

# JEREMIAH 18 vs 1

<sup>1</sup> The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

<sup>2</sup> Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words. / some scholars suggest the potter's house might have been located on the slopes of the Valley of Ben Hinnom; and their reason given was that furnaces to fire up the clay pottery were in that area.

<sup>3</sup> Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he was working something on the wheels.

<sup>4</sup> And the vessel that he made of clay **was marred** in the hand of the potter / can you imagine? While he was working and shaping the clay, it was marred:

so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

<sup>5</sup> Then **the word of the LORD** came to me, saying,

<sup>6</sup> O **house of Israel**, can I not do with you as this potter? says the LORD.

Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O **house of Israel** / whose name means: ruled by God.

<sup>7</sup> At a moment I might speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to uproot, and to pull down, and to destroy it;

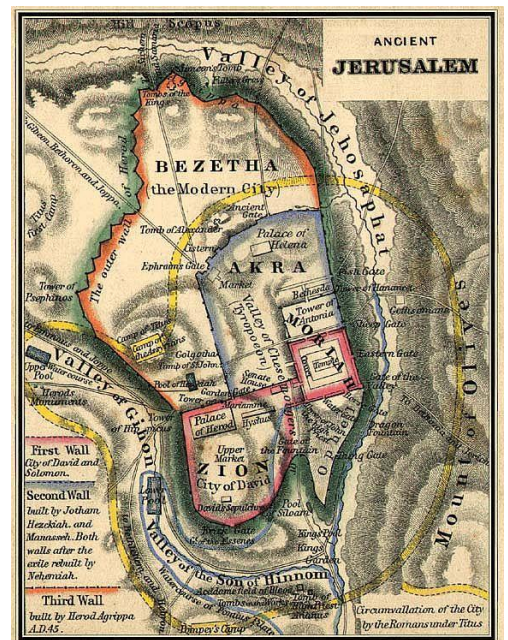
<sup>8</sup> but if that nation, against whom I addressed, turns from their evil, then I will turn from what I thought to do to them.

<sup>9</sup> And at a moment I might speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it;

<sup>10</sup> but if that nation turns to do evil in My sight, and does not obey My voice, then I will turn from the good which I said I would do to benefit them.

<sup>11</sup> So now go and speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus says the LORD;

Behold, I design a disaster against you, and devise a plan against you. Now turn everyone from his evil way, and reform your ways and deeds.



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**12 But they will say, That is hopeless: we will follow our own designs, and we will everyone do the stubbornness of his evil heart.**

**13 Therefore thus says the LORD;**

**Now ask among the nations, who has heard such things like this? The virgin of Israel has done a very horrible thing.**

**14 Will the snowy frost leave the rocky peaks of Lebanon? Do cold streams from the hills ever run dry?**

**15 Yet My people have abandoned Me.**

**They burn incense to worthless idols, which have caused them to stumble in their ways off the ancient paths, to walk on trails, not on the highways; / earlier the LORD said, When did I ever ask for incense from Arabia? Jer. 6**

**16 to make their land desolate -- a perpetual hissing; everyone who passes by will be shocked, and shake their head.**

**17 Like an east wind, I will scatter them before their enemy / and east winds blow west, right?**

**I will show them My back, and not My face, in the day of their calamity / so when their day of destruction comes, all they will see is God's backside... in other words: He's out of there.**

**18 Then they said, Come, let us devise plans against Jeremiah.**

**Surely the priest will not spoil the law, nor the wise fail to advise, nor the prophet fail with an inspiring word. Come, and let us give him a good tongue lashing, and let us **not** give heed to any of his words.**

**19 Give heed to me, O LORD, listen to the voice of them who oppose me.**

**20 Will good be repaid with evil? yet they dug a pit for me. Remember that I stood in Your presence to intercede for them, to turn away Your wrath from them.**

**21 Therefore give their children to the famine, deliver them to the power of the sword; let their wives be made childless, and be widows; let their men be put to death; and let their young men be slain by the sword in battle.**



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**22 Let an outcry be heard from their houses, when You suddenly bring raiders upon them: for they dug a pit to take me, and hid traps for my feet.**

**23 Yet, LORD, You know all their plots against me to kill me: do not forgive their iniquity, do not blot out their sin from Your sight, let them be overthrown before You; deal with them in the time of Your anger.**



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