Permission to Cry

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1. The Koren Mesoret HaRav Kinot, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik

One could ask what right we have to pose such a question to the Al-mighty. Normally, the halacha does not permit us to ask this type of question; rather it prescribes that we unquestioningly accept the judgment of G-d. We are guided by the concept that a person is required to bless G-d for bad times, for tragedy and misfortune, just as he blesses G-d for good times (Berakhot 54a). When confronted with tragedy, we do not argue with G-d; rather we say, 'Blessed is the true Judge.' We do not understand misfortune ... we have no right to expect that we will understand...

The case of *kinot* on Tisha B'Av, however, is an exception to the general rule. We are permitted to ask *eicha*, because we are following the precedent of Jeremiah the Prophet who posed the question *eicha* in the book of Lamentations. And Jeremiah posed this question only because he was given a *heter*, special permission, by G-d Himself...Thus, Rabbi Elazar HaKalir is permitted to address the question *eicha* to G-d, only because that question was already posed to G-d by Jeremiah in Lamentations.

2. Ezekiel 24:15-26

(טו) וַיְקִי דְבַר־ה' אֵלֵי לֵאמְר: (טז) בֶּן־אָדֶּם הָנָּנִי לֹקֶם מִמְּדֶ אֶת־מַחְמֵד עֵינֶיךְ בְּמַגַּפֶּה וְלָא תִסְפֹּד וְלָא תִסְפֹּד וְלָא תִנְיֶה דְּמָצֶתֶך: (טז) בּאָנֶק וּ דְּטָ מִמְּדֶ אֶת־מַחְמֵד עֵינֶיךְ בְּמַגַּפֶּה וְלָא תִסְפֹּד וְלָא תִנְשֶׁה פְאַרְהְ חֲבָוֹשׁ עָלֶידְ וּנְעָלֶידְ חָשִׁים בְּרְגָלֵידְ וְלָא תַעְטָה עַל־דְשָׁפֶּם וְלֶחֶם אֲנָשִׁים לֹא תִאַבֶּל וְנָמֶת אִשְׁתָּי בָּעֲרֵב וְאָבֶית צְּנִיתִי: (יט) וַיֹּאמְרִוּ אָלִי הָעֵם הַלְא־תַנְּיד לְנוּ מְה־אֵלֶה לְנוּ כִּי אָהָה עֹשֶׁה וֹלֶשֶׁה וְּבָיְתָם וְּלָאתְר אָלֵי הָעָם הָלְא־תַנְּיד לְנוּ מָה־אֵלֶה נְינִיכֶם וּמַחְמֵל וַפְשִׁים וּמְחָמֵל נַפְשְׁר, אַשְּר בְּשָׁר בְּנְשִׁים הָּלְא תִּלְכָּוֹ נְמָלְתָב בְּנְשִׁים לְא תִאְכָלוּ: (כב) וַעֲשִׂיתָם בְּאָשֶׁר עָשֶׂית עַל־שָׁפָּם לְא תִעְטוּ וְלֶחֶם אָנָשִׁים לְא תִאכֵלוּ: (כג) וּפְאֵרְכֶם עַל־רְאשׁילָם וְנְצְלֵיכֶם בְּרְגְילִילֶם לְא תִילְכָּוּ וִּנְשָּׁתְם בְּנְשִׁים לָא תִאכָלוּ: (כג) וּפְאֵרְבֶם וְבְלֵּה וְיִבְלָיכָם בְּרְגִילִיכָם בְּרְגְילִילֶם לְא תִילְסִוּ אֲנָשִׁים לְא תִילְנָה לְּבָּלְיכָם לְּצְשִׁר-עָשֻׂה מַעְשֵׁוּ בִּבְּעָּה וְיִבְּמָב בְיִבְּעָם בְּבְּוֹנְיתִים בְּרִיתְיוֹ עַל־שָּבָּם לְא תִּנְטִין לְלֹא תִבְכָּוּ וּנְשָּׁתְם בְּנָשִׁים בְּלָּים לְמוּבְּתְּה בְּעִּשְׁה בָּבֵּאָה וְיִבְעָשֵׁה בִּבְּעָם בְּנִילְיה וְיִנְעָלָה לְנָשִׁים בְּנָשִׁים לְא תִשְׁלִּיל בְּים לְמוּבְּתְים בְּבְשִׁים בְּלָבְילִם בְּמוֹלְים בְּעָשִׁים בְּלָל אֲשֶׁר־עְשֵׁה בָּבְאָה עָרִיא אָל־יאָחִייו: (כד) וְהָלָּה בְּנִילְה לִבּיל לְמוֹלְכּוֹ בְּעְלָּה בְּעָּבְיל בְּשְׁר בְּעָּים בְּיִבְיִים בְּיִים בְּיִים בְּיִים בְּיִים בְּיִבְיּים בְּיִם בְּיִבְיִים לְּבִּי לְמוֹלוּים בְּנְשִׁים לְּלִב לְמוֹל: (כג) בְּאְרָי בְּעִבְּיה בְּיִבְי בְּבְּיִים בְּיִים בְּבְיּים בְּבְיִים בְּעִם לְמוֹלּים לְנְילֹר בְּעָשׁרְם בְּעְבְּיב בְּיבְּבְיל בְּיִים בְּיבּבּיוֹים בְּיבְיבְים בְּעוֹיף בְּיִים בְּיִיבְים בְּיִבְיְים בְּיִבְילְיוּ בְּיִבְּיִים בְּיבְייִים בְּעְבְיוֹים בְּעִבְיתְים בְּבְּילְים בְּעָבְיּיִים בְּעְבְיבְיים בְּבְייִים בְּיִים בְּיִישְׁיִים בְּיִבְשְיתְיִים בְּיִים בְּיבְיבְייִים בְּיִים בְּיִים בְּעְיִים בְּבְּב

(15) The word of the LORD came to me: (16) O mortal, I am about to take away the delight of your eyes from you through pestilence; but you shall not lament or weep or let your tears flow. (17) Moan softly; observe no mourning for the dead: Put on your turban and put your sandals on your feet; do not cover over your upper lip, and do not eat the bread of comforters." (18) In the evening my wife died, and in the morning I did as I had been commanded. And when I spoke to the people that morning, (19) the people asked me, "Will you not tell us what these things portend for us, that you are acting so?" (20) I answered them, "The word of the LORD has come to me: (21) Tell the House of Israel: Thus said the Lord GOD: 'I am going to desecrate My Sanctuary, your pride and glory, the delight of your eyes and the desire of your heart; and the sons and daughters you have left behind shall fall by the sword. (22) ^[24] And Ezekiel shall become a portent for you: you shall do just as he has done, when it happens; and you shall know that I am the Lord GOD.' (23) ^[22] Accordingly, you shall do as I have done: you shall not cover over your upper lips or eat the bread of comforters; (24) ^[23] and your turbans shall remain on your heads, and your sandals upon your feet. You shall not lament or weep, but you shall be heartsick because of your iniquities and shall moan to one another."

