

ISAIAH (ESAIAS)

* CHAPTER I *

A VISION which Esaias son of Amos saw, (which he saw respecting Judea and Jerusalem) in the reign of Ozias, and Joatham and Achaz and Hezekias, who reigned over Judea:

[2] Hearken, O heaven! and hear O earth! what the Lord hath spoken: I have begotten children and brought them up; and they have rebelled against Me. [3] The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but Israel did not know Me. And this people have not regarded Me.

[4] Ah! sinful nation—people full of sins! vile race! iniquitous children! you have utterly forsaken the Lord; and provoked to wrath the Holy One of Israel. [5] What! must you persisting in iniquity be smitten still more? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint: [6] from the feet to the head, there is no soundness therein. Is it not, here a wound, there a bruise, there a putrefying sore? there is no applying poultice, nor oil, nor bandages. [7] Your land is a desert: your cities are burnt with fire. As for your country, before your eyes strangers are devouring it; and it is laid waste, being subdued by foreign tribes. [8] Must the daughter of Sion be left as a shed in a vineyard: and as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers—as a city taken by siege? [9] Had not the Lord of Hosts left us a seed, we should have been as Sodom and made like Gomorra.

[10] Hear a word of the Lord, O chiefs of Sodom! Attend to the law of God, ye people of Gomorra!

[11] What is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me? saith the Lord: I am cloyed with whole burnt offerings of rams: in the fat of lambs and the blood of bulls and goats I have no delight; [12] nor should you come to appear before Me: for who hath required these at your hands? You shall no more be admitted to tread My court. [13] Though you bring fine flour; it is a vain incense—it is an abomination to Me. Your new moons and sabbaths and great day I cannot endure: your fasting and cessation from labour; [14] and your new moons and your festivals My soul hateth. You are become loathsome to Me; I will no longer remit your sins. [15] When you stretch forth your hands, I will turn Mine eyes

from you; and though you multiply prayer, I will not hearken to you: for your hands are full of blood.

[16] Wash and become clean: remove iniquities from your souls; in My presence, cease from your evil deeds; [17] learn to do good; seek judgment; deliver him who is injured; administer justice to the orphan, and plead the cause of the widow: [18] then come—(let our controversy be brought to issue, saith the Lord) and though your sins be as a purple stain; I will make you white as snow—though they be as a stain of scarlet; I will make you white as wool. [19] If you indeed be willing and will hearken to Me, you shall eat the good things of the land: [20] but if you refuse and hearken not to Me, the sword shall devour you; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken these words.

[21] How is the faithful city become a harlot? Sion that was full of justice! In its righteousness made its abode; but now murderers. [22] Your silver is not pure: thy vintners mix the wine with water. [23] The chiefs are rebellious; associates of thieves: they love gifts; they seek rewards: to orphans they do not administer justice; and to the cause of widows they do not attend. [24] Therefore thus saith the sovereign Lord of hosts:

Alas for the rulers of Israel! for My wrath against these adversaries shall not abate. On these enemies of Mine I will execute judgment: [25] and I will bring My hand over thee, and purify thee with fire. Them who are disobedient I will destroy; and I will take away from thee all transgressors, [26] and establish thy judges as at the first: and thy counsellors as at the beginning: [27] and after these things thou shalt be called *The city of Righteousness, the faithful metropolis, Sion*. For in the exercise of judgment her captivity shall be saved: [28] and in the exercise of mercy, the lawless and sinful shall be crushed together; and they who have forsaken the Lord shall be utterly destroyed: [29] for they shall be exposed to shame for the idols on which they doted; as they have been for the gardens which they desired. [30] For they shall be like an ilex, which hath shed its leaves; and like a garden which hath no water: and their strength shall be like tow; and their works like sparks of fire: and the lawlessness and sinful shall be burned up together; and there shall be no extinguisher.

* CHAPTER II *

THE word which came to Esaias, son of Amos concerning Judea and concerning Jerusalem:

[2] For in the last days, the mount of the Lord will be conspicuous; and the house of God will be on the top of mountains; and exalted above the hills: therefore all the nations will come to it. [3] Many nations indeed will go, saying:

Come, let us go up to the mount of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob. And He will teach us His way, and we will walk therein.

For from Sion shall go forth a law; and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. [4] And He will judge among the nations, and work conviction in many a people: and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares; and their spears into pruning hooks: and nation shall not lift up a sword against nation; nor shall they learn war any more.

[5] Now therefore, O house of Jacob; come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. [6] For He hath abandoned His people, the house of Israel.

[Saith the Lord]: Because their land was filled as at first with divinations like that of the Philistines, and many strange children were born to them; [7] for their country was filled with silver and gold, and there was no counting their treasures; and their land was filled with horses, and there was no end to their chariots; [8] and the land was filled with abominations, the workmanship of their own hands; and they worshipped the things which their fingers had made, [9] and the commoner bowed down and the noble humbled himself; therefore I will not forgive them.

[10] Now therefore go into the rocks and hide yourselves in the earth, from the tremendous presence of the Lord; and from the glory of His majesty, when He shall arise, to crush the land.

[11] For the eyes of the Lord are lofty; but man is low; and the loftiness of these men shall be humbled; and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. [12] For the day of the Lord of hosts is against every scorner and haughty man; and against everyone high and lofty, and they shall be humbled: [13] even against every one of those high towering cedars of Lebanon; and against every oak of Basan; [14] and against every lofty mountain; and against every hill that is high; [15] and against every stately tower; and against every high raised wall; [16] and against every

ship of the sea; and against every ensign of beauteous ships: [17] and every man shall be humbled; and the haughtiness of these men shall fall; and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. [18] Then will they hide all these handiworks, [19] carrying them into caverns and clefts of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, from the tremendous presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His majesty, when He shall arise to crush the lands. [20] For on that day men will cast to the bats [21] their abominations both of silver and gold, which they made to worship vanities; that they may go into holes of the flinty rock—nay into the very clefts of the rock, from the tremendous presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His majesty, when He shall arise to crush the land.

* CHAPTER III *

BEHOLD, now the sovereign Lord of Hosts will remove from Jerusalem and from Judea all stay and support of every kind—the stay of bread and the stay of water; [2] the giant and mighty man and warrior; judge and prophet; instructor and elder; [3] the captain of fifty, and honourable counsellor; the skilful architect and intelligent scholar: [4] And I will make boys their princes; and scorners shall rule over them. [5] And upon one another the people will fall foul, and jostle every man against his neighbour—the boy against the elder and the base against the honourable, [saith the Lord].

[6] Because a man will take hold of his brother, or the head of the house of his father, saying: Thou hast clothing be thou our leader, and let me be supplied with food under thee. [7] Therefore on that day he will answer and say, I will not be thy leader, for in my house there is neither bread nor raiment, I will not be the leader of this people.

[8] Because Jerusalem is forsaken and Judea is fallen therefore their tongues concur with their transgression. They disbelieve the things relating to the Lord. [9] Because their glory is now humbled; and the shame of their countenance is risen up against them: their sin therefore, like the Sodomites, they proclaimed and openly avowed. Alas for their souls! Because they have counselled an evil counsel against themselves, [10] saying, Let us bind the just one, for he is disagreeable to us; let them therefore eat the fruits of their deeds. [11] Alas for the wicked! according to the works of his hands evils shall befall him. [12] O

my people! your taskmasters glean you; and exactors tyrannise over you. O my people! They who call you happy lead you astray; and disturb the path of your feet. [13] But the Lord will now arise to plead His cause; and He will arraign His people. [14] The Lord will Himself come to a trial with the elders of the people and with their chiefs: Why have you burned up My vineyard? And why is the plunder of the poor in your houses? [15] Why do you injure My people; and cover with shame the face of the poor.

[16] Thus saith the Lord: Because the daughters of Sion are haughty and have walked with outstretched neck and wanton eyes, trailing with them in their gait flowing robes, and moving in set pace with their feet; [17] therefore God will humble the princely daughters of Sion and the Lord will expose their form to view. [18] On that day the Lord will take away the finery of their attire, the cauls and the curls and the crescents, [19] the solitaire and the ornament of the brow, [20] and the gorgeous wreathed tiara, and the necklaces and the bracelets, and the zone and the rings for the fingers, and the ornaments for the right arms, [21] and the earrings and the robes with purple borders, and those the middle of which is purple, and the dresses worn at home, and the Laconian gauzes and cotton robes, and those of purple and scarlet and cotton, embroidered with gold and purple; and the summer sofas.

[24] And instead of perfumes there shall be ashes; and instead of a girdle thou shalt be girded with rushes; and instead of a golden headdress thou shalt have baldness, on the account of thy doings; and instead of the purple robe thou shalt gird on sackcloth. [25] And thy son the most beautiful whom thou lovest shall fall by the sword; and your mighty men shall fall by the sword and be laid low; [26] and your wardrobes shall mourn; and thou shalt be left solitary and shalt sit on the ground.

* CHAPTER IV *

AND seven women shall lay hold on one man, saying, We will eat our own bread and wear our own raiment, let us only be called by Thy name: take Thou away our reproach.

[2] But in that day God will with glorious counsel shine on the land, to exalt and dignify the remnant of Israel. [3] And it shall come to pass that what is left in Sion, and what is left in Jerusalem shall be called Holy. Namely all who are enrolled for life in

Jerusalem. [4] Because the Lord will wash away the filth of the sons and the daughters of Sion, and cleanse the blood entirely from among them by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of burning; [5] therefore when He shall come, every part of Sion and all around it shall be overshadowed by day with a cloud as of smoke, and by night with that of the light of blazing fire; and with all this glory it shall be covered; [6] and this will be a shade from heat, and it shall be in a shelter and covert from storm and rain.

* CHAPTER V *

*Let me sing for the Beloved, a song of my Beloved
to His vineyard:*

THE Beloved had a vineyard on a mountain in a rich soil, [and said]: [2] And I hedged it around and trenched it; and planted it with the vine of Sorek; and in the midst of it built a tower, and hewed out therein a wine lake; and waited for its producing grapes, and it produced poisonous berries.

[3] Now therefore, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Juda, judge between Me and My vineyard. [4] What more could I do for My vineyard that I have not done for it? Because I expected that it would produce grapes, and it hath produced poisonous berries; [5] now therefore I will tell you, what I purpose to do with My vineyard; I take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be exposed to plunder; and I will demolish its wall, and it shall be for a common walk; [6] and I will abandon my vineyard that it may neither be pruned nor digged; and brambles shall overrun it as a waste; and I will give a charge to the clouds not to shed rain upon it.

[7] For the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts is the house of Israel; and the men of Juda His beloved plant. I waited for their executing justice, but they committed injustice, and promoted not righteousness, but an outcry.

[8] Woe unto them who join house to house, and who are bringing field nearer to field, that they may take something from their neighbour. Are you alone to dwell in the land? [9] For these things have come to the ears of the Lord of Hosts. For though there be many houses they shall be for desolation—though great and fair, there shall be no inhabitants therein. [10] For the ground worked by ten yoke of oxen will not yield a bath of wine; and he who soweth six measures shall not raise three.

[11] Woe to them, who rise early to follow strong drink, and continue at it till late at night; for the wine will inflame them. [12] For with kithara and psaltery, tabors and pipes, they drink wine; but they regard not the works of the Lord, nor consider the operations of His hands. [13] Therefore my people are become captives, because they did not know the Lord; and multitudes have died of famine and thirst; [14] and Hades hath enlarged its appetite, and opened its mouth, that there may be no want of room; and down shall go the honourable and the great, and the rich and the pestilent men of the land. [15] The commoner shall be humbled; and the noble dishonoured; and the lofty eyes shall be brought down; [16] and the Lord of Hosts shall be exalted in judgment; and God, the Holy One, shall be glorified by righteousness; [17] and they who have been plundered shall be fed like bulls, and lambs shall graze the waste places of them who have been removed.

[18] Woe unto them who draw out sins as for a long cable, and iniquities as for an ox chain; [19] who say, Let what he is to do approach speedily that we may see; and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel come that we may know it.

[20] Woe to them who call evil good; and good evil—who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet; and sweet for bitter.

[21] Woe to them who are wise in their own conceit, and in their own eyes prudent.

[22] Woe to your mighty men who drink wine; and to your princes who mingle strong drink: [23] who justify the wicked for rewards; and deprive the just of his right. [24] For this cause, as stubble will be set on fire by a coal, and consumed by a neglected flame; their root shall be like touch wood, and their blossom shall ascend like dust: for they desired not the law of the Lord of Hosts: but provoked to wrath the manifestation of the Holy One of Israel. [25] Wherefore the Lord of Hosts was incensed against His people, and He stretched out His hand against them and smote them: and the mountains were convulsed, and their carcasses were as dung in the highway: and for all this His anger was not turned away; but still His hand is high.

[26] Therefore He will erect a standard among the nations far off, and summon them from the extremity of the earth; and behold! with speed they are coming swiftly. [27] They will not hunger, nor will they be weary: they will not slumber, nor lie down to sleep; nor shall their girdles be loosed from their loins,

nor the lachets of their sandals broken. [28] Their arrows are sharp; and their bows are bent: the hoofs of their horses have been accounted as flint, and the wheels of their chariots are like a whirlwind. [29] They growl like lions, and are at hand like young lions. He will seize and roar like a wild beast and drive out the people, and there shall be none to deliver them.

[30] On that day He will roar against them like the roaring of the billowy sea; and they will look upwards to the heaven and down on the earth; and lo! distressful darkness in their tribulation.

* CHAPTER VI *

A Solemn Vision

IN the year in which Ozias the king died I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne; and the house was filled with His glory. [2] And seraphs stood around Him, each having six wings; and with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered the feet, and two they used in flying. [3] And they cried one to another and said:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is filled with His glory.

[4] And the lintel of the door was shaken with the sound of their cry, and the house was filled with smoke. [5] Whereupon I said, Ah! woe is me! (for I was confounded) for, being a man and having unclean lips, and dwelling among a people of unclean lips, I have [still] seen with mine eyes the king the Lord of Hosts. [6] Then one of the seraphs was sent to me and he had in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with the tongs. [7] And having touched my lips he said, Behold this hath touched thy lips, and it will take away thine iniquities and purge away thy sins. [8] Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send? And who will go to this people? And I said, Behold, here am I: send me. [9] And He said:

Go and say to this people: Hearing you shall hear, though you may not understand: and seeing you shall see, though you may not perceive: [10] for the heart of this people is stupefied; and their ears are dull of hearing; and they have shut their eyes, that for awhile they may not see with their eyes; and hear with their ears; and understand with their hearts; and return that I may heal them.

[11] Whereupon I said, For how long? O Lord! And He said, Until cities be wasted so as not to be habitable; and houses, so that there be no men; and the land be left utterly desolate: [12] And after this God will remove the men far away.

[13] They indeed who are left in the land shall be multiplied; for still about the tenth is in it; and shall again be for a prey, and be like the ilex and like the oak when it hath fallen from its station.

* CHAPTER VII *

IN the days of Achaz the son of Joatham, the son of Ozias king of Judah, Rasin king of Aram and Phakee, son of Romelias, king of Israel, came up against Jerusalem to war against it, but could not lay close siege to it. [2] When the house of David was informed that Aram had confederated with Ephraim, the heart of the king and the heart of his people was moved, as a tree in the forest is shaken by the wind. [3] Whereupon the Lord said to Esaias, Go out and meet Achaz, thou and *Forsaken-jasub* thy son, at the pool on the upper road to the fuller's field, [4] and thou shalt say to him,

Take heed and be quiet; be not terrified, nor let thy soul be dismayed on the account of these two smoking firebrands: for when My fierce wrath is come I will again heal.

[5] And as for the son of Aram and the son of Romelias; because they have taken evil counsel, saying, [6] Let us go up to Judea and confer with the people and bring them into our measures; and let us make the son of Tabeel king over it, [7] thus saith the Lord of Hosts. This counsel shall not stand; nor shall it take effect. [8] But the head of Aram shall be Damascus, and the head of Damascus, Rasin—but further, in threescore and five years, the kingdom of Ephraim shall cease from being a people, [9] though Somoron is the head of Ephraim, and the son of Romelias, the head of Somoron, yes though you may not believe nor understand.

[10] Moreover the Lord proceeded to speak to Achaz saying: [11] Ask thee a sign from the Lord thy God in the depth or in the height. [12] And Achaz said: I will not ask, nor will I try the Lord. [13] Thereupon He said, Hear now, O house of David, Is it a small matter for you to contend with men? How is it then that you contend with the Lord? [14] Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and he shall be called *Emmanuel* [God-with-us].

[15] Doth this child,* before it hath known to choose good in preference to evil, eat butter and honey, [16] because previous to its knowing good or evil it disobeyeth evil to make choice of good? The land indeed which thou fearest on account of these two kings shall be relinquished; [17] but God will bring upon thee, and upon thy people and upon the house of thy father, days which have not yet come. From the day He hath taken Ephraim from Juda, [He will bring forth] the king of the Assyrians.

[18] It shall come to pass that at that time the Lord will utter a call to the flies—to that part of them which rule over the river of Egypt; and to the bee which is in the country of the Assyrians; [19] and they shall all come into the valleys of this country; and into the holes of the rocks; and into the caves and into every cleft.

[20] On that day the Lord will shave with that razor—with that which was hired on the bank of the river—with that of the king of the Assyrians, the head and the hair of the feet: and take off the beard.

[21] And it shall come to pass in that day, that a man will keep a young cow and two sheep; [22] and by reason of the abundance he will drink milk—butter and honey will be eaten by everyone left in the land.

[23] And it shall come to pass in that day everywhere, though there may be a thousand vineyards, each valued at a thousand shekels income: they shall be for briars and thorns. [24] With bows and arrows men will resort thither. Because the whole country shall be a waste of briars and thorns, [25] therefore every mountain which hath been ploughed will be ploughed, wherever terror could not come; for by reason of the country's being a waste of briars and thorns, it shall be a pasture for sheep and a range for the ox.

* CHAPTER VIII *

AGAIN the Lord said to me, Take thee a strip of a large new roll and write thereon with a man's pen, *Speed quickly to the plunder of the spoil, for it is at hand.* [2] And let faithful men, Ourias and Zacharias son of Barachias be witnesses for me [that the Lord thus spoke].

[3] Now I had approached to the prophetess and she had conceived; and when she brought forth a son, the Lord said to me,

* Pointing now to his (Isaiah's) son, Jasub, notes Thomson.

Call his name *Speed to the spoil—haste to the prey*: [4] for before this child shall know to pronounce *father or mother*, the van of the king of Assyria will take the army of Damascus and the spoils of Samaria.

[5] Again the Lord spoke yet further to me saying, [6] Because this people reject the water of Siloam which floweth gently and choose to have Rasin and the son of Romelias to rule over them; [7] therefore behold, the Lord will bring upon you the water of the river which is strong and abundant—even the king of Assyria and His glory; and He will rise over all your channels, and overflow all your banks; [8] and sweep away from Judea every man who can raise his head, or is capable of executing anything. And the circuit of his camp shall be such as to fill the breadth of thy country, O Emmanuel. [9] Know this, O nations, and be struck with consternation. Hearken, ye who are in the remotest parts of the earth; be struck with consternation, ye who have made yourselves strong; for though you should again become strong, with consternation you shall again be stricken; [10] and what counsel soever you may take, the Lord will defeat it; and what word soever you may speak shall not take effect among you, because God is with us.

[11] Thus saith the Lord with the strong hand, to them who refuse to walk in the way of this people saying, [12] Perhaps they may demand what is hard—(for whatever this people order is hard):

Be not ye terrified with the fear of them, nor dismayed; [13] hallow the Lord Himself, and let Him be thy fear: [14] for if thou hast put trust in Him, He will be to thee a sanctuary, and you shall not run against a stumbling stone, nor as under a falling rock. But as for the houses of Jacob, they are in a trap, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem are in a pit: [15] for this cause many among them shall be weak and fall and be trodden down, and men will safely approach and take them. [16] Then shall they be manifest who seal up the law that it may not be learned. [17] Then will one say, I will wait for God, Who hath turned away His face from the house of Jacob; and I will trust in Him; [18] here am I and the children whom God hath given me.

Now when there shall be signs and wonders in the house of Israel from the Lord of Hosts, Who dwelleth on Mount Sion; [19] if they should say to you, Apply to the trance-speakers, and to them who cause a voice to proceed from the ground—those vain babblers who speak from the belly. Should not a nation apply to

their God? Why consult they the dead concerning the living? [20] For He hath given a law for assistance; that they may not speak like such an oracle as this, which is not worth the giving of gifts for it. [21] Upon you indeed there shall come a grievous famine; and it shall come to pass that when you are hungry, you will fret and curse the ruler and the customs of your country. [22] And they will look up to the heaven above, then down on the earth beneath, and lo distress and darkness! tribulation and anguish and a gloom so as not to see! But he who is in distress for a season shall not be abandoned to despair.

* CHAPTER IX *

DRINK this first; do it quickly. With regard to the region of Zabulon, the land of Nephthaleim and the rest who inhabit the seashore, and the banks of the Jordan, Galilee of the nations; [2] ye people who walk in darkness, behold! a great light! and ye who dwell in a region, the shade of death, on you a light shall shine.

[3] With regard to the bulk of the people, whom Thou hast brought back in Thy joy, they shall rejoice in Thy presence, like them who rejoice in the harvest, and like them who are dividing spoils; [4] because the yoke which lay upon them, is taken away, and the rod which was over their neck. For He hath broken the rod of the exactors, as in the day of Madiam: [5] for, with a renewal of friendship, they shall make compensation for every robe collected by deceit, and for every garment; and shall be willing to do so, if they were burned with fire:

[6] Because for us a child is born, and to us a son is given, whose government is on his own shoulder; and his name is called *The Messenger of Great Counsel*. For I will bring peace on the rulers and health for him. [7] His government shall be great and to his peace there is no boundary, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to re-establish it, and support it with judgment and justice, henceforth and forever. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

[8] The Lord hath sent death against Jacob; and it hath come upon Israel. [9] And all the people of Ephraim shall know it, and all the inhabitants of Samaria, who with haughtiness and a lofty heart say, [10] The bricks are fallen; but come, let us hew stones and let us cut down sycamores and cedars and build for ourselves a tower.

[11] Though God will dash down them, who rise up against Him on Mount Sion; and disperse His enemies— [12] Syria in the east, and the Greeks in the west, who are devouring Israel with open mouth; for all this His anger is not turned away, but still His hand is lifted high.

[13] The people did not turn till they were smitten; as they indeed did not seek the Lord; [14] therefore the Lord cut off from Israel head and tail, great and little in one day— [15] the aged and the honourable, this was the head; and the prophet who teacheth falsehood, he is the tail. [16] Still there will be deceivers who will call this people happy, and lead them astray, that they may devour them; [17] therefore the Lord will have no pleasure in their young men; and on their orphans and their widows He will have no compassion because they are all wicked and regardless of law, and every mouth speaketh perversely. For all this His wrath is not turned away, but still His hand is lifted high.

[18] Still iniquity will burn like a fire, and like dry stubble it shall be consumed by fire. It shall burn in the thickets of the forest, and consume all on the hills around. [19] By reason of the fierce anger of the Lord the whole country is in a flame; and the people shall be as fuel for the fire. A man will have no pity for his brother, [20] but will turn to the right because he is hungry, and devour on the left, but shall not be satisfied. Man is devouring the flesh of his brother's arm; [21] for Manasses is devouring Ephraim, and Ephraim, Manasses; for they will both together besiege Juda.

For all this His anger is not turned away; but still His hand is lifted high.

* CHAPTER X *

WOE to them who write wickedness! For writers are writing wickedness; [2] turning aside the cause of the distressed; robbing the poor of my people of their right; that the widow may be their prey and the orphan, their spoil: [3] what then shall they do in the day of visitation? For tribulation shall come upon you from afar; and to whom can you flee for succour? And where will you leave your glory, [4] that you may not fall into the captive band?

For all this His anger is not turned away, but still His hand is lifted high.

[5] Ho! [the] Assyrian! The rod of My wrath, even Mine anger is in his hands, [6] I will send this anger of Mine to a lawless nation; and I will order this people of Mine to gather spoil and take the prey, and to trample down cities and lay them in the dust.

[7] But he did not harbour such thoughts; nor did he reason thus in his mind; but his mind will prompt him to destroy nations not a few. [8] Even though they should say to him, Thou alone art chief. [9] Indeed he will say: Have I not taken the whole country above Babylon and Chalene, where the tower had been builded? Nay have I not taken Arabia and Damascus and Samaria? [10] In the same manner as I have taken these; so will I take all the governments. How! ye graven images in Jerusalem and in Samaria; [11] for as I have done to Samaria and her images, so will I do to Jerusalem and her idols.

[12] But it shall come to pass, when the Lord hath accomplished His whole work on Mount Sion and Jerusalem; that I will cast a look on the stout heart—on the chief ruler of the Assyrians, and on the loftiness of the glory of his eyes.

[13] For he said, With this power I will perform exploits; and by the wisdom of mine [own] understanding I will remove the boundaries of nations, and make a prey of their strength, [14] and shake inhabited cities, and seize with my hand the whole world as a nest; and carry off the inhabitants like deserted eggs. There is none who can escape me or chirp against me.

[15] Shall an axe boast without him who cutteth with it; or a saw lift itself up, without him who draweth it; as one could lift up a staff or a piece of wood? No; this shall not be permitted: [16] indeed the Lord of Hosts will send disgrace on thy honour, and on thy glory a burning fire shall be kindled: [17] and the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and shall purify him with a burning fire, and consume his substance like dry grass. [18] On that day there shall be an extinction of the mountains, and the hills, and the forests; and it shall consume from the soul even to the flesh: and he who fleeth shall be like one fleeing from blazing fire. [19] And those of them who are left shall be few in number, so that a child may write them down. [20] And it shall come to pass in that day that the remnant of Israel shall no more join, nor shall those of Jacob who have escaped, any more lean on them who have injured them; but they will place their confidence in God the Holy One of Israel, in truth. [21] This remnant of Jacob shall indeed be for the Mighty God. [22] Yes: though the people of Israel be as the sand of the sea, this remnant of them shall be

saved. [23] He is closing an account and making a deduction with saving goodness. Because with the whole land the Lord will make a reckoning from which a deduction hath been made, [24] therefore thus saith the Lord of Hosts:

O My people who dwell in Sion, be not daunted at the Assyrian because he will smite thee with a rod; for I am bringing this stroke upon thee that thou mayst see the way of Egypt. [25] For yet a little while and Mine indignation shall cease; and My wrath will be against their counsel; [26] and God will raise against them a scourge similar to that of Madiam at the place of affliction.

When his [the Assyrian's] wrath shall be in the western road—in the high way leading to Egypt; [27] it shall come to pass in that day, that his yoke shall be taken from thy shoulder, and the terror of him from thee—his yoke shall be utterly destroyed from off thy shoulders. [28] For he will come to the city Aggai, and pass on to Mageddo; and at Machmas he will deposit his baggage: [29] then he will pass the valley and come to Aggai. Terror will seize Rama the city of Saul; the daughter of Galleim will flee: [30] he will be heard of at Laisa—he will be heard of at Anathoth. [31] When Madebena hath fainted; then, O inhabitants of Gibbeir, [32] comfort with the news of his halting a day on his march—with the hand comfort the mount, the daughter of Sion. And as for you, O hills, which are in Jerusalem, [33] behold the sovereign Lord of Hosts, with majesty confoundeth the glorious. They who are elated with arrogance shall be crushed; and the lofty shall be brought low; [34] yes, the lofty shall fall by the sword; and Lebanon shall fall with the lofty.

* CHAPTER XI *

AND there shall spring up a shoot from the root of Jessai—even from that root shall spring up a blooming shoot; [2] and the Spirit of God will rest upon him—a spirit of wisdom and understanding; a spirit of counsel and majesty; a spirit of knowledge and piety— [3] by this spirit he will be filled with the fear of God. He will not judge according to opinion, nor will he reprove according to report; [4] but he will administer justice to the lowly, and work conviction in the meek of the earth. And he will smite the earth with the word of his mouth, and with a breath from his lips destroy the wicked. [5] His loins will be girded with saving goodness, and his reins clothed with truth.

[6] And a wolf shall pasture with a lamb; and a leopard shall lie down with a kid; and the calf, and bull and lion shall pasture together, and a little child shall tend them. [7] The cow and bear shall feed together; and together their young shall herd; and the lion shall eat chaff like an ox. [8] And the sucking child shall lay its hand on the holes of asps and on the bed of young asps. [9] And they shall not hurt nor have power to destroy anyone on the Mountain which is My sanctuary. Because the whole earth is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as abundant water covereth depths of seas; [10] therefore there shall be in that day the root of Jessai, even he who riseth up to rule nations: in him nations will put their trust, and his resting place shall be glorious.

[11] And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord will proceed to shew His hand to provoke to jealousy the remnant of His people—that residue which is left from the Assyrians, and from Egypt, and from Babylonia, and from Ethiopia, and the Elamites, and from the risings of the sun, and Arabia. [12] And He will erect a standard for the nations, and gather together the outcasts of Israel, and assemble the dispersed of Juda from the four quarters of the earth. [13] And the envy of Ephraim shall be taken away; and the enemies of Juda shall be destroyed: Ephraim shall not envy Juda; nor shall Juda vex Ephraim.

[14] And they shall be wafted in the ships of foreign tribes; and they shall spoil both the sea and them of the east and Idumea; and upon Moab they shall first lay their hands; but the sons of Ammon shall first obey. [15] And the Lord will dry up the sea of Egypt, and lay His hand on the river with a vehement wind; and smite the seven channels, so that they may be crossed dryshod. [16] And there shall be a passage for my people left in Egypt. It shall be for Israel as on the day when they came up out of the land of Egypt.

* CHAPTER XII *

AND on that day thou wilt say, I bless thee, O Lord; because, though Thou wast angry with me, Thou hast turned away Thy wrath and pitied me. [2] Behold! my God is my Saviour, I will trust in Him and not be afraid. Because the Lord is my glory and my praise; and hath become unto me salvation; [3] therefore draw ye water with gladness from the wells of thanksgiving.

[4] Thou shalt say also on that day, O praise the Lord, invoke

His name aloud! Proclaim among the nations His glorious acts: call them up to your remembrance. Because His name is exalted, [5] praise ye the name of the Lord. Because He hath done stupendous acts, proclaim them throughout the whole earth. [6] Shout for joy and be glad, O inhabitants of Sion, for in the midst of it is exalted the Holy One of Israel!

* CHAPTER XIII *

A vision which Esaias son of Amos saw respecting Babylon:

[2] ON a mount in the plain, erect a standard [saith the Lord]; raise the voice to them; beckon with the hand. Open O princes! [3] It is I Who command. It is I, Who am leading these on. Giants are coming to execute My wrath, rejoicing and at the same time arrogant.

[4] A sound of many nations on the mountains! A tumultuous sound of many nations. A sound of kings and nations gathered together! the Lord of Hosts hath issued orders to a nation trained for battle. [5] They are come from a far distant country—from the extreme abutment of heaven—the Lord and His trained warriors, to destroy all that inhabited land.

[6] Raise the mournful cry! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and destruction from God will come: [7] therefore every hand shall be enfeebled; and every man's heart shall be dismayed. [8] The men in power shall be confounded; and pangs shall seize them, like those of a woman in travail. And they shall bewail their calamities, one to another, and be amazed; and their countenances will quiver like a flame. [9] For behold the remediless day of the Lord is coming—a day of wrath and indignation, to make the empire a desolation; and to destroy the sinners out of it. [10] For the stars of heaven—even Orion and the whole host of heaven, shall not give light; even that of the rising sun shall be darkened; and the moon shall not give her light.

[11] I will indeed order evils for the whole empire [saith the Lord], and on the wicked their transgressions; and destroy the arrogance of the wicked; and humble the haughtiness of the proud; [12] so that those left shall be more precious than tried gold and a man more precious than the ore of Souphir.

[13] For the heaven shall be filled with wrath; and the earth shaken from its foundations; at the fierce anger of the Lord of Hosts, [14] on the day when His wrath shall come: and those left

shall be like a chased roe and wandering sheep; and there shall be none to collect them together; so that they may return every man to his place, when every one shall be seeking his own country. [15] For whosoever is taken shall be thrust through, and those collected in a body shall fall by the sword. [16] And their infants shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; and their houses shall be plundered and their wives ravished.

[17] Behold, I am raising up against you the Medes, who disregard silver and have no need of gold. [18] They shall break the bows of the young men, and on your infants they will have no compassion; nor will their eyes spare thee for thy children. [19] And Babylon, which is stiled *Glorious* by the king of the Chaldeans, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorra. [20] It shall not be inhabited for a great length of time, nor shall it be entered for many generations. The Arabians shall not pass through it; nor shall shepherds make their folds therein. [21] But wild beasts shall there go to rest; and the houses shall be filled with howling. There sirens shall make their abode; and there demons shall hold their revels. [22] And satyrs shall inhabit there; and porcupines shall breed in the houses. He is coming quickly and will not tarry.

* CHAPTER XIV *

BUT the Lord will have mercy on Jacob, and will still make choice of Israel; and they shall rest in their own land; and the stranger shall be joined to them, and shall be added to the house of Jacob. [2] The nations shall take them and bring them to their place; and the house of Jacob shall possess them; when they shall be multiplied in their land, for men servants and for maid servants. And they who captivated them shall be captives; and they who domineered over them shall be brought into subjection.

[3] And it shall come to pass in that day when the Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow and thy grief—from that hard servitude of thine, with which thou hast served them, [4] that thou wilt take up this funeral song over the king of Babylon:

How the extortioner is laid to rest and a stop put to his demands! [5] The Lord hath broken the yoke of the sinners—the yoke of the rulers. [6] He smote a nation in wrath with an incurable wound; He smote a nation with a vengeful wound which did not spare. [7] The confidant is gone to rest; the whole earth

shouteth for joy; [8] and the trees of Lebanon rejoice over thee—and the cedars of Lebanon say, Since thou hast gone to rest, no woodsman is come up against us. [9] Hades from beneath was in uproar to meet thee; for thee were roused all the giants who had ruled the earth. Having roused from their thrones all the kings of nations, [10] they will all accost thee saying:

And art thou caught as we have been? And among us art thou enrolled? [11] Is thy pomp come down to Hades—all thy great festivity? Beneath thee they will strew corruption for a bed; and worms shall be thy covering.

[12] How is Lucifer fallen from heaven! He who was harbinger of the morning—he who sent messages to all the nations, is trampled down into the earth. [13] Thou indeed didst say in thy heart, I will ascend up into heaven; above the stars of heaven I will place my throne; I will seat myself on a lofty mountain—on the lofty mountains which face the north. [14] I will ascend above the clouds; I will be like the Most High.

[15] But thou must now go down to the mansion of the dead—even down to the foundations of the earth. [16] They who see thee will express their amazement at thee and say, Is this the man who troubled the earth? who shook kings? [17] who made the world a desert? who, when he destroyed cities, never dismissed his captives? [18] All the kings of the nations have been composed to rest with honour, every man in his own house. [19] But thou shalt be cast out on the mountains, like an abominable corpse, with dying crowds, pierced with the sword, descending down to the mansion of the dead. [End of funeral song.]

[20] As a mantle stained with blood cannot be clean: for the same cause neither canst thou be clean. Because thou hast destroyed this land of Mine, and hast slain this My people; thou shalt not be of long continuance. Wicked seed, [21] prepare thy sons for slaughter, for the sins of their fathers; that they may not rise and possess the land, and fill the world with wars.

[22] I will indeed rise up against them, saith the Lord of Hosts, and destroy their name and remnant and seed. Thus saith the Lord: [23] I will lay Babylonia waste: that porcupines may inhabit it; and it shall be a desolation. And I will plunge it in the miry gulf of destruction. [24] Thus saith the Lord of Hosts, As I have spoken so it shall be; and as I have determined, so it shall stand. [25] I will destroy the Assyrians on this land of Mine; and on these mountains of Mine they shall be trodden down; and their

yoke shall be removed from My people; and their reproach shall be taken from their shoulders.

[26] This is the counsel which the Lord hath taken against the whole empire, and this is the hand which is lifted high against all the nations. [27] For who can disannul what the Holy God hath decreed? and His hand which is lifted high, who can turn aside?

[28] *In the year in which king Achaz died, this Oracle was delivered:*

[29] Rejoice not, foreign tribes, with one accord, because the yoke of him who smote you is broken; for from the seed of a serpent will come forth young asps, and their offspring will be flying serpents.

[30] For the needy will be fed by Him; and in peace the needy will repose. But with famine He will destroy thy seed—even the remnant of thy seed He will destroy. [31] Raise the mournful cry, ye gates of cities. O foreign tribes! let harassed cities scream with one accord: for a smoke is coming from the north, which cannot be endured. [32] What then will the kings of nations say in reply?—namely, that the Lord hath founded Sion, and by Him the poor of His people shall be saved.

* CHAPTER XV *

The Oracle against Moab:

IN the night Moab is destroyed; for by night is destroyed the bulwark of Moab. Be in bitterness for yourselves; for Debon also is destroyed. [2] Where your altar is, thither you will go up to weep for Nabau of Moab, Raise the mournful cry. On every head be baldness; let all your arms be gashed with wounds. [3] In the streets thereof, gird on sackcloth, and on its house tops make lamentation; and in the streets thereof and in its lanes, raise ye all the mournful cry with weeping; [4] because Esebon and Eleale have screamed—even to Jassa their voice hath been heard; therefore the lungs of Moab utter lowings; her soul will be afflicted. [5] The heart of Moab within her uttereth lowings, which reach Segor: for she is a three-headed heifer. At the ascent of Louith weepers will come up to thee; by the way of Aroniim destruction and dismay are roaring.

[6] The water of Nemereim will be dried up; and its grass will fail; there will be no green grass. [7] But even thus it shall not

be saved; for I will bring the Arabs against that valley; and they shall take it. [8] For the cry of war touched the border of Moab at Agaleim, and the scream thereof reacheth even to the well of Aileim. [9] As for the water of Deimon, it shall be full of blood; for I will bring the Arabians against Deimon, and carry off the seed of Moab and Ariel; and the remnant of Adama I will send away as reptiles on the earth.

* CHAPTER XVI *

IS Petra a desert? There is the mountain of the daughter of Sion [to fly to] [2] for thou shalt be—(like the young of a flown bird carried away) thou, daughter of Moab, shalt be so; and then do thou, O Arnon.

[3] Take further counsel and make for her everywhere a shelter from grief. In midnight darkness they will flee. They are confounded. Be not thou incensed. [4] Let the fugitives of Moab sojourn with thee. They will be a shelter to thee from the face of a pursuer. Because thy share in the war is taken away; and the chief who trampled down is destroyed from this land; [5] therefore a throne shall be established with mercy, and on it One shall be seated with truth; in the tabernacle of David, executing justice, and searching out judgment and promoting righteousness.

[6] (s) We have heard of the haughtiness of Moab—he is very insolent.

This haughtiness I have totally removed, [saith the Lord].

Is not this, is not this the oracle concerning Thee? [7] Moab shall raise the mournful cry, for in the country of Moab they shall all utter the cry of woe, but to them who dwell in the habitations of Seth Thou shalt extend care and shalt not be ashamed. [8] The plains of Esebon shall mourn—the vineyard Sebama. Ye who drink up the nations, trample down her vineyards to Jazer. You need not march in close array: roam through the wilderness. They who were dispatched were wholly given up, for they passed through quite to the sea.

[9] (p) Let me therefore weep, as with the weeping of Jazer, for the vineyards of Sebama. He hath cut down thy trees, O Esebon and Eleale.

[Saith the Lord]: Because in harvest and at thy vintage I will

(s) *Sion*, notes Thomson; also (p) = *the prophet*.

trample down and all shall be laid prostrate; [10] therefore gladness and the shout of joy shall be taken from the vineyards. And in thy vineyards they shall not rejoice, nor tread out wine in thy cisterns, for a stop is put to the shout of joy.

[11] (p) For Moab therefore will my bowels sound like a kithara, and my entrails, as when thou didst consecrate a wall; [12] but it will be for the purpose of making thee ashamed. Because Moab had tired himself at the altars, therefore he will turn to the works of his [own] hands, that they may intercede. But they shall not be able to deliver him. [13] This is the decree which the Lord pronounced against Moab, when He spoke. [14] And now I say, within three years of the years of an hireling, the glory of Moab shall be debased with all his abundant wealth; and he shall be left few in number and of no estimation.

* CHAPTER XVII *

The Oracle against Damascus:

BEHOLD, Damascus shall be removed from among cities, and shall be for desolation— [2] left for ever for the folding of flocks, and for a resting place where none will scare them. [3] And it shall no more be a fortress for Ephraim to flee to; nor shall there be again a regal government in Damascus—ever hereafter, of the Syrians. For thou art not better than the children of Israel—than that which was their glory. Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: [4] there shall be in that day a diminution of the glory of Jacob; and the fatness of his glory shall be shaken; [5] and it shall be as when one gathereth the standing harvest and reapeth the ears of stalks; nay, it shall be as when one gathereth stalks in a sterile vale, [6] still a stalk may be left in it; or like the unripe berries of an olive tree, two or three may be left on the topmost bough, or four or five among the branches.

Thus saith the Lord the God of Israel: [7] In that day let man trust in his Maker, and his eyes look to the Holy One of Israel; [8] and let him no more put confidence in altars, nor in the works of their hands which their fingers have made, nor look to the groves nor to their abominations.

