

¹Moreover take thou up a lamentation for the princes of Israel,²And say, What is thy mother? A lioness: she lay down among lions, she nourished her whelps among young lions.³And she brought up one of her whelps: it became a young lion, and it learned to catch the prey; it devoured men.⁴The nations also heard of him; he was taken in their pit, and they brought him with chains unto the land of Egypt.⁵Now when she saw that she had waited, and her hope was lost, then she took another of her whelps, and made him a young lion.⁶And he went up and down among the lions, he became a young lion, and learned to catch the prey, and devoured men.⁷And he knew their desolate palaces, and he laid waste their cities; and the land was desolate, and the fulness thereof, by the noise of his roaring.⁸Then the nations set against him on every side from the provinces, and spread their net over him: he was taken in their pit.⁹And they put him in ward in chains, and brought him to the king of Babylon: they brought him into holds, that his voice should no more be heard upon the mountains of Israel.¹⁰Thy mother is like a vine in thy blood, planted by the waters: she was fruitful and full of branches by reason of many waters.¹¹And she had strong rods for the sceptres of them that bare rule, and her stature was exalted among the thick branches, and she appeared in her height with the multitude of her branches.¹²But she was plucked up in fury, she was cast down to the ground, and the east wind dried up her fruit: her strong rods were broken and withered; the

¹أَمَّا أَنْتَ فَارْقِعِي مَرْثَاةً عَلَى رُؤَسَاءِ إِسْرَائِيلَ² وَقُولِي، مَا هِيَ أُمُّكَ. لَبَوءَتْ رَبَّصَتْ بَيْنَ الْأَسْوَدِ، وَرَبَّتْ جِرَاءَهَا بَيْنَ الْأَشْبَالِ.³ رَبَّتْ وَاحِدًا مِنْ جِرَائِهَا قَصَارَ شِبْلًا وَتَعَلَّمَ إِفْتِرَاسَ الْقَرِيسَةِ. أَكَلَ النَّاسَ. فَلَمَّا سَمِعَتْ بِهِ الْأُمُّ أَخَذَتْ فِي حُفْرَتِهِمْ، فَأَتَوْا بِهِ بِخَرَائِمَ إِلَى أَرْضِ مِصْرَ. فَلَمَّا رَأَتْ أَنَّهَا قَدْ انْتَطَرَتْ وَهَلَكَ رَجَاؤُهَا، أَخَذَتْ آخَرَ مِنْ جِرَائِهَا وَصَبَّرَتْهُ شِبْلًا.⁶ فَتَمَشَّى بَيْنَ الْأُسُودِ. صَارَ شِبْلًا وَتَعَلَّمَ إِفْتِرَاسَ الْقَرِيسَةِ. أَكَلَ النَّاسَ. وَاعْرِفَ قُصُورَهُمْ وَخَرَّبَ مَدَنَهُمْ، فَافْقَرَتِ الْأَرْضُ وَمِلْؤُهَا مِنْ صَوْتِ رَمَجَرَتِهِ.⁸ فَاتَّفَقَ عَلَيْهِ الْأُمَمُ مِنْ كُلِّ جِهَةٍ مِنَ الْبُلْدَانِ، وَتَبَسَّطُوا عَلَيْهِ سَبِكَتَهُمْ، فَأَخَذَ فِي حُفْرَتِهِمْ،⁹ فَوَضَعُوهُ فِي قَفَصِ بِخَرَائِمَ وَأَحْضَرُوهُ إِلَى مَلِكِ بَابِلَ، وَأَتَوْا بِهِ إِلَى الْقِلَاعِ لِكَيْ لَا يُسْمَعَ صَوْتُهُ بَعْدُ عَلَى جِبَالِ إِسْرَائِيلَ.¹⁰ أُمُّكَ كَكَرْمَةٍ، مِنْ لِكَ غُرِسَتْ عَلَى الْمِيَاهِ. كَانَتْ مُثْمِرَةً مُفْرِخَةً مِنْ كَثْرَةِ الْمِيَاهِ.¹¹ وَكَانَ لَهَا فُرُوعٌ قَوِيَّةٌ لِفُضْبَانِ الْمُتَسَلِّطِينَ، وَارْتَفَعَ سَافُهَا بَيْنَ الْأَعْصَانِ الْعُجْبَاءِ، وَظَهَرَتْ فِي ارْتِقَاعِهَا بِكَثْرَةِ رَرَاجِينِهَا.¹² لِكِنَّهَا ائْتُلِعَتْ بِغَيْطٍ وَطُرِحَتْ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ، وَقَدْ بَيَّسَتْ رِيحَ شَرْقِيَّةٍ تَمَرَّهَا. فُصِفَتْ وَبَيَّسَتْ فُرُوعُهَا الْقَوِيَّةُ. أَكَلَتْهَا النَّارُ.¹³ وَالْآنَ غُرِسَتْ فِي الْفَقْرِ فِي أَرْضِ يَابَسَةٍ عَطِشَانَةٍ.¹⁴ وَخَرَجَتْ نَارٌ مِنْ قَرَعِ عَصِيَّتِهَا أَكَلَتْ تَمَرَهَا. وَلَيْسَ لَهَا الْآنَ قَرْعٌ قَوِيٌّ لِقَضِيْبٍ تَسْلُطُ. هِيَ رِثَاءٌ وَتَكُونُ لِمَرْثَاةٍ.

fire consumed them.¹³ And now she is planted in the wilderness, in a dry and thirsty ground.¹⁴ And fire is gone out of a rod of her branches, which hath devoured her fruit, so that she hath no strong rod to be a sceptre to rule. This is a lamentation, and shall be for a lamentation.