3. Sanhedrin 22a

וא"ר יוחנן כל אדם שמתה אשתו ראשונה כאילו חרב בהמ"ק בימיו שנאמר (יחזקאל כד, טז) בן אדם הנני לוקח ממך את מחמד עיניך במגפה לא תספד ולא תבכה ולא תבוא דמעתך וכתיב (יחזקאל כד, יח) ואדבר אל העם בבקר ותמת אשתי בערב וכתיב (יחזקאל כד, כא) הנני מחלל את מקדשי גאון עוזכם מחמד עיניכם

And Rabbi Yoḥanan says: For any man whose first wife dies, it is as if the Temple were destroyed in his days, as it is stated: "Son of man, behold, I take away from you the desire of your eyes with a stroke; yet neither shall you make lamentation nor weep, neither shall your tears run down" (Ezekiel 24:16). And it is written: "So I spoke to the people in the morning and in the evening my wife died" (Ezekiel 24:18). And it is written in the continuation of the same passage: "Behold I will profane My Sanctuary, the pride of your power, the desire of your eyes" (Ezekiel 24:21), illustrating that a man's wife is as precious to him as the Temple is for the entire Jewish nation.

4. Rashi on Ezekiel 24:22:1

(א) ועשיתם כאשר עשיתי. לא תנהגו אבילות כי אין מנחמין לכם שאין בכם אחד שלא יהיה אבל ואין אבילות אלא במקום מנחמים, ד"א שתהיו יראים לבכות לפני הכשדים שאתם בתוכם:

Do not mourn for there are not comforters for you, for there is no one who is not a mourner, and there is not mourning without comforters. Alternatively, you will be afraid to cry because of the Chaldeans whom you are among.

וא"כ מי ינחם את מי:

And if so, who will comfort who?

6. Kol Dodi Dofek, In Theological and Halakhic Reflections on the Holocaust, 1996

Man's task in the world, according to Judaism, is to transform fate into destiny; a passive existence into an active existence; an existence of compulsion, perplexity and muteness into an existence replete with a powerful will, with resourcefulness, daring and imagination. We ask neither about the cause of evil nor about its purpose but rather about how it might be mended and elevated. How shall a person act in a time of trouble? What ought a man to do so that he not perish in his afflictions? The halakhic answer to this question is very simple. Afflictions come to elevate a person, to purify and sanctify his spirit, to cleanse and purge it of the dross of superficiality and vulgarity, to refine his soul and to broaden his horizons. The halakhah teaches us that the sufferer commits a grave sin if he allows his troubles to go to waste and remain without meaning or purpose.

