

Jeremiah Session I

My Jewish Learning



I. Jeremiah Chapter 1-2:

דְּבַרְיִי יְרֵמְיָהוּ בֶן־חִלְקִיָּהוּ מִן־הַכֹּהֲנִים אֲשֶׁר בְּעֲנָתוֹת בְּאֶרֶץ בְּנֵימִן:

1 The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, of the priests at Anathoth in the region of Benjamin.

אֲשֶׁר הָיָה דְבַר־יְהוָה אֵלָיו בְּיָמֵי יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ בֶן־אָמֹן מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה בְּשָׁלֹשׁ־עָשָׂרָה שָׁנָה לְמַלְכוּתוֹ:

2 to whom the word of the LORD came to him in the days of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign,

וַיְהִי יְבִימֵי יְהוֹיָקִים בֶּן־יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה עַד־תָּם עֲשָׂתֵי עָשָׂרָה שָׁנָה לְצִדְקִיָּהוּ בֶן־יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה עַד־גְּלוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם. (בְּחֹדֶשׁ הַחֲמִישִׁי: ס)

3 and it continued in the days of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, until Jerusalem went into exile in the fifth month.

וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֵלַי לֵאמֹר:

4. And the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

בְּטֶרֶם אֲצוּרְךָ [אֶצְרֶךָ] בְּבֶטֶן יִדְעֹתִיךָ וּבְטֶרֶם תֵּצֵא מִרֶחֶם הַקֶּדֶשׁ תִּיךָ נָכִיא לְגוֹיִם נִתְתִּיךָ:

5. Before I fashioned you in the belly, I knew you; and before you came out of the womb, I consecrated you; A prophet to the nations I made you.

וְאָמַר אֲהֵה אֲדַנִּי יְהוָה הִנֵּה לֹא־יָדַעְתִּי דְבַר כִּי־נָעַר אָנֹכִי: פ)

6. And I said, "Alas, O Master, Lord, for, look, I know not how to speak, for I am but a lad."

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלַי אַל־תֹּאמַר נָעַר אָנֹכִי כִּי עַל־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר אֲשַׁלְּחֶךָ תֵּלֶךְ וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר אֲצַוְךָ תִּדְבָּר:

7. And the Lord said to me, Do not say, "I am but a lad," for wherever I send you, you shall to, and whatever I charge you, you shall speak.

אַל־תִּירָא מִפְּנֵיהֶם כִּי־אֲתִיךָ אֲנִי לְהַצִּילְךָ נְאֻם־יְהוָה:

8. Do not fear them for I am with you to save you, said the Lord.

וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוָה אֶת־יָדוֹ וַיִּגַּע עַל־פִּי וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלַי הִנֵּה נָתַתִּי דְבָרִי בְּפִיךָ:

9 And the Lord reached out Their hand and touched my mouth and the Lord said to me, "Look, I have put words in your mouth."

רָאָה הַפְּקֹדֶתֶיךָ יְיָ הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה עַל־הַגּוֹיִם וְעַל־הַמְּמַלְכוֹת לְנַתּוֹשׁ וּלְנַתּוֹץ וּלְהַאֲבִיד וּלְהַרוֹס לְבָנוֹת וּלְנַטּוֹעַ: (פ)
 10 “See, I have appointed you this day over nations and over kingdoms to uproot and to smash and to destroy and to lay waste, to build and to plant.”

וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֵלַי לֵאמֹר מַה־אַתָּה רֹאֶה יְרֵמְיָהוּ וְאָמַר מִקֵּל שָׁקֵד אֲנִי רֹאֶה:
 11 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying: What do you see, Jeremiah?
 And I said: I see a branch of an almond tree.

(וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלַי הֵיטֵבֶתָּ לְרֹאֹת כִּי־שָׁקֵד אֲנִי עַל־דְּבָרֵי לַעֲשׂוֹתוֹ: (פ)
 12 And the LORD said to me: You have seen well, for I am vigilant with my Word to do it.

וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֵלַי שֵׁנִית לֵאמֹר מַה אַתָּה רֹאֶה וְאָמַר סִיר נִפְוֹחַ אֲנִי רֹאֶה וּפְנָיו מִפְּנֵי צְפוֹנָה:
 13 And the word of the LORD came to me a second time, saying: What do you see? And I said:
 A seething pot I see, and it is turned to the north.

