

JEREMIAH.

1 THE SPEECHES OF JEREMIAH, THE SON OF KHILKIAH,

One of the priests who were in Anathoth, in the district of Benjamin.

2 They were a message from the LORD to him from the times of Josiah-ben-Amon,
3 king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. They also came in the days of Jhoakim-ben-Joshiah, king of Judah, and at the end of the fifth month of the twelfth year of Zedekiah-ben-Joshiah, king of Judah, at the overthrow of Jerusalem.

4 **T**HUS the message of the EVER-LIVING LORD came to me and said:—

The Appointment as Prophet.

5 "At the time of your formation in the belly I knew you, and at the time you came from the womb, I consecrated you, I appointed you a Preacher to Nations."

6 But I replied, "Almighty LORD, I know not how to speak! for I am a youth."

7 But the EVER-LIVING replied to me:—"Say not 'I am a youth,' for wherever I send, you must go; and all that I command, you must speak.

8 Fear nothing in their presence, for I am with you, to protect," said the

9 LORD. Then the EVER-LIVING extended His hand, and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,—

10 "I have now given your mouth eloquence! See! I have appointed you to-day over nations, and kingdoms; to pull up, and to break down, and to destroy, and to erase; as well as to build, and to plant."

11 Then a message from the EVER-LIVING came to me, asking, "What do you see, Jeremiah?"

And I replied, "I see the branch of the Watchful tree!"

12 When the EVER-LIVING answered me, "Attend to what you see! For I am watchful over My promises to perform them."

13 But the message of the EVER-LIVING came to me again to ask, "What do you see?"

When I answered, "I see a steaming boiler, and its mouth is from the north."

Then the LORD replied to me, 14
"From the north all the miseries upon the inhabitants of this country shall be vomited. I will call to all 15
the families of the kingdoms of the north," said the EVER-LIVING, "and they will come, and each one fix its seat before the gates of Jerusalem, and opposite all its surrounding bulwarks, and upon all the hills of Judah. But I will tell you all my 16
decisions against them, because of their many wrongs in deserting me, and offering incense to other gods, and worshipping the fabrications of their own hands. And for you, gird 17
up your waist, and arise, and speak to them all that I command you, undepressed by their presence, for fear you should be subjected by their station.—For have I not placed 18
Myself to you to-day as a fortified City, with bars of iron and walls of brass against all the country, against the kings of Judah,—against its officers, its priests, and against the people of the land? for they will 19
fight against you, but shall not overpower you, for I am with you," said the LORD, "to protect you!"

A Remonstrance with Judah.

The message of the EVER-LIVING 2
afterwards came to me to say:—

"Go, and proclaim in the ears of 2
Jerusalem, and say, 'Thus says the EVER-LIVING:—I attended you in

your infancy; I loved you in your youth; guided you after Me from the desert to a land you had not cultivated, for Israel to dedicate to the EVER-LIVING the first of its products. They devoured them all! Wickedly bad they went at them!" said the EVER-LIVING,

4 Listen, House of Jacob, to the message of the EVER-LIVING, with all the families of the House of Israel! The EVER-LIVING asks this:—

5 "What injustice did your fathers find in Me, that they have removed from Me, and follow after delusions, and deluded themselves? instead of asking, Where is the EVER-LIVING who mounted in company with us from the land of the Egyptians? Who marched with us in the desert, in a country of drought, and snares, in the land of withering and the shadow of death; in the land where no one passes, and no man dwells; whence I brought you to a land of pastures, to eat its fruits and goodness. But you went and defiled My Country, and My Estate, by attaching yourselves to Abominations.

8 "The priests asked not, Where is the EVER-LIVING? or took hold of the Law. They would not teach about Me; and the guardians sinned against Me; and the Preachers preached for Bal; and would not rise up to advance after Me! Therefore I will contend with them," said the EVER-LIVING, "and with the sons of their sons I will contend; for they shall pass over to the isles of the Kithites and look, and mourn in their exile and think much, and examine what came of this changing to heathen gods,—who are not gods. For My people changed for what are worthless. The heavens heard and were astonished at it, and shuddered, wasting away!" said the EVER-LIVING. "For My people twice did evil to Me. They forsook the Spring of Living Water, to dig for themselves wells, broken wells which contain no water!—Israel served, with the children of his House, what brought him to become an object of plunder! The tigers roared against him, they uttered their voices, and assailed his country, to desolate his fortified cities, to deprive them of inhabitants. The sons of Nof, also, with Thakhfenes injured your crown.

"But have you not procured it to yourselves? You forsook your EVER-LIVING GOD at the time you went from the path. And now why do you wish for the road to Egypt, to drink the black waters? And why do you wish for the road to Ashur, to drink the water of that well?

"Turn yourself from your sins, and return from your shame, and learn and see how bad, and rebelliously forgetful you are of your EVER-LIVING GOD, and I will not terrify you," said the MIGHTY LORD OF HOSTS, "although from of old you have vexed Me yourselves.

"I withdrew from your vows,—for on every hill-top, and under every leafy tree, was a walk for fornication.

"But I planted you, a perfect vine, from a true stock;—then how is it that you are changed from Me, turning to a wild vine? Even if I wash you with nitre, and polish you with soap, will your faults be removed?" asks the MIGHTY LORD OF HOSTS. "How can you say, 'I have not polluted myself with the Balites.' Look at your proceedings in the valley!

"I know what you have done in the feasts of Lust, in her depraved ways. You wild ass, used to the desert, drawing your breath in puffs—in the spirit of lust,—who can turn you away? All who seek her will be wearied at the time she feels it. Keep your feet unshod, and your throat for thirst, and say, 'They are no use to me, for I love wantonness and will go after it.'

"The shame of the House of Israel is like the shame of a detected thief. Both they, their kings, nobles, priests and preachers, for they say to wood, 'You are my father,' and to stone, 'You bore us!' while they turn their back, and not their face, to Me. But in the time of distress they cry, 'Arise and save us!'

"Go to your gods whom you have made for yourselves! Let them arise,—if they can save you in the time of your sufferings! For your gods are as many as your towns, Judah!

"Why do you all implore Me, when you have all revolted from Me?" the EVER-LIVING asks. "I flogged your children in vain;—they would not learn. Your own sword

has devoured your preachers like a
31 ravaging lion. Search for ages," says
the EVER-LIVING. "Have I been a
desert to Israel? or a land of dark-
32 ness? For what do you say to Me,
'Begone from us! We will never
more come to You!'

33 "Can a bride forget her adorn-
ments? her beautiful girdle? Yet
My People have forgotten Me,
numberless times!

"Why do you prepare your way to
seek love? Do I need researches to
34 learn your ways, when I find the
blood of poor innocent souls upon
your skirts, without disarranging
them to find it,—for it is on them
all!

35 "'But,' you reply, 'although I
have sinned, let the anger turn from
me!'

"I will decide about you,—although
you say 'I have not sinned!'

36 "Why do you shuffle so to change
your road. You were disappointed
in the Egyptians as you were dis-
37 appointed in Ashur. You will rush
out from them with your hands on
your face, for the EVER-LIVING will
reject those you trust and you will
not prosper in them.

3 "For instance when a man divorces
his wife, and she has gone from him
to another husband, she can never
return to him.—Has not this country
wandered, and often whored foully,—
so shall she return to Me?" asks the
EVER-LIVING.

2 "You lifted your eyes to the beards
to see if there were not fornicators
in your path. You stand for them
like Arabs in the desert, and pollute
the country by your whoredoms and
3 your vices. But many refused, and
would not grant the request. Yet
with the brow of a whorish woman
you refused to be ashamed of your-
self.

4 "Have you not said to Me, 'You
are the Gentle Father of my youth.

5 Will He be angry for ever? Will He
perpetually retain it?'"

A Denunciation of Israel's Worship of Vice.

6 The EVER-LIVING also said to me
in the days of Josiah, "Have you
seen what perverted Israel has done,
on the top of every high hill, and
under every leafy tree, in whoring
7 there? But I ask her, after having

done all that, to return to Me, but
she would not return, but glanced
slyly at her sister, Judah! Then I 8
determined, that as in every respect
perverse Israel had committed
adultery, I would divorce her, so I
divorced her, but sly Judah, her
sister, regarded it not, but went and
whored like her! And her whore- 9
doms became more than all, and
polluted the country, and defiled the
rocks and the woods, but for all that 10
her sly sister Judah did not return to
Me with all her heart, but only in
deceit!" said the EVER-LIVING.

The EVER-LIVING also said to me, 11
"Perverse Israel was more honest in
soul than sly Judah.—Go and pro- 12
claim these things to the north, and
say, 'Return, perverse Israel,' says
the EVER-LIVING, 'I will not darken
My face at you. Only return,' says
the EVER-LIVING, 'I will not be
angry for ever. Only recognize your 13
fault, for you have sinned against
your EVER-LIVING GOD and splashed
your paths with filth under every
leafy tree, and have not listened to My
voice,' says the EVER-LIVING. 'Re- 14
turn, you lost children,' says the
EVER-LIVING, 'for I will come to you
and collect you, one from a town, and
two from a family, and will bring you
to Zion, and give you thoughtful 15
shepherds, and they will tend you
with knowledge and skill. And when 16
it arrives that you increase, and are
fruitful in the country in those times,'
says the EVER-LIVING, 'they shall
no more demand the Ark of the
Covenant of the EVER-LIVING, for it
shall not come to their heart, and
they will not grieve about it, nor be
anxious, nor make another.' In that 17
period they shall call Jerusalem the
'THRONE of the LIFE,' and all the
Heathen will trust with her on the
Name of the EVER-LIVING at Jeru-
salem, and will no more go after
perversities, to suffer from them.

"In those times the House of Judah 18
will march with the House of Israel
from the land of the north to the
country of Ashur to the estates of
their forefathers. And I will reflect 19
where I can put you with your chil-
dren!—and will give you a beautiful
country,—you shall possess splendid
armies like the heathen, and I will say,
'I am your Father, call to Me, and
do not desert Me.' For exactly like 20
a wife deserting to the wicked, so you

have deserted Me, House of Israel,"
 21 says the EVER-LIVING. "A sound
 of weeping will be heard from My
 lips!—'Pity My children of Israel,
 for they have lost their way! They
 have forgotten their EVER-LIVING
 22 GOD! Return, lost children! I will
 restore you from your wanderings.'"

The Response of God's Returning Children.

"Here we are!—we will give our-
 selves to You, for You are our EVER-
 23 LIVING GOD. The crowd on the
 Hills is nothing; is nothing to our
 EVER-LIVING GOD—the Saviour of
 24 Israel! Shame has devoured the work
 of our fathers from our youth,—their
 flocks and their herds, their sons and
 25 their daughters. We were sleeping
 with our shame; we lay down with
 our infamies; for we sinned against
 our EVER-LIVING GOD,—we and our
 fathers, from our youth to this day,—
 and have not listened to the voice of
 our EVER-LIVING GOD."

The Lord's Answer.

4 "If Israel will return," the EVER-
 LIVING says to me, "return. If you
 remove your filth from My presence,
 2 and do not renew it. If you swear
 'by the life of the EVER-LIVING' in
 truth for Justice and Right, and cause
 the Nations to bless Him, and praise
 Him."
 3 For the EVER-LIVING says this to
 the men of Judah, and to Jerusalem,
 "Plough for yourselves, plough! and
 fear not in sowing."
 4 "Circumcise yourselves to the EVER-
 LIVING, and put off the disgrace from
 your hearts, men of Judah, and
 inhabitants of Jerusalem, for fear My
 anger should shoot out like fire: and
 burn unquenchably, because of your
 vile practices."

War Foretold to Judah.

5 "Let them inform Judah and
 Jerusalem, make them hear, and
 answer, and sound a trumpet in the
 country. Let them cry aloud and
 say, 'Collect and come to the fortified
 6 towns. Arise, march to Zion! Fly!
 Delay not! for I am bringing trouble
 from the north, and a great crash!
 7 A lion comes up from his place to
 your country to desolate your cities
 8 to an illimitable waste!'" Because
 of this put on sackcloth! Lament,

and howl, because the hot anger of
 the LORD will not turn from us.

"And it shall happen at that time," 9
 says the LORD, "the heart of the
 king, and the heart of his nobles will
 be desolate; the Priests and the
 Preachers be astonished, and say, 10
 'Alas! ALMIGHTY LORD! why have
 You deceived this People, and Jeru-
 salem, saying, Peace shall come to
 you, when the sword approaches for
 our life?'"

At that time He will order from the 11
 desert a wind with burning lips
 against this People, against the
 daughter of My People. Not by
 spurts, and not by puffs:—a full, howl- 12
 ing wind shall go rushing from Me.
 I also will pronounce their doom!

See! He raises clouds, and whirl- 13
 winds for His swift chariot, and
 eagles for His horses! They are for
 us! They assail us!

"Jerusalem, wash your heart from 14
 sin, that I may save you from the death
 awaiting your fault in your breast.
 For a voice informs from Midian, 15
 and a report arises from Mount
 Ephraim. The nations perceive it; 16
 the Guards at Jerusalem even hear
 the comers from the land afar, and
 they send their voices to the cities of
 Judah. There are enemies watch- 17
 ing around her,—for she rebelled
 from Me. Your ways, and your pro- 18
 ceedings produced these sufferings
 for you,—for you are a rebel;—
 diseased to your heart!"

Jeremiah's Lament at the Prospect.

My bowels, my bowels tremble! 19
 My heart reels, my heart mourns! I
 cannot rest for I have heard the voice
 of a trumpet! Oh, my soul! it is
 the sound of war. Crash upon crash 20
 it roars! For all the open country
 is destroyed,—suddenly they destroy
 the tents. Yes, my tent! Till my 21
 death I shall see the march! I shall
 hear the blast of the trumpets!

For my foolish People do not 22
 recognise my warnings! They are
 children of folly! They never re-
 flect! They are wise for evil;—but
 cannot recognize good!

I looked to the earth, and it was 23
 desolate, and saw it convulsed and
 empty! And to the skies, and there
 was no light! I looked to the moun- 24
 tains, and saw earthquakes, and all
 the hills shook! I looked, but there 25
 was no man! and all the birds of the

26 skies had flown! I looked,—and Karmel was a Desert, and all her villages thrown down,—before the Presence of the EVER-LIVING!—before the anger in His face!

27 Then the EVER-LIVING said this:—
“All the land shall be desolate,—and

28 I will not prevent it. Therefore the earth shall faint, and the skies shall be black,—because I have uttered my intentions, and shall not alter, or turn back from them.”

29 They come with the tramp of a horse, with the leap of a bow, past every city. They advance in clouds with slings! Every village is abandoned,—there is not a man remaining!

30 Now, you harridan,—what will you do?—Though you clothe yourself in scarlet;—though your ornaments are jewels of gold,—though you tear your eyes with paint,—you will beautify yourself in vain! The profligates your soul seeks will despise

31 you! For I hear the cry of a childing woman,—the distress of a first birth,—the wail of the bedizened daughter of Zion! She spreads out her hands! “Woe to me now, for my life is exhausted by murderers!”

The Vain Order to Search for an Honest Man.

5 “Go about the streets of Jerusalem, and search, and examine, and seek in her squares, if you can find a man,—if there is one who administers justice, seeks truth,—and I will forgive her!—Although they swear by the life of the EVER-LIVING, they swear to deceive!”

The Prophet's Report.

3 LORD, are not Your eyes upon truth? You caused them to be punished, but their minds were not afflicted! They refused to accept correction. Their faces are harder than a rock. They refuse to alter!

4 Then I thought, These are the low,—they are ignorant,—they cannot know the way of the EVER-LIVING,
5 —the decrees of their GOD. I will go to the great, and speak with them. However, they had simultaneously broken the yoke,—had refused the traces!

The Lord's Answer.

6 “Therefore a lion from the forest shall wound them! An evening wolf

shall ravage them! A panther lie in wait against their villages; he will tear all who come out, for they multiply their sins, they are strong for their transgressions.

“Can I pardon you for this? Your children forsake Me, and are satisfied with Sham gods, so I will satisfy them! And they commit adultery,—and troop to the brothel. They are prancing fed horses, each neighs after his neighbour's wife!

“Shall I not punish for these practices?” the EVER-LIVING asks. “Even if among the heathen it were the same, would not My soul punish it?”

“Advance to her walls and destroy, and make no repairs! Throw down her battlements, for they are not the LORD'S. For the House of Israel has been falsely false to Me, with the House of Judah,” says the EVER-LIVING. “They were false to the EVER-LIVING, and said, ‘He is nothing! Trouble will not come upon us, and sword or famine will never arrive!’ And the Preachers have no spirit and no message came to them,—they invent it for themselves!

“Therefore,” thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Hosts, “Because you speak such things, I will make the words of your mouth fire, and this people wood, and will consume them. I will bring upon you a nation from afar, House of Israel,” says the EVER-LIVING. “It is a resolute nation from of old. It is a nation that knows not how to turn back, and will not listen to what you say. Their face is like an open grave. They are all heroes; and will devour your harvests, and your bread, and devour your sons and your daughters. And will eat your sheep, and your cattle. It will eat your vines and your figs. It will break your fortified cities, in which you trust, to pieces with the sword. And also in those days,” says the EVER-LIVING, “I will not work for you at all, and under them they will come to ask, ‘Why has our EVER-LIVING GOD done all this to us?’ When you shall reply to them, ‘Because you have abandoned Him and served foreign gods in your own country,—therefore you shall serve tyrants in a country not your own.’

“Communicate this to the House of Jacob, and let it be reported to Judah, saying:—‘Listen to this, you stupid People,—who have no eyes in

your mind, in whom no ear is seen,
 22 so they cannot hear.' Could you not
 see My warning?" asks the EVER-
 LIVING, "if you had not reeled from
 My presence? Since I placed the
 sand as a bound to the sea, by an
 ancient decree, which it cannot trans-
 23 gress, but its foaming waves approach,
 and cannot pass beyond? But for this
 people, their mind is blind, rebellious,
 degenerate, and wandering.

24 "Why do they not say to their heart,
 'Let us look to our EVER-LIVING
 GOD Who gives rain, and sprinkles
 the latter rain in its season to accom-
 plish the laws of harvest, and He will
 protect us?'

25 "Their faults restrain them, and
 their sins hold back from them those
 26 benefits. For the wicked are found
 in My People; they spread nets, they
 27 lay traps, they catch men! As a cage
 is full of birds, so their houses are
 full of treachery by which they become
 28 rich! They are fat, enriched,—they
 deal in false evidence, they regard no
 right,—the right of the widow, of the
 orphan,—and they administer not
 protection and justice to the poor.
 29 Shall I not punish for these things?"
 says the EVER-LIVING. "Even if
 heathen did them, would not My soul
 avenge them?"

30 "There is a shameful and horrible
 31 thing in the country! The Preachers
 preach falsehood, and the Priests trick
 with their hands,—and My People
 love to have it so,—and what can be
 done viler than that?"

A Warning to Benjamin.

6 Strengthen yourselves, sons of
 Benjamin, on the walls of Jerusalem,
 and blow aloud with the trumpet, and
 hoist a standard over the Castle of
 Olives, for trouble appears from the
 2 north, with a great crash! My idle,
 delicate, and tender daughter of
 3 Zion! Misery and desolation comes
 on you! They pitch their tents
 around you! each at the side of his
 4 mate! They proclaim war against
 her, they mount and go up to the
 forts! Woe for us!—for the day
 turns!—for the dark shadows extend!
 5 They rise up by night and destroy
 her palaces!

6 For thus says the LORD OF HOSTS,
 "Cut timber, and pile up an embank-
 ment against Jerusalem. It is a city
 crammed with wrong in its breast.
 7 As a spring pours out water, so she

pours out wrong-doing; violence and
 plunder are heard in her; wounding
 and murder are always before Me!
 Return to Me, Jerusalem, lest My 8
 soul becomes sick of you!—for fear I
 should make you a desert,—a land
 where no one dwells!"

Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, 9
 "Glean, glean the remnant of Israel
 like a vine! Turn your hand like
 a grape-picker over the boughs."

The Prophet.

To whom shall I speak, and give 10
 instructions, that they will hear?
 See! They have artificial ears, that
 cannot listen! The word of the
 EVER-LIVING has become their
 scorn; they have no pleasure in it!
 Therefore I am full of the spirit of 11
 the EVER-LIVING. I am unable to
 restrain myself.

The Lord.

"Pour it out upon the children in
 the street, and upon the crowd of
 youths, at once, for the Man and the
 Woman shall be captured with the
 old man who is full of days! And 12
 their homes shall be transferred to
 strangers, with their lands and
 their wives, for I will extend
 My hand against this country,"
 says the EVER-LIVING, "and from 13
 the least to the greatest they shall
 all be plundered! for from the
 Preacher to the Priest, they are all
 false! And the fragments of My 14
 People shall be scattered in shame,
 —for crying 'Peace! Peace!' when
 there is no peace! Were they 15
 honoured when they acted disgrace-
 fully? Nay! they were not ashamed
 of shame, any of them,—they would
 not recognize it,—therefore they shall
 fall when they are attacked,—they
 shall fall and totter at the hour of
 punishment!" says the EVER-LIVING.

A Plea to Israel to Repent.

Thus said the EVER-LIVING, 16
 "Stand in the roads, and examine,
 and enquire in the old paths, which
 is the best way, and walk in it, and
 find comfort to your lives." But
 they replied, "We will not walk
 there!"

"Then I appointed watchmen over 17
 them, to make them listen to the
 voice of the trumpet. But they re-
 18 plied, 'We will not listen.' There-
 fore hear the heathen, and recognize

the proof of what has come upon you! Let the land hear! See! I will bring misery upon this People,—the fruit of their thoughts,—because they would not listen to My words, and rejected My laws.

20 "Why do you bring frankincense to Me from Sheba, and cinnamon from a distant land? Your burnt-offerings please not, and I cannot 21 accept your sacrifices. Therefore," the EVER-LIVING adds, "I will give this People to the Kasdim, and they shall fall by them, fathers and children together,—the host and his friend shall perish."

22 Thus says the EVER-LIVING, "Look! a People come from a northern land! and a Great Nation appears from a distant country! 23 They are mighty with bows and arrows; they are bold and without mercy; their voice is like the roaring sea, and they ride upon horses, prepared as men of war against you, O Daughter of Zion!"

The Prophet's Comment.

24 On hearing the report of them our hands faint! We are distressed and anguished as in the anguish of 25 childbirth! Go not to the field,—walk not on the roads,—for there the sword of the enemy affrights. 26 Daughter of my People, gird on sackcloth! roll in the dust. Weak! Forsaken! place yourself with the wretched weepers,—for the plunderer comes suddenly on us!

The Lord's Reply to him.

27 "I will make you a beacon to My People; a pillar and guide-post, and 28 you shall point out their path. They are all sullen mutineers,—they go on complaining, they are all brass and iron,—they have corrupted themselves. The bellows snort on the 29 lead in vain, in their fire,—it refines,—it refines, but their dross will not 30 go! Their silver is sick, they cry! For the EVER-LIVING has been sickened by them!"

A Special Call to Repentance.

7 This message came from the LORD to Jeremiah, to say:—

2 "Stand at the gate of the House of the EVER-LIVING, and proclaim this message there, and say:—

"Listen to the message from the

EVER-LIVING, all Judah who come to these gates to worship the EVER-LIVING. Thus says the LORD OF 3 HOSTS, the GOD of Israel! Amend your ways, and your paths, and I will allow you to remain in this place. Place not your trust upon lying 4 messengers that say, 'This is a Temple of the LORD! The Temple of the LORD.' For if you reform 5 your ways and your goings,—if you do justice between a man and his neighbour, if you do not oppress the foreigner, the orphan, and 6 widow; if you do not shed innocent blood in this place, and follow seducing gods to your own hurt, then I will 7 settle you in this place for ever and for ever. You, however, trust yourselves 8 to false doctrines that cannot benefit. You steal, murder, whore, gorge, and 9 lie, and offer incense to Bal,—and go after seducing gods of whom you know nothing.

"Yet you come and stand before 10 this House, upon which My Name has been invoked, and say, 'Deliver us because we have practised all these abominations!'

