
 And get yourselves straightened out.  
 Each man must start being fair with his neighbors,  
 6As well as with foreigners, orphans, and widows.  
  
 7‘[No, you] may no longer be tyrants…  
 Innocent blood, don’t shed in this place…  
 And stop chasing after strange gods!  
  
 ‘Then, [when you remove all this] badness,  
 I’ll bring you back to this land once again  
 That I gave to your fathers throughout the ages.  
  
 8‘But now, you are trusting in words that are lies  
 And which will do you no good.  
 9You commit adultery, murder, and steal,  
 And when you swear oaths, you are lying!  
 You also burn incense to BaAl,  
 And follow strange gods that you’ve never known.  
  
 10‘So, although there’s just badness within you,  
 You still come and stand before Me  
 In the [Temple] that’s called by My Name,  
 And then dare to say, We are clean.  
  
 11‘Hasn’t My House that’s standing before you  
 And which is called by My Name  
 Become just a den of thieves?  
 Look… This is what I have seen,’ says Jehovah...  
  
 12‘Go to My old place in ShiLoh  
 Where I camped and placed My Name long ago,  
 And see what I did because of their badness  
 Before the faces of IsraEl, My people!  
  
 13‘Now, because you are doing these things  
 About which I warned you, but you failed to hear…  
 The things that I shouted before you,  
 But to which, you failed to change;  
 14I’ll do the same thing to this [Temple]…  
 The one that is called by My Name,  
 And upon which you have relied…  
 The Place that I gave to your fathers and you.  
  
 ‘Yes, I’ll do the same as I did to ShiLoh…  
 15I’ll throw you away from My face  
 Like I cast off your brothers (Ephraim’s offspring)!  
  
 16‘Now, you must not pray for these people…  
 But don’t come and petition for mercy,  
 Nor approach Me with vows on their behalf…  
 For, I will not listen to you!  
  
 17‘Don’t you see the things that they’re doing  
 In all the cities of Judah  
 And in JeruSalem’s streets?  
  
 18‘The sons go out to gather the wood,  
 So their fathers can then light the fires  
 [To bake] the dough that their women knead  
 As cakes for the armies of the heavens.  
  
 ‘They offer drinks to strange gods,  
 So they can provoke Me to rage…  
 19Don’t they provoke Me to rage,’ asks Jehovah?  
 But, shouldn’t they be the ones who’re provoked  
 By the disgrace on their faces?  
  
 20‘It’s because of this,’ says Jehovah,  
 That I’ll pour out My anger and rage on this Place…  
 Upon the men and their cattle…  
 Upon every tree in their fields,  
 As well as on the land’s produce.  
 This fire has been lit and it won’t be put out!  
  
 21‘Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘Gather up all your burnt-offerings,  
 As well as your other sacrifices,  
 Then go on and just eat all the meats!  
  
 22‘For on the day that I led them from Egypt,  
 I didn’t ask your fathers to offer such things…  
 I didn’t really tell them to bring Me  
 Whole burnt offerings or other sacrifices.  
  
 23‘The only instructions that I gave them  
 Was to pay attention to the things that I say!  
 For you’ll be My people and I’ll be your God  
 As long as you walk in My ways  
 And do whatever I tell you is good!  
  
 24‘But, they didn’t listen to Me,  
 And their ears just paid no attention…  
 They followed the evil thoughts in their hearts  
 And became the butt not the head  
 From the day that their fathers left Egypt ‘til now.  
  
 25‘So I sent them My servants the Prophets  
 Morning after morning and day after day.  
 26But they still didn’t listen to Me…  
 Their ears just paid no attention,  
 And then they made their necks stiffer…  
 Yes, harder than those of their fathers.  
  
 27‘So, go and tell them these things,  
 But they won’t listen to you…  
 Yes, call out to them, but they won’t respond.  
  
 28‘Go tell them that theirs is the nation  
 That refused to hear the voice of its God…  
 They failed to believe or give heed  
 To the instructions that came from [My] mouth.’  
  
 29‘So, shear your [hair] and throw it away,  
 Then let your lips start to wail;  
 For Jehovah has rejected and pushed away  
 The generation that has done all these things!  
  
 30‘For, Jehovah says:  
  
 ‘The sons of Judah are wicked before Me,  
 Since they’ve brought disgusting things to My House  
 And defiled the Place that is called by My Name.  
  
 31‘They’ve built a shrine of Topheth for themselves  
 There in the Valley of Hinnom  
 Where they burn their sons and daughters in fire…  
 Something that I never told them to do  
 Or ever came into My heart.’  
  
 32‘Jehovah says:  
  
 ‘{Look!} Because they’ve done this, the days have arrived  
 When, from the Valley of Hinnom’s sons  
 And the Shrine that they [built there to] Topheth,  
 Nothing more will ever be heard.  
  
 ‘For their valley will soon be destroyed  
 And Topheth will thereafter be buried,  
 Since his place will no longer exist.  
  
 33‘His people will also be dead,  
 And they’ll serve as food for the birds in the skies,  
 As well as for the wild beasts on the ground,  
 Since no one will come to chase them away.  
  
 34‘From the cities of Judah, I’ll take them,  
 And I’ll remove them from JeruSalem’s streets.  
 Then all the sounds of joy will be gone,  
 And the voices of brides and grooms won’t be heard;  
 For the land will become desolation.’