[9] In that day thy cities shall be forsaken, as the Amorites and Evites forsook theirs because of the sons of Israel: and they shall become a desolation.

[10] Because thou hast forsaken God thy Saviour, and hast not

been mindful of the Lord thy helper, therefore thou shalt plant a faithless plant and a faithless seed. [11] On the day thou plantest thou shalt be deceived. Though thou sowest in the morning, shall it bloom for harvest? or on the day when thou shalt take possession, shalt thou as the father of man take possession for thy sons?

[12] Alas! the multitude of many nations! Like the billowy sea so shall you be tossed, and the back of many nations shall sound like water. [13] The multitude of nations being like a great flood, their flight shall be like that of a mighty torrent rolling on impetuously.

For He will repulse them with scorn, and pursue them to a great distance, like chaff before the wind when men winnow, or as a tempest driveth the dust of a wheel. [14] Toward evening there will be grief; before morning they shall be no more. This is the portion of them who have plundered you; and this the inheritance of them, who have taken possession of you.

* CHAPTER XVIII *

AH! wings of the land of ships! Thou who surpassest the Ethiopian streams, [2] thou who art sending pledges by sea, and paper messages on the water; for swift messengers will go to a lofty nation, and to a strange and fierce people. There is one far transcending it. With regard to the nation without hope and trodden down, at this time, O all ye streams of that land, like an inhabited country, their country shall be inhabited. [3] As if a signal were displayed from a mountain, as with the sound of a trumpet, let the news be spread. [4] For thus hath the Lord said to me: There shall be safety in this city of Mine; like the light of noontide heat; and it shall be like a dewy cloud in a harvest day.

[5] Before the vintage, when the blossom is perfect, and the young grape is swelling in the blossom; the diminutive bunches are to be cut off with pruning hooks, and the small shoots, to be nipped off and cut away, [6] and left together for the birds of the air, and for the wild beasts of the earth. And against them will be gathered all the birds of the air; and all the wild beasts of the earth will come upon it. [7] At that time gifts will be brought to the Lord of Hosts from a people afflicted and peeled—even on account of a people great from this time and forever. A nation having hope, though trodden down, which is in a part of the river of its country, will send them to the place of Him, whose name is the Lord of Hosts, even to Mount Zion.

* CHAPTER XIX *

A vision concerning Egypt:

BEHOLD, the Lord is seated on a swift cloud; and He will come into Egypt; and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at His presence; and the heart of the people shall melt within them. [2] And they shall be stirred up, Egyptians against Egyptians, and shall fight; brother against brother and neighbour against neighbour, city against city, and nome against nome. [3] And the spirit of the Egyptians shall be troubled within them: and I will dissipate their counsel; and they will consult their gods and their idols; and them who cause a voice to proceed from the ground, namely the trance-speakers. [4] And I will deliver Egypt into the hands of men—cruel lords; and fierce kings shall have dominion over them.

Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: [5] The Egyptians drink water even that near the sea, but the river shall fail and be dried up—[6] both the streams and the canals of the river shall fail; and every collection of water shall be dried up, even every fen, where reeds and papyrus grow. [7] And all the quick springing herbage which is around the river, and every thing which is sown by the river shall be dried up and withered by the wind. [8] And the fishermen shall mourn—all who cast drags in the river shall mourn; and they who spread nets and they who are anglers shall grieve: [9] and shame shall seize them who work the split flax, and them who work up the cotton. [10] They who are employed in such works shall be in sorrow; and they who brew beer shall mourn and be grieved in soul.

[11] The princes of Tanis shall be fools, those wise counselors of the king, their counsel shall be turned into folly. How can you say to the king, We are sons of wise men, sons of ancient kings? [12] Where now are these wise men of thine? Let them tell thee publicly and declare what the Lord of Hosts hath determined against Egypt.

[13] The princes of Tanis have failed; and the princes of Memphis are exalted, and they will lead Egypt astray, tribe by tribe. [14] For the Lord hath mingled for them a spirit of error, and they with all their works have made Egypt reel, as a drunkard when he is vomiting. [15] So that there shall be no work among the Egyptians, of which one can make head or tail, beginning or end: [16] And in that day the Egyptians shall be like women in

fear and trembling because of the hand of the Lord of Hosts which He will lay upon them.

[17] And the country of the Jews will be a terror to the Egyptians: when anyone shall mention it to them, they will be in terror, because of the counsel which the Lord of Hosts hath determined against it. [18] In that day there shall be five cities in Egypt which shall speak the language of Chanaan, and swear by the name of the Lord of Hosts; and one of them shall be called the city of Asedek. [19] And in that day there shall be an altar for the Lord in the country of the Egyptians, and at its boundary a pillar for the Lord, [20] and it shall be an everlasting sign for the Lord, in the country of Egypt. Because they will cry to the Lord on account of their oppressors, therefore He will send them a man who will save them: He will vindicate their cause and deliver them. [21] And the Lord will be made known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will acknowledge the Lord in that day, and offer sacrifices and make vows to the Lord and perform them. [22] Thus will the Lord smite the Egyptians and heal them, and they shall be turned to the Lord, and He will hearken to them and heal them.

[23] In that day this will be the highway from Egypt to Assyria; and Assyrians will come to Egypt and Egyptians to Assyria; and the Egyptians shall serve the Assyrians. [24] In that day Israel shall be a third, among the Egyptians and among the Assyrians, blessed in the land [25] which the Lord of Hosts hath blessed saying, Blessed is My people which is in Egypt, and which is in Assyria and Israel which is Mine inheritance.

* CHAPTER XX *

IN the year that Tanathan having been sent by Arna king of Assyria went to Azotus and fought against it and took it, [2] at that time the Lord spoke to Esaias son of Amos saying, Go and take the sackcloth from thy loins and loose thy sandals from thy feet; and having done so walk stripped and barefoot.

[3] And the Lord said, As My servant Esaias hath walked stripped and barefoot, three years; three years he shall be for signs and wonders to the Egyptians, and Ethiopians, [4] that in this manner the king of Assyria will lead away the captives of Egypt and Ethiopia, young and old, naked and barefoot, exposing to view the shame of Egypt. [5] And they, being subdued, shall

be ashamed of the Ethiopians in whom the Egyptians had placed confidence; for they were their glory. [6] And in that day the inhabitants of this country will say: Behold we trusted to flee for help to them, who were unable to deliver themselves from the king of Assyria: how then shall we escape?

* CHAPTER XXI *

The vision of the Desert:

AS when a whirlwind, having passed through a desert, is rushing out of a desert, the sight from the land is terrible,— [2] this vision being also dreadful, was revealed to me. The treacherous dealeth treacherously; the transgressor transgresseth; the Elamites are upon me; and the elders of the Persians are coming against me. Am I now to groan and comfort myself? [3] For this cause my loins are filled with fainting; pangs have seized me like a woman in travail. I did wrong not to hear; I shuddered so that I could not see. [4] My heart is bewildered, transgression overwhelmeth me. My soul is on the brink of despair.

[5] Prepare the table. Eat, drink, ye chiefs. Having arisen, prepare shields. [6] Because thus the Lord said to me: Go set a watchman for thyself and proclaim what thou seest. [7] Thereupon I beheld a chariot with two riders, and a rider on an ass and a rider on a camel.

[8] Listen with the utmost attention, said the Lord, And call thou a fair breeze to the watch-tower. I have kept my station all the day long, and by the camp I have stood the whole night; [9] and behold here cometh a man riding in a chariot, and addressing me he said, It is fallen! Babylon is fallen! and all her images, and all the works of her hands are dashed on the ground.

[10] Hear this, ye who have been forsaken! and ye who have been sorely grieved, hear what I have heard from the Lord of Hosts—what the God of Israel hath announced to us.

The vision concerning Idumea:

[11] To me one calleth from Seir, Guard ye the fortifications. I keep watch morning and night. [12] If thou wouldst inquire, inquire and dwell near me. [13] Thou mayst go to rest in the western forest, or in the way to Dedan.

[14] O inhabitants of the country of Thaiman, bring out water to meet the thirsty; meet with bread [15] them who are fleeing, because of the multitude of the slain; and because of the multitude

of dispersed: and because of the multitude of swords; and because of the multitude of bended bows; and because of the multitude of them who have fallen in battle. [16] For thus hath the Lord said to me, Within a year, according to the year of an hireling, the glory of the children of Kedar shall fail; [17] and the remnant of the mighty bowmen of Kedar shall be small. For the Lord God of Israel hath spoken.

* CHAPTER XXII *

The Oracle concerning the valley of Sion:

WHAT aileth thee, that you are all now gone up to the housetops? [2] This vain city is full of people shouting. Thy slain are not slain with the sword; nor have thy dead died in battle. [3] All thy chiefs have fled and they who are taken are cruelly bound. Even the mighty men in thee have fled far away.

[4] Therefore I said, Let me alone; let me weep bitterly: labour not to comfort me, for this distress of the daughter of my people. [5] For it is a day of trouble and destruction and treading down. There is indeed some wandering from the Lord of Hosts; in the valley of Sion they are wandering about; from the least to the greatest they are wandering on the mountains. [6] But the Elamites have taken up their quivers; and the horsemen have mounted their horses; and the army is arrayed in order for battle; [7] and on they will come. Thy choicest valleys shall be filled with chariots; [8] and the horsemen will block up thy gates, and burst open the gates of Juda; and look, on that day, into the choicest houses of the city; [9] and lay open the stores of the houses of David's citadel. They indeed know that they are many, and that the water of the old pool is turned into the city, [10] and that the houses of Jerusalem have been pulled down, to fortify the wall in the city.

[11] You have indeed provided water for yourselves, between the two walls nearer than the old pool, and have not looked to Him Who formed it of old, nor regarded Him Who created it.

[12] Though the Lord of Hosts, on that day called for mourning and lamentation, and for shaving of hair and girding with sackcloth, [13] yet they indulged themselves in joy and gladness, slaying oxen and sacrificing sheep, that they might eat flesh and drink wine, saying, Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die. [14] Yes, these were their undisguised expressions in the hearing

of the Lord of Hosts, therefore this sin will not be forgiven you till you die. [15] Thus saith the Lord of Hosts, Go to the treasury—to Somnas the steward, and say to him, [16] Why art thou here? and what hast thou here? that thou hast hewn out for thyself a monument, and hast made for thyself a sepulchre on high, and graved for thyself a tabernacle in a rock?

[17] Behold the Lord of Hosts is now driving out and will utterly destroy men of rank, and He will take away thy robe and this gorgeous crown of thine, [18] and whirl thee into a large immeasurable country, and there thou shalt die. And He will bring to disgrace thy splendid chariot, and make the house of thy chief a public walk. [19] And when thou shalt be removed from thine office and station: [20] it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim son of Chelkias, [21] and clothe him with thy robe. And this crown of thine I will confirm to him, and I will commit to his hands this office of thine: and he shall be as a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to them who dwell in Juda. [22] And I will give him the glory of David, and he shall rule and there shall be no antagonist; and on his shoulder I will lay the key of the house of David; and he will open and none shall shut; and he will shut and none shall open: [23] and I will make him a ruler in a sure place, and he shall be a throne of glory for the house of his father. [24] And on him will rely with confidence, every honourable man in his father's house, from the least even to the greatest. On him they shall be dependant in that day.

[25] Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: The man who is now fixed in a sure place shall be removed and taken away and shall fall; and the glory which is on him shall be utterly destroyed, for the Lord hath spoken it.

* CHAPTER XXIII *

The Oracle concerning Tyre:

RAISE the mournful cry, O ships of Carthage! for Tyre is destroyed and there are no arrivals from the land of the Kitians. She is carried away captive.

[2] Who could be compared with the dwellers in this island—these merchants of Phœnicia, who traversed the ocean, [3] this offspring of merchants on many a water, who made a traffic of nations as of an ingathered harvest?

[4] Be ashamed, O Sidon, said the sea—even the strength of

the sea said: I did not travail nor did I bring her forth; nor did I nourish her youths, nor educate her virgins; [5] yet when the news shall reach Egypt, sorrow for Tyre will take hold on them.

[6] Away to Carthage! Raise the mournful cry, ye who inhabit that isle! [7] Was not she your boast of old, before she was delivered up?

[8] Who hath taken this counsel against the Tyrians? Is she inferior? Or hath she not power? Her merchants are glorious chiefs of the earth.

[9] The Lord of Hosts hath determined to destroy all the haughtiness of the glorious; and to bring to contempt everything renowned on the earth.

[10] Work thy land: for ships no more arrive from Carthage, [11] nor is thy hand which vexed kings, any more powerful by sea. The Lord of Hosts hath given a command, concerning Chanaan, to destroy its power: [12] and shall it be said, You must not proceed to insult and distress the daughter of Sidon? Nay though thou shouldst go to the Kitians; yet even there thou shalt not have rest. [13] Away to the land of the Chaldeans, though it hath been wasted by the Assyrians; because its walls had fallen.

[14] Raise the mournful cry, O ships of Carthage, because your stronghold is destroyed.

[15] And it shall come to pass in that day, that Tyre shall be forsaken seventy years, according to the days of a king, according to the time of a man. And it shall come to pass after seventy years, that Tyre shall be as the song of a harlot.

[16] Take a kithara, stroll about, O city, O harlot long forgotten! Play skilfully; sing many songs, that thou mayst be remembered.

[17] And it shall come to pass after seventy years, that God will take account of Tyre, and she shall be restored to her former state, and be a mart for all the kingdoms of the world; which are on the face of the earth. [18] And her traffic and gain shall be holy to the Lord. All her gain shall not be treasured up for themselves, but for them who dwell before the Lord, that they may eat and drink and be filled, and for contributions to be kept in remembrance before the Lord.

* CHAPTER XXIV *

BEHOLD the Lord is about to destroy this inhabited land! He will lay it waste and uncover the face thereof and scatter abroad them who dwell therein. [2] And it shall be as with the

people so with the priest; as with the servant, so with the master; as with the maid, so with the mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller, as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the debtor, so with the creditor. [3] With destruction the land will be destroyed, and with spoiling this land will be ransacked: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken this. [4] The land mourned and this empire is destroyed—the lofty people of the land mourned. [5] As for the land, it transgressed by means of its inhabitants.

Because they transgressed the law, and changed the institutions—the everlasting covenant, [6] therefore a curse devoureth the land. Because they who dwell therein have sinned, therefore the inhabitants of the land shall be distressed, and few are the men who shall be left. [7] The wine will mourn, the vineyard will mourn, and all that were merry-hearted will sigh. [8] The mirth of the tabrets hath ceased, the sound of the kithara is no more. [9] They are confounded: they have drunk no wine. The palm wine was bitter to them who drank it. [10] Every city is desolated—the houses will be shut up that none may enter.

[11] Raise the mournful cry every where for the wine. A stop is put to all the joy of the land—all the joy of the land is gone. [12] The cities will be left desolate, and the houses being forsaken will be destroyed. [13] All this shall come to pass in this land, in the midst of the nations. As when one shall shake an olive tree, so shall they be shaken: and when the vintage is over [14] a shout will be raised.

But they who are left in the land shall be gladdened with the glory of the Lord. [15] The water of the sea will be troubled: for this cause the glory of the Lord will be in the isles of the sea. In the isles of the sea the name of the Lord will be glorious.

[16] O Lord the God of Israel! from the outskirts of the earth we have heard of Thy wonders: there is hope for the righteous.

Let them say also, Woe to the rebels who reject the law! [17] Terror and a pit and a snare are for you who dwell in the land: and it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the terror, shall fall into the pit; [18] and he who getteth out of the pit, shall be caught by the snare. Because the floodgates of heaven are opened, therefore the foundations of the land shall be shaken. [19] With confusion the land will be confounded; with perplexity this land will be perplexed. [20] It reeled to and fro like a drunkard when intoxicated: like a lodge in a vineyard the land shall be shaken. For iniquity hath prevailed over it; and it shall fall and shall not be able to rise. [21] When God shall bring His hand on

the hosts of heaven, even upon the kings of this land; [22] and the congregation thereof shall have been assembled for imprisonment, and shut up as chaff for many generations; of them there shall be a visitation.

[23] When the bricks shall have mouldered away, and the wall shall have fallen; because the Lord will commence His reign from Sion and from Jerusalem, and be glorified in the presence of the elders.

* CHAPTER XXV *

O LORD God, Thee I will glorify: in songs of praise I will extol Thy name. For Thou hast executed wonderful things, [according to] a counsel of old immutably true.

[2] Because Thou hast reduced cities to a heap of ruins—cities made strong so that their foundations might not fall (a city of wicked men cannot be built to last forever); [3] therefore the distressed people will bless Thee and the cities of injured men will give Thee thanks; [4] for Thou hast been the support of every humble city and the defence of them who were dispirited; by reason of their weakness. From wicked men Thou will deliver them. Thou art the support of the thirsty and the breath of men in distress.

[5] When dispirited men shall be thirsting in Sion on account of wicked men to whom Thou hast delivered us up; [6] then will the Lord of Hosts make provision for all the nations. On this mount they shall drink gladness: they shall drink wine [7] and be anointed with myrrh on this mount. Hand down all these things to the nations, for this counsel is for all the nations.

[8] Mighty death had swallowed [all] up; but the Lord God hath again wiped every tear from every face; and removed from the whole earth the reproach of this people. For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken.

[9] And in that day they will say, Behold, our God in whom we trusted, will indeed save us. He is the Lord, for Him we waited and exulted; let us therefore rejoice in our salvation. [10] God will give rest on this mountain.

When the country of Moab shall be trodden down, as a threshing floor is trampled with cars [11] and He shall cause His hands to relax, as He indeed humbled him to be slain, and shall humble his pride—those things on which He hath laid His hands, [12] and

shall lower the height of His wall of refuge; and it shall be laid low in the dust: in that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judea.

* CHAPTER XXVI *

BEHOLD we have a strong city! He will make salvation its wall and outworks. [2] Open the gates; let the people enter, who keep righteousness and who keep truth; [3] who support truth and keep peace; [4] because their confidence is placed in Thee, O Lord! Who art everlasting, the Mighty, the Eternal God, [5] Who hast humbled and brought down them who dwell in lofty places. Fortified cities Thou canst demolish and level them with the dust, [6] that the feet of the meek and lowly may trample them. [7] The way of the pious was straight; the way of the pious was well prepared; for the way of the Lord is justice. [8] We have trusted in Thy name and in that remembrance which is the desire of our soul by night.

[9] To Thee, O God, my spirit awaketh early, because Thy statutes are a light on the earth. Learn righteousness ye dwellers on earth, for the wicked one is no more. [10] Whoever will not learn justice on earth, cannot act agreeably to truth. Let the wicked be removed that he may not see the glory of the Lord. [11] Thy hand, O Lord, was lifted high; but they did not know it; but when they know they will be ashamed. Zeal will seize an un-instructed people; even now a fire devoureth the adversaries.

[12] O Lord, our God, grant us peace, for Thou hast forgiven us all things. [13] O Lord, our God, take possession of us! besides Thee, O Lord, we know none other. We celebrate Thy name. [14, 15] As for those who are dead they would not see life, nor can physicians raise them up; therefore Thou hast removed and destroyed and taken away all their males. Heap, O Lord, evils upon them—Heap evils on the vainglorious of the earth.

[16] O Lord, in affliction I remembered Thee. Thine instruction to us was with a small affliction; [17] and as a woman in labour, when near delivery, crieth in her pangs, so have we been to Thy beloved. On account of the fear of Thee, O Lord, [18] we conceived and suffered the pangs of childbirth, and brought forth the spirit of Thy salvation; for what we did in that land we are not to fall; but all the dwellers in that land are to fall.

[19] The dead shall be raised up again, even they in the tombs

shall be raised up: and they in this land shall be filled with joy: for the dew from thee is healing for them; but the land of the ungodly shall fall. [20] Go, my people, enter into thy chambers; shut thy door: hide thyself for a little while; until the anger of the Lord is passed. [21] For behold the Lord from His sanctuary is about to bring wrath on the inhabitants of this land; and the land will disclose the blood on it, and will no longer cover the slain.

* CHAPTER XXVII *

IN that day God will bring His holy sword, even His great and powerful sword, upon the dragon, the flying serpent—upon the dragon, the crooked serpent; He will slay the dragon.

[2] In that day, the fair vineyard—I have a mind to lead a responsive song about this:

[3] (c) I am a strong city, a city besieged.

(v) In vain shall I supply her with drink: for by night she will be taken, and by day she will fall. [4] There is no wall, or it hath not availed her. Will anyone set me to watch a stalk in a field? On account of this warfare I have rejected her.

(c) For this cause therefore the Lord hath executed all that He determined. [5] I am about to be burned up.

(v) Let the inhabitants therein cry aloud, Let us make peace with Him, let us make peace.

[6] (p) They who are coming are children of Jacob. Israel shall bloom and blossom; and the world shall be filled with his fruit. [7] He shall not, as he smote, be so smitten: nor, as he slew, shall he be so slain. [8] Having fought and disgraced them he [the (Assyrian) conqueror] will let them go. Thou hast not been visiting with this severe wind, to destroy them utterly with a blast of anger.

[9] (J) By means of this the iniquity of Jacob will be removed: and this will be to him a subject of thanksgiving, when I take away his sin—when they grind to powder all the hewn stones of their altars, and their groves no longer remain, and their idols hacked to pieces like a forest are far away. [10] The folded flock shall be disconsolate, like a flock which hath been forsaken; and for a long time the country shall be for a pasture, and flocks shall there take their rest. [11] And after a time there will be no verdure in it, by reason of its being parched up.

(c) the city; (v) the vineyard; (p) the prophet; (J) the Lord.

(p) O ye women who are coming from a goddess, attend! For this is not a people who have understanding; therefore He Who made them will not have pity on them; nor will He Who formed them shew them any favour.

[12] (J) But it shall come to pass in that day, that God will hedge them about from the channel of the river even to Rinocorou-ron. Therefore gather ye the sons of Israel together one by one. [13] And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be sounded and those shall come who are perishing in the land of Assyria, and they who are perishing in Egypt; and shall bow themselves down before the Lord, on this holy mountain in Jerusalem.

* CHAPTER XXVIII *

(p) AH! the crown of haughtiness! The mercenaries of Ephraim! That flower which hath fallen from the glory on the top of the fertile mountain! Ye who are drunk without wine! [2] Behold the wrath of the Lord is a harsh and terrible thing. Like a tempest of hail furiously driven when there is no shelter, like a mighty deluge sweeping a country. In this land it will put a stop to the labour of hands; [3] and with the feet shall be trampled down the crown of your pride, O mercenaries of Ephraim. [4] And the flower which hath dropped from the hope of the Glory, on the top of the lofty mountain, shall be like the early fruit of a fig tree, which he who seeth it will wish to devour, before he can get it into his hand.

[5] In that day the Lord of Hosts will be the crown of hope—the diadem of glory to the remnant of the people. [6] They shall be left for the spirit of Justice—to administer justice and destroy the power of the opposers. For by wine these were made transgressors; [7] they were led astray by strong drink. Priest and prophet were stupefied with strong drink; they were gorged with wine—they were agitated by drunkenness; they reeled to and fro. This is oracling! [8] A curse shall devour their counsel; for their counsel is for the sake of gain.

[9] To whom, [say they*] have we announced evils? And to whom have we announced a message—we who have been weaned from milk, we who have been withdrawn from the breasts?

* The false prophets.

[10] Expect affliction on affliction; hope on hope, yet a little while—yet a little while.

[11] On account of the mockery of their lips—because they will speak to this people with a strange tongue, saying to them, [12] This is the rest for him who is hungry: and this is the destruction, but they would not hear. [13] Therefore the oracle of God will be to them: Affliction on affliction; hope on hope, yet a little while, yet a little while, that they may proceed on and fall backwards; and they shall be broken and snared and caught.

[14] Therefore hear the word of the Lord, ye afflicted men, and ye rulers of this people in Jerusalem! [15] Because you said, We have made a covenant with death: and with the grave we have made a treaty: though the furious tempest may pass through, it will by no means reach us. We have made falsehood our refuge and by this falsehood we shall be saved,— [16] therefore thus saith the Sovereign Lord:

Behold I lay for the foundation of Sion a stone of inestimable worth—a chosen, precious corner stone for the foundations of it, and he who believeth shall not be ashamed. [17] And I will establish judgment for hope, and My mercy shall be for scales. But as for you who have vainly trusted in falsehood, that the tempest would not reach you; [18] and that it would not break your treaty with death; the hope which you have with respect to the grave shall not last: when the furious tempest cometh, by it you shall be beaten down. [19] When it cometh it will overtake you. Early, very early in the morning it will come, and at night your hope will be wretched. [20] Learn to hear: We are straitened for room, we cannot fight. We are weakened by Your pressing upon us.

[21] Like a mountain of wicked men the Lord will rise up; and He will be in the valley of Gabaon. With wrath He will execute His work—a work of bitterness; and His wrath will attack in a strange manner; and its severity will be unusual. [22] As for you therefore, be not filled with joy, yet let not your bonds gather strength. For the things are complete and decisive which I have heard from the Lord of Hosts—which He will execute on all this land.

[23] Listen and hear my voice; attend and hearken to these words of mine. [24] Will the ploughman plough the whole day? Or prepare seed before he hath tilled the ground? [25] Doth he not, when he hath levelled the face of the soil, then sow the small dill or cummin? and again sow wheat and barley and millet and

rye in all thy borders? [26] So thou shalt be corrected by the judgment of God; and be made glad. [27] For the dill is not cleaned with a corn drag; nor is the wheel of a wain to turn round on the cummin; but with a rod are beaten out the dill and the cummin.

[28] (J) Yet with bread they will be eaten. For I, *The I Am*, will not be angry with you forever, nor shall the voice of My severity destroy you. These wonders have indeed proceeded from the Lord of Hosts.

* CHAPTER XXIX *

HOLD consultation; exalt vain comfort. Ah, city Ariel, against which David fought! collect provisions year after year; eat; for you shall eat with Moab; [2] for I will bring distress upon Ariel, and her strength and her riches shall be for Me. [3] I will indeed encompass thee as David did; and surround thee with a rampart; and erect towers around thee. [4] But when thy words shall be brought down to the ground; and shall be as if they sounded out of the earth; and thy voice on the ground shall be feeble; [5] then shall the riches of the wicked be as the dust of a wheel, and the multitude of thine oppressors as chaff blown away: and this shall be as in a moment, suddenly.

[6] For from the Lord of Hosts there will be a visitation—a hurricane and a devouring flame of fire, with thunder and an earthquake and a mighty noise; [7] and the wealth of all the nations which encamped against Ariel, and all they who are warring against Jerusalem, and all who have been assembled against her, and those distressing her, shall be like one dreaming dreams by night: [8] and like men who in sleep are eating and drinking, but when they awake the dream is vain: even as a thirsty man dreameth that he drinketh, and when he waketh he is still athirst, his soul having trusted in a shadow: so shall be the wealth of all the nations, who have warred against mount Sion.

[9] Be sunk in dejection and stand astonished; be drunk and reel, not with wine nor strong drink; [10] for the Lord hath drenched you with a spirit of stupefaction, and will close up the eyes of them and of their prophets and their rulers. As for your seers of hidden things, [11] all these prophecies will be to you like the words of a book which is sealed: which when they give to a man skilled in letters, saying, Read this: He will say, I cannot read it, for it is sealed. [12] And should the book be put in the

hands of an illiterate man, and they say to him, Read that, he will say, I do not know letters.

[13] The Lord hath indeed said: This people draw near to Me with their mouth; and with their lips they honour Me; but their heart is far from Me: and in vain do they worship Me, teaching the commands and doctrines of men: [14] therefore, behold, I will proceed to the removal of this people and I will remove them; and destroy the wisdom of the wise, and darken the understanding of the prudent.

[15] Alas! for them, who deeply form a design, but not by the Lord. Alas! for them, who form designs in secret, that their works may be in darkness; and who will say, Who hath seen us, and who can find out us, or what we do?

[16] Are not you to be considered as the potter's clay? Shall the thing formed say to the former of it, Thou hast not made me? Or shall the work say to the workman, Thou hast not made me wisely? [17] Is it not a little while, ere Lebanon shall be changed to a likeness of mount Carmel, and Carmel be accounted a forest? [18] And in that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and they in darkness, even they in thick darkness— [19] the eyes even of the blind—shall see; and the distressed shall exult with joy because of the Lord; and the disconsolate among men shall be filled with joy.

[20] The lawless one hath failed, and the haughty one is destroyed, and these are utterly cut off who maliciously commit iniquity, [21] and who by reasoning cause men to err. But as for all them who reprove in the gates they will indeed lay a stumbling block, because of their having turned aside the righteous one for the unrighteous. Therefore, [22] thus saith the Lord respecting the house of Jacob, whom He set apart from Abraham: Jacob will not be ashamed now, nor will he now change his countenance; [23] but when his children shall see My works, because of Me they will hallow My name. They will hallow the Holy One of Jacob, and tremble before the God of Israel. [24] And they who have erred in spirit will gain knowledge, and the murmurers shall be taught obedience, and the trifling tongues will learn to speak peace.

* CHAPTER XXX *

AH rebellious children! saith the Lord, you have formed a design, but not by Me: and thou hast made covenants—but not by My Spirit—that you may add sins to sins.

[2] They are setting out to go down to Egypt, without having consulted Me—to be assisted by Pharaoh and protected by the Egyptians. [3] For the protection of Pharaoh will be your shame, and a disgrace to them who have trusted in Egypt. [4] Because generals are unwelcome messengers at Tanis, [5] they shall labour in vain with a people who will be of no service for assistance; but for a shame and disgrace.

[6] This is the vision of the four-footed beasts in the desert: A lion and a lion's whelp were in distress and difficulty; and from them went the asps and the brood of flying serpents, who carried their wealth on asses and camels to a nation which could not profit them.

[7] In vain and to no purpose will the Egyptians help you. Announce to them: This application of yours is vain.

[8] Now therefore sit down and write these things in a tablet and make a book that they may be for the appointed time—even for the time to come. [9] Because this is a rebellious people—lying children, who would not hear the law of God, [10] who say to the prophets, Preach not to us; and to them who see visions, Speak not to us, nay, speak to us and tell us another error, [11] and turn us from this way, and take from us this path, and take from us the oracle of Israel.

[12] Therefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel: Because you have disbelieved these words and placed your hopes on a lie, and because thou hast murmured, and been confident in this matter; [13] therefore this sin shall be to you like the tottering wall of a fortified city, which hath been taken by surprise, the fall of which is instantaneous. [14] And its fall shall be like the breaking of an earthen vessel, the fragments of which are so small that there cannot be found among them a sherd on which thou canst carry fire or with which thou canst scoop up a little water.

[15] Thus saith the Lord, the Holy Lord of Israel: When thou shalt return sighing, then thou shalt be saved, and thou shalt know in what a situation thou wast, when thou didst trust in these vanities.

Your strength was vain, yet you would not hearken, [16] but

said, We will flee on horses. Therefore flee you shall. And, [since you said,] We will mount swift coursers, therefore swift shall be your pursuers. [17] A thousand shall flee at the voice of one; and at the voice of five, many thousands shall flee: until you be left like a beacon on a mountain, and like a flag staff upon a hill.

[18] But again the Lord will wait to be gracious to you, and will therefore be exalted for compassionating you. Because the Lord your God is judge, happy are they who wait for Him. [19] Because a holy people will dwell in Sion, and Jerusalem with weeping cried, Have mercy upon me. Therefore He will have mercy upon thee. When He heard the sound of thy cry, He hearkened to thee.

[20] When the Lord shall have given thee bread of affliction and stinted water, they who lead thee astray shall no more come near thee. Because thine eyes will see them who are leading thee astray [21] and thine ears will hear the words of the deceivers behind thee who say, This is the way let us walk in it, whether to the right or left. [22] Therefore thou wilt defile thine idols plated with silver, and cut to pieces those overlaid with gold, and scatter them like polluted water and cast them out as dirt. [23] Then shall there be rain for the seed of thy land, and the bread of the increase of thy land shall be both abundant and nutritive; and thy cattle shall feed in rich and large pastures. [24] Your bulls and your cattle which till the ground shall eat provender mixed with winnowed barley. [25] And there shall be on every lofty mountain, and on every high hill streams of water in that day, when many shall be perishing and when towers may be falling. [26] And the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun; and the light of the sun shall on that day be seven fold; when the Lord will heal the bruises of His people, and when He will cure thy painful wound.

[27] Behold the name of the Lord cometh for a time, a burning wrath. The oracle of His lips with glory is an oracle full of indignation, and the fury of the wrath devoureth like fire; [28] and His breath is like a sweeping flood in a valley, which will reach up to the neck and swell to confound nations for their vain errors.

When error shall pursue them and overtake them, [29] before their face ought not you to rejoice continually and continually go to My solemnities like them who are celebrating a festival? Like them who are gladdened you should go with instrumental music to the mount of the Lord, to the God of Israel, [30] when the Lord shall cause the glory of His voice to be heard—when, to display the fury of His arm with wrath and indignation and con-

suming fire, He shall utter tremendous thunder, accompanied with a furious tempest of rain and hail. [31] For by the voice of the Lord the Assyrians shall be beaten down by the stroke with which He will smite them. [32] This indeed he shall have from all around him—from every place whence they had a hope of that assistance on which he relied, they will with timbrels and the kithara fight against him, after his rout.

[33] Of thee He will previously demand (and hast thou not provided for His reign) a deep valley and wood laid up in piles; the wrath of the Lord will be fire and wood in abundance like a valley burning with brimstone.

* CHAPTER XXXI *

ALAS! They went down to Egypt for help! They trusted in horses and chariots (for they have many and their cavalry is very numerous) and did not rely on the Holy One of Israel, nor did they ask the counsel of the Lord. [2] Therefore He in His wisdom brought evils on them: and that His word may not be slighted, He will rise up against the houses of wicked men and against this hope of theirs which is vain— [3] against an Egyptian—a man, not a god—against the flesh of horses in which there is no help. When the Lord shall lay His hand upon them, then shall these helpers fail and be all destroyed together. [4] Because the Lord hath thus said to me:

As the lion or the young lion will roar over the prey which he hath taken; and will repeat his roaring over it, until the mountains are filled with his voice, and the multitude are subdued and terrified at his wrath: so will the Lord of Hosts descend to encamp on this mountain—on this Sion—on the summits thereof: [5] as birds hover over their young, so will the Lord of Hosts protect Jerusalem; He will hover over it and spring forward, and will protect and save it.

[6] Therefore turn to Him, O children of Israel, who are taking deep and wicked counsel.

[7] Because men will in that day reject the works of their hands—their idols of silver and gold which their hands have made, [8] therefore Assur shall fall—not by the sword of a man of valour, nor shall the sword of a mortal devour him; and he shall flee—(not from the face of the sword) and the young men shall be for destruction. [9] For with a rock they shall be enclosed as with a

rampart, and shall be subdued; and he who fleeth shall be taken.

Thus saith the Lord: Happy he who hath a seed in Sion and a family in Jerusalem.

* CHAPTER XXXII *

FOR behold, a righteous king shall reign and chiefs shall rule with justice. [2] And this man will be one who hideth his words, and he will be hid as from a rolling flood. And he will be seen on Sion like a glorious stream in a thirsty land. [3] And they shall no more put confidence in men; but shall apply their ears to hear. [4] And the heart of the weak will listen attentively; and trifling tongues will soon learn to speak peace. [5] And they will no more order the fool to govern, nor shall thy servants any more command silence. [6] For the fool will speak foolishly, and his heart will devise vain things; that he may commit iniquity, and utter error before the Lord in order to scatter hungry souls: and the thirsty souls he will send away empty. [7] For the counsel of the wicked will devise unlawful devices to destroy the poor with unjust pleas; and to baffle the pleas of the poor in judgment. [8] But the pious have counselled with understanding; and their counsel shall be established.

[9] Arise, ye rich women, and hear my voice, hearken to my words ye daughters of hope! [10] make mention of a day of a year in sorrow, with hope. The vintage is destroyed; it hath failed! must it never come again any more?

[11] Be confounded; be grieved, ye confident women! strip, make yourselves bare; gird your loins [12] and beat your breasts for the lovely field—for the fruitful vine. [13] In this land of my people shall spring up the thorn and the briar, and joy shall be taken from every dwelling.

[14] O rich city! O houses wholly forsaken! They shall abandon city, riches, lovely houses; and until the age the villages shall be dens—the joy of wild asses, the pastures of flocks, [15] till a spirit come on you from on high. Then will a desert become a Chermel and Chermel will be accounted a forest; [16] and judgment will make a lasting abode in the desert, and righteousness will dwell in Chermel. [17] And the works of righteousness shall be peace; and righteousness shall enjoy rest. As for them who have kept up their confidence till that age— [18] His people shall then inhabit a city of peace and dwell secure, and they shall enjoy

rest with riches. [19] Though the hail descend, it shall not reach you: and they who dwell in the forest shall be secure as they in the plain.

(c) Happy they who sow on every water where the ox and the ass treadeth!

* CHAPTER XXXIII *

(p) WOE to them who miserably afflict you; but none can make you miserable. Even the deceiver doth not deceive you. The deceivers shall be taken and delivered up and like a moth on a garment they shall be crushed.

[2] O Lord, have mercy upon us! for in Thee we have placed our trust. The seed of the rebellious were for destruction: but Thou wast our safety in the time of trouble. [3] At the terror of Thy voice peoples were confounded; for fear of Thee the nations were dispersed.

[4] Now your spoils are to be gathered; the spoils both of small and great. As if one were gathering locusts, so will they insult you.

[5] Holy is the God Who dwelleth on high.

Sion is filled with judgment and righteousness.

[6] By law they were to be delivered up; in treasures is our safety.

Let there be there wisdom and knowledge and piety towards the Lord (these are the treasures of righteousness); [7] then behold with the dread of you they shall be terrified—they, of whom you have been afraid, will for fear of you raise a grievous cry. Messengers will be sent weeping bitterly, suing for peace. [8] For their highways shall be deserted, the dread of the nations is at an end and the treaty with them broken. And you will account them common men.

[9] The land mourned; Lebanon was ashamed; Saron was become fens; Galilee and Chermel were bare.

[10] Now will I arise, saith the Lord, Now shall I be glorified; [11] now shall I be exalted; now you shall see: now you shall feel. The strength of your spirit shall be vain; a fire shall utterly devour you; [12] and nations shall be burned up, as thorns in a field are rejected and burned. [13] The far distant nations shall hear what I have done, they who are near shall know My power. [14] The transgressors in Sion are fled; terror will seize the ungodly. Who

will tell you that a fire is kindled? who will proclaim to you the place which is everlasting? [15] He who is walking in righteousness, speaking of a straight way; who hateth iniquity and injustice; who shaketh his hands from bribes; who stoppeth his ears that he may not hear a bloody sentence; who shutteth his eyes against the appearance of injustice: [16] he shall dwell in a lofty cavern of a strong rock: bread shall be given him and his water shall not fail.

[17] You shall see a king with glory; your eyes shall see a far distant land; [18] your soul will meditate on terror. Where are the scribes? Where the counsellors? Where is he who numbereth them who are fed— [19] The people small and great? Alas! they gave no counsel; nor did they understand Him whose voice was so low that a despised people could not hear; and [even] he who heareth hath not knowledge [to understand].

[20] Behold the city Sion is our salvation. Thine eyes will look upon Jerusalem. It is a rich city composed of tents which should not be shaken; nor should the pins of her tabernacle ever be moved, nor its cords broken.

[21] Because the name of the Lord is great to you, it shall be to you a place of streams and canals broad and spacious.

Thou shalt not pass this way; nor shall a galley with oars cross; [22] for my God is great and will not pass me by. The Lord our judge—the Lord our chief—the Lord our king—the Lord will Himself save us.

[23] Thy tacklings broke, for they had no strength; thy mast gave way. It will not support the sails, nor rear a standard until it be delivered up for a spoil; therefore many who are lame will seize the prey: [24] but let not the people who dwell among these say, I am remorseful, for their sin is forgiven them.

* CHAPTER XXXIV *

ATTEND, O nations! and hearken, ye chiefs. Let the earth hear, and the inhabitants thereof—the world and the people who are therein. [2] Because the wrath of the Lord is against all the nations, and His anger against this number of them to destroy them and deliver them up to slaughter; [3] therefore their wounded and dead shall be cast out, and the stench of them shall ascend; and the mountains shall be drenched with their blood; [4] and all the powers of the heavens shall waste away; and the

heaven shall be rolled up like a scroll and all the stars shall fall like leaves from a vine and as leaves fall from a fig tree.

[5] (J) My sword hath drunk deep in the heaven; behold it shall come down on Idumea and on the people justly doomed to destruction.

[6] (p) The sword of the Lord hath been glutted with blood; it is pampered with suet—with the blood of he-goats and lambs, and with the suet of goats and rams. Because there is a sacrifice for the Lord in Bosor, and a great slaughter in Idumea; [7] therefore the fatlings shall fall with them, namely the rams and the bulls. And the land shall be drenched with blood, and glutted with their suet. [8] For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year for a judicial retribution to Sion: [9] and its torrents shall be turned into pitch, and its land into sulphur. And its land shall be like pitch burning day and night, [10] and which shall not be extinguished: for a long time the smoke of it shall ascend. During its generation it shall be desolate. [11] And for a long period fowls and porcupines, ibises and crows shall dwell therein. And over it shall be stretched a line of devastation; and in it the satyrs shall dwell.