14 And the LORD said to me: From the north shall disaster break loose Upon all the inhabitants of the land! 15 For I am summoning all the peoples Of the kingdoms of the north —declares the LORD. They shall come, and shall each set up a throne Before the gates of Jerusalem, Against its walls roundabout, And against all the towns of Judah. 16 And I will speak out against them for all their wickedness: They have forsaken Me And sacrificed to other gods And worshiped the works of their hands. 17 As for you, you shall gird your loins, and rise and speak to them all that I charge you. 18 Do not be broken-spirited before them, lest I break you before them. 18 I have made you this day a fortress town, and an iron pillar, and walls of bronze against all the land— Against Judah’s kings and officers, against its priests and the people of the land. 19 And they will battle against you, but shall not prevail over you; for I am with you—said the LORD—to save you. וַיִּלְחַמּוּ אֵלֶיךָ וְלֹא־יִיכְלוּ לְךָ כִּי־אַתָּה אֲנִי נֹאֲמֵ־יְהוָה לְהַצִּילֶךָ

2

The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Go proclaim to Jerusalem: Thus said the LORD: I accounted to your favor The devotion of your youth, Your love as a bride— How you followed Me in the wilderness, In a land not sown.

הֲלֶךְ וּקְרֵאתָ בְּאָזְנֵי יְרוּשָׁלַיִם לֵאמֹר כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה זְכַרְתִּי לְךָ תְּסֻד נְעוּרֶיךָ אֲהַבֵת כָּל־יְלֻדְתֶיךָ לְכַתֵּךְ אַחֲרַי בְּמִדְבָר בְּאַרְצוֹ לֹא זָרְעָה:

II. Jeremiah 20: 1-18

1 And Pashhur son of Immer, the priest -he was the chief official in the house of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesy these things. 2 And Pashhur struck Jeremiah and had him put in the stocks that were in the upper Benjamin Gate in the house of the LORD. 3 The next day, Pashhur released Jeremiah from the cell. And Jeremiah said to him, “Not Pashhur, but the LORD has named you Terror-All-Around. 4. For thus said

the LORD: I am going to deliver you and all your friends over to terror: they will fall by the sword of their enemies while you look on. I will deliver all Judah into the hands of the king of Babylon; he will exile them to Babylon or put them to the sword. 5. And I will give all that is stored in this city and all its gain and all its precious stuff and all the treasures of the king of Judah I will give into the hand of their enemies: and they shall plunder them and take them and bring them to Babylon. 6. As for you, Pashhur, and as for all who dwell in your house, you shall go into captivity and come to Babylonia; and there you shall die- you and all who love you, as you have prophesied lies to them.

7 You enticed me, O LORD, and I was enticed; You were stronger than I and You prevailed. I became a constant laughingstock all day long, all of them mocking me. 8 For whenever I spoke, I screamed. "Outrage and violence," I called. For the word of the LORD became to me disgrace and contempt all day long. 9 And I thought, "I will not recall Them, nor will I speak anymore in Their name." But it was in my heart like burning fire shut up in my bones, and I could not hold it in, I was unable....

13 Sing to the Lord, for He has saved the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers. 14 Cursed the day that I was born, the day my mother bore me, let it not be blessed. 15 Cursed the man who brought tidings to my father, saying, "A male child is born to you," giving him great joy. 16 And let that man be like the towns that the Lord overturned and did not relent. And let him hear screams in the morning, and battle shouts at the hour of noon. 17 Because he did not kill me in the womb, that my mother could be my grave and her womb pregnant for all time. 18 Why from the womb did I come out to see wretchedness and sorrow, and my days end in shame?

III. Jeremiah 15:16

Your words were found, and I ate them,
Your words became to me a joy, the delight of my heart.
For I am called by Your name, O Lord, God of Armies.

IV. Jeremiah 29:4-7

(4) Thus said the LORD of Armies, God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I exiled to Babylonia: (5) Build houses and dwell in them and plant gardens and eat their fruit. (6) Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, and let them bear sons and daughters and multiply there, do not dwindle. (7) And seek the welfare of the city to which I exiled you and pray for it to the LORD; for through its welfare (*shalom*) you shall have welfare (*shalom*).

