

|8| How can ye say, We are chachamim (wise ones), and the torat Hashem is with us, when, hinei, the et sheker (deceiving pen) of the sofrim (scribes) has made it [the torat Hashem] into sheker (a falsehood, *i.e.*, *falsely authoritative scribal interpretation has twisted Scripture, perverting its truth; see also Jer 2:8; 2K3:16; here is a warning against false teachers, and it is important because the scribal group in Israel would become the rabbinic group in time to come, and here their doctrines are coming into direct opposition to the Torah and the inerrant prophecies of Jeremiah.*)

|9| The chachamim (wise men) are ashamed, they are dismayed and trapped; they have rejected the Devar Hashem; so what chochmah (wisdom) is in them?

|10| Therefore will I give their nashim unto others, and their sadot to them that shall inherit them; for every one from the katan even unto the gadol is greedy for unjust gain, from the navi even unto the kohen every one doeth sheker.

|11| For they give superficial treatment to the hurt of Bat Ami, saying, Shalom, shalom; v'ein shalom.

|12| Were they ashamed when they did to'evah (abomination)? No, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they know to blush; therefore shall they fall among them that fall; in the time of their pekuddat (visitation [for punishment], time of reckoning) they shall be brought down, saith Hashem.

|13| I would surely have harvested them, saith Hashem, but no grapes are on the gefen, nor te'enim (figs) on the te'enah (fig tree), even the leaf shall wither; and the

things that I have given them shall pass away from them.

|14| Why do we sit still? Assemble yourselves, and let us enter into the fortified cities, and let us perish there; for Hashem Eloheinu hath made us to perish, and given us mey rosh (poisonous water) to drink, because we have sinned against Hashem.

|15| We looked for shalom, but no tov came; and for et marpeh (a time of healing), and, hinei, terror!

|16| The snorting of his [*the foe from the north*] susim (horses) was heard from Dan; kol ha'aretz trembled at the sound of the neighing of his stallions; for they are come, and have devoured erez, and all that is in it; the Ir (city, *i.e.*, *the city of Dan in the north of Israel*), and those that dwell therein.

|17| For, hinei, I will send nachashim, tzifonim (vipers), among you, which will not be charmed, and they shall bite you, saith Hashem.

|18| When I would comfort myself against sorrow, my lev is faint within me.

|19| Hinei, the voice of the cry of the Bat Ami from erez markhakim (a land of places far away): is Hashem not in Tziyon? Is her Melech not in her? Why have they provoked Me to anger with their pesilim (idols), and with alien vanities (futile foreign g-ds)?

|20| The katzir (harvest) is past, kayitz (summer) is ended, and loh noshanu (we are not saved [*from coming judgment and punishment*]).

|21| For the hurt of the Bat Ami am I hurt; I mourn; desolation hath taken hold on me.

|22| Is there no tzori (medicinal balsam or balm) in Gil'ad; is there no rofeh (physician) there? Why then is

the health of the Bat Ami not recovered?

**9** Oh that my rosh (head) were mayim, and mine eyes a makor dimah (a fountain of tears), that I might weep yomam valailah for the slain of the Bat Ami!

|2(9;1)| Oh that I had in the midbar a malon orkhim (travelers' lodge); that I might leave my people, and go from them! For they are all no'afim (adulterers), an atzeret bogedim (band of treacherous traitors)

|3(2)| And they bend to the ready their leshon like their keshet (bow) for sheker; but not for emunah have they prevailed in ha'aretz; for they proceed from ra'ah to ra'ah, and they know not Me, saith Hashem.

|4(3)| Be ye shomer every one over his re'a (neighbor, friend) and trust ye not in kol ach (any brother); for kol ach will ya'akov (utterly supplant, deceive), and every re'a (neighbor) will holech rakhil (walk as the slanderer, gossiper).

|5(4)| And they will deceive every one his re'a, and will not speak emes; they have taught their leshon to speak sheker, and weary themselves to commit iniquity.

|6(5)| Thine habitation is in the midst of mirmah; through mirmah they refuse to know Me, saith Hashem.

|7(6)| Therefore thus saith Hashem Tzva'os, Hineni, I will refine them, and test them; for what but this shall I do for the Bat Ami?

|8(7)| Their leshon is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh mirmah; one speaketh shalom to his re'a with his mouth, but inwardly he lieth in ambush.

|9(8)| Shall I not visit them [*in punishment*] for these things? saith Hashem.

Shall not My