

Sefer Yirmiyahu - When Politics & Religion Clash

Class #8 - The assassination of Gedaliah

& the tragic end of Yirmiyahu's career / in Egypt!

For Torah in Motion - by Menachem Leibtag

Intro:

To our surprise, Yirmiyahu's career as a prophet continues even after the Temple is destroyed and most of the People are exiled to Babylonia. Even though one would think, that after his prophecy of the Destruction came true, his credibility would have been established. Nonetheless, we find how he continues to be accused as a 'false prophet', and even those who supported him earlier turn against him in his final days.

I. Yirimiyahu chapter 39 - review

א בַּשָּׁנָה הַתְּשַׁעִית לְצִדְקִיָּהוּ מֶלֶךְ-יְהוּדָה
בַּחֹדֶשׁ הָעֲשָׂרִי, בָּא נְבוּכַדְרֶעֶצַר מֶלֶךְ-בָּבֶל
וְכָל-חֵילוֹ אֶל-יְרוּשָׁלַם, וַיִּצְרוּ, עָלֶיהָ.

1 in the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, came Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and all his army against Jerusalem, and besieged it;

ב בַּעֲשָׂתֵי-עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה לְצִדְקִיָּהוּ, בַּחֹדֶשׁ
הָרְבִיעִי בַתְּשַׁעָה לַחֹדֶשׁ, הִבְקָעָה, הָעִיר.

2 in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, a breach was made in the city--

ג וַיָּבֹאוּ, כָּל שָׂרֵי מֶלֶךְ-בָּבֶל, וַיֵּשְׁבוּ, בְּשַׁעַר
הַתְּוֹךְ--נְרַגְל שְׂרָאֶצֶר סַמְגַר-נְבוֹ שֶׁר-סָכִים רַב-
סָרִיס, נְרַגְל שְׂרָאֶצֶר רַב-מָג, וְכָל-שְׂאֵרֵי, שָׂרֵי
מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל.

3 that all the princes of the king of Babylon came in, and sat in the middle gate, even Nergal-sarezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim Rab-saris, Nergal-sarezer Rab-mag, with all the residue of the princes of the king of Babylon.

ד וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר רָאָם צִדְקִיָּהוּ מֶלֶךְ-יְהוּדָה וְכָל
אֲנָשֵׁי הַמִּלְחָמָה, וַיִּבְרְחוּ וַיֵּצְאוּ לַיְלָה מִן-הָעִיר
דֶּרֶךְ גֹּן הַמֶּלֶךְ, בְּשַׁעַר, בֵּין הַחֲמַתָּים; וַיֵּצֵא,
דֶּרֶךְ הָעֲרָבָה.

4 And it came to pass, that when Zedekiah the king of Judah and all the men of war saw them, then they fled, and went forth out of the city by night, by the way of the king's garden, by the gate betwixt the two walls; and he went out the way of the Arabah.

ה וַיִּרְדְּפוּ חֵיל-כַּשְׂדִּים אַחֲרֵיהֶם, וַיִּשְׁגּוּ אֶת-
צִדְקִיָּהוּ בְּעֶרְבוֹת יַרְחוֹ, וַיִּקְחוּ אוֹתוֹ וַיַּעֲלֵהוּ
אֶל-נְבוּכַדְרֶעֶצַר מֶלֶךְ-בָּבֶל רַבְלַתָּה, בְּאֶרֶץ
חַמַת; וַיִּדְבֵר אֹתוֹ, מִשְׁפָּטִים.

5 But the army of the Chaldeans pursued after them, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he gave judgment upon him.

ו וַיִּשְׁחַט מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל אֶת-בְּנֵי צְדָקְיָהוּ,
בְּרִבְלָה--לְעֵינָיו; וְאֶת כָּל-חֲרֵי יְהוּדָה,
שָׁחַט מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל.

6 Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes; also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah.

ז וְאֶת-עֵינֵי צְדָקְיָהוּ, עָוַר; וַיֹּאסְרֵהוּ,
בְּנַחְשָׁתַיִם, לָבִיא אֹתוֹ, בְּבִלְהָ.

7 Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him in fetters, to carry him to Babylon.

ח וְאֶת-בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאֶת-בֵּית הָעָם, שָׂרְפוּ
הַכַּשְׂדִּים בְּאֵשׁ וְאֶת-חֲמוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם, נָתְצוּ.

8 And the Chaldeans burned the king's house, and the house of the people, with fire, and broke down the walls of Jerusalem.

ט וְאֶת יֶתֶר הָעָם הַנִּשְׁאָרִים בְּעִיר, וְאֶת-
הַנִּפְלָיִם אֲשֶׁר נָפְלוּ עָלָיו, וְאֶת יֶתֶר הָעָם,
הַנִּשְׁאָרִים-הַגְּלָה נְבוּזַרְאֲדָן רַב-טַבָּחִים, בְּבֶל.

9 Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive into Babylon the remnant of the people that remained in the city, the deserters also, that fell away to him, with the rest of the people that remained.

י וּמִן-הָעָם הַדְּלִיִּם, אֲשֶׁר אִין-לָהֶם מְאוּמָה,
הִשְׁאִיר נְבוּזַרְאֲדָן רַב-טַבָּחִים, בְּאַרְצַיְהוּדָה;
וַיִּתֵּן לָהֶם כְּרָמִים וַיַּגְבִּים, בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא.

10 But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left of the poor of the people, that had nothing, in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields in that day.

יא וַיִּצַו נְבוּכַדְרֶצְצַר מֶלֶךְ-בָּבֶל, עַל-יֶרְמְיָהוּ,
בְּיַד נְבוּזַרְאֲדָן רַב-טַבָּחִים, לֵאמֹר.

11 Now Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon gave charge concerning Jeremiah to Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, saying:

יב קַחְנוּ, וְעֵינֶיךָ שִׁים עָלָיו, וְאַל-תַּעַשׂ
לוֹ, מְאוּמָה רָעָ: כִּי, אִם כְּאֲשֶׁר יִדְבֵר
אֵלֶיךָ--כֵּן, עֲשֵׂה עִמּוֹ.

12 'Take him, and look well to him, and do him no harm; but do unto him even as he shall say unto thee.'

יג וַיִּשְׁלַח נְבוּזַרְאֲדָן רַב-טַבָּחִים, וַיְנַבְּשִׁזְבָן רַב-
סָרִיס, וַיְנַרְגַּל שְׂרָאָצָר, רַב-מָג--וְכָל, רֹבֵי מֶלֶךְ-
בָּבֶל.

13 So Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard sent, and Nebushazban Rab-saris, and Nergal-sarezer Rab-mag, and all the chief officers of the king of Babylon;

יד וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת-יֶרְמְיָהוּ מִחֲצַר הַמְּטָרָה,
וַיִּתְּנוּ אֹתוֹ אֶל-גְּדַלְיָהוּ בֶן-אַחִיקָם בֶּן-שַׁפָּן,
לְהוֹצֵאֵהוּ, אֶל-הַבַּיִת; וַיֵּשֶׁב, בְּתוֹךְ הָעָם. {ס}

14 they sent, and took Jeremiah out of the court of the guard, and committed him unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, that he should carry him home; so he dwelt among the people. {S}

Chapter 40

א הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר-הֵיחָה אֶל-יֶרְמְיָהוּ, מֵאֵת
יְהוָה, אַחֲרַי שָׁלַח אֹתוֹ נְבוּזַרְאֲדָן רַב-
טַבָּחִים, מִן-הָרָמָה--בְּקִחְתּוֹ אֹתוֹ, וְהוּא-
אָסוּר בְּאִזְקִים בְּתוֹךְ כָּל-גְּלוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם
וַיְהוּדָה, הַמְּגָלִים, בְּבִלְהָ.

1 The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, after that Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had let him go from Ramah, when he had taken him being bound in chains among all the captives of Jerusalem and Judah, that were carried away captive unto Babylon.

ב וַיִּקַּח רַב-טַבָּחִים, לְיִרְמְיָהוּ; וַיֹּאמֶר
אֵלָיו--יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ דָּבַר אֶת-הָרָעָה
הַזֹּאת, אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה.

2 And the captain of the guard took Jeremiah, and said unto him: 'The LORD thy God pronounced this evil upon this place;

ג וַיָּבֵא וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוָה, כַּאֲשֶׁר דָּבַר: כִּי-
חָטֵאתֶם לַיהוָה וְלֹא-שָׁמַעְתֶּם בְּקוֹלוֹ,
וְהָיָה לָכֶם דְּבַר (הַדְּבָר) הַזֶּה.

3 and the LORD hath brought it, and done according as He spoke; because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not hearkened to His voice, therefore this thing is come upon you.

ד וְעַתָּה הִנֵּה פִתַּחְתִּיךָ הַיּוֹם, מִן-הָאֲזָקִים
אֲשֶׁר עַל-יָדְךָ--אִם-טוֹב בְּעֵינֶיךָ לָבוֹא אֵתִי
בְּבַל בֹּא וְאֲשִׁים אֶת-עֵינֵי עֲלֶיךָ,
וְאִם-רָע בְּעֵינֶיךָ לָבוֹא-אֵתִי בְּבַל חָדַל:
רְאֵה כָּל-הָאָרֶץ לִפְנֶיךָ, אֶל-טוֹב וְאֶל-
הַיָּשָׁר בְּעֵינֶיךָ לָלֶכֶת שָׁמָּה לָךְ.

4 And now, behold, I loose thee this day from the chains which are upon thy hand. If it seem good unto thee to come with me into Babylon, come, and I will look well unto thee; but if it seem ill unto thee to come with me into Babylon, forbear; behold, all the land is before thee; whither it seemeth good and right unto thee to go, thither go.--

ה וְעוֹדְנָנוּ לֹא-יָשׁוּב, וְשָׁבָה אֶל-גְּדַלְיָה בֶן-
אֲחִיקָם בֶּן-שָׁפָן אֲשֶׁר הִפְקִיד מֶלֶךְ-בָּבֶל
בְּעָרֵי יְהוּדָה וְיָשַׁב אִתּוֹ בְּתוֹךְ הָעָם, אוֹ אֶל-
כָּל-הַיָּשָׁר בְּעֵינֶיךָ לָלֶכֶת, לָךְ; וַיֵּתֶן-לוֹ רַב-
טַבָּחִים אֲרָחָה וּמִשָּׁאָת, וַיִּשְׁלַחְהוּ.

5 Yet he would not go back.--Go back then to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon hath made governor over the cities of Judah, and dwell with him among the people; or go wheresoever it seemeth right unto thee to go.' So the captain of the guard gave him an allowance and a present, and let him go.

ו וַיָּבֵא יִרְמְיָהוּ אֶל-גְּדַלְיָה בֶן-אֲחִיקָם,
הַמְצַפְתָּה; וַיֵּשֶׁב אִתּוֹ בְּתוֹךְ הָעָם,
הַנִּשְׁאָרִים בְּאֶרֶץ. {פ}

6 Then went Jeremiah unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam to Mizpah, and dwelt with him among the people that were left in the land. {P}

II. The assassination

ז וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ כָל-שָׂרֵי הַחֲיָלִים אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׂדֶה,
הַמָּה וְאֲנָשֵׁיהֶם, כִּי-הִפְקִיד מֶלֶךְ-בָּבֶל אֶת-
גְּדַלְיָהוּ בֶן-אֲחִיקָם, בְּאֶרֶץ; וְכִי הִפְקִיד
אִתּוֹ, אֲנָשִׁים וְנָשִׁים וְטָף, וּמִדְּלַת הָאָרֶץ,
מֵאֲשֶׁר לֹא-הֻגְלוּ בְּבַלְהָ.

7 Now when all the captains of the forces that were in the fields, even they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam governor in the land, and had committed unto him men, and women, and children, and of the poorest of the land, of them that were not carried away captive to Babylon;

ח וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-גְּדַלְיָה, הַמְצַפְתָּה; וַיִּשְׁמַעֲלוּ
בֶן-נְתַנְיָהוּ וַיּוֹחָנָן וַיּוֹנָתָן בְּנֵי-קָרַח וּשְׂרָיָה
בֶן-תַּנְחֻמֶת וּבְנֵי עוֹפִי (עֵיפִי) הַנְּטַפְתִּי,
וַיִּזְנְיָהוּ בֶן-הַמַּעַכְתִּי--הַמָּה, וְאֲנָשֵׁיהֶם.

8 then they came to Gedaliah to Mizpah, even Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and Johanan and Jonathan the sons of Kareah, and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth, and the sons of Ephai the Netophathite, and Jezaniah the son of the Maacathite, they and their men.

ט וַיִּשָּׁבַע לָהֶם גְּדַלְיָהוּ בֶן-אֲחִיקָם בֶּן-שָׁפָן, וּלְאֲנָשֵׁיהֶם לֵאמֹר, אֶל-תִּירְאוּ, מֵעֲבֹד הַכַּשְׂדִּים; שְׁבוּ בָאָרֶץ, וְעַבְדוּ אֶת-מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל-- וַיִּיטֵב לָכֶם.

9 And Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan swore unto them and to their men, saying: 'Fear not to serve the Chaldeans; dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you.'

י וְאֲנִי, הֲנִי יוֹשֵׁב בַּמִּצְפָּה, לַעֲמֹד לִפְנֵי הַכַּשְׂדִּים, אֲשֶׁר יָבֹאוּ אֵלֵינוּ; וְאַתֶּם אֲסָפוּ יַיִן וְקִיץ וְשָׁמֹן, וְשָׂמוּ בְכַלְיִכֶם, וְשָׁבוּ, בְּעָרֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר-תִּפְשֹׁתֶם.

10 As for me, behold, I will dwell at Mizpah, to stand before the Chaldeans that may come unto us; but ye, gather ye wine and summer fruits and oil, and put them in your vessels, and dwell in your cities that ye have taken.'

יא וְגַם כָּל-הַיְהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר-בְּמוֹאָב וּבְבְנֵי-עַמּוֹן וּבְאֶדוֹם וְאֲשֶׁר בְּכָל-הָאָרְצוֹת, שָׁמְעוּ, כִּי-נָתַן מֶלֶךְ-בָּבֶל שְׂאֵרִית, לַיהוּדָה; וְכִי הִפְקִיד עֲלֵיהֶם, אֶת-גְּדַלְיָהוּ בֶן-אֲחִיקָם בֶּן-שָׁפָן.

