

Chapter 18

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(1) The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD {Jehovah}, saying,

(2) *Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.*

(3) Then I went down to the potter's house, and watched as he worked a work on the wheels.

(4) And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again into another vessel, as *it* seemed good to the potter to make.

(5) Then the word of the LORD {Jehovah} came to me, saying,

(6) *O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? says the LORD {Jehovah}. Surely, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so *are* you in My hand, O house of Israel.*

(7) *At what* instant I will speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy *it*;

(8) *If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turns from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do to them.*

(9) *And at what* instant I will speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant *it*;

(10) *If it does evil in My sight, that it does not obey My voice, then I will repent of the good, with which I said I would benefit them.*

(11) Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to those who live in Jerusalem, saying, This is what the LORD {Jehovah} says; Indeed, I frame evil against you, and devise a plan against you: return now everyone from his evil way, and make your ways and your deeds good.

(12) And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own plans, and we will all do the imagination of our own evil hearts.

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(13) Therefore this is what the LORD {Jehovah} says; Ask now among the heathen {ungodly nations}, who has heard such things: the virgin of Israel has done a very horrible thing.

(14) Will *a man* leave the snow of Lebanon *which comes* from the rock of the field? *or* shall the cold flowing waters that come from another place be forsaken?

(15) Because My people have forgotten Me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways *from* the ancient paths, to walk in paths, *in* a way not built up;