



Rembrandt Van Rijn, *Jeremiah Lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem* (1630)

From Jeremiah to Joel, New Visions of Isaiah

A Future of Peace or War?

In these selections from Nevi'im, the Book of Prophets, Isaiah's vision of a future peace is reinterpreted and even reversed. While Jeremiah laments the lack of peace, Joel goes so far as to urge the people to, "Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning-hooks into spears." Yet there remains hope for peace in Jerusalem, according to the prophecy of Zechariah.

ירמיהו פרק ו'

וַיִּרְפְּאוּ אֶת-שִׁבְרַי עַמִּי, עַל-נִקְלָה--לֵאמֹר, שְׁלוֹם שְׁלוֹם; וְאֵין, שְׁלוֹם.

Jeremiah 6

¹⁴They have healed also the hurt of My people lightly, saying: 'Peace, peace', when there is no peace.

ישעיה פרק ב'

^ב וְהָיָה בְּאַחֲרֵית הַיָּמִים, נִכּוֹן יִהְיֶה הָר בֵּית-יְהוָה בְּרֹאשׁ הַהָרִים, וְנָשָׂא, מִגְבְּעוֹת; וְנָהָרוּ אֱלֹיו, כָּל-הַגּוֹיִם. ^ג וְהָלְכוּ עַמִּים רַבִּים, וְאָמְרוּ לָכוּ וְנַעֲלֶה אֶל-הַר-יְהוָה אֶל-בֵּית אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב, וְיִרְנֶנוּ מִדְּרָכָיו, וְנִלְכֶּה בְּאַרְחֵתָיו: כִּי מִצִּיּוֹן תֵּצֵא תוֹרָה, וְדִבַּר-יְהוָה מִירוּשָׁלַם. ^ד וְשִׁפְט בֵּין הַגּוֹיִם, וְהוֹכִיחַ לְעַמִּים רַבִּים; וְכָתַתּוּ חֲרִבּוֹתֵם לְאֵתִים, וְחֲנִיתוֹתֵיהֶם לְמִזְמֵרוֹת--לֹא-יִשָּׂא גּוֹי אֶל-גּוֹי חֶרֶב, וְלֹא-יִלְמְדוּ עוֹד מִלְחָמָה. {פ} ^ה בֵּית, יַעֲקֹב--לָכוּ וְנִלְכֶּה, בְּאוֹר יְהוָה.

Isaiah 2

² And it shall come to pass in the end of days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. ³ And many peoples shall go and say: 'Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ And He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.

ירמיהו פרק נא'

^{מד} וּפְקַדְתִּי עַל-בֵּל בְּבָבֶל, וְהֵצֵאתִי אֶת-בִּלְעוּ מִפִּי, וְלֹא-יִנְהָרוּ אֵלָיו עוֹד, גּוֹיִם; גַּם-
חוֹמַת בָּבֶל, נָפְלָה.

Jeremiah 51

⁴⁴ And I will punish Bel in Babylon, and I will bring forth out of his mouth that which he hath swallowed up, and the nations shall not flow any more unto him; yea, the wall of Babylon shall fall.

מיכה פרק ד'

^א וְהָיָה בְאַחֲרֵית הַיָּמִים, יְהִיָּה הָרַב בֵּית-יְהוָה נָכוֹן בְּרֹאשׁ הַהָרִים, וְנִשְׁאָה הוּא, מִגְּבָעוֹת; וְנִהְרֻ עָלָיו, עַמִּים. ^ב וְהָלְכוּ גּוֹיִם רַבִּים, וְאָמְרוּ לָכֵן וְנַעֲלֶה אֶל-הַר-יְהוָה וְאֶל-בֵּית אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב, וְיִוְרְנוּ מִדְּרָכָיו, וְנִלְכֶּה בְּאַחֲרֵיתוֹ: כִּי מִצִּיּוֹן תֵּצֵא תוֹרָה, וּדְבַר-יְהוָה מִירוּשָׁלַם. ^ג וְשָׁפַט, בֵּין עַמִּים רַבִּים, וְהוֹכִיחַ לְגוֹיִם עֲצָמִים, עַד-רְחוֹק; וְכָתַתּוּ חֲרֻבֵּיהֶם לְאַתִּים, וְחִנִּיתִיהֶם לְמִזְמֹרוֹת--לֹא-יִשְׁאוּ גוֹי אֶל-גּוֹי חָרֵב, וְלֹא-יִלְמְדוּן עוֹד מִלְחָמָה. ^ד וְיָשְׁבוּ, אִישׁ תַּחַת תַּחַת גִּפְנוֹ וְתַחַת תְּאֲנָתוֹ--וְאִין מִחְרִיד: כִּי-פִי יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת, דָּבָר. ^ה כִּי, כָּל-הָעַמִּים, יִלְכוּ, אִישׁ בְּשֵׁם אֱלֹהָיו; וְאֶנְחֲנוּ, נִלְךְ בְּשֵׁם-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ--לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד. {פ}

Micah 4

¹ But in the end of days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow unto it. ² And many nations shall go and say: 'Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths'; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ³ And He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide concerning mighty nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁴ But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig-tree; and none shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken. ⁵ For let all the peoples walk each one in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

יואל פרק ד'

