

¹الْكَلَامُ الَّذِي صَارَ إِلَيَّ إِزْمِيًا مِنَ الرَّبِّ،² ثُمَّ انْزِلْ إِلَى بَيْتِ الْفَخَّارِيِّ وَهُنَاكَ أَسْمِعُكَ كَلَامِي.³ فَتَرَلْتُ إِلَى بَيْتِ الْفَخَّارِيِّ، وَإِذَا هُوَ يَصْنَعُ عَمَلًا عَلَى الدُّوَلَابِ.⁴ فَقَسَدَ الْوَعَاءُ الَّذِي كَانَ يَصْنَعُهُ مِنَ الطِّينِ بِيَدِ الْفَخَّارِيِّ، فَقَادَ وَعْمَلُهُ وَغَاءَ آخَرُ كَمَا حَسَنَ فِي عَيْنِي الْفَخَّارِيُّ أَنْ يَصْنَعَهُ.⁵ فَصَارَ إِلَيَّ كَلَامُ الرَّبِّ،⁶ أَمَا أَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ أَصْنَعَ بِكُمْ كَهَذَا الْفَخَّارِيِّ يَا بَيْتَ إِسْرَائِيلَ يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ. هُوَذَا كَالطِّينِ بِيَدِ الْفَخَّارِيِّ أَنْتُمْ هَكَذَا بِيَدِي يَا بَيْتَ إِسْرَائِيلَ.⁷ تَارَةً أَتَكَلَّمُ عَلَى أُمَّةٍ وَعَلَى مَمْلَكَةٍ بِالْقُلْعِ وَالْهَذْمِ وَالْإِهْلَاكِ،⁸ فَتَرْجِعُ تِلْكَ الْأُمَّةُ الَّتِي تَكَلَّمْتُ عَلَيْهَا عَنْ سَرَّهَا، فَأَنْدُمُ عَنِ الْبَشَرِ الَّذِي قَصَدْتُ أَنْ أَصْنَعَهُ بِهَا. وَتَارَةً أَتَكَلَّمُ عَلَى أُمَّةٍ وَعَلَى مَمْلَكَةٍ بِالْبِنَاءِ وَالْعَرْسِ،¹⁰ فَتَفْعَلُ الشَّرَّ فِي عَيْنِي، فَلَا تَسْمَعُ لِقَوْلِي، فَأَنْدُمُ عَنِ الْخَيْرِ الَّذِي قُلْتُ إِنِّي أَحْسِنُ إِلَيْهَا بِهِ.¹¹ فَالآنَ قُلْ لِرِجَالِ يَهُوذَا وَسُكَّانِ أُورُشَلِيمَ، هَكَذَا قَالَ الرَّبُّ، هَتِّدًا مُصْدِرٌ عَلَيْكُمْ شَرًّا وَقَاصِدٌ عَلَيْكُمْ قَصْدًا. فَارْجِعُوا كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ عَنْ طَرِيقِهِ الرَّدِيِّ، وَأَضْلَحُوا طُرُقَكُمْ وَأَعْمَالَكُمْ.¹² فَقَالُوا، بَاطِلٌ. لَأَنَّا نَسْعَى وَرَاءَ أَفْكَارِنَا، وَكُلُّ وَاحِدٍ يَعْمَلُ حَسَبَ عِتَادِ قَلْبِهِ الرَّدِيِّ.¹³ لَيْذَلِكَ هَكَذَا قَالَ الرَّبُّ، اسْأَلُوا بَيْنَ الْأُمَمِ. مَنْ سَمِعَ كَهَذَا. مَا يُفْسَعَرُ مِنْهُ جَدًّا عَمِلَتْ عَذْرَاءُ إِسْرَائِيلَ.¹⁴ هَلْ يَخْلُو صَخْرٌ حَقْلِي مِنْ تَلَجٍ لُبْنَانٍ. أَوْ هَلْ تَنْسِفُ الْمِيَاهُ الْمُتَفَجِّرَةُ الْبَارِدَةُ الْجَارِيَةَ.¹⁵ لِأَنَّ سَعْيِي قَدْ تَسِيَبَنِي. بَحَرُوا لِلْبَاطِلِ، وَقَدْ اعْتَرَوْهُمْ فِي طُرُقِهِمْ فِي الشُّبُلِ الْقَدِيمَةِ لِيَسْلُكُوا فِي شُعَبٍ، فِي طَرِيقٍ غَيْرِ مُسْتَهْلٍ¹⁶ لِيُجْعَلَ أَرْضُهُمْ خَرَابًا وَضَفِيرًا أَبَدِيًّا. كُلُّ مَارٍّ فِيهَا يَذْهَبُ وَيَنْغِصُ رَأْسَهُ.¹⁷ كَرِيحُ شَرْقِيَّةٍ أَبَدَتْهُمْ أَمَامَ الْعَذْوِ. أَرِيهِمُ الْقَفَا لَا الْوَجْهَ فِي يَوْمٍ مُصِيبَتِهِمْ. فَقَالُوا، هَلُمَّ فَتُفَكِّرْ عَلَى إِزْمِيَا أَفْكَارًا، لِأَنَّ الشَّرِيعَةَ لَا تَبِيدُ عَنِ الْكَاهِنِ وَلَا الْمَشُورَةَ عَنِ الْحَكِيمِ وَلَا الْكَلِمَةَ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ. هَلُمَّ فَصْرِبْهُ بِاللِّسَانِ وَلِكُلِّ كَلَامِهِ لَا نُضِغْ.¹⁹ أَضِغْ لِي يَا رَبُّ وَاسْمَعْ صَوْتَ أَحْصَامِي. هَلْ يُجَارَى عَنْ خَيْرٍ بِشَرٍّ. لَأَنَّهُمْ حَقَرُوا حُفْرَةَ لِنَفْسِي. اذْكُرْ وَفُوفِي أَمَامَكَ لَأَتَكَلَّمَ عَنْهُمْ بِالْخَيْرِ لَأَرُدَّ عَصَبَكَ عَنْهُمْ.²¹ لَيْذَلِكَ سَلِّمْ بَيْنَهُمُ لِلْجُوعِ، وَادْفَعْهُمْ لِيَدِ السَّيْفِ، فَتَصِيرَ نِسَاؤُهُمْ تَكَالَى وَأَرَامِلَ، وَتَصِيرَ رِجَالُهُمْ قَتْلَى الْمَوْتِ، وَشَبَابُهُمْ مَضْرُوبِي السَّيْفِ فِي الْحَرْبِ. لِيَسْمَعْ صِيَاحٌ مِنْ بُيُوتِهِمْ إِذْ تَجَلِبَّ عَلَيْهِمْ جَيْشًا بَغْتَةً. لَأَنَّهُمْ حَقَرُوا حُفْرَةَ لِيُمْسِكُونِي، وَطَمَرُوا فِخَاخًا