11 Likewise when all the Jews that were in Moab, and among the children of Ammon, and in Edom, and that were in all the countries, heard that the king of Babylon had left a remnant of Judah, and that he had set over them Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan;

יב וַיָּשׁוּבוּ כָל-הַיְהוּדִים, מִכָּל-הַמְּקוֹמוֹת אֲשֶׁר נִדְחוּ-שָׁם, וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶרֶץ-יְהוּדָה אֶל-גְּדַלְיָהוּ, הַמִּצְפָּתָה; וַיֵּאָסְפוּ יַיִן וְקִיץ, הַרְבֵּה מְאֹד. {ס}

12 then all the Jews returned out of all places whither they were driven, and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah, unto Mizpah, and gathered wine and summer fruits in great abundance. {S}

יג וַיּוֹחֲנוּ, בֶּן-קָרַח, וְכָל-שָׂרֵי הַחֲיָלִים, אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׂדֶה--בָּאוּ אֶל-גְּדַלְיָהוּ, הַמִּצְפָּתָה.

13 Moreover Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that were in the fields, came to Gedaliah to Mizpah,

יד וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו, הֲיָדַע תִּדְעַ כִּי בַעֲלִים מֶלֶךְ-בְּנֵי-עַמּוֹן שָׁלַח אֶת-יִשְׁמָעֵאל בֶּן-נֶתְנִיָּה, לְהַפְתִּד, נַפְשׁ; וְלֹא-הָאֱמִין לָהֶם, גְּדַלְיָהוּ בֶן-אֲחִיקָם.

14 and said unto him: 'Dost thou know that Baalis the king of the children of Ammon hath sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to take thy life?' But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam believed them not.

טו וַיּוֹחֲנוּ בֶּן-קָרַח אֶמְרָ אֶל-גְּדַלְיָהוּ בְּסֵתֶר בַּמִּצְפָּה לֵאמֹר, אֵלֶיךָ נָא וְאָפָה אֶת-יִשְׁמָעֵאל בֶּן-נֶתְנִיָּה, וְאִישׁ, לֹא יָדַע; לָמָּה יִכְפֹּה נַפְשׁ, וְנִפְצוּ כָל-יְהוּדָה הַנִּקְבָּצִים אֵלָיךָ, וְאַבְדָּה, שְׂאֵרִית יְהוּדָה.

15 Then Johanan the son of Kareah spoke to Gedaliah in Mizpah secretly, saying: 'Let me go, I pray thee, and I will slay Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and no man shall know it; wherefore should he take thy life, that all the Jews that are gathered unto thee should be scattered, and the remnant of Judah perish?'

טז וַיֹּאמֶר גְּדַלְיָהוּ בֶן-אֲחִיקָם אֶל-יוֹחָנָן בֶּן-קָרַח, אֶל-תַּעַשׂ (תַּעֲשֵׂה) אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה: כִּי-שָׁקֵר אַתָּה דּוֹבֵר, אֶל-יִשְׁמָעֵאל.

16 But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam said unto Johanan the son of Kareah: 'Thou shalt not do this thing; for thou speakest falsely of Ishmael.' {

Chapter 41

א וַיְהִי בַחֲדָשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי, בָּא יִשְׁמַעֵאל בֶּן-נְתַנְיָה בֶן-אֶלְיָשָׁמַע מִזֶּרַע הַמְּלוּכָה וְרֵבִי הַמֶּלֶךְ וְעֶשְׂרֵה אַנְשִׁים אֲתוּ אֶל-גְּדַלְיָהוּ בֶן-אַחִיקָם--הַמְצַפְתָּה; וַיֹּאכְלוּ שָׁם לֶחֶם יַחְדָּו, בַּמִּצְפָּה.

1 Now it came to pass in the seventh month, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the seed royal, and one of the chief officers of the king, and ten men with him, came unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam to Mizpah; and there they did eat bread together in Mizpah.

ב וַיָּקָם יִשְׁמַעֵאל בֶּן-נְתַנְיָה וְעֶשְׂרֵת הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר-הָיו אִתּוֹ, וַיַּכּוּ אֶת-גְּדַלְיָהוּ בֶן-אַחִיקָם בֶּן-שָׁפָן בַּחֲרֹב--וַיָּמָת אֹתוֹ: **אֲשֶׁר-הִפְקִיד מֶלֶךְ-בָּבֶל, בְּאֶרֶץ.**

2 Then arose Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and the ten men that were with him, and smote Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan with the sword, and slew him, whom the king of Babylon had made governor over the land.

ג וְאֵת כָּל-הַיְהוּדִים, אֲשֶׁר-הָיו אִתּוֹ אֶת-גְּדַלְיָהוּ בַּמִּצְפָּה, וְאֵת-הַכַּשְׂדִּים, אֲשֶׁר נִמְצְאוּ-שָׁם--אֵת אַנְשֵׁי הַמֶּלְחָמָה, הִכָּה יִשְׁמַעֵאל.

3 Ishmael also slew all the Jews that were with him, even with Gedaliah, at Mizpah, and the Chaldeans that were found there, even the men of war.

ד וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשֵּׁנִי, לְהָמִית אֶת-גְּדַלְיָהוּ; וְאִישׁ, לֹא יָדַע.

4 And it came to pass the second day after he had slain Gedaliah, and no man knew it,

ה וַיָּבֹאוּ אַנְשִׁים מִשְׁכָּם מִשְׁלוֹ וּמִשְׁמֶרוֹן, שְׂמֹנִים אִישׁ, מִגְּלַחֵי זָקָן וּקְרַעֵי בְגָדִים, וּמִתְגַּדְּדִים; וּמִנְחָה וּלְבוֹנָה בְיָדָם, לְהָבִיא בֵּית יְהוָה.

5 that there came certain men from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, even fourscore men, having their beards shaven and their clothes rent, and having cut themselves, with meal-offerings and frankincense in their hand to bring them to the house of the LORD.

ו וַיֵּצֵא יִשְׁמַעֵאל בֶּן-נְתַנְיָה לְקִרְאתָם, מִן-הַמִּצְפָּה, הַלֵּךְ הַלֵּךְ, וּבֹכָה; וַיְהִי, כַּפְּגֹשׁ אֲתָם, וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם, בָּאוּ אֶל-גְּדַלְיָהוּ בֶן-אַחִיקָם.

6 And Ishmael the son of Nethaniah went forth from Mizpah to meet them, weeping all along as he went; and it came to pass, as he met them, he said unto them: 'Come to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam.'

ז וַיְהִי, כְּבּוֹאָם אֶל-תּוֹךְ הָעִיר; וַיִּשְׁחָטֵם יִשְׁמַעֵאל בֶּן-נְתַנְיָה, אֶל-תּוֹךְ הַבּוֹר--הוּא, וְהָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר-אִתּוֹ.

7 And it was so, when they came into the midst of the city, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah slew them, and cast them into the midst of the pit, he, and the men that were with him.

ח וְעֶשְׂרֵה אַנְשִׁים נִמְצְאוּ-בָם, וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל-יִשְׁמַעֵאל אֶל-תַּמְתַּנּוּ--כִּי-יֵשׁ-לָנוּ מִטְּמָנִים בַּשָּׂדֶה, חֲטָיִם וְשִׁעְרִים וְשֶׁמֶן וְדָבָשׁ; וַיַּחְדָּל, וְלֹא הִמִּיתָם בְּתוֹךְ אַחֵיהֶם.

8 But ten men were found among them that said unto Ishmael: 'Slay us not; for we have stores hidden in the field, of wheat, and of barley, and of oil, and of honey.' So he forbore, and slew them not among their brethren.

ט וְהַבּוּר, אֲשֶׁר הִשְׁלִיךְ שָׁם יִשְׁמַעֵאל אֶת
כָּל-פְּגָרֵי הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר הִכָּה בְּיַד-
גְּדַלְיָהוּ-- הוּא אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה הַמֶּלֶךְ אָסָא,
מִפְּנֵי בַעֲשָׂא מֶלֶךְ-יִשְׂרָאֵל; אֹתוֹ, מִלֵּא
יִשְׁמַעֵאל בֶּן-נְתַנְיָהוּ-- חֲלָלִים.

