

¹وَكَانَ إِلَيَّ كَلَامُ الرَّبِّ،² يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ، حَاجُ أُحْجِيَّةٍ وَمَثَلٌ مَثَلًا لِيَبْنِيَ إِسْرَائِيلُ³ وَقُلْ، هَكَذَا قَالَ السَّيِّدُ الرَّبُّ، تَسْرُ عَظِيمٌ كَثِيرُ الْجَنَاحِينَ طَوِيلُ الْقَوَادِمِ وَاسِعُ الْمَتَاكِيبِ دُو تَهَاوِيلَ، جَاءَ إِلَى لُبْنَانَ وَأَخَذَ قَرْعَ الْأَرْزِ⁴ قَصَفَ رَأْسَ خَرَايِيهِ، وَجَاءَ بِهِ إِلَى أَرْضِ كَنْعَانَ وَجَعَلَهُ فِي مَدِينَةِ الثُّجَّارِ⁵ وَأَخَذَ مِنْ زَرْعِ الْأَرْضِ وَالْقَاهُ فِي حَقْلِ الزَّرْعِ، وَجَعَلَهُ عَلَى مِيَاهٍ كَثِيرَةٍ. أَقَامَهُ كَالصَّفْصَافِ⁶، قَتَبَتْ وَصَارَ كَزَمَةٍ مُتَبَشِّرَةٍ قَصِيرَةِ السَّاقِ. انْعَطَفَتْ عَلَيْهِ زَرَاجِبُهَا وَكَانَتْ أَصُولُهَا تَحْتَهُ، فَصَارَتْ كَزَمَةً وَأَثْبَتَتْ فُرُوعًا وَأَفْرَحَتْ أَغْصَانًا⁷. وَكَانَ تَسْرُ آخَرُ عَظِيمٌ كَثِيرُ الْجَنَاحِينَ وَاسِعُ الْمَتَكِبِ، فَإِذَا بِهِذَا الْكَزَمَةِ عَطَفَتْ عَلَيْهِ أَصُولُهَا وَأَثْبَتَتْ نَحْوَهُ زَرَاجِبُهَا لِيَسْقِيَهَا فِي حَمَائِلِ عَرْسِهَا⁸. فِي حَقْلِ جَيْدٍ عَلَى مِيَاهٍ كَثِيرَةٍ هِيَ مَعْرُوسَةٌ لِيُثْبِتَ أَغْصَانُهَا وَتَحْمِلَ ثَمَرًا، فَتَكُونَ كَزَمَةً وَاسِعَةً⁹. قُلْ، هَكَذَا قَالَ السَّيِّدُ الرَّبُّ، هَلْ تَنْجَحُ. أَفَلَا يَفْلُغُ أَصُولُهَا وَيَقْطَعُ ثَمَرُهَا فَتَيْبَسَ. كُلُّ مِنْ أَوْراقِ أَغْصَانِهَا تَيْبَسُ، وَلَيْسَ يَذْرا عَظِيمَةً أَوْ يَسْغُبُ كَثِيرٌ لِيَفْلُغُهَا مِنْ أَصُولِهَا¹⁰. هَا هِيَ الْمَعْرُوسَةُ، فَهَلْ تَنْجَحُ. أَلَا تَيْبَسُ يَتَسَا كَأَنَّ رِيحًا شَرْقِيَّةً أَصَابَتْهَا. فِي حَمَائِلِ تَيْبَسُهَا تَيْبَسُ¹¹. وَكَانَ إِلَيَّ كَلَامُ الرَّبِّ¹²، قُلْ لِلْيَبْنِ الْمُتَمَرِّدِ، أَمَا عَلِمْتُمْ مَا هَذِهِ. قُلْ، هُوَذَا مَلِكٌ بَابِلَ قَدْ جَاءَ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ وَأَخَذَ مَلِكُهَا وَرُؤَسَاءَهَا وَجَاءَ بِهِمْ إِلَيْهِ إِلَى بَابِلَ¹³. وَأَخَذَ مِنَ الزَّرْعِ الْمَلِكِيِّ وَقَطَعَ مَعَهُ عَهْدًا وَأَدْخَلَهُ فِي قَسَمٍ، وَأَخَذَ أَقْوِيَاءَ الْأَرْضِ¹⁴ لِيَكُونَ الْمَمْلَكَةُ خَفِيرَةً وَلَا تَزْتَفِعَ. لِيَحْفَظَ الْعَهْدَ فَتَنْبِتَ¹⁵. فَتَمَرَّدَ عَلَيْهِ بِإِرْسَالِهِ رُسُلَهُ إِلَى مِصْرَ لِيُعْطُوهُ خَبَلًا وَسَعْبًا كَثِيرِينَ. فَهَلْ يَنْجَحُ. هَلْ يَفْلُثُ قَاعِلٌ هَذَا، أَوْ يَنْقُضَ عَهْدًا وَيَفْلُثُ¹⁶. حَيَّيْ أَنَا يَقُولُ السَّيِّدُ الرَّبُّ، إِنَّ فِي مَوْضِعِ الْمَلِكِ الَّذِي مَلَكَهُ، الَّذِي أَرْدَرَى قَسَمَهُ وَنَقَضَ عَهْدَهُ، فَعِنْدَهُ فِي وَسْطِ بَابِلَ يَمُوتُ¹⁷. وَلَا يَجِيئُ عَظِيمٌ وَجَمْعٌ غَافِرٌ يُعِينُهُ فِرْعَوْنُ فِي الْحَرْبِ، بِإِقَامَةِ مِثْرَسَةٍ وَبِإِسَاءِ بَرْجٍ لِيَقْطَعَ نُفُوسَ كَثِيرَةٍ¹⁸. إِذْ أَرْدَرَى الْقَسَمَ لِيَنْقُضَ الْعَهْدَ، وَهُوَ قَدْ أُعْطِيَ يَدَهُ وَقَعَلَ هَذَا كُلَّهُ فَلَا يُفْلُثُ¹⁹. لِأَجْلِ ذَلِكَ هَكَذَا قَالَ السَّيِّدُ الرَّبُّ، حَيَّيْ أَنَا، إِنَّ قَسَمِي الَّذِي أَرْدَرَاهُ، وَعَهْدِي الَّذِي تَقَصَّ، أَرُدُّهُمَا عَلَى رَأْسِهِ²⁰. وَأَبْسُطُ سَبَكَّتِي عَلَيْهِ فَيُؤْخَذُ فِي سَرْكِي، وَآتِي بِهِ إِلَى بَابِلَ وَأَحَاكُمُهُ هُنَاكَ عَلَى خِيَاتِيهِ الَّتِي خَاتَمْتُ بِهَا²¹. وَكُلُّ هَارِيهِ وَكُلُّ جُيُوشِهِ يَسْفُطُونَ بِالسَّيْفِ، وَالْبَاقُونَ يُدْرُونَ فِي كُلِّ رِيحٍ، فَتَعْلَمُونَ أَنِّي أَنَا الرَّبُّ

