The cause of the captivity is their sinne. The place wheroeto they were caried, is Babylon: the vanitie of whose idols and idolatrie are set forth at large in this Chapter.

Copy of an Epistle which Jeremie sent vnto them which were to be led captiues into Babylon, by the king of the Babylonians, to certifie them as it was commanded him of God.

2 Because of your sinnes which ye haue committed before God, ye shall be led away captiues vnto Babylon by Nabuchodonosor king of the Babylonians.

3 So when ye be come vnto Babylon, ye shal remaine there many yeeres, and for a long season, namely seuen generations: and after that I will bring you away peaceably from thence.

4 Now shal ye see in Babylon gods of siluer, and of gold, and of wood, borne upon shoulders, which cause the nations to feare.

5 Beware therefore that ye in no wise be like to strangers, neither be ye afraid of them, when ye see the multitude before them, and behinde them, worshipping them.

6 But say ye in your hearts, O Lord, we must worship thee.

7 For mine Angel is with you, and I my selfe caring for your soules.

8 As for their tongue, it is polished by the workeman, and they themselves are gudled and laid ouer with siluer, yet are they but false and cannot speake.

9 And taking golde, as it were for a virgine that loues to go gay, they make crownes for the heads of their gods.

10 Sometimes also the Priests convey from their gods golde and siluer, and bestow it vpon themselues.

11 Yea
11 Ye they will give thereof to the common harlots, and decke them as men with garments being gods of siluer, and gods of gold, and wood.

12 Yet cannot these gods save themselves from rust and moths, though they be couered with purple raiment.

13 They wipe their faces because of the dust of the Temple, when there is much vpon them.

14 And he that cannot put to death one that offendeth him, holdeth a scepter as though hee were a judge of the country.

15 He hath also in his right hand a dagger, and an axe: but cannot deliver himselfe from warre and theues.

16 Whereby they are knowne not to bee gods, therefore feare them not.

17 For like as a vessell that a man vesteth, is nothing worth when it is broken: even so with their gods: when they be set vp in the Temple, their eyes be full of dust, throw the feet of them that come in.

18 And as the doors are made sure on every side, vpon him that offendeth the king, as being committed to suffer death: even so the priests make fast their temples, with doores, with lockes and bars, lest their gods bee spoiled with robbers.

19 They light them candles, yea, more then for themselves, whereof they cannot see one.

20 They are as one of the beames of the temple, yet they say, their hearts are gnawed vpon by things creeping out of the earth, & when they eate them and their clothes, they feele it not.

21 Their faces are blacked, thorow the smoke that comes out of the temple.

22 Vpon their bodies and heads, sit battes, swallowes, and birds, and the cats also.

23 By this you may know that they are no gods: therefore feare them not.

24 Notwithstanding the gold that is about them, to make them beautiful, except they wipe off the rust they will not shine: for neither when they were molten did they feele it.

25 The things wherein there is no breath, are bought for most hie price.

26 * They are borne vpon shoulders, hauing no feete, whereby they declare vnto men that they be nothing worth.

27 They also that serue them, are ashamed: for if they fall to the ground at any time, they cannot rise vp againe of themselves: neither if one set them vp, right can they moue of themselves: neither if they be bowed downe, can they make themselves straight: but they set gifts before them as vnto dead men.

28 As for the things that are sacrificed vnto them, their priests sell and abuse: in like maner their wives lay vp part thereof in salt: but vnto the poore and impotent, they give nothing of it.

29 Menstruous women, and women in childbed eate their sacrifices: by these things ye may know that they are no gods: feare them not.

30 For how can they be called gods? because women set meste before the gods of siluer, gold, and wood.

31 And the priests sit in their temples, hauing their clothes rent, and their heads and beards shauen, and nothing vpon their heads.

32 They roare and crie before their gods: as men doe at the feast when one is dead.

33 The priests also take off their garments, and clote their wives and children.

34 Whether it be euill that one doth vnto them, or good: they are not able to recompense it: they can neither set vp a king, nor put him downe.

35 In like maner, they can neither giue riches nor money: though a man make a vowe vnto them, and keepe it not, they will not require it.

