

Lexham English Bible

Genesis

1 ¹In the beginning God created heaven and earth.

²The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep water. The Spirit of God was hovering over the water.

³Then God said, "Let there be light!" So there was light.

⁴God saw the light was good. So God separated the light from the darkness.

⁵God named the light day, and the darkness he named night. There was evening, then morningthe first day.

⁶Then God said, "Let there be a horizon in the middle of the water in order to separate the water."

⁷So God made the horizon and separated the water above and below the horizon. And so it was.

⁸God named what was above the horizon sky. There was evening, then morninga second day.

⁹Then God said, "Let the water under the sky come together in one area, and let the dry land appear." And so it was.

¹⁰God named the dry land earth. The water which came together he named sea. God saw that it was good.

¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation: plants bearing seeds, each according to its own type, and fruit trees bearing fruit with seeds, each according to its own type." And so it was.

¹²The earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seeds, each according to its own type, and trees bearing fruit with seeds, each according to its own type. God saw that they were good.

¹³There was evening, then morning a third day.

¹⁴Then God said, "Let there be lights in the sky to separate the day from the night. They will be signs and will mark religious festivals, days, and years.

¹⁵They will be lights in the sky to shine on the earth." And so it was.

¹⁶God made the two bright lights: the larger light to rule the day and the smaller light to rule the night. He also made the stars.

¹⁷ God put them in the sky to give light to the earth,

¹⁸ to dominate the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good.

¹⁹ There was evening, then morning a fourth day.

²⁰ Then God said, "Let the water swarm with swimming creatures, and let birds fly through the sky over the earth."

²¹ So God created the large sea creatures, every type of creature that swims around in the water and every type of flying bird. God saw that they were good.

²² God blessed them and said, "Be fertile, increase in number, fill the sea, and let there be many birds on the earth."

²³ There was evening, then morning a fifth day.

²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth produce every type of living creature: every type of domestic animal, crawling animal, and wild animal." And so it was.

²⁵ God made every type of wild animal, every type of domestic animal, and

every type of creature that crawls on the ground. God saw that they were good.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, in our likeness. Let them rule the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the domestic animals all over the earth, and all the animals that crawl on the earth."

²⁷So God created humans in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female.

²⁸God blessed them and said, "Be fertile, increase in number, fill the earth, and be its master. Rule the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that crawl on the earth."

²⁹God said, "I have given you every plant with seeds on the face of the earth and every tree that has fruit with seeds. This will be your food.

³⁰I have given all green plants as food to every land animal, every bird in the sky, and every animal that crawls on the earth every living, breathing animal." And so it was.

³¹And God saw everything that he had made and that it was very good. There was evening, then morning the sixth day.

2¹ Heaven and earth and everything in them were finished.

²By the seventh day God had finished work he had been doing. On the seventh day he stopped the work he had been doing.

³Then God blessed the seventh day and set it apart as holy, because on that day he stopped all his work of creation.

⁴This is the account of heaven and earth when they were created, at the time when the LORD God made earth and heaven.

⁵Wild bushes and plants were not on the earth yet because the LORD God hadn't sent rain on the earth. Also, there was no one to farm the land.

⁶Instead, underground water would come up from the earth and water the entire surface of the ground.

⁷Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the earth and blew the breath of life into his nostrils. The man became a living being.

⁸The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east. That's where he put the man whom he had formed.

⁹The LORD God made all the trees grow out of the ground. These trees were nice to look at, and their fruit was good to eat. The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil grew in the middle of the garden.

¹⁰A river flowed from Eden to water the garden. Outside the garden it divided into four rivers.

¹¹The name of the first river is Pishon. This is the one that winds throughout Havilah, where there is gold.

¹²(The gold of that land is pure. Bdelium and onyx are also found there.)

¹³The name of the second river is Gihon. This is the one that winds throughout Sudan.

¹⁴The name of the third river is Tigris. This is the one that flows east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to farm the land and to take care of it.

¹⁶The LORD God commanded the man. He said, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden.

¹⁷But you must never eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

because when you eat from it, you will certainly die."

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is right for him."

¹⁹The LORD God had formed all the wild animals and all the birds out of the ground. Then he brought them to the man to see what he would call them. Whatever the man called each creature became its name.

²⁰So the man named all the domestic animals, all the birds, and all the wild animals. But the man found no helper who was right for him.

²¹So the LORD God caused him to fall into a deep sleep. While the man was sleeping, the LORD God took out one of the mans ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

²²Then the LORD God formed a woman from the rib that he had taken from the man. He brought her to the man.

²³The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She will be named woman because she was taken from man."

²⁴ That is why a man will leave his father and mother and will be united with his wife, and they will become one flesh.

²⁵ The man and his wife were both naked, but they weren't ashamed of it.

3¹ The snake was more clever than all the wild animals the LORD God had made. He asked the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must never eat the fruit of any tree in the garden?'"

² The woman answered the snake, "We were allowed to eat the fruit from any tree in the garden

³ except the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, 'You must never eat it or touch it. If you do, you will die!'"

⁴ "You certainly won't die!" the snake told the woman.

⁵ "God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened. You'll be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ The woman saw that the tree had fruit that was good to eat, nice to look at, and desirable for making someone wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

⁷Then their eyes were opened, and they both realized that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made clothes for themselves.

⁸In the cool of the evening, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking around in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees in the garden.

⁹The LORD God called to the man and asked him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden. I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

¹¹God asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat fruit from the tree I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹²The man answered, "That woman, the one you gave me, gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³Then the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?" "The snake deceived me, and I ate," the woman answered.

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the snake, "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all the wild or domestic animals. You will crawl on your belly. You

will be the lowest of animals as long as you live.

¹⁵I will make you and the woman hostile toward each other. I will make your descendants and her descendant hostile toward each other. He will crush your head, and you will bruise his heel."

¹⁶He said to the woman, "I will increase your pain and your labor when you give birth to children. Yet, you will long for your husband, and he will rule you."

¹⁷Then he said to the man, "You listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree, although I commanded you, You must never eat its fruit. The ground is cursed because of you. Through hard work you will eat food that comes from it every day of your life.

¹⁸The ground will grow thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat wild plants.

¹⁹By the sweat of your brow, you will produce food to eat until you return to the ground, because you were taken from it. You are dust, and you will return to dust."

²⁰ Adam named his wife Eve [Life] because she became the mother of every living person.

²¹ The LORD God made clothes from animal skins for the man and his wife and dressed them.

²² Then the LORD God said, "The man has become like one of us, since he knows good and evil. He must not reach out and take the fruit from the tree of life and eat. Then he would live forever."

²³ So the LORD God sent the man out of the Garden of Eden to farm the ground from which the man had been formed.

²⁴ After he sent the man out, God placed angels and a flaming sword that turned in all directions east of the Garden of Eden. He placed them there to guard the way to the tree of life.

4¹ Adam made love to his wife Eve. She became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "I have gotten the man that the LORD promised."

² Then she gave birth to another child, Abel, Cains brother. Abel was a shepherd, and Cain was a farmer.

³ Later Cain brought some crops from the land as an offering to the LORD.

⁴ Abel also brought some choice parts of the firstborn animals from his flock. The LORD approved of Abel and his offering,
⁵ but he didn't approve of Cain and his offering. So Cain became very angry and was disappointed.

⁶ Then the LORD asked Cain, "Why are you angry, and why do you look disappointed?"

⁷ If you do well, won't you be accepted? But if you don't do well, sin is lying outside your door ready to attack. It wants to control you, but you must master it."

⁸ Cain talked to his brother Abel. Later, when they were in the fields, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹ The LORD asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he answered. "Am I supposed to take care of my brother?"

¹⁰ The LORD asked, "What have you done? Your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground.

¹¹ So now you are cursed from the ground, which has received the blood of your brother whom you killed.

¹²When you farm the ground, it will no longer yield its best for you. You will be a fugitive, a wanderer on the earth."

¹³But Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can stand!

¹⁴You have forced me off this land today. I have to hide from you and become a fugitive, a wanderer on the earth. Now anyone who finds me will kill me!"

¹⁵So the LORD said to him, "Not so! Anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." The LORD gave Cain a sign so that anyone meeting him would not kill him.

¹⁶Then Cain left the LORDS presence and lived in Nod [The Land of Wandering], east of Eden.

¹⁷Cain made love to his wife. She became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was building a city, and he named it Enoch after his son.

¹⁸To Enoch was born Irad. Irad was the father of Mehujael. Mehujael was the father of Methushael. And Methushael was the father of Lamech.

¹⁹Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah.

²⁰Adah gave birth to Jabal. He was the first person to live in tents and have livestock.

²¹His brothers name was Jubal. He was the first person to play the harp and the flute.

²²Zillah also had a son, Tubalcain, who made bronze and iron tools. Tubalcains sister was Naamah.

²³Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, listen to me! Wives of Lamech, hear what I say! I killed a man for bruising me, a young man for wounding me.

²⁴If Cain is avenged 7 times, then Lamech, 77 times."

²⁵Adam made love to his wife again. She gave birth to a son and named him Seth, because she said, "God has given me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him."

²⁶A son was also born to Seth, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to worship the LORD.

5¹This is the written account of Adam and his descendants. When God created humans, he made them in the likeness of God.

²He created them male and female. He blessed them and called them humans when he created them.

³When Adam was 130 years old, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, in his own image. He named him Seth.

⁴After Adam became the father of Seth, he lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters.

⁵Adam lived a total of 930 years; then he died.

⁶When Seth was 105 years old, he became the father of Enosh.

⁷After he became the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters.

⁸Seth lived a total of 912 years; then he died.

⁹When Enosh was 90 years old, he became the father of Kenan.

¹⁰After he became the father of Kenan, Enosh lived 815 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹¹Enosh lived a total of 905 years; then he died.

¹²When Kenan was 70 years old, he became the father of Mahalalel.

¹³After he became the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁴Kenan lived a total of 910 years; then he died.

¹⁵When Mahalalel was 65 years old, he became the father of Jared.

¹⁶After he became the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁷Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years; then he died.

¹⁸When Jared was 162 years old, he became the father of Enoch.

¹⁹After he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁰Jared lived a total of 962 years; then he died.

²¹When Enoch was 65 years old, he became the father of Methuselah.

²²After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God for 300 years and had other sons and daughters.

²³Enoch lived a total of 365 years.

²⁴Enoch walked with God; then he was gone because God took him.

²⁵When Methuselah was 187 years old, he became the father of Lamech.

²⁶After he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁷Methuselah lived a total of 969 years; then he died.

²⁸When Lamech was 182 years old, he became the father of a son.

²⁹He named him Noah [Relief], and said, "This child will bring us relief from the work and painful labor of our hands since the LORD has cursed the ground."

³⁰After Lamech became the father of Noah, he lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters.

³¹Lamech lived a total of 777 years; then he died.

³²When Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

6¹The number of people increased all over the earth, and daughters were born to them.

²The sons of God saw that the daughters of other humans were beautiful. So they married any woman they chose.

³Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not struggle with humans forever, because they are flesh and blood. They will live 120 years."

⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, as well as later, when the sons of God slept with the daughters of other humans and had children by them. These children were famous long ago.

⁵The LORD saw how evil humans had become on the earth. All day long their deepest thoughts were nothing but evil.

⁶The LORD was sorry that he had made humans on the earth, and he was heartbroken.

⁷So he said, "I will wipe off the face of the earth these humans that I created. I will wipe out not only humans, but also domestic animals, crawling animals, and birds. I'm sorry that I made them."

⁸But the LORD was pleased with Noah.

⁹This is the account of Noah and his descendants. Noah had God's approval and was a man of integrity among the people of his time. He walked with God.

¹⁰He had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹ The world was corrupt in Gods sight and full of violence.

¹² God saw the world and how corrupt it was because all people on earth lived evil lives.

¹³ God said to Noah, "I have decided to put an end to all people because the earth is full of their violence. Now I'm going to destroy them along with the earth.

¹⁴ Make yourself a ship of cypress wood. Make rooms in the ship and coat it inside and out with tar.

¹⁵ This is how you should build it: the ship is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.

¹⁶ Make a roof for the ship, and leave an 18inchhigh opening at the top. Put a door in the side of the ship. Build the ship with lower, middle, and upper decks.

¹⁷ I'm about to send a flood on the earth to destroy all people under the sky every living, breathing human. Everything on earth will die.

¹⁸ "But I will make my promise to you. You, your sons, your wife, and your sons wives will go into the ship.

¹⁹Bring two of every living creature into the ship in order to keep them alive with you. They must be male and female.

²⁰Two of every type of bird, every type of domestic animal, and every type of creature that crawls on the ground will come to you to be kept alive.

²¹Take every kind of food that can be eaten and store it. It will be food for you and the animals."

²²Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him.

7¹The LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ship with your whole family because I have seen that you alone are righteous among the people of today.

²Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal (a male and a female of each) and one pair of every kind of unclean animal (a male and a female).

³Also, take seven pairs of every kind of bird (a male and a female of each) to preserve animal life all over the earth after the flood.

⁴In seven days I will send rain to the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. I will

wipe off the face of the earth every living creature that I have made."

⁵So Noah did everything that the LORD commanded him.

⁶Noah was 600 years old when the flood came to the earth.

⁷Noah, his sons, his wife, and his sons wives went into the ship to escape the floodwaters.

⁸Clean and unclean animals, birds, and creatures that crawl on the ground

⁹came to Noah to go into the ship in pairs (a male and female of each) as God had commanded Noah.

¹⁰Seven days later the flood came on the earth.

¹¹On the seventeenth day of the second month of the six hundredth year of Noahs life, all the deep springs burst open. The sky opened,

¹²and rain came pouring down on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights.

¹³On that same day Noah and his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, as well as Noahs wife and his three daughtersinlaw went into the ship.

¹⁴They had with them every type of wild animal, every type of domestic

animal, every type of creature that crawls on the earth, and every type of bird (every creature with wings).

¹⁵A pair of every living, breathing animal came to Noah to go into the ship.

¹⁶A male and a female of every animal went in as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD closed the door behind them.

¹⁷The flood continued for 40 days on the earth. The water increased and lifted the ship so that it rose high above the ground.

¹⁸As the water rose and became very deep, the ship floated on top of the water.

¹⁹The water rose very high above the earth. It covered all the high mountains everywhere under the sky.

²⁰It rose 23 feet above the mountaintops.

²¹Every creature that crawls on the earth died, including birds, domestic and wild animals, and everything that swarms over the earth, along with every human.

²²Everything on dry land (every living, breathing creature) died.

²³ Every living creature on the face of the earth was wiped out. Humans, domestic animals, crawling creatures, and birds were wiped off the earth. Only Noah and those with him in the ship were left.

²⁴ The floodwaters were on the earth for 150 days.

8¹ God remembered Noah and all the wild and domestic animals with him in the ship. So God made a wind blow over the earth, and the water started to go down.

² The deep springs and the sky had been shut, and the rain had stopped pouring.

³ The water began to recede from the land. At the end of 150 days the water had decreased.

⁴ On the seventeenth day of the seventh month, the ship came to rest in the mountains of Ararat.

⁵ The water kept decreasing until the tenth month. On the first day of the tenth month, the tops of the mountains appeared.

⁶ After 40 more days Noah opened the window he had made in the ship

⁷and sent out a raven. It kept flying back and forth until the water on the land had dried up.

⁸Next, he sent out a dove to see if the water was gone from the surface of the ground.

⁹The dove couldnt find a place to land because the water was still all over the earth. So it came back to Noah in the ship. He reached out and brought the dove back into the ship.

¹⁰He waited seven more days and again sent the dove out of the ship.

¹¹The dove came to him in the evening, and in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf. Then Noah knew that the water was gone from the earth.

¹²He waited seven more days and sent out the dove again, but it never came back to him.

¹³By the first day of the first month of Noahs six hundred and first year, the water on the land had dried up. Noah opened the top of the ship, looked out, and saw the surface of the ground.

¹⁴By the twentyseventh day of the second month the land was dry.

¹⁵Then God spoke to Noah,

¹⁶"Come out of the ship with your wife, your sons, and your sons wives.

¹⁷Bring out every animal that's with you: birds, domestic animals, and every creature that crawls on the earth. Be fertile, increase in number, and spread over the earth."

¹⁸So Noah came out with his sons, his wife, and his sons wives.

¹⁹Every animal, crawling creature, and bird everything that moves on the earth came out of the ship, one kind after another.

²⁰Noah built an altar to the LORD. On it he made a burnt offering of each type of clean animal and clean bird.

²¹The LORD smelled the soothing aroma. He said to himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of humans, even though from birth their hearts are set on nothing but evil. I will never again kill every living creature as I have just done.

²²As long as the earth exists, planting and harvesting, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never stop."

9¹ God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fertile, increase in number, and fill the earth.

²All the wild animals and all the birds will fear you and be terrified of you. Every creature that crawls on the ground and all the fish in the sea have been put under your control.

³Everything that lives and moves will be your food. I gave you green plants as food; I now give you everything else.

⁴"But you are not to eat meat with blood in it. (Blood is life.)

⁵In addition, I will demand your blood for your life. I will demand it from any animal or from any person. I will demand the life of any person who kills another person.

⁶Whoever sheds human blood, by humans his blood will be shed, because in the image of God, God made humans.

⁷Be fertile, and increase in number. Spread over the earth, and increase."

⁸God also said to Noah and his sons,

⁹"I am going to make my promise to you, your descendants,

¹⁰and every living being that is with you birds, domestic animals, and all the

wild animals, all those that came out of the ship every living thing on earth.

¹¹ I am making my promise to you. Never again will all life be killed by floodwaters. Never again will there be a flood that destroys the earth."

¹² God said, "This is the sign of the promise I am giving to you and every living being that is with you for generations to come.

¹³ I will put my rainbow in the clouds to be a sign of my promise to the earth.

¹⁴ Whenever I form clouds over the earth, a rainbow will appear in the clouds.

¹⁵ Then I will remember my promise to you and every living animal. Never again will water become a flood to destroy all life.

¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember my everlasting promise to every living animal on earth."

¹⁷ So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the promise I am making to all life on earth."

¹⁸ Noah's sons, who came out of the ship, were Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹⁹These were Noahs three sons. From them the whole earth was populated. Ham was the father of Canaan.

²⁰Noah, a farmer, was the first person to plant a vineyard.

²¹He drank some wine, got drunk, and lay naked inside his tent.

²²Ham, father of Canaan, saw his father naked. So he went outside and told his two brothers.

²³Shem and Japheth took a blanket and laid it over their shoulders. Then they walked in backwards and covered their fathers naked body. They turned their faces away so that they didnt see their father naked.

²⁴When Noah sobered up, he found out what his youngest son had done to him.

²⁵So he said, "Canaan is cursed! He will be the lowest slave to his brothers.

²⁶Praise the LORD, the God of Shem! Canaan will be his slave.

²⁷May God expand the territory of Japheth. May he live in the tents of Shem. Canaan will be his slave."

²⁸Noah lived 350 years after the flood.

²⁹Noah lived a total of 950 years; then he died.

10¹ This is the account of Noahs sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their descendants. Shem, Ham and Japheth had children after the flood.

² Japheths descendants were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

³ Gomers descendants were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

⁴ Javans descendants were the people from Elishah, Tarshish, Cyprus, and Rhodes.

⁵ From these descendants the people of the coastlands spread into their own countries. Each nation had its own language and families.

⁶ Hams descendants were Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan.

⁷ Cushs descendants were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. Raamahs descendants were Sheba and Dedan.

⁸ Cush was the father of Nimrod, the first mighty warrior on the earth.

⁹ He was a mighty hunter whom the LORD blessed. Thats why people used to say, "Hes like Nimrod, a mighty hunter whom the LORD blessed."

¹⁰The first cities in his kingdom were Babylon, Erech, Accad, and Calneh in Shinar [Babylonia].

¹¹He went from that land to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah,

¹²and Resen, the great city between Nineveh and Calah.

¹³Egypt was the ancestor of the Ludites, Anamites, Lehabites, Naphtuhites,

¹⁴Pathrusites, Casluhites (from whom the Philistines came), and the Caphtorites.

¹⁵Canaan was the father of Sidon his firstborn, then Heth,

¹⁶also the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites,

¹⁷the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites,

¹⁸the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites. Later the Canaanite families scattered.

¹⁹The border of the Canaanites extended from Sidon toward Gerar as far as Gaza and then toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim as far as Lasha.

²⁰These were Hams descendants by families and languages within their countries and nations.

²¹ Shem, Japheths older brother, also had children. Shem was the ancestor of all the sons of Eber.

²² Shems descendants were Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.

²³ Arams descendants were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.

²⁴ Arpachshad was the father of Shelah, and Shelah was the father of Eber.

²⁵ Two sons were born to Eber. The name of the one was Peleg [Division], because in his day the earth was divided. His brothers name was Joktan.

²⁶ Joktan was the father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

²⁷ Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,

²⁸ Obal, Abimael, Sheba,

²⁹ Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. These were Joktans sons.

³⁰ The region where they lived extended from Mesha toward Sephar in the eastern mountains.

³¹ These were Shems descendants by families and languages within their countries according to their nations.

³² These were the families of Noahs sons listed by their genealogies, nation by nation. From these descendants the

nations spread over the earth after the flood.

11 ¹The whole world had one language with a common vocabulary.

²As people moved toward the east, they found a plain in Shinar [Babylonia] and settled there.

³They said to one another, "Let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used bricks as stones and tar as mortar.

⁴Then they said, "Let's build a city for ourselves and a tower with its top in the sky. Let's make a name for ourselves so that we won't become scattered all over the face of the earth."

⁵The LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the descendants of Adam were building.

⁶The LORD said, "They are one people with one language. This is only the beginning of what they will do! Now nothing they plan to do will be too difficult for them.

⁷Let us go down there and mix up their language so that they won't understand each other."

⁸So the LORD scattered them all over the face of the earth, and they stopped building the city.

⁹This is why it was named Babel, because there the LORD turned the language of the whole earth into babble. From that place the LORD scattered them all over the face of the earth.

¹⁰This is the account of Shem and his descendants. Two years after the flood when Shem was 100 years old, he became the father of Arpachshad.

¹¹After he became the father of Arpachshad, Shem lived 500 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹²Arpachshad was 35 years old when he became the father of Shelah.

¹³After he became the father of Shelah, Arpachshad lived 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁴Shelah was 30 years old when he became the father of Eber.

¹⁵After he became the father of Eber, Shelah lived 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁶Eber was 34 years old when he became the father of Peleg.

¹⁷ After he became the father of Peleg, Eber lived 430 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁸ Peleg was 30 years old when he became the father of Reu.

¹⁹ After he became the father of Reu, Peleg lived 209 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁰ Reu was 32 years old when he became the father of Serug.

²¹ After he became the father of Serug, Reu lived 207 years and had other sons and daughters.

²² Serug was 30 years old when he became the father of Nahor.

²³ After he became the father of Nahor, Serug lived 200 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁴ Nahor was 29 years old when he became the father of Terah.

²⁵ After he became the father of Terah, Nahor lived 119 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁶ Terah was 70 years old when he became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

²⁷ This is the account of Terah and his descendants. Terah was the father of

Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran was the father of Lot.

²⁸While his father Terah was still alive, Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, his native land.

²⁹Both Abram and Nahor married. The name of Abrams wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahors wife was Milcah, daughter of Haran. (Haran was the father of Milcah and Iscah.)

³⁰Sarai was not able to have children.

³¹Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot (son of Haran), and his daughterinlaw Sarai, wife of his son Abram. They set out together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. When they came as far as Haran, they stayed there.

³²Terah lived 205 years and died in Haran.

12¹The LORD said to Abram, "Leave your land, your relatives, and your fathers home. Go to the land that I will show you.

²I will make you a great nation, I will bless you. I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you, I will curse. Through you every family on earth will be blessed."

⁴So Abram left, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran.

⁵Abram set out for Canaan. He took along his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all the possessions they had accumulated and the servants they had acquired in Haran.

⁶They arrived in Canaan, and Abram traveled through the land to the oak tree belonging to Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I'm going to give this land to your descendants." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸He moved on to the hills east of Bethel, and he put up his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. He also built an altar to the LORD there and worshiped the LORD.

⁹Abram kept moving toward the Negev.

¹⁰There was a famine in the land. Abram went to Egypt to stay awhile because the famine was severe.

¹¹When he was about to enter Egypt, Abram said to his wife Sarai, "I know that youre a beautiful woman.

¹²When the Egyptians see you, theyll say, This is his wife! Then theyll kill me but let you live.

¹³Please say that youre my sister. Then everything will be alright for me, and because of you I will live."

¹⁴When Abram arrived in Egypt, the Egyptians saw how very beautiful his wife was.

¹⁵When Pharaohs officials saw her, they raved about her to Pharaoh, so Sarai was taken to Pharaohs palace.

¹⁶Everything went well for Abram because of her, and he was given sheep, cattle, donkeys, male and female slaves, and camels.

¹⁷However, the LORD struck Pharaoh and his household with terrible plagues because of Sarai, Abrams wife.

¹⁸Then Pharaoh called for Abram. "What have you done to me?" he asked.

"Why didnt you tell me that shes your wife?

¹⁹Why did you say, Shes my sister and allow me to take her for my wife? Heres your wife! Take her and go!"

²⁰Pharaoh gave his men orders concerning Abram. They sent Abram away with his wife and everything that he had.

13¹ Abram left Egypt with his wife and everything he had and went to the Negev. Lot was with him.

² Abram was very rich because he had livestock, silver, and gold.

³ He traveled from place to place. He went from the Negev as far as Bethel, to the area between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been originally,

⁴ where he had first made an altar. There Abram worshiped the LORD.

⁵ Lot, who had been traveling with Abram, also had his own sheep, cattle, and tents.

⁶ There wasnt enough pastureland for both of them. They had so many possessions that they were unable to remain together.

⁷ Quarrels broke out between Abrams herders and Lots herders. (Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in that area.)

⁸ Abram said to Lot, "Please, let's not have any more quarrels between us or between our herders. After all, we're relatives.

⁹ Isn't all this land yours also? Let's separate. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right, and if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

¹⁰ Then Lot looked in the direction of Zoar as far as he could see. He saw that the whole Jordan Plain was wellwatered like the LORDS garden or like Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)

¹¹ Lot chose the whole Jordan Plain for himself. He moved toward the east. They each went their own way.

¹² Abram lived in Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain, moving his tents as far as Sodom.

¹³ (The people who lived in Sodom were very wicked. They committed terrible sins against the LORD.)

¹⁴After Lot left, the LORD said to Abram, "Look north, south, east, and west of where you are.

¹⁵I will give all the land you see to you and to your descendants for an indefinite period of time.

¹⁶I will also give you as many descendants as the dust of the earth. If anyone could count the dust of the earth, then he could also count your descendants.

¹⁷Go! Walk back and forth across the entire land because I will give it to you."

¹⁸So Abram moved his tents and went to live by the oak trees belonging to Mamre at Hebron. There he built an altar for the LORD.

14¹At that time four kingsKing Amraphel of Shinar, King Arioch of Ellasar, King Chedorlaomer of Elam, and King Tidal of Goiim

²went to war against five kingsKing Bera of Sodom, King Birsha of Gomorrah, King Shinab of Admah, King Shemeber of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).

³The five kings joined forces and met in the valley of Siddim (that is, the Dead Sea).

⁴For 12 years they had been subject to Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

⁵In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and his allies came and defeated the Rephaim at Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzim at Ham, the Emim at Shaveh Kiriathaim,

⁶and the Horites in the hill country of Seir, going as far as El Paran on the edge of the desert.

⁷On their way back, they came to En Mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and they conquered the whole territory of the Amalekites and also the Amorites who were living at Hazazon Tamar.

⁸Then the kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Bela (that is, Zoar) marched out and prepared for battle in the valley of Siddim.

⁹They fought against King Chedorlaomer of Elam, King Tidal of Goiim, King Amraphel of Shinar, and King Arioch of Ellasarfour kings against five.

¹⁰The valley of Siddim was full of tar pits. As the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, they fell because of the tar pits, but the other kings fled to the hills.

¹¹So the four kings took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, as well as all their food, and left.

¹²They also took Abrams nephew Lot and his possessions since he was living in Sodom.

¹³Then a soldier who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew what had happened. He was living next to the oak trees belonging to Mamre the Amorite, a brother of Eshcol and Aner. (These men were Abrams allies.)

¹⁴When Abram heard that his nephew had been captured, he armed his 318 trained men, born in his own household, and pursued the four kings all the way to Dan.

¹⁵He split up his men to attack them at night. He defeated them, pursuing them all the way to Hobah, which is north of Damascus.

¹⁶He brought back everything they had, including women and soldiers. He

also brought back his relative Lot and his possessions.

¹⁷After Abram came back from defeating Chedorlaomer and his allies, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Shaveh Valley (that is, the Kings Valley).

¹⁸Then King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was a priest of God Most High.

¹⁹He blessed Abram, and said, "Blessed is Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth.

²⁰Blessed is God Most High, who has handed your enemies over to you." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

²¹The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people, and keep everything else for yourself."

²²But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I now raise my hand and solemnly swear to the LORD God Most High, maker of heaven and earth,

²³that I wont take a thread or a sandal strap. I wont take anything that is yours so that you will never be able to say, I made Abram rich.

²⁴ I won't take one single thing except what my men have eaten. But let my allies Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share."

15 ¹ Later the LORD spoke his word to Abram in a vision. He said, "Abram, don't be afraid. I am your shield. Your reward will be very great."

² Abram asked, "Almighty LORD, what will you give me? Since I'm going to die without children, Eliezer of Damascus will inherit my household.

³ You have given me no children, so this member of my household will be my heir."

⁴ Suddenly, the LORD spoke his word to Abram again. He said, "This man will not be your heir. Your own son will be your heir."

⁵ He took Abram outside and said, "Now look up at the sky and count the stars, if you are able to count them." He also said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!"

⁶ Then Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD regarded that faith to be his approval of Abram.

⁷Then the LORD said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land so that you will take possession of it."

⁸Abram asked, "Almighty LORD, how can I be certain that I will take possession of it?"

⁹He answered Abram, "Bring me a threeyearold heifer, a threeyearold female goat, a threeyearold ram, a mourning dove, and a pigeon."

¹⁰So Abram brought all these animals to him. He cut each of them in half and laid each half opposite the other. However, he did not cut the birds in half.

¹¹When birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was just about to set, a deep sleepa dreadful, deep darknesscame over Abram.

¹³God said to Abram, "You can know for sure that your descendants will live in a land that is not their own, where they will be slaves, and they will be oppressed for 400 years.

¹⁴But I will punish the nation they serve, and after that they will come out with many possessions.

¹⁵But you will die in peace and be buried at a very old age.

¹⁶In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, because the sin of the Amorites will not have run its course until then."

¹⁷The sun had gone down, and it was dark. Suddenly a smoking oven and a flaming torch passed between the animal pieces.

¹⁸At that time the LORD made a promise to Abram. He said, "I will give this land to your descendants. This is the land from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates.

¹⁹It is the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites,

²⁰the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,

²¹the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

16¹ Sarai, Abrams wife, was not able to have children. She owned an Egyptian slave named Hagar.

²So Sarai said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Why dont you sleep with my slave? Maybe I

can build a family through her." Abram agreed with Sarai.

³After Abram had lived in Canaan for ten years, Abrams wife Sarai took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.

⁴He slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant. When Hagar realized that she was pregnant, she began to be disrespectful to Sarai, her owner.

⁵So Sarai complained to Abram, "I'm being treated unfairly! And it's your fault! I know that I gave my slave to you, but now that she's pregnant, she's being disrespectful to me. May the LORD decide who is right you or me."

⁶Abram answered Sarai, "Here, she's your slave. Do what you like with her." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar so much that she ran away.

⁷The Messenger of the LORD found her by a spring in the desert, the spring on the way to Shur.

⁸He said, "Hagar, Sarai's slave, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She answered, "I'm running away from my owner Sarai."

⁹The Messenger of the LORD said to her, "Go back to your owner, and place yourself under her authority."

¹⁰The Messenger of the LORD also said to her, "I will give you many descendants. No one will be able to count them because there will be so many."

¹¹Then the Messenger of the LORD said to her, "You are pregnant, and you will give birth to a son. You will name him Ishmael [God Hears], because the LORD has heard your cry of distress."

¹²He will be as free and wild as an untamed donkey. He will fight with everyone, and everyone will fight with him. He will have conflicts with all his relatives."

¹³Hagar named the LORD, who had been speaking to her, "You Are the God Who Watches Over Me." She said, "This is the place where I watched the one who watches over me."

¹⁴This is why the well is named Beer Lahai Roi [Well of the Living One Who Watches Over Me]. It is still there between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵Hagar gave birth to Abrams son. Abram named him Ishmael.

¹⁶Abram was 86 years old when Hagar gave birth to Ishmael.

17 ¹When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD appeared to him. He said to Abram, "I am God Almighty. Live in my presence with integrity.

²I will give you my promise, and I will give you very many descendants."

³Immediately, Abram bowed with his face touching the ground, and again God spoke to him,

⁴"My promise is still with you. You will become the father of many nations.

⁵So your name will no longer be Abram [Exalted Father], but Abraham [Father of Many] because I have made you a father of many nations.

⁶I will give you many descendants. Many nations and kings will come from you.

⁷I will make my promise to you and your descendants for generations to come as an everlasting promise. I will be your God and the God of your descendants.

⁸I am also giving this land where you are living all of Canaan to you and your descendants as your permanent possession. And I will be your God."

⁹God also said to Abraham, "You and your descendants in generations to come are to be faithful to my promise.

¹⁰This is how you are to be faithful to my promise: Every male among you is to be circumcised.

¹¹All of you must be circumcised. That will be the sign of the promise from me to you.

¹²For generations to come every male child who is eight days old must be circumcised, whether he is born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner who is not related to you.

¹³Every male born in your household or bought with your money is to be circumcised without exception. So my promise will be a sign on your flesh, an everlasting promise.

¹⁴Any uncircumcised male must be excluded from his people because he has rejected my promise."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "Don't call your wife by the name Sarai anymore. Instead, her name is Sarah [Princess].

¹⁶I will bless her, and I will also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she will become a mother of nations, and kings will come from her."

¹⁷Immediately, Abraham bowed with his face touching the ground. He laughed as he thought to himself, "Can a son be born to a hundred-year-old man? Can Sarah, a ninety-year-old woman, have a child?"

¹⁸Then Abraham said to God, "Why not let Ishmael be my heir?"

¹⁹God replied, "No! Your wife Sarah will give you a son, and you will name him Isaac [He Laughs]. I will make an everlasting promise to him and his descendants.

²⁰I have heard your request about Ishmael. Yes, I will bless him, make him fertile, and increase the number of his descendants. He will be the father of 12 princes, and I will make him a great nation.

²¹ But I will make my promise to Isaac. Sarah will give birth to him at this time next year."

²² When God finished speaking with Abraham, he left him.

²³ So Abraham took his son Ishmael, everyone born in his household, and everyone bought with money every male in his household and circumcised them that day, as God had told him.

²⁴ Abraham was 99 years old when he was circumcised.

²⁵ His son Ishmael was 13 years old when he was circumcised.

²⁶ That same day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised.

²⁷ All the men of his household, whether born in the household or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

18¹ The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oak trees belonging to Mamre as he was sitting at the entrance of his tent during the hottest part of the day.

² Abraham looked up, and suddenly he saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran to meet them, and

he bowed with his face touching the ground.

³"Please, sir," Abraham said, "stop by to visit me for a while.

⁴Why dont we let someone bring a little water? After you wash your feet, you can stretch out and rest under the tree.

⁵Let me bring some bread so that you can regain your strength. After that you can leave, since this is why you stopped by to visit me." They answered, "Thats fine. Do as you say."

⁶So Abraham hurried into the tent to find Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three measures of flour, knead it, and make bread."

⁷Then Abraham ran to the herd and took one of his best calves. He gave it to his servant, who prepared it quickly.

⁸Abraham took cheese and milk, as well as the meat, and set these in front of them. Then he stood by them under the tree as they ate.

⁹They asked him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" He answered, "Over there, in the tent."

¹⁰The LORD said, "I promise Ill come back to you next year at this time, and

your wife Sarah will have a son." Sarah happened to be listening at the entrance of the tent, which was behind him.

¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were old. Sarah was past the age of childbearing.

¹² And so Sarah laughed to herself, thinking, "Now that I've become old, will I enjoy myself again? What's more, my husband is old!"

¹³ The LORD asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, Can I really have a child now that I'm old?"

¹⁴ "Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will come back to you next year at this time, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁵ Because she was afraid, Sarah denied that she had laughed. But the LORD said, "Yes, you did laugh."

¹⁶ Then the men got up to leave. As Abraham was walking with them to see them off, they looked toward Sodom.

¹⁷ The LORD said, "I shouldn't hide what I am going to do from Abraham."

¹⁸ After all, Abraham is going to become a great and mighty nation and through him all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

¹⁹I have chosen him so that he will direct his children and his family after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just. In this way I, the LORD, will do what I have promised Abraham."

²⁰The LORD also said, "Sodom and Gomorrah have many complaints against them, and their sin is very serious.

²¹I must go down and see whether these complaints are true. If not, I will know it."

²²From there the men turned and went on toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing in front of the LORD.

²³Abraham came closer and asked, "Are you really going to sweep away the innocent with the guilty?"

²⁴What if there are 50 innocent people in the city? Are you really going to sweep them away? Won't you spare that place for the sake of the 50 innocent people who are in it?

²⁵It would be unthinkable for you to do such a thing, to treat the innocent and the guilty alike and to kill the innocent with the guilty. That would

be unthinkable! Wont the judge of the whole earth do what is fair?"

²⁶The LORD said, "If I find 50 innocent people inside the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

²⁷Abraham asked, "Consider now, if I may be so bold as to ask you, although I'm only dust and ashes,

²⁸what if there are 45 innocent people? Will you destroy the whole city because of 5 fewer people?" The LORD answered, "I will not destroy it if I find 45 there."

²⁹Abraham asked him again, "What if 40 are found there?" He answered, "For the sake of the 40 I will not do it."

³⁰"Please don't be angry if I speak again," Abraham said. "What if 30 are found there?" He answered, "If I find 30 there, I will not do it."

³¹"Look now, if I may be so bold as to ask you," Abraham said. "What if 20 are found there?" He answered, "I will not destroy it for the sake of the 20."

³²"Please don't be angry if I speak only one more time," Abraham said. "What if 10 are found there?" He answered, "I will not destroy it for the sake of the 10."

³³When the LORD finished speaking to Abraham, he left. Abraham returned home.

19¹The two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gateway. When Lot saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed with his face touching the ground.

²He said, "Please, gentlemen, why don't you come to my home and spend the night? You can wash your feet there. Then early tomorrow morning you can continue your journey." "No," they answered, "we'd rather spend the night in the city square."

³But he insisted so strongly that they came with him and went into his home. He prepared a special dinner for them, baked some unleavened bread, and they ate.

⁴Before they had gone to bed, all the young and old male citizens of Sodom surrounded the house.

⁵They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to stay with you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them."

⁶Then Lot went outside and shut the door behind him.

⁷"Please, my friends, don't be so wicked," he said.

⁸"Look, I have two daughters who have never had sex. Why don't you let me bring them out to you? Do whatever you like with them. But don't do anything to these men, since I'm responsible for them."

⁹But the men yelled, "Get out of the way! This man came here to stay awhile. Now he wants to be our judge! We're going to treat you worse than those men." They pushed hard against Lot and lunged forward to break down the door.

¹⁰The men inside reached out, pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door.

¹¹Then they struck all the men who were in the doorway of the house, young and old alike, with blindness so that they gave up trying to find the door.

¹²Then the men asked Lot, "Do you have anyone else here—any in-laws, sons, daughters, or any other relatives in the city? Get them out of here

¹³because were going to destroy this place. The complaints to the LORD against its people are so loud that the LORD has sent us to destroy it."

¹⁴So Lot went out and spoke to the men engaged to his daughters. He said, "Hurry! Get out of this place, because the LORD is going to destroy the city." But they thought he was joking.

¹⁵As soon as it was dawn, the angels urged Lot by saying, "Quick! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or youll be swept away when the city is punished."

¹⁶When he hesitated, the men grabbed him, his wife, and his two daughters by their hands, because the LORD wanted to spare Lot. They brought them safely outside the city.

¹⁷As soon as they were outside, one of the angels said, "Run for your lives! Dont look behind you, and dont stop on the plain. Run for the hills, or youll be swept away!"

¹⁸Lot answered, "Oh no!

¹⁹Even though youve been so good to me and though youve been very kind to me by saving my life, I cant run as far as

the hills. This disaster will overtake me, and I'll die.

²⁰Look, there's a city near enough to flee to, and it's small. Why don't you let me run there? Isn't it small? Then my life will be saved."

²¹The angel said to him, "Alright, I will grant you this request too. I will not destroy the city you're talking about.

²²Run there quickly, because I can't do anything until you get there." (The city is named Zoar [Small].)

²³The sun had just risen over the land as Lot came to Zoar.

²⁴Then the LORD made burning sulfur and fire rain out of heaven on Sodom and Gomorrah.

²⁵He destroyed those cities, the whole plain, all who lived in the cities, and whatever grew on the ground.

²⁶Lot's wife looked back and turned into a column of salt.

²⁷Early the next morning Abraham came to the place where he had stood in front of the LORD.

²⁸When he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah and all the land in the plain,

he saw smoke rising from the land like the thick smoke of a furnace.

²⁹When God destroyed the cities on the plain, he remembered Abraham. Lot was allowed to escape from the destruction that came to the cities where he was living.

³⁰Lot left Zoar because he was afraid to stay there. He and his two daughters settled in the mountains where they lived in a cave.

³¹The older daughter said to the younger one, "Our father is old. No men are here. We cant get married as other people do.

³²Lets give our father wine to drink. Then well go to bed with him so that well be able to preserve our family line through our father."

³³That night they gave their father wine to drink. Then the older one went to bed with her father. He didnt know when she came to bed or when she got up.

³⁴The next day the older daughter said to the younger one, "I did it! Last night I went to bed with my father. Lets give him wine to drink again tonight. Then you go to bed with him so that well be

able to preserve our family line through our father."

³⁵That night they gave their father wine to drink again. Then the younger one went to bed with him. He didn't know when she came to bed or when she got up.

³⁶So Lot's two daughters became pregnant by their father.

³⁷The older one gave birth to a son and named him Moab. He is the ancestor of the Moabites of today.

³⁸The younger daughter also gave birth to a son and named him Ben Ammi. He is the ancestor of the Ammonites of today.

20¹Abraham moved to the Negev and settled between Kadesh and Shur. While he was living in Gerar,

²Abraham told everyone that his wife Sarah was his sister. So King Abimelech of Gerar sent men to take Sarah.

³God came to Abimelech in a dream one night and said to him, "You're going to die because of the woman that you've taken! She's a married woman!"

⁴Abimelech hadn't come near her, so he asked, "Lord, will you destroy a nation even if it's innocent?"

⁵ "Didn't he tell me himself, 'She's my sister, and didn't she even say, 'He's my brother?' I did this in all innocence and with a clear conscience."

⁶ "Yes, I know that you did this with a clear conscience," God said to him in the dream. "In fact, I kept you from sinning against me. That's why I didn't let you touch her."

⁷ "Give the man's wife back to him now, because he's a prophet. He will pray for you, and you will live. But if you don't give her back, you and all who belong to you are doomed to die."

⁸ Early in the morning Abimelech called together all his officials. He told them about all of this, and they were terrified.

⁹ Then Abimelech called for Abraham and asked him, "What have you done to us? How have I sinned against you that you would bring such a serious sin on me and my kingdom? You shouldn't have done this to me."

¹⁰ Abimelech also asked Abraham, "What were you thinking when you did this?"

¹¹ Abraham said, "I thought that because there are no Godfearing people

in this place, I'd be killed because of my wife.

¹² Besides, she is my sister my father's daughter but not my mother's. She is also my wife.

¹³ When God had me leave my father's home and travel around, I said to her, Do me a favor: Wherever we go, say that I'm your brother."

¹⁴ Then Abimelech took sheep, cattle, and male and female slaves and gave them to Abraham. He also gave his wife Sarah back to him.

¹⁵ Abimelech said, "Look, here's my land. Live anywhere you like."

¹⁶ He said to Sarah, "Don't forget, I've given your brother 25 pounds of silver. This is to silence any criticism against you from everyone with you. You're completely cleared."

¹⁷ Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female slaves so that they could have children.

¹⁸ (The LORD had made it impossible for any woman in Abimelech's household to have children because of Abraham's wife Sarah.)

21 ¹The LORD came to help Sarah and did for her what he had promised.

²So she became pregnant, and at the exact time God had promised, she gave birth to a son for Abraham in his old age.

³Abraham named his newborn son Isaac.

⁴When Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him as God had commanded.

⁵Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born.

⁶Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.

⁷Who would have predicted to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet, I have given him a son in his old age."

⁸The child grew and was weaned. On the day Isaac was weaned, Abraham held a big feast.

⁹Sarah saw that Abrahams son by Hagar the Egyptian was laughing at Isaac.

¹⁰She said to Abraham, "Get rid of this slave and her son, because this slaves

son must never share the inheritance with my son Isaac."

¹¹ Abraham was upset by this because of his son Ishmael.

¹² But God said to Abraham, "Don't be upset about the boy and your slave. Listen to what Sarah says because through Isaac your descendants will carry on your name.

¹³ Besides, I will make the slave's son into a nation also, because he is your child."

¹⁴ Early the next morning Abraham took bread and a container of water and gave them to Hagar, putting them on her shoulder. He also gave her the boy and sent her on her way. So she left and wandered around in the desert near Beersheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the container was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes.

¹⁶ Then she went about as far away as an arrow can be shot and sat down. She said to herself, "I don't want to watch the boy die." So she sat down and sobbed loudly.

¹⁷ God heard the boy crying, and the Messenger of God called to Hagar from heaven. "Whats the matter, Hagar?" he asked her. "Dont be afraid! God has heard the boy crying from the bushes.

¹⁸ Come on, help the boy up! Take him by the hand, because Im going to make him into a great nation."

¹⁹ God opened her eyes. Then she saw a well. She filled the container with water and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰ God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became a skilled archer.

