THE SPEECHES OF JEREMIAH, THE SON OF

KHILKIAH,

One of the priests who were in Anathoth, in the district of Benjamin.

They were a message from the LORD to him from the times of Josiah-ben-Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. They also came in the days of Jehoiakim-ben-Joshiah, king of Judah, and at the end of the fifth month of the twelfth year of Zedekiah-ben-Joshiah, king of Judah, at the overthrow of Jerusalem.

Thus the message of the EVER-LIVING LORD came to me and said:—

The Appointment as Prophet.

"At the time of your formation in the belly I knew you, and at the time you came from the womb, I consecrated you, I appointed you a Preacher to Nations."

But I replied, "Almighty LORD, I know not how to speak! for I am a youth."

But the EVER-LIVING replied to me:—"Say not 'I am a youth,' for wherever I send, you must go; and all that I command, you must speak.

Fear nothing in their presence, for I am with you, to protect," said the LORD. Then the EVER-LIVING extended His hand, and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,—"I have now given your mouth eloquence! See! I have appointed you to-day over nations, and kingdoms; to pull up, and to break down, and to destroy, and to erase; as well as to build, and to plant."

Then a message from the EVER-LIVING came to me, asking, "What do you see, Jeremiah?"

And I replied, "I see the branches of the Watchful tree!"

When the EVER-LIVING answered me, "Attend to what you see! For I am watchful over My promises to perform them."

But the message of the EVER-LIVING came to me again to ask, "What do you see?"

When I answered, "I see a steaming boiler, and its mouth is from the north."

Then the LORD replied to me, 14 "From the north all the miseries upon the inhabitants of this country shall be vomited. I will call to all 15 the families of the kingdoms of the north," said the EVER-LIVING, "and they will come, and each one fix its seat before the gates of Jerusalem, and opposite all its surrounding bulwarks, and upon all the hills of Judah. But I will tell you all my 16 decisions against them, because of their many wrongs in deserting me, and offering incense to other gods, and worshiping the fabrications of their own hands. And for you, gird up your waist, and arise, and speak to them all that I command you, undepressed by their presence, for fear you should be subjected by their station.—For have I not placed Myself to you to-day as a fortified City, with bars of iron and walls of brass against all the country, against the kings of Judah,—against its officers, its priests, and against the people of the land? for they will 19 fight against you, but shall not overpower you, for I am with you," said the LORD, "to protect you!"

A Remonstrance with Judah.

The message of the EVER-LIVING 2 afterwards came to me to say:—

"Go, and proclaim in the ears of Jerusalem, and say, 'Thus says the EVER-LIVING— I attended you in
your infancy; I loved you in your youth; guided you after Me from the
desert to a land you had not
cultivated, for Israel to dedicate to the EVER-LIVING the first of its
products. They devoured them all! Wickedly bad they went at them!" said the EVER-LIVING,

4 Listen, House of Jacob, to the
message of the EVER-LIVING, with all the families of the House of
Israel! The EVER-LIVING asks this:

"What injustice did your fathers
find in Me, that they have removed from Me, and follow after delusions,
and deluded themselves? instead of
asking, Where is the EVER-LIVING who mounted in company with us from the land of the Egyptians? Who marched with us in the desert, in a country of drought, and
snares, in the land of withering and the shadow of death; in the land
where no one passes, and no man

dwells; whence I brought you to a
land of pastures, to eat its fruits and
goodness. But you went and defiled
My Country, and My Estate, by attaching yourselves to Abominations.

8 "The priests asked not, Where is
the EVER-LIVING? or took hold of the Law. They would not teach
about Me; and the guardians sinned against Me; and the Preachers
preached for Bal; and would not
rise up to advance after Me! Therefore I will contend with them," said the EVER-LIVING, "and with the sons of their sons I will contend;
for they shall pass over to the isles of the Kithites and look, and mourn
in their exile and think much, and
examine what came of this changing to heathen gods,—who are not gods.
For My people changed for what are
worthless. The heavens heard and
were astonished at it, and shuddered, wasting away!" said the EVER-
LIVING. "For My people twice did
evil to Me. They forsook the Spring of Living Water, to dig for them-
selves wells, broken wells which contain no water!—Israel served, with
the children of his House, what brought him to become an object of
plunder! The tigers roared against
him, they uttered their voices, and
assailed his country, to desolate his fortified cities, to deprive them of
inhabitants. The sons of Nof, also,
with Thakhfenes injured your crown.

"But have you not procured it to 17
yourselves? You forsook your EVER-
LIVING GOD at the time you went
from the path. And now why do you 18
wish for the road to Egypt, to drink
the black waters? And why do you
wish for the road to Ashur, to drink the water of that well?

"Turn yourself from your sins, and
return from your shame, and learn
and see how bad, and rebelliously
forgetful you are of your EVER-
LIVING GOD, and I will not terrify
you," said the MIGHTY LORD OF
HOSTS, "although from of old you
have vexed Me yourselves.

"I withdrew from your vows,—for 20
on every hill-top, and under every
leafy tree, was a walk for fornication.

"But I planted you, a perfect vine, 21
from a true stock;—then how is it
that you are changed from Me, turning to a wild vine? Even if I wash
you with nitre, and polish you with
soap, will your faults be removed?" asks the MIGHTY LORD OF HOSTS.

"How can you say, 'I have not
23 polluted myself with the Bilites.'
Look at your proceedings in the valley!

"I know what you have done in
the feasts of Lust, in her depraved
ways. You wild ass, used to the
24 desert, drawing your breath in puffs—in the spirit of lust,—who can turn
you away? All who seek her will be
wearing at the time she feels it. Keep your feet unshod, and your
25 throat for thirst, and say, 'They are
no use to me, for I love wantonness
and will go after it.'

"The shame of the House of Israel
is like the shame of a detected thief.
Both they, their kings, nobles, priests
and preachers, for they say to wood, 27
'You are my father,' and to stone,
'You bore us!' while they turn their
back, and not their face, to Me. But
in the time of distress they cry,
'Arise and save us!'

"Go to your gods whom you have 28
made for yourselves! Let them
arise,—if they can save you in the
time of your sufferings! For your
gods are as many as your towns,
Judah!

"Why do you all implore Me, 29
when you have all revolted from
Me?" the EVER-LIVING asks. "I 30
flogged your children in vain;—they
would not learn. Your own sword
has devoured your preachers like a ravaging lion. Search for ages," says the EVER-LIVING. "Have I been a desert to Israel? or a land of darkness? For what do you say to Me, 'Begone from us! We will never more come to You!'" 

"Can a bride forget her adornments, her beautiful girdle? Yet My People have forgotten Me, numberless times!

"Why do you prepare your way to seek love? Do I need researches to learn your ways, when I find the blood of poor innocent souls upon your skirts, without disarranging them to find it,—for it is on them all!"

"But,' you reply, 'although I have sinned, let the anger turn from me!'

"I will decide about you,—although you say 'I have not sinned!'"

"Why do you shuffle so to change your road. You were disappointed in the Egyptians as you were disappointed in Ashur. You will rush out from them with your hands on your face, for the EVER-LIVING will reject those you trust and you will not prosper in them.

"For instance when a man divorces his wife, and she has gone from him to another husband, she can never return to him.—Has not this country wandered, and often whored foolishly,—so shall she return to Me?" asks the EVER-LIVING.

"You lifted your eyes to the beards to see if there were not fornicators in your path. You stand for them like Arabs in the desert, and pollute the country by your whoredoms and your vices. But many refused, and would not grant the request. Yet with the brow of a whorish woman you refused to be ashamed of yourself.

"Have you not said to Me, 'You are the Gentle Father of my youth. Will He be angry for ever? Will He perpetually retain it?'"

A Denunciation of Israel's Worship of Vice.

6 The EVER-LIVING also said to me in the days of Josiah, 'Have you seen what perverted Israel has done, on the top of every high hill, and under every leafy tree, in whoring there? But I ask her, after having done all that, to return to Me, but she would not return, but glanced sily at her sister, Judah! Then I determined, that as in every respect perverse Israel had committed adultery, I would divorce her, so I divorced her, but sly Judah, her sister, regarded it not, but went and whored like her! And her whoredoms became more than all, and polluted the country, and defiled the rocks and the woods, but for all that her sly sister Judah did not return to Me with all her heart, but only in deceit!' said the EVER-LIVING.

The EVER-LIVING also said to me, 11 "Perverse Israel was more honest in soul than sly Judah.—Go and proclaim these things to the north, and say, 'Return, perverse Israel,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'I will not darken My face at you. Only return,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'I will not be angry for ever. Only recognize your fault, for you have sinned against your EVER-LIVING God, and splashed your paths with filth under every leafy tree, and have not listened to My voice," says the EVER-LIVING. 'Return, you lost children,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'for I will come to you and collect you, one from a town, and two from a family, and will bring you to Zion, and give you thoughtful shepherds, and they will tend you with knowledge and skill. And when it arrives that you increase, and are fruitful in the country in those times,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'they shall no more demand the Ark of the Covenant of the EVER-LIVING, for it shall not come to their heart, and they will not grieve about it, nor be anxious, nor make another.' In that period they shall call Jerusalem the 'Throne of the Life,' and all the Heathen will trust with her on the Name of the EVER-LIVING at Jerusalem, and will no more go after perversities, to suffer from them.

"In those times the House of Judah will march with the House of Israel from the land of the north to the country of Ashur to the estates of their forefathers. And I will reflect where I can put you with your children and will give you a beautiful country—you shall possess splendid armies like the heathen, and I will say, 'I am your Father, call to Me, and do not desert Me.' For exactly like a wife deserting to the wicked, so you
have deserted Me, House of Israel," 
21 says the EVER-LIVING. "A sound of weeping will be heard from My lips!—Pity My children of Israel, for they have lost their way! They have forgotten their EVER-LIVING GOD! Return, lost children! I will restore you from your wanderings."

The Response of God’s Returning Children.

"Here we are!—we will give ourselves to You, for You are our EVER-LIVING GOD. The crowd on the Hills is nothing; is nothing to our EVER-LIVING GOD—the Saviour of Israel! Shame has devoured the work of our fathers from our youth,—their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters. We were sleeping with our shame; we lay down with our infamies; for we sinned against our EVER-LIVING GOD,—we and our fathers, from our youth to this day,—and have not listened to the voice of our EVER-LIVING GOD."

The Lord’s Answer.

4 "If Israel will return," the EVER-LIVING says to me, "return. If you remove your filth from My presence, and do not renew it. If you swear by the life of the EVER-LIVING in truth for Justice and Right, and cause the Nations to bless Him, and praise Him."
3 For the EVER-LIVING says this to the men of Judah, and to Jerusalem, "Plough for yourselves, plough! and fear not in sowing.
4 "Circumcise yourselves to the EVER-LIVING, and put off the disgrace from your hearts, men of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem, for fear My anger should shoot out like fire: and burn unquenchably, because of your vile practices."

War Foretold to Judah.

5 "Let them inform Judah and Jerusalem, make them hear, and answer, and sound a trumpet in the country. Let them cry aloud and say, ‘Collect and come to the fortified towns. Arise, march to Zion! Fly! Delay not! for I am bringing trouble from the north, and a great crash!
6 A lion comes up from his place to your country to desolate your cities to an illimitable waste!’ " Because of this put on sackcloth! Lament, and howl, because the hot anger of the LORD will not turn from us.

"And it shall happen at that time," says the LORD, "the heart of the king, and the heart of his nobles will be desolate; the Priests and the Preachers be astonished, and say, 10 ‘Alas! ALMIGHTY LORD! why have You deceived this People, and Jerusalem, saying, Peace shall come to you, when the sword approaches for our life?’"

At that time He will order from the desert a wind with burning lips against this People, against the daughter of My People. Not by spurts, and not by puffs;—a full, howling wind shall go rushing from Me. I also will pronounce their doom!

See! He raises clouds, and whirlwinds for His swift chariot, and eagles for His horses! They are for us! They assail us!

"Jerusalem, wash your heart from sin, that I may save you from the death awaiting your fault in your breast. For a voice informs from Midian, and a report arises from Mount Ephraim. The nations perceive it; the Guards at Jerusalem even hear the comers from the land afar, and they send their voices to the cities of Judah. There are enemies watching around her,—for she rebelled from Me. Your ways, and your proceedings produced these sufferings for you,—for you are a rebel;—diseased to your heart!"

Jeremiah’s Lament at the Prospect.

My bowels, my bowels tremble! My heart reels, my heart mourns! I cannot rest for I have heard the voice of a trumpet! Oh, my soul! it is the sound of war. Crash upon crash it roars! For all the open country is destroyed,—suddenly they destroy the tents. Yes, my tent! Till my death I shall see the march! I shall hear the blast of the trumpets!

For my foolish People do not recognise my warnings! They are children of folly! They never reflect! They are wise for evil;—but cannot recognize good!

I looked to the earth, and it was desolate, and saw it convulsed and empty! And to the skies, and there was no light! I looked to the mountains, and saw earthquakes, and all the hills shook! I looked, but there was no man! and all the birds of the
26 skies had flown! I looked,—and Karmel was a Desert, and all her villages thrown down,—before the Presence of the EVER-LIVING!—before the anger in His face!

27 Then the EVER-LIVING said this:—
"All the land shall be desolate,—and I will not prevent it. Therefore the earth shall faint, and the skies shall be black,—because I have uttered my intentions, and shall not alter, or turn back from them."

29 They come with the tramp of a horse, with the leap of a bow, past every city. They advance in clouds with slings! Every village is abandoned,—there is not a man remaining!

30 Now, you haridan,—what will you do?—Though you clothe yourself in scarlet;—though your ornaments are jewels of gold,—though you tear your eyes with paint,—you will beautify yourself in vain! The profligates your soul seeks will despise you! For I hear the cry of a chiding woman,—the distress of a first birth,—the wail of the bedizened daughter of Zion! She spreads out her hands! "Woe to me now, for my life is exhausted by murderers!"

The Pain Order to Search for an Honest Man.

5 "Go about the streets of Jerusalem, and search, and examine, and seek in her squares, if you can find a man,—if there is one who administers justice, seeks truth,—and I will forgive her!—Although they swear by the life of the EVER-LIVING, they swear to deceive!"

The Prophet's Report.

3 LORD, are not Your eyes upon truth? You caused them to be punished, but their minds were not afflicted! They refused to accept correction. Their faces are harder than a rock. They refuse to alter! Then I thought, These are the low,—they are ignorant,—they cannot know the way of the EVER-LIVING,—the decrees of their GOD. I will go to the great, and speak with them. However, they had simultaneously broken the yoke,—had refused the traces!

The Lord's Answer.

6 "Therefore a lion from the forest shall wound them! An evening wolf shall ravage them! A panther lie in wait against their villages; he will tear all who come out, for they multiply their sins, they are strong for their transgressions.

"Can I pardon you for this? Your 7 children forsake Me, and are satisfied with Sham gods, so I will satisfy them! And they commit adultery,—and troop to the brothel. They are 8 prancing fed horses, each neighs after his neighbour's wife!

"Shall I not punish for these practices?" the EVER-LIVING asks. "Even if among the heathen it were the same, would not My soul punish it?

"Advance to her walls and destroy, 10 and make no repairs! Throw down her battlements, for they are not the LORD's. For the House of Israel has been falsely false to Me, with the House of Judah," says the EVER-LIVING. "They were false to the EVER-LIVING, and said, 'He is nothing! Trouble will not come upon us, and sword or famine will never arrive!' And the Preachers have no spirit and no message came to them, —they invent it for themselves!

"Therefore," thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Hosts, "Because you speak such things, I will make the words of your mouth fire, and this people wood, and will consume them. I will bring upon you a nation from afar, House of Israel," says the EVER-LIVING. "It is a resolute nation from of old. It is a nation that knows not how to turn back, and will not listen to what you say. Their face is like an open grave. They are all heroes; and will devour your harvests, and 17 your bread, and devour your sons and your daughters. And will eat your sheep, and your cattle. It will eat your vines and your figs. It will break your fortified cities, in which you trust, to pieces with the sword. And also in those days," says the 18 EVER-LIVING, "I will not work for you at all, and under them they will 19 come to ask, 'Why has our EVER-LIVING GOD done all this to us? When you shall reply to them, 'Because you have abandoned Him and served foreign gods in your own country,—therefore you shall serve tyrants in a country not your own.' "Communicate this to the House 20 of Jacob, and let it be reported to Judah, saying:—Listen to this, you 21 stupid People,—who have no eyes in
your mind, in whom no ear is seen,
so they cannot hear.' Could you not see My warning?' asks the EVER-LIVING, "if you had not reeled from My presence? Since I placed the sand as a bound to the sea, by an ancient decree, which it cannot transgress, but its foaming waves approach,
and cannot pass beyond? But for this people, their mind is blind, rebellious, degenerate, and wandering.

"Why do they not say to their heart, 'Let us look to our EVER-LIVING GOD Who gives rain, and sprinkles the latter rain in its season to accomplish the laws of harvest, and He will protect us?'

"Their faults restrain them, and their sins hold back from them those benefits. For the wicked are found in My People; they spread nets, they lay traps, they catch men! As a cage is full of birds, so their houses are full of treachery by which they become rich! They are fat, enriched,—they deal in false evidence, they regard no right,—the right of the widow, of the orphan,—and they administer not protection and justice to the poor.

"Shall I not punish for these things?" says the EVER-LIVING. "Even if heathen did them, would not My soul avenge them?"

"There is a shameful and horrible thing in the country! The Preachers preach falsehood, and the Priests trick with their hands,—and My People love to have it so,—and what can be done viler than that?"

A Warning to Benjamin.

Strengthen yourselves, sons of Benjamin, on the walls of Jerusalem, and blow aloud with the trumpet, and hoist a standard over the Castle of Olives, for trouble appears from the north, with a great crash! My idle, delicate, and tender daughter of Zion! Misery and desolation comes on you! They pitch their tents around you! each at the side of his mate! They proclaim war against her, they mount and go up to the forts! Woe for us!—for the day turns—for the dark shadows extend!

They rise up by night and destroy her palaces!

For thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, "Cut timber, and pile up an embankment against Jerusalem. It is a city cramped with wrong in its breast.

As a spring pours out water, so she pours out wrong-doing; violence and plunder are heard in her; wounding and murder are always before Me! Return to Me, Jerusalem, lest My soul becomes sick of you!—for fear I should make you a desert,—a land where no one dwells!"

Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, "Glean, glean the remnant of Israel like a vine! Turn your hand like a grape-picker over the boughs."

The Prophet.

To whom shall I speak, and give instructions, that they will hear? See! They have artificial ears, that cannot listen! The word of the EVER-LIVING has become their scorn; they have no pleasure in it! Therefore I am full of the spirit of the EVER-LIVING. I am unable to restrain myself.

The Lord.

"Pour it out upon the children in the street, and upon the crowd of youths, at once, for the Man and the Woman shall be captured with the old man who is full of days! And their homes shall be transferred to strangers, with their lands and their wives, for I will extend My hand against this country," says the EVER-LIVING, "and from the least to the greatest they shall all be plundered! for from the Preacher to the Priest, they are all false! And the fragments of My People shall be scattered in shame,—for crying 'Peace! Peace!' when there is no peace! Were they honoured when they acted disgracefully? Nay! they were not ashamed of shame, any of them,—they would not recognize it,—therefore they shall fall when they are attacked,—they shall fall and totter at the hour of punishment!" says the EVER-LIVING.

A Plea to Israel to Repent.

Thus said the EVER-LIVING, "Stand in the roads, and examine, and enquire in the old paths, which is the best way, and walk in it, and find comfort to your lives." But they replied, "We will not walk there!"

"Then I appointed watchmen over them, to make them listen to the voice of the trumpet. But they replied, 'We will not listen.' Therefore hear the heathen, and recognize
the proof of what has come upon you! Let the land hear! See! I will bring misery upon this People,—the fruit of their thoughts,—because they would not listen to My words, and rejected My laws.

20 "Why do you bring frankincense to Me from Sheba, and cinnamon from a distant land? Your burnt-offerings please not, and I cannot accept your sacrifices. Therefore," the EVER-LIVING adds, "I will give this People to the Kasdim, and they shall fall by them, fathers and children together,—the host and his friend shall perish."

22 Thus says the EVER-LIVING, "Look! A People come from a northern land! and a Great Nation appears from a distant country! They are mighty with bows and arrows; they are bold and without mercy; their voice is like the roaring sea, and they ride upon horses, prepared as men of war against you, O Daughter of Zion!"

The Prophet’s Comment.

24 On hearing the report of them our hands faint! We are distressed and anguish as in the anguish of childbirth! Go not to the field,—walk not on the roads,—for there the sword of the enemy affrights.

26 Daughter of my People, gird on sackcloth! roll in the dust. Weak! Forsaken! place yourself with the wretched weepers,—for the plunderer comes suddenly on us!

The Lord’s Reply to him.

27 "I will make you a beacon to My People; a pillar and guide-post, and you shall point out their path. They are all sullen mutineers,—they go on complaining, they are all brass and iron,—they have corrupted themselves. The bellows snort on the lead in vain, in their fire,—it refines, —it refines, but their dross will not go! Their silver is sick, they cry! For the EVER-LIVING has been sickened by them!"

A Special Call to Repentance.

7 "This message came from the LORD to Jeremiah, to say:—

2 "Stand at the gate of the House of the EVER-LIVING, and proclaim this message there, and say:—

"Listen to the message from the EVER-LIVING, all Judah who come to these gates to worship the EVER-LIVING. Thus says the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel! Amend your ways, and your paths, and I will allow you to remain in this place. Place not your trust upon lying messengers that say, ‘This is a Temple of the LORD! The Temple of the LORD.’ For if you reform your ways and your goings,—if you do justice between a man and his neighbour, if you do not oppress the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow; if you do not shed innocent blood in this place, and follow seducing gods to your own hurt, then I will settle you in this place for ever and for ever. You, however, trust yourselves to false doctrines that cannot benefit. You steal, murder, whore, gorge, and lie, and offer incense to Baal,—and go after seducing gods of whom you know nothing.

"Yet you come and stand before this House, upon which My Name has been invoked, and say, ‘Deliver us because we have practised all these abominations!’

