

Baruch

¹ These are the words of the book that Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah son of Zedekiah son of Hasadiah son of Hilkiah wrote in Babylon, ²in the fifth year, on the seventh day of the month, at the time when the Chaldeans took Jerusalem and burned it with fire.

³ Baruch read the words of this book to Jeconiah son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and to all the people who came to hear the book, ⁴and to the nobles and the princes, and to the elders, and to all the people, small and great, all who lived in Babylon by the river Sud.

⁵ Then they wept, and fasted, and prayed before the Lord; ⁶they collected as much money as each could give, ⁷and sent it to Jerusalem to the high priest ^{*}Jehoiakim son of Hilkiah son of Shallum, and to the priests, and to all the people who were present with him in Jerusalem. ⁸At the same time, on the tenth day of Sivan, Baruch ^{*}took the vessels of the house of the Lord, which had been carried away from the temple, to return them to the land of Judah—the silver vessels that Zedekiah son of Josiah, king of Judah, had made, ⁹after King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had carried away from Jerusalem Jeconiah and the princes and the prisoners and the nobles and the people of the land, and brought them to Babylon.

¹⁰ They said: Here we send you money; so buy with the money burnt-offerings and sin-offerings and incense, and prepare a grain-offering, and offer them on the altar of the Lord our God; ¹¹and pray for the life of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, and for the life of his son Belshazzar, so that their days on earth may be like the days of heaven. ¹²The Lord will give us strength, and light to our eyes; we shall live under the protection ^{*}of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, and under the protection of his son Belshazzar, and we shall serve them for many days and find favour in their sight. ¹³Pray also for us to the Lord our God, for we have sinned against the Lord our God, and to this day the anger of the Lord and his wrath have not turned away from us. ¹⁴And you shall read aloud this scroll that we are sending you, to make your confession in the house of the Lord on the days of the festivals and at appointed seasons.

¹⁵ And you shall say: The Lord our God is in the right, but there is open shame on us today, on the people of Judah, on the inhabitants of Jerusalem,

¹⁶and on our kings, our rulers, our priests, our prophets, and our ancestors,
¹⁷because we have sinned before the Lord. ¹⁸We have disobeyed him, and
have not heeded the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in the statutes of the
Lord that he set before us. ¹⁹From the time when the Lord brought our
ancestors out of the land of Egypt until today, we have been disobedient to the
Lord our God, and we have been negligent, in not heeding his voice. ²⁰So to
this day there have clung to us the calamities and the curse that the Lord
declared through his servant Moses at the time when he brought our ancestors
out of the land of Egypt to give to us a land flowing with milk and honey. ²¹We
did not listen to the voice of the Lord our God in all the words of the prophets
whom he sent to us, ²²but all of us followed the intent of our own wicked
hearts by serving other gods and doing what is evil in the sight of the Lord our
God.

2 So the Lord carried out the threat he spoke against us: against our judges
who ruled Israel, and against our kings and our rulers and the people of
Israel and Judah. ²Under the whole heaven there has not been done the like of
what he has done in Jerusalem, in accordance with the threats that were^{*}
written in the law of Moses. ³Some of us ate the flesh of their sons and others
the flesh of their daughters. ⁴He made them subject to all the kingdoms
around us, to be an object of scorn and a desolation among all the surrounding
peoples, where the Lord has scattered them. ⁵They were brought down and
not raised up, because our nation^{*} sinned against the Lord our God, in not
heeding his voice.

6 The Lord our God is in the right, but there is open shame on us and our
ancestors this very day. ⁷All those calamities with which the Lord threatened us
have come upon us. ⁸Yet we have not entreated the favour of the Lord by
turning away, each of us, from the thoughts of our wicked hearts. ⁹And the
Lord has kept the calamities ready, and the Lord has brought them upon us,
for the Lord is just in all the works that he has commanded us to do. ¹⁰Yet we
have not obeyed his voice, to walk in the statutes of the Lord that he set
before us.