7. Jeremiah 7:1-30

(א) הַדַּבַר הַוָּה וַאַמרהַ שָׁמִעוּ הַלַיוּרְמָלָהוּ מָאַת ה' לָאמָר: (ב) עַמֹד בִּשֹׁעַר בֵּית ה' וְקַרֵאת שַׁׁם אַת־הַדָּבַר הַוָּה וַאַמרהַ שָׁמְעִּוּ דָבַר־ה' כַּל־יִהוּדָה הַבָּאִים בּשׁעַרִים הַאַּלֵה לָהֶשָׁתַחַוֹת לַה': (ס) (ג) כָּה־אַמֵּר ה' צָבָאוֹת אַלֹקֵי יִשְׁרָאֵל הֵיטֵיבוּ דַרְבֵיכֵם וּמַעַללִיכֵם וַאֲשַׁכְּנֵה אַתְבֶּם בַּמַּקוֹם הַזָּה: (ד) אַל־תִּבְטִחוּ לָבֶּם אֵל־דָּבְרֵי ַהַשָּׁקָר לָאמָר הַיכֵל ה' הַיכֵל ה' הַיכֵל ה' הַכָּל ה' הַבָּה: (ה) כֵּי אָם־הַיטִיבֹ הַיטִיבוּ אַת־דַּרְכִיכָם וַאָת־מַעַלְלָיכָם אָם־עָשׁוֹ תַשְׁשׁׁ מַשְׁפֹּט בֵּין אָישׁ וּבֵין רַעַהוּ: (ו) גַּר יַתוֹם וַאַלְמָנָה לָא מַעַשֶּׁקוּ וָדֶם נַלָּי אַל־תִּשָּׁפָכוּ בַּמָּקוֹם הָזָה וַאָחֶרִי אַלֹקִים אַתרים לָא תַלְכוּ לָרַע לָכֶם: (ז) וְשַׁכְּנָתִי אַתְכֶם בַּמַּקוֹם הַזָּה וַאָחֶרִי אֱלֹקִים אַתרים לָא תַלְכוּ לָרַע לָכֶם: (ז) וְשַׁכְּנָתִי אַתְכֶם בַּמַּקוֹם הַזָּה בָּאַרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נַתְחִי לאַבְוֹמִיכֶם לְמִן־עוֹלֶם וְעַד־עוֹלֶם: (ח) הָגָה אַתֶּם בּטְחִים לָכֶּם עַל־דּבָרֵי הַשָּׁקֶר לְבָלְתִּי הוֹעִיל: (ט) הָגָנָב וּ רֶצֶּׁחֶ וְנָאֹף וְהַשָּׁבַעַ לַשֶּׁקֶר וְקְטֵּר לָבָעַל וְהָלֹךְ אַחֲרֵי אַלקים אַסַרים אַשֶׁר לָא־יָדעַמָּם: (י) וּבָאמָם ועמדמָם לפָנִי בַּבַּיִת הזַהֹּ אַשֶּׁר נָקרָא־שַׁמִי עַלִּיו ואַמרתַם נַצַלנוּ למען עשות אַת כַּל־הַתּוֹעָבוֹת הָאֵלָה: (יא) הַמְעַרֶת פַּרְצִּים הַוֹּה הַבַּיָת הַזָּה אַשֶּׁרדנִקרָא־שָׁמֵי עַלִיו בְּעַינִיכֶם גַּם אַנֹכֵי הַנָּה רָאִיתִי נָאָם־ה': (ס) (יב) כִּי לְכוּדֹנָא אַל־מַקוֹמִי אַשֶּׁר בְּשִׁילוֹ אַשֶּׁר שְׁבָּנְהִי שָׁמֶי שֶׁם בַּרָאשׁוֹנָה וּרָאוּ אֵת אֵשֶׁר־עַשֶּׁיתִי לוֹ מִפָּנֵּי רָעָת עַמֶּי יִשְׂרָאֵל: (יג) וְעַהַּה יַען עֲשׁוֹתָכֵם אֵת־כַּל־הַמֵּעֲשִׁים הַאָּלֵה נָאָם־ה' וַאַדַבַּּר אַלִיכָּם הּשָׁכֵּם וְדַבֵּר וַלָא שָׁמַעָּהָּם וַאָקרָא אָתָכָם וַלָא עַנִיתַם: (יד) וַעשִֿיתִי לְבַּיָת וּ אֲשֶׁר נָקרא־שָׁמֵי עליו אֲשֶׁר אָתָם בּטָחִים בּוֹ וַלְּמַלְוֹם אֲשֶׁר־נַתַתִּי לְכַם וַלְאֲבוֹתִיכָם כַּאֲשֶׁר עַשִּיתִי לְשִׁלְוֹ: (טוֹ) וְהִשְׁלַכְתִּי אֶתְכֶם מֵעֵל פָּנֻי כַּאֲשֶׁר הִשְׁלַכְתִּי אֶת־כָּל־אֲחַיכֶּם אֵת כָּל־אֲחַיכֶּם אַת כָּל־זֶרַע אֶפְרֵיִם: (ס) (טוֹ) וְאַ**תָּה אַל־תִּתְכַּלֵּל וּ בְּעַד־הָעֵם הַזֵּה וְאַל־** מִשָּׂא בַעָּדֶם רְנָה וֹתִפָּלָה וְאַל־תִּפָּגַע־בֵּי כִּי־אֵינָנִּוּ שֹׁמֵע אֹתַךּ: (יז) הַאֵּינְדְּ רֹאֶה מָה הַמָּה עֹשִׁים בְּעַרֵי יְהוֹדָה וּבְחַצְּוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַ ם: (יח) הַבְּנֹים מְלֹקְטִים עַצִּים וָהַאָבוֹת מָבַעַרִים אֶת־הָאָשׁ וָהַנַּשִׁים לְשִׁוֹת בַּצֵק לְעַשׁוֹת כַּוּנִים לְמָלֹכָת הַשַּׁמַיִם וְהַפֶּךְ נְסַכִים לָאלֹקִים אֶת־הָאָשׁ וָהַנַּשִׁים לְשִׁוֹת בַּנַּלִים לְמָלוֹת בַּנַּלִים לְמָלֹוֹת בַּנַּלִים לְמָלֹוֹת בַּנַּלִים לְמָלוֹת בַּעָּסִים בּיִים בְּאַתִּי הָם מַכְּעָסִים נָאָם־ה' הַלָּוֹא אֹתָם לִמַעַן בְּשֶׁת פָּנִיהָם: (ס) (כ) לָבّוְ כֹּה־אָמֵר ו אדושם ה' הָנַּה אַפִּי וַחַמַתִי נְמַּבַתֹּ אֵל־הַמַּקוֹם הַּנַּה עַל־הַאָדַם וְעַל־בַּיָּקה וְעַל־עֵץ הַשְּׁדָה ועל־פָּרֵי הַאַדָּמָה וּבְעַרָה וַלָא תָכְבָּה: (ס) (כא) כָּה אָמַר ה' צָבָאוֹת אֵלֹקִי יִשְׁרָאֵל עֹלוֹתִיכֶם סְפִּוּ עַל־זָבְחָיכֶם וֹאָכְלוּ בַשֵּׁר: (כב) כָּי לְא־דְבַּרְתִּי אַת־אַבְּוֹתַיכֶם ' ָוָלָא צִוִּיתִּים בָּיֵוֹם הוציא [הוֹצִיאֵי] אוֹתָם מֵאֲרֵץ מִצְרֵיִם עַל־דָּבָרֵי עוֹלָה וָזָבַח: (כג) כֵּי אֶם־אֵת־הַדָּבַר הָזָה צִוִּּיתִי אוֹתַם לֵאמֹר שָׁמְעוּ בִקוֹלִי וְהָיֵיתִי לָכֵם לַאלקִים וַאַתָּם תַּהִיּרַלִי לַעַם וַהַלְכָּמָּם בְּכַל־הַדָּרַךְ אֲשֶׁר אַצַנָּה אֶתַכֶּם לְמַעַן יִיטֶב לָכֶם: (כד) וַלְא שֻמְעוֹ וַלְאַ־הִטְּוֹ אַתְּרַבְּלַרַךְּ אֲשֶׁר אַצַנָּה אֶתַכֶּם לְמַעַן יִיטֶב לָכֶם: (כד) וַלְא שֻמְעוֹ וַלְאַ־הִטְּוֹ אַתַּבְם בַּלְכֹּלְבַּבְּרַבְּרָ הָרֶע וַיִּהְיִוּ לְאָחָוֹר וְלָא לְפָנִים: (כה) לְמִן־הּיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר יָצָאִוּ אֲבְוֹתֵיכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם עַד הּיָוֹם הָאֶד וְאֶשְׁלַח אֲלֵיכָם אֶת־כָּל־עְבָדִי הּנְּבִיאִים יַוֹם הַשְׁכֵּם וְשֶׁלְחַ: (כו) וְלוֹא שָׁמִעוּ אֵלֵי וְלָא הִטָּוּ אֶת־אָזָגָם וַיַּקְשׁוּ אֶת־עָרְפָּׁם הַרָעוּ מֵאֲבוֹתָם: (כז) וְדַבַּרְתָּ אֲלֵיהֶם אֶת־כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאַׁלֶּה וְלָא יִשְׁמְעוּ אֵלֶידְ וְקָרָאתָ אֲלֵיהָם וַלָא יַעַנוּכָה: (כח) וָאַמֶּרַתָּ אֲלֵיהָם זֶה הַגוֹי אֲשֶׁר לוֹא־שֶׁמְעוּ בָּקוֹל ה' אֱלֹקִיו וַלָא לַקְחָוּ מוֹפֵר אֲבָדֵהֹ הַאֲמוּנַה וְנָכְרְתָה מְפִּיהֶם: (ס) (כט) גַּזִּי נְזָרֶךְ וְהַשְּׁלִיכִי וּשָׂאָי עַל־שָׁפָיָם קִינָה כָּי מָאַס ה' וַיִּשָּׂשׁ אֶת־דָּוֹר עֶבָרָתְוֹ: (ל) כִּי־עַשׁוּ בְנֵי־יְהוּדָה הָרֶע בְּעֵינַי נְאַוֹם־ה' שֵׂמוּ שָׁקּוּצֵיהָׁם בַּבַּיִת אֲשֶׁר־נִקְרָא־שְׁמִי עָלָיו לְטַמְאְוֹ:

(1) The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD: (2) Stand at the gate of the House of the LORD, and there proclaim this word: Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah who enter these gates to worship the LORD! (3) Thus said the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel: Mend your ways and your actions, and I will let you dwell in this place. (4) Don't put your trust in illusions and say, "The Temple of the LORD, the Temple of the LORD, the Temple of the LORD are these [buildings]." (5) No, if you really mend your ways and your actions; if you execute justice between one man and another; (6) if you do not oppress the stranger, the orphan, and the widow; if you do not shed the blood of the innocent in this place; if you do not follow other gods, to your own hurt— (7) then only will I let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers for all time. (8) See, you are relying on illusions that are of no avail. (9) Will you steal and murder and commit adultery and swear falsely, and sacrifice to Baal, and follow other gods whom you have not experienced, (10) and then come and stand before Me in this House which bears My name and say, "We are safe"?— [Safe] to do all these abhorrent things! (11) Do you consider this House, which bears My name, to be a den of thieves? As for Me, I have been watching—declares the LORD. (12) Just go to My place at Shiloh, where I had established My name formerly, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of My people Israel. (13) And now, because you do all these things—declares the LORD—and though I spoke to you persistently, you would not listen; and though I called to you, you would not respond—(14) therefore I will do to the House which bears My name, on which you rely, and to the place which I gave you and your fathers, just what I did to Shiloh. (15) And I will cast you out of My presence as I cast out your brothers, the whole brood of Ephraim. (16) As for you, do not pray for this people, do not raise a cry of prayer on their behalf, do not plead with Me; for I will not listen to you. (17) Don't you see what they are doing in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? (18) The children gather sticks, the fathers build the fire, and the mothers knead dough, to make cakes for the Queen of Heaven, and they pour libations to other gods, to vex Me. (19) Is it Me they are vexing?—

says the LORD. It is rather themselves, to their own disgrace. (20) Assuredly, thus said the Lord GOD: My wrath and My fury will be poured out upon this place, on man and on beast, on the trees of the field and the fruit of the soil. It shall burn, with none to quench it. (21) Thus said the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel: Add your burnt offerings to your other sacrifices and eat the meat! (22) For when I freed your fathers from the land of Egypt, I did not speak with them or command them concerning burnt offerings or sacrifice. (23) But this is what I commanded them: Do My bidding, that I may be your God and you may be My people; walk only in the way that I enjoin upon you, that it may go well with you. (24) Yet they did not listen or give ear; they followed their own counsels, the willfulness of their evil hearts. They have gone backward, not forward, (25) from the day your fathers left the land of Egypt until today. And though I kept sending all My servants, the prophets, to them daily and persistently, (26) they would not listen to Me or give ear. They stiffened their necks, they acted worse than their fathers. (27) You shall say all these things to them, but they will not listen to you; you shall call to them, but they will not respond to you. (28) Then say to them: This is the nation that would not obey the LORD their God, that would not accept rebuke. Faithfulness has perished, vanished from their mouths. (29) Shear your locks and cast them away, Take up a lament on the heights, For the LORD has spurned and cast off The brood that provoked His wrath. (30) For the people of Judah have done what displeases Me—declares the LORD. They have set up their abominations in the House which is called by My name, and they have defiled it.

8. Jeremiah 11:11-14

(יא) לָכֹן כָּה אָמַר ה' הִנְנִּי מֵבֵיא אֲלֵיהֶם רָעָּה אֲשֶׁר לְאֹ־יוּכְלוּ לָצֵאת מְמֶנָּה וְזָצְקוּ אַלֵּי וְלָא אֶשְׁמֵע אֲלִיהֶם: (יב) וְהַלְפֿוּ עָרֵי יְהוּדָּה וְיִשְׁבֵּי וְרִשְּׁלֵּם וְזַצְקוּ אַלֹּי וְלָא אֶשְׁמֵע אֲלִיהֵם לָתָם וְהוֹשֵׁע לְאֹ־יוֹשִׁיעוּ לָהֶם בְּעַת רָעָחֵם: (יג) כִּי מִסְפַּר עָרֶידְ הָנִי וְהוֹדֶה וִמְסְפַּר חַצְּוֹת יְרוּשָׁלֹם שְׁמְתָם מִזְבְּחוֹת לֹבְשֶׁר הָשָׁל בְּעַל: (ס) (יד) וְאַהָּה אַל־תִּהְפַּלֵל בְּעַד־הָעָם הַזֶּה וְאַל־תִּשָּׁא בַעְדָם רְנָה וּתְפָלֵה כִּי אֵנְנִי שׁמַע בְּעָת: (ס) (יד) וְאַהָּה אַל־תִּהְפַלֵּל בְּעַד־הָעָם הַזֶּה וְאַל־תִּשָׁא בַעְדָם רְנָה וּתְפָלֵה כִּי אֵינְנִנִּי שׁמֹע בְּעָר.