"Has this House, upon which My Name was invoked, become a den of wild beasts in your eyes? Have I become a show also?” the EVER-LIVING asks. "Go, however, now to My House at Shilo, where I fixed My NAME formerly, and see what I did to it, because of the wickedness of My People Israel. And certainly you now have done all that they did," says the EVER-LIVING, “and I have spoken to you early, and still speak,—but you will not hear,—and I call to you but you will not answer. Therefore I will make this House, upon which My NAME has been invoked,—upon which you rely,—and the House that I gave you, and your fathers, what I have made Shilo! And I will fling you from My presence, as I flung your brothers, the whole Tribe of Ephraim.

"And for yourself, do not supplicate for this People, and do not raise on their account a cry or prayer, and entreat Me not, for I will not hear you! Have you not seen what they do in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and their fathers are stokers of the fire, and their wives knead the dough, to make cakes to the ‘Queen of the Skies!’ And they
poured drink offerings to the ‘Gods of Seduction!’ They insult Me thus! 

Do they insult Me?” asks the EVER-LIVING. “Do they not shame themselves openly?

“Therefore,” thus says the ALMIGHTY LORD, “My anger and wrath shall be poured out upon this place,—upon man, and upon beast; and upon the trees of the field; and upon the fruits of the ground, and shall not be quenched.”

The EVER-LIVING also says this: “Cease your burnt-offerings, with your sacrifices, and eating of flesh, for did I not speak to your ancestors and did I not command them, at the time they came out from the land of the Mitzeraim, about the matters of burnt-offering and sacrifice? Nevertheless I commanded them this message, saying, ‘Listen to My voice, and I will be a GOD to you, and you shall be My People. But walk in all the paths that I instruct you;—because it will benefit yourselves.’ But you would not listen, nor apply your ears, and you walked after your own bad ideas and rules;—therefore you are the last, and not the first, from the day your ancestors came from the land of the Mitzeraim to this day! Although I sent all My servants, the Preachers,—rising and sending at early dawn,—but you would not listen to Me, nor apply your ears, but stiffened your neck;—you were bad like your ancestors!

“But although you address to them all these speeches, yet they will never listen to you,—when you call to them, they will not answer you; therefore say to them, ‘This is a nation that will not listen to the voice of its EVER-LIVING GOD, and will not accept correction,—whose faithfulness has perished! Therefore I will cut them off from My Presence.’”

Jeremiah Proclaims the Message as Ordered.

Cut off your long hair, and fling it away! Mount the heights. Weep! for the EVER-LIVING has rejected and abandoned this perverse race! “Because the Children of Judah have done evil in My sight,” says the EVER-LIVING. “They have placed their abominations in the House, upon which my NAME was invoked, to defile it. And they have built columns at Thopheth in the vale of Ben-hinon, burning their sons and their daughters in the fire,—although I commanded them not,—and not to let it enter their hearts.

“Therefore the days come,” says the LORD, “when it shall no more be called Thopheth, and the vale of Ben-hinon, but only the VALLEY OF MURDER,—and they shall bury in Thopheth for want of other room; when the carcases of this People shall be food to the birds of the skies, and the beasts of the earth, without fear. And I will expel from the cities of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem the sound of joy, and the sound of happiness, the sound of wedding, and the sound of dying,—for the land shall be a desert!

“At that period,” says the EVER-LIVING, “they will bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of its nobles, and the bones of its priests, and the bones of its preachers, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, from their tombs, and scatter them to the sun, and the moon, and all the host of the skies, whom they loved, and whom they served, and by whom they were seduced, and whom they sought, and whom they worshipped,—none shall collect them, and none shall bury them,—they shall be dung on the face of the ground. Then death will be preferred to life by all the fragments of the remnants of this wicked tribe in every place where the splintered fragments are,” says the LORD OF HOSTS.

“Therefore tell them thus,” says the EVER-LIVING. “Does the fallen never rise? Does the departed never return? Then why has this People of Jerusalem gone away with a perpetual departure? Why do they persist in desertion, and refuse to return? I attended and listened. However none spoke. No man sighed over his wickedness, or said, ‘Why did I do it?’ They all stuck to their course like horses whipped to the battle!

“Even the stork knows her time for assembly and migration, and the crane and swallow keep the season of their coming, but My People know not the decrees of the EVER-LIVING.

“How can you say ‘We are educated for we possess the laws of the EVER-LIVING?’ Why then is the
lying pen of the Recorder made for 
lies? Your 'Educated' cause shame, 
terror and disgrace,—for they reject 
the Word of the EVER-LIVING, and 
what can their education do for them?

—Therefore I will give their wives 
to ravishers, and their estates to 
plunderers, from the least to the 
greatest they all cheat. From the 
preacher to the priest they all prac-
tise deception, and have healed 
the wound of the Daughter of My People 
not well,—saying, Peace, Peace!

when there is not peace! They 
should be ashamed of the villainy 
they have done. Shame, however,
shames them not,—none of them 
know it,—therefore they shall fall 
with the falling, at the time of their 
punishment they shall stagger," says 
the EVER-LIVING.

"I would reap them," says the 
EVER-LIVING, "but there are no 
bunches on the vine! There are no 
figs on the fig tree! And the leaves 
are withered! However I will trans-
plant them."

The People's Decision.

Why should we remain? Collect, 
arise, and let us go to the fortified 
towns, and be quiet there, for our 
EVER-LIVING God has stifled us, 
and given us the juice of poppies to 
drink for our sins against the 
EVER-LIVING. We hoped for peace,—but 
no good came at its season, for 
safety, and behold terror! The snort 
of his horses is heard from Dan,— 
the sound of the neighs of their steeds 
fills all the land.

God's Reply.

"But they shall cross and devour, 
the country and its contents,—the 
city and its inhabitants. For I have 
sent snakes to you, serpents for whom 
there is no charmer, and they will 
stim you," says the EVER-LIVING.

The Prophet's Anguish over his 
Country.

Instead of my joy comes anguish, 
—affliction comes to my heart! It 
is the sound of the wall of the child 
of my People from a distant land! 
"Is there no God in Zion? Is there 
no king in her?"

Why did they provoke Him with 
their idols? With foreign vanities?

The harvest is past,—the reaping is 
done,—but we are not relieved. I 21 
have been wounded by the wound 
of the child of my People;—I am 
weakened where I should be strengthen-
ed. Is there no balm in Gilad 
to heal? Is there no surgeon there? 
Why has not the child of my People 
gone there?

Who will give water to my head, 23 
and a fountain of tears to my eyes, 
that I may weep day and night for 
the wounds of the child of my People!

Who will give me a lodge in the 9 
desert afar, that I may leave my 
People and go from them? For all 
are adulterers, secret traitors. They 2 
direct their tongue, like a bow, to 
lies,—and not to truth. "They pro-
ceed from wrong to wrong, and they 
regard me not!" says the EVER-
LIVING.

Guard yourselves everyone from 
his friend, and trust not upon 
any brother,—for every brother will 
betray, and every friend will recoil 
upon you. And each betrays his 
friend, and they speak no truth. 
They teach their tongue to speak 
falsehood, they labour at wickedness. 
"You dwell in the midst of treason; 5 
—from treason they refuse to recog-
nize Me," says the EVER-LIVING.

God's Reply to the Prophet—Why 
He Punishes.

"Therefore," says the LORD OF 6 
HOSTS, "I refine them thus, and 
test them. For what can I do for the 
daughter of My People? Their 
tongue is a poisoned arrow,—they 
speak treason from their mouth, they 
speak kindly to their neighbour, with 
betrayal in their breast! Should I 8 
not punish them for these things?" 
says the EVER-LIVING. "If the 
heathen did the same, would not My 
soul avenge them?"

Jeremiah Mourns for his Country.

I weep over the hills and sob, and 9 
wall over the pastures of the plain, 
for they are desolate! No man 
passes over them. The voice of the 
flocks is not heard, or of the birds of 
the skies, and even the beasts have 
fled and gone!

God Confirms His Intention to 
Punish.

"Yet I will give Jerusalem for 10 
stone heaps,—a haunt for serpents,
—and I will lay the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant!

11 Who is the wise man? He can foresee this. And who has the message of the EVER-LIVING within him? He can tell why the country is waste, scorched like a desert, with none passing through!

12 Then the EVER-LIVING continued, "It is because they have abandoned My laws that I placed before them, and have not listened to My voice, and have not walked according to it,

13 but go after their own ideas, and after Balim, as their fathers taught them." Therefore thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel, "I will feed this People with affliction, and give them laudanum to drink,

15 and will scatter them among the heathen whom they or their fathers have not known, and will send a sword after them to destroy!"

16 And the LORD OF HOSTS says, "Reflect! and call for the waiters, and let them come; and send for the skilful, and fetch them." Let them hasten, and raise over us a lament, and let our eyes pour tears,

18 and our eyelids well out water! for a sound of wailing is heard from Zion! Are we not plundered,—debased,—deeply debased; for the country rejects us,—our homes cast us out!

19 Listen, however, you women to the message of the EVER-LIVING, and let your ears accept the words of His mouth, and teach your daughters to lament, and the wife of your neighbour to wail, for death has mounted to our windows, has entered our palaces, to destroy the children in the streets,—the young men from the squares! "Say thus," says the LORD, "Men shall fall like dung on the face of the field, and like sheaves after the mower, and none collect them!"

22 Thus says the LORD, "Let not the scientific glory in their science, nor the strong in his strength,—let not the rich glory in their wealth, but if they boast, let them boast in understanding and comprehending My wonders;—for I, the EVER-LIVING, made mercy, justice, and righteousness, on earth,—and I delight in them," says the EVER-LIVING.

24 "Behold the days come," says the EVER-LIVING, "when I will punish all the circumcised with the uncircumcised! Mitzar, and Judah, and Edom, and all the Beni-Amon, and Moab, and all the shaven cheeks who inhabit the desert;—for all the heathen, and all the House of Israel are corrupt at heart."

A Message to Israel.

Listen to the message that the 10 EVER-LIVING addresses to you, House of Israel. Thus says the EVER- LIVING:

"Learn not the ways of the heathen, and fear not the constellations of the skies, although the heathen fear them! For the fancies 3 of the pagans are vain;—only timber from the forest, cut and formed by the hand of a carpenter with an axe! They are plated with silver and gold; fixed with nails and hammers, so that they may not totter! They 5 are as stiff as a palm tree, and cannot speak; they are carried, for they cannot march; they cannot foresee,—for they perceive nothing, and there is no intellect in them!"

They are not like YOU,—great 6 EVER-LIVING CREATORS! For Your NAME is great in power! Who would not reverence YOU, King of Nations? whom You produced for Yourself,—for in all the ideals of the heathen, and in all their governors, there is none like YOU. They are 8 everyone stupid and silly; the result of fantastic thought! Plated with 9 silver from Tharsis, and gold from Auer,—the work of the carpenter and the hands of the smith. Clothed in blue and purple, all made by mechanics! But our EVER-LIVING 10 GOD is Truth! He is the GOD OF LIFE, and reigns for ever! At His anger the earth trembles, and the nations cannot resist His wrath 11

He made the earth by His power, 12 He formed its orbit by His skill, and by His intelligence He constructed the skies. At His uttered voice the 13 waters of the skies patter, the vapours arise from the horizon! He makes lightnings with the rain, and He brings the wind out of His treasury! How stupid men are not to learn! 14

1 Note.—Ch. 10, v. 11.

Therefore say this to them: These gods, 11 who made neither heaven nor earth, shall perish from below, and from under the sky.

This verse is in Chaldee, not Hebrew, and is probably a commentator's note copied from the margin into the text by some scribe, for it breaks the sense. I, therefore, place it as a note at the page foot.—F. F.
Every founder is more degraded than his statue! For he casts a falsehood, with no breath in it! They are vanity! Contemptible products! In the season of trial they fail!—The Inheritance of Jacob is not like them! For He formed all;—and Israel is the standard of His estate;—Whose Name is the LORD of Hosts.

The Decree of Expatriation.
17 Take up your pack from the ground, you who endure the siege!—
18 For thus says the LORD, "I will sling the inhabitants of this country with a hurl, and distress them, so that they may feel it!"

The Wail of Judah in Captivity.
19 "Oh! me! for my broken condition from my wound!" Then I said, "This is sickness, and I must bear it! My home is desolate! All my relations are taken away! My children have gone and are not! I can never erect my home again, nor stretch my curtains! For the Shepherds are stupid, and seek not the EVER-LIVING, they never reflect, so all their flock is scattered."
20 A sound is heard;—see! they come with a great rush from the north country, to turn the cities of Judah into a desolate den of serpents.
21 I know, EVER-LIVING, that man directs not himself,—man cannot go and direct his own steps! Instruct me, EVER-LIVING, not with condemnation, nor in Your anger, for fear You depress me. Pour out Your wrath on the heathen who regard You not, and upon the tongues who call not upon Your Name, for they devour Jacob, and destroy him, and desolate his home.

The Punishment for Disregarding God's Laws.
11 The message which came to Jeremiah from the EVER-LIVING to say:—
2 "Listen to the words of this Covenant, and report them to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Say to them — Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel. Let the man be accursed who will not listen to the words of this Covenant, which I commanded to your ancestors at the time I brought them out of the land of the Mitseraim, from the iron furnaces, with the command, to listen to My voice, and practise all that I instructed you, then you shall be My People, and I will be your GOD, and I will confirm the oath that I swore to your ancestors, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it does now."

Then I answered and said, "It is true, EVER-LIVING." And the EVER-LIVING replied to me:—
"Proclaim all these messages in the Cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, exclaiming:—
"Listen to the words of this Covenant, and practise them! For I gave your ancestors evidence, at the time I brought them up from the land of the Mitseraim, to this day, early and late, saying, 'Listen to My voice!' But they would not listen, nor incline their ears, but everyone followed the fancies of his wicked heart. Therefore I will bring upon them every sentence of that Covenant which I commanded them to practise,—but they did not."

The EVER-LIVING also said to me, 9 "I have found falsehood in the men of Judah, and in the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They turn to the old faults of their fathers, who refused to listen to My message, and they go after seducing gods, to serve them. The House of Israel and the House of Judah have broken the Covenant which I made with their ancestors. Therefore," thus says the EVER-LIVING, "I will bring suffering upon them, from which they will not be able to escape, when they will cry to Me, but I will not hear them. Then the cities of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and shriek to the gods to whom they offer incense; but they cannot save them in their time of distress! although your gods are as many as your villages, Judah! and more than the number of streets in Jerusalem are the altars you erect for them—altars to your shame—to burn incense to Baal! Now you, intercede not for this People, and raise up no cry or prayer; but I will hear at the time they themselves cry to Me in the period of their sorrows.

“What has My love to do in My house? She has sinned often, and purity has passed away from you. Whenever you sin you rejoice! The
EVER-LIVING planted you, when a green fair olive, with beautiful fruit. With the roar of a great crowd He 17 sets you on fire, and destroys your boughs! And the LORD of Hosts, Who planted, has caused a bad report to come upon you, because of the sins of the House of Israel and the House of Judah which they have committed, insulting Me by burning incense to Bal."

Upon a Conspiracy to Murder the Prophet.
18 When the EVER-LIVING informed me of it I knew and saw their conspiracies. But I was like a gentle lamb led out for slaughter, and knew nothing how they had contrived plots against me, to make an assault, and to cut off from the land of the living and my name from every memory.
20 But, LORD of Hosts, judge rightly their secret thoughts and heart! I shall see vengeance upon them! For I have displayed my cause to You.
21 Therefore the EVER-LIVING says thus to the men of Anathoth who sought your life, who say, "Preach not in the name of the EVER-LIVING! Then you will not die by our hands."
22 The LORD of Hosts, however, says this:" I will repay them! Their youths shall die by the sword, their sons and daughters shall die from hunger, and not a remnant shall be left to them, for I will bring evil upon the men of Anathoth, in the year of their punishment."

EVER-LIVING, You are righteous, therefore I will appeal to You. Yes! I will discuss with You. Why do the wicked prosper,—all the treacherous traitors? They are planted and take root, they grow up and produce fruit,—You are close to their mouths,—but 3 their thoughts are far from You. But You, EVER-LIVING, know, You see and prove my heart by Yourself. Pull them out like sheep for slaughter, and consign to the day of killing!

4 How long shall the country faint and the grass of all the field wither,—for the wickedness of its inhabitants? The cattle and the fowls perish. Yet they say, "We shall not see the last of them!"
5 If you have run with the footmen, and are panting,—how will you turn with the horsemen? Although you are safe in a peaceful country;—yet what will you do in the floods of the Jordan? If with your brothers, and in the 6 house of your father, they betray you;—if they call after to seize you;—trust them not when they speak fair to you.

The Lord's Disgust at Israel.
I have forsaken My house! I have abandoned My estate! I have given the darling of My soul to the hand of her enemies! My inheritance has become like a lion in the forest, she has raised her voice against Me,—so I hate her. My inheritance is a wild hyena to Me. Wild beasts surround her! They go, they collect all the beasts of the field, they bring them to devour!

Many guards have spoiled My 10 vineyard. They have trampled its beds, they have made My beautiful beds a desolate desert. They have desolated her grass-plots,—they desolate all the land, yet no one lays it to heart. Ravagers have gone to all the smooth pastures, for the sword of the LORD devours from one edge of the country to the other edge of the land,—there is no peace for anyone.

They have sown wheat and reaped thorns; they have no result; and are ashamed of their produce; because the anger of the LORD burns.

Promise of Adoption Offered to the Heathen.
Thus says the LORD, "To all the 14 the bad neighbours of My inheritance, that I have allowed My People Israel to possess, I will pull them off their land, and pull the House of Judah from among them. And it shall happen after I have pulled them up, I will turn and have pity upon them, and restore them each to his homestead and each to his district. But then if they learn the way of My People, teaching themselves to swear by My Name, 'By the life of the EVER-LIVING,' as they taught My People to swear by Bal, they shall be built into the midst of My People. But if they will not listen, then I will 17 pull up those Nations, and destroy them," says the EVER-LIVING.

The Parable of the Girdle.
The EVER-LIVING said this to me, 18 "Go and buy yourself a linen girdle,
and put it round your waist,—but let it not go into water."

2 I consequently bought the girdle as the EVER-LIVING commanded, and
3 put it round my waist. Then the EVER-LIVING spoke to me again to say:—
4 "Take the girdle you bought, which is upon your waist, and rise, go to the Frath and hide it there in the cleft of a rock."

5 I therefore went and hid it by the Frath as the EVER-LIVING had commanded me. And at the end of a considerable time the EVER-LIVING said to me, "Get up, and go to the Frath, and bring from there the linen girdle that the EVER-LIVING ordered you to hide there."

6 So I went to the Frath and dug, and took the linen girdle from the place where I had hidden it,—and saw that the linen was spoiled, and
7 fit for nothing. Then the word of the EVER-LIVING came to me to say:—
8 "Thus says the EVER-LIVING, I will spoil the pride of Judah, and the many boasts of Jerusalem like that! This vile People, who refuse to listen to My words, and go on in their own ideas, and walk after seducing gods, to serve and to worship them,—shall become like that girdle.

9 For as the girdle sticks to the waist of a man, so I wished to cause the whole house of Israel, and the whole house of Judah to stick to Me," said the EVER-LIVING, "for them to be My People, and Fame, and Glory, and Honour;—but they would not attend. Therefore say this to them, Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel, ‘Every bottle can be filled with wine!’ "

10 "When they will say to you, ‘Are we not aware that every bottle can be filled with wine?’

11 "Then say to them:—‘Thus says the EVER-LIVING: I will fill all the inhabitants of this land, and the kings sitting on David’s throne, with the Priests, and the Preachers, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to drunkenness, when a man will assail his brother, and fathers their children indiscriminately,’” said the EVER-LIVING. "I will not pity, nor spare, nor have mercy to relieve them."

The Prophet calls to Repentance.

12 Be not too proud to listen and hear,—for the EVER-LIVING speaks.
13 Give honour to your EVER-LIVING GOD, before it is dark, and before your feet stumble on the hills of twilight, and you long for light,—but there is only desolation with the Shadow of Death, in the realm of gloom! But if you will not listen, 17 my soul will weep in secret for your pride, and my eyes drop down tears, because the flock of the EVER-LIVING will be captured!

14 Say to the king and his nobles, 18 "Reflect! Turn! Throw down the beautiful turbans from your heads! The cities of the south are shut up, and there is none to open,—Judah is a captive; all Jerusalem is a captive!"

15 Raise your eyes and see! They come from the north!—Where is the flock entrusted to you?—Your beautiful sheep? What can you reply when He enquires of you? when you have instructed them against yourself, teaching to resist? Will not torments seize you like a woman in labour?

The Lord’s Address resumed.

16 "But if you say to your heart, 22 ‘Why have these come?’ For your many passions, your skirts are stripped violently from your heels.

17 "Can the Kushite change his skin? 23 or the leopard his spots? Then you will be able to do good,—who are accustomed to do evil! Therefore I will scatter them like stubble running before the wind to the desert! This is their destined fate from Me,” says the EVER-LIVING, “for those who reject Me, and rely upon falsehood. So I also will turn your petticoats over your face, and your shame shall be seen! I have seen your adulteries, your brothels contrived on the hills in the fields,—your abominations,—like to you, Jerusalem! You will not purify yourself!—How long will it last?"

The Great Drought described.

18 This was the message from the EVER-LIVING that came to Jeremiah about the drought.

19 "Judah faints and her gates languish! They mourn in the country, and wallings go up from Jerusalem! They send their little children to the 3
waters,—they go to the wells,—they find no water! They all return empty, ashamed, depressed, with veiled heads! Fire sweeps over the ground;—for there are no showers on the earth;—the meadows are ashamed,—they cover their heads, for even the deer in the field bears young, and deserts it, for there is no herbage! The wild asses stand on the hill-tops sniffing the wind,—their eyes are all like serpents', for they have no grass!"

Jeremiah Prays for his Country.

7 Although our faults witness against us, O EVER-LIVING, intervene for Your NAME's sake. Although we have sinned by often deserting you.
8 Hope of Israel! save him in the period of distress! Why are You like a stranger to the land? And like a traveller staying to lodge? Why are You like a defeated man? Like a hero, unable to conquer? Yet You, EVER-LIVING, are near us, and Your NAME is over us. We call but You comfort us not!
9 Then the EVER-LIVING said about this People, "Because they love their feet to wander unrestrained, the EVER-LIVING does not approve them. Now He will remember their faults, and punish their sins." The EVER-LIVING also said to me, "Pray not for the benefit of this People! When they fast I will not hear their cries; and when they offer burnt-offering, and gifts, I will not accept them, for by sword and famine and plague I will destroy them."
10 Then I replied, "Ah! ALMIGHTY LORD, you perceive the Preachers tell them, 'They will not see a sword, and that famine will not come on them.' But I will give you true peace in this place, all of you."

