

# BARUCH

## CHAPTER 1

And these are the words of the book, which Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, the son of Zedekiah, the son of Hasadiah, the son of Hilkiah, wrote in Babylon, <sup>2</sup> in the fifth year, and in the seventh day of the month, what time as the Chaldeans took Jerusalem, and burnt it with fire. <sup>3</sup>And Baruch did read the words of this book in the hearing of Jechoniah the son of Joachim king of Judah, and in the ears of all the people that came to hear the book, <sup>4</sup>and in the hearing of the nobles, and of the king's sons, and in the hearing of the elders, and of all the people, from the lowest unto the highest, even of all them that dwelt at Babylon by the river Sud. <sup>5</sup>Wherefore they wept, fasted, and prayed before the Lord. <sup>6</sup>They made also a collection of silver according to the strength of every man's hand: <sup>7</sup>and they sent it to Jerusalem unto Joachim the high priest, the son of Hilkiah, the son of Salom, and to the priests, and to all the people that were found with him at Jerusalem, <sup>8</sup>when he took the vessels of the house of the Lord, that were carried out of the temple, to return into the land of Judah, the tenth day of *the month* Sivan, namely, silver vessels, which Zedekiah the son of Josiah king of Judah had made, <sup>9</sup>after that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had exiled Jechoniah, and the princes, and the captives, and the mighty men, and the people of the land, from Jerusalem, and brought them unto Babylon. <sup>10</sup>And they said, Behold, we have sent you silver; so buy you whole burnt offerings, and sin offerings, and incense, and make ye manna, and offer them upon the altar of the Lord our God; <sup>11</sup>and pray for the life of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and for the life of Belshazzar his son, that their days may be upon earth as the days of heaven: <sup>12</sup>and the Lord will give us strength, and lighten our eyes, and we shall live under the shadow of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and under the shadow of Belshazzar his son, and we shall serve them many days, and find favour in their sight. <sup>13</sup>Pray for us also unto the Lord our God, for we have sinned against the Lord our God; and unto this day the anger of the Lord and His wrath is not turned from us. <sup>14</sup>And ye shall read this book which we have sent unto you, to make declaration in the house of the Lord, upon a feast and upon days of the season. <sup>15</sup>And ye shall say,

To the Lord our God *belongeth* righteousness, but unto us the confusion of faces, as *it is come to pass* this day, unto them of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, <sup>16</sup>and to our kings, and to our princes, and to our priests, and to our prophets, and to our fathers: <sup>17</sup>for we have sinned before the Lord, <sup>18</sup>and disobeyed Him, and have not hearkened unto the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in the commandments of the Lord that He gave before our face: <sup>19</sup>since the day that the Lord brought our forefathers out of the land of Egypt, even unto this present day, we have been disobedient unto the Lord our God, and we have been negligent in not hearing His voice.

<sup>20</sup>Wherefore the evils cleaved unto us, and the curse, which the Lord declared by Moses His servant at the time that He brought our fathers out of the land of Egypt, to give us a land that floweth with milk and honey, like *as it is* this day. <sup>21</sup>And we have not hearkened unto the voice of the Lord our God, according unto all the words of the prophets, whom He sent unto us: <sup>22</sup>and each man of us followed the intent of his own wicked heart, to serve strange gods, and to do evil in the sight of the Lord our God.