"Has this House, upon which My 11 Name was invoked, become a den of wild beasts in your eyes? Have I become a show also?" the EVER-LIVING asks. "Go, however, now to 12 My House at Shilo, where I fixed My NAME formerly, and see what I did to it, because of the wickedness of My People Israel. And certainly 13 you now have done all that they did," says the EVER-LIVING, "and I have spoken to you early, and still speak,—but you will not hear,—and I call to you but you will not answer. Therefore 14 I will make this House, upon which My NAME has been invoked,—upon which you rely,—and the House that I gave you, and your fathers, what I have made Shilo! And I will fling 15 you from My presence, as I flung your brothers, the whole Tribe of Ephraim.

"And for yourself, do not supplicate for this People, and do not raise on their account a cry or prayer, and entreat Me not, for I will not hear you! Have you not seen what they 17 do in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children 18 gather wood, and their fathers are stokers of the fire, and their wives knead the dough, to make cakes to the 'Queen of the Skies!' And they

pour drink offerings to the 'Gods of Seduction!' They insult Me thus! 19 Do they insult ME?" asks the EVER-LIVING. "Do they not shame themselves openly?"

20 "Therefore," thus says the ALMIGHTY LORD, "My anger and wrath shall be poured out upon this place,—upon man, and upon beast; and upon the trees of the field; and upon the fruits of the ground, and shall not be quenched."

21 The EVER-LIVING also says this; "Cease your burnt-offerings, with your sacrifices, and eating of flesh, 22 for did I not speak to your ancestors and did I not command them, at the time they came out from the land of the Mitzeraim, about the matters of 23 burnt-offering and sacrifice? Nevertheless I commanded them this message, saying, 'Listen to My voice, and I will be a GOD to you, and you shall be My People. But walk in all the paths that I instruct you;—because it will benefit yourselves.' But 24 you would not listen, nor apply your ears, and you walked after your own bad ideas and rules;—therefore you 25 are the last, and not the first, from the day your ancestors came from the land of the Mitzeraim to this day! Although I sent all My servants, the Preachers,—rising and sending at 26 early dawn,—but you would not listen to Me, nor apply your ears, but stiffened your neck;—you were bad like your ancestors!

27 "But although you address to them all these speeches, yet they will never listen to you,—when you call to them, 28 they will not answer you; therefore say to them, 'This is a nation that will not listen to the voice of its EVER-LIVING GOD, and will not accept correction,—whose faithfulness has perished! Therefore I will cut them off from My Presence.'

Jeremiah Proclaims the Message as Ordered.

29 Cut off your long hair, and fling it away! Mount the heights. Weep! for the EVER-LIVING has rejected and 30 abandoned this perverse race! "Because the Children of Judah have done evil in My sight," says the EVER-LIVING. "They have placed their abominations in the House, upon which my NAME was invoked, 31 to defile it. And they have built

columns at Thopheth in the vale of Ben-hinon, burning their sons and their daughters in the fire,—although I commanded them not,—and not to let it enter their hearts.

"Therefore the days come," says 32 the LORD, "when it shall no more be called Thopheth, and the vale of Ben-hinon, but only the VALLEY OF MURDER,—and they shall bury in Thopheth for want of other room; when the carcasses of this People 33 shall be food to the birds of the skies, and the beasts of the earth, without fear. And I will expel from the cities 34 of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem the sound of joy, and the sound of happiness, the sound of wedding, and the sound of dying,—for the land shall be a desert!

"At that period," says the EVER- 8 LIVING, "they will bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of its nobles, and the bones of its priests, and the bones of its preachers, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, from their tombs, and scatter them to the sun, 2 and the moon, and all the host of the skies, whom they loved, and whom they served, and by whom they were seduced, and whom they sought, and whom they worshipped,—none shall collect them, and none shall bury them,—they shall be dung on the face 3 of the ground. Then death will be preferred to life by all the fragments of the remnants of this wicked tribe in every place where the splintered fragments are," says the LORD OF HOSTS.

"Therefore tell them thus," says 4 the EVER-LIVING. "Does the fallen never rise? Does the departed never return? Then why has this People of Jerusalem gone away with a perpetual departure? Why do they persist in desertion, and refuse to return? I attended and listened. 6 However none spoke. No man sighed over his wickedness, or said, 'Why did I do it?' They all stuck to their course like horses whipped to the battle!

"Even the stork knows her time 7 for assembly and migration, and the crane and swallow keep the season of their coming, but My People know not the decrees of the EVER-LIVING.

"How can you say 'We are edu- 8 cated for we possess the laws of the EVER-LIVING?' Why then is the

lying pen of the Recorder made for
 9 lies? Your 'Educated' cause shame,
 terror and disgrace,—for they reject
 the Word of the EVER-LIVING, and
 what can their education do for them?
 10 —Therefore I will give their wives
 to ravishers, and their estates to
 plunderers, for from the least to the
 greatest they all cheat. From the
 preacher to the priest they all prac-
 11 tise deception, and have healed the
 wound of the Daughter of My People
 not well,—saying, Peace, Peace!
 12 when there is not peace! They
 should be ashamed of the villainy
 they have done. Shame, however,
 shames them not,—none of them
 know it,—therefore they shall fall
 with the falling, at the time of their
 punishment they shall stagger," says
 the EVER-LIVING.
 13 "I would reap them," says the
 EVER-LIVING, "but there are no
 bunches on the vine! There are no
 figs on the fig tree! And the leaves
 are withered! However I will trans-
 plant them."

The People's Decision.

14 Why should we remain? Collect,
 arise, and let us go to the fortified
 towns, and be quiet there, for our
 EVER-LIVING GOD has stupefied us,
 and given us the juice of poppies to
 drink for our sins against the EVER-
 15 LIVING. We hoped for peace,—but
 no good came at its season, for
 16 safety, and behold terror! The snort
 of his horses is heard from Dan,—
 the sound of the neighs of their steeds
 fills all the land.

God's Reply.

"But they shall cross and devour,
 the country and its contents;—the
 17 city and its inhabitants. For I have
 sent snakes to you, serpents for whom
 there is no charmer, and they will
 sting you," says the EVER-LIVING.

The Prophet's Anguish over his Country.

18 Instead of my joy comes anguish,
 19 —affliction comes to my heart! It
 is the sound of the wail of the child
 of my People from a distant land!
 "Is there no GOD in Zion? Is there
 no king in her?"

Why did they provoke Him with
 their idols? With foreign vanities?
 20 The harvest is past,—the reaping is

done,—but we are not relieved. I 21
 have been wounded by the wound
 of the child of my People;—I am
 weakened where I should be streng-
 22 thened. Is there no balm in Gilad
 to heal? Is there no surgeon there?
 Why has not the child of my People
 gone there?

Who will give water to my head, 23
 and a fountain of tears to my eyes,
 that I may weep day and night for
 the wounds of the child of my People!

Who will give me a lodge in the 9
 desert afar, that I may leave my
 People and go from them? For all
 are adulterers, secret traitors. They 2
 direct their tongue, like a bow, to
 lies,—and not to truth. "They pro-
 ceed from wrong to wrong, and they
 regard me not!" says the EVER-
 LIVING.

Guard yourselves everyone from 3
 his friend, and trust not upon
 any brother,—for every brother will
 betray, and every friend will recoil
 upon you. And each betrays his 4
 friend, and they speak no truth.
 They teach their tongue to speak
 falsehood, they labour at wickedness.
 "You dwell in the midst of treason; 5
 —from treason they refuse to recog-
 nize Me," says the EVER-LIVING.

God's Reply to the Prophet—Why He Punishes.

"Therefore," says the LORD OF 6
 HOSTS, "I refine them thus, and
 test them. For what can I do for the
 daughter of My People? Their 7
 tongue is a poisoned arrow,—they
 speak treason from their mouth, they
 speak kindly to their neighbour, with
 betrayal in their breast! Should I 8
 not punish them for these things?"
 says the EVER-LIVING. "If the
 heathen did the same, would not My
 soul avenge them?"

Jeremiah Mourns for his Country.

I weep over the hills and sob, and 9
 wail over the pastures of the plain,
 for they are desolate! No man
 passes over them. The voice of the
 flocks is not heard, or of the birds of
 the skies, and even the beasts have
 fled and gone!

God Confirms His Intention to Punish.

"Yet I will give Jerusalem for 10
 stone heaps,—a haunt for serpents,

—and I will lay the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant!

11 Who is the wise man? He can foresee this. And who has the message of the EVER-LIVING within him? He can tell why the country is waste, scorched like a desert, with none passing through!"

12 Then the EVER-LIVING continued, "It is because they have abandoned My laws that I placed before them, and have not listened to My voice, and have not walked according to it, but go after their own ideas, and after Balim, as their fathers taught them." Therefore thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel, "I will feed this People with affliction, and give them laudanum to drink, and will scatter them among the heathen whom they or their fathers have not known, and will send a sword after them to destroy!"

15 And the LORD OF HOSTS says, "Reflect! and call for the wailers, and let them come; and send for the skilful, and fetch them." Let them hasten, and raise over us a lament, and let our eyes pour tears, and our eyelids well out water! for a sound of wailing is heard from Zion! Are we not plundered,—debased,—deeply debased; for the country rejects us,—our homes cast us out!

19 Listen, however, you women to the message of the EVER-LIVING, and let your ears accept the words of His mouth, and teach your daughters to lament, and the wife of your neighbour to wail, for death has mounted to our windows, has entered our palaces, to destroy the children in the streets,—the young men from the squares! "Say thus," says the LORD, "Men shall fall like dung on the face of the field, and like sheaves after the mower, and none collect them!"

22 Thus says the LORD, "Let not the scientific glory in their science, nor the strong in his strength,—let not the rich glory in their wealth, but if they boast, let them boast in understanding and comprehending My wonders;—for I, the EVER-LIVING, made mercy, justice, and righteousness, on earth,—and I delight in them," says the EVER-LIVING.

24 "Behold the days come," says the EVER-LIVING, "when I will punish all the circumcised with the uncircumcised! Mitzer, and Judah, and Edom, and all the Beni-Amon, and

Moab, and all the shaven cheeks who inhabit the desert;—for all the heathen, and all the House of Israel are corrupt at heart."

A Message to Israel.

Listen to the message that the 10 EVER-LIVING addresses to you, House of Israel. Thus says the EVER-2 LIVING:—

"Learn not the ways of the heathen, and fear not the constellations of the skies, although the heathen fear them! For the fancies 3 of the pagans are vain;—only timber from the forest, cut and formed by the hand of a carpenter with an axe! They are plated with silver and 4 gold; fixed with nails and hammers, so that they may not totter! They 5 are as stiff as a palm tree, and cannot speak; they are carried, for they cannot march; they cannot foresee,—for they perceive nothing, and there is no intellect in them!"

They are not like YOU,—great 6 EVER-LIVING CREATOR! For Your NAME is great in power! Who 7 would not reverence YOU, King of Nations? whom You produced for Yourself,—for in all the ideals of the heathen, and in all their governors, there is none like YOU. They are 8 everyone stupid and silly; the result of fantastic thought! Plated with 9 silver from Tharshish, and gold from Aufer;—the work of the carpenter and the hands of the smith. Clothed in blue and purple, all made by mechanics! But our EVER-LIVING 10 GOD is Truth! He is the GOD OF LIFE, and reigns for ever! At His anger the earth trembles, and the nations cannot resist His wrath! 11

He made the earth by His power, 12 He formed its orbit by His skill, and by His intelligence He constructed the skies. At His uttered voice the 13 waters of the skies patter, the vapours arise from the horizon! He makes lightnings with the rain, and He brings the wind out of His treasury! How stupid men are not to learn! 14

1 NOTE.—Ch. 10, v. 11.

Therefore say this to them; These gods, 11 who made neither heaven nor earth, shall perish from below, and from under the sky.

This verse is in Chaldee, not Hebrew, and is probably a commentator's note copied from the margin into the text by some scribe, for it breaks the sense. I, therefore, place it as a note at the page foot.—F. F.

Every founder is more degraded than his statue! For he casts a falsehood, with no breath in it! They are vanity! Contemptible products! In the season of trial they fail!—The Inheritance of Jacob is not like them! For He formed all;—and Israel is the standard of His estate;—Whose Name is the LORD OF HOSTS.

The Decree of Expatriation.

17 Take up your pack from the ground, you who endure the siege!—
18 For thus says the LORD,
“I will sling the inhabitants of this country with a hurl, and distress them, so that they may feel it!”

The Mail of Judah in Captivity.

19 “Oh! me! for my broken condition from my wound!” Then I said, “This is sickness, and I must bear it! My home is desolate! All my relations are taken away! My children have gone and are not! I can never erect my home again, nor stretch my curtains! For the Shepherds are stupid, and seek not the EVER-LIVING, they never reflect, so all their flock is scattered.”
22 A sound is heard;—see! they come with a great rush from the north country, to turn the cities of Judah into a desolate den of serpents.
23 I know, EVER-LIVING, that man directs not himself,—man cannot go and direct his own steps! Instruct me, EVER-LIVING, not with condemnation, nor in Your anger, for fear You depress me. Pour out Your wrath on the heathen who regard You not, and upon the tongues who call not upon Your Name, for they devour Jacob, and destroy him, and desolate his home.

The Punishment for Disregarding God's Falws.

11 The message which came to Jeremiah from the EVER-LIVING to say:—
2 “Listen to the words of this Covenant, and report them to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Say to them—Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel. Let the man be accursed who will not listen to the words of this
4 Covenant, which I commanded to your ancestors at the time I brought them out of the land of the Mitzeraim,

from the iron furnaces, with the command, to listen to My voice, and practise all that I instructed you, then you shall be My People, and I will be your GOD, and I will confirm the oath that I swore to your ancestors, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it does now.”

Then I answered and said, “It is true, EVER-LIVING.” And the EVER-LIVING replied to me:—

“Proclaim all these messages in the Cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, exclaiming;—

“Listen to the words of this Covenant, and practise them! For I gave your ancestors evidence, at the time I brought them up from the land of the Mitzeraim, to this day, early and late, saying, ‘Listen to My voice!’ But they would not listen, nor incline their ears, but everyone followed the fancies of his wicked heart. Therefore I will bring upon them every sentence of that Covenant which I commanded them to practise,—but they did not.”

The EVER-LIVING also said to me, “I have found falsehood in the men of Judah, and in the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They turn to the old faults of their fathers, who refused to listen to My message, and they go after seducing gods, to serve them. The House of Israel and the House of Judah have broken the Covenant which I made with their ancestors.

“Therefore,” thus says the EVER-LIVING, “I will bring suffering upon them, from which they will not be able to escape, when they will cry to Me, but I will not hear them. Then the cities of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and shriek to the gods to whom they offer incense; but they cannot save them in their time of distress! although your gods are as many as your villages, Judah! and more than the number of streets in Jerusalem are the altars you erect for them—altars to your shame—to burn incense to Baal! Now you, intercede not for this People, and raise up no cry or prayer; but I will hear at the time they themselves cry to Me in the period of their sorrows.

“What has My love to do in My house? She has sinned often, and purity has passed away from you. Whenever you sin you rejoice! The

EVER-LIVING planted you, when a green fair olive, with beautiful fruit. With the roar of a great crowd He sets you on fire, and destroys your boughs! And the LORD of HOSTS, Who planted, has caused a bad report to come upon you, because of the sins of the House of Israel and the House of Judah which they have committed, insulting Me by burning incense to Bal."

Upon a Conspiracy to Murder the Prophet.

18 When the EVER-LIVING informed me of it I knew and saw their conspiracies. But I was like a gentle lamb led out for slaughter, and knew nothing how they had contrived plots against me, to make an assault, and to cut off from the land of the living and my name from every memory.

20 But, LORD OF HOSTS, judge rightly their secret thoughts and heart! I shall see vengeance upon them! For I have displayed my cause to You.

21 Therefore the EVER-LIVING says thus to the men of Anathoth who sought your life, who say, "Preach not in the name of the EVER-LIVING! Then you will not die by our hands."

22 The LORD OF HOSTS, however, says this;—"I will repay them! Their youths shall die by the sword, their sons and daughters shall die from hunger, and not a remnant shall be left to them, for I will bring evil upon the men of Anathoth, in the year of their punishment."

12 O EVER-LIVING, You are righteous, therefore I will appeal to You. Yes! I will discuss with You. Why do the wicked prosper,—all the treacherous traitors? They are planted and take root, they grow up and produce fruit,—You are close to their mouths,—but their thoughts are far from You. But You, EVER-LIVING, know, You see and prove my heart by Yourself. Pull them out like sheep for slaughter, and consign to the day of killing!

4 How long shall the country faint and the grass of all the field wither,—for the wickedness of its inhabitants? The cattle and the fowls perish. Yet they say, "We shall not see the last of them!"

5 If you have run with the footmen, and are panting,—how will you turn with the horsemen? Although you are safe in a peaceful country;—yet what

will you do in the floods of the Jordan? If with your brothers, and in the house of your father, they betray you;—if they call after to seize you;—trust them not when they speak fair to you.

The Lord's Disgust at Israel.

I have forsaken My house! I have abandoned My estate! I have given the darling of My soul to the hand of her enemies! My inheritance has become like a lion in the forest, she has raised her voice against Me,—so I hate her. My inheritance is a wild hyena to Me. Wild beasts surround her! They go, they collect all the beasts of the field, they bring them to devour!

Many guards have spoiled My vineyard. They have trampled its beds, they have made My beautiful beds a desolate desert. They have desolated her grass-plots,—they desolate all the land, yet no one lays it to heart. Ravagers have gone to all the smooth pastures, for the sword of the LORD devours from one edge of the country to the other edge of the land,—there is no peace for anyone.

They have sown wheat and reaped thorns; they have no result; and are ashamed of their produce; because the anger of the LORD burns.

Promise of Adoption Offered to the Heathen.

Thus says the LORD, "To all the bad neighbours of My Inheritance, that I have allowed My People Israel to possess, I will pull them off their land, and pull the House of Judah from among them. And it shall happen after I have pulled them up, I will turn and have pity upon them, and restore them each to his homestead and each to his district. But then if they learn the way of My People, teaching themselves to swear by My Name, 'By the life of the EVER-LIVING,' as they taught My People to swear by Bal, they shall be built into the midst of My People. But if they will not listen, then I will pull up those Nations, and destroy them," says the EVER-LIVING.

The Parable of the Girdle.

The EVER-LIVING said this to me, "Go and buy yourself a linen girdle,

- and put it round your waist,—but let it not go into water.”
- 2 I consequently bought the girdle as the EVER-LIVING commanded, and
- 3 put it round my waist. Then the EVER-LIVING spoke to me again to say:—
- 4 “Take the girdle you bought, which is upon your waist, and rise, go to the Frath¹ and hide it there in the cleft of a rock.”
- 5 I therefore went and hid it by the Frath as the EVER-LIVING had commanded me. And at the end of a
- 6 considerable time the EVER-LIVING said to me, “Get up, and go to the Frath, and bring from there the linen girdle that the EVER-LIVING ordered you to hide there.”
- 7 So I went to the Frath and dug, and took the linen girdle from the place where I had hidden it,—and saw that the linen was spoiled, and
- 8 fit for nothing. Then the word of the EVER-LIVING came to me to say:—
- 9 “Thus says the EVER-LIVING, I will spoil the pride of Judah, and the many boasts of Jerusalem like
- 10 that! This vile People, who refuse to listen to My words, and go on in their own ideas, and walk after seducing gods, to serve and to worship them,—shall become like that girdle.
- 11 For as the girdle sticks to the waist of a man, so I wished to cause the whole house of Israel, and the whole house of Judah to stick to Me,” said the EVER-LIVING, “for them to be My People, and Fame, and Glory, and Honour;—but they would not
- 12 attend. Therefore say this to them, Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel, ‘Every bottle can be filled with wine!’
- “When they will say to you, ‘Are we not aware that every bottle can be filled with wine?’
- 13 “Then say to them:—‘Thus says the EVER-LIVING: I will fill all the inhabitants of this land, and the kings sitting on David’s throne, with the Priests, and the Preachers, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to
- 14 drunkenness, when a man will assail his brother, and fathers their children indiscriminately,’” said the EVER-LIVING. “I will not pity, nor spare, nor have mercy to relieve them.”

¹ Euphrates.

The Prophet calls to Repentance.

Be not too proud to listen and 15 hear,—for the EVER-LIVING speaks. Give honour to your EVER-LIVING 16 GOD, before it is dark, and before your feet stumble on the hills of twilight, and you long for light,—but there is only desolation with the Shadow of Death, in the realm of gloom! But if you will not listen, 17 my soul will weep in secret for your pride, and my eyes drop down tears, because the flock of the EVER-LIVING will be captured!

Say to the king and his nobles, 18 “Reflect! Turn! Throw down the beautiful turbans from your heads! The cities of the south are shut up, 19 and there is none to open,—Judah is a captive; all Jerusalem is a captive!”

Raise your eyes and see! They 20 come from the north!—Where is the flock entrusted to you?—Your beautiful sheep? What can you reply when 21 He enquires of you? when you have instructed them against yourself, teaching to resist? Will not torments seize you like a woman in labour?

The Lord’s Address resumed.

“But if you say to your heart, 22 ‘Why have these come?’ For your many passions, your skirts are stripped violently from your heels.

“Can the Kushite change his skin? 23 or the leopard his spots? Then you will be able to do good,—who are accustomed to do evil! Therefore I 24 will scatter them like stubble running before the wind to the desert! This 25 is their destined fate from Me,” says the EVER-LIVING, “for those who reject Me, and rely upon falsehood. So I also will turn your petticoats 26 over your face, and your shame shall be seen! I have seen your adulteries 27 and neighings, your brothels contrived on the hills in the fields,—your abominations,—like to you, Jerusalem! You will not purify yourself!—How long will it last?”

The Great Drought described.

This was the message from the 14 EVER-LIVING that came to Jeremiah about the drought.

“Judah faints and her gates lan- 2 guish! They mourn in the country, and wailings go up from Jerusalem! They send their little children to the 3

waters,—they go to the wells,—they find no water! They all return empty, ashamed, depressed, with
 4 veiled heads! Fire sweeps over the ground;—for there are no showers on the earth;—the meadows are ashamed,—they cover their heads,
 5 for even the deer in the field bears young, and deserts it, for there is no
 6 herbage! The wild asses stand on the hill-tops sniffing the wind,—their eyes are all like serpents', for they have no grass!"

Jeremiah Prays for his Country.

- 7 Although our faults witness against us, O EVER-LIVING, intervene for Your NAME's sake. Although we have sinned by often deserting you.
 8 Hope of Israel! save him in the period of distress! Why are You like a stranger to the land? And like a
 9 traveller staying to lodge? Why are You like a defeated man? Like a hero, unable to conquer? Yet You, EVER-LIVING, are near us, and Your NAME is over us. We call but You comfort us not!
 10 Then the EVER-LIVING said about this People, "Because they love their feet to wander unrestrained, the EVER-LIVING does not approve them. Now He will remember their faults, and punish their sins." The EVER-LIVING also said to me, "Pray not
 12 for the benefit of this People! When they fast I will not hear their cries; and when they offer burnt-offering, and gifts, I will not accept them, for by sword and famine and plague I will destroy them."
 13 Then I replied, "Ah! ALMIGHTY LORD, you perceive the Preachers tell them, 'They will not see a sword, and that famine will not come on them.' But 'I will give you true peace in this place, all of you.'"
 14 The EVER-LIVING, however, replied to me, "Those Preachers preach lies in My Name. I never sent them! I have not commanded or spoken to them. They preach to you a false vision,—a pagan lie,—and the invention of their own hearts! Therefore," says the EVER-LIVING, "to the Preachers who preach in My NAME, and whom I have not sent, and who say, 'Sword and famine shall not come to this country,' those Preachers themselves shall be killed by sword
 15 and famine! And the People they
 16 preach to shall be refuse in the streets

of Jerusalem, before the sword and the famine,—with none to bury them,—they or their wives, or their sons, or their daughters; and their wickedness shall be poured over them. Therefore address this message to
 17 them, 'My eyes shall pour tears night and day and not cease for the great shock that has shaken the maiden, the daughter of My People, wounding her so much! If I go to the fields,—
 18 there I see the piercing sword! If I come to the city, I there see wasting of famine! For the Preacher and the Priest alike trade on the country, and acknowledge it not!"