The Prophet's Plea to God for Israel.

11 If Moses and Samuel stood before Me, yet My soul would not be with this People.—Send them from My presence! Let them go out! But if they say to you, 'Where shall we go?' then you shall say to them, 'Thus says the EVER-LIVING: Whoever is for death to death, and whoever is for the sword to the sword, and whoever is for the famine to the famine, and whoever is for captivity to captivity.' For I will appoint four families over them," the EVER-LIVING said. "The sword to murder, and the dogs to tear; and the birds of the skies, and the beasts of the field to devour and destroy! I will also give them to be shaken out to all the kingdoms of the earth, on account of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, because of all he did in Jerusalem. For who will pity you, Jerusalem? And who will console you? And who will turn to wish your health? You have abandoned Me," says the EVER-LIVING, "you
have deserted,—therefore I point at you, and strip you, and hate pitying you! So I will winnow you with a winnower from the gates of the country,—I will fling out,—I will destroy My People! Yet they will not return from their ways. I have made their widows more numerous than the sands of the seas. I have allowed outrage on the mother of young men, in open day; I have driven anguish and terror on her suddenly! The mother of seven languishes; the breath of her life has gone! Her sun has set while it is day! She is disgraced and scorned! But I will give the remainder to the sword,—to the face of their enemies," says the EVER-LIVING.

The Prophet's Cry of Despair.

Alas, for me, my mother! You have borne me a man of strife, and a man of doom to all the land! I have not borrowed, nor have I lent on usury;—yet all curse me!

However the EVER-LIVING said, "Will I not beneficently release? Will I not intercede for you yourself with the enemy in the bad time,—the time of distress? Can iron break a weapon made from the northern steel?

"I will expose your power and treasures to plunder, not to sale! because of all your idols in all your boundaries. And they shall be taken away by your enemies to an unknown land, for a fire burns in My anger, kindled against you."

Jeremiah Prays for Himself for Protection.

EVERLIVING, You know! Remember and visit me, and avenge me upon my persecutors! Repel me not in Your anger! Support me! You know I am reproached on account of You. I found Your words and devoured them, and Your words were sweet and pleasant to my heart,—for Your NAME was fixed upon me.—

EVER-LIVING GOD OF HOSTS ! I have not sat in the company of the joyous;—but felt pleasure at Your side,—I sat solitary because You filled me with indignation. Why is my misery perpetual? and my wound incurable? refusing to be healed? Why are You like failing, unstable waters?

Then the LORD replied, "If you will return,—then I will restore you to stand before Me. And if you sort out the worthless from the valuable, you shall be like My mouth,—they will come to you,—and you need not go to them. I will also make for you a wall of brass as a defence against this People;—they may fight against you,—but they shall not overpower you, for I will be there to save and deliver you," said the EVER-LIVING. "I will also deliver you from the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the hand of the terrible."

The Prophet forbidden to Marry.

Again, the message of the EVER-LIVING came to me to say:—

"You shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons and daughters in this place. For," thus said the EVER-LIVING, "upon the sons and the daughters that are born in this place, and upon the mothers who bore them, and upon the fathers who caused their birth in this land, I will inflict sickening deaths. They shall die unmourned, and lie unburied on the face of the ground like dung! They shall end by sword and famine, and their corpses shall be food for the fowls of the sky, and the beasts of the earth."

Thus said the EVER-LIVING:—

"Enter not the House of Weeping, nor go to a burial, nor moan for them, for I will remove Peace from this People," said the EVER-LIVING, "with Mercy and Pity. Both the little and great in this land shall die,—they shall not be buried,—they shall not be mourned or lamented, nor shorn for, nor shaven. They shall not distribute the bread of grief to comfort themselves over the dead, nor drink the cup of consolation for their father and mother."

"Neither enter the House of Feastings to sit with them, to eat and drink, for thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel,—I will cause the sound of joy and gladness, and the voice of the bridegroom and bride to cease from this place, in your sight and in your days. But when you relate to this People all these things, and they ask you, 'For what object does the EVER-LIVING speak to us about all this great misery? What is our fault? and what is the sin which we have sinned against our
11 Ever-Living God? You shall then answer them, 'Because your fathers abandoned Me,' says the Ever-Living, 'and went after seducing gods, and served and worshipped them, rejecting Me, and not keeping My laws. You also have done wrong in doing like your fathers, for, see! you each follow the ideas of your wicked hearts, and never listen to Me! So I will throw you out of this land to a land unknown to you and your fathers, and there you can serve these seducing gods, day and night, where I will show you no favour.

14 Therefore, look! the days come,' says the Ever-Living, 'when they will no more say, 'By the life of the Ever-Living Who brought the children of Israel from the land of the Mitseraim,' but 'By the life of the Ever-Living Who brought the children of Israel from the north, and from all the countries where He drove them, and Who restored them to the land of their fathers.'

Israel's Return Promised.

16 'I will send many fishermen,' says the Ever-Living, 'who will fish for them; and after them I will send many hunters, who will hunt them upon every hill, and upon every mount and cliff, and crag, for My eyes are over all their courses, they are not hidden from Me, and their faults are not concealed from My sight. But I will first repay their faults and their sins upon them double, because they have polluted My land with their filthy carcases, and filled my Inheritance with their abominations.'

The Heathen will come to Seek for God.

19 Ever-Living! my strength, and power, and consolation in the day of distress! The heathen shall come to You from the bounds of the earth, and say: 'Our forefathers inherited only Falsehood and Delusion, in whom there is no helpfulness. Can mankind make themselves gods,—when they are not gods?' I will, however, instruct them at that time,—I will teach them My Power and Might,—and they will know that My Name is The Eternal!

The Record of the Sins of Judah.

The sins of Judah are written with an iron pen, engraved with a diamond point on the tablet of their heart, and upon the horns of their altar! Your children remember them;—2 with your shrines under the leafy trees, on the tops of the hills! My Highland fields! I will give your wealth, all your treasures to plunder! with your castles of sin in all your borders. And you shall break yourselves loose from the estate that I gave you, and enslave yourselves to your enemy, in a land you know not, for an unquenchable fire shall burn you in My wrath.

Thus says the Ever-Living:

The Curse and the Blessing.

"Curse the man who trusts on mankind, And makes flesh his arm, and turns from Lord. He shall be like one lost in the Arbah, Who cannot see whence help can come,— Or laid scorched in the Desert, The salt-land, where none can reside!"

7 "But bless him who trusts on the Lord, And on the Lord puts all his Trust; He shall be like a tree by a brook Which sends its roots out to the stream. It fears not the heat when it comes, And its leaves are at every time green; It fears not in years of distress, And refrains not from bearing its fruit."

9 "The heart is more false than all things, And who among men knows his own? I, the Lord, search the heart and try thoughts, And fix for each person his path,
With the fruit that will grow up from it,
As the bird hatches what she laid not,
He who by injustice makes wealth,
In the midst of his days he may lose,
And at the last be regarded a fool!"

The Doom of Apostasy.
12 We formerly raised a splendid
Throne on high for our Sanctuary!
13 LORD, the Hope of Israel, all who
forsook You will be disgraced, de-
graded to the earth,—they will be
cut off,—because they forsoke the
fountain of the Water of Life,—the
EVER-LIVING!

Jeremiah Laments his Call.
14 Heal me, EVER-LIVING, and I
shall be well. Save me, EVER-
LIVING, and I shall be safe, for I
pray to You. Look! they sneer at
me, "Where is the message of the
EVER-LIVING? Let it come now!"
16 Yet I was not eager to feed after
You; and I was not greedy for You
in a human sense,—You know the
product of my lips came straight
from Your presence. Do not terrify
me; You are my trust in the day
of distress. Let my persecutors be
disgraced, but I not disgraced. Let
them be terrified,—but I not in
terror. Let a day of distress come
on them,—and repeat their wounds
on themselves.

The Prophet ordered to Preach at
the Gates.
19 The LORD commanded me thus:
"Go and station yourself at the
People's Gate, where the kings of
Judah go out and come in, and at all
the gates of Jerusalem, and say to
them, 'Listen to the message of the
EVER-LIVING, you kings of Judah
and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
who come to these gates. Thus says
the EVER-LIVING. Take care of your
lives, and carry no loads on the Sab-
bath day, nor bring them to the gates
of Jerusalem, neither bring them out
from your homes on the Day of Rest,
nor do any work, but hallow the Day
of Rest, as I instructed your fathers."
23 They, however, will not listen, nor
incline their ears, but stiffen their
neck, and refuse to hear, and refuse
to accept advice.
24 "Yet," the EVER-LIVING said, "if
you will listen to Me, and refrain
from bringing loads into the City
Gates on the Day of Rest, and will
sanctify the Sabbath day, and re-
frain from doing business on it, then
25 kings and princes, sitting on the
Throne of David, shall come to the
gates of this city riding in chariots
with their horsemen. Then the
princes of the men of Judah, and the
population of Jerusalem, will reside
in this city for ever. They will also
26 come from the villages of Judah and
from the suburbs of Jerusalem, and
from the land of Benjamin, and from
the slopes, and from the hills, and
from the desert; they will come up
with sacrifice and offerings, and in-
cense, and advance to the House of
the EVER-LIVING with praise. But
27 if you will not listen to Me, and
sanctify the day of Rest, by refraining
from carrying loads, and bringing
into the Gates of Jerusalem on the
Day of Rest,—I will set fire to your
Gates, and it shall consume the
palaces of Jerusalem and be un-
quenchable!"

Jeremiah ordered to Go to the
Potter's House.

The message that came to Jere-
miah from the EVER-LIVING to
say:
"Arise, and go down to the potter's 2
house, and there I will let you hear
My message."

So I got up and went down to the 3
potter's house, and saw him making
a vessel on his wheel, but he spoiled 4
the article which he was making
from the clay by his hand. Then
the potter changed it and made
another article that it pleased the
potter to make.

Then the message of the EVER-
LIVING came to me, saying:—
"Am I not able to do with you 6
like this potter, House of Israel?" 7
said the EVER-LIVING. "As clay is in
the hand of this potter,—so are you,
House of Israel, in My hand. When-
ever I speak about a nation or about
a kingdom, to pluck it up, to throw
it down, or to destroy it, if that 8
nation turns itself from the wicked-
ness on account of which I have
denounced it,—I will refrain from
the distress I intended to bring upon it.

9 "But when I speak to a nation, or to a kingdom, to build up and to plant it,—if it does wrong in My sight, and refuses to listen to My voice, then I sigh over the benefits with which I have said I would benefit it.

11 "So you now speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to say:—'Thus says the EVER-LIVING. I will form misery against you, and contrive plans against you,—therefore let each now turn from his wicked way, and amend your course, and proceedings.' But they will reply, 'There is no hope of that, for we will follow our own plans.' And each will practise the suggestions of his evil heart.

13 "Therefore," the EVER-LIVING answers thus. "Enquire, I pray of the nations, Who has heard such horrors as that Girl, Israel, has done?

14 "Will the snow of Lebanon supply in the fields of Mitzre as cold waters are poured from a spring? Yet My People have abandoned Me for DELUSIONS,—they offer incense, and stumble from their ancient pathways, to follow unpaved bye-paths;

16 to turn their country to a waste, to a continuous jungle! All who pass it will hiss! and shake their heads!—

17 I will scatter them like an east wind before their enemies, I will repulse and not advance—'I will terrify in the day of distress!"

18 They consequently said, "Come let us plot against Jeremiah, for law will not cease from the priest, or advice from the skilful, or a message from the Preacher;—let us revile him, and not listen to his speeches."

19 Oh, EVER-LIVING, listen to the utterance of my plea. They repay me injury for kindness,—for they dig a pit for my life! Remember I stood in Your presence to speak kindly to them,—to turn away Your anger from them. Therefore give their children to famine, and their young men to the hand of the sword, and let their wives be childless, and widows, and let their men come to a murderous death:—their brave men slain by the sword in battle! Let a shriek be heard from their homes, when the plunderers come suddenly upon them,—for they dug a ditch to catch me, and laid a trap for my feet. You, however, EVER-LIVING, knew all their intentions of murder against me. Let there be no expiation for their faults, and blot not out their sins from before You; and let them be deprived of Your presence, at the time Your anger works upon them!

Jeremiah ordered to Buy a Bottle.

The EVER-LIVING commanded me thus:

"Go and buy an earthenware bottle, accompanied by some of the gentry of the People, and some of the gentry of the Priests. Then proceed to the valley opposite the pottery-gate, and there proclaim the message I will speak to you,—and say:—'Hear the message of the EVER-LIVING, you kings of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem! The LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel says thus,—'I will bring evil upon this place, which shall make the ears of all who hear it tingle! because they have forsaken Me,—and estranged this place, and burnt incense in it to seducing gods, whom they or their fathers, or the kings of Judah had not known, and have filled this place with the blood of the innocent! And have built columns to Bal, and burnt their children in the fire as burnt offerings to Bal,—although I ordered them not, and did not command it, and it never entered My heart!"

"Therefore take care," says the EVER-LIVING, "and call this place no longer Thopheth, but the Valley of Murder! For I will empty out the counsellors of Judah into this place, and throw them down before the sword of their enemies, and to the hands of those who seek their lives, and give their carcasses as food to the fowls of the skies, and the beasts of the earth, and make this city desolate. Every passer-by shall hiss, and be shocked at her ruins! And they shall eat the flesh of their sons, and the flesh of their daughters, and everyone eat the flesh of his friend in the siege and distress with which their enemies who seek their lives shall oppress them! Then to you shall smash the bottle before

1 The Spittoon.
the eyes of the men who go with you, and address them:—

"Thus says the LORD of Hosts. 'I will smash this People like that, and this city as the earthen jar has smashed, so that it can never be restored,—and they shall bury in Thopheth until there is no room! That is what I will do to this place," says the EVER-LIVING, "and to its inhabitants, for I will make this city like Thopheth. And the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses of the kings of Judah shall become like the vale of Thopheth,—filthy,—every house upon whose top they have burnt incense, to all the Host of the Skies, and poured out drink offerings to the Gods of Seduction!"

Then Jeremiah went from Thopheth, where the EVER-LIVING had sent him to preach, and stationed himself in the court of the House of the EVER-LIVING, and said to all the People,—

"Thus says the LORD of Hosts, the GOD of Israel! 'I will bring upon this city, and upon all the cities, the whole of the miseries that I have threatened it,—for it has stiffened its neck, and determined not to listen to My messages.'"

And Pashkur-ben-Amer the Priest, who was the Official Guardian of the House of the EVER-LIVING, heard Jeremiah preaching these things, so Pashkur apprehended Jeremiah the Reciter, and put him into the stocks at the High Benjamin Gate, by the House of the EVER-LIVING. But the next day Pashkur brought Jeremiah out from the stocks, when Jeremiah said to him, "The EVER-LIVING does not call your name Pashkur,—but Masgr - Misabib. Therefore the EVER-LIVING says this, 'I will make you a terror to yourself, and to all your friends, and they shall fall by the sword of the enemy, and your eyes shall see it. I will also give all Judah to the hand of the King of Babel, and he shall roll them to Babel, or assail them with the sword. And I will give all the wealth of this city, and all its earnings, and all its accumulations, and all the treasures of the Kings of Judah, to the hands of their enemies, and they shall plunder, and seize them, and carry to Babel. And you, Pashkur, and all dwelling in your house, shall go for slaves to Babel, and die, and there you shall be buried, with all your friends to whom you preach falsehood."

Jeremiah Prays for Strength.

Oh, EVER-LIVING, you persuaded me, and I was persuaded! Strengthen me and become my supporter to endure it, for all laugh at me daily, for whenever I speak I proclaim, "Violence!" and "outrage!" for the message of the EVER-LIVING comes to me to reproach and deride daily! And I say to myself, "I will not mention Him, nor speak again in His Name," then my heart becomes like a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I labour to restrain it;—but cannot; for I hear the slander of the crowd,— to the terror around suggesting "Inform against him." And "We will, every man, inform." All my acquaintance watch for my slipping! "He will mistake, and we can then overpower him, and take our revenge on him for ourselves!" But the EVER-LIVING is with me like a terrible giant,—therefore my prosecutors will stumble, and not succeed. They will be deeply disgraced, for they have not looked forwards, to a perpetual never forgotten dishonour. For the LORD of Hosts tests the righteous;—He sees the secret thoughts, and heart. I shall see Your punishment on them, for to You I have referred my plea. Sing to the EVER-LIVING, praise the House of the EVER-LIVING, for He delivers the life of the wretched from the power of the wicked!

Jeremiah Curses his Birth.

Curse the day when I was born,
The day when my mother bore me,
May it never be blessed!

Curse the man who told my father,
'A son has been born to you,'
A thought of sweet delight to him.

1 "Masgr-Misabib" means "Common Terror."
May that man be like the towns,  
Which the LORD without pity rained on.  
Hear shrieks at the dawn, and shouts at the noon  
Because I died not from the womb,  
Because my grave was not my mother,  
Or her womb closed for ever.

Why came I for this from the womb?  
To look on this misery and anguish,  
And in shame to consume all my days?

Jeremiah's Reply to the Priests,

The command which came to Jeremiah from the EVER-LIVING, when Zedekiah sent to him Pashkur-ben-Malkiah, and Zephaniah-ben-Massiah, the priest to say, "Enquire for us of the EVER-LIVING, for Nebukadnezzar, king of Babel makes war against us. Perhaps the EVER-LIVING will effect for us some of His wonderful works,—and make him retreat from us."

Jeremiah then replied to them, "Say this to Zedekiah. The EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel says thus:—  
"I will turn the weapons of war that are in your hands,—with which you intend to fight the king of Babel, and the Kasdim, who besiege you from outside, inside the walls,—and I will collect them in the middle of this city, for I Myself will fight against you with a directing hand and a strong arm, and with anger and fury, and great wrath. And I will strike the inhabitants of this city,—both men and beasts,—to death with a great plague.  
And after that," says the EVER-LIVING, "I will give Zedekiah, King of Judah, and his ministers, and his army, and the remnants of the plague, from the sword, and from the famine in this city, to the hand of Nebukadnezzar, king of Babel, and to the hands of their enemies, and to the hand of those who seek their lives, and they shall be struck by the edge of the sword. They will not spare them, nor pity, nor show mercy.  
And to this People, proclaim, Thus says the EVER-LIVING! 'I place before you the path of life, and the path of death! Whoever remains in this city will die by the sword, or famine, or plague;—but whoever goes out and deserts to the Kasdim who besiege you, will live,—and his life shall be as a gain to him. For I have set my face against this city to distress and not to benefit it,' says the EVER-LIVING. "It shall be given to the hand of the king of Babel, and he will burn it with fire.  
"And as for the House of the King of Judah,—hear the message of the EVER-LIVING,—House of David! Thus says the EVER-LIVING, Administer justice in the morning, and deliver the robbed from the hand of the robber, for fear you should find My wrath like fire, which will burn unquenchably against your bad practices. I am against you, Graceful Lady of the Fort of the Plain!" says the EVER-LIVING, "who say, 'Who can terrify us? and who can come within us?' Yet I can punish you for the result of your ways," says the EVER-LIVING, "and light a fire in your city, and consume all around it."

Jeremiah ordered to Denounce Punishment at the Palace.

The EVER-LIVING commanded me thus:—  
"Descend to the palace of the king of Judah, and there proclaim this message, Say, 'Listen to the message of the EVER-LIVING, king of Judah, you who sit on the throne of David! You and your ministers, and your army, who come to these gates. The EVER-LIVING says, Do justice, and right, and deliver the robbed from the hand of the robber, and give not the foreigner, and orphan, and widow to the hand of the oppressor, and shed no innocent blood in this place. For if you do this, then kings occupying for David, shall sit on his throne, and shall come to the gates of this House riding in carriages, and with his horsemen, and his ministers, and his army. But if you do not listen to these messages, I swear by MYSELF,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'that this house shall be burnt!'  
"However," the EVER-LIVING says this to the family of the king of Judah, "You were Gilad to me,—the best of Lebanon,—yet I will make..."
you a Desert, of uninhabited cities,
and will prepare destroyers with their
weapons, who will fell your choice
cedars, and fling them upon the fire.
Many of the Nations also shall pass
by this city, and each will say to his
companion, ‘For what has the EVER-
LIVING destroyed this great city?’
And they will reply, ‘Because they
forsook the Covenant of their EVER-
LIVING GOD, and bowed to seducing
gods, and served them.’

A Denunciation of Shalum-ben-
Joshih.

10 “Weep not for the dead, and lament
them not! But weep, weep for the
departed,—for he will never return,
or see the land of his birth!” For
thus says the LORD to Shalum-ben-
Joshih, King of Judah, who reigns
after Josiah his father, “When he
goes away from this place he shall
never return again!
13 “Woe! for he builds his house, but
not by Righteousness; and his cham-
bers, but not by Justice! He works
by his neighbours, without paying,
and gives them no wages. He says,
‘I will build for myself a spacious
house, and airy chambers,’ and forms
himself windows, and ceilings of
cedar, and paints them vermillion.
Will you reign because you stretch
yourself like a cedar? Did not your
father eat and drink, and do justice
and right,—and thus prospered? He
gave justice to the wretched, and the
poor,—and prospered. Was not that
known to Me?” asks the EVER-
LIVING. “You have neither eyes,
nor heart, however, except for fraud
and for shedding innocent blood, and
oppression and to practise extortion.
Therefore, the LORD says thus to
Joakim-ben-Joshih, king of Judah,
mourn not for him, ‘Alas for my
brother! or alas for my friend!’
Mourn not for him, ‘Alas for his
Majesty!’ or ‘Alas for his honour!’
He shall be buried with the
burial of an ass,—dragged and flung
outside of the gates of Jerusalem!”

A Call to Heaven Israel’s Sorrows
and Sins.

