



The Tears
of Things

How does this image speak to the concept of empire?



Voice in the Margins, we long to reject the hierarchies that divide us. Teach us to behold one another fully, not as greater, or lesser, but as kin, woven together in love, and held in the sacred dignity of shared breath and becoming.

(All Together)

We are one family, created equal in the divine image.



The image features a monochromatic blue background with a soft, painterly texture. A large, white, circular shape is centered in the frame, containing the text "The Tears of Things" in a black, serif font. The circle is partially overlaid by a thick, light blue brushstroke that curves across the top. A white, wavy line extends from the left and right sides of the circle, resembling a splash or a decorative flourish.

The Tears of Things



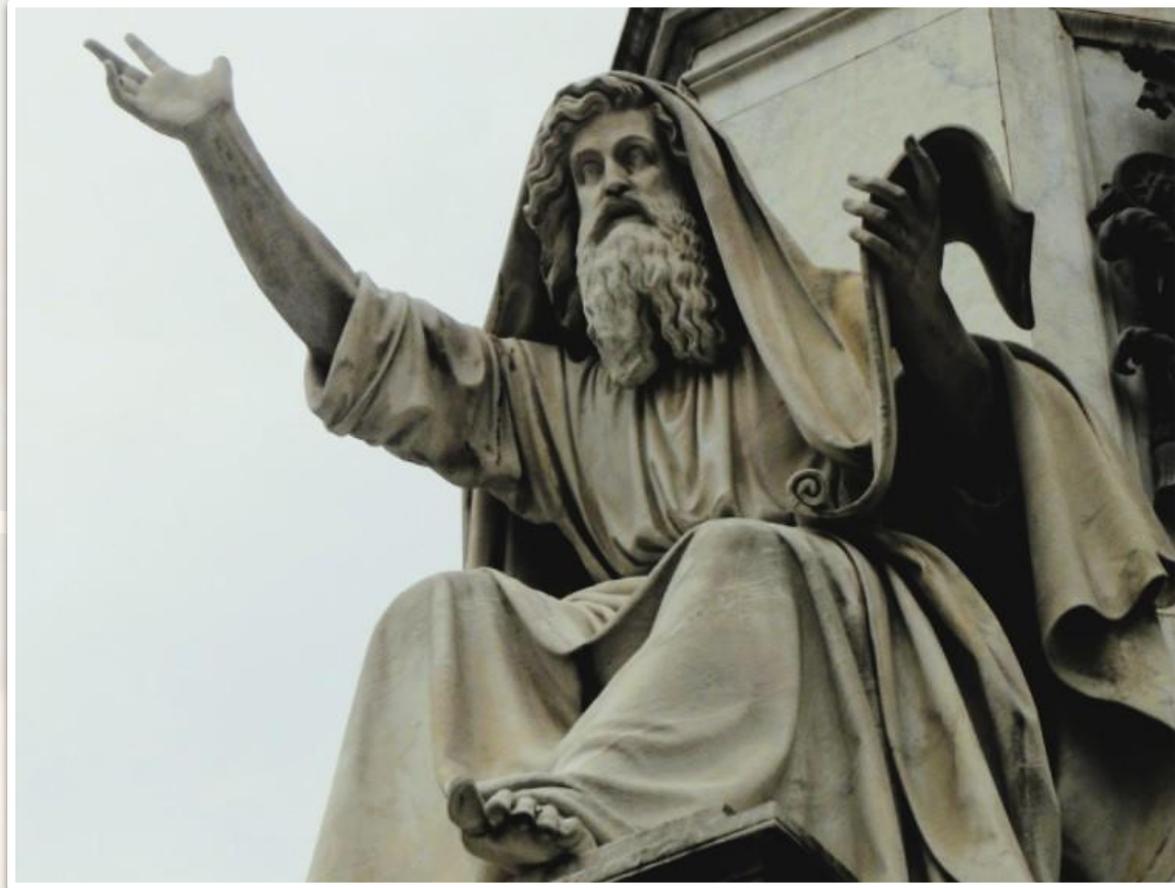
**Some of the most disturbing people who have ever lived:
the men whose inspiration brought the Bible into being,
the men whose image is our refuge in distress,
and whose voice and vision sustain our faith.**

**-Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel
*The Prophets***

The background is a deep blue with a soft, out-of-focus texture. A large white circle is centered on the page, containing the title. A thick white brushstroke, resembling a paint stroke, curves across the top of the circle. A white wavy line runs horizontally across the middle of the image, passing behind the circle.