The Prophet's Plea to God for Israel.

Have You totally rejected Judah? 19
 Has Your soul loathed Zion? Why have You wounded us when we have no physician? And so suddenly? We acknowledge, EVER-LIVING, we
 20 have sinned with the faults of our forefathers,—for we have sinned against You! Despise us not, for the
 21 sake of Your NAME! Degrade not Your Majestic Throne! Remember not the breach of Your Covenant
 22 against us! Can any of the phantasms of the heathen give rain? Can the skies give plenty? Is it not You alone, our EVER-LIVING GOD? and we hope in You, for You produce all those.

But the EVERLIVING replied to me, 15
 "If Moses and Samuel stood before Me, yet My soul would not be with this People.—Send them from My presence! Let them go out! But if
 2 they say to you, 'Where shall we go?' then you shall say to them, 'Thus says the EVER-LIVING: Whoever is for death to death, and whoever is for the sword to the sword, and whoever is for the famine to the famine, and whoever is for captivity to captivity.' For I will appoint four
 3 families over them," the EVER-LIVING said. "The sword to murder, and the dogs to tear; and the birds of the skies, and the beasts of the field to devour and destroy! I will also
 4 give them to be shaken out to all the kingdoms of the earth, on account of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, because of all he did in Jerusalem. For who will pity you,
 5 Jerusalem? And who will console you? And who will turn to wish your health? You have abandoned
 6 Me," says the EVER-LIVING, "you

have deserted,—therefore I point at you, and strip you, and hate pitying you! So I will winnow you with a winnower from the gates of the country,—I will fling out,—I will destroy My People! Yet they will not return from their ways. I have made their widows more numerous than the sands of the seas. I have allowed outrage on the mother of young men, in open day; I have driven anguish and terror on her suddenly! The mother of seven languishes; the breath of her life has gone! Her sun has set while it is day! She is disgraced and scorned! But I will give the remainder to the sword,—to the face of their enemies," says the EVER-LIVING.

The Prophet's Cry of Despair.

Alas, for me, my mother! You have borne me a man of strife, and a man of doom to all the land! I have not borrowed, nor have I lent on usury;—yet all curse me! However the EVER-LIVING said, "Will I not beneficently release? Will I not intercede for you yourself with the enemy in the bad time,—the time of distress? Can iron break a weapon made from the northern steel?" "I will expose your power and treasures to plunder, not to sale! because of all your idols in all your boundaries. And they shall be taken away by your enemies to an unknown land, for a fire burns in My anger, kindled against you."

Jeremiah Prays for Himself for Protection.

EVERLIVING, You know! Remember and visit me, and avenge me upon my persecutors! Repel me not in Your anger! Support me! You know I am reproached on account of You. I found Your words and devoured them, and Your words were sweet and pleasant to my heart,—for Your NAME was fixed upon me,—EVER-LIVING GOD OF HOSTS! I have not sat in the company of the joyous;—but felt pleasure at Your side,—I sat solitary because You filled me with indignation. Why is my misery perpetual? and my wound incurable? refusing to be healed? Why are You like failing, unstable waters?

Then the LORD replied, "If you will return,—then I will restore you to stand before Me. And if you sort out the worthless from the valuable, you shall be like My mouth,—they will come to you,—and you need not go to them. I will also make for you a wall of brass as a defence against this People;—they may fight against you,—but they shall not overpower you, for I will be there to save and deliver you," said the EVER-LIVING. "I will also deliver you from the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the hand of the terrible."

The Prophet forbidden to Marry.

Again, the message of the EVER-LIVING came to me to say:—

"You shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons and daughters in this place. For," thus said the EVER-LIVING, "upon the sons and the daughters that are born in this place, and upon the mothers who bore them, and upon the fathers who caused their birth in this land, I will inflict sickening deaths. They shall die unmourned, and lie unburied on the face of the ground like dung! They shall end by sword and famine, and their corpses shall be food for the fowls of the sky, and the beasts of the earth."

Thus said the EVER-LIVING:—

"Enter not the House of Weeping, —nor go to a burial, nor moan for them, for I will remove Peace from this People," said the EVER-LIVING, "with Mercy and Pity. Both little and great in this land shall die,—they shall not be buried,—they shall not be mourned or lamented, nor shorn for, nor shaven. They shall not distribute the bread of grief to comfort themselves over the dead, nor drink the cup of consolation for their father and mother.

"Neither enter the House of Feasting to sit with them, to eat and drink, for thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel,—I will cause the sound of joy and gladness, and the voice of the bridegroom and bride to cease from this place, in your sight and in your days. But when you relate to this People all these things, and they ask you, 'For what object does the EVER-LIVING speak to us about all this great misery? What is our fault? and what is the sin which we have sinned against our

- 11 EVER-LIVING GOD?' You shall then answer them, 'Because your fathers abandoned Me,' says the EVER-LIVING, "and went after seducing gods, and served and worshipped them,—rejecting Me, and not keeping
12 My laws.—You also have done wrong in doing like your fathers,—for, see! you each follow the ideas of your wicked hearts, and never listen to
13 Me! So I will throw you out of this land to a land unknown to you and your fathers, and there you can serve these seducing gods, day and night, where I will show you no favour.
14 Therefore, look! the days come." says the EVER-LIVING, "when they will no more say, 'By the life of the EVER-LIVING Who brought the children of Israel from the land of the Mitzeraim,' but 'By the life of the EVER-LIVING Who brought the children of Israel from the north, and from all the countries where He drove them, and Who restored them to the land of their fathers.'

Israel's Return Promised.

- 16 "I will send many fishermen," says the EVER-LIVING, "who will fish for them; and after them I will send many hunters, who will hunt them upon every hill, and upon every
17 mount and cliff, and crag; for My eyes are over all their courses,—they are not hidden from Me,—and their faults are not concealed from My
18 sight. But I will first repay their faults and their sins upon them

double, because they have polluted My land with their filthy carcasses, and filled my Inheritance with their abominations."

The Heathen will come to Seek for God.

EVER-LIVING! my strength, and 19 power, and consolation in the day of distress! The heathen shall come to You from the bounds of the earth, and say; "Our forefathers inherited only Falsehood and Delusion, in whom there is no helpfulness. Can 20 mankind make themselves gods,—when they are not gods?" I will, 21 however, instruct them at that time, —I will teach them My Power and Might,—and they will know that My NAME is The ETERNAL!

The Record of the Sins of Judah.

The sins of Judah are written with 17 an iron pen, engraved with a diamond point on the tablet of their heart, and upon the horns of their altar! Your children remember them;— 2 with your shrines under the leafy trees, on the tops of the hills! My 3 Highland fields! I will give your wealth, all your treasures to plunder! with your castles of sin in all your borders. And you shall break your- 4 selves loose from the estate that I gave you, and enslave yourselves to your enemy, in a land you know not, for an unquenchable fire shall burn you in My wrath.

Thus says the EVER-LIVING: 5

The Curse and the Blessing.

- "Curse the man who trusts on mankind, And makes flesh his arm, and turns from LORD.
6 He shall be like one lost in the Arbah, Who cannot see whence help can come,— Or laid scorched in the Desert, The salt-land, where none can reside!
- 7 "But bless him who trusts on the LORD, And on the LORD puts all his Trust;
8 He shall be like a tree by a brook Which sends its roots out to the stream. It fears not the heat when it comes, And its leaves are at every time green; It fears not in years of distress, And refrains not from bearing its fruit.
- 9 "The heart is more false than all things, And who among men knows his own?
10 I, the LORD, search the heart and try thoughts, And fix for each person his path,

With the fruit that will grow up from it,
As the bird hatches what she laid not,
He who by injustice makes wealth,
In the midst of his days he may lose,
And at the last be regarded a fool!"

The Doom of Apostasy.

12 We formerly raised a splendid
Throne on high for our Sanctuary!
13 LORD, the Hope of Israel, all who
forsake You will be disgraced, de-
graded to the earth,—they will be
cut off,—because they forsake the
fountain of the Water of Life,—the
EVER-LIVING!

Jeremiah Laments his Call.

14 Heal me, EVER-LIVING, and I
shall be well. Save me, EVER-
LIVING, and I shall be safe, for I
15 pray to You. Look! they sneer at
me, "Where is the message of the
EVER-LIVING? Let it come now!"
16 Yet I was not eager to feed after
You; and I was not greedy for You
in a human sense,—You know the
product of my lips came straight
17 from Your presence. Do not terrify
me; You are my trust in the day
18 of distress. Let my persecutors be
disgraced, but I not disgraced. Let
them be terrified,—but I not in
terror. Let a day of distress come
on them,—and repeat their wounds
on themselves.

The Prophet ordered to Preach at the Gates.

19 The LORD commanded me thus:
"Go and station yourself at the
People's Gate, where the kings of
Judah go out and come in, and at all
20 the gates of Jerusalem, and say to
them, 'Listen to the message of the
EVER-LIVING, you kings of Judah
and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
21 who come to these gates. Thus says
the EVER-LIVING. Take care of your
lives, and carry no loads on the Sab-
bath day, nor bring them to the gates
22 of Jerusalem, neither bring them out
from your homes on the Day of Rest,
nor do any work, but hallow the Day
of Rest, as I instructed your fathers.'
23 They, however, will not listen, nor
incline their ears, but stiffen their
neck, and refuse to hear, and refuse
to accept advice.
24 "Yet," the EVER-LIVING said, "if
you will listen to Me, and refrain
from bringing loads into the City

Gates on the Day of Rest, and will
sanctify the Sabbath day, and re-
frain from doing business on it, then 25
kings and princes, sitting on the
Throne of David, shall come to the
gates of this city riding in chariots
with their horsemen. Then the
princes of the men of Judah, and the
population of Jerusalem, will reside
in this city for ever. They will also 26
come from the villages of Judah and
from the suburbs of Jerusalem, and
from the land of Benjamin, and from
the slopes, and from the hills, and
from the desert; they will come up
with sacrifice and offerings, and in-
cense, and advance to the House of
the EVER-LIVING with praise. But 27
if you will not listen to Me, and
sanctify the day of Rest, by refraining
from carrying loads, and bringing
into the Gates of Jerusalem on the
Day of Rest,—I will set fire to your
Gates, and it shall consume the
palaces of Jerusalem and be un-
quenchable!"

Jeremiah ordered to Go to the Potter's House.

The message that came to Jere- 18
miah from the EVER-LIVING to
say:

"Arise, and go down to the potter's 2
house, and there I will let you hear
My message."

So I got up and went down to the 3
potter's house, and saw him making
a vessel on his wheel, but he spoiled 4
the article which he was making
from the clay by his hand. Then
the potter changed it and made
another article that it pleased the
potter to make.

Then the message of the EVER- 5
LIVING came to me, saying:—

"Am I not able to do with you 6
like this potter, House of Israel?"
said the EVER-LIVING. "As clay is in
the hand of this potter,—so are you,
House of Israel, in My hand. When- 7
ever I speak about a nation or about
a kingdom, to pluck it up, to throw
it down, or to destroy it, if that 8
nation turns itself from the wicked-
ness on account of which I have
denounced it,—I will refrain from

the distress I intended to bring upon it.

- 9 "But when I speak to a nation, or to a kingdom, to build up and to plant it,—if it does wrong in My sight, and refuses to listen to My voice, then I sigh over the benefits with which I have said I would benefit it.
- 11 "So you now speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to say:—'Thus says the EVER-LIVING. I will form misery against you, and contrive plans against you,—therefore let each now turn from his wicked way, and amend your course, and proceedings.' But they will reply, 'There is no hope of that, for we will follow our own plans.' And each will practise the suggestions of his evil heart.
- 13 "Therefore," the EVER-LIVING answers thus. "Enquire, I pray of the nations, Who has heard such horrors as that Girl, Israel, has done?
- 14 "Will the snow of Lebanon supply in the fields of Mitzer as cold waters are poured from a spring? Yet My People have abandoned Me for DELUSIONS,—they offer incense, and stumble from their ancient pathways, to follow unpaved bye-paths;
- 16 to turn their country to a waste, to a continuous jungle! All who pass it will hiss! and shake their heads!—
- 17 I will scatter them like an east wind before their enemies, I will repulse and not advance them—I will terrify in the day of distress!"
- 18 They consequently said, "Come let us plot against Jeremiah, for law will not cease from the priest, or advice from the skilful, or a message from the Preacher;—let us revile him, and not listen to his speeches."
- 19 Oh, EVER-LIVING, listen to the utterance of my plea. They repay me injury for kindness,—for they dig a pit for my life! Remember I stood in Your presence to speak kindly to them,—to turn away Your anger from them,
- 21 Therefore give their children to famine, and their young men to the hand of the sword, and let their wives be childless, and widows, and let their men come to a murderous death;—their brave men slain by the sword in battle! Let a shriek be heard from their homes, when the plunderers come suddenly upon

them,—for they dug a ditch to catch me, and laid a trap for my feet. You, however, EVER-LIVING, knew²³ all their intentions of murder against me. Let there be no expiation for their faults, and blot not out their sins from before You; and let them be deprived of Your presence, at the time Your anger works upon them!

Jeremiah ordered to Buy a Bottle.

The EVER-LIVING commanded¹⁹ me thus:

"Go and buy an earthenware bottle, accompanied by some of the gentry of the People, and some of the gentry of the Priests. Then² proceed to the valley opposite the pottery-gate, and there proclaim the message I will speak to you,—and say:—'Hear the message of the³ EVER-LIVING, you kings of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem! The LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel says thus,—'I will bring evil upon this place, which shall make the ears of all who hear it tingle! because they have forsaken Me,—⁴ and estranged this place, and burnt incense in it to seducing gods, whom they or their fathers, or the kings of Judah had not known, and have filled this place with the blood of the innocent! And have built columns⁵ to Bal, and burnt their children in the fire as burnt offerings to Bal,—although I ordered them not, and did not command it, and it never entered My heart!

"Therefore take care," says the⁶ EVER-LIVING, "and call this place no longer Thopheth,¹ but the Valley of Murder! For I will empty out⁷ the counsellors of Judah into this place, and throw them down before the sword of their enemies, and to the hands of those who seek their lives, and give their carcasses as food to the fowls of the skies, and the beasts of the earth, and make⁸ this city desolate. Every passer-by shall hiss, and be shocked at her ruins! And they shall eat the flesh⁹ of their sons, and the flesh of their daughters, and everyone eat the flesh of his friend in the siege and distress with which their enemies who seek their lives shall oppress them! Then¹⁰ you shall smash the bottle before

¹ The Spittoon.

the eyes of the men who go with you,
11 and address them:—

“Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS.
'I will smash this People like that,
and this city as the earthen jar has
smashed, so that it can never be
restored,—and they shall bury in
Thopheth until there is no room!’

12 That is what I will do to this place,”
says the EVER-LIVING, “and to its
inhabitants, for I will make this city
like Thopheth. And the houses of
13 Jerusalem, and the houses of the
kings of Judah shall become like the
vale of Thopheth,—filthy,—every
house upon whose top they have
burnt incense, to all the Host of
the Skies, and poured out drink
offerings to the Gods of Seduction!’”

14 Then Jeremiah went from Thopheth, where the EVER-LIVING had sent him to preach, and stationed himself in the court of the House of the EVER-LIVING, and said to all the People,—

15 “Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel! ‘I will bring upon this city, and upon all the cities, the whole of the miseries that I have threatened it,—for it has stiffened its neck, and determined not to listen to My messages.’”

20 And Pashkur-ben-Amer the Priest, who was the Official Guardian of the House of the EVER-LIVING, heard
2 Jeremiah preaching these things, so Pashkur apprehended Jeremiah the Reciter, and put him into the stocks at the High Benjamin Gate, by the
3 House of the EVER-LIVING. But the next day Pashkur brought Jeremiah out from the stocks, when Jeremiah said to him, “The EVER-LIVING does not call your name Pashkur,—but
4 Masgur - Misabib.¹ Therefore the EVER-LIVING says this, ‘I will make you a terror to yourself, and to all your friends, and they shall fall by the sword of the enemy, and your eyes shall see it. I will also give all Judah to the hand of the King of

Babel, and he shall roll them to Babel, or assail them with the sword. And I will give all the wealth of this city, and all its earnings, and all its accumulations, and all the treasures of the Kings of Judah, to the hands of their enemies, and they shall plunder, and seize them, and carry to Babel. And you, Pashkur, and all dwelling in your house, shall go for slaves to Babel, and die, and there you shall be buried, with all your friends to whom you preach falsehood.”

Jeremiah Prays for Strength.

Oh, EVER-LIVING, you persuaded 7 me, and I was persuaded! Strengthen me and become my supporter to endure it, for all laugh at me daily, for whenever I speak I proclaim, 8 “Violence!” and “outrage!” for the message of the EVER-LIVING comes to me to reproach and deride daily! And I say to myself, “I will not 9 mention Him, nor speak again in His Name,” then my heart becomes like a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I labour to restrain it;—but cannot; for I hear the slander of the crowd,— 10 the terror around suggesting “Inform against him.” And “We will, every man, inform.” All my acquaintance watch for my slipping! “He will mistake, and we can then overpower him, and take our revenge on him for ourselves!” But the EVER-LIVING is 11 with me like a terrible giant,—therefore my prosecutors will stumble, and not succeed. They will be deeply disgraced, for they have not looked forwards, to a perpetual never forgotten dishonour. For the LORD of 12 HOSTS tests the righteous;—He sees the secret thoughts, and heart. I shall see Your punishment on them, for to You I have referred my plea. Sing to the EVER-LIVING, praise the 13 EVER-LIVING, for He delivers the life of the wretched from the power of the wicked!

Jeremiah Curses his Birth.

14 Curse the day when I was born,
The day when my mother bore me,
May it never be blessed!

15 Curse the man who told my father,
'A son has been born to you,'
A thought of sweet delight to him.

¹ “Masgur-Misabib” means “Common Terror.”

- 16 May that man be like the towns,
Which the LORD without pity rained on.
Hear shrieks at the dawn, and shouts at the noon
- 17 Because I died not from the womb,
Because my grave was not my mother,
Or her womb closed for ever!
- 18 Why came I for this from the womb?
To look on this misery and anguish,
And in shame to consume all my days?

Jeremiah's Reply to the Priests,

- 21 The command which came to Jeremiah from the EVER-LIVING, when Zedekiah sent to him Pashkur-ben-Malkiah, and Zephaniah-ben-Massiah, the priest to say, "Enquire for us of the EVER-LIVING, for Nebukadnezzar, king of Babel makes war against us. Perhaps the EVER-LIVING will effect for us some of His wonderful works,—and make him retreat from us."
- 2 Jeremiah then replied to them,
- 3 "Say this to Zedekiah. The EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel says thus:—
- 4 "I will turn the weapons of war that are in your hands,—with which you intend to fight the king of Babel, and the Kasdim, who besiege you from outside, inside the walls,—and I will collect them in the middle of this city, for I Myself will fight against you with a directing hand and a strong arm, and with anger and fury, and great wrath. And I will strike the inhabitants of this city,—both men and beasts,—to death with a great plague.
- 5 And after that," says the EVER-LIVING, "I will give Zedekiah, King of Judah, and his ministers, and his army, and the remnants from the plague, from the sword, and from the famine in this city, to the hand of Nebukadnezzar, king of Babel, and to the hands of their enemies, and to the hand of those who seek their lives, and they shall be struck by the edge of the sword. They will not spare them, nor pity, nor show mercy.
- 6 And to this People, proclaim, Thus says the EVER-LIVING! 'I place before you the path of life, and the path of death! Whoever remains in this city will die by the sword, or famine, or plague;—but whoever goes out and deserts to the Kasdim who besiege you, will live,—and his life shall be as a gain to him. For I have set my face against this city to distress and not to benefit it,' says the EVER-LIVING. "It shall be given to

the hand of the king of Babel, and he will burn it with fire.

"And as for the House of the King 11 of Judah,—hear the message of the EVER-LIVING:—House of David! 12 Thus says the EVER-LIVING, Administer justice in the morning, and deliver the robbed from the hand of the robber, for fear you should find My wrath like fire, which will burn unquenchably against your bad practices. I am against you, Graceful 13 Lady of the Fort of the Plain!" says the EVER-LIVING, "who say, 'Who can terrify us? and who can come within us?' Yet I can punish you 14 for the result of your ways," says the EVER-LIVING, "and light a fire in your city, and consume all around it."

Jeremiah ordered to Denounce Punishment at the Palace.

The EVER-LIVING commanded me 22 thus:—

"Descend to the palace of the king of Judah, and there proclaim this message, Say, 'Listen to the message 2 of the EVER-LIVING, king of Judah, you who sit on the throne of David! You and your ministers, and your army, who come to these gates. The 3 EVER-LIVING says, Do justice, and right, and deliver the robbed from the hand of the robber, and give not the foreigner, and ophan, and widow to the hand of the oppressor, and shed no innocent blood in this place. For 4 if you do this, then kings occupying for David, shall sit on his throne, and shall come to the gates of this House riding in carriages, and with his horsemen, and his ministers, and his army. But if you do not listen to 5 these messages, I swear by MYSELF,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'that this house shall be burnt!'

"However," the EVER-LIVING 6 says this to the family of the king of Judah, "You were Gilad to me,—the best of Lebanon,—yet I will make

you a Desert, of uninhabited cities,
 7 and will prepare destroyers with their
 weapons, who will fell your choice
 cedars, and fling them upon the fire.
 8 Many of the Nations also shall pass
 by this city, and each will say to his
 companion, 'For what has the EVER-
 LIVING destroyed this great city?'
 9 And they will reply, 'Because they
 forsook the Covenant of their EVER-
 LIVING GOD, and bowed to seducing
 gods, and served them.'

A Denunciation of Shalum-ben- Joshiah.

10 "Weep not for the dead, and lament
 them not! But weep, weep for the
 departed,—for he will never return,
 11 or see the land of his birth!" For
 thus says the LORD to Shalum-ben-
 Joshiah, King of Judah, who reigns
 12 after Joshiah his father, "When he
 goes away from this place he shall
 never return again!
 13 "Woe! for he builds his house, but
 not by Righteousness; and his cham-
 bers, but not by Justice! He works
 by his neighbours, without paying,
 14 and gives them no wages. He says,
 'I will build for myself a spacious
 house, and airy chambers,' and forms
 himself windows, and ceilings of
 cedar, and paints them vermilion.
 15 Will you reign because you stretch
 yourself like a cedar? Did not your
 father eat and drink, and do justice
 16 and right,—and thus prospered? He
 gave justice to the wretched, and the
 poor,—and prospered. Was not that
 known to Me?" asks the EVER-
 17 LIVING. "You have neither eyes,
 nor heart, however, except for fraud
 18 and for shedding innocent blood, and
 oppression and to practise extortion.
 "Therefore, the LORD says thus to
 Joiakhim-ben-Joshiah, king of Judah,
 mourn not for him, 'Alas for my
 brother! or alas for my friend!'
 Mourn not for him, 'Alas for his
 19 Majesty!' or 'Alas for his honour!'
 "He shall be buried with the
 20 burial of an ass,—dragged and flung
 outside of the gates of Jerusalem!"

A Call to Bewail Israel's Sorrows and Sins.

"Go up to Lebanon and shriek,—
 and on Bashan raise your voice, and
 howl at Abarim, for all your delights
 21 are shattered!

"I spoke to you in your prosperity.

You replied, 'I will not listen!' That
 was your way from your youth! You
 have never listened to My voice. All 22
 your shepherds attend to the wind!
 and all your friends will go into
 captivity, for now I will degrade and
 shame you for all your wickedness,
 Inhabited in Lebanon! Builder in 23
 the cedars! How charming you will
 be when the agonies of a woman in
 childbirth come upon you! By My 24
 life," says the EVER-LIVING, "to
 Koniah-ben-Joiakhim, king of Judah,
 if you were the seal on My right hand,
 I would tear you off, and give you to 25
 the hand that seeks your life, and to
 the hand of whoever you fear;—and
 then to the hand of Nebuchadnezzar,
 king of Babel, and the hand of the 26
 Kasdim! I will also fling along with
 you the mother who bore you into
 another country where you were not
 born,—and there you shall die! And 27
 to the country to which they lift up
 their souls, they shall never return!