“Go up to Lebanon and shriek,—
and on Bashan raise your voice, and
howl at Abarim, for all your delights
are shattered!
“I spoke to you in your prosperity.
You replied, ‘I will not listen!’ That
was your way from your youth! You
have never listened to My voice. All
your shepherds attend to the wind!
and all your friends will go into
captivity, for now I will degrade and
shame you for all your wickedness,
Inhabitress in Lebanon! Builder in
the cedars! How charming you will
be when the agonies of a woman in
childbirth come upon you! By My
life,” says the EVER-LIVING, “to
Koniah-ben-Joiakim, king of Judah,
if you were the seal on My right hand,
I would tear you off, and give you to
the hand that seeks your life, and to
the hand of whoever you fear;—and
then to the hand of Nebuchadnezzar,
king of Babel, and the hand of the
Kasdim! I will also fling along with
you the mother who bore you into
another country where you were not
born,—and there you shall die! And
to the country to which they lift up
their souls, they shall never return!
“Is this man Koniah a contempt-
tible broken pot? or a thing in which
there is no use? Why do they throw
him, and his race away, and fling to
a land which they know not?”
Earth! Earth! Earth! listen to the
message of the EVER-LIVING.
The EVER-LIVING commands “Write
this man childless;—a man who shall
not prosper in his days,—for none of
his family shall prosper who sit upon
the throne of David, and rule in
Jerusalem!”

Woe Denounced to Wicked Rulers,
but Restoration to Israel.

“Woe to the shepherds who de-
stroy and scatter the sheep of My
pasture!” says the EVER-LIVING.
Therefore, the EVER-LIVING GOD of
Israel thus addresses the shepherds:
Shepherds of My People, you
scatter the sheep, and chase them
away, and do not collect them. There-
fore I will impose upon you the
wickedness of your proceedings,
says the EVER-LIVING. “But I will
collect the remnants of My flock from
all the lands where I have driven
them, and will restore them to their
homes, and they shall be fruitful and
multiply. I will also appoint shep-
herds over them, who will tend them,
and they shall not be terrified, or
driven, or injured,” says the EVER-
LIVING.
“The days also shall come,” says the EVER-LIVING, “when I will raise for David a righteous offshoot, and royal king, who will govern, and do justice and right in the land. In his days Judah shall be safe, and Israel rest in safety, and his Name shall be called ‘Our Righteous LORD.’

“Therefore the times shall come,” says the EVER-LIVING, “when they shall no more say ‘By the life of the EVER-LIVING Who brought Israel up from the land of the Mitseraim,’ but, ‘By the life of the EVER-LIVING Who brought Israel up, and conducted the race of the House of Israel from the land of the North, and from all the lands where He had driven them, and restored them to their own soil!’"

The Prophet’s Despair over False Teachers.

“My heart is broken in my breast for the Preachers,—all my bones shake,—I have become like a drunken man, and like a giant overcome by wine, before the EVERLASTING, and before His holy words! For the land is full of impostors;—the land faints before this curse;—the pastures of the plains fail, for their courses are bad, and their energies worthless! The Preacher and the Priest are alike profane. "I have even found their depravities in My House," says the EVER-LIVING. "Therefore their path shall become slippery,—they shall fall in the dark upon it;—for I will bring distress upon them in the time of their punishment," says the EVER-LIVING.

“I have also seen the impiety of the Preachers of Shomeron. They preach Bal, and seduce My People Israel!“ And I have seen a terrible thing among the Preachers of Jerusalem; they commit adultery, and walk in falsehood, and strengthen the hands of the wicked, so that no one turns from his wickedness! All of them are like Sodom, and the population of Gomorrah to me!” The LORD OF HOSTS consequently says this against those preachers, “I will consume them with suffering, and give them opiates to drink,—for corruption comes to all the country from the preachers of Jerusalem!”

Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, "Listen not to the messages of the Preachers who preach to you. They preach nonsense to you,—a vision from their own hearts. They do not preach from the mouth of the EVER-LIVING. They say to the despisers of the message of the EVER-LIVING, ‘Peace will come to you!’ And to all who follow the ideas of their own minds, they say, ‘No harm will come upon you!’ However, who stood in the council of the EVER-LIVING, and saw and heard His words? Who listened, and heard His commands?"

Look! The furious tempest of the EVER-LIVING has gone forth! A whirling tempest rolls over the head of the wicked! The anger of the EVER-LIVING will not return until it has worked, and effected the intentions of His mind. You will understand what He intended in times to come. I did not send those preachers,—yet they ran;—I did not speak to them;—yet they preached! But if they stood in My council, and heard messages to My People, let them turn them from their bad ways, and guide their proceedings!

"Am I a GOD near," the EVER-LIVING asks, "and not a GOD at a distance? If a man hides himself in shelters, cannot I see him?" asks the EVER-LIVING. "Are not the heavens and the breath of the earth Mine?" says the EVER-LIVING. "I can hear what the preachers say who preach falsehood in My name, explaining ‘I have dreamed a dream!’ How long is it the intention of the preachers to preach falsehood, and proclaim the deceptions of their hearts? Who intend to make My People forget My Name by their dreams which they relate each to his companion, as their fathers forgot My Name for Bal. Let the Reciter who has a dream, tell his dream;—but to whoever I have spoken, let him speak truly My message.

"What is the chaff compared to the corn?" the EVER-LIVING asks. "Is not My command like fire?" asks the EVER-LIVING. "And like a hammer splintering a stone? Therefore I am against those preachers," says the EVER-LIVING, "who steal messages each from his mate! I am against those Reciters," says the EVER-LIVING, "who delude by their tongues, and chatter! I am against"
the reciters of lying dreams," the
32 EVer-LIVING says, "And their reci-
tals, and who delude My People by
their lies, and elate them;—whom I
have not sent, nor instructed, and
who cannot help this people," the
EVER-LIVING says.
33 "You, however, when this People,
or the Preachers, or the Priest ask
you, 'What is the burden of the
EVER-LIVING?' shall reply to them,
'The burden is I have abandoned
you!'" says the EVER-LIVING, "and
the Reciter, or Priest, or Prophet,
who says, 'The burden of the EVER-
LIVING!' I will bring punishment
upon that man and upon his family.
35 Why does everyone ask of his neigh-
bour, and each to his brother, 'What
is the answer of the EVER-LIVING?'
and 'What is the message from the
EVER-LIVING?' when they will never
remember the burden of the EVER-
LIVING?—for the burden that has
come to every one is,—His own idea,
—and they fling away the ideas of
the LIVING GOD, the LORD OF HOSTS,
OUR GOD!
37 "However, ask of the Reciter,
'What does the EVER-LIVING answer
you?' and 'What is the message of
the EVER-LIVING?' If they reply
'A burden from the EVER-LIVING,'
then the EVER-LIVING says this,
'Answer in return to them, This is
the burden of the EVER-LIVING, 'I
have sent to you to command you not
to proclaim a burden from the EVER-
LIVING. Consequently I will lay a
burden upon you, and I will abandon
you, and this city, which I had given
to your forefathers, for having been
faithless to me. Therefore I will
make you a reproach for ever, and
an everlasting object of scorn, which
shall not be extinguished.'"

The Two Baskets of Figs.
24 The EVER-LIVING enlightened me,
and I saw two baskets full of figs
before the Temple of the LORD, after
the capture of Jekoniah-ben-Jhoaik-
him, king of Judah, by Nebukhad-
nezzar, king of Babylon, with the
princes of Judah, and the mechanics,
and carpenters of Jerusalem, and
their transportation to Babylon. The
one basket was very good, like best
figs;—but the other basket was of
very bad figs which could not be
eaten for badness. And the EVER-
LIVING asked me, "What do you
see, Jeremiah?" When I replied,
"Figs. The good figs very good,
but the bad figs very bad,—so that
they could not be eaten for bad-
ness."

Then the command of the EVER-
LIVING came to me to proclaim;—
"Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD
of Israel. 'As with these good figs,
I will discriminate amongst the cap-
tives of Judah, whom I have sent
from this place to the country of the
Kasdim to benefit them, and will set
My eyes upon them beneficently, and
restore them to their country in their
children, and not destroy them; and
plant, and not pull them up. I will
also give them a heart to understand
Me, that I am the EVER-LIVING,
and they shall be My People,—and I will
be their GOD,—when they turn to Me
with all their heart.

'But as for the bad figs which are
uneatable for badness;—for them,'
says the EVER-LIVING, 'I will take
Zedekiah, king of Judah, and his
nobles, and the remnant of Jerusalem
remaining in this land, and residing
in the country of the Mitzeraim, and
make them a seed of evil to all the
kingdoms of the earth, as a reproach,
and a proverb; to be a slander, and
a curse, in every place to which I
drive them. I will also send sword,
famine, and plague to harass them
from off the land which I gave to
them and to their forefathers.'"

A Message to Judah.

The message which came to Jer-
25 miah against all the People of Judah
in the fourth year of Jhoaikim-ben-
Josiah, king of Judah,—which was
the second of Nebukhadnezzar, king
of Babylon, which Jeremiah the Reciter
2 delivered to all the people of Judah,
and to all the residents in Jerusalem,
saying,
"From the thirteenth year of 3
Josiah-ben-Amon, king of Judah,
until this time,—for twenty-three
years, the message of the EVER-
LIVING came to me, and I have
spoken to you promptly,—and pro-
claimed it,—but you would not listen!
The EVER-LIVING also sent all his
servants the Preachers,—raising and
sending—but you would not listen,
nor incline your ears to listen, when
I said, 'Turn, I pray, everyone from
his bad path, and from your wicked

ways, and be restored to the ground that the Ever-living gave to you and your ancestors for ever and for ever. And follow not after seducing gods to serve and worship them, and try Me not by the fabrications of your own hands,—and I will not afflict you. But you would not listen to Me," says the Ever-living, "although I was provoked by the fabrications of your hands to afflict you! Therefore," the Lord of hosts says, "because you have not listened to My messages, I will send and take the whole of the families of the north," says the Ever-living, "and Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, My servant, and bring them to this country, and upon its inhabitants, and upon all the nations around, and he will ravage and reduce them to a desolation, and a jungle, and a desert for ever! I will also abolish from them the voice of joy, and the voice of pleasure, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the mills, and the light of the lamp,—and all this land shall become a black desert waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babel seventy years. But when the seventy years are completed, I will visit on the king of Babel, and upon his portion," says the Ever-living, "their cruelties and also on the land of the Kasdim, and desolate it with a lasting desolation. But I will bring to this land the whole of the promises that I have promised to it, all that are written in this book which Jeremiah has preached to all the nation. For many nations and great kings have made slaves of them, therefore I will repay to them according to their own acts, and like to what they have done.

"So," thus said the Ever-living God of Israel, to me:—"Take this cup of the Wine of Wrath from My hand, and give it to all the nations to whom I will send you to drink of, and let them drink, and stagger, and be mad for the sword that I will send amongst them."

So I took the cup from the hand of the Ever-living, and gave drink to all the nations to whom the Ever-living sent me.

To Jerusalem and the cities of Judah,—and her kings, and her nobles, to make them a black desert, and a desolation, and jungle, and scorn. To Pharoh, king of the 19 Mitreaim, also, and his ministers and nobles, and all his army, and to all the west, and all the kings of Autz, and all the land of the Philistim, and Askalon, and Gaza, and Akron, and the districts of Ashdod; and to Edom, and Moab, and the Beni-Amon, and to all the kings of Tzur, and all the kings of Zidon; and to all the kings of the coast at the Passage of the Sea,—to Dedan, and Themam, and Buz, and all the farther regions; and all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of Midland who inhabit the desert; and all the kings 25 of Zimri, and all the kings of Ailam; and all the kings of Madi; and all the kings of the north:—both near and far,—each with his brother; and all the kingdoms of the earth, who are on the face of the ground, and the king of Sheshak shall drink after them! Then say to them, Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, 'Drink and be drunk, and stagger, and fall, and never rise from the face of the sword that I will send amongst you!' But if it happens that they refuse to take the cup from your hand and drink, say to them, Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'Drink it, drink it!' For, in the city upon which My Name was invoked, I began to punish,—so shall you escape? You shall not escape,' for I will call for a sword against all the inhabitants of those countries," says the Lord of hosts. "Consequently I proclaim to them all these messages and tell them, 'The Ever-living will thunder from on high, and from within His sanctuary will utter His voice. He will shout from His station, 'Charge with a cheer,—overthrow all the inhabitants of the country!'"

The roar will go to the ends of the earth, when the Ever-living contends with the heathen, to do justice to all men. "Give the wicked to the sword," says the Ever-living. Thus says the Lord of hosts: 22 "Look! Misery goes from nation to nation! And a mighty tempest is roused from the flanks of the earth! And in that time those wounded by 33

1 (As they are to-day.)

Note.—Ch. 25, v. 18. The words "as they are to-day" are the comment of an old transcriber, not a part of Jeremiah's prophecy.—F. F.
the EVER-LIVING shall lie from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, nor collected, nor buried;—they shall be for dung on the surface of the ground!

34 "Howl and shriek, you shepherds, and wallow for the beautiful flocks! For your days of prosperity are done, and the things you desired are scattered and fallen! A retreat fails for the shepherds, and a refuge for the beautiful flock! The shriek of the shepherds sounds, and the bleat of the beautiful flock.—for the EVER-LIVING has destroyed their shepherds, and the peaceful pastures are destroyed before the fierce anger of the EVER-LIVING, Who has left His lair like a tiger, that He may desolate their country before the driving conflagration, and by the flame of His wrath!"

Judah Denounced for his Sins.

26 In the beginning of the reign of Jsiakim-ben-Joshiah, king of Judah, this message came from the EVER-LIVING to say:—

2 "Thus, says the EVER-LIVING, Stand in the court of the House of the EVER-LIVING, and proclaim to all the citizens of Judah who come to worship in the House of the EVER-LIVING, all the messages that I order you to deliver to them. Omit not a word! Perhaps they may each turn from their wicked way, when I will regret the misery I intend to make for them, because of their wicked proceedings. Say to them, Thus says the EVER-LIVING, 'If you will not listen to Me, and walk in the laws that I place before you, and listen to the words of My servants the Preachers, whom I send to you, rising early and sending, although you have not listened, then I will make this House like Shiloh,—and make this city the scorn of all the nations of the earth.'"

7 When the Priests, and the Preachers, and all the people heard Jeremiah proclaiming these messages in the House of the EVER-LIVING,—

8 and when Jeremiah had finished delivering all that the EVER-LIVING had ordered him to speak to all the people, the Priests, and Preachers, and all the people seized him, exclaiming, '"You shall die! Why have you proclaimed in the name of the EVER-LIVING, asserting that ‘this House shall become like Shiloh, and this city a burnt ruin without inhabitants?’" Then all the people collected about Jeremiah at the House of the EVER-LIVING.

The officials of Judah also heard of these speeches, and went up from the palace of the king to the House of the EVER-LIVING, and sat in front of the New Gate of the LORD. There the Priests and Preachers addressed the officials, and all the people, and demanded a "Sentence of death for this man, for he has proclaimed about this city what your own ears have heard!"

But Jeremiah replied to all the officials, and all the people, and said, "The EVER-LIVING sent me to proclaim to this House, and to this city, all the messages that you have heard. Therefore, now, amend your courses and your ways, and listen to the voice of your EVER-LIVING GOD,—when the EVER-LIVING will relent from the misery He has spoken against you. As for myself, I am in your hands. Do to me what is right, and what is just in your opinion. However ever know this,—that if you kill me, you will put innocent blood upon yourselves, and upon this city, and upon its inhabitants. For in truth the EVER-LIVING sent me to you to speak in your hearing all these speeches."

Consequently the officials, and all the people, said to the Priests and Preachers, "There is no reason for a Death Sentence on this man, for he has spoken to us in the Name of our EVER-LIVING GOD."

Then the Chief Judges of the country arose and addressed the whole assembly of the people, saying —

"Mikiah, the Moroshite, was a Preacher in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and he spoke to the people of Judah to proclaim:—Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, Zion shall be a ploughed field, and Jerusalem become ruins, and the hill of this house be a forest of columns! Did Hezekiah king of Judah, and all Judah, put him to death? Did he not fear the EVER-LIVING, and entreat the presence of the EVER-LIVING? And consequently the EVER-LIVING refrained from the
punishment that he proclaimed against them. And should we do so great a wrong to our souls?
20 And there was also a man, Uriah-ben-Shemiah of Kirjath-jarim, who came preaching in the Name of the EVER-LIVING, who proclaimed against this city, and against this country, all the words of Jeremiah, and King Jehoiakim and his generals, and all his officials heard the speeches. So the king sought to kill Uriah. But when Uriah heard it he was afraid, and fled, and went to Mitzar. King Jehoiakim, however, sent officers to Mitzar, Anathanaen-Akbor, and officers with him to the Egyptians, who brought Uriah from Egypt, and conducted him to Jehoiakim who assailed him with the sword, and flung his body into the grave of the common people.
24 However the party of Ahikam-ben-Shafan was with Jeremiah, and refused to give him to the power of the people for him to be put to death.

Jeremiah Ordered to Wear Fetter.
A Message to the Nations.

27 In the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah-ben-Joshiah, king of Judah, this message came to Jeremiah from the LORD to speak.
2 The EVER-LIVING commanded me thus,—"Make fetters for yourself, and open and put them on your neck; then send them to the king of Edom, and to the king of Moab, and the king of Beni-Amon, and to the king of Tzur, and the king of Zidon, by the hand of their ambassadors who come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah, king of Judah, and command them to say to their masters,—Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel! Say to your masters, I made the earth, mankind, and the animals that are upon the face of the earth, by My great power, and I give it to whoever is upright in My sight.' So now I have given the whole of these countries to the hand of Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babylon, My servant; and I have given him also the animals of the field for his service, and they shall serve him, and his son, and his grandson, until the period of his own country has come,—when many nations and great kings shall make him serve! And to the nation or kingdom that will not serve him,—Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babylon,—and that will not give its neck to the yoke of the king of Babylon, I will bring punishment upon that nation by sword, and famine, and plague," says the EVER-LIVING, "until I have subdued them to his power.

"And for yourselves, listen not to your preachers, and your diviners, and your dreamers, and cloud-readers, and to your magicians who tell you that you will not serve the king of Babylon, for those Preachers lie to you, because you will be expelled from your soil, and reduced, and destroyed. But the nation that brings its neck to the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serves him, shall rest quietly on its own soil," says the EVER-LIVING, "and use it and reside on it."

Advice to Zedekiah to Submit to Babylon.

To Zedekiah, king of Judah, also deliver all these messages and say:—"Let you and your people bring your necks to the yoke of the king of Babylon,—and live. Why should you die? you, and your people by sword, famine, and plague? as the EVER-LIVING has threatened to the nations which will not serve the king of Babylon? Do not listen to the speeches of the Preachers who promise you, asserting,—'You need not serve the king of Babylon, for those Preachers lie to you! I, certainly, have not sent them," says the EVER-LIVING, "but they preach falsely in My NAME, because I shall subdue you, and ruin you, and the Preachers who preach to you."

A Message to the Priests.

To the priests, also, and all this people I spoke and said:—

Thus says the LORD:—"Listen not to the messages of the Preachers who preach to you, and assert: 'The furniture of the House of the EVER-LIVING will be returned from Babylon, now, very soon,'—for those Preachers lie to you. Do not listen to them! Serve the king of Babylon, and live,
Why should this city become a ruin?
18 But if they are prophets, and if the message of the Ever-Living is with them,—let them at once pray to the Lord of Hosts not to allow the remaining furniture of the House of the Ever-Living, and of the king of Judah's palace, and in Jerusalem, to go to Babel.

19 "For thus says the Lord of Hosts, to the columns, and to the sea, and to its bases, and to the other furniture remaining in this city,—
20 which Nebukhadnezzar king of Babel, did not take when he transported Jekoniah—ben—Jhoiakim, king of Judah, from Jerusalem to Babel, with all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem,

21 Thus says the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, to the remaining furniture of the House of the Ever-Living, and the palace of the king of Judah and Jerusalem;—they shall go to Babel, and shall be there until the time that I appoint for them," says the Ever-Living, "to be brought up and returned to this place."

Hananiah of Gibeon assails Jeremiah.

28 It happened in the same year at the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah, in the first of the fifth month, Hananiah—ben—Azer, the Preacher who came from Gibeon, addressed me in the House of the Ever-Living, in the sight of the Priests and all the People, exclaiming:

"Thus says the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, proclaim—'I will shatter the yoke of the king of Babel!"

3 At the end of two years' time I will return to this place all the furniture of the House of the Ever-Living, which Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, took from this place and removed to Babel. And Jekoniah—ben—Jhoiakim, king of Judah, and all the transports of Judah, who were removed to Babel, I will restore to this place," says the Ever-Living, "for I will shatter the yoke of the king of Babel!"

5 But Jeremiah the Preacher replied to Hananiah the Preacher, in the sight of the Priests, and in the presence of the people standing in the House of the Ever-Living,—and Jeremiah the Preacher said, "Amen! May the Ever-Living do so. And may the Ever-Living confirm the things you have proclaimed, and return the furniture of the House of the Ever-Living, and all the transports, from Babel to this place!—

However, hear now this message which I speak in your hearing, and in the hearing of all the people. The Preachers who were before me, 8 and before you from of old, preached to many lands, and great kingdoms, of war, and famine, and plague! The Preacher who preached about 9 prosperity,—when the promise of the Preacher came, it was known that in truth the Ever-Living had sent him!"

Then the Preacher Hananiah took 10 the fetter off the neck of the Preacher Jeremiah, and broke it. And Hananiah exclaimed before all the people, "Thus says the Ever-Living! 'I will break the yoke of Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, at the end of two years' time from off the neck of all nations.'"

Then Jeremiah the Preacher went away.

But a message from the Ever-Living came to Jeremiah after Hananiah, the Preacher, had broken the yoke from the neck of Jeremiah, to say:

"Go and speak to Hananiah, and 13 say, 'Thus says the Ever-Living, you have broken the yokes of wood, but I will make in their place yokes of iron!' For thus says the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, I will put a yoke of iron upon all these nations in serving Nebukhadnezzar the king of Babel, and they shall serve him. I also give the beasts of the earth to him.'"

Jeremiah the Preacher accordingly 15 said to Hananiah the Preacher, "Listen now, Hananiah, the Ever-Living did not send you, but you have comforted this People with a lie! Therefore thus says the Ever-Living,—I will send you from off the face of the ground;—you shall die this year, for you have taught rebellion against the Ever-Living."