The Tears of Things

Jeremiah



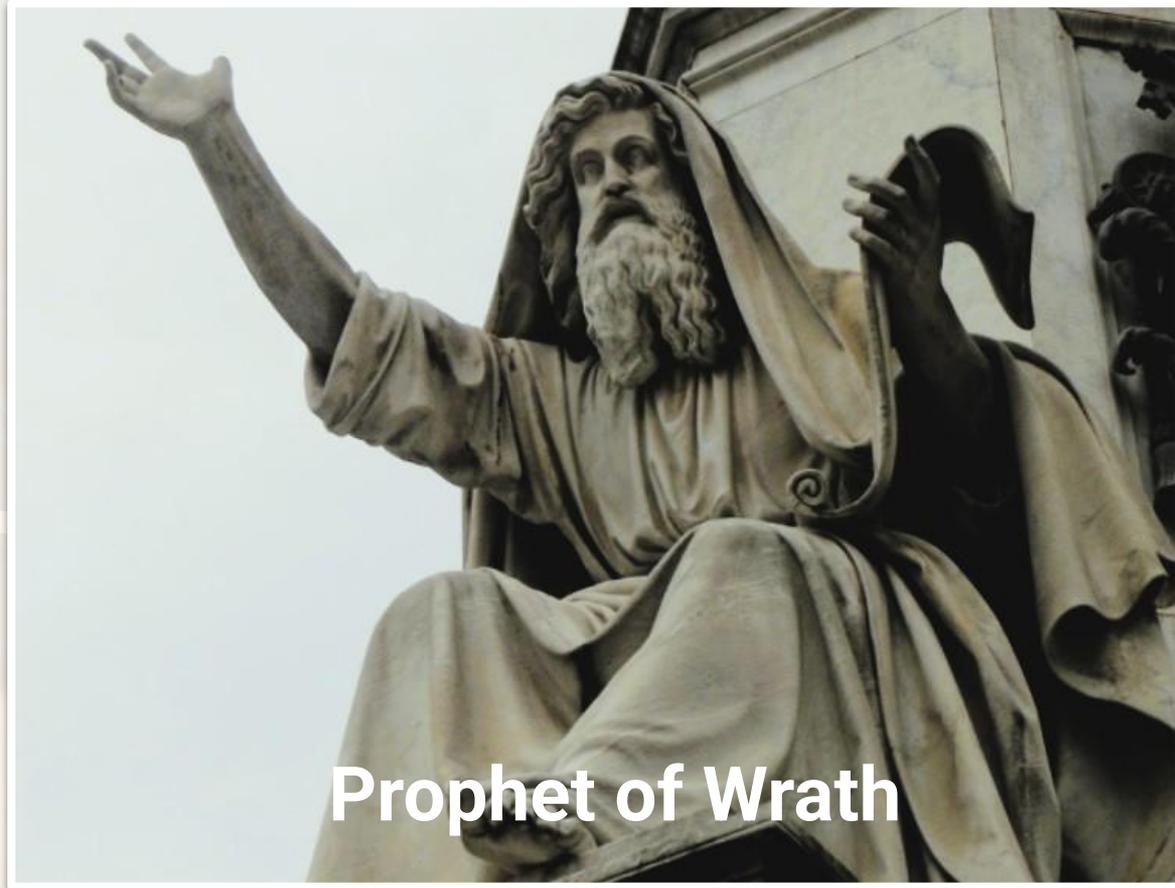
Jeremiah 1:9-10 The Message

**9-10 God reached out, touched my mouth, and said,
“Look! I’ve just put my words in your
mouth—hand-delivered!**

**See what I’ve done? I’ve given you a job to do
among nations and governments
— a red-letter day!**

Jeremiah 1:9-10 The Message

**Your job is to pull up and tear down,
take apart and demolish,
And then start over,
building and planting.”**



Prophet of Wrath



Prophet of Sorrow

Jeremiah 20:7-18 The Message

7-10 You pushed me into this, God, and I let you do it.

