

# Jeremiah 18

Chapter 18 of 52 · 23 Verses · Authorized King James Version

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## **The Potter and the Clay**

- <sup>1</sup> The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,
- <sup>2</sup> Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words.
- <sup>3</sup> Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
- <sup>6</sup> 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.
- <sup>7</sup> At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it;
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- <sup>8</sup> 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.
- <sup>9</sup> And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it;
- <sup>10</sup> 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.

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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 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.

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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 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.

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## HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

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### **Eternal** — עולם (Olam)

Eternal, everlasting

The Hebrew **olam** (עולם) means eternal or everlasting—time stretching beyond human comprehension. God is the 'everlasting God' (Genesis 21:33), and His covenant love endures forever.

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### **Iniquity** — אָוֶן (Avon)

Iniquity, guilt, punishment

The Hebrew **avon** (אָוֶן) encompasses iniquity, guilt, and its punishment—the twisted nature of sin. 'The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all' (Isaiah 53:6), Christ bearing our guilt and penalty.

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### **Kingdom** — מַלְכוּת (Malkhut)

Kingdom, reign, royal power

The Hebrew **malkhut** (מַלְכוּת) denotes kingdom or royal rule—the realm and reign of a king. God's kingdom represents His sovereign rule over all creation.

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### **Lord** — יְהוָה / אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יהוה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

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**Priest** — כֹּהֵן (Kohen)

Priest

The Hebrew **kohen** (כֹּהֵן) denotes a priest—one who mediates between God and people through sacrifices and intercession. Aaron and his descendants served as Israel's priests, foreshadowing Christ the Great High Priest.

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**Repent** — נָחַם / שׁוּב (Shuv / Nacham)

To turn back, relent

The Hebrew **shuv** (שׁוּב) means to turn or return—a physical turning that represents spiritual redirection back to God. **Nacham** (נָחַם) conveys grief or relenting, often used of God 'repenting' of judgment.

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**Sin** — חַטָּאת (Chatta'ah)

Sin, missing the mark

The Hebrew **chatta'ah** (חַטָּאת) means sin—missing the mark of God's standard. It encompasses rebellion, transgression, and falling short of divine holiness.

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**Word** — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

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**Wrath** — אַף (Aph)

Wrath, anger

The Hebrew **aph** (אַף) literally means 'nose' or 'nostrils,' idiomatically expressing wrath or anger—God's righteous indignation against sin. Yet God is 'slow to anger' (Exodus 34:6) and 'abundant in mercy.'

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**CROSS REFERENCES**


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**Jeremiah 18:2**    **Parallel theme:** Hebrews 1:1

**Jeremiah 18:4**    **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 18:6; Isaiah 45:9

**Jeremiah 18:6**

**References Lord:** Isaiah 64:8; Romans 11:34. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 18:4; Isaiah 45:9; Daniel 4:23; Matthew 20:15

**Jeremiah 18:7**    **Kingdom:** Jeremiah 1:10. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 45:4

**Jeremiah 18:8**    **Evil:** Ezekiel 18:21. **Repentance:** Jeremiah 26:3; 26:13; Exodus 32:12; Deuteronomy 32:36; Judges 2:18; Psalms 90:13; 106:45; 135:14; Hosea 11:8

## **Jeremiah 18:9**

**Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 11:17; 31:28; Ecclesiastes 3:2. **Kingdom:** Jeremiah 1:10

## **Jeremiah 18:10**

**Parallel theme:** Numbers 14:22; 1 Samuel 2:30; 13:13; Psalms 125:5; Ezekiel 33:18; Zephaniah 1:6. **Evil:** Ezekiel 18:24. **Repentance:** 1 Samuel 15:11; 15:35

## **Jeremiah 18:11**

**Evil:** Jeremiah 25:5; 35:15; 2 Kings 17:13; Micah 2:3. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 7:3; Zechariah 1:3. **References Jerusalem:** Acts 26:20. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 5:5; James 5:1

## **Jeremiah 18:12**

**Hope:** Jeremiah 2:25; Isaiah 57:10. **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 29:19; Luke 1:51. **Evil:** Jeremiah 3:17; 7:24; 16:12

## **Jeremiah 18:13**

**Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 5:30; 14:17; 23:14; Isaiah 66:8. **References Israel:** Jeremiah 31:4; Hosea 6:10

## **Jeremiah 18:14**

**Parallel theme:** John 6:68

## **Jeremiah 18:15**

**Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 2:13; 2:32; 6:16; 10:15; 16:19; 17:13; Isaiah 41:29; 57:14; Hosea 11:2; Malachi 2:8

## **Jeremiah 18:16**

**Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 49:13; 50:13; 1 Kings 9:8; Psalms 22:7; Isaiah 37:22; Matthew 27:39; Mark 15:29. **Sin:** Jeremiah 19:8; 25:9; Micah 6:16

## **Jeremiah 18:17**

**Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 2:27; 13:24; 32:33; 46:21; Job 27:21; Psalms 48:7; Hosea 13:15

## **Jeremiah 18:18**

**Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 11:19; 18:11; 43:2; Psalms 21:11; 52:2; Proverbs 18:21. **Word:** Psalms 57:4; 64:3; Isaiah 32:7; Malachi 2:7

## **Jeremiah 18:19**

**Parallel theme:** Nehemiah 6:9; Psalms 109:28. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 20:12; Micah 7:8

## **Jeremiah 18:20**

**Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 18:22; Psalms 35:7; 57:6; Proverbs 26:27; Ecclesiastes 10:8. **Judgment:** Psalms 106:23. **Evil:** Psalms 35:12; 119:95

## **Jeremiah 18:21**

**Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 9:21; 15:8; Lamentations 5:3. **Word:** Exodus 22:24; Deuteronomy 32:25; Amos 4:10

**Jeremiah 18:22**   **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 6:26; Psalms 140:5; Zephaniah 1:16

**Jeremiah 18:23**   **Parallel theme:** Psalms 35:4; Isaiah 2:9

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