And Hananiah did die that year in 17 the seventh month.

Jeremiah's Letter to the Jews in Babel.

This is a copy of the letter which 29 Jeremiah, the Preacher, sent to
Babel from Jerusalem to say to that portion of the nobles and priests, and preachers of the transportation, and to all the people whom Nebukhadnezzar transported from Jerusalem to Babel, with Jeconiah the king, and his generals, and chamberlains, nobles of Judah and Jerusalem, with the mechanics and engineers of Jerusalem, by the hands of Alasah-ben-Shafan, and Ghemariah-ben-Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah, king of Judah, sent to Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel,—

The Promise of Judah's Return from Babylon.

4 "Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel, to all the transports whom I have transported from Jerusalem to Babel. Build houses, and settle and plant vines, and eat their fruit. Marry wives and beget sons and daughters, and let your sons take wives, and give your daughters to husbands, and let them bear sons and daughters, and increase and not diminish. You must also seek for the prosperity of the city into which I have transported you, and pray on account of it to the EVER-LIVING, for by its prosperity you will prosper.

5 The LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel, says this, 'Let not the Preachers among you, nor your Diviners deceive you,—nor listen to the Dreamers who dream for you dreams, for those Preachers lie to you in My Name. I have not sent them,' says the EVER-LIVING.

6 "But the EVER-LIVING says this:—'When seventy years are full to the lip for Babel, I will visit you, and confirm to you My good promises, and will restore you to this place. For I know the intentions which I have planned for you,' the EVER-LIVING says—'intentions of prosperity, and not suffering, that I will give you hereafter, therefore hope. So call to Me, and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. For when you seek Me you can find Me,—when you search for Me with all your heart. When I am found by you,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'I will restore you from captivity, and collect you from all the nations, and all the places where I drove you,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'and return you from the place to which I transported you.'

7 "However, you may say, 'The 15 EVER-LIVING has raised for us Preachers in Babel!'

8 "Yet thus says the EVER-LIVING to the king who remains upon the throne of David, and to all the people who remain in this city after you, who have not gone with you to Babel:—Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS,—I will send to them sword, famine, and plague, and make them like rotten figs, so rotten they cannot be eaten; and I will chase them with the sword, famine and plague, and make them a dispersion in all the kingdoms of the earth, as a curse, and desolation, and contempt, and reproach to all the nations where I have flung them, because they would not listen to My messages,' says the EVER-LIVING. 'But for yourselves,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'all the transportation whom I have sent from Jerusalem to Babel, listen: for the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel, says to Akhab-ben-Masiah, who preaches lies in My Name to you,—I will give him to the hand of Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, and he will kill him before your eyes, and make a curse from him for all the transports of Judah who are in Babel, who will exclaim:—'May the LORD set you like Zedekiah and Akhab, whom the king of Babel roasted in the fire!' because they did injury to Israel, and committed adultery with their neighbours' wives, and spoke false messages in My Name, which I have not entrusted to them;—as I know and can prove,' says the EVER-LIVING.'

9 And to Shemiah, the Nekhlamite, say—'Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel,—Because you have sent letters in your own name to all the people of Jerusalem, and Zefaniah-ben-Masiah the Priest, and to all the Priests to say, The EVER-LIVING has made you priests under Jhoiada the Priest, and to be officers of the House of the EVER-LIVING, so that you may put into the stocks, and imprison every madman and sham prophet,—so now why do you not restrain Jeremiah the Anathothite, who does the Prophet to you? For he has sent to us to Babel to say, 'It is for a long period: Build homes and settle. Plant vines and eat their fruit.' Now Zefaniah the Priest has read this letter to the sars
30 of Jeremiah the Preacher,—and the message of the EVER-LIVING has come to Jeremiah to say: Send to the transports and declare, Thus says the EVER-LIVING to Shemiah, the Nehlamite,' Because Shemiah preaches to you, and I have not sent him, and comforts you with a lie,—therefore,' thus says the EVER-LIVING, 'I will punish Shemiah the Nehlamite and his family; none shall remain among this People, and they shall not see the prosperity that I will make for My People,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'for he utters rebellion against the LORD.'"

30 The message which came to Jeremiah from the EVER-LIVING to say:

2 "Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel, 'Write the whole of the messages which I have told you in a book; for, see, the days come,' said the EVER-LIVING, 'when I will restore the captives of My People of Israel and Judah,' said the EVER-LIVING, 'and return them to the land that I gave to their ancestors, and they shall possess it.'"

A Message of Comfort to Jacob.

4 Now these are the messages that the EVER-LIVING addressed to Israel and to Judah.

5 He spoke thus:—

6 "Hear a voice of terror without comfort! Ask and examine if men bear children? Why do I see every man's hands on his loins, like a childling woman? and every face turned livid? Alas, for it is a great day! There has been none like it! It is a period of distress for Jacob,—and can he be saved from it?

7 "Yes! in that day," says the EVER-LIVING, "I will break the yoke from off your neck, and snap the shackles, and they shall no longer serve the foreigners, but serve their EVER-LIVING GOD, and David their king whom I will appoint for them. So now, Jacob, My servant, fear not," says the EVER-LIVING, "and Israel be not depressed, for I will rescue you from afar, and your race from the land of slavery, when Jacob shall rest in quiet, and without terror.

8 For I will be with you," says the EVER-LIVING, "to save you, and I will make an end of all the nations where I scattered you. But I will not make an end of you, but correct you with justice, and when corrected I will not punish further."

9 For thus says the EVER-LIVING: 12 "Your bruise is malignant,—your wound sluggish. There is no surgeon to press, to sprinkle medicaments upon it, for you. All your friends have forgotten about you,—they do not enquire,—for I struck you by the stroke of an enemy,—a cruel wound, for your many faults, your sins were strong.

10 "Why do you shriek over your malignant bruise?—for the pain over your many faults? I have done this to you for your numerous sins.

11 However all who devour you shall be devoured; and all who oppress you shall go into slavery, and those who are plundering you shall be plundered; and all robbing you I will give to robbery. For I will grant you a restoration, and will cure you of your wounds," says the EVER-LIVING, "for the Driver cries to you, 'You are Zion for whom nobody cares!'"

12 The EVER-LIVING, however, says, 18 "I will restore Jacob's captured halls, and will extend his dwellings, and build his city on high, and found his palace on justice. And the sound of song and laughter shall come out from them, and they shall be glorious, and not depressed. And his children shall be as of old, with a parliament before me, firm and fixed against all his oppressors. His Leaders shall be from himself,—and his Governors from his own breast. He shall come and approach, and touch me,—for who like him pledged his heart to approach to Me?" asks the EVER-LIVING. "So they shall be My 20 People and I will be their GOD."

13 Look! the furious tempest of the 23 anger of the LORD has gone out! A sweeping tempest, it whirls over the head of the wicked. The flaming wrath of the EVER-LIVING will not return until it has accomplished the purpose of His heart. You will understand 24 it in the future times, at the period," said the EVER-LIVING, "when I will be a GOD to all the families of Israel, and they will be My People."

God's Love to Israel.

Thus says the EVER-LIVING:

2 "The nation of Israel remaining from the sword has found favour in
31—3 JEREMIAH. 31—20

the desert, where it went to rest itself!

3 The EVER-LIVING saw me from afar
and loved. I love you," He said,
"with an everlasting love, therefore I
will attract you by kindness. I will
build you again, and you shall be re-
built, Virgin of Israel. Prepare your
 tambours, and come out to the dances
with laughter. Plant vineyards
on the hills of Shomeron! Plant
slips, and play the flute;—for it is the
day when the Watchmen cry on
Mount Ephraim, 'Arise and let us go
up to Zion to our EVER-LIVING
GOD!'"

7 For thus says the EVER-LIVING,
"Shout to Jacob, Be glad and neigh
at the Head of the Nations. Let
them hear your cheer, and say, 'O
EVER-LIVING, save Your people,—
the fragments of Israel.'

8 "I will bring them from the land
of the North, and collect them from
the flanks of the world, with their
blind and lame,—the pregnant, and
chiding women shall return together
here in a great crowd. They went
away with tears;—but on paths of
delight I will lead them in jubilee to
rivers of water, by a level way in
which they cannot stumble, for I will
be a father to Israel with Ephraim as
My firstborn.

"Nations! I hear the message of the 10
LORD, and report it to the distant
isles, and proclaim to the race of
Israel, 'He who scattered us will
guard you as a shepherd does his
flock!' For the EVER-LIVING will 11
redeem Jacob and free him from the
hand that is stronger than his; and 12
he shall come with cheering to the
top of Zion, and stream to the
LORD'S endowment of corn, and
wine, and oil, and the young of the
flock and the herd. For their soul
shall be like a watered garden, and
ever again endure distress. Then 13
the girls will rejoice in the dance,
with the boys and old men with
them. And I will change their
sorrow to delight, and their sighing
and anguish to gladness, and satiate 14
their priests with fat, and fill My
People with benefits," says the
EVER-LIVING.

The Weeping in Ramah.

Thus said the LORD:
"In Ramah a voice is heard;
The weeping and moaning of Rachel,
Bewailing her sons,
For her children refusing all comfort,
Because they are not!"

(The LORD replies thus)
"Restrain your voice from weeping,
And your eyes from shedding tears;
And rest from your grief,
Says the Lord.
"When you quit your enemy's land,
Let this be your hope,
Says the LORD,
"Your sons shall return to their Home."

"I have heard Ephraim murmur,—
He goads and controls me and strikes,
Like a heifer unused to the reins.
Turn me and I will return,
For you are my GOD Ever-living.

"When turned I resisted;
When taught struck my thigh,
I was shamed and disgraced,
For I bore the reproach of my youth."

The LORD.
"My dear son is Ephraim;—
My beautiful child,
Though I spoke sharp to him,
I always remember,
My love is with him,
And tenderest affection,"
The LORD says.
A Call for Israel’s Return.

21 Set up your Beacons,—your Landmarks set up!
Fix your heart on the mounds by the way that you marched,
Return, Israel’s daughter, return to your City,
How will you wander from Home?

Return for the LORD has prepared a new thing,
In that Land, a woman embracing a man!

The Blessing upon a Return.

23 Thus says the LORD of Hosts,
the God of Israel:
They shall again say this thing in the land of Judah and in its cities when I restore you from captivity,
‘The EVER-LIVING bless you, Home of Righteousness, Hill of Holiness!’

24 For Judah shall reside in it, and all his cities,—together with farmers, and shepherds of flocks, when I will refresh the weary life, and fill every exhausted soul.

27 “For see! the days will come,” says the EVER-LIVING, “when I will sow the House of Israel, and the House of Judah with the seed of man, and the seed of cattle. And as I watched them to pull up, and drive out, and break down, and to ruin, and to punish,—it will come that in the same way I will watch over them to build and plant,” says the EVER-LIVING. “In those times they shall not again say, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge!’ for a man shall only die for his own faults;—every one who eats sour grapes, his own teeth shall be set on edge.

31 “Look!” says the EVER-LIVING, “the times will come when I will make a New Covenant with the House of Israel, and the House of Judah; unlike the Covenant that I made with their fathers, when I grasped them in My hand to bring them out from the land of the Mittheraim,—which Covenant they broke, although I was their Guardian,” says the EVER-LIVING. “But this is the Covenant that I will make with the House of Israel after these days,” says the EVER-LIVING. “I will fix My laws in their breast, and write them upon their heart,—and I will be their GOD, and they shall be My People. And they shall no more each instruct his neighbour, and each his brother, saying, ‘Learn about the EVER-LIVING!’ for all of them will know Me from the least to the greatest,” says the EVER-LIVING, “for I will pardon their frailty, and no more remember their sins.”

Thus says the LORD Who sets the sun to light by day, and the moon and stars to light by night,—Who stills the roaring waves of the sea—His NAME is the LORD of Hosts!—

36 “If those institutions remove themselves from My presence,” says the EVER-LIVING, “then the race of Israel can remove itself from being a Nation before me for all time!”

Thus says the EVER-LIVING: “If 37 the skies above, and the foundations of the earth can be measured by a stick,—then can be abolished all that I have done for the whole race of Israel,” says the EVER-LIVING.

38 “Be sure the times will come,” says the EVER-LIVING, “when the city will be built for the EVER-LIVING, from the Tower of Hananal to the Corner Gate, and the wall stretch again from there, south of it, over Mount Gareb, and turn to Gathah; and all the vale of corpses, and ashes, and all the fields from the brook Kidron to the sides of the Horse-gate, on the east, shall be consecrated to the EVER-LIVING. It shall never again be pulled up or thrown down for ever and ever.”

The Message to Jeremiah in Prison.

The message which came from the EVER-LIVING to Jeremiah in the tenth year of Zedekiah, king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebukadnezzar, whilst the army of the king of Babylon besieged Jerusalem, when Jeremiah was confined in the Court of the Guard-house of the palace of the king of Judah, where Zedekiah, king of Judah, had confined him. He had demanded of
him, "Why do you preach asserting, 'Thus says the EVER-LIVING—I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babel, who will capture it."

4 And Zedekiah, king of Judah, shall not escape from the hand of the Kasdim,—for he will be given to the hand of the king of Babel, and speak face to face with him, and see him eye to eye. Zedekiah also shall go to Babel, and be there until I visit him," says the EVER-LIVING. 'Although he fights with the Kasdim,—he will not succeed.'"

5 Then Jeremiah replied:—"The command of the EVER-LIVING came to me to say, 'Understand that Hanamal-ben-Dudi will come to you and say, Buy for yourself the farm at Anathoth, for the right is yours, and the price of redemption.'"

8 Hanamal my cousin accordingly came to me, as the EVER-LIVING had said, to the Court of the Guard, and said to me, "I wish you to buy the farm at Anathoth in the district of Benjamin, for the hereditary right is yours, and you have the funds for its redemption." Then I recognised that it was what the EVER-LIVING had said. I consequently bought the farm at Anathoth from Hanamal my cousin, and weighed the money to him,—seventeen shekels of silver.

10 Then I signed the deed and sealed it, and the witnesses witnessed it, and I counted out the money in their hearing. I then took the sealed Deed of Purchase, with its laws and conditions, and the deed of possession, and gave the Deed of Purchase to Baruk-ben-Nediah-ben-Maksiah in the presence of Hanamal my cousin, and in the presence of the witnesses who had signed the Deed of Purchase, in the presence of all the Jews detained in the courtyard, and instructed Baruk in their presence, saying:

14 "Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel, 'Take these deeds, this Deed of Purchase with its seals, and the Deed of Possession, and put them in an earthenware jar, so that they may be preserved for a long time.'" For thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel, Never buy houses, or farms, or vineyards in this country!" Then 16 I prayed to the EVER-LIVING, after I had given the Deed of Purchase to Baruk-ben-Nediah, and said:—

17 "Oh, Almighty LORD, Who made the solar systems, and the earth, by Your great power, and by Your directing arms,—let not any of Your promises fail! Show kindness to the fallen, and repay the faults of the fathers to the lap of their children after them. The GOD of great power and might,—the LORD OF HOSTS is His name. Great in purpose! and multiform in action. Your eyes examine all the ways of the sons of Adam, to give to each according to his ways, and the result of his practices. You appointed signs and portents from the land of the Mitzeraim until now;—as well as in Israel, and among mankind,—and made Yourself a name, as at this day. You brought Your People Israel from the land of the Mitzeraim, with signs and wonders, and with a supporting hand, and directing arm, and with great splendour, and gave them a land flowing with milk and honey. And they came and possessed it. But listened not to Your voice, nor walked according to the laws which You commanded them to practise; they practised them not;—therefore You have brought them to all this misery!

23 "Look! the embankments are approaching the city! You will give it to the power of the Kasdim who attack it by the edge of the sword,—and to famine, and to plague! What You threatened has come, and You see it! And yet You have commanded me, ALMIGHTY LORD, 'Buy that farm for money, and let witnesses witness it!' when You will give the city to the hands of the Kasdim."

26 God's Reply to the Prophet.

Then the message from the EVER-LIVING came to Jeremiah to say:—

27 "See! I am the EVER-LIVING GOD of all flesh. None of My promises will fail! Therefore thus says the EVER-LIVING,—I will give this city to the power of the Kasdim, and to the power of Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, who will capture it. And the besieging Kasdim shall come upon this city with fire and burn it,
and the houses where they burn incense upon the roofs to Bal, and drink to the seducing gods by means of whom they insult Me. Because the Children of Israel, and the Children of Judah have done wrong in My sight from their youth,—for the Children of Israel provoked Me by the fabrications of their own hands," said the EVER-LIVING. "For this city has been to Me anger and wrath from the day when they built it until now, to make Me sweep it from My presence, on account of all the wickedness which the Children of Israel, and the Children of Judah have done to provoke Me; they, their kings, nobles, priests, and preachers, with the men of Judah, and the population of Jerusalem. They have turned their back, and not their face to Me! although I taught them, beginning to teach them early,—but they would not listen nor take correction. They even set up their idols in the House upon which My NAME had been invoked! to defile it! And erected Columns to Bal in the Vale of Benhinnon, to pass their sons and their daughters to Molok,—which I commanded not,—nor had it come up to My heart, to have such horrors practised, to cause Judah to sin.

"But, however," thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel to this city which you say has been given to the hand of the king of Babel by the sword, and by famine, and by plague, "I will collect them again from all the countries where I have driven them in My anger and indignation, and I will restore them in a great gathering to this place, where they can dwell in security, and they will become My People, and I will be their God. I will also give them a united heart, and a united course, and they will reverence Me continually to their own benefit, and their children’s after them. I will then record an everlasting Covenant with them,—that I will not cease following them with benefits; and I will put reverence of Me into their hearts, so that they will never abandon Me. I also shall delight to benefit them, and to plant them in the land firmly, with all My heart, and with all My soul.”

For thus says the EVER-LIVING:— "When I have brought this People,—all this great misery, then I will bring all the benefits which I have promised to them. And farms will be bought in this country, where they say, ‘It is desolate! It has neither men nor cattle,—it is given to the hand of the Kasdim!’ They will buy farms for money, and engrave the Deeds, and seal them, and the witnesses witness, in the district of Benjamin, and around Jerusalem, and in the villages of Judah, and in the towns on the hills, and the villages of the slopes, and the hamlets of the south, for I will restore the captivity,” said the EVER-LIVING.

The Restoration of Judah promised.

Another time the message of the EVER-LIVING came to Jeremiah, while he was confined in the Guards Court, to say:—

"Thus says the Creative, the Constructive Life;—His Name is the EVER-LIVING Creator. ‘Ask me, and I will answer, and inform you of great events, and treasures you know not!’"

For thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel, “About the houses of this city, and the palaces of the kings of Judah, which are made ruins for the embankments and for the entrenchments made to fight with the Kasdim, and to be filled with carcasses of men whom I will slay in My anger and wrath, and from whom I have hidden Myself,—turning from this city because of all their wickedness;—I will again bring existence and health, and will unveil to them rich peace and security, when I have restored the captives of Judah, and the captives of Israel, with their children, to their former state. For I will purify them from their frailties, by which they offended Me, and pardon the whole of the sins by which they offended Me, and by which they rebelled against Me. And it shall be a monument of delight and beauty, as formerly to every nation of the earth, when they hear all the benefits that I will confer upon them, and tremble with excitement at all the prosperity and peace which I will confer upon it.”

Thus says the EVER-LIVING, "There shall again be heard in this place,—which they say ‘It is a ruin without man or beast in the villages of Judah, and the streets of Jerusalem are a desert,—there are no men,—there are no inhabitants,—there are no
cattle! the sound of joy, and the sound of pleasure, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride;—the voice proclaiming,

"Praise the LORD OF HOSTS, For the LORD is good for ever! Bring praise to the House of the LORD!

"For I will restore the captives to the country,—to their former state," says the EVER-LIVING.

Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS:—"There shall again be in this ruined place, where there is neither man nor cattle, and in all its villages,—pastures for shepherds with reclining flocks. In the villages of the hills, and the villages on the slopes, and in the villages of the south, and in the land of Benjamin, and in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem, and in the villages of Judah, the flocks shall pass under the hand of the enumerator!" says the EVER-LIVING.

"Be assured the days come," says the EVER-LIVING, "when I will accomplish this good promise, which I have promised to the House of Israel, and the House of Judah. In those days, and at that period, I will cause a Perfect Sceptre to rise up, and he will execute Justice and Right in the land. In those times Judah will be safe, and Israel rest secure, and this is what she will call Him, OUR RIGHTEOUS LORD:"

For thus says the EVER-LIVING: "There shall not be wanting a man to David to sit upon the throne of the House of Israel. And to the Levitical Priests there shall not be wanting a man before me to offer up burnt-offerings, and incense, and gifts, and to make sacrifice for all time."

The Confirming of the Promise.

Thus the command of the EVER-LIVING also came to Jeremiah to say:

"Thus says the EVER-LIVING, 'If My institution of day and night can be broken, so that they should not exist daily and nightly in their periods, then My institution with My Servant David, for him to have a son reigning on his throne, and the Levitical Priests to be My Ministers, may be broken! Since the army of the skies is not counted, or the sand of the sea measured,—so I will ex-

A Reproof to Unbelievers.

The command of the EVER-LIVING again came to Jeremiah to say:

"Have you seen what this People say, 'The two families that the EVER-LIVING chose, He has cast off, and rejected the nations from continuing in His presence.' The EVER-LIVING, however, declares, 'If I have not appointed the institutions of the day and night;—the fixed laws of the solar systems, and the earth, then I will repudiate the race of Jacob, and My minister David, and not take from his race Governors for the race of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob;—when I restore their captives, and pity them!'

The Doom of Zedekiah.

This commandment came from the EVER-LIVING to Jeremiah to proclaim, when Nebukhadrezzar, king of Babel, with all his forces, and all the kingdoms of the earth who were controlled by his hand, and all the nations, fought against Jerusalem and all her towns.

Thus said the EVER-LIVING God of Israel,—"Go and speak to Zedekiah, king of Judah, and say to him:—'Thus says the EVER-LIVING, I will deliver this city to the hand of the king of Babel, and he will burn it with fire! You also will not escape from his hand! For you will be seized and given to his power, and your eyes shall see the eyes of the king of Babel, and his mouth shall speak to your mouth, and you shall go to Babel. However listen to the message of the EVER-LIVING, Zedekiah, king of Judah! Thus says the EVER-LIVING to you, You shall not die by the sword. You shall die in peace;—and as they burnt for the kings, your forefathers, who were before you, so they shall burn for you, with 'Alas my Prince!' 'they will lament for you,—for I have promised this promise,' says the EVER-LIVING.'

