

JEREMIAH 18 vs 1

¹ The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

² 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.

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

⁴ 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.

⁵ Then **the word of the LORD** came to me, saying,

⁶ 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.

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

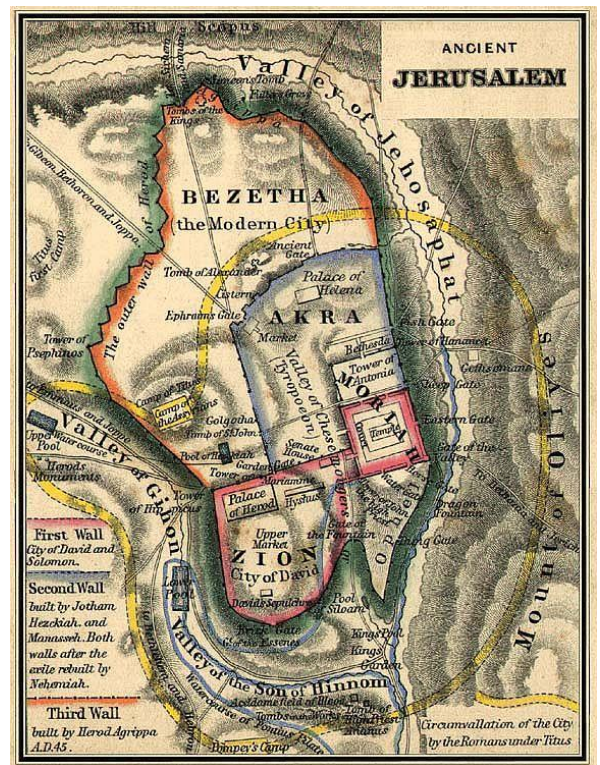
⁸ but if that nation, against whom I addressed, turns from their evil, then I will turn from what I thought to do to them.

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

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

¹¹ 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.

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.



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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 / earlier the LORD said, When did I ever ask for incense from Arabia?—chapter 6,

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;

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 / and east winds are blowing west, right?

before their enemy;

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 shall 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 Shall good be repaid with evil?

Yet they have dug a pit for me.

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**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.**

**²² Let an outcry be heard from their houses, when You suddenly bring raiders upon them:
for they have 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 You sight,
let them be overthrown before You;
deal with them in the time of Your anger.**