"Is this man Koniah a contemp- 28
 tible broken pot? or a thing in which
 there is no use? Why do they throw
 him, and his race away, and fling to
 a land which they know not?"

Earth! Earth! Earth! listen to 29
 the message of the EVER-LIVING.
 The EVER-LIVING commands "Write 30
 this man childless;—a man who shall
 not prosper in his days,—for none of
 his family shall prosper who sit upon
 the throne of David, and rule in
 Jerusalem!"

Woe Denounced to Wicked Rulers, but Restoration to Israel.

"Woe to the shepherds who de- 23
 stroy and scatter the sheep of My
 pasture!" says the EVER-LIVING.

Therefore, the EVER-LIVING GOD of 2
 Israel thus addresses the shepherds: 3

"Shepherds of My People, you
 scatter the sheep, and chase them
 away, and do not collect them. There-
 fore I will impose upon you the
 wickedness of your proceedings,"
 says the EVER-LIVING. "But I will
 collect the remnants of My flock from
 all the lands where I have driven
 them, and will restore them to their
 homes, and they shall be fruitful and
 multiply. I will also appoint shep- 4
 herds over them, who will tend them,
 and they shall not be terrified, or
 driven, or injured," says the EVER-
 LIVING.

5 "The days also shall come," says the EVER-LIVING, "when I will raise for David a righteous offshoot, and royal king, who will govern, and do justice and right in the land. In his days Judah shall be safe, and Israel rest in safety, and his Name shall be called 'Our Righteous LORD.'"

7 "Therefore the times shall come," says the EVER-LIVING, "when they shall no more say 'By the life of the EVER-LIVING Who brought Israel up from the land of the Mitzeraim,' but, 'By the life of the EVER-LIVING Who brought Israel up, and conducted the race of the House of Israel from the land of the North, and from all the lands where He had driven them, and restored them to their own soil!'"

The Prophet's Despair over False Teachers.

9 My heart is broken in my breast for the Preachers,—all my bones shake,—I have become like a drunken man, and like a giant overcome by wine, before the EVERLASTING, and before His holy words! For the land is full of impostors;—the land faints before this curse;—the pastures of the plains fail, for their courses are bad, and their energies worthless!

11 The Preacher and the Priest are alike profane. "I have even found their depravities in My House," says the EVER-LIVING. "Therefore their path shall become slippery,—they shall fall in the dark upon it;—for I will bring distress upon them in the time of their punishment," says the EVER-LIVING.

13 "I have also seen the impiety of the Preachers of Shomeron. They preach Bal, and seduce My People Israel!

14 "And I have seen a terrible thing among the Preachers of Jerusalem; they commit adultery, and walk in falsehood, and strengthen the hands of the wicked, so that no one turns from his wickedness! All of them are like Sodom, and the population of Gomorrah to me!" The LORD OF HOSTS consequently says this against those preachers, "I will consume them with suffering, and give them opiates to drink,—for corruption comes to all the country from the preachers of Jerusalem!"

16 Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS,

"Listen not to the messages of the Preachers who preach to you. They preach nonsense to you,—a vision from their own hearts. They do not preach from the mouth of the EVER-LIVING. They say to the despisers of the message of the EVER-LIVING, 'Peace will come to you!' And to all who follow the ideas of their own minds, they say, 'No harm will come upon you!' However, who stood in the council of the EVER-LIVING, and saw and heard His words? Who listened, and heard His commands?"

Look! the furious tempest of the EVER-LIVING has gone forth! A whirling tempest rolls over the head of the wicked! The anger of the EVER-LIVING will not return until it has worked, and effected the intentions of His mind. You will understand what He intended in times to come. I did not send those preachers—yet they ran;—I did not speak to them;—yet they preached! But if they stood in My council, and heard messages to My People, let them turn them from their bad ways, and guide their proceedings!

"Am I a GOD near," the EVER-LIVING asks, "and not a GOD at a distance? If a man hides himself in shelters, cannot I see him?" asks the EVER-LIVING. "Are not the heavens and the breath of the earth Mine?" says the EVER-LIVING. "I can hear what the preachers say who preach falsehood in My name, explaining 'I have dreamed a dream!' How long is it the intention of the preachers to preach falsehood, and proclaim the deceptions of their hearts? Who intend to make My People forget My Name by their dreams which they relate each to his companion, as their fathers forgot My Name for Bal. Let the Reciter who has a dream, tell his dream;—but to whoever I have spoken, let him speak truly My message.

"What is the chaff compared to the corn?" the EVER-LIVING asks. "Is not My command like fire?" asks the EVER-LIVING. "And like a hammer splintering a stone? Therefore I am against those preachers," says the EVER-LIVING, "who steal messages each from his mate! I am against those Reciters," says the EVER-LIVING, "who delude by their tongues, and chatter! I am against

- the reciters of lying dreams," the
 32 EVER-LIVING says, "and their recitals, and who delude My People by their lies, and elate them;—whom I have not sent, nor instructed, and who cannot help this people," the EVER-LIVING says.
- 33 "You, however, when this People, or the Preachers, or the Priest ask you, 'What is the burden of the EVER-LIVING?' shall reply to them, 'The burden is I have abandoned
 34 you!'" says the EVER-LIVING, "and the Reciter, or Priest, or Prophet, who says, 'The burden of the EVER-LIVING!' I will bring punishment upon that man and upon his family.
 35 Why does everyone ask of his neighbour, and each to his brother, 'What is the answer of the EVER-LIVING?' and 'What is the message from the
 36 EVER-LIVING?' when they will never remember the burden of the EVER-LIVING?—for the burden that has come to every one is,—His own idea, —and they fling away the ideas of the LIVING GOD, the LORD OF HOSTS, OUR GOD!
- 37 "However, ask of the Reciter 'What does the EVER-LIVING answer you?' and 'What is the message of the EVER-LIVING?' If they reply
 38 'A burden from the EVER-LIVING,' then the EVER-LIVING says this, "Answer in return to them, This is the burden of the EVER-LIVING, 'I have sent to you to command you not to proclaim a burden from the EVER-LIVING. Consequently I will lay a
 39 burden upon you, and I will abandon you, and this city, which I had given to your forefathers, for having been
 40 faithless to me. Therefore I will make you a reproach for ever, and an everlasting object of scorn, which shall not be extinguished.'"

The Two Baskets of Figs.

- 24 The EVER-LIVING enlightened me, and I saw two baskets full of figs before the Temple of the LORD, after the capture of Jekoniah-ben-Jhoiakim, king of Judah, by Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, with the princes of Judah, and the mechanics, and carpenters of Jerusalem, and
 2 their transportation to Babel. The one basket was very good, like best figs;—but the other basket was of
 3 very bad figs which could not be eaten for badness. And the EVER-LIVING asked me, "What do you

see, Jeremiah?" When I replied, "Figs. The good figs very good, but the bad figs very bad,—so that they could not be eaten for badness."

Then the command of the EVER-LIVING came to me to proclaim:—
 "Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD
 5 of Israel. 'As with these good figs, I will discriminate amongst the captives of Judah, whom I have sent from this place to the country of the Kasdim to benefit them, and will set
 6 My eyes upon them beneficently, and restore them to their country in their children, and not destroy them; and plant, and not pull them up. I will
 7 also give them a heart to understand Me, that I am the EVER-LIVING, and they shall be My People,—and I will be their GOD,—when they turn to Me with all their heart.

'But as for the bad figs which are
 8 uneatable for badness;—for them,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'I will take Zedekiah, king of Judah, and his nobles, and the remnant of Jerusalem remaining in this land, and residing
 9 in the country of the Mitzeraim, and make them a seed of evil to all the kingdoms of the earth, as a reproach, and a proverb; to be a slander, and a curse, in every place to which I
 10 drive them. I will also send sword, famine, and plague to harass them from off the land which I gave to them and to their forefathers.'"

A Message to Judah.

The message which came to Jeremiah against all the People of Judah
 25 in the fourth year of Jhoiakim-ben-Joshiah, king of Judah,—which was the second of Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, which Jeremiah the Reciter
 2 delivered to all the people of Judah, and to all the residents in Jerusalem, saying,

"From the thirteenth year of
 3 Josiah-ben-Amon, king of Judah, until this time,—for twenty-three years, the message of the EVER-LIVING came to me, and I have spoken to you promptly,—and proclaimed it,—but you would not listen! The EVER-LIVING also sent all his
 4 servants the Preachers,—raising and sending—but you would not listen, nor incline your ears to listen, when
 5 I said, 'Turn, I pray, everyone from his bad path, and from your wicked

ways, and be restored to the ground that the EVER-LIVING gave to you and your ancestors for ever and for ever. And follow not after seducing gods to serve and worship them, and try Me not by the fabrications of your own hands,—and I will not afflict you.' 6
 7 But you would not listen to Me," says the EVER-LIVING, "although I was provoked by the fabrications of your 8 hands to afflict you! Therefore," the LORD OF HOSTS says, "because you 9 have not listened to My messages, I will send and take the whole of the families of the north," says the EVER-LIVING, "and Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, My servant, and bring them to this country, and upon its inhabitants, and upon all the nations around, and he will ravage and reduce them to a desolation, and a jungle, and a 10 desert for ever! I will also abolish from them the voice of joy, and the voice of pleasure, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the mills, and 11 the light of the lamp,—and all this land shall become a black desert waste, and these nations shall serve 12 the king of Babel seventy years. But when the seventy years are completed, I will visit on the king of Babel, and upon his portion," says the EVER-LIVING, "their cruelties and also on the land of the Kasdim, and desolate 13 it with a lasting desolation. But I will bring to this land the whole of the promises that I have promised to it, all that are written in this book which Jeremiah has preached to all 14 the nation. For many nations and great kings have made slaves of them, therefore I will repay to them according to their own acts, and like to what they have done.
 15 "So," thus said the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel, to me:—
 "Take this cup of the Wine of Wrath from My hand, and give it to all the nations to whom I will send 16 you to drink of, and let them drink, and stagger, and be mad for the sword that I will send amongst them."
 17 So I took the cup from the hand of the EVER-LIVING, and gave drink to all the nations to whom the EVER-LIVING sent me.
 18 To Jerusalem and the cities of Judah,—and her kings, and her nobles, to make them a black desert, and a desolation, and jungle, and

scorn.¹ To Pharaoh, king of the 19 Mitzeraim, also, and his ministers and nobles, and all his army, and to 20 all the west, and all the kings of Autz, and all the land of the Philistim, and Askalon, and Gaza, and Akron, and the districts of Ashdod; and to 21 Edom, and Moab, and the Beni-Amon, and to all the kings of Tzur, 22 and all the kings of Zidon; and to all the kings of the coast at the Passage of the Sea,—to Dedan, and 23 Theman, and Buz, and all the farther regions; and all the kings of Arabia, 24 and all the kings of Midland who inhabit the desert; and all the kings 25 of Zimri, and all the kings of Ailam; and all the kings of Madi; and all 26 the kings of the north:—both near and far,—each with his brother; and all the kingdoms of the earth, who are on the face of the ground, and the king of Sheshak shall drink after them! Then say to them, Thus says 27 the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israël, 'Drink and be drunk, and stagger, and fall, and never rise from the face of the sword that I will send amongst you!' But if it happens 28 that they refuse to take the cup from your hand and drink, say to them, Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, 'Drink it, drink!' For, in the city 29 upon which My Name was invoked, I began to punish,—so shall you escape? You shall not escape,' for I will call for a sword against all the inhabitants of those countries," says the LORD OF HOSTS. "Consequently 30 proclaim to them all these messages and tell them, 'The EVER-LIVING will thunder from on high, and from within His sanctuary will utter His voice. He will shout from His station, 'Charge with a cheer,—overthrow all the inhabitants of the country!'"

The roar will go to the ends of the 31 earth, when the EVER-LIVING contends with the heathen, to do justice to all men. "Give the wicked to the sword," says the EVER-LIVING.

Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS: 32 "Look! Misery goes from nation to nation! And a mighty tempest is roused from the flanks of the earth! And in that time those wounded by 33

¹ (As they are to-day.)

NOTE.—Ch. 25, v. 18. The words "as they are to-day" are the comment of an old transcriber, not a part of Jeremiah's prophecy.—F. F.

the EVER-LIVING shall lie from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, nor collected, nor buried ;—they shall be for dung on the surface of the ground !

- 34 "Howl and shriek, you shepherds, and wallow for the beautiful flocks! For your days of prosperity are done, and the things you desired are
35 scattered and fallen! A retreat fails for the shepherds, and a refuge for the beautiful flock! The shriek of
36 the shepherds sounds, and the bleat of the beautiful flock,—for the EVER-LIVING has destroyed their shep-
37 herds, and the peaceful pastures are destroyed before the fierce anger of the EVER-LIVING, Who has left His
38 lair like a tiger, that He may desolate their country before the driving conflagration, and by the flame of His wrath!"

Judah Denounced for his Sins.

- 26 In the beginning of the reign of Jhoiakim-ben-Joshiah, king of Judah, this message came from the EVER-LIVING to say :—
- 2 "Thus, says the EVER-LIVING, Stand in the court of the House of the EVER-LIVING, and proclaim to all the citizens of Judah who come to worship in the House of the EVER-LIVING, all the messages that I order you to deliver to them. Omit not a
3 word! Perhaps they may each turn from their wicked way, when I will regret the misery I intend to make for them, because of their wicked
4 proceedings. Say to them, Thus says the EVER-LIVING, 'If you will not listen to Me, and walk in the laws
5 that I place before you, and listen to the words of My servants the Preachers, whom I send to you, rising early and sending, although you have
6 not listened, then I will make this House like Shiloh,—and make this city the scorn of all the nations of the earth.'"
- 7 When the Priests, and the Preachers, and all the people heard Jeremiah proclaiming these messages in the House of the EVER-LIVING,—
8 and when Jeremiah had finished delivering all that the EVER-LIVING had ordered him to speak to all the people, the Priests, and Preachers, and all the people seized him, exclaim-
9 ing, "You shall die! Why have you

proclaimed in the name of the EVER-LIVING, asserting that 'this House shall become like Shiloh, and this city a burnt ruin without inhabitants?'" Then all the people collected about Jeremiah at the House of the EVER-LIVING.

The officials of Judah also heard 10 of these speeches, and went up from the palace of the king to the House of the EVER-LIVING, and sat in front of the New Gate of the LORD. There 11 the Priests and Preachers addressed the officials, and all the people, and demanded a "Sentence of death for this man, for he has proclaimed about this city what your own ears have heard!"

But Jeremiah replied to all the 12 officials, and all the people, and said,

"The EVER-LIVING sent me to proclaim to this House, and to this city, all the messages that you have heard. Therefore, now, amend your 13 courses and your ways, and listen to the voice of your EVER-LIVING GOD,—when the EVER-LIVING will relent from the misery He has spoken against you. As for myself, I am in your 14 hands. Do to me what is right, and what is just in your opinion. How- 15 ever know this,—that if you kill me, you will put innocent blood upon yourselves, and upon this city, and upon its inhabitants. For in truth the EVER-LIVING sent me to you to speak in your hearing all these speeches."

Consequently the officials, and all 16 the people, said to the Priests and Preachers, "There is no reason for a Death Sentence on this man, for he has spoken to us in the Name of our EVER-LIVING GOD."

Then the Chief Judges of the 17 country arose and addressed the whole assembly of the people, saying—

"Mikiah, the Moroshite, was a 18 Preacher in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and he spoke to the people of Judah to proclaim :—'Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, Zion shall be a ploughed field, and Jerusalem become ruins, and the hill of this house be a forest of columns!' Did Hezekiah king of Judah, and all 19 Judah, put him to death? Did he not fear the EVER-LIVING, and entreat the presence of the EVER-LIVING? And consequently the EVER-LIVING refrained from the

punishment that he proclaimed against them. And should we do so great a wrong to our souls?

- 20 1 "There was also a man, Auriab-ben-Shemiah of Kirjath-jarim, who came preaching in the Name of the EVER-LIVING, who proclaimed against this city, and against this country, all the words of Jeremiah, and King Jhoiakim and his generals, and all his officials heard the speeches. So the king sought to kill Auriab. But when Auriab heard it he was afraid, and fled, and went to Mitzer. King Jhoiakim, however, sent officers to Mitzer, Alnathan-ben-Akbor, and officers with him to the Egyptians, who brought Auriab from Egypt, and conducted him to Jhoiakim who assailed him with the sword, and flung his body into the grave of the common people."
- 24 However the party of Akhikamben-Shafan was with Jeremiah, and refused to give him to the power of the people for him to be put to death.

Jeremiah Ordered to Wear Fetters.

A Message to the Nations.

- 27 In the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah-ben-Joshiah,² king of Judah, this message came to Jeremiah from the LORD to speak.
- 2 The EVER-LIVING commanded me thus,—“Make fetters for yourself, and open and put them on your neck; then send them to the king of Edom, and to the king of Moab, and the king of Beni-Amon, and to the king of Tzur, and the king of Zidon, by the hand of their ambassadors who come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah, king of Judah, and command them to say to their masters,—‘Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel! Say to your masters, I made the earth, mankind, and the animals that are upon the face of the earth, by My great power, and I give it to whoever is upright in My sight.’ So now I have given the whole of these countries to the hand of Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, My servant: and I

¹ Some words seem lost here from the MSS., such as “Others replied, however;” “There was also, etc.” It was evidently a debate amongst the Judges of the Court formed to try the Prophet.—F. F.

² In the ordinary text it is Jehoiakim, by a scribe’s error—but Zedekiah in the original reading.—F. F.

have given him also the animals of the field for his service, and they shall serve him, and his son, and his grandson, until the period of his own country has come;—when many nations and great kings shall make him serve! And to the nation or kingdom that will not serve him,—Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel,—and that will not give its neck to the yoke of the king of Babel, I will bring punishment upon that nation by sword, and famine, and plague,” says the EVER-LIVING, “until I have subdued them to his power.

“And for yourselves, listen not to your preachers, and your diviners, and your dreamers, and cloud-readers, and to your magicians who tell you that you will not serve the king of Babel, for those Preachers lie to you, because you will be expelled from your soil, and reduced, and destroyed. But the nation that brings its neck to the yoke of the king of Babel, and serves him, shall rest quietly on its own soil,” says the EVER-LIVING, “and use it and reside on it.”

Advice to Zedekiah to Submit to Babel.

To Zedekiah, king of Judah, also deliver all these messages and say:—

“Let you and your people bring your necks to the yoke of the king of Babel,—and live. Why should you die? you, and your people by sword, famine, and plague? as the EVER-LIVING has threatened to the nations which will not serve the king of Babel? Do not listen to the speeches of the Preachers who promise you, asserting—‘You need not serve the king of Babel,’ for those Preachers lie to you! I, certainly, have not sent them,” says the EVER-LIVING, “but they preach falsely in My NAME, because I shall subdue you, and ruin you, and the Preachers who preach to you.”

A Message to the Priests.

To the priests, also, and all this people I spoke and said:—

Thus says the LORD:—“Listen not to the messages of the Preachers who preach to you, and assert: ‘The furniture of the House of the EVER-LIVING will be returned from Babel now, very soon,’—for those Preachers lie to you. Do not listen to them! Serve the king of Babel, and live.

Why should this city become a ruin?
 18 But if they are prophets, and if the message of the EVER-LIVING is with them,—let them at once pray to the LORD OF HOSTS not to allow the remaining furniture of the House of the EVER-LIVING, and of the king of Judah's palace, and in Jerusalem, to go to Babel.

19 "For thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, to the columns, and to the sea, and to its bases, and to the other furniture remaining in this city,—
 20 which Nebukhadnezzar king of Babel, did not take when he transported Jekoniah-ben-Jhoiakim, king of Judah, from Jerusalem to Babel, with all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem,
 21 —Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel, to the remaining furniture of the House of the EVER-LIVING, and the palace of the king of
 22 Judah and Jerusalem:—they shall go to Babel, and shall be there until the time that I appoint for them," says the EVER-LIVING, "to be brought up and returned to this place."

Hananiah of Gibeon assails Jeremiah.

28 It happened in the same year at the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah, in the first of the fifth month, Hananiah-ben-Azer, the Preacher who came from Gibeon, addressed me in the House of the EVER-LIVING, in the sight of the Priests and all the People, exclaiming:—

2 "Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel, proclaim—'I will shatter the yoke of the king of Babel!
 3 At the end of two years' time I will return to this place all the furniture of the House of the EVER-LIVING, which Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, took from this place and removed to Babel. And Jekoniah-ben-Jhoiakim, king of Judah, and all the transports of Judah, who were removed to Babel, I will restore to this place,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'for I will shatter the yoke of the king of Babel!'"

5 But Jeremiah the Preacher replied to Hananiah the Preacher, in the sight of the Priests, and in the presence of the people standing in the
 6 House of the EVER-LIVING,—and Jeremiah the Preacher said, "Amen! May the EVER-LIVING do so. And

may the EVER-LIVING confirm the things you have proclaimed, and return the furniture of the House of the EVER-LIVING, and all the transports, from Babel to this place!—
 However, hear now this message 7 which I speak in your hearing, and in the hearing of all the people. The Preachers who were before me, 8 and before you from of old, preached to many lands, and great kingdoms, of war, and famine, and plague! The Preacher who preached about 9 prosperity,—when the promise of the Preacher came, it was known that in truth the EVER-LIVING had sent him!"

Then the Preacher Hananiah took 10 the fetter off the neck of the Preacher Jeremiah, and broke it. And Hana- 11 niah exclaimed before all the people, "Thus says the EVER-LIVING! 'I will break the yoke of Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, at the end of two years' time from off the neck of all nations.'"

Then Jeremiah the Preacher went away.

But a message from the EVER- 12 LIVING came to Jeremiah after Hananiah, the Preacher, had broken the yoke from the neck of Jeremiah, to say:

"Go and speak to Hananiah, and 13 say, 'Thus says the EVER-LIVING, you have broken the yokes of wood, but I will make in their place yokes of iron!' For thus says the LORD OF 14 HOSTS, the GOD of Israel, I will put a yoke of iron upon all these nations in serving Nebukhadnezzar the king of Babel, and they shall serve him. I also give the beasts of the earth to him."

Jeremiah the Preacher accordingly 15 said to Hananiah the Preacher, "Listen now, Hananiah, the EVER-LIVING did not send you, but you have comforted this People with a lie! Therefore thus says the EVER- 16 LIVING,—I will send you from off the face of the ground;—you shall die this year, for you have taught rebellion against the EVER-LIVING."

And Hananiah did die that year in 17 the seventh month.

Jeremiah's Letter to the Jews in Babel.

This is a copy of the letter which 29 Jeremiah, the Preacher, sent to

Babel from Jerusalem to say to that portion of the nobles and priests, and preachers of the transportation, and to all the people whom Nebukhadnezzar transported from Jerusalem to Babel, with Jekoniah the king, and his generals, and chamberlains, nobles of Judah and Jerusalem, with the mechanics and engineers of Jerusalem, by the hands of Alasah-ben-Shafan, and Ghemariah-ben-Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah, king of Judah, sent to Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel,—

The Promise of Judah's Return from Babylon.

4 "Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel, to all the transports whom I have transported from Jerusalem to Babel. Build houses, and settle and plant vines, and eat their fruit. Marry wives and beget sons and daughters, and let your sons take wives, and give your daughters to husbands, and let them bear sons and daughters, and increase and not diminish. You must also seek for the prosperity of the city into which I have transported you, and pray on account of it to the EVER-LIVING, for by its prosperity you will prosper.

8 The LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel, says this, 'Let not the Preachers among you, nor your Diviners deceive you,—nor listen to the Dreamers who dream for you dreams, for those Preachers lie to you in My Name. I have not sent them,' says the EVER-LIVING.

10 "But the EVER-LIVING says this:—'When seventy years are full to the lip for Babel, I will visit you, and confirm to you My good promises, and will restore you to this place.

11 For I know the intentions which I have planned for you,' the EVER-LIVING says—'intentions of prosperity, and not suffering, that I will give you hereafter, therefore hope.

12 So call to Me, and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. For when you seek Me you can find Me,—when you search for Me with all your heart. When I am found by you,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'I will restore you from captivity, and collect you from all the nations, and all the places where I drove you,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'and return you from the place to which I transported you.'