²¹ He lived in the desert of Paran, and his mother got him a wife from Egypt.

²² At that time Abimelech, accompanied by Phicol, the commander of his army, said to Abraham, "God is with you in everything you do.

²³ Now, swear an oath to me here in front of God that you will never cheat me, my children, or my descendants. Show me and the land where youve been living the same kindness that I have shown you."

²⁴ Abraham said, "I so swear."

²⁵ Then Abraham complained to Abimelech about a well which Abimelechs servants had seized.

²⁶ Abimelech replied, "I dont know who did this. You didnt tell me, and I didnt hear about it until today."

²⁷ Abraham took some sheep and cattle and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made an agreement.

²⁸ Then Abraham set apart seven female lambs from the flock.

²⁹ Abimelech asked him, "What is the meaning of these seven female lambs you have set apart?"

³⁰ Abraham answered, "Accept these lambs from me so that they may be proof that I dug this well."

³¹ This is why that place is called Beersheba, because both of them swore an oath there.

³² After they made the treaty at Beersheba, Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, left and went back to the land of the Philistines.

³³ Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba and worshiped the LORD, the Everlasting God, there.

³⁴ Abraham lived a long time in the land of the Philistines.

22¹ Later God tested Abraham and called to him, "Abraham!" "Yes, here I am!" he answered.

² God said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I will show you."

³ Early the next morning Abraham saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut the wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place that God had told him about.

⁴ Two days later Abraham saw the place in the distance.

⁵ Then Abraham said to his servants, "You stay here with the donkey while the boy and I go over there. Well worship. After that well come back to you."

⁶ Then Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and gave it to his son Isaac. Abraham carried the burning coals and the knife. The two of them went on together.

⁷ Isaac spoke up and said, "Father?" "Yes, Son?" Abraham answered. Isaac asked, "We have the burning coals and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

⁸ Abraham answered, "God will provide a lamb for the burnt offering, Son." The two of them went on together.

⁹ When they came to the place that God had told him about, Abraham built the altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied up his son Isaac and laid him on top of the wood on the altar.

¹⁰ Next, Abraham picked up the knife and took it in his hand to sacrifice his son.

¹¹ But the Messenger of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes?" he answered.

¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you did not refuse to give me your son, your only son."

¹³ When Abraham looked around, he saw a ram behind him caught by its horns in a bush. So Abraham took the

ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

¹⁴Abraham named that place The LORD Will Provide. It is still said today, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

¹⁵Then the Messenger of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time

¹⁶and said, "I am taking an oath on my own name, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not refused to give me your son, your only son,

¹⁷I will certainly bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of their enemies cities.

¹⁸Through your descendant all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

¹⁹Then Abraham returned to his servants, and together they left for Beersheba. Abraham remained in Beersheba.

²⁰ Later Abraham was told, "Milcah has given birth to these children of your brother Nahor:

²¹ Uz (the firstborn), Buz (his brother), Kemuel (father of Aram),

²² Kesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel.

²³ Bethuel is the father of Rebekah. Milcah had these eight sons by Abrahams brother Nahor.

²⁴ Nahors concubine, whose name was Reumah, had the following children: Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah."

23 ¹ Sarah lived to be 127 years old. This was the length of her life.

² She died in Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) in Canaan. Abraham went to mourn for Sarah and to cry about her death.

³ Then Abraham left the side of his dead wife and spoke to the Hittites,

⁴ "I'm a stranger with no permanent home. Let me have some of your property for a tomb so that I can bury my dead wife."

⁵ The Hittites answered Abraham,

⁶ "Listen to us, sir. You are a mighty leader among us. Bury your dead in one

of our best tombs. Not one of us will withhold from you his tomb for burying your dead."

⁷ Abraham got up in front of the Hittites, the people of that region, and bowed with his face touching the ground.

⁸ He said to them, "If you are willing to let me bury my wife, listen to me. Encourage Ephron, son of Zohar,

⁹ to let me have the cave of Machpelah that he owns at the end of his field. He should sell it to me for its full price as my property to be used as a tomb among you."

¹⁰ Ephron was sitting among the Hittites. He answered Abraham so that everyone who was entering the city gate could hear him. He said,

¹¹ "No, sir, listen to me. I'm giving you the field together with the cave that is in it. My people are witnesses that I'm giving it to you. Bury your wife!"

¹² Abraham bowed down again in front of the people of that region.

¹³ He spoke to Ephron so that the people of that region could hear him. He said, "If you would only listen to me. I will pay you the price of the field. Take

it from me so that I can bury my wife there."

¹⁴Ephron answered Abraham,

¹⁵"Sir, listen to me. The land is worth ten pounds of silver. What is that between us? Bury your wife!"

¹⁶Abraham agreed to Ephrons terms. So he weighed out for Ephron the amount stated in front of the Hittites: ten pounds of silver at the current merchants exchange rate.

¹⁷So Ephrons field at Machpelah, east of Mamre, was sold

¹⁸to Abraham. His property included the field with the cave in it as well as all the trees inside the boundaries of the field. The Hittites together with all who had entered the city gate were the official witnesses for the agreement.

¹⁹After this, Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave in the field of Machpelah, east of Mamre (that is, Hebron).

²⁰So the field and its cave were sold by the Hittites to Abraham as his property to be used as a tomb.

24¹ By now Abraham was old, and the LORD had blessed him in every way.

² So Abraham said to the senior servant of his household who was in charge of all that he owned, "Take a solemn oath.

³ I want you to swear by the LORD God of heaven and earth that you will not get my son a wife from the daughters of the Canaanites among whom I'm living.

⁴ Instead, you will go to the land of my relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac."

⁵ The servant asked him, "What if the woman doesn't want to come back to this land with me? Should I take your son all the way back to the land you came from?"

⁶ "Make sure that you do not take my son back there," Abraham said to him.

⁷ "The LORD God of heaven took me from my father's home and the land of my family. He spoke to me and swore this oath: I will give this land to your descendants." "God will send his angel ahead of you, and you will get my son a wife from there.

⁸If the woman doesnt want to come back with you, then youll be free from this oath that you swear to me. But dont take my son back there."

⁹So the servant did as his master Abraham commanded and swore the oath to him concerning this.

¹⁰Then the servant took ten of his masters camels and left, taking with him all of his masters best things. He traveled to Aram Naharaim, Nahors city.

¹¹The servant had the camels kneel down outside the city by the well. It was evening, when the women would go out to draw water.

¹²Then he prayed, "LORD, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today. Show your kindness to Abraham.

¹³Here I am standing by the spring, and the girls of the city are coming out to draw water.

¹⁴I will ask a girl, May I please have a drink from your jar? If she answers, Have a drink, and Ill also water your camels, let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. This way Ill know that youve shown your kindness to my master."

¹⁵ Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel, son of Milcah, who was the wife of Abrahams brother Nahor.

¹⁶ The girl was a very attractive virgin. No man had ever had sexual intercourse with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came back.

¹⁷ The servant ran to meet her and said, "Please give me a drink of water."

¹⁸ "Drink, sir," she said. She quickly lowered her jar to her hand and gave him a drink.

¹⁹ When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "Ill also keep drawing water for your camels until theyve had enough to drink."

²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the water trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels.

²¹ The man was silently watching her to see whether or not the LORD had made his trip successful.

²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose

ring weighing a fifth of an ounce and two gold bracelets weighing four ounces.

²³He asked, "Whose daughter are you? Please tell me whether there is room in your fathers house for us to spend the night."

²⁴She answered him, "I'm the daughter of Bethuel, son of Milcah and Nahor.

²⁵We have plenty of straw and feed for your camels and room for you to spend the night."

²⁶The man knelt, bowing to the LORD with his face touching the ground.

²⁷He said, "Praise the LORD, the God of my master Abraham. The LORD hasnt failed to be kind and faithful to my master. The LORD has led me on this trip to the home of my masters relatives."

²⁸The girl ran and told her mothers household about these things.

²⁹Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban.

³⁰He saw the nose ring and the bracelets on his sisters wrists and heard her tell what the man had said to her. Immediately, Laban ran out to the man by the spring. He came to the man, who

was standing with the camels by the spring.

³¹ He said, "Come in, you whom the LORD has blessed. Why are you standing out here? I have straightened up the house and made a place for the camels."

³² So the man went into the house. The camels were unloaded and given straw and feed. Then water was brought for him and his men to wash their feet.

³³ When the food was put in front of him, he said, "I wont eat until Ive said what I have to say." "Speak up," Laban said.

³⁴ "I am Abrahams servant," he said.

³⁵ "The LORD has blessed my master, and he has become wealthy. The LORD has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys.

³⁶ My masters wife Sarah gave him a son in her old age, and my master has given that son everything he has.

³⁷ My master made me swear this oath: Dont get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land Im living.

³⁸ Instead, go to my fathers home and to my relatives, and get my son a wife.

³⁹ "I asked my master, What if the woman wont come back with me?

⁴⁰ "He answered me, I have been living the way the LORD wants me to. The LORD will send his angel with you to make your trip successful. You will get my son a wife from my relatives and from my fathers family.

⁴¹ Then you will be free from your oath to me. You will also be free of your oath to me if my relatives are not willing to do this when you go to them.

⁴² "When I came to the spring today, I prayed, LORD God of my master Abraham, please make my trip successful.

⁴³ Im standing by the spring. Ill say to the young woman who comes out to draw water, "Please give me a drink of water."

⁴⁴ If she says to me, "Not only may you have a drink, but I will also draw water for your camels," let her be the woman the LORD has chosen for my masters son.

⁴⁵ "Before I had finished praying, Rebekah came with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water." So I asked her, May I have a drink?

⁴⁶ She quickly lowered her jar and said, Have a drink, and Ill water your camels too. So I drank, and she also watered the camels.

⁴⁷ "Then I asked her, Whose daughter are you? "She answered, The daughter of Bethuel, son of Nahor and Milcah. "I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her wrists.

⁴⁸ I knelt, bowing down to the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham. The LORD led me in the right direction to get the daughter of my masters relative for his son.

⁴⁹ Tell me whether or not youre going to show my master true kindness so that I will know what to do."

⁵⁰ Laban and Bethuel answered, "This is from the LORD. We cant say anything to you one way or another.

⁵¹ Heres Rebekah! Take her and go! She will become the wife of your masters son, as the LORD has said."

⁵²When Abrahams servant heard their answer, he bowed down to the LORD.

⁵³The servant took out gold and silver jewelry and clothes and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave expensive presents to her brother and mother.

⁵⁴Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night. When they got up in the morning, he said, "Let me go back to my master."

⁵⁵Her brother and mother replied, "Let the girl stay with us ten days or so. After that she may go."

⁵⁶He said to them, "Dont delay me now that the LORD has made my trip successful. Let me go back to my master."

⁵⁷So they said, "Well call the girl and ask her."

⁵⁸They called for Rebekah and asked her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "Yes, Ill go."

⁵⁹So they let their sister Rebekah and her nurse go with Abrahams servant and his men.

⁶⁰They gave Rebekah a blessing: "May you, our sister, become the mother of many thousands of children. May your

descendants take possession of their enemies cities."

⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her maids left. Riding on camels, they followed the man. The servant took Rebekah and left.

⁶² Isaac had just come back from Beer Lahai Roi, since he was living in the Negev.

⁶³ Toward evening Isaac went out into the field to meditate. When he looked up, he saw camels coming.

⁶⁴ When Rebekah saw Isaac, she got down from her camel.

⁶⁵ She asked the servant, "Who is that man over there coming through the field to meet us?" "That is my master," the servant answered. Then she took her veil and covered herself.

⁶⁶ The servant reported to Isaac everything he had done.

⁶⁷ Isaac took her into his mother Sarah's tent. He married Rebekah. She became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

25¹ Abraham married again, and his wife's name was Keturah.

²Keturah gave birth to these sons of Abraham: Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

³Jokshan was the father of Sheba and Dedan. Dedans descendants were the Assyrians, the Letushites, and the Leummites.

⁴The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoah, Abida, and Eldaah. These were the descendants of Keturah.

⁵Abraham left everything he had to Isaac.

⁶But while he was still living, Abraham had given gifts to the sons of his concubines. He sent them away from his son Isaac to a land in the east.

⁷Abraham lived 175 years.

⁸Then he took his last breath, and died at a very old age. After a long and full life, he joined his ancestors in death.

⁹His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah in the field of Ephron, son of Zohar the Hittite. The cave is east of Mamre.

¹⁰This was the field that Abraham had bought from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried with his wife Sarah.

¹¹ After Abraham died, God blessed his son Isaac, who settled near Beer Lahai Roi.

¹² This is the account of the descendants of Abrahams son Ishmael. He was the son of Sarahs Egyptian slave Hagar and Abraham.

¹³ These are the names of the sons of Ishmael listed in the order of their birth: Nebaioth (Ishmaels firstborn), Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

¹⁴ Mishma, Dumah, Massa,

¹⁵ Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah.

¹⁶ These are the sons of Ishmael and their names listed by their settlements and camps¹² leaders of their tribes.

¹⁷ Ishmael lived 137 years. Then he took his last breath and died. He joined his ancestors in death.

¹⁸ His descendants lived as nomads from the region of Havilah to Shur, which is near Egypt, in the direction of Assyria. They all fought with each other.

¹⁹ This is the account of Abrahams son Isaac and his descendants. Abraham was the father of Isaac.

²⁰ Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean.

²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife because she was childless. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant.

²² When the children inside her were struggling with each other, she said, "If its like this now, what will become of me?" So she went to ask the LORD.

²³ The LORD said to her, "Two countries are in your womb. Two nations will go their separate ways from birth. One nation will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger."

²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, she had twins.

²⁵ The first one born was red. His whole body was covered with hair, so they named him Esau [Hairy].

²⁶ Afterwards, his brother was born with his hand holding on to Esaus heel, and so he was named Jacob [Heel]. Isaac was 60 years old when they were born.

²⁷ They grew up. Esau became an expert hunter, an outdoorsman. Jacob

remained a quiet man, staying around the tents.

²⁸ Because Isaac liked to eat the meat of wild animals, he loved Esau. However, Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Once, Jacob was preparing a meal when Esau, exhausted, came in from outdoors.

³⁰ So Esau said to Jacob, "Let me have the whole pot of red stuff to eat that red stuff I'm exhausted." This is why he was called Edom.

³¹ Jacob responded, "First, sell me your rights as firstborn."

³² "I'm about to die," Esau said. "What good is my inheritance to me?"

³³ "First, swear an oath," Jacob said. So Esau swore an oath to him and sold him his rights as firstborn.

³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau a meal of bread and lentils. He ate and drank, and then he got up and left. This is how Esau showed his contempt for his rights as firstborn.

26¹ There was a famine in the land in addition to the earlier one during Abraham's time. So Isaac went to King Abimelech of the Philistines in Gerar.

²The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, "Don't go to Egypt. Stay where I tell you.

³Live here in this land for a while, and I will be with you and bless you. I will give all these lands to you and your descendants. I will keep the oath that I swore to your father Abraham.

⁴I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and give all these lands to your descendants. Through your descendant all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

⁵I will bless you because Abraham obeyed me and completed the duties, commands, laws, and instructions I gave him."

⁶So Isaac lived in Gerar.

⁷When the men of that place asked about his wife, Isaac answered, "She's my sister." He was afraid to say "my wife." He thought that the men of that place would kill him to get Rebekah, because she was an attractive woman.

⁸When he had been there a long time, King Abimelech of the Philistines looked out of his window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah.

⁹Abimelech called for Isaac and said, "So shes really your wife! How could you say, Shes my sister?" Isaac answered him, "I thought I would be killed because of her."

¹⁰Then Abimelech said, "What have you done to us! One of the people might have easily gone to bed with your wife, and then you would have made us guilty of sin."

¹¹So Abimelech ordered his people, "Anyone who touches this man or his wife will be put to death."

¹²Isaac planted crops in that land. In that same year he harvested a hundred times as much as he had planted because the LORD had blessed him.

¹³He continued to be successful, becoming very rich.

¹⁴Because he owned so many flocks, herds, and servants, the Philistines became jealous of him.

¹⁵So the Philistines filled in all the wells that his fathers servants had dug during his father Abrahams lifetime.

¹⁶Finally, Abimelech said to Isaac, "Go away from us! Youve become more powerful than we are."

¹⁷ So Isaac moved away. He set up his tents in the Gerar Valley and lived there.

¹⁸ He dug out the wells that had been dug during his father Abrahams lifetime. The Philistines had filled them in after Abrahams death. He gave them the same names that his father had given them.

¹⁹ Isaacs servants dug in the valley and found a springfed well.

²⁰ The herders from Gerar quarreled with Isaacs herders, claiming, "This water is ours!" So Isaac named the well Esek [Argument], because they had argued with him.

²¹ Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that one too. So Isaac named it Sitnah [Accusation].

²² He moved on from there and dug another well. They didnt quarrel over this one. So he named it Rehoboth [Roomy] and said, "Now the LORD has made room for us, and we will prosper in this land."

²³ He went from there to Beersheba.

²⁴ That night the LORD appeared to Isaac, and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Dont be afraid, because I am with you. I will bless you and

increase the number of your descendants for my servant Abrahams sake."

²⁵ So Isaac built an altar there and worshiped the LORD. He also pitched his tent in that place, and his servants dug a well there.

²⁶ Abimelech, his friend Ahuzzath, and Phicol, the commander of his army, came from Gerar to see Isaac.

²⁷ Isaac asked them, "Why have you come to me, since you hate me and sent me away from you?"

²⁸ They answered, "We have seen that the LORD is with you. So we thought, There should be a solemn agreement between us. We'd like to make an agreement with you

²⁹ that you will not harm us, since we have not touched you. We have done only good to you and let you go in peace. Now you are blessed by the LORD."

³⁰ Isaac prepared a special dinner for them, and they ate and drank.

³¹ Early the next morning they exchanged oaths. Then Isaac sent them on their way, and they left peacefully.

³²That same day Isaacs servants came and told him about a well they had dug. They said to him, "Weve found water."

³³So he named it Shibah [Oath]. That is why the name of the city is still Beersheba today.

³⁴When Esau was 40 years old, he married Judith, daughter of Beerli the Hittite. He also married Basemath, daughter of Elon the Hittite.

³⁵These women brought Isaac and Rebekah a lot of grief.

27 ¹When Isaac was old and going blind, he called his older son Esau and said to him, "Son!" Esau answered, "Here I am."

²Isaac said, "Im old. I dont know when Im going to die.

³Now take your hunting equipment, your quiver and bow, and go out into the open country and hunt some wild game for me.

⁴Prepare a goodtasting meal for me, just the way I like it. Bring it to me to eat so that I will bless you before I die."

⁵Rebekah was listening while Isaac was speaking to his son Esau. When Esau

went into the open country to hunt for some wild game to bring back,

⁶Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "I've just heard your father speaking to your brother Esau.

⁷He said, Bring me some wild game, and prepare a goodtasting meal for me to eat so that I will bless you in the presence of the LORD before I die.

⁸Now listen to me, Son, and do what I tell you.

⁹Go to the flock, and get me two good young goats. I'll prepare them as a goodtasting meal for your father, just the way he likes it.

¹⁰Then take it to your father to eat so that he will bless you before he dies."

¹¹Jacob said to his mother Rebekah, "My brother Esau is a hairy man, and my skin is smooth.

¹²My father will feel my skin and think I'm mocking him. Then I'll bring a curse on myself instead of a blessing."

¹³His mother responded, "Let any curse on you fall on me, Son. Just obey me and go! Get me the young goats."

¹⁴He went and got them and brought them to his mother. She prepared a

goodtasting meal, just the way his father liked it.

¹⁵Then Rebekah took her older son Esau's good clothes, which she had in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob.

¹⁶She put the skins from the young goats on his hands and on the back of his neck.

¹⁷Then she gave her son Jacob the goodtasting meal and the bread she had prepared.

¹⁸He went to his father and said, "Father?" "Yes?" he answered. "Who are you, Son?"

¹⁹Jacob answered his father, "I'm Esau, your firstborn. I've done what you told me. Sit up and eat this meat I've hunted for you so that you may bless me."

²⁰Isaac asked his son, "How did you find it so quickly, Son?" "The LORD your God brought it to me," he answered.

²¹Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come over here so that I can feel your skin, Son, to find out whether or not you really are my son Esau."

²² So Jacob went over to his father. Isaac felt his skin. "The voice is Jacobs," he said, "but the hands are Esaus."

²³ He didnt recognize Jacob, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esaus hands. So he blessed him.

²⁴ "Are you really my son Esau?" he asked him. "I am," Jacob answered.

²⁵ Isaac said, "Bring me some of the game, and I will eat it, Son, so that I will bless you." Jacob brought it to Isaac, and he ate it. Jacob also brought him wine, and he drank it.

²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come here and give me a kiss, Son."

²⁷ He went over and gave him a kiss. When Isaac smelled his clothes, he blessed him and said, "The smell of my son is like the smell of open country that the LORD has blessed.

²⁸ May God give you dew from the sky, fertile fields on the earth, and plenty of fresh grain and new wine.

²⁹ May nations serve you. May people bow down to you. Be the master of your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those

who curse you be cursed. May those who bless you be blessed."

³⁰ Isaac finished blessing Jacob. Jacob had barely left when his brother Esau came in from hunting.

³¹ He, too, prepared a goodtasting meal and brought it to his father. Then he said to his father, "Please, Father, eat some of the meat I've hunted for you so that you will bless me."

³² "Who are you?" his father Isaac asked him. "I'm your firstborn son Esau," he answered.

³³ Trembling violently all over, Isaac asked, "Who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it before you came in. I blessed him, and he will stay blessed."

³⁴ When Esau heard these words from his father, he shouted out a very loud and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me too, Father!"

³⁵ Isaac said, "Your brother came and deceived me and has taken away your blessing."

³⁶ Esau said, "Isn't that why he's named Jacob? He's cheated me twice already: He took my rights as firstborn, and now

hes taken my blessing." So he asked, "Havent you saved a blessing for me?"

³⁷ Isaac answered Esau, "I have made him your master, and I have made all his brothers serve him. Ive provided fresh grain and new wine for him. What is left for me to do for you, Son?"

³⁸ Esau asked, "Do you have only one blessing, Father? Bless me too, Father!" And Esau sobbed loudly.

³⁹ His father Isaac answered him, "The place where you live will lack the fertile fields of the earth and the dew from the sky above.

⁴⁰ You will use your sword to live, and you will serve your brother. But eventually you will gain your freedom and break his yoke off your neck."

⁴¹ So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing that his father had given him. Esau said to himself, "The time to mourn for my father is near. Then Ill kill my brother Jacob."

⁴² When Rebekah was told what her older son Esau had said, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, "Watch out! Your brother Esau is

comforting himself by planning to kill you.

⁴³ So now, Son, obey me. Quick! Run away to my brother Laban in Haran.

⁴⁴ Stay with him awhile, until your brothers anger cools down.

⁴⁵ When your brothers anger is gone and he has forgotten what you did to him, I'll send for you and get you back. Why should I lose both of you in one day?"

⁴⁶ Rebekah said to Isaac, "I can't stand Hittite women! If Jacob marries a Hittite woman like one of those from around here, I might as well die."

28¹ Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him. Then he commanded him, "You are not to marry any of the Canaanite women.

² Quick! Go to Paddan Aram. Go to the home of Bethuel, your mother's father, and get yourself a wife from there from the daughters of your uncle Laban.

³ May God Almighty bless you, make you fertile, and increase the number of your descendants so that you will become a community of people.

⁴May he give to you and your descendants the blessing of Abraham so that you may take possession of the land where you are now living, the land that God gave to Abraham."

⁵Isaac sent Jacob to Paddan Aram. Jacob went to live with Laban, son of Bethuel the Aramean and brother of Rebekah. She was the mother of Jacob and Esau.

⁶Esau learned that Isaac had blessed Jacob and had sent him away to Paddan Aram to get a wife from there. He learned that Isaac had blessed Jacob and had commanded him not to marry any of the Canaanite women.

⁷He also learned that Jacob had obeyed his father and mother and had left for Paddan Aram.

⁸Esau realized that his father Isaac disapproved of Canaanite women.

⁹So he went to Ishmael and married Mahalath, daughter of Abrahams son Ishmael and sister of Nebaioth, in addition to the wives he had.

¹⁰Jacob left Beersheba and traveled toward Haran.

¹¹ When he came to a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had gone down. He took one of the stones from that place, put it under his head, and lay down there.

¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway set up on the earth with its top reaching up to heaven. He saw the angels of God going up and coming down on it.

¹³ The LORD was standing above it, saying, "I am the LORD, the God of your grandfather Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give the land on which you are lying to you and your descendants.

¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust on the earth. You will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. Through you and through your descendant every family on earth will be blessed.

¹⁵ Remember, I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go. I will also bring you back to this land because I will not leave you until I do what I've promised you."

¹⁶Then Jacob woke up from his sleep and exclaimed, "Certainly, the LORD is in this place, and I didn't know it!"

¹⁷Filled with awe, he said, "How aweinspiring this place is! Certainly, this is the house of God and the gateway to heaven!"

¹⁸Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had put under his head. He set it up as a marker and poured olive oil on top of it.

¹⁹He named that place Bethel [House of God]. Previously, the name of the city was Luz.

²⁰Then Jacob made a vow: "If God will be with me and will watch over me on my trip and give me food to eat and clothes to wear,

²¹and if I return safely to my father's home, then the LORD will be my God.

²²This stone that I have set up as a marker will be the house of God, and I will surely give you a tenth of everything you give me."

29¹ Jacob continued on his trip and came to the land in the east.

²He looked around, and out in a field he saw a well with a large stone over

the opening. Three flocks of sheep were lying down near it, because the flocks were watered from that well.

³When all the flocks were gathered there, the stone would be rolled off the opening of the well so that the sheep could be watered. Then the stone would be put back in place over the opening of the well.

⁴Jacob asked some people, "My friends, where are you from?" "Were from Haran," they replied.

⁵He asked them, "Do you know Laban, Nahors grandson?" They answered, "We do."

⁶"How is he doing?" Jacob asked them. "Hes fine," they answered. "Here comes his daughter Rachel with the sheep."

⁷"Its still the middle of the day," he said. "It isnt time yet to gather the livestock. Water the sheep. Then let them graze."

⁸They replied, "We cant until all the flocks are gathered. When the stone is rolled off the opening of the well, we can water the sheep."

⁹While he was still talking to them, Rachel arrived with her fathers sheep, because she was a shepherd.

¹⁰Jacob saw Rachel, daughter of his uncle Laban, with his uncle Labans sheep. He came forward and rolled the stone off the opening of the well and watered his uncle Labans sheep.

¹¹Then Jacob kissed Rachel and sobbed loudly.

¹²When Jacob told Rachel that he was her fathers nephew and that he was Rebekahs son, she ran and told her father.

¹³As soon as Laban heard the news about his sisters son Jacob, he ran to meet him. He hugged and kissed him and brought him into his home. Then Jacob told Laban all that had happened.

¹⁴Laban said to him, "You are my own flesh and blood." Jacob stayed with him for a whole month.

¹⁵Then Laban said to him, "Just because youre my relative doesnt mean that you should work for nothing. Tell me what your wages should be."

¹⁶ Laban had two daughters. The name of the older one was Leah, and the name of the younger one was Rachel.

¹⁷ Leah had attractive eyes, but Rachel had a beautiful figure and beautiful features.

¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel. So he offered, "I'll work seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel."

¹⁹ Laban responded, "It's better that I give her to you than to any other man. Stay with me."

²⁰ Jacob worked seven years in return for Rachel, but the years seemed like only a few days to him because he loved her.

²¹ At the end of the seven years Jacob said to Laban, "The time is up; give me my wife! I want to sleep with her."

²² So Laban invited all the people of that place and gave a wedding feast.

²³ In the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob. Jacob slept with her. When morning came, he realized it was Leah.

²⁴ (Laban had given his slave Zilpah to his daughter Leah as her slave.)

²⁵ "What have you done to me?" Jacob asked Laban. "Didn't I work for you in return for Rachel? Why did you cheat me?"

²⁶ Laban answered, "It's not our custom to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one.

²⁷ Finish the week of wedding festivities with this daughter. Then we will give you the other one too. But you'll have to work for me another seven years."

²⁸ That's what Jacob did. He finished the week with Leah. Then Laban gave his daughter Rachel to him as his wife.

²⁹ (Laban had given his slave Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her slave.)

³⁰ Jacob slept with Rachel too. He loved Rachel more than Leah. So he worked for Laban another seven years.

³¹ When the LORD saw Leah was unloved, he made it possible for her to have children, but Rachel had none.

³² Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben [Here's My Son], because she said, "Certainly, the LORD has seen my misery; now my husband will love me!"

³³ She became pregnant again and gave birth to another son. She said, "Certainly, the LORD has heard that I'm unloved, and he also has given me this son." So she named him Simeon [Hearing].

³⁴ She became pregnant again and gave birth to another son. She said, "Now at last my husband will become attached to me because I've given him three sons." So she named him Levi [Attached].

³⁵ She became pregnant again and gave birth to another son. She said, "This time I will praise the LORD." So she named him Judah [Praise]. Then she stopped having children.

30¹ Rachel saw that she could not have children for Jacob, and she became jealous of her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I'll die!"

² Jacob became angry with Rachel and asked, "Can I take the place of God, who has kept you from having children?"

³ She said, "Here's my servant Bilhah. Sleep with her. She can have children for me, and I can build a family for myself through her."

⁴ So she gave him her slave Bilhah as his wife, and Jacob slept with her.

⁵ Bilhah became pregnant, and she gave birth to a son for Jacob.

⁶ Rachel said, "Now God has judged in my favor. He has heard my prayer and has given me a son." So she named him Dan [He Judges].

⁷ Rachels slave Bilhah became pregnant again and gave birth to a second son for Jacob.

⁸ Rachel said, "I have had a great struggle with my sister, and I have won!" So she named him Naphtali [My Struggle].

⁹ When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she took her slave Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as his wife.

¹⁰ Leahs slave Zilpah gave birth to a son for Jacob.

¹¹ Leah said, "I've been lucky!" So she called him Gad [Luck].

¹² Leahs slave Zilpah gave birth to her second son for Jacob.

¹³ Leah said, "I've been blessed! Women will call me blessed." So she named him Asher [Blessing].

¹⁴ During the wheat harvest Reuben went out into the fields and found some mandrakes. He brought them to his mother Leah. Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your sons mandrakes."

¹⁵ Leah replied, "Isn't it enough that you took my husband? Are you also going to take my sons mandrakes?" Rachel said, "Very well, Jacob can go to bed with you tonight in return for your sons mandrakes."

¹⁶ As Jacob was coming in from the fields that evening, Leah went out to meet him. "You are to sleep with me," she said. "You are my reward for my sons mandrakes." So he went to bed with her that night.

¹⁷ God answered Leah's prayer. She became pregnant and gave birth to her fifth son for Jacob.

¹⁸ Leah said, "God has given me my reward because I gave my slave to my husband." So she named him Issachar [Reward].

¹⁹ She became pregnant again and gave birth to her sixth son for Jacob.

²⁰Leah said, "God has presented me with a beautiful present. This time my husband will honor me because I have given him six sons." So she named him Zebulun [Honor].

²¹Later she gave birth to a daughter and named her Dinah.

²²Then God remembered Rachel. God answered her prayer and made it possible for her to have children.

²³So she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. Then she said, "God has taken away my disgrace."

²⁴She named him Joseph [May He Give Another] and said, "May the LORD give me another son."

²⁵After Rachel gave birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Let me go home to my own country.

²⁶Give me my wives and my children for whom I've worked, and let me go. You know how much work I've done for you."

²⁷Laban replied, "Listen to me. I've learned from the signs I've seen that the LORD has blessed me because of you."

²⁸So he offered, "Name your wages, and I'll pay them."

²⁹ Jacob responded, "You know how much work I've done for you and what has happened to your livestock under my care.

³⁰ The little that you had before I came has grown to a large amount. The LORD has blessed you wherever I've been. When can I do something for my own family?"

³¹ Laban asked, "What should I give you?" "Don't give me anything," Jacob answered. "Instead, do something for me, then I'll go back to taking care of and watching your flocks again.

³² Let me go through all of your flocks today and take every speckled or spotted sheep, every black lamb, and every spotted or speckled goat. They will be my wages.

³³ My honesty will speak for itself whenever you come to check on my wages. Any goat I have that isn't speckled or spotted or any lamb that isn't black will be considered stolen."

³⁴ Laban answered, "Agreed. We'll do as you've said."

³⁵ However, that same day Laban took out the striped and spotted male goats,

all the speckled and spotted female goats (every one with white on it), and every black lamb. He had his sons take charge of them.

³⁶He traveled three days away from Jacob. Jacob continued to take care of the rest of Labans flocks.

³⁷Then Jacob took freshcut branches of poplar, almond, and plane trees and peeled the bark on them in strips of white, uncovering the white which was on the branches.

³⁸He placed the peeled branches in the troughs directly in front of the flocks, at the watering places where the flocks came to drink. When they were in heat and came to drink,

³⁹they mated in front of the branches. Then they gave birth to young that were striped, speckled, or spotted.

⁴⁰Jacob separated the rams from the flock and made the rest of the sheep face any that were striped or black in Labans flocks. So he made separate herds for himself and did not add them to Labans flocks.

⁴¹Whenever the stronger of the flocks were in heat, Jacob would lay the

branches in the troughs in front of them so that they would mate by the branches.

⁴² But when the flocks in heat were weak, he didn't lay down the branches. So the weaker ones belonged to Laban and the stronger ones to Jacob.

⁴³ As a result, Jacob became very wealthy. He had large flocks, male and female slaves, camels, and donkeys.

31 ¹ Jacob heard that Laban's sons were saying, "Jacob has taken everything that belonged to our father and has gained all his wealth from him."

² He also noticed that Laban did not appear as friendly to him as before.

³ Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Go back to the land of your ancestors and to your relatives, and I will be with you."

⁴ So Jacob sent a message to Rachel and Leah to come out to the open country where his flocks were.

⁵ He said to them, "I have seen that your father isn't as friendly to me as he was before, but the God of my father has been with me.

⁶ You know that I have worked as hard as I could for your father.

⁷Your father has cheated me. He has changed my wages ten times. But God hasn't let him harm me.

⁸Whenever he said, The speckled ones will be your wages, all the flocks gave birth to speckled young. And whenever he said, The striped ones will be your wages, all the flocks gave birth to striped young.

⁹So God has taken away your father's livestock and has given them to me.

¹⁰"During the mating season I had a dream: I looked up and saw that the male goats which were mating were striped, speckled, or spotted.

¹¹In the dream the Messenger of God called to me, Jacob! And I answered, Yes, here I am.

¹²He said, Look up and see that all the male goats which are mating are striped, speckled, or spotted, because I have seen everything that Laban is doing to you.

¹³I am the God who appeared to you at Bethel, where you poured olive oil on a stone marker for a holy purpose and where you made a vow to me. Now

leave this land, and go back to the land of your relatives."

¹⁴Rachel and Leah answered him, "Is there anything left in our fathers household for us to inherit?

¹⁵Doesnt he think of us as foreigners? Not only did he sell us, but he has used up the money that was paid for us.

¹⁶Certainly, all the wealth that God took away from our father belongs to us and our children. Now do whatever God has told you."

¹⁷Then Jacob put his children and his wives on camels.

¹⁸He drove all his livestock ahead of him and took all the possessions that he had accumulated. He took his own livestock that he had accumulated in Paddan Aram and went back to his father Isaac in Canaan.

¹⁹When Laban went to shear his sheep, Rachel stole her fathers idols.

²⁰Jacob also tricked Laban the Aramean by not telling him he was leaving.

²¹So he left in a hurry with all that belonged to him. He crossed the Euphrates River and went toward the mountains of Gilead.

²²Two days later Laban was told that Jacob had left in a hurry.

²³He and his relatives pursued Jacob for seven days. Laban caught up with him in the mountains of Gilead.

²⁴God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream at night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything at all to Jacob."

²⁵When Laban finally caught up with Jacob, Jacob had put up his tents in the mountains. So Laban and his relatives put up their tents in the mountains of Gilead.

²⁶Then Laban asked Jacob, "What have you done by tricking me? Youve carried off my daughters like prisoners of war.

²⁷Why did you leave secretly and trick me? You didnt even tell me you were leaving. I would have sent you on your way rejoicing, with songs accompanied by tambourines and lyres.

²⁸You didnt even let me kiss my grandchildren and my daughters. Youve done a foolish thing.

²⁹I have the power to harm you. Last night the God of your father said to me,

Be careful not to say anything at all to Jacob.

³⁰Now you have left for your fathers home because you were so homesick. But why did you steal my gods?"

³¹Jacob answered Laban, "I left because I was afraid. I thought you would take your daughters away from me by force.

³²If you find your gods, the one who has them will not be allowed to live. In the presence of our relatives, search as much as you want through what I have, and take what is yours." (Jacob didnt know that Rachel had stolen the gods.)

³³So Laban went into Jacobs tent, into Leahs tent, and into the tent of the two slaves. But he found nothing. He came out of Leahs tent and went into Rachels tent.

³⁴Rachel had taken the idols and had put them in her camels saddlebag and was sitting on them. Laban rummaged through the whole tent but found nothing.

³⁵Rachel said to her father, "Dont be angry, Father, but I cant get up to greet you; Im having my period." So even

though Laban had made a thorough search, he didnt find the idols.

³⁶Then Jacob became angry and confronted Laban. "What is my crime?" Jacob demanded of Laban. "What is my offense that you have come chasing after me?

³⁷Now that youve rummaged through all my things, did you find anything from your house? Put it here in front of all our relatives. Let them decide which one of us is right.

³⁸"Ive been with you for 20 years. Your sheep and goats never miscarried, and I never ate any rams from your flocks.

³⁹I never brought you any of the flock that was killed by wild animals. I paid for the loss myself. Thats what you demanded of me when any of the flock was stolen during the day or at night.

⁴⁰The scorching heat during the day and the cold at night wore me down, and I lost a lot of sleep.

⁴¹Ive been with your household 20 years now. I worked for you 14 years for your two daughters and 6 years for your flocks, and you changed my wages ten times.

⁴² If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, you would have sent me away emptyhanded by now. God has seen my misery and hard work, and last night he made it right."

⁴³ Then Laban answered Jacob, "These are my daughters, my grandchildren, and my flocks. Everything you see is mine! Yet, what can I do today for my daughters or for their children?"

⁴⁴ Now, lets make an agreement and let it stand as a witness between you and me."

⁴⁵ Jacob took a stone and set it up as a marker.

⁴⁶ Then Jacob said to his relatives, "Gather some stones." They took stones, put them into a pile, and ate there by the pile of stones.

⁴⁷ In his language Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha [Witness Pile], but Jacob called it Galeed.

⁴⁸ Laban said, "This pile of stones stands as a witness between you and me today." This is why it was named Galeed

⁴⁹ and also Mizpah [Watchtower], because he said, "May the LORD watch

between you and me when were unable to see each other.

⁵⁰If you mistreat my daughters or marry other women behind my back, remember that God stands as a witness between you and me."

⁵¹Laban said to Jacob, "Here is the pile of stones, and here is the marker that I have set up between you and me.

⁵²This pile of stones and this marker stand as witnesses that I will not go past the pile of stones to harm you, and that you will not go past the pile of stones or marker to harm me.

⁵³May the God of Abraham and Nahor the God of their father judge between us." So Jacob swore this oath by the Fear of his father Isaac

⁵⁴and offered a sacrifice on the mountain. He invited his relatives to eat the meal with him. They ate with him and spent the night on the mountain.

⁵⁵Early the next morning Laban kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then Laban left and went back home.

32¹ As Jacob went on his way, Gods angels met him.

²When he saw them, Jacob said, "This is Gods camp!" He named that place Mahanaim [Two Camps].

³Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau in Seir, the country of Edom.

⁴He commanded them to give this message to Esau, "Sir, this is what Jacob has to say, Ive been living with Laban and have stayed until now.

⁵I have cattle and donkeys, sheep and goats, and male and female slaves. Ive sent these messengers to tell you this news in order to win your favor."

⁶When the messengers came back to Jacob, they said, "We went to your brother Esau. He is coming to meet you with 400 men."

⁷Jacob was terrified and distressed. So he divided the people, the sheep and goats, the cattle, and the camels into two camps.

⁸He thought, "If Esau attacks the one camp, then the other camp will be able to escape."

⁹Then Jacob prayed, "God of my grandfather Abraham and God of my father Isaac! LORD, you said to me, Go

back to your land and to your relatives, and I will make you prosperous.

¹⁰Im not worthy of all the love and faithfulness you have shown me. I only had a shepherds staff when I crossed the Jordan River, but now I have two camps.

¹¹Please save me from my brother Esau, because Im afraid of him. Im afraid that hell come and attack me and the mothers and children too.

¹²But you did say, I will make sure that you are prosperous and that your descendants will be as many as the grains of sand on the seashore. No one will be able to count them because there are so many."

¹³He stayed there that night. Then he prepared a gift for his brother Esau from what he had brought with him:

¹⁴200 female goats and 20 male goats, 200 female sheep and 20 male sheep,

¹⁵30 female camels with their young, 40 cows and 10 bulls, 20 female donkeys and 10 male donkeys.

¹⁶He placed servants in charge of each herd. Then he said to his servants, "Go ahead of me, and keep a distance between the herds."

¹⁷ He commanded the first servant, "When my brother Esau meets you and asks you, To whom do you belong, and where are you going, and whose animals are these ahead of you?

¹⁸ then say, Sir, they belong to your servant Jacob. This is a gift sent to you. Jacob is right behind us."

¹⁹ He also commanded the second servant, the third, and all the others who followed the herds. He said, "Say the same thing to Esau when you find him.

²⁰ And be sure to add, Jacob is right behind us, sir." He thought, "I'll make peace with him by giving him this gift that I'm sending ahead of me. After that I will see him, and he'll welcome me back."

²¹ So Jacob sent the gift ahead of him while he stayed in the camp that night.

²² During that night he got up and gathered his two wives, his two slaves and his eleven children and crossed at the shallow part of the Jabbok River.

²³ After he sent them across the stream, he sent everything else across.

²⁴ So Jacob was left alone. Then a man wrestled with him until dawn.

²⁵ When the man saw that he could not win against Jacob, he touched the socket of Jacobs hip so that it was dislocated as they wrestled.

²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go; its almost dawn." But Jacob answered, "I wont let you go until you bless me."

²⁷ So the man asked him, "Whats your name?" "Jacob," he answered.

²⁸ The man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob but Israel [He Struggles With God], because you have struggled with God and with men and you have won."

²⁹ Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." The man answered, "Why do you ask for my name?" Then he blessed Jacob there.

³⁰ So Jacob named that place Peniel [Face of God], because he said, "I have seen God face to face, but my life was saved."

³¹ The sun rose as he passed Penuel. He was limping because of his hip.

³² (Therefore, even today the people of Israel do not eat the muscle of the thigh attached to the hip socket because God

touched the socket of Jacobs hip at the muscle of the thigh.)

33¹ Jacob saw Esau coming with 400 men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two slaves.

² He put the slaves and their children in front, Leah and her children after them, and Rachel and Joseph last.

³ He went on ahead of them and bowed seven times with his face touching the ground as he came near his brother.

⁴ Then Esau ran to meet Jacob. Esau hugged him, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. They both cried.

⁵ When he saw the women and children, Esau asked, "Who are these people here with you?" "The children God has graciously given me, sir," Jacob answered.

⁶ Then the slaves and their children came forward and bowed down.

⁷ Likewise, Leah and her children came forward and bowed down. Finally, Joseph and Rachel came forward and bowed down.

⁸ Then Esau asked, "Why did you send this whole group of people and animals I

met?" He answered, "To win your favor, sir."

⁹Esau said, "I have enough. Keep what you have, Brother."

¹⁰Jacob said, "No, please take the gift I'm giving you, because I've seen your face as if I were seeing the face of God, and yet you welcomed me so warmly."

¹¹Please take the present I've brought you, because God has been gracious to me and has given me all that I need." So Esau took it because Jacob insisted.

¹²Then Esau said, "Let's get ready to go, and I'll go with you."

¹³Jacob said to him, "Sir, you know that the children are frail and that I have to take care of the flocks and cattle that are nursing their young. If they're driven too hard for even one day, all the flocks will die."

¹⁴Go ahead of me, sir. I will slowly and gently guide the herds that are in front of me at their pace and at the children's pace until I come to you in Seir."

¹⁵Esau said, "Then let me leave some of my men with you." "Why do that?" Jacob asked. "I only want to win your favor, sir."

¹⁶That day Esau started back to Seir.

¹⁷But Jacob moved on to Succoth, where he built a house for himself and made shelters for his livestock. That is why the place is named Succoth [Shelters].

¹⁸So having come from Paddan Aram, Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem in Canaan. He camped within sight of the city.

¹⁹Then he bought the piece of land on which he had put up his tents. He bought it from the sons of Hamor, father of Shechem, for 100 pieces of silver.

²⁰He set up an altar there and named it God Is the God of Israel.

34¹ Dinah, daughter of Leah and Jacob, went out to visit some of the Canaanite women.

²When Shechem, son of the local ruler Hamor the Hivite, saw her, he took her and raped her.

³He became very fond of Jacobs daughter Dinah. He loved the girl and spoke tenderly to her.

⁴So Shechem said to his father Hamor, "Get me this girl for my wife."

⁵Jacob heard that Shechem had dishonored his daughter Dinah. His sons were with his livestock out in the open country, so Jacob kept quiet until they came home.

⁶So Shechems father Hamor came to Jacob to speak with him.

⁷Jacobs sons came in from the open country as soon as they heard the news. The men felt outraged and very angry because Shechem had committed such a godless act against Israels family by raping Jacobs daughter. This shouldnt have happened.

⁸Hamor told them. "My son Shechem has his heart set on your daughter. Please let her marry him.

⁹Intermarry with us; give your daughters to us, and take ours for yourselves.

¹⁰You can live with us, and the land will be yours. Live here, move about freely in this area, and acquire property here."

¹¹Then Shechem said to Dinahs father and her brothers, "Do me this favor. Ill give you whatever you ask.