## CHAPTER 2

And the Lord hath established His word, which He spake against us, and against our judges that judged Israel, and against our kings, and against our princes, and against the men of Israel and Judah. <sup>2</sup>It was never done under the whole heaven, as it came to pass in Jerusalem, according to that which was written in the law of Moses. <sup>3</sup>that we should eat the flesh of a man's own son, and the flesh of his own daughter. <sup>4</sup>Moreover He gave them to be in subjection to all the kingdoms that are round about us, to be as a reproach and desolation among all the people round about, where the Lord scattered them. <sup>5</sup>And they were cast down, and not exalted, because we sinned against the Lord our God, not hearkening to His voice. <sup>6</sup>To the Lord *appertaineth* righteousness: but unto us and to our fathers shame of face, as at this day. <sup>7</sup>All these plagues are come upon us, which the Lord hath pronounced against us. <sup>8</sup>Yet we have not entreat the face of the Lord, to turn every one from the imaginations of his wicked heart. <sup>9</sup>Wherefore the Lord watched over the plagues, and the Lord hath brought them upon us: for the Lord is righteous in all His works which he hath commanded us. <sup>10</sup>Yet we have not hearkened unto His voice, to walk in the commandments of the Lord, that He set before us. <sup>11</sup>And now, O Lord God of Israel, that hast brought Thy people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with signs, and with wonders, and with great power, and an high arm, and hast made Thyself a name, as at this day. <sup>12</sup>We have sinned, we have been ungodly, we have done wrong, O Lord our God, against all Thine ordinances. <sup>13</sup>Let Thy wrath turn from us: for we are but a few left among the nations, where Thou hast scattered us. <sup>14</sup>Hear our prayers, O Lord, and our petitions, and deliver us for Thine own sake, and give us favour in the sight of them which have led us away into exile: <sup>15</sup>that all the earth may know that Thou art the Lord our God, because Israel and his posterity is called by Thy name. <sup>16</sup>O Lord, look down from Thine holy house, and consider us: bow down Thine ear, O Lord, to hear us. <sup>17</sup>Open Thine eyes, O Lord, and behold; for the dead that are in Hades, whose spirit is taken from their bodies, will give unto the Lord neither glory nor righteousness: <sup>18</sup>but the soul that grieveth greatly, which goeth stooping and feeble, and the eyes that fail, and the soul that is hungry, will give Thee glory and righteousness, O Lord. <sup>19</sup>For it is not for the righteousness of our fathers, and of our kings, that we do make our supplications for mercy before Thee, O Lord our God, <sup>20</sup>for Thou hast brought

Thy wrath and indignation against us, as Thou hast spoken by the hand of Thy servants the prophets, saying, <sup>21</sup>Thus saith the Lord, Bow down your shoulders to serve the king of Babylon: and remain upon the land that I gave unto your fathers. <sup>22</sup>But if ye will not obey the voice of the Lord, to serve the king of Babylon, <sup>23</sup>I will cause to cease out of the cities of Judah, and from without Jerusalem, the voice of mirth, and the voice of joy, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride: and the whole land shall be desolate of inhabitants. <sup>24</sup>But we would not hearken unto Thy voice, to serve the king of Babylon: and Thou hast established the words that Thou hast spoken by the hand of Thy servants the prophets, namely, that the bones of our kings, and the bones of our fathers, should be taken out of their places. <sup>25</sup>And lo, they are cast out to the heat of the day, and to the frost of the night, and they died in wicked miseries by famine, by sword, and by pestilence. <sup>26</sup>And the house which is called by Thy name hast Thou made as it is this day, for the wickedness of the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>27</sup>And Thou hast dealt with us, O Lord our God, after all Thy goodness, and according to all that great tender mercy of Thine, <sup>28</sup>as Thou spakest by Thy servant Moses in the day when Thou didst command him to write Thy law before the sons of Israel, saying, <sup>29</sup>If ye will not hear My voice, surely this very great multitude shall be turned into a small number among the nations, where I will scatter them. <sup>30</sup>For I knew that they would not hear Me, because it is a stiffnecked people: but in the land of their exile they shall return to their heart, <sup>31</sup>and shall know that I am the Lord their God. And I will give them an heart, and ears to hear: <sup>32</sup>and they shall praise Me in the land of their exile, and remember My name, <sup>33</sup>and turn away from their stubbornness, and from their wicked deeds: for they shall remember the way of their fathers, which sinned before the Lord. <sup>34</sup>And I will bring them again into the land which I swear unto their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and they shall rule over it: and I will increase them, and they shall not be diminished. <sup>35</sup>And I will make an everlasting covenant with them to be their God, and they shall be My people: and I will no more disturb My people out of the land that I have given them.

### **CHAPTER 3**

O Lord Almighty, God of Israel, the soul in anguish, the wearied spirit, crieth unto Thee. <sup>2</sup>Hear, O Lord, and have mercy; because we have sinned before Thee. <sup>3</sup>For Thou art seated for ever, and we perish utterly. <sup>4</sup>O Lord Almighty, Thou God of Israel, hear now the prayer of the dead of Israel, and of the sons of them which have sinned before Thee, and have not hearkened unto the voice of their God: and plagues have cleaved unto us. <sup>5</sup>Remember not the iniquities of our forefathers: but remember Thine hand and Thy name at this time. <sup>6</sup>For Thou art the Lord our God, and Thee, O LORD, will we praise. <sup>7</sup>And for this cause Thou hast put Thy fear in our hearts, to the intent that we should call upon Thy name, and praise Thee in our exile: for

we have put away from our heart all the iniquity of our forefathers, that sinned before Thee. <sup>8</sup>Behold, we are this day in our exile, where Thou hast scattered us, for a reproach, and a curse, and for a punishment for all the iniquities of our fathers, which departed from the Lord our God.

