

# Jeremiah 15:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Woe is me, my mother, that thou hast borne me a man of strife and a man of contention to the whole earth! I have neither lent on usury, nor men have lent to me on usury; yet every one of them doth curse me.

## Analysis

This verse begins Jeremiah's personal lament: 'Woe is me, my mother, that thou hast borne me a man of strife and a man of contention to the whole earth!' The Hebrew *oi li* (אֹי לִי, woe to me) opens personal complaint. 'Man of strife' (*ish riv*) and 'man of contention' (*ish madon*) describe his experience as constant conflict. 'To the whole earth' (*lekhhol ha'arets*) indicates universal opposition. 'I have neither lent on usury, nor men have lent to me on usury; yet every one of them doth curse me.' Jeremiah protests his innocence—he hasn't created economic conflict through usury (common source of strife), yet everyone curses him. His suffering is for proclaiming truth, not for personal wrongdoing.

## Historical Context

This verse begins Jeremiah's third personal lament (15:10-21). The prophet's life was defined by opposition—cursed by his own people, persecuted by religious establishment, rejected by royal court. The usury reference addresses common sources of social conflict; Jeremiah is innocent of such causes for opposition. His curse comes solely from faithful prophetic ministry.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jeremiah's lament about being 'born for strife' reflect the cost of prophetic ministry?
2. What does his protestation of innocence (no usury) reveal about the source of his suffering?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵין אָמֵן כִּי לִידָתֶךָ וְאֵין יְבָשׁוּךְ  
**Woe** H0 **is me my mother** H517 **that thou hast borne** H3588 **and a man** H376 **of strife** H7379

וְאֵין מִדְבָּר לְכָל כָּא כֵּן לֹא  
**and a man** H376 **of contention** H4066 **to the whole earth** H3605 **to** H776 **the whole earth** H3808

כְּל הַבְּרִיא נָשָׂא כְּל הַבְּרִיא  
**I have neither lent on usury** H5383 **I have neither lent on usury** H3808 **to** H0 **the whole earth** H3605

מִכָּלְלוּנִי  
**yet every one of them doth curse** H7043

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 22:25** (Parallel theme): If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury.

**Luke 6:22** (Parallel theme): Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

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