### Jeremiah

## Chapter 9

1Who’ll provide enough water to come from my head  
 And feed the springs of tears from my eyes,  
 So that, day and night I can cry for my people,  
 And for the daughters of those who’ll be slain?  
  
2Who’ll provide me a hut in the desert  
 Where I can escape from them all?  
 For, they are committing ‘adultery,’  
 And they’re breaking their Sacred Agreement [with God].  
  
 3[And Jehovah says:]  
  
 ‘Their tongues are stretched tight like bows,  
 As lies and mistrust increase in the land;  
 For, evil after evil is what they pursue,  
 And they no longer know Me,’ said Jehovah.  
  
 4‘So each man must keep watch on his neighbor  
 And not rely on even his brother;  
 For their brothers will stomp them under their heels  
 And their friends will [try to] deceive them.  
  
 5‘Now, they all [laugh at] their friends  
 And no way do they tell them the truth.  
 Since their tongues have learned to speak lies,  
 They do whatever is wrong,  
 And they feel no sorrow for the bad things they do.  
  
 6‘They’re compounding interest on interest  
 And treachery upon treachery;  
 For they no longer wish to behold Me,’ says [God].  
  
 7‘Because of this,’ says Jehovah of Armies;  
 ‘{Look!} I’ll judge them and set them on fire!  
 For, what else can I possibly do  
 In the face of these wicked ways  
 Being done by the daughters of My people?  
  
 8‘Their tongues are piercing like arrows,  
 And the words from their mouths are deceitful.  
 Although each one speaks peace to his neighbors;  
 Inside, they really feel hatred.  
  
 9‘So, shouldn’t I pay them a visit,’ asks Jehovah,  
 ‘And bring My vengeance upon them?’  
  
 10‘[Thus, it’s time to] mourn for the mountains,  
 And time to wail for their desert roads…  
 They’re failing, because there aren’t enough men,  
 And they no longer hear sounds from the birds in the skies…  
 Why, even the cattle are gone!  
  
 11‘Evacuation is coming to JeruSalem,  
 And she’ll become a home for wild beasts.  
 I’ve appointed extinction to the cities of Judah,  
 And they will no longer be lived in.’  
  
 12‘Now, who is the man who’s discerning?  
 Let him recognize this…  
 May the words of Jehovah be with him  
 So he can tell you the reasons  
 Why this land is being destroyed…  
 Being burned away into a desert  
 Where no one will thereafter live.  
  
 13‘So Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘Because they’ve abandoned My Law  
 That I set in front of their faces,  
 And they’ve paid no attention to My voice  
 14As they chase after things that pleasure their hearts  
 (Things that are evil and idols,  
 Which their fathers had taught them to worship)…  
 15On account of this,’ says IsraEl’s God  
 (Jehovah of Armies is His Name);  
 ‘{Look!} Upon distress, I will feed them,  
 And I’ll make them drink bile for their water.  
  
 16‘They’ll be scattered among many nations  
 That they and their fathers have never known;  
 For against them, I’m sending the sword  
 Until they’re completely consumed.’  
  
 17‘Then Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘You should call for the women who wail…  
 Yes, shout and tell them to come!  
 Send for all the wise women  
 And tell them that this is their time to speak out.’  
  
 18‘So, they should start their lamenting  
 And really bring tears to their eyes…  
 Cause water to flow from their eyelids!  
 19For in Zion, this dirge will be heard:  
  
 ‘How have we come to such misery?  
 We’re disgraced, for our land is abandoned  
 And our tents have been thrown away!  
  
 20‘Yes, listen to this, O you women;  
 For, these are the words of your God!  
 Let your ears hear the words from His mouth,  
 Then teach this lament to your daughters…  
 Let each one teach her neighbors to wail!  
  
 21‘For, death has crept in through your windows…  
 It has come to your land to wipe out your young  
 And remove the young men from your squares.  
  
 22‘Then your men must die on the face of the plains,  
 To set an example for those in your land;  
 And just like grass that’s been mowed,  
 None will go out to collect them.  
  
 23‘Then Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘Don’t let the wise boast of their wisdom…  
 Don’t let the mighty boast of their strength…  
 Don’t let the rich boast of their wealth!  
 24For when they boast, let them brag about this:  
 That they perceive Me and know Me…  
 That they know of My mercy and fairness,  
 And that I’ve judged this land to bring justice…  
 So these things being done, are My will,’ says Jehovah.  
  
 25‘{Look!} For the days are coming,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘When I’ll visit the uncircumcised,  
 As well as the circumcised of Edom  
 26(Those in Judah, Egypt, and Edom;  
 The sons of AmMon and MoAb…  
 All those who are shaving their faces  
 And those who live in the deserts).  
 For although the flesh of the nations is uncircumcised,  
 In their hearts, IsraEl is uncircumcised too.’