9 Now the pit wherein Ishmael cast all the dead bodies of the men whom he had slain by the side of Gedaliah was that which Asa the king had made for fear of Baasa king of Israel; the same Ishmael the son of Nethaniah filled with them that were slain.

י וַיִּשָּׁב יִשְׁמַעֵאל אֶת-כָּל-שְׂאֵרֵיט הָעָם
אֲשֶׁר בַּמִּצְפָּה, אֶת-בָּנוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאֶת-כָּל-
הָעָם הַנִּשְׁאָרִים בַּמִּצְפָּה, אֲשֶׁר הִפְקִיד
נְבוּזַרְאֲדָן רַב-טַבָּחִים, אֶת-גְּדַלְיָהוּ בֶן-
אֲחִיקָם; וַיִּשָּׁבם, יִשְׁמַעֵאל בֶּן-נְתַנְיָהוּ,
וַיֵּלֶךְ, לָעֵבֶר אֶל-בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן. {ס}

10 Then Ishmael carried away captive all the residue of the people that were in Mizpah, even the king's daughters, and all the people that remained in Mizpah, whom Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had committed to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam; Ishmael the son of Nethaniah carried them away captive, and departed to go over to the children of Ammon. {S}

See footnote from I Kings chap. 15

יא וַיִּשְׁמַע יוֹחָנָן בֶּן-קָרַח, וְכָל-שָׂרֵי
הַחֲיָלִים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ, אֶת כָּל-הָרָעָה אֲשֶׁר
עָשָׂה, יִשְׁמַעֵאל בֶּן-נְתַנְיָהוּ.

11 But when Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that were with him, heard of all the evil that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had done,

יב וַיִּקְחוּ, אֶת-כָּל-הָאֲנָשִׁים, וַיֵּלְכוּ,
לְהִלָּחֵם עִם-יִשְׁמַעֵאל בֶּן-נְתַנְיָהוּ; וַיִּמָּצְאוּ
אֹתוֹ, אֶל-מַיִם רַבִּים אֲשֶׁר בְּגִבְעוֹן.

12 then they took all the men, and went to fight with Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and found him by the great waters that are in Gibeon.

יג וַיְהִי, כִּי רָאוּ כָּל-הָעָם אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ-
יִשְׁמַעֵאל, אֶת-יוֹחָנָן בֶּן-קָרַח, וְאֶת כָּל-
שָׂרֵי הַחֲיָלִים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ--וַיִּשְׂמְחוּ.

13 Now it came to pass, that when all the people that were with Ishmael saw Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that were with him, then they were glad.

יד וַיָּסֹבּוּ, כָּל-הָעָם, אֲשֶׁר-שָׁבָה יִשְׁמַעֵאל,
מִן-הַמִּצְפָּה; וַיָּשֻׁבוּ, וַיֵּלְכוּ, אֶל-יוֹחָנָן, בֶּן-
קָרַח.

14 So all the people that Ishmael had carried away captive from Mizpah cast about and returned, and went unto Johanan the son of Kareah.

טו וַיִּשְׁמַעֵאל בֶּן-נְתַנְיָהוּ, נִמְלֹט בְּשִׁמְנָה
אֲנָשִׁים, מִפְּנֵי, יוֹחָנָן; וַיֵּלֶךְ, אֶל-בְּנֵי
עַמּוֹן. {ס}

15 But Ishmael the son of Nethaniah escaped from Johanan with eight men, and went to the children of Ammon. {S}

טז וַיִּקַּח יוֹחָנָן בֶּן-קָרַח וְכָל-שָׂרֵי הַחֲיָלִים
אֲשֶׁר-אִתּוֹ, אֶת כָּל-שְׂאֵרֵיט הָעָם אֲשֶׁר
הֵשִׁיב מֵאֵת יִשְׁמַעֵאל בֶּן-נְתַנְיָהוּ מִן-
הַמִּצְפָּה, אַחֲרֵי הִכָּה, אֶת-גְּדַלְיָהוּ בֶן-
אֲחִיקָם--גְּבָרִים אֲנָשֵׁי הַמִּלְחָמָה, וְנָשִׁים
וְטַף וְסָרְסִים, אֲשֶׁר הֵשִׁיב, מִגְּבְעוֹן.

16 Then took Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that were with him, all the remnant of the people whom he had recovered from Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, from Mizpah, after that he had slain Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the men, even the men of war, and the women, and the children, and the

officers, whom he had brought back from Gibeon;

יז וַיֵּלְכוּ, וַיֵּשְׁבוּ בְּגֵרוּת כְּמוֹהֶם (כְּמֹהֶם),
אֲשֶׁר-אַצֵּל, בַּיַּת לַחֶם-
-לָלֶכֶת, לְבוֹא מִצְרַיִם.

17 and they departed, and dwelt in Geruth Chimham, which is by Beth-lehem, to go to enter into Egypt,

יח מִפְּנֵי, הַכַּלְדָּיִם, כִּי יָרְאוּ,
מִפְּנֵיהֶם : כִּי-הִכָּה יִשְׁמַעְיָאל בֶּן-נְתַנְיָה,
אֶת-גְּדַלְיָהוּ בֶן-אַחִיקָם, אֲשֶׁר-הִפְקִיד
מֶלֶךְ-בָּבֶל, בְּאַרְצָּ. {פ}

18 because of the Chaldeans; for they were afraid of them, because Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had slain Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon made governor over the land. {P}

III. Chapter 42 - Yirmyah's 'psak'

א וַיִּגְשׁוּ, כָּל-שָׂרֵי הַחַיִּלִּים, וַיּוֹחֲנוּ בֶן-קָרַח,
וַיִּזְנִיָּה בֶן-הוֹשַׁעְיָה--וְכָל-הָעָם, מִקָּטָן וְעַד-
גְּדוֹל.

1 Then all the captains of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least even unto the greatest, came near,

ב וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל-יְרֵמְיָהוּ הַנְּבִיא, תִּפְּל-נָא
תַּחֲנִתֵנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ, וְהִתְפַּלֵּל בְּעַדְנוּ אֶל-יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֶיךָ, בְּעַד כָּל-הַשְּׂאִרִית הַזֹּאת : כִּי-
נִשְׂאָרְנוּ מֵעַט מִהֶרְבֵּה, כַּאֲשֶׁר עֵינֶיךָ רֹאוֹת
אֶתְנוּ.

2 and said unto Jeremiah the prophet: 'Let, we pray thee, our supplication be accepted before thee, and pray for us unto the LORD thy God, even for all this remnant; for we are left but a few of many, as thine eyes do behold us;

ג וַיֹּגֵד-לָנוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, אֶת-הַדֶּרֶךְ אֲשֶׁר
יֵלֶךְ-בָּהּ, וְאֶת-הַדְּבָר, אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשֶׂה.

3 that the LORD thy God may tell us the way wherein we should walk, and the thing that we should do.'

ד וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם יְרֵמְיָהוּ הַנְּבִיא, שְׁמַעְתִּי--
הַנְּנִי מִתְפַּלֵּל אֶל-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם,
כְּדַבְרֵיכֶם ; וְהָיָה כָּל-הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר-יַעֲנֶה
יְהוָה אֶתְכֶם, אֲגִיד לָכֶם--לֹא-אֶמְנַע מִכֶּם,
דְּבָר.

