

## Jeremiah Session II

### My Jewish Learning



#### I. Rambam, Mishneh Torah, Transmission of the Oral Law (selected) Spain, (1138-1204)

Although the Oral Torah was not reduced to writing, Moses our Master gave instructions in its full scope... to seventy Elders....Hosea received it from Zechariah ...; Amos received it from Hosea ...; Isaiah received it from Amos ...; Micha received it from Isaiah ...; Joel received it from Micha...; Nahum received it from Joel...; Habakkuk received it from Nahum...; Zephaniah received it from Habakkuk...; **Jeremiah received it from Zephaniah...; Baruch son of Neriah received it from Jeremiah...; Ezra ...received it from Baruch son of Neriah...**

#### II. Jeremiah 32:1-44; selections

(1) The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. (2) At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the prison compound attached to the palace of the king of Judah. (3) For King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him, saying, "How dare you prophesy: 'Thus said the LORD: I am delivering this city into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he shall capture it....(5b) When you wage war against the Chaldeans, you shall not be successful.'"

(6) Jeremiah said: The word of the LORD came to me: (7) Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, "Buy my land in Anathoth, for you are next in succession to redeem it by purchase." (8) And just as the LORD had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the prison compound and said to me, "Please buy my land in Anathoth, in the territory of Benjamin; for the right of succession is yours, and you have the duty of redemption. Buy it." Then I knew that it was indeed the word of the LORD.

(9) So I bought the land in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel. I weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. (10) I wrote a deed, sealed it, and had it witnessed; and I weighed out the silver on a balance. (11) I took the deed of purchase, the sealed text and the open one according to rule and law, 12 and gave the deed to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah in the presence of my kinsman Hanamel, of the witnesses who were named in the deed, and all the Judeans who were sitting in the prison compound. (13) In their presence I charged Baruch as follows: (14) Thus said the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel: "Take these documents, this deed of purchase, the sealed text and the open one, and put them into an earthen jar, so that they may last a long time." (15) For thus said the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel: "Houses, fields, and vineyards shall again be purchased in this land." (16)

But after I had given the deed to Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD: (17) "Ah, Lord GOD! You made heaven and earth with Your great might and outstretched arm. Nothing is too

wondrous for You! (18) You show kindness to the thousandth generation, but visit the guilt of the fathers upon their children after them. O great and mighty God whose name is LORD of Hosts, (19) wondrous in purpose and mighty in deed, whose eyes observe all the ways of men, so as to repay every man according to his ways, and with the proper fruit of his deeds! (20) You displayed signs and marvels in the land of Egypt with lasting effect, and won renown in Israel and among mankind to this very day. (21) You freed Your people Israel from the land of Egypt with signs and marvels, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, and with great terror. (22) You gave them this land that You had sworn to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey, (23) and they came and took possession of it. But they did not listen to You or follow Your Teaching; they did nothing of what You commanded them to do. Therefore you have caused all this misfortune to befall them. (24) Here are the siegemounds, raised against the city to storm it; and the city, because of sword and famine and pestilence, is at the mercy of the Chaldeans who are attacking it. What You threatened has come to pass—as You see. (25) Yet You, Lord GOD, said to me: Buy the land for money and call in witnesses—when the city is at the mercy of the Chaldeans!”

(26) Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: (27) “Behold I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too wondrous for Me? (28) Assuredly, thus said the LORD: I am delivering this city into the hands of the Chaldeans and of King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon, and he shall capture it...

(36) But now, assuredly, thus said the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, “It is being delivered into the hands of the king of Babylon through the sword, through famine, and through pestilence”: (37) See, I will gather them from all the lands to which I have banished them in My anger and wrath, and in great rage; and I will bring them back to this place and let them dwell secure. (38) They shall be My people, and I will be their God. (39) I will give them a single heart and a single nature to revere Me for all time, and it shall be well with them and their children after them. (40) And I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them and that I will treat them graciously; and I will put into their hearts reverence for Me, so that they do not turn away from Me. (41) I will delight in treating them graciously, and I will plant them in this land faithfully, with all My heart and soul.

(42) For thus said the LORD: As I have brought this terrible disaster upon this people, so I am going to bring upon them the vast good fortune which I have promised for them. (43) And fields shall again be purchased in this land of which you say, “It is a desolation, without man or beast; it is delivered into the hands of the Chaldeans.” (44) Fields shall be purchased, and deeds written and sealed, and witnesses called in the land of Benjamin and in the environs of Jerusalem, and in the towns of Judah; the towns of the hill country, the towns of the Shephelah, and the towns of the Negeb. For I will restore their fortunes—declares the LORD.