¹²Set the price I must pay for the bride and the gift I must give her as high as

you want. Ill pay exactly what you tell me. Give me the girl as my wife."

¹³Then Jacobs sons gave Shechem and his father Hamor a misleading answer because he had dishonored their sister Dinah.

¹⁴They said, "We cant do this. We cant give our sister to a man who is uncircumcised. That would be a disgrace to us!

¹⁵We will give our consent to you only on one condition: Every male must be circumcised as we are.

¹⁶Then well give our daughters to you and take yours for ourselves, and well live with you and become one people.

¹⁷If you wont agree to be circumcised, well take our daughter and go."

¹⁸Their proposal seemed good to Hamor and his son Shechem.

¹⁹The young man didnt waste any time in doing what they said because he took such pleasure in Jacobs daughter. He was the most honored person in all his fathers family.

²⁰So Hamor and his son Shechem went to their city gate to speak to the men of their city. They said,

²¹ "These people are friendly toward us, so let them live in our land and move about freely in the area. Look, theres plenty of room in this land for them. We can marry their daughters and let them marry ours.

²² These people will consent to live with us and become one nation on one condition: Every male must be circumcised as they are.

²³ Wont their livestock, their personal property, and all their animals be ours? We only need to agree to do this for them. Then theyll live with us."

²⁴ All the men who had come out to the city gate agreed with Hamor and his son Shechem. So they were all circumcised at the city gate.

²⁵ Two days later, while the men were still in pain, two of Jacobs sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinahs brothers, took their swords and boldly attacked the city. They killed every man

²⁶ including Hamor and his son Shechem. They took Dinah from Shechems home and left.

²⁷ Then Jacob's sons stripped the corpses and looted the city where their sister had been dishonored.

²⁸ They took the sheep and goats, cattle, donkeys, and whatever else was in the city or out in the fields.

²⁹ They carried off all the wealth and all the women and children and looted everything in the houses.

³⁰ Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have caused me a lot of trouble! You've made the people living in the area, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, hate me. There are only a few of us. If they join forces against me and attack me, my family and I will be wiped out."

³¹ Simeon and Levi asked, "Should Shechem have been allowed to treat our sister like a prostitute?"

35¹ Then God said to Jacob, "Go to Bethel and live there. Make an altar there. I am the God who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau."

² So Jacob said to his family and those who were with him, "Get rid of the foreign gods which you have, wash

yourselves until you are ritually clean, and change your clothes.

³Then lets go to Bethel. I will make an altar there to God, who answered me when I was troubled and who has been with me wherever Ive gone."

⁴So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods that they had in their possession as well as the earrings that they had on. Jacob buried these things under the oak tree near Shechem.

⁵As they moved on, God made the people of the cities that were all around them terrified so that no one pursued them.

⁶Jacob and all the people who were with him came to Luz (that is, Bethel) in the land of Canaan.

⁷He built an altar there and called that place El Bethel [God of the House of God]. Thats where God had revealed himself to Jacob when he was fleeing from his brother.

⁸Rebekahs nurse Deborah died and was buried under the oak tree outside Bethel. So Jacob called it the Tree of Crying.

⁹Then God appeared once more to Jacob after he came back from Paddan Aram, and he blessed him.

¹⁰God said to him, "Your name is Jacob. You will no longer be called Jacob, but your name will be Israel." So he named him Israel.

¹¹God also said to him, "I am God Almighty. Be fertile, and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will come from you.

¹²I will give you the land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac. I will also give this land to your descendants."

¹³Then God went up from him at the place where he had spoken with him.

¹⁴So Jacob set up a memorial, a stone marker, to mark the place where God had spoken with him. He poured a wine offering and olive oil on it.

¹⁵Jacob named the place where God had spoken with him Bethel [House of God].

¹⁶Then they moved on from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor and was having severe labor pains.

¹⁷ During one of her pains, the midwife said to her, "Don't be afraid! You're having another son!"

¹⁸ Rachel was dying. As she took her last breath, she named her son Benoni [Son of My Sorrow], but his father named him Benjamin [Son of My Right Hand].

¹⁹ Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).

²⁰ Then Jacob set up a stone as a marker for her grave. The same marker is at Rachel's grave today.

²¹ Israel moved on again and put up his tent beyond Migdal Eder.

²² While Israel was living in that region, Reuben went to bed with his father's concubine Bilhah, and Israel heard about it. Jacob had 12 sons.

²³ The sons of Leah were Jacob's firstborn Reuben, then Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.

²⁴ The sons of Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin.

²⁵ The sons of Rachel's slave Bilhah were Dan and Naphtali.

²⁶The sons of Leahs slave Zilpah were Gad and Asher. These were Jacobs sons, who were born in Paddan Aram.

²⁷Jacob came home to his father Isaac to Mamres city, Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron). Abraham and Isaac had lived there for a while.

²⁸Isaac was 180 years old

²⁹when he took his last breath and died. He joined his ancestors in death at a very old age. His sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

36¹This is the account of Esau (that is, Edom) and his descendants.

²Esau chose his wives from the women of Canaan: Adah, daughter of Elon the Hittite; Oholibamah, daughter of Anah and granddaughter of Zibeon the Hivite;

³also Basemath, daughter of Ishmael and sister of Nebaioth.

⁴Adah gave birth to Eliphaz for Esau, and Basemath gave birth to Reuel.

⁵Oholibamah gave birth to Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. These were the sons of Esau who were born in Canaan.

⁶Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, all the members of his household, his possessions, all his cattle,

and everything he had accumulated in Canaan and went to another land away from his brother Jacob.

⁷He did this because they had too many possessions to live together. There wasn't enough pastureland for all of their livestock.

⁸So Esau, who was also known as Edom, lived in the mountains of Seir.

⁹This is the account of Esau and his descendants. He was the father of the people of Edom in the mountains of Seir.

¹⁰These were the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz, son of Esau's wife Adah, and Reuel, son of Esau's wife Basemath.

¹¹The sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.

¹²Timna was a concubine of Esau's son Eliphaz. She gave birth to Amalek for Eliphaz. These were the grandsons of Esau's wife Adah.

¹³These were Reuel's sons: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These were the grandsons of Esau's wife Basemath.

¹⁴These were the sons of Esau's wife Oholibamah, daughter of Anah and

granddaughter of Zibea. She gave birth to Jeush, Jalam, and Korah for Esau.

¹⁵These were the tribal leaders among Esau's descendants: The sons of Eliphaz, Esau's firstborn, were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Kenaz,

¹⁶Korah, Gatam, and Amalek. These were the tribal leaders descended from Eliphaz in Edom. They were the grandsons of Adah.

¹⁷These were the tribal leaders among the descendants of Esau's son Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These were the tribal leaders descended from Reuel in Edom. They were the grandsons of Esau's wife Basemath.

¹⁸These were the tribal leaders among the descendants of Esau's wife Oholibamah: Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. These were the tribal leaders descended from Esau's wife Oholibamah, Anah's daughter.

¹⁹These were the descendants of Esau (that is, Edom), who were tribal leaders.

²⁰These were the sons of Seir the Horite, the people living in that land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibea, Anah,

²¹ Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. These Horite tribal leaders were the sons of Seir in Edom.

²² The sons of Lotan were Hori and Hemam. Lotan's sister was Timna.

²³ These were the sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.

²⁴ These were the sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah. (Anah found the hot springs in the desert while he was taking care of the donkeys that belonged to his father Zibeon.)

²⁵ These were the children of Anah: Dishon and Oholibamah, daughter of Anah.

²⁶ These were the sons of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.

²⁷ These were the sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan.

²⁸ These were the sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.

²⁹ These were the Horite tribal leaders: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah,

³⁰ Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. These were the Horite tribal leaders in the land of Seir.

³¹ These were the kings who ruled Edom before any king ruled the people of Israel:

³² Bela, son of Beor, ruled Edom. The name of his capital city was Dinhabah.

³³ After Bela died, Jobab, son of Zerah from Bozrah, succeeded him as king.

³⁴ After Jobab died, Husham from the land of the Temanites succeeded him as king.

³⁵ After Husham died, Hadad, son of Bedad succeeded him as king. Hadad defeated the Midianites in the country of Moab. The name of his capital city was Avith.

³⁶ After Hadad died, Samlah from Masrekah succeeded him as king.

³⁷ After Samlah died, Shaul from Rehoboth on the river succeeded him as king.

³⁸ After Shaul died, Baal Hanan, son of Achbor, succeeded him as king.

³⁹ After Baal Hanan, son of Achbor, died, Hadar succeeded him as king, and the name of his capital city was Pau. His wife's name was Mehetabel, daughter of Matred and granddaughter of Mezahab.

⁴⁰These were the names of the tribal leaders descended from Esau, by family, place, and name: Timna, Alvah, Jetheth,

⁴¹Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon,

⁴²Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar,

⁴³Magdiel, and Iram. These were the tribal leaders of Edom listed by the places where they lived and the property they owned. Esau was the father of the people of Edom.

37 ¹Jacob continued to live in the land of Canaan, where his father had lived.

²This is the account of Jacob and his descendants. Joseph was a seventeenyearold young man. He took care of the flocks with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his fathers wives. Joseph told his father about the bad things his brothers were doing.

³Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons because Joseph had been born in Israels old age. So he made Joseph a special robe with long sleeves.

⁴Josephs brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them. They hated Joseph and couldnt speak to him on friendly terms.

⁵ Joseph had a dream and when he told his brothers, they hated him even more.

⁶ He said to them, "Please listen to the dream I had.

⁷ We were tying grain into bundles out in the field, and suddenly mine stood up. It remained standing while your bundles gathered around my bundle and bowed down to it."

⁸ Then his brothers asked him, "Are you going to be our king or rule us?" They hated him even more for his dreams and his words.

⁹ Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream: I saw the sun, the moon, and 11 stars bowing down to me."

¹⁰ When he told his father and his brothers, his father criticized him by asking, "Whats this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers come and bow down in front of you?"

¹¹ So his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept thinking about these things.

¹² His brothers had gone to take care of their fathers flocks at Shechem.

¹³Israel then said to Joseph, "Your brothers are taking care of the flocks at Shechem. Im going to send you to them." Joseph responded, "Ill go."

¹⁴So Israel said, "See how your brothers and the flocks are doing, and bring some news back to me." Then he sent Joseph away from the Hebron Valley. When Joseph came to Shechem,

¹⁵a man found him wandering around in the open country. "What are you looking for?" the man asked.

¹⁶Joseph replied, "Im looking for my brothers. Please tell me where theyre taking care of their flocks."

¹⁷The man said, "They moved on from here. I heard them say, Lets go to Dothan." So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

¹⁸They saw him from a distance. Before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

¹⁹They said to each other, "Look, here comes that master dreamer!

²⁰Lets kill him, throw him into one of the cisterns, and say that a wild animal has eaten him. Then well see what happens to his dreams."

²¹ When Reuben heard this, he tried to save Joseph from their plot. "Let's not kill him," he said.

²² "Let's not have any bloodshed. Put him into that cistern that's out in the desert, but don't hurt him." Reuben wanted to rescue Joseph from them and bring him back to his father.

²³ So when Joseph reached his brothers, they stripped him of his special robe with long sleeves.

²⁴ Then they took him and put him into an empty cistern. It had no water in it.

²⁵ As they sat down to eat, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were carrying the materials for cosmetics, medicine, and embalming. They were on their way to take them to Egypt.

²⁶ Judah asked his brothers, "What will we gain by killing our brother and covering up his death?"

²⁷ "Let's sell him to the Ishmaelites. Let's not hurt him, because he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

²⁸ As the Midianite merchants were passing by, the brothers pulled Joseph

out of the cistern. They sold him to the Ishmaelites for eight ounces of silver. The Ishmaelites took him to Egypt.

²⁹When Reuben came back to the cistern and saw that Joseph was no longer there, he tore his clothes in grief.

³⁰He went back to his brothers and said, "The boy isn't there! What am I going to do?"

³¹So they took Joseph's robe, killed a goat, and dipped the robe in the blood.

³²Then they brought the special robe with long sleeves to their father and said, "We found this. You better examine it to see whether it's your son's robe or not."

³³He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! A wild animal has eaten him! Joseph must have been torn to pieces!"

³⁴Then, to show his grief, Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth around his waist, and mourned for his son a long time.

³⁵All his other sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. He said, "No, I will mourn for my son until I die." This is how Joseph's father cried over him.

³⁶Meanwhile, in Egypt the Midianites sold Joseph to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials and captain of the guard.

38¹About that time Judah left his brothers and went to stay with a man from Adullam whose name was Hirah.

²There Judah met the daughter of a Canaanite man whose name was Shua. He married her and slept with her.

³She became pregnant and gave birth to a son named Er.

⁴She became pregnant again and gave birth to another son, whom she named Onan.

⁵Then she became pregnant again and gave birth to another son, whom she named Shelah. He was born at Kezib.

⁶Judah chose a wife for his firstborn son Er. Her name was Tamar.

⁷Er angered the LORD. So the LORD took away his life.

⁸Then Judah said to Onan, "Go sleep with your brother's widow. Do your duty for her as a brother-in-law, and produce a descendant for your brother."

⁹But Onan knew that the descendant wouldn't belong to him, so whenever he

slept with his brothers widow, he wasted his semen on the ground to avoid giving his brother a descendant.

¹⁰What Onan did angered the LORD so much that the LORD took away Onans life too.

¹¹Then Judah said to his daughterinlaw Tamar, "Return to your fathers home. Live as a widow until my son Shelah grows up." He thought that this son, too, might die like his brothers. So Tamar went to live in her fathers home.

¹²After a long time Judahs wife, the daughter of Shua, died. When Judah had finished mourning, he and his friend Hirah from Adullam went to Timnah where the men were shearing Judahs sheep.

¹³As soon as Tamar was told that her fatherinlaw was on his way to Timnah to shear his sheep,

¹⁴she took off her widows clothes, covered her face with a veil, and disguised herself. Then she sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. (She did this because she realized that Shelah was grown up

now, and she hadnt been given to him in marriage.)

¹⁵When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute because she had covered her face.

¹⁶Since he didnt know she was his daughterinlaw, he approached her by the roadside and said, "Come on, lets sleep together!" She asked, "What will you pay to sleep with me?"

¹⁷"Ill send you a young goat from the flock," he answered. She said, "First give me something as a deposit until you send it."

¹⁸"What should I give you as a deposit?" he asked. "Your signet ring, its cord, and the shepherds staff thats in your hand," she answered. So he gave them to her. Then he slept with her, and she became pregnant.

¹⁹After she got up and left, she took off her veil and put her widows clothes back on.

²⁰Judah sent his friend Hirah to deliver the young goat so that he could get back his deposit from the woman, but his friend couldnt find her.

²¹ He asked the men of that area, "Wheres that prostitute who was beside the road at Enaim?" "Theres no prostitute here," they answered.

²² So he went back to Judah and said, "I couldnt find her. Even the men of that area said, Theres no prostitute here."

²³ Then Judah said, "Let her keep what I gave her, or well become a laughingstock. After all, I did send her this young goat, but you couldnt find her."

²⁴ About three months later Judah was told, "Your daughterinlaw Tamar has been acting like a prostitute. Whats more, because of it shes pregnant." Judah ordered, "Bring her out to be burned."

²⁵ As she was brought out, she sent a message to her fatherinlaw, "Im pregnant by the man who owns these things. See if you recognize whose signet ring, cord, and shepherds staff these are."

²⁶ Judah recognized them and said, "Shes not guilty. I am! She did this because I havent given her my son

Shelah." Judah never made love to her again.

²⁷The time came for Tamar to give birth, and she had twin boys.

²⁸When she was giving birth, one of them put out his hand. The midwife took a piece of red yarn, tied it on his wrist, and said, "This one came out first."

²⁹As he pulled back his hand, his brother was born. So she said, "Is this how you burst into the world!" He was named Perez [Bursting Into].

³⁰After that his brother was born with the red yarn on his hand. He was named Zerah [Sunrise].

39¹ Joseph had been taken to Egypt. Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's Egyptian officials and captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

²The LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. He worked in the house of his Egyptian master.

³Joseph's master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made everything he did successful.

⁴Potiphar liked Joseph so much that he made him his trusted servant. He

put him in charge of his household and everything he owned.

⁵From that time on the LORD blessed the Egyptians household because of Joseph. Therefore, the LORDS blessing was on everything Potiphar owned in his house and in his fields.

⁶So he left all that he owned in Josephs care. He wasnt concerned about anything except the food he ate. Joseph was wellbuilt and handsome.

⁷After a while his masters wife began to desire Joseph, so she said, "Come to bed with me."

⁸But Joseph refused and said to her, "My master doesnt concern himself with anything in the house. He trusts me with everything he owns.

⁹No one in this house is greater than I Hes kept nothing back from me except you, because youre his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"

¹⁰Although she kept asking Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or be with her.

¹¹ One day he went into the house to do his work, and none of the household servants were there.

¹² She grabbed him by his clothes and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he ran outside and left his clothes in her hand.

¹³ When she realized that he had gone but had left his clothes behind,

¹⁴ she called her household servants and said to them, "Look! My husband brought this Hebrew here to fool around with us. He came in and tried to go to bed with me, but I screamed as loud as I could.

¹⁵ As soon as he heard me scream, he ran outside and left his clothes with me."

¹⁶ She kept Josephs clothes with her until his master came home.

¹⁷ Then she told him the same story: "The Hebrew slave you brought here came in and tried to fool around with me.

¹⁸ But when I screamed, he ran outside and left his clothes with me."

¹⁹ When Potiphar heard his wifes story, especially when she said, "This is what your slave did to me," he became very angry.

²⁰ So Josephs master arrested him and put him in the same prison where the kings prisoners were kept. While Joseph was in prison,

²¹ the LORD was with him. The LORD reached out to him with his unchanging love and gave him protection. The LORD also put Joseph on good terms with the warden.

²² So the warden placed Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in that prison. Joseph became responsible for everything that they were doing.

²³ The warden paid no attention to anything under Josephs care because the LORD was with Joseph and made whatever he did successful.

40¹ Later the kings cupbearer and his baker offended their master, the king of Egypt.

² Pharaoh was angry with his chief cupbearer and his chief baker.

³ He put them in the prison of the captain of the guard, the same place where Joseph was a prisoner.

⁴ The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he took care of

them. After they had been confined for some time,

⁵both prisonersthe cupbearer and the baker for the king of EGYPT had dreams one night. Each man had a dream with its own special meaning.

⁶When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were upset.

⁷So he asked these officials of Pharaoh who were with him in his masters prison, "Why do you look so unhappy today?"

⁸"We both had dreams," they answered him, "but theres no one to tell us what they mean." "Isnt God the only one who can tell what they mean?" Joseph asked them. "Why dont you tell me all about them."

⁹So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said "In my dream a grapevine with three branches appeared in front of me.

¹⁰Soon after it sprouted it blossomed. Then its clusters ripened into grapes.

¹¹Pharaohs cup was in my hand, so I took the grapes and squeezed them into it. I put the cup in Pharaohs hand."

¹²"This is what it means," Joseph said to him. "The three branches are three days.

¹³In the next three days Pharaoh will release you and restore you to your position. You will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand as you used to do when you were his cupbearer.

¹⁴Remember me when things go well for you, and please do me a favor. Mention me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this prison.

¹⁵I was kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I've done nothing to deserve being put in this prison."

¹⁶The chief baker saw that the meaning Joseph had given to the cupbearers' dream was good. So he said to Joseph, "I had a dream too. In my dream three baskets of white baked goods were on my head.

¹⁷The top basket contained all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head."

¹⁸"This is what it means," Joseph replied. "The three baskets are three days.

¹⁹In the next three days Pharaoh will cut off your head and hang your dead body on a pole. The birds will eat the flesh from your bones."

²⁰Two days later, on his birthday, Pharaoh had a special dinner prepared for all his servants. Of all his servants he gave special attention to the chief cupbearer and the chief baker.

²¹He restored the chief cupbearer to his position. So the cupbearer put the cup in Pharaohs hand.

²²But he hung the chief baker just as Joseph had said in his interpretation.

²³Nevertheless, the chief cupbearer didnt remember Joseph. He forgot all about him.

41 ¹After two full years Pharaoh had a dream. He dreamed he was standing by the Nile River.

²Suddenly, seven nicelooking, wellfed cows came up from the river and began to graze among the reeds.

³Seven other cows came up from the river behind them. These cows were

sickly and skinny. They stood behind the first seven cows on the riverbank.

⁴The cows that were sickly and skinny ate the seven nice-looking, well-fed cows. Then Pharaoh woke up.

⁵He fell asleep again and had a second dream. Seven good, healthy heads of grain were growing on a single stalk.

⁶Seven other heads of grain, thin and scorched by the east wind, sprouted behind them.

⁷The thin heads of grain swallowed the seven full, healthy heads. Then Pharaoh woke up. It was only a dream.

⁸In the morning he was so upset that he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could tell him what they meant.

⁹Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh, "I remember a promise I failed to keep.

¹⁰Some time ago when Pharaoh was angry with his servants, he confined me and the chief baker to the captain of the guards prison.

¹¹We both had dreams the same night. Each dream had its own meaning.

¹²A young Hebrew, a slave of the captain of the guard, was with us. We told him our dreams, and he told each of us what they meant.

¹³What he told us happened: Pharaoh restored me to my position, but he hung the baker on a pole."

¹⁴Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and immediately he was brought from the prison. After he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came in front of Pharaoh.

¹⁵Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can tell me what it means. I heard that when you are told a dream, you can say what it means."

¹⁶Joseph answered Pharaoh, "I cant, but God can give Pharaoh the answer that he needs."

¹⁷Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "In my dream I was standing on the bank of the Nile.

¹⁸Suddenly, seven nicelooking, wellfed cows came up from the river and began to graze among the reeds.

¹⁹Seven other cows came up behind them. These cows were scrawny, very sick, and thin. Ive never seen such sickly cows in all of Egypt!

²⁰The thin, sickly cows ate up the seven wellfed ones.

²¹Even though they had eaten them, no one could tell they had eaten them. They looked just as sick as before. Then I woke up.

²²"In my second dream I saw seven good, full heads of grain growing on a single stalk.

²³Seven other heads of grain, withered, thin, and scorched by the east wind, sprouted behind them.

²⁴The thin heads of grain swallowed the seven good heads. I told this to the magicians, but no one could tell me what it meant."

²⁵Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Pharaoh had the same dream twice. God has told Pharaoh what hes going to do.

²⁶The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years. Its all the same dream.

²⁷The seven thin, sickly cows that came up behind them are seven years. The seven empty heads of grain scorched by the east wind are also seven years. Seven years of famine are coming.

²⁸"Its just as I said to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what hes going to do.

²⁹Seven years are coming when there will be plenty of food in Egypt.

³⁰After them will come seven years of famine. People will forget that there was plenty of food in Egypt, and the famine will ruin the land.

³¹People wont remember that there once was plenty of food in the land, because the coming famine will be so severe.

³²The reason Pharaoh has had a recurring dream is because the matter has been definitely decided by God, and he will do it very soon.

³³"Pharaoh should look for a wise and intelligent man and put him in charge of Egypt.

³⁴Make arrangements to appoint supervisors over the land to take a fifth of Egypts harvest during the seven good years.

³⁵Have them collect all the food during these good years and store up grain under Pharaohs control, to be kept for food in the cities.

³⁶ This food will be a reserve supply for our country during the seven years of famine that will happen in Egypt. Then the land will not be ruined by the famine."

³⁷ Pharaoh and all his servants liked the idea.

³⁸ So Pharaoh asked his servants, "Can we find anyone like thisa man who has Gods Spirit in him?"

³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Because God has let you know all this, there is no one as wise and intelligent as you.

⁴⁰ You will be in charge of my palace, and all my people will do what you say. I will be more important than you, only because Im Pharaoh."

⁴¹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I now put you in charge of Egypt."

⁴² Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring and put it on Josephs finger. He had Joseph dressed in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.

⁴³ He had him ride in the chariot of the secondincommand. Men ran ahead of him and shouted, "Make way!" Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of Egypt.

⁴⁴ He also said to Joseph, "Even though I am Pharaoh, no one anywhere in Egypt will do anything without your permission."

⁴⁵ Pharaoh named Joseph Zaphenathpaneah and gave him Asenath as his wife. She was the daughter of Potiphera, priest from the city of On. Joseph traveled around Egypt.

⁴⁶ Joseph was 30 years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh (the king of Egypt). He left Pharaoh and traveled all around Egypt.

⁴⁷ During the seven good years the land produced large harvests.

⁴⁸ Joseph collected all the food grown in Egypt during those seven years and put this food in the cities. In each city he put the food from the fields around it.

⁴⁹ Joseph stored up grain in huge quantities like the sand on the seashore. He had so much that he finally gave up keeping any records because he couldn't measure it all.

⁵⁰ Before the years of famine came, Joseph had two sons by Asenath, daughter of Potiphera, priest from the city of On.

⁵¹ Joseph named his firstborn son Manasseh [He Helps Me Forget], because God helped him forget all his troubles and all about his father's family.

⁵² He named the second son Ephraim [Blessed Twice With Children], because God gave him children in the land where he had suffered.

⁵³ The seven years when there was plenty of food in Egypt came to an end.

⁵⁴ Then the seven years of famine began as Joseph had said they would. All the other countries were experiencing famine. Yet, there was food in Egypt.

⁵⁵ When everyone in Egypt began to feel the effects of the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food. But Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph! Do what he tells you!"

⁵⁶ When the famine had spread all over the country, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians. He did this because the famine was severe in Egypt.

⁵⁷ The whole world came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, since the famine was so severe all over the world.

42¹ When Jacob found out that grain was for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you keep looking at each other?"

² I've heard there's grain for sale in Egypt. Go there and buy some for us so that we won't starve to death."

³ Ten of Joseph's brothers went to buy grain in Egypt.

⁴ Jacob wouldn't send Joseph's brother Benjamin with the other brothers, because he was afraid that something would happen to him.

⁵ Israel's sons left with the others who were going to buy grain, because there was also famine in Canaan.

⁶ As governor of the country, Joseph was selling grain to everyone. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed in front of him with their faces touching the ground.

⁷ As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them. But he acted as if he didn't know them and spoke harshly to them. "Where did you come from?" he asked them. "From Canaan, to buy food," they answered.

⁸Even though Joseph recognized his brothers, they didnt recognize him.

⁹Then he remembered the dreams he once had about them. "Youre spies!" he said to them, "And youve come to find out where our country is unprotected."

¹⁰"No, sir!" they answered him. "Weve come to buy food.

¹¹Were all sons of one man. Were honest men, not spies."

¹²He said to them, "No! Youve come to find out where our country is unprotected."

¹³They answered him, "We were 12 brothers, sons of one man in Canaan. The youngest brother stayed with our father, and the other one is no longer with us."

¹⁴"Its just as I told you," Joseph said to them. "Youre spies!

¹⁵This is how youll be tested: I solemnly swear, as surely as Pharaoh lives, that you wont leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here.

¹⁶One of you must be sent to get your brother while the rest of you stay in prison. Well see if youre telling the truth.

If not, I solemnly swear, as surely as Pharaoh lives, you are spies!"

¹⁷Then he put them in jail for three days.

¹⁸On the third day Joseph said to them, "Do this, and you will live. I, too, fear God.

¹⁹If you are honest men, you will let one of your brothers stay here in prison. The rest of you will go and take grain back to your starving families.

²⁰But you must bring me your youngest brother. This will show that you've been telling the truth. Then you won't die." So they agreed.

²¹They said to each other, "We're surely being punished for what we did to our brother. We saw how troubled he was when he pleaded with us for mercy, but we wouldn't listen. That's why we're in trouble now."

²²Reuben said to them, "Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn't listen. Now we must pay for this bloodshed."

²³They didn't know that Joseph could understand them, because he was speaking through an interpreter.

²⁴ He stepped away from them to cry. When he could speak to them again, he came back. Then he picked Simeon and had him arrested right in front of their eyes.

²⁵ Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain. He put each mans money back into his sack and gave them supplies for their trip. After their bags were filled,

²⁶ they loaded their grain on their donkeys and left.

²⁷ At the place where they stopped for the night, one of them opened his sack to feed his donkey. His money was right inside his sack.

²⁸ He said to his brothers, "My money has been put back! Its right here in my sack!" They wanted to die. They trembled and turned to each other and asked, "What has God done to us?"

²⁹ When they came to their father Jacob in Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them. They said,

³⁰ "The governor of that land spoke harshly to us and treated us like spies.

³¹ But we said to him, Were honest men, not spies.

³²We were 12 brothers, sons of the same father. One is no longer with us. The youngest brother stayed with our father in Canaan.

³³"Then the governor of that land said to us, This is how I'll know that you're honest men: Leave one of your brothers with me. Take food for your starving families and go.

³⁴But bring me your youngest brother. Then I'll know that you're not spies but honest men. I'll give your brother back to you, and you'll be able to move about freely in this country."

³⁵As they were emptying their sacks, each man found his bag of money in his sack. When they and their father saw the bags of money, they were frightened.

³⁶Their father Jacob said to them, "You're going to make me lose all my children! Joseph is no longer with us, Simeon is no longer with us, and now you want to take Benjamin. Everything's against me!"

³⁷So Reuben said to his father, "You may put my two sons to death if I don't bring him back to you. Let me take care of him, and I'll bring him back to you."

³⁸Jacob replied, "My son will not go with you. His brother is dead, and he's the only one left. If any harm comes to him on the trip you're taking, the grief would drive this grayhaired old man to his grave!"

43¹The famine was severe in the land.

²When they finished eating the grain they had brought from Egypt, Israel said to his sons, "Go back and buy us a little more food."

³Judah said to him, "The man gave us a severe warning: You won't be allowed to see me again unless your brother is with you."

⁴If you let our brother go with us, we'll go and buy food for you.

⁵If you won't let him go, we won't go. The man said to us, "You won't be allowed to see me again unless your brother is with you."

⁶Israel asked, "Why have you made trouble for me by telling the man you had another brother?"

⁷They answered, "The man kept asking about us and our family: Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?"

We simply answered his questions. How could we possibly know he would say, Bring your brother here?"

⁸Then Judah said to his father Israel, "Send the boy along with me. Lets get going so that we wont starve to death.

⁹I guarantee that he will come back. You can hold me responsible for him. If I dont bring him back to you and place him here in front of you, you can blame me the rest of my life.

¹⁰If we hadnt waited so long, we could have made this trip twice by now."

¹¹Then their father Israel said to them, "If thats the way it has to be, then take the man a gift. Put some of the best products of the land in your bags. Take a little balm, a little honey, gum, myrrh, pistachio nuts, and almonds.

¹²Take twice as much money with you. You must return the money that was put back in your sacks. Maybe it was a mistake.

¹³Take your brother, and go back to the man.

¹⁴May God Almighty make him merciful to you so that he will send your other

brother and Benjamin home with you. If I lose my children, I lose my children."

¹⁵The men took the gifts, twice as much money, and Benjamin. They went to Egypt, where they presented themselves to Joseph.

¹⁶When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the man in charge of his house, "Take these men to my house. Butcher an animal, and prepare a meal, because they are going to eat with me at noon."

¹⁷So the man did as Joseph said and took them to Josephs house.

¹⁸The men were frightened, because they had been brought to Josephs house. They thought, "Weve been brought here because of the money that was put back into our sacks the first time. Theyre going to attack us, overpower us, take our donkeys, and make us slaves."

¹⁹So they came to the man in charge of Josephs house and spoke to him at the door.

²⁰"Please, sir," they said, "we came here to buy food once before.

²¹When we stopped for the night, we opened our sacks, and each man found

all of his money inside. So we brought it back with us.

²²We also brought more money to buy food. We have no idea who put our money back in our sacks."

²³"Its alright," he said. "Dont be afraid! Your God, the God of your father, must have given you treasure in your sacks. I received your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them.

²⁴The man took the brothers into Josephs house. He gave them water to wash their feet and feed for their donkeys.

²⁵They got their gifts ready for Josephs return at noon, because they had heard they were going to eat there.

²⁶When Joseph came home, they gave him the gifts they had brought to the house. Then they bowed to him with their faces touching the ground.

²⁷He asked them how they were. Then he said, "You told me about your elderly father. How is he? Is he still alive?"

²⁸They answered, "Yes, sir. Our father is alive and well." Then they knelt, bowing down.

²⁹As Joseph looked around, he saw his brother Benjamin, his mothers son. "Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?" he asked. "God be gracious to you, my son," he said.

³⁰Deeply moved at the sight of his brother, he hurried away, looking for a place to cry. He went into his private room and cried there.

³¹Then he washed his face and came out. He was in control of his emotions when he said, "Serve the food."

³²He was served separately from his brothers. The Egyptians who were there with him were also served separately, because they found it offensive to eat with Hebrews.

³³The brothers were seated facing him according to their ages from the oldest to the youngest. They looked at each other in amazement.

³⁴Joseph had portions of food brought to them from his table, but Benjamins portion was five times more than any of the others. So they ate and drank with Joseph until they were drunk.

44¹ Joseph commanded the man in charge of his house, "Fill the

mens sacks with as much food as they can carry. Put each mans money in his sack.

²Then put my silver cup in the youngest brothers sack along with the money for his grain." He did what Joseph told him.

³At dawn the men were sent on their way with their donkeys.

⁴They had not gone far from the city when Joseph said to the man in charge of his house, "Go after those men at once, and when you catch up with them, say to them, Why have you paid me back with evil when I was good to you?

⁵Isnt this the cup that my master drinks from and that he uses for telling the future? What you have done is evil!"

⁶When he caught up with them, he repeated these words to them.

⁷They answered him, "Sir, how can you say such things? We would never think of doing anything like that!

⁸We brought the money we found in our sacks back from Canaan. So why would we steal any silver or gold from your masters house?

⁹If one of us has it, he will die, and the rest of us will become your slaves."

¹⁰"I agree," he said. "Well do what youve said. The man who has the cup will be my slave, and the rest of you can go free."

¹¹Each one quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it.

¹²Then the man made a thorough search. He began with the oldest and ended with the youngest. The cup was found in Benjamins sack.

¹³When they saw this, they tore their clothes in grief. Then each one loaded his donkey and went back into the city.

¹⁴Judah and his brothers arrived at Josephs house while Joseph was still there. Immediately, they bowed with their faces touching the ground.

¹⁵Joseph asked them, "What have you done? Dont you know that a man like me can find things out because he knows the future?"

¹⁶"Sir, what can we say to you?" Judah asked. "How else can we explain it? How can we prove were innocent? God has uncovered our guilt. Now all of us are your slaves, including the one who had the cup."

¹⁷ But Joseph said, "I would never think of doing that! Only the man who had the cup will be my slave. The rest of you can go back to your father in peace."

¹⁸ Then Judah went up to Joseph and said, "Please, sir, let me speak openly with you. Don't be angry with me, although you are equal to Pharaoh."

¹⁹ Sir, you asked us, Do you have a father or a brother?

²⁰ We answered, We have a father who is old and a younger brother born to him when he was already old. The boy's brother is dead, so he's the only one of his mother's sons left, and his father loves him.

²¹ "Then you said to us, Bring him here to me so that I can see him myself."

²² We replied, The boy can't leave his father. If the boy leaves him, his father will die.

²³ Then you told us, If your youngest brother doesn't come here with you, you will never be allowed to see me again.

²⁴ When we went back to our father, we told him what you had said.

²⁵ "Then our father said, Go back and buy us a little more food."

²⁶We answered, We cant go back. We can only go back if our youngest brother is with us. The man wont see us unless our youngest brother is with us.

²⁷"Then our father said to us, You know that my wife Rachel gave me two sons.

²⁸One is gone, and I said, "He must have been torn to pieces!" I havent seen him since.

²⁹If you take this one away from me too and anything happens to him, youll drive this grayhaired old man to his grave.

³⁰"Our fathers life is wrapped up with the boys life. If I come home without the boy

³¹and he sees that the boy isnt with me, hell die. The grief would drive our grayhaired old father to his grave.

³²"I guaranteed my father that the boy would come back. I said, If I dont bring him back to you, then you can blame me the rest of my life, Father.

³³Sir, please let me stay and be your slave in the boys place, and let the boy go back with his brothers.

³⁴How could I go back to my father if the boy isn't with me? I couldn't bear to see my father's misery!"

45¹ Joseph could no longer control his emotions in front of everyone who was standing around him, so he cried out, "Have everyone leave me!" No one else was there when Joseph told his brothers who he was.

²He cried so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" His brothers could not answer him because they were afraid of him.

⁴"Please come closer to me," Joseph said to his brothers. When they did so, he said, "I am Joseph, the brother you sold into slavery in Egypt!"

⁵Now, don't be sad or angry with yourselves that you sold me. God sent me ahead of you to save lives.

⁶The famine has been in the land for two years. There will be five more years without plowing or harvesting.

⁷God sent me ahead of you to make sure that you would have descendants

on the earth and to save your lives in an amazing way.

⁸It wasn't you who sent me here, but God. He has made me like a father to Pharaoh, lord over his entire household, and ruler of Egypt.

⁹"Hurry back to my father, and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says, "God has made me lord of Egypt. Come here to me right away!"

¹⁰Live in the land of Goshen, where you will be near me. Live there with your children and your grandchildren, as well as your flocks, your herds, and everything you have.

¹¹I will provide for you in Egypt, since there will be five more years of famine. Then you, your family, and all who belong to you won't lose everything."

¹²"You and my brother Benjamin can see for yourselves that I am the one who is speaking to you.

¹³Tell my father how greatly honored I am in Egypt and about everything you have seen. Hurry and bring my father here!"

¹⁴He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and cried with Benjamin, who was crying on his shoulder.

¹⁵He kissed all his brothers and cried with them. After that his brothers talked with him.

¹⁶When Pharaohs household heard the news that Josephs brothers had come, Pharaoh and his officials were pleased.

¹⁷So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, Load up your animals, and go back to Canaan.

¹⁸Take your father and your families, and come to me. I will give you the best land in Egypt. Then you can enjoy the best food in the land.

¹⁹"Give them this order: Take wagons with you from Egypt for your children and your wives. Bring your father, and come back.

²⁰Dont worry about your belongings because the best of everything in Egypt is yours."

²¹Israels sons did as they were told. Joseph gave them wagons and supplies for their trip as Pharaoh had ordered.

²²He gave each of them a change of clothes, but he gave Benjamin three

hundred pieces of silver and five changes of clothes.

²³ He sent his father ten male donkeys carrying Egypt's best products and ten female donkeys carrying grain, bread, and food for his father's trip.

²⁴ So Joseph sent his brothers on their way. As they were leaving, he said to them, "Don't quarrel on your way back!"

²⁵ So they left Egypt and came to their father Jacob in Canaan.

²⁶ They told him, "Joseph is still alive! Yes, he is ruler of Egypt." Jacob was stunned and didn't believe them.

²⁷ Yet, when they told their father everything Joseph had said to them and he saw the wagons Joseph had sent to bring him back, his spirits were lifted.

²⁸ "You have convinced me!" Israel said. "My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

46¹ Israel moved with all he had. When he came to Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

² God spoke to Israel in a vision that night and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" "Here I am," he answered.

³"I am God, the God of your father," he said. "Don't be afraid to go to Egypt, because I will make you a great nation there.

⁴I will go with you to Egypt, and I will make sure you come back again. Joseph will close your eyes when you die."

⁵So Jacob left Beersheba. Israel's sons put their father Jacob, their children, and their wives in the wagons Pharaoh had sent to bring him back.

⁶They also took their livestock and the possessions they had accumulated in Canaan. Jacob and all his family arrived in Egypt.

⁷He had brought his sons, his grandsons, his daughters, and his granddaughtershis entire family.

⁸These are the names of Israel's descendants (Jacob and his descendants) who arrived in Egypt. Reuben was Jacob's firstborn.

⁹The sons of Reuben were Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

¹⁰The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman.

¹¹ The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

¹² The sons of Judah were Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah. (Er and Onan had died in Canaan.) The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul.

¹³ The sons of Issachar were Tola, Puvah, Iob, and Shimron.

¹⁴ The sons of Zebulun were Sered, Elon, and Jahleel.

¹⁵ These were the descendants of the sons Leah gave to Jacob in Paddan Aram, in addition to his daughter Dinah. The total number of these sons and daughters was 33.

¹⁶ The sons of Gad were Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli.

¹⁷ The sons of Asher were Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, and Beriah. Their sister was Serah. The sons of Beriah were Heber and Malchiel.

¹⁸ These were the descendants of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to his daughter Leah. She gave birth to these children for Jacob. The total was 16.

¹⁹ The sons of Jacobs wife Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin.

²⁰In Egypt, Manasseh and Ephraim were born to Joseph by Asenath, daughter of Potiphera, priest from the city of On.

²¹The sons of Benjamin were Bela, Beker, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muphim, Huphim, and Ard.

²²These were the descendants of Rachel who were born to Jacob. The total was 14.

²³The son of Dan was Hushim.

²⁴The sons of Naphtali were Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.

²⁵These were the descendants of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to his daughter Rachel. She gave birth to these sons for Jacob. The total was 7.

²⁶The total number of Jacobs direct descendants who went with him to Egypt was 66. This didnt include the wives of Jacobs sons.

²⁷Joseph had two sons who were born in Egypt. The grand total of people in Jacobs household who went to Egypt was 70.

²⁸Israel sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to get directions to Goshen.

When Israels family arrived in the region of Goshen,

²⁹ Joseph prepared his chariot and went to meet his father Israel. As soon as he saw his father, he threw his arms around him and cried on his shoulder a long time.

³⁰ Israel said to Joseph, "Now that I've seen for myself that you're still alive, I'm ready to die."

³¹ Then Joseph said to his brothers and his father's family, "I'm going to Pharaoh to tell him, My brothers and my father's family, who were in Canaan, have come to me.

³² The men are shepherds. They take care of livestock. They've brought their flocks and herds and everything they own.

³³ Now, when Pharaoh calls for you and asks, What kind of work do you do?

³⁴ you must answer, We have taken care of herds all our lives, as our ancestors have done. You must say this so that you may live in the region of Goshen, because all shepherds are disgusting to Egyptians."

47 ¹ Joseph went and told Pharaoh, "My father and my brothers have arrived from Canaan with their flocks, herds, and everything they have. Now they are in Goshen."

² Since he had taken five of his brothers with him, he presented them to Pharaoh.

³ Pharaoh asked the brothers, "What kind of work do you do?" They answered Pharaoh, "We are shepherds, as were our ancestors."

⁴ We have come to live in this land for a while. The famine is so severe in Canaan that there's no pasture for our flocks. So please let us live in Goshen."

⁵ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you."

⁶ All of Egypt is available to you. Have your father and your brothers live in the best part of the land. Let them live in Goshen. If they are qualified, put them in charge of my livestock."

⁷ Then Joseph brought his father Jacob and had him stand in front of Pharaoh. Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

⁸ Pharaoh asked him, "How old are you?"

⁹ Jacob answered Pharaoh, "The length of my stay on earth has been 130 years. The years of my life have been few and difficult, fewer than my ancestors years."

¹⁰ Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh and left.

¹¹ As Pharaoh had ordered, Joseph had his father and his brothers live in the best part of Egypt, the region of Rameses. He gave them property there.

¹² Joseph also provided his father, his brothers, and all his fathers family with food based on the number of children they had.

¹³ The famine was so severe that there was no food anywhere. Neither Egypt nor Canaan were producing crops because of the famine.

¹⁴ Joseph collected all the money that could be found in Egypt and in Canaan as payment for the grain people bought. Then he took it to Pharaohs palace.

¹⁵ When the money in Egypt and Canaan was gone, all the Egyptians came to Joseph. "Give us food," they said. "Do you want us to die right in front of you? We dont have any more money!"

¹⁶Joseph replied, "If you dont have any more money, give me your livestock, and Ill give you food in exchange."

¹⁷So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and he gave them food in exchange for their horses, sheep, goats, cattle, and donkeys. During that year he supplied them with food in exchange for all their livestock.

¹⁸When that year was over, they came to him the next year. "Sir," they said to him, "you know that our money is gone, and you have all our livestock. Theres nothing left to bring you except our bodies and our land.

¹⁹Do you want us to die right in front of you? Do you want the land to be ruined? Take us and our land in exchange for food. Then we will be Pharaohs slaves and our land will be his property. But give us seed so that we wont starve to death and the ground wont become a desert."

²⁰Joseph bought all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh. Every Egyptian sold his fields because the famine was so severe. The land became Pharaohs.

²¹ All over Egypt Joseph moved the people to the cities.

²² But he didnt buy the priests land because the priests received an income from Pharaoh, and they lived on that income. Thats why they didnt sell their land.

²³ Joseph said to the people, "Now that I have bought you and your land for Pharaoh, here is seed for you. Plant crops in the land.

²⁴ Every time you harvest, give onefifth of the produce to Pharaoh. Fourfifths will be yours to use as seed for your fields and as food for your households."

²⁵ "You have saved our lives," they said. "Please, sir, we are willing to be Pharaohs slaves."

²⁶ Joseph made a law concerning the land in Egypt which is still in force today: Onefifth of the produce belongs to Pharaoh. Only the land of the priests didnt belong to Pharaoh.

²⁷ So the Israelites settled in Egypt in the region of Goshen. They acquired property there and had many children.

²⁸ Jacob lived in Egypt 17 years, so he lived a total of 147 years.

²⁹ Israel was about to die. He called for his son Joseph and said to him, "I want you to swear that you love me and are faithful to me. Please don't bury me here.

³⁰ I want to rest with my ancestors. Take me out of Egypt, and bury me in their tomb." "I will do as you say," Joseph answered.

³¹ "Swear to me," he said. So Joseph swore to him. Then Israel bowed down in prayer with his face at the head of his bed.

48¹ Later Joseph was told, "Your father is ill." So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim to see Jacob.

² When Jacob was told, "Your son Joseph is here to see you," Israel gathered his strength and sat up in bed.

³ Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in Canaan and blessed me.

⁴ He said to me, I will make you fertile and increase the number of your descendants so that you will become a community of people. I will give this land to your descendants as a permanent possession.

⁵"So your two sons, who were born in Egypt before I came here, are my sons. Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine just as Reuben and Simeon are.

⁶Any other children you have after them will be yours. They will inherit the land listed under their brothers names.