^ט קְרֹאוּ-זֹאת, בְּגוֹיִם, קִדְּשׁוּ, מִלְחָמָה; הָעִירוּ, הַגְּבוּרִים--יִגְשׁוּ יַעֲלוּ, כָּל אֲנָשִׁי הַמִּלְחָמָה. 'כָּתוּ אֶתִּיכֶם לַחֲרֻבוֹת, וּמִזְמֹרֹתֵיכֶם לְרִמְחִים; הַחֲלֹשׁ, יֹאמַר גְּבוּר אָנִי. ^א עוֹשׂוּ וּבֹאוּ כָּל-הַגּוֹיִם מִסְּבִיב, וְנִקְבְּצוּ; שָׁמָּה, הִנֵּחַת יְהוָה גְּבוּרָתָהּ. ^ב יַעֲזְרוּ וַיַּעֲלוּ הַגּוֹיִם, אֶל-עִמְקֵי יְהוֹשָׁפָט: כִּי שָׁם, אֵשֵׁב לְשַׁפֵּט אֶת-כָּל-הַגּוֹיִם--מִסְּבִיב.

Joel 4

⁹ Proclaim ye this among the nations, prepare war; stir up the mighty men; let all the men of war draw near, let them come up. ¹⁰ Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears; let the weak say: 'I am strong.' ¹¹ Haste ye, and come, all ye nations round about, and gather yourselves together; thither cause Thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord! ¹² Let the nations be stirred up, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat; for there will I sit to judge all the nations round about. ¹² Let the nations be stirred up, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat; for there will I sit to judge all the nations round about.

זכריה פרק ח'

^ד כֹּה אָמַר, יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת, עַד יֵשְׁבוּ זָקְנִים וְזָקֵנוֹת, בְּרֹחְבוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם; וְאִישׁ מְשַׁעֲנֵתוֹ בְּיָדוֹ, מְרֹב יָמִים. ^ה וּרְחֹבוֹת הָעִיר יִמְלְאוּ, יְלָדִים וְיִלְדוֹת, מְשַׁחֲקִים, בְּרֹחְבֶתֶיהָ. {ס} כֹּה אָמַר, יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת, כִּי יִפְּלֹא בְּעֵינֵי שְׂאֲרִית הָעָם הַזֶּה, בְּיָמִים הָהֵם--גַּם-בְּעֵינֵי, יִפְּלֹא, נְאֻם, יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת. {פ} כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת, הִנְנִי מוֹשִׁיעַ אֶת-עַמִּי מֵאֶרֶץ מִזְרָח, וּמֵאֶרֶץ, מְבֹאָה הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ. ^נ וְהִבֵּאתִי אֹתָם, וְשָׁכְנוּ בְּתוֹךְ יְרוּשָׁלַם; וְהָיוּ-לִי לְעָם, וְאֲנִי אֶהְיֶה לָהֶם לֵאלֹהִים--בְּאַמֻּתָּהּ, וּבְצִדְקָהּ. {ס} כֹּה-אָמַר, יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת, תִּחְזַקְנָה יְדֵיכֶם, הַשְׁמַעִים בְּיָמִים הָאֵלֶּה אֶת הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה--מִפִּי, הַנְּבִיאִים, אֲשֶׁר בְּיוֹם יוֹסֵד בֵּית-יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת הַהִיכָל, לְהַבְנוֹת. ^ז כִּי, לִפְנֵי הַיָּמִים הָהֵם, שָׁכַר הָאָדָם לֹא נָהִיָּה, וּשְׁכָר הַבְּהֵמָה אֵינָנָה; וְלִיּוֹצֵא וְלִבָּא אֵין-שְׁלוֹם מִן-הָעִיר, וְאֲשַׁלַּח אֶת-כָּל-הָאָדָם אִישׁ בְּרַעְהוֹ. ^ח וְעַתָּה, לֹא כִיָּמִים הָרִאשֹׁנִים אֲנִי, לְשְׂאֲרִית, הָעָם הַזֶּה--נְאֻם, יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת. ^ט כִּי-זֶרַע הַשְּׁלוֹם, הִגֵּפֹן תִּתֵּן פְּרִיָּה וְהָאֶרֶץ תִּתֵּן אֶת-יִבּוּלָהּ, וְהַשָּׂמִים יִתְּנוּ טָלָם; וְהִנְחַלְתִּי, אֶת-שְׂאֲרִית הָעָם הַזֶּה--אֶת-כָּל-אֶלֶּה.

Zechariah 8

⁴ Thus saith the Lord of hosts: There shall yet old men and old women sit in the broad places of Jerusalem, every man with his staff in his hand for very age. ⁵ And the broad places of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the broad places thereof. ⁶ Thus saith the Lord of hosts: If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in those days, should it also be marvellous in Mine eyes? saith the Lord of hosts. ⁷ Thus saith the Lord of hosts: Behold, I will save My people from the east country, and from the west country; ⁸ And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness. ⁹ Thus saith the Lord of hosts: Let your hands be strong, ye that hear in these days these words from the mouth of the prophets that were in the day that the foundation of the house of the Lord of hosts was laid, even the temple, that it might be built. ¹⁰ For before those days there was no hire for man, nor any hire for beast; neither was there any peace to him that went out or came in because of the adversary; for I set all men every one against his neighbour. ¹¹ But now I will not be unto the remnant of this people as in the former days, saith the Lord of hosts. ¹² For as the seed of peace, the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to inherit all these things.

Source (Nevi'im): www.sefarim.fr