<sup>9</sup>Hear, Israel, the commandments of life: give ear to learn wisdom. <sup>10</sup>How doth it happen, Israel, that thou art in thine enemies' land, that thou art waxen old in a strange country, that thou art defiled with the dead, <sup>11</sup>that thou art counted with them that are in Hades? <sup>12</sup>Thou hast forsaken the fountain of wisdom. <sup>13</sup>For if thou hadst walked in the way of God, thou wouldest dwell in peace for ever. <sup>14</sup>Learn where is wisdom, where is strength, where is understanding; that thou mayest know where is length of days, and life, where is the light of the eyes, and peace. <sup>15</sup>Who hath found out her place? or who hath come into her treasures? <sup>16</sup>Where are the princes of the nations, and such as have dominion over the beasts upon the earth; <sup>17</sup>they that make their pastime with the fowls of the air, and they that hoarded up silver and gold, wherein men trust, and there is no end of their getting; <sup>18</sup>they that take counsel for silver, and are careful, and whose works are unsearchable? <sup>19</sup>They are vanished and gone down into Hades, and others are come up in their stead. <sup>20</sup>Young men have seen light, and dwelt upon the earth; but the way of knowledge have they not known, <sup>21</sup>nor understood the paths thereof, nor laid hold of it: their sons erred far off from their way. <sup>22</sup>It hath not been heard of in Canaan, neither hath it been seen in Tamar; <sup>23</sup>neither the sons of Hagar that search out understanding upon the earth, the merchants of Merra and of Tamar, the tellers of fables, and searchers out of understanding; none of these have known the way of wisdom, nor remembered her paths. <sup>24</sup>O Israel, how great is the house of God! And how large is the place of His possession! <sup>25</sup>Great, and hath none end; high and unmeasurable. <sup>26</sup>There were the giants born, renowned from the beginning, that were of great stature, and expert in war. <sup>27</sup>Those did not the Lord choose, neither gave He the way of knowledge unto them: <sup>28</sup>but they perished because they had no wisdom, and perished through their own foolishness. <sup>29</sup>Who hath gone up into heaven, and taken her, and brought her down from the clouds? <sup>30</sup>Who hath gone over the sea, and found her, and will bring her for pure gold? <sup>31</sup>No man knoweth her way, nor thinketh of her paths. <sup>32</sup>But He that knoweth all things knoweth her, and hath found her out with His understanding: He that hath prepared the earth for evermore hath filled it with fourfooted beasts: <sup>33</sup>He that sendeth forth light, and it goeth, called it *again*, and it obeyed Him with trembling. <sup>34</sup>The stars shined in their watches, and rejoiced: He called them, and they said, Here we be. With cheerfulness they shone for Him that made them. <sup>35</sup>This is our God, and there shall none other be accounted of in comparision of Him. <sup>36</sup>He hath found out all the way of knowledge, and hath given it unto Jacob His servant, and to Israel His beloved. <sup>37</sup>Afterward did He appear upon earth, and conversed with men.