⁷As I was coming back from Paddan, Rachel died in Canaan when we were still some distance from Ephrath. So I buried her there on the way to Ephrath" (that is, Bethlehem).

⁸When Israel saw Josephs sons, he asked, "Who are they?"

⁹"They are my sons, whom God has given me here in Egypt," Joseph answered his father. Then Israel said, "Please bring them to me so that I may bless them."

¹⁰Israels eyesight was failing because of old age, and he could hardly see. So Joseph brought his sons close to his father, and Israel hugged them and kissed them.

¹¹Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see you again, and now God has even let me see your sons."

¹² Joseph took them off his fathers lap and bowed with his face touching the ground.

¹³ Then Joseph took both of them, Ephraim on his right, facing Israels left, and Manasseh on his left, facing Israels right, and brought them close to him.

¹⁴ But Israel crossed his hands and reached out. He put his right hand on Ephraims head, although Ephraim was the younger son. He put his left hand on Manassehs head, although Manasseh was older.

¹⁵ Then Jacob blessed Joseph, "May God, in whose presence my grandfather Abraham and my father Isaac walked, may God, who has been my shepherd all my life to this very day,

¹⁶ may the Messenger, who has rescued me from all evil, bless these boys. May they be called by my name and by the names of my grandfather Abraham and my father Isaac. May they have many children on the earth."

¹⁷ When Joseph saw that his father had put his right hand on Ephraims head, he didnt like it. So he took his fathers hand

in order to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasse's.

¹⁸Then he said to his father, "That's not right, Father! This is the firstborn. Put your right hand on his head."

¹⁹His father refused and said, "I know, Son, I know! Manasseh, too, will become a nation, and he, too, will be important. Nevertheless, his younger brother will be more important than he, and his descendants will become many nations."

²⁰That day he blessed them. He said, "Because of you, Israel will speak this blessing, May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh!" In this way Israel put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.

²¹Then Israel said to Joseph, "Now I'm about to die, but God will be with you. He will bring you back to the land of your fathers.

²²I'm giving you one more mountain ridge than your brothers. I took it from the Amorites with my own sword and bow."

49¹ Jacob called for his sons and said, "Come here, and let me tell you what will happen to you in the days to come.

²"Gather around and listen, sons of Jacob. Listen to your father Israel.

³"Reuben, you are my firstborn, my strength, the very first son I had, first in majesty and first in power.

⁴You will no longer be first because you were out of control like a flood and you climbed into your fathers bed. Then you dishonored it. He climbed up on my couch.

⁵"Simeon and Levi are brothers. Their swords are weapons of violence.

⁶Do not let me attend their secret meetings. Do not let me join their assembly. In their anger they murdered men. At their whim they crippled cattle.

⁷May their anger be cursed because its so fierce. May their fury be cursed because its so cruel. I will divide them among the sons of Jacob and scatter them among the tribes of Israel.

⁸"Judah, your brothers will praise you. Your hand will be on the neck of your enemies. Your fathers sons will bow down to you.

⁹Judah, you are a lion cub. You have come back from the kill, my son. He lies

down and rests like a lion. He is like a lioness. Who dares to disturb him?

¹⁰A scepter will never depart from Judah nor a rulers staff from between his feet until Shiloh comes and the people obey him.

¹¹He will tie his donkey to a grapevine, his colt to the best vine. He will wash his clothes in wine, his garments in the blood of grapes.

¹²His eyes are darker than wine. His teeth are whiter than milk.

¹³"Zebulun will live by the coast. He will have ships by the coast. His border will go as far as Sidon.

¹⁴"Issachar is a strong donkey, lying down between the saddlebags.

¹⁵When he sees that his resting place is good and that the land is pleasant, he will bend his back to the burden and will become a slave laborer.

¹⁶"Dan will hand down decisions for his people as one of the tribes of Israel.

¹⁷Dan will be a snake on a road, a viper on a path, that bites a horses heels so that its rider falls off backwards.

¹⁸"I wait with hope for you to rescue me, O LORD.

¹⁹"Gad will be attacked by a band of raiders, but he will strike back at their heels.

²⁰"Ashers food will be rich. He will provide delicacies fit for a king.

²¹"Naphtali is a doe set free that has beautiful fawns.

²²"Joseph is a fruitful tree, a fruitful tree by a spring, with branches climbing over a wall.

²³Archers provoked him, shot at him, and attacked him.

²⁴But his bow stayed steady, and his arms remained limber because of the help of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the name of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel,

²⁵because of the God of your father who helps you, because of the Almighty who gives you blessings from the heavens above, blessings from the deep springs below the ground, blessings from breasts and womb.

²⁶The blessings of your father are greater than the blessings of the oldest mountains and the riches of the ancient hills. May these blessings rest on the

head of Joseph, on the crown of the prince among his brothers.

²⁷ "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf. In the morning he devours his prey. In the evening he divides the plunder."

²⁸ These are the 12 tribes of Israel and what their father said to them when he gave each of them his special blessing.

²⁹ Then he gave them these instructions, "I am about to join my ancestors in death. Bury me with my ancestors in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite.

³⁰ Abraham bought the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, east of Mamre in Canaan, from Ephron the Hittite to use as a tomb.

³¹ Abraham and his wife Sarah are buried there. Isaac and his wife Rebekah are buried there. I also buried Leah there.

³² The field and the cave in it were bought from the Hittites."

³³ When Jacob finished giving these instructions to his sons, he pulled his feet into his bed. He took his last breath and joined his ancestors in death.

50¹ Joseph threw himself on his father, cried over him, and kissed him.

² Then Joseph ordered the doctors in his service to embalm his father. So the doctors embalmed Israel.

³ The embalming was completed in the usual time⁴⁰ days. The Egyptians mourned for him 70 days.

⁴ When the time of mourning for Jacob was over, Joseph spoke to the Pharaohs palace staff. He said, "Please speak directly to Pharaoh. Tell him,

⁵ My father made me swear an oath. He said, "I'm about to die. Bury me in the tomb I bought for myself in Canaan." Please let me go there and bury my father; then I'll come back."

⁶ Pharaoh replied, "Go and bury your father, as you have promised him."

⁷ So Joseph left to bury his father. All Pharaohs officials, the leaders in his palace staff, and all the leaders of Egypt went with him.

⁸ Josephs household, his brothers, and his fathers household also went with him. (Only their children, their flocks, and their cattle were left in Goshen.)

⁹Chariots and horsemen went with him. It was a very large group.

¹⁰When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is on the east side of the Jordan River, they began a great and solemn ceremony to mourn Jacobs death. Joseph took seven days to mourn his fathers death.

¹¹When the Canaanites living there saw the funeral ceremonies at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "These funeral ceremonies are taken very seriously by the Egyptians." Thats why that place on the east side of the Jordan was named Abel Mizraim [Egyptian Funeral Ceremonies].

¹²Jacobs sons did for him what he had told them to do.

¹³They carried him back to Canaan and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah, east of Mamre. Abraham had bought this tomb from Ephron the Hittite.

¹⁴After Joseph had buried his father, he went back to Egypt along with his brothers and everyone who had gone there with him to bury his father.

¹⁵ Joseph's brothers realized what their father's death could mean. So they thought, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us? What if he decides to pay us back for all the evil we did to him?"

¹⁶ They sent a messenger to Joseph to say, "Before your father died, he commanded us,

¹⁷ This is what you should say to Joseph, "I'm begging you to forgive the crime and the sin your brothers committed against you. What they did to you was very evil." So now, please forgive our crime, because we are servants of your father's God." Joseph cried when he got their message.

¹⁸ Then his brothers also came and immediately bowed down in front of him. "We are your slaves!" they said.

¹⁹ Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid! I can't take God's place.

²⁰ Even though you planned evil against me, God planned good to come out of it. This was to keep many people alive, as he is doing now.

²¹ Don't be afraid! I will provide for you and your children." In this way he

reassured them, setting their minds at ease.

²² Joseph and his fathers family stayed in Egypt. Joseph lived to be 110 years old.

²³ He saw his grandchildren, Ephraims children. Even the children of Machir, son of Manasseh, were adopted by Joseph at birth.

²⁴ At last Joseph said to his brothers, "I'm about to die. God will definitely take care of you and take you out of this land to the land he swore with an oath to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

²⁵ Joseph made Israels sons swear an oath. He said, "God will definitely take care of you. So be sure to carry my bones back with you."

²⁶ Joseph died when he was 110 years old. His body was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt.

Exodus

1 ¹ These are the names of the sons of Israel (that is, Jacob) who came with him to Egypt with their families:

² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah;

³ Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin;

⁴ Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher.

⁵ Joseph was already in Egypt. The total number of Jacobs descendants was 70.

⁶ Eventually, Joseph, all his brothers, and that entire generation died.

⁷ But the descendants of Israel had many children. They became so numerous and strong that the land was filled with them.

⁸ Then a new king, who knew nothing about Joseph, began to rule in Egypt.

⁹ He said to his people, "There are too many Israelites, and they are stronger than we are.

¹⁰ We have to outsmart them, or they'll increase in number. Then, if war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us, and leave the country."

¹¹ So the Egyptians put slave drivers in charge of them in order to oppress them through forced labor. They built Pithom and Rameses as supply cities for Pharaoh.

¹² But the more the Israelites were oppressed, the more they increased in number and spread out. The Egyptians couldn't stand them any longer.

¹³ So they forced the Israelites to work hard as slaves.

¹⁴ They made their lives bitter with backbreaking work in mortar and bricks and every kind of work in the fields. All the jobs the Egyptians gave them were brutally hard.

¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt told the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah,

¹⁶ "When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth, look at the child when you deliver it. If it's a boy, kill it, but if it's a girl, let it live."

¹⁷ However, the midwives feared God and didn't obey the king of Egypt's orders. They let the boys live.

¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called for the midwives. He asked them, "Why have

you done this? Why have you let the boys live?"

¹⁹The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women. They are so healthy that they have their babies before a midwife arrives."

²⁰God was good to the midwives. So the people increased in number and became very strong.

²¹Because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people to throw into the Nile every Hebrew boy that was born, but to let every girl live.

2¹A man from Levis family married a Levite woman.

²The woman became pregnant and had a son. She saw how beautiful he was and hid him for three months.

³When she couldnt hide him any longer, she took a basket made of papyrus plants and coated it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in it and set it among the papyrus plants near the bank of the Nile River.

⁴The babys sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

⁵While Pharaohs daughter came to the Nile to take a bath, her servants walked along the bank of the river. She saw the basket among the papyrus plants and sent her slave girl to get it.

⁶Pharaohs daughter opened the basket, looked at the baby, and saw it was a boy. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. She said, "This is one of the Hebrew children."

⁷Then the babys sister asked Pharaohs daughter, "Should I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

⁸She answered, "Yes!" So the girl brought the babys mother.

⁹Pharaohs daughter said to the woman, "Take this child, nurse him for me, and I will pay you." She took the child and nursed him.

¹⁰When the child was old enough, she brought him to Pharaohs daughter, and he became her son. Pharaohs daughter named him Moses [Pulled Out] and said, "I pulled him out of the water."

¹¹ In the course of time Moses grew up. Then he went to see his own people and watched them suffering under forced labor. He saw a Hebrew, one of his own people, being beaten by an Egyptian.

¹² He looked all around, and when he didn't see anyone, he beat the Egyptian to death and hid the body in the sand.

¹³ When Moses went there the next day, he saw two Hebrew men fighting. He asked the one who started the fight, "Why are you beating another Hebrew?"

¹⁴ The man asked, "Who made you our ruler and judge? Are you going to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought that everyone knew what he had done.

¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard what Moses had done, he tried to have him killed. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and settled in the land of Midian. One day, while Moses was sitting by a well,

¹⁶ seven daughters of the priest of Midian came. They drew water and filled the troughs to water their fathers sheep.

¹⁷ But some shepherds came and chased them away. So Moses got up,

came to their defense, and then watered their sheep.

¹⁸When they came back to their father Reuel, he asked them, "Why have you come home so early today?"

¹⁹They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from some shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the sheep."

²⁰Reuel asked his daughters, "Where is he? Why did you leave the man there? Go, invite him to supper."

²¹Moses decided to stay with the man. So Reuel gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses as his wife.

²²She gave birth to a son. Moses named him Gershom [Foreigner], because he said, "I was a foreigner living in another country."

²³After a long time passed, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites still groaned because they were slaves. So they cried out, and their cries for help went up to God.

²⁴God heard their groaning, and he remembered his promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

²⁵ God saw the Israelites being oppressed and was concerned about them.

3¹ Moses was taking care of the sheep of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. As he led the sheep to the far side of the desert, he came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

² The Messenger of the LORD appeared to him there as flames of fire coming out of a bush. Moses looked, and although the bush was on fire, it was not burning up.

³ So he thought, "Why isn't this bush burning up? I must go over there and see this strange sight."

⁴ When the LORD saw that Moses had come over to see it, God called to him from the bush, "Moses, Moses!" Moses answered, "Here I am!"

⁵ God said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals because this place where you are standing is holy ground."

⁶ "I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷The LORD said, "I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt, and I have heard them crying out because of the slave drivers. I know how much they're suffering.

⁸I have come to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and to bring them from that land to a good land with plenty of room for everyone. It is a land flowing with milk and honey where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites live.

⁹I have heard the cry of the people of Israel. I have seen how the Egyptians are oppressing them.

¹⁰Now, go! I am sending you to Pharaoh so that you can bring my people Israel out of Egypt."

¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the people of Israel out of Egypt?"

¹²God answered, "I will be with you. And this will be the proof that I sent you: When you bring the people out of Egypt, all of you will worship God on this mountain."

¹³Then Moses replied to God, "Suppose I go to the people of Israel and say to

them, The God of your ancestors has sent me to you, and they ask me, What is his name? What should I tell them?"

¹⁴God answered Moses, "I Am Who I Am. This is what you must say to the people of Israel: I Am has sent me to you."

¹⁵Again God said to Moses, "This is what you must say to the people of Israel: The LORD God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever. This is my title throughout every generation.

¹⁶"Go, assemble the leaders of Israel. Say to them, The LORD God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, appeared to me. He Said,"i have paid close attention to you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt.

¹⁷I promise I will take you away from your misery in Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey."

¹⁸"The leaders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the leaders must go

to the king of Egypt and say to him, The LORD God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us travel three days into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God.

¹⁹I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go, even if he is forced to.

²⁰So I will use my power to strike Egypt. After all the miracles that I will do there, he will let you go.

²¹I will make the Egyptians kind to the people of Israel so that, when you leave, you will not leave emptyhanded.

²²"Every Hebrew woman should ask her Egyptian neighbor and any woman living in her home for silver and gold jewelry and for clothes. Put them on your sons and daughters. This way you will strip Egypt of its wealth."

4¹"They will never believe me or listen to me!" Moses protested. "They will say, The LORD didnt appear to you."

²Then the LORD asked him, "Whats that in your hand?" He answered, "A shepherds staff."

³The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground." When Moses threw it on the

ground, it became a snake, and he ran away from it.

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "Reach out and grab the snake by its tail." He reached out and grabbed it, and it turned back into a staff as he held it.

⁵The LORD explained, "This is to convince the people that the LORD God of their ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, appeared to you."

⁶The LORD said to him, "Put your hand inside your shirt." So Moses did this, and when he took his hand out, it had a skin disease. It looked as flaky as snow.

⁷"Now put your hand back inside your shirt," the LORD said. Moses put it back, and when he took it out this time, it was healthy again like the rest of his body.

⁸Then the LORD said, "If they won't believe you or pay attention to the first miraculous sign, they may believe the second.

⁹But if they won't believe these two miraculous signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile River and pour it on the ground. The water you take from the Nile will turn into blood on the ground."

¹⁰ Moses said to the LORD, "Please, Lord, I'm not a good speaker. I've never been a good speaker, and I'm not now, even though you've spoken to me. I speak slowly, and I become tongue-tied easily."

¹¹ The LORD asked him, "Who gave humans their mouths? Who makes humans unable to talk or hear? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? It is I, the LORD!

¹² Now go, and I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

¹³ But Moses said, "Please, Lord, send someone else."

¹⁴ Then the LORD became angry with Moses and asked, "What about your brother Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He's already on his way to meet you, and he will be very glad to see you."

¹⁵ You will speak to him and tell him what to say. I will help both of you speak, and I will teach you both what to do.

¹⁶ Aaron will speak to the people for you. He will be your spokesman, and you will be like God.

¹⁷Take that shepherds staff with you, and use it to do the miraculous signs."

¹⁸Then Moses went back to his father-in-law Jethro. Moses said to him, "Please let me go back to my own people in Egypt. I would like to see if they're still alive." Jethro said to Moses, "You may go."

¹⁹Now, the LORD had said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, because all the men who wanted to kill you are dead."

²⁰So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey, and started out for Egypt. He also brought with him the staff God had told him to take.

²¹The LORD said to Moses, "When you get back to Egypt, see that you show Pharaoh all the amazing things that I have given you the power to do. But I will make him stubborn so that he will not let the people go.

²²Then tell Pharaoh, This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son.

²³I told you to let my son go so that he may worship me. But you refused to let him go. So now I'm going to kill your firstborn son."

²⁴ Along the way they stopped for the night. The LORD met Moses and tried to kill him.

²⁵ Then Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her sons foreskin, and touched Moses feet with it. She said, "You are a bridegroom of blood to me!"

²⁶ So the LORD let him alone. It was because of the circumcision that she said at that time, "You are a bridegroom of blood!"

²⁷ Meanwhile, the LORD had told Aaron to meet Moses in the desert. When Aaron met Moses at the mountain of God, he kissed him.

²⁸ Moses told Aaron everything the LORD had sent him to say and all the miraculous signs the LORD had commanded him to do.

²⁹ Then Moses and Aaron went to Egypt and assembled all the leaders of the people of Israel.

³⁰ Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses. He also did the miraculous signs for the people,

³¹ and the people believed them. When they heard that the LORD was concerned about the people of Israel and that he

had seen their misery, they knelt, bowing with their faces touching the ground.

5¹ Later Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD God of Israel says: Let my people go into the desert to celebrate a festival in my honor."

² Pharaoh asked, "Who is the LORD? Why should I obey him and let Israel go? I don't know the LORD, and I won't let Israel go."

³ They replied, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us travel three days into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God. If we don't go, he may kill us with a plague or a war."

⁴ The king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why are you distracting the people from their work? Get back to work!"

⁵ Then Pharaoh added, "Look how many people there are in the land! Do you want them to quit working?"

⁶ That same day Pharaoh gave these orders to the slave drivers and foremen:

⁷ "Don't give the people any more straw to make bricks as you have been doing. Let them gather their own straw,

⁸ but insist that they make the same number of bricks they were making before. Making fewer bricks will not be acceptable. They're lazy! That's why they're crying, Let us go offer sacrifices to our God.

⁹ Make the work harder for these people so that they will be too busy to listen to lies."

¹⁰ The slave drivers and foreman went out and said to them, "This is what Pharaoh says: I'm no longer giving you straw.

¹¹ Get your own straw wherever you can find it, but your work load will not be reduced one bit."

¹² So the people scattered all over Egypt to gather stubble for straw.

¹³ The slave drivers kept hurrying them. They said, "Finish the same amount of work each day, just as when you had straw."

¹⁴ Pharaoh's slave drivers had placed Israelite foremen in charge of the people. The slave drivers beat the foremen and

said, "You didnt finish all the bricks you were ordered to make yesterday or today. Why didnt you make as many as you used to?"

¹⁵Then the Israelite foremen complained to Pharaoh. They asked, "Why are you treating us this way?"

¹⁶Were given no straw, and yet were told to make bricks. Were being beaten, but your men are at fault."

¹⁷"Youre lazy! Just plain lazy!" Pharaoh answered. "Thats why you keep saying, Let us go offer sacrifices to the LORD.

¹⁸Now get back to work! You wont be given any straw, but you must still make the same number of bricks."

¹⁹The Israelite foremen realized they were in trouble when they were told, "Dont make fewer bricks each day than youre supposed to."

²⁰As they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting for them.

²¹So they said, "May the LORD see what you have done and judge you! You have made Pharaoh and his officials hate us. You have given them an excuse to kill us."

²² Moses went back to the LORD and asked, "Why have you brought this trouble on your people? Why did you send me?"

²³ Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak for you, he has treated your people cruelly, and you have done nothing at all to rescue your people."

6 ¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh. I will show him my power, and he will let my people go. I will show him my power, and he will throw them out of his country."

² God spoke to Moses, "I am the LORD.

³ I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty, but I didn't make myself known to them by my name, the LORD.

⁴ I even made a promise to give them Canaan, the land where they lived as foreigners.

⁵ Now I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians hold in slavery, and I have remembered my promise.

⁶ "Tell the Israelites, I am the LORD. I will bring you out from under the

oppression of the Egyptians, and I will free you from slavery. I will rescue you with my powerful arm and with mighty acts of judgment.

⁷ Then I will make you my people, and I will be your God. You will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the forced labor of the Egyptians.

⁸ I will bring you to the land I solemnly swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as your own possession. I am the LORD."

⁹ Moses reported this to the Israelites. But they would not listen to him because they were so discouraged by their backbreaking work.

¹⁰ Then the LORD spoke to Moses,

¹¹ "Go tell Pharaoh (the king of Egypt) to let the Israelites leave his country."

¹² But Moses protested to the LORD, "The Israelites wouldnt listen to me. Why would Pharaoh listen to me? Im such a poor speaker."

¹³ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron about the Israelites and Pharaoh (the king of Egypt). He commanded them to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

¹⁴These were the heads of the families: The sons of Reuben, Israels firstborn, were Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. These were the families descended from Reuben.

¹⁵The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman. These were the families descended from Simeon.

¹⁶These are the names of the sons of Levi listed in birth order: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. Levi lived 137 years.

¹⁷The sons of Gershon listed by their families were Libni and Shimei.

¹⁸The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. Kohath lived 133 years.

¹⁹The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi. These were the families descended from Levi listed in birth order.

²⁰Amram married his fathers sister Jochebed. She gave birth to Aaron and Moses. Amram lived 137 years.

²¹The sons of Izhar were Korah, Nepheg, and Zichri.

²²The sons of Uzziel were Mishael, Elzaphan, and Sithri.

²³ Aaron married Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab and sister of Nahshon. She gave birth to Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

²⁴ The sons of Korah were Assir, Elkanah, and Abiasaph. These were the families descended from Korah.

²⁵ Eleazar, son of Aaron, married one of the daughters of Putiel. She gave birth to Phinehas. These were the heads of Levite households listed by their families.

²⁶ This was the same Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD said, "Bring the Israelites out of Egypt in organized family groups."

²⁷ They this same Moses and Aaron told Pharaoh (the king of Egypt) to let the Israelites leave Egypt.

²⁸ At that time the LORD spoke to Moses in Egypt.

²⁹ He said to Moses, "I am the LORD. Tell Pharaoh (the king of Egypt) everything I tell you."

³⁰ But Moses said to the LORD, "Why would Pharaoh listen to me?"

7¹ The LORD answered Moses, "I have made you a god to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron is your prophet.

²Tell your brother Aaron everything I command you, and he must tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave the country.

³But I will make Pharaoh stubborn. Even though I will do many miraculous signs and amazing things in Egypt,

⁴Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will use my power to punish Egypt severely, and I will bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt in organized family groups.

⁵The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I use my power against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of there."

⁶Moses and Aaron did as the LORD had commanded them.

⁷Moses was 80 years old and Aaron was 83 when they talked to Pharaoh.

⁸The LORD said to Moses and Aaron,

⁹"When Pharaoh says to you, Give me a sign to prove that God has sent you, tell Aaron, Take your shepherds staff and throw it down in front of Pharaoh, and it will become a large snake."

¹⁰Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did as the LORD had commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of

Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a large snake.

¹¹ Then Pharaoh sent for his wise men and sorcerers. These Egyptian magicians did the same thing using their magic spells.

¹² Each of them threw his staff down, and they all became large snakes. But Aarons staff swallowed theirs.

¹³ Yet, Pharaoh continued to be stubborn and would not listen to them, as the LORD had predicted.

¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh is being stubborn. He refuses to let my people go.

¹⁵ In the morning meet Pharaoh when he is on his way to the Nile. Wait for him on the bank of the river. Take along the staff that turned into a snake.

¹⁶ Say to him, The LORD God of the Hebrews sent me to tell you, "Let my people go to worship me in the desert." So far you have not listened.

¹⁷ Here is what the LORD says: This is the way you will recognize that I am the LORD: With this staff in my hand, I am going to strike the Nile, and the water will turn into blood.

¹⁸The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink. The Egyptians will not be able to drink any water from the Nile."

¹⁹The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egyptits rivers, canals, ponds, and all its reservoirsso that they turn into blood. There will be blood everywhere in Egypt, even in the wooden and stone containers."

²⁰Moses and Aaron did as the LORD had commanded. In front of Pharaoh and his officials, Aaron raised his staff and struck the Nile. All the water in the river turned into blood.

²¹The fish in the Nile died, and it smelled so bad that the Egyptians couldnt drink any water from the river. There was blood everywhere in Egypt.

²²But the Egyptian magicians did the same thing using their magic spells. So Pharaoh continued to be stubborn and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, as the LORD had predicted.

²³Pharaoh turned and went back to his palace. He dismissed the entire matter from his mind.

²⁴ All the Egyptians dug along the Nile for water to drink because they couldn't drink any of the water from the river.

²⁵ Seven days passed after the LORD struck the Nile.

8¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, and tell him, This is what the LORD says: Let my people go to worship me.

² If you refuse to let them go, I will bring a plague of frogs on your whole country.

³ The Nile River will swarm with frogs. They will come into your palace, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your officials, on your people, into your ovens and into your mixing bowls.

⁴ The frogs will jump on you, on your people, and on all your officials."

⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, Hold your staff over the rivers, canals, and ponds. This will bring frogs onto the land."

⁶ So Aaron held his staff over the waters of Egypt. The frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt.

⁷ But the magicians did the same thing using their magic spells and brought frogs onto the land.

⁸ Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron and said, "Pray that the LORD will take the frogs away from me and my people. Then I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD."

⁹ Moses answered Pharaoh, "You may have the honor of choosing when I should pray for you, your officials, and your people. Then the frogs will leave you and your homes. The only ones left will be those in the Nile."

¹⁰ "Pray for me tomorrow," Pharaoh said. Moses replied, "It will be as you say so that you will know that there is no one like the LORD our God."

¹¹ The frogs will leave you, your homes, your officials, and your people. The only frogs left will be those in the Nile."

¹² After Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh, Moses prayed to the LORD about the frogs he had brought on Pharaoh.

¹³ The LORD did what Moses asked. The frogs died in the houses, in the yards, and in the fields.

¹⁴ They were piled into countless heaps, and the land began to stink because of them.

¹⁵ When Pharaoh saw that the plague was over, he became stubborn and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, as the LORD had predicted.

¹⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, Hold out your staff and strike the dust on the ground. All over Egypt the dust will turn into gnats."

¹⁷ When Moses told him, Aaron held out the staff in his hand and struck the dust on the ground. It turned into gnats that bit people and animals. All the dust on the ground everywhere in Egypt turned into gnats.

¹⁸ The magicians also tried to produce gnats using their magic spells, but they couldn't do it. The gnats bit people and animals.

¹⁹ So the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the hand of God!" Yet, Pharaoh continued to be stubborn and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, as the LORD had predicted.

²⁰ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Early in the morning, stand in Pharaoh's way

when hes going to the Nile. Say to him, This is what the LORD says: Let my people go to worship me.

²¹ If you will not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies on you, your officials, your people, and your houses. The homes of the Egyptians will be filled with flies, and even the ground outside will be covered with them.

²² But on that day I will treat the region of Goshen differently. That is where my people live. There wont be any flies there. This way you will know that I, the LORD, am here in this land.

²³ I will distinguish between my people and yours. This miraculous sign will happen tomorrow."

²⁴ The LORD did what he said. Dense swarms of flies came into Pharaohs palace and into the houses of his officials. All over Egypt the flies were ruining everything.

²⁵ Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God here in this country."

²⁶ Moses replied, "It wouldnt be right to do that. The sacrifices we offer to the LORD our God are disgusting to

Egyptians. If they see us offer sacrifices that they consider disgusting, wont they stone us to death?

²⁷ We need to travel three days into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, as he told us to do."

²⁸ Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, but dont go very far. You may offer sacrifices to the LORD your God in the desert and pray for me."

²⁹ Moses answered, "As soon as I leave you, I will pray to the LORD. Tomorrow the swarms of flies will go away from you, your officials, and your people. But you must stop tricking us by not letting the people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD."

³⁰ Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD.

³¹ The LORD did what Moses asked. The swarms of flies left Pharaoh, his officials, and his people. Not one fly was left.

³² Yet, this time, too, Pharaoh was stubborn and did not let the people go.

9¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, and tell him, This is what the LORD God of the Hebrews says: Let my people go to worship me.

²If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them in slavery,

³the LORD will bring a terrible plague on your livestock, including your horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep, and goats.

⁴But the LORD will distinguish between Israel's livestock and the livestock of the Egyptians. No animals belonging to the Israelites will die."

⁵The LORD set a definite time. He said, "Tomorrow I will do this."

⁶The next day the LORD did as he said. All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but none of the Israelites' animals died.

⁷Pharaoh found out that not one of the Israelites' animals had died. Yet, Pharaoh continued to be stubborn and would not let the people go.

⁸Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take a handful of ashes from a kiln, and have Moses throw them up in the air as Pharaoh watches.

⁹They will become a fine dust throughout Egypt. The dust will cause boils to break into open sores on people and animals throughout Egypt."

¹⁰They took ashes from a kiln and stood in front of Pharaoh. Moses threw the ashes up in the air, and they caused boils to break into open sores on people and animals.

¹¹The magicians couldnt compete with Moses because they had boils like all the other Egyptians.

¹²But the LORD made Pharaoh stubborn, so he wouldnt listen to Moses and Aaron, as the LORD had predicted to Moses.

¹³Then the LORD said to Moses, "Early in the morning, go to Pharaoh and say to him, This is what the LORD God of the Hebrews says: Let my people go to worship me.

¹⁴Now I will send plagues that will affect you personally as well as your officials and people. This is how you will know that there is no one like me anywhere on earth.

¹⁵By now I could have used my power to kill you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth.

¹⁶But I have spared you for this reason. I want to show you my power and make my name famous throughout the earth.

¹⁷ You are still blocking my people from leaving.

¹⁸ So, at this time tomorrow I will send the worst hailstorm that has ever happened in Egypt since the beginning of its history.

¹⁹ Now, send servants to bring your livestock and everything else you have indoors. All people and animals still outside and not brought in will die when the hail falls on them."

²⁰ Those members of Pharaoh's court who listened to the LORDS warning brought their servants and cattle indoors quickly.

²¹ But those who didn't take the LORDS warning seriously left their servants and animals out in the open.

²² Then the LORD said to Moses, "Lift your hand toward the sky, and hail will fall on people, animals, and every plant in the fields of Egypt."

²³ When Moses lifted his staff toward the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning struck the earth. So the LORD made it hail on Egypt.

²⁴ It hailed, and lightning flashed while it hailed. This was the worst storm in all

the land of Egypt since it had become a nation.

²⁵ All over Egypt the hail knocked down everything that was out in the open. It struck down people, animals, and every plant in the fields and destroyed every tree in the fields.

²⁶ The only place it didn't hail was the region of Goshen, where the Israelites lived.

²⁷ Then Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron. "This time I have sinned," he told them. "The LORD is right, and my people and I are wrong.

²⁸ Pray to the LORD. We've had enough of God's thunder and hail. I'll let you go; you don't have to stay here any longer."

²⁹ Moses replied, "As soon as I'm out of the city, I'll spread out my hands to the LORD in prayer. The thunder will stop, and there will be no more hail. This is how you will know that the earth belongs to the LORD.

³⁰ But I know that you and your officials still don't fear the LORD God."

³¹ (The flax and the barley were ruined, because the barley had formed heads and the flax was in bloom.

³²Neither the wheat nor the wild grain was damaged, because they ripen later.)

³³As soon as he left Pharaoh and went out of the city, Moses spread out his hands to the LORD in prayer. The thunder and the hail stopped, and no more rain came pouring down on the ground.

³⁴When Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had stopped, he sinned again. He and his officials continued to be stubborn.

³⁵Pharaoh was stubborn and would not let the Israelites go, as the LORD had predicted through Moses.

10¹Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh. I have made him and his officials stubborn so that I can do these miraculous signs among them.

²You will be able to tell your children and grandchildren exactly how I treated the Egyptians and what miraculous signs I did among them. This is how you will all know that I am the LORD."

³So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, "This is what the LORD God of the Hebrews says: How long will you refuse to humble yourself in my

presence? Let my people go to worship me.

⁴If you refuse to let my people go, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country.

⁵They will cover the land so that the ground can't be seen. They will eat everything left by the hail, including every tree still standing in the fields.

⁶They will fill your houses and the houses of all your officials and those of all the Egyptians. Your parents and ancestors never saw anything like this from the time they first came here until now." Moses turned and left Pharaoh.

⁷Then Pharaoh's officials asked him, "How long will this man hold us in his grip? Let the Israelite men go to worship the LORD their God. When will you realize that Egypt is ruined?"

⁸So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. "Go, worship the LORD your God," he said to them. "But exactly who will be going?"

⁹Moses answered, "Everyone! We'll be taking our young and old, our sons and daughters, our flocks and herds with us.

For us its a pilgrimage festival in the LORDS honor."

¹⁰Pharaoh said to them, "The LORD would have to be with you if I would ever let you take your women and children along. I know youre up to no good!

¹¹No! Only the men may go to worship the LORD, since thats what youve been asking for." Then Moses and Aaron were thrown out of Pharaohs palace.

¹²The LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over Egypt to bring locusts. They will invade Egypt and eat up every plant in the landeverything left by the hail."

¹³Moses held his staff over the land of Egypt, and the LORD made a wind from the east blow over the land all that day and all that night. By morning the east wind had brought the locusts.

¹⁴They invaded all of Egypt and landed all over the country in great swarms. Never before had there been so many locusts like this, nor would there ever be that many again.

¹⁵They covered all the ground until it was black with them. They ate all the plants and all the fruit on the trees that

the hail had left. Nothing green was left on any tree or plant anywhere in Egypt.

¹⁶Then Pharaoh quickly called for Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you.

¹⁷Please forgive my sin one more time. Pray to the LORD your God to take this deadly plague away from me."

¹⁸Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD.

¹⁹Then the LORD changed the wind to a very strong west wind. It picked up the locusts and blew them into the Red Sea. Not one locust was left anywhere in Egypt.

²⁰But the LORD made Pharaoh stubborn, so he did not let the Israelites go.

²¹Then the LORD said to Moses, "Lift your hand toward the sky, and a darkness so thick that it can be felt will come over Egypt."

²²Moses lifted his hand toward the sky, and throughout Egypt there was total darkness for three days.

²³People couldnt see each other, and no one went anywhere for three days. But

all the Israelites had light where they were living.

²⁴ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and said, "Go, worship the LORD! Even your women and children may go with you, but your flocks and herds must stay behind."

²⁵ But Moses said, "You must allow us to take our animals for the sacrifices and burnt offerings we have to make to the LORD our God.

²⁶ All our livestock must go with us. Not one animal must be left behind. We'll have to use some of them for worshipping the LORD our God, and we won't know what we'll need until we get there."

²⁷ But the LORD made Pharaoh stubborn, so he refused to let them go.

²⁸ Pharaoh said to Moses, "Get out of my sight! Don't ever let me see your face again. The day I do, you will die."

²⁹ "You're right!" Moses answered. "You'll never see my face again."

11 ¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and Egypt. After that he will let you go. When he does, he will be certain to force all of you out of here.

²Now announce to the people of Israel that each man and woman must ask the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry."

³The LORD made the Egyptians kind to the people. And Moses was highly respected by Pharaoh's officials and all the Egyptians.

⁴Moses said, "This is what the LORD says: About midnight I will go out among the Egyptians.

⁵Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who rules the land, to the firstborn children of female slaves who use their handmills, including every firstborn domestic animal.

⁶There will be loud crying throughout Egypt, such as there has never been or ever will be again.

⁷But where the Israelites are, not even a dog will be startled by any person or animal. This is how you will see that the LORD shows the distinction between Egypt and Israel.

⁸Then all these officials of yours will come, bow down to me, and say, You and all the people who follow you, get

out! After that I will leave." Burning with anger, Moses left Pharaoh.

⁹The LORD had said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not listen to you. This is why I will do more amazing things in Egypt."

¹⁰Moses and Aaron showed Pharaoh all these amazing things. Yet, the LORD made Pharaoh stubborn, so he wouldn't let the Israelites leave his country.

12¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt,

²"This month will be the very first month of the year for you.

³Tell the whole community of Israel: On the tenth day of this month each man must take a lamb or a young goat for his family—one animal per household.

⁴A household may be too small to eat a whole animal. That household and the one next door can share one animal. Choose your animal based on the number of people and what each person can eat.

⁵Your animal must be a one-year-old male that has no defects. You may choose a lamb or a young goat.

⁶Take care of it until the fourteenth day of this month. "Then at dusk, all the

assembled people from the community of Israel must slaughter their animals.

⁷They must take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they will eat the animals.

⁸The meat must be eaten that same night. It must be roasted over a fire and eaten with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.

⁹Dont eat any of it raw or boiled but roast the whole animal over a fire.

¹⁰Dont leave any of it until morning. Anything left over in the morning must be burned up.

¹¹This is how you should be dressed when you eat it: with your belt on, your sandals on your feet, and your shepherds staff in your hand. You must eat it in a hurry. It is the LORDS Passover.

¹²"On that same night I will go throughout Egypt and kill every firstborn male, both human and animal. I will severely punish all the gods of Egypt, because I am the LORD.

¹³But the blood on your houses will be a sign for your protection. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. Nothing

will touch or destroy you when I strike Egypt.

¹⁴"This day will be one for you to remember. This is a permanent law for generations to come: You will celebrate this day as a pilgrimage festival in the LORDS honor.

¹⁵For seven days you must eat unleavened bread. On the very first day you must remove any yeast that you have in your houses. Whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh day must be excluded from Israel.

¹⁶You must have a holy assembly on the first day and another one on the seventh. You must not work on these days except to prepare your own meals. Thats all you may do.

¹⁷You must celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread because it was on this very day that I brought you out of Egypt in organized family groups. This is a permanent law for future generations: You must celebrate this day.

¹⁸From the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month until the evening

of the twentyfirst day you must eat unleavened bread.

¹⁹There should be no yeast in your houses for seven days. Whoever eats anything with yeast in it must be excluded from the community of Israel, whether he is an Israelite or not.

²⁰Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat only unleavened bread."

²¹Then Moses called for all the leaders of Israel. He said to them, "Pick out a lamb or a young goat for your families, and kill the Passover animal.

²²Take the branch of a hyssop plant, dip it in the blood which is in a bowl, and put some of the blood on the top and sides of the doorframes of your houses. No one may leave the house until morning.

²³The LORD will go throughout Egypt to kill the Egyptians. When he sees the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe, he will pass over that doorway, and he will not let the destroyer come into your home to kill you.

²⁴"You must follow these instructions. They are a permanent law for you and your children.

²⁵When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony.

²⁶When your children ask you what this ceremony means to you,

²⁷you must answer, "It's the Passover sacrifice in the LORD'S honor. The LORD passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he killed the Egyptians." Then the people knelt, bowing with their faces touching the ground.

²⁸The Israelites did as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.

²⁹At midnight the LORD killed every firstborn male in Egypt from the firstborn son of Pharaoh who ruled the land to the firstborn son of the prisoner in jail, and also every firstborn animal.

³⁰Pharaoh, all his officials, and all the other Egyptians got up during the night. There was loud crying throughout Egypt because in every house someone had died.

³¹Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron during the night. He said, "You and the Israelites must leave my people at once. Go, worship the LORD as you asked.

³²Take your flocks and herds, too, as you asked. Just go! And bless me, too!"

³³The Egyptians begged the people to leave the country quickly. They said, "Soon well all be dead!"

³⁴So the people picked up their bread dough before it had risen and carried it on their shoulders in bowls, wrapped up in their clothes.

³⁵The Israelites did what Moses had told them and asked the Egyptians for gold and silver jewelry and for clothes.

³⁶The LORD made the Egyptians generous to the people, and they gave them what they asked for. So the Israelites stripped Egypt of its wealth.

³⁷The Israelites left Rameses to go to Succoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, plus all the women and children.

³⁸Many other people also went with them, along with large numbers of sheep, goats, and cattle.

³⁹With the dough they had brought from Egypt, they baked round, flat bread. The dough hadn't risen because they'd been thrown out of Egypt and had no time to prepare food for the trip.

⁴⁰ The Israelites had been living in Egypt for 430 years.

⁴¹ After exactly 430 years all the LORDS people left Egypt in organized family groups.

⁴² That night the LORD kept watch to take them out of Egypt. (All Israelites in future generations must keep watch on this night, since it is dedicated to the LORD.)

⁴³ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "These are the rules for the Passover: " No foreigner may eat the Passover meal.

⁴⁴ "Any male slave you have bought may eat it after you have circumcised him.

⁴⁵ "No foreigner visiting you may eat it. "No hired worker may eat it.

⁴⁶ "The meal must be eaten inside one house. Never take any of the meat outside the house." Never break any of the bones.

⁴⁷ "The whole community of Israel must celebrate the Passover.

⁴⁸ "Foreigners may want to celebrate the LORDS Passover. First, every male in the household must be circumcised. Then they may celebrate the Passover

like nativeborn Israelites. But no uncircumcised males may ever eat the Passover meal.

⁴⁹The same instructions apply to nativeborn Israelites as well as foreigners."

⁵⁰All the Israelites did as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.

⁵¹That very day the LORD brought all the Israelites out of Egypt in organized family groups.

13¹The LORD spoke to Moses,
²"Set apart every firstborn male for me. Every firstborn male offspring among the Israelites is mine, whether human or animal."

³Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this daythe day when you left Egypt, the land of slavery. The LORD used his mighty hand to bring you out of there. Dont eat anything made with yeast.

⁴Today, in the month of Abib, you are leaving Egypt.

⁵The LORD swore to your ancestors that he would give you the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites, and Jebusites. When he brings you into

that land flowing with milk and honey, you must observe this ceremony in this month.

⁶"For seven days you must eat unleavened bread. The seventh day will be a pilgrimage festival in the LORDS honor.

⁷Only unleavened bread should be eaten during these seven days. No sourdough or yeast should be seen anywhere in your territory.

⁸On that day tell your children, We do this because of what the LORD did for us when we left Egypt.

⁹This festival will be like a mark on your hand or a reminder on your forehead that the teachings of the LORD are always to be a part of your conversation. Because the LORD used his mighty hand to bring you out of Egypt,

¹⁰you must follow these rules every year at this time.

¹¹"When the LORD brings you to the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he swore to you and your ancestors,

¹²sacrifice every firstborn male offspring to the LORD. The firstborn male

offspring of each of your animals belongs to the LORD.

¹³It will cost you a sheep or a goat to buy any firstborn donkey back from the LORD. If you don't buy it back, then you must break the donkey's neck. You must also buy every firstborn son back from the LORD.

¹⁴"In the future when your children ask you what this means, tell them, The LORD used his mighty hand to bring us out of slavery in Egypt.

¹⁵When Pharaoh was too stubborn to let us go, the LORD killed every firstborn male in Egypt human and animal. This is why we sacrifice every firstborn male to the LORD and buy every firstborn son back from the LORD.

¹⁶So this festival will be like a mark on your hand and like a band on your forehead, because the LORD used his mighty hand to bring us out of Egypt."

¹⁷When Pharaoh let the people go, God didn't lead them on the road through Philistine territory, although that was the shortest route. God said, "If they see that they have to fight a war, they

may change their minds and go back to Egypt."

¹⁸ So God led the people around the other way, on the road through the desert toward the Red Sea. The Israelites were ready for battle when they left Egypt.

¹⁹ Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, because Joseph had made the Israelites solemnly swear to do this. Joseph had said, "God will definitely come to help you. When he does, take my bones with you."

²⁰ They moved from Succoth and camped at Etham, on the edge of the desert.

²¹ By day the LORD went ahead of them in a column of smoke to lead them on their way. By night he went ahead of them in a column of fire to give them light so that they could travel by day or by night.

²² The column of smoke was always in front of the people during the day. The column of fire was always there at night.

14 ¹ Then the LORD said to Moses,
² "Tell the Israelites to go back and set up their camp facing Pi Hahiroth,

between Migdol and the sea. Set up your camp facing north by the sea.

³Pharaoh will think, The Israelites are just wandering around. The desert is blocking their escape.

⁴I will make Pharaoh so stubborn that he will pursue them. Then, because of what I do to Pharaoh and his entire army, I will receive honor, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So that is what the Israelites did.

⁵When Pharaoh (the king of Egypt) was told that the people had fled, he and his officials changed their minds about them. They said, "What have we done? We've lost our slaves because we've let Israel go."

⁶So Pharaoh prepared his chariot and took his army with him.

⁷He took 600 of his best chariots as well as all the other chariots in Egypt, placing an officer in each of them.

⁸The LORD made Pharaoh (the king of Egypt) so stubborn that he pursued the Israelites, who were boldly leaving Egypt.

⁹The Egyptians pursued the Israelites. Pharaoh's army, including all his

horsedrawn chariots and cavalry, caught up with them as they were setting up their camp by the sea at Pi Hahiroth facing north.

¹⁰As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up and saw that the Egyptians were coming after them. Terrified, the Israelites cried out to the LORD.

¹¹They said to Moses, "Did you bring us out into the desert to die because there were no graves in Egypt? Look what youve done by bringing us out of Egypt!

¹²Didnt we tell you in Egypt, Leave us alone! Let us go on serving the Egyptians? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

¹³Moses answered the people, "Dont be afraid! Stand still, and see what the LORD will do to save you today. You will never see these Egyptians again.

¹⁴The LORD is fighting for you! So be still!"

¹⁵Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to start moving.

¹⁶Raise your staff, stretch out your hand over the sea, and divide the water.

Then the Israelites will go through the sea on dry ground.

