

you, when there were yet shloshah chodashim to the harvest; and I caused it to rain upon one town, and caused it not to rain upon another town; one chelek (part) was rained upon, and the chelek, whereupon it rained not, withered.

|8| So two or three towns wandered unto one town, to drink mayim; but they were not satisfied; yet have ye not returned unto Me, saith Hashem.

|9| I have struck you with blight and mildew; when your ganim (gardens) and your kramim (vineyards) and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the locust devoured them; yet have ye not returned unto Me, saith Hashem.

|10| I have sent among you the dever after the manner of Mitzrayim; your bocherim have I slain with the cherev, and have taken away your susim; and I have made the stench of your machanot to come up unto your nostrils; yet have ye not returned unto Me, saith Hashem.

|11| I have overthrown some of you, as Elohim overthrew Sodom and Amora (Gomorra), and ye were like a firebrand snatched from the burning; yet have ye not returned unto Me, saith Hashem.

|12| Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Yisroel; and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet Eloheicha, O Yisroel.

|13| For, hinei, He that formeth the harim, and createth the ruach, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the shachar darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, Hashem Elohei Tzva'os Shmo.

5 Hear ye this word which I take up against you, even a kinah

(lamentation), O Bais Yisroel.

|2| The Betulat Yisroel is fallen; she shall no more rise; she is forsaken in her own land; there is none to raise her up.

|3| For thus saith Adonoi Hashem: The city that went out by a thousand will be left a hundred, and that which went forth by an hundred will be left ten, for Bais Yisroel.

|4| For thus saith Hashem unto Bais Yisroel: Seek ye Me, and live;

|5| But seek not Beit-El, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not to Beer Sheva; for Gilgal shall surely go into golus, and Beit-El shall come to naught.

|6| Seek Hashem, and live; lest He break out like eish in Bais Yosef, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Beit-El.

|7| Ye who turn mishpat into wormwood, and cast tzedakah to the ground,

|8| Seek Him that maketh the Pleiades and Orion, and turneth tzalmavet into boker, and maketh the yom into lailah; that calleth for the waters of the yam, and poureth them out upon the face of ha'aretz; Hashem Shmo;

|9| Who causeth shod (destruction) to flash upon the strong, and shod upon the fortified city.

|10| They hate the mochiach (reprover [*of injustice*]) in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh tamim (uprightly).

|11| Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat; ye have built batim (houses) of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant kramim (vineyards),

but ye shall not drink yayin of them.

|12| For I have da'as of your manifold peysha'im and your mighty chattaim (sins); they afflict the tzaddik, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the sha'ar (gate, court) from their right.

|13| Therefore the maskil (prudent) shall keep silence in such times; for it is an evil time.

|14| Seek tov, and not rah, that ye may live; and so Hashem Elohei Tzva'os shall be with you, just as ye say He is.

|15| Hate the rah, and love the tov, and establish mishpat in the sha'ar; it may be that Hashem Elohei Tzava'os will be gracious unto the she'erit Yosef.

|16| Therefore Hashem Adonoi Elohei Tzva'os saith thus: Wailing shall be in all rehovot; and they shall cry in all the public squares, Alas! Alas! And they shall call the ikkar (farmer) to mourning, and such as are skillful of lamentation to wailing.

|17| And in all kramim (vineyards) shall be wailing; for I will pass through thee, saith Hashem.

|18| Hoy unto you that desire the Yom Hashem! Why do ye seek it? The Yom Hashem is choshech, and not ohr.

|19| As if a man did flee from an ari, and a dov met him; or went into the bais, and leaned his hand on the kir (wall), and a nachash bit him.

|20| Shall not the Yom Hashem be choshech, and not ohr? Even very dark, and no brightness in it?

|21| I hate, I despise your chagim (religious festivals), and I will not stand in your atzerot (solemn assemblies).

|22| Though ye offer Me olot and your minchot, I will not accept them; neither