11 And now, O Lord God of Israel, who brought your people out of the land of
Egypt with a mighty hand and with signs and wonders and with great power
and outstretched arm, and made yourself a name that continues to this day,

¹²we have sinned, we have been ungodly, we have done wrong, O Lord our God, against all your ordinances. ¹³Let your anger turn away from us, for we are left, few in number, among the nations where you have scattered us.

¹⁴Hear, O Lord, our prayer and our supplication, and for your own sake deliver us, and grant us favour in the sight of those who have carried us into exile;

¹⁵so that all the earth may know that you are the Lord our God, for Israel and his descendants are called by your name.

¹⁶O Lord, look down from your holy dwelling, and consider us. Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear; ¹⁷open your eyes, O Lord, and see, for the dead who are in Hades, whose spirit has been taken from their bodies, will not ascribe glory or justice to the Lord; ¹⁸but the person who is deeply grieved, who walks bowed and feeble, with failing eyes and famished soul, will declare your glory and righteousness, O Lord.

¹⁹For it is not because of any righteous deeds of our ancestors or our kings that we bring before you our prayer for mercy, O Lord our God. ²⁰For you have sent your anger and your wrath upon us, as you declared by your servants the prophets, saying: ²¹Thus says the Lord: Bend your shoulders and serve the king of Babylon, and you will remain in the land that I gave to your ancestors.

²²But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord and will not serve the king of Babylon, ²³I will make to cease from the towns of Judah and from the region around Jerusalem the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, and the whole land will be a desolation without inhabitants.

²⁴But we did not obey your voice, to serve the king of Babylon; and you have carried out your threats, which you spoke by your servants the prophets, that the bones of our kings and the bones of our ancestors would be brought out of their resting-place; ²⁵and indeed they have been thrown out to the heat of day and the frost of night. They perished in great misery, by famine and sword and pestilence. ²⁶And the house that is called by your name you have made as it is today, because of the wickedness of the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

²⁷Yet you have dealt with us, O Lord our God, in all your kindness and in all your great compassion, ²⁸as you spoke by your servant Moses on the day when you commanded him to write your law in the presence of the people of

Israel, saying, ²⁹If you will not obey my voice, this very great multitude will surely turn into a small number among the nations, where I will scatter them. ³⁰For I know that they will not obey me, for they are a stiff-necked people. But in the land of their exile they will come to themselves ³¹and know that I am the Lord their God. I will give them a heart that obeys and ears that hear; ³²they will praise me in the land of their exile, and will remember my name ³³and turn from their stubbornness and their wicked deeds; for they will remember the ways of their ancestors, who sinned before the Lord. ³⁴I will bring them again into the land that I swore to give to their ancestors, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and they will rule over it; and I will increase them, and they will not be diminished. ³⁵I will make an everlasting covenant with them to be their God and they shall be my people; and I will never again remove my people Israel from the land that I have given them.'

3 O Lord Almighty, God of Israel, the soul in anguish and the wearied spirit cry out to you. ²Hear, O Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned before you. ³For you are enthroned for ever, and we are perishing for ever. ⁴O Lord Almighty, God of Israel, hear now the prayer of the people* of Israel, the children of those who sinned before you, who did not heed the voice of the Lord their God, so that calamities have clung to us. ⁵Do not remember the iniquities of our ancestors, but in this crisis remember your power and your name. ⁶For you are the Lord our God, and it is you, O Lord, whom we will praise. ⁷For you have put the fear of you in our hearts so that we call upon your name; and we will praise you in our exile, for we have put away from our hearts all the iniquity of our ancestors who sinned against you. ⁸See, we are today in our exile where you have scattered us, to be reproached and cursed and punished for all the iniquities of our ancestors, who forsook the Lord our God.

⁹ Hear the commandments of life, O Israel;
give ear, and learn wisdom!

¹⁰ Why is it, O Israel, why is it that you are in the land of your enemies,
that you are growing old in a foreign country,
that you are defiled with the dead,

¹¹ that you are counted among those in Hades?

¹² You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom.

¹³ If you had walked in the way of God,
you would be living in peace for ever.

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