

SHABBAT 10TH JULY 2021

Jeremiah – Chapters 2, 3 & 4

⁴Hear the word of the Lord, O House of Jacob,
Every clan of the House of Israel!

⁵Thus said the Lord: What wrong did your fathers find in Me
That they abandoned Me and went after delusion and were deluded?

⁶They 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?"

⁷I 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.

⁸The 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.

⁹Oh, I will go on accusing you — declares the Lord—
And I will accuse your children's children!

¹⁰Just cross over to the isles of the Kittim and look,
Send to Kedar and observe carefully; See if aught like this has ever happened:

¹¹Has any nation changed its gods even though they are no-gods?
But My people has exchanged its glory for what can do no good.

¹²Be appalled, O heavens, at this; Be horrified, utterly dazed!
—says the Lord.

¹³For 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.

¹⁴Is Israel a bondman? Is he a home-born slave?
Then why is he given over to plunder?

¹⁵Lions have roared over him, have raised their cries. They have made his land a
waste, his cities desolate, without inhabitants.

¹⁶Those, too, in Noph and Tahpanhes will lay bare your head.

¹⁷See, that is the price you have paid for forsaking the Lord your God
While He led you in the way.

¹⁸What, 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?

¹⁹Let 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 God of Hosts.

²⁰For 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.

²¹I planted you with noble vines, all with choicest seed;
Alas, I find you changed into a base, an alien vine!

²²Though you wash with natron and use much lye,
Your guilt is ingrained before Me—declares the Lord God.

²³How 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,

²⁴Or 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!

²⁵Save 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."

²⁶Like a thief chagrined when he is caught, so is the House of Israel chagrined—
They, their kings, their officers, and their priests and prophets.

²⁷They 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!"

²⁸And 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!

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

¹If you return, O Israel—declares the Lord—If you return to Me,
If you remove your abominations from My presence and do not waver,

²And swear, "As the Lord lives," in sincerity, justice, and righteousness—
Nations shall bless themselves by you and praise themselves by you.