Jeremiah the Preacher accordingly addressed to Zedekiah, king of Judah, the whole of these words in Jerusalem, when the forces of the king of Babel were fighting against Jerusalem, and all the other towns of

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JEREMIAH.

On the Sham Abolition of Slavery.

8 The command that came to Jeremiah from the EVER-LIVING, after King Zedekiah had made an agreement for all the people who were in Jerusalem to proclaim them free; that everyone should liberate his man slave or his woman slave,—who was a Hebrew or a Hebrewess,—freeing from slavery to their brother Hebrews. And all the nobles and people obeyed when the decree came out, and each sent their man slave or their female slave into freedom, so as never again to be enslaved;—they obeyed, and freed them. But afterwards they turned and captured their male and female slaves whom they had released to freedom, and reduced them again to male and female slaves.

12 Then a command came from the EVER-LIVING to Jeremiah to proclaim:—

13 "Thus says the EVER-LIVING God of Israel! I made a Covenant with your ancestors at the time when I brought them from the land of the Mitzeraim, from the House of Slavery, ordering, 'At the end of seven years you must each one release his enslaved brother, whom you have bought. He shall serve you six years;—then you must send him from you into freedom.' But your fathers would not listen to Me, nor incline their ears.

15 "You, however, repented the other day, and did right in My eyes by proclaiming liberty to each of your relatives, and you enacted a decree, over which My NAME was invoked. But now you have turned and polluted My NAME, and everyone seizes his male or female slave, whom you had released into freedom, to pollute and degrade them to be your slaves and slavesses.

17 "Therefore," the EVER-LIVING declares, "as you have not obeyed Me to proclaim everyone liberty to his brother, and each to his neighbour,—I will proclaim you free," says the EVER-LIVING, "to the sword, to plague, and to famine, and I will deliver you to be scattered in all the kingdoms of the earth! And I will deliver the men who broke My Agreement,—who did not stand by the terms of the Agreement which they made before Me,—by a heifer cut in two, and they passing between the portions,—the nobles of Judah, and the nobles of Jerusalem, with cabinet ministers, and the priests, with all the army of the country, between the portions,—I will give them to the hand of their enemies;—to the hand seeking their life,—and their carcases shall become food for the birds of the sky, and the beasts of the earth. I will also give Zede-
kiah, king of Judah, and his officers to the power of their enemies, to the hand that seeks their life, to the mighty hand of the king of Babel, who has gone away from you. I have ordered them to return!" says the EVER-LIVING, "to this city, and they will attack it, and capture, and burn it with fire, and I will make the towns of Judah desolate, without inhabitants!"

Jeremiah Ordered to Visit the Rekabites.

The command that came from the EVER-LIVING to Jeremiah in the days of Jhoiakim-ben-Joshia, king of Judah, saying: "Go to the family of the Rekabites, and talk with them, and bring them to the House of the EVER-LIVING, to one of the chambers, and offer them wine to drink."

I consequently took Jazaniah-ben-Jeremiah-ben-Kabazimiah, and his brothers, and all his sons, and the whole family of the Rekabites, and led them to the House of the EVER-LIVING, to the chamber of the son of Hanan-ben-Igdaliah, the Man of GOD, who lodged in the chambers of the officers, which were above the chamber of Masiah-ben-Shalum the Warder of the Threshold. Then I set before the sons of the family of the Rekabites flagons full of wine, and cups and asked them to drink wine. But they replied,

"We drink no wine! for Jonadab-ben-Rekab, our ancestor, gave us an order, saying, 'You or your children shall not drink wine for ever! Nor shall you build houses or sow grain, or plant vineyards. That shall not be your business. But you shall live in tents all your days;—so that you may live long lives on the face of the ground where you are strangers! So we are obedient to the voice of
Jonadab-ben-Rekab our ancestor, in all that he ordered us,—never drinking wine all our days, we, or our wives, or our sons and daughters; and we never build houses to dwell in, or plant vineyards, or farms. We have them not! But we dwell in tents, and listen to, and do all that Jonadab our ancestor ordered. But when Nebukhaddezzar, king of Babel, advanced into the country we said, 'Let us go to Jerusalem before the army of the Kasdim.' So we lodge in Jerusalem."

Then the command of the EVER-LIVING came to Jeremiah to say:

"Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the God of Israel! Go and say to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem,—'Why will you not learn to listen to My commands?'

The EVER-LIVING asks, 'The commands of Jonadab-ben-Rekab that he ordered to his sons not to drink wine,—stand! They drink no wine to this day! For they obey the order of their ancestor! But I commanded you,—beginning early and speaking,

— but you have not obeyed Me! I also sent you all My servants the Preachers,—rising early and sending to say, 'Turn I pray, each from his bad way, and reflect upon your proceedings, and follow not seducing gods, to serve them;—and stay on the ground I gave to you and your ancestors,—but you would not incline your ears, and would not listen to Me! Although the sons of Jonadab-ben-Rekab established the orders which their ancestor commanded, yet this People will not listen to Me. Therefore," thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD OF HOSTS, the God of Israel,—"I will bring upon Judah, and all the population of Jerusalem, all the miseries that I have promised them,—because I spoke to them and they would not hear, and I called, but they would not answer!"

But to the House of the Rekabites Jeremiah said, "Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the God of Israel:—Because you have obeyed all the orders of Jonadab, your ancestor, and have kept all his commands, and practised all that he commanded you,

—thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the God of Israel,—there shall not be wanting a man to Jonadab-ben-Rekab to stand before Me for all time!"

Baruk Reads the Roll in the Temple Court.

Baruk-ben-Nediah did as Jeremiah did; the Preacher instructed him, and read from the volume the messages of the EVER-LIVING in the House of the EVER-LIVING. This was done in the fifth year of Jshoiakim-ben-Joshia, King of Judah, in the eighth month when a Fast was proclaimed before the EVER-LIVING for all the people of Jerusalem, and all the people of Judah who came from the towns of Judah to Jerusalem. Baruk then read the speeches of Jeremiah from the book in the House of the EVER-LIVING, in the chamber ofGemerniah-ben-Hashan, the Recorder, in the higher court, the New Gate of the House of the EVER-LIVING, in the hearing of all the
people. But Makiah-ben-Ghemeriah-ben-Shafan heard all the messages of the EVER-LIVING from the Book, that was in the grate. And neither the king, nor any of his ministers feared, or tore their robes at hearing all those threatenings! However, 25 Althan, and Ghedaliah, and Ghem- riah, entreated the king not to burn the volume. But he would not listen to them. The king then ordered 26 Irakhmal-ben-Amalek, and Sariah- ben-Azriel, and Shemelia-ben-Abdial, to seize Baruk the writer, and Jeremiah the Preacher. But the EVER-LIVING concealed them.

Jeremiah Ordered to Rewrite His Prophecies.

Then the command of the EVER-LIVING came to Jeremiah, after the king had burnt the volume, and the messages that were written by Baruk from the dictation of Jeremiah, to say:—

"Take another volume again for yourself, and write in it all the former threatenings, which were in the first volume that Jhoaiakim, king of Judah, burnt. And say against Jhoaiakim, 29 king of Judah, 'Thus says the EVER-LIVING, you have burnt this volume, demanding, 'Why have you written it? Asserting that the king of Babel will come, and desolate this country, and capture from it man and cattle?' Therefore the EVER-LIVING replies 30 thus to Jhoaiakim, king of Judah,— He shall not rest on the throne of David, but his carcass shall be flung out to the heat of day and the cold of night! And I will fix upon him, and 31 his race, and his ministers their faults! I will also bring upon them, and the population of Jerusalem, and the men of Judah, all the misery which I have threatened to them,—but they would not listen!'"

Joahim hears Part read, and then Burns the Book.

They afterwards went to the court of the King,—but placed the volume in the office of Alishamah the Recorder, and reported the affair to the ears of the King. The King therefore sent Judi to fetch the volume, who brought it from the office of Alishamah the Recorder. Judi then read it in the hearing of the King, and in the hearing of all the officials who stood near the king. At the time the king was staying in the Winter Palace, in the ninth month, and there was a fireplace opposite him, so when Judi had read three or four passages, he cut the book with a penknife, and flung it upon the fire in the grate until he had consumed the whole volume in the fire.
Babel, appointed king of the land of Judea, he, and his ministers, and the people of the country listened not to the messages of the EVER-LIVING which were delivered by means of 3 Jeremiah the Preacher. Zedekiah, however, sent Jhukal-ben-Shelemiah, and Zefaniah-ben-Masiah, the priest, to Jeremiah the Preacher, to say,—"Intercede now on account of us to our EVER-LIVING God." For Jeremiah at that time came and went amongst the people for they had not put him into the House of Restraint, and the army of Pharoh was advancing from Mitzzer, and when the Kasdim, who besieged Jerusalem, heard the report they departed from Jerusalem.

6 Then the command of the EVER-LIVING came to the Preacher 7 Jeremiah to say: "Thus says the EVER-LIVING God of Israel,—Say to the king of Judah who has sent to you to enquire of Me,—'Be sure that the forces of Pharoh that are advancing to help you, will return to Mitzzer.'

8 The Kasdim also will return and assail this city, and capture it, and burn it with fire!

9 Thus says the EVER-LIVING, "Do not raise your spirits by saying, The Kasdim have gone from us! For they are not gone! For if you defeated the whole force of the Kasdim who assailed you, and there were only wounded men left in their tents,—they would arise and burn this city with fire."

Jeremiah Seized as a Desertor.

11 But when the army of the Kasdim retired from Jerusalem before the force of Pharoh, Jeremiah went out from Jerusalem to go to the district of Benjamin to the part belonging there to his people. But when he came to the Benjamin Gate, there was a captain on guard named Iriah-ben-Shelemiah, and he seized Jeremiah the Preacher, saying, "You are deserting to the Kasdim!"

14 But Jeremiah answered "It is false! I am not deserting to the Kasdim!"

He would not, however, listen to him. So Iriah seized Jeremiah the Preacher, and brought him to the generals, and the generals were furious against Jeremiah and flogged him, and put him in prison at the house of Jonathan the Recorder, who managed the House of Detention.

Then Jeremiah was brought to the Pit-house, and the cells, and was detained a long time. At length king Zedekiah sent and fetched him, and the king enquired of him in private at his own palace,—and asked, "Is there any message from the EVER-LIVING?"

Jeremiah Talks with King Zedekiah.

When Jeremiah asked King Zedekiah, "How have I offended you, and your ministers, and this people, that they have put me into the House of Detention? Where are your Preachers who preached to you saying, 'The king of Babel will not come against you, or against this country?' But now, your Majesty listen I beg,—let my entreaty fall before you, and send me not back to the House of Jhonathan the Recorder, and let me not be killed there."

King Zedekiah, consequently, ordered it, and they placed Jeremiah in the Court of the Guards, with a portion of food daily from the bakeries, until all the provisions were consumed from the city. So Jeremiah stayed in the court of the Guard.

The Generals Demand the Prophet's Death.

However, Shafatiah-ben-Mathan, and Ghedaliah-ben-Pashkur, and Jokal-ben-Shelemiah, and Pashkur-ben-Malkiah, heard the speeches which Jeremiah addressed to all the people, saying, "Thus says the EVER-LIVING, 'Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine and plague! but whoever goes out to the Kasdim will live, and his life will be like a prize to him,—and he shall live. Thus says the EVER-LIVING, I will give this city to the hand of the army of the king of Babel—and it shall capture it!'"

The generals consequently said to the king, "Put this man to death, we beg, for through him the hands of the soldiers left to us in the town are weakened, and the hands of all the people by his uttering these speeches. For this man does not contribute to the safety of this people, but to its injury."

And King Zedekiah replied;—"He is in your power,—for the king has no power to speak contrary to you."
They consequently took Jeremiah and flung him into the well of Malkiah-ben-Hamelek, which was in the Court of the Guards, lowering Jeremiah with ropes. The well had no water in it, but only mud, and Jeremiah plunged into the mud. But Abd-melek, the Kushite, who was eunuch of the king's palace, heard that they had put Jeremiah into the well, while the king was staying at the Benjamin Gate, so Abd-melek went from the palace and spoke to the king, to say:—"Your Majesty, those men have done wrong in all they have done to Jeremiah the Preacher, whom they have thrown into the well, where he will die from hunger, for there is no more food in this city."

Then the king ordered Abd-melek the Kushite, saying, "Take along with you from here thirty men, and pull Jeremiah the Preacher up from the well, before he dies." Abd-melek accordingly took the men along with him, and went to the palace, to the lower store, and took from there old sacks, and old rags, and passed them down to Jeremiah, in the well with ropes, and Abd-melek the Kushite said to Jeremiah, "Put the old sacks and rags, under the sides of your arms, beneath the ropes." And Jeremiah did so. Then they drew Jeremiah up with the ropes from the well, and put him into the Court of the Guards.

King Zedekiah afterwards sent, and fetched Jeremiah the Preacher to himself, to the third entry of the House of the Lord where the king said to Jeremiah, "I will ask you something,—do not fear to speak to me."

But Jeremiah replied, to Zedekiah, "When I inform you, will you not put me to death? And if I give you advice you will not listen to me!"

King Zedekiah, however, swore to Jeremiah privately, saying, "By the life of the EVER-LIVING, Who made our souls, I will not kill you, and I will not give you into the power of the men who seek your life!"

Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD OF HOSTS the God of Israel;—If you will go out to the generals of the king of Babylon, your soul shall live, and this city will not be burnt with fire,—and your family shall live with you. But if you do not go out to the generals of the king of Babylon, then this city will be given to the hand of the Kasdim, who will burn it with fire,—and you will not escape from their hands!"

King Zedekiah, however, answered Jeremiah, "I fear the Jews who have deserted to the Kasdim, to whose power they might deliver me to insult me!"

But Jeremiah replied, "They will not give you. Listen, I beg, to the advice of the EVER-LIVING that I communicate to you,—for it will benefit you,—and your soul shall live. If, however, you refuse to go out,—this is the result which the EVER-LIVING has shown me. Be certain that all the women left in the palace of the king of Judah, will be brought out to the king of Babylon's generals, and those women will exclaim, 'Your fine friends persuaded and mastered you! Your feet are stuck in the mud! Your ankles are fast!' And the whole of your wives and children will be brought out to the Kasdim;—and you will not escape from their hand, for they will take you to the control of the king of Babylon, and this city will be burnt with fire."

Zedekiah then said to Jeremiah, "Let no person know of this conversation,—and you shall not die. For if the generals hear that I have talked with you, and come to you, and ask you, 'Inform us, we pray, what the king has said to you,—do not fear us for you shall not be put to death,—but what did the king say to you?' you must say to them, 'I presented an appeal to the king, that he would not send me back to the house of Jhonathan to die there.'"

All the generals afterwards came to Jeremiah, and asked him, when he told them all the things the king had ordered, and they were contented with them, for they had not heard the conversation. But Jeremiah stayed in the Court of the Guards until the day when Jerusalem was captured.

The Capture of Jerusalem.

And when Jerusalem had been attacked in the tenth month of the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and all his forces, came to Jerusalem and besieged it; and in the eleventh year of Zedekiah in the ninth day of the fourth month, the city was breached.
Then all the generals of the king of Babel came and stationed themselves at the central gate;—Nergal, Sharatzar, Samgar-nebo, Sarskim, High Chamberlain; Nergal, Sharatzar, the High-magus; and all the rest of the generals of the king of Babel. And when Zedekiah king of Judah and all his soldiers saw them, they fled, and went out of the city by night by the road of the king’s garden, at the gate between the walls, and proceeded towards the Arbah. But the Kasdim pursued after them, and overtook Zedekiah at the fords of the Jordan, and seized and brought him to Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, at Riblah, in the district of Khamah, when he pronounced judgment upon him. And the king of Babel murdered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes in Riblah. The king of Babel also slew all the soldiers of Judah. Then he pulled out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in chains, and sent him to Babel.

Yet some of the lower people, who possessed nothing whatever, Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, left in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and farms. Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, also ordered Jeremiah to the protection of Nebuzaradan, commander of the guards, saying, “Take him, and keep your eyes on him, that no injury whatever may be done to him, and whatever he requests you, do it for him.” Then he dismissed Nebuzaradan, the commander of the Guards, and Nebushazbaz, the High Chamberlain, and Nergal-Sharatzer, the High Magus, and all the nobles of the king of Babel, and they sent and took Jeremiah from the court of the Guards, and placed him with Ghedaliah-ben-Akhikam-ben-Shafan, to take him to his home. So he stayed among the People.

The Promise to Abd-melek.

But the command of the EVER-LIVING had come to Jeremiah while he was confined in the court of the guards to say:—

“Go and speak of Abd-melek, the Kushite, and say,—Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel: I will bring My promise upon this city for misery, and not for benefit! And they are before you to-day! But I will rescue you at present,” says the EVER-LIVING, “and you shall not be given into the hand of the men you fear. For I will be a refuge for you, and you shall not fall by the sword, but your life shall be a gain to you,—for you have trusted in Me,” says the EVER-LIVING.

Jeremiah Freed from the Chains-gang.

The command that came to Jeremiah from the EVER-LIVING, after Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, had sent to him when he was chained amongst the chains-gang, for all the prisoners of Jerusalem and Judah to be transported to Babel, when the general of the guards approached Jeremiah and said to him:—“Your EVER-LIVING God commanded this misery to this place, and the EVER-LIVING has come and done as He threatened, because you sinned against the EVER-LIVING and did not listen to His voice,—therefore this result has come to you. But now, see, I will release you at once from this chain-gang by which you are loaded. If it is good in your opinion to come with me to Babel, come, and I will fix my eyes upon you. But if it is bad in your opinion to come with me to Babel, do not do it. See! all the country is before you to go wherever is good and right in your eyes. If you are not willing to go with us,—then go with Ghedaliah-ben-Akhikam-ben-Shafan whom the king of Babel has appointed over the cities of Judah, and stay with him amongst your People,—or wherever it is right in your opinion to go,—go.”

Then the commander of the guards gave him a pension and allowance, and dismissed him; and Jeremiah went with G hedaliah-ben-Akhikam

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1 Note.—Ch. 39, v. 10. (To this time.) The words “to this time” are an old copyist’s comment, not the prophet’s writing, so I put them at the foot. — F. F.
to Mitzfah, and stayed with him amongst the people who remained in the country.

**Ghedaliah made Governor of Judah.**

7 When all the generals of the forces who were in the open field, and their men heard that the king of Babel had appointed G hedaliah-ben-Akhikam over the land—for those were not transported to Babel, they came to G hedaliah to Mitzfah, with Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah, and Jokhanen, and Jonathan, and Izniah-ben-Karakh, and Sariah-ben-Thanhumath, and the sons of Aufr, the Natofathite, Izniah-ben-Hamakathite, and their men, and G hedaliah-ben-Akhikam-ben-Shafan promised them and their men, saying "Fear not to serve the Kasdim; stay in the country and serve the king of Babel, and you will prosper. But I myself will reside in Mitzfah, to stand before the Kasdim who have come to us,—and you can gather the wine, and harvest, and oil, and lay up for provisions, and reside in the towns you have seized."

11 And the Jews also who are in Moab, and among the Beni-Amon, and in Edom, and in all the countries heard that the king of Babel had given allotments in Judah, and that he had appointed G hedaliah-ben-Akhikam-ben-Shafan over them, consequently all the Jews returned from all the places where they had fled, and came to the land of Judah, to G hedaliah at Mitzfah, and harvested the wine, and corn to a great amount.

**A Conspiracy to Murder G hedaliah.**

13 Jokhanan-ben-Korakh, and all the generals of the field forces, afterwards came to G hedaliah at Mitzfah, and asked him, "Do you know that Balis, king of the Beni-Amon, has sent Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah to take your life?" But G hedaliah-ben-Akhikam did not believe them.

15 Consequently Jokhanan-ben-Korakh spoke in private to G hedaliah in Mitzfah, to say: "I will go now, and assail Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah, and no one shall know. Why should he take your life, and scatter all Judaea which is collecting to you, when the remnant of Judea will perish?"

16 But G hedaliah-ben-Akhikam replied to Jokhanan-ben-Korakh, "You shall not do such a thing,—for you speak falsely about Ishmael."

But in the seventh month, 41 Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah-ben- Alshama, of the Royal Family, and a royal noble came, and ten men with him, to G hedaliah-ben-Akhikam, at Mitzfah, and dined with him in Mitzfah. Then Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah and the ten men who were with him arose and assaulted G hedaliah-ben-Akhikam-ben-Shafan with the sword and killed him, whom the king of Babel had appointed over the country, and the whole of the Jews who were with G hedaliah in Mitzfah, along with the Kasdim found there, the soldiers of Ishmael killed.

But two days after the murder of G hedaliah, while no one knew, it happened that eighty men came from Shekem, from Shiloh, and from Shomeran, each with his beard shaven, and clothes torn, and with gashes, and with bread offerings and incense in their hands to go to the House of the EVER-LIVING, and 6 Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah went out from Mitzfah to meet them, advancing and weeping, and when he reached them he said, "Come to G hedaliah-ben-Akhikam." But when they had come to the inner court of the citadel, Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah and the men who were with him, assassinated them at the deep well. Ten of the men, however, who had met him, exclaimed to Ishmael, "Do not kill us! for we have wheat, and barley, and oil, and honey stored at our farms." So he refrained, and did not kill them with their friends. The well where Ishmael threw all the bodies of the men he murdered, besides G hedaliah, was that which King Asa made when opposing Basha king of Israel,—Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah filled it with his victims. Then Ishmael captured all the remainder of the people who were at Mitzfah, the king's daughter and all the people whom Nebuzardan, the commander of the guards, had entrusted to G hedaliah-ben-Akhikam,—Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah seized them and went off to Beni-Amon.

But Jokhanan-ben-Korakh and all the generals of the forces who were with him heard of all the wickedness that Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah had done, so they took their men and went to attack Ishmael ben-
Nathaniah, and found him at the Great
13 Lake of Gibeon. And when the
people who were with Ishmael-ben-
Nathaniah saw Jokhanan - ben-
Korakh, and the officers of the army,
14 they were glad; and the whole mass
whom Ishmael had captured at Mitzfah revolted, and deserted, and
15 went to Jokhanan-ben-Korakh. At
which Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah fled
with eight men before Jokhanan, and
went to the Beni-Amon.
16 So Jokhanan-ben-Korakh and all
the army officers with him took the
remnant of the people whom
Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah had captured
at Mitzfah, after he murdered
Ghedaliah-ben-Akhiakam, the capable
soldiers, and the women and children,
and their attendants, whom he had
17 captured at Gibeon, and went and
retreated to the Caravansera of
Kimoah, near Bethlehem, with the
18 object of marching to Mitzir, from
the presence of the Kasdim. For they
were afraid of them, because Ishmael-
ben-Nathaniah had assassinated
Ghedaliah-ben-Akhiakam, whom the
king of Babel had appointed over the
country.

Jeremiah asked to pray for Guidance.
42 From there the whole force pro-
cceeded with Jokhanan-ben-Korakh,
and Izaniah-ben-Hoshiah, and all the
2 crowd, both little and great, and said
to Jeremiah the Preacher: “Let us
request you to lie down on your face,
and pray to your EVER-LIVING GOD
on account of us,—on account of this
little fragment of the many your eyes
3 have seen we once were, and let your
EVER-LIVING GOD inform us of the
way we should go and the things we
should do.”
4 And Jeremiah the Preacher
answered “I have heard. I will pray to your EVER-LIVING GOD as you
command;—and whatever message
the EVER-LIVING replies, I will report
to you. I will not hold a word back
from you.”
5 When they replied, “May the
EVER-LIVING be a true and faithful
witness against us, if we do not act
in accordance with every word your
EVER-LIVING GOD sends to us!
6 We will do it! Whether the direction
of our EVER-LIVING GOD is pleasant
or unpleasant. Since we have sent
you to Him we will obey,—so that it
may benefit us. We will indeed
listen to the voice of our EVER-LIVING
GOD.”

It happened at the end of ten days
7 that the command of the EVER-
LIVING came to Jeremiah, and he
summoned Jokhanan - ben-Korakh,
and all the officers of the forces who
were with him, and all the crowd,
from the children to the adults, and
9 said to them, “Thus says the EVER-
LIVING GOD of Israel, to whom you
sent me to lay down your entreaty
before Him, ‘If you continue in this
country, then I will build you up, and
not throw down,—and plant you and
not pull up,—because I am grieved
at the misery I have made for you.
Fear nothing from the king of Babel, 11
whom you fear,—be not afraid about
him,’ says the EVER-LIVING, ‘for I
will be with you to secure you, and
to deliver you from his hand, and
show you mercy;—and he will show you mercy, and restore you to your
land.’ But if you reply, ‘We will not
continue in this country, nor listen
to the voice of God,’ and say, ‘No! 14
but we will go to the land of the
Mitziraim where we shall not see
war, nor hear the voice of a trumpet,—
nor famish for bread, and we will
settle there’; then, again, hear the
message of the EVER-LIVING, Rem-
nant of Judah! Thus says the LORD
OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel! If
you turn your faces to go to Mitzir,
and go as foreigners there, the sword
16 you are afraid of will come there to
hunt you in the land of the Mitziraim,
and the famine you dread will stick
close after you there in the land of
the Mitziraim;—and there you will
die! Yes! All the men who set
their faces to go to Mitzir, to lodge
there, will die by the sword, the
famine and the plague, and shall not
possess an escape or refuge from the
miseries that I will bring upon them!

“For thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, 18
the GOD of Israel! ‘As I poured
out My anger and indignation upon
the population of Jerusalem, so I will
pour My indignation upon you who
are going to the Mitziraim, and you
shall become a curse, and a source
of desolation, and degradation, and
reproach and never again see this
place!’ The command of the EVER-
LIVING to you, the Remnant of Judah,
is ‘Go not to the Mitziraim!’ Com-
prehend what I have told you to-day!
However you deluded your own souls
20
when you sent me to your Ever-living God, saying 'Entreat your Ever-living God on account of us,—and whatever our Ever-living God says to us, we will follow and do it!' I have told you to-day, but you will not listen to the direction of your Ever-living God in anything.

21 He has sent me to you! Therefore, now, assure yourselves you will die by the sword, by famine, and by plague in the place where you had decided to go and lodge."

The Jewish Elders refuse to believe Jeremiah's Message.

43 But when Jeremiah had finished communicating to the crowd of all the commands of their Ever-living God, which their Ever-living God had sent to them,—all these commands, Azriah-ben-Hoshiah, and Jokhanan-ben-Korakh, and all the insolent fellows, exclaimed to Jeremiah,

"You are a liar! Our Ever-living God has not sent commanding you to tell us not to go to the Mitzenaim to lodge there. But Baruk-ben-Neriah has set you on to us, so that he may give us into the power of the Kasdim to be killed or to transport us to Babel."

4 Consequently Jokhanan-ben-Korakh, and all the officers of the army, and the crowd, would not listen to the instruction of the Ever-living to stay in the land of Judah.

5 So Jokhanan-ben-Korakh, and all the officers of the forces, took all the fragments of Judah that had returned to the land of Judah from all the nations where they had fled to lodge,—all the men, and women, and children,—with the daughters of the king, and all the persons whom Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, had entrusted to Ghedaliah-ben-Aikam, and Jeremiah the Preacher, and Baruk-ben-Neriah,

6 and went to the land of the Mitzenaim,—for they would not listen to the instruction of the Ever-living, but went to Thakhfanes.

Jeremiah ordered to bring Witnessing Stones.

8 But the command of the Ever-living came to Jeremiah in Thakhfanes to say:

9 "Take great stones in your hands, and set them in white mortar in the Pavement, that is upon the square of Pharaoh's palace at Thakhfanes, in the presence of the men of Judah,—and say to them: Thus says the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, I will send, and bring My servant Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, and place his throne over these stones which I have set, and spread his splendid tent over them! He shall come, and strike in the land of the Mitzenaim whoever are for death,—with death; and whoever are for slavery,—with slavery; and whoever are for the sword,—with the sword! And I will set fire to the temples of the gods of the Mitzenaim and burn them, and capture them, and he will put the land of Mitzen upon himself like a shepherd puts on his coat, and go out of it in quietude. He will also break the pillars of the Temple of the Sun that is in the land of the Mitzenaim, and burn the temples of the gods of the Mitzenaim with fire!"

A Message to the Jews in Egypt.

The command which came to Jeremiah for all the Jews resident in the land of the Mitzenaim,—the residents in Migdol, and Thakhfanes, and in Nof, in the district of Pathrom,—to say:

"Thus says the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel! You saw all the miseries which I brought upon Jerusalem, and upon all the cities of Judah, and see them to-day a heap of ashes with no inhabitants in them, because of the wickedness that they practised, to provoke Me, by going and burning incense to, and serving seducing gods, which neither you nor your fathers knew, although I sent My servants the Preachers to you,—rising early and sending,—Do not that loathsome thing that I hate!' But they would not listen, nor incline their ears, or turn from their wickedness, and cease to burn incense to seducing gods, therefore I poured out My indignation and anger; and burnt the cities of Judah, and overthrew Jerusalem, and they are ashes, and desolate to-day!

"But now the Lord God of Hosts, the God of Israel asks this, Why will you commit this great sin against your own lives? It will cut off man and woman,—child and suckling from Judah, until not a fragment is
8 left! Why will you insult Me by the fabrications of your own hands, and burn incense to seducing gods in the land of the Mitzeraim, where you have come to lodge? so as to cut yourselves off; and so as to make yourselves a curse, and reproach to all the nations of the earth? Have you forgotten the wickedness of your fathers? and the wickedness of the kings of Judah, and the wickedness of their wives? and your own wickedness? and the wickedness of your wives,—which they committed in the land of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem? You have not repented to this day! You have not feared,—and not walked in My laws, or My institutions that I put before you, and before your fathers. Therefore thus says the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel! I have set My face against you to punish, and to bring all Judah to destruction. Consequently I will take the fragments of Judah, who set their faces to go to the land of the Mitzeraim to lodge, and will kill you all in the land of Mitzer. They shall fall by the sword, and by famine. They shall die from the least to the greatest;—they shall die by the sword and by famine, and be a curse, and desolation, and scorn, and reproach! I will also appoint over the residents in the land of the Mitzeraim, what I appointed over Jerusalem,—sword, famine, and plague! And there shall be no refuge or escape, for the fragments of Judah who have come to lodge in the land of the Mitzeraim, nor a return to the land of Judah, which they lift up their souls to return to, and rest in,—for they shall not return, nor escape!"

The Crowd assail Jeremiah.

15 Then all the men who knew that their wives burnt incense to seducing gods, and all the women stood up in a great meeting with all the people resident at Pathrom in the land of Mitzer, and replied to Jeremiah, exclaiming, "We will not listen to the command that you address to us in the name of the Ever-living. But do every word that comes from our own mouths,—and burn incense to the Queen of the Skies, and drink our drinks to her,—as we ourselves used to do, and our mothers, and kings, and nobles, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem; when we had plenty of bread, and were prosperous, and saw no misery. And when we burnt incense to the Queen of the Skies and drank our drinks to her, was it without the consent of our husbands that we made cakes to represent her,—and drank drinks to her?"

But Jeremiah answered to the whole crowd,—to the men and women,—and all the people who replied to him in that speech, and said,—"Was not the incense you burnt in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem,—you, and your mothers, your kings and nobles, and the people of your country, remembered by the Ever-living, and came to His knowledge? until the Ever-living was not able to bear your wicked ways, on account of the abominations that you practised, therefore your country has become a heap of ashes, and a desolation, and scorn, and without inhabitants, as it now is! because of that burning of incense and that sin against the Ever-living, and your not listening to the voice of the Ever-living, or to His laws and institutions, and evidences, nor walking after them. Consequently this misery has approached you at this time! However," said Jeremiah to all the people, and to all the women, "listen to the command of the Ever-living, all Judah who are in the land of the Mitzeraim. Thus the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel commands me to tell you and your wives, who have spoken by your mouths, and have done it by your hands, to say, We will perform the vows which we have vowed to burn incense to the Queen of the skies, and to drink drinks to her;—confirm, then, your vows, and perform your vows." Yet, however, hear the message of the Ever-living, all Judah, residing in the land of the Mitzeraim. I have sworn by My great name, says the Ever-living, that never again shall My name be invoked by the mouth of any man of Judah, saying by the Living Mighty Lord in all the land of the Mitzeraim! I will watch over them to punish, and not to benefit, and every man of Judah in Mitzer shall die by the sword, and by the famine, to the last of them. Yet 28
refugees from the sword shall return from the land of the Mitzeraim to the land of Judah,—a small number. Then all the fragments of Judah who went to the land of the Mitzeraim, to lodge there, will know whose word stands—Mine or theirs! And this shall be the sign to you," says the EVER-LIVING, "that I will fix in this place, so that you may know that My intentions are settled against you for punishment.'

Thus says the EVER-LIVING, "I will give Pharoh Khofra, king of the Mitzeraim to the hand of his enemy, and to the hand of the seekers of his life! as I gave Zedekiah, king of Judah to the hand of Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, his enemy; and the pursuer of his life."

Jeremiah records his Prophecies by Baruk.

The command which Jeremiah the Preacher gave to Baruk-ben-Neriah to write all these speeches in a book in the fourth year of Jehoiakim-

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The Burden of Pharoh.

3 PHAROH.—"Array with the Buckler and Shield!
And march out for the war!
Saddle your horses,—and cavalry mount;
Don your helmets; sharpen your spears,
Gird on your coats of mail!

5 What do I see? They fear and turn back!
The heroes are routed! They fly!
They return not, and terror surrounds,"
Says the LORD.

6 "The swift cannot fly, nor the mighty escape,
In the North, on the banks of the Frath, 1
Where they stumble and fall!

7 "Who is this, like a river that rises?
Like torrents that roll out their waves?
It is Mitzeraim that floods like her river,—
And her torrents that roll out their waves!
Cries, 'I rise! I will cover the earth,
I will sweep off the town and its people.'"

9 "Let cavalry mount, and the chariots rush,
And charge with the heroes of Kush;
And of Put that can handle the shield,
And the Ludim who draw leaping bows;"

10 For this is the day of the Great LORD OF HOSTS,
To-day He will punish—will punish His foes!
Now sword devour and be gorged,
And become drunken with blood;
For the great LORD OF HOSTS has a slaughter,
In the north, on the banks of the Frath.

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1 The Euphrates, as the Greeks named it.
THE PROPHET.—Go to Gilad, and gather you balm,  
You poor girl, the daughter of Mitzer!  
In vain you will multiply medi'cines,  
For there is no cure for you!  

The nations have heard of your shame,  
And the earth is filled full of your wailings;  
For hero on hero has stumbled,  
And both have together rolled down!  

The message which the LORD commanded to Jeremiah the Preacher on the arrival of Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, to conquer the land of the Mitzeraim.

**The Second Burden of Egypt.**

"Tell it to Egypt, proclaim it in Migdol,  
Report it to Noph, and to Thakhafanes;  
Say, Stand up and make yourselves ready,  
For the sword is devouring around!  

"Why is your Leader swept off?  
When the LORD drove him, how could he stand?  
The crowd jostled and fell on each other;  
Cried, 'Arise! and return to our homes,—  
And our land from the sword's cruel face!'  
'Mitzer's king, Pharaoh,' they cry, 'is a sound,—  
The time for his chance has gone by.'  
By my life!' says the King named JEHOVAH OF HOSTS,  
"How like Thabor he stood in the hills,  
And as Karmel went out to the sea!"

Oh! make yourself ready for capture,  
You who dwell with the daughter of Mitzer!  
For Noph shall become as a desert,  
And none shall dwell in it for ever!  
O beautiful heifer of Mitzer!  
The wasp from the north will come in,  
When your hirelings, like calves in a stall,  
Will turn, and together fly off,—  
Not stand, for their day of fear comes,  
The time of their dread upon them.

Her voice like a serpent goes forth;  
For with powerful axes they march,  
Come to her like hewers of trees,—  
"They will cut down her wood," says the LORD,  
"Though uncounted, and more than the locusts,—  
And no one can ever count them!"

"They will outrage the daughter of Mitzer,  
By the hand of the men of the North!"  
Says the LORD GOD OF HOSTS, and of Israel.  
"I will Myself punish Amon and No,  
With Pharaoh, and all Mitzer's gods;—  
Her king Pharaoh, and all trusting him,  
Are led bound by those seeking their life,—  
To Babel's king Nebukhadnezzar,  
And to the hand of his slaves.  
But after that time she shall rest,  
As in the old times," says the LORD!
"But you, fear not, My servant Jacob,  
And Israel be not afraid!  
For I will save you from afar,  
And your race from the land that enslaved!  
And Jacob shall rest undisturbed,  
And be quiet without any fear.  

Fear not for yourself," says the LORD,  
"I am with you, O My servant Jacob;  
Though I will destroy all the heathen  
To whom I have driven you away,  
But of you I will not make an end;  
But only correct you with justice,  
And the guiltless I will not afflict."

The Burden of Philistia.

The message of the Ever-living, which came to Jeremiah the Preacher,  
About the Philishtim, before Pharaoh attacked Gaza.

Thus says the Ever-living:—

See! waters come from the north like the flood of a river,  
Sweep over the land, flood the town and its people!  
And men shriek,—and they yell,—all who dwell in the land.

At the sound of the fierce-stamping steeds, at the rush of his chariots,  
At the roar of his wheels fathers take not the hands of their children,  
For the day comes to plunder the whole of Philistia,  
To cut off from Tzur and from Zidon all help that is left!  
For the LORD will destroy the Philishtim left on Kaphtor's coast!  
On Gaza comes baldness;—and Ashkelon's ruins are silent,—  
How long did you scheme but to get yourself plundered?

Alas! Sword of the LORD! Will you never be quiet?  
Put yourself in your sheath! and be silent and mute!  
How can it be still when the LORD has to Askalon sent it?  
And sends to the shore of the sea?

Thus says the LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel to Moab:—

The Burden of Moab.

"Woe to Nebo! for it is all ruined and outraged!  
Krithaim is captured and outraged, and Misgob is fired!  
The glory of Moab is not! they plot evil against her in Heshbon!  
'Come! let us destroy her from being a nation!  
Follow Madmena with sword,—and reduce her to silence!'"

From Horanim ring shrieks of plunder and crashing!  
Moab is broken! The shriek of her babes is resounding!  
For ascending to Lukoth in tears, they go along weeping,  
For they hear broken shrieks and distress in sweet Horanim's vale!

Fly! escape for your lives! and be like to the heath in the desert!  
You trusted your works, and your treasuries now all are taken,  
And Kemosh is carried away with his priests and his nobles.

The plunderer comes on each town, and no city escapes him;  
He destroys in the vale,—wastes the plain, as the LORD has commanded!  
Give Moab wings to fly off, for her cities are wasted!  
And they will become without any inhabitants in them!  
Curse on the Agent who does the LORD's work remissly!  
And curse him who holds back his sword from the blood!
Moab was easy from youth, and he rested secure on his lees; Was not drawn from cask into bottles, nor gone to be captive; So his flower remained, and his scent had not gone!
"But the days come," says the LORD, "I will send to him tapsters, Who will tap and will empty his barrels and smash up his bottles! And Moab shall blush for his Kedesh, as Israel blurred to trust Bethel."

Ah! let them not say they are heroes, and valiant in battle! For Moab is waste,—and his cities are smoke, And the choice of his heroes have gone to the slain, Says the King named the LORD of the Armies.

Moab's distresses come on, and his miseries hasten! All mourn around him, and all who have known his fame murmur; "How the strong staff is broken! the beautiful sceptre!"

Leave your ease, and sit down in your thirst, idle daughter of Dibon! For the robber of Moab comes on! and he ruins your strongholds! Stand by the road watching, you lady residing in Arar,

Ask the fugitive band, "Tell me what has been done?"

"Moab is shamed and is outraged," they howl and they loudly shriek out, "Spread the report to the Arnon that Moab is plundered! Judgment has come on the land of the plain,—and on Holan,
On Jehzar, and Mofath, and Dibon, and Nebo;
Beth-Diblahaim and Kiriath, Bethgamul, and Bethmaum,
And Kiriath, and Bozrah, and on all other cities;—
All the country of Moab afar, or that which is near us!
Moab's horn has been crushed, and his strong arm is broken," the LORD says!

Drink,—for he flouted the LORD—and let Moab roll in his vomit! And himself be a scorn,—for was he not Israel dividing?
If he was found among thieves, why when you spoke did you jeer him? Leave your towns,—dwell on rocks, you poor people of Moab,

And become like the dove which builds nests at the cavern's wide entry!
We have heard Moab's pride, he is proud and so haughty;
He is proud, overbearing and very high-hearted!
His fury, I knew," says the LORD, "and his boasting were worthless!"

However I howl for poor Moab,—for Moab the perfect!
For the men of Kirhares I shrick, who are mourning.

With the weeping of Jazer I weep, and for you, O fair vine of Sibmah!
Your branches spread over the brook, and as far as the waters of Jazer!
The plunderer falls on your fruits and he strips off your vintage!
Gladder and joy both depart from the rich fields of Moab,—

No wine from the presses is trod, and no treaders are joyfully cheering; Their shrieks from Heshbon, and Elalah and Jazer are uttered;

They are roaring from Zoar to Horanim, as do the three year old heifers,— "The waters of Nimrim shall now become deserts!" the LORD says,

"I stop Moab from mounting his temple and offering sweets to his gods!"

Therefore, my heart make a moaning for Moab, like pipers;
My heart for the men of Kirhares will moan like the flutes; Because the great wealth he had gathered has perished;
And their heads are all bald, and their chins are close shaven, And on all hands are wounds, and on all loins sackcloth!
On the housetops, and markets of Moab is everywhere mourning.

"I broke Moab like things that I like not," the LORD says.
"How they howl now when broken! How Moab turns back when degraded!
And Moab becomes to all round him a horror and terror!
For," thus says the LORD; "He shall fly like an eagle,
And swoop down on Moab whose cities are captured,
Then the heart of his heroes shall be like a woman in labour,
And Moab shall cease among nations from flouting JEHovah!"

The LORD proclaims fear, pit, and trap on the people of Moab!
Who flies from the face of the terror, the pit will engulf him!
Who crawls from the pit will be caught by the trap!
"Against Moab the time of his judgment," the LORD says, "has come."
They stand in the shadow of Heshbon who fly from the mighty,
From Heshbon comes fire, and flame from near Sihon;—
And eats Moab’s cheek and the crown of the children of fury!
Woe, to you Moab!—The Nation of Kemosh has perished!
For they take captive your sons, and make slaves of your daughters!
"Yet I will restore Moab’s captives hereafter," the LORD says.

So far is the judgment of Moab.

The Burden of the Beni-Amon.

The LORD asks the Beni-Amon thus:—"Has Israel no sons? has he no heir? Why then does his king possess Gad, and his force reside in his cities? Therefore be sure the times will come," says the LORD, "when I will make a report be heard in Rabath of the Beni-Amon,—a noise of war,—and it shall become a ruinous waste, and her buildings shall be set on fire, and Israel shall seize those who plundered him," says the LORD.

Howl for Heshbon! A deserted ruin! Shriek, daughters of Rabath! Gird sacks on yourselves! Lament and run to the hedges, for your king goes to captivity,—his priests and nobles with him.

Why do you glory in the vales? Your flowery vales, you attractive girl, who trust in your charms with 'Who will come to me?' I will bring upon you a terror," says the Mighty LORD OF HOSTS, "from all around you, and you shall each be driven from its face, and with no collecting place for the wanderers.

But at last I will restore the captivity of the Beni-Amon," says the LORD.

The Lord’s Message to Edom.

The LORD OF HOSTS says this to Edom:
"There is no longer wisdom in Theman;—counsel has perished from the wise sons of trade! Fly! Turn! dig pits to live in! you people of Dedan! For I will bring the terror of Esau upon him at the time I punish.

If grasshoppers came to you, would they leave no gleanings? If thieves by night, they plunder till full! I, however, have exhausted Esau; I have stripped his hiddings, and he cannot conceal himself; his family is plundered, and his relatives, and his friends, and himself, are not! Leave your orphans to me;—I will keep them alive; and let your widows trust on me.