(11) Assuredly, thus said the LORD: I am going to bring upon them disaster from which they will not be able to escape. Then they will cry out to me, but I will not listen to them. (12) And the townsmen of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry out to the gods to which they sacrifice; but they will not be able to rescue them in their time of disaster. (13) For your gods have become as many as your towns, O Judah, and you have set up as many altars to Shame as there are streets in Jerusalem—altars for sacrifice to Baal. (14) As for you, do not pray for this people, do not raise a cry of prayer on their behalf; for I will not listen when they call to Me on account of their disaster.

9. Exodus 32:9-14

(9) The LORD further said to Moses, "I see that this is a stiffnecked people. (10) Now, let Me be, that My anger may blaze forth against them and that I may destroy them, and make of you a great nation." (11) But Moses implored the LORD his God, saying, "Let not Your anger, O Lord, blaze forth against Your people, whom You delivered from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand. (12) Let not the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that He delivered them, only to kill them off in the mountains and annihilate them from the face of the earth.' Turn from Your blazing anger, and renounce the plan to punish Your people. (13) Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, how You swore to them by Your Self and said to them: I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven, and I will give to your offspring this whole land of which I spoke, to possess forever." (14) And the LORD renounced the punishment He had planned to bring upon His people.

10. Jeremiah 28

(1) That year, early in the reign of King Zedekiah of Judah, in the fifth month of the fourth year, the prophet Hananiah son of Azzur, who was from Gibeon, spoke to me in the House of the LORD, in the presence of the priests and all the people. He said: (2) "Thus said the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel: I hereby break the yoke of the king of Babylon. (3) In two years, I will restore to this place all the vessels of the House of the LORD which King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took from this place and brought to Babylon. (4) And I will bring back to this place King Jeconiah son of Jehojakim of Judah, and all the Judean exiles who went to Babylon—declares the LORD. Yes, I will break the voke of the king of Babylon." (5) Then the prophet Jeremiah answered the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and of all the people who were standing in the House of the LORD. (6) The prophet Jeremiah said: "Amen! May the LORD do so! May the LORD fulfill what you have prophesied and bring back from Babylon to this place the vessels of the House of the LORD and all the exiles! (7) But just listen to this word which I address to you and to all the people: (8) The prophets who lived before you and me from ancient times prophesied war, disaster, and pestilence against many lands and great kingdoms. (9) So if a prophet prophesies good fortune, then only when the word of the prophet comes true can it be known that the LORD really sent him." (10) But the prophet Hananiah removed the bar from the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, and broke it; (11) and Hananiah said in the presence of all the people, "Thus said the LORD: So will I break the voke of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon from off the necks of all the nations, in two years." And the prophet Jeremiah went on his way.

11. Jeremiah 26:9-19

(ט) מדוע נבּית בְשׁם־ה' לֵאמֹר כְּשִלוֹ יָהְיֶה ֹהבִּיִת הֹּזֶּה וְהָעִיר הַזֶּאת הֶחֲרָב מַאֵין יוֹשֶׁב נִיּקְהֶל כְּלֹ־הָעֶם מֻלֹדְ בְּיַת ה' נִיְשְׁבֶוּ בְּבָּתח שֻעַר־ה' הָחֶדֶשׁ: (ס) (יא) ניֹּאמְרוּ הַבְּהָנִים וְהַנְּבִאים אֶל־הַשְּׁרִים וְאֶל־הָשֶׁרִי הְשִׁלְּה בַּיִת ה' נִיְשְׁבֶוּ בְּפָתח שֲעַר־ה' הָחֶדֶשׁ: (ס) (יא) ניֹּאמְרוּ הּבֹּהְנִים וְהַנְּבִי הְיִּאְר הְּשְׁבְּוּ בְּבָּתְח שֲעַר־ה' הָחֶדֶשׁ: (יב) נִיּאמֶר יִרְמְיָהוֹ אֶל־הָלִיים וְאֶלֶּה בְּאשֶׁר שְׁמִעְהָם: (יג) וְעַהָּה הַיִּטִיבוּ דַּרְבֵיכֶם וְשִׁמְעוֹ בְּקוֹל ה' אֱלֹקיכֶם וְיָנְחֶם ה' אֱל־הַנְיִר הְיֹאת בּאֲשֶׁר שְׁמִעְהָם: (יג) וְעַהָּה הַיִּטִיבוּ דַּרְבֵיכֶם וּמְעַלְלִילֶם וְשִׁמְעוֹ בְּקוֹל ה' אֱלֹקינִם וְיָנָחֶם ה' אֶל־הַנָּבְיִם אֲשֶׁר שְׁמַעְתָם: (יג) וְעַהָּה הַיִּטִיבוּ דַּרְבֵיכֶם וּמְעַלְּוֹילָם וְשִׁמְעוֹ בְּקוֹל ה' אֱלִקְנִי הְיָּלְכִּ בְּעוֹבִיקְם בְּשׁוֹּדְלִי בְּטִוֹב וְכִישֶׁר בְּעִינִיכֶם: (טו) אָךְ וּ וְיָע תַּדְעוֹּ בְּיִבְקְה שָׁרִי הְנָלִי בְּיֶרְבָם עֲשֹׁר־לֵי בְּעָלִיהָם וְאָל־הָעִיר הַּזְּאת וְאָלְי הָנִי בְּיָרְכָם אֲעְלִיהְי הְיָּהְה בְּעִייִבְם בְּשְׁרֹי בְּעִירְהַבְּתִים הְוּבְלִים הָאָנִיים בְּעְלִיכָם אָּהָלְי הַבְּבִיתְ הַבְּיִבְים הְאָלִייִם הְאָלְיִים הְצְּלְישׁר בְּבָּרִים הָאֻלְּיִי הְ הַיְבְּבְייִם הְאָלְיִים הְּבְּלִים בְּיִבְּה הָּבְרִי בְּיִבְּבְ בְּעִיבִים וְשִׁרְיֹ הָבְּרִי בְּיִבְרְ בְּבָּיתְם בְּעְלִינִּוּ בְּיִרְבְּיתִים הְאָלְיִים בְּיִבְים בְּאָבִיים בְּאָבְייִם הְעָלִיהְ בְּבִיתְ בְּעִינִם בְּעְבֹי בְּיוֹבְר בְּיִבְר בְּיִבְר בְּיִיבְם בְּשֹׁרִי בְּיִבְּר בְּיִבְּה בְּיבְּי בְּיִבְים בְּעְבִינִּי בְּבְיבְעִים בְּאָבְייִבּי בְּיִבְיבְּה בְּיבְּר בְּבְייִינִים בְּאָבְיר בְּיוֹב בְּעְיִיבִּי בְּיְבְיְיבְּים בְּיּבְיבְיים בְּעְיִבְּי בְּבְיוֹב בְּיוֹבְיבְיבְיבְים בְּשְּבְיר בְיּאוֹר בְּיְיבְיבְים בְּיְבְּיבְּיבְים בְּיבְיבְיבְים בְּיּבְּבְית בְיבְיבְים בְּיּבְיבְיר בְּיִבְּיבְּיבְיבְים בְּיְבְיבְיבְיבְיה בְיּבְּיִי בְּבְּבְיתְיבְּיבְּים בְּעְיבְּיבְיבְים בְּשְׁבְּיבְיבְיבְיבְיבְּבְייִבְם בְּעְבְּיִי בְּיְבְּבְיבְייִבְיבְייִבְיבְּיִיבְּבְּיבְיבְיבְּבְיבְּבְים בְּיבְּיבְיבְייִי בְּיבְּבְייִבְּבְיבְ

