

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

7. For thus saith the Lord; Sing with gladness for Jacob, but not in choruses – I shall say this only once - and shout among the chief of the nations, but tunelessly: publish ye in small pamphlets and tracts which ye may slip with an sickly smile into the hands of the people, praise ye with Hallelujahs, but not in the seasons of solemn preparations which happen twice a year, once before the Winter solstice and once in Springtime, and say, O Lord, save thy people and bless thine inheritance (which words may also be chanted as a psalm after the musicians have given thee a note), for thy people are the remnant of Israel.
8. Behold, Lo and Look ye, I will bring them from the north country, the land of briars and thistles and horn-ed cattle and strange dishes with things floating within, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, even from among the sand dunes and the lapping waves and the beachfront dwellings, and the asses that carry children, and with them the blind and the lame and those that are limp, and those that do limp, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child and she who must be obeyed together: a great company shall return thither and hither, from far and wide, and twice around the lighthouse, and even unto this place.
9. They shall come with weeping, sniffing and snivelling, and with fiery waters that catch the throat, and with supplications and protective clothing will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters – obviously - even the rivers of Babylon where they sat down and wept when they remembered what they had forgotten, and they shall walk in an sober and straight way, wherein they shall not stumble nor miss their footing on the steps not tumble into the ditch: for I am a father to Israel, and a mother to Jacob, and Ephraim is my firstborn, and he is a smooth man, whereas his brother Judah in an hairy man.
10. Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, even unto the farthestmost parts of the north where the peoples have a strange language and accent and say, Look you, boyo! And also, He that scattered Israel will gather him, for there is a time to cast stones and a time to collect them together, turn, turn, turn, and he shall keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock, for he doth know each sheep by name and have a deep knowledge of him – if he indeed be a ram.
11. For the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he, and hath struck off the fetters and loosed the ropes, and removed the cuffs that bind, even those with locks that hath a numbered combination. And the number is that given in the Book of Jashar.
12. Therefore they shall come and sing hymns and psalms in the height of Zion, but still no choruses - again, see my admonition above - for they are an anathema unto my ears, saith the Lord, and shall flow together to the goodness of the Lord like liquid that doth drip from the lock like dew, for their praises shall be as fine milled wheat that passeth through the sieve, and wine that runneth over the lip of the cup, and for oil that is poured out into the pan or upon the skin, perhaps running down over the beard of someone called Aaron, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden that is well weeded and with nice trim edges, petunias and hollyhocks, and hath a small shrubbery; and they shall not sorrow any more at all. Gosh, was not that stimulating language?
13. Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance and deport herself so that fires and lit in the hearts of many, both the young men and old together – well, most of them anyway: for I will turn their mourning into joy and their fasting into feasting, and will comfort them and give them warm knitted clothing, and bobble hats, and make them rejoice from their sorrow and give them merry salutation.

14. And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and increase their appetites so that they may be great in the eyes of the people and that tailors may be called to let out their ephods and girdles, and bless them in their grossness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the Lord, even though the prophecy may be delayed until the appropriate juncture and the requisite time, and the people cry out, How long, O Lord? How long? For my times are not your times, saith the Lord, and behold I am coming soon, and for many I have already arrived. I said, no choruses.