¹⁷I am making the Egyptians so stubborn that they will follow the Israelites. I will receive honor because of what I will do to Pharaoh, his entire army, his chariots, and cavalry.

¹⁸The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I am honored for what I did to Pharaoh, his chariots, and his cavalry."

¹⁹The Messenger of God, who had been in front of the Israelites, moved behind them. So the column of smoke moved from in front of the Israelites and stood behind them

²⁰between the Egyptian camp and the Israelite camp. The column of smoke was there when darkness came, and it lit up the night. Neither side came near the other all night long.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. All that night the LORD pushed back the sea with a strong east wind and turned the sea into dry ground. The water divided,

²²and the Israelites went through the middle of the sea on dry ground. The

water stood like a wall on their right and on their left.

²³The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaohs horses, chariots, and cavalry followed them into the sea.

²⁴Just before dawn, the LORD looked down from the column of fire and smoke and threw the Egyptian camp into a panic.

²⁵He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they could hardly move. Then the Egyptians shouted, "Let's get out of here! The LORD is fighting for Israel! He's against us!"

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the water will flow back over the Egyptians, their chariots, and their cavalry."

²⁷Moses stretched his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the water returned to its usual place. The Egyptians tried to escape, but the LORD swept them into the sea.

²⁸The water flowed back and covered Pharaoh's entire army, as well as the chariots and the cavalry that had

followed Israel into the sea. Not one of them survived.

²⁹Meanwhile, the Israelites had gone through the sea on dry ground while the water stood like a wall on their right and on their left.

³⁰That day the LORD saved Israel from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore.

³¹When the Israelites saw the great power the LORD had used against the Egyptians, they feared the LORD and believed in him and in his servant Moses.

15¹Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD. He has won a glorious victory. He has thrown horses and their riders into the sea.

²The LORD is my strength and my song. He is my Savior. This is my God, and I will praise him, my fathers God, and I will honor him.

³The LORD is a warrior! The LORD is his name.

⁴He has thrown Pharaohs chariots and army into the sea. Pharaohs best officers were drowned in the Red Sea.

⁵The deep water covered them. They sank to the bottom like a rock.

⁶Your right hand, O LORD, wins glory because it is strong. Your right hand, O LORD, smashes your enemies.

⁷With your unlimited majesty, you destroyed those who attacked you. You sent out your burning anger. It burned them up like straw.

⁸With a blast from your nostrils, the water piled up. The waves stood up like a dam. The deep water thickened in the middle of the sea.

⁹"The enemy said, I'll pursue them! I'll catch up with them! I'll divide the loot! I'll take all I want! I'll use my sword! I'll take all they have!

¹⁰Your breath blew the sea over them. They sank like lead in the raging water.

¹¹"Who is like you among the gods, O LORD? Who is like you? You are glorious because of your holiness and aweinspiring because of your splendor. You perform miracles.

¹²You stretched out your right hand. The earth swallowed them.

¹³"Lovingly, you will lead the people you have saved. Powerfully, you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

¹⁴People will hear of it and tremble. The people of Philistia will be in anguish.

¹⁵The tribal leaders of Edom will be terrified. The powerful men of Moab will tremble. The people of Canaan will be deathly afraid.

¹⁶Terror and dread will fall on them. Because of the power of your arm, they will be petrified until your people pass by, O LORD, until the people you purchased pass by.

¹⁷You will bring them and plant them on your own mountain, the place where you live, O LORD, the holy place that you built with your own hands, O Lord.

¹⁸The LORD will rule as king forever and ever."

¹⁹When Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and cavalry went into the sea, the LORD made the water of the sea flow back over them. However, the Israelites had gone through the sea on dry ground.

²⁰Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand. All

the women, dancing with tambourines, followed her.

²¹ Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD. He has won a glorious victory. He has thrown horses and their riders into the sea."

²² Moses led Israel away from the Red Sea into the desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water.

²³ When they came to Marah, they couldn't drink the water because it tasted bitter. That's why the place was called Marah [Bitter Place].

²⁴ The people complained about Moses by asking, "What are we supposed to drink?"

²⁵ Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD set down laws and rules for them to live by, and there he tested them.

²⁶ He said, "If you will listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what he considers right, if you pay attention to his commands and obey all his laws, I will never make you suffer any of the

diseases I made the Egyptians suffer, because I am the LORD, who heals you."

²⁷Next, they went to Elim, where there were 12 springs and 70 palm trees. They camped there by the water.

16¹The whole community of Israelites moved from Elim and came to the desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai. This was on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had left Egypt.

²In the desert the whole community complained about Moses and Aaron.

³The Israelites said to them, "If only the LORD had let us die in Egypt! There we sat by our pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted! You brought us out into this desert to let us all starve to death!"

⁴The LORD said to Moses, "I'm going to send you food from heaven like rain. Each day the people should go out and gather only what they need for that day. In this way I will test them to see whether or not they will follow my instructions.

⁵But on the sixth day when they prepare what they bring home, it should

be twice as much as they gather on other days."

⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt.

⁷In the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard you complaining about him. Why are you complaining about us?"

⁸Moses also said, "The LORD will give you meat to eat in the evening and all the food you want in the morning. The LORD has heard you complaining about him. Who are we? You're not complaining about us but about the LORD."

⁹Moses said to Aaron, "Tell the whole community of Israelites, Come into the LORDS presence. He has heard you complaining."

¹⁰While Aaron was speaking to the whole community of Israelites, they looked toward the desert. Suddenly, they saw the glory of the LORD in the column of smoke.

¹¹The LORD said to Moses,

¹²"I've heard the Israelites complaining. Tell them, At dusk you will eat meat, and

in the morning you will eat all the food you want. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God."

¹³That evening quails came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.

¹⁴When the dew was gone, the ground was covered with a thin layer of flakes like frost on the ground.

¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they asked each other, "What is this?" because they didn't know what it was. Moses said to them, "It's the food the LORD has given you to eat."

¹⁶This is what the LORD has commanded: Each of you should gather as much as you can eat. Take two quarts for each person in your tent."

¹⁷So that is what the Israelites did. Some gathered more, some less.

¹⁸They measured it into two quart containers. Those who had gathered more didn't have too much. Those who had gathered less didn't have too little. They gathered as much as they could eat.

¹⁹Then Moses said to them, "No one may keep any of it until morning."

²⁰But some of them didn't listen to Moses. They kept part of it until morning, and it was full of worms and smelled bad. So Moses was angry with them.

²¹Each morning they gathered as much food as they could eat. When the sun was hot, it melted away.

²²But on the sixth day they gathered twice as much food, four quarts per person. All the leaders of the community came to Moses and told him about it.

²³He said to them, "This is what the LORD said: Tomorrow is a day of worship, a holy day of worship dedicated to the LORD. Bake what you want to bake, and boil what you want to boil. Save all that's left over, and keep it until tomorrow morning."

²⁴So they saved it until the next morning as Moses had commanded, but it didn't smell or have worms in it.

²⁵"Eat it today," Moses said, "because today is a day of worship dedicated to the LORD. You won't find anything on the ground today."

²⁶You can gather food on six days, but on the seventh day, the day of worship, you wont find any."

²⁷On the seventh day some people went out to gather food, but they didnt find any.

²⁸The LORD said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to do what I have commanded and instructed you to do?"

²⁹Remember: The LORD has given you this day of worship. Thats why he gives you enough food on the sixth day for two days. On the seventh day you may not leave. Everyone, stay where you are."

³⁰So the people never worked on the seventh day of the week.

³¹The Israelites called the food manna. It was like coriander seeds. It was white and tasted like wafers made with honey.

³²Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded: Take two quarts of manna to be kept for your descendants. This way they will see the food that I gave you to eat in the desert when I brought you out of Egypt."

³³Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar, put two quarts of manna in it, and put it in

the LORDS presence to be kept for your descendants."

³⁴ Aaron put the jar of manna in front of the words of Gods promise to be kept there, as the LORD commanded Moses.

³⁵ The Israelites ate manna for 40 years until they came to a place to settle. They ate manna until they came to the border of Canaan.

³⁶ (Now, the standard dry measure at that time held 20 quarts.)

17 ¹ The whole community of Israelites left the desert of Sin and traveled from place to place as the LORD commanded them. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

² So they complained to Moses by saying, "Give us water to drink!" Moses said to them, "Why are you complaining to me? Why are you testing the LORD?"

³ But the people were thirsty for water there. They complained to Moses and asked, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Was it to make us, our children, and our livestock die of thirst?"

⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What should I do with these people? They're almost ready to stone me!"

⁵ The LORD answered Moses, "Bring some of the leaders of Israel with you, and go to where the people can see you. Take the staff you used to strike the Nile River.

⁶ I'll be standing in front of you there by a rock at Mount Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." Moses did this while the leaders of Israel watched him.

⁷ He named that place Massah [Testing] and Meribah [Complaining] because the Israelites complained and because they tested the LORD, asking, "Is the LORD with us or not?"

⁸ The Amalekites fought Israel at Rephidim.

⁹ Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men. Then fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill. I will hold in my hand the staff God told me to take along."

¹⁰ Joshua did as Moses told him and fought the Amalekites, while Moses,

Aaron, and Hur went to the top of the hill.

¹¹ As long as Moses held up his hands, Israel would win, but as soon as he put his hands down, the Amalekites would start to win.

¹² Eventually, Moses hands felt heavy. So Aaron and Hur took a rock, put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron held up one hand, and Hur held up the other. His hands remained steady until sunset.

¹³ So Joshua defeated the Amalekite army in battle.

¹⁴ The LORD said to Moses, "Write this reminder on a scroll, and make sure that Joshua hears it, too: I will completely erase any memory of the Amalekites from the earth."

¹⁵ Moses built an altar and called it The LORD Is My Banner.

¹⁶ He said, "Because a hand was lifted against the LORDS throne, he will be at war against the Amalekites from one generation to the next."

18¹ Moses fatherinlaw Jethro, the priest of Midian, heard about everything God had done for Moses and

his people Israel and how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt.

²When Moses had sent away his wife Zipporah, his fatherinlaw Jethro had taken her in,

³along with her two sons. The one son was named Gershom [Foreigner], because Moses said, "I was a foreigner living in another country."

⁴The name of the other was Eliezer [My God Is a Helper], because he said, "My fathers God was my helper. He saved me from Pharaohs death sentence."

⁵Moses fatherinlaw Jethro brought Moses sons and wife to Moses in the desert where he was camped near the mountain of God.

⁶Jethro had sent word to Moses, "Im coming to visit you, and Im bringing your wife and her two sons."

⁷So Moses went out to meet his fatherinlaw. Moses bowed with his face touching the ground and kissed Jethro. After they asked each other how they were, they went into the tent.

⁸Moses told his fatherinlaw everything the LORD had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel, all the hardships

they had had on the way, and how the LORD had saved them.

⁹Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the LORD had done for Israel in rescuing them from the Egyptians.

¹⁰He said, "Thank the LORD! He rescued you from the Egyptians and their Pharaoh and rescued these people from the control of the Egyptians,

¹¹who treated Israel with contempt. Now I know that the LORD is greater than all other gods."

¹²Then Jethro, Moses fatherinlaw, brought a burnt offering and other sacrifices to God. Aaron and all the leaders of Israel came to eat the meal with Moses fatherinlaw in Gods presence.

¹³The next day Moses was settling disagreements among the people. The people stood around Moses from morning until evening.

¹⁴When Moses fatherinlaw saw everything Moses was doing for the people, he asked, "Why are you doing this for the people? Why do you sit here alone, while all the people stand around you from morning until evening?"

¹⁵ Moses answered his fatherinlaw, "Because the people come to me to find out Gods will.

¹⁶ Whenever they have a disagreement and bring it to me, I decide which person is right, and I tell them Gods laws and instructions."

¹⁷ Moses fatherinlaw replied, "What youre doing is not good.

¹⁸ You and your people will wear yourselves out. This is too much work for you. You cant do it alone!

¹⁹ Now listen to me, and Ill give you some advice. May God be with you! You must be the peoples representative to God and bring their disagreements to him.

²⁰ You must instruct them in the laws and the teachings, show them how to live, and tell them what to do.

²¹ "But choose capable men from all the people, men who fear God, men you can trust, men who hate corruption. Put them in charge of groups of 1,000, or 100, or 50, or 10 people.

²² Let them be the ones who usually settle disagreements among the people. They should bring all important cases

to you, but they should settle all minor cases themselves. Make it easier for yourself by letting them help you.

²³If God commands you, and you do this, you will be able to continue your work, and all these people will have their disagreements settled so that they can go home."

²⁴Moses listened to his fatherinlaw and did everything he said.

²⁵Moses chose capable men from all the Israelites and put them in charge of groups of 1,000, or 100, or 50, or 10 people.

²⁶These men were the ones who usually settled disagreements among the people. They would bring difficult cases to Moses, but they settled all minor ones themselves.

²⁷Moses sent his fatherinlaw on his way. So Jethro went back to his own country.

19¹Two months after the Israelites left Egypt, they came to the desert of Sinai.

²Israel had moved from Rephidim and had come into the desert of Sinai. They

had set up camp there in front of the mountain.

³Then Moses went up the mountain to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, "This is what you must say to the descendants of Jacob. Tell the Israelites,

⁴You have seen for yourselves what I did to Egypt and how I carried you on eagles wings and brought you to my mountain.

⁵If you carefully obey me and are faithful to the terms of my promise, then out of all the nations you will be my own special possession, even though the whole world is mine.

⁶You will be my kingdom of priests and my holy nation. These are the words you must speak to the Israelites."

⁷So Moses went down and called for the leaders of the people. He repeated to them all the words that the LORD had commanded him.

⁸All the people answered together, "We will do everything the LORD has said." So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.

⁹The LORD said to Moses, "I am coming to you in a storm cloud so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always believe you." Moses told the LORD what the people had said.

¹⁰So the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people, and tell them they have two days to get ready. They must set themselves apart as holy. Have them wash their clothes

¹¹and be ready by the day after tomorrow. On that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai as all the people watch.

¹²Mark off a boundary around the mountain for the people, and tell them not to go up the mountain or even touch it. Those who touch the mountain must be put to death.

¹³No one should touch them. They must be stoned or shot with arrows. No matter whether its an animal or a person, it must not live. The people may go up the mountain only when the rams horn sounds a long blast."

¹⁴After Moses went down the mountain to the people, he had them get ready, and they washed their clothes.

¹⁵Then Moses said to the people, "Be ready two days from now. Don't disqualify yourselves by having sexual intercourse."

¹⁶On the morning of the second day, there was thunder and lightning with a heavy cloud over the mountain, and a very loud blast from a ram's horn was heard. All the people in the camp shook with fear.

¹⁷Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

¹⁸All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the LORD had come down on it in fire. Smoke rose from the mountain like the smoke from a kiln, and the whole mountain shook violently.

¹⁹As the sound of the horn grew louder and louder, Moses was speaking, and the voice of God answered him.

²⁰The LORD came down on top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up.

²¹The LORD said to him, "Go down and warn the people not to force their way through the boundary to see the LORD, or many of them will die."

²²Even the priests who are allowed to come near the LORD must set themselves apart as holy, or the LORD will violently kill them."

²³Moses said to the LORD, "The people cant come up Mount Sinai, because you warned us yourself to mark off a boundary around the mountain and consider it holy."

²⁴The LORD said to him, "Go down, and bring Aaron back with you. But the priests and the people must not force their way through the boundary to come up to the LORD, or he will violently kill them."

²⁵So Moses went down to the people and told them.

20¹ Then God spoke all these words:
²"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of slavery in Egypt.

³"Never have any other god.

⁴Never make your own carved idols or statues that represent any creature in the sky, on the earth, or in the water.

⁵Never worship them or serve them, because I, the LORD your God, am a God who does not tolerate rivals. I punish children for their parents sins to the third

and fourth generation of those who hate me.

⁶But I show mercy to thousands of generations of those who love me and obey my commandments.

⁷"Never use the name of the LORD your God carelessly. The LORD will make sure that anyone who carelessly uses his name will be punished.

⁸"Remember the day of worship by observing it as a holy day.

⁹You have six days to do all your work.

¹⁰The seventh day is the day of worship dedicated to the LORD your God. You, your sons, your daughters, your male and female slaves, your cattle, and the foreigners living in your city must never do any work on that day.

¹¹In six days the LORD made heaven, earth, and the sea, along with everything in them. He didn't work on the seventh day. That's why the LORD blessed the day he stopped his work and set this day apart as holy.

¹²"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live for a long time in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³"Never murder.

¹⁴"Never commit adultery.

¹⁵"Never steal.

¹⁶"Never lie when you testify about your neighbor.

¹⁷"Never desire to take your neighbors household away from him. "Never desire to take your neighbors wife, his male or female slave, his ox, his donkey, or anything else that belongs to him."

¹⁸All the people heard the thunder and saw the lightning. They heard the blast of the rams horn and saw the mountain covered with smoke. So they shook with fear and stood at a distance.

¹⁹Then they said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen. But don't let God speak to us, or we will die!"

²⁰Moses answered the people, "Don't be afraid! God has come only to test you, so that you will be in awe of him and won't sin."

²¹The people kept their distance while Moses went closer to the dark cloud where God was.

²²The LORD said to Moses, "This is what you must say to the Israelites:

You've seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven.

²³Never make any gods of silver or gold for yourselves. Never worship them.

²⁴"You must build an altar for me made out of dirt. Sacrifice your burnt offerings and your fellowship offerings, your sheep, goats, and cattle on it. Wherever I choose to have my name remembered, I will come to you and bless you.

²⁵If you build an altar for me made out of stones, never make it with cut stone blocks. If you use a chisel on it, you will make it unacceptable to me.

²⁶Never use stairs to go up to my altar. Otherwise, people will be able to see under your clothes."

21 ¹The LORD continued, "Here are the legal decisions to be used by the Israelites:

²"Whenever you buy a Hebrew slave, he will be your slave for six years. In the seventh year he may leave as a free man, without paying for his freedom.

³If he comes to you by himself, he must leave by himself. If he comes as a married man, his wife may leave with him.

⁴If his master gives him a wife and she gives birth to sons or daughters, the wife and her children belong to the master, and the slave must leave by himself.

⁵But if he makes this statement: I hereby declare my love for my master, my wife, and my children. I don't want to leave as a free man,

⁶then his master must bring him to God. The master must bring him to the door or the doorframe and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his slave for life.

⁷"Whenever a man sells his daughter into slavery, she will not go free the way male slaves do.

⁸If she doesn't please the master who has chosen her as a wife, he must let her be bought back by one of her close relatives. He has no right to sell her to foreigners, since he has treated her unfairly.

⁹But if he has chosen her for his son, he must treat her like a daughter.

¹⁰If that son marries another woman, he must not deprive the first wife of food, clothes, or sex.

¹¹ If he doesn't give her these three things, she can go free, without paying any money for her freedom.

¹² "Whoever strikes someone and kills him must be put to death.

¹³ If it wasn't done intentionally, but God let it happen, the killer should flee to a place I will set aside for you.

¹⁴ But whenever someone becomes so angry that he plans to kill his neighbor, you must take him away from my altar and put him to death.

¹⁵ "Whoever hits his father or mother must be put to death.

¹⁶ "Whoever kidnaps another person must be put to death, whether he has sold the kidnapped person or still has him.

¹⁷ "Whoever curses his father or mother must be put to death.

¹⁸ "This is what you must do whenever men quarrel and one hits the other with a rock or with his fist and injures him so that he has to stay in bed.

¹⁹ If the injured man can get up again and walk around outside with a cane, the one who hit him must not be punished. He must pay the injured man for the

loss of his time and for all his medical expenses.

²⁰"Whenever an owner hits his male or female slave with a stick so that the slave dies from the beating, the owner must be punished.

²¹ But if the slave gets up in a day or two, the owner must not be punished. The slave is his property.

²²"This is what you must do whenever men fight and injure a pregnant woman so that she gives birth prematurely. If there are no other injuries, the offender must pay whatever fine the court allows the womans husband to demand.

²³If anyone is injured, the offender must pay a life for a life,

²⁴an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, a foot for a foot,

²⁵a burn for a burn, a bruise for a bruise, a wound for a wound.

²⁶"Whenever an owner hits his male or female slave in the eye and the slave is blinded, he must let the slave go free to make up for the loss of the eye.

²⁷If the owner knocks out the tooth of his male or female slave, he must let the

slave go free to make up for the loss of the tooth.

²⁸"Whenever a bull gores a man or a woman to death, the bull must be stoned to death, and its meat may not be eaten. The bulls owner is free from any liability.

²⁹But if the bull has had the habit of goring, and the owner has been warned but has not kept it confined, and it kills a man or a woman, then the bull must be stoned and its owner must be put to death, too.

³⁰However, if only a cash settlement is demanded from the owner, the bulls owner may save his life by paying whatever price is demanded of him.

³¹If the bull gores someones son or daughter, this same ruling applies.

³²If the bull gores a male or female slave, its owner must pay 12 ounces of silver to the slaves master, and the bull must be stoned.

³³"Whenever someone opens up a cistern or digs a new one and doesnt cover it and a bull or a donkey falls into it,

³⁴the owner of the cistern must make up for the loss. He must pay money to

the animals owner, and then the dead animal will be his.

³⁵"Whenever one persons bull kills another persons bull, they must sell the live bull and divide the money between them. They must divide the dead bull, too.

³⁶However, if it was known that the bull had the habit of goring, and its owner didnt keep it confined, the owner must make up for the lossbull for bulland then the dead bull will be his."

22¹The LORD continued, "Whenever someone steals a bull or a sheep and butchers it or sells it, he must make up for the loss with five head of cattle to replace the bull or four sheep to replace the sheep.

²"If anyone catches a thief breaking in and hits him so that he dies, he is not guilty of murder.

³But if it happens after sunrise, he is guilty of murder. "A thief must make up for what he has stolen. If he is unable to do so, he must be sold as a slave to pay for what he stole.

⁴But if the stolen animal is found alive in his possession, whether its a bull,

donkey, or a sheep, he must make up for the loss with double the amount.

⁵"Whenever someone lets his livestock graze in a field or a vineyard, and they stray and graze in another persons field, he must make up for what the damaged field was expected to produce. But if he lets them ruin the whole field with their grazing, he must make up from his own field for the loss with the best from his field and vineyard.

⁶"Whenever a fire starts and spreads into the underbrush so that it burns up stacked or standing grain or ruins a field, the person who started the fire must make up for the loss.

⁷"This is what you must do whenever someone gives his neighbor silver or other valuables to keep for him, and they are stolen from that persons house: If the thief is caught, he must make up for the loss with double the amount.

⁸If the thief is not caught, the owner of the house must be brought to God to find out whether or not he took his neighbors valuables.

⁹If there is a dispute over the ownership of a bull, a donkey, a sheep, an article

of clothing, or any other lost property which two people claim as their own, both people must bring their case to God. The one whom God declares guilty must make up for his neighbors loss with double the amount.

¹⁰"This is what you must do whenever someone gives his neighbor a donkey, a bull, a sheep, or any other kind of animal to keep for him, and it dies, is injured, or is captured in war, and there are no witnesses.

¹¹The case between them must be settled by swearing an oath to the LORD that the neighbor did not take the other persons animal. The owner must accept the oath. The neighbor doesnt have to make up for the loss.

¹²But if the animal was stolen from the neighbor, he must make up for the owners loss.

¹³If it was killed by a wild animal, he must bring in the dead body as evidence. He doesnt have to make up for an animal that has been killed.

¹⁴"Whenever someone borrows an animal from his neighbor, and it is injured or dies while the owner is not

present, the borrower must make up for the loss.

¹⁵ If the owner is with the animal, the borrower doesn't have to make up for the loss. If it is rented, the rental fee covers the loss.

¹⁶ "Whenever a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged to anyone and has sexual intercourse with her, he must pay the brideprice and marry her.

¹⁷ If her father absolutely refuses to give her to him, he must pay an amount of money equal to the brideprice for virgins.

¹⁸ "Never let a witch live.

¹⁹ "Whoever has sexual intercourse with an animal must be put to death.

²⁰ "Whoever sacrifices to any god except the LORD must be condemned and destroyed.

²¹ "Never mistreat or oppress foreigners, because you were foreigners living in Egypt.

²² "Never take advantage of any widow or orphan.

²³ If you do and they cry out to me, you can be sure that I will hear their cry.

²⁴ I will become angry and have you killed in combat. Then your wives and children will become widows and orphans.

²⁵ "If you lend money to my people to any poor person among you, never act like a moneylender. Charge no interest.

²⁶ If you take any of your neighbors' clothes as collateral, give it back to him by sunset.

²⁷ It may be the only clothes he has to cover his body. What else will he sleep in? When he cries out to me, I will listen because I am compassionate.

²⁸ "Never show disrespect for God or curse a leader of your people.

²⁹ "Never withhold your best wine from me." You must give me your firstborn son.

³⁰ You must do the same with your cattle and your sheep. They will stay with their mothers seven days, but on the eighth day you must give them to me.

³¹ "You must be my holy people. Never eat the meat of an animal that has been killed by wild animals out in the countryside. Throw it to the dogs."

23¹ The LORD continued, "Never spread false rumors. Don't join forces with wicked people by giving false testimony.

² Never follow a crowd in doing wrong. When you testify in court, don't side with the majority to pervert justice.

³ Never give special favors to poor people in court.

⁴ "Whenever you come across your enemy's ox or donkey wandering loose, be sure to take it back to him.

⁵ Whenever you see that the donkey of someone who hates you has collapsed under its load, don't leave it there. Be sure to help him with his animal.

⁶ "Never deny justice to poor people in court.

⁷ Avoid telling lies. Don't kill innocent or honest people, because I will never declare guilty people innocent.

⁸ Never take a bribe, because bribes blind those who can see and deny justice to those who are in the right.

⁹ "Never oppress foreigners. You know what it's like to be foreigners because you were foreigners living in Egypt.

¹⁰"For six years you may plant crops in your fields and harvest them,

¹¹but in the seventh year you must leave the land unplowed and unused. In that way the poor among your people will have food to eat, and wild animals may eat what the poor people leave. You must do the same with your vineyards and olive groves.

¹²"For six days you will do your work, but on the seventh day you must not work. Then your ox and donkey can rest. The slaves born in your household and foreigners will also be refreshed.

¹³"Be careful to do everything I told you." Never mention the names of other gods or let them be heard on your lips.

¹⁴"Three times a year you must celebrate a pilgrimage festival in my honor.

¹⁵"Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread: For seven days you must eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you. Do this at the appointed time in the month of Abib, because that was when you left Egypt. No one may come into my presence without an offering.

¹⁶"Celebrate the Festival of the Harvest with the first produce harvested from whatever you plant in your fields." Celebrate the Festival of the Final Harvest at the end of the year when you harvest your crops from the fields.

¹⁷"These are the three times each year that all your men must come into the presence of the Master, the LORD.

¹⁸"Never offer the blood of a sacrifice to me at the same time you offer anything containing yeast. The fat sacrificed at my festivals should never be left over in the morning.

¹⁹"You must bring the best of the first produce harvested from your soil to the house of the LORD your God." Never cook a young goat in its mothers milk.

²⁰"I'm going to send a Messenger in front of you to protect you on your trip and bring you to the place I have prepared.

²¹ Pay attention to him, and listen to him. Dont defy him, because he will not forgive your disobedience. He is acting on my authority.

²² But if you will listen to him and do everything I say, then I will be an enemy

to your enemies and an opponent to your opponents.

²³"My Messenger will go ahead of you and will bring you to the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites, and Jebusites. I will wipe them out.

²⁴Never worship or serve their gods or follow their practices. Instead, you must destroy their gods and crush their sacred stones.

²⁵You must serve the LORD your God, and he will bless your food and water. I will take away all sickness from among you.

²⁶No woman in your land will miscarry or be unable to have children. I will let you live a normal life span.

²⁷"I will send my terror ahead of you and throw any nation you meet into a panic. I will make all your enemies flee from you.

²⁸I will spread panic ahead of you to force the Hivites, Canaanites, and Hittites out of your way.

²⁹I will not force them out of your way in one year. Otherwise, the land would

be deserted, and wild animals would take over.

³⁰Little by little I will force them out of your way until you have increased enough in number to take possession of the land.

³¹"I will establish your borders from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea and from the Sinai Desert to the Euphrates River. I will put the people living in the land under your control, and you will force them out of your way.

³²Never make a treaty with them and their gods.

³³Never let them live in your land, or they will make you sin against me and trap you into serving their gods."

24¹The LORD said to Moses, "You and Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and 70 of Israel's leaders come up the mountain to me and worship at a distance.

²Moses may come near the LORD, but the others may not. The people must not come along with Moses."

³Moses went and told the people all the LORDS words and legal decisions. Then all the people answered with one voice,

"We will do everything the LORD has told us to do."

⁴So Moses wrote down all the LORDS words. Early the next morning he built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up 12 sacred stones for the 12 tribes of Israel.

⁵Then he sent young Israelite men, and they sacrificed bulls as burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the LORD.

⁶Moses took half of the blood and put it into bowls, and he threw the other half against the altar.

⁷Then he took the Book of the LORDs Promise and read it while the people listened. They said, "We will obey and do everything the LORD has said."

⁸Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people and said, "Here is the blood which seals the promise that the LORD has made to you based on everything you have just heard."

⁹Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and 70 of Israels leaders.

¹⁰They saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made out of sapphire as clear and blue as the sky itself.

¹¹ God didn't harm these leaders of the Israelites. So they saw God, and then they ate and drank.

¹² The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain. Stay there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the teachings and the commandments I have written for the people's instruction."

¹³ Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up on the mountain of God.

¹⁴ He said to the leaders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are here with you. Take all your disagreements to them."

¹⁵ So Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered it.

¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered it, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from inside the cloud.

¹⁷ To the Israelites, the glory of the LORD looked like a raging fire on top of the mountain.

¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud as he went up the mountain. He stayed on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights.

25 ¹The LORD said to Moses,
²"Tell the Israelites to choose something to give me as a special contribution. You must accept whatever contribution each person freely gives.

³This is the kind of contribution you will accept from them: gold, silver, and bronze,

⁴violet, purple, and bright red yarn, fine linen, goats hair,

⁵rams skins dyed red, fine leather, acacia wood,

⁶olive oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet-smelling incense,

⁷onyx stones, and other precious stones to be set in the chief priest's ephod and his breastplate.

⁸"Then have them make a holy place for me, and I will live among them.

⁹Make the tent and all its furnishings exactly like the plans I am showing you.

¹⁰"Make an ark of acacia wood 45 inches long, 27 inches wide, and 27 inches high.

¹¹Cover it with pure gold inside and out, and put a gold molding around it.

¹²Cast four gold rings for it, and fasten them to its four feet, two rings on each side.

¹³Make poles of acacia wood, and cover them with gold.

¹⁴Put the poles through the rings on the sides of the ark in order to carry it.

¹⁵The poles must stay in the rings of the ark. Never remove them.

¹⁶Then you will put into the ark the words of my promise which I will give you.

¹⁷"Make a throne of mercy to cover the ark out of pure gold 45 inches long and 27 inches wide.

¹⁸Make two angels out of hammered gold for the two ends of the throne of mercy,

¹⁹one on each end. Form the angels and the throne of mercy out of one piece of gold.

²⁰The angels should have their wings spread above the throne of mercy, overshadowing it. They should face each other, looking at the throne of mercy.

²¹After you put into the ark the words of my promise which I will give you, place the throne of mercy on top.

²²I will be above the throne of mercy between the angels whenever I meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites.

²³"Make a table of acacia wood 36 inches long, 18 inches wide, and 27 inches high.

²⁴Cover it with pure gold, and put a gold molding around it.

²⁵Make a rim three inches wide around it, and put a gold molding around the rim.

²⁶Make four gold rings for it, and fasten them to the four corners, where the four legs are.

²⁷The rings are to be close to the rim. They are to hold the poles for carrying the table.

²⁸Make the poles out of acacia wood, cover them with gold, and use them to carry the table.

²⁹Make plates and dishes for the table out of pure gold, as well as pitchers and bowls to be used for pouring wine offerings.

³⁰Put the bread of the presence on this table so that it will be in front of me all the time.

³¹ "Make a lamp stand out of pure gold. The lamp stand, its base, and its shaft, as well as the flower cups, buds, and petals must be hammered out of one piece of gold.

³² Six branches are to come out of the sides, three branches on one side and three on the other.

³³ Each of the six branches coming out of the lamp stand is to have three flower cups shaped like almond blossoms, with buds and petals.

³⁴ The lamp stand itself is to have four flower cups shaped like almond blossoms, with buds and petals.

³⁵ There should be a bud under each of the three pairs of branches coming out of the lamp stand.

³⁶ The buds and branches should also be hammered out of the same piece of pure gold as the lamp stand.

³⁷ "Make seven lamps, and set them on the lamp stand so that they light up the area in front of it.

³⁸ The tongs and incense burners must be made of pure gold.

³⁹ Use 75 pounds of pure gold to make the lamp stand and all the utensils.

⁴⁰Be sure to make them according to the plans you were shown on the mountain."

26¹The LORD continued, "Make the inner tent with ten sheets made from fine linen yarn. Take violet, purple, and bright red yarn, and creatively work an angel design into the fabric.

²Each sheet will be 42 feet long and 6 feet wide all the same size.

³Five of the sheets must be sewn together, and the other five must also be sewn together.

⁴Make 50 violet loops along the edge of the end sheet in each set,

⁵placing the loops opposite each other.

⁶Make 50 gold fasteners. Use them to link the two sets of sheets together so that the tent is a single unit.

⁷"Make 11 sheets of goats hair to form an outer tent over the inner tent.

⁸Each of the 11 sheets will be 45 feet long and 6 feet wide.

⁹Sew five of the sheets together into one set and the remaining six into another set. Fold the sixth sheet in half to hang in front of the tent.

¹⁰ Make 50 loops along the edge of the end sheet in each set.

¹¹ Make 50 bronze fasteners, and put them through the loops to link the inner tent together as a single unit.

¹² The remaining halfsheet should hang over the back of the inner tent.

¹³ There will be 18 inches left over on each side because of the length of the outer tents sheets. That part should hang over each side in order to cover the inner tent.

¹⁴ Make a cover of rams skins that have been dyed red for the outer tent. Over that put a cover made of fine leather.

¹⁵ "Make a framework out of acacia wood for the inner tent.

¹⁶ Each frame is to be 15 feet long and 27 inches wide,

¹⁷ with two identical pegs. Make all the frames for the inner tent the same way.

¹⁸ Make 20 frames for the south side of the inner tent.

¹⁹ Then make 40 silver sockets at the bottom of the 20 frames, two sockets at the bottom of each frame for the two pegs.

²⁰For the north side of the inner tent make 20 frames

²¹and 40 silver sockets, two at the bottom of each frame.

²²Make six frames for the far end, the west side.

²³Make two frames for each of the corners at the far end of the inner tent.

²⁴These will be held together at the bottom and held tightly at the top by a single ring. Both corner frames will be made this way.

²⁵There will be eight frames with 16 silver sockets, two at the bottom of each frame.

²⁶"Make crossbars out of acacia wood: five for the frames on one side of the inner tent,

²⁷five for those on the other side, and five for the frames on the far end of the inner tent, the west side.

²⁸The middle crossbar will run from one end to the other, halfway up the frames.

²⁹Cover the frames with gold, make gold rings to hold the crossbars, and cover the crossbars with gold.

³⁰"Set up the inner tent according to the plans you were shown on the mountain.

³¹"Make a canopy of violet, purple, and bright red yarn. Creatively work an angel design into fine linen yarn.

³²Use gold hooks to hang it on four posts of acacia wood covered with gold, standing in four silver sockets.

³³Hang the canopy from the fasteners in the ceiling, and put the ark containing the words of my promise under it. The canopy will mark off the most holy place from the holy place.

³⁴Put the throne of mercy that is on the ark in the most holy place.

³⁵"Place the table outside the canopy on the north side of the inner tent, and put the lamp stand opposite the table on the south side.

³⁶"For the entrance of the outer tent, make a screen out of fine linen yarn, embroidered with violet, purple, and bright red yarn.

³⁷Make five posts of acacia wood for the screen and cover them with gold. Make gold hooks for this screen. Cast five bronze bases for the posts."

27¹ The LORD continued, "Make an altar out of acacia wood. It should be 7 feet square, and 4 feet high.

² Make a horn at each of its four corners. The four horns and the altar must be made out of one piece of wood covered with bronze.

³ "Make all the utensils for it out of bronze: pots for taking away the altars ashes, also shovels, bowls, forks, and incense burners.

⁴ "Make a grate for it out of bronze mesh, and make a bronze ring for each of the four corners of the grate.

⁵ Put the grate under the ledge of the altar so that it comes halfway up the altar.

⁶ "Make poles out of acacia wood for the altar, and cover them with bronze.

⁷ The poles should be put through the rings on both sides of the altar to carry it.

⁸ "Make the altar out of boards so that its hollow inside. It must be made just as you were shown on the mountain.

⁹ "Make a courtyard for the tent. The south side of the courtyard should be

150 feet long and have curtains made out of fine linen yarn,

¹⁰hung on 20 posts set in 20 bronze bases. The hooks and bands on the posts should be made of silver.

¹¹The north side should be the same: 150 feet long, with curtains on 20 posts set in 20 bronze bases. The hooks and bands on the posts should be made of silver.

¹²"The courtyard on the west end should be 75 feet wide and have curtains hung on ten posts set in ten bases.

¹³On the east end, facing the rising sun, the courtyard should also be 75 feet wide.

¹⁴Each side of the entrance will be 22 feet wide with curtains hung on three posts set in three bases.

¹⁵(SEE 27: 14)

¹⁶"The entrance to the courtyard must have a 30foot screen made from fine linen yarn, embroidered with violet, purple, and bright red yarn, hung on four posts set in four bases.

¹⁷All the posts around the courtyard should have silver bands, silver hooks, and bronze bases.

¹⁸The courtyard should be 150 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 7 feet high, with curtains made of fine linen yarn and with bronze bases.

¹⁹"All the things for the tent, no matter how they're used, including all the pegs for the tent and the courtyard, must be made of bronze.

²⁰"For the lighting, you must command the Israelites to bring you pure, virgin olive oil so that the lamps won't go out.

²¹In the tent of meeting outside the canopy where the words of my promise are, Aaron and his descendants must keep the lamps lit in the LORDS presence from evening until morning. This is a permanent law among the Israelites for generations to come."

28¹ The LORD continued, "Out of all the Israelites, bring your brother Aaron and his sons Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar to you. They will serve me as priests.

²Make holy clothes for your brother Aaron to give him dignity and honor.

³"Tell all those who have the skill those to whom I have given this ability to make Aarons clothes. These clothes will set

him apart as holy when he serves me as priest.

⁴These are the clothes they will make: a breastplate, an ephod and the robe that is worn with it, another specially woven linen robe, the chief priests turban, and a cloth belt. They will make these holy clothes for your brother Aaron and his sons so that they can serve me as priests.

⁵They must use gold, violet, purple, and bright red yarn, and fine linen.

⁶"Make the ephod out of fine linen yarn. Creatively work gold, violet, purple, and bright red yarn into the fabric.

⁷It will have two shoulder straps attached at the top corners so that it can be fastened.

⁸Make the belt that is attached to the ephod out of the same fabric.

⁹Take two onyx stones, and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel

¹⁰in birth ordersix of their names on one stone and the remaining six on the other.

¹¹Engrave the names of the sons of Israel on the two stones the same way

a jeweler engraves a signet ring. Mount them in gold settings,

¹²and fasten them on the shoulder straps of the ephod as reminders of who the Israelites are. In this way Aaron will carry their names on his shoulders as a reminder in the LORDS presence.

¹³Make gold settings

¹⁴and two chains of pure gold, twisted like ropes, and fasten these chains to the settings.

¹⁵"Make the breastplate for decisionmaking as creatively as you make the ephod. Make it out of gold, violet, purple, and bright red yarn and out of fine linen yarn.

¹⁶Fold it in half so that its 9 inches square.

¹⁷Fasten four rows of precious stones on it. In the first row put red quartz, topaz, and emerald.

¹⁸In the second row put turquoise, sapphire, and crystal.

¹⁹In the third row put jacinth, agate, and amethyst.

²⁰In the fourth row put beryl, onyx, and gray quartz. Mount them in gold settings.

²¹ The stones correspond to the 12 sons of Israel, by name, each stone engraved (like a signet ring) with the name of one of the 12 tribes.

²² "For the breastplate make chains out of pure gold, twisted like ropes.

²³ Make two gold rings for the breastplate. Attach them to the two top corners of the breastplate.

²⁴ Then fasten the two gold ropes to the rings at the top corners of the breastplate.

²⁵ Fasten the other ends of the ropes to the two settings on the shoulder straps of the ephod so that the breastplate hangs in front of it.

²⁶ Make two gold rings, and fasten them to the other two corners of the breastplate on the inside edge next to the ephod.

²⁷ Make two more gold rings, and fasten them to the bottom of the shoulder straps on the front of the ephod. This will be close to the seam just above the belt of the ephod.

²⁸ Then the breastplate should be fastened by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a violet cord. This will attach

it just above the belt of the ephod and will hold the breastplate in place.

²⁹"Whenever Aaron goes into the holy place, he will be carrying the names of the sons of Israel over his heart as a constant reminder in the LORDS presence. He must do this by wearing the breastplate for decisionmaking.

³⁰Put the Urim and Thummim into the breastplate for decisionmaking. They, too, will be over Aarons heart when he comes into the LORDS presence. In this way whenever hes in the LORDS presence, Aaron will always be carrying over his heart the means for determining the LORDS decisions for the Israelites.

³¹"Make the robe that is worn with the ephod entirely of violet material.

³²Make an opening for the head in the center with a reinforced edge (like a leather collar) all around it to keep it from tearing.

³³All around the hem of the robe make pomegranates of violet, purple, and bright red yarn with gold bells in between

³⁴a gold bell alternating with a pomegranate all around the hem of the robe.

³⁵ Aaron must wear it when he serves as priest. The sound of the bells must be heard when he comes into and goes out of the LORDS presence in the holy place so that he wont die.

³⁶ "Make a flowershaped medallion out of pure gold, and engrave on it (as on a signet ring): Holy to the LORD.

³⁷ Fasten a violet cord to it, and tie it so that its on the front of the turban.

³⁸ It will be on Aarons forehead. Hes the one to be blamed for anything done wrong when the Israelites bring their holy offeringswhatever their gifts may be. The medallion must always be on Aarons forehead so that the LORD will accept their offerings.

³⁹ "Make the specially woven inner robe of fine linen. Make the turban of fine linen, but the belt should be embroidered with colored yarn.

⁴⁰ "Also make linen robes, belts, and turbans for Aarons sons. These clothes will give them dignity and honor.

⁴¹ Put these clothes on your brother Aaron and his sons, anoint them, ordain them, and set them apart to serve me as priests.

⁴²"Make linen undergarments to cover them down to their thighs.

⁴³Aaron and his sons must wear them when they go into the tent of meeting or when they come near the altar to serve as priests in the holy place. Then they will be blameless and wont die. "This is a permanent law for him and his descendants."

29¹ The LORD continued, "Now, this is what you must do in order to set Aaron and his sons apart to serve me as priests:" Take a young bull that has no defects and two rams that have no defects.

²Use the finest wheat flour, but no yeast, and bake some loaves of bread, some rings of bread made with olive oil, and some wafers brushed with olive oil.

³Put the bread in a basket, and bring the basket along with the young bull and the two rams.

⁴"Then bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting, and wash them.

⁵Take the clothes, and put them on Aaronthe linen robe, the ephod and the robe that is worn with it, and the

breastplate. Use the belt to tie it on him tightly.

⁶Put his turban on him, and fasten the holy crown to it.

⁷Take the anointing oil, pour it on his head, and anoint him.

⁸"Have his sons come forward. Dress them in their linen robes,

⁹and put turbans on them. Tie belts around the waists of Aaron and his sons. They alone are to be priests; this is a permanent law. In this way you will ordain Aaron and his sons.

¹⁰"Then bring the young bull to the front of the tent of meeting. Aaron and his sons will place their hands on its head.

¹¹Slaughter the bull in the LORDS presence at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

¹²Take some of the bulls blood, and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger. Pour the rest of it out at the bottom of the altar.

¹³"Then take all the fat that covers the internal organs, the lobe of the liver, and the two kidneys with the fat on them, and burn them on the altar.

¹⁴ But burn the bulls meat, skin, and excrement outside the camp. It is an offering for sin.

¹⁵ "Take one of the rams. Then Aaron and his sons will place their hands on its head.

¹⁶ Slaughter it, take the blood, and throw it against the altar on all sides.

¹⁷ Cut the ram into pieces, wash the internal organs and legs, and put them with the other pieces and the head.

¹⁸ Then burn the whole ram on the altar. Its a burnt offering, a soothing aroma, an offering by fire to the LORD.

¹⁹ "Take the other ram. Then Aaron and his sons will place their hands on its head.

²⁰ Slaughter it, take some of the blood, and put it on the right ear lobes of Aaron and his sons, on their right thumbs, and on the big toes of their right feet. Throw the rest of the blood against the altar on all sides.

²¹ Take some of the blood that is on the altar and some of the anointing oil, and sprinkle it on Aaron and his clothes and on his sons and their clothes. In this way

Aaron, his sons, and their clothes will be holy.

²²"From this same ram take the fat, the fat from the tail, the fat that covers the internal organs, the lobe of the liver, the two kidneys with the fat on them, and the right thigh. (This is the ram for the ordination.)

²³From the basket of unleavened bread which is in the LORDS presence, take a round loaf of bread, a ring of bread made with olive oil, and a wafer.

²⁴Put all of these in the hands of Aaron and his sons, who will offer them to the LORD.

²⁵Then take them from their hands, and burn them on the altar on top of the burnt offering. Its a soothing aroma in the LORDS presence, an offering by fire to the LORD.

²⁶"Take the breast from the ram used for Aarons ordination, and present it to the LORD. This will be your share.

²⁷Set apart as holy the breast that is offered to the LORD and the thigh that is the contribution. Both will come from the ram used for the ordination. They both belong to Aaron and his sons.