### III. Jeremiah 36

1: In the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD: 2: Get a scroll and write upon it all the words that I have spoken to you—concerning Israel and Judah and all the nations—from the time I first spoke to you in the days of Josiah to this day. 3: Perhaps when the House of Judah hear of all the disasters I intend to bring upon them, they will turn back from their wicked ways, and I will pardon their iniquity and their sin. 4: So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote down in the scroll, at Jeremiah’s dictation, all the words which the LORD had spoken to him. 5: Jeremiah instructed Baruch, “I am in hiding; I cannot go to the House of the LORD. 6: But you go and read aloud the words of the LORD from the scroll which you wrote at my dictation, to all the people in the House of the

LORD on a fast day; thus you will also be reading them to all the Judeans who come in from the towns. 7: Perhaps their entreaty will be accepted by the LORD, if they turn back from their wicked ways. For great is the anger and wrath with which the LORD has threatened this people.” 8: Baruch son of Neriah did just as the prophet Jeremiah had instructed him, about reading the words of the LORD from the scroll in the House of the LORD. 9: In the ninth month of the fifth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, all the people in Jerusalem and all the people coming from Judah proclaimed a fast before the LORD in Jerusalem. 10: It was then that Baruch—in the chamber of Gemariah son of Shaphan the scribe, in the upper court, near the new gateway of the House of the LORD—read the words of Jeremiah from the scroll to all the people in the House of the LORD. 11: Micaiah son of Gemariah son of Shaphan heard all the words of the LORD [read] from the scroll, 12: and he went down to the king’s palace, to the chamber of the scribe. There he found all the officials in session: Elishama the scribe, Delaiah son of Shemaiah, Elnathan son of Achbor, Gemariah son of Shaphan, Zedekiah son of Hananiah, and all the other officials. 13: And Micaiah told them all that he had heard as Baruch read from the scroll in the hearing of the people. 14: Then all the officials sent Jehudi son of Nethaniah son of Shelemiah son of Cushi to say to Baruch, “Take that scroll from which you read to the people, and come along!” 15: And Baruch took the scroll and came to them. 15: They said, “Sit down and read it to us.” And Baruch read it to them. 16: When they heard all these words, they turned to each other in fear; and they said to Baruch, “We must report all this to the king.” 17: And they questioned Baruch further, “Tell us how you wrote down all these words that he spoke.”

18: He answered them, “He himself recited all those words to me, and I would write them down in the scroll in ink.” 19: The officials said to Baruch, “Go into hiding, you and Jeremiah. Let no man know where you are!” 20: And they went to the king in the court, after leaving the scroll in the chamber of the scribe Elishama. And they reported all these matters to the king. 21: The king sent Jehudi to get the scroll and he fetched it from the chamber of the scribe Elishama. Jehudi read it to the king and to all the officials who were in attendance on the king. 22: Since it was the ninth month, the king was sitting in the winter house, with a fire burning in the brazier before him. 23: And every time Jehudi read three or four columns, [the king] would cut it up with a scribe’s knife and throw it into the fire in the brazier, until the entire scroll was consumed by the fire in the brazier. 24: Yet the king and all his courtiers who heard all these words showed no fear and did not tear their garments; 25: moreover, Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah begged the king not to burn the scroll, but he would not listen to them.

26: The king ordered Jerahmeel, the king’s son, and Seraiah son of Azriel, and Shelemiah son of Abdeel to arrest the scribe Baruch and the prophet Jeremiah. But the LORD hid them. 27: The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah after the king had burned the scroll containing the words that Baruch had written at Jeremiah’s dictation:

28: Get yourself another scroll, and write upon it the same words that were in the first scroll that was burned by King Jehoiakim of Judah. 29: And concerning King Jehoiakim of Judah you shall say: Thus said the LORD: You burned that scroll, saying, “How dare you write in it that the king of Babylon will come and destroy this land and cause man and beast to cease from it?” 30: Assuredly, thus said the LORD concerning King Jehoiakim of Judah: He shall not have any of his line sitting on the throne of David; and his own corpse shall be left exposed to the heat by day and the cold by night. 31: And I will punish him and his offspring and his courtiers for their iniquity; I will bring on them and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem and on all the men of Judah all the disasters of which I have warned them—but they would not listen. 32: So Jeremiah got another scroll and gave it to the scribe Baruch son of Neriah. And at Jeremiah’s dictation, he wrote in it the whole text of the scroll that King Jehoiakim of Judah had burned; and more of the like was added.

#### IV. Jeremiah 51:59–64

59 The instructions that the prophet Jeremiah gave to Seraiah son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, when the latter went with King Zedekiah of Judah to Babylonia, in the fourth year of [Zedekiah's] reign. Seraiah was quartermaster. 60 Jeremiah wrote down in one scroll all the disaster that would come upon Babylon, all these things that are written concerning Babylon. 61 And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, "When you get to Babylon, see that you read out all these words. 62 And say, 'O LORD, You Yourself have declared concerning this place that it shall be cut off, without inhabitant, man or beast; that it shall be a desolation for all time.' 63 And when you finish reading this scroll, tie a stone to it and hurl it into the Euphrates. 64 And say, 'Thus shall Babylon sink and never rise again, because of the disaster that I will bring upon it. And [nations] shall have wearied themselves [for fire].'" Thus far the words of Jeremiah.