4 Then Jeremiah the prophet said unto them: 'I have heard you; behold, I will pray unto the LORD your God according to your words; and it shall come to pass, that whatsoever thing the LORD shall answer you, I will declare it unto you; I will keep nothing back from you.'

ה וְהָפְמָה, אָמְרוּ אֶל-יְרֵמְיָהוּ, יְהִי יְהוָה בְּנוּ,
לְעַד אָמֶת וְנֶאֱמָן : אִם-לֹא כָּל-הַדְּבָר
אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁלַחַךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, אֵלֵינוּ--כִּן
נַעֲשֶׂה.

5 Then they said to Jeremiah: 'The LORD be a true and faithful witness against us, if we do not even according to all the word wherewith the LORD thy God shall send thee to us.

ו אִם-טוֹב וְאִם-רָע--בְּקוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ
אֲשֶׁר אֲנוּ (אֲנַחְנוּ) שְׁלָחִים אֶתְךָ אֵלָינוּ,
נִשְׁמַע : לְמַעַן, אֲשֶׁר יִיטֵב-לָנוּ, כִּי נִשְׁמַע,
בְּקוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ. {פ}

6 Whether it be good, or whether it be evil, we will hearken to the voice of the LORD our God, to whom we send thee; that it may be well with us, when we hearken to the voice of the LORD our God.' {P}

ז וַיְהִי, מִקֵּץ עֲשָׂרֵת יָמִים ; וַיְהִי דְבַר-
יְהוָה, אֶל-יִרְמְיָהוּ. 7 And it came to pass after ten days,
that the word of the LORD came unto
Jeremiah.

ח וַיִּקְרָא, אֶל-יוֹחָנָן בֶּן-קָרְחַת, וְאֶל כָּל-שָׂרֵי
הַחַיָּלִים, אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ ; וְלִכְל־הָעָם--לְמִקְטֹן,
וְעַד-גָּדוֹל. 8 Then called he Johanan the son of
Kareah, and all the captains of the
forces that were with him, and all the
people from the least even to the
greatest,

ט וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם, כֹּה-אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲשֶׁר שְׁלַחְתֶּם אֹתִי אֵלָיו, לְהַפִּיל
תְּחִנָּתְכֶם לִפְנָיו. 9 and said unto them: 'Thus saith the
LORD, the God of Israel, unto whom
ye sent me to present your
supplication before Him:

י אִם-שׁוֹב תֵּשְׁבוּ, בְּאֶרֶץ הַזֹּאת--וּבְנִיתִי
אֶתְכֶם וְלֹא אֶהְרַס, וְנִטַּעְתִּי אֶתְכֶם וְלֹא
אֶתּוֹשׁ : כִּי נִחַמְתִּי אֶל-הַרְעָה, אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי
לָכֶם. 10 If ye will still abide in this land,
then will I build you, and not pull you
down, and I will plant you, and not
pluck you up; for I repent Me of the
evil that I have done unto you.

יא אַל-תִּירְאוּ, מִפְּנֵי מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל, אֲשֶׁר-אַתֶּם
יֹרְאִים, מִפְּנָיו ; אַל-תִּירְאוּ מִמֶּנּוּ, נְאֻם-
יְהוָה--כִּי-אַתְכֶם אָנִי, לְהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶתְכֶם
וּלְהַצִּיל אֶתְכֶם מִיָּדוֹ. 11 Be not afraid of the king of
Babylon, of whom ye are afraid; be
not afraid of him, saith the LORD; for
I am with you to save you, and to
deliver you from his hand.

יב וְאֶתֶּן לָכֶם רַחֲמִים, וְרַחַם אֶתְכֶם ;
וְהִשִּׁיב אֶתְכֶם, אֶל-אֲדַמְתְּכֶם. 12 And I will grant you compassion,
that he may have compassion upon
you, and cause you to return to your
own land.

יג וְאִם-אֹמְרִים אַתֶּם, לֹא נִשְׁבַּב בְּאֶרֶץ
הַזֹּאת, לְבַלְתִּי שָׁמַעַ, בְּקוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם. 13 But if ye say: We will not abide in
this land; so that ye hearken not to the
voice of the LORD your God;

יד לֵאמֹר, לֹא כִי אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם נְבוֹא, אֲשֶׁר
לֹא-נִרְאָה מְלַחְמָה, וְקוֹל שׁוֹפָר לֹא נִשְׁמַע ;
וּלְלַחֵם לֹא-נִרְעַב, וְנֶשֶׁם נִשְׁבַּב. 14 saying: No; but we will go into the
land of Egypt, where we shall see no
war, nor hear the sound of the horn,
nor have hunger of bread; and there
will we abide;

טו וְעַתָּה--לָכֵן שָׁמְעוּ דְבַר-יְהוָה, שְׂאֲרֵית
יְהוּדָה : כֹּה-אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת אֱלֹהֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל, אִם-אַתֶּם שׁוֹם תִּשְׁמוּן פְּנֵיכֶם לְבֹא
מִצְרַיִם, וּבְאַתֶּם, לְגוֹר שָׁם. 15 now therefore hear ye the word of
the LORD, O remnant of Judah: Thus
saith the LORD of hosts, the God of
Israel: If ye wholly set your faces to
enter into Egypt, and go to sojourn
there;

טז וְהִיְתָה הַחֶרֶב, אֲשֶׁר אַתֶּם יֹרְאִים
מִמֶּנָּה, שָׁם תִּשְׁיֵג אֶתְכֶם, בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם ;
וְהָרַעַב אֲשֶׁר-אַתֶּם דֹּאֲגִים מִמֶּנּוּ, שָׁם יִדְבַּק
אֲחֵרֵיכֶם מִצְרַיִם--וְנֶשֶׁם תָּמֹתוּ. 16 then it shall come to pass, that the
sword, which ye fear, shall overtake
you there in the land of Egypt, and the
famine, whereof ye are afraid, shall
follow hard after you there in Egypt;
and there ye shall die.

יז וַיְהִי כֹל-הָאֲנָשִׁים, אֲשֶׁר-שָׁמוּ אֶת-
פְּנֵיהֶם לָבוֹא מִצְרַיִם לְגוֹר שָׁם--יָמוּתוּ,
בַּחֶרֶב בַּרָעָב וּבַדָּבָר: וְלֹא-יִהְיֶה לָהֶם,
שָׂרִיד וּפְלִיט, מִפְּנֵי הָרָעָה, אֲשֶׁר אָנִי מְבִיא
עֲלֵיהֶם.

17 So shall it be with all the men that set their faces to go into Egypt to sojourn there; they shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence; and none of them shall remain or escape from the evil that I will bring upon them.

יח כִּי כֹה אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת, אֱלֹהֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל, כִּי-אֲשֶׁר נִתְּדָ אִפִּי וַחֲמָתִי עַל-יֹשְׁבֵי
יְרוּשָׁלַם, כִּן תִּתְּדָ חֲמָתִי עֲלֵיכֶם בְּבֹאֲכֶם
מִצְרַיִם; וְהֵייתֶם לְאָלֶה וּלְשִׁמָּה, וּלְקַלְלָה
וּלְחַרְפָּה, וְלֹא-תִרְאוּ עוֹד, אֶת-הַמָּקוֹם
הַזֶּה.

18 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: As Mine anger and My fury hath been poured forth upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so shall My fury be poured forth upon you, when ye shall enter into Egypt; and ye shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach; and ye shall see this place no more.

