

Jeremiah 14

JPS [Online]

Drought, Famine, Sword, and Plague

1The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the droughts.

2Judah mourneth, and the gates thereof languish, They bow down in black unto the ground; And the cry of Jerusalem is gone up.

3And their nobles send their lads for water: They come to the pits, and find no water; Their vessels return empty; They are ashamed and confounded, and cover their heads.

4Because of the ground which is cracked, For there hath been no rain in the land, The plowmen are ashamed, they cover their heads.

5Yea, the hind also in the field calveth, and forsaketh her young, Because there is no grass,

6And the wild asses stand on the high hills, They gasp for air like jackals; Their eyes fail, because there is no herbage.

7Though our iniquities testify against us, O LORD, work Thou for Thy name's sake; For our backslidings are many, We have sinned against Thee.

8O Thou hope of Israel, The Saviour thereof in time of trouble, Why shouldest Thou be as a stranger in the land, And as a wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry for a night?

9Why shouldest thou be as a man overcome, As a mighty man that cannot save? Yet Thou, O LORD, art in the midst of us, And Thy name is called upon us; Leave us not.

10Thus saith the LORD unto this people: Even so have they loved to wander, They have not refrained their feet; Therefore the LORD doth not accept them, Now will He remember their iniquity, And punish their sins. **11**And the LORD said unto me: 'Pray not for this people for their good. **12**When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt-offering and meal-offering, I will not accept them; but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.'

13Then said I: 'Ah, Lord GOD! behold, the prophets say unto them: Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place.' **14**Then the LORD said unto me: 'The prophets prophesy lies in My name; I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spoke I unto them; they prophesy unto you a lying vision, and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their own heart. **15**Therefore thus saith the LORD: As for the prophets that prophesy in My name, and I sent them not, yet they say: Sword and famine shall not be in this land, by sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed; **16**and the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out

in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; and they shall have none to bury them, them, their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters; for I will pour their evil upon them.'

17And thou shalt say this word unto them: Let mine eyes run down with tears night and day, And let them not cease; For the virgin daughter of my people is broken with a great breach, With a very grievous blow.

18If I go forth into the field, Then behold the slain with the sword! And if I enter into the city, Then behold them that are sick with famine! For both the prophet and the priest are gone about to a land, and knew it not.

A Prayer for Mercy (Isaiah 63:15–19)

19Hast Thou utterly rejected Judah? Hath Thy soul loathed Zion? Why hast Thou smitten us, and there is no healing for us? We looked for peace, but no good came; And for a time of healing, and behold terror!

20We acknowledge, O LORD, our wickedness, Even the iniquity of our fathers; For we have sinned against Thee.

21Do not contemn us, for Thy name's sake, Do not dishonour the throne of Thy glory; Remember, break not Thy covenant with us.

22Are there any among the vanities of the nations that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Art not Thou He, O LORD our God, and do we not wait for Thee? For Thou hast made all these things.