

Prophecy, Social Justice, and the Vision of God

I Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1:4-12

Yahweh's word happened to me, saying,

Before I fashioned you in the belly I knew you,
 And before you came out from the womb I consecrated you –
 As prophet to the nations I gave you.

I said,

Ah, Lord Yahweh, Look I do not know how to speak,
 Because I am young!

Yahweh said to me,

Don't say, I am young,
 Because to all that I send you, you shall go,
 And all that I command you, you shall speak.
 Don't fear them, because I am with you
 to deliver you, Yahweh's speech.

Yahweh sent his hand and touched my mouth. Yahweh said to me, Look, I have given my words in your mouth. See, I have appointed you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant. Yahweh's word happened to me, saying, What do you see, Jeremiah? I said, A staff of almond (*shaqad*) I see. Yahweh said to me, You see well, because I am watching (*shoqed*) over my word, to do it!

Jeremiah 3:11-14

Yahweh said to me, Apostate Israel, more righteous her soul than traitorous Judah! Go, and cry these words out to the north, and you will say, return apostate Israel, Yahweh's speech. I will not make my face fall against you, because I am compassionate, Yahweh's speech, I will not hold anger forever. Only know your guilt, that you transgressed against Yahweh your God, and that

you scattered your ways to strangers under every leafy tree, and did not hear my voice, Yahweh's speech.

Jeremiah 7:4-7

Do not trust these lying words, This is the Yahweh's Temple, Yahweh's Temple, Yahweh's Temple! But if you indeed make good your ways and your deeds, if you do justice, between a man and his neighbor, do not oppress stranger, orphan, and widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and after other gods do not go to your ruin, then I will make you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, forever and forever.

Jeremiah 20:14-18

Cursed was the day I was born,

the day my mother bore me is not to be blessed!

Cursed the man who announced to my father, saying,

A son, a male is born to you -- making him very glad.

That man will become like cities that Yahweh overthrew, and was not sorry;

he will hear an outcry in the morning and war-shouts at noon,

Because he did not kill me in the womb

-- my mother would have been my grave, her womb always big --

Why did I come out of the womb

to see labor and sorrow, and my days spent in shame?

Jeremiah 29:4-11

Yahweh of armies, God of Israel, said this:

To all the exile that I exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon:

Build houses and dwell, plant gardens and eat their fruit,

Take wives and have sons and daughters,

And take wives for your sons,

And give your daughters to husbands,

That they will bear sons and daughters.

Become great there, and do not become small.
Seek the peace of the city where I exiled you,
And pray to Yahweh for it,
Because in its peace there shall be peace for you.
Because Yahweh of armies, God of Israel said this:
Don't let your prophets and diviners in your midst deceive you!
Do not listen to your dreams that you allegedly dreamed!
Because they prophesy to you in my name by a lie.
I did not send them, Yahweh's speech.

Jeremiah 31:30-33

Look, days are coming, Yahweh's speech, when I will cut with the house of Israel and the house of Judah a new covenant, not like the covenant that I cut with their fathers, in the day I grasped their hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They frustrated my covenant, and I mastered them, Yahweh's speech. Because this is the covenant that I will cut with the house of Israel after those days, Yahweh's speech. I will give my Torah in their midst, and write it on their heart, and I will be God to them, and they will be people to me. They will no longer instruct, a man his neighbor and a man his brother, saying, Know Yahweh. Because all of them will know me, from their least to their great, Yahweh's speech, because I will pardon their guilt, and their sin I will no longer remember.