יט דַּבֵּר יְהוָה עֲלֵיכֶם שְׂאֲרִית יְהוּדָה, אֶל-
תְּבֵאוּ מִצְרַיִם; יָדַע, תִּדְעוּ, כִּי-הָעִידֹתִי
בְּכֶם, הַיּוֹם.

19 The LORD hath spoken concerning you, O remnant of Judah: Go ye not into Egypt; know certainly that I have forewarned you this day.

כ כִּי הִתְעַתִּים (הִתְעִיתֶם), בְּנַפְשׁוֹתֵיכֶם--
כִּי-אַתֶּם שָׁלַחְתֶּם אֹתִי אֶל-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם
לֵאמֹר, הִתְפַּלֵּל בְּעַדְנוּ אֶל-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ;
וְכָכֵל אֲשֶׁר יֹאמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ, כִּן הַגִּד-
לָנוּ--וַעֲשִׂינוּ.

20 For ye have dealt deceitfully against your own souls; for ye sent me unto the LORD your God, saying: Pray for us unto the LORD our God; and according unto all that the LORD our God shall say, so declare unto us, and we will do it;

כא וְאֶגֶד לְכֶם, הַיּוֹם; וְלֹא שָׁמַעְתֶּם, בְּקוֹל
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם, וְלִכְלֵל, אֲשֶׁר-שָׁלַחְנִי אֵלֵיכֶם.

21 and I have this day declared it to you; but ye have not hearkened to the voice of the LORD your God in any thing for which He hath sent me unto you.

כב וְעַתָּה, יָדַע תִּדְעוּ, כִּי בַחֶרֶב בַּרָעָב
וּבַדָּבָר, תָּמוּתוּ-- בַּמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר חָפְצִיתֶם,
לָבוֹא לְגוֹר שָׁם. { ס }

22 Now therefore know certainly that ye shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, in the place whither ye desire to go to sojourn there.

IV. Why they still don't listen!

Chapter 43

א וַיְהִי כַכְּלוֹת יִרְמְיָהוּ לְדַבֵּר אֶל-כָּל-הָעָם,
אֶת-כָּל-דְּבָרֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם, אֲשֶׁר שָׁלַח
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם, אֵלֵיהֶם--אֶת כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים,
הָאֵלֶּה. { ס }

1 And it came to pass, that when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking unto all the people all the words of the LORD their God, wherewith the LORD their God had sent him to them, even all these words, {S}

ב וַיֹּאמֶר עֲזַרְיָה בֶן-הוֹשַׁעְיָה וַיּוֹחֲנָן בֶּן-קָרַח, וְכָל-הָאֲנָשִׁים הַזֵּדִים: אֲמָרִים אֶל-יְרֵמְיָהוּ, שֶׁקֶר אַתָּה מְדַבֵּר-לֹא שְׁלַחְךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ לֵאמֹר, לֹא-תֵבְאוּ מִצְרַיִם לְגוֹר שָׁם.

2 then spoke Azariah the son of Hoshaiah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men, saying unto Jeremiah: 'Thou speakest falsely; the LORD our God hath not sent thee to say: Ye shall not go into Egypt to sojourn there;

ג כִּי, בָרוּךְ בֶּן-נְרִיָּה, מִסִּית אֶתְךָ, בְּנוֹ-- לְמַעַן תֵּת אֶתְנוּ בְיַד-הַפְּשָׁדִים לְהַמִּית אֶתְנוּ, וּלְהַגְלוֹת אֶתְנוּ בָבֶל.

3 but Baruch the son of Neriah setteth thee on against us, to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, that they may put us to death, and carry us away captives to Babylon.'

ד וְלֹא-שָׁמַע יוֹחֲנָן בֶּן-קָרַח וְכָל-שָׂרֵי הַחַיִּלִּים, וְכָל-הָעָם--בְּקוֹל יְהוָה: לְשָׁבֵת, בְּאֶרֶץ יְהוּדָה.

4 So Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces, and all the people, hearkened not to the voice of the LORD, to dwell in the land of Judah.

ה וַיִּקַּח יוֹחֲנָן בֶּן-קָרַח, וְכָל-שָׂרֵי הַחַיִּלִּים, אֵת, כָּל-שְׂאֵרֵי יְהוּדָה--אֲשֶׁר-שָׁבוּ, מִכָּל-הַגּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר נִדְּחוּ-שָׁם, לְגוֹר, בְּאֶרֶץ יְהוּדָה.

5 But Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces, took all the remnant of Judah, that were returned from all the nations whither they had been driven to sojourn in the land of Judah:

ו אֶת-הַגְּבָרִים וְאֶת-הַנְּשִׁים וְאֶת-הַטַּף, וְאֶת-בָּנוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ, וְאֵת כָּל-הַנֶּפֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר הֵנִיחַ נְבוּזַרְאֲדָן רַב-טַבָּחִים, אֶת-גִּדְלִיָּהוּ בֶן-אֲחִיקָם בֶּן-שָׁפָן; וְאֵת יְרֵמְיָהוּ הַנְּבִיא, וְאֶת-בָּרוּךְ בֶּן-נְרִיָּהוּ.

6 the men, and the women, and the children, and the king's daughters, and every person that Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet, and Baruch the son of Neriah;

ז וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, כִּי לֹא שָׁמְעוּ בְּקוֹל יְהוָה; וַיָּבֹאוּ, עַד-תַּחְפַּנְחֶס. {ס}

7 and they came into the land of Egypt; for they hearkened not to the voice of the LORD; and they came even to Tahpanhes. {S}

ח וַיְהִי דְבַר-יְהוָה אֶל-יְרֵמְיָהוּ, בְּתַחְפַּנְחֶס לֵאמֹר.

8 Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah in Tahpanhes, saying:

ט קַח בְּיָדְךָ אֲבָנִים גְּדֹלוֹת, וּטְמִנְתָם בַּמָּלֵט בַּמַּלְבֵּן, אֲשֶׁר בְּפֶתַח בַּיִת-פַּרְעֹה, בְּתַחְפַּנְחֶס-לְעֵינַי, אֲנָשִׁים יְהוּדִים.

9 'Take great stones in thy hand, and hide them in the mortar in the framework, which is at the entry of Pharaoh's house in Tahpanhes, in the sight of the men of Judah;

י וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵיהֶם כֹּה-אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, הִנְנִי שֹׁלֵחַ וְלִקְחָתִי אֶת-נְבוּכַדְרֶצַּר מֶלֶךְ-בָּבֶל עֶבְדִּי, וְשָׂמַתִּי כִסֵּאוֹ מִמַּעַל לְאֲבָנִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר טְמַנְתִּי; וְנָטָה אֶת-שִׁפְרוֹ (שִׁפְרִירוֹ), עָלֵיהֶם.

10 and say unto them: Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will send and take Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will set his throne upon these stones that I have hid; and he shall spread his royal pavilion over them.

יא ובאה (ובא), והכה את-ארץ מצרים--
אשר למות למות, ואשר לשבי לשבי, ואשר
לחרב, לחרב.

11 And he shall come, and shall smite the land of Egypt; such as are for death to death, and such as are for captivity to captivity, and such as are for the sword to the sword.

יב והציתי אש, בבתי אלהי מצרים,
ושרפם, ושבם; ועטה את-ארץ מצרים
כאשר-יעטה הרעה, את-בגדו, ויצא משם,
בשלום.

12 And I will kindle a fire in the houses of the gods of Egypt; and he shall burn them, and carry them away captives; and he shall fold up the land of Egypt, as a shepherd foldeth up his garment; and he shall go forth from thence in peace.