## CHAPTER 4

This the book of the commandments of God, and the law that endureth for ever: all they that keep it *shall have* life; but such as leave it shall die. <sup>2</sup>Turn thee, O Jacob, and take hold of it: walk in the presence of the light thereof, that thou mayest be illuminated. <sup>3</sup>Give not thy glory to another, and the things that are profitable unto thee to a strange nation. <sup>4</sup>O Israel, happy are we: for what is pleasing to God is known unto us. <sup>5</sup>Be of good cheer, My people, O memorial of Israel. <sup>6</sup>Ye were sold to the nations, not for your destruction: but because ye moved God to wrath, ye were delivered unto the enemies. <sup>7</sup>For ye provoked Him that made you by sacrificing unto demons, and not to God. <sup>8</sup>Ye have forgotten the everlasting God, that brought you up; and ye have grieved Jerusalem, that reared you. <sup>9</sup>For when she saw the wrath of God coming upon you, she said, Hearken, O ye neighbours of Zion: God hath brought upon me great mourning; <sup>10</sup>for I saw the captivity of my sons and daughters, which the Everlasting brought upon them. <sup>11</sup>With joy did I nourish them; but sent them away with weeping and mourning. <sup>12</sup>Let no man rejoice over me, a widow, and forsaken of many; for the sins of my children was I left desolate; because they departed from the law of God. <sup>13</sup>They knew not His statutes, nor walked in the ways of His commandments, nor trod in the paths of discipline in His righteousness. <sup>14</sup>Let the neighbours of Zion come, and remember the captivity of my sons and daughters, which the Everlasting hath brought upon them. <sup>15</sup>For He hath brought a nation against them from afar, a shameless nation, and of a strange language, who neither revered old man, nor shewed mercy to child. <sup>16</sup>And they have led away the beloved sons of the widow, and bereaved her that was alone of her daughters. <sup>17</sup>But I, how am I able to help you? <sup>18</sup>For He that brought these plagues upon you will deliver you from the hands of your enemies. <sup>19</sup>Go your way, O my children, go your way: for I am left desolate. <sup>20</sup>I have put off the robe of peace, and put upon me the sackcloth of my petition: I will cry unto the Everlasting in all my days. <sup>21</sup>Be of good cheer, O my children, cry unto the Lord, and He shall deliver you from the power and hand of the enemies. <sup>22</sup>For my hope is in the Everlasting, that He will save you: and joy is come unto me from the Holy One, because of the mercy which shall soon come unto you from the Everlasting your Saviour. <sup>23</sup>For I sent you out with mourning and weeping: but God will give you to me again with joy and gladness for ever. <sup>24</sup>For like as now the neighbours of Zion have seen your captivity: so shall they shortly see your salvation from your God, which shall come upon you with great glory and brightness of the Everlasting. <sup>25</sup>My children, suffer patiently the wrath that is come upon you from God: for thine enemy hath persecuted Thee; but shortly thou shalt see his destruction, and shalt tread upon his neck. <sup>26</sup>My delicate ones have gone rough ways, and were taken away as a flock caught of the enemies. <sup>27</sup>Be of good courage, O my children, and cry unto God: for ye shall be remembered of Him that brought these things upon you. <sup>28</sup>For as it was your mind to go astray from God, so being returned, you will seek Him ten times more. <sup>29</sup>For He that hath

brought these plagues upon you shall bring you everlasting joy again with your salvation. <sup>30</sup>Take courage, O Jerusalem: for He that named thee will comfort thee. <sup>31</sup>Miserable are they that afflicted thee, and rejoiced at thy fall. <sup>32</sup>Miserable are the cities which thy children served as bondservants: miserable is she that received thy sons. <sup>33</sup>For as she rejoiced at thy ruin, and was glad of thy fall: so shall she be grieved for her own desolation. <sup>34</sup>And I will take away the rejoicing of her great multitude, and her pride shall be turned into mourning. <sup>35</sup>For fire shall come upon her from the Everlasting, for many days; and she shall be inhabited of demons for a great time. <sup>36</sup>O Jerusalem, look about thee toward the east, and behold the joy that cometh unto thee from God. <sup>37</sup>Lo, thy sons come, whom thou sentest away, they come, gathered together from the east to the west, by the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God.

## CHAPTER 5

Put off, O Jerusalem, the garment of thy mourning and affliction, and put on the comeliness of the glory that cometh from God for ever. <sup>2</sup>Put on the double garment of the righteousness which cometh from God; and set the diadem on thine head of the glory of the Everlasting. <sup>3</sup>For God will shew thy brightness unto the whole earth under heaven. <sup>4</sup>For thy name shall be called of God for ever Peace of righteousness, and The glory of godliness. <sup>5</sup>Arise, O Jerusalem, and stand upon the height, and look about toward the east, and behold thy children gathered from the west unto the east by the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the remembrance of God. <sup>6</sup>For they departed from thee on foot, and were led away of their enemies: but God shall bring them unto thee exalted with glory, as on a royal throne. <sup>7</sup>For God hath appointed that every high mountain, and the everlasting hills, should be made low, and valleys filled up, to make even the ground, that Israel may go safely in the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>Moreover even the woods and every sweetsmelling tree have overshadowed Israel by the commandment of God. <sup>9</sup>For God shall lead Israel with joy in the light of His glory with the mercy and righteousness that cometh from Him.