"However, you may say, 'The EVER-LIVING has raised for us Preachers in Babel!'

"Yet thus says the EVER-LIVING to the king who remains upon the throne of David, and to all the people who remain in this city after you, who have not gone with you to Babel:—Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS,—'I will send to them sword, famine, and plague, and make them like rotten figs, so rotten they cannot be eaten; and I will chase them with the sword, famine and plague, and make them a dispersion in all the kingdoms of the earth, as a curse, and desolation, and contempt, and reproach to all the nations where I have flung them, because they would not listen to My messages,' says the EVER-LIVING. 'But for yourselves,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'all the transportation whom I have sent from Jerusalem to Babel, listen: for the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel, says to Akhab-ben-Masiah, who preaches lies in My Name to you,—I will give him to the hand of Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, and he will kill him before your eyes, and make a curse from him for all the transports of Judah who are in Babel, who will exclaim:—"May the LORD set you like Zedekiah and Akhab, whom the king of Babel roasted in the fire!" because they did injury to Israel, and committed adultery with their neighbours' wives, and spoke false messages in My Name, which I have not entrusted to them;—as I know and can prove,' says the EVER-LIVING."

And to Shemiah, the Nekhlamite, say—"Thus says the LORD of HOSTS, the GOD of Israel,—Because you have sent letters in your own name to all the people of Jerusalem, and Zefaniah-ben-Masiah the Priest, and to all the Priests to say, The EVER-LIVING has made you priests under Jhoiada the Priest, and to be officers of the House of the EVER-LIVING, so that you may put into the stocks, and imprison every madman and sham prophet,—so now why do you not restrain Jeremiah the Anathothite, who does the Prophet to you? For he has sent to us to Babel to say, 'It is for a long period: Build homes and settle. Plant vines and eat their fruit.' Now Zefaniah the Priest has read this letter to the ears

30 of Jeremiah the Preacher,—and the message of the EVER-LIVING has
 31 come to Jeremiah to say : Send to the transports and declare, Thus says the EVER-LIVING to Shemiah, the Nekhlamite, 'Because Shemiah preaches to you, and I have not sent him, and com-
 32 forts you with a lie,—therefore,' thus says the EVER-LIVING, 'I will punish Shemiah the Nekhlamite and his family; none shall remain among this People, and they shall not see the prosperity that I will make for My People,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'for he utters rebellion against the LORD.'"

30 The message which came to Jeremiah from the EVER-LIVING to say :

2 "Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel, 'Write the whole of the messages which I have told you in
 3 a book; for, see, the days come,' said the EVER-LIVING, 'when I will restore the captives of My People of Israel and Judah,' said the EVER-LIVING, 'and return them to the land that I gave to their ancestors, and they shall possess it.'"

A Message of Comfort to Jacob.

4 Now these are the messages that the EVER-LIVING addressed to Israel and to Judah.

5 He spoke thus:—

"Hear a voice of terror without
 6 comfort! Ask and examine if men bear children? Why do I see every man's hands on his loins, like a childing woman? and every face
 7 turned livid? Alas, for it is a great day! There has been none like it! It is a period of distress for Jacob,—and can he be saved from it?"

8 "Yes! in that day," says the EVER-LIVING, "I will break the yoke from off your neck, and snap the shackles, and they shall no longer serve the
 9 foreigners, but serve their EVER-LIVING GOD, and David their king
 10 whom I will appoint for them. So now, Jacob, My servant, fear not," says the EVER-LIVING, "and Israel be not depressed, for I will rescue you from afar, and your race from the land of slavery, when Jacob shall rest in quiet, and without terror.

11 For I will be with you," says the EVER-LIVING, "to save you, and I will make an end of all the nations where I scattered you. But I will not make an end of you, but correct you

with justice, and when corrected I will not punish further."

For thus says the EVER-LIVING : 12
 "Your bruise is malignant,—your wound sluggish. There is no surgeon 13
 to press, to sprinkle medicaments upon it, for you, All your friends 14
 have forgotten about you,—they do not enquire,—for I struck you by the stroke of an enemy,—a cruel wound, for your many faults, your sins were strong.

"Why do you shriek over your 15
 malignant bruise?—for the pain over your many faults? I have done this to you for your numerous sins.

"However all who devour you shall 16
 be devoured; and all who oppress you shall go into slavery, and those who are plundering you shall be plundered; and all robbing you I will give to robbery. For I will 17
 grant you a restoration, and will cure you of your wounds," says the EVER-LIVING, "for the Driver cries to you, 'You are Zion for whom nobody cares!'"

The EVER-LIVING, however, says, 18
 "I will restore Jacob's captured halls, and will extend his dwellings, and build his city on high, and found his palace on justice. And the sound 19
 of song and laughter shall come out from them, and they shall be glorious, and not depressed. And his children 20
 shall be as of old, with a parliament before me, firm and fixed against all his oppressors. His Leaders shall 21
 be from himself,—and his Governors from his own breast. He shall come and approach, and touch me,—for who like him pledged his heart to approach to Me?" asks the EVER-LIVING. "So they shall be My 22
 People and I will be their GOD."

Look! the furious tempest of the 23
 anger of the LORD has gone out! A sweeping tempest, it whirls over the head of the wicked. The flaming 24
 wrath of the EVER-LIVING will not return until it has accomplished the purpose of His heart. "You will under- 31
 stand it in the future times, at the period," said the EVER-LIVING, "when I will be a GOD to all the families of Israel, and they will be My People."

God's Love to Israel.

Thus says the EVER-LIVING :

"The nation of Israel remaining 2
 from the sword has found favour in

the desert, where it went to rest itself!
 3 The EVER-LIVING saw me from afar
 and loved. I love you," He said,
 "with an everlasting love, therefore I
 4 will attract you by kindness. I will
 build you again, and you shall be re-
 built, Virgin of Israel! Prepare your
 tambours, and come out to the dances
 5 with laughter. Plant vineyards
 on the hills of Shomeron! Plant
 slips, and play the flute;—for it is the
 6 day when the Watchmen cry on
 Mount Ephraim, 'Arise and let us go
 up to Zion to our EVER-LIVING
 GOD!'"
 7 For thus says the EVER-LIVING,
 "Shout to Jacob, Be glad and neigh
 at the Head of the Nations. Let
 them hear your cheer, and say, 'O
 EVER-LIVING, save Your people,—
 the fragments of Israel.'
 8 "I will bring them from the land
 of the North, and collect them from
 the flanks of the world, with their
 blind and lame,—the pregnant, and
 childing women shall return together
 9 here in a great crowd. They went
 away with tears;—but on paths of

delight I will lead them in jubilee to
 rivers of water, by a level way in
 which they cannot stumble, for I will
 be a father to Israel with Ephraim as
 My firstborn.

"Nations! hear the message of the 10
 LORD, and report it to the distant
 isles, and proclaim to the race of
 Israel, 'He who scattered us will
 guard you as a shepherd does his
 flock!' For the EVER-LIVING will 11
 redeem Jacob and free him from the
 hand that is stronger than his; and 12
 he shall come with cheering to the
 top of Zion, and stream to the
 LORD's endowment of corn, and
 wine, and oil, and the young of the
 flock and the herd. For their soul
 shall be like a watered garden, and
 never again endure distress. Then 13
 the girls will rejoice in the dance,
 with the boys and old men with
 them. And I will change their
 sorrow to delight, and their sighing
 and anguish to gladness, and satiate 14
 their priests with fat, and fill My
 People with benefits," says the
 EVER-LIVING.

The Weeping in Ramah.

Thus said the LORD:

"In Ramah a voice is heard;
 The weeping and moaning of Rachel,
 Bewailing her sons,
 For her children refusing all comfort,
 Because they are not!"

15

(The LORD replies thus)

"Restrain your voice from weeping,
 And your eyes from shedding tears;
 And rest from your grief,"

16

Says the Lord.

"When you quit your enemy's land,
 Let this be your hope,"

Says the LORD,

"Your sons shall return to their Home."

17

"I have heard Ephraim murmur,—
 He goads and controls me and strikes,
 Like a heifer unused to the reins.
 Turn me and I will return,
 For you are my GOD Ever-living.

18

"When turned I resisted;
 When taught struck my thigh,
 I was shamed and disgraced,
 For I bore the reproach of my youth."

19

The LORD.

"My dear son is Ephraim;—
 My beautiful child,
 Though I spoke sharp to him,
 I always remember,
 My love is with him,
 And tenderest affection,"

20

The LORD says.

A Call for Israel's Return.

- 21 Set up your Beacons,—your Landmarks set up!
Fix your heart on the mounds by the way that you marched,
Return, Israel's daughter, return to your City,
How will you wander from Home?
- 22 Return for the LORD has prepared a new thing,
In that Land, a woman embracing a man!

The Blessing upon a Return.

- 23 Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS,
the God of Israel:
"They shall again say this thing
in the land of Judah and in its cities
when I restore you from captivity,
'The EVER-LIVING bless you, Home
of Righteousness, Hill of Holiness!'
- 24 For Judah shall reside in it, and all
his cities,—together with farmers,
25 and the shepherds of flocks, when
26 I will refresh the weary life, and fill
every exhausted soul.
- 27 "For see! the days will come,"
says the EVER-LIVING, "when I will
sow the House of Israel, and the
House of Judah with the seed of
28 man, and the seed of cattle. And as
I watched them to pull up, and drive
out, and break down, and to ruin,
and to punish;—it will come that in
the same way I will watch over them
to build and plant," says the EVER-
- 29 LIVING. "In those times they shall
not again say, 'The fathers have
eaten sour grapes, and the children's
30 teeth are set on edge!' for a man
shall only die for his own faults;—
every one who eats sour grapes, his
own teeth shall be set on edge.
- 31 "Look!" says the EVER-LIVING,
"the times will come when I will make
a New Covenant with the House of
32 Israel, and the House of Judah; unlike
the Covenant that I made with their
fathers, when I grasped them in My
hand to bring them out from the
land of the Mitzeraim, — which
Covenant they broke, although I
was their Guardian," says the EVER-
- 33 LIVING. "But this is the Covenant
that I will make with the House of
Israel after these days," says the
EVER-LIVING. "I will fix My laws
in their breast, and write them upon
their heart,—and I will be their GOD,
34 and they shall be My People. And
they shall no more each instruct
his neighbour, and each his brother,
saying, 'Learn about the EVER-

LIVING!' for all of them will know
Me from the least to the greatest,"
says the EVER-LIVING, "for I will
pardon their frailty, and no more
remember their sins."

Thus says the LORD Who sets the 35
sun to light by day, and the moon
and stars to light by night,—Who
stills the roaring waves of the sea—
His NAME is the LORD OF HOSTS!—
"If those institutions remove them- 36
selves from My presence," says the
EVER-LIVING, "then the race of
Israel can remove itself from being
a Nation before me for all time!"

Thus says the EVER-LIVING: "If 37
the skies above, and the foundations
of the earth can be measured by a
stick,—then can be abolished all that
I have done for the whole race of
Israel," says the EVER-LIVING.

"Be sure the times will come," 38
says the EVER-LIVING, "when the
city will be built for the EVER-LIVING,
from the Tower of Hananal to the
Corner Gate, and the wall stretch 39
again from there, south of it, over
Mount Gareb, and turn to Gathah;
and all the vale of corpses, and ashes, 40
and all the fields from the brook
Kedron to the sides of the Horse-
gate, on the east, shall be consecrated
to the EVER-LIVING. It shall never
again be pulled up or thrown down
for ever and ever."

The Message to Jeremiah in Prison.

The message which came from the 32
EVER-LIVING to Jeremiah in the
tenth year of Zedekiah, king of
Judah, which was the eighteenth
year of Nebukhadnezzar, whilst the 2
army of the king of Babel besieged
Jerusalem, when Jeremiah was con-
fined in the Court of the Guard-house
of the palace of the king of Judah,
where Zedekiah, king of Judah, had 3
confined him. He had demanded of

him, "Why do you preach asserting, 'Thus says the EVER-LIVING—I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babel, who will capture it. 4 And Zedekiah, king of Judah, shall not escape from the hand of the Kasdim,—for he will be given to the hand of the king of Babel, and speak face to face with him, and see him 5 eye to eye. Zedekiah also shall go to Babel, and be there until I visit him,' says the EVER-LIVING. 'Although he fights with the Kasdim,—he will not succeed.'"

6 Then Jeremiah replied:—"The command of the EVER-LIVING came 7 to me to say, 'Understand that Hanamal-ben-Dudi will come to you and say, Buy for yourself the farm at Anathoth, for the right is yours, and the price of redemption.'"

8 Hanamal my cousin accordingly came to me, as the EVER-LIVING had said, to the Court of the Guard, and said to me, "I wish you to buy the farm at Anathoth in the district of Benjamin, for the hereditary right is yours, and you have the funds for its redemption." Then I recognised 9 that it was what the EVER-LIVING had said. I consequently bought the farm at Anathoth from Hanamal my cousin, and weighed the money to him,—seventeen shekels of silver. 10 Then I signed the deed and sealed it, and the witnesses witnessed it, and I counted out the money in their 11 hearing. I then took the sealed Deed of Purchase, with its laws and conditions, and the deed of possession, and gave the Deed of Purchase to Baruk-ben-Nediah-ben-Maksiah in the presence of Hanamal my cousin, and in the presence of the witnesses who had signed the Deed of Purchase, in the presence of all the Jews detained in the courtyard, 13 and instructed Baruk in their presence, saying:

14 "Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel, 'Take these deeds, this Deed of Purchase with its seals, and the Deed of Possession, and put them in an earthenware jar, so that they may be 15 preserved for a long time.'¹ For thus

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 32, v. 14. The reader should remember that in Jeremiah's day deeds and writings were made on stone, slates, or clay tablets, afterwards baked, and so not liable to decay as paper is.—F. F.

says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel, Never buy houses, or farms, or vineyards in this country!" Then 16 I prayed to the EVER-LIVING, after I had given the Deed of Purchase to Baruk-ben-Nediah, and said:—

"Oh, Almighty LORD, Who made 17 the solar systems, and the earth, by Your great power, and by Your directing arms,—let not any of Your promises fail! Show kindness to 18 the fallen, and repay the faults of the fathers to the lap of their children after them. The GOD of great power and might,—the LORD OF HOSTS is His name. Great in purpose! and 19 multiform in action. Your eyes examine all the ways of the sons of Adam, to give to each according to his ways, and the result of his practices. You appointed signs and 20 portents from the land of the Mitzeraim until now;—as well as in Israel, and among mankind,—and made Yourself a name, as at this day. You brought Your People Israel from 21 the land of the Mitzeraim, with signs and wonders, and with a supporting hand, and directing arm, and with great splendour, and gave them a 22 land flowing with milk and honey. And they came and possessed it. 23 But listened not to Your voice, nor walked according to the laws which You commanded them to practise; they practised them not;—therefore You have brought them to all this misery!

"Look! the embankments are ap- 24 proaching the city! You will give it to the power of the Kasdim who attack it by the edge of the sword,—and to famine, and to plague! What You threatened has come, and You see it! And yet You have commanded 25 me, ALMIGHTY LORD, 'Buy that farm for money, and let witnesses witness it!' when You will give the city to the hands of the Kasdim."

God's Reply to the Prophet.

Then the message from the EVER- 26 LIVING came to Jeremiah to say:—

"See! I am the EVER-LIVING GOD 27 of all flesh. None of My promises will fail! Therefore thus says the 28 EVER-LIVING,—I will give this city to the power of the Kasdim, and to the power of Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, who will capture it. And 29 the besieging Kasdim shall come upon this city with fire and burn it,

and the houses where they burn incense upon the roofs to Bal, and drink to the seducing gods by means of whom they insult Me. Because the Children of Israel, and the Children of Judah have done wrong in My sight from their youth,—for the Children of Israel provoked Me by the fabrications of their own hands," said the EVER-LIVING. "For this city has been to Me anger and wrath from the day when they built it until now, to make Me sweep it from My presence, on account of all the wickedness which the Children of Israel, and the Children of Judah have done to provoke Me; they, their kings, nobles, priests, and preachers, with the men of Judah, and the population of Jerusalem. They have turned their back, and not their face to Me! although I taught them, beginning to teach them early,—but they would not listen nor take correction. They even set up their idols in the House upon which My NAME had been invoked! to defile it! And erected Columns to Bal in the Vale of Benhinon, to pass their sons and their daughters to Molok,—which I commanded not,—nor had it come up to My heart, to have such horrors practised, to cause Judah to sin.

"But, however," thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel to this city which you say has been given to the hand of the king of Babel by the sword, and by famine, and by plague, "I will collect them again from all the countries where I have driven them in My anger and indignation, and I will restore them in a great gathering to this place, where they can dwell in security, and they will become My People, and I will be their GOD. I will also give them a united heart, and a united course, and they will reverence Me continually to their own benefit, and their children's after them. I will then record an everlasting Covenant with them,—that I will not cease following them with benefits; and I will put reverence of Me into their hearts, so that they will never abandon Me. I also shall delight to benefit them, and to plant them in the land firmly, with all My heart, and with all My soul."

For thus says the EVER-LIVING:—
 "When I have brought this People, —all this great misery, then I will bring all the benefits which I have

promised to them. And farms will be bought in this country, where they say, 'It is desolate! It has neither men nor cattle,—it is given to the hand of the Kasdim!' They will buy farms for money, and engrave the Deeds, and seal them, and the witnesses witness, in the district of Benjamin, and around Jerusalem, and in the villages of Judah, and in the towns on the hills, and the villages of the slopes, and the hamlets of the south, for I will restore the captivity," said the EVER-LIVING.

The Restoration of Judah promised.

Another time the message of the EVER-LIVING came to Jeremiah, while he was confined in the Guards Court, to say:—

"Thus says the Creative, the Constructive Life;—His Name is the EVER-LIVING Creator. 'Ask me, and I will answer, and inform you of great events, and treasures you know not!'"

For thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel, "About the houses of this city, and the palaces of the kings of Judah, which are made ruins for the embankments and for the entrenchments made to fight with the Kasdim, and to be filled with carcasses of men whom I will slay in My anger and wrath, and from whom I have hidden Myself,—turning from this city because of all their wickedness; —I will again bring existence and health, and will unveil to them rich peace and security, when I have restored the captives of Judah, and the captives of Israel, with their children, to their former state. For I will purify them from their frailties, by which they offended Me, and pardon the whole of the sins by which they offended Me, and by which they rebelled against Me. And it shall be a monument of delight and beauty, as formerly to every nation of the earth, when they hear all the benefits that I will confer upon them, and tremble with excitement at all the prosperity and peace which I will confer upon it!"

Thus says the EVER-LIVING, "There shall again be heard in this place,—which they say 'It is a ruin without man or beast in the villages of Judah, and the streets of Jerusalem are a desert,—there are no men,—there are no inhabitants,—there are no

11 cattle!—the sound of joy, and the sound of pleasure, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride;—the voice proclaiming,

“Praise the LORD OF HOSTS,
For the LORD is good for ever!
Bring praise to the House of the
LORD!

“For I will restore the captives to the country,—to their former state,” says the EVER-LIVING.

12 Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS:—

“There shall again be in this ruined place, where there is neither man nor cattle, and in all its villages,—pastures for shepherds with reclining flocks. In the villages of the hills, and the villages on the slopes, and in the villages of the south, and in the land of Benjamin, and in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem, and in the villages of Judah, the flocks shall pass under the hand of the enumerator!” says the EVER-LIVING.

14 “Be assured the days come,” says the EVER-LIVING, “when I will accomplish this good promise, which I have promised to the House of Israel, and the House of Judah. In those days, and at that period, I will cause a Perfect Sceptre to rise up, and he will execute Justice and Right in the land. In those times Judah will be safe, and Israel rest secure, and this is what she will call Him, OUR RIGHTEOUS LORD!”

17 For thus says the EVER-LIVING: “There shall not be wanting a man to David to sit upon the throne of the House of Israel. And to the Levitical Priests there shall not be wanting a man before me to offer up burnt-offerings, and incense, and gifts, and to make sacrifice for all time.”

The Confirming of the Promise.

19 The command of the EVER-LIVING also came to Jeremiah to say:

20 “Thus says the EVER-LIVING, ‘If My institution of day and night can be broken, so that they should not exist daily and nightly in their periods, then My institution with My Servant David, for him to have a son reigning on his throne, and the Levitical Priests to be My Ministers, 21 may be broken! Since the army of the skies is not counted, or the sand of the sea measured,—so I will ex-

tend the race of My servant David, and the service of the Levites to Me.’”

A Reproof to Unbelievers.

The command of the EVER-LIVING 23 again came to Jeremiah to say:

“Have you seen what this People 24 say, ‘The two families that the EVER-LIVING chose, He has cast off, and rejected the nations from continuing in His presence.’ The EVER- 25 LIVING, however, declares, ‘If I have not appointed the institutions of the day and night;—the fixed laws of the solar systems, and the earth, then I 26 will repudiate the race of Jacob, and My minister David, and not take from his race Governors for the race of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob;—when I restore their captives, and pity them!’”

The Doom of Zedekiah.

This commandment came from the 34 EVER-LIVING to Jeremiah to proclaim, when Nebukhadrezzar, king of Babel, with all his forces, and all the kingdoms of the earth who were controlled by his hand, and all the nations, fought against Jerusalem and all her towns.

Thus said the EVER-LIVING GOD 2 of Israel,—“Go and speak to Zedekiah, king of Judah, and say to him:—‘Thus says the EVER-LIVING, I will deliver this city to the hand of the king of Babel, and he will burn it with fire! You also will not 3 escape from his hand! For you will be seized and given to his power, and your eyes shall see the eyes of the king of Babel, and his mouth shall speak to your mouth, and you shall go to Babel. However 4 listen to the message of the EVER-LIVING, Zedekiah, king of Judah! Thus says the EVER-LIVING to you, You shall not die by the sword. You shall die in peace;—and as they 5 burnt for the kings, your forefathers, who were before you, so they shall burn for you, with “Alas my Prince!” they will lament for you,—for I have promised this promise,’ says the EVER-LIVING.”

Jeremiah the Preacher accordingly 6 addressed to Zedekiah, king of Judah, the whole of these words in Jerusalem, when the forces of the king of 7 Babel were fighting against Jerusalem, and all the other towns of

Judah,—with Lakish and Akron,—for these fortified towns were left to Judah.

On the Sham Abolition of Slavery.

- 8 The command that came to Jeremiah from the EVER-LIVING, after King Zedekiah had made an agreement for all the people who were in Jerusalem to proclaim them free; 9 that everyone should liberate his man slave or his woman slave,—who was a Hebrew or a Hebrewess,—freeing from slavery to their brother 10 Hebrews. And all the nobles and people obeyed when the decree came out, and each sent their man slave or their female slave into freedom, so as never again to be enslaved; 11 —they obeyed, and freed them. But afterwards they turned and captured their male and female slaves whom they had released to freedom, and reduced them again to male and female slaves.
- 12 Then a command came from the EVER-LIVING to Jeremiah to proclaim:—
- 13 “Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel! I made a Covenant with your ancestors at the time when I brought them from the land of the Mitzeraim, from the House of Slavery, 14 ordering, ‘At the end of seven years you must each one release his enslaved brother, whom you have bought. He shall serve you six years;—then you must send him from you into freedom.’ But your fathers would not listen to Me, nor incline their ears.
- 15 “You, however, repented the other day, and did right in My eyes by proclaiming liberty to each of your relatives, and you enacted a decree, over which My NAME was invoked.
- 16 But now you have turned and polluted My NAME, and everyone seizes his male or female slave, whom you had released into freedom, to pollute and degrade them to be your slaves and slavesses.
- 17 “Therefore,” the EVER-LIVING declares, “as you have not obeyed Me to proclaim everyone liberty to his brother, and each to his neighbour,—I will proclaim you free,” says the EVER-LIVING, “to the sword, to plague, and to famine, and I will deliver you to be scattered in 18 all the kingdoms of the earth! And I will deliver the men who broke My

Agreement,—who did not stand by the terms of the Agreement which they made before Me,—by a heifer cut in two, and they passing between 19 the portions,—the nobles of Judah, and the nobles of Jerusalem, with cabinet ministers, and the priests, with all the army of the country, between the portions,—I will give 20 them to the hand of their enemies;—to the hand seeking their life,—and their carcasses shall become food for the birds of the sky, and the beasts 21 of the earth. I will also give Zedekiah, king of Judah, and his officers to the power of their enemies, to the hand that seeks their life, to the mighty hand of the king of Babel, who has gone away from you. I have 22 ordered them to return!” says the EVER-LIVING, “to this city, and they will attack it, and capture, and burn it with fire, and I will make the towns of Judah desolate, without inhabitants!”