(9) How dare you prophesy in the name of the LORD that this House shall become like Shiloh and this city be made desolate, without inhabitants?" And all the people crowded about Jeremiah in the House of the LORD. (10) When the officials of Judah heard about this, they went up from the king's palace to the House of the LORD and held a session at the entrance of the New Gate of the House of the LORD. (11) The priests and prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the death penalty, for he has prophesied against this city, as you yourselves have heard." (12) Jeremiah said to the officials and to all the people, "It was the LORD who sent me to prophesy against this House and this city all the words you heard. (13) Therefore mend your ways and your acts, and heed the LORD your God, that the LORD may renounce the punishment He has decreed for you. (14) As for me, I am in your hands: do to me what seems good and right to you. (15) But know that if you put me to death, you and this city and its inhabitants will be guilty of shedding the blood of an innocent man. For in truth the LORD has sent me to you, to speak all these words to you." (16) Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and prophets, "This man does not deserve the death penalty, for he spoke to us in the name of the LORD our God." (17) And some of the elders of the land arose and said to the entire assemblage of the people, (18) "Micah the Morashtite, who prophesied in the days of King Hezekiah of Judah, said to all the people of Judah: 'Thus said the LORD of Hosts: Zion shall be plowed as a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins And the Temple Mount a shrine in the woods.' (19) "Did King Hezekiah of Judah, and all Judah, put him to death? Did he not rather fear the LORD and implore the LORD, so that the LORD renounced the punishment He had decreed against them? We are about to do great injury to ourselves!"

12. Jeremiah 8:17-23

(יז) כִּי הִנְנִי מְשַׁלֵּם בָּכֶם וְחָשִׁים צִפְענִים אֲשֶׁר אֵין־לָהֶם לֶחַשׁ וְנִשְׁכָּוּ אֶתְבֶם וְאֵם־ה': (ס) (יח) מַבְלִיגִיתִי עֲלֵי יָגְוֹן עָלַי לְבֵּי דַוָּי: (יט) הַנָּה־קְּוֹל שֻׁוְעַת בַּת־עַמָּי מָאָרֶץ מִרְםּלִּים הָה' אֵין בָּצִּיּוֹן אִם־מִלְּבָה אֵין בָּה מִדּוּע הַכְעָסָוּנִי בִּפְּסְלִיהֶם בְּהַבְלֵי נַבֵר: (כ) עָבַר קַצִיר בָּלָה קֵיץ וַאֲנְהוּ: (כֹב) הַצְּרִל אֵין בְּגִלְעָּד אִם־רֹפֵא אֵין שֶׁם כִּי מַדּוּעׁ לְא עֵלְתָה אֲרַכַת בַּת־עַמְי: (כֹב) הַצְּרָל אֵין בְּגלְעָּד אִם־רֹפֵא אֵין שֶׁם כִּי מַדּוּעֹ לְא עֵלְתָה אֲרַכַת בַּת־עַמְי: (כֹב) הַצְרָל אֵין בְּגלְעָּד אִם־רֹפֵא אֵין שֶׁם כִּי מַדּוֹעַ לְא עֵלְתָה אֲרַכַת בַּת־עַמְי: (כֹב) הַצְּרָל אֵין בְּגלְעָּד אִם־רֹפֵא אֵין שֶׁם כִּי מַדּוֹעַ לְא עֵלְתָה אֲרַכַת בַּת־עַמְי: (כֹג) מְירִימָּן רֹאשׁי מִים וְעִינִי מְקְּוֹר

(17) Lo, I will send serpents against you, Adders that cannot be charmed, And they shall bite you —declares the LORD. (18) When in grief I would seek comfort, My heart is sick within me. (19) "Is not the LORD in Zion? Is not her King within her? Why then did they anger Me with their images, With alien futilities?" Hark! The outcry of my poor people

From the land far and wide: (20) "Harvest is past, Summer is gone, But we have not been saved." (21) Because my people is shattered I am shattered; I am dejected, seized by desolation. (22) Is there no balm in Gilead? Can no physician be found? Why has healing not yet Come to my poor people? (23) Oh, that my head were water, My eyes a fount of tears! Then would I weep day and night For the slain of my poor people.