[12] The chiefs of it shall be no more; for its kings and its nobles shall be for destruction. [13] And in their cities shall spring up brakes; and brambles shall be its fortresses: and they shall be cots for sirens, and for the ostrich's court. [14] And demons shall meet satyrs; and bellow one to the other. Satyrs shall there enjoy repose having found for themselves a place of rest. [15] There the porcupine hath made its nest; and the land hath safely kept its young. There the deer have assembled and seen each other's face. [16] I counted them and there is not one of them lost. They have not had occasion to seek each other: for the Lord hath issued orders to them; and His spirit hath brought them together. [17] And He will Himself cast the lots for them, His hand hath meted the place for them to feed. For a long time you shall inherit it.

For generations of generations let them rest therein.

* CHAPTER XXXV *

REJOICE, O desert; shout for joy, O thirsty desert and blossom like a lily. [2] Let the deserts of Jordan also bloom and rejoice; to it hath been given the glory of Lebanon and the honour

of Karmel. And My people shall see the glory of the Lord, and the majesty of our God.

[3] Be strong ye hands which are feeble, and ye knees which are without strength. [4] Take comfort ye who are faint hearted; take courage, be not terrified; behold our God retributeth judgment; He will indeed make retribution—He Himself will come and save us. [5] Then shall be opened the eyes of the blind; and the ears of the deaf will hear. [6] Then will the lame bound like a hart; and the stammering tongue will speak plain.

Because water is burst forth in the desert, and torrents in a thirsty land; [7] therefore the glowing sand shall become pools, and for the thirsty soil there will be fountains of water. The reedy beds and the pools there will be the joy of birds. [8] There will be there a pure highway, which shall be called The Holy Way. And the unclean shall not come there; nor shall there be there an unclean way. But as for the dispersed, they shall travel it, and shall not be led astray. [9] No lion shall be there; nor shall any ravenous beast come up thither, nor ever be found there; but in it the redeemed will walk, and they who have been collected for the Lord. They indeed shall return and come to Sion with joy, and everlasting joy shall crown their head: for on their heads will be praise and rapture; and gladness shall have full possession of them. Pain and sorrow and sighing are fled.

* CHAPTER XXXVI *

IN the fourteenth year of the reign of Ezekias, Sennacherim king of the Assyrians came up against the fortified cities of Judea, and took them. [2] And the king of the Assyrians sent Rabsakes from Lakes to Jerusalem, to king Ezekias, with a great army. And he halted at the canal of the upper pool in the high way to the fuller's field. [3] And to him went out Eliakim the son of Chelkias the steward, and Somnas the scribe, and Joach son of Asaph the recorder. [4] And Rabsakes said to them: Tell Ezekias, Thus saith the great king, the king of the Assyrians, On what hast thou placed confidence? [5] Notwithstanding negotiation and fair speeches, are not preparations making for war? Now therefore on whom hast thou relied, that thou rebellest against me? [6] Behold thy reliance is on that staff—that staff of reed—that broken reed, Egypt; on which if a man lean, it will pierce his hand and go through it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who rely on

him. [7] But if you say, Our confidence is in the Lord our God; [8] were you now in close connexion with my master the king of the Assyrians, and were I to give you two thousand horses, could you put riders on them? [9] How, then, can you revolt and affect to be petty princes? Those are reduced to slavery who have trusted in the Egyptians for charioteers and cavalry. [10] Besides, are we now come up without the Lord against this land to war against it? The Lord hath said to me, Go up against this land and destroy it.

[11] Then Eliakim and Somnas and Joach said to him, Speak to thy servants in Syriac, for we understand it. Therefore speak not to us in the Jewish language. Why speakest thou to the ears of the men on the walls?

[12] Thereupon Rabsakes said to them, Hath my lord sent me to your lord or to you to speak these words? Was it not to those men—to them who are stationed on that wall, that they may eat dung and drink urine, both they and you together? [13] Then Rabsakes stood and cried with a loud voice in the Jewish language and said, Hear the words of the great king, the king of the Assyrians. [14] Thus saith the king, Let not Ezekias deceive you with speeches. He cannot deliver you. [15] And let not Ezekias say to you, God will deliver you; and this city shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of the Assyrians. [16] Hearken not to Ezekias. Thus saith the king of the Assyrians, If you wish to be happy, come out to me; and eat, every one, of his own vine and his own fig trees, and drink water from your own cisterns, [17] until I come and take you to a land like your own—a land of corn and wine, and of bread and vineyards.

[18] Let not Ezekias deceive you saying, God will deliver you. Have the gods of the nations, delivered every one his own country out of the hand of the king of the Assyrians? [19] Where is the God of Emath and Arphath? And where is the God of the city Eppharuim? Were they able to deliver Samaria out of my hand? [20] Who is there of all the gods of the nations who hath delivered his country out of my hand, that God should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand? [21] But they were silent and none answered him a word, because the king had given a charge that none should answer.

[22] Then Eliakim the son of Chelkias the steward, and Somnas the secretary at war and Joach the son of Asaph the recorder went to Ezekias with their clothes rent and told him the words of Rabsakes.

* CHAPTER XXXVII *

AND when Ezekias heard them he rent his clothes and put on sackcloth and went up to the house of the Lord. [2] And he sent Eliakim the steward and Somnas the scribe and the elders of the priests clothed with sackcloth to Esaias son of Amos the prophet with this message to him, Thus saith Ezekias, [3] This day is a day of trouble and of reproach and of rebuke and of wrath; for pangs are come on a woman in travail and she hath not strength to bring forth. [4] That the Lord thy God may attend to the message of Rabsakes which the king of the Assyrians hath sent to reproach the Living God; and refute the words which the Lord thy God hath heard, thou shouldst pray to the Lord for these poor remains.

[5] So when the servants of king Ezekias came to Esaias [6] he said to them: Thus shall you say to your lord, Thus saith the Lord: Be not terrified at the words which thou hast heard; with which the messengers of the king of the Assyrians have reproached Me. [7] Behold I am about to put such a spirit in him, that he having heard news will return to his own country: and he shall fall by the sword in his own land.

[8] So Rabsakes returned and found the king of the Assyrians besieging Lobna, for he heard that he had removed from Lachis; [9] and Thoraka king of the Ethiopians came out to give him battle. Upon hearing this, he retreated, and sent messengers to Ezekias, saying; [10] Thus shall you say to Ezekias king of Judea, Let not thy God, on whom thou reliest, deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of the Assyrians. [11] Hast thou not heard what the kings of the Assyrians have done? How they have destroyed all the land? And shalt thou be delivered? [12] Have the gods of the nations delivered them whom my ancestors destroyed? Either, Goza or Charran or Raphath which are in the country of Theemath? [13] Where are the kings of Emath? And where those of Arphath? And where those of the city Eppharuim, of Anagougana?

[14] When Ezekias received the letter from the messengers and had read it, he went up to the house of the Lord; and having spread it before the Lord, [15] Ezekias prayed to the Lord, saying: [16] O Lord of Hosts the God of Israel, Who art enthroned on the cherubim! Thou alone art the God of every kingdom of the world. Thou hast made the heaven and the earth. [17] Incline, O Lord,

Thine ear! O Lord, hearken! Open, O Lord, Thine eyes! O Lord, look down and behold the words of Sennacherim which he hath sent to reproach the Living God. [18] In truth, O Lord, the kings of the Assyrians have laid waste this whole inhabited land and the country of those [here mentioned] [19] and have cast their idols into the fire; for they were not gods; but works of men's hands, stocks and stones; [20] therefore they destroyed them. But now, O Lord, our God, save us out of their hands that every kingdom of the earth may know, that Thou alone art God.

[21] Thereupon Esaias son of Amos was sent to Ezekias and said to him, Thus saith the Lord the God of Israel: I have heard the prayer which thou hast made to Me concerning Sennacherim king of the Assyrians.

[22] This is the word which the Lord hath spoken concerning him: The virgin daughter of Sion hath despised thee and mocked thee; at thee the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head. [23] Whom hast thou reproached and provoked? Or against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, without lifting up thine eye to the Holy One of Israel, [24] that by thy messengers thou hast reproached the Lord? For thou hast said, By the multitude of my chariots, I have ascended the height of mountains, and to the utmost limits of Lebanon, and cut down the lofty cedar and beautiful cypress, and entered the stately part of the forest. [25] I have laid bridges and dried up waters and every collection of water.

[26] Hast thou not heard those things of old which I have done? From ancient times I gave command and have now pointed out to lay waste nations in strong places and them who dwell in fortified cities. [27] I weakened their hands and they were dried up, and became like dry grass on house tops, and like a blasted ear of corn. [28] And now I know thy resting place and thy going out and thy coming in. As the rage with which thou hast been inflamed; [29] and thy bitterness are come up to Me; I will therefore put a hook in thy nose and a bridle in thy jaws; and turn thee back by the way in which thou camest.

[30] Now this shall be a sign to thee. Eat this year what thou hast sown, and in the second year what is left; but in the third year sow ye and reap; plant vineyards and eat the fruit thereof; for they who are left shall continue in Judea. They shall strike root downwards and bear fruit upwards. [32] For they of Jerusalem shall be left and they of mount Sion shall be saved. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will do this. [33] Therefore thus saith the Lord, With regard to the king of the Assyrians, he shall not

enter this city; nor shoot an arrow against it; nor present against it a shield; nor enclose it with a rampire. [34] But by the way which he came, by the same he shall return; and into this city he shall not come. Thus saith the Lord, [35] I will cover this city with My shield to save it for Mine own sake and the sake of My servant David.

[36] So an angel of the Lord went forth and slew of the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and eighty-five thousand. And when they arose in the morning they found all these dead bodies. [37] Thereupon Sennacherim king of the Assyrians retreated and went and dwelt in Ninive. [38] And as he was worshipping, in his house, Nasarach his ancestor; Adramelech and Sarousar his sons smote him with their swords; and, they having made their escape to Armenia, Asardan his son reigned in his stead.

* CHAPTER XXXVIII *

AT that time Ezekias was seized with a mortal sickness; and Esaias son of Amos, the prophet, came to him and said to him, Thus saith the Lord, Give orders respecting thy household, for thou art at the point of death and shall not live. [2] Thereupon Ezekias turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, [3] saying, O Lord, remember how I have walked before Thee with truth and with an upright heart, and have done the things which are pleasing in Thy sight. And Ezekias wept bitterly. [4] And a word of the Lord came to Esaias saying: [5] Go and say to Ezekias, Thus saith the Lord, the God of thy father David: I have heard thy prayer and seen thy tears, Behold I will add to thy term fifteen years. [6] And I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of the Assyrians and cover this city with My shield. [7] And this shall be a sign to thee from the Lord, that God will perform this decree. [8] Behold I will bring back the shadow of the steps the ten steps of the house of thy father, which the sun hath gone down. I will bring back the sun those ten steps. So the sun reascended the ten steps which the shadow had gone down.

[9] *The prayer of Ezekias, king of Judea, when he had been sick, and was recovered from his sickness:*

[10] I said in the height of my days I shall go down to the gates of Hades, I shall leave the years which remain. [11] I said, I shall no more see the salvation of God in the land of the living; I shall no more see the salvation of Israel on the earth; I shall behold

man no more. [12] I am cut off from my generation, I have left the remainder of my life. He is gone and departed from me, like one striking a tent, having just pitched it. My soul within me was like a web which the weaver was in act to sever from the loom.

[13] In that day I was delivered up until morning as to a lion. So did He break to pieces all my bones. For from day to night I was delivered up. [14] Like a swallow so let me twitter; and like a turtle dove so let me moan; for mine eyes were too weak to look up to the vault of heaven—to the Lord Who hath rescued me and taken from me the sorrow of my soul. [16] Of this indeed Thou, O Lord, wast told, and Thou hast restored my breath and I am comforted and live. [17] For Thou hast rescued my soul that it should not perish; and hast cast behind Thee all my sins. [18] For those in the mansion of the dead cannot praise Thee; nor can the dead return Thee thanks, nor they in Hades hope for Thy kindness. [19] The living will praise Thee even as I do; for from this day I shall raise up children, who will proclaim this loving-kindness of Thine, [20] O God of my salvation; and I will never cease praising Thee with a psaltery, all the days of my life before the house of God.

[21] Now Esaias had said to Ezekias, Take a cake of figs and bruise and apply it as a poultice and thou shalt recover. [22] Whereupon Ezekias said, Let this be a sign to Ezekias that I shall go up to the house of God.

* CHAPTER XXXIX *

AT the time when Marodach Baladan, the son of Baladan the king of Babylon, sent letters and ambassadors and presents to Ezekias (for he heard that he had been sick unto death and had recovered): [2] and Ezekias was rejoiced at their arrival and shewed them the house of Nechotha and that of the silver and of the gold; and that for stacte, and for perfumes and for myrrh; and all the treasure houses and all that he had in his treasuries; there being nothing in his house nor in all his dominion which Ezekias did not shew them.

[3] Esaias the prophet then went to king Ezekias and said to him, What say those men? And, whence are they come to thee? And Ezekias said, They are come to me from a far distant land, from Babylon. [4] And Esaias said, What have they seen in thy house? To which Ezekias replied, They have seen all that are in

my house. There is nothing in my house which they have not seen; nay, they have seen also what are in my treasuries. [5] Thereupon Esaias said to him, Hear the word of the Lord of Hosts! [6] Behold days are coming, when they shall seize all that are in thy house. And all that thy fathers have collected even to this day shall go to Babylon; and nothing shall be left behind. Moreover God hath said, [7] That of thy children whom thou shalt beget, they will take some and make them eunuchs in the house of the king of the Babylonians. [8] And Ezekias said to Esaias, Good is the word of the Lord which He spake: let there be, I pray, peace and righteousness in my days.

* CHAPTER XL *

COMFORT ye, comfort ye My people, saith God: [2] O priests, speak to the understanding of Jerusalem; comfort her; for her humiliation is accomplished; her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received from the hand of the Lord [blessings] double to the punishment of her sins.

[3] A voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the roads for our God. [4] Let every valley be filled up, and every mountain and hill be levelled: and let all the crooked be made a straight road, and the rough way, smooth plains: [5] and the glory of the Lord will appear: And all flesh shall see the salvation of God. For the Lord hath spoken.

[6] A voice of one saying, Proclaim! Wherefore I said, What shall I proclaim? "All flesh is grass; and all the glory of man as a flower of grass. [8] The grass is withered and the flower fallen; but the word of our God will endure forever."

[9] Ascend a lofty mountain, thou who proclaimest good news to Sion. Exalt thy voice with strength, thou who bringest glad tidings to Jerusalem: raise it up; be not afraid; say to the cities of Juda, Behold, your God! [10] behold the Lord! The Lord is coming with majesty; and His arm with dominion. Behold His reward is with Him; and His work, before Him. [11] Like a shepherd He will tend His flock; and with His arm He will gather the lambs, and comfort the ewes that are with young.

[12] Who hath measured the water with his hand, and the heaven with a span and the whole earth with a hand breadth? Who hath weighed the mountains in scales and the dales with a

balance? [13] Who hath known the mind of the Lord? and who hath been of His counsel to teach Him? [14] or whom hath He consulted that He might instruct him? or who hath pointed out judgment to Him? or who hath shewn Him the way of knowledge? [15] If all the nations are as a drop from a cask; and are accounted as the turning of a balance—may be reckoned as spittle; [16] if Lebanon is not sufficient for a fire, nor all the beasts sufficient for an homage offering: [17] and all the nations are as nothing and reckoned as nothing: [18] to whom have you likened the Lord? and to what likeness have you compared Him?

[19] Hath a carpenter when he hath made an image, or the goldsmith when he hath melted gold and gilded it, prepared this as a likeness of Him? [20] for the carpenter chooseth a sound piece of timber and will inquire wisely, how he may place his image that it may not be moved. [21] Will you not know? will you not hear? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have you not known the foundations of the earth? [22] He it is, who occupieth the circuit of the earth; and the inhabitants thereon are as grasshoppers. He it is, who established the heaven as an arch, and spread it out as a tent to be dwelt in; [23] who giveth chiefs as a nothingness to govern: and hath made the earth as a mere nothing. [24] For they could not plant nor could they sow, nor could their root strike into the ground; He blew upon them and they withered, and a whirlwind will sweep them away like stubble.

[25] Now therefore to whom have you likened Me; that I may be exalted? said the Holy One. [26] Raise your eyes upwards and take a view: who hath displayed all those? He who bringeth out His host by number can call them all by name. On the account of abundant glory, by reason of the mightiness of His power He hath in no wise escaped thy notice; [27] wherefore, thou, Jacob, shouldst not say (yet what hast thou, O Israel, spoken?), My way is hidden from God and, My God hath put off my cause and is gone. [28] Hast thou then not known? Hast thou not heard?

The everlasting God, the God who fitted up the ends of the earth, cannot hunger, nor can He be weary; nor can His understanding be searched out. [29] He it is Who giveth strength to the hungry and grief to them who have not had sorrow. [30] For youths will hunger and young men be weary, and chosen warriors will become strengthless; [31] but they who wait upon God shall have new strength; they shall put forth fresh feathers like eagles; they shall run and not be wearied; they shall march on and shall not faint.

* CHAPTER XLI *

DEDICATE yourselves to Me, O Islands, for the Archons will gather new strength. Let them draw near and confer together, then let them announce judgment.

[2] Who raised up righteousness from the East—called upon it to attend His steps? when He marcheth on, He will exhibit it before nations and confound kings and dash their swords to the ground, and their bows shall be driven away like stubble. [3] When He pursueth them, the road for His feet shall pass through to peace. [4] Who hath performed and done these things? He who called that righteousness—who from the generations of the beginning is calling it—I, God, the First, and to the succeeding ages, the I AM.

[5] The nations saw and were affrighted; the ends of the earth drew near and came together. [6] Every one is determining to help his neighbour and his brother, and one will say, [7] The carpenter had strength, so had the smith who beateth with a hammer and plateth it. Sometimes indeed one will say, It is a beautiful composition?

These things they made strong with nails; they will fix them up that they may not be moved: [8] but thou Israel My servant; thou Jacob, whom I have chosen; thou seed of Abraham whom I loved! [9] have I not taken thee from the ends of the earth, and from the speculations thereof called thee, and said to thee, Thou art My servant I have chosen thee and have not forsaken thee. [10] Fear not, for I am with thee; be not led astray, for I am thy God. I have strengthened thee and helped thee, and secured thee with My just right hand. [11] Behold all thine adversaries shall be ashamed and confounded; for they shall be as nothing and all thine opponents shall be destroyed. [12] Thou mayst seek but thou shalt not find the men, who through drunkenness will dare to insult thee. For they shall be as mere nothing: and they who war against thee shall be no more. [13] For I am thy God, Who have hold of thy right hand, and Who say to thee, [14] Fear not, O Jacob, O diminutive Israel! I have helped thee, saith thy God, Who redeemeth thee, O Israel.

[15] Behold I have made thee like the wheels of a wain bruising to pieces a brood of pigeons: [16] thou indeed shalt grind mountains and reduce hills to small pieces, and make them like dust: and thou shalt winnow them; and a wind shall take them up, and

a whirlwind shall sweep them away; but thou shalt be gladdened in the sanctuaries of Israel; [17] and the poor and the needy shall exult with joy: for when they shall seek water and there shall be none, and their tongue is parched with thirst; I the Lord their God, I the God of Israel will hear and will not forsake them; [18] but will open rivers on the mountains, and fountains in the midst of plains: I will turn the wilderness into watery fens, and with streams refresh the thirsty ground. [19] And I will plant in the dry wilderness the cedar and box, the myrtle and cypress and elm: [20] that they may see and know, and consider and understand at once that the hand of the Lord hath done these things; even what the Holy One of Israel hath pointed out.

[21] The trial of you is near, saith the Lord God. Your councils are nigh at hand, saith the King of Jacob; [22] let them draw near and tell you what will happen, or such things as these before they come to pass. [23] Tell us that we may apply our understanding, and that we may know the final issue, and the train of events leading to it. [24] Tell us, announce to us the things in successive train to the issue; and we will acknowledge that you are gods. Confer favours and inflict punishments, and we will pay respect and see at once that wherever you are, thence is your operation.

They have chosen you, an abomination from the earth; [25] but I have raised up that one from the north, and that other from the risings of the sun; they shall be called by My name. Let the princes come, and as the clay of the potter—even as a potter treadeth clay, so shall you be trampled down. [26] Who now can tell these things from the beginning, that we may know, even these things before hand: that we may say, The prediction is true. There is none who predicteth, nor doth anyone hear your words. [27] I will first give notice to Sion and I will comfort Jerusalem on the way. [28] For of the nations behold, there is none, and of the idols none giveth warning. And should I ask them, Whence are you? [29] They could not make Me any answer. For are these they who made you? They are indeed those who vainly lead you astray.

* CHAPTER XLII *

JACOB is My servant, I will uphold him, Israel is My chosen one, My soul hath embraced him; I have put My Spirit upon him; he will publish judgment to the nations. [2] He will not scream,

nor urge with vehemence: nor will his voice be heard abroad in the streets. [3] A bruised reed he will not break, nor extinguish a dimly burning taper; but will publish judgment to establish truth. [4] He will shine out, and shall not be broken until he hath established judgment on the earth. In his name therefore let the nations trust.

[5] Thus saith the Lord, the God Who made the heaven and fixed it; Who established the earth and the things therein and Who giveth vital air to the people on it, and breath to them who tread thereon: [6] I the Lord God have called thee unto righteousness, and I will take hold of thy hand and strengthen thee; for I have given thee for the covenant of a race—for the light of nations: [7] to open the eyes of the blind; to lead out from chains them who are bound; and out of prison, them who are sitting in darkness. [8] I am the Lord God; this is My name: this glory of Mine I will not give to another, nor these powers of Mine to the graven idols. [9] With regard to the former predictions, behold they are come to pass; and these are new things which I now declare; and before their promulgation, they are revealed to you.

[10] (p) Sing to the Lord a new song, ye, His government! praise His name, ye from the utmost border of the earth, ye who go down on the sea and navigate it, ye islands, and ye who dwell therein. [11] Let the desert be glad and the villages thereof; the folds for flocks and them who inhabit Kedar: let the inhabitants of Petra rejoice; let them shout from the top of the mountains: [12] to this God let them ascribe glory; let them proclaim His powers among the isles. [13] The Lord God of Hosts will come forth and tread down battle; He will rouse up His zeal, and shout against His enemies with majesty.

[14] (J) I have been silent; but shall I always keep silence and forbear? Like a woman in travail I have endured suffering; I will strike with astonishment and wither at once. [15] I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all the herbage on them. I will make rivers islands and dry up pools, [16] and lead the blind in a way which they know not, and cause them to walk in paths which they have not known. For them I will make the darkness light, and the crooked ways a straight road. These things I will do, and I will not forsake them: [17] but as for them they have turned backwards! be whelmed in shame, ye who trust in graven images—who say to the molten images, ye are our gods.

(J) Jehovah. (p) the prophet.

[18] (p) Hear, O ye deaf; and ye blind, look up that you may see.

[19] (J) Who indeed is blind but My servants? And deaf, but those who rule over them? Even the servants of God are become blind. [20] You have seen again and again but have not regarded: your ears have been opened, but you did not hear.

[21] (p) The Lord God came to a determination, that He might be justified and might magnify praise. [22] Whereupon I beheld and the people were plundered and dispersed: for the snare was every where in the private chambers, and in the houses also where they had hidden themselves. They were for a prey and there was no rescuer—for a spoil; and there was none who said, Restore. [23] Who is there among you who will give ear to these things? Attend to those leading causes, [24] for which He hath given Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to them who plundered him. Hath not God, against whom they sinned, and in Whose ways they would not walk, and Whose law they would not obey— [25] hath not He brought upon them His fierce anger?

(J) Though war prevailed over them, and they who were burning them up were all around, yet they did not, any of them, know, nor lay it to heart.

* CHAPTER XLIII *

STILL however thus saith the Lord, the God Who made thee O Jacob, and Who formed thee, O Israel! fear not. Because I have redeemed thee—have called thee by thy name—thou art Mine; [2] therefore when thou passest through water, I am with thee, and the streams shall not overwhelm thee: and when thou passest through fire, thou shalt not be burned up—the flame shall not quite consume thee.

[3] Because I the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel am thy Saviour, I have given Egypt for thy ransom and Ethiopia and Soena in thy stead. [4] Because thou hast been precious in My sight—hast been honoured and I loved thee; therefore I will give men for thee and chiefs for thy life. [5] Fear not. Because I am with thee, from the east I will bring thy seed, and gather thee together from the west: [6] I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep thou not back; bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth— [7] all that are called by My name.

For I have prepared him for My glory, I have fashioned him and made him, [8] and have brought out a blind people: for their eyes are as if they were blind; and they are deaf, though they have ears.

[9] (p) All the nations were assembled together; now let all the archons be assembled: can any among them announce these things? Or can any tell you these things before hand? Let them produce their witnesses and be justified, and let them hear and tell things true.

[10] (J) Be you witnesses for Me: and as for Me I Myself am a witness saith the Lord God; and this servant of Mine whom I have chosen; that you may know and believe and understand that with respect to Me, [11] *The I Am*, There is no other God before Me; and after Me none will exist. I am God and there is no Saviour besides Me. [12] I have announced and saved; I reproached when there was no strange god among you. You are witnesses for Me; [13] and I the Lord am still the same God from the beginning; and there is none who can rescue out of My hands. I will act; and who can prevent it— [14] Thus saith the Lord, the God Who redeemed you, the Holy One of Israel. For your sakes I will send to Babylon, and rouse up all who are fleeing; and the Chaldeans shall be bound in ships. [15] I am the Lord God, your Holy One, Who pointed out Israel your king.

[16] Thus saith the Lord Who made a highway in a sea, and a path in the mighty water; [17] Who brought out chariots and horses and a mighty host, but they lay down to sleep and shall rise no more: they were extinguished like an extinguished taper. [18] Mention not these former things, nor reason from the things of old. [19] Behold I am in act to do new things, which shall now spring up and you shall know them—I will make a way in the wilderness, and streams of water in the desert. [20] The wild beasts of the field will bless Me—the sirens and the daughters of the ostrich; because I have given water in the wilderness, and flowing streams in the desert, to give drink to this race of Mine which I have chosen— [21] My people whom I have preserved to recount My praises.

[22] I had not now called upon thee, Jacob, nor caused thee Israel, to weary thyself: [23] thou hadst not brought Me thy sheep of thy whole burnt offering; nor honoured Me with thine incense offerings: I had not burdened thee with sacrifices of flour; nor wearied thee with demands of frankincense: [24] nor hadst thou purchased with silver perfumes for Me; nor had I desired the suet of thy sacrifices: but thou stoodest before Me in thy sins and in

thine iniquities. [25] I even I, *The I Am*, am He Who blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine Own sake; and of thy sins I will no more make mention: but do thou mention them and let us be judged; do thou first state thy transgressions, that thou mayst be acquitted.

[27] Your fathers first, then your chiefs transgressed against Me. [28] When the chiefs polluted My sanctuary, then I gave up Jacob to be destroyed, and Israel to reproach.

* CHAPTER XLIV *

BUT now hear, O Jacob My servant, and thou Israel, whom I have chosen; [2] Thus saith the Lord, the God Who made thee, and Who formed thee from the womb, still thou shalt be helped. Fear not, thou My servant Jacob, and thou, beloved Israel, whom I have chosen: [3] for I will give water in their thirst to them who are travelling in a desert. I will put My Spirit on thy seed, and My blessings on thy children; [4] and they shall spring up like grass among water, and like a willow by the side of a flowing stream. [5] One will say, I belong to God; and another will call himself by the name of Jacob; and another will write on his hand, I belong to God; and will surname himself by the name of Israel.

[6] Thus saith God, the King of Israel, and his [Israel's] Redeemer, the God of Hosts, I am the First and I am the Last: besides Me there is no God. [7] Who is like Me? Let him stand up and call and announce, and make ready for Me: In as much as I have made a man for this age, let them now tell you the train of events before they come to pass. [8] Hide not yourselves nor be led astray. Have you not heard from the beginning? And have I not told you? You are witnesses whether there be any God besides Me. [9] And have not then the fashioners and engravers heard? They are all fools making things to please their fancies— things which cannot profit them: but shame shall cover these god-makers, [10] and all the engravers of these useless things. [11] When all by whom they were made are dried up; then let all the stupid among men be collected and stand together, and let them be confounded and ashamed together: [12] for the carpenter sharpened an axe, with a hatchet he modelled it; then he put it into a lathe and with his strong arm fashioned it. Though he be hungry and faint, he must not drink water.

[13] The carpenter having chosen a piece of wood, framed it

by rule and glued the parts together, and made it in the form of a man and with the comeliness of a man, to set it in a house. [14] He cut wood from the forest which the Lord planted—a pine tree which the rain had nourished, [15] that it might be fuel for the use of man: and having taken some of it he warmed himself; and with other pieces they made a fire and baked cakes, and of the residue they made gods and worshipped them. [16] Did he not burn half of it in the fire, and, with the coals of that half, bake cakes; and having roasted meat with it did he not eat and was satisfied; and when warmed say, Aha! I am warmed, I have enjoyed the fire? [17] Yet of the residue he made a carved god, and worshippeth it, and prayeth to it, saying, Deliver me, for thou art my god.

[18] They had not sense to think; for they were so involved in darkness that they could not see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts: [19] nor did any reason in his mind, nor by his understanding recollect, that he had burned half of it in the fire, and on the coals thereof baked cakes, and had roasted flesh and eaten, and of the residue had made an abomination; so they bow themselves down to it. [20] Know thou that their heart is ashes, and they are led astray and none can deliver his soul. Take a view of it, will you not say, There is indeed a lie in my right hand?

[21] Remember these things, O Jacob, even thou Israel, for thou art My servant. I have made thee My servant; therefore O Israel do not thou forget Me. [22] For, lo! I have made thy transgressions vanish like a cloud—and thy sins like the murky vapour. Return to Me and I will redeem thee.

[23] (c) Rejoice, O heavens! because God hath compassionated Israel. Utter sounds of joy, ye foundations of the earth! Burst forth into songs, ye mountains and hills, and all ye trees which are thereon! Because God hath redeemed Jacob and Israel shall be glorified.

[24] Thus saith the Lord, Who redeemed thee—even He Who formed thee from the womb: I am the Lord the Maker of all things; I alone stretched out the heavens and firmly established the earth. [25] Who else can dispel from the heart the signs of belly speakers and divinations? I am He Who turneth sages backwards and maketh their counsel foolish; [26] but establisheth the word of His servant, and verifieth the counsel of His messengers—Who saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Idumea, Ye shall be rebuilt, and in its deserts vegeta-

(c) the chorus of Zion.

tion shall spring up; [27] Who saith to the deep, Thou shalt be wasted, and I will dry up the rivers; [28] Who saith to Cyrus: [I will give] wisdom, and he shall execute all My pleasure; Who saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be rebuilt and the house dedicated to Me I will found.

* CHAPTER XLV *

THUS saith the Lord God: For Mine anointed, for Cyrus, (whose right hand I have taken hold of, that nations may listen before him) I will break the power of kings; I will open gates before him, and cities shall not be shut up. [22] I will go before thee and level mountains; I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and burst asunder the bars of iron; [3] and give thee treasures of darkness—deep, hidden, unseen treasures I will disclose to thee, that thou mayst know, that I, the Lord thy God, Who calleth thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.

[4] For the sake of My servant Jacob, and of Israel My chosen one, I will call thee by thy name and receive thee kindly. As for thee, thou didst not know Me. [5] Because I am the Lord God and there is no God else besides Me; I strengthened thee when thou didst not know Me; [6] that they from the risings of the sun and they from its goings down may know, that there is no God besides Me. [7] I the Lord am God and there is none else. It was I Who provided light and made darkness; Who make peace and create evils: I the Lord God am He Who doth all these things.

[8] (c) Let the heaven above be glad; and the clouds shower down righteousness. Let the earth spring and bloom with mercy and let it cause righteousness to spring up with it.

I the Lord am He Who created thee. [9] Is anything endowed with excellence? I fashioned it like the clay of a potter. Will the ploughman plough the ground all the day long? Will the clay say to the potter, What art thou making? Or the work to the workman, Thou hast not hands. Will the thing formed reply against him who formed it? [10] Will one say to his father, What wilt thou beget? Or to his mother, What art thou bringing forth? [11] Wherefore thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, even He Who made the train of events; Do you question Me concerning My children; and concerning the works of My hands give Me directions! [12] It was I Who made the earth and man on it: it was I Who with My hand established the heaven: it was I Who gave

direction to all the stars. [13] It was I Who have raised him up with righteousness to be king; and all his ways shall be straight. He shall rebuild this city of Mine, and send back the captives of this My people, not for ransom nor reward, said the Lord of Hosts.

[14] Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: That for which Egypt laboured and the traffic of the Ethiopians, and the Sabeans men of tall stature shall come over to thee; and they shall be thy vassals and shall follow thee bound with chains. They will come over to thee and pay thee homage and pray to thee because God is in thee.

[c] There is indeed no God besides Thee. [15] For Thou art God and we knew it. The God of Israel is a Saviour: [16] let all that oppose Him be ashamed and confounded and in shame let them march along.

[17] Dedicate yourselves to Me, ye islands! The Lord hath saved Israel with an everlasting salvation. They shall not be put to shame nor confounded any more forever. [18] Thus saith the Lord Who made the heaven, the same God Who displayed the earth to view, and Who, having made it, parcelled it out: He did not make it to be waste, but formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord and there is none else. [19] I have not spoken in secret nor in an obscure part of the earth. I have not said to the seed of Jacob, Seek ye a vain thing. I am *The I Am*, the Lord, Who speak righteousness and proclaim truth. [20] Assemble yourselves together and come; consult together ye who escape from among the nations. They are devoid of knowledge, who carry the wood—their carved image; and who pray to gods which cannot save them. [21] If they will proclaim, let them draw near and know at once who hath published these things from the beginning: then let them be announced to you.

I am God and there is no other besides Me; a just God and a saviour besides Me there is none. [22] Turn to Me and ye shall be saved, ye from the farthest part of the earth, I am God and there is none else. [23] By Myself I swear (righteousness shall proceed from My mouth; My words shall not be reversed) [24] that to Me every knee shall bow and every tongue shall swear, with respect to God, saying, Righteousness and glory shall come to him, and all that make distinctions among them shall be ashamed. [25] On account of the Lord they shall be acquitted; and in God all the seed of Israel will glory.

* CHAPTER XLVI *

BEL is fallen; Nabo is broken to pieces, Their graven images were a load for wild beasts and cattle. You are carrying them bound like a burden on the weary, fainty, and hungry, [2] who are all without strength and unable to escape from battle; and as for them, they are carried away captives!

[3] Harken to me O house of Jacob and all ye remnant of Israel, who have been carried from the womb, and instructed from childhood to old age. [4] I am the Self-Existent. Even till you grow old, I am, I sustain you: I made you and I will bear with you; I will lift you up and I will save you. [5] To what have you likened Me? Look! Contrive, ye wanderers! [6] Collecting gold from a bag, and silver by weight they will put it in a balance; and having hired a goldsmith they made handiworks and bowing themselves down they will worship them. [7] They carry it on the shoulder and move on; but if they set it in its place, there it remaineth. It cannot move itself. And if any one cry to it, it cannot hear, nor can it save him from evils.

[8] Remember these things and groan; reform, ye who have been led astray: return with the heart [9] and remember the things of old, that I am God and there is none besides Me, [10] Who can declare events before they happen, as if they were already accomplished. When I have spoken, all My counsel shall stand; and all that I have determined, I will effect. [11] Calling from the east a winged fowl, even from a far distant land, for purposes which I have resolved on, I have spoken and brought, I have created and made, I have brought it and made its way prosperous.

[12] Hear me, ye who have lost understanding—who are far from righteousness! [13] I have brought My righteousness near; and the salvation which is from Me I will not delay. I have placed in Sion salvation for Israel, for a subject of glory.

* CHAPTER XLVII *

COME down, sit on the ground, O Virgin daughter of Babylon! Sit on the ground, O daughter of the Chaldeans! for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate! [2] Take a millstone and grind corn. Doff thy veil; uncover thy grey locks. Make bare

thy leg: wade through rivers. [3] Thy shame shall be exposed; thy nakedness shall be seen.

This vengeance I will take on thy account and no more deliver thee up to men. [4] Thy deliverer is the Lord of Hosts, His name is the Holy One of Israel.

[5] Sit in compunction: enter into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans! thou shalt no more be called the strength of a kingdom. [6] I was angry with My people: thou didst pollute My heritage. I delivered them into thy hand: and thou didst shew them no mercy. The yoke of the aged thou madest very heavy, [7] and saidst, I shall be empress forever. These things did not enter thy heart; nor didst thou call to mind what might at last befall thee.

[8] Now, therefore, hear these things, thou voluptuary! thou who art seated at ease, who thinkest thyself secure; who sayest in thy heart; I am and there is none else. I shall not sit a widow, nor shall I know the loss of children. [9] But now upon thee shall come these two things, suddenly, in one day. The loss of children and widowhood shall come suddenly on thee, in the midst of thy sorcery, in the full strength of thy mighty enchantments. [10] Confiding in thy wickedness thou indeed saidst, I am and there is none else. Know thou, the consciousness of these things and thy whoredom shall be thy shame. Thou indeed saidst in thy heart, I am and there is none else; [11] but upon thee shall come destruction, and thou shalt not know—a pit; and into it thou shalt fall. Yes, upon thee shall come misery, of which thou shalt not be able to rid thyself: and destruction shall come upon thee suddenly of which thou wilt have no apprehension.

[12] Persist now in thine incantations and in thy manifold sorcery, which thou hast learned from thy youth: if thou canst be benefited by them. [13] Thou hast wearied thyself with thy counsels: let the astrologers now stand up and save thee—let them who gaze on the stars tell thee what is instantly coming upon thee. [14] Behold like brambles on a fire they shall be all burned up; and shall not deliver their own life from the flame. Seeing thou hast coals of fire, sit upon them; [15] will they give thee relief? Thou hast wearied thyself with this traffic from thy youth. The men have wandered away, every one to his own home; but for thee there shall be no safety.

* CHAPTER XLVIII *

HEAR these things, ye house of Jacob, ye who are called by the name of Israel! ye who are descendants of Juda! ye who swear by the name of the Lord God of Israel, making mention of it, but not with truth, nor with righteousness; [2] and who stay themselves on the name of this holy city, and rely for support on the God of Israel, Whose name is the Lord of Hosts.

I have already told you former things: [3] when they proceeded from My mouth and were published, I did them speedily and they came to pass. [4] I know that thou art of an untractable temper, that thy neck is a sinew of iron and thy brow, brass; [5] therefore I told thee beforehand what would come upon thee; I published them that thou mightest not say, The idols have done this to me, nor say, The graven or molten images have ordered it for me. [6] You have heard all these things, and did not yourselves know them. But now I have made thee hear new things, which shall hereafter come to pass. Yet hast thou not said, Things done now and not formerly! Yes, never in former days didst thou hear these things. Thou shouldst not say, Indeed I know them. [8] Thou didst neither know nor didst thou believe, nor did I from the beginning open thine ear: for I knew that, being in rebellion, thou wilt continue to rebel and wilt still be called a transgressor from the womb.

[9] For Mine Own name's sake I will shew thee My wrath, and bring upon thee My marvellous things; that I may not cut thee off utterly. [10] Behold I sold thee; but not for money; and I have rescued thee out of the furnace of affliction. [11] For Mine own sake I will deal with thee; because My name hath been profaned, and My glory I will not give to another.

[12] Harken to me, O Jacob! and thou, Israel, whom I call. I am the First and am forever. [13] My hand hath founded the earth, and My right hand hath established the heaven. Let Me summon them and let them stand together. [14] Let them all be assembled and listen. Who hath told them these things? I Who love thee have executed thy will on Babylon, to take away the seed of the Chaldeans. [15] I have spoken, I have called, I have brought him [Jacob], and have made his way prosperous. [16] Draw near to Me and hear these things: from the beginning I have not spoken in secret. When it was doing I was there.

And now the Lord God hath sent me and His spirit. [17] Thus

saith the Lord Who hath redeemed thee, the Holy One of Israel: I am thy God. I pointed out to thee, how to find the way in which thou shouldst walk. [18] And hadst thou hearkened to My commandments thy peace would have been like a river and thy righteousness like a wave of the sea; [19] and thy seed would have been as the sand, and the issue of thy bowels as the dust of the ground. Still, however, thou shalt not be utterly cut off; nor shall thy name perish from before Me. [20] Haste out of Babylon! flee from the Chaldeans: proclaim the joyful news, and let this be published. Proclaim even to the end of the earth—say: The Lord hath delivered His servant Jacob; [21] and if they shall thirst (for He will lead them through a desert) a rock shall be cleft and water shall gush forth, that My people may drink. [22] There is no peace, saith the Lord, for the wicked.

* CHAPTER XLIX *

HEARKEN to me, O isles; and ye nations attend: after a long time one will arise, saith the Lord.