Jeremiah Ordered to Visit the Rekabites,

The command that came from the 35 EVER-LIVING to Jeremiah in the days of Jhoiakim-ben-Joshiah, king of Judah, saying: “Go to the family 2 of the Rekabites, and talk with them, and bring them to the House of the EVER-LIVING, to one of the chambers, and offer them wine to drink.”

I consequently took Jazaniah-ben- 3 Jeremiah-ben-Kabaziniyah, and his brothers, and all his sons, and the whole family of the Rekabites, and 4 led them to the House of the EVER-LIVING, to the chamber of the son of Hanan-ben-Igdaliah, the Man of GOD, who lodged in the chambers of the officers, which were above the chamber of Masiah-ben-Shalum the 5 Warder of the Threshold. Then I set before the sons of the family of the Rekabites flagons full of wine, and cups and asked them to drink wine. But they replied, 6

“We drink no wine! for Jonadab-ben-Rekab, our ancestor, gave us an order, saying, ‘You or your children shall not drink wine for ever! Nor 7 shall you build houses or sow grain, or plant vineyards. That shall not be your business. But you shall live in tents all your days;—so that you may live long lives on the face of the ground where you are strangers! So 8 we are obedient to the voice of

Jonadab-ben-Rekab our ancestor, in all that he ordered us,—never drinking wine all our days, we, or our wives, or our sons and daughters; and we never build houses to dwell in, or plant vineyards, or farms. We have them not! But we dwell in tents, and listen to, and do all that Jonadab our ancestor ordered. But when Nebukhaddezzar, king of Babel, advanced into the country we said 'Let us go to Jerusalem before the army of the Kasdim.' So we lodge in Jerusalem."

12 Then the command of the EVER-LIVING came to Jeremiah to say:

13 "Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel! Go and say to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem,—'Why will you not learn to listen to My commands?' the EVER-LIVING asks. 'The commands of Jonadab-ben-Rekab that he ordered to his sons not to drink wine,—stand! They drink no wine to this day! For they obey the order of their ancestor! But I commanded you,—beginning early and speaking, —but you have not obeyed Me! I also sent you all Myservants the Preachers, —rising early and sending to say, 'Turn I pray, each from his bad way, and reflect upon your proceedings, and follow not seducing gods, to serve them;—and stay on the ground I gave to you and your ancestors,'—but you would not incline your ears, and would not listen to Me! Although the sons of Jonadab-ben-Rekab established the orders which their ancestor commanded, yet this People will not listen to Me. Therefore," thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel;—"I will bring upon Judah, and all the population of Jerusalem, all the miseries that I have promised them,—because I spoke to them and they would not hear, and I called, but they would not answer!"

18 But to the House of the Rekabites Jeremiah said, "Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel:—Because you have obeyed all the orders of Jonadab, your ancestor, and have kept all his commands, and practised all that he commanded you, —thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel,—there shall not be wanting a man to Jonadab-ben-Rekab to stand before Me for all time!"

Jeremiah Ordered to Record his Prophecies.

It was in the fourth year of 36 Jhoiakim-ben-Joshiah, king of Judah, that this command came to Jeremiah from the EVER-LIVING to say:

"Prepare for yourself a book-roll 2 and write upon it the whole of the speeches I have dictated to you about Israel and Judah, and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you,—from the days of Joshiah to this day. Perhaps the House of Judah will 3 listen to all the misery I contemplate to produce for them, and may each one turn from his wicked way,—when I will forgive their frailties and sins."

Jeremiah therefore invited Baruk- 4 ben-Nediah, and he wrote, from the mouth of Jeremiah, all the words which the EVER-LIVING had spoken to him, upon the volume. Then 5 Jeremiah instructed Baruk, saying: "I am imprisoned and cannot go to the House of the EVER-LIVING,—but 6 you go, and read from this volume what you have written from my mouth of the speeches of the EVER-LIVING, in the ears of the people in the House of the EVER-LIVING, upon the fast day;—and also read it in the hearing of all Judah who come from their villages. Perhaps you will im- 7 plore them before the EVER-LIVING, and some will turn from their bad way;—for the anger and wrath which the LORD proclaims against this people is great."

Baruk Reads the Roll in the Temple Court.

Baruk-ben-Nediah did as Jeremiah 8 the Preacher instructed him, and read from the volume the messages of the EVER-LIVING in the House of the EVER-LIVING. This was done 9 in the fifth year of Jhoiakim-ben-Joshiah, King of Judah, in the eighth month when a Fast was proclaimed before the EVER-LIVING for all the people of Jerusalem, and all the people of Judah who came from the towns of Judah to Jerusalem. Baruk 10 then read the speeches of Jeremiah from the book in the House of the EVER-LIVING, in the chamber of Ghemeriah-ben-Shafan, the Recorder, in the higher court opposite the New Gate of the House of the EVER-LIVING, in the hearing of all the

- 11 people. But Makiah-ben-Ghemeriah-ben-Shafan heard all the messages of the EVER-LIVING from the Book, and he descended to the Royal Palace, to the office of the Recorder, and found all the officials sitting there,—Alishamah the Recorder, and Ghedaliah-ben-Shemiah, and Alnathan-ben-Akbor, and Ghemeriah-ben-Shafan, and Zidikiah-ben-Hananiah, and other officers, and Makiah reported to them all the things he had heard read by Baruk from the Book in the hearing of the people.
- 14 The officials consequently sent to Baruk, Judi the son of Nathaniah-ben-Shelemiah-ben-Kusi, to say, "Take the volume that you are reading in the hearing of the people in your hand and come." So Baruk-ben-Nediah took the volume in his hand and went with them, and they said, "Sit down if you please, and read it in our hearing." Baruk consequently read it in their hearing.
- 16 But when they heard all the messages, each was terrified at his friend, and said to Baruk, "We must report the whole of these matters to the King!" And asked Baruk, "Tell us, now, how you wrote all these speeches from his mouth?"
- 18 And Baruk replied to them, "He dictated to me from his mouth all these speeches, and I wrote them on the book with my hand."
- 19 Then the officers said to Baruk, "Go, hide yourself and Jeremiah, and let no one know where you are."

Joiakim hears Part read, and then Burns the Book.

- 20 They afterwards went to the court of the King,—but placed the volume in the office of Alishamah the Recorder, and reported the affair to the ears of the King. The King therefore sent Judi to fetch the volume, who brought it from the office of Alishamah the Recorder. Judi then read it in the hearing of the King, and in the hearing of all the officials who stood near the king. At the time the king was staying in the Winter Palace, in the ninth month, and there was a fireplace opposite him, so when Judi had read three or four passages, he cut the book with a penknife, and flung it upon the fire in the grate until he had consumed the whole volume in the fire

that was in the grate. And neither the king, nor any of his ministers feared, or tore their robes at hearing all those threatenings! However, Alnathan, and Ghedaliah, and Ghemeriah, entreated the king not to burn the volume. But he would not listen to them. The king then ordered Irakhmal-ben-Amalek, and Sariah-ben-Azrial, and Shelemiah-ben-Abdial, to seize Baruk the writer, and Jeremiah the Preacher. But the EVER-LIVING concealed them.

Jeremiah Ordered to Rewrite His Prophecies.

Then the command of the EVER-LIVING came to Jeremiah, after the king had burnt the volume, and the messages that were written by Baruk from the dictation of Jeremiah, to say:—

"Take another volume again for yourself, and write in it all the former threatenings, which were in the first volume that Jhoiakim, king of Judah, burnt. And say against Jhoiakim, king of Judah, 'Thus says the EVER-LIVING, you have burnt this volume, demanding, 'Why have you written it? Asserting that the king of Babel will come, and desolate this country, and capture from it man and cattle?' Therefore the EVER-LIVING replies thus to Jhoiakim, king of Judah,—He shall not rest on the throne of David, but his carcase shall be flung out to the heat of day and the cold of night! And I will fix upon him, and his race, and his ministers their faults! I will also bring upon them, and the population of Jerusalem, and the men of Judah, all the misery which I have threatened to them,—but they would not listen!'"

Jeremiah again Writes.

Jeremiah consequently prepared another volume, and gave it to Baruk, the writer, and he wrote in it from the mouth of Jeremiah all the messages of the book that Jhoiakim, king of Judah, had burnt in the fire, and added further to them many other things.

King Zedekiah asks Jeremiah to Pray for Judah.

When King Zedekiah-ben-Joshiah reigned instead of Koniah-ben-Jhoiakim, whom Nebukhadnezzar, king of

Babel, appointed king of the land of
 2 Judah, he, and his ministers, and the
 people of the country listened not to
 the messages of the EVER-LIVING
 which were delivered by means of
 3 Jeremiah the Preacher. Zedekiah,
 however, sent Jhukal-ben-Shelemiah,
 and Zefaniah-ben-Masiah, the priest,
 to Jeremiah the Preacher, to say,—
 "Intercede now on account of us to
 4 our EVER-LIVING GOD." For Jere-
 miah at that time came and went
 amongst the people for they had not
 put him into the House of Restraint,
 5 and the army of Pharaoh was advanc-
 ing from Mitzer, and when the Kas-
 dim, who besieged Jerusalem, heard
 the report they departed from Jerusa-
 lem.
 6 Then the command of the EVER-
 LIVING came to the Preacher
 7 Jeremiah to say: "Thus says the
 EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel,—Say to
 the king of Judah who has sent to
 you to enquire of Me,—'Be sure that
 the forces of Pharaoh that are advanc-
 ing to help you, will return to Mitzer.'
 8 The Kasdim also will return and
 assail this city, and capture it, and
 burn it with fire!
 9 Thus says the EVER-LIVING, "Do
 not raise your spirits by saying, The
 Kasdim have gone from us! For
 10 they are not gone! For if you
 defeated the whole force of the Kasdim
 who assailed you, and there were
 only wounded men left in their
 tents,—they would arise and burn
 this city with fire."

Jeremiah Seized as a Deserter.

11 But when the army of the Kasdim
 retired from Jerusalem before the
 12 force of Pharaoh, Jeremiah went out
 from Jerusalem to go to the district
 of Benjamin to the part belonging
 13 there to his people. But when he
 came to the Benjamin Gate, there
 was a captain on guard named Iriah-
 ben-Shelemiah, and he seized Jere-
 miah the Preacher, saying, "You are
 deserting to the Kasdim!"
 14 But Jeremiah answered "It is false!
 I am not deserting to the Kasdim!"
 He would not, however, listen to
 him. So Iriah seized Jeremiah the
 Preacher, and brought him to the
 15 generals, and the generals were
 furious against Jeremiah and flogged
 him, and put him in prison at the
 house of Jonathan the Recorder, who
 managed the House of Detention.

Then Jeremiah was brought to the 16
 Pit-house, and the cells, and was
 detained a long time. At length king 17
 Zedekiah sent and fetched him, and
 the king enquired of him in private at
 his own palace,—and asked,
 "Is there any message from the
 EVER-LIVING?"

Jeremiah Talks with King Zedekiah.

When Jeremiah asked King Zede- 18
 kiah, "How have I offended you, and
 your ministers, and this people that
 they have put me into the House of
 Detention? Where are your Preachers 19
 who preached to you saying, 'The
 king of Babel will not come against
 you, or against this country?' But 20
 now, your Majesty listen I beg,—let
 my entreaty fall before you, and send
 me not back to the House of Jhonathan
 the Recorder, and let me not be killed
 there."

King Zedekiah, consequently, 21
 ordered it, and they placed Jeremiah
 in the Court of the Guards, with a
 portion of food daily from the bakeries,
 until all the provisions were consumed
 from the city. So Jeremiah stayed
 in the court of the Guard.

The Generals Demand the Prophet's Death.

However, Shafatiah-ben-Mathan, 22
 and Ghedaliah-ben-Pashkur, and
 Jokal-ben-Shelemiah, and Pashkur-
 ben-Malkiah, heard the speeches
 which Jeremiah addressed to all the
 people, saying, "Thus says the EVER- 2
 LIVING, 'Whoever stays in this city
 will die by the sword, famine and
 plague! but whoever goes out to the
 Kasdim will live, and his life will be
 like a prize to him,—and he shall live.
 Thus says the EVER-LIVING, I will 3
 give this city to the hand of the army
 of the king of Babel—and it shall
 capture it!"

The generals consequently said to 4
 the king, "Put this man to death, we
 beg, for through him the hands of
 the soldiers left to us in the town are
 weakened, and the hands of all the
 people by his uttering these speeches.
 For this man does not contribute to
 the safety of this people, but to its
 injury."

And King Zedekiah replied:—"He 5
 is in your power;—for the king has
 not the power to speak contrary to
 you."

- 6 They consequently took Jeremiah and flung him into the well of Malkiah-ben-Hamelek, which was in the Court of the Guards, lowering Jeremiah with ropes. The well had no water in it, but only mud, and
- 7 Jeremiah plunged into the mud. But Abd-melek, the Kushite, who was eunuch of the king's palace, heard that they had put Jeremiah into the well, while the king was staying at the
- 8 Benjamin Gate, so Abd-melek went from the palace and spoke to the king, to say:—"Your Majesty, those
- 9 men have done wrong in all they have done to Jeremiah the Preacher, whom they have thrown into the well, where he will die from hunger, for there is no more food in this city."
- 10 Then the king ordered Abd-melek the Kushite, saying, "Take along with you from here thirty men, and pull Jeremiah the Preacher up from the well, before he dies."
- 11 Abd-melek accordingly took the men along with him, and went to the palace, to the lower store, and took from there old sacks, and old rags, and passed them down to Jeremiah, in the well with ropes,
- 12 and Abd-melek the Kushite said to Jeremiah, "Put the old sacks and rags, under the sides of your arms, beneath the ropes." And Jeremiah
- 13 did so. Then they drew Jeremiah up with the ropes from the well, and put him into the Court of the Guards.
- 14 King Zedekiah afterwards sent, and fetched Jeremiah the Preacher to himself, to the third entry of the House of the LORD where the king said to Jeremiah, "I will ask you something,—do not fear to speak to me."
- 15 But Jeremiah replied, to Zedekiah, "When I inform you, will you not put me to death? And if I give you advice you will not listen to me!"
- 16 King Zedekiah, however, swore to Jeremiah privately, saying, "By the life of the EVER-LIVING, Who made our souls, I will not kill you, and I will not give you into the power of the men who seek your life!"
- 17 Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD OF HOSTS the GOD of Israel;—If you will go out to the generals of the king of Babel, your soul shall live, and this city will not be burnt with fire,—and your family shall live with you.
- 18 But if you do not go out to the generals

of the king of Babel, then this city will be given to the hand of the Kasdim, who will burn it with fire,—and you will not escape from their hands!"

King Zedekiah, however, answered 19 Jeremiah, "I fear the Jews who have deserted to the Kasdim, to whose power they might deliver me to insult me!"

But Jeremiah replied, "They will 20 not give you. Listen, I beg, to the advice of the EVER-LIVING that I communicate to you,—for it will benefit you,—and your soul shall live. If, however, you refuse to go out,— 21 this is the result which the EVER-LIVING has shown me. Be certain 22 that all the women left in the palace of the king of Judah, will be brought out to the king of Babel's generals, and those women will exclaim, 'Your fine friends persuaded and mastered you! Your feet are stuck in the mud! Your ankles are fast!' And the 23 whole of your wives and children will be brought out to the Kasdim;—and you will not escape from their hand, for they will take you to the control of the king of Babel, and this city will be burnt with fire."

Zedekiah then said to Jeremiah, 24 "Let no person know of this conversation,—and you shall not die. For if the generals hear that I have 25 talked with you, and come to you, and ask you, 'Inform us, we pray, what the king has said to you,—do not fear us for you shall not be put to death,—but what did the king say to you?' you must say to them, 'I 26 presented an appeal to the king, that he would not send me back to the house of Jhonathan to die there.'"

All the generals afterwards came 27 to Jeremiah, and asked him, when he told them all the things the king had ordered, and they were contented with them, for they had not heard the conversation. But Jeremiah 28 stayed in the Court of the Guards until the day when Jerusalem was captured.

The Capture of Jerusalem.

And when Jerusalem had been 39 attacked in the tenth month of the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babel, and all his forces, came to Jerusalem and besieged it; and in the eleventh year 2 of Zedekiah in the ninth day of the fourth month, the city was breached.

3 Then all the generals of the king of Babel came and stationed themselves at the central gate;—Nergal, Sharatzer, Samgar-nebo, Sarskim, High Chamberlain; Nergal, Sharatzer, the High-magus; and all the rest of the
4 generals of the king of Babel. And when Zedekiah king of Judah and all his soldiers saw them, they fled, and went out of the city by night by the road of the king's garden, at the gate between the walls, and proceeded
5 towards the Arbah. But the Kasdim pursued after them, and overtook Zedekiah at the fords of the Jordan, and seized and brought him to Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, at Riblath, in the district of Khamah, when he
6 pronounced judgment upon him. And the king of Babel murdered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes in Riblah. The king of Babel also slew all the
7 soldiers of Judah. Then he pulled out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in chains, and sent him to Babel.
8 The Kasdim also burnt the palaces of the king, and the houses of the people with fire, and threw down the
9 walls of Jerusalem. But the residue of the people remaining in the city, and the deserters who had deserted to him, and the rest of the people remaining, Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, transferred to Babel.
10 Yet some of the lower people, who possessed nothing whatever, Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, left in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and farms.¹
11 Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, also ordered Jeremiah to the protection of Nebuzaradan, commander of the guards, saying, "Take him, and
12 keep your eyes on him, that no injury whatever may be done to him, and whatever he requests you, do it for
13 him." Then he dismissed Nebuzaradan, the commander of the Guards, and Nebushazbaz, the High Chamberlain, and Nergal-Sharatzter, the High Magus, and all the nobles of the king
14 of Babel, and they sent and took Jeremiah from the court of the Guards, and placed him with Ghedaliah-ben-Akhikam-ben-Shafan, to take him to

his home. So he stayed among the People.

The Promise to Abd-melek.

But the command of the EVER-LIVING had come to Jeremiah while he was confined in the court of the guards to say:—

"Go and speak of Abd-melek, the Kushite, and say,—Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel! I will bring My promise upon this city for misery, and not for benefit! And they are before you to-day! But I will rescue you at present," says the EVER-LIVING, "and you shall not be given into the hand of the men you fear. For I will be a refuge for you, and you shall not fall by the sword, but your life shall be a gain to you,—for you have trusted in Me," says the EVER-LIVING.

Jeremiah Freed from the Chain-gang.

The command that came to Jeremiah from the EVER-LIVING, after Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, had sent to him when he was chained amongst the chain-gangs, for all the prisoners of Jerusalem and Judah to be transported to Babel, when the general of the guards approached Jeremiah and said to him:—"Your EVER-LIVING GOD commanded this misery to this place, and the EVER-LIVING has come and done as He threatened, because you sinned against the EVER-LIVING and did not listen to His voice,—therefore this result has come to you. But now, see, I will release you at once from this chain-gang by which you are loaded. If it is good in your opinion to come with me to Babel, come, and I will fix my eyes upon you. But if it is bad in your opinion to come with me to Babel, do not do it. See! all the country is before you to go wherever is good and right in your eyes. If you are not willing to go with us,—then go with Ghedaliah-ben-Akhikam-ben-Shafan whom the king of Babel has appointed over the cities of Judah, and stay with him amongst your People,—or wherever it is right in your opinion to go,—go."

Then the commander of the guards gave him a pension and allowance, and dismissed him; and Jeremiah went with Ghedaliah-ben-Akhikam

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 39, v. 10. (To this time.) The words "to this time" are an old copyist's comment, not the prophet's writing, so I put them at the foot.—F. F.

to Mitzfah, and stayed with him amongst the people who remained in the country.

Ghedaliah made Governor of Judah.

7 When all the generals of the forces who were in the open field, and their men heard that the king of Babel had appointed Ghedaliah-ben-Akhikam over the land—for those were not
8 transported to Babel, they came to Ghedaliah to Mitzfah, with Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah, and Jokhanan, and Jonathan, and Iziah-ben-Karakh, and Sariah-ben-Thankhumath, and the sons of Auzi, the Natofathite, Iziah-ben-Hamakathite, and their
9 men, and Ghedaliah-ben-Akhikam-ben-Shafan promised them and their men, saying "Fear not to serve the Kasdim; stay in the country and serve the king of Babel, and you will
10 prosper. But I myself will reside in Mitzfah, to stand before the Kasdim who have come to us,—and you can gather the wine, and harvest, and oil, and lay up for provisions, and reside in the towns you have seized."
11 And the Jews also who are in Moab, and among the Beni-Amon, and in Edom, and in all the countries heard that the king of Babel had given allotments in Judah, and that he had appointed Ghedaliah-ben-Akhikam-ben-Shafan over them, consequently
12 all the Jews returned from all the places where they had fled, and came to the land of Judah, to Ghedaliah at Mitzfah, and harvested the wine, and corn to a great amount.

A Conspiracy to Murder Ghedaliah.

13 Jokhanan-ben-Korakh, and all the generals of the field forces, afterwards came to Ghedaliah at Mitzfah, and asked him, "Do you know that Balis, king of the Beni-Amon, has sent Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah to take your life?" But Ghedaliah-ben-Akhikam did not believe them.
15 Consequently Jokhanan - ben - Korakh spoke in private to Ghedaliah in Mitzfah, to say: "I will go now, and assail Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah, and no one shall know. Why should he take your life, and scatter all Judea which is collecting to you, when the remnant of Judea will perish?"
16 But Ghedaliah-ben-Akhikam replied to Jokhanan-ben-Korakh, "You

shall not do such a thing,—for you speak falsely about Ishmael."

But in the seventh month, 41 Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah-ben-Alishama, of the Royal Family, and a royal noble came, and ten men with him, to Ghedaliah-ben-Akhikam, at Mitzfah, and dined with him in Mitzfah. Then Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah 2 and the ten men who were with him arose and assailed Ghedaliah-ben-Akhikam-ben-Shafan with the sword and killed him, whom the king of Babel had appointed over the country, and the whole of the Jews who were 3 with Ghedaliah in Mitzfah, along with the Kasdim found there, the soldiers of Ishmael killed.

But two days after the murder of 4 Ghedaliah, while no one knew, it 5 happened that eighty men came from Shekem, from Shiloh, and from Shomeron, each with his beard shaven, and clothes torn, and with gashes, and with bread offerings and incense in their hands to go to the House of the EVER-LIVING, and 6 Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah went out from Mitzfah to meet them, advancing and weeping, and when he reached them he said, "Come to Ghedaliah-ben-Akhikam." But when they had 7 come to the inner court of the citadel, Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah and the men who were with him, assassinated them at the deep well. Ten of the men, 8 however, who had met him, exclaimed to Ishmael, "Do not kill us! for we have wheat, and barley, and oil, and honey stored at our farms." So he refrained, and did not kill them with their friends. The well where Ish- 9 mael threw all the bodies of the men he murdered, besides Ghedaliah, was that which King Asa made when opposing Basha king of Israel,—Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah filled it with his victims. Then Ishmael captured 10 all the remainder of the people who were at Mitzfah, the king's daughter and all the people whom Nebuzardan, the commander of the guards, had entrusted to Ghedaliah - ben - Akhikam,—Ishmael - ben - Nathaniah seized them and went off to Beni-Amon.

But Jokhanan-ben-Korakh and all 11 the generals of the forces who were with him heard of all the wickedness that Ishmael - ben - Nathaniah had done, so they took their men and 12 went to attack Ishmael ben-

Nathaniah, and found him at the Great
 13 Lake of Gibeon. And when the
 people who were with Ishmael-ben-
 Nathaniah saw Jokhanan - ben-
 Korakh, and the officers of the army,
 14 they were glad; and the whole mass
 whom Ishmael had captured at
 Mitzfah revolted, and deserted, and
 15 went to Jokhanan-ben-Korakh. At
 which Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah fled
 with eight men before Jokhanan, and
 went to the Beni-Amon.

