



SEFER YIRMIYAHU

2019-2020 Shiur
Rabbi Reuven Travis

CHAPTER SIX

➤ Key takeaways from Chapter 6

- The message Yirmiyahu is delivering to the people here (and remember, this is the last perek that dates to the reign of Yoshiyahu) is very similar to that of the previous two chapters. However, the imagery the prophet uses here is strikingly different.
- In this chapter, the invading armies are describing via three different images, although each represents a common vocation from that time period: shepherd, farmer, and silversmith.
- Rabbi Leibtag points out that these images will often evoke contrasting images or commands from Sefer Devarim.

➤ Verse 1: Note the play on words

- “Flee for refuge, O people of Benjamin, out of the midst of Jerusalem! Blow the horn in Tekoa, (ובתקוֹעַ תִּקְעוּ שׁוֹפָר). Set up a signal at Beth-haccerem! For evil is appearing from the north, and great disaster.”

➤ Verse 3: Invading armies as shepherds

- In verse 3, the prophet compares the generals of the invading armies to shepherds and their troops, to sheep. Rav Hirsch comments on the irony of this image: “They look like shepherds leading their flocks – an idyllic picture of pastoral peace. But the prophet sees them doing as they please on a soil and in a land that is not theirs.”

➤ Verse 6: How the siege begins and why

- The prophet does not mince words about why the siege will happen: “Only fraud is found in her midst.” (כִּלְיָה עֵשֶׂק בְּקִרְבָּהּ)
- Rabbi Leibtag notes the comparison between the actions of the enemy here when cutting down trees and the command given in Devarim to Jewish armies NOT to cut down trees.

YIRMIYAHU	DEVARIM 20:19
<p>כִּי כֹה אָמַר יְיָ-הוֹי צְבָאוֹת פֶּרְתוּ עֵצִים וְשִׁפְכוּ עַל-יְרוּשָׁלַם סִלְלָהּ הִיא הָעִיר הַפְּלֹד כִּלְיָה עֵשֶׂק בְּקִרְבָּהּ:</p>	<p>כִּי-תִצְוֶה אֱלֹהֵיךָ יְמִים רַבִּים לְהִלָּחֵם עָלֶיךָ לְתַפְשָׁהּ לֹא-תִשְׁחָתוּ אֶת-עֵצֵהּ לְגִדָּם עָלֶיךָ גִּרְוֹן בִּי מִמֶּנּוּ תֹאכַל וְאַתָּה לֹא תִכְרֹת כִּי הָאָדָם עֵץ הַשָּׂדֶה לִבָּא מִפְּגִיד בַּמִּצֹּר:</p>

➤ **Verse 9: Invading armies as farmers**

- Here the prophet tells the people that Hashem will command the invading armies to pick the land clean, to “glean over and over.” This immediately brings to mind that command given to the Jewish people to NOT “glean over and over” when harvesting their grape orchards, but to instead leave something for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.
- This is an expression of measure for measure, for the Jewish people did not fulfill this mitzva from Devarim and care for the needy.

YIRMIYAHU	DEVARIM 24:21
כָּה אָמַר יְיָהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲזָבוּ יְעֻזְלָיו כַּגֹּפֶן שְׂאֲרֵית יִשְׂרָאֵל הַשֵּׁב יָדָיו כְּבוֹצָר עַל־סִלְסִלוֹת:	כִּי תִבְצֹר פְּרִמָּה לֹא תְעֻזְלֵל אַחֲרֶיהָ לַגֵּר לַיְתוּם וְלַאֲלֻמְנָה יִהְיֶה:

➤ **Verses 17 – 19: Note the linguistic balance**

- The people will not listen and rebuff Hashem, who in turn commands the nations of the world that THEY should listen.

(יז) וְהִקְמַתִּי עֲלֵיכֶם צָפִים הַקּוֹשִׁיבוּ לְקוֹל שׁוֹפֵר וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא נִקְשִׁיב: (יח) לִכֵּן שִׁמְעוּ הַגּוֹיִם וּדְעוּ עֵדָה אֶת־אֲשֶׁר־בָּם: (יט) שִׁמְעוּ הָאֲרָץ הַזֹּאת אֲנֹכִי מְבִיא רַעָה אֶל־הָעָם הַזֶּה פְּרִי מַחֲשָׁבוֹתָם כִּי עַל־דְּבָרֵי לֹא הִקְשִׁיבוּ וְתוֹרַתִּי נִמְאָסוּ־בָהּ:

➤ **Verses 27 – 30: Invading armies as silversmiths**

- Silver must be melted at very high temperatures to burn away the impurities, and the process requires a skilled craftsperson who can spot them and attest that they have in fact been burnt away. The Hebrew term for this, says Rabbi Leibtag is a בָּחוּן, and that is exactly how Hashem refers to Yirmiyahu in verse 27.
- In verse 28, Hashem compares the Jewish people to silver so filled with impurities that they cannot be burnt away. (Note: if silver is burnt too long or at too high a temperature, the end result is lead.)
- In fact, in verse 30, the prophet tells the people that this is what they have become, as Yirmiyahu has attested to: “They are called ‘rejected silver,’ for the LORD has rejected them.”

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