²⁸It is a permanent law that the Israelites give this portion to Aaron and his sons as a contribution. This will also be their contribution to the LORD from the fellowship offerings.

²⁹"Aarons holy clothes will belong to his descendants so that they can be anointed and ordained in them.

³⁰The son who succeeds him as priestthe one who goes into the tent of meeting to serve in the holy placewill wear them for seven days.

³¹"Take the ram used for the ordination, and boil its meat in a holy place.

³²At the entrance to the tent of meeting, Aaron and his sons will eat the meat of the ram and the bread left in the basket.

³³They will eat those offerings through which they made peace with the LORD at their ordination and installation. No one else may eat them because the offerings are holy.

³⁴If any meat or bread from the ordination is left over until morning, burn it up. It must not be eaten because it is holy.

³⁵"Do this with Aaron and his sons exactly as I have commanded you. Take seven days to ordain them.

³⁶Each day sacrifice a young bull as an offering to make peace with the LORD. Sacrifice this offering for sin on the altar in order to pay for its sins. Then anoint it with olive oil in order to dedicate it.

³⁷For seven days at the altar make peace with the LORD and set the altar apart for its holy purpose. Then the altar will be most holy. Anything that touches the altar will become holy.

³⁸"This is what you are to offer on the altar regularly every day: two oneyearold lambs.

³⁹Offer one in the morning and the other at dusk.

⁴⁰With the first lamb make an offering of eight cups of flour mixed with one quart of virgin olive oil. Make a wine offering of one quart of wine.

⁴¹Offer the other lamb at dusk, and with it make the same grain offering and wine offering as in the morning. This is a soothing aroma, an offering by fire to the LORD.

⁴²"For generations to come this will be the daily burnt offering made in the LORDS presence at the entrance to the tent of meeting. There I will meet with you to speak to you.

⁴³I will also meet with the Israelites there, and my glory will make this place holy.

⁴⁴I will dedicate the tent of meeting and the altar for their holy purposes. I will set Aaron and his sons apart for their holy duties of serving me as priests.

⁴⁵"Then I will live among the Israelites and be their God.

⁴⁶They will know that I am the LORD their God. I brought them out of Egypt so that I might live among them. I am the LORD their God."

30¹The LORD continued, "Build an altar out of acacia wood for burning incense.

²Make it 18 inches square and 36 inches high. The horns and altar must be made out of one piece of wood.

³Cover all of it with pure goldthe top, the sides, and the horns. Put a gold molding around it.

⁴ Make two gold rings, and put them below the molding on opposite sides to hold the poles for carrying it.

⁵ Make the poles out of acacia wood, and cover them with gold.

⁶ Put the altar in front of the canopy which hangs over the ark containing the words of my promise. I will meet with you there in front of the throne of mercy that is on the ark.

⁷ "Aaron must burn sweet-smelling incense on this altar every morning when he takes care of the lamps.

⁸ Also, when Aaron lights the lamps at dusk, he must burn incense. For generations to come an incense offering must burn constantly in the LORDS presence.

⁹ "Never burn any unauthorized incense on this altar or any burnt offerings or grain offerings. Never pour a wine offering on it.

¹⁰ Once a year Aaron must make peace with the LORD by putting blood on its horns. Once a year for generations to come blood from the offering must be placed on the altar to make peace with the LORD. It is most holy to the LORD."

¹¹ Then the LORD said to Moses,

¹² "When you take a census of the Israelites, each person must pay the LORD a ransom for his life when he is counted. Then no plague will happen to them when they are counted.

¹³ As each person is counted, he must give one-fifth of an ounce of silver using the standard weight of the holy place. This one-fifth of an ounce of silver is a contribution to the LORD.

¹⁴ Everyone counted who is at least 20 years old must give this contribution to the LORD.

¹⁵ The rich must not give more than one-fifth of an ounce of silver, and the poor must not give less. This contribution is given to make peace with the LORD and make your lives acceptable to the LORD.

¹⁶ Take the money the Israelites give to make peace with the LORD, and use it to pay the expenses of the tent of meeting. It will be a reminder for the Israelites in the LORD'S presence that the sins in their lives are removed."

¹⁷ The LORD said to Moses,

¹⁸"Make a bronze basin with a bronze stand for washing. Put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and fill it with water.

¹⁹Aaron and his sons will use it for washing their hands and feet.

²⁰Before they go into the tent of meeting, they must wash so that they will not die. Before they come near the altar to serve as priests and burn an offering by fire to the LORD,

²¹they will wash their hands and feet so that they will not die. This will be a permanent law for him and his descendants for generations to come."

²²The LORD said to Moses,

²³"Take the finest spices: 12 pounds of powdered myrrh; half as much, that is, 6 pounds of fragrant cinnamon; 6 pounds of fragrant cane;

²⁴12 pounds of cassiaall weighed using the standard weight of the holy placeand 4 quarts of olive oil.

²⁵Have a perfumer make these into a holy oil, a fragrant mixture, used only for anointing. This will be the holy oil used for anointing.

²⁶"Use it to anoint the tent of meeting, the ark containing the words of my promise,

²⁷ the table and all the dishes, the lamp stand and all the utensils, the altar for incense,

²⁸ the altar for burnt offerings and all its accessories, and the basin with its stand.

²⁹In this way you will dedicate them for their holy purpose. Then they will be most holy, and anything that touches them will become holy.

³⁰Anoint Aaron and his sons as well. In this way you will set them apart for their holy duties of serving me as priests.

³¹"Say to the Israelites, For generations to come, this will be my holy oil used only for anointing.

³²It must never be poured on the bodies of other people. Never make any perfumed oil using this formula. It is holy, and you must treat it as holy.

³³Whoever prepares a perfume like this or puts it on anyone who is not a priest must be excluded from the people."

³⁴The LORD said to Moses, "Take one part fragrant spices (two kinds of gum resin and aromatic mollusk

shells), and mix them with one part pure frankincense.

³⁵ Have a perfumer make it into fragrant incense, seasoned with salt, pure and holy.

³⁶ Grind some of it into a fine powder, and put it in front of the ark containing the words of my promise in the tent of meeting, where I will meet with you. You must treat it as most holy.

³⁷ Never make any incense for yourselves using this formula. Treat it as holy to the LORD.

³⁸ Whoever prepares anything like it for his own enjoyment must be excluded from his people."

31 ¹ The LORD said to Moses,
² "I have chosen Bezalel, son of Uri and grandson of Hur, from the tribe of Judah.

³ I have filled Bezalel with the Spirit of God, making him highly skilled, resourceful, and knowledgeable in all trades.

⁴ He is a master artist familiar with gold, silver, and bronze.

⁵ He knows how to cut and set stones and how to work with wood. Hes an expert in all trades.

⁶ Also, I have appointed Oholiab, son of Ahisamach, from the tribe of Dan, to help him. I have given every craftsman the skill necessary to make everything I have commanded you:

⁷ the tent of meeting, the ark containing the words of my promise with the throne of mercy on it, and all the other furnishings for the tent,

⁸ the table and the dishes, the pure gold lamp stand and all its utensils, the altar for incense,

⁹ the altar for burnt offerings and all its accessories, the basin with its stand,

¹⁰ the special clothesthe holy clothes for the priest Aaron and the clothes for his sons when they serve as priests,

¹¹ the anointing oil, and the sweetsmelling incense for the holy place. They will make all these things as I commanded you."

¹² The LORD said to Moses,

¹³ "Say to the Israelites, Be sure to observe my days of worship. This will be a sign between me and you for

generations to come so that you will know that I am the LORD who makes you holy.

¹⁴"Observe the day of worship because it is holy to you. Whoever treats it like any other day must be put to death. Whoever works on that day must be excluded from the people.

¹⁵You may work for six days, but the seventh day is a day of worship, a day when you don't work. It is holy to the LORD. Whoever works on that day must be put to death.

¹⁶The Israelites must observe this day of worship, celebrating it for generations to come as a permanent reminder of my promise.

¹⁷It will be a permanent sign between me and the Israelites, because the LORD made heaven and earth in six days, and on the seventh day he stopped working and was refreshed."

¹⁸The LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai. Then he gave him the two tablets with his words on them, stone tablets inscribed by God himself.

32¹ When the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the

mountain, they gathered around Aaron. They said to him, "We don't know what has happened to this Moses, who led us out of Egypt. Make gods who will lead us."

² Aaron said to them, "Have your wives, sons, and daughters take off the gold earrings they are wearing, and bring them to me."

³ So all the people took off their gold earrings and handed them to Aaron.

⁴ After he had worked on the gold with a tool, he made it into a statue of a calf. Then they said, "Israel, here are your gods who brought you out of Egypt."

⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of it and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival in the LORDS honor."

⁶ Early the next day the people sacrificed burnt offerings and brought fellowship offerings. Afterward, they sat down to a feast, which turned into an orgy.

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "Go back down there. Your people whom you brought out of Egypt have ruined everything."

⁸They've already turned from the way I commanded them to live. They've made a statue of a calf for themselves. They've bowed down to it and offered sacrifices to it. They've said, Israel, here are your gods who brought you out of Egypt."

⁹The LORD added, "I've seen these people, and they are impossible to deal with.

¹⁰Now leave me alone. I'm so angry with them I am going to destroy them. Then I'll make you into a great nation."

¹¹But Moses pleaded with the LORD his God. "LORD," he said, "why are you so angry with your people whom you brought out of Egypt using your great power and mighty hand?

¹²Dont let the Egyptians say, He was planning all along to kill them in the mountains and wipe them off the face of the earth. Thats why he brought them out of our land. Dont be so angry. Reconsider your decision to bring this disaster on your people.

¹³Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. You took an oath, swearing on yourself. You told them, I will make your descendants as numerous

as the stars in the sky. I will give to your descendants all the land I spoke of. It will be their permanent possession."

¹⁴ So the LORD reconsidered his threat to destroy his people.

¹⁵ Moses turned and went down the mountain carrying the two tablets with Gods words. They were written on both sides, front and back.

¹⁶ The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was Gods writing inscribed on the tablets.

¹⁷ Then Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting. He said to Moses, "Its the sound of war in the camp!"

¹⁸ Moses replied, "Its not the sound of winners shouting. Its not the sound of losers crying. Its the sound of a wild celebration that I hear."

¹⁹ When he came near the camp, he saw the calf and the dancing. In a burst of anger Moses threw down the tablets and smashed them at the foot of the mountain.

²⁰ Then he took the calf they had made, burned it, ground it into powder, scattered it on the water, and made the Israelites drink it.

²¹ Moses asked Aaron, "What did these people do to you that you encouraged them to commit such a serious sin?"

²² "Don't be angry, sir," Aaron answered. "You know that these people are evil.

²³ They said to me, 'We don't know what's happened to this Moses who brought us out of Egypt. Make gods for us. They will lead us.'

²⁴ So I told them to take off any gold they were wearing. They gave it to me. I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

²⁵ Aaron had let the people get out of control, and they became an object of ridicule to their enemies. When Moses saw this,

²⁶ he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "If you're on the LORDS side, come over here to me!" Then all the Levites gathered around him.

²⁷ He said to them, "This is what the LORD God of Israel says: Each of you put on your sword. Go back and forth from one end of the camp to the other, and kill your relatives, friends, and neighbors."

²⁸The Levites did what Moses told them, and that day about 3,000 people died.

²⁹Moses said, "Today you are ordained as the LORDS priests. God gave you a blessing today because each of you fought with your own sons and brothers."

³⁰The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a serious sin. Now I will go up the mountain to the LORD. Maybe I will be able to make a payment for your sin and make peace with the LORD for your sin."

³¹So Moses went back to the LORD and said, "These people have committed such a serious sin! They made gods out of gold for themselves.

³²But will you forgive their sin? If not, please wipe me out of the book you have written."

³³The LORD answered Moses, "I will wipe out of my book whoever sins against me.

³⁴Now, go! Lead the people to the place I told you about. My Messenger will go ahead of you. But when I punish, I will punish them for their sin."

³⁵ So the LORD killed people because they had Aaron make the calf.

33¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "You and the people you brought out of Egypt must leave this place. Go to the land I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with an oath, saying, I will give it to your descendants.

² I will send a Messenger ahead of you, and I will force out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.

³ Go to that land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not be with you, because you are impossible to deal with, and I would destroy you on the way."

⁴ When the people heard this bad news, they acted as if someone had died. No one wore any jewelry.

⁵ The LORD had said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites, You are impossible to deal with. If I were with you, I might destroy you at any time. Now take off your jewelry, and I'll decide what to do with you."

⁶ After they left Mount Horeb, the Israelites no longer wore their jewelry.

⁷ Now, Moses used to take a tent and set it up far outside the camp. He called it the tent of meeting. Anyone who was seeking the LORDS will used to go outside the camp to the tent of meeting.

⁸ Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand at the entrances to their tents and watch Moses until he went in.

⁹ As soon as Moses went into the tent, the column of smoke would come down and stay at the entrance to the tent while the LORD spoke with Moses.

¹⁰ When all the people saw the column of smoke standing at the entrance to the tent, they would all bow with their faces touching the ground at the entrance to their own tents.

¹¹ The LORD would speak to Moses personally, as a man speaks to his friend. Then Moses would come back to the camp, but his assistant, Joshua, son of Nun, stayed inside the tent.

¹² Moses said to the LORD, "Youve been telling me to lead these people, but you havent let me know whom youre sending with me. Youve also said, I know you by name, and Im pleased with you.

¹³If you really are pleased with me, show me your ways so that I can know you and so that you will continue to be pleased with me. Remember: This nation is your people."

¹⁴The LORD answered, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you peace."

¹⁵Then Moses said to him, "If your presence is not going with us, don't make us leave this place."

¹⁶How will anyone ever know you're pleased with your people and me unless you go with us? Then we will be different from all other people on the face of the earth."

¹⁷The LORD answered Moses, "I will do what you have asked, because I am pleased with you, and I know you by name."

¹⁸Then Moses said, "Please let me see your glory."

¹⁹The LORD said, "I will let all my goodness pass in front of you, and there I will call out my name the LORD. I will be kind to anyone I want to. I will be merciful to anyone I want to."

²⁰But you can't see my face, because no one may see me and live."

²¹Then the LORD said, "Look, there's a place near me. Stand by this rocky cliff.

²²When my glory passes by, I will put you in a crevice in the cliff and cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

²³Then I will take my hand away, and you'll see my back, but my face must not be seen."

34¹The LORD said to Moses, "Cut two more stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets which you smashed.

²Be ready in the morning. Then come up on Mount Sinai, and stand in my presence on the top of the mountain.

³No one may come with you or even be seen anywhere on the mountain. Even the flocks and herds may not graze in front of this mountain."

⁴So Moses cut two more stone tablets like the first ones. Early the next morning he went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, carrying the two stone tablets.

⁵The LORD came down in a cloud and stood there with him and called out his name "the LORD."

⁶Then he passed in front of Moses, calling out, "The LORD, the LORD, a compassionate and merciful God, patient, always faithful and ready to forgive."

⁷He continues to show his love to thousands of generations, forgiving wrongdoing, disobedience, and sin. He never lets the guilty go unpunished, punishing children and grandchildren for their parents sins to the third and fourth generation."

⁸Immediately, Moses knelt, bowing with his face touching the ground.

⁹Then he said, "Lord, please go with us! Even though we are impossible to deal with, forgive our sin and the wrong we have done, and accept us as your own people."

¹⁰The LORD said, "I'm making my promise again. In front of all your people I will perform miracles that have never been done in any other nation in all the world. All the people around you will see

how awesome these miracles are that I will perform for you.

¹¹ Do everything that I command today. Then I will force the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites out of your way.

¹² Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land where you're going. This will prove to be a trap to you.

¹³ But tear down their altars, crush their sacred stones, and cut down their poles dedicated to the goddess Asherah.

¹⁴ (Never worship any other god, because the LORD is a God who does not tolerate rivals. In fact, he is known for not tolerating rivals.)

¹⁵ Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in that land. When they chase after their gods as though they were prostitutes and sacrifice to them, they may invite you to eat the meat from their sacrifices with them.

¹⁶ Then your sons will end up marrying their daughters. When their daughters chase after their gods as though they were prostitutes, they'll lead your sons to do the same thing.

¹⁷ "Never make an idol.

¹⁸"You must celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread. As I commanded you, you must eat unleavened bread for seven days at the appointed time in the month of Abib, because in that month you came out of Egypt.

¹⁹"Every first male offspring is mine, even the firstborn males of all your livestock, whether cattle, sheep, or goats.

²⁰It will cost you a sheep or a goat to buy back the firstborn donkey. If you don't buy it back, then you must break the donkey's neck. You must buy back every firstborn of your sons. "No one may come into my presence without an offering.

²¹"You may work six days, but on the seventh day you must not work. Even during the time of plowing or harvesting you must not work on this day.

²²"You must celebrate the Festival of Weeks with the first grain from your wheat harvest, and the Festival of the Final Harvest at the end of the season.

²³"Three times a year all your men must come into the presence of the Master, the LORD God of Israel.

²⁴I will force nations out of your way and will expand your countrys borders. No one will want to take away your land while youre gone three times a year to the LORDS festivals.

²⁵"Never offer the blood of a sacrifice to me at the same time you offer anything containing yeast. No part of the sacrifice at the Passover festival should be left over in the morning.

²⁶"You must bring the first and best of the produce harvested from your soil to the house of the LORD your God. "Never cook a young goat in its mothers milk."

²⁷Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write down these words, because on the basis of these words Im making a promise to Israel and to you."

²⁸Moses was there with the LORD 40 days and 40 nights without food or water. He wrote on the tablets the words of the promise, the ten commandments.

²⁹Moses came down from Mount Sinai, carrying the two tablets with Gods words on them. His face was shining from speaking with the LORD, but he didnt know it.

³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites looked at Moses and saw his face shining, they were afraid to come near him.

³¹Moses called to them, so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him. Then Moses spoke to them.

³²After that, all the other Israelites came near him, and he commanded them to do everything the LORD told him on Mount Sinai.

³³When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face.

³⁴But whenever Moses went into the LORDS presence to speak with him, he took off the veil until he came out. Whenever he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded,

³⁵they would see that Moses face was shining. Then Moses would put the veil back on until he went in again to speak with the LORD.

35¹Moses assembled the whole Israelite community and said to them, "These are the things the LORD has commanded you to do:

²You may work for six days, but the seventh day is a holy day of worship, a day when you dont work. It is dedicated

to the LORD. Whoever does any work on this day should be put to death.

³Never light a fire in any of your homes on this day of worship."

⁴Then Moses said to the whole Israelite community, "This is what the LORD has commanded:

⁵Choose something of your own to give as a special contribution to the LORD. Let everyone who is willing bring this kind of contribution to the LORD: gold, silver, and bronze,

⁶violet, purple, and bright red yarn, fine linen, goats hair,

⁷rams skins dyed red, fine leather, acacia wood,

⁸olive oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet-smelling incense,

⁹onyx stones, and other precious stones to be set in the chief priests' ephod and breastplate.

¹⁰"Have all the skilled craftsmen among you come and make everything the LORD has commanded:

¹¹the inner tent, the outer tent, and cover, along with the fasteners, frames, crossbars, posts, and sockets,

¹² the ark with its poles, the throne of mercy and the canopy over it,

¹³ the table with its poles, all the dishes, the bread of the presence,

¹⁴ the lamp stand used for the light with its utensils, its lamps and the olive oil for the lamps,

¹⁵ the altar for incense with its poles, the anointing oil, the sweet-smelling incense, the screen for the entrance to the tent,

¹⁶ the altar for burnt offerings with its bronze grate, its poles, and all its accessories, the basin with its stand,

¹⁷ the curtains for the courtyard, the posts, bases, and the screen for the entrance to the courtyard,

¹⁸ the pegs for the tent and the courtyard with their ropes,

¹⁹ the special clothes worn for official duties in the holy place both the holy clothes for Aaron the priest and the clothes for his sons when they serve as priests."

²⁰ Then the whole Israelite community left Moses.

²¹ Those who were willing and whose hearts moved them came and brought

their contributions to the LORD. The gifts were used to construct the tent of meeting, to pay other expenses, and to make the holy clothes.

²²All who were willingmen and women alikecame and brought all kinds of gold jewelry: pins, earrings, signet rings, and pendants. They took these gifts of gold and offered them to the LORD.

²³Those who had violet, purple, or bright red yarn, fine linen, goats hair, rams skins dyed red, or fine leather brought them.

²⁴Those who could give silver or bronze brought it as their contribution to the LORD. Those who had acacia wood that could be used in the construction brought it.

²⁵All the women who were skilled in spinning yarn brought violet, purple, and bright red yarn, and fine linen, which they had made by hand.

²⁶All the women who were willing and had the skill spun the goats hair.

²⁷The leaders brought onyx stones and other precious stones to be set in the chief priests ephod and breastplate.

²⁸They also brought the spices and the olive oil for the lamps, the anointing oil, and the sweet-smelling incense.

²⁹Every Israelite man and woman who was willing brought all these items to the LORD as a freewill offering. They brought these items to be used to make everything the LORD had commanded through Moses.

³⁰Then Moses said to the Israelites, "The LORD has chosen Bezalel, son of Uri and grandson of Hur, from the tribe of Judah.

³¹The LORD has filled Bezalel with the Spirit of God, making him highly skilled, resourceful, and knowledgeable in all trades.

³²He is a master artist familiar with gold, silver, and bronze.

³³He knows how to cut and set stones and how to work with wood. He is an expert in all trades.

³⁴Also, the LORD has given Bezalel and Oholiab, son of Ahisamach, from the tribe of Dan the ability to teach others.

³⁵The LORD has made these men highly skilled in all trades. They can do the work of jewelers, carpenters, and

designers. They know how to embroider violet, purple and bright red yarn on fine linen. They know how to weave yarn on a loom. They can do all kinds of trades. They are master artists."

36¹ Moses continued, "So Bezalel and Oholiab will do the work as the LORD has commanded. They will do this with the help of every other craftsman to whom the LORD has given the necessary skills and talents. They will know how to do all the work for constructing the holy place."

² Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every other craftsman to whom the LORD had given these skills and who was willing to come and do the work.

³ Moses turned over to them all the contributions the Israelites had brought for the work of constructing the holy place. But the people still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning.

⁴ Finally, all the skilled craftsmen who were working on the holy place stopped what they were doing. They all came to Moses.

⁵They said, "The people are bringing much more than we need for doing the work the LORD commanded us to do."

⁶So Moses gave instructions to have the following message announced all over camp: "No man or woman needs to make anything more to give as their special contribution to the holy place." Then the people stopped bringing gifts.

⁷The material they had was more than enough to do the job.

⁸All the skilled craftsmen among the workers made the inner tent with ten sheets made from fine linen yarn and violet, purple, and bright red yarn. An angel design was creatively worked into the fabric.

⁹Each sheet was 42 feet long and 6 feet wide all the same size.

¹⁰Five of the sheets were sewn together, and the other five were also sewn together.

¹¹Then they made 50 violet loops along the edge of the end sheet in each set,

¹²placing the loops opposite each other.

¹³They also made 50 gold fasteners. They used them to link the two sets of

sheets together so that the inner tent was a single unit.

¹⁴They made 11 sheets of goats hair to form an outer tent over the inner tent.

¹⁵Each of the 11 sheets was 45 feet long and 6 feet wide.

¹⁶Five of the sheets were sewn together into one set, and the remaining six into another set.

¹⁷Then they made 50 loops along the edge of the end sheet in each set.

¹⁸They also made 50 bronze fasteners to link the inner tent together as a single unit.

¹⁹They made a cover out of rams skins that had been dyed red for the outer tent, and over that they put a cover made of fine leather.

²⁰They made a framework out of acacia wood for the inner tent.

²¹Each frame was 15 feet long and 27 inches wide,

²²with two identical pegs. They made all the frames for the inner tent this same way.

²³They made 20 frames for the south side of the inner tent.

²⁴ Then they made 40 silver sockets at the bottom of the 20 frames, two sockets at the bottom of each frame for the two pegs.

²⁵ For the north side of the inner tent they made 20 frames

²⁶ and 40 silver sockets, two at the bottom of each frame.

²⁷ They made six frames for the far end, the west side.

²⁸ They made two frames for each of the corners at the far end of the inner tent.

²⁹ They were held together at the bottom and held tightly at the top by a single ring. Both corner frames were made this way.

³⁰ There were eight frames with 16 silver sockets, two at the bottom of each frame.

³¹ They also made crossbars out of acacia wood. Five were for the frames on one side of the inner tent,

³² five were for those on the other side, and five were for the frames on the far side of the inner tent, the west side.

³³ They made the middle crossbar so that it ran from one end to the other, halfway up the frames.

³⁴ They covered the frames with gold and made gold rings to hold the crossbars. They also covered the crossbars with gold.

³⁵ They made the canopy out of violet, purple, and bright red yarn and fine linen yarn. An angel design was creatively worked into the fabric.

³⁶ They made four posts of acacia wood for it and covered them with gold. They made gold hooks for the posts, and they cast four silver bases for them.

³⁷ They made a screen out of fine linen yarn for the entrance to the outer tent. It was embroidered with violet, purple, and bright red yarn.

³⁸ They also made five posts with hooks for hanging the screen. They covered the tops of the posts and the bands with gold, but the five bases for the posts were made of bronze.

37 ¹ Bezalel made the ark out of acacia wood 45 inches long, 27 inches wide, and 27 inches high.

²He covered it with pure gold inside and out and put a gold molding around it.

³He cast four gold rings for its four feet, two rings on each side.

⁴Then he made poles out of acacia wood and covered them with gold.

⁵He put them through the rings on the sides of the ark in order to carry it.

⁶He made the throne of mercy out of pure gold 45 inches long and 27 inches wide.

⁷Then he made two angels out of hammered gold for the two ends of the throne of mercy,

⁸one on each end. He formed the angels and the throne of mercy out of one piece of gold.

⁹The angels had their wings spread above the throne of mercy, overshadowing it. They faced each other, looking at the throne of mercy.

¹⁰He made the table out of acacia wood 36 inches long, 18 inches wide, and 27 inches high.

¹¹He covered it with pure gold and put a gold molding around it.

¹²He made a rim 3 inches wide around it and put a gold molding around the rim.

¹³He cast four gold rings for it and fastened the rings to the four corners, where the four legs were.

¹⁴The rings were put close to the rim to hold the poles for carrying the table.

¹⁵These poles were made out of acacia wood and were covered with gold.

¹⁶For the table he made plates, dishes, bowls, and pitchers to be used for pouring wine offerings. All of them were made out of pure gold.

¹⁷He made the lamp stand out of pure gold. The lamp stand, its base, and its shaft, as well as the flower cups, buds, and petals were hammered out of one piece of gold.

¹⁸Six branches came out of its sides, three branches on one side and three on the other.

¹⁹Each of the six branches coming out of the lamp stand had three flower cups shaped like almond blossoms, with buds and petals.

²⁰The lamp stand itself had four flower cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with a bud and petals.

²¹ There was a bud under each of the three pairs of branches coming out of the lamp stand.

²² The buds and branches were hammered out of the same piece of pure gold as the lamp stand.

²³ He made the seven lamps, the tongs, and the incense burners out of pure gold.

²⁴ The lamp stand and all the utensils were made out of 75 pounds of pure gold.

²⁵ He made an altar out of acacia wood for burning incense. It was 18 inches square and 36 inches high. The horns and altar were made out of one piece of wood.

²⁶ He covered all of it with pure gold the top, the sides, and the horns and he put a gold molding around it.

²⁷ He made two gold rings and put them below the molding on opposite sides to hold the poles for carrying it.

²⁸ He made the poles out of acacia wood and covered them with gold.

²⁹ He also had a perfumer make the holy oil to be used for anointing and for the pure, sweet smelling incense.

38¹ He made the altar for burnt offerings out of acacia wood 7 feet square and 4 feet high.

² He made a horn at each of its four corners. He made the four horns and the altar out of one piece of wood covered with bronze.

³ He made all the utensils out of bronze: pots, shovels, bowls, forks, and incense burners.

⁴ He made a grate for the altar out of bronze mesh, and put it under the ledge, halfway up the altar.

⁵ He cast four rings to hold the poles (one for each of the four corners of the bronze grate).

⁶ He made the poles out of acacia wood and covered them with bronze.

⁷ He put the poles through the rings on the sides of the altar to carry it. He made the altar out of boards so that it was hollow inside.

⁸ He made the basin and stand out of the bronze mirrors given by the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁹ He also made the courtyard. The south side of the courtyard was 150 feet long

and had curtains made out of fine linen yarn,

¹⁰hung on 20 posts set in 20 bronze bases. The hooks and bands on the posts were made of silver.

¹¹The north side was also 150 feet long with 20 posts and 20 bronze bases. The hooks and bands on the posts were made of silver.

¹²The west side was 75 feet long and had curtains hung on 10 posts set in 10 bases. The hooks and bands on the posts were made of silver.

¹³The east side, facing the rising sun, was 75 feet wide.

¹⁴Each side of the entrance to the courtyard was 22 feet wide with curtains hung on three posts set in three bases.

¹⁵(SEE 38: 14)

¹⁶All the curtains around the courtyard were made out of fine linen yarn.

¹⁷The bases for the posts were made of bronze. The hooks and bands on the posts were made of silver. The tops of the posts were covered with silver. And the bands on all the posts of the courtyard were made of silver.

¹⁸The screen for the entrance to the courtyard was made of violet, purple, and bright red yarn embroidered on fabric made from fine linen yarn. It was 30 feet long and 7 feet high, just like the curtains of the courtyard.

¹⁹It was hung on four posts set in four bronze bases. The hooks and bands on the posts were made of silver. The tops of the posts were covered with silver.

²⁰All the pegs for the tent and the surrounding courtyard were made of bronze.

²¹This is the amount of material that was used for the tent (the tent of the words of Gods promise). An inventory was ordered by Moses and carried out by the Levites under the direction of Ithamar, son of the priest Aaron.

²²Now Bezalel, son of Uri and grandson of Hur, from the tribe of Judah, made everything the LORD had commanded Moses.

²³He was a jeweler, carpenter, designer, and he knew how to embroider violet, purple, and bright red yarn on fine linen. His assistant was Oholiab, son of Ahisamach, from the tribe of Dan.

²⁴ The total amount of gold from the offerings presented to the LORD used in building the holy place weighed over 2,193 pounds using the standard weight of the holy place.

²⁵ The silver collected when the census of the community was taken weighed 7,544 pounds using the standard weight of the holy place.

²⁶ This came to one-fifth of an ounce per person, for everyone counted who was at least 20 years old: 603,550 people.

²⁷ He used 7,500 pounds of silver to cast the 100 bases for the holy place and the canopy. This was 75 pounds per base.

²⁸ He used 44 pounds of silver to make the hooks and bands for the posts and the coverings for the tops of the posts.

²⁹ The bronze from the offerings presented to the LORD weighed 5,310 pounds.

³⁰ With this he made the bases for the entrance to the tent of meeting, the bronze altar with its bronze grate and all its accessories,

³¹ the bases all around the courtyard, the bases for the entrance to the

courtyard, all the pegs for the tent, and all the pegs for the surrounding courtyard.

39¹ From the violet, purple, and bright red yarn they made special clothes worn for official duties in the holy place. They also made the holy clothes for Aaron. They followed the LORDS instructions to Moses.

² They made the ephod out of fine linen yarn and gold, violet, purple, and bright red yarn.

³ They hammered the gold into thin sheets and cut them up. They twisted the gold into threads, which they creatively worked into each strand of the violet, purple, and bright red yarn, and throughout the fine linen.

⁴ They made two shoulder straps attached at the top corners so that the ephod could be fastened.

⁵ They made the belt that is attached to the ephod out of the same fabric. They followed the LORDS instructions to Moses.

⁶ They mounted the onyx stones in gold settings, and engraved on them the names of the sons of Israel.

⁷Then they fastened them on the shoulder straps of the ephod as a reminder of who the Israelites are. They followed the LORDS instructions to Moses.

⁸They made the breastplate as creatively as they made the ephod. It was made out of gold, violet, purple, and bright red yarn, and of fine linen yarn.

⁹It was folded in half and was 9 inches square.

¹⁰They fastened four rows of precious stones on it. In the first row they put red quartz, topaz, and emerald.

¹¹In the second row they put turquoise, sapphire, and crystal.

¹²In the third row they put jacinth, agate, and amethyst.

¹³In the fourth row they put beryl, onyx, and gray quartz. The stones were mounted in gold settings.

¹⁴They corresponded to the 12 sons of Israel, by name, each stone engraved (like a signet ring) with the name of one of the 12 tribes.

¹⁵For the breastplate they made chains out of pure gold, twisted like ropes.

¹⁶They made two gold settings and two gold rings and attached the two rings to the top two corners of the breastplate.

¹⁷They fastened the two gold ropes to the rings at the top corners of the breastplate.

¹⁸They fastened the other ends of the ropes to the two settings on the shoulder straps of the ephod so that the breastplate hung in front of it.

¹⁹They made two gold rings and fastened them to the other two corners of the breastplate on the inside edge next to the ephod.

²⁰They made two more gold rings and fastened them to the bottom of the shoulder straps on the front of the ephod. This was close to the seam just above the belt of the ephod.

²¹Then they fastened the breastplate by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a violet cord. So the breastplate was attached just above the belt of the ephod and was held in place. They followed the LORDS instructions to Moses.

²²They made the robe that is worn with the ephod, woven entirely of violet yarn.

²³The opening in the center of the robe had a finished edge (like a leather collar) all around it to keep it from tearing.

²⁴On the hem of the robe they made pomegranates of violet, purple, and bright red yarn, and fine yarn.

²⁵They made bells out of pure gold and fastened them in between the pomegranates all around the hem of the robe.

²⁶A gold bell alternated with a pomegranate all around the hem of the robe that is worn by Aaron when he serves as priest. They followed the LORDS instructions to Moses.

²⁷They wove inner robes out of fine linen for Aaron and his sons.

²⁸They also made the chief priests turban and the other beautiful turbans out of fine linen. They made the undergarments and belt out of fine linen yarn.

²⁹The belt was embroidered with violet, purple, and bright red yarn. They followed the LORDS instructions to Moses.

³⁰They made the flowershaped medallion (the holy crown) out of pure

gold and engraved on it (as on a signet ring): Holy to the LORD.

³¹ They fastened a violet cord to it and tied it on top of the turban. They followed the LORDS instructions to Moses.

³² So all the work on the inner tent (the tent of meeting) was now done. The Israelites followed all the LORDS instructions to Moses.

³³ Then they brought everything to Moses the inner tent, the outer tent and all its furnishings, the fasteners, frames, crossbars, posts, sockets,

³⁴ the cover made of rams skins dyed red, the cover made of fine leather, the canopy over the ark,

³⁵ the ark containing the words of Gods promise with its poles and the throne of mercy,

³⁶ the table with all the dishes, the bread of the presence,

³⁷ the pure gold lamp stand with its lamps in a row and all its utensils, the olive oil for the lamps,

³⁸ the gold altar, the anointing oil, the sweet-smelling incense, the screen for the entrance to the tent,

³⁹ the bronze altar with its bronze grate, its poles, and all its accessories, the basin with its stand,

⁴⁰ the curtains for the courtyard, the posts, bases, and screen for the entrance to the courtyard, the ropes and pegs all the equipment needed for the service of the inner tent (the tent of meeting)

⁴¹ the special clothes worn when serving as priests in the holy place both the holy clothes for the priest Aaron and the clothes for his sons when serving as priests.

⁴² The Israelites had done all the work following the LORDS instructions to Moses.

⁴³ Moses inspected all the work and saw that they had followed the LORDS instructions. So Moses blessed them.

40¹ Then the LORD said to Moses,
² "Set up the tent (the tent of meeting) on the first day of the first month of the year.

³ Place the ark containing the words of my promise inside it, and hang the canopy over the ark.

⁴Bring in the table, and arrange everything on it. Bring in the lamp stand, and set up the lamps.

⁵Put the gold altar for incense in front of the ark. Put up the screen at the entrance to the tent.

⁶"Put the altar for burnt offerings in front of the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁷Put the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it.

⁸Set up the surrounding courtyard, and put up the screen at the entrance to the courtyard.

⁹Take the anointing oil, and anoint the tent and everything in it. In this way you will dedicate it and all its furnishings. Then it will be holy.

¹⁰Anoint the altar for burnt offerings and all the utensils. In this way you will dedicate the altar, and it will be most holy.

¹¹Anoint the basin and stand, and they will be dedicated.

¹²"Bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting, and wash them.

¹³ Then dress Aaron in the holy clothes, and anoint him. In this way you will dedicate him to serve me as priest.

¹⁴ Have his sons come forward, and dress them in their linen robes.

¹⁵ Anoint them to serve me as priests, as you anointed their father. Their anointing will begin a permanent priesthood for them for generations to come."

¹⁶ Moses did everything as the LORD commanded him.

¹⁷ So the tent was set up on the first day of the first month of the second year after the Israelites had left Egypt.

¹⁸ When Moses set up the tent, he put the sockets in place, put up the frames, inserted the crossbars, and set up the posts.

¹⁹ He spread the outer tent over the inner tent and put the cover on top. Moses followed the LORDS instructions.

²⁰ He took the words of Gods promise and put them in the ark. He put the poles on the ark and placed the throne of mercy on top of the ark.

²¹ Then he brought the ark into the tent and hung the canopy over it to mark off

where the ark was. Moses followed the LORDS instructions.

²² Moses put the table in the tent of meeting on the north side of the tent outside the canopy.

²³ He arranged the bread on the table in the LORDS presence, following the LORDS instructions.

²⁴ He placed the lamp stand in the tent of meeting opposite the table, on the south side of the tent.

²⁵ He set up the lamps in the LORDS presence, following the LORDS instructions.

²⁶ Moses put the gold altar in the tent of meeting in front of the canopy.

²⁷ He burned sweet-smelling incense on it, following the LORDS instructions.

²⁸ Then he put up the screen at the entrance to the tent.

²⁹ He put the altar for burnt offerings at the entrance to the tent (the tent of meeting). He sacrificed burnt offerings and grain offerings on it. Moses followed the LORDS instructions.

³⁰ He put the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it for washing.

³¹ Moses, Aaron, and his sons used this water to wash their hands and feet.

³² They would wash whenever they went into the tent of meeting or whenever they approached the altar. Moses followed the LORDS instructions.

³³ He set up the courtyard around the tent and the altar and put up the screen at the entrance to the courtyard. Finally, Moses finished the work.

³⁴ Then the column of smoke covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tent.

³⁵ Moses couldnt go into the tent of meeting, because the smoke settled on it and the glory of the LORD filled the tent.

³⁶ In all their travels, whenever the column of smoke moved from the tent, the Israelites would break camp.

³⁷ But if the column didnt move, they wouldnt break camp.

³⁸ So the LORDS column stayed over the tent during the day, and there was fire in the smoke at night. In this way all the Israelites could see the column throughout their travels.

Leviticus

1 ¹ The LORD called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting. He said,

² "Tell the Israelites: If any of you bring a sacrifice to the LORD, you must offer an animal from your cattle, sheep, or goats.

³ "If you bring a burnt offering from your cattle, you must offer a male that has no defects. Offer it at the entrance to the tent of meeting so that the LORD will accept you.

⁴ Place your hand on the animals head. The burnt offering will be accepted to make peace with the LORD.

⁵ Then slaughter the bull in the LORDS presence. Aarons sons, the priests, will offer the blood. They will throw it against all sides of the altar that is at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁶ Skin the burnt offering, and cut it into pieces.

⁷ Then the sons of the priest Aaron will start a fire on the altar and lay the wood on the fire.

⁸ Aarons sons, the priests, will also lay the pieces, the head, and the fat on top of the wood burning on the altar.

⁹ Wash the internal organs and legs. Then the priest will burn all of it on the altar. It is a burnt offering, an offering by fire, a soothing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁰ "If your offering is a sheep or goat, you must bring a male that has no defects.

¹¹ Slaughter it in the LORDS presence on the north side of the altar. Aarons sons, the priests, will throw the blood against the altar on all sides.

¹² Then cut it into pieces. The priest will lay the head and the fat on the wood burning on the altar.

¹³ Wash the internal organs and legs. Then the priest will burn all of it on the altar. It is a burnt offering, an offering by fire, a soothing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁴ "If your offering to the LORD is a bird, you must sacrifice a mourning dove or pigeon.

¹⁵The priest must bring it to the altar. He will break its neck and burn the bird on the altar. First, he will drain the blood against the side of the altar.

¹⁶Remove the gizzard with its filth and throw it on the east side of the altar on the place for the ashes.

¹⁷Then pull on the birds wings to tear the bird open, but dont pull the wings off. Then the priest will lay the bird on the wood burning on the altar. It is a burnt offering, an offering by fire, a soothing aroma to the LORD."

2¹The LORD continued, "Now, if any of you bring a grain offering to the LORD, your offering must be flour. Pour olive oil on it, and put incense on it.

²Then bring it to Aarons sons, the priests. Take from this a handful of flour with olive oil, and all the incense. The priest will burn it on the altar as a reminder. It is an offering by fire, a soothing aroma to the LORD.

³The rest of the grain offering will belong to Aaron and his sons. It is very holy, set apart from the LORDS offering by fire.

⁴"If you bring a grain offering which has been baked in an oven, it must be rings of unleavened bread made of flour mixed with olive oil or wafers of unleavened bread brushed with olive oil.

⁵If your grain offering is prepared in a frying pan, it, too, will be unleavened bread made of flour mixed with olive oil.

⁶Break it into pieces and pour olive oil over it. It is a grain offering.

⁷If your grain offering is prepared in a skillet, it will be made of flour with olive oil.

⁸"Bring the LORD the grain offering prepared in any of these ways. Offer it to the priest who will bring it to the altar.

⁹The priest will remove part of the grain offering and burn it as a reminder on the altar. It is an offering by fire, a soothing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁰The rest of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and his sons. It is very holy, set apart from the LORDS offering by fire.

¹¹"Every grain offering that you bring to the LORD must be prepared without yeast. Never burn yeast or honey as an offering to the LORD.

¹²You may bring them to the LORD as offerings of your first products. But they must never be placed on the altar to make a soothing aroma.

¹³Also put salt on each of your grain offerings. The salt of Gods promise must never be left out of your grain offerings. Put salt on all your offerings.

¹⁴"If you bring a grain offering to the LORD from the first grain you harvest, roast the cracked grain over fire.

¹⁵Put olive oil on it, and place incense on it. It is a grain offering.

¹⁶The priest will burn the flour, olive oil, and all the incense as a reminder. It is an offering by fire to the LORD."

3¹The LORD continued, "If your sacrifice is a fellowship offering of cattle in the LORDS presence, it must be a male or female animal that has no defects.

²Place your hand on the animals head. Then slaughter it at the entrance to the tent of meeting. Then Aarons sons, the priests, will throw the blood against the altar on all sides.

³From your offering remove the fat that covers the internal organs

⁴ and the two kidneys with the fat on them and offer them by fire to the LORD. Also cut off the lobe of the liver along with the kidneys.

⁵ Then Aarons sons will lay them on top of the burnt offering on the burning wood. It is an offering by fire, a soothing aroma to the LORD.

⁶ "If your sacrifice is a fellowship offering of sheep to the LORD, you must bring a male or female animal that has no defects.

⁷ If your offering is a lamb, you must bring it to the LORD.

⁸ Place your hand on the animals head. Slaughter it in front of the tent of meeting. Then Aarons sons will throw the blood against the altar on all sides.

⁹ Then take the fat from the fellowship offering and offer it by fire to the LORD. Remove all the fat from the tail and the fat that covers the internal organs.

¹⁰ Also remove the two kidneys with the fat on them along with the lobe of the liver.

¹¹ Then the priest will burn the fellowship offering on the altar. It is food, an offering by fire to the LORD.

¹²"If your offering is a goat, you must bring it to the LORD.

¹³Place your hand on its head. Slaughter it in front of the tent of meeting. Then Aarons sons will throw the blood against the altar on all sides.

¹⁴Then bring the fat that covers the internal organs

¹⁵and the two kidneys with the fat on them as an offering by fire to the LORD. Also remove the lobe of the liver along with the kidneys.

¹⁶Then the priest will burn them on the altar. It is food, an offering by fire to the LORD. It is a soothing aroma. All the fat belongs to the LORD.

¹⁷This is a permanent law for generations to come wherever you live: Never eat any fat or blood."

4¹ The LORD spoke to Moses,
²"Tell the Israelites: If a person unintentionally does something wrong even one thing that is forbidden by any of the LORDS commandsthis is what he must do.

³"If the anointed priest does something wrong and brings guilt on the people, he

must bring a bull that has no defects as an offering for sin to the LORD.

⁴He must bring the bull into the LORDS presence at the entrance to the tent of meeting. He will place his hand on the bulls head. He will then slaughter the bull in the LORDS presence.

⁵Then the anointed priest will take some of the bulls blood and bring it into the tent of meeting.

⁶The priest will dip his finger in it and sprinkle some of the blood seven times in the LORDS presence facing the canopy in the holy place.

⁷Then the priest will put some of the blood on the horns of the altar for sweet-smelling incense in the LORDS presence in the tent of meeting. He will pour the rest of the bulls blood at the bottom of the altar for burnt offerings at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁸He will remove all of the fat from the bull that is the offering for sin, the fat that covers the internal organs,

⁹and the two kidneys with the fat on them. He will also remove the lobe of the liver and the kidneys

¹⁰the same way they were removed from the bull used for the fellowship offering. The priest will lay them on the altar for burnt offerings.

¹¹Then he will take the entire bull (the skin, meat, head, legs, internal organs, and excrement)

¹²to a clean place outside the camp where the ashes are dumped. He will burn it there on a wood fire.

¹³"If the whole congregation of Israel unintentionally does something wrong, without the assembly being aware of it, if they do even one thing that is forbidden by any of the LORDS commands, they will be guilty.

¹⁴When the wrong they have done becomes known, the congregation must sacrifice a bull as an offering for sin. They must bring it in front of the tent of meeting.

¹⁵The leaders of the congregation will place their hands on the bulls head in the LORDS presence. One of them will slaughter it in the LORDS presence.

¹⁶Then the anointed priest will bring some of the bulls blood into the tent of meeting.

