

¹Hear ye this word which I take up against you, even a lamentation, O house of Israel.²The virgin of Israel is fallen; she shall no more rise: she is forsaken upon her land; there is none to raise her up.³For thus saith the Lord GOD; The city that went out by a thousand shall leave an hundred, and that which went forth by an hundred shall leave ten, to the house of Israel.⁴For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live:⁵But seek not Bethel, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not to Beersheba: for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall come to nought.⁶Seek the LORD, and ye shall live; lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Bethel.⁷Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth,⁸Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name:⁹That strengtheneth the spoiled against the strong, so that the spoiled shall come against the fortress.¹⁰They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly.¹¹Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat: ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them.¹²For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe,

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and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right .¹³ Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time.¹⁴ Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.¹⁵ Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.¹⁶ Therefore the LORD, the God of hosts, the Lord, saith thus; Wailing shall be in all streets; and they shall say in all the highways, Alas! alas! and they shall call the husbandman to mourning, and such as are skilful of lamentation to wailing.¹⁷ And in all vineyards shall be wailing: for I will pass through thee, saith the LORD.¹⁸ Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light.¹⁹ As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.²⁰ Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?²¹ I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.²² Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them : neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.²³ Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.²⁴ But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.²⁵ Have ye offered unto me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel?²⁶ But ye have

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