## PROPHETS AND PROPHECY

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tion that had set in was used as a vivid sign of 11 2 the way the house of Israel, once so near the 3 Lord, had ceased to be profitable to Him (Jer 4 13:1-11). A little later Jeremiah went to the 5 potter's house and saw a clay vessel that had 6 been marred in the hand of the potter and was 7 therefore made over into something different. 8 This he used to illustrate God's sovereign power (ch.18:1-10). On another occasion he broke an 9 10 earthen flask at the valley of Hinnom and 11 declared that God would similarly destroy Judah 12 (ch.19:1-13). One day he held up two baskets of 13 figs, one full of very good figs and the other 14 full of figs so bad that they could not be 15 eaten (ch.24:1-3). Pointing to the difference 16 between the two he declared that the good figs 17 were like the people who had already been taken 18 into exile, and the bad ones like those still 19 in Jerusalem.

Many of Jeremiah's prophecies were uttered in Jerusalem during the interval between the first deportation and the final siege and destruction of the city, when he had the difficult task of telling people who were determined to believe that the Lord would deliver their land that it Page 36

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