¹⁷ The priest will dip his finger in some of the blood and sprinkle it seven times in the LORDS presence facing the canopy.

¹⁸ He will also put some blood on the horns of the altar in the LORDS presence in the tent of meeting. He will pour the rest of the blood at the bottom of the altar for burnt offerings at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

¹⁹ He will remove all the fat and burn it on the altar.

²⁰ He will do the same thing with this bull that he did with the bull used as the offering for sin. So the priest will make peace with the LORD for the people, and they will be forgiven.

²¹ Then he will take the bull outside the camp and will burn it the same way he burned the first bull. It is an offering for sin for the community.

²² "When a leader unintentionally does something wrong even one thing that is forbidden by any of the commands of the LORD his God he will be guilty.

²³ When he is told about what he has done wrong, he must bring a male goat that has no defects as his offering.

²⁴ He will place his hand on the goats head and slaughter it in the LORDS presence where he slaughters animals for burnt offerings. It is an offering for sin.

²⁵ Then the priest will take some of the blood of the offering for sin with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar for burnt offerings. He will pour the rest of the blood at the bottom of the altar for burnt offerings.

²⁶ He will burn all the fat on the altar the same way the fat of the fellowship offering is burned. So the priest will make peace with the LORD for what the leader did wrong, and the leader will be forgiven.

²⁷ "If a common person unintentionally does something wrongeven one thing forbidden by the LORDS commandshe will be guilty.

²⁸ When he is told about what he has done wrong, he must bring a female goat that has no defects as his offering for what he has done wrong.

²⁹ He will place his hand on the animals head and slaughter it where animals for burnt offerings are slaughtered.

³⁰ The priest will take some of the blood with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar for burnt offerings. He will pour the rest of the blood at the bottom of the altar.

³¹ He will remove all the fat the same way it is removed from the fellowship offering. The priest will burn it on the altar for a soothing aroma to the LORD. So the priest will make peace with the LORD for that person, and that person will be forgiven.

³² "If someone brings a lamb as his offering for sin, he must bring a female that has no defects.

³³ He will place his hand on the animal's head and slaughter it where he slaughters animals for burnt offerings.

³⁴ Then the priest will take some of the blood from the offering for sin with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar for burnt offerings. He will pour the rest of the blood at the bottom of the altar.

³⁵ He will remove all the fat the same way the fat of the lamb is removed from the fellowship offerings. Then the priest will burn it on the altar with the offering by fire to the LORD. So the priest will

make peace with the LORD for what that person did wrong, and that person will be forgiven."

5¹ The LORD continued, "Now, if you are a witness under oath and won't tell what you saw or what you know, you are sinning and will be punished.

² "If you touch anything unclean the unclean dead body of a wild or tame animal or the body of an unclean, swarming creature and then ignore what you did, you are unclean and will be guilty.

³ "If you become unclean by touching human uncleanness of any kind and then ignore it (although you know what you did), you will be guilty.

⁴ "If you hastily take a vow about what you will or will not do (as some people do) and then ignore it (although you know what you said), you will be guilty.

⁵ "So if you are guilty of any of these sins, you must confess it.

⁶ Bring your guilt offering to the LORD for the sin you committed. It must be a female sheep or goat as an offering for sin. Then the priest will make peace with the LORD for what you did wrong.

⁷ "Now, if you cannot afford a sheep, you must bring to the LORD two mourning doves or two pigeons as a guilt offering for the sin you committed. One will be an offering for sin, the other a burnt offering.

⁸ Bring them to the priest, and he will sacrifice the offering for sin first. He will break the birds neck without pulling its head off.

⁹ He will sprinkle some of the blood from the offering for sin on the side of the altar, and the rest of the blood will be drained at the bottom of the altar. It is an offering for sin.

¹⁰ Then, following the proper procedures, he will sacrifice the second bird as a burnt offering. So the priest will make peace with the LORD for what you did wrong.

¹¹ "But if you cannot afford two mourning doves or two pigeons, then bring eight cups of flour as an offering for the sin you committed. Never put olive oil on it or add incense to it, because it is an offering for sin.

¹² Bring it to the priest. The priest will take a handful of it. He will burn it as a

reminder on top of the offering by fire to the LORD on the altar. It is an offering for sin.

¹³ So the priest will make peace with the LORD for what you did wrong, and you will be forgiven. The offering will belong to the priest like the grain offering."

¹⁴ The LORD spoke to Moses,

¹⁵ "If any of you fail to do your duty by unintentionally doing something wrong with any of the LORDS holy things, bring a guilt offering to the LORD. It must be a ram that has no defects or its value in silver weighed according to the official standards of the holy place.

¹⁶ Pay for whatever holy things you used plus one-fifth more. Give it to the priest. So the priest will use the ram sacrificed for the guilt offering to make peace with the LORD for what you did wrong, and you will be forgiven.

¹⁷ "If any of you do wrong even one thing forbidden by any of the LORDS commands, but you didn't know it when you realize your guilt, you must be punished.

¹⁸ You must bring the priest a ram that has no defects from the flock or its value

in money for a guilt offering. The priest will make peace with the LORD for the wrong you did unintentionally (although you didn't know what you did), and you will be forgiven.

¹⁹It is a guilt offering because you are certainly guilty as far as the LORD is concerned."

6¹ The LORD spoke to Moses,
²"If any of you sin against the LORD by failing to do your duty, if you lie to your neighbor about something you were supposed to take care of or if you lie about something stolen or seized from your neighbor, you are sinning and will be guilty.

³If you find something that someone lost and lie about it under oath, or commit any other sin like this,

⁴you are sinning and will be guilty. Return what you stole or seized, what you were supposed to take care of, the lost item you found,

⁵or whatever it was that you swore falsely about. Pay it back in full plus one-fifth more. Give it back to its owner on the day you bring your guilt offering.

⁶Then bring the LORD your guilt offering, a ram that has no defects or its value in money. Bring it to the priest.

⁷So the priest will make peace with the LORD. Then you will be forgiven for whatever you did that made you guilty."

⁸The LORD spoke to Moses,

⁹"Command Aaron and his sons: These are the instructions for the burnt offering that stays on the altar overnight while the altar fire is kept burning.

¹⁰"The priest must put on his linen clothes, including his linen undergarments. Then he will remove the ashes left on the altar from the fire that consumed the burnt offering and will put them next to the altar.

¹¹Then he will take off these clothes and put on some others. He will take the ashes to a clean place outside the camp.

¹²The fire must always be burning on the altar. It must never go out. The priest will burn wood on it every morning. He will lay the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat of the fellowship offering.

¹³The fire must always be burning on the altar. It must never go out.

¹⁴"These are the instructions for the grain offering. Aarons sons must bring it into the LORDS presence in front of the altar.

¹⁵One of them will remove a handful of flour from the grain offering, together with the olive oil and all the incense. He will burn it on the altar as a reminder. It is a soothing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁶Aaron and his sons will eat the rest of it. They will eat unleavened bread in a holy place, in the courtyard of the tent of meeting.

¹⁷Dont use yeast in baking the bread. I have given it to them as their share from the offerings by fire made to me. It is very holy like the offering for sin and the guilt offering.

¹⁸Every male descendant of Aaron may eat it. It is a permanent law for generations to come regarding the offering by fire to the LORD. Everyone who touches it will become holy."

¹⁹The LORD spoke to Moses,

²⁰"This is the offering that Aaron and his sons must bring to the LORD on the day he is anointed eight cups of flour. They must do this every day. He must

offer half of it in the morning and half in the evening.

²¹ Prepare it in a frying pan with olive oil, mixing it well. Offer baked pieces of the grain offering as a soothing aroma to the LORD.

²² Aarons son who is anointed to take his place as priest will prepare it. This is a permanent law of the LORD: It must be completely burned.

²³ Every grain offering made by a priest must be completely burned. It must not be eaten."

²⁴ The LORD spoke to Moses,

²⁵ "Tell Aaron and his sons: These are the instructions for the offering for sin. The offering for sin must be slaughtered in the LORDS presence in the same place where the burnt offering is slaughtered. It is very holy.

²⁶ The priest who makes the offering for sin will eat it in a holy place, in the courtyard of the tent of meeting.

²⁷ Anything that touches its meat will be holy. If blood gets on someones clothes, he must wash them in a holy place.

²⁸ Any piece of pottery in which the offering for sin is cooked must be broken

into pieces. Any copper kettle in which the offering for sin is cooked must be scoured and rinsed with water.

²⁹Any male among the priests may eat the offering for sin. It is very holy.

³⁰Any offering for sin must not be eaten if some of the blood was brought into the holy place in the tent of meeting to make peace with the LORD. It must be burned."

7¹The LORD continued, "These are the instructions for the guilt offering. It is very holy.

²It must be slaughtered in the same place where the burnt offering is slaughtered. A priest will throw the blood against the altar on all sides.

³He will offer all the fat, the fat from the tail, the fat covering the internal organs,

⁴and the two kidneys with the fat on them. He will also remove the lobe of the liver along with the kidneys.

⁵The priest will burn them on the altar. It is a guilt offering by fire to the LORD.

⁶Any male among the priests may eat it. It will be eaten in a holy place. It is very holy.

⁷ "The same instructions apply to the offering for sin and the guilt offering. Both offerings belong to the priest to make peace with the LORD.

⁸ The skin of the burnt offering belongs to the priest who sacrifices it.

⁹ Every grain offering, whether baked in an oven or prepared in a skillet or a frying pan, belongs to the priest who offers it.

¹⁰ Every grain offering, whether mixed with olive oil or dry, will be shared equally by all of Aarons sons.

¹¹ "These are the instructions for the fellowship offering that you must bring to the LORD.

¹² If you offer it as a thank offering, you must also bring rings of unleavened bread mixed with olive oil, wafers of unleavened bread brushed with olive oil, and loaves made from flour mixed well with olive oil.

¹³ In addition to these rings of bread, you must bring bread with yeast along with your fellowship offering of thanksgiving.

¹⁴ From every offering you must bring one loaf to the LORD as a special

contribution. It will belong to the priest who throws the blood of the fellowship offering.

¹⁵"The meat from your fellowship offering of thanksgiving must be eaten on the day it is offered. Never leave any of it until morning.

¹⁶"If your sacrificial offering is something you vowed or a freewill offering, it must be eaten the day you offer it or the next day.

¹⁷However, on the third day any meat left over from the sacrifice must be burned.

¹⁸You will not be accepted if any meat from the fellowship offering is eaten on the third day. You will not receive credit for it. It is repulsive to God. The person who eats any of it must be punished.

¹⁹"Meat that touches anything unclean must not be eaten. It must be burned. Anyone who is clean may eat from these sacrifices.

²⁰Those who eat meat from the LORDS fellowship offering while unclean must be excluded from the people.

²¹Those who touch anything unclean, human or animal, or any other disgusting

uncleanness and still eat the LORDS fellowship offering must be excluded from the people."

²²The LORD spoke to Moses,

²³"Tell the Israelites: Never eat any fat from bulls, sheep, or goats.

²⁴The fat from an animal that dies naturally or is killed by wild animals you may use for any other purpose, but you must never eat it.

²⁵Those who eat the fat from an animal which they sacrificed by fire to the LORD must be excluded from the people.

²⁶"Never eat the blood of any bird or animal no matter where you live.

²⁷Those who eat any blood must be excluded from the people."

²⁸The LORD spoke to Moses,

²⁹"Tell the Israelites: Anyone who offers the LORD a fellowship offering must bring a part of that sacrifice as a gift to the LORD.

³⁰Bring the sacrifices by fire made to the LORD yourself. Bring the fat with the breast. Take the breast and present it to the LORD.

³¹ "The priest will burn the fat on the altar. However, the breast will belong to Aaron and his sons.

³² You will also give the priest the right thigh as a contribution.

³³ When any of Aarons sons offer the blood and fat of the fellowship offering, the right thigh will belong to him as his share.

³⁴ From the fellowship offerings of the Israelites, I have taken the breast that was presented to me and the thigh from the contribution offering. I have given them to the priest Aaron and his sons. This is a permanent law for generations to come.

³⁵ "This is the share for Aaron and his sons from the sacrifices by fire made to the LORD. It was given to them on the day Moses ordained them to serve the LORD as priests.

³⁶ The LORD commanded the Israelites to give it to them on the day he anointed them. This is a permanent law for generations to come."

³⁷ These are the instructions for the burnt offering, the grain offering, the offering for sin, the guilt offering, the

ordination offering, and the fellowship offering.

³⁸On Mount Sinai the LORD gave Moses commands about these offerings at the same time that he commanded the Israelites to bring their offerings to him in the Sinai Desert.

8¹The LORD spoke to Moses,
²"Take Aaron and his sons, the priests clothes, the anointing oil, the bull that will be the offering for sin, the two rams, and the basket of unleavened bread.

³Gather the whole congregation at the entrance to the tent of meeting."

⁴Moses did as the LORD commanded him, and the congregation gathered at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁵Moses told the congregation, "The LORD has commanded that this is what you must do."

⁶Moses had Aaron and his sons come forward, and he washed them.

⁷He put the linen robe on Aaron and fastened the belt around him. He also dressed him in the robe that is worn with the ephod. He fastened the ephod to it.

⁸Then he put the breastplate on him, and into it he placed the Urim and Thummim.

⁹He put the turban on him and fastened the gold medallion (the holy crown) to the front of the turban as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰Moses took the anointing oil to anoint the tent and everything in it and dedicate them.

¹¹He sprinkled some of the oil on the altar seven times and anointed the altar, all the utensils, and the basin with its stand to dedicate them.

¹²He also poured some of the anointing oil on Aarons head and anointed him to set him apart for his holy duties.

¹³Moses had Aarons sons come forward. He put linen robes on them, fastened their belts around them, and put turbans on them as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁴He brought the bull that was the offering for sin. Aaron and his sons placed their hands on its head.

¹⁵When it was slaughtered, Moses took the blood and put it on the horns of the altar all around with his finger and

cleansed the altar from sins. He poured the rest of the blood at the bottom of the altar and declared it holy so that priests could use it to make peace with the LORD.

¹⁶ Moses took all the fat that was on the internal organs, the lobe of the liver, and the two kidneys with their fat, and he burned them on the altar.

¹⁷ He burned the rest of the bull, its skin, meat, and excrement outside the camp, as the LORD commanded him.

¹⁸ He brought forward the ram for the burnt offering. Aaron and his sons placed their hands on the rams head.

¹⁹ Moses slaughtered it and threw the blood against the altar on all sides.

²⁰ When the ram was cut into pieces, Moses burned the head with the other pieces and the fat.

²¹ He washed the internal organs and the legs. Then Moses burned the whole ram on the altar as the LORD commanded him. It was a burnt offering, a soothing aroma, an offering by fire to the LORD.

²² He brought forward the second ram for the ordination offering. Aaron and

his sons placed their hands on the rams head.

²³ Moses slaughtered it, took some of the blood, and put it on Aarons right ear lobe, on his right thumb, and on the big toe of his right foot.

²⁴ Moses also brought Aarons sons forward. He put some of the blood on their right ear lobes, on their right thumbs, and on the big toes of their right feet. Moses threw the rest of the blood against all the sides of the altar.

²⁵ He took the fat, the fat from the tail, all the fat on the internal organs, the lobe of the liver, the two kidneys with their fat, and the right thigh.

²⁶ He took a loaf of unleavened bread, a ring of bread made with olive oil, and a wafer from the basket of unleavened bread which was in the LORDS presence. He put them on the fat and the right thigh.

²⁷ Then he placed all these things in the hands of Aaron and his sons. Moses presented all these things to the LORD as an offering.

²⁸ Then he took them from their hands and burned them on top of the

burnt offering on the altar. These were ordination offerings, offerings by fire, a soothing aroma to the LORD.

²⁹ Moses also took the breast from the ram of the ordination offering and presented it to the LORD. It was Moses share, as the LORD had commanded.

³⁰ Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood that was on the altar, sprinkled it on Aaron and his clothes and on his sons and their clothes. In this way he dedicated Aaron, his clothes, his sons, and their clothes.

³¹ Moses told Aaron and his sons: "Cook the meat at the entrance to the tent of meeting. Take the meat and the bread in the basket of the ordination offering. Eat them there as I commanded when I said, Aaron and his sons will eat it.

³² You must burn any meat or bread that is left over.

³³ You will not leave the entrance to the tent of meeting for seven days, not until the last day of your ordination is over. It will take seven days to ordain you.

³⁴ I did today what the LORD commanded me to make peace with the LORD for you.

³⁵ You will stay at the entrance to the tent of meeting day and night for seven days and serve as the LORD tells you. Then you will not die. This is what I was commanded."

³⁶ So Aaron and his sons did everything the LORD commanded through Moses.

9¹ On the eighth day Moses summoned Aaron and his sons and the leaders of Israel.

² He told Aaron, "Take a calf that has no defects for yourself as an offering for sin and a ram that has no defects as a burnt offering. Sacrifice them in the LORDS presence.

³ Also tell the Israelites: Take a male goat as an offering for sin, a calf and a lamb (each oneyearold and without defects) as a burnt offering,

⁴ a bull and a ram as a fellowship offering, and a grain offering mixed with olive oil to sacrifice in the LORDS presence. The LORD will appear to you today."

⁵ So they took the things Moses commanded and brought them in front of the tent of meeting. The whole

congregation came and stood in the LORDS presence.

⁶Moses said, "The LORD has commanded you to offer these sacrifices so that you may see the LORDS glory."

⁷Moses told Aaron, "Come to the altar and sacrifice an offering for sin and a burnt offering to make peace with the LORD for your sins and the sins of the people. Also make an offering for the people, to make peace with the LORD for them as the LORD commanded."

⁸Aaron came to the altar and slaughtered the calf as his own offering for sin.

⁹Aarons sons brought him the blood. He dipped his finger in the blood and put it on the horns of the altar. Then he poured out the blood at the bottom of the altar.

¹⁰On the altar he burned the fat, kidneys, and lobe of the liver from the offering for sin as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹¹He burned the meat and the skin outside the camp.

¹²He slaughtered the animal for the burnt offering. Aarons sons gave him the

blood, and he threw it against the altar on all sides.

¹³They also gave him the burnt offering, which was cut in pieces and included the head. He burned it on the altar.

¹⁴He washed the internal organs and the legs and laid them on top of the burnt offering on the altar.

¹⁵He brought the peoples offerings. He took the male goat for the peoples offering for sin and slaughtered it. He sacrificed it to take away sins as he had done before.

¹⁶Following the proper procedures, he brought forward the burnt offering and sacrificed it.

¹⁷He also brought the grain offering. He took a handful of grain and burned it on the altar in addition to the morning burnt offering.

¹⁸He slaughtered the bull and the ram for the peoples fellowship offering. Aarons sons gave him the blood, which he threw against the altar on all sides.

¹⁹However, the fat from the bull and the ram (the fat from the tail, the layer

of fat, the kidneys, and the lobe of the liver)

²⁰ they placed on the breasts. Aaron burned them all on the altar.

²¹ However, he first took the breasts and the right thighs and presented them to the LORD as Moses commanded.

²² Then Aaron raised his hands toward the people and blessed them. He sacrificed the offering for sin, the burnt offering, and the fellowship offering. Then he came down from the altar.

²³ Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people. Then the LORDS glory appeared to all the people.

²⁴ Fire came out from the LORDS presence and consumed the burnt offering and the pieces of fat on the altar. When all the people saw this, they shouted and bowed with their faces touching the ground.

10¹ Aarons sons Nadab and Abihu each took an incense burner and put burning coals and incense in it. Then in the LORDS presence they offered this unauthorized fire.

²A fire flashed from the LORD and burned them, and they died in the presence of the LORD.

³Moses said to Aaron, "This is exactly what the LORD said: I will show my holiness among those who come to me. I will show my glory to all the people." Aaron was speechless.

⁴Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Aarons uncle, Uzziel. He told them, "Come and take your relatives away from in front of the holy place. Take them outside the camp."

⁵So they came and took them away to a place outside the camp, as Moses told them. The dead men were still in their linen robes.

⁶Moses told Aaron and his sons Eleazar and Ithamar: "Do not mourn by leaving your hair uncombed or tearing your clothes. If you do, you will die and the LORD will become angry with the whole congregation. All the other Israelites may cry over the fire the LORD sent, but you may not.

⁷You must not leave the entrance to the tent of meeting or else you, too, will

die, because the LORD has anointed you with his oil." They obeyed Moses.

⁸The LORD spoke to Aaron,

⁹"You and your sons must not drink any wine or liquor when you go into the tent of meeting, or you will die. This is a permanent law for generations to come.

¹⁰Teach them the difference between what is holy and what is unholy, what is clean and what is unclean.

¹¹Also teach the Israelites all the laws that I gave them through Moses."

¹²Moses told Aaron and his surviving sons Eleazar and Ithamar, "Take the grain offering left over from the offering by fire to the LORD. Make unleavened bread, and eat it next to the altar because it is very holy.

¹³Eat it in a holy place because it is the part of the offering by fire to the LORD that belongs to you and your children. That is the command I received.

¹⁴Also eat the breast presented to the LORD and the thigh that was given as a contribution. You and your sons and daughters may eat them in a clean place because they are your part of the fellowship offerings from the Israelites.

¹⁵They will bring the thigh given as a contribution, the breast presented to the LORD, and the fat that is to be burned and present them to the LORD. These parts will belong to you and your children. This will be a permanent law, as the LORD has commanded."

¹⁶Moses tried to find out what had happened to the male goat that was supposed to be the offering for sin. To his surprise, it had already been burned. So he became angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, Aarons surviving sons.

¹⁷He asked them, "Why didnt you eat the offering for sin in the holy place? It is very holy and was given to you to take away the sins of the congregation and to make peace with the LORD for them.

¹⁸Since its blood was not brought inside the holy place, you certainly should have eaten it there, as I commanded."

¹⁹Aaron answered Moses, "Today they sacrificed their offering for sin and their burnt offering in the LORDS presence, and look what happened to me. If I had eaten the offering for sin today, would the LORD have approved?"

²⁰When Moses heard this, he was satisfied.

11 ¹The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron,

²"Tell the Israelites: Here are the kinds of land animals you may eat:

³all animals that have completely divided hoofs and that also chew their cud.

⁴However, from those that either chew their cud or have divided hoofs, these are the kinds you must never eat: You must never eat camels. (Camels are unclean because they chew their cud but do not have divided hoofs.)

⁵You must never eat rock badgers. (Rock badgers are unclean because they chew their cud but do not have divided hoofs.)

⁶You must never eat rabbits. (Rabbits are unclean because they chew their cud but do not have divided hoofs.)

⁷You must never eat pigs. (Because pigs have completely divided hoofs but do not chew their cud, they are also unclean.)

⁸Never eat the meat of these animals or touch their dead bodies. They are unclean for you.

⁹"Here are the kinds of creatures that live in the water which you may eat anything in the seas and streams that has fins and scales.

¹⁰However, you must consider all swarming creatures living in the seas or the streams that have no fins or scales disgusting.

¹¹They must remain disgusting to you. Never eat their meat. Consider their dead bodies disgusting.

¹²Every creature in the water without fins or scales is disgusting to you.

¹³"Here are the kinds of birds you must consider disgusting and must not eat. They are eagles, bearded vultures, black vultures,

¹⁴kites, all types of buzzards,

¹⁵all types of crows,

¹⁶ostriches, nighthawks, seagulls, all types of falcons,

¹⁷little owls, cormorants, great owls,

¹⁸barn owls, pelicans, ospreys,

¹⁹storks, all types of herons, hoopoes, and bats.

²⁰"Every swarming, winged insect that walks across the ground like a fourlegged animal is disgusting to you.

²¹ However, you may eat winged insects that swarm if they use their legs to hop on the ground.

²² You may eat any kind of locust, cricket, katydid, or grasshopper.

²³ Every kind of winged insect that walks across the ground like a fourlegged animal is disgusting to you.

²⁴ "Regarding the creatures mentioned above, this is how you would become unclean: Whoever touches their dead bodies will be unclean until evening.

²⁵ Whoever carries any part of their dead bodies must wash his clothes. He will be unclean until evening.

²⁶ All animals whose hoofs are not completely divided or that dont chew their cud are unclean for you. Whoever touches them is unclean.

²⁷ All fourlegged animals that walk on their paws are unclean for you. Whoever touches their dead bodies will be unclean until evening.

²⁸ Those who carry the dead body of any of these animals must wash their

clothes and will be unclean until evening. These animals are unclean for you.

²⁹"The following swarming creatures that move on the ground are unclean for you: moles, mice, and all types of lizards:

³⁰geckos, monitors, lizards, skinks, and chameleons.

³¹Among all the swarming creatures that move on the ground, these are unclean for you. Whoever touches their dead bodies will be unclean until evening.

³²When the dead body of one of these creatures falls on something, that thing will be unclean. It may be a wooden article, clothing, leather, a sack, or anything used for any purpose. It should be put in water and will be unclean until evening. Then it will be clean again.

³³"If any of these creatures falls into a piece of pottery, break the pottery because everything in it is unclean.

³⁴If water from that pottery touches any food, the food is unclean. Any liquid that you drink from that pottery is unclean.

³⁵Anything on which their dead bodies fall is unclean. If it is an oven or a stove,

smash it. It is unclean and will remain unclean for you.

³⁶ However, a spring or a cistern holding water will remain clean. But anyone who touches their dead bodies will be unclean.

³⁷ If their dead bodies fall on seed that is to be planted, the seed is clean.

³⁸ But if water is poured on the seed and their dead bodies fall on it, the seed is unclean for you.

³⁹ "When any animal that you are allowed to eat dies, whoever touches its dead body will be unclean until evening.

⁴⁰ Those who eat any of its dead body must wash their clothes and will be unclean until evening. Those who carry its dead body away will wash their clothes and will be unclean until evening.

⁴¹ "Any creature that swarms on the ground is disgusting and must not be eaten.

⁴² Don't eat any creature with many legs that goes on its belly or on the ground like a fourlegged animal, or any creature that swarms on the ground. Consider them disgusting.

⁴³ Don't become disgusting by eating anything that swarms on the ground. Never allow yourselves to become unclean because of them.

⁴⁴ "Here is the reason: I am the LORD your God. You must live holy lives. Be holy because I am holy. Never become unclean by touching anything that swarms or crawls on the ground.

⁴⁵ Here is the reason again: I am the LORD. I brought you out of Egypt to be your God. Be holy because I am holy.

⁴⁶ "These are the instructions about animals, birds, and every living creature that swims in the water and every creature that swarms on the ground.

⁴⁷ These instructions help you distinguish between clean and unclean, the animals you may eat and those you may not eat."

12¹ The LORD spoke to Moses,

² "Tell the Israelites: When a woman gives birth to a boy, she will be unclean for seven days. This is the same number of days she is unclean for her monthly period.

³ The boy must be circumcised when he is eight days old.

⁴Then she must stay at home for 33 days in order to be made clean from her bleeding. She must not touch anything holy or go into the holy place until the days needed to make her clean are over.

⁵"When a woman gives birth to a girl, she will be unclean as in her monthly period. However, she will be unclean for two weeks. Then she must stay at home for 66 days in order to be made clean from her bleeding.

⁶"When the days needed to make her clean are over, she must bring a oneyearold lamb for a burnt offering and a pigeon or a mourning dove as an offering for sin. She must bring them to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁷The priest will offer them in the LORDS presence to make peace with the LORD for her. Then she will be clean from her flow of blood. "These are the instructions for the woman who gives birth to a boy or a girl.

⁸If she cannot afford a lamb, she must use two mourning doves or two pigeons. One will be the burnt offering and the other the offering for sin. So the priest

will make peace with the LORD for her, and she will be clean."

13¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron,

² "If anyone has a sore, a rash, or an irritated area on his skin that turns into an infectious skin disease, he must be taken to the priest Aaron or to one of his sons who are also priests.

³ The priest will examine the disease. If the hair in the diseased area has turned white, and the diseased area looks deeper than the rest of his skin, it is an infectious skin disease. When the priest has examined him, he must declare him unclean.

⁴ But if the irritated area is white and does not look deeper than the rest of the skin, and the hair has not turned white, the priest must put him in isolation for seven days.

⁵ On the seventh day the priest will examine him again. If the disease looks the same and has not spread, the priest must put him in isolation for another seven days.

⁶ On the seventh day the priest will examine him again. If the diseased area

has faded and not spread, the priest must declare him clean. It is only a rash. The person must wash his clothes and will be clean.

⁷ But if the rash has spread after he has shown himself to the priest to be declared clean, he must show himself to the priest again.

⁸ The priest will examine him one more time, and if the rash has spread, the priest must declare him unclean. It is an infectious skin disease.

⁹ "If anyone has an infectious skin disease, he must be taken to the priest.

¹⁰ The priest will examine him. If there is a white sore that has turned the hair white, and if there is raw flesh in the sore,

¹¹ he has a chronic skin disease. Without putting him in isolation, the priest must declare him unclean because he is unclean.

¹² If skin disease develops and covers the whole person from head to foot (so far as the priest can see),

¹³ the priest will examine him. If the disease does cover his whole body, the priest must declare the diseased person

clean. His body has turned white. The person is clean.

¹⁴ But if raw flesh appears, he will be unclean.

¹⁵ The priest will examine the raw flesh and declare him unclean. The raw flesh is unclean. It is an infectious skin disease.

¹⁶ But if the raw flesh turns white again, he must go to the priest.

¹⁷ The priest will examine him again, and if the diseased area has turned white, the priest must declare the diseased person clean. He is clean.

¹⁸ "If a boil on the skin has healed

¹⁹ and in its place there is a white sore or a pink area, it must be shown to the priest.

²⁰ The priest will examine it. If it looks deeper than the rest of the skin and its hair has turned white, the priest must declare the person unclean. An infectious skin disease has developed in the boil.

²¹ But if the priest examines the affected area and the hair in it is not white or the affected area is not deeper than the rest of the skin but has faded, the priest must put him in isolation for seven days.

²²If the area has spread, the priest must declare him unclean. It is a skin disease.

²³But if the irritated area has not spread, it is a scar caused by the boil. The priest must declare him clean.

²⁴"If anyone has a burn on his skin and the raw flesh of the burn turns into a pink or bright white area,

²⁵the priest will examine it. If the hair on the affected area has turned white and the affected area looks deeper than the rest of the skin, an infectious skin disease has developed in the burn. The priest must declare him unclean. It is an infectious skin disease.

²⁶But if the priest examines it and the hair in it is not white and the affected area is not deeper than the rest of the skin but has faded, the priest must put him in isolation for seven days.

²⁷On the seventh day the priest will examine him again. If the area has spread, the priest must declare him unclean. It is an infectious skin disease.

²⁸If the irritated area does not spread but has faded, it is only a sore caused by the burn. The priest must declare him

clean, because it is a scar caused by the burn.

²⁹"If a man or a woman has some disease on the head or chin,

³⁰the priest will examine the disease. If it looks deeper than the rest of the skin and there is thin yellow hair on it, the priest must declare the person unclean. It is a scab, a disease on the head or the chin.

³¹But if the priest examines the scabby disease and it does not look deeper than the rest of the skin and there is no black hair in it, the priest must put the person with the scabby disease in isolation for seven days.

³²On the seventh day the priest will examine the disease. If the scab has not spread, there is no yellow hair on it, and the scab does not look deeper than the rest of the skin,

³³the person will shave everything except the scab. The priest will put the person with the scab in isolation for another seven days.

³⁴On the seventh day the priest will examine the scab again. If the scab has not spread on the skin and does not look

deeper than the rest of the skin, the priest must declare him clean. When he has washed his clothes, he will be clean.

³⁵ But if the scab spreads after the person has been declared clean,

³⁶ the priest will make another examination. If the scab has spread on the skin, the priest does not have to look for yellow hair. The person is unclean.

³⁷ But if he sees that the scab hasnt spread and black hair grows on it, the scab is healed. The person is clean, so the priest must declare him clean.

³⁸ "If a man or a woman has white irritated areas of skin,

³⁹ the priest will make an examination. If the irritated areas on the skin are pale white, a rash has developed on the skin. The person is clean.

⁴⁰ "If a man loses his hair, he is clean, even though he is bald.

⁴¹ If he loses the hair on the front of his head, he is clean, even though he is bald on the forehead.

⁴² But if there is a pink patch on the bald places in back or in front, a skin disease is developing in those places.

⁴³ The priest will examine him. If the sore from the disease in the bald places in back or in front is pink like a skin disease somewhere else on the body,

⁴⁴ the man has come down with an infectious skin disease. He is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean because of the skin disease on his head.

⁴⁵ "People who come down with a skin disease must wear torn clothes and leave their hair uncombed. They must cover their upper lips and call out, Unclean, unclean!

⁴⁶ As long as they have the skin disease, they are unclean. They must live outside the camp.

⁴⁷ "Now about clothing if there is a green or red area on a piece of clothing

⁴⁸ that is woven or knitted from linen or wool or on any leather article,

⁴⁹ it is mildew. It must be shown to the priest.

⁵⁰ The priest will examine the mildew and will put the clothing in a separate place for seven days.

⁵¹ On the seventh day he will examine the area again. If the spot is spreading, it is unclean.

⁵² He must burn the piece of clothing or the leather article because the mildew is growing.

⁵³ But if the priest sees that the area has not spread,

⁵⁴ he must order the area to be washed and put the clothing in a separate place for seven more days.

⁵⁵ The priest will examine the area again after it is washed. If it doesn't look any different and the mildew has not spread, it is still unclean. It must be burned, whether the area is on the outside or the inside.

⁵⁶ If the priest sees that the area is pale after washing, he will tear it out of the clothing or the leather.

⁵⁷ However, if it shows up again, you must burn the clothing or the leather article.

⁵⁸ But if the area disappears from the woven or knitted clothing or any leather article when it is washed, wash it again, and it will be clean.

⁵⁹ "These are the instructions for deciding whether mildew in clothing that is woven or knitted from linen or wool or in any leather article is clean or unclean."

14¹ The LORD spoke to Moses,
² "These are the instructions
for making a person clean after a skin
disease. He must be taken to the priest.

³ The priest will go outside the camp
and examine him. If the person is
healed,

⁴ the priest will order someone to get
two living, clean birds, some cedar wood,
red yarn, and a hyssop sprig to use for
the cleansing.

⁵ Then the priest will order someone to
kill one bird over a clay bowl containing
fresh water.

⁶ The priest will take the living bird,
the cedar wood, the red yarn, and the
hyssop sprig and dip them and the living
bird in the blood of the bird that was
killed over the fresh water.

⁷ He will sprinkle the blood seven times
on the one to be cleansed and will
declare that person clean. Then he will
let the living bird fly away into the open
country.

⁸ "The one to be cleansed must wash
his clothes, shave off all his hair, and
wash. Then he will be clean. After that

he may go into the camp. However, for seven days he will live outside his tent.

⁹On the seventh day he must shave off all the hair on his head, his beard, and his eyebrows, and he must wash his clothes and body. Then he will be clean.

¹⁰"On the eighth day he must take two male lambs that have no defects and a oneyearold female lamb that has no defects. He must also take eight cups of flour mixed with olive oil for a grain offering along with a quart of olive oil.

¹¹The priest who will declare him clean must bring the person and his offerings into the LORDS presence at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

¹²The priest will take one of the male lambs and the quart of olive oil and present them to the LORD as a guilt offering.

¹³He will slaughter the lamb in the holy place where he slaughters the offering for sin and the burnt offering. He will do this because the guilt offering, like the offering for sin, belongs to the priest. It is very holy.

¹⁴Then the priest will take some of the blood from the guilt offering and put it

on the right ear lobe, on the right thumb, and on the big toe of the right foot of the one to be cleansed.

¹⁵The priest will also take some of the olive oil and pour it into his own left hand.

¹⁶He will dip his right finger in the oil in his left hand, and with his finger sprinkle some of the oil seven times in the LORDS presence.

¹⁷The priest will put some of the oil that is still in his hand on the right ear lobe, on the right thumb, and on the big toe of the right foot of the one to be cleansed. These are the same places he had put the blood of the guilt offering.

¹⁸The priest will put the rest of the oil in his hand on the head of the one to be cleansed. So he will make peace with the LORD for that person in the LORDS presence.

¹⁹The priest will also sacrifice the offering for sin to make peace with the LORD for the one who is being cleansed from his impurity. After that, he will slaughter the burnt offering.

²⁰The priest will sacrifice the burnt offering and the grain offering on the

altar. So the priest will make peace with the LORD for that person, and the person who had the skin disease will be clean.

²¹ "But if the one to be cleansed is poor and cannot afford that much, he must take one male lamb, present it to make peace with the LORD for himself, and use it for his guilt offering. He will take only eight cups of flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering, a quart of olive oil,

²² and two mourning doves or two pigeons (whatever he can afford). The one will be an offering for sin and the other a burnt offering.

²³ On the eighth day he will take them to the priest for his cleansing at the entrance to the tent of meeting in the LORDS presence.

²⁴ The priest will take the lamb for the guilt offering and the quart of olive oil and present them to the LORD.

²⁵ He will slaughter the lamb as a guilt offering. Then the priest will take some of the blood of the guilt offering and put it on the right ear lobe, on the right thumb, and on the big toe of the right foot of the one to be cleansed.

²⁶The priest will pour some of the olive oil into his own left hand.

²⁷With his right finger he will sprinkle some of the oil seven times in the LORDS presence.

²⁸The priest will put some of the oil that is in his hand on the right ear lobe, on the right thumb, and on the big toe of the right foot of the one to be cleansed. These are the same places he had put the blood of the guilt offering.

²⁹In the LORDS presence, the priest will pour the rest of the oil in his hand on the head of the one to be cleansed in order to make a payment for him.

³⁰Then the one to be cleansed must take one of the mourning doves or pigeons (whichever he can afford),

³¹and sacrifice it as an offering for sin. He will take the other and sacrifice it as a burnt offering together with the grain offering. So in the LORDS presence the priest will make peace with the LORD for the one who is being cleansed.

³²These are the instructions for one who has an infectious skin disease but cannot afford what is needed for his cleansing."

³³ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron,

³⁴ "When you come to Canaan that I am going to give to you, mildew may appear in a house.

³⁵ The owner of that house must come and tell the priest that there is something that looks like mildew in his house.

³⁶ "Before the priest examines the house, he will order everything taken out of it so that nothing in the house will become unclean. Then the priest will go inside to examine the house.

³⁷ He will examine the mildew area on the walls. If it is green and red in sunken areas that are deeper than the rest of the wall,

³⁸ the priest will go out to the door of the house and close up the house for seven days.

³⁹ On the seventh day the priest will go back and examine it again. If the mildew in the walls of the house has spread,

⁴⁰ the priest must order the stones that have the mildew to be torn out and thrown outside the city in an unclean place.

⁴¹ He must have the entire inside of the house scraped. The plaster dust scraped

off the walls must be dumped in an unclean place outside the city.

⁴²The stones must be replaced, and the house must be plastered again.

⁴³If the mildew develops again in the house after all this,

⁴⁴the priest will examine it one more time. If it is a spreading type of mildew, the house is unclean.

⁴⁵The housestones, wood, and all the plaster must be torn down and taken to an unclean place outside the city.

⁴⁶Whoever goes into the house any time it is closed up will be unclean until evening.

⁴⁷Whoever sleeps or eats in the house must wash his clothes.

⁴⁸But if the priest comes and makes an examination and the mildew has not spread in the house after it is plastered again, the priest must declare the house clean. The mildew is gone.

⁴⁹"The priest must take two birds, cedar wood, red yarn, and a hyssop sprig and use them to make the house clean.

⁵⁰He must kill the one bird over a clay bowl containing fresh water.

⁵¹ He must take the cedar wood, the hyssop sprig, the red yarn, and the living bird and dip them in the fresh water containing the blood of the bird that was killed. He must sprinkle the house seven times.

⁵² So he must use the birds blood, the fresh water, the living bird, the cedar wood, the hyssop, and the red yarn to make the house clean.

⁵³ Then he will let the living bird fly from the city into the open country. He will make peace with the LORD for the house, and it will be clean.

⁵⁴ "These are the instructions for any kind of mildew or fungus

⁵⁵ that infects clothing or houses

⁵⁶ and for skin diseases where there is a sore, a rash, or an irritated area.

⁵⁷ These instructions for skin diseases and mildew help you distinguish between what is clean and what is unclean."

15¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron,

² "Tell the Israelites: If a man has a discharge from his penis, his discharge is unclean.

³ He is unclean because of the discharge from his penis. Whether it is chronic or not makes no difference; he is still unclean.

⁴ "The man who has a discharge makes everything he lies on or sits on unclean.

⁵ Those who touch his bed must wash their clothes and their bodies. They will be unclean until evening.

⁶ Those who sit on anything he sat on must wash their clothes and their bodies. They will be unclean until evening.

⁷ Those who touch a man who has a discharge must wash their clothes and their bodies. They will be unclean until evening.

⁸ If a man who has a discharge spits on anyone who is clean, the person he spits on must wash his clothes and his body. He will be unclean until evening.

⁹ When a man who has a discharge sits on a saddle, it becomes unclean.

¹⁰ Those who carry such things must wash their clothes and their bodies. They will be unclean until evening.

¹¹ If a man who has a discharge touches anyone without first rinsing his hands, the person he touched must wash his

clothes and his body. He will be unclean until evening.

¹²When a man who has a discharge touches pottery, it must be broken, and any wooden bucket he touches must be rinsed.

¹³"When a mans discharge stops, he must wait seven days to be cleansed. He must wash his clothes and his body in fresh water. Then he will be clean.

¹⁴On the eighth day he must take two mourning doves or two pigeons and come into the LORDS presence at the entrance to the tent of meeting. He will give these birds to the priest.

¹⁵The priest will sacrifice one as an offering for sin and the other as a burnt offering. So in the LORDS presence, the priest will make peace with the LORD for the man who had a discharge.

¹⁶"If a man has an emission of semen, he must bathe his whole body. He will be unclean until evening.

¹⁷Any clothes or any leather with semen on it must be washed. It will be unclean until evening.

¹⁸"When a man has sexual intercourse with a woman and has an emission of

semen, they must wash themselves. They will be unclean until evening.

¹⁹"When a woman has her monthly period, she will be unclean for seven days. Those who touch her will be unclean until evening.

²⁰Everything she lies on or sits on during her period will be unclean.

²¹Those who touch her bed must wash their clothes and their bodies. They will be unclean until evening.

²²Those who touch anything she sits on must wash their clothes and their bodies. They will be unclean until evening.

²³If her blood touches anything on the bed or anything she sits on, it will be unclean until evening.

²⁴If a man has sexual intercourse with her while she has her period, he will be unclean for seven days. Any bed he lies on will become unclean.

²⁵"If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days other than her monthly period, she is unclean. If her period lasts longer than usual, she will be unclean as long as she has a discharge. It is like her period.

²⁶As long as she has a discharge, any bed she lies on or anything she sits on is unclean. It is like her period.

²⁷Those who touch these things are unclean and must wash their clothes and their bodies. They will be unclean until evening.

²⁸"When her discharge stops, she must wait seven days. After that, she will be clean.

²⁹On the eighth day she must take two mourning doves or two pigeons and bring them to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

³⁰The priest will offer one as an offering for sin and the other as a burnt offering. So in the LORDS presence the priest will make peace with the LORD for the woman who had an unclean discharge.

³¹"You must separate the Israelites from anything that keeps them from being presentable to me. Otherwise, they will die because they make my tent, which is among them, unclean.

³²"These are the instructions for any man who has a discharge or an emission of semen that makes him unclean,

³³for any woman who has her period, for any man or woman who has a discharge, or for any man who has sexual intercourse with a woman when she is unclean."

16¹The LORD spoke to Moses after Aarons two sons had come into the LORDS presence and died.

²The LORD said, "Tell your brother Aaron that he cannot go into the holy place whenever he wants to. If he goes up to the canopy and stands in front of the throne of mercy on the ark, he will die, because I appear in the smoke above the throne of mercy.

³"This is what Aaron must do in order to come into the holy place: He must take a bull as an offering for sin and a ram as a burnt offering.

⁴He must put on a holy linen robe and wear linen undergarments. He must wear a linen belt and turban. These are holy clothes. He must wash his body and put them on.

⁵He will take two male goats from the congregation of Israel as an offering for sin and a ram as a burnt offering.

⁶"Aaron must sacrifice the bull as his own offering for sin. By doing this, he will make peace with the LORD for himself and his family.

⁷He must take the two male goats and bring them into the LORDS presence at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁸Then Aaron must throw lots for the two goats. One lot will be for the LORD and the other for Azazel.

⁹Aaron must sacrifice the goat chosen by lot for the LORD as an offering for sin.

¹⁰But he must bring the goat chosen by lot for Azazel into the LORDS presence. He will release it in the desert to Azazel in order to make peace with the LORD for himself and his family.

¹¹"Aaron will bring the bull. He will then slaughter it as his own offering for sin. By doing this he will make peace with the LORD for himself and his family.

¹²He will take an incense burner full of burning coals from the altar, which is in the LORDS presence, and two handfuls of finely ground, sweet-smelling incense. He will bring them up to the canopy.

¹³Then he will put the incense on the fire in the LORDS presence. The cloud of

incense will cover the throne of mercy, which is over the words of Gods promise, so that he will not die.

¹⁴He will take some of the bulls blood and sprinkle it with his finger on the east side of the throne of mercy. Then he will sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times in front of the throne of mercy.

¹⁵"Next, Aaron will slaughter the goat for the peoples offering for sin. He will take the blood inside, go up to the canopy, and sprinkle it on the throne of mercy and in front of it, as he did with the bulls blood.

¹⁶So he will make peace with the LORD for all the sins the Israelites committed against the holy place. These sins happened because the Israelites were unclean and because they committed rebellious acts. He will do the same for the tent of meeting which is among an unclean people.

¹⁷No one may be in the tent of meeting from the time Aaron enters the holy place to do this until he comes out. Aaron will make peace with the LORD for

his own sins, his familys sins, and the sins of the entire assembly of Israel.

¹⁸Then he will go out to the altar that is in the LORDS presence and make peace with the LORD there for the sins committed. He will take some of the blood from the bull and some of the goats blood and put it all around the horns of the altar.