יג ושבר, את-מצבות בית שמש, אשר,
בארץ מצרים; ואת-בתי אלהי-מצרים,
ישרף באש. {פ}

13 He shall also break the pillars of Beth-shemesh, that is in the land of Egypt; and the houses of the gods of Egypt shall he burn with fire.'

V . Life was better during Menashe!

Chapter 44

א הדבר, אשר היה אל-ירמיהו, אל כל-
היהודים, הישבים בארץ מצרים--הישבים
במגדל ובתחפנחס ובנף, ובארץ פתרוס לאמר.

1 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews that dwelt in the land of Egypt, that dwelt at Migdol, and at Tahpanhes, and at Noph, and in the country of Pathros, saying:

ב כה-אמר יהוה צבאות, אלהי ישראל, אתם
ראיתם את כל-הרעה אשר הבאתי על-
ירושלם, ועל כל-ערי יהודה; והנם חרבה היום
הזה, ואין בהם יושב.

2 'Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Ye have seen all the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, and upon all the cities of Judah; and, behold, this day they are a desolation, and no man dwelleth therein;

ג מפני רעתם, אשר עשו להכעסני, ללכת
לקטר, לעבד לאלהים אחרים--אשר לא
ידעום, הפה אתם ואבותיכם.

3 because of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke Me, in that they went to offer, and to serve other gods, whom they knew not, neither they, nor ye, nor your fathers.

ד ואשלח אליכם את-כל-עבדי הנביאים,
השכים ושלח לאמר: אל-נא תעשו, את דבר-
התעבה הזאת--אשר שניתתי.

4 Howbeit I sent unto you all My servants the prophets, sending them betimes and often, saying: Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate.

ה ולא שמעו ולא-הטו את-אזנם, לשוב
מרעתם--לבבתי קטר, לאלהים אחרים.

5 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear to turn from their wickedness, to forbear offering unto other gods.

ו ותתד חמתי, ואפי, ותבער בערי יהודה,
ובחצות ירושלם; ותהינה לחרבה לשממה,
כיום הזה. {ס}

6 Wherefore My fury and Mine anger was poured forth, and was kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are wasted and desolate, as at this day. {S}

ז ועתה כה-אמר יהוה אלהי צבאות אלהי ישראל, למה אתם עשים רעה גדולה אל-נפשותכם, להכרית לכם איש-ואשה עולל ויונק, מתוך יהודה--לבבתי הותיר לכם, שארית.

7 Therefore now thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel: Wherefore commit ye this great evil against your own souls, to cut off from you man and woman, infant and suckling, out of the midst of Judah, to leave you none remaining;

ח להכעסני, במעשי ידיכם, לקטר לאלהים אחרים בארץ מצרים, אשר-אתם באים לגור שם--למען, הכרית לכם, ולמען היותכם לקללה ולחרפה, בכל גוי הארץ.

8 in that ye provoke Me with the works of your hands, offering unto other gods in the land of Egypt, whither ye are gone to sojourn; that ye may be cut off, and that ye may be a curse and a reproach among all the nations of the earth?

ט השכחתם את-רעות אבותיכם ואת-רעות מלכי יהודה, ואת רעות נשיו, ואת רעותכם, ואת רעת נשיכם--אשר עשו בארץ יהודה, ובחצות ירושלים.

9 Have ye forgotten the wicked deeds of your fathers, and the wicked deeds of the kings of Judah, and the wicked deeds of their wives, and your own wicked deeds, and the wicked deeds of your wives, which they committed in the land of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem?

י לא דכאו, עד היום הזה; ולא יראו, ולא-הלכו בתורתי ובחקתי, אשר-נתתי לפניכם, ולפני אבותיכם. {ס}

10 They are not humbled even unto this day, neither have they feared, nor walked in My law, nor in My statutes, that I set before you and before your fathers. {S}

יא לכן, כה-אמר יהוה צבאות אלהי ישראל, הנני שם פני בכם, לרעה-- ולהכרית, את-כל-יהודה.

11 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will set My face against you for evil, even to cut off all Judah.

יב ולקחתי את-שארית יהודה, אשר-שמו פניהם לבוא ארץ-מצרים לגור שם, ותמו כל בארץ מצרים יפלו בחרב ברעב ותמו, מקטן ועד-גדול בחרב וברעב ימתו; והיו לאלה לשמה, ולקללה ולחרפה.

12 And I will take the remnant of Judah, that have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, and they shall all be consumed; in the land of Egypt shall they fall; they shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine; they shall die, from the least even unto the greatest, by the sword and by the famine; and they shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach.

יג ופקדתי, על היושבים בארץ מצרים, פאשר פקדתי, על-ירושלים--בחרב, ברעב ובדבר.

13 For I will punish them that dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence;

יד ולא יהיה פליט ושריד, לשארית יהודה, הבאים לגור-שם, בארץ מצרים; ולשוב ארץ יהודה, אשר-המה מנשאים את-נפשם לשוב לשבת שם--כי לא-ישובו, כי אם-פליטים. {פ}

14 so that none of the remnant of Judah, that are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall escape or remain, that they should return into the land of Judah, to which they have a desire to return to dwell there; for none shall return save such as shall escape. {P}

טו וַיַּעֲנוּ אֶת-יְרֵמְיָהוּ, כָּל-הָאֲנָשִׁים
הַיֹּדְעִים כִּי-מִקְטָרוֹת נְשִׂיהֶם לְאֱלֹהִים
אַחֲרַיִם, וְכָל-הַנָּשִׁים הָעֹמְדוֹת, קָהָל גָּדוֹל;
וְכָל-הָעָם הַיֹּשְׁבִים בְּאֶרֶץ-מִצְרַיִם,
בְּפִתְרוֹס לֵאמֹר.

15 Then all the men who knew that their wives offered unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great assembly, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying:

טז הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר-דִּבַּרְתָּ אֵלֵינוּ, בְּשֵׁם
יְהוָה-- אֵינָנו שְׂמָעִים, אֲלֶיךָ.

16 'As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not hearken unto thee.

יז כִּי עָשָׂה נַעֲשֶׂה אֶת-כָּל-הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר-
יֵצֵא מִפִּינוּ, לְקַטֵּר לַמַּלְכֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם
וְהַסִּיד-לָהּ נִסְכִּים, כַּאֲשֶׁר עָשִׂינוּ אֲנַחְנוּ
וְאֲבֹתֵינוּ מִלְכֵינוּ וְשָׂרֵינוּ, בְּעָרֵי יְהוּדָה
וּבְחֻצוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם; וְנִשְׂבַּע-לֶחֶם וְנִהְיָה
טוֹבִים, וְרָעָה לֹא רָאִינוּ.

17 But we will certainly perform every word that is gone forth out of our mouth, to offer unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink-offerings unto her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem; for then had we plenty of food, and were well, and saw no evil.

יח וּמִן-אִז חָדַלְנוּ לְקַטֵּר לַמַּלְכֶת
הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְהַסִּיד-לָהּ נִסְכִּים--
חֲסָרְנוּ כָּל; וּבְחָרַב וּבָרָעַב, תָּמְנוּ.

18 But since we let off to offer to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink-offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine.