¹And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,²Son of man, put forth a riddle, and speak a parable unto the house of Israel;³And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; A great eagle with great wings, longwinged, full of feathers, which had divers colours, came unto Lebanon, and took the highest branch of the cedar:⁴He cropped off the top of his young twigs, and carried it into a land of traffick; he set it in a city of merchants.⁵He took also of the seed of the land, and planted it in a fruitful field; he placed it by great waters, and set it as a willow tree.⁶And it grew, and became a spreading vine of low stature, whose branches turned toward him, and the roots thereof were under him: so it became a vine, and brought forth many branches, and shot forth sprigs.⁷There was also another great eagle with great wings and many feathers: and, behold, this vine did bend her roots toward him, and shot forth her branches toward him, that he might water it by the furrows of her plantation.⁸It was planted in a good soil by great waters, that it might bring forth branches, and that it might bear fruit, that it might be a goodly vine.⁹Say thou, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Shall it prosper? shall he not pull up the roots thereof, and cut off the fruit thereof, that it wither? it shall wither in all the leaves of her spring, even without great power or many people to pluck it up by the roots thereof.¹⁰Yea, behold, being planted, shall it prosper? shall it not utterly wither, when the east wind toucheth it? it shall wither in the furrows where it grew.¹¹Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me,

تَكَلَّمْتُ.²² هَكَذَا قَالَ السَّيِّدُ الرَّبُّ، وَاجِدُ أَنَا مِنْ قَرْنِ الْأَرْضِ
 الْعَالِي وَأَغْرِسُهُ، وَأَقْطِفُ مِنْ رَأْسِ خَزَائِيهِ عُصْنًا
 وَأَغْرِسُهُ عَلَى جَبَلِ غَالٍ وَسَامِيخ.²³ فِي جَبَلِ إِسْرَائِيلَ
 الْعَالِي أَغْرِسُهُ، فَيَنْبُتُ أَعْصَانًا وَيَحْمِلُ ثَمَرًا وَيَكُونُ أَزْرًا
 وَاسِعًا، فَيَسْكُنُ تَحْتَهُ كُلُّ طَائِرٍ. كُلُّ ذِي جَنَاحٍ يَسْكُنُ فِي
 طَلِّ أَعْصَانِهِ.²⁴ فَتَعْلَمُ جَمِيعُ أَشْجَارِ الْحَقْلِ أَنِّي أَنَا الرَّبُّ
 وَصَعْتُ الشَّجَرَةَ الرَّفِيعَةَ، وَرَفَعْتُ الشَّجَرَةَ الْوَضِيعَةَ،
 وَبَسَّسْتُ الشَّجَرَةَ الْخَصْرَاءَ، وَأَفْرَحْتُ الشَّجَرَةَ الْيَابِسَةَ.
 أَنَا الرَّبُّ تَكَلَّمْتُ وَفَعَلْتُ.

saying,¹² Say now to the rebellious house, Know ye not what these things mean ? tell them , Behold, the king of Babylon is come to Jerusalem, and hath taken the king thereof, and the princes thereof, and led them with him to Babylon;¹³ And hath taken of the king's seed, and made a covenant with him, and hath taken an oath of him: he hath also taken the mighty of the land:¹⁴ That the kingdom might be base, that it might not lift itself up, but that by keeping of his covenant it might stand.¹⁵ But he rebelled against him in sending his ambassadors into Egypt, that they might give him horses and much people. Shall he prosper? shall he escape that doeth such things ? or shall he break the covenant, and be delivered?¹⁶ As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely in the place where the king dwelleth that made him king, whose oath he despised, and whose covenant he brake, even with him in the midst of Babylon he shall die.¹⁷ Neither shall Pharaoh with his mighty army and great company make for him in the war, by casting up mounts, and building forts, to cut off many persons:¹⁸ Seeing he despised the oath by breaking the covenant, when, lo, he had given his hand, and hath done all these things , he shall not escape.¹⁹ Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; As I live, surely mine oath that he hath despised, and my covenant that he hath broken, even it will I recompense upon his own head.²⁰ And I will spread my net upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare, and I will bring him to Babylon, and will plead with him there for his trespass that he hath trespassed against me.²¹ And

all his fugitives with all his bands shall fall by the sword, and they that remain shall be scattered toward all winds: and ye shall know that I the LORD have spoken it .²² Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also take of the highest branch of the high cedar, and will set it ; I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a tender one, and will plant it upon an high mountain and eminent:²³ In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it: and it shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar: and under it shall dwell all fowl of every wing; in the shadow of the branches thereof shall they dwell.²⁴ And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have spoken and have done it .