From my mother's womb He mentioned my name [2] and made my mouth like a sharp sword and hid me under the cover of His hand. He made me like a chosen shaft, and in His quiver kept me concealed, [3] and said to me, Thou, Israel, art My servant and by thee I shall be glorified. [4] Whereupon I said, I have laboured in vain; for vanity and for nought I have spent my strength; therefore my cause is with the Lord, and my labour is before my God. [5] And now thus saith the Lord, Who formed me from the womb to be His servant, to gather Jacob to Him, and Israel. I shall be gathered and glorified before the Lord. And my God will be my strength. [6] Moreover He said to me, It is a great thing for thee to be called My servant to re-establish the tribes of Jacob and bring back the dispersion of Israel. Behold I have given thee for the everlasting testament of a race—for the light of nations; that thou mayst be for salvation to the farthest part of the earth.

[7] Thus saith the Lord Who delivered thee—the God of Israel: Hallow him who despised his life, him who was abhorred by the nations, the slaves of the princes. Kings shall see him and chiefs shall rise up and they shall worship him for the sake of the Lord; because the Holy One of Israel is faithful, therefore I have chosen thee.

[8] Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time I have hearkened to thee, and in a day of salvation helped thee; and have formed thee and given thee for the covenant of nations that thou mayst reduce the earth to order and possess desolate heritages, [9] saying to them who are in bonds, Go forth; and to them who are in darkness, Come into light. In all the highways they shall be fed, and there shall be pasture for them in all the paths. [10] They shall not hunger nor shall they thirst, nor shall the burning wind nor the sun smite them; but He Who hath compassion on them will comfort them and lead them to bursting springs of water. [11] And I will make every mountain a highway, and every path a pasture for them. [12] Behold they from afar shall come, some from the north and the west and others from the land of the Persians.

[13] Rejoice O heavens, and let the earth be glad, let the mountains resound with bursts of joy; for God hath compassionated His people, and comforted those of His people who were afflicted.

[14] Hath Sion then said, The Lord hath quite forsaken me, and, Why hath the Lord forgotten me? [15] can a woman forget her child? or not have compassion on the offspring of her womb? Grant that a woman may forget even these, but I will not forget thee, said the Lord. [16] Behold I have engraven thy walls on My hands; and thou art continually before Me. [17] And thou shalt be speedily rebuilt by them who destroyed thee; and they who laid thee waste shall become thine offspring.

[18] Look up with thine eyes all around and view them all; behold they are gathered together and coming to thee. As I live saith the Lord, Thou shalt clothe thyself with them all, as with raiment, and wrap them about thee as a bride doth her dress. [19] Because thy waste and desolate and ruined places will now be too narrow for the inhabitants, and they who devoured thee shall be removed far from thee; [20] therefore thy sons whom thou hast lost will say in thine ears, This place is too strait for me: make room for me, where I may dwell. [21] Whereupon thou wilt say in thy heart, Who hath begotten these for me? I indeed was childless and a widow, Who then hath brought up these for me? I was abandoned and alone; whence then have I these?

[22] Thus saith the Lord God, Behold I will lift up My hand to the nations, and I will erect My standard for the isles. And they shall bring thy sons in their bosoms and carry thy daughters on their shoulders: [23] and kings shall be thy foster fathers; and their queens thy nursing mothers. And on the face of the ground

they shall pay thee homage, and lick the dust of thy feet. And thou shalt know that I am the Lord, and that they who wait for Me shall not be ashamed.

[24] Can anyone take spoils from a giant?

And if anyone captivate unjustly, shall he be safe? [25] For thus saith the Lord, When one captivateth a giant he shall take spoils.

But can one take from a mighty man and be safe?

Yet it is I Who vindicate thy cause, and I will deliver thy children. [26] And they who afflicted thee shall eat their own flesh, and drink like new wine their own blood and be made drunk; and all flesh shall know that it is I the Lord Who delivered thee, and Who uphold the strength of Israel.

* CHAPTER L *

THUS saith the Lord: Of what sort was the bill of your mother's divorce with which I divorced her? Or to what creditor have I sold you? Behold you were sold for your transgressions; and for your iniquities I divorced your mother. [2] Why, when I came, was there no man? And why, when I called, did none answer? Is My hand unable to save? Or have I no power to rescue? Behold with My rebuke I can dry up the sea, and make the rivers a desert, so that the fishes thereof shall shrivel for want of water, and die for thirst. [3] I can clothe the heaven with darkness, and make its covering like sackcloth.

[4] The Lord God giveth me an instructed tongue, to know when it is proper to speak a word. He gave it me in the morning; He gave me in addition an ear to hear. [5] And the instruction of the Lord God openeth mine ears and I am not rebellious, nor do I gainsay. [6] My back I have given to scourges, and my cheeks to be slapped with an open hand, and I turned not my face from the shame of spittles. [7] Indeed the Lord God was my helper; therefore I was not ashamed, but kept my countenance firm as a rock. I knew indeed that I should not be confounded, because He Who justified me is near at hand.

[8] Who is he that contendeth with me? Let him stand up with me face to face. Yes, let my accuser, whoever he be, come near me. [9] Behold the Lord God will be my advocate; who can do me any evil? Behold, you shall all wax old like a mantle, and the moth shall consume you.

[10] Who is there among you who feareth the Lord, let him hearken to the voice of His servant. Ye who walk in darkness and have no light, trust in the name of the Lord and stay firmly with God. [11] Behold you are all kindling a fire and increasing the flame; walk in the light of your fire and by the flame which you have kindled. On my account these things have befallen you. You shall lie down in sorrow.

* CHAPTER LI *

HEARKEN to me, ye who are in pursuit of righteousness and who are seeking the Lord. Look at that hard rock which you have been hewing, and into that deep pit which you have digged. [2] Look to Abraham your father, and to Sarah who brought you forth. For he was an individual when I called him; and I blessed him and loved him and multiplied him. [3] And now O Sion, I will comfort thee. I have indeed comforted all her desolations, and I will make her waste places like a garden; and those west of her like the garden of the Lord. In her shall be found joy and gladness, thanksgiving and the sound of praise.

[4] Hear Me; hear Me, O My people, and ye kings; listen to Me; for from Me shall proceed a law; and My judgment shall be for the light of nations. [5] My deliverance is approaching speedily, and My salvation shall go forth as light; and on Mine arm nations will rely. The islands will expect Me and on Mine arm they will rely. [6] Turn up your eyes to heaven; then look down on the earth below! for the heaven is like smoke condensed, and the earth shall grow old like a garment, and like those things the inhabitants shall perish: but My salvation shall endure forever, and My saving mercy shall never fail.

[7] Harken to Me, ye who know judgment; ye people, in whose heart is My law. Fear not the reproach of men, nor be overcome by their contempt. [8] For they are like a garment which shall be worn out by time, and like woollens which shall be devoured by a moth; but My saving mercy shall endure forever, and My salvation to generations of generations.

[9] Awake, awake, O Jerusalem! and clothe thyself with the strength of thine arm. Awake as at the beginning of day. [10] Art thou not as the generation of old, which dried up the sea—the swelling water of the deep? Which made the depths of the sea a road for the delivered and redeemed to pass? [11] For under the

guidance of the Lord they shall be brought back, and shall come to Sion with joy and everlasting gladness; for praise shall crown their head and joy shall overtake them. Grief and sorrow and sighing are fled.

[12] I *The I Am* am He Who comforteth thee. Recollect what thou wast when terrified at a mortal man, and at a son of man who are withered like grass; [13] and forgottest the God Who made thee—Him Who made the heaven and founded the earth; and wast every day in continual dread of the furious countenance of thine oppressor. For how did he consult to carry thee away! But where now is the fury of thine oppressor? [14] For when thou art saved he shall not stand; nor long continue. [15] Because I thy God am He Who tempesteth the sea and causeth the billows thereof to roar; the Lord of Hosts is My name; [16] I will put My words in thy mouth, and cover thee under the shelter of My hand with which I made the heaven and founded the earth; and say to Sion, Thou art My people.

[17] Awake, awake! stand up, O Jerusalem, who hast drunk from the hand of the Lord the cup of His indignation. For thou hast drunk the cup of horror—the great cup of His wrath; and drained it. [18] And of all thy children which thou didst bring forth there was not one who comforted thee, nor was there one who took hold of thy hand: no, not of all the sons whom thou didst raise. [19] Because these things have befallen thee, who will condole with thee? Desolation and destruction, famine and the sword; who will comfort thee? [20] Thy sons? Some are astounded; some asleep at the head of every street, like a parboiled beet; some are full of the indignation of the Lord, enervated by the Lord God. [21] Therefore hear, thou who hast been humbled, and who art drunk, but not with wine. [22] Thus saith the Lord, the God Who judgeth His people, Behold I have taken out of thy hand the cup of horror—the great cup of Mine indignation; and thou shalt no more drink it again. [23] And I will put it into the hands of them who have injured thee and oppressed thee—who have said to thy soul, Crouch down that we may walk over thee; when thou hadst bent thy body down level with the earth in the street, to them passing along.

* CHAPTER LII *

AWAKE, awake, O Sion! clothe thyself, O Sion, with thy strength. Put on thy glory, O Jerusalem, thou holy city! No more shall the uncircumcised and the unclean pass through thee. [2] Shake off the dust, and stand up: assume thy seat, O Jerusalem! Loose the chain from thy neck, O captive daughter of Sion! [3] For thus saith the Lord: You were sold for nought; and you shall be ransomed, not with money.

[4] Thus saith the Lord, My people went down to Egypt at first to sojourn there; and to the Assyrians they were carried by force. [5] Now therefore why are you here? Thus saith the Lord, Because My people were taken away for nought, express your amazement, and raise the mournful cry! [6] Thus saith the Lord, On your account My name is continually reviled among the nations.

Therefore in that day My people shall know My name. Because I *The I Am*, the same Who am speaking, am at hand, [7] like beauty on the mountains—like the feet of one proclaiming peace, like one proclaiming glad tidings. Because I will cause thy salvation to be proclaimed, saying, O Sion, Thy God will reign; [8] because the voice of thy watchmen is lifted up; with the voice therefore let all at the same time express joy.

Because eyes will look to eyes when the Lord compassionateth Sion; [9] let the ruins of Jerusalem break out together with bursts of joy. Because the Lord hath compassionated her and delivered Jerusalem; [10] let the Lord therefore make bare His holy arm in the sight of all the nations! and let all the ends of the earth see the salvation come from our God.

[11] Depart, depart; come out thence, and touch no polluted thing. Come out from the midst of her; be clean, ye who carry the vessels of the Lord. [12] For you shall not come out in haste, nor by flight march along; for the Lord will march before you in front; and the God of Israel will bring up your rear.

[13] Behold My servant will mind and be exalted and highly glorified. [14] In the same manner as many will be astonished at thee; so devoid of glory for men will be thine appearance, and thy glory for the sons of men. [15] Thus many nations will express admiration at him; and kings will shut their mouths, because they, to whom no publication was made concerning him, shall see; and they, who had not heard, will understand.

* CHAPTER LIII *

O LORD, who hath believed this report of ours, and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been made manifest? [2] We have made proclamation as a child before him: as a root in a thirsty soil, he hath no appearance nor glory. We have seen him; and he hath neither appearance nor beauty: [3] but his appearance is mean and defective beyond the sons of men. Being a man in affliction and acquainted with grief, because his countenance was dejected, he was despised and disesteemed.

[4] This man beareth away our sins; and for us he is in sorrow: and we considered him as being in trouble and under a stroke and in affliction. [5] But he was wounded for our sins, and afflicted for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him; by his bruises we are healed. [6] We all like sheep had strayed; every man wandered in his way: and the Lord delivered him up for our sins: [7] and he, on account of his affliction, openeth not his mouth. He was led as a lamb to be slaughtered. And as a sheep before its shearer is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. [8] In this humiliation his legal trial was taken away. Who can describe the [evil] generation of men among whom he lived?

Because his life is taken from the earth—for the transgressions of my people he is led to death,— [9] therefore I will appoint the wicked for his tomb, and the rich for his death, because he committed no iniquity, nor practised guile with his mouth. [10] And the Lord determined to purify him from this blow: if there shall be given up an offering for sin, your soul shall see a long-lived seed. [11] Moreover, it is the determination of the Lord to take away the trouble of his soul—to shew him light and inform him with understanding—to justify the righteous one who is serving many well. And he shall bear away their sins; [12] therefore he shall inherit much and divide the spoils of the strong.

His soul was delivered up to death and he was numbered among transgressors and bore away the sins of many, and on account of their iniquities was delivered up.

* CHAPTER LIV *

REJOICE thou barren, who bearest not—break forth with shouts of joy, thou who sufferest not the pangs of childbirth; for many more are the children of the desolate than of her who hath a husband. For the Lord said, [2] Enlarge the place of thy tent and thy curtains; make firm; spare not; lengthen thy cords and make thy stakes strong. [3] Extend still farther to the right and left. And thy seed shall inherit nations and thou shalt inhabit wasted cities. [4] Be not terrified because thou hast been exposed to shame; nor blush because thou hast been reproached. For thou shalt forget the shame of ancient times, and the reproach of thy widowhood thou shalt remember no more. [5] For the Lord Who is thy maker, Whose name is the Lord of Hosts—even He Who delivered thee, shall be called the God of Israel, in the whole earth.

[6] The Lord hath not called thee as a wife forsaken and disconsolate; nor as a wife that hath been hated from her youth. Thy God hath said, [7] I left thee for a little while; but with great mercy I will compassionate thee: [8] in brief wrath I turned away My face from thee; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on thee. The Lord Who delivered thee hath said, [9] From the flood which was in Noah's time this is My purpose—as I solemnly promised him at that time that I would no more be angry with the earth on thine account, nor in rebuking thee overturn the mountains, [10] and that thy hills should no more be moved; so My kindness for thee shall not fail, nor shall the covenant of thy peace ever be changed: for he said for thee, Be appeased, O Lord.

[11] O thou afflicted and storm-beaten! art thou not comforted? Behold I am preparing for thee carbuncles for thy building-stones, and the sapphire for thy foundations; [12] and for thy battlements I will lay jasper; and crystal, for thy gates; and for thy circumambient walls, precious stones: [13] even thy sons, all instructed of God; and thy children in great prosperity. [14] And with righteousness thou shalt be rebuilt. Abstain from injustice and thou shalt not be affrighted; and as for terror, it shall not approach thee. [15] Behold proselytes shall come to thee for My sake; and they shall sojourn with thee and fly to thee.

[16] Behold I have created thee, not like a coppersmith blowing coals and using a tool for the work. But I have created thee not for destruction. [17] Perish every weapon formed against thee! I will not prosper it. Though every voice should rise up against

thee for judgment, thou shalt overcome them all and in the trial they shall be condemned. There is an inheritance for them who serve the Lord, therefore you are to be just for Me, saith the Lord.

* CHAPTER LV *

HO! ye who are thirsting, come to water! and ye who have no money, come buy and eat, without money and without price, wine and the choicest bread. [2] Why are you expending money and labour for that which will not satisfy? Hearken to Me and you shall eat good things; and your soul will be regaled with delicacies. [3] Incline your ears and follow in My paths; hearken to Me and your soul shall live on good things; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant—the gracious promises to David which are faithful. [4] Behold for a testimony to nations I gave him,—a chief and a lawgiver to nations. [5] Nations which knew thee not will fly to thee, for the sake of the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, because He hath glorified thee.

[6] Seek ye the Lord; and when you find him call upon Him. And when He draweth near to you; [7] let the wicked man forsake his ways, and the unrighteous man his counsels, and turn to the Lord and he shall find mercy; for He will abundantly pardon your sins. [8] For My counsels are not as your counsels; nor are My ways as your ways, saith the Lord. [9] But distant as the heaven is from the earth, so is My way distant from your ways; and your thoughts from My understanding. [10] For as the rain when it descendeth, or snow, from the heavens, doth not return thither, till it hath watered the earth, and caused it to generate and bloom and yield seed for the sower and bread for food; [11] so shall it be with My word: when it hath proceeded from My mouth, it shall not be reversed, till all are accomplished which I willed; and till I prosper thy ways and My commandments. [12] For with gladness you shall go forth; and with joyfulness you shall be taught: for the mountains and hills shall leap for joy, expecting you; and all the trees of the field will clap with their branches. [13] And instead of the briar, shall spring up the cypress; and instead of the nettle, shall come up the myrtle. And the Lord shall be for a name, and for an everlasting sign which shall not fail.

* CHAPTER LVI *

THUS saith the Lord:

Keep judgment and practise righteousness; for My salvation is near, just ready to come, and My saving kindness to be revealed. [2] Happy the man who doth these things and the mortal who adhereth to them; and who is careful not to profane My sabbaths, and who restraineth his hands from doing evil.

[3] Let not the stranger who cleaveth to the Lord say, The Lord will separate me from His people. Nor let the eunuch say, I am a dry tree. [4] For thus saith the Lord to the eunuchs, Whoever of them shall keep My sabbaths, and choose the things in which I delight, and adhere to My covenant; [5] I will give them, in My house and within My walls, an honourable place better than sons and daughters—I will give them an everlasting name which shall not fail. [6] And with regard to the strangers who cleave to the Lord to serve Him, and love the name of the Lord—to be His man servants and handmaids, even all who are careful not to profane My sabbaths and who adhere to My covenant; [7] them I will bring to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer; their burnt offerings, and their sacrifices shall be acceptable on Mine altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations.

[8] The Lord who gathereth the dispersed of Israel said, Because I will gather a congregation for him, [9] O all ye beasts of the field, come! [10] O all ye beasts of the forests, devour! you see that they are all blind; that they have not knowledge. They are dumb dogs, they cannot bark; they are asleep in bed, they love to slumber: [11] yet these dogs are of untamed appetite; they can never have enough. They are indeed mischievous, they have no consideration. They all followed their own ways, each according to his own desire.

* CHAPTER LVII *

YOU see how a righteous one was destroyed, and no one layeth it to heart. And righteous men are taken away, and no one observeth that on account of iniquity the righteous one was taken away. [2] His sepulture shall be in peace. He is taken from among you.

[3] But as for you, draw near hither, ye lawless sons! ye seed of adulterers and of fornication! [4] in what have you indulged yourselves? and at whom have you opened your mouth, and at whom lolled your tongue? Are you not children of destruction—a lawless race? [5] invoking idols under shady trees, slaying your children in the valleys among the rocks? [6] This shall be thy portion—this thy lot—as thou hast poured out libations to them and to them offered up sacrifices, shall I not for these things be angered? [7] On a high and lofty mountain thou hast made thy bed, and caused thy sacrifice to ascend thither; [8] and behind the posts of thy doors thou hast set up thy memorial. Didst thou think that, if thou departedst from Me, thou shouldst have something more? Thou hast loved them who lay with thee [9] and multiplied thy fornication with them, and hast done it with many who are far from thee; and hast sent ambassadors beyond thy borders, and humbled thyself even to Hades; [10] With thy long journies thou hast wearied thyself and hast not said, I will take some rest. Because in thy full strength thou hast done this, therefore thou shouldst not supplicate Me.

[11] Of whom hast thou been so anxiously afraid that thou hast dealt falsely with Me, and has not remembered nor taken Me into thy thoughts, nor into thy heart? When I saw and neglected thee thou didst not fear Me. [12] Now I will declare My righteousness and thine evil deeds which shall not avail thee. [13] When thou criest; let them deliver thee in thine affliction. A wind indeed shall overtake them all; and a whirlwind shall sweep them away. But they who adhere to Me shall possess the land, and inherit My holy mountain. [14] And they will say, Clear the ways before Him. Remove obstructions out of the road of My people.

[15] Thus saith the Most High, Who on earth inhabiteth eternity, Who is Holy among holies, Whose name is The Most High, Who at rest in the holies giveth patience to the humble, and life to them who are of a contrite heart:— [16] I will not contend with you forever, nor will I be continually angry with you, for from Me My Spirit shall proceed, and I have made every breathing soul. [17] Because of sin I grieved him a little while and smote him and turned away My face from him; and he was grieved and went his ways sorrowing; [18] I have seen his ways and healed him, and comforted him, and given him true consolation. [19] Peace upon peace, to them near and to them far off. And the Lord said, I will heal them. [20] But the wicked shall be tossed like waves and

shall not be able to rest. [21] There is no peace, said God, for the wicked.

* CHAPTER LVIII *

CRY aloud and spare not; raise thy voice like a trumpet: proclaim to My people their sins, and to the house of Jacob their iniquities. [2] Day after day they seek Me, and desire to know My ways, like a people who have practised righteousness, and who have not forsaken the ordinance of God. They now ask of Me a just decision and desire to draw near to God, [3] saying, Why have we fasted and Thou hast not seen? We have humbled our souls and Thou hast not known.

In the very days of your fasts you enjoy your own pleasures and goad all them who are under your control. [4] You fast for strife and debate; and smite the poor with your fists. Why fast ye for Me as to-day that by a cry your voice may be heard? [5] This is not such a fast as I have chosen, that a man should afflict his soul for a day. No: though thou shouldst bend thy neck like a hook and lay sackcloth and ashes under thee: even in that case you are not to call it an acceptable fast.

[6] It is not such a fast as this that I have chosen, saith the Lord. But loose every bond of iniquity; dissolve the obligations of onerous contracts; set at liberty them who are oppressed, and tear in pieces every unjust stipulation in writing: [7] deal out thy bread to the hungry, and take into thy house the poor who have no shelter; if thou seest one naked, clothe him, and look not scornfully on dependants of thy race; [8] then shall thy light break forth like the morning, and thy remedies shall spring up speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee, and the glory of the Lord will surround thee. [9] Then thou shalt cry and God will answer thee; and whilst thou art speaking He will say, Lo I am here.

[10] If thou remove from thee the bond and the vote and decree which cause murmuring complaints, and from thy soul give bread to the hungry and satisfy an afflicted soul; then shall thy light spring up in darkness; and thy darkness shall be as the noon day: [11] and thy God will be with thee continually; and thou shalt be satisfied as thy soul desireth; and thy bones shall be made fat and be like a watered garden, and like a spring whose water never

failed. [12] And thine old waste places shall be rebuilt; and thy foundations shall last for generations of generations: and thou shalt be called the repairer of breaches, and shalt enjoy rest in the midst of thy paths.

[13] If on account of the sabbaths thou restrain thy foot from doing thy pleasure on that holy day; and call the sabbaths delightful, dedicated to God; and wilt not lift up thy foot for any work; nor utter a word in anger from thy mouth; [14] and trust continually in the Lord; He will then mount thee on the good places of the land and feed thee on the inheritance of thy father Jacob: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken these words.

* CHAPTER LIX *

IT is not that the hand of the Lord is unable to save; nor that his ear is grown dull to hear; [2] but your sins make a separation between you and your God; and on account of your sins He hath turned away his face from you that He may not exercise compassion. [3] For your hands are polluted with blood, and your fingers with sins; your lips have spoken iniquity, and your tongue contriveth injustice. [4] None speaketh just things, nor is there any just judgment. They trusted in vanities and they speak lies. Because they hatch mischief, therefore they bring forth iniquity. [5] They hatched the eggs of asps, and are weaving a spider's web; and he who was about to eat some of their eggs, upon breaking one that was hatched found therein a viper. [6] Their web will not serve for a mantle, nor can they clothe themselves with their works; for their works are works of iniquity. [7] Their feet are running to evil; they are swift to shed blood. And their reasonings are reasonings for murders. Destruction and misery are in their ways, [8] and the path of peace they do not know, nor is there any judgment in their ways; for the paths which they travel are crooked and peace they do not know.

[9] Therefore judgment is far from them, and saving mercy shall not overtake them. When they were waiting for light, darkness came upon them, expecting a blaze of light they walked in obscurity. [10] They shall grope like blind men for a wall and feel about like men who have no eyes, and fall at mid-day as at midnight. [11] When dying they will groan like a bear and mourn like a dove; and at their departing say:

We waited for judgment and there is none: and as for safety,

it is far from us. [12] For our manifold iniquity is before Thee; and our sins are risen up against us: for our iniquities are in us, and we acknowledge our transgressions. [13] We have sinned; we have lied, and turned back from following our God; we have spoken things unjust, and have been disobedient; we have conceived and meditated from our heart lying words, [14] we have indeed turned judgment backward, therefore saving mercy standeth aloof.

Because truth was destroyed in their ways and they could not walk in straight paths; [15] and truth was removed and they substituted opinion in place of knowledge, therefore the Lord took a view, and it displeased Him that there was no judgment. [16] When He took a view and there was no man; and made close observation, and there was no helper; then with His own arm He defended them and with mercy supported them. [17] And He put on righteousness as a breast plate, and placed on His head the helmet of salvation, and threw around Him the mantle of vengeance, and His cloak, [18] as about to render retribution—reproach to His adversaries: [19] and they from the west shall revere the name of the Lord; and they from the rising of the sun, His glorious name. For He will come like an impetuous stream—for the wrath of the Lord will come with fury. [20] For the sake of Sion the Deliverer will come, and turn away ungodliness from Jacob. [21] And this shall be My covenant with them, said the Lord, this spirit of Mine which is upon thee, and these words which I have put in thy mouth shall not fail from thy mouth, nor from the mouth of thy seed, (for the Lord hath spoken) from this time forth forever.

* CHAPTER LX *

BE enlightened: be enlightened, O Jerusalem! for thy light is come; and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. [2] Behold! darkness will cover the earth and thick darkness, the nations: but upon thee the Lord will shine and His glory over thee will be conspicuous. [3] And kings will walk by thy light, and nations by thy splendour.

[4] Raise thine eyes around and behold thy children gathered together; all thy sons are come from afar, and thy daughters shall be carried on shoulders. [5] Then thou wilt look and be filled with awe and astonished at heart; because the riches of the sea

and of nations and peoples will pour in upon thee. [6] And for thee will come herds of camels and those of Madiam and Gaipha will cover thee, and those of Saba will come bringing gold and will also bring frankincense, and with joy proclaim the salvation of the Lord. [7] And all the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together; and the rams of Nabaioth will come; and acceptable offerings will be made on Mine altar, and My house of prayer will be glorified.

[8] Who are those? They are flying like clouds, and like doves with their young towards Me!

[9] For Me the islands waited, and among the first the ships of Tharsis to bring thy children from afar and their silver and their gold with them. And because of the holy name of the Lord, and because the Holy One of Israel is glorious; [10] therefore strangers shall rebuild thy walls and their kings shall wait upon thee. For on account of My wrath I smote thee, but for mercy's sake I have loved thee; [11] and thy gates shall be open continually (by day or by night they shall not be shut) to introduce to thee the wealth of nations and their kings pompously attended. [12] For the nations and kings which will not serve thee shall perish—such nations indeed shall be utterly laid waste.

[13] The glory of Lebanon also shall come to thee, with the cypress and the pine and the cedar, to adorn the place which is dedicated to Me. [14] And to thee shall come trembling the sons of them who afflicted and humbled thee, and thou shalt be called, *City Sion of the Holy One of Israel.*

[15] Because of thy having been forsaken and hated when there was no helper, I will make thee an everlasting boast—a joy for perpetual generations. [16] And thou shalt suck the milk of nations, and feed on the wealth of kings, and shalt know that I the Lord am thy Saviour, and that thy Redeemer is the God of Israel. [17] And instead of brass I will bring thee gold; and instead of iron I will bring thee silver; and instead of wood I will bring thee brass and instead of stones, iron. And I will make thy chiefs peaceful and thine overseers righteous; [18] and violence shall no more be heard in thy land, nor destruction nor misery in thy borders; but thy walls shall be called *Salvation* and thy gates, *Sculpture.*

[19] And thou shalt no more have the sun for a light by day nor shall the rising of the moon enlighten thy night; but the Lord will be to thee an everlasting light; and thy God will be thy glory.

[20] For thy sun shall not go down nor shall thy moon ever wane: For the Lord will be to thee an everlasting light; and the days of

thy mourning shall be ended. [21] And thy people shall be all righteous, they shall inherit the land forever, preserving the plant, the works of their hands, for glory. [22] The fewest in number shall become thousands, and he who is smallest, a great nation. I the Lord in due time will gather them.

* CHAPTER LXI *

THE Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for the business for which He anointed me. He hath sent me to publish glad tidings to the poor, to heal them who are broken hearted; to proclaim a deliverance to captives, and a recovery of sight to the blind: [2] to proclaim an acceptable year of the Lord and a day of retribution. To comfort all who are mourning; [3] that to the mourners in Sion may be given, glory instead of ashes, oil of joy to the mourners, robes of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called generations of righteousness, a plant of the Lord for glory. [4] And the wastes of old times shall be rebuilt; and former desolations shall be repaired, and wasted cities renewed which had lain in ruins for ages. [5] And strangers shall come and feed thy flocks and foreigners shall be thy ploughmen and vine-dressers.

[6] But you shall be called priests of the Lord, ministers of God. You shall eat the wealth of nations and for their riches be admired. [7] Thus shall they again inherit the land; and everlasting joy shall be on their head. [8] For I am the Lord Who love righteousness and hate the spoils of injustice; and I will give the righteous the fruit of their toil and make an everlasting covenant with them [9] and their seed shall be distinguished among the nations, and their offspring in the midst of peoples. Every one who seeth them will know them, that they are a seed whom God hath blessed. [10] And they shall rejoice in the Lord with joy.

Rejoice in the Lord, O my soul, for He hath clothed me with the mantle of Salvation, and with an under garment of gladness, He hath crowned me as a bridegroom with a crown and adorned me as a bride, [11] with jewels, and like the earth blooming with flowers. And as a garden causeth its seeds to vegetate, so will the Lord God cause righteousness to spring up, and joy, in the presence of all nations.

* CHAPTER LXII *

FOR Sion's sake I will not be silent, and for the sake of Jerusalem I will not rest; until the righteousness thereof break forth as light, and my salvation blaze like a torch; [2] and nations see thy righteousness, and kings this glory of thine. When he shall call thee by a new name which the Lord Himself will give thee; [3] then thou shalt be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. [4] And thou shalt no more be called, *Forsaken*; nor shall thy land any more be called *The desert*; but thy name shall be called *My delight*; and that of thy country, *The inhabited land*. Because the Lord is well pleased with thee, therefore thy land shall be thickly inhabited: [5] and as a youth cohabiting with a virgin bride, so shall thy sons inhabit it; and as a bridegroom will rejoice in his bride, so will the Lord rejoice over thee.

[6] Now upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen all the day; and all the night, they will not cease continually to mention the Lord; for there is none like you. [7] When He shall have re-established and made Jerusalem a boast on the earth— [8] the Lord hath sworn by His glory and by the power of His arm:

I will no more give thy corn and thy food to thine enemies; nor shall the sons of strangers any more drink thy wine, for which thou hast laboured. [9] But they who reap the harvest shall eat and praise the Lord; and they who gather the vintage shall drink wine in My holy courts. [10] Go through My gates and prepare the way for My people and throw the stones out of the way. Erect a standard for the nations. [11] For lo! the Lord hath published this to the end of the earth. Say to the daughter of Sion, Behold the Saviour is come for thee, having His own reward and His work before Him. [12] And He will call this a holy people, redeemed by the Lord; and thou shalt be called the city *Sought* and not *Forsaken*.

* CHAPTER LXIII *

WHO is this who is coming from Edom? What redness of mantles from Bosor! He so magnificent in apparel? He marcheth with majesty!

I proclaim righteousness and the judgment of salvation.

[2] Why are thy garments red, and thy clothing, as from a trodden wine-vat?

[3] I am full of a country trodden down; and of the nations there is not a man with Me. I have trodden them down in My wrath, and crumbled them like dust and shed their blood on the earth. [4] For the day of retribution came upon them and the year of redemption is at hand. [5] When I looked and there was no helper and observed that none upheld; then Mine own arm delivered them. Mine indignation indeed was roused, [6] and I trampled them down in Mine anger and shed their blood on the earth.

[7] I recollected the lovingkindness of the Lord—the mercies of the Lord in all those things which He retributeth for us. The Lord is a good judge to the house of Israel. He dealeth with us according to His tender mercy and according to the abundance of His saving goodness, [8] and said, Is not this My people? Children should not rebel. And He became their Saviour from all their distress.

[9] It was not an ambassador nor a messenger; but He Himself saved them. Through His love and His indulgence to them, He Himself redeemed them and took them up, and exalted them all the days of old. [10] But they rebelled and provoked His holy spirit; so He became their enemy. He fought against them; [11] though He remembered the days of old.

O! where is He who caused the shepherd of His flock to come up out of the sea? Where is He, who put His Holy Spirit in them? That glorious arm of His which led Moses by the right hand? He forced back the water from before Him, to make Himself an everlasting name. [13] He led them through the deep, like a horse through a desert; and they were not fatigued: [14] and like cattle through a plain. A spirit from the Lord descended and conducted them. Thus Thou didst lead this people of Thine, to make Thyself a glorious name. [15] Return from heaven and take a view from the house of Thy sanctuary and Thy glory. Where is Thy zeal and Thy majesty? Where the abundance of Thy loving kindness and tender affections, that Thou hast withdrawn thyself from us? [16] For Thou art our Father. Because Abraham knoweth us not, and Israel hath not acknowledged us; do thou, O Lord, our Father, do thou deliver us. From the beginning Thy name is upon us; [17] why, O Lord, hast Thou suffered us to wander from Thy way, and our hearts to be hardened so as not to fear Thee? Return for the sake of Thy servants—for the sake of the tribes of Thy heritage,

[18] that we may inherit a little of Thy holy mountain. [19] We are become as at the beginning, when Thou didst rule over us, and when we were not called by Thy name.

* CHAPTER LXIV *

IF thou wilt open the heaven, at Thy presence terror will seize the mountains, [2] and they will melt as wax melteth before fire; and a fire will burn up the adversaries, and Thy name will be manifest to the adversaries. At Thy presence the nations will be troubled. [3] When Thou executest Thy glorious works, because of Thee terror will seize the mountains. [4] Never have we heard, nor have our eyes seen a God besides Thee; nor works such as Thine, which Thou wilt do for them who wait for mercy. [5] For it will meet them who practise righteousness, and they will remember Thy ways.

Behold, Thou wast angry when we sinned; [6] because of this we wandered and became all of us as unclean, and all our righteousness was like a polluted rag; and for our iniquities we have fallen like leaves; so that the wind will sweep us away. [7] There is indeed none who invoceth Thy name, or who remembered to lay hold on Thee; because Thou hast turned away Thy face from us, and delivered us up for our sins.

[8] But now, O Lord, Thou art our Father. Though we are clay, we are all the works of Thy hands: [9] be not angry with us to the uttermost; nor remember forever our sins: but, O, look down now upon us; for we are all Thy people. [10] The city of Thy sanctuary is become a desert: Sion is become like a desert; Jerusalem, a curse. [11] The house, our sanctuary—even that glory which our fathers blessed, is utterly burnt up with fire, and all our glorious things are in ruins; [12] yet despite all these things, Thou, O Lord, hast refrained, and been silent. Thou hast humbled us exceedingly.

* CHAPTER LXV *

I BECAME manifest to them who inquired not for Me; I was found by them who sought Me not. I said, Behold here I am, to the nation which did not invoke My name. [2] I stretched out My hands all the day long to a disobedient and gainsaying people,

who were walking not in a good way, but following their own sins. [3] This people are provoking Me continually to My face. They will sacrifice in the gardens and burn incense on the tiles to demons which have not an existence. [4] They sleep in tombs and in caverns for the purpose of dreaming: they eat swine's flesh, and the broth of sacrifices; all their vessels are polluted; [5] yet they say, Keep at a distance from me; come not near me, for I am clean. This is a smoke which causeth My wrath; a fire is kindled by it every day. [6] Behold it is written before Me: I will not keep silence, until I have retributed into their bosom their sins; [7] and the sins of their fathers, saith the Lord. They have burned incense on the mounts, and treated Me with scorn on the hills, I will retribute their works into their bosom.

[8] Thus saith the Lord: as when a good grape is found in the cluster, they will say, Destroy it not, for there is a blessing in it; so will I do for the sake of him who serveth Me; for his sake I will not destroy them all. [9] I will indeed bring forth the seed from Jacob; namely, from Juda, and he shall inherit My holy mountain: and My chosen ones and My servants shall inherit and dwell there; [10] and there shall be in the forest folds for flocks; and the valley of Achor shall be a resting place of herds, for My people who have sought Me. [11] But as for you, who forsake Me and forget My holy mountain, and who prepare a table for the Demon, and fill up a mixed potion for Fortune, [12] you I will deliver up to the sword; you shall all bow down to slaughter. Because I called and you answered not: I spake and you would not listen; but did what is evil in My sight; and chose the things in which I did not delight.

[13] Therefore thus saith the Lord, Behold My servants shall eat; but you shall be hungry: behold My servants shall drink; but you shall be thirsty: behold My servants shall rejoice; but you shall be ashamed: [14] behold My servants shall triumph with joy: But you shall scream for sorrow of heart, and howl for anguish of spirit. [15] For you shall leave your name for a loathing to My chosen. As for you, the Lord will destroy you; but to My servants, a new name shall be given [16] which shall be blessed on the earth: for they will bless the true God: and they who swear on the earth, will swear by the true God.

For they will forget their former affliction and it shall not recur to their mind: [17] for there shall be a new heaven and the earth shall be new: and they shall no more remember former things, nor shall they ever come again into their mind. [18] But in this they shall find joy and gladness: for behold, I am about to make

Jerusalem a subject of joy, and this people of Mine a subject of rejoicing. [19] And I will exult in Jerusalem and rejoice in My people; and there shall no more be heard therein, the voice of wailing nor the sound of a mournful cry. [20] Nor shall there any more be an untimely birth there, nor an old man, who shall not complete his term. For he who is a hundred years old shall be young; and the sinner, who dieth at a hundred years, shall be deemed accursed.

[21] And they shall build houses and dwell therein: and they shall plant vineyards and eat the fruits thereof. [22] They shall not build, and others inhabit, nor shall they plant and others eat; for according to the days of the tree of that life, shall be the days of this My people: for they shall outlast the works of their toils. [23] My chosen ones shall not labour in vain, nor shall they bring forth children for a curse. Because they are a seed blessed of God, both they and their offspring, [24] therefore it shall come to pass, that before they call I will answer them; and while they are yet speaking I will say, What is the matter. [25] Then shall the wolves and the lambs feed together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. But the serpents shall eat dust as bread. They shall not hurt, nor shall they destroy on My holy mountain, saith the Lord.

* CHAPTER LXVI *

THUS saith the Lord, The heaven is My throne, and the earth, My footstool: what sort of an house will you build for Me? And of what sort shall be the place of My rest? [2] For all these things My hand hath made: and all these things are Mine, saith the Lord. Upon whom, therefore, will I look down, save upon him only who is humble and quiet, and who trembleth at My words? [3] As for the wicked man, who sacrificeth to Me a young bull: he is as one who slayeth a dog; and though he offereth Me fine flour, it will be as the blood of swine. Though he offereth incense for a memorial, he is as a blasphemer. As they have chosen their own ways: and their soul hath delighted in their abominations: [4] I also will choose their delusions, and pay them back their sins.

Because I called them and they did not answer—I spake, but they did not listen, but did that which is evil in My sight, and chose the things in which I did not delight; [5] hear the decisions of the Lord—ye who tremble at His word. Say, O our brethren (to them

who hate you and are abominable, that the name of the Lord may be glorified and appear to their joy, when they shall be ashamed) [6] a sound of screaming from the city! a sound from the temple! the voice of the Lord rendering a recompense to his adversaries!

[7] That a woman hath brought forth before she travailed; that before her pangs came on, they are over and a male child born; [8] who hath heard such a thing, or who hath seen the like? Did ever the earth bring forth in a day, or was ever a nation born at once? That Sion should travail and bring forth her children, [9] I Myself raised this expectation; yet thou didst not remember Me, saith the Lord. Behold, did I not make her who beareth; and her who is barren? said thy God.

[10] Rejoice O Jerusalem! and sing praises therein, all ye who love her! Be exceedingly joyful with her, all ye who mourn for her! [11] That you may suck and be satisfied from the breast of her consolation—that you may suck and be fed deliciously, at the commencement of her glory. [12] For thus saith the Lord, Behold I will glide to them like a peaceful stream, and like a torrent deluging the glory of nations. Their children shall be carried on shoulders, and shall be dandled on knees. [13] As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you, and in Jerusalem you shall find consolation. [14] And you shall see it, and your heart shall rejoice; and your bones shall flourish like a green herb. And the hand of the Lord will be made known to them who fear Him. And it will terrify them who are disobedient. [15] For behold! the Lord will come as a fire, and His chariots as a whirlwind, to execute His vengeance with wrath and His rebuke with flaming fire. [16] For with the fire of the Lord all this land shall be tried, and all flesh with His sword. Many shall be the slain of the Lord! [17] They who consecrate and purify themselves for the gardens, and they who, in the outer courts, eat swine's flesh, and the abominations and the mouse, shall for this be consumed together, said the Lord.

[18] As I know their works and their reasoning I am coming to gather together all the nations and the tongues, and they shall come to see My glory. [19] And I will leave among them a sign, and those of them who escape I will send to the nations—to Tharsis and Phud and Lud and Mosach and to Thobel and Greece and to the far distant isles. They who have not heard My name nor seen My glory—even they shall proclaim My glory among the nations; [20] and they shall bring your brethren from all the nations, as a gift for the Lord with horses and chariots, in litters borne

by mules with umbrellas over them, to the holy city Jerusalem, said the Lord; as the children of Israel brought up their sacrifices for Me with songs of praise to the house of the Lord. [21] And of them I will take priests and Levites, said the Lord. [22] For as the new heaven and the new earth, which I make, shall remain in My presence, saith the Lord; so shall your seed and your name be established. [23] And it shall be, that month after month and sabbath after sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before Me, in Jerusalem, said the Lord. [24] And they shall go forth, and see the carcasses of those men, who have transgressed against Me. For their worm shall not die and their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be a spectacle to all flesh.