See Melachim II chapter 21

Was better in time of Menashe

יט וְכִי-אֲנַחְנוּ מִקְטָרִים לַמַּלְכֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם,
וְלַהֲסִיד לָהּ נִסְכִּים; הֲמַבְלִיעֵדִי אֲנָשִׁינוּ, עָשִׂינוּ לָהּ
כְּוֹנִים לְהַעֲצֵבָהּ, וְהַסִּיד לָהּ, נִסְכִּים. {ס}

19 And is it we that offer to the queen of heaven, and pour out drink-offerings unto her? did we make her cakes in her image, and pour out drink-offerings unto her, without our husbands?' {S}

כ וַיֹּאמֶר יְרֵמְיָהוּ, אֶל-כָּל-הָעָם, עַל-
הַגְּבָרִים וְעַל-הַנָּשִׁים וְעַל-כָּל-הָעָם, הָעֹנִים
אֹתוֹ דָּבָר לֵאמֹר.

20 Then Jeremiah said unto all the people, to the men, and to the women, even to all the people that had given him that answer, saying:

כא הֲלוֹא אֶת-הַקְטָר, אֲשֶׁר קִטַּרְתֶּם בְּעָרֵי
יְהוּדָה וּבְחֻצוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם, אַתֶּם וְאֲבוֹתֵיכֶם
מִלְכֵיכֶם וְשָׂרֵיכֶם, וְעַם הָאָרֶץ: אַתֶּם זָכַר
יְהוָה, וַתַּעֲלֶה עַל-לְבוֹ.

21 'The offering that ye offered in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, ye and your fathers, your kings and your princes, and the people of the land, did not the LORD remember them, and came it not into His mind?

כב וְלֹא-יִוָּכַל יְהוָה עוֹד לְשִׂאת, מִפְּנֵי רָע
מַעַלְלֵיכֶם, מִפְּנֵי הַתּוֹעֵבֹת, אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתֶם;
וַתְּהִי אֶרְצְכֶם לְחָרְבָה וּלְשָׂמָה וּלְקַלְלָהּ,
מֵאִין יוֹשֵׁב-- כְּהַיּוֹם הַזֶּה.

22 So that the LORD could no longer bear, because of the evil of your doings, and because of the abominations which ye have committed; therefore is your land become a desolation, and an astonishment, and a curse, without an inhabitant, as at this day.

כג מפני אשר קטררתם ואשר חטאתם ליהוה, ולא שמעתם בקול יהוה, ובתרתו ובחקתיו ובעדותיו, לא הלכתם; על-כן קראת אתכם, הרעה הזאת--כיום הזה.

23 Because ye have offered, and because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not hearkened to the voice of the LORD, nor walked in His law, nor in His statutes, nor in His testimonies; therefore this evil is happened unto you, as at this day.' {S}

כד ויאמר ירמיהו אל-כל-העם, ואל כל-הנשים: שמעו, דבר-יהוה, כל-יהודה, אשר בארץ מצרים.

24 Moreover Jeremiah said unto all the people, and to all the women: 'Hear the word of the LORD, all Judah that are in the land of Egypt:

כה כה-אמר יהוה-צבאות אלהי ישראל לאמר, אתם ונשיכם ותדברנה בפיהם ובידיכם מלאתם לאמר, עשה נעשה את-נדרינו אשר נדרנו לקטר למלכת השמים, ולהסד לה נסכים; הקים תקימנה את-נדרים, ועשה תעשינה את-נדרים. {ס}

25 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying: Ye and your wives have both spoken with your mouths, and with your hands have fulfilled it, saying: We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, to offer to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink-offerings unto her; ye shall surely establish your vows, and surely perform your vows. {S}

כו לכן, שמעו דבר-יהוה, כל-יהודה, הישבים בארץ מצרים: הנני נשבעתי בשמי הגדול, אמר יהוה, אם-יהיה עוד שמי נקרא בפי כל-איש יהודה אמר חי-אדני יהוה, בכל-ארץ מצרים.

26 Therefore hear ye the word of the LORD, all Judah that dwell in the land of Egypt: Behold, I have sworn by My great name, saith the LORD, that My name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt saying: As the Lord GOD liveth.

כז הנני שקד עליהם לרעה, ולא לטובה; ותמו כל-איש יהודה אשר בארץ-מצרים, בחרב וברעב--עד-כלותם.

27 Behold, I watch over them for evil, and not for good; and all the men of Judah that are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine, until there be an end of them.

כח ופליטי חרב ישבון מן-ארץ מצרים, ארץ יהודה--מתי מספר; וידעו כל-שארית יהודה, הבאים לארץ-מצרים לגור שם, דבר-מי יקום, ממני ומהם.

28 And they that escape the sword shall return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah, few in number; and all the remnant of Judah, that are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall know whose word shall stand, Mine, or theirs.

כט וזאת-לכם האות נאם-יהוה, כי-פקד אני עליכם במקום הזה--למען, תדעו, כי קום יקומו דברי עליכם, לרעה. {פ}

29 And this shall be the sign unto you, saith the LORD, that I will punish you in this place, that ye may know that My words shall surely stand against you for evil; {P}

ל כה אמר יהוה, הנני נתן את-פרעה חפרע מלך-מצרים ביד איביו, וביד מבקשי נפשו: באשר נתתי את-צדקיהו מלך-יהודה, ביד נבוכדראצר מלך-בבל איבו--ומבקש נפשו. {ס}

30 thus saith the LORD: Behold, I will give Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies, and into the hand of them that seek his life; as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, his enemy, and that sought his life.'

VI. Footnote, war between Assa & Baasha

טז ומלחמה היתה בין אסא, ובין בעשא מלך-ישראל--כל-ימיהם.

16 And there was war between Asa and Baasa king of Israel all their days.

יז ויעל בעשא מלך-ישראל על-יהודה, ויבן את-הרמה--לבלתו, יתת יצא ובא, לאסא, מלך יהודה.

17 And Baasa king of Israel went up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might not suffer any to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

יח ויקח אסא את-כל-הכסף והזהב הנותרים באוצרות בית-יהוה, ואת-אוצרות בית מלך (המלך), ויתנם, ביד-עבדיו; וישלחם המלך אסא, אל-בן-הדד בן-טברמן בן-חזיון מלך ארם, הישב בדמשק, לאמר.

18 Then Asa took all the silver and the gold that were left in the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants; and king Asa sent them to Ben-hadad, the son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, king of Aram, that dwelt at Damascus, saying:

יט ברית ביני ובינך, בין אבי ובין אביך; הנה שלחתי לך שחד, כסף וזהב-

19 'There is a league between me and thee, between my father and thy father; behold, I have sent unto thee a present of silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasa king of Israel, that he may depart from me.'

-לך הפרה את-בריתך את-בעשא מלך-ישראל, ויעלה מעלי.

כ וישמע בן-הדד אל-המלך אסא, וישלח את-שרי החילים אשר-לו על-ערי ישראל, ויד את-עיון ואת-דן, ואת אבל בית-מעכה; ואת-כל-כנרות, על, כל-ארץ נפתלי.

20 And Ben-hadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel, and smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abel-beth-maacah, and all Chinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali.

כא ויהי, כשמע בעשא, ויחדל, מבנות את-הרמה; וישב, בתרצה.

21 And it came to pass, when Baasa heard thereof, that he left off building Ramah, and dwelt in Tirzah.

כב והמלך אסא השמיע את-כל-יהודה, אין נקי, וישאו את-אבני הרמה ואת-עציה, אשר בנה בעשא; ויבן בס המלך אסא, את-גבע בנימן ואת-המצפה.

22 Then king Asa made a proclamation unto all Judah; none was exempted; and they carried away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasa had builded; and king Asa built therewith Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah.