

## **MATTOT**

JEREMIAH 1:1 - 2:3

### **Chapter 1**

<sup>1</sup> The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> The word of the Lord came to him in the days of King Josiah son of Amon of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign, <sup>3</sup> and throughout the days of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, and until the end of the eleventh year of King Zedekiah son of Josiah of Judah, when Jerusalem went into exile in the fifth month.

<sup>4</sup> *The word of the Lord came to me:*

<sup>5</sup> *Before I created you in the womb, I selected you;  
Before you were born, I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet concerning the nations.*

<sup>6</sup> *I replied:*

*Ah, Lord God!*

*I don't know how to speak,  
For I am still a boy.*

<sup>7</sup> *And the Lord said to me:*

*Do not say, "I am still a boy,"  
But go wherever I send you  
And speak whatever I command you.*

<sup>8</sup> *Have no fear of them,*

*For I am with you to deliver you*

*--declares the Lord--*

<sup>9</sup> The Lord put out His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: Herewith I put My words into your mouth.

<sup>10</sup> *See, I appoint you this day*

*Over nations and kingdoms:*

*To uproot and to pull down,*

*To destroy and to overthrow,  
To build and to plant.*

<sup>11</sup> The word of the Lord came to me: What do you see, Jeremiah? I replied: I see a branch of an almond tree.

<sup>12</sup> *The Lord said to me:  
You have seen right,  
For I am watchful to bring My word to pass.*

<sup>13</sup> *And the word of the Lord came to me a second time: What do you see? I replied:  
I see a steaming pot,  
Tipped away from the north.*

<sup>14</sup> *And the Lord said to me:  
From the north shall disaster break loose  
Upon all the inhabitants of the land!*

<sup>15</sup> *For I am summoning all the peoples  
of the kingdoms of the north*

*--declares the Lord--*

*They shall come, and shall each set up a throne  
Before the gates of Jerusalem,  
Against its walls roundabout,  
And against all the towns of Judah.*

<sup>16</sup> *And I will argue My case against them  
For all their wickedness:  
They have forsaken Me  
And sacrificed to other gods  
And worshiped the works of their hands.*

<sup>17</sup> *So you, gird up your loins,  
Arise and speak to them  
All that I command you.  
Do not break down before them,  
Lest I break you before them.*

<sup>18</sup> *I make you this day  
A fortified city,  
And an iron pillar,  
And bronze walls  
Against the whole land--  
Against Judah's kings and officers,  
And against its priests and citizens.*

<sup>19</sup> *They will attack you,  
But they shall not overcome you;  
For I am with you--declares the Lord--to save you.*

## **Chapter 2**

<sup>1</sup> *The word of the Lord came to me, saying, <sup>2</sup> Go proclaim to Jerusalem: Thus said the Lord:*

*I accounted to your favor  
The devotion of your youth,  
Your love as a bride--  
How you followed Me in the wilderness,  
In a land not sown.*

<sup>3</sup> *Israel was holy to the Lord,  
The first fruits of His harvest.  
All who ate of it were held guilty;  
Disaster befell them  
--declares the Lord--*

## **MASEI**

JEREMIAH 2:4-28, 3:4

<sup>4</sup> *Hear the word of the Lord, O House of Jacob,  
Every clan of the House of Israel!*

<sup>5</sup> *Thus said the Lord:*

*What wrong did your fathers find in Me*

*That they abandoned Me*

*And went after delusion and were deluded?*

<sup>6</sup> *They never asked themselves, "Where is the Lord,*

*Who brought us up from the land of Egypt,*

*Who led us through the wilderness,*

*A land of deserts and pits,*

*A land of drought and darkness,*

*A land no man had traversed,*

*Where no human being had dwelt?"*

<sup>7</sup> *I brought you to this country of farm land*

*To enjoy its fruit and its bounty;*

*But you came and defiled My land,*

*You made My possession abhorrent.*

<sup>8</sup> *The priests never asked themselves, "Where is the Lord?"*

*The guardians of the Teaching ignored Me;*

*The rulers rebelled against Me,*

*And the prophets prophesied by Baal*

*And followed what can do no good.*

<sup>9</sup> *Oh, I will go on accusing you*

*— declares the Lord —*

*And I will accuse your children's children!*

<sup>10</sup> *Just cross over to the isles of the Kittim and look,*

*Send to Kedar and observe carefully;*

*See if aught like this has ever happened:*

<sup>11</sup> *Has any nation changed its gods*

*Even though they are no-gods?*

*But My people has exchanged its glory*

*For what can do no good.*

<sup>12</sup> *Be appalled, O heavens, at this;*

*Be horrified, utterly dazed!*

*— declares the Lord —*

<sup>13</sup> *For My people have done a twofold wrong:*

*They have forsaken Me, the Fount of living waters,*

*And hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns,*

*Which cannot even hold water.*

<sup>14</sup> *Is Israel a bondman?*

*Is he a home-born slave?*

*Then why is he given over to plunder?*

<sup>15</sup> *Lions have roared over him,*

*Have raised their cries.*

*They have made his land a waste,*

*His cities desolate, without inhabitants.*

<sup>16</sup> *Those, too, in Noph and Tahpanhes*

*Will lay bare your head.*

<sup>17</sup> *See, that is the price you have paid*

*For forsaking the Lord your God*

*While He led you in the way.*

<sup>18</sup> *What, then, is the good of your going to Egypt*

*To drink the waters of the Nile?*

*And what is the good of your going to Assyria*

*To drink the waters of the Euphrates?*

<sup>19</sup> *Let your misfortune reprove you,*

*Let your afflictions rebuke you;*

*Mark well how bad and bitter it is*

*That you forsake the Lord your God,*

*That awe for Me is not in you*

— declares the Lord —

<sup>20</sup> For long ago you broke your yoke,  
Tore off your yoke-bands,  
And said, "I will not work!"  
On every high hill and under every verdant tree,  
You recline as a whore.

<sup>21</sup> I planted you with noble vines,  
All with choicest seed;  
Alas, I find you changed  
Into a base, an alien vine!

<sup>22</sup> Though you wash with natron  
And use much lye,  
Your guilt is ingrained before Me

— declares the Lord —

<sup>23</sup> How can you say, "I am not defiled,  
I have not gone after the Baalim"?  
Look at your deeds in the Valley,  
Consider what you have done!  
Like a lustful she-camel,  
Restlessly running about,

<sup>24</sup> Or like a wild ass used to the desert,  
Snuffing the wind in her eagerness,  
Whose passion none can restrain,  
None that seek her need grow weary —  
In her season, they'll find her!

<sup>25</sup> Save your foot from going bare,  
And your throat from thirst.  
But you say, "It is no use.  
No, I love the strangers,  
And after them I must go."

<sup>26</sup> Like a thief chagrined when he is caught,

*So is the House of Israel chagrined —  
They, their kings, their officers,  
And their priests and prophets.  
27 They said to wood, "You are my father,"  
To stone, "You gave birth to me,"  
While to Me they turned their backs  
And not their faces.  
But in their hour of calamity they cry,  
"Arise and save us!"  
28 And where are those gods  
You made for yourself?  
Let them arise and save you, if they can,  
In your hour of calamity.  
For your gods have become, O Judah,  
As many as your towns!*

### **Chapter 3**

*4 Just now you called to Me, "Father!  
You are the Companion of my youth."*