JEREMIAH (JEREMIAS)

* CHAPTER I *

The word of God which came to Jeremias the son of Chelkias, one of the priests who dwelt at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin: [2] as the word of God came to him in the days of Josias son of Amos king of Juda, in the thirteenth year of his reign [3] and came to him in the days of Joakim son of Josias king of Juda even to the eleventh year of Zedekias son of Josias king of Juda, even to the capture of Jerusalem, in the fifth month.

[4] This word of the Lord came to him: [5] Before I formed thee in the womb, I knew thee, and before thou wast born I hallowed thee. I have appointed thee a prophet for nations.

[6] Thereupon I said, O Self-existent Sovereign, Lord! behold I know not how to speak, for I am a child.

[7] And the Lord said to me: Say not, For I am a child. For thou shalt go to all, to whomsoever I send thee; and according to all that I command thee thou shalt speak. [8] Be not afraid of them; for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord.

[9] Then the Lord stretched forth His hand towards me and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, Behold I have put My words in thy mouth. [10] Behold I have this day set thee over nations and over kingdoms to root out and demolish and destroy; and to rebuild and plant.

[11] Then a word of the Lord came to me saying, What dost thou see. Whereupon I said, I see a rod of an almond-tree. [12] And the Lord said to me, Thou hast seen well: for I have watched over My words to perform them.

[13] Again a word of the Lord came to me a second time saying: What dost thou see? And I said, A kettle; its bottom glowing hot; and its mouth from the north. [14] Then the Lord said to me, From the north shall blaze out the evils against all the inhabitants of this land. [15] For behold I am calling together all the kingdoms of the earth from the north, saith the Lord; and they shall come and set, every one his throne against the vestibules of the gates of Jerusalem and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Juda: [16] and I will speak to them with a judicial process touching all their wickedness.

As they have forsaken Me and sacrificed to strange Gods, and worshipped the works of their hands, [17] therefore gird thou up thy loins and stand up and speak all that I command thee. Be not afraid of them, nor terrified at their presence; for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord. [18] Behold I have made thee this day, like a fortified city and like a wall of brass, too strong for all the kings of Juda and the chiefs thereof and the people of the land. [19] Though they fight against thee they cannot prevail over thee; for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord.

* CHAPTER II *

THEN he said, Thus saith the Lord: [2] I remembered mercy in thy youth; and love, in thy mature age, [3] that thou mightest follow the Holy Israel, saith the Lord. The Holy Israel is to the Lord the chief of His productions, all that devour him shall be guilty of trespass: evils shall come upon them, saith the Lord.

[4] Hear a word of the Lord, O house of Jacob and every family of the house of Israel. [5] Thus saith the Lord:

What fault did your fathers find in Me, that they have withdrawn from Me; and have gone after vanities and become vain? [6] and did not say, Where is the Lord Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt; Who led us through the wilderness—through a boundless and untrodden land—through a land without water and without fruit—through a land which no man traversed, and where no man had a fixed abode?

[7] When I brought you to Charmel that you might eat its fruits and the good things thereof; you entered in and polluted My land; and made My heritage an abomination. [8] The priests did not say, Where is the Lord? and they who studied the law did not know Me; the pastors also transgressed against Me; and the prophets prophesied for Baal and went after an unprofitable thing. [9] For this also I will emplead you; and your childrens' children I will emplead. [10] For go to the isles of Chettim and see; and send to Kedar and make strict inquiry; and see if such things have ever happened: [11] have nations changed their Gods, though they are no Gods? but My people have changed their glory for that which will not profit them. [12] At this the heaven was astonished and shocked exceedingly, saith the Lord. [13] Because My people did two things which are both evil: they forsook

Me, the fountain of living water; and hewed out for themselves broken cisterns which cannot hold water.

[14] Is Israel a slave or a home-born servant? Why was he for a prey? [15] Against him lions roared and uttered their voice: they have made his land a desert and his cities are demolished so as to be uninhabitable. [16] Even the sons of Memphis and Taphnas have known and derided thee. [17] Hath not thy forsaking Me, saith the Lord thy God, brought these things upon thee? [18] Now therefore what hast thou to do with the way to Egypt? Is it to drink the water of Geon? Or what hast thou to do in the way to the Assyrians? Is it to drink the water of rivers? Let this apostacy of thine correct thee. [19] And thy wickedness work conviction in thee. And know and see how bitter a thing it is to forsake Me, saith the Lord thy God.

[20] Further, I have no pleasure in thee, saith the Lord thy God, because of old thou hast broken thy yoke, and burst thy bands, and said, I will not serve Thee; but I will go up every high mount: and under every shady tree, I will there indulge my wantonness.

[21] I indeed planted thee an entirely good and fruitful vine: how art thou, O degenerate vine, turned to bitterness? [22] Though thou wash thyself with nitre and use much soap: thou art stained by thine iniquities in My sight, saith the Lord. [23] How canst thou say, I am not polluted, nor have I gone after Baal? View thy ways in the grave-yard, and recollect what thou hast done. In the evening her voice raised the mournful cry. [24] She enlarged her ways to the waters of a desert: by the desires of her soul she was transported into raptures. She is delivered up: who will bring her back? None who seek her will weary themselves. In her humiliation they shall find her.

[25] Turn thy foot from a rugged way, and thy throat from thirst. But she said, I will act like one come to maturity. Because she loved strangers, therefore after them she did go. [26] As a thief when taken, is ashamed; so shall the children of Israel be put to shame.

They and their kings and their chiefs and their priests and their prophets, [27] said to a stock, Thou art my father; and to a stone, Thou hast begotten me. And turned their backs to Me and not their faces: yet in the time of their troubles they will say, Arise and save us. [28] Where now are thy gods which thou hast made for thyself? Will they arise and save in the time of thy trouble?

Since according to the number of thy cities were thy gods, O

Juda—and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem they burned incense to Baal; [29] why do you address Me? You are all guilty of impiety; and you have all transgressed against Me, saith the Lord. [30] In vain have I smitten your children, you did not receive instruction: a sword devoured your prophets, like a ravening lion; and you were not terrified.— [31] Hear a word of the Lord! Thus saith the Lord, Was I a desert to Israel or a desolate land? Why did My people say, We will not be lorded over, nor come to Thee any more. [32] Will a bride forget her attire; or a virgin, the ornaments that deck her bosom? Yet My people have forgotten Me, days without number. [33] Wilt thou yet study any decency in thy ways in search of love? Far from that, thou hast abandoned thyself to wickedness to pollute thy ways. [34] And on thy hands hath been found the blood of innocent souls. These I did not find in breaches into houses, but in every grove of oaks. [35] Yet thou sayest, ‘I am innocent; let His wrath be turned from me. Behold I will emplead thee for saying, I have not sinned. [36] Because thou hast made very light of repeating thy journies, therefore thou shalt be made ashamed of Egypt, as thou hast been, of Assyria: [37] for thou shalt come up thence with thy hands on thy head, for the Lord hath rejected thy confidence and thou shalt not prosper in it.

* CHAPTER III *

IF a man divorce his wife and she depart from him and marry another, can she return again to him? Would not such a wife be altogether polluted? Yet thou hast played the harlot with many shepherds and hast returned to Me, saith the Lord. [2] Raise thine eyes, look forward and take a view! where is there a place in which thou hast not prostituted thyself? In the highways thou hast sat for them like a deserted daw, and polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wicked acts, [3] and retained many shepherds for a stumbling block to thyself: yet with the face of a harlot and behaving indecently before them all, [4] hast thou not returned home and called Me Father and the guide of thy youth? [5] Will anger continue forever? Shall it be kept up to the last? Behold thou hast spoken and done these evil things: yet thou hast prevailed.

Again the Lord said to me in the days of Josias the king, Hast thou seen what the house of Israel have done to Me? They have

gone up upon every high mountain and under every shady tree and have there committed whoredom— [7] and after she had committed all these acts of whoredom I said, Return to Me; but she returned not. And the treacherous Juda saw this treachery; [8] and I saw that when for all the whoredoms which Israel had committed and in which she had been caught, I had put her away and given her a bill of divorce in her hands, the treacherous Juda was not terrified, but went and committed the like herself. [9] Indeed the other's fornication was as nothing; she committed adultery with stocks and stones, [10] and for all this the treacherous Juda turned not to Me with her whole heart but only feignedly. [11] Then the Lord said to me: Israel hath justified herself more than the treacherous Juda.

[12] Go and proclaim these words to the north and thou shalt say, Return to Me, O house of Israel, saith the Lord, and I will not set My face against you. For I am merciful, saith the Lord and will not be angry with you forever. [13] Nevertheless acknowledge thine iniquity—that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God, and opened thy ways for strangers under every shady tree; and hast not hearkened to My voice, saith the Lord. [14] Return, O apostate children, saith the Lord: for I will exercise dominion over you, and take one of a city and two of a family and bring you to Sion: [15] and I will give you pastors according to Mine own heart, and they shall tend and feed you with knowledge.

[16] And when you are multiplied and increased in the land, saith the Lord,—in those days they shall no more say, ‘The ark of the covenant of the Holy Israel.’ It shall no more come to mind nor be named; nor shall it be covered nor made any more. [17] In those days and at that time Jerusalem shall be called *The Throne of the Lord*, and all the nations shall be gathered to it. And they shall no more follow the desires of their own wicked heart. [18] In those days the house of Juda shall unite with the house of Israel, and they shall come together from the land of the north and from all those countries, to the land which I put in possession of their fathers.

[19] (p)* (Whereupon I said, so be it, O Lord.)

(J) Because I am to rank thee among children and give thee a choice land—the heritage of God the Supreme Ruler of nations; therefore I said, Call Me Father, and, From Me you shall not turn away. [20] But as a wife dealeth treacherously with her

* See note in Isaiah, page 1114.

husband, so the house of Israel dealt treacherously with Me, saith the Lord. [21] A sound from the lips was heard, of the wailing and supplication of the children of Israel; because they had transgressed in their ways—had forgotten God their Holy One. [22] Return, return, O children, and I will heal your bruises.

(c) Behold we will be Thy servants for Thou art the Lord our God. [23] False indeed have been the hills and the strength of the mountains, but from the Lord our God is the salvation of Israel. [24] This shame consumed the labours of our fathers from our youth—their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters. [25] We lay down in our shame and our dishonour covered us; because we sinned against our God—both we and our fathers from our youth to this day; and hearkened not to the voice of the Lord our God.

* CHAPTER IV *

IF Israel will return, saith the Lord; let him return to Me. And if he will remove his abominations from his mouth, and on account of Me be filled with holy awe; and swear [2] *As the Lord liveth* with truth in judgment and justice: then shall the nations bless by him, and by him praise God in Jerusalem. [3] For thus saith the Lord to the men of Juda and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Break up for yourselves fallow grounds and sow not among thorns: [4] be circumcised for your God and circumcise the stubbornness of your hearts, O men of Juda and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest My wrath break out like a fire and burn; and there be none to quench it, because of the wickedness of your devices.

[5] (J) Make proclamation in Juda and let it be heard in Jerusalem. Say, Sound the trumpet in the land; raise the screaming cry! Say, Assemble together and let us go into the walled cities! [6] Break up and flee to Sion; make all haste; tarry not: for I am bringing evils from the north and a great destruction. [7] A lion has gone up from his den: a destroyer of nations hath begun his march and is come from his place to make this land a desolation; and the cities shall be demolished so as to be uninhabitable. [8] For these things gird on sackcloth; wail and utter lamentation. Because the wrath of the Lord is not turned away from you, [9] therefore it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord, that the understanding of the king shall be destroyed; and the understand-

ing of the chiefs; and the priests shall be confounded and the prophets amazed.

[10] (p) Upon this I said, O Sovereign Lord! hast thou indeed deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, 'There shall be peace,' when lo! the sword hath reached their very soul?

[11] (J) At that time let it be said to this people and to Jerusalem, there is a spirit of wandering in the wilderness. The way of the daughter of My people is not to purity nor to holiness. [12] A spirit of execution shall come for Me and I am now denouncing My judgments on them. [13] Behold, he shall come up like a cloud, and his chariots like a whirlwind. His horses are swifter than eagles.

(p) Alas for us! we are undone! [14] O Jerusalem! wash thy heart from wickedness that thou mayst be saved. How long do ill-grounded reasonings for thy troubles remain in thee?

[15] (J) Because the voice of a messenger will come from Dan, and distress will be heard from mount Ephraim; [16] Call to mind the nations: behold, they are come. Proclaim in Jerusalem: Predatory bands are coming from afar, and have uttered their voice against the cities of Juda! [17] Like men watching a field they are all around her. Because thou wast not mindful of Me, saith the Lord, [18] thy ways and thy devices have done these things to thee. It is owing to thy wickedness that they are bitter—that they have reached thy very heart.

[19] (p) My bowels! my bowels are pained! and every sensation of my heart. My soul throbbeth! my heart is torn. I cannot keep silence; for my soul hath heard the trumpet's sound; the din of war and of distress. [20] It calleth for contrition; for the whole land is in deep distress. My tent is suddenly whelmed in ruin; my curtains are rent to pieces. How long shall I see men fleeing! [21] How long hear the sound of trumpets!

[22] (J) Because the rulers of My people did not know Me, they are foolish children and devoid of understanding. They are wise in doing evil; but to do good they have no knowledge.

[23] (p) I beheld the earth and lo! a void! Then the heaven; and its lights were gone. [24] I beheld the mountains, and they were trembling; and all the hills were in perturbation. [25] I looked; and lo! there was not a man; and all the birds of the air were flown. [26] I beheld; and lo! Karmel was a desert; and all the cities were burned with fire. At the presence of the Lord, and because of His fierce anger, they are utterly destroyed.

[27] (J) Thus saith the Lord, The whole land shall be a desert;

but I will not make a complete end. [28] For these things let the land mourn; and the heaven above be covered with darkness; for I have spoken and I will not change My mind. I have made an assault and will not withdraw from it.

[29] (p) At the sound of the cavalry and bended bow all the country had fled. They had skulked into caves; and hidden themselves in forests; and upon rocks they had climbed up. Every city was deserted; in them not a man dwelt. [30] And as for thee what wilt thou do? Though thou clothe thyself with scarlet and deck thyself with ornaments of gold—though thou paint thine eyes with stibium, thy decoration will avail nothing; thy lovers have cast thee off. They will seek thy life. [31] For I have heard a sound as of one in labour—of thy groan, as of one who beareth her first child.

(J) The voice of the daughter of Sion shall be weak: and she shall let her hands hang down.

(p) Woe is me! for my soul fainteth on account of the slain.

* CHAPTER V *

(J) RUN to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; and look, and inquire, and search in her broad ways. If you can find—if there be a man, who executeth judgment and seeketh truth, I will be merciful to them, saith the Lord. [2] They say, 'As the Lord liveth.' Do they not on this very account swear to falsehoods?

[3] (p) O Lord, Thine eyes look for faithfulness. Thou hast chastised them: but they have not grieved. Thou hast consumed them and they would not receive instruction. They have made their faces harder than a rock and refused to return. [4] Then I said, perhaps they are poor, therefore they could not. Because they have not known the way of the Lord and the judgment of God, [5] I will go to the nobles and speak to them.

(J) Because these knew the way of the Lord and the judgment of God, and lo! with one consent, have broken the yoke and burst the bands; [6] therefore a lion from the forest hath smitten them and a wolf hath destroyed them even in their houses, and a leopard hath lain in wait against their cities. Let all who go out from them be hunted down. Because they have multiplied their iniquities—have strengthened themselves in their apostasies; [7] for which of these can I be merciful to thee? Thy children have forsaken Me, and sworn by things which are no Gods. When I fed them plentifully, they committed adultery, and revelled in the houses of harlots. [8] They became furious wanton steeds; they neighed

every one for his neighbour's wife. [9] Shall I not visit for these things, saith the Lord, and on such a nation as this shall not My soul be avenged? [10] Go up against her battlements and demolish them: but you must not make a complete destruction; leave her buttresses, for they are the Lord's. [11] Because the house of Israel have broken faith with Me, saith the Lord, and the house of Juda have given the lie to their Lord and said, [12] 'These things are not so. Evils will not come upon us; we shall see neither sword nor famine. [13] Our prophets are but wind and the word of the Lord was not in them.'

[14] Therefore thus saith the Lord Almighty: Because you have spoken this word; behold I have made these words of Mine for thy mouth, a fire; and this people fuel; and it shall devour them. [15] Behold I am about to bring against you, O house of Israel, saith the Lord, a nation from afar—a nation the sound of whose tongue thou wilt not understand. [16] They are all mighty men; [17] and they shall devour your harvest and your bread; and they shall devour your sons and your daughters; and they shall devour your flocks and your herds; and they shall devour your vineyards and fig trees and olive orchards, and smite with the sword your fortified cities, in which you trusted. [18] But it shall come to pass in those days, saith the Lord thy God, That I will not make an entire end of you. Now when ye say, 'Why hath the Lord our God done all this to us?' then thou shalt say to them, Because ye served strange gods in your land, therefore ye shall serve strange gods in a land which is not yours. [20] Proclaim these things to the house of Jacob and let them be published to the house of Juda.

[21] (p) Hear these things I beseech you, O foolish and stupid people!

(J) They have eyes, but they do not see; ears they have, but they do not hear. [22] Will you not fear Me, saith the Lord, nor be struck with awe at the presence of Me who have by an everlasting decree, made sand a boundary to the ocean, so that it shall not pass it. Though it be tossed with a tempest, it shall not prevail—though the waves thereof roar, they shall not overpass it. [23] But this people have a revolting and disobedient heart. They have turned aside and are gone, [24] and did not say in their heart, Let us now fear the Lord our God Who giveth us the early and the later rain, according to the time of completing the appointed harvest and hath reserved it for us.

[25] (p) Your iniquities have turned these things out of their course: and your sins have removed good things from you.

[26] (J) Since there have been found among My people wicked men, who have set snares to destroy men and have caught them — [27] as a trap which hath been set is full of birds, so their houses are full of deceit,—therefore they became great and rich [28] and overleaped judgment; they did not administer justice to the orphan, nor decide righteously the cause of the widow; [29] shall I not visit for these things, saith the Lord, and on such a nation as this shall not My soul be avenged?

[30] Astonishing and horrible things have been done in this land. [31] The prophets prophesy falsehoods, and the priests clapped with their hands, and My people loved to have it so. Now what will you do in regard to the consequences?

* CHAPTER VI *

ASSUME courage, ye sons of Benjamin who are from the midst of Jerusalem, and give a signal with the trumpet at Thekoe; and on Bethacharma erect a standard. Because evils from the north are apparent and a great destruction is begun, [2] therefore thy loftiness shall be destroyed. With regard to the daughter of Sion: [3] shepherds shall come to her with their flocks, and pitch their tents around against her and feed. [They will say] each one to his band, [4] Prepare yourself for battle against her; arise, and let us go up against her at noon. Alas for us, the day is declined. Because the shadows of the day fail, [5] arise and let us go up against her by night, and let us destroy her foundations.

[6] For thus saith the Lord, Cut down her trees: discharge engines against Jerusalem: O lying city! in it all is oppression. [7] As a reservoir sendeth forth water, so her wickedness gusheth out. Open wickedness and misery may be heard in her continually. With anguish and scourging [8] be instructed, O Jerusalem! lest My soul be alienated from thee—lest I make thee an untrodden land, which shall not be inhabited. [9] For thus saith the Lord: Glean, glean as a vineyard the remains of Israel. Return again and again like a grape gatherer to his basket.

[10] (p) To whom shall I speak and give warning that he may hearken? behold their ears are uncircumcised and they cannot hear.—

(J) Behold the word of the Lord was to them an object of reproach and they *would* not [hear]. [11] Therefore My wrath

(which I filled up and restrained that I might not destroy them) I now pour out on infants in the streets, and on the congregation of youths at the same time. Because husband and wife shall be both taken—the elder with him who is full of days; [12] therefore their houses shall be transferred to others—their fields and their wives together. Because I will stretch forth My hand against the inhabitants of this land, saith the Lord— [13] because from the least of them to the greatest, they have all committed unrighteous deeds; from the priest to the false prophet, they have all practised falsehoods, [14] and healed the hurt of My people by underrating it and saying: Peace, Peace. But where is there peace? [15] Were they ashamed because they failed? even in that case they were not ashamed; nor were they sensible of their infamy; therefore they shall fall in the common ruin; and in the time of visitation they shall perish, saith the Lord. [16] Thus saith the Lord, Stand in the highways and take a view and inquire for the ancient paths of the Lord, and see which is the good way and walk in it, and you shall find a purification for your souls: but they said, We will not go.

[17] I have set watchmen over you: hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not listen. [18] Therefore the nations heard; even they who were tending their flocks.

[19] Hear, O earth, behold; upon this people I am bringing evils—the fruit of their apostasy, because they attended not to My words and rejected My law. [20] Why do you bring Me incense from Saba, and cinnamon from a far distant country? Your whole burnt offerings are not acceptable; nor were your incense offerings sweet to Me. [21] Therefore, thus saith the Lord: Behold I send weakness on this people, and weak shall be fathers and sons with them; and neighbour with neighbour shall perish. [22] Thus saith the Lord, Behold a people is coming from the north; and nations shall be roused from the extremity of the earth; [23] they will grasp the bow and the spear: they are haughty and will show no mercy; their voice is like the roaring sea; on horses and in chariots they will draw up in array like fire, for battle against thee, O daughter of Sion.

[24] (c) We have heard the fame of them. Our hands are enfeebled. Anguish hath taken hold of us—pangs, as of a woman in travail.

[25] (p) Go not out to the fields and in the highways walk not, because the sword of the enemy dwelleth all around. [26] O

daughter of My people gird thee with sackcloth; strew thyself with ashes: utter for thyself piteous lamentation like the mourning for a beloved. For misery will suddenly come upon thee.

[27] (J) I have made thee an assayer for trying peoples: and thou shalt know Me when I try their ways. [28] They are all disobedient and walk perversely. Being brass and iron they are all utterly consumed. [29] The bellows could not stand the fire: the lead is consumed. In vain doth the silversmith try to extract silver. Their wickedness was not to be melted. You shall call them rejected silver, for the Lord hath rejected them.

* CHAPTER VII *

[2] HEAR a word of the Lord, all ye of Judea! [3] thus saith the Lord the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your pursuits: and I will cause you to dwell in this place. [4] Trust not in yourselves—in lying words: for you will derive no benefit from them who say, The temple of the Lord! it is the temple of the Lord! [5] For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your pursuits, and actually execute judgment between man and man: [6] and do not oppress the stranger and orphan and widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place, nor go after strange gods to your hurt: [7] then will I cause you to dwell in this place—in the land which I gave to your fathers) from age to age.

[8] But if you continue to trust in lying words from which you can derive no benefit; [9] and commit murder, and adultery and steal and swear to a falsehood, and burn incense to Baal; and when you have gone after strange gods which you did not know; [10] you, because of your calamities, have then come and stood before Me, in the house which is called by My name, and said, We have been restrained from committing these abominations. [11] Is not this house of Mine, which is called by My name, become in your eyes a den of robbers? Now behold I have seen this, saith the Lord. [12] Go then to My place which was at Selo, where I caused My name to dwell at first; and see what I have done to it, for the wickedness of My people Israel. [13] Now therefore because you have done all these things: and I have spoken to you and you have not hearkened to Me; and I have called you and you have not answered; [14] I therefore will do to this house which is called by My name, and in which you have placed your confidence; and to this place which I gave to you and

your fathers; as I did to Selo. [15] And I will drive you from My presence, as I have driven out your brethren, the whole seed of Ephraim.

[16] And as for thee, pray not thou for this people; nor supplicate for compassion to be shewn them: neither pray nor intercede with Me for them; for I will not listen. [17] Dost thou not see what they are doing in the cities of Juda and in the streets of Jerusalem? [18] Their sons are collecting wood; and their fathers are kindling a fire: and their wives are kneading dough to make cakes for the host of heaven: and they have poured out libations to strange gods, to vex Me. Do they vex Me? Saith the Lord: [19] do they not vex themselves; that their faces may be covered with shame? [20] Therefore thus saith the Lord: Behold, My anger and My fury is poured upon this place and on these men; and on the cattle and on every tree of their field and on all the products of the ground, and it shall burn and shall not be quenched.

[21] Thus saith the Lord, Collect your whole burnt offerings with your sacrifices and eat flesh. [22] Because I did not speak to your fathers nor give them a charge, on the day when I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, concerning the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices; [23] but only gave them this charge saying, Hearken to My voice and I will be your God and you shall be My people; and walk in all My ways which I command you that it may be well with you. [24] But they hearkened not to Me nor inclined their ear; but walked in the devices of their own wicked heart, and went backward and not forward [25] from the day their fathers came out of the land of Egypt to this day: though I sent to you all My servants the prophets—daily and early though I sent them, [26] yet they hearkened not to Me nor inclined their ears—nay they hardened their necks more than their fathers; [27] therefore thou shalt deliver them this message:

[28] This is the nation which hearkened not to the voice of the Lord, nor received instruction: faithfulness is gone from their mouth: [29] shave thy head and throw away the hair, and take up with thy lips a song of lamentation, for the Lord hath rejected and cast off the generation which hath done these things.

[30] Because the children of Juda have done evil in My sight, saith the Lord, have set up their abominations in the house called by My name, to pollute it; [31] and have built up the altar of Tophet which is in the valley of the son of Ennom, to burn their sons and their daughters with fire; a thing which I never com-

manded them and which never entered My mind; [32] therefore, behold days are coming saith the Lord, when they shall no more say, The altar of Tophet, and the valley of the son of Ennom, but [rather], The valley of them who were slain. For they shall bury in Tophet for want of room. [33] And the carcasses of this people shall be for food for the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth; and there shall be none to scare them away. [34] And I will cause to cease from the cities of Juda and from the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of joy and the voice of gladness; the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride; for the whole land shall be a desolation.

* CHAPTER VIII *

AT that time, saith the Lord, they shall carry out the bones of the kings of Juda, and the bones of his chiefs, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, out of their graves; [2] and expose them to the sun and moon and to all the stars, and to all the host of heaven which they loved and served, and after which they went and to which they were attached, and to which they bowed down. They shall not be lamented nor buried; but shall be for a spectacle, on the face of the earth [3] (because they chose death rather than life) even to all the residue left of that generation, in every place whither I shall drive them.

[4] Thus saith the Lord: Doth not he who falleth rise again? Or doth not he who turneth aside, return back? [5] Why then hath this My people shamefully turned aside, and persisted in their error and refused to return? [6] Harken now and hear! Will they not speak thus, There is not a man who repenteth of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? He who was running stopped in his course like a horse tired with whinnying. [7] The stork in the heaven knoweth her season; so doth the dove and the swallow of the field; the ostriches observed the time of their coming; but My people do not know the judgments of the Lord.

[8] How can you say, We are wise and the law of the Lord is with us? In vain was it made; the scribes had a lying pen. [9] The wise are ashamed. They are indeed dismayed and taken, because they rejected the law of the Lord. What wisdom is in them? [10] Therefore I will give their wives to others and their

fields to them who will take possession, that they may gather the products thereof, saith the Lord.

[13] (c) There is not a cluster on the vine nor is there a fig on the fig trees, even the leaves are fallen. [14] Why sit we still? Assemble and let us go into the fortified cities; and let us be cast off there; since God hath cast us off. He hath indeed given us water of gall to drink because we have sinned against Him. [15] We assembled for peace; but there is no good; for a time of healing and behold trouble. [16] From Dan we can hear the sound of the snorting of His horses; with the neighing of His cavalry the whole earth is shaken.

(J) And He will come on and devour the land and the fulness thereof, the cities and them who dwell therein. [17] For behold I am sending against you deadly serpents, which cannot be charmed, and they will bite you [18] with incurable wounds, which shall pain your throbbing hearts.

[19] Hark! a sound of the cry of the daughter of My people from a distant land: Is not the Lord in Sion? Is He not king there? Because they provoked Me to anger with their graven images and with strange vanities.

[20] (p) The summer is past; the harvest is over and we are not saved, [21] at the destruction of the daughter of my people I waswhelmed in darkness: in distress I was seized with pangs like those of a woman in travail. [22] Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why is not healing come for the daughter of my people?

* CHAPTER IX *

O THAT my head were water! and mine eyes a fountain of tears! That I might weep day and night for this people of mine—for the slain of the daughter of my people! [2] O! that I had a remote lodging in the wilderness, that I might leave my people and go away from them!

(J) Because they are all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men, [3] and have bent their tongue like a bow—lying and infidelity prevailed in the land—because they have proceeded from evils to evils, and have not known Me, saith the Lord; [4] be upon your guard every man against his neighbour, and in your own brothers place no confidence; for every brother will supplant,

and every friend will walk deceitfully; [5] each one will treat his friend with contempt. They cannot speak truth; their tongue hath learned to speak lies. They have done injustice, and have not stopped to rectify it. [6] There is usury upon usury, deceit upon deceit; they refused to know Me, saith the Lord.

[7] Therefore thus saith the Lord, Behold I will melt them and try them. What else can I do on account of the wickedness of the daughter of My people? [8] Their tongue is a wounding dart: the words of their mouth are deceitful. To his neighbour one speaketh peace; when inwardly he harboureth enmity. [9] Shall I not visit for these things, saith the Lord; and on such a nation shall not My soul be avenged? [10] Take ye up a lamentation for the mountains, and for the paths of the wilderness, a song of woe; for such is the desolation that there are no men, nor is there a sound of existence heard from birds of the air, nor from cattle. They were confounded. They are fled. [11] I will indeed deliver up Jerusalem to captivity and make it a den for jackals; and the cities of Juda an uninhabitable desolation.

[12] (p) Whoever is a wise man, let him understand this; and let him, who hath a word from the mouth of the Lord, declare to you for what cause the land is destroyed—burned up like a desert, so as not to be travelled.

[13] Again the Lord said to me:

(J) Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them and have not hearkened to My voice; [14] but have gone after the pleasures of their own wicked heart, and after the idols which their fathers taught them; [15] therefore thus saith the Lord the God of Israel: Behold I will feed them with wormwood, and give them the water of gall to drink. [16] And I will scatter them among the nations, which neither they nor their fathers have known, and send a sword after them till they are consumed by it. [17] Thus saith the Lord, Call the mourning women and let them come; send for the well instructed and let them utter a plaintive sound [18] and take up a mournful lamentation for you: and let your eyes collect tears, and your eyelids gush out water.

[19] (p) Because a sound of wailing is heard in Sion: "Oh how wretched we are! how greatly confounded because we have left our land, and abandoned our habitations!": [20] hear I beseech ye, O women, a word of God! and let your ears receive the words of His mouth: and teach your daughters a song of woe; and every woman, the mournful dirge to her neighbour. [21] For death is gone up through your windows: it is come into your land, to

destroy infants at home and young men in the streets, [22] and the carcasses of the men shall be for a spectacle on the open field throughout your land, like grass after a mower; and there will be none to gather.

[23] (J) Thus saith the Lord: Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom, nor the mighty man boast of his strength; neither let the rich man boast of his riches; [24] but let him who boasteth boast of this only: that he understandeth and knoweth that I am the Lord, Who exercise mercy and judgment and justice on the earth: that in these things is My delight, saith the Lord. [25] Behold days are coming, saith the Lord, when I will visit upon all the uncircumcised their uncircumcision— [26] upon Egypt, and upon Idumea, and upon Edom, and upon the Ammonites, and upon the Moabites, and upon all that have their foreheads shaven, namely them who dwell in the wilderness. For all the nations are uncircumcised in flesh, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in their hearts.

+ CHAPTER X +

HEAR the word of the Lord which He hath spoken for you, O house of Israel. [2] Thus saith the Lord: Learn not the ways of the nations, and at the signs of heaven be not dismayed, because they are terrified at these appearances, [3] because the ordinances of the nations are vain. Timber is cut from the forest: [4] a carpenter's work and a molten image are adorned with silver and gold. Having fastened them with mallets and nails they will place them and they are not to be moved. [5] They are silver which can be turned in a lathe; they cannot walk. [9] They are silver which can be formed into plates. From Tharsis will come the gold of Mophaz, and the hand of men skilled in casting gold. They are all the workmanship of artists. With blue and purple raiment they are to be clothed: they must be taken up and carried, for they cannot walk. Fear them not, for they can do you no harm; and there is no good in them.

[11] Thus shall you say to them: Let the gods which have not made heaven and earth perish from the earth and from under heaven. [12] It is the Lord who made the earth by His power, who established the world by His wisdom: and by His understanding spread out the heaven, [13] and the multitude of waters in heaven: when He brought up clouds from the extremity of the

earth; He made the lightning for rain, and brought light forth from His treasuries. [14] Every man on account of knowledge became foolish. Every melter of gold was put to shame for his graven images, because he cast falsities and there is no breath in them. [15] These ridiculous works are vain; in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

[16] Unlike to these is the portion of Jacob: for He who formed all things is his inheritance. His name is, The Lord. [17] He hath collected from abroad the substance of thee, dwelling in chosen places. [18] For thus saith the Lord, Behold I am about to subvert with affliction the inhabitants of this land, that the stroke may reach thee. [19] Alas for thine affliction! the stroke given thee is painful.

(p) Upon this I said, This is a wounding of thee indeed! it hath sunk deep in thee! [20] thy tent is in a miserable state. It is ruined. And all thy curtains are torn to pieces.

(c) My children and my flocks are no more. There is not a trace of my tent left—no remains of my curtains.

[21] (J) Because the shepherds were foolish and sought not the Lord, therefore the whole flock was thoughtless, and they are scattered. [22] A noisy sound! Hark! it is coming; and a great disturbance from the land to the north, to make the cities of Juda a desolation and a haunt of ostriches.

[23] (p) I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, nor can a man who travelleth ensure to himself a prosperous journey. [24] Correct us, O Lord, but with judgment and not with wrath, that Thou mayst not make us few in number. [25] Pour out Thy wrath on the nations that knew Thee not, and on the families which have not invoked Thy name. Because they have devoured Jacob and consumed him, and have made his pasture a desolation.

* CHAPTER XI *

THE word which came to Jeremias from the Lord, saying, [2] Hear ye the words of this covenant: and thou shalt speak to the men of Juda, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem [3] and say to them, Thus saith the Lord the God of Israel, Cursed is the man who will not hearken to the words of that covenant [4] which I enjoined on your fathers, at the time when I brought them out of the land of Egypt; out of the iron furnace saying, Hearken to My

voice, and do all that I command you: and you shall be My people, and I will be your God; [5] that I may perform the oath which I swore to your fathers to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as at this day. Thereupon I answered and said, So be it, O Lord.

[6] Then the Lord said to me, Read these words in the cities of Juda and in the streets of Jerusalem, and say, Hear the words of this covenant and do them. [8] And when they did not: [9] the Lord said to me, A conspiracy is found among the men of Juda and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. [10] They have turned back to the iniquities of their fathers, who refused to hearken to My words. And lo they are going after strange gods to serve them. Both the house of Israel and the house of Juda have broken My covenant which I made with their fathers; [11] therefore thus saith the Lord, Behold I am bringing upon this people evils, from which they shall not be able to escape. And when they cry to Me I will not hearken to them.

[12] Let the cities of Juda and the inhabitants of Jerusalem go and cry to the gods, to which they burn incense; but which cannot save them in the time of their adversity. [13] Since according to the number of thy cities were thy gods, O Juda—and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem, you erected altars to burn incense to Baal; [14] therefore pray not thou for this people, nor intercede for them with supplication and prayer; for I will not hearken when they call on Me in the time of their distress.

[15] What! My beloved hath committed abomination in My very house! Will prayers and holy meats remove from thee thy wickedness? or by means of these shalt thou escape? [16] The Lord called thy name *The beautiful shady olive tree*. At the sound of lopping it, a fire was kindled against it. Great is the affliction coming upon thee. Its branches are destroyed. [17] The Lord who planted thee hath denounced evils against thee, for the wickedness of the house of Israel and the house of Juda, for they have brought this upon themselves by burning incense to Baal to provoke Me.

[18] (p) Inform me, O Lord, and let me know!

Then I saw their devices. [19] As for me, I like a lamb led to slaughter did not know. Against me they had formed a wicked design, saying, Come, let us put poison in his bread, and cut him off from the land of the living; and let his name be mentioned no more.

[20] O Lord, who judgest righteously, trying reins and hearts!

let me see Thy vengeance on them, for to Thee I have laid open my cause.

[21] On this account, thus saith the Lord to the men of Anathoth (who seek my life, [and] who say, Thou shalt not prophesy in the name of the Lord—if thou dost, thou shalt die by our hand): [22] Behold I will punish them. Their young men shall die by the sword. And their sons and their daughters shall die by famine. [23] And there shall not be a remnant of them left; for I will bring evils on the inhabitants of Anathoth in the year of their visitation.

* CHAPTER XII *

(p) **RIGHTEOUS** as thou art, O Lord, can I defend a cause against Thee? but let me speak to Thee in respect to judgments. Why is the way of wicked men prosperous? why are they happy who have been all guilty of perfidy? [2] Thou hast planted them and they have taken root, they have generated and produced fruit. Thou art near in their mouth, but far from their reins. [3] But thou, O Lord, knowest me. Thou hast tried my heart before Thee. Prepare them for the day of their slaughter. [4] How long shall the land mourn, and all the grass of the field be withered, for the wickedness of them who dwell therein? The cattle and fowls are vanished; because they said, God will not regard our ways.

[5] (J) Thy feet run and fail thee: what preparation canst thou make for horses? In thy land of peace hast thou been secure? how wilt thou act at the swelling of Jordan? [6] since even thy brethren and the house of thy father have dealt perfidiously with thee; when they have raised the cry of war—have assembled in pursuit of thee, wilt thou trust them, because they speak thee fair? [7] I have forsaken My house, I have abandoned My heritage, I have given the beloved of My soul into the hands of her enemies. [8] My heritage became to Me like a lion in a forest; against Me it roared; therefore I hated it. [9] Is not this heritage of Mine the den of a hyena? to Me indeed it is the den around her.

Go, collect all the beasts of the field and let them come and devour it. [10] Many shepherds have destroyed My vineyard, they have defiled My portion, they have made My beloved portion a trackless desert: [11] it is given up to total destruction. On My account the whole land is utterly desolated. Because there is not a man who layeth this [My word] to heart, [12] against every

outlet by the wilderness destroyers are come; because the sword of the Lord devoureth from one end of the land to the other, there is no peace for any flesh. [13] Sow wheat and reap brambles. Their portions shall not profit them. Be ashamed of your boasting, of reproaches against the Lord.

[14] For thus saith the Lord: Respecting all those malignant neighbours, who touch My inheritance which I parcelled out to My people Israel: behold I am about to pluck them out of their land, and I will drive out Juda from among them, [15] but after I have driven them out, I will return and have compassion on them, and settle them each one in his inheritance even every one in his own land. [16] And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the way of My people to swear by My name: *As the Lord liveth, as they taught My people to swear by Baal*; they shall be established among My people: [17] but if they will not return; I will assuredly root out that nation with ruin and destruction.

* CHAPTER XIII *

THUS saith the Lord, Go and get thee a linen girdle and gird it about thy loins; but it must not be washed with water. [2] And when I had procured the girdle according to the word of the Lord and had girded it about my loins, [3] a word of the Lord came to me saying, [4] Take the girdle which is about thy loins, and arise and go to the Euphrates and hide it there in the hole of the rock. [5] So I went and hid it by the Euphrates as the Lord commanded me. [6] And after many days the Lord said to me, Arise and go to the Euphrates and take thence the girdle, which I commanded thee to hide there. [7] So I went to the river Euphrates and digged and took the girdle out of the place where I had buried it; and behold it was rotten and good for nothing.

[8] Then a word of the Lord came to me saying, [9] Thus saith the Lord: So will I mar the haughtiness of Juda, and the haughtiness of Jerusalem, [10] that great haughtiness—them who refuse to hearken to My words, and have gone after strange gods to serve them and worship them: and they shall be like this girdle which is good for nothing. [11] For, as the girdle is tightly bound around the loins of its owner, so did I bind to Myself the house of Israel and the whole house of Juda; that they might be for Me a renowned people, and for a boast and for a glory. But they have not hearkened to Me.

[12] Therefore thou shalt say to this people, Every leathern bottle is to be filled with wine. And if they say to thee, Do we not know very well that every leathern bottle is to be filled with wine? [13] Then thou shalt say to them, Thus saith the Lord: Behold I will fill the inhabitants of this land, both their kings who are seated as sons of David on their thrones, and the priests and the prophets, even Juda and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, with drunkenness. [14] And I will scatter them, their heads of families and their brethren, both fathers and their sons at the same time. I will not have compassion, saith the Lord, nor will I spare, nor pity them for their destruction.

[15] (p) Hearken and give ear and be not elated; for the Lord hath spoken. [16] Give glory to the Lord your God, before the darkness cometh, and before your feet stumble on the dark mountains; when you will wait for light; and the shadow of death will be there; and they shall be placed in darkness. [17] But if you will not hearken, your soul shall weep in secret for your haughtiness; and tears shall gush from your eyes; because the flock of the Lord is destroyed.