36 They can saue no man from death, neither deliuer the weake from the mightie.

37 They cannot restore a blind man to his sight, nor helpe any man in his distresse.

38 They can shew no mercie to the widow: nor doe good to the fatherlesse.

39 Their gods of wood, and which are overlaid with gold, and siluer, are like the stones that be hewn out of the mountaine: they that worship them shall be confounded.

40 How should a man then thinke and say that they are gods? when euens the Chaldeans theselves dishonor them.

41 Who if they shall see one dumbe that cannot speake, they intiate Bel that he may speake, as though he were able to understand.

42 Yet they cannot vnderstand this themselves, and leaue them: for they have no knowledge.
48 The women also with corDES a
about them, sitting in the wayes, burne
branke for perfume: but if any of them
drawn by some that passeth by, lie
with him, she reprocheth her fellow
that she was not thought as worthy as
her selfe, nor her corde broken.
44 Whatsoever is done among them
is false: how may it then be thought or
said that they are gods?
45 They are made of carpenters,
and goldsmiths, they can be nothing
else, then the workman will haue them
to be.
46 And they themselves that made
them, can never continue long, how
should then the things that are made of
them, be gods?
47 For they left lies and reproaches
to them that come after.
48 For when there commeth any
warre or plague vpon them, the priests
consult with themselves, where they
may be hidden with them.
49 How then cannot men perceive,
that they be no gods, which can neither
save themselves from warre nor from
plague?
50 * For seeing they be but of wood,
and overlaide with siluer and gold: it
shall be known hereafter that they are
false.
51 And it shall manifestly appeares
to all nations and kings, that they are no
gods: but the worke of mens hands,
and that there is no worke of God in
them.
52 Who then may not know that
they are no gods?
53 For neither can they set vp a king
in the land, nor giue raine vnto men
54 Neither can they judge their
owne cause, nor redresse a wrong being
vnable: for they are as crowes between
heaven and earth.
55 Whereupon when fire falleth vp
on the house of gods of wood, or layd
ouer with gold or siluer, their priests will
fly away, & escape: but they themselves
shall be burnt asunder like beams.
56 Moreover they cannot withstand
any king or enemies: how can it then
be thought or said that they be gods?
57 Neither are those gods of wood,
and layd ouer with siluer or gold able
to escape either from theeues or robbers.
58 Whose gold, and siluer, and gar-
ments wherewith they are clothed, they
that are strong doe take, and goe away
withall: neither are they able to helpe
themselves.
59 Therefore it is better to be a king
that sheweth his power, or else a pro-
table vessell in an house, which the ow-
er shall haue use of, then such false
gods: or to be a doore in an house to
keepe such things safe as be therein, then
such false gods: or a pillar of wood in a
palace, then such false gods.
60 For Sunne, Moone, and starrs,
being bright and sent to doe their of-
ces, are obedient.
61 In like maner the lightning
when it breaketh forth is easy to bee
seen, and after the same maner ||the
wind bloweth in euery country.
62 And when God commandeth the
clouds to goe ouer the whole world:
they doe as they are bidden:
63 And the fire sent from aboue to
consume hilles and woods, doth as it is
commanded: but these are like vnto
them neither in shew, nor power.
64 Wherefore it is neither to be sup-
pored nor said, that they are gods, seeing
they are able, neither to judge causes,
nor to doe good vnto men.
65 Knowing therefore that they
are no gods, feare them not.
66 For they can neither curse nor
blesse kings.
67 Neither can they shew signes in
the heauens among the heathen: nor
shine as the Sunne, nor giue light as
the Moone.
68 The beasts are better then they
for they can get vnder a couert, and
helpe themselves.
69 It is then by no means manifest
vnto vs that they are gods: therefore
feare them not.
70 For as a scarrow in a garden of
Cucumbers keepe nothing: so are
their gods of wood, and laid ouer with
siluer and gold.
71 And likewise their gods of wood,
and laid ouer with siluer and gold, are
like to a white thorne in an orchard that
every bird sitteth vpon: as also to a dead
body, that is cast into the darke.
72 And you shall know them to be
no gods, by the ||bright purple that rot-
teth vpon them: and they themselves
afterward shall be eaten; and shall be
a reproch in the country.
73 Better therefore is the just man
that hath none idoles: for he shall be
farre from reproach.