13. Jeremiah 9:15-19

(טו) וַהַפְצוֹתִים בּגוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר לָא יֵדְעֹּוּ הַפֶּה וַאֲבוֹתֵם וְשִׁלַּחְתִּי אָחֲריהֶם אֶת־הַחֶּרָב עַד כּלּוֹתִי אוֹתֵם: (פ) (טז) כָּה אָמֶר ה' צְבָאוֹת הִתְּבּוֹנְנֶוּ וְקְרְאוּ לַמְקוֹנְוְוֹת וּתְבָּוֹתְ וְעָבְוֹתְ וְתָבְוֹתְ וְתָשֶׁנָה עָלִינוּ גָהִי וְתַרְדָנָה עֵינֵינוּ דְּמְעָׁה וְעַפְעַפֵּינוּ יִזְּלוּ־מֵיִם: (יח) כִּי קוֹל נְהָי נְשְׁמַע מִצּיָּוֹן אֵיךְ שַׁצֵּדְנוּ בְּשִׁנְּ מְאֹד כִּי־עָזַבְנוּ אָֹרֶץ כִּי הִשְׁלָיכוּ מִשְׁכְּנוֹתִינוּ: (ס) (יט) כִּי־שְׁמַעְנָה נָשִׁים דְּבַר־ה' וְתַקּח אָזְנְבֶם דְּבַר־פֵּיו וְלֹמֵּדְנָה בְּוְתִיכֶם נְּהִי וְאֹשֶׁה רְעוּתָהְּ קִינָה:

(15) I will scatter them among nations which they and their fathers never knew; and I will dispatch the sword after them until I have consumed them. (16) Thus said the LORD of Hosts: Listen! Summon the dirge-singers, let them come; Send for the skilled women, let them come. (17) Let them quickly start a wailing for us, That our eyes may run with tears, Our pupils flow with water. (18) For the sound of wailing Is heard from Zion: How we are despoiled! How greatly we are shamed! Ah, we must leave our land, Abandon our dwellings! (19) Hear, O women, the word of the LORD, Let your ears receive the word of His mouth, And teach your daughters wailing, And one another lamentation.

14. Jeremiah 13:13-17

(יג) וְאָמֵרָהָּ אַלִיהֶׁם כְּה־אָמֵר ה' הִנְגִי מְמַלֵּא אֶת־כָּל־יִּשְׁבֵי הָאֶרֶץ הُזֹּאת וְאֶת־הַמְּלָכִים הּיִּשְׁבִי לְרָוֹד עַל־כִּסְאוֹ וְאֶת־הַכּּהְגִים וְאֶת־הַפְּנִים וְאֶת כָּל־יִּשְׁבֵי יִרְיּשָׁבִי יִרְיּשָׁבִי יְתְבָּנְים יַחְאָּף וְבָּצָיִם יַחְדָּף נְאָב־ה' לְא־אָחָוּס וְלָא אֲרַחָם מֵהַשְׁחִיתָם: (ס) (טו) שִׁמְעוּ וְהָאָזָינוּ אַל־ תִּגְבָּהוּ כִּי ה' דִּבֵּר: (טז) תְּנוּ לָה' אֱלֹקִיכֶם כָּבוֹד בְּעֶרֶם יַחְשָׁף וּבְעֵּרֶם יִתְנֹבְּפוּ רַגְלִיכֶם עַל־חָרֵי וַשֶּׁף וְקְנִיתָם לְאוֹר וְשָׁמֵה לְצַלְמֶׁנְת ישִית [וְשָׁית] לעְרֶפֵל: (יז) וְאִם לֹא תִשִׁמֵּעוּה בִּמְסִתָּרִים תִּבְבֵּה־נַפִּשִׁי מִפְּנֵי מִפְּנֵי תַּבְד עִינִי דְּמֵעֵי נִינִי דְמַלֶּה כִּי נִשְׁבָּה עֲדָר ה': (ס)

(13) say to them, "Thus said the LORD: I am going to fill with drunkenness all the inhabitants of this land, and the kings who sit on the throne of David, and the priests and the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (14) And I will smash them one against the other, parents and children alike—declares the LORD; no pity, compassion, or mercy will stop Me from destroying them." (15) Attend and give ear; be not haughty, For the LORD has spoken. (16) Give honor to the LORD your God Before He brings darkness, Before your feet stumble On the mountains in shadow— When you hope for light, And it is turned to darkness And becomes deep gloom. (17) For if you will not give heed, My inmost self must weep, Because of your arrogance; My eye must stream and flow With copious tears, Because the flock of the LORD Is taken captive.