[18] (J) Say to the king and the rulers: Humble yourselves and sit on the ground; for from your head is taken your crown of glory. [19] The cities of the south shall be shut up and there shall be none to open. Juda is removed; they have made a complete removal. [20] Raise thine eyes, O Jerusalem, and see them who are coming from the north! Where is the flock that was given thee—the flock of thy glory? [21] What wilt thou say, when these visit thee, seeing thou thyself hast taught them against thyself lessons for government. Will not pangs seize thee as a woman in travail? [22] Now shouldst thou say in thy heart, Why have such things befallen me? For the greatness of thine iniquity thy back is uncovered, that thy heels may be exposed to view!

[23] Will an Ethiopian change his skin and a leopard her spots? As for you, then, will you who have learned these evils be able to do good? [24] Therefore I have scattered them like stubble whirled by wind to a desert; [25] this, then, shall be thy lot and portion for your disobeying me, saith the Lord. As thou hast forgotten Me and trusted in lies; [26] I therefore will expose thee naked to view that thy shame may be seen—namely, thy adultery and thy neighing and the lewdness of thy whoredom. [27] On the mounts and in the fields I have seen thine abominations. Alas for thee, Jerusalem, because thou hast not purified thyself to follow Me. How much longer will it be before thou wilt?

* CHAPTER XIV *

THERE came also to Jeremias a word of the Lord concerning the drought. [2] Judea mourned and her gates were deserted: and darkness overspread the land and the cry of Jerusalem ascended. [3] When her nobles sent their underlings for water; they went to the wells and found no water and returned with their vessels empty. [4] A stop was put to the works of the field because there was no rain. The husbandmen were confounded; they covered their heads. [5] The hinds calved in the field and left their young because there was not a [green] plant. [6] The wild asses stood in the forests and snuffed up the wind: their eyes failed because there was no grass.

[7] Our sins have risen up against us. O Lord, deal with us for Thine own sake: for our sins are many in Thy sight—for we have sinned against Thee. [8] Thou, O Lord, art the hope of Israel, and savest in time of troubles. Why art Thou become as a stranger in the land—as a traveller turning aside for a lodging? [9] Wilt Thou be like a man asleep or like a head of a family who cannot save? as Thou, O Lord, art among us and we are called by Thy name, O! do not forget us.

[10] Thus saith the Lord to this people: They have loved to wander and did not refrain, therefore God hath not prospered their ways, He will now remember their iniquity. [11] Then the Lord said to me, Pray not for the prosperity of this people; [12] for though they fast I will not hear their prayer; and though they offer whole burnt offerings and sacrifices, I will not accept them. For with sword, and with famine, and with pestilence, I will utterly consume them. [13] Thereupon I said, O self-existent Lord! behold their prophets prophesy and say, You shall not see the sword; nor shall there be famine among you. For I will give truth and peace in this land and in this very place.

[14] Then the Lord said to me: These prophets prophesy falsehood in My name; I did not send them, nor command them, nor did I speak to them. Because they prophesy to you lying visions and divinations, and auguries, and the devices of their own hearts; [15] therefore thus saith the Lord concerning those prophets: Those who prophesy falsehoods in My name, and who say (though I did not send them), 'There shall be no sword nor famine in this land,' they shall die a direful death; and by famine these prophets shall be consumed. [16] And the people to whom they prophesy,

with their wives and their sons and their daughters, shall, by reason of the sword and the famine, be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem; and there shall be none to bury them, when I pour out these evils on them. [17] Therefore thou shalt deliver to them this word: Collect tears for your eyes day and night and let them not fail; for with a bruise the daughter of My people is bruised, and the wound is exceedingly painful.

[18] (p) If I go out into the field, behold the slain of the sword! and if I go into the city; behold the distress of famine! seeing priest and prophet are gone to a land which they knew not: [19] hast Thou utterly rejected Juda and is Thy soul alienated from Sion? Why hast Thou smitten us, and there is no cure for us? We waited for peace, and there was no good; for a time of healing, and behold trouble! [20] We acknowledge, O Lord, our sins and the iniquities of our fathers—that we have sinned against Thee. [21] O be appeased for Thy name's sake. Destroy not the throne of Thy glory; remember, O dissolve not Thy covenant with us. [22] Is there any among the idols of the nations who can give rain? and if the heaven shed its abundance, art Thou not He who causeth it. Therefore we will wait on Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast done all these things.

* CHAPTER XV *

THEN the Lord said to me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before Me, My soul is not towards them. Send away this people and let them go. [2] And if they say to thee, Whither shall we go? then thou shalt say to them, Thus saith the Lord, such as are for pestilence, to pestilence, and such as are for the sword, to the sword; and such as are for famine, to famine; and such as are for captivity, to captivity. [3] For I will send against them four kinds of avengers, saith the Lord, the sword to slay; and the dogs to tear; and the wild beasts of the earth, and the birds of the air to devour and destroy. [4] And I will deliver them up to distress in all the kingdoms of the earth, on account of Manasses son of Ezekias king of Juda—for all that he did in Jerusalem.

[5] Who will pity thee, Jerusalem? or who will bemoan thee? or who will turn aside to inquire after thy welfare? [6] Thou hast turned thy back on Me, saith the Lord: backwards thou shalt go. And I will stretch forth My hand and destroy thee. I will no longer

bear with them; [7] but utterly disperse them. In the gates of My people they are bereaved of children; My people are destroyed because of their wickedness! [8] Their widows are multiplied above the sand of the sea. Against a mother I have brought soldiers—misery at noon-day. Upon her I have cast suddenly terror and consternation. [9] She who was the mother of seven is childless; her soul is afflicted, the sun set upon her while it is yet mid-day; she is ashamed and confounded: the rest of them I will deliver up to the sword before their enemies.

[10] (p) Woe is me, O my mother, what sort of a person hast thou born [in] me! a man of strife and contending with all this land! I have neither lent on usury: nor hath any one lent to me; yet my strength is spent among them who curse me. [11] Be it so, O Lord, while they enjoy prosperity.

(J) Did I not stand by thee, in the time of their calamities and in the time of their affliction, for good with the enemy? [12] Shall the sword be felt and thy strength be a coat of mail? [13] Thy treasures indeed I will give for a spoil in all thy borders, as a ransom for all thy sins; [14] and I will make thee a slave to thine enemies around in the land which thou hast not known. For a fire is kindled from My wrath and against you it shall blaze.

[15] (p) O Lord, remember me and visit me and save me from them, who are persecuting me past forbearance. Consider how I have for Thy sake borne reproach from them who despise my words. [16] Bring them to an end. But let Thy word be to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart. Because I am called by Thy name, O Lord Almighty; [17] I did not sit in the council of those scorers; but was struck with awe because of Thy hand. I sat alone because I was full of bitterness. [18] Why do they who grieve me prevail over me? My wound is deep, how can I be healed? It is indeed become to me like deceitful water which cannot be trusted.

[19] (J) Therefore thus saith the Lord: If thou wilt return I will reinstate thee; and in My presence thou shalt stand. And if thou wilt lead out the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as My mouth; and they shall turn to thee and thou shalt not turn to them. [20] And I will make thee to this people like a strong wall of brass: though they fight against thee, they shall not prevail over thee; for I am with thee to save thee and rescue thee out of the hand of the wicked. [21] And I will redeem thee out of the hand of pestilent men.

* CHAPTER XVI *

BUT thou must not take a wife, saith the Lord God of Israel; [2] nor shall a son or a daughter be born to thee in this place. [3] For thus saith the Lord concerning the sons and concerning the daughters born in this place, and concerning the mothers who bore them, and concerning their fathers who begot them in this land; [4] by a direful death they shall die; they shall not be lamented, nor shall they be buried; they shall be for a spectacle on the face of the earth; they shall be for the wild beasts of the earth, and the birds of the air. By the sword they shall fall, and by famine they shall be consumed. [5] Thus saith the Lord: Join not in their funeral entertainments; go not to make lamentation nor bewail them. [6] Since I have taken away My peace from this people, no lamentation shall be made for them; nor shall any cut themselves nor be shaved.

[7] There shall neither be bread broken in their mourning, to comfort them for the dead; nor shall a cup of consolation be given to any one for his father or mother. [8] Into a house of feasting thou shalt not enter, to sit with them to eat and to drink: [9] for thus saith the Lord the God of Israel: Behold I am about to remove out of this place, before your eyes and in these your days, the sound of joy and the sound of mirth, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride.

[10] Now when thou hast proclaimed to this people all these words and they say to thee, Why hath the Lord denounced against us all these evils? What is our iniquity? And what is our sin which we have committed against the Lord our God? [11] Then thou shalt say to them, Because your fathers have forsaken Me, saith the Lord, and have run after strange gods and served them and worshipped them, and have forsaken Me and have not kept My law; [12] and you have done evil worse than your fathers; and lo! you walk every one after the desires of your wicked heart, that you may not hearken to Me: [13] therefore I will hurl you out of this land, into a land which neither your nor your fathers knew; and you shall there serve strange gods which will shew you no mercy.

[14] Therefore behold the days are coming, saith the Lord, when they shall no more say, 'As the Lord liveth Who brought up the Israelites out of the land of Egypt': [15] but, 'as the Lord liveth, Who brought up the house of Israel from the north, and

from all the countries to which they were driven'; for I will bring them again to their land which I gave to their fathers. [16] Behold I will send many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them: and after that I will send many hunters and they shall hunt them, on every mountain and every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks. [17] Because Mine eyes are on all their ways, and their iniquities are not hid from Mine eyes, [18] therefore I will doubly requite them for their wickedness and their sins—for their having defiled My land with the carcasses of their abominations, and for their acts of iniquity with which they have caused My heritage to transgress.

[19] (p) O Lord, Thou art my strength and my help, and my refuge in days of affliction. To Thee nations will come from the extremity of the earth and say, What lying idols did our fathers possess! there is no advantage in them. [20] If a man make gods for himself, they are indeed no gods.

[21] (J) For this purpose, behold! I will at that time manifest My hand to them and make known to them My power, and they shall know that My name is The Lord.

* CHAPTER XVII *

[5] CURSED is the man whose hope is on man—who shall fix the flesh of his arm on him, and whose heart hath departed from the Lord. [6] He shall be like the wild myrtle in the desert. He shall not see when good cometh; but shall dwell in parched places and in a desert—in a salt land which is uninhabited. [7] But blessed is the man who hath trusted in the Lord; and whose hope is the Lord. [8] He will be like a thriving tree near waters which shall shoot out its roots in a moist soil. It will not be afraid when heat cometh, though its stock be loaded with branches. In a year of drouth it will not be afraid, nor will it fail to bear fruit.

[9] (p) The heart is deep beyond all things; so also is a man, who then can know Him?

[10] (J) I the Lord search hearts and try reins, to give to every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his devices.

[11] A partridge whistled and collected young which it did not bring forth, increasing its wealth but not with judgment; in the midst of its days they will leave it, and at its end it will be a fool.

[12] (p) Our sanctuary is an exalted throne of glory. [13] Thou, O Lord art the hope of Israel. Let all who forsake Thee be

ashamed; let them who have apostatised be enrolled in the dust, because they have forsaken the Lord the fountain of life. [14] Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed. Save me, and I shall be saved. Because Thou art my boast, behold they say to me, [15] Where is the word of the Lord? Let it come.

[16] As for me, I was not weary of following Thee, nor did I desire the day of a man: Thou knowest. The words which pass my lips are before Thee, [17] be not estranged from me. Spare me in an evil day. [18] Let my persecutors be ashamed; but let me not be shamed. Let them be dismayed; but let not me be dismayed. Bring upon them an evil day. Crush them with a double crush.

[19] Thus saith the Lord: Go and stand in the gates of the children of thy people at which the kings of Juda come in and at which they go out, even at all the gates of Jerusalem, [20] and thou shalt say to them, Hear the word of the Lord, O kings of Juda and all Juda and all Jerusalem, who enter in by these gates! [21] Thus saith the Lord, Take heed to yourselves and carry no burdens on the sabbath day; nor go out of the gates of Jerusalem. [22] Neither carry burdens out of your houses on the sabbath day nor do any work. Hallow the sabbath day as I commanded your fathers. [23] Though they did not hearken, though they did not incline their ear, but stiffened their necks more than their fathers, that they might not hearken to Me nor receive instruction; [24] yet if you will hearken to Me, saith the Lord, and not carry burdens through the gates of this city on the sabbath day, but hallow the sabbath day by doing no work thereon; [25] there shall enter in at the gates of this city, kings and chiefs seated on the throne of David and riding in chariots and on horses, they and their chiefs, the men of Juda and the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and this city shall be inhabited for the age.

[26] And there shall come from the cities of Juda and from around Jerusalem and from the land of Benjamin and from the plain and from the mountain and from the country to the south, people bringing whole burnt offerings and sacrifices and incense and fine flour and frankincense—bringing offerings of thanksgivings to the house of the Lord. [27] But if you will not hearken to Me to hallow the sabbath day, so as not to carry burdens nor come in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day, I will kindle a fire in the gates thereof and it shall consume the streets of Jerusalem and shall not be quenched.

* CHAPTER XVIII *

THE word which came to Jeremias from the Lord, saying: [2] Arise and go down to the house of the potter and there thou shalt hear My words.

[3] So I went down to the house of the potter; and behold he was making a piece of work on stones; [4] and the vessel, which he was fashioning with his hands, fell, whereupon he again made it a vessel of another sort as it seemed good to him to make it. [5] Then a word of the Lord came to me saying, Cannot I do with you, [6] O house of Israel, as this potter? [7] Behold you are in My hands like the clay of the potter. When I speak to a nation or kingdom, that I will remove and destroy them; [8] if that nation turn from all their evils, I will relent in respect to the evils which I was resolving to bring on them. [9] And when I speak to a nation and kingdom that I will build up and replant. [10] If they do evil in My sight so as not to hearken to My voice, I indeed will alter My mind in respect to the good things which I spoke of doing for them.

[11] Now I have said to the men of Juda and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Behold I am preparing evils against you and forming against you a determination; turn therefore every one from his evil way and make better things the objects of your pursuit. [12] But they said, We will act like men. We will follow our own courses; and what every one findeth agreeable to his own wicked heart that we will do.

[13] Therefore thus saith the Lord: Inquire among the nations. Who hath heard of such horrible things as the virgin of Israel hath sedulously done? [14] Will crags forsake a rock or snow quit Lebanon? Or water turn aside when furiously driven by wind? [15] Because My people have forgotten Me—have burned incense to vanity; they will therefore break down the everlasting barriers in their ways that they may walk in paths having no road for traveling— [16] that they may make the land a desolation—an everlasting object of pity. All that pass through it shall be astonished and shake their head. [17] Like a burning wind I will scatter them before their enemies. I will shew them the day of their destruction.

[18] Upon this they said, Come let us settle on account with Jeremias. Because law shall not perish from the priest, nor coun-

sel from the wise, nor a word from the prophet, Come and that we may smite him with the tongue, let us hear all his words.

[19] Hear me, O Lord, and hearken to my justification. [20] Shall evils be returned for good offices? Because they contrived designs against my life and concealed the punishment they intended for me. Remember how I stood before Thee to intercede for them—to turn away Thy wrath from them. [21] For this cause deliver up their sons to famine and give them up in multitudes to the sword. Let their wives become childless and widows, and the husbands be cut off by pestilence and their young men fall by the sword in battle. [22] Let a scream be heard in their houses. Thou wilt bring robbers suddenly on them because they contrived a speech to entrap me and concealed the snares they had set for me. [23] Thou indeed, O Lord, knewest all their designs against me to put me to death. Absolve them not from their wickedness, nor blot out their sins from before Thee. Let their weakness be before Thee. Deal with them in the time of Thy wrath.

* CHAPTER XIX *

THEN the Lord said to me, Go and get a pitcher of earthenware and thou shalt take out some of the elders of the people and of the priests [2] and go out to the common grave yard which is at the entrance of the gate *Charseith* and read there all these words which I shall speak to thee and thou shalt say to them,

[3] Hear the word of the Lord, ye kings of Juda and ye men of Juda and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and ye who enter in at these gates. Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel: Behold I am bringing evils upon this place, so that the ears of every one who heareth them shall tingle. [4] Because they have forsaken Me and profaned this place; and have burned incense in it to strange gods, which neither they nor their fathers knew. And the kings of Juda have filled this place with the blood of innocents, [5] and have built high places to Baal to burn their sons with fire, things which I never commanded, and which never came into My mind.

[6] Therefore behold the days are coming, saith the Lord, When this place shall no more be called, *The end of hope*, and *The graveyard of the sons of Ennom*, but *The graveyard of slaughter*. [7] For I will slaughter the council of Juda and the council of Jerusalem in this place; And cause them to fall by the sword before their

enemies, and by the hands of them who seek their lives. And I will give their carcasses to be meat for the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, and make this city a desolation and an object of pity. [8] Everyone who passeth by it shall be sad and express the sound of pity for the stroke which it hath received. [9] They shall indeed eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters; and they shall eat, every one, the flesh of his neighbour during the blockade and siege with which their enemies shall besiege them.

[10] Then thou shalt break the pitcher before the eyes of the men who went out with thee [11] and say, Thus saith the Lord: So will I break this people and this city: as this earthen pitcher is broken and cannot be mended, [12] so will I do, saith the Lord, to this place and to the inhabitants thereof, that this city may be dashed down like that hopeless vessel. [13] And the houses of the kings of Juda shall be like this hopeless place, because of their impurities in all the houses, on the tops of which they burned incense to all the host of heaven and poured out libations to strange gods.

[14] Now when Jeremias returned from the graveyard whither the Lord had sent him to prophesy, he stood up in the court of the house of the Lord and said to all the people: [15] Thus saith the Lord, Behold I am bringing upon this city and upon all the cities belonging to it and upon all the villages thereof all the evils which I have denounced against it, because they have hardened their necks so as not to hearken to My commandments.

* CHAPTER XX *

WHEREUPON Paschor son of Emmer, the priest who was appointed ruler of the house of the Lord, when he heard Jeremias prophesying these words, [2] smote him and committed him to the prison which was in the upper story of the gate to the house of the Lord. [3] And when Paschor took Jeremias out of prison, Jeremias said to him, He hath not called thy name *Paschor*, but *Exile*. [4] For thus saith the Lord, Behold I will send thee with all thy friends into exile; and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies and thine eyes shall see it. I will deliver thee and all Juda into the hands of the king of Babylon; and they shall be exiled and slain with swords. [5] And I will deliver all the strength of this city and all the labours thereof and all the treasures

of the king of Juda into the hands of his enemies and they shall carry them to Babylon. [6] And thou and all that dwell in thy house shall go into captivity and thou shalt die in Babylon and be buried there, thou and all thy friends to whom thou hast prophesied falsehoods.

[7] Hast thou, O Lord deceived me? and have I been deceived? Thou hast taken hold and hast prevailed. I am become a subject of laughter: all the day long I endure reproach. [8] Because I am to be derided for my bitter word, shall I appeal to a breach of covenant and misery? because the word of the Lord became a reproach to me—a subject of mockery all the day long. [9] Therefore I said, I will not name the name of the Lord—I will not speak anymore in His name. But there was kindled as it were a burning fire in my bones and I became dejected and cannot bear it [10] because I heard the whisper of many collected from all around saying: Join in conspiracy and let us all conspire against him; ye men who are his friends watch his thoughts; if he can be deceived, we shall then prevail over him and take our revenge on him.

[11] But the Lord was with me as a mighty warrior, therefore they persecuted and could not contrive. They were put to great confusion.

Because they had not a due sense of their infamous practices, which are never to be forgotten. [12] O Lord, who provest righteous things, who knowest the reins and hearts [of men], I might have seen Thy vengeance on them. For to Thee I laid open my cause. [13] Sing to the Lord; sing praises to Him, because He hath rescued the soul of the needy out of the hand of evil doers.

[14] Let the day be cursed on which I was born—the day on which my mother bore me. Let it not be mentioned with expressions of joy. [15] Let the man be cursed who brought tidings to my father saying, *A male child is born to thee*, making him glad. [16] Let that man be like the cities which the Lord overthrew in wrath and relented not, Let him hear a scream in the morning and the cry of woe at noon-day, [17] because He did not kill me in the womb, and my mother was not made my grave, and her womb always with child. [18] To what purpose this? I came forth from the womb to see labours and sorrows, and my days have been spent in shame.

* CHAPTER XXI *

THE word which came from the Lord to Jeremias when king Sedekias sent to him Paschor son of Melchias, and Sophonias son of Basaias the priest saying, [2] Inquire of the Lord concerning us for the king of Babylon is come against us. Will the Lord do according to all His wondrous works that he [the king of Babylon] may depart from us?

[3] Thereupon Jeremias said to them, Thus shall you say to Sedekias king of Juda: [4] Thus saith the Lord: Behold I turn back the weapons of war with which you fight against the Chaldeans who have besieged you without the wall. And I will bring them into this city. [5] I Myself indeed will fight against you with an outstretched hand and a strong arm, with wrath and with great indignation. [6] And I will smite all the inhabitants of this city, both men and beasts with a great pestilence, and they shall die.

[7] And after that, saith the Lord, I will deliver Sedekias, king of Juda, and his servants and the people left in this city from the pestilence and from the famine and from the sword, into the hands of their enemies who seek their lives, and they shall smite them with the edge of the sword. I will not spare them, nor will I have compassion on them. [8] And to this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the Lord, Behold I have set before you the way of life and the way of death. [9] He who abideth in this city, shall die by the sword and famine, but he who goeth out to the Chaldeans who have besieged you, he shall live. His life shall be given him for a spoil and he shall live.

[10] For I have set My face against this city for evils and not for good. It shall be delivered into the hands of the king of Babylon and he will burn it with fire. [11] With respect to the house of the king of Juda, hear a word of the Lord, [12] O house of David. Thus saith the Lord: Administer judgment in the morning and relieve and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of him who wrongeth him, that My wrath may not be kindled like a fire and blaze so that none can quench it.

[13] Behold I am against thee who inhabitest the vale of Sor—that plain—them who say, who can terrify us? or who can come into our habitation? [14] And I will kindle a fire in its forests and it shall devour all things around it.

* CHAPTER XXII *

THUS saith the Lord: Go down to the house of the king of Juda and thou shalt speak there this word [2] and say, Hear a word of the Lord, O king of Juda, who art seated on the throne of David, thou and thy household and thy people and they who enter in at these gates! [3] Thus saith the Lord: Execute judgment and justice and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of him who wrongeth him; and over the stranger and the orphan and the widow tyrannise not; nor be guilty of impiety; nor shed innocent blood in this place. [4] For if you faithfully execute this charge, there shall enter in at the gates of this house, kings seated on the throne of David and riding in chariots and on horses, they and their servants and their people.

[5] But if you will not perform these things, by Myself I have sworn, saith the Lord, This house shall be a desolation. [6] For thus saith the Lord against the house of the king of Juda, though thou wert to Me as Galaad, as the top of Lebanon, I will make thee a desolation, cities uninhabitable. [7] I will indeed bring against thee a destroyer, a man with his axe; and they shall cut down thy choice cedars and throw them into the fire. [8] And when nations shall pass by this city, they will say, everyone to his neighbour, Why hath the Lord dealt thus with this great city? [9] To which it will be said in reply, Because they forsook the Lord their God and worshipped strange gods and served them.

[10] Weep not for him who is dead, nor utter lamentations for him. Weep bitterly for him who is going away; for he shall never return, nor see anymore his native country. [11] For thus saith the Lord respecting Sellem son of Josias, who reigned in the room of his father and who is gone from this place: he shall not return hither any more; [12] but in the place to which I have transported him, there he shall die and this land he shall see no more.

[13] With regard to him who is building himself a house, but not with righteousness, and lofty stories, but not with justice: he useth the service of his neighbour for nothing, and will not pay him his wages. [14] Thou hast built thyself a well proportioned house, lofty chambers well fitted with windows, and ceiled with cedar and painted with vermillion. [15] Is it thy desire to be made king? Because thou art instigated by thy father Achaz, are there not feasts? Are there not entertainments? Better were it for thee to execute judgment and justice. [16] They did not take cogni-

sance, they did not administer justice to the lowly, nor decide righteously the cause of the needy, is not this owing to thy not knowing Me? saith the Lord.

[17] Behold thine eyes are not good, neither is thy heart; but they are bent upon thine inordinate desires and on the shedding of innocent blood, and on injustice, and on murder; that thou mayst perpetrate these things.

[18] Therefore thus saith the Lord respecting Joakim son of Josias, king of Juda, even concerning this man: They shall not utter for him the lamentation, Alas Brother, nor shall they bewail him saying, Alas lord. [19] He shall be buried with the burial of an ass—being blotted out he shall be cast forth without the gates of Jerusalem.

[20] Ascend Lebanon and scream; ascend Basan, and shout. Shout till thy voice reach the sea coast; for all thy lovers are destroyed. [21] I spake to thee respecting thy fall; but thou saidst, I will not listen. This hath been thy way from thy youth, thou hast not hearkened to My voice. [22] All thy shepherds shall be fed with wind; and all thy lovers shall go into captivity; that thou mayst then be ashamed and confounded on the account of them who love thee.

[23] O inhabitant of Lebanon, who hast thy nest in the cedars, thou shalt groan bitterly when pangs come upon thee like those of a woman in travail. [24] As I live, saith the Lord, though Jechonias may be made a son of Joakim, a king of Juda, a signet on My right hand,—I will drag thee out thence [25] and deliver thee into the hands of them who seek thy life—they whose countenance thou darest—into the hands of the Chaldeans. [26] And I will cast out thee and the mother who brought thee forth into a land where thou wast not born, and there thou shalt die. [27] Into the land which their souls long for they shall not return. [28] Jechonias is dishonoured like a vessel which is useless, because he is hurled away and cast into a land which he knew not. [29] O earth, earth, hear a word of the Lord! [30] Record the chieftain himself as a man of low rank, exiled by the voice of a herald; for no increase from his seed shall sit on the throne of David, nor any more be chief in Juda.

* CHAPTER XXIII *

HA! the shepherds are destroying and scattering the sheep of their pasture. [2] Therefore thus saith the Lord to the shepherds

of my people: You have scattered My flock and driven them away and have not watched them; behold I will punish you according to your malignant doings. [3] And I will gather the remains of My people in every land whither I have driven them and bring them back to their own pasture and they shall increase and multiply.

[4] And I will raise up shepherds for them who will feed them. And they shall no more be terrified nor affrighted, saith the Lord.

[5] Behold the days are coming, saith the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous shoot who shall reign as king and shall understand and execute judgment and justice on the earth.

[6] In his days Juda shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell securely.* [9] And the name which the Lord will give him by the prophets shall be *Josedek* [Lord of righteousness].

(p) My heart within me was broken. All my bones quivered. I was like a man sore bruised and like a man staggering with wine, at the presence of the Lord, and at the comeliness of His glory; [10] because on account of them the land mourned and the pastures of the wilderness were parched up—because their course was bad and suitably thereto, their strength.

[11] (J) Because priest and prophet are polluted, and in My house I have seen their wickedness; [12] let their way therefore be slippery and dark, that they may stumble and fall therein. For I will bring evils upon them in the year of their visitation. [13] Among the prophets of Samaria I saw indeed unlawful doings—they prophesied in the name of Baal and led My people Israel astray: [14] but among the prophets of Jerusalem I saw horrible things—some committing adultery, and some walking in lies, and some strengthening the hands of the multitude, that none might turn from his evil way. To Me they are all become like Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof like Gomorra.

[15] Therefore thus saith the Lord: Behold I will feed them with wormwood, and give them the water of gall to drink. Because from the prophets of Jerusalem pollution has gone forth through all the land, [16] thus saith the Lord Almighty: Harken not to the words of these prophets; for they contrive for themselves a foolish vision: they speak from their own hearts and not from the mouth of the Lord. [17] They say to them who reject the word of the Lord, You shall have peace. Even to all who are walking by their own desires, and to every one walking in the error of his own heart they say, Evils shall not come upon thee. [18] For which

* For verses 7 and 8 see the beginning passage of Ch. XXIV, where these verses appear in the Septuagint text of the Bible.

of them hath stood in the council of the Lord and seen? who hath hearkened and heard His voice?

[19] Behold a tempest from the Lord and wrath like a hurricane is issuing forth: it will come like a whirlwind upon the wicked; [20] and from the purpose of his heart the wrath of the Lord will not turn away; until it hath executed it; and until He hath established it. In the last of these days they shall perceive this. [21] I did not send these prophets, but they ran of themselves; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. [22] Now had they stood in the firm belief of Me and heard My word, they might have turned My people from their wicked pursuits.

[23] I am God when near, saith the Lord; and am I not God when far off? [24] Can anyone hide himself in secret places and I not see him? Do I not fill the heaven and the earth? saith the Lord. [25] I have heard what these prophets speak—what they prophesy in My name, saying falsely, I have dreamed a dream. [26] How long shall it be in the heart of these prophets, who prophesy lies, that by prophesying the desires of their own hearts — [27] they may count upon causing My name to be forgotten, by their dreams which they tell, every one to his neighbour; as their fathers forgot My name by using Baal? [28] Let the prophet, who hath a dream, tell his dream: and let him, to whom My word cometh, declare it with truth. Why is the chaff added to the wheat? Is not this the case with My words? saith the Lord. [29] Behold are not My words like fire? saith the Lord; and like a sledge which breaketh a rock?

[30] Therefore behold I am against those prophets, saith the Lord, who steal My words every one from his neighbour. [31] Behold I am against those prophets, who belch forth prophesies of the tongue and drowse their dozy drowsings: [32] therefore behold I am against those prophets who prophesy false dreams. Have they not told them and led My people astray by their lies and their errors? As for Me, I neither sent them nor commanded them; therefore they cannot in anywise benefit this people. [33] Now if this people or a priest or a prophet should ask, What is the burden of the Lord? Thou shalt say to them, You are that burden and I will cast you off, saith the Lord. [34] As for the prophet and the priests and the people who say, The burden of the Lord; I will punish that man and his house.

[35] Thus you shall say everyone to his neighbour and everyone to his brother, What hath the Lord answered, and, What hath the Lord spoken. [36] So mention no more the burden of the Lord:

since every man's word shall be his burden. [37] But why hath the Lord our God spoken? [38] For this cause, saith the Lord our God, because you have used this expression, The Burden of the Lord, though I sent to you saying: You shall not say, The Burden of the Lord. [39] Therefore behold I will take and dash down you and this city which I gave to you and your fathers; [40] and I will bring upon you everlasting reproach, and everlasting dishonour which shall not be forgotten.

* CHAPTER XXIV *

[Because of this prophecy (Ch. XVI, v. 14, 15)]:

BEHOLD the days are coming, saith the Lord, when they shall no more say, As the Lord liveth Who brought up the house of Israel, out of the land of Egypt, but, As the Lord liveth Who gathered all the seed of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries whither He had driven them and re-established them in their own land,—[because of this] the Lord shewed me two baskets of figs set before the temple of the Lord, after Nabuchodonosar the king of Babylon had carried away Jechonias son of Joakim, king of Juda, and the chiefs and the artisans and the prisoners of war and the rich men from Jerusalem and brought them to Babylon. [2] The one was a basket of very fine figs, such as are first ripe; and the other was a basket of very bad figs, so bad that they could not be eaten.

[3] And the Lord said to me, What seest thou, Jeremias? [4] And I said, Figs; the good figs, very good: and the bad figs, very bad—so bad, that they cannot be eaten. [5] Then a word of the Lord came to me saying, Thus saith the Lord the God of Israel: Like these good figs so will I acknowledge for good those banished Jews whom I have sent from this place to the land of the Chaldeans. [6] And I will fix Mine eyes upon them for good and re-establish them in this land for good. And I will build them up and not pull them down: [7] and I will plant them and not root them up: and I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord: and they shall be My people, and I will be their God; for they will turn to Me with their whole heart.

[8] But like those bad figs which for their badness cannot be eaten, thus saith the Lord, So will I deliver up Sedekias, king of Juda, and his nobles and the remnant of Jerusalem—they who are left in this land and them who dwell in Egypt. [9] Them in-

deed I will devote to dispersion in all the kingdoms of the earth; and they shall be for a reproach and for a by-word and for a taunt and a curse in every place whither I shall drive them. [10] And I will send against them famine and pestilence and the sword, until they are utterly consumed from this land which I gave them.

* CHAPTER XXV *

THE word [of God] which came to Jeremias concerning all the people of Juda in the fourth year of Joakim son of Josias, king of Juda, [2] which he spoke to all the people of Juda and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying:

[3] From the thirteenth year of Josias son of Amos, king of Juda, even to this day, for three and twenty years I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking; [4] and I have sent to you My servants the prophets, sending them early, though you have not hearkened nor inclined your ears; [5] saying, Turn ye every one from his evil way, and from your wicked pursuits and you shall dwell in this land, which I gave to you and your fathers from age to age. [6] Go not after strange gods to serve them, and worship them, that you may not provoke Me by the works of your hands to bring evils upon you. [7] But you hearkened not to Me.

[8] Therefore thus saith the Lord: Since you have not believed My words, [9] behold I am sending, and I will take a family from the north and bring them against this land and against the inhabitants thereof and against all the nations around it. And I will lay them waste and make them a desolation and an object of pity and an everlasting reproach. [10] And I will destroy from among them the sound of joy and the sound of gladness; the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride; the odour of myrrh and the light of the lamp. [11] And the whole country shall be a desolation. And they shall be slaves among the nations seventy years.

[12] And when the seventy years are completed I will execute vengeance on that nation, and make them an everlasting desolation. [13] I will indeed bring against that land all these words of Mine which I have spoken against it—all the things which are written in this book which Jeremias prophesied against the nations.*

* From this point on, the older Septuagint text of Jeremiah differs markedly from the order of the presently received text, revised in the Christian era by rabbinical scribes. Those who wish to read the original order of the

[15] Thus said the Lord, the God of Israel: Take this cup of wine—this strong wine from My hand, and thou shalt make all the nations, to which I send thee, drink it. [16] And they shall drink and vomit and rave, because of the sword which I send among them.

[17] So I took the cup out of the hand of the Lord and made all the nations drink to which the Lord sent me, [18] namely Jerusalem, and the cities of Juda, and the kings of Juda, and his chiefs, to make them a desolation and a waste and an object of pity; [19] also Pharaoh king of Egypt and his servants and his nobles and all his people; [20] and all the mixed people; and all the kings of the Philistines (namely, Askalon and Gaza and Akkaron and the remnant of Azotus); [21] and Idumea and Moab and the children of Ammon; [22] and the kings of Tyre and the kings of Sidon; and the kings on the border of the sea; [23] and Daidan and Thaiman and Ros, and all that had their foreheads shaven; [24] and all the mixed people who dwell in the desert; [25] and all the kings of Ailam and all the kings of the Persians [26] and all the kings north of the sun, far and near, every one adjoining his brother, even all the kingdoms on the face of the earth. [27] And thou shalt say to them, Thus said the Lord Almighty: Drink and be drunk, and you shall vomit, and fall and rise no more because of the sword which I send among you.

[28] And if they refuse to take the cup out of thy hand to drink, then thou shalt say, Thus saith the Lord: You shall drink it; [29] for in the city which is called by My name I am beginning to inflict calamity and with purification you shall not be purified; for I am calling for a sword against all the inhabitants of the earth. [30] Therefore thou shalt prophesy against them all these words and say; The Lord from on high will solemnly pronounce sentence from His sanctuary; He will utter His voice—in His place He will utter a triumphant shout and some like the treading of grapes will answer. When destruction hath come on the inhabitants of this land— [31] upon a part of the earth; because the Lord hath a controversy with the nations, He will come to judgment with all flesh; and the wicked shall be given up to the sword, saith the Lord.

[32] Thus saith the Lord: Behold, evils are coming from nation to nation. A mighty tempest is issuing forth from the extremity of

Septuagint text should read the following chapters in consecutive order: Ch. 25 (v. 1-13), 49 (v. 34 to end), 46, 50, 51, 47, 49 (v. 7-22), 49 (v. 1-5), 49 (v. 28-33), 49 (v. 23-27), 48, 25 (v. 15 to end), 26 through 45, and finally Ch. 52.

the earth, and the slain of the Lord shall in the day of the Lord be from one end of the earth to the other. [33] They shall not be buried. They shall be for dung on the face of the earth. Raise the mournful cry, ye shepherds; [34] utter loud moans and lamentations, ye rams of the flock; for the days for your slaughter are accomplished, and ye shall fall like choice rams; [35] and the shepherds shall have no way to flee, nor the rams of the flock to escape. [36] Hark! a sound of the shepherds' screaming! and a doleful bleating of the sheep and the rams! For the Lord hath utterly destroyed their pastures [37] and because of His fierce anger He will put an end to the remains of peace. [38] Like a lion He hath quitted His covert; therefore their land is become a trackless desert by reason of the mighty sword.

* CHAPTER XXVI *

IN the beginning of the reign of Joakim son of Josias, this word came from the Lord.

[2] Thus saith the Lord: Stand in the court of the house of the Lord and thou shalt solemnly pronounce to all the Jews and to all who come to worship in the house of the Lord all the words which I have commanded thee to prophesy to them; keep not back a word. [3] Perhaps they may hearken and turn every one from his evil way, that I may refrain from all the evils which I am resolving to do to them, because of their wicked pursuits. [4] And thou shalt say, 'Thus saith the Lord', unless you hearken to Me so as to walk by the ordinances which I have set before you; [5] and hearken to the words of My servants the prophets, whom I send to you, whom I, rising early, have sent to you, though you have not hearkened to them; [6] I will make this house like Selo; and this city I will make a curse for all the nations of the whole earth.

[7] So the priests and the false prophets and all the people heard Jeremias pronouncing these words in the house of the Lord. [8] And when Jeremias had done speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to deliver to all the people; the priests and the false prophets and all the people seized him, saying, [9] Thou shalt be put to death, because thou hast prophesied in the name of the Lord saying, This house shall be like Selo, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitants. And all the people were assembled against Jeremias in the house of the Lord.

[10] When the chiefs of Juda heard the affair, they went up from the king's house to the house of the Lord and sat down in the vestibule of the new gate. [11] And the priests and the false prophets addressed the chiefs, and said to all the people, Let sentence of death pass on this man, because he hath prophesied against this city as you have heard with your ears. [12] Whereupon Jeremias, addressing the chiefs, spoke to all the people saying, The Lord hath sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city, all the words which you have heard. [13] Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and hearken to the voice of the Lord; and the Lord will refrain from all the evils which He hath denounced against you. [14] As for me, behold I am in your hands. Do with me as seemeth good and best to you. [15] But be assured that if you put me to death, you bring innocent blood on yourselves and upon this city and upon the inhabitants thereof. For in truth, the Lord hath sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing.

[16] Then the chiefs and all the people said to the priests and the false prophets, This man is not liable to death, for he hath spoken to us in the name of the Lord. [17] And there stood up some principal men of the elders of the land, and said to all the assembly of the people, [18] Michaias the Morasthite lived in the days of Ezekias king of Juda, and he said to all the people of Juda, Thus said the Lord: Sion shall be ploughed like a field; and Jerusalem shall be a desolation; and the mountain of this house, a grove of a forest. [19] But did Ezekias and all Juda put him to death? No. Because they feared the Lord; and because they in-treated the favour of the Lord: therefore the Lord refrained from the evils which He had denounced against them. Now as for us, we have committed great evils against our souls.

[20] Now there was a man who prophesied in the name of the Lord, namely Ourias son of Samaias of Kariathiarim; and he prophesied against this land according to all the words of Jeremias. [21] And when king Joakim and all the chiefs heard all his words, and sought to kill him and Ourias heard it, he fled to Egypt. [22] And the king sent men to Egypt, [23] who fetched him out thence and brought him to the king; and he slew him with the sword and threw him into the common grave yard. [24] But the hand of Achikam son of Saphan was with Jeremias that they should not deliver him up into the hands of the people, nor kill him.

* CHAPTER XXVII *

AT the beginning of the reign of king Joakim, son of Josias, came this word from the Lord.

[2] Thus said the Lord, Make thee chains and yokes and put them about thy neck; [3] and thou shalt send them to the king of Idumea and to the king of Moab and to the king of the Ammonites and to the king of Tyre and to the king of Sidon by the hands of their ambassadors, who are coming to meet those sent to Jerusalem to Sedekias king of Juda. [4] And thou shalt charge them to say to their masters,

Thus said the Lord, the God of Israel: Thus shall you say to your masters, [5] As I have made the earth by My great power and by My outstretched arm, I can give it to whom it seemeth good in Mine eyes. [6] I have given this land to Nabuchodonosar king of Babylon to serve him, and the beasts of the field to work for him. [8] And the nation and the kingdom—all who will not submit their neck to the yoke of the king of Babylon, them I will visit with sword and famine, said the Lord, until they are consumed by his hand. [9] Therefore hearken not to your false prophets, nor to them who divine or dream for you, nor to your augurers, nor your sorcerers who say, You shall not serve the king of Babylon; [10] for they prophesy lies to you to remove you far from your land. [11] But the nation which shall submit its neck to the yoke of the king of Babylon and work for him, that nation I will leave in its own hand. It laboureth for him and it shall dwell therein.

[12] So I spoke to Sedekias king of Juda according to all these words, saying, Submit your neck to work for the king of Babylon. For these men prophesy falsehoods to you; [15] for I have not sent them, saith the Lord. They indeed prophesy in My name for falsehood to destroy you; therefore you shall be destroyed, both you and your prophets who prophesy to you for unjust falsehood. [16] To you and to all this people and to the priests I have spoken, saying, Thus said the Lord: [17] Hearken not to the words of those prophets who prophesy to you saying, Behold the vessels of the house of the Lord shall be brought back from Babylon. For they prophesy falsities to you. I have not sent them. [18] If they are prophets, if the word of the Lord is in them, let them meet Me. For thus saith the Lord: Even the residue of the vessels which the

king of Babylon did not take when he carried away Jechonias from Jerusalem, shall go to Babylon, saith the Lord.