16 So Jokhanan-ben-Korakh and all
 the army officers with him took the
 remainder of the people whom
 Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah had captured
 at Mitzfah, after he murdered
 Ghedaliah-ben-Akhikam, the capable
 soldiers, and the women and children,
 and their attendants, whom he had
 17 captured at Gibeon, and went and
 retreated to the Caravanserai of
 Kimoham, near Bethlehem, with the
 18 object of marching to Mitzer, from
 the presence of the Kasdim. For they
 were afraid of them, because Ishmael-
 ben-Nethaniah had assassinated
 Ghedaliah-ben-Akhikam, whom the
 king of Babel had appointed over the
 country.

Jeremiah asked to pray for Guidance.

42 From there the whole force pro-
 ceeded with Jokhanan-ben-Korakh,
 and Izaniah-ben-Hoshiah, and all the
 2 crowd, both little and great, and said
 to Jeremiah the Preacher: "Let us
 request you to lie down on your face,
 and pray to your EVER-LIVING GOD
 on account of us,—on account of this
 little fragment of the many your eyes
 3 have seen we once were, and let your
 EVER-LIVING GOD inform us of the
 way we should go and the things we
 should do."

4 And Jeremiah the Preacher
 answered "I have heard you. I will
 pray to your EVER-LIVING GOD as you
 command;—and whatever message
 the EVER-LIVING replies, I will report
 to you. I will not hold a word back
 from you."

5 When they replied, "May the
 EVER-LIVING be a true and faithful
 witness against us, if we do not act
 in accordance with every word your
 EVER-LIVING GOD sends to us!
 6 We will do it! Whether the direction
 of our EVER-LIVING GOD is pleasant
 or unpleasant. Since we have sent
 you to Him we will obey,—so that it
 may benefit us. We will indeed

listen to the voice of our EVER-LIVING
 GOD."

It happened at the end of ten days 7
 that the command of the EVER-
 LIVING came to Jeremiah, and he 8
 summoned Jokhanan - ben - Korakh,
 and all the officers of the forces who
 were with him, and all the crowd,
 from the children to the adults, and 9
 said to them, "Thus says the EVER-
 LIVING GOD of Israel, to whom you
 sent me to lay down your entreaty
 before Him, 'If you continue in this 10
 country, then I will build you up, and
 not throw down,—and plant you and
 not pull up,—because I am grieved
 at the misery I have made for you.
 Fear nothing from the king of Babel, 11
 whom you fear,—be not afraid about
 him,' says the EVER-LIVING, 'for I
 will be with you to secure you, and
 to deliver you from his hand, and
 show you mercy;—and he will show 12
 you mercy, and restore you to your
 land.' But if you reply, 'We will not 13
 continue in this country, nor listen
 to the voice of GOD,' and say, 'No! 14
 but we will go to the land of the
 Mitzeraim where we shall not see
 war, nor hear the voice of a trumpet,—
 nor famish for bread, and we will
 settle there'; then, again, hear the 15
 message of the EVER-LIVING, Rem-
 nant of Judah! Thus says the LORD
 OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel! If
 you turn your faces to go to Mitzer,
 and go as foreigners there, the sword 16
 you are afraid of will come there to
 hunt you in the land of the Mitzeraim,
 and the famine you dread will stick
 close after you there in the land of
 the Mitzeraim;—and there you will
 die! Yes! All the men who set 17
 their faces to go to Mitzer, to lodge
 there, will die by the sword, the
 famine and the plague, and shall not
 possess an escape or refuge from the
 miseries that I will bring upon them!
 "For thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, 18
 the GOD of Israel! 'As I poured
 out My anger and indignation upon
 the population of Jerusalem, so I will
 pour My indignation upon you who
 are going to the Mitzeraim, and you
 shall become a curse, and a source
 of desolation, and degradation, and
 reproach and never again see this
 place!' The command of the EVER- 19
 LIVING to you, the Remnant of Judah,
 is 'Go not to the Mitzeraim!' Com-
 prehend what I have told you to-day!
 However you deluded your own souls 20

when you sent me to your EVER-LIVING GOD, saying 'Entreat your EVER-LIVING GOD on account of us,—and whatever our EVER-LIVING GOD says to us, we will follow and do it!' I have told you to-day, but you will not listen to the direction of your EVER-LIVING GOD in anything He has sent by me to you! Therefore, now, assure yourselves you will die by the sword, by famine, and by plague in the place where you had decided to go and lodge."

The Jewish Generals refuse to believe Jeremiah's Message.

43 But when Jeremiah had finished communicating to the crowd of all the commands of their EVER-LIVING GOD, which their EVER-LIVING GOD had sent to them,—all these commands, Azriah-ben-Hoshiah, and Jokhanan-ben-Korakh, and all the insolent fellows, exclaimed to Jeremiah,

"You are a liar! Our EVER-LIVING GOD has not sent commanding you to tell us not to go to the Mitzeraim to lodge there. But Baruk-ben-Neria has set you on to us, so that he may give us into the power of the Kasdim to be killed or to transport us to Babel!"

4 Consequently Jokhanan-ben-Korakh, and all the officers of the army, and the crowd, would not listen to the instruction of the EVER-LIVING to stay in the land of Judah.

5 So Jokhanan-ben-Korakh, and all the officers of the forces, took all the fragments of Judah that had returned to the land of Judah from all the nations where they had fled to lodge,—all the men, and women,

6 and children,—with the daughters of the king, and all the persons whom Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, had entrusted to Ghedaliah-ben-Akikam, and Jeremiah the Preacher, and Baruk-ben-Neria, and went to the land of the Mitzeraim,—for they would not listen to the instruction of the EVER-LIVING, but went to Thakhfanes.

Jeremiah ordered to bring Witnessing Stones.

8 But the command of the EVER-LIVING came to Jeremiah in Thakhfanes to say:

9 "Take great stones in your hands,

and set them in white mortar in the Pavement, that is upon the square of Pharaoh's palace at Thakhfanes, in the presence of the men of Judah,—and say to them: Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel, I will send, and bring My servant Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, and place his throne over these stones which I have set, and spread his splendid tent over them! He shall come, and strike in the land of the Mitzeraim whoever are for death,—with death; and whoever are for slavery,—with slavery; and whoever are for the sword,—with the sword! And I will set fire to the temples of the gods of the Mitzerites and burn them, and capture them, and he will put the land of Mitzer upon himself like a shepherd puts on his coat, and go out of it in quietude. He will also break the pillars of the Temple of the Sun that is in the land of the Mitzeraim, and burn the temples of the gods of the Mitzeraim with fire!"

A Message to the Jews in Egypt.

The command which came to Jeremiah for all the Jews resident in the land of the Mitzeraim,—the residents in Migdol, and Thakhfanes, and in Nof, in the district of Pathrom,—to say:

"Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel! You saw all the miseries which I brought upon Jerusalem, and upon all the cities of Judah, and see them to-day a heap of ashes with no inhabitants in them, because of the wickedness that they practised, to provoke Me, by going and burning incense to, and serving seducing gods, which neither you nor your fathers knew, although I sent My servants the Preachers to you,—rising early and sending,—'Do not that loathsome thing that I hate!' But they would not listen, nor incline their ears, or turn from their wickedness, and cease to burn incense to seducing gods, therefore I poured out My indignation and anger; and burnt the cities of Judah, and overthrew Jerusalem, and they are ashes, and desolate to-day!"

"But now the LORD GOD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel asks this, Why will you commit this great sin against your own lives? It will cut off man and woman,—child and suckling from Judah, until not a fragment is

8 left! Why will you insult Me by the fabrications of your own hands, and burn incense to seducing gods in the land of the Mitzeraim where you have come to lodge? so as to cut yourselves off; and so as to make yourselves a curse, and reproach to
 9 all the nations of the earth? Have you forgotten the wickedness of your fathers? and the wickedness of the kings of Judah, and the wickedness of their wives? and your own wickedness? and the wickedness of your wives,—which they committed in the land of Judah, and in the streets of
 10 Jerusalem? You have not repented to this day! You have not feared,—and not walked in My laws, or My institutions that I put before you,
 11 and before your fathers. Therefore thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel! I have set My face against you to punish, and to bring
 12 all Judah to destruction. Consequently I will take the fragments of Judah, who set their faces to go to the land of the Mitzeraim to lodge, and will kill you all in the land of Mitzer. They shall fall by the sword, and by famine. They shall die from the least to the greatest;—they shall die by the sword and by famine, and be a curse, and desolation, and
 13 scorn, and reproach! I will also appoint over the residents in the land of the Mitzeraim, what I appointed over Jerusalem,—sword,
 14 famine, and plague! And there shall be no refuge or escape, for the fragments of Judah who have come to lodge in the land of the Mitzeraim, nor a return to the land of Judah, which they lift up their souls to return to, and rest in,—for they shall not return, nor escape!”

The Crowd assail Jeremiah.

15 Then all the men who knew that their wives burnt incense to seducing gods, and all the women stood up in a great meeting with all the people resident at Pathrom in the land of Mitzer, and replied to Jeremiah; exclaiming, “We will not listen to the command that you address to us in the name of the EVER-LIVING.
 16 But do every word that comes from our own mouths,—and burn incense to the Queen of the Skies, and drink our drinks to her,—as we ourselves used to do, and our mothers, and kings, and nobles, in the cities of

Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem; when we had plenty of bread, and were prosperous, and saw no misery. And when we burnt incense
 18 to the Queen of the Skies and drank our drinks to her, was it without the
 19 consent of our husbands that we made cakes to represent her,—and drank drinks to her?”

But Jeremiah answered to the
 20 whole crowd,—to the men and women,—and all the people who replied to him in that speech, and said,—

“Was not the incense you burnt
 21 in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem,—you, and your mothers, your kings and nobles, and the people of your country, remembered by the EVER-LIVING, and came to His knowledge? until the EVER-
 22 LIVING was not able to bear your wicked ways, on account of the abominations that you practised,—therefore your country has become a heap of ashes, and a desolation, and scorn, and without inhabitants, as it
 23 now is! because of that burning of incense and that sin against the
 EVER-LIVING, and your not listening to the voice of the EVER-LIVING, or to His laws and institutions, and evidences, nor walking after them. Consequently this misery has approached you at this time! How-
 24 ever,” said Jeremiah to all the people, and to all the women, “listen to the command of the EVER-LIVING, all Judah who are in the land of the Mitzeraim. Thus the LORD OF
 25 HOSTS, the GOD of Israel commands me to tell you and your wives, who have spoken by your mouths, and have done it by your hands, to say, ‘We will perform the vows which we have vowed to burn incense to the Queen of the skies, and to drink
 26 drinks to her;—confirm, then, your vows, and perform your vows.’ Yet, however, hear the message of the
 EVER-LIVING, all Judah, residing in the land of the Mitzeraim. I have sworn by My GREAT NAME, says the
 EVER-LIVING, that never again shall My NAME be invoked by the mouth of any man of Judah, saying by the
 LIVING MIGHTY LORD in all the land of the Mitzeraim! I will watch over
 27 them to punish, and not to benefit, and every man of Judah in Mitzer shall die by the sword, and by the
 28 famine, to the last of them. Yet

refugees from the sword shall return from the land of the Mitzeraim to the land of Judah,—a small number. Then all the fragments of Judah who went to the land of the Mitzeraim, to lodge there, will know whose word stands—Mine or theirs! And this shall be the sign to you," says the EVER-LIVING, "that I will fix in this place, so that you may know that My intentions are settled against you for punishment."

30 Thus says the EVER-LIVING, "I will give Pharaoh Khofra, king of the Mitzeraim to the hand of his enemy, and to the hand of the seekers of his life! as I gave Zedekiah, king of Judah to the hand of Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, his enemy; and the pursuer of his life."

Jeremiah records his Prophecies by Baruk.

45 The command which Jeremiah the Preacher gave to Baruk-ben-Neria to write all these speeches in a book in the fourth year of Jehoiakim-

ben-Joshiah, king of Judah. He said:—

"Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel to you, Baruk: You said, 'Woe now to me for the EVER-LIVING adds to the agony of my pain! I am weary with sighing, and find no consolation! Say this to him, Thus says the EVER-LIVING, What I have built, I will throw down! What I have planted I will pull up,—and that in all the country. Do you seek greatness for yourself? Seek it not! for I will bring misery upon every person," says the EVER-LIVING. "But I will give you your life as a gain in every event."

A Warning to the Egyptian Army.

The message of the EVER-LIVING to Jeremiah the Preacher about the Heathen, and to the Mitzeraim, about the army of Pharaoh Neko, king of the Mitzeraim, when it advanced to the River Frath¹ to Karkemish, where Nebukhadnezzar king of Babel, defeated him in the fourth year of Jhoiakim-ben-Joshiah, king of Judah.

The Burden of Pharaoh.

3 PHAROH.—"Array with the Buckler and Shield!
And march out for the war!

4 Saddle your horses,—and cavalry mount;
Don your helmets; sharpen your spears,
Gird on your coats of mail!

5 What do I see? They fear and turn back!
The heroes are routed! They fly! They fly!
They return not, and terror surrounds,"
Says the LORD.

6 "The swift cannot fly, nor the mighty escape,
In the North, on the banks of the Frath,¹
Where they stumble and fall!

7 "Who is this, like a river that rises?
Like torrents that roll out their waves?
8 It is Mitzer that floods like her river,—
And her torrents that roll out their waves!
Cries, 'I rise! I will cover the earth,
I will sweep off the town and its people.'"

9 "Let cavalry mount, and the chariots rush,
And charge with the heroes of Kush;
And of Put that can handle the shield,
And the Ludim who draw leaping bows; "
10 For this is the day of the Great LORD OF HOSTS,
To-day He will punish—will punish His foes!

Now sword devour and be gorged,
And become drunken with blood;
For the great LORD OF HOSTS has a slaughter,
In the north, on the banks of the Frath.

¹ The Euphrates, as the Greeks named it.

- THE PROPHET.—Go to Gilad, and gather you balm, 11
 You poor girl, the daughter of Mitzer!
 In vain you will multiply med'cines,
 For there is no cure for you!
- The nations have heard of your shame, 12
 And the earth is filled full of your wailings;
 For hero on hero has stumbled,
 And both have together rolled down!
- 13 The message which the LORD com- | of Babel, to conquer the land of the
 manded to Jeremiah the Preacher on | Mitzeraim.
 the arrival of Nebukhadnezzar, king

The Second Burden of Egypt.

- "Tell it to Egypt, proclaim it in Migdol, 14
 Report it to Noph, and to Thakhafanes;
 Say, Stand up and make yourselves ready,
 For the sword is devouring around!
- "Why is your Leader swept off? 15
 When the LORD drove him, how could he stand?
 The crowd jostled and fell on each other; 16
 Cried, 'Arise! and return to our homes,—
 And our land from the sword's cruel face!' 17
 'Mitzer's king, Pharoh,' they cry, 'is a sound,—
 The time for his chance has gone by.' 18
 By my life!" says the King named JEHOVAH OF HOSTS,
 "How like Thabor he stood in the hills,
 And as Karmel went out to the sea!"
- Oh! make yourself ready for capture, 19
 You who dwell with the daughter of Mitzer!
 For Noph shall become as a desert,
 And none shall dwell in it for ever!
 O beautiful heifer of Mitzer! 20
 The wasp from the north will come in,
 When your hirelings, like calves in a stall, 21
 Will turn, and together fly off,—
 Not stand, for their day of fear comes,
 The time of their dread upon them
- Her voice like a serpent goes forth; 22
 For with powerful axes they march,
 Come to her like hewers of trees.—
 "They will cut down her wood," says the LORD, 23
 "Though uncounted, and more than the locusts,—
 And no one can ever count them!
- "They will outrage the daughter of Mitzer, 24
 By the hand of the men of the North!"
 Says the LORD GOD OF HOSTS, and of Israel. 25
 "I will Myself punish Amon and No,
 With Pharoh, and all Mitzer's gods;—
 Her king Pharoh, and all trusting him,
 Are led bound by those seeking their life,— 26
 To Babel's king Nebukhadnezzar,
 And to the hand of his slaves.
 But after that time she shall rest,
 As in the old times," says the LORD!

- 27 " But you, fear not, My servant Jacob,
And Israel be not afraid !
For I will save you from afar,
And your race from the land that enslaved !
And Jacob shall rest undisturbed,
And be quiet without any fear.
- 28 Fear not for yourself," says the LORD,
" I am with you, O My servant Jacob ;
Though I will destroy all the heathen
To whom I have driven you away,
But of you I will not make an end ;
But only correct you with justice,
And the guiltless I will not afflict."

The Burden of Philistia.

- 47 The message of the EVER-LIVING | about the Philishtim, before Pharaoh
which came to Jeremiah the Preacher, | attacked Gaza.
- 2 Thus says the EVER-LIVING :—

See ! waters come from the north like the flood of a river,
Sweep over the land, flood the town and its people !
And men shriek,—and they yell,—all who dwell in the land.

- 3 At the sound of the fierce-stamping steeds, at the rush of his chariots,
At the roar of his wheels fathers take not the hands of their children,
4 For the day comes to plunder the whole of Philistia,
To cut off from Tzur and from Zidon all help that is left !
For the LORD will destroy the Philishtim left on Kaphtor's coast !
5 On Gaza comes baldness ;—and Ashkelon's ruins are silent,—
How long did you scheme but to get yourself plundered ?
- 6 Alas ! Sword of the LORD ! Will you never be quiet ?
Put yourself in your sheath ! and be silent and mute !
7 How can it be still when the LORD has to Askalon sent it ?
And sends to the shore of the sea ?

- 48 Thus says the LORD GOD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel to Moab :—

The Burden of Moab.

- " Woe to Nebo ! for it is all ruined and outraged !
Krihaim is captured and outraged, and Misgob is fired !
2 The glory of Moab is not ! they plot evil against her in Heshbon !
' Come ! let us destroy her from being a nation !
Follow Madmena with sword,—and reduce her to silence !'"
- 3 From Horanim ring shrieks of plunder and crashing !
4 Moab is broken ! The shriek of her babes is resounding !
5 For ascending to Lukoth in tears, they go along weeping,
For they hear broken shrieks and distress in sweet Horanim's vale !
- 6 Fly ! escape for your lives ! and be like to the heath in the desert !
7 You trusted your works, and your treasures now all are taken,
And Kemosh is carried away with his priests and his nobles.
- 8 The plunderer comes on each town, and no city escapes him ;
He destroys in the vale,—wastes the plain, as the LORD has commanded !
9 Give Moab wings to fly off, for her cities are wasted !
And they will become without any inhabitants in them !
10 Curse on the Agent who does the LORD'S work remissly !
And curse him who holds back his sword from the blood !

- Moab was easy from youth, and he rested secure on his lees ; 11
 Was not drawn from cask into bottles, nor gone to be captive ;
 So his flower remained, and his scent had not gone !
 " But the days come," says the LORD, " I will send to him tapsters, 12
 Who will tap and will empty his barrels and smash up his bottles !
 And Moab shall blush for his Kemosh, as Israel blushed to trust Bethel." 13
- Ah ! let them not say they are heroes, and valiant in battle ! 14
 For Moab is waste,—and his cities are smoke, 15
 And the choice of his heroes have gone to the slain,
 Says the King named the LORD of the Armies.
- Moab's distresses come on, and his miseries hasten ! 16
 All mourn around him, and all who have known his fame murmur ; 17
 " How the strong staff is broken ! the beautiful sceptre !"
- Leave your ease, and sit down in your thirst, idle daughter of Diban ! 18
 For the robber of Moab comes on ! and he ruins your strongholds !
 Stand by the road watching, you lady residing in Aroar, 19
 Ask the fugitive band, " Tell me what has been done ?"
 " Moab is shamed and is outraged," they howl and they loudly shriek out, 20
 " Spread the report to the Arnon that Moab is plundered !
 Judgment has come on the land of the plain,—and on Holan, 21
 On Jehzar, and Mofath, and Diban, and Nebo ; 22
 Beth-Diblathaim and Krithim, Bethgamul, and Bethmaum, 23
 And Krioth, and Bozrah, and on all other cities ;— 24
 All the country of Moab afar, or that which is near us !
 Moab's horn has been crushed, and his strong arm is broken," the LORD 25
 says !
- Drink,—for he flouted the LORD—and let Moab roll in his vomit ! 26
 And himself be a scorn,—for was he not Israel dividing ?
 If he was found among thieves, why when you spoke did you jeer him ? 27
 Leave your towns,—dwell on rocks, you poor people of Moab, 28
 And become like the dove who builds nests at the cavern's wide entry !
 We have heard Moab's pride, he is proud and so haughty ; 29
 He is proud, overbearing and very high-hearted !
 His fury, I knew," says the LORD, " and his boasting were worthless !" 30
- However I howl for poor Moab,—for Moab the perfect ! 31
 For the men of Kirhares I shriek, who are mourning.
 With the weeping of Jazer I weep, and for you, O fair vine of Sibmah ! 32
 Your branches spread over the brook, and as far as the waters of Jezar !
 The plunderer falls on your fruits and he strips off your vintage !
 Gladness and joy both depart from the rich fields of Moab,— 33
 No wine from the presses is trod, and no treaders are joyfully cheering ;
 Their shrieks from Heshbon, and Elaleh and Jazer are uttered ; 34
 They are roaring from Zoar to Horanim, as do the three year old heifers,—
 " The waters of Nimrim shall now become deserts !" the LORD says,
 " I stop Moab from mounting his temple and offering sweets to his gods !" 35
- Therefore, my heart make a moaning for Moab, like pipers ; 36
 My heart for the men of Kirhares will moan like the flutes ;
 Because the great wealth he had gathered has perished ;
 And their heads are all bald, and their chins are close shaven, 37
 And on all hands are wounds, and on all loins sackcloth !
 On the housetops, and markets of Moab is everywhere mourning. 38
- " I broke Moab like things that I like not," the LORD says.
 " How they howl now when broken ! How Moab turns back when 39
 degraded !
 And Moab becomes to all round him a horror and terror !

- 40 For," thus says the LORD; "He shall fly like an eagle,
 41 And swoop down on Moab whose cities are captured,
 Then the heart of his heroes shall be like a woman in labour,
 42 And Moab shall cease among nations from flouting JEHOVAH!"
- 43 The LORD proclaims fear, pit, and trap on the people of Moab!
 44 Who flies from the face of the terror, the pit will engulf him!
 Who crawls from the pit will be caught by the trap!
 "Against Moab the time of his judgment," the LORD says, "has come."
- 45 They stand in the shadow of Heshbon who fly from the mighty,
 From Heshbon comes fire, and flame from near Sihon;—
 And eats Moab's cheek and the crown of the children of fury!
 46 Woe, to you Moab!—The Nation of Kemosh has perished!
 For they take captive your sons, and make slaves of your daughters!
 47 "Yet I will restore Moab's captives hereafter," the LORD says.

So far is the judgment of Moab.

The Burden of the Beni-Amon.

- 49 The LORD asks the Beni-Amon thus:—"Has Israel no sons? has he no heir? Why then does their king possess Gad, and his force reside in his cities? Therefore be sure the times will come," says the LORD, "when I will make a report be heard in Rabath of the Beni-Amon,—a noise of war,—and it shall become a ruinous waste, and her buildings shall be set on fire, and Israel shall seize those who plundered him," says the LORD.
- 3 Howl for Heshbon! A deserted ruin! Shriek, daughters of Rabath! Gird sacks on yourselves! Lament and run to the hedges, for your king goes to captivity,—his priests and nobles with him.
- 4 Why do you glory in the vales? Your flowery vales, you attractive girl, who trust in your charms with
- 5 "Who will come to me?" I will bring upon you a terror," says the MIGHTY LORD OF HOSTS, "from all around you, and you shall each be driven from its face, and with no collecting place for the wanderers.
- 6 But at last I will restore the captivity of the Beni-Amon," says the LORD.

The Lord's Message to Edom.

- 7 The LORD OF HOSTS says this to Edom:
 "There is no longer wisdom in Theman;—counsel has perished from the wise sons of trade! Fly! Turn! dig pits to live in! you people of Dedan! For I will bring the terror of Esau upon him at the time I punish.