¹The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,² Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words.³ Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought 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 another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,⁶ O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.⁷ At what instant I shall 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, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them.⁹ And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it;¹⁰ If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.¹¹ Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.¹² And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.¹³ Therefore thus saith the LORD; Ask ye now among the heathen, who hath heard such things: the virgin of Israel hath

لِرَجُلَيْ. ²³ وَأَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ عَرَفْتَ كُلَّ مَشُورَتِهِمْ عَلَيَّ
لِلْمَوْتِ. لَا تَصْفَحْ عَنْهُمْ وَلَا تَمْحُ خَطِيئَتَهُمْ مِنْ
أَمَامِكَ، بَلْ لِيَكُونُوا مُتَعَتِّرِينَ أَمَامَكَ. فِي وَقْتِ عَصَبِكَ
غَامِلُهُمْ.

done a very horrible thing. ¹⁴ Will a man leave the snow of Lebanon which cometh from the rock of the field? or shall the cold flowing waters that come from another place be forsaken? ¹⁵ Because my people hath 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 cast up; ¹⁶ To make their land desolate, and a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head. ¹⁷ I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will shew them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity. ¹⁸ Then said they, Come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words. ¹⁹ Give heed to me, O LORD, and hearken to the voice of them that contend with me. ²⁰ Shall evil be recompensed for good? for they have digged a pit for my soul. Remember that I stood before thee to speak good for them, and to turn away thy wrath from them. ²¹ Therefore deliver up their children to the famine, and pour out their blood by the force of the sword; and let their wives be bereaved of their children, and be widows; and let their men be put to death; let their young men be slain by the sword in battle. ²² Let a cry be heard from their houses, when thou shalt bring a troop suddenly upon them: for they have digged a pit to take me, and hid snares for my feet. ²³ Yet, LORD, thou knowest all their

Jeremiah 18

counsel against me to slay me : forgive not their iniquity, neither blot out their sin from thy sight, but let them be overthrown before thee; deal thus with them in the time of thine anger.