* CHAPTER XXVIII *

AGAIN it came to pass in the fourth year of Sedekias king of Juda, in the fifth month, that Ananias son of Azor, the false prophet from Gabaon spoke to me in the house of the Lord, in the presence of the priests and of all the people, saying, [2] Thus said the Lord: I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon— [3] yet two years of days [4] and I will bring back to this place the vessels of the house of the Lord, and Jechonias and the captives of Juda; for I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon.

[5] Thereupon Jeremias spoke to Ananias in the presence of all the people and in the presence of the priests who were standing in the house of the Lord. [6] May the Lord indeed do so, said Jeremias; may He establish the word which thou hast spoken, by bringing back the vessels of the house of the Lord and all the captives from Babylon to this place. [7] Nevertheless hear ye the word of the Lord, which I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. [8] There have been prophets of old before me, and before you, who have prophesied of war against many a land and against great kingdoms. [9] As for the prophet who hath prophesied peace; when his word cometh to pass let the people acknowledge him as a prophet whom the Lord hath indeed sent to them.

[10] Then in the presence of all the people, Ananias took the yokes from the neck of Jeremias and broke them. [11] And Ananias spoke before all the people, saying, Thus said the Lord, So will I break the yoke of the king of Babylon from the necks of all the nations. So Jeremias went his way.

[12] And there came a word of the Lord to Jeremias after Ananias had broken the yokes from his neck, saying, [13] Go and speak to Ananias and say, Thus said the Lord: Thou hast broken wooden yokes; but instead of them I will make yokes of iron. [14] For thus said the Lord, I have put an iron yoke on the neck of all the nations, that they may work for the king of Babylon. [15] Then Jeremias said to Ananias, The Lord hath not sent thee; and thou hast made this people trust in a lie. [16] For this cause thus saith the Lord, Behold I send thee from the face of the earth;

this very year thou shalt die. [17] So he died in the seventh month.

* CHAPTER XXIX *

NOW these are the words of the letter which Jeremias sent from Jerusalem to the elders of the captivity and to the priests and to the false prophets.— [2] After the departure of king Jechonias and of the queen and the chamberlains and of every nobleman and prisoner of war and artificer from Jerusalem [I sent] to Babylon [3] by the hand of Eleason son of Saphan and of Gamarias son of Chelkias whom Sedekias king of Juda sent to the king of Babylon at Babylon, a letter for the captives addressed to all the people saying:

[4] Thus said the Lord the God of Israel to the captivity whom I have exiled from Jerusalem: [5] Build houses and dwell therein; and plant orchards and eat the fruits thereof; [6] and take wives and beget sons and daughters; take wives also for your sons and give your daughters in marriage; and multiply and be not diminished; [7] and seek the peace of the country to which I have exiled you; and pray to the Lord for the people; for in their peace you will have peace.

[8] For thus said the Lord: [9] Let not the false prophets among you deceive you; nor let your diviners deceive you; nor hearken to your dreams which you dream. For they prophesy falsehood to you in My name, and I have not sent them. [10] For thus said the Lord, When seventy years shall be accomplished at Babylon, I will visit you and establish My words for you by bringing back your people to this place. [11] When I plan a purpose of peace and not evils against you, to grant you this, [12] then pray to Me and I will hearken to you: [13] then seek Me diligently and you shall find Me. [14] Because you will seek Me with your whole heart, therefore I will manifest Myself to you.

[15] Because you said, The Lord hath raised up prophets for us in Babylon, [21] thus said the Lord against Achiab and against Sedekias, behold I deliver them into the hands of the king of Babylon and he will smite them before your eyes. [22] And among all the captives of Juda at Babylon; they shall from them use an execration saying, The Lord deal with thee as He did with Sedekias, and as He did with Achiab whom the king of Babylon

roasted with fire; [23] because they have committed iniquity in Israel and have committed adultery with the wives of their fellow citizens, and have delivered as prophets a word in My name, which I did not give them in charge—I myself am witness, saith the Lord.

[24] And to Samaias the Ailamite thou shalt say, [25] I did not send thee; yet in My name he said to Sophonias son of Maasias, the priest: [26] The Lord hath made thee priest in the room of Jodae the priest, to be a ruler in the house of the Lord, over every man who prophesieth, and over every man who divineth, that thou mayst commit him to prison, and confine him in a dungeon. [27] Now why have you reviled Jeremias of Anathoth who prophesied to you? [28] Was it not for this purpose that information was given that within this month he had sent to you to Babylon, saying, Your return is far off; build houses and dwell therein; plant orchards and eat the fruits thereof.

[29] When Sophonias read this letter in the hearing of Jeremias, [30] a word of the Lord came to Jeremias saying, [31] Send to the captives, and say, Thus said the Lord against Samaias the Ailamite: Because Samaias hath prophesied to you, and I did not send him, and he hath made you trust in falsehoods, [32] therefore thus said the Lord, Behold I will punish Samaias and his family, and there shall not be a man of them among you to see the good things which I will do for you. They shall not see them.

* CHAPTER XXX *

THE word which came from the Lord to Jeremias:

[2] Thus spake the Lord the God of Israel, saying: Write all the words which I have delivered to thee in a book; [3] for behold the days are coming, saith the Lord, when I will bring back the captivity of My people Israel and Juda; and I will bring them to this land, which I gave to their fathers and they shall rule over it.

[4] Now these are the words which the Lord spake concerning Israel and Juda. [5] Thus said the Lord: You shall hear the sound of terror. It is terror and not peace. [6] Inquire and see! Hath a male ever brought forth? Now with respect to the terror, in which they will hold their loins, it is indeed for a deliverance.

(p) Why then have I seen every man with his hands on his loins? Their faces are turned to paleness.

[7] It is because that great day is come which is unparalleled.

It is indeed a distressful time to Jacob, but by this he shall be saved. [8] In that day, saith the Lord, I will break the yoke from their neck, and burst their bonds asunder; and they shall no more work for strangers. [9] But they must work for the Lord their God and I will raise up for them David their king.

[12] Thus said the Lord: I raised up affliction; thy wound was grievous; [13] there is none to plead thy cause; the attempts to cure thee increased thy pain; there is no relief for thee; [14] all thy friends forgot thee. They would make no inquiry for thee, because I inflicted on thee the wound of an enemy, a severe chastisement for all thine iniquity. Thy sins had multiplied: [16] therefore all that devour thee shall be devoured, and all thine enemies shall eat their own flesh. For the multitude of thine iniquities (thy sins indeed were multiplied) they have done all these things to thee; but they who plunder thee shall be for plunder; and all who have preyed upon thee, I will give for a prey.

[17] Because I will bring up the cure for thee I will cure thee, saith the Lord, of thy painful wound; because thou wast called *the Outcast*, the hunt is up after thee. Because there is none who seeketh this outcast, [18] thus saith the Lord: Behold I Myself will bring back the outcast of Jacob, and his captivity I will compassionate. And the city shall be rebuilt on its height; and the people shall sit for the administration of justice. [19] And from them shall come forth singers—the sound of the sportive; and I will multiply them and they shall not be diminished. [20] And their sons shall come in as in former times; and their judicatories shall be established in My presence. And I will punish them who afflict them. [21] His own mighties shall preside over them; and from him his own chief shall come forth; and he will gather them that they may return to Me—that he who hath given his heart, whoever he is, may return to Me, saith the Lord.

[23] Because the anger of the Lord hath gone forth—hath gone forth a furious anger, it will come whirling on the wicked— [24] the fierce anger of the Lord will not turn back, till He hath done—till He hath executed the purpose of His heart. In the latter days you will know these things.

* CHAPTER XXXI *

AT that time, said the Lord, I will be the God of the family of Israel and they shall be My people.

[2] Thus said the Lord, I found him warm in the wilderness among them who had perished by the sword. Go: you shall not destroy Israel. [3] The Lord from afar hath appeared for him [and said]: With everlasting love I have loved thee; therefore I have drawn thee into compassion. [4] For I will rebuild thee, and thou shalt be rebuilt. O virgin of Israel, again thou shalt take thy timbrel, and go forth with a congregation of rejoicers. [5] As you have planted vineyards on the mountains of Samaria, plant and sing praises; [6] for there shall be a day of invitation to them who make apologies on the mountains of Ephraim: Arise and go up to Sion to the Lord your God.

[7] For thus said the Lord to Jacob, Rejoice and shout at the head of nations; issue proclamations and sing praises; say: The Lord hath saved His people, the remnant of Israel. [8] Behold I will bring them from the north and gather them from the extremity of the earth. At the festival of Phasek he shall have a multitude of children who shall return hither. [9] They set out with weeping; but I will bring them up with consolation, causing them to rest at fountains of water in a straight road; and in it they shall not be led astray, for I am become a Father to Israel, and Ephraim is My first-born.

[10] Hear the words of the Lord, ye nations! and proclaim them to the far distant isles. Say, He who scattered Israel will gather them, and guard them as a shepherd doth his flock. [11] Because the Lord hath redeemed Jacob—hath rescued him out of the hand of them who were stronger than he; [12] therefore they shall come and rejoice on mount Sion. They shall indeed come to the good things of the Lord—to a land of corn and wine, and of fruits and herds and flocks; and their soul shall be like a fruitful tree; and they shall no more be hungry. [13] Then shall virgins rejoice in the assembly of youths; the elders also shall be filled with joy; for I will turn their mourning into joy and make them glad. [14] I will enlarge and satisfy the soul of the priests the sons of Levi. And My people shall be regaled with My good things.

[15] Thus said the Lord: There was heard at Rama a sound of lamentation and weeping and wailing—Rachel, weeping for her children, refused to be comforted, because they are no more.

[16] Thus saith the Lord, Let thy voice refrain from lamentation and thine eyes from tears. [17] For there is a reward for thy works and they shall return from the enemies' land. It is firmly established for thy children. [18] I have heard the voice of Ephraim moaning, Thou hast chastised me and I have been chas-

tised. I like a bullock was uninstructed, bring me back that I may return; for Thou art the Lord my God. [19] For after my captivity I reformed and after I gained knowledge I groaned for my days of shame and shewed Thee that I was ashamed of my youth.

[20] Ephraim is a beloved son—My darling child; since My words are in him I will surely remember him. For this cause I have been anxious for him, I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the Lord.

[21] Establish thyself, O Sion; take revenge—rouse up thy courage. By the way thou wentest return, O virgin of Israel—return to thy cities, O mourner. [22] How long shall it be, ere thou wilt return, O despised daughter! Since the Lord hath created safety for a new plantation, with safety men may walk about. [23] For thus saith the Lord, Again they shall use these words in the land of Juda and in his cities when I have brought back his captivity: *Blessed be the Lord on His righteous, His holy mountain.* [24] It shall be used by them who dwell in the cities of Juda and in all His land, and shall be repeated by the husbandman and among the flocks. [25] For I have satisfied with drink every thirsty soul; and every soul that was hungry I have filled.

[26] (p) Upon this I awoke and beheld, and my sleep was sweet to me.

[27] Therefore behold, the days are coming, saith the Lord, when I will sow Israel and Juda with the seed of man and the seed of beast. [28] And it shall be, that as I watched over them to pull down and waste, so I will watch over them to build up and plant, saith the Lord. [29] In those days they shall no more say, Our fathers ate a sour grape and the childrens' teeth are set on edge. [30] But every one shall die for his own sin. And whoever eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge. [31] Behold the days are coming, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Juda. [32] Not according to the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. Because they did not abide by this covenant of Mine, therefore I took no care of them.

[33] For this, saith the Lord, is My covenant which I will make with the house of Israel:

After those days, saith the Lord, I will adapt My laws to their understanding and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be My people. [34] And they shall no more teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying,

Know the Lord; for all will know Me from the greatest to the least of them: for I will be merciful to their iniquities and no more remember their sins.

[37] Though the heaven is exalted very high, saith the Lord, and the surface of the earth is depressed far below, yet I will not reject the race of Israel, saith the Lord, for all that they have done. [35] Thus said the Lord Who hath given the sun to enlighten the day and the moon and stars to enlighten the night, and hath caused the sea to roar and its billows to resound,—the Lord Almighty is His name: [36] If these laws cease to operate in My presence, saith the Lord, then may the race of Israel cease from being a nation before Me forever.

[38] Behold days are coming, saith the Lord, when a city shall be built to the Lord from the tower of Anameel to the gate of the corner; [39] and the diameter thereof shall extend forward as far as the hills of Gareb: [40] and it shall be enclosed around with choice stones; and all the Asaremoth as far as Nachal Kedron, even to the corner of the horse gate eastward shall be dedicated to the Lord, and it shall no more fail nor shall it ever be demolished.

* CHAPTER XXXII *

THE word which came from the Lord to Jeremias in the tenth year of king Sedekias (this was the eighteenth year of the reign of Nabuchodonosar king of Babylon) [2] when the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremias was confined in the court of the prison which is in the king's house ([3] to which king Sedekias had confined him) saying, Why dost thou prophesy and say, Thus said the Lord: Behold I deliver this city into the hands of the king of Babylon and he shall take it; [4] and Sedekias shall not escape out of the hands of the Chaldeans, for he shall assuredly be delivered into the hands of the king of Babylon who shall speak to him mouth to mouth, and his eyes shall see his eyes; [5] and Sedekias shall go to Babylon.

[6] Now when he was there, the word of the Lord came to Jeremias, saying: [7] Behold Anameel son of Salom thy father's brother is coming to thee and will say, Buy thee my field which is at Anathoth, for the right of purchase is in thee.

[8] Accordingly Anameel, son of Salom, my father's brother, came to me in the court of the prison and said, Buy thee my field

which is in the land of Benjamin, that at Anathoth, for the right of purchase is in thee as thou art the eldest. Upon this I knew that it was a word of the Lord, [9] so I bought the field of Anameel, my father's brother's son and paid him seventeen shekels of silver. [10] And when I had signed the writing and sealed it and had it witnessed and had paid the money by weight, [11] I took the deed of possession which was sealed and gave it to Baruch, son of Nerias son of Maasias in the presence of Anameel my father's brother's son, [12] and in the presence of the bystanders who had signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of the Jews who were in the court of the prison. [13] And in their presence I gave a charge to Baruch, saying, [14] Thus said the Lord Almighty: Take this deed of possession, even this deed which hath been read, and put it in an earthen vessel that it may remain there many days. [15] For thus said the Lord, Fields and houses and vineyards shall again be possessed in this land.

[16] And after I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Nerias, I prayed to the Lord, saying:

[17] O self-existent Lord, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and by Thy high and exalted arm. From Thee nothing can be hid. [18] Thou shewest mercy to thousands and retributest the sins of fathers into the bosoms of their children after them. [19] Thou art the God, the Great, the Mighty One, the Lord of great counsel and mighty in works, the Mighty Omnipotent God, and the Lord of great renown. Thine eyes are on the ways of the children of men to give to every one according to his way. [20] Thou hast done signs and wonders in the land of Egypt which continue even to this day; and in Israel and among the inhabitants of the earth; and hast made Thyself a name as at this day. [21] Thou didst bring Thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders and with a strong hand and an outstretched arm and with stupendous visions, [22] and gavest them this land which with an oath Thou hadst promised to their fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey.

[23] But when they entered in and had taken possession of it, they hearkened not to Thy voice nor walked in Thy statutes. They did not do all that Thou commandedst them, so they have brought upon themselves all these evils. [24] Behold a multitude is come up against this city to take it; and this city is about to be delivered into the hands of the Chaldeans who are fighting against it, by reason of the sword and famine. As Thou hast spoken, so it hath come to pass. [25] Now Thou sayest to me, Buy thee a field for

money. Accordingly I have signed the deed of purchase and sealed it and had it witnessed; though the city is about to be delivered into the hands of the Chaldeans.

[26] Then a word of the Lord came to me saying, [27] I the Lord am the God of all flesh. From Me nothing can be hid. [28] Therefore thus said the Lord the God of Israel: This city will assuredly be given up into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he will take it. [29] And the Chaldeans who are fighting against this city will come and burn this city with fire; and they will burn those houses on the tops of which they have offered incense to Baal and poured out libations to strange gods, to provoke me. [30] Because the children of Israel and the children of Juda have done nothing but evil before Mine eyes from their youth— [31] because this very city hath been an object of My wrath and of My resentment from the day it was built to this day; [32] let him remove it from My presence on account of all the iniquities of the children of Israel and Juda, which they and their kings and their chiefs and their priests and their prophets, the men of Juda and the inhabitants of Jerusalem have done to provoke Me.

[33] For they have turned to Me their back and not their face. Though I taught them betimes, they would no more receive instruction, [34] but have set up their abominations in the house which is called by My name, and polluted it with their impurities; [35] and have built up the altars to Baal which were in the valley of the son of Ennom to offer up their sons and their daughters to king Moloch—a thing which I never commanded them, nor did it ever come into My mind that they should commit such an abomination to cause Juda to transgress heinously.

[36] But now thus said the Lord the God of Israel respecting this city, which as thou sayest shall be delivered into the hands of the king of Babylon by sword and by famine and by pestilence: [37] Behold I will gather them from every land through which I have in My wrath and in My great indignation dispersed them; and I will bring them back to this place and cause them to live securely. [38] And they shall be My people and I will be their God. [39] And I will give them another way and another heart that I may be always feared and may be for good to them and their children after them. [40] And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, which I will not turn away from them; and I will put My fear in their heart, that they may not apostatise from Me; [41] and I will watch over them to do them good, and plant them in this land with faithfulness even with My whole heart and soul.

[42] For thus said the Lord: As I have brought upon this people all these great evils, so will I bring upon them all these good things, which I have spoken concerning them. [43] And fields shall again be purchased in this land which as thou sayest shall be untrodden by men and beasts when they are delivered into the hands of the Chaldeans. [44] And they shall purchase fields for money. And thou shalt subscribe deeds and seal them and cause them to be witnessed in the land of Benjamin and around Jerusalem and in the cities of Juda and in the cities of the mountain and in the cities of the plain and in the cities of the south; for I will bring back their captivities.

* CHAPTER XXXIII *

AGAIN a word of the Lord came to Jeremias a second time, while he was still a prisoner in the court of the prison, saying, [2] Thus saith the Lord, the maker of the earth, who formed it that He might regulate it. His name is the Lord. [3] Cry to Me and I will answer thee and shew thee great and marvellous things which thou hast not known. [4] For thus said the Lord concerning the houses of this city. And concerning the houses of the king of Juda which have been pulled down to make mounts and [5] ramparts to fight against the Chaldeans and to fill the city with the carcasses of men whom I have slain in Mine indignation and in My wrath; and from whom I have turned away My face for all their wicked deeds: [6] Behold, I am raising up for it [i.e. the city] a cure for wounds and a restorative which I will shew them, and I will heal it and give it peace and fidelity.

[7] And I will bring back the captivity of Juda and the captivity of Israel; and I will build them up as in former times. [8] And I will cleanse them from all their iniquities which they have committed against Me, and no more remember the sins which they sinned against Me, when they apostatised from Me. [9] And it shall be for a joy and praise and for a subject of exultation to all the people of the earth who shall hear all the good things which I will do. And they will be struck with awe and remorse for all the good and for all the peace which I will procure for them.

[10] Thus said the Lord: In the place which you say is a desert without men and beasts—in the cities of Juda and in the streets of Jerusalem which have been desolate so as to have neither man nor beast, [11] there shall be heard again the sound of joy and the

sound of mirth; the voice of bridegroom and the voice of the bride; the voice of people, saying, Praise the Lord Almighty, for the Lord is gracious, for His mercy endureth forever. And they shall bring gifts to the house of the Lord. For I will bring back all the captivity of this land, as in former times, saith the Lord.

[12] Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: There shall be again, in this very place which shall be desolate, without man or beast, [and] in all the cities belonging to it, lodging places for shepherds folding flocks. [13] In the cities of the hilly country and in the cities of the plain, and in the cities of the south and in the land of Benjamin and in those around Jerusalem and in the cities of Juda, flocks shall again pass under the hand of him that counteth them, said the Lord.

* CHAPTER XXXIV *

THE word which came to Jeremias from the Lord, when Nabuchodonosar king of Babylon, with all his army and every country under his dominion were warring against Jerusalem, and against all the cities of Juda, saying:

[2] Thus said the Lord, Go to Sedekias king of Juda and say to him, Thus said the Lord, This city shall assuredly be delivered into the hands of the king of Babylon; and he shall take it, and burn it with fire. [3] And thou shalt not escape out of his hand. Thou shalt indeed be taken and delivered into his hands; and thine eyes shall see his eyes; and to Babylon thou shalt go.

[4] Nevertheless hear the word of the Lord, O Sedekias king of Juda, Thus said the Lord: [5] Thou shalt die in peace; and as they bewailed thy fathers who reigned before thee so will they bewail thee with, Alas Lord, and utter a lamentation for thee at thy burial; for I have spoken the word, said the Lord.

[6] So Jeremias delivered to king Sedekias all these words at Jerusalem when the army of the king of Babylon was warring against Jerusalem [7] and against the cities of Juda; namely, against Lachis and against Azeka; for they were the only fortified cities which were left of the cities of Juda.

[8] The word which came to Jeremias from the Lord:

After king Sedekias had made a covenant with the people to proclaim a release, [9] that every man should set free his man servant and his maid servant of Hebrew extraction so that no person of Juda should continue in slavery; [10] when all the nobles

and all the people who had entered into covenant, to set free every one his man servant, and his maid servant, [11] altered their minds and compelled them to become their servants.

[12] Thereupon a word of the Lord came to Jeremias saying, [13] Thus said the Lord: I made a covenant with your fathers at the time I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, saying, [14] When six years are accomplished thou shalt set at liberty thy brother, a Hebrew, who shall be sold to thee. When he hath worked for thee six years, thou shalt let him go free.

But they have not hearkened to Me, nor inclined their ear. [15] And now, when they turned to do what is right in My sight, by proclaiming a general release, everyone to his neighbour, and had made a covenant in My presence in the house which is called by My name; [16] you have turned back and profaned My name by causing everyone his man servant, and everyone his maid servant whom you had sent away free at their own disposal, to return and become your servants. [17] Therefore thus said the Lord: You have not hearkened to Me to proclaim a general release, everyone to his neighbour; behold, I proclaim a dismissal of you to the sword, and to pestilence and to famine; and I will deliver you up to dispersion in all the kingdoms of the earth.

[18] I will indeed give up the men who have transgressed My covenant—they who have not stood to this covenant of Mine which they entered into in My presence. As the labouring bullock which they sacrificed, [19] I will deliver up the chiefs of Juda and the rulers, and the priests, [20] and the people themselves to their enemies: and their carcasses shall be meat for the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth: [21] and I will deliver Sedekias king of Judea, and their chiefs, into the hands of their enemies. And as for the army of the king of Babylon, even to them who are retreating, [22] behold I am about to issue orders, saith the Lord; and I will cause them to return to this city. And they shall fight against it, and take it and burn it with fire. And I will make the cities of Juda a desolation, without inhabitants.

* CHAPTER XXXV *

THE word which came to Jeremias from the Lord in the days of Joakim king of Juda, saying, [2] Go to the family of Archabin and thou shalt bring them to the house of the Lord, into one

of the courts, and give them wine to drink. [3] Accordingly I brought Jechonias, the son of Jeremin, son of Chabasin, with his brethren and his sons, even all the family of Archabin, [4] and took them into the house of the Lord, to the chamber of the sons of Jonan son of Ananias son of Godolias, a man of God, which is near the house of the chiefs who are above the house of Maasias son of Selom, the keeper of the court. [5] And having set before them a pot of wine and drinking cups, I said, Drink wine.

Thereupon they said, We must not drink wine. For Jonadab son of Rechab, our father, gave us a charge, saying, You shall not drink wine; [6] neither you nor your sons forever; [7] neither shall you build houses, nor sow seed, nor have a vineyard; for you shall dwell in tents all your days, that you may live many days in the land where you sojourn. [8] Accordingly, we have hearkened to the voice of Jonadab, our father, so as not to drink wine all our days, neither we nor our wives, nor our sons nor our daughters. [9] And we have not built houses here to live in, nor have we vineyard, or field or seed; [10] but have dwelt in tents and have hearkened and done according to all that our father Jonadab commanded us. [11] So when Nabuchodonosar came up against the land, we determined upon coming and came to Jerusalem out of the way of the army of the Chaldeans and out of the way of the army of the Assyrians, and here we have made our abode.

[12] Upon this a word of the Lord came to me, saying: [13] Thus saith the Lord, Go and say to the men of Juda and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will you never receive instruction to hearken to My words? [14] The children of Jonadab son of Rechab have steadfastly observed the command which he gave them not to drink wine: and they have not drunk any. But I have spoken to you, rising early; and you have not hearkened. [15] Though I have sent to you My servants the prophets, saying, Turn ye, every one from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after strange gods to serve them, and you shall dwell in the land which I gave to you and your fathers; yet you have not inclined your ears nor hearkened. [16] The sons of Jonadab son of Rechab have steadfastly observed the command of their father; but this people have not hearkened to Me.

[17] Therefore thus saith the Lord: Behold I will bring upon Juda and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the evils which I have denounced against them. [18] Therefore thus saith the Lord: Seeing the sons of Jonadab son of Rechab have obeyed the command of their father and have done as he ordered them; [19] there

shall never be wanting a man of the sons of Jonadab son of Rechab to stand before Me all the days of this land.

* CHAPTER XXXVI *

IN the fourth year of Joakim son of Josias, king of Juda, a word of the Lord came to me, saying, [2] Take thee a roll of a book and write therein all the words which I have spoken to thee against Jerusalem and against Juda and against all the nations from the day I first spoke to thee—from the days of Josias king of Juda even to this day. [3] Perhaps the house of Juda will hear all the evils which I am purposing to do to them, that they may turn from their evil way and that I may be merciful to their iniquities and their sins.

[4] Thereupon Jeremias sent for Baruch, son of Nerias, and he wrote in a book, from the mouth of Jeremias, all the words which the Lord had spoken to him. [5] Then Jeremias gave a charge to Baruch, saying, I am watched so that I cannot go to the house of the Lord; [6] therefore thou shalt read from this roll in the hearing of the people in the house of the Lord on the fast day, even in the hearing of all Juda who come from their cities thou shalt read to them. [7] Perhaps they may find favour in the sight of the Lord and turn from their evil way, for great is the wrath and the anger of the Lord which He hath denounced against this people. [8] So Baruch did according to all that Jeremias commanded him, that he might read from the book the words of the Lord in the house of the Lord.

[9] And it came to pass that in the eighth year of the reign of Joakim, in the ninth month, all the people in Jerusalem and the house of Juda kept a solemn fast before the Lord. [10] And Baruch read from the book the words of Jeremias in the house of the Lord in the house of Gamarias son of Saphan the scribe, in the upper court at the vestibule of the new gate of the house of the Lord and in the hearing of all the people. [11] And when Michaias son of Gamarias son of Saphan heard all the words of the Lord from the book, [12] he went down to the king's house, to the house of the secretary; and lo! all the chiefs were there in council, namely, Elisama the secretary, and Dalias son of Selemias, and Jonathan son of Achobar and Gamarias son of Saphan and Sedekias son of Ananias and all the chiefs.

[13] And when Michaias told them all the words which he had

heard, which Baruch read in the hearing of the people, [14] all the chiefs sent Judin son of Nathanias son of Selemias, son of Chusi to Baruch, saying, Take in thy hand the roll thou art reading to the people and come. Accordingly Baruch took the roll and went down to them. [15] And they said to him, Read it again to us. So Baruch read it. [16] And when they had heard all the words, they consulted and said one to another, We must certainly inform the king of all these words. [17] Then they questioned Baruch and said, Where didst thou write all these words? [18] And Baruch said, From his mouth. Jeremias dictated to me all these words and I wrote them in a book. [19] Then they said to Baruch, Go and hide, both thou and Jeremias and let no man know where you are. [20] Then they went to court to the king, but left the roll in safe keeping in the house of Elisamas and they told the king all the words. [21] And the king sent Judin for the book. And Judin having brought it from the house of Elisamas read it in the hearing of the king and in the hearing of all the chiefs who were standing round the king.

[22] Now the king was sitting in the winter house and there was a grate with fire in it before him. [23] So as Judin read three or four folds, he cut them off with the secretary's knife and threw them into the fire in the grate, till the whole roll was consumed in the fire. [24] But neither the king nor his servants, who heard all these words, made any inquiry nor rent their clothes. [25] Nay Elnathan and Godolias suggested to the king to burn the roll. [26] Then the king commanded Jeremeel the king's son and Saraias son of Esriel to apprehend Baruch and Jeremias. But they had hid themselves.

[27] And after the king had burned the roll—all the words which Baruch had written from the mouth of Jeremias, a word of the Lord came to Jeremias, saying: [28] Take thee another roll and write all the words which were in that roll which king Joakim hath burned, [29] and thou shalt say, Thus saith the Lord:

Thou hast burned that roll, saying, Why hast thou written therein and said that the king of Babylon shall surely come and lay waste this land, so that neither man nor beast shall be left therein? [30] Therefore thus said the Lord respecting Joakim king of Juda, He shall not have one to sit on the throne of David; and his carcass shall be exposed to the heat of the day and to the frost of the night; [31] and I will keep a watch upon him and upon his family and upon his servants and bring upon him and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem and upon the land of Juda all the evils which I have

denounced against them and to which they have not hearkened.

[32] So Baruch took another roll and wrote thereon from the mouth of Jeremias all the words of the book which Joakim had burned and to it were added more words similar to them.

* CHAPTER XXXVII *

NOW Sedekias son of Josias, whom Nabuchodonosar had made king over Juda, reigned in the place of Joakim, [2] and neither he nor his servants nor the people of the land hearkened to the words which the Lord spoke by the ministry of Jeremias. And king Sedekias [3] sent Joachel son of Selemias and Sophonias son of Maasias, the priest, to Jeremias saying, Pray now to the Lord for us.

[4] Now Jeremias went out and came in through the midst of the city and they had not committed him to prison; [5] and the army of Pharaoh had come out of Egypt, and the Chaldeans had heard the news of them when they came up against Jerusalem. [6] Then a word of the Lord came to Jeremias, saying, [7] Thus saith the Lord: Thus shalt thou say to the king of Juda who hath sent to thee to inquire of Me:

Behold the army of Pharaoh which is coming to your assistance shall turn back to the land of Egypt, [8] and the Chaldeans shall return and fight against this city and take it and burn it with fire. [9] For thus said the Lord, Flatter not yourselves, saying, The Chaldeans are retreating; they will depart from us. For they shall not depart. [10] Nay, though you should smite all the army of the Chaldeans who are warring against you and only some wounded men should be left, everyone in his place; these shall rise up and burn this city with fire.

[11] Now when the army of the Chaldeans left Jerusalem on account of the army of Pharaoh, [12] Jeremias was going out of Jerusalem among the people with a design to go to the land of Benjamin, to make thence some purchase; [13] but when he was at the gate of Benjamin, a man there at whose house he stopped namely Sarouia son of Selemias, son of Ananias, took hold of Jeremias, saying, Thou art fleeing to the Chaldeans. [14] To which he replied, It is false. I am not fleeing to the Chaldeans. But Sarouia hearkened not to him, but took hold of Jeremias and brought him to the chiefs.

[15] And the chiefs were enraged at Jeremias and smote him

and committed him to the house of Jonathan the scribe; for they had made that a prison. [16] And when Jeremias had gone into the lowest apartment, even into the Chereth, and had been there many days, Sedekias sent for him.

[17] And the king asked him privately to tell him whether there was a message from the Lord. And Jeremias said, There is. Thou shalt be delivered into the hands of the king of Babylon. [18] Then Jeremias said to the king, Wherein have I offended thee and thy servants and this people, that thou hast committed me to prison? [19] Where now are your prophets who prophesied to you saying, The king of Babylon shall not come against this land? [20] Now therefore, my Lord the king, let me find favour in thy sight. Why art thou sending me back to the house of Jonathan the scribe? Must I not die there? [21] Thereupon the king gave orders and they committed him to the guardhouse and gave him a loaf of bread a day from the bake-house until all the bread in the city was spent. So Jeremias remained in the court of the prison.

* CHAPTER XXXVIII *

WHEN Saphanias son of Nathan and Godolias son of Paschor and Joachal son of Semelias, heard the words which Jeremias spoke concerning the people saying, [2] 'Thus said the Lord: He who abideth in this city shall die by the sword and the famine; but he who goeth out to the Chaldeans shall live. He shall have his life for a spoil. He shall live. [3] For thus said the Lord: This city shall certainly be delivered into the hands of the army of the king of Babylon and he shall take it.'

[4] They said to the king, Let this man, we pray thee, be put out of the way; for he weakeneth the hands of the warriors who are left in the city and the hands of all the people by making such speeches to them. For this man prophesieth not peace to the people, but only evils. [5] And the king said, Behold he is in your hands. For the king could not withstand them. [6] So they threw him into the dungeon of Melchias the king's son which was in the court of the prison. And when they had lowered him down into the dungeon, there was no water in the dungeon, but there was mire; and he was in the mire. [7] But when Abdemelech, the Ethiopian, who was in the king's family, heard that they had put Jeremias in the dungeon, as the king was at the gate of Benjamin, [8] he went out to him and spoke to the king, and said, [9] Thou

hast done wrong in ordering this man to be put to death by way of famine, for there is [now] no bread in the city.*

[10] Thereupon the king gave orders to Abdemelech, saying, Take hence with thee thirty men and draw him up out of the dungeon, that he may not die. [11] So Abdemelech took the men and went to the king's house, into the cellar, and took thence old rags and old ropes and threw them down to Jeremias into the dungeon [12] and said, Put those under the ropes. And when Jeremias had done so, [13] they drew him up with the ropes out of the dungeon. And Jeremias abode in the court of the prison. [14] And the king sent and ordered him to come to him to the house Aseleisel which is in the house of the Lord. And the king said to him, I will ask thee a word and thou must not conceal anything from me. [15] And Jeremias said to the king, If I tell thee, wilt thou not put me to death? And if I give thee counsel, perhaps thou wilt not hearken to me.

[16] Then the king swore to him, saying, As the Lord liveth Who made us this soul, I will not put thee to death, nor will I deliver thee into the hands of those men. [17] And Jeremias said, Thus said the Lord: If thou wilt go out to the generals of the king of Babylon, thy soul shall live and this city will not be burned with fire. Both thou and thy family shall live. [18] But if thou wilt not go out, this city will be delivered into the hands of the Chaldeans and they will burn it with fire; and thou shalt not escape. [19] And the king said to Jeremias, I am afraid of the Jews who have fled to the Chaldeans, lest upon being delivered into their hand they make me a mocking stock. [20] And Jeremias replied, Thou wilt not be delivered up to them, Hear the word of the Lord which I speak to thee and it will be better for thee and thy soul shall live.

[21] But if thou wilt not go out, this is the word which the Lord hath revealed to me:

[22] And behold all the women who were left in the house of the king of Juda were brought out to the chiefs of the king of Babylon. And they said, Thy men of peace deceived thee, and will prevail over thee. And with a fall they will weaken thy foot. They are gone from thee. [23] And thy wives and thy children shall be brought out to the Chaldeans. And thou shalt not escape. For by the hand of the king of Babylon thou shalt be taken and this city shall be burned.

[24] Then the king said to him, Let no man know any of these

* The thought being that Jeremiah's holiness had brought down famine upon the city because of his having unjustly suffered famine.

words, and thou shalt not be put to death. [25] And if the chiefs hear that I have spoken to thee and come to thee and say, Tell us, What did the king say to thee? Hide it not from us and we will not put thee to death. What did the king say to thee? [26] Then thou shalt say to them, I presented my supplication before the king that he would not send me back to the house of Jonathan to die there. [27] So when all the chiefs came to Jeremias and questioned him, he answered them according to all the words which the king commanded and they were silent; for the word of the Lord was not heard. [28] So Jeremias remained in the court of the prison until Jerusalem was taken.

* CHAPTER XXXIX *

AND it came to pass that in the ninth year and ninth month of Sedekias king of Juda, [that] Nabuchodonosar king of Babylon, with all his army, came against Jerusalem and besieged it. [2] And in the eleventh year of Sedekias in the fourth month on the ninth day of the month, a breach was made into the city; [3] and all the generals of the king of Babylon entered and sat in the middle gate; namely, Marganasar, and Samagoth and Nabusachar and Nabusaris, Nagargas, Naserrabamath, and the rest of the generals of the king of Babylon; [14] and they sent and took Jeremias out of the court of the prison and committed him to Godolias son of Achikam son of Saphan. And when they brought him out he sat down among the people.

[15] Now there had come to Jeremias in the court of the prison a word of the Lord, saying, [16] Go and say to Abdemelech the Ethiopian, Thus said the Lord the God of Israel: Behold I will bring My words on this city for evils and not for good. [17] But I will save thee on that day and not deliver thee into the hands of those men of whom thou art afraid. [18] For I will save thee and thou shalt not fall by the sword. And thou shalt have thy life for a spoil, because thou hast trusted in Me, said the Lord.

* CHAPTER XL *

THE word which came from the Lord to Jeremias after Nabouzardan the chief cook, he who was of Rama, had dismissed him:

When the chief cook found him in chains in the midst of the captives of Juda who were to be carried to Babylon, [2] he took him and said to him, The Lord thy God hath denounced all these evils against this place, [3] and the Lord hath done them, because you sinned against Him and did not hearken to His voice. [4] Behold I have loosed thee from the chains which were on thy hands. If it seemeth good to thee to go with me to Babylon, I will have an eye over thee. But if not, Go thy way. [5] Return to Godolias son of Achikam son of Saphan whom the king of Babylon hath set over the land of Juda and dwell with him among the people in the land of Juda. Go whithersoever it seemeth best in thine eyes to go. So the chief cook gave him gifts and dismissed him; [6] and he went to Godolias to Massepha and dwelt among his people who were left in the land.

[7] Now when all the generals of the army in the country, both they and their men heard that the king of Babylon had set Godolias over the land, and had committed to him the men and their wives whom he had not removed to Babylon, [8] there came to Godolias, at Massepha, Ismael son of Nathanas and Joanan son of Karae and Saraias son of Thanaemeth and the sons of Jophe the Ne-tophathite and Ezonias son of Mochathi, they and their men; [9] and Godolias swore to them and their men, saying, Be not afraid of the Chaldeans: dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will be better for you. [10] As for me, behold I reside before you at Massepha, to meet the Chaldeans who may come against you. But as for you, collect wine and summer fruits and oil and lay them up in your vessels and dwell in the cities over which you have taken possession.

[11] All the Jews also who were in Moab and among the Ammonites and those in Idumea and in all that country, when they heard that the king of Babylon had left a remnant for Juda and had set Godolias son of Achikam over them, [12] came to Godolias into the land of Juda to Massepha, and collected wine and summer fruits in great abundance, and oil. [13] And Joanan son of Karae and all the generals of the army who were in the country came to Godolias to Massepha [14] and said to him, Dost thou know that Beleissa king of the Ammonites hath sent Ismael to thee to take thy life. [15] But Godolias did not believe them. And when Joanan said privately to Godolias at Massepha, Let me, I pray thee, go and smite Ismael and let none know it; lest he kill thee; and all Juda who are gathered to thee, be dispersed and the

remnant of Juda perish; [16] Godolias said to Joanan, Thou must not do this: for what thou sayest of Ismael is false.

* CHAPTER XLI *

NOW it came to pass that in the seventh month Ismael son of Nathanas, son of Eleasa of the royal family, and ten chief men with him, came to Godolias at Massepha and they there ate bread together. [2] And Ismael arose and the ten chiefs who were with him, and smote Godolias, whom the king of Babylon had set over the land, [3] and all the Jews who were with him at Massepha and all the Chaldeans who were found there. [4] And it happened that on the second day after he had slain Godolias and it was not generally known, [5] there came eighty men from Sychem and from Salem and from Samaria, with their beards shaven and their clothes rent and in deep mourning, with manna and frankincense in their hands, to make an offering for the house of the Lord. [6] And Ismael went out to meet them as they were proceeding on in their journey weeping, and said to them, Come to Godolias. [7] And when they were come into the midst of the city he slew them at the pit.

[8] But there were ten men among them who said to Ismael, Do not kill us; for we have treasures in a field, wheat and barley, honey and oil. So he forbore and did not kill them among their brethren. [9] Now the pit, into which Ismael threw all that he had slain, was that great pit which king Asa had made for fear of Baasa king of Israel. This Ismael filled with the slain. [10] And Ismael carried away all the people who were left at Massepha and the king's daughters whom the chief cook had committed to the care of Godolias son of Achikam; and fled towards the borders of the Ammonites.

[11] But when Joanan son of Kareia, and all the generals of the army who were with him heard all the evils which Ismael had done, [12] they drew out their whole army and marched with speed to fight him and came up with him at the great waters at Gabaon. [13] And when all the people who were with Ismael saw Joanan and the generals of the army who were with him, they turned back to Joanan; [15] but Ismael escaped with eight men and fled to the children of Ammon. [16] Then Joanan and all the generals of the army who were with him took all the remnant of the people whom they had rescued from Ismael— [17] the men fit for war and

the women and children and the eunuchs whom they brought back from Gabaon and marching with speed they encamped at Gaberochama which is near Bethlehem with an intent to go to Egypt [18] for fear of the Chaldeans. For they were afraid of them because Ismael had slain Godolias whom the king of Babylon had set over the land.