You were too much for me.

And now I'm a public joke.

They all poke fun at me.

Every time I open my mouth

I'm shouting, "Murder!" or "Rape!"

And all I get for my God-warnings

are insults and contempt.

Jeremiah 20:7-18 The Message

But if I say, “Forget it!

No more God-Messages from me!”

**The words are fire in my belly,
a burning in my bones.**

I’m worn out trying to hold it in.

I can’t do it any longer!

Jeremiah 20:7-18 The Message

Then I hear whispering behind my back:

**“There goes old ‘Danger-Everywhere.’ Shut him up!
Report him!”**

Old friends watch, hoping I’ll fall flat on my face:

**“One misstep and we’ll have him. We’ll get rid of him
for good!”**

Jeremiah 20:7-18 The Message

11 But God, a most fierce warrior, is at my side.

**Those who are after me will be sent sprawling—
Slapstick buffoons falling all over themselves,
a spectacle of humiliation no one will ever forget.**

Jeremiah 20:7-18 The Message

12 Oh, God-of-the-Angel-Armies, no one fools you.

You see through everyone, everything.

I want to see you pay them back for what they've done.

I rest my case with you.

Jeremiah 20:7-18 The Message

13 Sing to God! All praise to God!

He saves the weak from the grip of the wicked.

Jeremiah 20:7-18 The Message

14-18 Curse the day

I was born!

**The day my mother bore me—
a curse on it, I say!**

Jeremiah 20:7-18 The Message

**And curse the man who delivered
the news to my father:**

**“You’ve got a new baby—a boy baby!”
(How happy it made him.)**

Jeremiah 20:7-18 The Message

**Let that birth notice be blacked out,
deleted from the records,
And the man who brought it haunted to his death
with the bad news he brought.**