If grasshoppers came to you, would 9 they leave no gleanings? If thieves by night, they plunder till full! I, 10 however, have exhausted Esau; I have stripped his hidings, and he cannot conceal himself; his family is plundered, and his relatives, and his friends, and himself, are not! Leave your orphans to me;—I will 11 keep them alive; and let your widows trust on me.

For thus says the EVER-LIVING:— 12
 "Those who were not condemned to drink the cup have drunk! And shall you, a convict, not be punished? You shall drink! For I have sworn 13 by Myself," says the LORD, "that Bozrah shall become a waste, a reproach, a ruin, a curse, and all her towns shall be a desert for ever!"

I have heard a message from the 14 EVER-LIVING by a messenger to the nations to collect, and they will come upon her, and rise to war. For I give 15 you as a trifle to the nations, a contempt to men. Your terrors deceived 16 your proud heart, you who dwell in caves on the crags, who stick to lofty hills;—if you nestle as high as the eagle, I will pull you from there," says the EVER-LIVING. "For Edom 17 shall become a wonder. All who pass over her shall be astonished, and whistle at his many wounds. Like overwhelmed Sodam and 18 Gomorah and her neighbours," says the EVER-LIVING, "no man will dwell there, and no son of Adam remain to her!"

See he was like a lion coming up 19 from the swelling of Jordan to the permanent meadows: "I will be sly with them," he said, "I will assail from behind them,—what hero can defend them? for who is equal to

me, and who expects me? and what shepherd can stand before me?"
 20 Therefore hear the intent of the EVER-LIVING, which He intends against Edom, and the plans he has planned against the people of The-man, if they do not withdraw the young of the flock; if they do not put them in the Fold.

The earth shall shake at the sound 21
 of her fall;—the voice of his shriek to the Sea of Weeds!

Look! He comes like an eagle, 22
 and flies! and spreads his wings over Bozrah,—and the heart of the heroes of Edom in that day will be like the heart of a woman in terror!

AGAINST DAMASCUS.

The Doom of Damascus.

Both Hamath and Arpad are cowed;
 They melt on hearing the sad report;
 Like the troubled sea they cannot rest;
 Timid Damascus turns to fly,
 Trembling and terror has seized her;
 Anguish holds her like childbirth!

23

24

Is the Bright City forsaken?
 Along with the towns she rejoiced in?
 Why fall her youth in her broadways?
 And why are all her warriors silent?

25

26

Because now says the LORD OF SABAOOTH,
 "I will fire the walls of Damascus,
 And devour the Halls of Benadad."

27

The Doom of Bedar.

28 Against Kedar, and the territories of Khatzih that Nebukhadnezzar, | king of Babel, shall conquer, thus said the LORD:—

"Arise, and advance to Kedar!
 And ravage the sons of the East!
 Plunder their tents and their sheep flocks,
 Take their curtains, their arms, and their camels,
 And shout to them, 'Terrors are round you!'

29

"Fly! wander afar, and sink down!"
 Says the LORD to the dwellers in Hazor,
 "For Babel's king, Nebukhadnezzar,
 Plots, and makes plans against you!

30

"Arise! Advance to a nation at ease,
 Who rest," says the LORD, "as in safety,
 They are careless, without gates or bars.

31

"So their camels are therefore a booty,
 And their rich herds will be for a spoil,—
 When I fling them to the wind,
 And all round them bring grief," says the LORD.

32

"Then jackals shall hunt about Hazor;
 No man ever dwell in her wrecks,
 And no son of Adam shall lodge."

33

The Doom of Ailam.

34 The command of the EVER-LIVING that came to Jeremiah the Preacher in the first year of the reign of Zede- | kiah king of Judah, to proclaim to Ailam.

- 35 Thus says the LORD OF THE HOSTS;—
 "Of Ailam's chief hero I will break the bow,
 36 And will bring the four winds upon Ailam,
 From the four sides of heaven, and fling to those winds,
 And no nation shall be where those wanderers come not!
- 37 I will terrify Ailam to turn from their foes,
 And from those who hunt after their life,
 And will bring on them grief in the heat of My wrath,"
 38 Says the LORD, "and pursue with a sword to destroy.
 And will cause Ailam's throne to depart,
 And deprive her of king and of prince," says the LORD.
 39 "But hereafter a time shall arrive," says the LORD,
 "When the captured from Ailam return."
- 50 The address the LORD addressed to Babel and the country of the Kasdim,
 by Jeremiah the Preacher:—

The Doom of Babylon of the Kasdim.

- 2 Declare to the nations, and publish, and set up a standard!
 Publish it,—hide not;—say Babel is captured, and Bel is degraded!
 Merodak is frightened! Their idols degraded, their images shattered!
- 3 For a race from the north is advancing who ravage her country!
 None remain hers,—from the man to the beast, they are scattered!
- 4 In those days,—at that time, it shall be as JEHOVAH Himself says,
 Israel's children and Judah's united will march, and will weep as they march,
 And will seek for their GOD EVER-LIVING, and ask for the highway to Zion;
 5 Then go to the LORD'S Ancient Treaty, nor ever forget it.
- 6 Lost sheep were My Race, whom their shepherds had lost in the mountains;
 They strayed about mountains and hills, forgetting the way to their own
 home!—
- 7 All who found them devoured, their oppressors declared it not wrong,
 Because they offended the LORD;—their true Hope, and the Well of their
 fathers—Jehovah!
- 8 Fly out from Babel,—come out from the land of the Kasdim like shepherds
 who go before flocks!
- 9 For, see! I am rousing and bringing on Babel a crowd of Great Nations
 From the Land of the North they march on her, from them shoot their arrows,
 Their skilled Leaders will not return empty, but plunder the Kasdim,
 10 "All," says the LORD, "shall be full with her plunder!
- 11 "Because you rejoiced,—when you plundered My Homestead,
 Because you were fierce like an heifer at grass, and were neighing like stallions,
 12 Your mother shall feel her disgrace; and her deep shame she who bore you,
 She will be last of the Nations, a Desert, a Ruin, and burnt Waste!
- 13 From the wrath of the LORD be unpeopled, and wholly deserted;
 All passing by desolate Babel, shall hiss at her wounding."
- 14 All now who can shoot with the bow, arrange yourselves round about Babel;
 Shoot at her,—and spare not the darts, for she has offended JEHOVAH,
 15 Around her, shout out "She submits and her bulwarks have fallen!"
 The LORD will do justice on her, so hasten and throw down her ramparts!
 Come, execute justice on her, and as she has done, give back to her now!
- 16 Cut off the sowers from Babel, and scythemen in season of harvest;
 From the face of your terrible swords let each fly like a dove to his people,—
 Turn, and every man fly to his country.
- 17 Israel was like a lost flock, whom the lions had driven and scattered
 At first Ashur's king was devouring, and now in succession,
 His bones they were broken by Babel's King, Nebukadnezzar;

- "Therefore," thus says the LORD OF THE HOSTS, Who is Israel's GOD, 18
 "I will repay to Babel, its king and his land, as to Ashur I repaid !
 But bring Israel home to his pasture on Karmel and Bashan, 19
 And to Mount Ephraim and Gilad, and then I will satisfy his soul,—
 In those days, and those times," says the LORD, "Israel's faults shall be sought 20
 but shall be not ;
 Nor Judah's offences be found, because I have pardoned the sins they
 committed.
 Advance to the land of revolt, with punishing sword to her people, 21
 Pursue them to waste and destroy," says the LORD, "and do all I decree."
 War sounds in the land with her mighty destruction and breaking ; 22
 Her hammer smashes the land, and Babel becomes but a wreck to the Nations ! 23
 Babel ! I tried for and caught you, and you did not know or suspect Me ; 24
 I found, and I also have caught, for you strove with JEHOVAH !
 The LORD'S storehouse was opened, He brought out his weapons of anger, 25
 For the GREAT LORD OF HOSTS has a work in the land of the Kasdim !
 Come to her from far, break her stones, cast them out like a corn heap ! 26
 Dissipate all that she has, and let not a fragment be left her !
 Destroy all the bullocks she has, driving them down to the slaughter ;— 27
 Woe ! for them ! for their day has now come, the time of their anguish !
 Cry out, "Fly and escape from the country of Babel !" 28
 Tell to Zion, "The LORD our GOD is avenging, avenging His Temple !"
 Summon legions to Babel, all archers and bowmen to camp round against her, 29
 Let none escape from her ! Repay her her work,—all she did, do to her !
 For she insulted the LORD,—the Most Holy of Israel !
 "And therefore her youths," says the LORD, "shall fall down on her squares, 30
 "And her warriors faint on that day.
 I am opposed to your pride," says the GREAT LORD of Armies ; 31
 "For your day has arrived, and the time I chastize you.
 When your pride shall totter and fall, and without restoration, 32
 When I kindle your towns and consume all around them !"

Israel's Redeemer.

- 33 Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS :—
 "The children of Israel and the
 children of Judah are both alike
 oppressed, and all who capture, hold
 34 them ;—they refuse to liberate. The
 name of their Redeemer is the Mighty
 LORD OF HOSTS. He will plead their
 cause, to bring rest to the land ; but
 35 will agitate Babel. A sword is over
 the Kasdim, says the LORD, and
 against the inhabitants of Babel, and
 against her Nobles and Philosophers !
 36 A sword is against her powerful, who
 will act foolishly. A sword is against
 her heroes, and they shall be cowards.
 37 A sword is against her horses and
 chariots, and against all the mercena-
 ries within her, and they shall become
 like women. A sword is against
 her treasures, and they shall be
 38 plundered. A drought is against her
 rivers, and they shall be dried up ; for
 it is a land of Idols, and they are mad
 for Images !
 39 "Therefore the howling beasts of
 the desert shall dwell there,—and the
 young of the ostrich, for it shall not
 be re-peopled for ever, and not in-

habited for ages of ages ! As GOD 40
 overwhelmed Sodom and Gomorah,
 and their neighbours," says the
 EVER-LIVING, "no man shall dwell
 there, and no son of Adam lodge in
 her !"

Look ! A People comes from the 41
 North ! and a great Nation ; and
 many kings raise themselves from the
 sides of the earth ! They seize the 42
 bow and quiver—they are fierce and
 pity not, with a voice like the roaring
 sea. They ride on disciplined horses
 like soldiers, to assail you, daughters
 of Babel. The king of Babel will 43
 hear the report, and his hands fail,
 and anguish seize him like a childing
 woman.

See him advance like a lion from 44
 the flooding of the Jordan to the per-
 manent pasture ;—"I will assail from
 their rear ! What hero can defend
 them ? For who is equal to me ? And
 who expects me, and what shepherd
 can stand before me ?"

Therefore hear the purpose of the 45
 EVER-LIVING, which He intends
 against Babel, and the plans He has
 planned against the land of the

Kasdim,—if they do not draw in the young of the flock, if they do not with-
46 draw themselves from the meadow,—
the earth shall shake at the sound of
the crash of Babel, and the Nations
will hear her shriek!

51 Thus says the EVER-LIVING,
“Look! I will raise against Babel
and her presumptuous-hearted people,
2 a scorching wind, and send fanners
to Babel to winnow her, and they
shall empty her country. For they
will come against her from around in
3 a bad time. Against the bowman, let
the archer bend his bow; and against
the marcher in armour; and pity not
her youth; exterminate all her army,
4 and throw down the wounded in the
land of the Kasdim, and the stabbed
5 in her streets! For Israel and Judah
are not destitute of their GOD, the

LORD OF HOSTS, although their
country was full of offence against
the HOLY of Israel!”

Fly from the midst of Babel! And 6
let each escape with his life! Be not
subject to her sins; for it is the time
for her punishment by the EVER-
LIVING,—He will pay her wages!

Babel's golden cup from the hand 7
of the EVER-LIVING made all the
earth drunk with her wine! The
nations drank,—therefore the nations
raved. Suddenly Babel falls, and 8
breaks! Howl over her! Take balm
for her pain,—perhaps she may be
cured? They may medicate Babel; 9
—but she will not be cured! Abandon
her, and all march to your own
countries, for her crime was against
the heavens, and her conviction comes
from beyond the clouds!

The Belibery of Judah.

10 The LORD has restored our right!
Come let us relate it to Zion,
The act of the LORD our GOD.

11 Sharpen the arrows, and sling the shields,
The LORD has inspired the Median king,
Who plans against Babel destruction,
When the LORD will avenge His temple!

12 Hoist the flag against Babel's walls;
Strengthen the guard, and appoint for the watch;
Make ready the column to storm!
For the LORD intends, and will do what He says,
Against the people of Babel!

13 Prosperous dweller, by plenteous stream
Your end has come, your measure is full!

14 The LORD OF HOSTS has sworn by His life,
He will fill you with men like worms,
Who will come up against you with cheers!

A Psalm to the Creator.

15 He made the earth by His power,
By His knowledge, He formed the spheres,
And spread out the skies by His skill!

16 At His voice, the sea roars to the skies,
And clouds from the horizon rise up,
With the lightnings and rain that He makes,
And HE brings the wind out of His stores.

17 All ignorant men are like brutes;
Every maker of idols is base;
For he fashions a lie without soul!

18 They are vain, and the work of delusions
In the season of trial they fail.

19 Jacob's portion is never like them;
His Name is the LORD of Sabaoth,
It was He who constructed all things,
And chose him, a RACE for Himself.

" You are My hammer, and weapons of war, 20
 And I hammer the nations by you,
 And by you I break up the kingdoms!
 Hammer horse and his rider by you, 21
 And by you hammer chariot and driver,
 And hammer by you man and wife, 22
 And hammer by you old and young,
 And hammer by you youths and girls,
 And hammer by you flock and keeper, 23
 And by you hammer ploughman and plough,
 And by you hammer Rulers and governed;
 And will pay back again upon Babel 24
 And all who reside with the Kasdim,
 The sufferings they laid upon Zion,
 And that in your sight," says the LORD.

The Summons to Babel.

25 " Mountain! I am against you,"
 says the LORD, " to lay you waste!
 You wasted the whole earth,—so I
 will direct My hand against you, and
 roll you from the peaks, and make
 26 you a burnt-out volcano, from which
 they will not take stone for building,
 or a stone for foundations,—but you
 shall be a perpetual desolation," says
 the LORD.
 27 " Raise a standard in the earth, blow
 a trumpet among the Nations. Pre-
 pare the Nations against her! Sum-
 mon the Kingdoms! Ararat, Mini,
 and Ashkanez. Appoint generals
 against her, to lead the horsemen
 28 like hairy caterpillars! Prepare the
 Nations against her,—the Kings of
 the Medes, with their marshals and
 all their lieutenants, all the countries
 29 they govern. Make the land shake
 and reel, for the intention of the
 LORD is fixed against Babel, to turn
 the country of Babel to a waste, and
 30 without inhabitants. The heroes of
 Babel evade the fight! They sit in
 their forts! Their courage has failed!
 Their houses are fired,—their bars
 31 are broken!—Postman runs to meet
 postman,—and reporter to meet
 reporter, to tell the king of Babel
 that his city is captured on all sides!
 32 That the fords are seized,—the reeds
 burnt with fire,—and his soldiers in
 terror!"
 For thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, 33
 the GOD of Israel; " The daughter
 of Babel is like corn at thrashing
 time; tread her after a while, when
 the harvest time comes to her."
 Nebukhadnezzar, King of Babel, 34
 has devoured and torn us; has left us
 an empty jar,—swallowed us like a
 serpent,—he has gorged his belly
 with our sweets,—he shall vomit
 us up!
 Let the lady of Zion say, " My 35
 violation and outraging be upon
 Babel!" " And my blood upon the
 people of Kasdim," Jerusalem cries.
 " Therefore," thus says the LORD, 36
 " I will plead your cause, and execute
 justice on account of you, and dry up
 the water, and make her fountains
 dry, and Babel shall become a 37
 stone heap,—the haunt of serpents,
 —a waste, and jungle, without
 inhabitants.
 " They roar together like tigers. 38
 They growl like young lions. I will 39
 fit their drink to their thirst, when
 they will get drunk for joy,—and
 sleep an everlasting sleep, and never
 awaken!" The LORD says, " I will 40
 lay them down like lambs to the
 slaughter, like rams and goats."

Song on the Capture of Babylon.

How was the Bronze Gate captured? 41
 And the Bride of the World been seized?
 How was Babel made the desert of nations?
 The sea comes up against Babel!
 She is o'erwhelmed by its rolling billows! 42
 Her cities are made a waste,
 Her earth is dry and is black, 43
 A land in which no man dwells,
 And no son of Adam goes over!

- 44 I will visit Bel in Babel,
And bring his glut out of his mouth ;
45 When the nations will no more seek him,
For the walls of Babel shall fall !

A Warning to Israel.

- 46 "Beware of your heart failing and being afraid at the rumours you may hear in the country; for a rumour shall come one year, and another year a report of disturbance in the land, governor against governor,
47 because the times come that I will visit the idols of Babel, and all her land, to degrade them, and all her wounded shall fall in her midst.
48 Then the heavens shall cheer over Babel, and the earth and all that is in it, when her plunderers come from the north," says the LORD.
49 "For as Babel flung down the wounded of Israel, so the wounded of Babel shall fall all over the ground.
50 Fly from the sword and go! Delay not! Remember the LORD from afar! And ascend to Jerusalem in your hearts."
51 We are ashamed, for we have been insulted,—our faces are covered with disgrace, for loathsome things have entered the sanctuary of the House of the LORD.
52 The days, however, come," says the LORD, "when I will punish her idols, and the wounded shall groan
53 in all her country. Although Babel mounts to the skies, and although she fortifies her lofty strength, her plunderers shall come with Me," says the LORD.
54 There will be the sound of shrieking from Babel, and of a great crash from the land of the Kasdim, when the LORD will desolate Babel, and a great sound will come from her like the roaring billows when many seas
55 utter their growling voice! For destruction comes upon Babel,—her warriors are captured,—their bows are broken, for the LORD is a GOD
56 of requitals,—He will repay! "Then I will make her nobles, and learned, and viceroys, and governors, and heroes drunk,—and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and never awake," says the King named the LORD OF HOSTS.
57
58 Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS:—
"The broad wall of Babel shall be demolished! and her high gates be burnt with fire! Thus Peoples have

wearied themselves for a vapour, and nations for the fire,—and are exhausted!"

Instruction of Jeremiah to Seriah.

The order that Jeremiah the 59 Preacher gave to Seriah-ben-Neria-ben-Maksiah, when he was sent by Zedekiah, king of Judah, to Babel, in the fourth year of his reign. Seriah had been High Chamberlain.

Now Jeremiah had engraved all the 60 punishments that would come upon Babel in a book,—all these things that he wrote about Babel, and 61 Jeremiah said to Seriah, "When you come to Babel, be careful to read these things, and say, 'LORD, You 62 have spoken against this place to exterminate it, until it is uninhabited by men or beasts, and it becomes a desolation for ever!' And when you 63 have finished reading the book fasten a stone to it, and fling it into the middle of the Frath, and say 'Babel 64 shall sink like that, and never rise from the distress I will bring upon her.'" 1

At this point the Sermons of Jeremiah are finished.

A Hebrew Editor's Supplementary Note describing the Capture of Jerusalem.

Zedekiah was twenty-one years old 52 at his coronation, and he reigned

1 NOTE.—Ch. 51, v. 64. To us it seems a strange plan to fling "A Book" into the middle of a river larger than the Thames to preserve it safe for seventy years, but we now know from the discoveries at Nineveh and Babylon that in the time of the Prophet "Books" were not written on paper or skins, but upon stone slates, or more commonly upon tablets of potter's clay, upon which the words were engraved by a graving tool, and the plates afterwards burnt like pottery, which made them indestructible, so that the river's bed was the safest place to put the record, to be found again on the Euphrates being drained dry by Darius and Cyrus previous to their storming Babylon. It is recorded by Josephus that the bale containing them was then discovered. Had they not been thus preserved, we may be sure Nebukhadnezzar would not have left a fragment of them in existence.—F. F.

eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. But he did wrong in the eyes of the EVER-LIVING, in every way that Jhoiakim had done; for it came from the anger of the LORD against Jerusalem and Judah, to make them fling themselves from His presence, and Zedekiah to the king of Babel.

So it arrived in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth day of the tenth month, that King Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, came with all his forces to Jerusalem, and encamped against it, and built an embankment around, and continued the siege till the eleventh year of Zedekiah, to the ninth of the fourth month, when a famine seized the city, and there was no bread for the people of the country. Then a breach was made from the city, and all the soldiers fled, and left the town by night by way of a gate in the walls which were opposite the Royal Garden, and the Kasdim who surrounded the city, and they marched towards the Black Desert. The army of the Kasdim, however, followed after the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the Black Desert near Jerico, when all the army deserted him. They consequently seized the king, and brought him to the king of Babel at Riblath, in the district of Hamath, and he dictated conditions to him. Then the king of Babel murdered the children of Zedekiah before his eyes, and also murdered all the nobles of Judah in Riblath. He afterwards dug out the eyes of Zedekiah, and loaded him with chains, and they took him with the king of Babel to Babel, and put him into the Convicts Prison until the time of his death.

But on the tenth of the fifth month, in the twelfth year of King Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, Nebuzaradon, Commander of the Guards, represented the king of Babel in Jerusalem, and burnt the House of the EVER-LIVING, and the Royal Palace, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every palace of the great, he consumed with fire. And all the army of the Kasdim who were with the Commander of the Guards, threw down the walls surrounding Jerusalem.

Then Nebuzaradon, the Commander of the Guards, transported

the lowest of the people, and the rest of the populace left in the city, and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babel, and the remainder of the mechanics. However, Nebuzaradon, Commander of the Guards left the lower classes of the country to be vine dressers and ploughmen.

The Pillars of brass that were before the House of the EVER-LIVING, however, and the pedestals, and the Brazen Sea that was in the House of the EVER-LIVING, the Kasdim broke up, and carried the brass to Babel; with the boilers, and the shovels, and the snuffers, and basins, and spoons, and all the instruments of brass they used in the services were taken away. The Commander of the Guards also took away the cups, and fire pans, and basins, and pots, with the candlesticks, and spoons and bowls; what was of gold as gold, and what was of silver, as silver. The two pillars; the Single Sea, the twelve bronze bulls which were under the pedestals that King Solomon had made for the House of the EVER-LIVING. The bronze of all this furniture was not weighed.

The height of the pillars was eighteen cubits for the first pillar, and its circumference was twelve cubits. It was hollow and four inches thick. It had upon it a capital of bronze. The height of that capital was five cubits, with a network of pomegranates around the capital,—all bronze. The second pillar was the same, with pomegranates. There were ninety-six pomegranates towards the winds—all the pomegranates upon the surrounding network were a hundred.

The Commander of the Guards also took Seriah the Chief Priest, and Zephaniah the Second Priest, and the three Guardians of the Threshold. From the city he also took an officer who was adjutant of the soldiery; and seven officers of the Privy Council, whom he found in the city, and the Chief Secretary of the Commander in Chief of the native army, and sixty nobles from the country people, whom he found amongst the townsmen. Nebuzaradon, Commander of the Guards, took these and conducted them to the king of Babel at Riblath, when the king of Babel assailed and put them to death

at Riblath, in the district of Hamath, but he transported the Jews from their own country.

28 These are the people whom Nebukhadnezzar transported in his seventh year. Three thousand and twenty-three Jews.

29 In Nebukhadnezzar's eighteenth year,—eight hundred and thirty-two persons from Jerusalem.

30 In the twenty-third year of Nebukadnezzar, Nebuzaradon, the Commander of the Guards, transported seven hundred and forty-two persons of the Jews. All the persons were four thousand, six hundred.

It occurred, however, in the thirty-³¹ seventh year of the captivity of Jhoiakim, king of Judah, in the twenty-fifth of the twelfth month, that Evil-Merodak, king of Babel, in the year of his coronation raised the king of Judah, and brought him from his imprisonment, and spoke kindly³² to him and gave him a seat above the kings who were with him in Babel. He also changed his prison³³ dress; and he always dined in his presence so long as he lived. He³⁴ was given a regular pension by the king of Babel, paid day by day during his life, until his death.

END OF THE PROPHECIES OF JEREMIAH.