* CHAPTER XLII *

AND all the generals of the army, with Joanan and Azarias son of Maasias, and all the people small and [2] great came to Jeremias the prophet and said to him, Have compassion on us, we beseech thee, and pray to the Lord thy God for this remnant; for we are left only few of many as thine eyes see. [3] Now let the Lord thy God point out to us the way which we should go and what we are to do. [4] Whereupon Jeremias said to them, I have heard. Behold, I will pray for you to the Lord our God according to your words and whatever answer the Lord our God shall give, that I will declare to you. I will not hide anything from you. [5] And they said to Jeremias, The Lord be a true and faithful witness between us, that we will act conformably to the word, whatever it be, which the Lord shall send to us. [6] Whether it be agreeable or disagreeable we will hearken to the voice of the Lord our God in respect to that for which we send thee to Him, that it may be the better for us. We will obey the voice of the Lord our God.

[7] So after ten days a word of the Lord came to Jeremias, [8] whereupon he sent for Joanan and the generals of the army, and all the people small and great, [9] and said to them, Thus said the Lord, [10] If you will abide in this land I will build you up, and not pull you down; and I will plant you, and not root you up; for I am appeased by the evils which I have done to you. [11] Be not afraid of the king of Babylon of whom you are in dread. Be not afraid of him, saith the Lord, for I am with you to deliver you, and to save you out of his hands. [12] And I will shew you mercy, and have compassion on you, and bring you back to your own land.

[13] But if in direct disobedience to the voice of the Lord you say, [14] We will not abide in this land, for we will go to the land of Egypt, that we may not see war nor hear the trumpet's sound, nor pine for want of bread, and we will dwell there; [15] then hear the word of the Lord: thus said the Lord, If you set your face for Egypt, and go there to make your abode, [16] the sword of which

you are afraid shall find you in the land of Egypt; and the famine which you wish to avoid shall follow and overtake you in Egypt, and there you shall die. [17] For all the men, even all the strangers who have set their faces towards the land of Egypt to dwell there, shall perish by the sword and by famine, and not one of them shall escape from those evils which I bring upon them. [18] For thus said the Lord, As My wrath was poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so shall My wrath be poured out upon you, if you go to Egypt; and you shall be wasted and made slaves, and be for an execration and reproach; and shall never see this land again.

[19] These are the things which the Lord hath spoken respecting you, the remnant of Juda; that you may not go to Egypt.— [20] For now you must be aware that you did evil in your hearts when you sent me saying, Pray for us to the Lord, and we will act conformably to all that the Lord shall say to thee.— [21] For you have not hearkened to the voice of the Lord, which He hath sent by me to you. [22] Now therefore you shall perish by the sword and by famine, in that place to which you are determined to go there to make your abode.

* CHAPTER XLIII *

AND when Jeremias had made an end of speaking all these words of the Lord to the people, even all the words which the Lord had sent him to speak to them, [2] Azarias son of Maasias, and Joanan son of Karae, and all the men who had spoken to Jeremias, said in reply, It is false; the Lord hath not sent thee to us, saying, You shall not go to Egypt to dwell there. [3] But Baruch son of Nerias setteth thee on against us, that thou mayst deliver us into the hands of the Chaldeans to be put to death, or banished to Babylon.

[4] So Joanan and all the generals of the army and all the people hearkened not to the voice of the Lord to dwell in the land of Juda. [5] And Joanan and all the generals of the army took all the remnant of Juda, who had returned to dwell in the land; [6] the men fit for war, and the women and the children which were left and the king's daughters, even all the souls which Nabusardan had left with Godolias son of Achikam, including Jeremias the prophet, and Baruch son of Nerias, and went to Egypt.

[7] Because they hearkened not to the voice of the Lord, there-

fore when they came to Taphnas, [8] a word of the Lord came to Jeremias at Taphnas, saying, [9] Take thee large stones and bury them at the entrance of the gate of Pharaoh's house at Taphnas, in the presence of the men of Juda and [10] thou shalt say, Thus said the Lord, Behold I send and I will bring Nabuchodonosar king of Babylon and he shall place his throne over these stones, which thou hast hidden, and pile his arms over them. [11] And when he is come he will smite the land of Egypt, sentencing to death them who are for death; and to banishment such as are for banishment; and to the sword such as are for the sword. [12] And he will kindle a fire in the houses of their gods, and burn the houses and carry away the god's captives: and he will search the land of Egypt, as a shepherd doth his garment, and shall go thence in peace. [13] And he will break in pieces the pillars of Heliopolis, even those of On, and burn their houses with fire.

* CHAPTER XLIV *

THE word which came to Jeremias for all the Jews who dwelt in the land of Egypt—for them settled at Magdolus, and at Taphnas, and in the land of Pathoura, saying:

[2] Thus said the Lord the God of Israel, You have seen all the evils which I brought upon Jerusalem, and upon the cities of Juda; [3] and behold they are desolate, without inhabitants because of their wickedness which they committed to provoke Me, by going to burn incense to strange gods, which you knew not. [4] Though I sent to you My servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, Do not commit this abominable thing which I hate; [5] yet they hearkened not to Me, nor inclined their ear to turn from their wickedness so as not to burn incense to strange gods. [6] Therefore My wrath and Mine indignation was poured out and kindled to a flame in the cities of Juda, and in the streets of Jerusalem, and they became a desolation and a waste, as at this day.

[7] Now then, thus said the Lord Almighty, Why do ye commit great evils against your souls, to cut off every man and woman of you, with the infant and suckling out of Juda, [8] so that none of you may be left—to provoke Me with the works of your hands—by burning incense to strange gods in the land of Egypt, where you are come to dwell—that you may be cut off and become an execration and a reproach, among all the nations of the earth? [9] Have you forgotten the evils of your fathers, and the evils of

the kings of Juda, and the evils of your chiefs, and the evils of your wives, which they committed in the land of Juda, and in the streets of Jerusalem?

[10] They have not indeed even to this day desisted, nor have they adhered to the ordinances which I set before their fathers.

[11] Therefore thus said the Lord: [12] Behold I am setting My face to destroy all the remnant in Egypt; and they shall fall by the sword and by famine and die, both small and great; and they shall be for reproach and for destruction and for a curse. [13] For I will visit those settled in Egypt as I visited Jerusalem, with sword and with famine, [14] so that none of this remnant of Juda who dwell in Egypt, shall be saved to return to the land of Juda, to which they earnestly hope to return, save those only who have made their escape thither.

[15] Then all the men who knew that their wives burned incense, and all the women, a great congregation, and all the people who were settled in the land of Egypt at Pathoura answered Jeremias, saying, [16] In regard to this word which thou hast spoken to us in the name of the Lord, [17] we will not hearken to thee; for we will continue to perform every word which shall proceed from our mouth to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out libations to her; as we and our fathers and our kings and our chiefs did in the cities of Juda and in the streets of Jerusalem. For we had then plenty of bread and were in happy circumstances and saw no evils; [18] but soon as we left off burning incense to the queen of heaven, we all became fewer in number, and were wasted by sword and famine. [19] Now grant that we have burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out libations to her, have we made cakes for her or poured out libations to her without *our husbands*?

[20] In reply to this Jeremias said to all the people, to the men in authority, and to the women and all the people who made him that answer:

[21] This incense which you offered in the cities of Juda and in the streets of Jerusalem, you and your fathers, and your kings and your chiefs, and the people of the land,—did not the Lord remember? [22] Did it not come into His mind so that the Lord could no longer forbear on account of your evil doings and on account of your abominations which you committed?

So your land was made a desolation and a waste, [23] and for a curse, as at this day, because of the incense which you offered and the sins which you committed against the Lord. As you

hearkened not to the voice of the Lord, nor walked in His statutes and in His law and in His testimonies; therefore these evils have come upon you.

[24] Then Jeremias said to the people, particularly to the women, Hear a word of the Lord; [25] thus saith the Lord the God of Israel: Ye women have spoken with your mouths and with your hands confirmed it, saying, We will continue to perform the vows which we made to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and pour out libations to her. Ye have obstinately adhered to your vows, and have actually performed them.

[26] Therefore hear a word of the Lord, all ye of Juda, who are settled in the land of Egypt; behold by My great name I have sworn, said the Lord: My name shall no more be mentioned by the mouth of any Jew in all the land of Egypt, saying, *As the Lord liveth*. [27] Because I have watched over them, to afflict them, and not to do them good; therefore all the Jews who are dwelling in the land of Egypt shall perish by sword and by famine until there be an end of them. [28] They indeed who have escaped from the sword being few in number, shall return to the land of Juda; but the remnant of Juda, who have stayed in the land of Egypt to settle there, shall know whose word shall stand. [29] Now this shall be a sign to you, that I will visit you for evil. [30] Thus said the Lord: Behold I deliver up Onaphre king of Egypt, into the hands of his enemy, and into the hands of him who seeketh his life, as I delivered Sedekias king of Juda into the hands of Nabuchodonosar king of Babylon, his enemy, and who sought his life.

* CHAPTER XLV *

THE word which Jeremias the prophet spoke to Baruch son of Nerias, when he was writing the words in the book, from the mouth of Jeremias, in the fourth year of Joakim son of Josias king of Juda: [2] Thus said the Lord concerning thee, Baruch, [3] because thou saidst, "Ah woe is me! for the Lord hath added grief to my sorrow: I laid me down with sighing; no rest did I find," [hence] [4] say to him, Thus said the Lord: Behold! them whom I built up, I am pulling down; them whom I planted, I am rooting up; [5] And wilt thou seek great things for thyself? Seek them not. For behold I am about to bring evils on all flesh, saith the Lord; but I will give thee thy life as a gift in every place whither thou shalt go.

* CHAPTER XLVI *

IN the beginning of the reign of king Sedekias, this word came [from the Lord] respecting Elam:

[2] To Egypt, respecting the army of Pharaoh Nechao, king of Egypt, who was by the river Euphrates, at Charmis, whom Nabuchodonosar king of Babylon defeated in the fourth year of Joakim, king of Juda:

[3] Arm with buckler and shields, and advance to battle. [4] Harness the horses. Horsemen mount! and stand firm in your helmets. Having put on your breast plates, charge with your lances. [5] Why are they daunted, and falling back? Because their mighty men will be cut down, they fled amain; they rallied not, being hemmed in on all sides, saith the Lord. [6] Let not the swift flee, nor the mighty escape to the north. The forces at the river Euphrates are weak and have fallen. [7] Who is this that will rush forth like the river, and whose stream will billow like a flood? [8] The waters of Egypt will rush forth like a river; for He said: I will issue forth and overwhelm the earth, and destroy the inhabitants thereof. [9] Mount your horses, prepare your chariots: march forth ye warriors of Ethiopia! and ye Libyans well clad in armour! go up also ye Lydians who bend the bow.

[10] (p) This is indeed a day for the Lord our God: a day of vengeance, to execute vengeance on His enemies. And the sword of the Lord shall devour and be filled; it shall indeed be glutted with their blood; for there is a sacrifice for the Lord in the land of the north at the river Euphrates. [11] Go up, Galaad, and take balm for the virgin daughter of Egypt. In vain hast thou multiplied thy medicines; there is no cure for thee. [12] The nations heard thy voice and with thy screams the land was filled; because warrior added to warrior were weak, they both fell together.

[13] The words which the Lord spoke by the ministry of Jeremias, that the king of Babylon would come and smite the land of Egypt:

[14] Despatch messengers to Magdolus; send also to Memphis. Say, to arms! and be ready! for a sword hath laid waste thy grove. [15] Why did Apis flee from thee? Thy chosen bull, why did he not stand? [16] Because the Lord made him weak and thy multitude was weak and fell, therefore every one said to his fellow, Let us arise and return to our people, to our native land, from the

face of the Grecian sword. [17] Call the name of Pharaoh Nechao king of Egypt, *Saon-Esbie-Moed*, [meaning *An empty sound*].

[18] As I live, saith the Lord God, like Itaburion among the mountains, and like Charmel which is by the sea, he shall come. Get ready utensils for thy removal, [19] O well-housed daughter of Egypt! for Memphis shall be a waste and shall be called, *Alas*, because in it there are no inhabitants. [20] Egypt was a beautiful heifer; a detachment from the north came against her. [21] And the mercenaries, which she had with her, were like fatted bulls which she had fed. For they turned and fled with one consent: they made no stand, because the day of destruction came upon them and the time of their visitation. [22] Their sound is that of a hissing serpent; for they march in dust. With axes they will come against her; [23] like fellers of timber they will cut down her groves, saith the Lord. Because she would not be assimilated. Because she increaseth more than locusts which are innumerable, [24] the daughter of Egypt is put to shame; she is delivered into the hands of a people from the north. [25] Behold I will punish her son Ammon in the person of Pharaoh, and in the persons of them who trusted in him.

[27] But thou Jacob My servant be not afraid; and thou Israel be not dismayed. For behold I will save thee from afar and thy seed from their captivity. And Jacob shall return and enjoy rest and sleep; and there shall be none to discompose him. [28] Fear not, My servant Jacob, saith the Lord, since I am with thee. This fearless and luxurious one is delivered up, for I will make an end of every nation to which I have driven thee; But of thee I will not make an entire end. But I will correct thee for judgment and not suffer thee to go unpunished.

* CHAPTER XLVII *

CONCERNING the Philistines,

[2] Thus saith the Lord: Behold, waters are coming from the north, and they shall become an overwhelming flood, and shall overwhelm the land and the fulness thereof—the cities and them who dwell therein: and the men shall utter the scream of distress, and all the inhabitants of the land, a doleful cry. [3] At the sound of his impetuous onset; at the armour of his infantry; at the rushing of his chariots; the rumbling of his wheels; fathers looked not back on their children, by reason of the feebleness of their hands.

[4] In the day which is coming to destroy all the Philistines I will destroy also Tyre and Sidon and all the residue of their help.

(p) For the Lord will utterly destroy the remnants in the isles, [5] baldness is come upon Gaza: Askalon is overthrown and the remnant of Enakim.

[6] (c) How long wilt thou hew down, O sword of the Lord? How long will it be ere thou wilt rest? Return into thy scabbard, rest and be removed.

[7] (p) How can it rest when the Lord hath given it a charge against Askalon and the cities on the sea coast and to be lifted up against them whom remain?

+ CHAPTER XLVIII +

RESPECTING Moab, thus said the Lord: Alas! for Nabo; for it is destroyed. Kariathaim is taken. Amath and Agath are put to shame. [2] There is no more a cure for Moab; a boasting in Esebon. He hath devised evils against her. We have cut her off from being a nation and she shall go to rest. Behind thee the sword shall stalk on. [3] Because there is a sound of screaming from Oronaim—destruction and great tribulation, [4] Moab is trodden down. Despatch news to Zogora that Aloth is filled with lamentation; [5] she will go up weeping by the way of Oronaim. You have heard the scream of distress; [6] flee and save your lives, and you shall be like a wild ass in the desert. [7] Seeing thou hast trusted in thy fortifications, therefore thou shalt be taken; and Chamos shall go into banishment, and his priests and his chiefs with him; [8] and destruction shall come on every city, none shall escape. The vale also shall be destroyed and the plain wasted as the Lord hath said. [9] Set up marks for Moab; for with destruction she shall be destroyed; and all her cities shall be for desolation. Whence can she have an inhabitant? [10] He is cursed who doth the work of the Lord negligently, withholding his sword from blood.

[11] Moab enjoyed rest from his youth and trusted in his glory; he hath not been decanted from vessel to vessel; and into banishment he hath never gone; therefore his taste remaineth in him and his flavour is not lost. [12] Therefore behold the days are coming, saith the Lord, when I will send decanters and they shall decant him; and they shall break his vessels and cut to pieces his drinking horns; [13] and Moab shall be put to shame for Chamos

as the house of Israel were for Baithel, their confidence. [14] How can ye who have put confidence in them say, We are strong, and a man mighty for feats of war? [15] Moab is destroyed with his cities; and his chosen men are gone down to slaughter. [16] The day of Moab is near at hand, and with speed his calamity is approaching.

[17] Shake your heads for him, all ye around him; pronounce his name, all of you; say, How the beautiful sceptre is broken! the sceptre of majesty! [18] Come down from glory and sit low in mire. Daibon shall be trampled down because Moab is destroyed. The demolisher of thy stronghold is come up against thee. Stand by the wayside and take a view, [19] O inhabitant of Aroer! ask him who is fleeing and making escape, and say, What is the news? [20] Moab is put to shame; for he is utterly discomfited. Raise the mournful cry and scream; proclaim in Arnon that Moab is destroyed. [21] Judgment is indeed coming on the land of Misor, upon Chalon, and Rephas, and Mophas, [22] and on Daibon, and on Nabo, and on the house of Daithlathaim, [23] and on Kariathaim, and on the house of Gaimol, and on the house of Maon, [24] and on Karioth, and on Bosor, and on all the cities of Moab far and near. [25] The horn of Moab is hacked to pieces, and his prowess is broken. [26] Make him drunk.

Because he magnified himself against the Lord, He will therefore clap with His hand at Moab that he may be an object of derision; [27] for was not Israel an object of mirth to thee and found among thy stolen goods, because thou didst fight against him? [28] The inhabitants of Moab have left their cities and made their abode among rocks. They were like pigeons nestling in rocks at the mouth of a cave.

[29] (p) I have heard indeed of the pride of Moab: he was very proud—and of his haughtiness; his heart was elated.

[30] (J) But as for Me, I know his words: is not this his desert? Hath he not acted thus? [31] Therefore raise on all sides the mournful cry for Moab; scream for the shorn men of a place forlorn.

[32] (p) With the wailing of Jazer I will wail for thee, O vine of Aserema. Thy branches extended to the sea; they reached to the cities of Jazer. When thy fruit was ripe, destruction came upon thy grape-gatherers. [33] Joy and gladness were snatched from Moab, when the vine was in thy lakes. In the morning there was no treading, and in the evening no shouts of joy. [34] At the scream of Esebon which reached to Aitam, their cities from Zogar

to Oronaim uttered their voice, and spread the news with an alarm.

(J) Because the water of Nebrin also shall be dried up, [35] therefore I will destroy Moab, saith the Lord; when he is going up to the altar and burning incense to his gods.

[36] (p) For this let the heart of Moab groan like droning pipes. Let my heart sound like a droning for the men of Keiradas.

(J) Because all that every man had procured is utterly destroyed; [37] let them everywhere shave the whole head; and let the whole beard be shaven and all hands gashed; and let there be sackcloth on every loin, [38] and on all the house-tops of Moab and in every street: for I have broken him, saith the Lord, like a vessel that is useless. [39] How did he deprecate! How did Moab turn his back! Moab was ashamed and became a subject of laughter and derision to all around. [40] For thus said the Lord: [41] Karioth is taken and the strongholds are surprised; [42] and Moab shall be destroyed from being a multitude. Because he magnified himself against the Lord, [43] a trap, a scare-net and a pit are prepared for thee, O inhabitant of Moab! [44] He who fleeth from the scare-net shall fall into the pit; and he who getteth up out of the pit shall be caught in the trap. For I will bring these things on Moab in the year of their visitation.

* CHAPTER XLIX *

RESPECTING the children of Ammon, thus said the Lord: Hath Israel no sons? or have they no heir? Why then hath Melchol taken possession of Galaad? Shall his people dwell in their cities? [2] For this cause behold the days are coming, saith the Lord, when I will cause the tumult of battles against Rabbath to be heard; and they shall be for desolation and destruction; and her altars shall be consumed with fire; and Israel shall assume his government.

[3] Raise the mournful cry, O Esebon, for Gai is destroyed. Scream, ye daughters of Rabbath; gird on sackcloth and mourn; for Melchol shall go into banishment and his priests and his chiefs with him. [4] What! are you exulting with joy in the vales of Enakim? O daughter of wantonness who trustest in thy treasures—who sayest, Who shall come against me? [5] Behold I am bringing terror against thee, said the Lord,—from every neigh-

bour around thee: and you shall be scattered every one before it; and there shall be none to collect you.

[7] Respecting Idumea, thus said the Lord: There is no more any wisdom in Thaiman. Counsel is perished from the prudent.

[8] Wisdom is fled from them. Their place hath been led into error.

[8] (p) O inhabitants of Daidan! retire to a deep settlement for He hath brought on calamities.

(J) I brought them on him at the time when I visited him. [9] Because grape gatherers are come, who will not leave thee a gleaning. Like thieves by night they will lay to their hands. [10] Because I plundered Esau and discovered their hidden stores; They could not be concealed, they were destroyed.

[11] (p) By means of the hand of his brother, my neighbour, there is indeed no place for Thine orphan to be left that it may live.

(J) But I will cause it to live. In Me the widows have trusted. [12] Because they (said the Lord) who had a law not to drink the cup, drank it; thou therefore shalt not escape unpunished. [13] For by Myself I have sworn, saith the Lord, thou shalt be a desolation and a reproach and a curse in this country and all its cities shall be perpetual wastes.

[14] (p) I have heard a report from the Lord. He hath sent messengers to the nations [saying], Assemble and come against her; arise for battle.

[15] (J) I have made thee little among the nations, very contemptible among men. [16] Thine insolence hath entrapped thee; the wantonness of thy heart destroyed the holes of rocks. It took possession of a strong, lofty mountain. Because like an eagle thou hast built thy nest high; thence I will pull thee down: [17] and Idumea shall be a desolation. Every passer-by shall express for it the sound of pity. [18] As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorra and the neighbouring cities, said the Lord Almighty, no man shall abide there, nor shall a son of man dwell there. [19] Behold they shall be like the lion which must go up from the swelling of Jordan to Aitham. For I will speedily drive them from that place. Therefore set ye chosen warriors against it.

[20] Because who is like Me? Or who can withstand Me? And who is the shepherd who can stand before Me? Therefore hear the counsel of the Lord which He hath taken against Idumea, and the determination He hath come to against the inhabitants of Thaiman: Let all but the tenderest of the flock be destroyed; let all but a resting place for them be made a desolation.

[21] (p) At the sound of their fall the earth trembled, so that the roaring of the sea was not heard. [22] Behold He will take a view like an eagle, and expand His wings against her fortifications; and the heart of the valiant men of Idumea shall be on that day like the heart of a woman in travail.

[23] Respecting Damascus, Emath and Arphath are overwhelmed in shame. Because they heard bad news they were confounded; they boiled with rage; they cannot take rest. [24] Damascus is enervated. She turned to flee: terror seized her. [25] How can it be otherwise? She forsook My city. Did they regard a single village? [26] Therefore thy young men shall fall in thy streets; and all thy valiant warriors shall fall, saith the Lord. [27] And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus and it shall consume the palaces of Son of Ader.

[28] Respecting Kedar the queen of the court, which Nabuchodonosar king of Babylon smote, thus said the Lord; arise and go up against Kedar; and glut the sons of Kedem. [29] Let them seize their tents and their flocks: let them take for themselves their clothing, all their utensils and their camels: and call ye for destruction against all them around. [30] Flee, retire very deep to a settlement, O inhabitants at the court. For against you the king of Babylon hath taken counsel, and hath come to a determination, saying, [31] Arise and go up against a wealthy nation dwelling at ease who have neither gates nor bars nor bolts—who dwell alone. [32] Let their camels be for a prey and the multitude of their cattle for slaughter.

For I will winnow them with every wind who have their foreheads shaven, and from all sides I will bring destruction on them, saith the Lord. [33] And the court shall be a lodging place for ostriches and a waste forever. No man shall abide there, nor shall a son of man there make his dwelling.

[34] In the beginning of the reign of king Sedekias came this word concerning Ailam,

[35] Thus saith the Lord: The bow of Ailam is broken, the instrument of his dominion. [36] And I will bring upon Ailam four winds from the four quarters of heaven and I will scatter them with these winds; so that there shall not be a nation to which the outcasts of Ailam shall not come. [37] And I will terrify them before their enemies who seek their lives; and bring against them according to the fury of My wrath, and send against them My sword, until it utterly consume them. [38] And I will set My throne in Ailam and drive thence kings and nobles. [39] But it

shall come to pass at the last of these days I will bring back the captivity of Ailam, saith the Lord.

* CHAPTER L *

A WORD of the Lord which he spake against Babylon:

[2] Proclaim among the nations, publish and conceal not—say, Babylon is taken; Bel is confounded; the fearless, the luxurious Mairodach is delivered up. [3] For a nation is gone up against her from the north, which will make her land a desolation, so that none shall dwell therein, neither man nor beast. [4] In those days, even at that time, shall come up the children of Israel, they and the children of Juda together: walking slow and weeping they will march on seeking the Lord their God. [5] They will ask the way to Zion; for thitherward they will set their face; and they will come and flee to the Lord their God; for the everlasting covenant shall not be forgotten.

[6] My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds caused them to stray. On the mountains they caused them to wander. From mountain to hill they roamed. They forgot their place of rest. [7] All that found them devoured them. Their enemies said, Let us not spare them because they sinned against the Lord. He who gathered their fathers hath a pasture of righteousness: [8] remove out of Babylon and from the country of the Chaldeans, and go out and be like dragons before sheep. [9] For lo! I am raising up against Babylon assemblies of nations from the north; and they shall be drawn up in array against her. Thence one shall be taken like the dart of a skillful warrior which shall not rebound in vain.

[10] So Chaldea shall be for a prey. All that plunder it shall be satisfied. [11] Because you rejoiced and triumphed when you were plundering My heritage—because you frisked about like calves in a pasture, and brandished your horns like bulls; [12] your mother shall be greatly ashamed: she who brought you forth for prosperity shall be confounded. Being the hindmost of nations; [13] a desert because of the wrath of the Lord, she shall not be inhabited; but shall be entirely a desolation.

Sorrow will cover the countenance of all who travel through Babylon; and at all their calamity they will express pity. [14] Set yourselves in array all around against Babylon. All ye who bend the bow shoot at her: spare not your arrows, [15] you must needs

subdue her. Her hands are weakened; her bulwarks have fallen, and her wall is undermined. Because it is a vengeance from the Lord; execute vengeance on her. As she hath done, do ye to her. [16] Destroy utterly the seed of Babylon, him who handleth the sickle in harvest. Let them return from the face of the Grecian sword, every one to his own people; and let every one flee to his own land.

[17] Israel was a wandering sheep. Lions scared him away. The first who devoured him was the king of Assur, and this last, the king of Babylon gnawed his bones. [18] Therefore thus saith the Lord, Behold I will execute vengeance on the king of Babylon and his land as I executed vengeance on the king of Assyria. [19] And I will bring back Israel to his pasture, and he shall feed on Carmel, and on mount Ephraim, and on Galaad; and his soul shall be satisfied. [20] In those days and at that time, search shall be made for the iniquity of Israel; but none shall remain; and for the sins of Juda, but none shall be found. For I will be merciful to them who are left.

[21] With respect to this land, saith the Lord. Go up with bitterness against it and against them who dwell in it; take vengeance, O sword, and destroy utterly; saith the Lord, and do according to all that I command thee.

[22] A sound of battle and great distress in the land of the Chaldeans! [23] How the hammer of the whole earth is broken and dashed to pieces! How Babylon is become a desolation among the nations! [24] They will come upon thee and thou shalt not know—like Babylon itself and thou shalt be taken. Thou art found out and taken, because thou didst set thyself against the Lord.

[25] The Lord hath opened His arsenal and brought out the instruments of His wrath; because the Lord God hath a work to perform in the land of the Chaldeans.

[26] Because her time is come; open ye her treasuries, search her like a cave; and destroy her utterly. Let not a remnant of her be left. [27] Lay waste all her fruits and let them go down to destruction.

(p) Alas for them; for their day is come and the time of their visitation! [28] Hark! a sound of men fleeing and escaping out of the land of Babylon to inform Sion of the vengeance of the Lord our God.

[29] (J) Issue these orders to many against Babylon—to every

one bending a bow—Encamp against her round about; let none escape out of her.

Render to her according to her works—according to all that she hath done, do ye to her. Because she set herself against the Lord, the Holy God of Israel, [30] therefore her young men shall fall in her streets and all her mighty warriors shall be laid low, saith the Lord.

[31] Behold I am against thee, thou essence of haughtiness, saith the Lord. Because thy day is come and the time of thy punishment; [32] therefore thy haughtiness shall be abated and fall, and none shall continue to support it. For I will kindle a fire in her forest which shall devour all around her.

[33] Thus saith the Lord: The children of Israel and the children of Juda have both been oppressed; all who captivated them tyrannised over them.

Because they refused to let them go, [34] therefore their Redeemer—the Mighty One, Whose name is The Lord Almighty, will plead their cause with their adversaries. In order that He may remove this land out of the way, He will sharpen for the inhabitants of Babylon [35] a sword against the Chaldeans and against the inhabitants of Babylon, and against her grandees and against her counsellors— [36] a sword against her warriors, and they shall be destroyed; [37] a sword against their horses and against their chariots—a sword against their warriors and the mixed multitude in the midst of her [Babylon], and they shall be like women—a sword against her treasures, and they shall be rifled; [38] [a sword] against those who are on her waters, and they shall be exposed to shame.

Because it is a land of the graven images and it was in these islands where they boasted; [39] therefore idols shall dwell in those islands and in her shall dwell the daughters of Sirens, and she shall never more be inhabited. [40] As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorra and the neighbouring cities,—said the Lord: No man shall dwell there, nor shall a son of man make his abode there. [41] Behold a people is coming from the north, even a mighty nation, and many kings shall be roused up from the extremity of the earth [42] handling the bow and sword. They are haughty and will shew no mercy: their voice will roar like the sea. On horses they will come prancing, in array like fire, for battle against thee, O daughter of Babylon.

[43] The king of Babylon heard the report of them and his

hands were enfeebled; anguish seized him like the pangs of a woman in travail. [44] Behold he will be like the lion which must go up from the swelling of Jordan to Gaitham, for I will speedily drive men from her, and set every youth against her: for who is like Me and who can withstand Me? And who is the shepherd who can stand before Me? [45] Therefore hear the counsel which the Lord hath taken against Babylon; and the determination He is come to against the Chaldean inhabitants, let all but the lambs of the flock to be destroyed; let all but a pasture for them be made a desolation. [46] For at the sound of the capture of Babylon the earth shall be shaken, and a scream shall be heard among the nations.

* CHAPTER LI *

THUS said the Lord: Behold, against Babylon and against the Chaldean inhabitants I am raising up a hot destroying wind. [2] And against Babylon I will send scorners who will treat her with scorn and waste her land. Woe shall surround Babylon on all sides in the day of her affliction. [3] Let him, who bendeth the bow, bend it; and him, who hath armour put it on; shew no compassion to her youths, and destroy utterly all her host. [4] And let the wounded fall in the land of the Chaldeans, and those who are pierced through, fall in her streets.

[5] (p) Since Israel and Juda are not quite forsaken by their God, the Lord Almighty, on account of their land being filled with iniquity by reason of the sanctuaries of Israel; [6] flee out of Babylon and save every one his life and be not involved in her iniquity. For the time of her punishment is come from the Lord, and He is rendering to her a recompense. [7] Babylon was a golden cup in the hand of the Lord, furnishing a plentiful draught to all the nations. Of her wine the nations drank, therefore they reeled. [8] But Babylon is suddenly fallen and broken. Utter a lamentation for her. Get balm for her deadly wound; perhaps she may be cured.

[9] (c) We have administered medicines to Babylon, but she is not healed. Let us leave her and depart every one to his own land: for her judgment hath reached to heaven and mounted up to the stars. [10] The Lord hath published His decree. Come let us proclaim in Sion the works of the Lord our God.

[11] (p) Prepare the arrows. Fill the quivers. The Lord hath

stirred up the spirit of the king of the Medes. For His wrath is against Babylon to destroy her utterly. For it is the vengeance of the Lord—the avengement of His people. [12] On the walls of Babylon erect a standard; set the watch; have arms ready. Because the Lord hath undertaken; therefore He will accomplish what He hath spoken against the inhabitants of Babylon— [13] against them who dwell on many waters, and against the multitude of her treasures. Thine end is come, it is come indeed into thy bowels: [14] for the Lord hath sworn by His arm, I will fill thee with men as with locusts; and they who go down shall utter a sound against thee.

[15] (c) The Lord is He who made the earth by His power, who fitted up the world by His wisdom. By His understanding He stretched out the heaven. [16] At His voice there was in heaven a sound of water, and He brought up clouds from the extremity of the earth. He made the lightning for rain and brought out light from His treasures. [17] Every man by knowledge became stupefied, every melter of gold was put to shame for his graven images; for their molten images were falsehoods, there is no breath in them. [18] They are works of vanity and objects of derision. In the time of their visitation they shall perish. [19] The portion of Jacob is not such as these, for He who formed all things is his inheritance: His name is the Lord.

[20] (J) Thou art dispersing for Me implements of war, but in thee I will disperse nations and remove kings out of thee; [21] and in thee I will disperse the horse and his rider; [22] and in thee I will disperse chariots and charioteers; and in thee I will disperse the youth and the virgin; and in thee I will disperse the husband and the wife; [23] and in thee I will disperse the shepherd and the flock; and in thee I will disperse the husbandman and his husbandry; and in thee I will disperse the generals and leaders of armies, [24] and tribute to Babylon and all the Chaldean inhabitants all the evils which they have done to Sion in your sight, saith the Lord.

[25] Behold I am against thee, O corrupted mountain which corruptest the whole earth, and I will stretch out My hand against thee and roll thee down on rocks; and I will make thee like a mountain which hath been burned to ashes, [26] so that they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner nor a stone for a foundation. For thou shalt be a desolation for ever, saith the Lord. [27] Erect a standard in the land. Sound a trumpet among the nations. [28] Prepare the nations against her. Issue orders against her. Carry

them, O kings, from Me even to the Achanazeans. Erect towers against her. Against her bring up cavalry like a multitude of locusts. Against her bring up nations, the king of the Medes and of the whole earth—his generals and all the leaders of his army.

[29] (p) The earth was in commotion and oppressed with toil, because the determination of the Lord against Babylon had roused it, to make the land of Babylon a desolation and uninhabitable. [30] The warriors of Babylon declined to fight. They will sit still there during a siege. Their mighty power is broken. [31] They are become like women. Her habitations are burned with fire. Her bars are broken. Courier will run to meet courier, and messenger to meet messenger, to tell the king of Babylon that his city is taken— [32] that the passages one after another are forced—that the barriers are burned with fire and his warriors are fleeing. [33] For thus said the Lord: The houses of the king of Babylon shall be threshed like a floor full of ripe grain. Yet a little while and her harvest will come.

She devoured me*; she chewed me to pieces: thick darkness overwhelmed me. [34] Nabuchodonosar king of Babylon swallowed me down; like a dragon he filled his belly with my dainties. They have cast me up.

[35] (p) Let the inhabitants of Sion say, My troubles and my miseries be upon Babylon! and let Jerusalem say, My blood be upon the Chaldean inhabitants!

[36] (J) For this cause, thus saith the Lord, Behold I will judge thine adversary and avenge thy cause; and I will drain off her sea and make her fountain dry, [37] and Babylon shall be a desolation and shall not be inhabited. [38] Because they roused together like lions and like lions' whelps; [39] in their heat I will give them a draught and make them drunk; that they may be stupefied and sleep a perpetual sleep and never awake, saith the Lord.

[40] (p) Down, down with them, like lambs to slaughter and like rams and he goats. [41] How the boast of the whole earth is hunted and taken! how Babylon has become a desolation among the nations! [42] The sea came up against Babylon with its roaring waves, and she is overwhelmed. [43] Her cities are become like a land without water, an untrodden desert. Not an individual can dwell there, nor can a son of man lodge in her.

[44] (J) I will indeed punish Babylon and bring forth out of

* Sion now speaks.

her mouth what she hath swallowed. And the nations shall no more be gathered together to her; nor shall the victims of the whole earth fall by Babylon. [45] Away from her country, [50] ye who have escaped; and tarry not; ye who are far off, remember the Lord; and let Jerusalem recur to your mind.

[51] (c) We are ashamed; because we have heard our reproach, disgrace hath covered our face; strangers have entered our sanctuaries—into the house of the Lord.

[52] (J) Therefore behold the days are coming, saith the Lord, when I will execute vengeance on her graven images, and among all them her wounded shall fall in that land. [53] For though Babylon should mount up to heaven—though she fortify her walls with all her might, from Me shall come forth those who shall destroy her, saith the Lord.

[54] (p) A sound of screaming in Babylon! and great destruction in the land of the Chaldeans! [55] For the Lord hath utterly destroyed Babylon, and put an end to her din, which was like the sound of great waters. Her din He hath given up to destruction. [56] For misery is come upon Babylon. Her warriors are taken. Their bow is confounded; for God rendereth them retribution.

The Lord rendereth them retribution; [57] and He will make utterly drunk her leaders and her wise men and her generals, saith the King whose name is The Lord Almighty. [58] Thus saith the Lord, The wall of Babylon was made broad; It shall be totally demolished and her lofty gates shall be burned with fire; and the peoples shall not labour in vain, though the nations may at first fail.

[59] The word which the Lord commanded Jeremias the prophet to deliver to Saraias son of Nerias son of Maasias when he was going from Sedekias king of Juda to Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. (Now Saraias had the charge of the homage gifts.)

[60] When Jeremias had written in a book all the evils which were to come upon Babylon, even all the words above written against Babylon, [61] Jeremias said to Saraias: When thou art come to Babylon and shalt have seen and read all these words, [62] then thou shalt say, O Lord, Lord, Thou hast spoken against this place, that Thou wilt destroy it utterly, so that none shall dwell therein, neither man nor beast; for it shall be a desolation forever.

[63] And when thou hast finished reading the book, then thou

shalt tie a stone to it and throw it into the midst of the Euphrates, [64] and say, So shall Babylon sink and rise no more by reason of the evils which I bring upon it.

* CHAPTER LII *

SEDEKIAS was twenty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem and his mother's name was Ameital. She was a daughter of Jeremias of Lobena. [4] And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign in the ninth month, on the tenth of the month, Nabuchodonosar king of Babylon, came with his whole army against Jerusalem, and they besieged it and built a wall around it of square stones, [5] and the city was besieged until the eleventh year of king Sedekias. [6] On the ninth day of the [fourth] month there was a grievous famine in the city and there was no bread for the people of the land. [7] When a breach was made into the city, all the men who were warriors went out by night by the way of the gate between the outer and the inner wall, which was along the king's garden, (though the Chaldeans were all around the city); and took the road to Araba.

[8] And the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook him on the borders of Jericho. And all his servants being dispersed from him, [9] they took the king and carried him to the king of Babylon at Deblatha, who passed sentence on him. [10] And the king of Babylon slew the sons of Sedekias before his eyes. He slew also all the chiefs of Juda at Deblatha. [11] Then he put out the eyes of Sedekias and bound him with chains. And the king of Babylon led him to Babylon and committed him to the slave prison where he continued till the day of his death.

[12] And in the fifth month on the tenth of the month Nabou-zardan the chief cook, who stood in the presence of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem [13] and burned the house of the Lord and the king's house. He burned also with fire all the public buildings of the city and every stately house. [14] And the army of the Chaldeans which was with the chief cook demolished all the wall of Jerusalem round about. [16] But the chief cook left the remains of the people for vinedressers and husbandmen.

[17] The Chaldeans also broke to pieces the pillars of brass which were in the house of the Lord and the bases and the sea of brass which was in the house of the Lord, and took the brass and

carried it to Babylon with the crown, [18] and the bowls and the flesh-forks and all the utensils of brass with which they sacrificed; [19] and the basons and the snuffers and the oil vessels and the candlesticks and the censers and the cups. Those which were of gold, or gilded, and those which were of silver, or plated, the chief cook took. [20] As for the two pillars and the sea and the twelve oxen of brass under the sea, which king Solomon had made for the house of the Lord, there was no weighing the brass thereof. [21] The height of each of the pillars was thirty five cubits and a fillet of twelve cubits encircled it, the thickness of which was four fingers all around. [22] And there was a chapter of brass on each of them of the height of five cubits with a ball on the top of each and a piece of grillwork and pomegranates around on each chapter, all of brass; eight pomegranates to a cubit for the twelve cubits. [23] So that there were ninety-six pomegranates on the sides and all the pomegranates on the grillwork round about were one hundred.

[24] And the chief cook took the chief priest, and the priest who was second to him, and the three who guarded the way; [25] and a chamberlain who was over the men of war, and seven men of renown who attended in the king's presence, who were found in the city, and the scribe of the armies, who mustered the people of the land; and sixty chief men of the people of the country, who were found in the city. [26] These Nabouzardan, the chief cook, took and brought to the king of Babylon at Deblatha. [27] And the king of Babylon slew them at Deblatha in the land of Aimath. [31] And it came to pass in the thirty-seventh year of the captivity of Jechonias king of Juda, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-fourth of the month, Oulaimadachar king of Babylon, in the first year of his reign, took and raised up the head of Jechonias king of Juda, and caused him to be shaven and released him from the prison, in which he was confined, [32] and spoke kindly to him and set his seat above the kings, who were with him in Babylon; [33] and changed his prison-dress, and caused him to eat in his presence, all the days of his life.

[34] And he had a portion continually given to him, day by day, from the king of Babylon, to the day of his death.