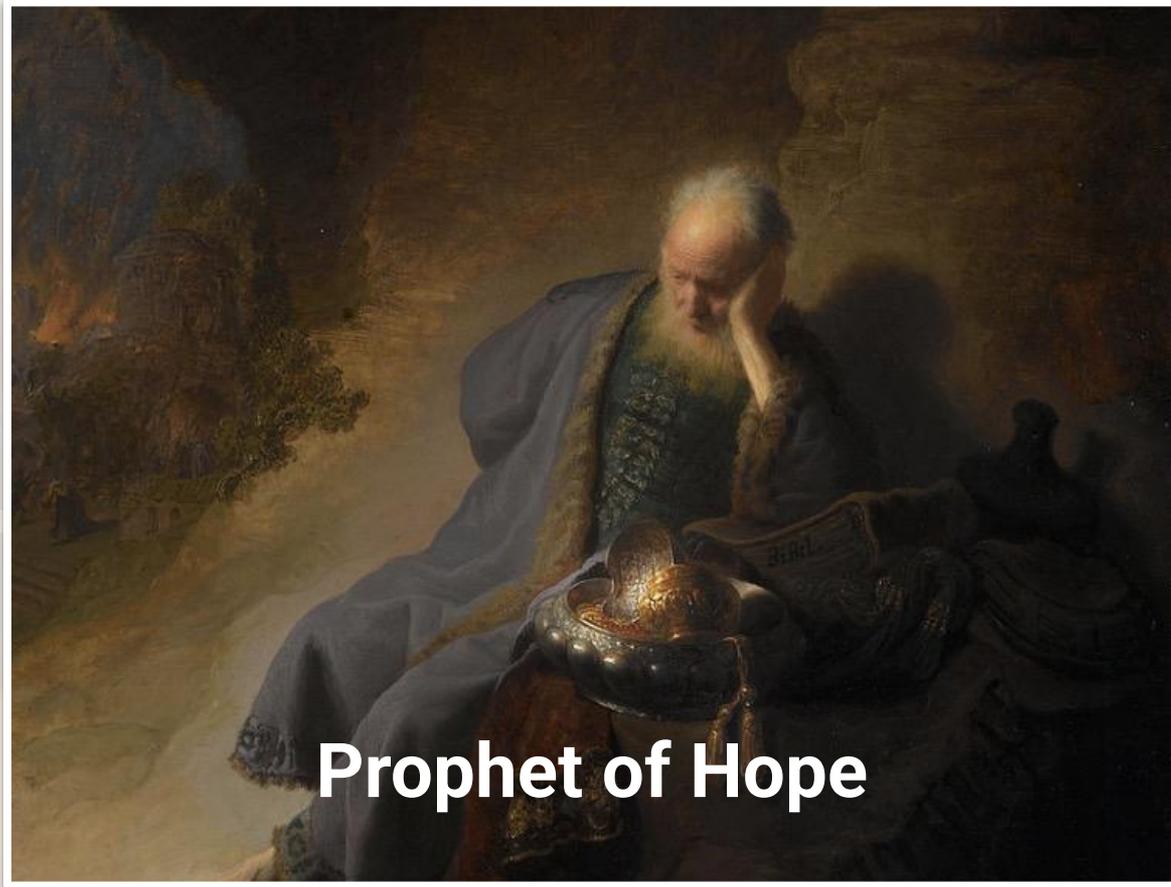
Jeremiah 20:7-18 The Message

**He should have killed me before I was born,
with that womb as my tomb,
My mother pregnant for the rest of her life
with a baby dead in her womb.**

Jeremiah 20:7-18 The Message

Why, oh why, did I ever leave that womb?

**Life's been nothing but trouble and tears,
and what's coming is more of the same.**



Prophet of Hope

Jeremiah 29:10-11 The Message

10-11 This is God's Word on the subject: "As soon as Babylon's seventy years are up and not a day before, I'll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring you back home. I know what I'm doing.

I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.

Jeremiah 31:33-34 The Message

“This is the brand-new covenant that I will make with Israel when the time comes. I will put my law within them—write it on their hearts!—and be their God. And they will be my people. They will no longer go around setting up schools to teach each other about God. They’ll know me firsthand, the dull and the bright, the smart and the slow. I’ll wipe the slate clean for each of them. I’ll forget they ever sinned!” God’s Decree.

Jeremiah 52:31-34 The Message

When Jehoiachin king of Judah had been in exile for thirty-seven years, Evil-Merodach became king in Babylon and let Jehoiachin out of prison. This release took place on the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month. The king treated him most courteously and gave him preferential treatment beyond anything experienced by the political prisoners held in Babylon.

Jeremiah 52:31-34 The Message

Jehoiachin took off his prison garb and from then on ate his meals in company with the king. The king provided everything he needed to live comfortably for the rest of his life.

Matthew 1 The Message

1 The family tree of Jesus Christ, David's son, Abraham's son:

2-6 Abraham had Isaac,

Isaac had Jacob,

Jacob had Judah and his brothers,

Judah had Perez and Zerah (the mother was Tamar),

Perez had Hezron,

Hezron had Aram,

Aram had Amminadab,

Amminadab had Nahshon,

Nahshon had Salmon,

Salmon had Boaz (his mother was Rahab),

Boaz had Obed (Ruth was the mother),

Obed had Jesse,

Jesse had David,

and David became king.

1 David had Solomon (Uriah's wife was the mother),

Solomon had Rehoboam,

Rehoboam had Abijah,

Abijah had Asa,

Asa had Jehoshaphat,

Jehoshaphat had Joram,

Joram had Uzziah,

Uzziah had Jotham,

Jotham had Ahaz,

Ahaz had Hezekiah,

Hezekiah had Manasseh,

Manasseh had Amon,

Amon had Josiah,

Josiah had Jehoiachin and his brothers,

and then the people were taken into the Babylonian exile.

12-16 When the Babylonian exile ended,

Jeconiah had Shealtiel,

Shealtiel had Zerubbabel,

Zerubbabel had Abiud,

Abiud had Eliakim,

Eliakim had Azor,

Azor had Zadok,

Zadok had Achim,

Achim had Eliud,

Eliud had Eleazar,

Eleazar had Matthan,

Matthan had Jacob,

Jacob had Joseph, Mary's husband,

the Mary who gave birth to Jesus,

the Jesus who was called Christ.

17 There were fourteen generations from Abraham to David,
another fourteen from David to the Babylonian exile,
and yet another fourteen from the Babylonian exile to Christ.

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