#### IV. Jeremiah 52 (compare with 2 Kings 24:18-30); selected verses

1 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for eleven years. His mother's name was Hamutal, daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

2 He did what was displeasing to the LORD, just as Jehoiakim had done.

3 Indeed, Jerusalem and Judah were a cause of anger for the LORD, so that He cast them out of His presence. Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

4 And in the ninth year of his reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, King Nebuchadnezzar moved against Jerusalem with his whole army. They besieged it and built towers against it all around.

5 The city continued in a state of siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

6 By the ninth day of the fourth month, the famine had become acute in the city; there was no food left for the common people.

7 Then [the wall of] the city was breached. All the soldiers fled; they left the city by night through the gate between the double walls, which is near the king's garden—the Chaldeans were all around the city—and they set out for the Arabah.

8 But the Chaldean troops pursued the king, and they overtook Zedekiah in the steppes of Jericho, as his entire force left him and scattered.

9 They captured the king and brought him before the king of Babylon at Riblah, in the region of Hamath; and he put him on trial.

10 The king of Babylon had Zedekiah's sons slaughtered before his eyes; he also had all the officials of Judah slaughtered at Riblah.

11 Then the eyes of Zedekiah were put out, and he was chained in bronze fetters. The king of Babylon brought him to Babylon and put him in prison, [where he remained] to the day of his death.

12 On the tenth day of the fifth month—that was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan, the chief of the guards, came to represent the king of Babylon in Jerusalem.

13 He burned the House of the LORD, the king's palace, and all the houses of Jerusalem; he burned down the house of every notable person.

14 The entire Chaldean force that was with the chief of the guards tore down all the walls of Jerusalem on every side....

31...In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of King Jehoiachin of Judah, on the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month, King Evil-merodach of Babylon, in the year he became king, took note of King Jehoiachin of Judah and released him from prison.

32 He spoke kindly to him, and gave him a throne above those of other kings who were with him in Babylon.

33 He removed his prison garments and [Jehoiachin] ate regularly in his presence the rest of his life.

34 A regular allotment of food was given him by order of the king of Babylon, an allotment for each day, to the day of his death—all the days of his life.

## LITURGY (just a few examples)

### I. Weekday Amidah

רְפָאֵנִי יי וְאַרְפָּא הוֹשִׁיעֵנִי וְאוֹשֶׁעָה כִּי תִהְלֶתִי אֶתְּהָ:

Jer 17:14 Heal me, O LORD, and let me be healed; Save me, and let me be saved; For You are my glory.

### II. Sheva Berachot (Wedding Blessings)

קוֹל שִׁשׁוֹן וְקוֹל שִׂמְחָה קוֹל חֲתָן וְקוֹל כַּלָּה קוֹל אֲמָרִים הוֹדוּ אֶת־יי צְבָאוֹת כִּי־טוֹב יי כִּי־לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדוֹ מִבְּאֵיִם תּוֹדָה בַּיִת יי כִּי־אֲשִׁיב אֶת־שְׁבוֹת־הָאָרֶץ כְּבָרְאֲשֻׁנָּה אָמַר יי:

33:10 Thus said the LORD: Again there shall be heard in this place, which you say is ruined, without man or beast—in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man, without inhabitants, without beast—

Jeremiah 33:11

**the sound of mirth and gladness, the voice of bridegroom and bride**, the voice of those who cry, “Give thanks to the LORD of Hosts, for the LORD is good, for His kindness is everlasting!” as they bring thanksgiving offerings to the House of the LORD. For I will restore the fortunes of the land as of old—said the LORD.

### III. Lecha Dodi/ Kabbalat Shabbat/ Welcoming the Sabbath

כִּי כַּאֲשֶׁר יִדְבַק הָאָזוּר אֶל־מַתְנֵי־אִישׁ כֵּן הִדְבַקְתִּי אֵלַי אֶת־כָּל־בַּיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת־כָּל־בַּיִת יְהוּדָה נְאֻם־יי לִהְיוֹת לִי לְעַם וְלִשְׁמֵי וְלִתְהִלָּה וְלִתְפָאָרֶת וְלֹא שְׁמַעוּ:

Jeremiah 13:11

For as the loincloth clings close to the loins of a man, so I brought close to Me the whole House of Israel and the whole House of Judah—declares the LORD—that they might be My people, **for fame, and praise, and splendor**. But they would not obey.

כֹּה אָמַר יי הִנְנִי־שׁוֹב שְׁבוֹת אֶהְיֶה יְעֻקֹּב וּמִשְׁכְּנֵי יַעֲרֹחַם וּבְנֵי־תֵלָה עִיר עַל־תֵּלָה וְאַרְמוֹן עַל־מִשְׁפְּטוֹ יֵשֵׁב:

Jeremiah 30:18

Thus said the LORD: I will restore the fortunes of Jacob’s tents And have compassion upon his dwellings. **The city shall be rebuilt on its mound**, And the fortress in its proper place.

### IV. Birkat Hamazon (blessing after meals).

בְּרוּךְ הַגִּבּוֹר אֲשֶׁר יְבָטַח בּוֹ יְהוָה יי מִבְּטָחוֹ:

Jeremiah 17:7 Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, Whose trust is the LORD alone

### V. Passover Haggadah