15. Lamentations 3

(א) צֵגֵי הַנֶּבֶר רְאָה עֵּנִי בְּשֶׁבֶט עָבְרָתוֹ: (ב) אוֹתִי נָהָג וַיֹּלֶה חָשֶׁבְ שְׁבְּחֹדִי: (כ) (ז) בְּהַב הַנְּלֶּה וֹלָה חָשִׁבִּים הוֹשִׁיבְנִי פְּמָתִי עוֹלָם: (ס) (ז) בָּדָר בְּעֲבִי וְלֵא אֵצְא הַכְבִּיד נְחֻשְׁבִים הוֹשִׁיבְנִי בְּמָתִי עוֹלָם: (ס) (ז) בְּבָר בְּבְרִי וֹלָה אָרָה הִצְּלְי בְּבְּרָ רְאֹש וּתְלָאָה: (ו) בְּמָחֲשׁבִים הוֹשִׁיבְנִי פְמָתִי עוֹלָם: (ס) (ז) בָּדֶר בְּעֲבִי וֹלְא אֵצְא הַכְבִּיד נְחָשְׁבִי (מ) (צֵּה בִּבְלִיוֹלְי בְּבָר בְּבְרֹ בִּבְּרָ רְאֹשׁ וּתְלָאָה: (ס) (י) לְּב אֹרָב הוּא לִי אריה [אָרִי] בְּמְסְתְּרִם: (יא) הְשָׁבִּענִי בְּמְרוֹי, שְׁהַלְּלְּלְצְיֹה לְּלָלְיעִי עוֹבְּה, וְחִישׁהְם מְשֶׁלָּוֹם נַפְשִׁי נָשְׁיתִי טוֹבָה: (יח) נִאֹמ לְצָרְ בְּבְּרְ וְתִשִׁים לְנְשְׁרִי נַבְּשִׁי: (כז) נַמְזְהָ מִשְּׁלָּוֹם נַפְשִׁי נְשִׁיתִּ עִלִּבְן אוֹחָילְךְ (בְּבְּלְיתְּלִי וְתוֹחַלְתִּי מִוֹן וְתְשִׁחֹם] עָלֵי נִפְשִׁי: (כמ) נָאת אָשָׁבִי לְשִׁית עִלִּבְן אֹחְלְילִי (כ) (כב) חָסְדֵי הֹ' בְּיִלְי וֹבְלְּי בְּבְּלִי עַלִּבְלָוּ תְּבָּבְיוֹ לְבְּלְרְי וְלְשִׁים בְּבְּלִי עַלְ־בְּנִוּ לְבְשִׁרְ וְלְבִילְ וְבִּקְרְי בְּלִבְיוֹ וְלְלְרָ לְנָבֶשׁ תְּרְלְינִי (מ) (מוּ עָבְרְתִּי וֹבְּבְּלוּ הְבָּעִיי נְעָבְי, וְנִשְׁלְתְּי בְּבִי עִלִי וְנְחָלְּהְ בְּעָבְיוֹ וְלְבִילְ וְבִּלְּבְיוֹ בְּלִבְיוֹ וְנְשִׁחְם בְּעִבְיוֹ בִּלְבְיוֹ בְּבְלִי וְלְבִילְ וְבִיּלְנְהְ וְנְשִׁים בְּבְּלִי עִלְרִינִי וְנָבִילְּתְיּבְינִי וְנָתִילְרְתְיְבְיבִי בְּלִיחֹשְׁבִּין (בִּיְבְיבְילִי וְבִיקְרְיף בְּלִיחֹטְאוֹן בְּבְּלִי בְּבְּבְיוֹ הְעִיבְיִי וְנְבִם בְּלִיתִי בְּבְיבִי בְּלִים בְּבְרִי בְּלִיחְשׁבְר בְּבְּיוֹ בְּשְׁרְיבְיְיִי בְּיִבְיּבְיּתְייִבְיִי בְּעִיבְיתְיּיבְיּבְי בְּלִיחְשְׁבִּין (בִּבְּבְיּבְי בְּעִייתְ נְבִיבְּרְ בְּלִיחֹשְבִּבְיוֹ בְּבְּבְיי בְּלְבְינִי לְבְבָּת וְעְבְיבִי בְּבְבוּת הְּתִיבְּבְי בְּבְּבְיוֹ בְּבְּבְי בְּבְיּבְי בְּבְּבְיוֹ בְּבְבְיבְי בְּבְבְּבְיוֹ בְּבְּבְיבְי בְּבְּבְיוֹ בְּבְּבְיבְי בְּבְיּשְׁבְּבְיוֹ בְּבְּבְיבְי בְּבְיּתְי בְּבְיבְיבְּבְי בְּבְיחִיעְיבְיבְּבְיוֹ בְּבְּבְיבְּבְּבְיוֹי בְּבְּבְיבְיבְּבְיוֹ בְּבְיבְּבְּבְיוֹ בְּבְּבְּבְי בְּבְּבְיוּ בְּבְּבְּבְיוֹ בְּבְּבְיבְ

(1) I am the man who has known affliction Under the rod of His wrath; (2) Me He drove on and on In unrelieved darkness; (3) On none but me He brings down His hand Again and again, without cease. (4) He has worn away my flesh and skin; He has shattered my bones. (5) All around me He has built Misery and hardship; (6) He has made me dwell in darkness, Like those long dead. (7) He has walled me in and I cannot break out; He has weighed me down with chains. (8) And when I cry and plead, He shuts out my prayer; (9) He has walled in my ways with hewn blocks, He has made my

paths a maze. (10) He is a lurking bear to me, A lion in hiding; (11) He has forced me off my way and mangled me, He has left me numb. (12) He has bent His bow and made me The target of His arrows: (13) He has shot into my vitals The shafts of His quiver. (14) I have become a laughingstock to all people, The butt of their gibes all day long. (15) He has filled me with bitterness, Sated me with wormwood. (16) He has broken my teeth on gravel, Has ground me into the dust. (17) My life was bereft of peace, I forgot what happiness was. (18) I thought my strength and hope Had perished before the LORD. (19) To recall my distress and my misery Was wormwood and poison; (20) Whenever I thought of them, I was bowed low, (21) But this do I call to mind, Therefore I have hope: (22) The kindness of the LORD has not ended, His mercies are not spent. (23) They are renewed every morning— Ample is Your grace! (24) "The LORD is my portion," I say with full heart; Therefore will I hope in Him. (25) The LORD is good to those who trust in Him, To the one who seeks Him; (26) It is good to wait patiently Till rescue comes from the LORD. ... (39) Of what shall a living man complain? Each one of his own sins! (40) Let us search and examine our ways, And turn back to the LORD; (41) Let us lift up our hearts with our hands To God in heaven: (42) We have transgressed and rebelled, And You have not forgiven. (43) You have clothed Yourself in anger and pursued us, You have slain without pity. (44) You have screened Yourself off with a cloud, That no prayer may pass through. (45) You have made us filth and refuse In the midst of the peoples. (46) All our enemies loudly Rail against us. (47) Panic and pitfall are our lot, Death and destruction. (48) My eyes shed streams of water Over the ruin of my poor people. (49) My eyes shall flow without cease, Without respite, (50) Until the LORD looks down And beholds from heaven. (51) My eyes have brought me grief Over all the maidens of my city, (52) My foes have snared me like a bird, Without any cause. (53) They have ended my life in a pit And cast stones at me. (54) Waters flowed over my head; I said: I am lost! (55) I have called on Your name, O LORD, From the depths of the Pit. (56) Hear my plea; Do not shut Your ear To my groan, to my cry! (57) You have ever drawn nigh when I called You; You have said, "Do not fear!" (58) You championed my cause, O Lord, You have redeemed my life. (59) You have seen, O LORD, the wrong done me; Oh, vindicate my right! (60) You have seen all their malice, All their designs against me; (61) You have heard, O LORD, their taunts, All their designs against me, (62) The mouthings and pratings of my adversaries Against me all day long. (63) See how, at their ease or at work, I am the butt of their gibes. (64) Give them, O LORD, their deserts According to their deeds. (65) Give them anguish of heart; Your curse be upon them! (66) Oh, pursue them in wrath and destroy them From under the heavens of the LORD!