

Chapter 12

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(1) *You* are righteous, O LORD {Jehovah}, when I plead with You: yet let me talk with You of *Your* judgments: Why does the way of the wicked prosper? *Why* are they all happy who deal very treacherously?

(2) You have planted them, yes, they have taken root: they grow, yes, they bring forth fruit: You *are* near in their mouths, but far from their hearts.

(3) But You, O LORD {Jehovah}, know me: You have seen me, and tried my heart towards You: pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and prepare them for the day of slaughter.

(4) How long will the land mourn, and the herbs of every field wither, because of the wickedness of those who live in it? the beasts are consumed, and the birds; because they said, He will not see our last end.

(5) *If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, in which you trust, they wearied you, then how will you do in the swelling of Jordan?*

(6) *Because even your brothers, and the house of your father, even they have dealt treacherously with you; yes, they have called a multitude after you: do not believe them, though they speak fair words to you.*

(7) *I have forsaken My house {temple}, I have left My heritage; I have given the dearly beloved of My soul into the hand of her enemies.*

(8) *My heritage is to Me as a lion in the forest; it cries out against Me: therefore I have hated it.*

(9) *My heritage is to me as a speckled bird, the birds all around are against her; Come, assemble all the beasts of the field, come to devour.*

(10) Many pastors have destroyed My vineyard, they have trodden My portion under foot, they have made My pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.

(11) They have made it desolate, *and being* desolate it mourns to Me; the whole land is made desolate, because no man lays *it* to heart.

(12) The spoilers have come upon all high places through the wilderness: because the sword of the LORD {Jehovah} will devour from the *one* end of the land even to the *other* end of the land: no flesh will have peace.

(13) They have sown wheat, but will reap thorns: they have put themselves to pain, *but* {it} will not profit: and they will be ashamed of your revenues because of the fierce anger of the LORD {Jehovah}.

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(14) This is what the LORD {Jehovah} says against all My evil neighbors, who touch the inheritance which I have caused My people Israel to inherit; Indeed, I will pluck them out of their land, and pluck out the house of Judah from among them.

(15) And it will come to pass, after I have plucked them out that I will return, and have compassion on them, and will bring them again, every man to his heritage, and every man to his land.

(16) And it will come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of My people, to swear by My Name, The LORD {Jehovah} lives; as they taught My people to swear by Baal; then they will be built in the midst of My people.

(17) But if they will not obey, I will completely pluck up and destroy that nation, says the LORD {Jehovah}.