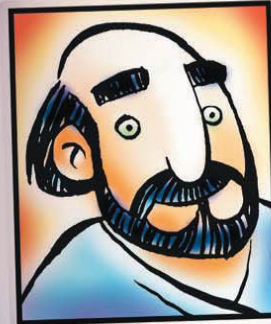


“The Prophecy”

A Prophet Learns a



My name is Jeremiah. I'm the guest writer for today's Gazette. I have a very interesting story to tell.

The other day, God told me, "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message."

I was a bit confused, but I always try to do what God asks me to do, and I realized that the only way to get answers was to go to the potter's house to hear what God wanted to tell me. So I went down to the potter's house and saw him working at the wheel. But the clay pot that he was working on was marred/deformed, so he formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

Then God began to speak to me. He said, "Can't I do with you, Israel, as this potter does? Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and doesn't obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it."

"Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, 'This is what the Lord says: Look! I'm preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.'"

Please tell them this, Jeremiah, although they may not listen to you. They will continue to do the wrong thing, but warn them about this, anyway.

Then I left the potter's house, and I understood God's message to me. Stay tuned and read next week's Gazette where I'll explain a little more about God's message to Israel.

(This Bible story is found in Jeremiah 18.)