For thus says the Ever-living:—"Those who were not condemned to drink the cup have drunk! And shall you, a convict, not be punished? You shall drink! For I have sworn by Myself," says the LORD, "that Bozrah shall become a waste, a reproach, a ruin, a curse, and all her towns shall be a desert for ever!"

I have heard a message from the Ever-living by a messenger to the nations to collect, and they will come upon her, and rise to war. For I give you a trible to the nations, a contempt to men. Your terrors deceived your proud heart, you who dwell in caves on the crags, who stick to lofty hills;—if you nestle as high as the eagle, I will pull you from there," says the Ever-living." For Edom shall become a wonder. All who pass over her shall be astonished, and whistle at his many wounds. Like overwhelmed Sodom and Gomorrah and her neighbours," says the Ever-living, "no man will dwell there, and no son of Adam remain to her!"

See he was like a lion coming up from the swelling of Jordan to the permanent meadows: "I will be sly with them," he said, "I will assail from behind them,—what hero can defend them? for who is equal to
me, and who expects me? and what shepherd can stand before me?"

Therefore hear the intent of the EVER-LIVING, which He intends against Edom, and the plans He has planned against the people of The- man, if they do not withdraw the young of the flock; if they do not put them in the Fold.

The earth shall shake at the sound of her fall;—the voice of his shriek to the Sea of Weeds!

Look! He comes like an eagle, and flies! and spreads his wings over Bozrah,—and the heart of the heroes of Edom in that day will be like the heart of a woman in terror!

AGAINT DAMASCUS.

The Doom of Damascus.

Both Hamath and Arpad are cowed;
They melt on hearing the sad report;
Like the troubled sea they cannot rest;
Timid Damascus turns to fly,
Trembling and terror has seized her;
Anguish holds her like childbirth!

Is the Bright City forsaken?
Along with the towns she rejoiced in?
Why fall her youth in her broadways?
And why are all her warriors silent?

Because now says the LORD OF SABAOTH,
"I will fire the walls of Damascus,
And devour the Halls of Benadad."

Against Kedar, and the territories of Khatziah that Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, shall conquer, thus said the LORD:

"Arise, and advance to Kedar!
And ravage the sons of the East!
Plunder their tents and their sheep flocks,
Take their curtains, their arms, and their camels,
And shout to them, 'Terrors are round you!'

"Fly! wander afar, and sink down!"
Says the LORD to the dwellers in Hazor,
"For Babel's king, Nebukhadnezzar,
Plots, and makes plans against you!

"Arise! Advance to a nation at ease,
Who rest," says the LORD, "as in safety,
They are careless, without gates or bars.

"So their camels are therefore a booty,
And their rich herds will be for a spoil,—
When I fling them to the wind,
And all round them bring grief," says the LORD.

"Then jackals shall hunt about Hazor;
No man ever dwell in her wrecks,
And no son of Adam shall lodge."

The Doom of Ailam.

The command of the EVER-LIVING that came to Jeremiah the Preacher in the first year of the reign of Zede-
Thus says the Lord of the Hosts:—
Of Aillam's chief hero I will break the bow,
And will bring the four winds upon Aillam,
From the four sides of heaven, and fling to those wind,
And no nation shall be where those wanderers come not!

I will terrify Aillam to turn from their foes,
And from those who hunt after their life,
And will bring on them grief in the heat of My wrath;" says the Lord, "and pursue with a sword to destroy.
And will cause Aillam's throne to depart,
And deprive her of king and of prince," says the Lord.
"But hereafter a time shall arrive," says the Lord,
"When the captured from Aillam return."

The address the Lord addressed to Babel and the country of the Kasdim, by Jeremiah the Preacher:—

The Doom of Babylon of the Kasdim.

Declare to the nations, and publish, and set up a standard!
Publish it,—hide not;—say Babel is captured, and Bel is degraded!
Merodak is frightened! Their idols degraded, their images shattered!

For a race from the north is advancing who ravage her country!
None remain hers,—from the man to the beast, they are scattered!

In those days,—at that time, it shall be as Jehovah Himself says,
Israel's children and Judah's united will march, and will weep as they march,
And will seek for their God Ever-living, and ask for the highway to Zion;
Then go to the Lord's Ancient Treaty, nor ever forget it.

Lost sheep were My Race, whom their shepherds had lost in the mountains;
They strayed about mountains and hills, forgetting the way to their own home!—

All who found them devoured, their oppressors declared it not wrong,
Because they offended the Lord;—their true Hope, and the Well of their fathers—Jehovah!

Fly out from Babel,—come out from the land of the Kasdim like shepherds
who go before flocks!

For, see! I am rousing and bringing on Babel a crowd of Great Nations
From the Land of the North they march on her, from them shoot their arrows,
Their skilled Leaders will not return empty, but plunder the Kasdim,
"All," says the Lord, "shall be full with her plunder!

"Because you rejoiced,—when you plundered My Homestead,
Because you were fierce like an heifer at grass, and were neighing like stallions,
Your mother shall feel her disgrace; and her deep shame she who bore you,
She will be last of the Nations, a Desert, a Ruin, and burnt Waste!
From the wrath of the Lord be unpeopled, and wholly deserted;
All passing by desolate Babel, shall hiss at her mourning.

All now who can shoot with the bow, arrange yourselves round about Babel;
Shoot at her,—and spare not the darts, for she has offended Jehovah,
Around her, shout out "She submits and her bulwarks have fallen!"
The Lord will do justice on her, so hasten and throw down her ramparts!
Come, execute justice on her, and as she has done, give back to her now!
Cut off the sowers from Babel, and scythe them in season of harvest;
From the face of your terrible swords let each fly like a dove to his people,—
Turn, and every man fly to his country.

Israel was like a lost flock, whom the lions had driven and scattered
At first Ashur's king was devouring, and now in succession,
His bones they were broken by Babel's King, Nebukadnezzar;
"Therefore," thus says the LORD OF THE HOSTS, Who is Israel's God,
I will repay to Babel, its king and his land, as to Ashur I repaid
But bring Israel home to his pasturage on Karmel and Bashan,
And to Mount Ephraim and Gilad, and then I will satisfy his soul,—
In those days, and those times," says the LORD," Israel's faults shall be sought
but shall be not;
Nor Judah's offences be found, because I have pardoned the sins they
committed.
Advance to the land of revolt, with punishing sword to her people,
Pursue them to waste and destroy," says the LORD, "and do all I decree."
War sounds in the land with her mighty destruction and breaking;
Her hammer smashes the land, and Babel becomes but a wreck to the Nations!
Babel! I tried for and caught you, and you did not know or suspect Me;
I found, and I also have caught, for you strove with JEHOVAH!
The LORD's storehouse was opened, He brought out his weapons of anger,
For the GREAT LORD OF HOSTS has a work in the land of the Kasdim!
Come to her from far, break her stones, cast them out like a corn heap!
Dissipate all that she has, and let not a fragment be left her!
Destroy all the bullocks she has, driving them down to the slaughter;—
Woe! for them! for their day has now come, the time of their anguish!
Cry out, "Fly and escape from the country of Babel!"
Tell to Zion, "The LORD our God is avenging, avenging His Temple!"
 Summon legions to Babel, all archers and bowmen to camp round against her,
Let none escape from her! Repay her her work,—all she did, do to her!
"And therefore her youths," says the LORD, "shall fall down on her squares,
"And her warriors faint on that day.
I am opposed to your pride," says the GREAT LORD of Armies;
"For your day has arrived, and the time I chastize you.
When your pride shall totter and fall, and without restoration,
When I kindle your towns and consume all around them!"

Israel's Redeemer.

33 Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS:—
"The children of Israel and the children of Judah are both alike
oppressed, and all who capture, hold
them,—they refuse to liberate. The name of their Redeemer is the Mighty
LORD OF HOSTS. He will plead their
cause, to bring rest to the land; but
will agitate Babel. A sword is over
the Kasdim, says the LORD, and
against the inhabitants of Babel, and
against her Nobles and Philosophers!
A sword is against her powerful, who
will act foolishly. A sword is against
her heroes, and they shall be cowards.
A sword is against her horses and
chariots, and against all the mercenaries
within her, and they shall become
like women. A sword is against
her treasuries, and they shall be
plundered. A drought is against her
rivers, and they shall be dried up; for
it is a land of Idols, and they are mad
for Images!
"Therefore the howling beasts of
the desert shall dwell there,—and the
young of the ostrich, for it shall not
be repeopled for ever, and not in-
habited for ages of ages! As God
overwhelmed Sodom and Gomorah,
and their neighbours," says the
EVER-LIVING," no man shall dwell
there, and no son of Adam lodge in
her!"

Look! A People comes from the
North! and a great Nation; and
many kings raise themselves from the
sides of the earth! They seize the
bow and quiver—they are fierce and
pity not, with a voice like the roaring
sea. They ride on disciplined horses
like soldiers, to assail you, daughters
of Babel. The king of Babel will
hear the report, and his hands fall,
and anguish seize him like a chiding
woman.

See him advance like a lion from
the flooding of the Jordan to the
permanent pasture;—"I will assail from
their rear! What hero can defend
them? For who is equal to me? And
who expects me, and what shepherd
can stand before me?"

Therefore hear the purpose of the
EVER-LIVING, which He intends
against Babel, and the plans He has
planned against the land of the
Kassim—if they do not draw in the young of the flock, if they do not withdraw themselves from the meadow,—the earth shall shake at the sound of the crash of Babel, and the Nations will hear her shriek!

Thus says the Ever-living,

"Look! I will raise against Babel and her presumptuous-hearted people, a scorching wind, and send fanners to Babel to winnow her, and they shall empty her country. For they will come against her from around in a bad time. Against the bowman, let the archer bend his bow; and against the marcher in armour; and pity not her youth; exterminate all her army, and throw down the wounded in the land of the Kassim, and the stabbed in her streets! For Israel and Judah are not destitute of their God, the

LORD OF HOSTS, although their country was full of offence against the HOLY of Israel!"

Fly from the midst of Babel! And let each escape with his life! Be not subject to her sins; for it is the time for her punishment by the Ever-living.—He will pay her wages!

Babel’s golden cup from the hand of the Ever-living made all the earth drunk with her wine! The nations drank,—therefore the nations raved. Suddenly Babel falls, and breaks! Howl over her! Take balm for her pain,—perhaps she may be cured? They may medicate Babel;—but she will not be cured! Abandon her, and all march to your own countries, for her crime was against the heavens, and her conviction comes from beyond the clouds!

The Deliverer of Judah.

The LORD has restored our right!
Come let us relate it to Zion,
The act of the LORD our GOD.

Sharpen the arrows, and sling the shields,
The LORD has inspired the Median king,
Who plans against Babel destruction,
When the LORD will avenge His temple!

Hoist the flag against Babel’s walls;
Strengthen the guard, and appoint for the watch;
Make ready the column to storm!
For the LORD intends, and will do what He says,
Against the people of Babel!

Prosperous dweller, by plenteous stream
Your end has come, your measure is full!
The LORD OF HOSTS has sworn by His life,
He will fill you with men like worms,
Who will come up against you with cheers!

A Psalm to the Creator.

He made the earth by His power,
By His knowledge, He formed the spheres,
And spread out the skies by His skill!

At His voice, the sea roars to the skies,
And clouds from the horizon rise up,
With the lightnings and rain that He makes,
And He brings the wind out of His stores.

All ignorant men are like brutes;
Every maker of idols is base;
For he fashions a lie without soul!
They are vain, and the work of delusions
In the season of trial they fail.
Jacob’s portion is never like them;
His Name is the LORD of Sabaoth,
It was He who constructed all things,
And chose him, a RACE for Himself.
"You are My hammer, and weapons of war,  
And I hammer the nations by you,  
And by you I break up the kingdoms!  
Hammer horse and his rider by you,  
And by you hammer chariot and driver,  
And hammer by you man and wife,  
And hammer by you old and young,  
And hammer by you youths and girls,  
And hammer by you flock and keeper,  
And by you hammer ploughman and plough,  
And by you hammer Rulers and governed;  
And will pay back again upon Babel  
And all who reside with the Kasdim,  
The sufferings they laid upon Zion,  
And that in your sight," says the LORD.

25 "Mountain! I am against you,"  
says the LORD, "to lay you waste!  
You wasted the whole earth,—so I  
will direct My hand against you, and  
roll you from the peaks, and make  
you a burnt-out volcano, from which  
they will not take stone for building,  
or a stone for foundations,—but you  
shall be a perpetual desolation;" says  
the LORD.

26 "Raise a standard in the earth, blow  
a trumpet among the Nations. Prepare  
the Nations against her! Summon the  
Kingdoms! Ararat, Min,  
and Ashkanez. Appoint generals  
against her, to lead the horsemen  
like hairy caterpillars! Prepare the  
Nations against her,—the Kings of  
the Medes, with their marshals and  
all their lieutenants, all the countries  
they govern. Make the land shake  
and reel, for the intention of the  
LORD is fixed against Babel, to turn  
the country of Babel to a waste, and  
without inhabitants. The heroes of  
Babel evade the fight! They sit in  
their forts! Their courage has failed!  
Their houses are fired,—their bars  
are broken!—Postman runs to meet  
postman,— and reporter to meet  
reporter, to tell the king of Babel  
that his city is captured on all sides!  
32 That the fords are seized,—the reeds  
burnt with fire,—and his soldiers in  
terror!"

33 For thus says the LORD OF HOSTS,  
the GOD of Israel; "The daughter  
of Babel is like corn at thrashing  
time; tread her after a while, when  
the harvest time comes to her."

34 Nebukhadnezzar, King of Babel,  
has devoured and torn us; has left us  
an empty jar,—swallowed us like a  
serpent,—he has gorged his belly  
with our sweets,—he shall vomit  
us up!

35 Let the lady of Zion say, "My  
violation and outraging be upon  
Babel!" "And my blood upon the  
people of Kasdim," Jerusalem cries.

36 "Therefore," thus says the LORD,  
"I will plead your cause, and execute  
justice on account of you, and dry up  
the water, and make her fountains  
dry, and Babel shall become a  
stone heap,—the haunt of serpents,  
—a waste, and jungle, without  
inhabitants.

37 "They roar together like tigers. 38  
They growl like young lions. I will  
fit their drink to their thirst, when  
they will get drunk for joy,—and  
sleep an everlasting sleep, and never  
awaken!" The LORD says, "I will  
lay them down like lambs to the  
slaughter, like rams and goats."

Song on the Capture of Babylon.

How was the Bronze Gate captured? 41  
And the Bride of the World been seized?  
How was Babel made the desert of nations?  
The sea comes up against Babel!  
She is o'erwhelmed by its rolling billows!  
Her cities are made a waste,  
Her earth is dry and is black,  
A land in which no man dwells,  
And no son of Adam goes over!
I will visit Bel in Babel,
And bring his glut out of his mouth;
When the nations will no more seek him,
For the walls of Babel shall fall!

A Warning to Israel.

"Beware of your heart failing and being afraid at the rumours you may hear in the country; for a rumour shall come one year, and another year a report of disturbance in the land, governor against governor, because the times come that I will visit the idols of Babel, and all her land, to degrade them, and all her wounded shall fall in her midst.

Then the heavens shall cheer over Babel, and the earth and all that is in it, when her plunderers come from the north," says the LORD.

"For as Babel flung down the wounded of Israel, so the wounded of Babel shall fall all over the ground.

Fly from the sword and go! Delay not! Remember the LORD from afar! And ascend to Jerusalem in your hearts."

We are ashamed, for we have been insulted,—our faces are covered with disgrace, for loathsome things have entered the sanctuary of the House of the LORD.

The days, however, come," says the LORD, "when I will punish her idols, and the wounded shall groan in all her country. Although Babel mounts to the skies, and although she fortifies her lofty strength, her plunderers shall come with Me," says the LORD.

There will be the sound of shrieking from Babel, and of a great crash from the land of the Kasdim, when the LORD will desolate Babel, and a great sound will come from her like the roaring billows when many seas utter their growling voice! For destruction comes upon Babel,—her warriors are captured,—their bows are broken, for the LORD is a God of requitals,—He will repay! Then I will make her nobles, and learned, and viceroyes, and governors, and heroes drunk,—and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and never awake," says the King named the LORD OF HOSTS.

Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS:—
"The broad wall of Babel shall be demolished! and her high gates be burnt with fire! Thus Peoples have wornied themselves for a vapour, and nations for the fire,—and are exhausted!"

Instruction of Jeremiah to Seriah.

The order that Jeremiah the 59 Preacher gave to Seriah-ben-Neriah-ben-Maksiah, when he was sent by Zedekiah, king of Judah, to Babel, in the fourth year of his reign. Seriah had been High Chamberlain.

Now Jeremiah had engraven all the 60 punishments that would come upon Babel in a book,—all these things that he wrote about Babel, and 61 Jeremiah said to Seriah, "When you come to Babel, be careful to read these things, and say, 'LORD, You 62 have spoken against this place to exterminate it, until it is uninhabited by men or beasts, and it becomes a desolation for ever!' And when you 63 have finished reading the book fasten a stone to it, and fling it into the middle of the Frath, and say 'Babel 64 shall sink like that, and never rise from the distress I will bring upon her.'"

At this point the Sermons of Jeremiah are finished.

A Hebrew Editor's Supplementary Note describing the Capture of Jerusalem.

Zedekiah was twenty-one years old 52 at his coronation, and he reigned

1 Note.—Ch. 51, v. 64. To us it seems a strange plan to fling "A Book" into the middle of a river larger than the Thames to preserve it safe for seventy years, but we now know from the discoveries at Nineveh and Babylon that in the time of the Prophet "Books" were not written on paper or skins, but upon stone slates, or more commonly upon tablets of potter's clay, upon which the words were engraved by a graving tool, and the plates afterwards burnt like pottery, which made them indestructible, so that the river's bed was the safest place to put the record, to be found again on the Euphrates being drained dry by Darius and Cyrus previous to their storming Babylon. It is recorded by Josephus that the bale containing them was then discovered. Had they not been thus preserved, we may be sure Nebukhadnezzar would not have left a fragment of them in existence.—F. F.
eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. But he did wrong in the eyes of the Ever-Living, in every way that Jehoiakim had done; for it came from the anger of the Lord against Jerusalem and Judah, to make them fling themselves from His presence, and Zedekiah to the king of Babel.

So it arrived in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth day of the tenth month, that King Nebukadnezzar, king of Babel, came with all his forces to Jerusalem, and encamped against it, and built an embankment around, and continued the siege till the eleventh year of Zedekiah, to the ninth of the fourth month, when a famine seized the city, and there was no bread for the people of the country. Then a breach was made from the city, and all the soldiers fled, and left the town by night by way of a gate in the walls which were opposite the Royal Garden, and the Kasdim who surrounded the city, and they marched towards the Black Desert. The army of the Kasdim, however, followed after the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the Black Desert near Jericho, when all the army deserted him.

They consequently seized the king, and brought him to the king of Babel at Riblah, in the district of Hamath, and he dictated conditions to him. Then the king of Babel murdered the children of Zedekiah before his eyes, and also murdered all the nobles of Judah in Riblah. He afterwards dug out the eyes of Zedekiah, and loaded him with chains, and they took him with the king of Babel to Babel, and put him into the Convicts Prison until the time of his death.

But on the tenth of the fifth month, in the twelfth year of King Nebukadnezzar, king of Babel, Nebuzaradon, Commander of the Guards, represented the king of Babel in Jerusalem, and burnt the House of the Ever-Living, and the Royal Palace, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every palace of the great, he consumed with fire. And all the army of the Kasdim who were with the Commander of the Guards, threw down the walls surrounding Jerusalem.

Then Nebuzaradon, the Commander of the Guards, transported the lowest of the people, and the rest of the populace left in the city, and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babel, and the remainder of the mechanics. However, Nebuzaradon, Commander of the Guards left the lower classes of the country to be vine dressers and ploughmen.

The Pillars of brass that were before the House of the Ever-Living, however, and the pedestals, and the Brazen Sea that was in the House of the Ever-Living, the Kasdim broke up, and carried the brass to Babel; with the boilers, and the shovels, and the snuffers, and basins, and spoons, and all the instruments of brass they used in the services were taken away. The Commander of the Guards also took away the cups, and fire pans, and basins, and pots, with the candlesticks, and spoons and bowls; what was of gold as gold, and what was of silver, as silver. The two pillars; the Single Sea, the twelve bronze bulls which were under the pedestals that King Solomon had made for the House of the Ever-Living. The bronze of all this furniture was not weighed.

The height of the pillars was eighteen cubits for the first pillar, and its circumference was twelve cubits. It was hollow and four inches thick. It had upon it a capital of bronze. The height of that capital was five cubits, with a network of pomegranates around the capital,—all bronze. The second pillar was the same, with pomegranates. There were ninety-six pomegranates towards the winds—all the pomegranates upon the surrounding network were a hundred.

The Commander of the Guards also took Seriah the Chief Priest, and Zephaniah the Second Priest, and the three Guardians of the Threshold. From the city he also took an officer who was adjutant of the soldiery; and seven officers of the Privy Council, whom he found in the city, and the Chief Secretary of the Commander in Chief of the native army, and sixty nobles from the country people, whom he found amongst the townsmen. Nebuzaradon, Commander of the Guards, took these and conducted them to the king of Babel at Riblah, when the king of Babel assailed and put them to death.
at Riblah, in the district of Hamath, but he transported the Jews from their own country.

28 These are the people whom Nebukhadnezzar transported in his seventh year. Three thousand and twenty-three Jews.

29 In Nebukadnezzar’s eighteenth year,—eight hundred and thirty-two persons from Jerusalem.

30 In the twenty-third year of Nebukadnezzar, Nebuzaradon, the Commander of the Guards, transported seven hundred and forty-two persons of the Jews. All the persons were four thousand, six hundred.

It occurred, however, in the thirty-seventh year of the captivity of Jhoiakim, king of Judah, in the twenty-fifth of the twelfth month, that Evil-Merodak, king of Babel, in the year of his coronation raised the king of Judah, and brought him from his imprisonment, and spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat above the kings who were with him in Babel. He also changed his prison dress; and he always dined in his presence so long as he lived. He was given a regular pension by the king of Babel, paid day by day during his life, until his death.

END OF THE PROPHECIES OF JEREMIAH.