¹⁹With his finger he will sprinkle some of the blood on it seven times. Because the Israelites made it unclean, he will cleanse it and declare it holy.

²⁰"When he finishes making peace with the LORD at the holy place, the tent of meeting, and the altar, he will bring the living goat forward.

²¹Aaron will place both hands on its head. He will confess over it all the sins, all the rebellious acts, and all the things the Israelites did wrong. He will transfer them to the goats head. A man will be appointed to release the goat in the desert.

²²The goat will take all their sins away to a deserted place. The man must release the goat in the desert.

²³"Then Aaron will go to the tent of meeting, take off the linen clothes he had put on to go into the holy place, and leave them there.

²⁴He will wash his body in the holy place and put on his other clothes. Then he will come out and sacrifice the burnt offering for himself and for the people to make peace with the LORD for his own sins and the sins of the people.

²⁵He will burn the fat of the offering for sin on the altar.

²⁶"The man who released the goat to Azazel must wash his clothes and his body. Then he may return to the camp.

²⁷He must take the bull and the goat outside the camp. These animals were the offering for sin whose blood was brought into the holy place to make peace with the LORD for sins. The skin, meat, and excrement from the animals must be burned.

²⁸Whoever burns them must wash his clothes and his body. Then he may return to the camp.

²⁹"This will be a permanent law for you: On the tenth day of the seventh month both native Israelites and foreigners

must humble themselves. They must do no work.

³⁰ On this day Aaron will make peace with the LORD to make you clean. Then you will be clean from all your sins in the LORDS presence.

³¹ This is the most important worship festival there is for you. You will humble yourselves. It is a permanent law.

³² The priest who is anointed and ordained to serve as chief priest in his fathers place will pay for sins. He will put on the holy linen clothes

³³ and will make peace with the LORD at the holy place, the tent of meeting, and the altar. He will make peace with the LORD for the priests and all the worshipers.

³⁴ "This permanent law tells you how to make peace with the LORD once a year for all the sins the Israelites committed." Aaron did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

17

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses,
² "Tell Aaron, his sons, and all the Israelites that this is what the LORD has commanded:

³Any Israelite who slaughters a bull, sheep, or goat inside or outside the camp

⁴is guilty of bloodshed. He has shed blood and must be excluded from the people. Bring the animal to the entrance of the tent of meeting. Offer it to the LORD in front of the LORDS tent.

⁵This means that the people of Israel must take the sacrifices they have been making in the open fields and bring them to the LORD. They must bring them to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting. The people will sacrifice them as fellowship offerings to the LORD.

⁶The priest will pour the blood against the LORDS altar at the entrance to the tent of meeting. He will burn the fat as a soothing aroma to the LORD.

⁷The people must stop sacrificing to goat idols and chasing after them as though they were prostitutes. This is a permanent law for the people and for future generations.

⁸"Tell them: If Israelites or foreigners make burnt offerings or sacrifices

⁹but do not bring them to the entrance of the tent of meeting to offer them to

the LORD, they must be excluded from the people.

¹⁰"If Israelites or foreigners eat any blood, I will condemn them and exclude them from the people,

¹¹because blood contains life. I have given this blood to you to make peace with me on the altar. Blood is needed to make peace with me.

¹²That is why I have said to the people of Israel: Neither you nor foreigners should ever eat blood.

¹³"If Israelites or foreigners hunt any animal or bird that may be eaten, they must pour out the animal's blood and cover it with dirt.

¹⁴This is because the life of any creature is in its blood. So I have said to the people of Israel: Never eat any blood, because the life of any creature is in its blood. Whoever eats blood must be excluded from the people.

¹⁵"Native Israelites or foreigners who eat the body of an animal that dies naturally or is killed by another animal must wash their clothes and their bodies. They will be unclean until evening. Then they will be clean.

¹⁶If they don't wash their clothes and their bodies, they will be guilty of sin."

18¹The LORD spoke to Moses,
²"Tell the Israelites: I am the LORD your God.

³You used to live in Egypt. Don't live the way the Egyptians do. I am bringing you to Canaan. Don't live the way the Canaanites do. Never live by their standards.

⁴Follow my rules, and live by my standards. I am the LORD your God.

⁵Live by my standards, and obey my rules. You will have life through them. I am the LORD.

⁶"Never have sexual intercourse with anyone related to you by blood. I am the LORD.

⁷"Never have sexual intercourse with your mother. She is your own mother. Never have sexual intercourse with her.

⁸Never have sexual intercourse with your stepmother. She is related to you through your father.

⁹Never have sexual intercourse with your stepsister, whether she is your father's daughter or your mother's

daughter. It makes no difference whether or not she was born in your house.

¹⁰Never have sexual intercourse with your granddaughter, whether she is your sons daughter or your daughters daughter, because she is related to you.

¹¹Never have sexual intercourse with a daughter of your father and his wife. She is your own sister.

¹²Never have sexual intercourse with your fathers sister. She is your paternal aunt.

¹³Never have sexual intercourse with your mothers sister. She is your maternal aunt.

¹⁴Never have sexual intercourse with the wife of your fathers brother. She, too, is your aunt.

¹⁵Never have sexual intercourse with your daughterinlaw. She is your sons wife. Never have sexual intercourse with her.

¹⁶Never have sexual intercourse with your sisterinlaw. She is your brothers wife.

¹⁷Never have sexual intercourse with a woman and her daughter or a woman

and her granddaughter. They are related. Doing this is perverted.

¹⁸While your wife is living, never marry her sister as a rival wife and have sexual intercourse with her.

¹⁹"Never have sexual intercourse with a woman while she is unclean during her monthly period.

²⁰Never have sexual intercourse with your neighbors wife and become unclean with her.

²¹Never give your children as sacrifices to the god Molech by burning them alive. If you do, you are dishonoring the name of your God. I am the LORD.

²²Never have sexual intercourse with a man as with a woman. It is disgusting.

²³Never have sexual intercourse with any animal and become unclean with it. A woman must never offer herself to an animal for sexual intercourse. It is unnatural.

²⁴"Do not become unclean in any of these ways. By these practices all the nations which I am forcing out of your way have become unclean.

²⁵ The land has become unclean. I will punish it for its sins. The land will vomit out those who live in it.

²⁶ Live by my standards, and obey my rules. Neither you nor any foreigner should ever do any of these disgusting things.

²⁷ The people of the land who were there before you did all these disgusting things. As a result, the land has become unclean.

²⁸ If you make the land unclean, it will vomit you out as it has vomited out the people who were there before you.

²⁹ Whoever does any of these disgusting things must be excluded from the people.

³⁰ So you must follow my instructions. Don't live by the standards of the people who lived there before you. What they do is disgusting. Never become unclean that way. I am the LORD your God."

19¹ The LORD spoke to Moses,
² "Tell the whole congregation of Israel: Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

³"Respect your mother and father. Observe my days of worship. I am the LORD your God.

⁴"Don't turn to worthless gods or cast metal idols. Never make any gods for yourselves. I am the LORD your God.

⁵"When you bring a fellowship offering to the LORD, sacrifice it properly so that you will be accepted.

⁶Eat your sacrifice on the day you bring it and on the next day. On the third day burn whatever is left over.

⁷If you eat any of it on the third day, it is repulsive and will not be accepted.

⁸Those who eat it will be punished because they have dishonored what is holy to the LORD. They must be excluded from the people.

⁹"When you harvest the grain in your land, don't harvest the grain in the corners of your fields or gather what is left after you're finished.

¹⁰Don't harvest your vineyard a second time or pick up fallen grapes. Leave them for poor people and foreigners. I am the LORD your God.

¹¹"Never steal, lie, or deceive your neighbor.

¹²"Never swear by my name in order to deceive anyone. This dishonors the name of your God. I am the LORD.

¹³"Never oppress or rob your neighbor. Never keep the pay you owe a hired worker overnight.

¹⁴Never curse deaf people or put anything in the way of blind people to make them stumble. Instead, fear your God. I am the LORD.

¹⁵"Don't be corrupt when administering justice. Never give special favors to poor people, and never show preference to important people. Judge your neighbor fairly.

¹⁶Never gossip. Never endanger your neighbor's life. I am the LORD.

¹⁷"Never hate another Israelite. Be sure to correct your neighbor so that you will not be guilty of sinning along with him.

¹⁸Never get revenge. Never hold a grudge against any of your people. Instead, love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am the LORD.

¹⁹"Obey my laws. Never crossbreed different kinds of animals. Never plant two kinds of crops in your field. Never

wear clothes made from two kinds of material.

²⁰"If a man has sexual intercourse with a female slave who is engaged to another man and if her freedom was never bought or given to her, they should not be put to death. He will only pay a fine because she is a slave.

²¹He must bring a ram for his guilt offering to the LORD at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

²²In the LORDS presence the priest will use them to make peace with the LORD for this sin. The man will be forgiven for this sin.

²³"When you come into the land and plant all kinds of fruit trees, you must not eat the fruit for the first three years.

²⁴In the fourth year all the fruit will be a holy offering of praise to the LORD.

²⁵In the fifth year you may eat the fruit. Do this to make the trees produce more for you. I am the LORD your God.

²⁶"Never eat any meat with blood still in it." Never cast evil spells, and never consult fortunetellers.

²⁷ "Never shave the hair on your foreheads, and never cut the edges of your beard.

²⁸ Never slash your body to mourn the dead, and never get a tattoo. I am the LORD.

²⁹ "Never dishonor your daughter by making her a prostitute, or the country will turn to prostitution and be filled with people who are perverted.

³⁰ "Observe my days of worship and respect my holy tent. I am the LORD.

³¹ "Don't turn to psychics or mediums to get help. That will make you unclean. I am the LORD your God.

³² "Show respect to the elderly, and honor older people. In this way you show respect for your God. I am the LORD.

³³ "Never mistreat a foreigner living in your land.

³⁴ Foreigners living among you will be like your own people. Love them as you love yourself, because you were foreigners living in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

³⁵ "Don't be corrupt when administering justice concerning length, weight, or measuring liquid.

³⁶Use honest scales, honest weights, and honest measures. I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt.

³⁷"Obey all my laws and all my rules, and live by them. I am the LORD."

20¹The LORD spoke to Moses,
²"Tell the Israelites: If Israelites or foreigners living among you give one of their children as a sacrifice to the god Molech, they must be put to death. The common people must stone them to death.

³I will condemn them and exclude them from the people. They gave one of their children to Molech, made my holy tent unclean, and dishonored my holy name.

⁴If the common people ignore those who give their children to Molech and do not put them to death,

⁵I will condemn them and their families. I will exclude them from the people. I will exclude from the people everyone who chases after Molech as if he were a prostitute.

⁶"I will condemn people who turn to mediums and psychics and chase after them as though they were prostitutes. I will exclude them from the people.

⁷ "Live holy lives. Be holy because I am the LORD your God.

⁸ Obey my laws, and live by them. I am the LORD who sets you apart as holy.

⁹ "Whoever curses his father or mother must be put to death. He has cursed his father or mother and deserves to die.

¹⁰ "If a man commits adultery with another mans wife or with his neighbors wife, both he and the woman must be put to death for their adultery.

¹¹ Whoever has sexual intercourse with his fathers wife has violated his fathers marriage. Both he and his fathers wife must be put to death. They deserve to die.

¹² If a man has sexual intercourse with his daughterinlaw, both of them must be put to death. They have done a disgusting thing and deserve to die.

¹³ When a man has sexual intercourse with another man as with a woman, both men are doing something disgusting and must be put to death. They deserve to die.

¹⁴ When a man marries a woman and her mother, they have done a perverted thing. The man and the two women

must be burned. Never do this perverted thing.

¹⁵A man who has sexual intercourse with an animal must be put to death. You must kill the animal, too.

¹⁶When a woman offers herself sexually to any animal, you must kill both the woman and the animal. They must be put to death. They deserve to die.

¹⁷Whoever takes his sister, his fathers daughter or his mothers daughter, and has sexual intercourse does a shameful thing. They both must be publicly excluded from the people. He has had sexual intercourse with his sister and must be punished.

¹⁸If a man has sexual intercourse with a woman while she has her monthly period, both of them have had sexual intercourse in blood. They must be excluded from the people.

¹⁹Never have sexual intercourse with your mothers sister or your fathers sister. Whoever has sexual intercourse with a close relative must be punished.

²⁰Whoever has sexual intercourse with his uncles wife violates his uncles marriage. That man and woman are

guilty of sin. They will die without children.

²¹ Whoever marries his brothers wife violates his brothers marriage and does an unclean thing. That man and woman will have no children.

²² "If you carefully obey all my laws and my rules, the land I am bringing you to live in will not vomit you out.

²³ Never follow the practices of the people I am forcing out of your way. I cannot stand them because they did all these things.

²⁴ I have told you that you will take their land. I will give it to you as your own. It is a land flowing with milk and honey. I am the LORD your God who separated you from other people.

²⁵ Separate clean and unclean animals and birds. Never become disgusting by eating any animal or bird or anything that crawls on the ground. I have separated you from every unclean thing.

²⁶ Be my holy people because I, the LORD, am holy. I have separated you from other people to be my very own.

²⁷ "Every man or woman who is a medium or a psychic must be put to

death. They must be stoned to death because they deserve to die."

21 ¹The LORD spoke to Moses, "Tell the priests, Aarons sons: None of you should become unclean by touching one of your relatives who has died.

²However, you are allowed to become unclean when one of your nearest relatives dies. These relatives include your mother, father, son, daughter, or brother,

³and especially an unmarried virgin sister who is still close to you.

⁴As the head of your people, you should never become unclean. That would make you unholy.

⁵"You should never mourn by shaving bald spots on your heads, shaving the edges of your beards, or slashing your bodies.

⁶"Be Gods holy men, and dont dishonor the name of your God. Be holy because you bring sacrifices by fire to the LORD. It is the food of your God.

⁷You should never marry prostitutes, those who have lost their virginity, or divorced women because a priest is Gods holy man.

⁸Be holy because you offer the food of your God. Be holy because I, the LORD, am holy. I set you apart as holy.

⁹When a priest's daughter dishonors herself by becoming a prostitute, she dishonors her father. She must be burned.

¹⁰"The priest who is anointed with oil and wears the chief priest's clothes is chief over his brothers. He must never mourn by leaving his hair uncombed or by tearing his clothes.

¹¹He must never go near any dead bodies or become unclean, even for his father or mother.

¹²He must not leave the holy tent of his God. If he does, he will be dishonoring it, because he is dedicated with the anointing oil of his God. I am the LORD.

¹³"The anointed priest must marry a virgin.

¹⁴He must never marry a widow, a divorced woman, a woman who has lost her virginity, or a prostitute. He may only marry a virgin from his own people.

¹⁵He must not dishonor his children among his people because I, the LORD, set him apart as holy."

¹⁶The LORD spoke to Moses,

¹⁷"Tell Aaron: If any of your descendants (now or in future generations) has a physical defect, he must never bring food to offer to God.

¹⁸Indeed, no one who has a physical defect may ever come near the altar. That means anyone who is blind or lame, who has a disfigured face, a deformity,

¹⁹or a crippled hand or foot,

²⁰who is a hunchback or dwarf, who has defective sight, skin diseases, or crushed testicles.

²¹If a descendant of the priest Aaron has a physical defect, he must never bring sacrifices by fire to the LORD. He has a defect. He must never bring food to offer to God.

²²He may eat the food of his God what is holy and what is very holy.

²³However, he must never come up to the canopy or to the altar, since he has a physical defect. He must never dishonor the holy places because I, the LORD, set them apart as holy."

²⁴So Moses spoke to Aaron and his sons and to all the Israelites.

22¹ The LORD spoke to Moses,
² "Tell Aaron and his sons that they must respect the holy offerings which the Israelites set apart for me. In this way they will not dishonor my holy name. I am the LORD.

³ "Tell them: In future generations if any of your descendants, while unclean, comes near the holy offerings the Israelites set apart for the LORD, that person must be excluded from my presence. I am the LORD.

⁴ "No descendant of Aaron who has a skin disease or a discharge may eat any of the holy offerings until he is clean. Any person who has an emission of semen or touches a dead body,

⁵ an unclean swarming creature, or an unclean person

⁶ will be unclean until evening. He must not eat any of the holy offerings unless he has washed himself.

⁷ When the sun has set, he will be clean. Then he may eat the holy offerings because they are his food.

⁸ He must never eat the meat of an animal that dies naturally or is killed by

wild animals. It will make him unclean. I am the LORD.

⁹The priests must do what I order, or their sin will bring them death because they dishonored a holy offering. I am the LORD, who sets them apart as holy.

¹⁰"Laypeople must never eat any holy offering, even if they are visiting a priest or are working for him.

¹¹But if a priest buys a slave, the slave and anyone born in his household may eat the priests food.

¹²However, if a priests daughter marries a layman, she must never eat the food taken from the holy contributions.

¹³If a priests daughter is widowed or divorced, doesnt have any children, and comes back to live in her fathers home, she may eat her fathers food. But a layperson must never eat it.

¹⁴"Those who eat a holy offering by mistake must give another holy offering to the priest and add onefifth more to it.

¹⁵Priests must not dishonor the holy offerings that the Israelites contribute to the LORD.

¹⁶They must make those people pay the penalty for their guilt because they

have eaten the priests holy offerings. I am the LORD, who sets them apart as holy."

¹⁷The LORD spoke to Moses,

¹⁸"Tell Aaron, his sons, and all the Israelites: Israelites or foreigners may bring burnt offerings to the LORD for anything they vowed or as freewill offerings.

¹⁹The offering must be a male that has no defects from your cattle, sheep, or goats in order to be accepted.

²⁰Never bring any animal with a physical defect, because it will not be accepted on your behalf.

²¹A person may bring the LORD a fellowship offering to fulfill a vow or for a freewill offering. Whether it is from the cattle, sheep, or goats, it must be an animal that has no defects in order to be accepted. It must never be an animal that has defects.

²²Never bring the LORD an animal that is blind, has broken bones, cuts, warts, scabs, or ringworm. Never give the LORD any of these in a sacrifice by fire on the altar.

²³ You may use a bull or a sheep with a deformity or one that is stunted in growth as a freewill offering. However, it will not be accepted for a vow.

²⁴ Never bring the LORD an animal that has bruised, crushed, torn out, or cut out testicles. Never do any of these things to an animal in your land.

²⁵ Never bring any kind of castrated animal received from a foreigner as a food offering for your God. A castrated animal will not be accepted on your behalf because castration is a physical defect."

²⁶ The LORD spoke to Moses,

²⁷ "When a calf, a lamb, or a goat is born, it must stay with its mother for seven days. From the eighth day on it may be accepted as a sacrifice by fire to the LORD.

²⁸ Never slaughter a cow or a sheep and its young the same day.

²⁹ "When you sacrifice a thank offering to the LORD, do it in the proper way.

³⁰ Eat it the same day. Never leave any of it until morning. I am the LORD.

³¹ "Carefully obey my commands. I am the LORD.

³²Never dishonor my holy name. I will show my holiness among the Israelites. I am the LORD, who sets you apart as holy.

³³I brought you out of Egypt to be your God. I am the LORD."

23 ¹The LORD spoke to Moses,
²"Tell the Israelites: These are the appointed festivals with the LORD, which you must announce as holy assemblies.

³You may work for six days. But the seventh day is a day of worship, a day when you don't work, a holy assembly. Don't do any work. It is the LORDS day of worship wherever you live.

⁴"The following are the LORDS appointed festivals with holy assemblies, which you must announce at their appointed times.

⁵"The fourteenth day of the first month, in the evening, is the LORDS Passover.

⁶The fifteenth day of this same month is the LORDS Festival of Unleavened Bread. For seven days you must eat unleavened bread.

⁷On the first day there will be a holy assembly. Don't do any regular work.

⁸Bring the LORD a sacrifice by fire for seven days. On the seventh day there will be a holy assembly. Dont do any regular work."

⁹The LORD spoke to Moses,

¹⁰"Tell the Israelites: When you come to the land I am going to give you and you harvest grain, bring the priest a bundle of the first grain you harvest.

¹¹He will present it to the LORD so that you will be accepted. He will present it on the day after Passover.

¹²On the day you present the bundle, you must sacrifice a oneyearold male lamb that has no defects as a burnt offering to the LORD.

¹³Bring a grain offering of four quarts of flour mixed with olive oil with it. This will be a sacrifice by fire made to the LORD, a soothing aroma. Use one quart of wine for the wine offering.

¹⁴Dont eat bread, roasted grain, or fresh grain until this same day, when you bring the offering to your God. It is a permanent law for generations to come wherever you live.

¹⁵"Count seven full weeks from the day after Passover (the day you bring the

bundle of grain as an offering presented to the LORD)

¹⁶until the day after the seventh week. This is a total of fifty days. Then bring a new grain offering to the LORD.

¹⁷Bring two loaves of bread from your homes to present to the LORD. Bake them with four quarts of flour. They are the first harvested grain for the LORD.

¹⁸With the bread bring seven oneyearold lambs that have no defects, one bull, and two rams. They will be a burnt offering to the LORD. With these offerings also bring grain and wine offerings. They will be a sacrifice by fire, a soothing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁹Also sacrifice one male goat as an offering for sin and two oneyearold lambs as a fellowship offering.

²⁰The priest must present them along with the bread of the first harvested grain as an offering to the LORD. All this, along with the two lambs, will be holy and will belong to the LORDS priests.

²¹Make an announcement that there will be a holy assembly on that same day. Dont do any regular work. It is a

permanent law for generations to come wherever you live.

²²"When you harvest the grain in your land, don't harvest the grain in the corners of your fields or gather what is left after you're finished. Leave it for poor people and foreigners. I am the LORD your God."

²³The LORD spoke to Moses,

²⁴"Tell the Israelites: On the first day of the seventh month hold a worship festival. It will be a memorial day, a holy assembly announced by the blowing of rams horns.

²⁵Don't do any regular work. Bring a sacrifice by fire to the LORD."

²⁶The LORD spoke to Moses,

²⁷"In addition, the tenth day of this seventh month is a special day for the payment for sins. There will be a holy assembly. Humble yourselves, and bring the LORD a sacrifice by fire.

²⁸Don't do any work that day. It is a special day for the payment for sins. It is a time when you make peace with the LORD your God.

²⁹ Those who do not humble themselves on that day will be excluded from the people.

³⁰ I will kill those who do any work on that day.

³¹ Don't do any work. It is a permanent law for generations to come wherever you live.

³² It is a day of worship, a day when you don't work. Humble yourselves starting on the evening of the ninth day of the month. From that evening to the next, observe the day of worship."

³³ The LORD spoke to Moses,

³⁴ "Tell the Israelites: The fifteenth day of this seventh month is the Festival of Booths to the LORD. It will last seven days.

³⁵ On the first day there will be a holy assembly. Don't do any regular work.

³⁶ For seven consecutive days bring a sacrifice by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day there will be a holy assembly. Bring the LORD a sacrifice by fire. This is the last festival of the year. Don't do any regular work.

³⁷ "These are the LORDS appointed festivals. Announce them as holy

assemblies for bringing sacrifices by fire to the LORD. Bring burnt offerings, grain offerings, other sacrifices, and wine offerings each one on its special day.

³⁸This is in addition to the LORDS days of worship, your gifts, all your vows, and your freewill offerings to the LORD.

³⁹"However, on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered what the land produces, celebrate the LORDS festival for seven days. The first and the eighth days will be worship festivals.

⁴⁰On the first day take the best fruits, palm branches, the branches of leafy trees and poplars, and celebrate in the presence of the LORD your God for seven days.

⁴¹It is the LORDS festival. Celebrate it for seven days each year. This is a permanent law for generations to come. Celebrate this festival in the seventh month.

⁴²Live in booths for seven days. Everyone born in Israel must live in booths

⁴³so that generations to come may learn how I made the people of Israel

live in booths when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the LORD your God."

⁴⁴ So Moses told the Israelites about the LORDS appointed festivals.

24 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses,
² "Command the Israelites to bring you pure, virgin olive oil for the lamp stand so that the lamps won't go out.

³ In the tent of meeting, outside the canopy where the words of my promise are, Aaron must keep the lamps lit in the LORDS presence from evening until morning. It is a permanent law for generations to come.

⁴ Aaron must keep the lamps on the pure gold lamp stand lit in the LORDS presence.

⁵ "Also take flour and bake twelve rings of bread. Each ring will contain four quarts of flour.

⁶ Put them in two stacks of six each on the gold table in the LORDS presence.

⁷ Lay pure incense on top of each stack. The incense on the bread will be a reminder, an offering by fire to the LORD.

⁸Every day of worship a priest must arrange the bread in the LORDS presence. It is a continual reminder of my promise to the Israelites.

⁹The bread will belong to Aaron and his sons. They will eat it in a holy place. It is very holy, set apart from the LORDS offering by fire. This is a permanent law."

¹⁰A man, whose mother was Shelomith (daughter of Dibri, from the tribe of Dan in Israel) and whose father was from Egypt, got into a quarrel with an Israelite in the camp.

¹¹The Israelite womans son began cursing the LORDS name and treating it with contempt. So they brought him to Moses.

¹²They kept him in custody until the LORD told them what to do.

¹³The LORD spoke to Moses,

¹⁴"The man who cursed my name must be taken outside the camp. All who heard him curse my name must lay their hands on his head. Then the whole congregation must stone him to death.

¹⁵"Also tell the Israelites: Those who treat their God with contempt will be punished for their sin.

¹⁶But those who curse the LORDS name must be put to death. The whole congregation must stone them to death. It makes no difference whether they are Israelites or foreigners. Whoever curses the LORDS name must die.

¹⁷"Whoever kills another person must be put to death.

¹⁸Whoever kills an animal must replace it, life for life.

¹⁹Whoever injures a neighbor must receive the same injury in return

²⁰a broken bone for a broken bone, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Whoever injures another person must receive the same injury in return.

²¹Whoever kills an animal must replace it. Whoever kills a person must be put to death.

²²The same rule applies to every one of you. It makes no difference whether you are a foreigner or an Israelite, because I am the LORD your God."

²³Moses spoke to the people of Israel. So the man who had cursed the LORDS

name was taken outside the camp. There they stoned him to death as the LORD commanded Moses. The Israelites did as the LORD commanded Moses.

25¹ The LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai,

² "Tell the Israelites: When you come into the land I'm giving you, the land will celebrate a year to honor the LORD.

³ Then, for six years you may plant crops in your fields, prune your vineyards, and gather what they produce.

⁴ However, the seventh year will be a festival year for the land. It will be a year to honor the LORD. Don't plant crops in your fields or prune your vineyards.

⁵ Don't harvest what grows by itself or harvest grapes from your vines. That year will be a festival for the land.

⁶ Whatever the land produces during that year is for all of you to eat for you, your male and female slaves, your hired workers, foreigners among you,

⁷ your animals, and the wild animals in your land. Everything the land produces will be yours to eat.

⁸ "Count seven of these years seven times for a total of 49 years.

⁹On the tenth day of the seventh month, the special day for the payment for sin, sound rams horns throughout the country.

¹⁰Set apart the fiftieth year as holy, and proclaim liberty to everyone living in the land. This is your jubilee year. Every slave will be freed in order to return to his property and to his family.

¹¹That fiftieth year will be your jubilee year. Don't plant or harvest what grows by itself or pick grapes from the vines in the land.

¹²The jubilee year will be holy to you. You will eat what the field itself produces.

¹³"In this jubilee year every slave will be freed in order to return to his property.

¹⁴If you sell anything to your neighbor or buy anything from him, don't take advantage of him.

¹⁵When you buy property from your neighbor, take into account the number of years since the jubilee. Your neighbor must sell it to you taking into account the number of crops until the next jubilee.

¹⁶If there are still many years until the jubilee, you will pay more for it. If there

are only a few years until the jubilee, you will pay less for it because he is selling you only the number of crops.

¹⁷Never take advantage of each other. Fear your God, because I am the LORD your God.

¹⁸"Obey my laws, and carefully follow my rules. Then you will live securely in the land.

¹⁹The land will give you its products, and you will eat all you want and live there securely.

²⁰You may ask, What will we eat in the seventh year if we do not plant or bring in our crops?

²¹I will give you my blessing in the sixth year so that the land will produce enough for three years.

²²You will plant again in the eighth year but live on what the land already produced. You will eat it, even in the ninth year, until the land produces more.

²³"Land must never be sold permanently, because the land is mine. To me you are strangers without permanent homes.

²⁴People must always have the right to buy their property back.

²⁵ If your brother becomes poor and sells some of his property, then the one who can assume responsibility, his nearest relative, must buy back what he sold.

²⁶ If a man doesn't have anyone to buy it back for him, but if he prospers and earns enough to buy it back himself,

²⁷ he must count the years from its sale. Then he will pay what is left to the man to whom he sold it, and it will be his property again.

²⁸ However, if he cannot earn enough to buy it back, what he sold stays in the hands of the buyer until the year of jubilee. In the jubilee it will be released, and he will own it again.

²⁹ "If anyone sells a home in a walled city, for one year after selling it he has the right to buy it back. He may buy it back only within that time.

³⁰ If he does not buy it back during that year, the house in the city belongs to the buyer for generations to come. It will not be released in the jubilee.

³¹ However, houses in villages without walls are regarded as belonging to the

fields of the land. They can be bought back. They will be released in the jubilee.

³²"The Levites always have the right to buy back their property in the cities they own.

³³If any Levite buys back a house, in the jubilee the purchased house in the city will be released, because the houses in the Levite cities are their property among the Israelites.

³⁴But a field that belongs to their cities must not be sold, because it is their permanent property.

³⁵"If an Israelite becomes poor and cannot support himself, help him. He must live with you as a stranger without a permanent home.

³⁶Dont collect interest or make any profit from him. Fear your God by respecting other Israelites lives.

³⁷Never collect any kind of interest on your money or on the food you give them.

³⁸I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt to give you Canaan and to be your God.

³⁹ "If an Israelite becomes poor and sells himself to you, don't work him like a slave.

⁴⁰ He will be like a hired worker or a visitor to you. He may work with you until the year of jubilee.

⁴¹ Then you will release him and his children to go back to their family and the property of their ancestors.

⁴² They are my servants. I brought them out of Egypt. They must never be sold as slaves.

⁴³ Do not treat them harshly. Fear your God.

⁴⁴ "You may have male and female slaves, but buy them from the nations around you.

⁴⁵ You may also buy them from the foreigners living among you and from their families born in your country. They will be your property.

⁴⁶ You may acquire them for yourselves and for your descendants as permanent property. You may work them as slaves. However, do not treat the Israelites harshly. They are your relatives.

⁴⁷ "Someone who is a foreigner without a permanent home among you may

become rich, and your relative living with him may be poor. The poor Israelite may sell himself to that foreigner or a member of his family.

⁴⁸After he has sold himself, he has the right to be bought back. One of his brothers may buy him back.

⁴⁹His uncle, his cousin, or some other relative could also buy him back. If he becomes rich, he could buy his own freedom.

⁵⁰Then he and his buyer must take into account the number of years from the year he was bought until the year of jubilee. His sale price will be adjusted based on the number of years he was with his buyer, like the wages of a hired worker.

⁵¹If there are many years left, he must refund from his purchase price an amount equal to those years.

⁵²If there are only a few years left until the year of jubilee, he must take them into account. He must refund from his purchase price an amount equal to those years.

⁵³ During those years he should serve his buyer as a hired worker. His buyer should not treat him harshly.

⁵⁴ If he cannot buy his freedom in these ways, he and his children will be released in the year of jubilee.

⁵⁵ "The Israelites belong to me as servants. They are my servants. I brought them out of Egypt. I am the LORD your God."

26 ¹ The LORD continued, "Never make worthless idols or set up a carved statue or a sacred stone for yourselves. Never cut figures in stone to worship them in your country, because I am the LORD your God.

² Observe my days of worship and respect my holy tent. I am the LORD.

³ "This is what I will do if you will live by my laws and carefully obey my commands:

⁴ "I will give you rain at the right time. The land will produce its crops, and the trees in the field will produce their fruit.

⁵ Threshing time will last until grape gathering, and grape gathering will last until planting. You will eat all you want and live securely in your land.

⁶"I will bring peace to your land. You will lie down with no one to scare you. I will remove dangerous animals, and there will be no war in your land.

⁷You will chase your enemies, and you will defeat them.

⁸Five of you will chase a hundred of them, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand of them. You will defeat your enemies,

⁹and I will be pleased with you. Your families will be large, and I will keep my promise to you.

¹⁰You will clear out old food supplies to make room for new ones.

¹¹"I will put my tent among you, and I will never look at you with disgust.

¹²So I will live among you and be your God, and you will be my people.

¹³I am the LORD your God. I brought you out of Egypt so that you are no longer slaves of the Egyptians. I have broken their power over you and made you live as a free people.

¹⁴"If you will not listen to me and obey all these commands,

¹⁵if you reject my laws and look at my rules with disgust, if you reject my promise by disobeying my commands,

¹⁶then this is what I will do to you: I will terrorize you with disease and fever. You will suffer from eye problems and depression. You will plant your crops and get nothing because your enemies will eat them.

¹⁷I will condemn you so that you will go down in defeat in front of your enemies. Those who hate you will be your rulers. You will run away even when no one is chasing you.

¹⁸"If you still will not listen to me, I will discipline you seven times for your sins.

¹⁹I will crush your arrogance. You will have no rain, and your land will be as hard as cement.

²⁰You will work hard for nothing because your land will produce no crops and the trees will produce no fruit.

²¹"If you resist and don't listen to me, I will increase the punishment for your sins seven times.

²²I will send wild animals among you. They will rob you of your children,

destroy your cattle, and make you so few that your roads will be deserted.

²³"If this discipline does not help and you still resist,

²⁴then I, too, will resist you. I will punish you seven times for your sins.

²⁵I will bring war on you to get revenge for my promise that you rejected. When you gather in your cities, I will send plagues on you and you will fall under the control of your enemy.

²⁶I will destroy your food supply. Ten women will need only one oven to prepare your food. You will eat and go away hungry.

²⁷"If in spite of this you do not listen to me and still resist me,

²⁸I will fiercely resist you. I will discipline you seven times for your sins.

²⁹You will eat the bodies of your sons and daughters.

³⁰I will destroy your worship sites, cut down your incense altars, and pile your dead bodies on top of your dead idols. I will look at you with disgust.

³¹I will make your cities deserted and ruin your sacred places. I will no longer

accept the soothing aroma from your sacrifices.

³²I will make your land so deserted that your enemies will be shocked as they settle in it.

³³I will scatter you among the nations. War will follow you. Your country will be in ruins. Your cities will be deserted.

³⁴"Then the land will enjoy its time to honor the LORD while it lies deserted and you are in your enemies land. Then the land will joyfully celebrate its time to honor the LORD.

³⁵All the days it lies deserted, it will celebrate the time to honor the LORD it never celebrated while you lived there.

³⁶I will fill with despair those who are left in the land of their enemies. The sound of a windblown leaf will make them run. They will run away and fall, but no one will be chasing them.

³⁷They will stumble over each other, but no one will be after them. They will not be able to stand up to their enemies.

³⁸They will be destroyed among the nations. The land of their enemies will devour them.

³⁹ Those who are left will waste away in the lands of their enemies because of their sins and the sins of their ancestors.

⁴⁰ "But if they confess their sins and the sins of their ancestors the treacherous things they did to oppose me

⁴¹ I will oppose them and bring them into the lands of their enemies. Then, if they humble their uncircumcised hearts and accept their guilt,

⁴² I will remember my promise to Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham. I will also remember the land.

⁴³ The land, abandoned by them, will enjoy its time to honor the LORD while it lies deserted without them. They must accept their guilt because they rejected my rules and looked at my laws with disgust.

⁴⁴ Even when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or look at them with disgust. I will not reject or cancel my promise to them, because I am the LORD their God.

⁴⁵ But for their sake, I will remember the promise to their ancestors. I brought them out of Egypt to be their God while nations looked on. I am the LORD."

⁴⁶These are the laws, rules, and instructions that the LORD gave to the Israelites through Moses on Mount Sinai.

27 ¹The LORD spoke to Moses,
²"Tell the Israelites: If any of you makes a special vow to give a person to the LORD, you may give money instead of the person.

³The amount you must give for a man from 20 to 60 years old is 20 ounces of silver. Use the standard weight of the holy place.

⁴If it is a woman, give 12 ounces.

⁵For a boy from 5 to 20 years old, give 8 ounces and for a girl give 4 ounces.

⁶For a boy from one month to five years old, give 2 ounces of silver and for a girl give about one ounce.

⁷For a man 60 years or over, give 6 ounces and for a woman give 4 ounces.

⁸But the person who is too poor to pay the required amount must stand in front of the priest. The priest will determine the amount based on what the person can afford.

⁹"If the vow is to give the kind of animal that people offer to the LORD, it will be considered holy.

¹⁰Don't exchange or substitute animals, a good one for a bad one or a bad one for a good one. If you do exchange one animal for another, then both animals will be holy.

¹¹If it is an unclean animal that cannot be brought to the LORD as an offering, bring it in front of the priest.

¹²The priest will determine what its value is. The value will be whatever the priest decides.

¹³If you want to buy it back, you must pay its full value plus one-fifth more.

¹⁴"If you give your house to the LORD as something holy, the priest will determine what its value is. The value will be whatever the priest decides.

¹⁵If you want to buy it back, you must pay its full value plus one-fifth more.

¹⁶"If a person gives part of a field to the LORD as something holy, its value will be based on the seed planted on it. Ground planted with 2 quarts of barley will be worth 20 ounces of silver.

¹⁷If you give your field in the jubilee year, it will have its full value.

¹⁸But if you give the field after the jubilee year, the priest will estimate its

value based on the number of years left until the next jubilee year.

¹⁹If you want to buy it back, you must pay its full value plus onefifth more.

²⁰But if you dont buy it back and it is sold to someone else, you cannot buy it back.

²¹When the field is released in the jubilee year, it will be holy like a field claimed by the LORD. It will become the property of the priest.

²²You may give a field you bought (not one that was a part of your family property) to the LORD as something holy.

²³The priest must figure out the fields value until the jubilee year. You will pay its value on that day as something holy, belonging to the LORD.

²⁴In the jubilee year the field will go back to the person from whom it was bought, to whom it belongs as family property.

²⁵"All values will be set using the standard weight of the holy place.

²⁶"A firstborn animal already belongs to the LORD because it was born first. Therefore, it cannot be set apart as holy.

Whether it is a bull or a sheep, it belongs to the LORD.

²⁷ But if it is an unclean animal, it must be bought back. The payment will be its full value plus one-fifth more. If it is not bought back, it must be sold at the value given it.

²⁸ "However, everything dedicated to the LORD for destruction a person, an animal, or a field that belongs to you must not be sold or bought back. Everything dedicated in that way is very holy. It belongs to the LORD.

²⁹ People dedicated this way cannot be bought back. They must be put to death.

³⁰ "One-tenth of what comes from the land, whether grain or fruit, is holy and belongs to the LORD.

³¹ If you buy back any part of it, you must add one-fifth more to it.

³² Every tenth head of cattle or sheep that you counted is holy and belongs to the LORD.

³³ You must not look to see if it is good or bad or exchange it. But if you do exchange it, both the first animal and its substitute will be holy. They cannot be bought back."

³⁴ These are the commands the LORD gave Moses on Mount Sinai for the Israelites.

Numbers

1 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses in the tent of meeting in the Desert of Sinai. It was the first day of the second month in the second year after leaving Egypt. He said,

² "Take a census of the whole community of Israel by families and households. List every man by name

³ who is at least 20 years old. You and Aaron must register everyone in Israel who is eligible for military duty. List them by divisions.

⁴ One man from each tribe will help you. Each of these men must be the head of a household.

⁵ "Here are the names of the men who will help you: Elizur, son of Shedeur, from the tribe of Reuben;

⁶ Shelumiel, son of Zurishaddai, from the tribe of Simeon;

⁷ Nahshon, son of Amminadab, from the tribe of Judah;

⁸ Nethanel, son of Zuar, from the tribe of Issachar;

⁹Eliab, son of Helon, from the tribe of Zebulun;

¹⁰Elishama, son of Ammihud, from the tribe of Ephraim; Gamaliel, son of Pedahzur, from the tribe of Manasseh; (Ephraim and Manasseh are Josephs descendants.)

¹¹Abidan, son of Gideoni, from the tribe of Benjamin;

¹²Ahiezer, son of Ammishaddai, from the tribe of Dan;

¹³Pagiel, son of Ochran, from the tribe of Asher;

¹⁴Eliasaph, son of Deuel, from the tribe of Gad;

¹⁵Ahira, son of Enan, from the tribe of Naphtali."

¹⁶These were the men chosen from the community, the leaders of their ancestors tribes, and heads of the divisions of Israel.

¹⁷Moses and Aaron took the men who had been named

¹⁸and assembled the whole community on the first day of the second month. Each man at least 20 years old provided his genealogy by family and household. Then his name was listed.

¹⁹ So Moses registered the men of Israel in the Desert of Sinai as the LORD had commanded him.

²⁰ The roster of families and households for the descendants of Reuben, Israel's firstborn son, listed every man by name who was at least 20 years old and eligible for military duty.

²¹ The total for the tribe of Reuben was 46,500.

²² The roster of families and households for the descendants of Simeon registered and listed every man by name who was at least 20 years old and eligible for military duty.

²³ The total for the tribe of Simeon was 59,300.

²⁴ The roster of families and households for the descendants of Gad listed the men by name who were at least 20 years old and eligible for military duty.

²⁵ The total for the tribe of Gad was 45,650.

²⁶ The roster of families and households for the descendants of Judah listed the men by name who were at least 20 years old and eligible for military duty.

²⁷ The total for the tribe of Judah was 74,600.

²⁸ The roster of families and households for the descendants of Issachar listed the men by name who were at least 20 years old and eligible for military duty.

²⁹ The total for the tribe of Issachar was 54,400.

³⁰ The roster of families and households for the descendants of Zebulun listed the men by name who were at least 20 years old and eligible for military duty.

³¹ The total for the tribe of Zebulun was 57,400.

³² The roster of families and households for the descendants of Joseph those from Ephraim listed the men by name who were at least 20 years old and eligible for military duty.

³³ The total for the tribe of Ephraim was 40,500.

³⁴ The roster of families and households for the descendants of Manasseh listed the men by name who were at least 20 years old and eligible for military duty.

³⁵ The total for the tribe of Manasseh was 32,200.

³⁶ The roster of families and households for the descendants of Benjamin listed the men by name who were at least 20 years old and eligible for military duty.

³⁷ The total for the tribe of Benjamin was 35,400.

³⁸ The roster of families and households for the descendants of Dan listed the men by name who were at least 20 years old and eligible for military duty.

³⁹ The total for the tribe of Dan was 62,700.

⁴⁰ The roster of families and households for the descendants of Asher listed the men by name who were at least 20 years old and eligible for military duty.

⁴¹ The total for the tribe of Asher was 41,500.

⁴² The roster of families and households for the descendants of Naphtali listed the men by name who were at least 20 years old and eligible for military duty.

⁴³ The total for the tribe of Naphtali was 53,400.

⁴⁴ Moses, Aaron, and the 12 leaders of Israel, each representing his own family, added up these totals.

⁴⁵ So the Israelites were registered by households. The grand total of men who were at least 20 years old and eligible for military duty

⁴⁶ was 603,550.

⁴⁷ But the households from the tribe of Levi were not registered along with the other Israelites.

⁴⁸ The LORD had said to Moses,

⁴⁹ "Don't register the tribe of Levi or include them in the census with the other Israelites.

⁵⁰ Put the Levites in charge of the tent of God's words, including the equipment for the tent and everything else having to do with the tent. The Levites will carry the tent and all its equipment. They will take care of the tent and camp around it.

⁵¹ When the tent has to be moved, the Levites will take it down. When we camp, they will set it up. Anyone else who comes near the tent will be put to death.

⁵² "The other Israelites will camp with each family in its own area under its own flag.

⁵³ The Levites will camp all around the tent of God's words. In this way the LORD won't be angry with the community of

Israel. So the Levites will be in charge of the tent of Gods words."

⁵⁴The Israelites did everything as the LORD commanded Moses.

2¹The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron,

²"The Israelites will put up their tents with each family under the flag that symbolizes its household. They will put their tents around the tent of meeting, facing it.

³"On the east side, facing the rising sun, the armies led by Judah will camp under their flag. The leader for the people of Judah is Nahshon, son of Amminadab.

⁴The total number of men in his army is 74,600.

⁵"Next to them will be the tribe of Issachar. The leader for the people of Issachar is Nethanel, son of Zuar.

⁶The total number of men in his army is 54,400.

⁷"Then will be the tribe of Zebulun. The leader for the people of Zebulun is Eliab, son of Helon.

⁸The total number of men in his army is 57,400.

⁹"The grand total of all the troops in Judahs camp is 186,400. They will be the first group to move out.

¹⁰"On the south side the armies led by Reuben will camp under their flag. The leader for the people of Reuben is Elizur, son of Shedeur.

¹¹The total number of men in his army is 46,500.

¹²"Next to them will be the tribe of Simeon. The leader for the people of Simeon is Shelumiel, son of Zurishaddai.

¹³The total number of men in his army is 59,300.

¹⁴"Then will be the tribe of Gad. The leader for the people of Gad is Eliasaph, son of Deuel.

¹⁵The total number of men in his army is 45,650.

¹⁶"The grand total of all the troops in Reubens camp is 151,450. They will be the second group to move out.

¹⁷"When the tent of meeting is moved, the Levites will stay in the middle of the groups. The tribes will move out in the same order as they are in the camp, everyone in place under his own flag.

¹⁸"On the west side the armies led by Ephraim will camp under their flag. The leader for the people of Ephraim is Elishama, son of Ammihud.

¹⁹The total number of men in his army is 40,500.

²⁰"Next to them will be the tribe of Manasseh. The leader for the people of Manasseh is Gamaliel, son of Pedahzur.

²¹The total number of men in his army is 32,200.

²²"Then will be the tribe of Benjamin. The leader for the people of Benjamin is Abidan, son of Gideoni.

²³The total number of men in his army is 35,400.

²⁴"The grand total of all the troops in Ephraim's camp is 108,100. They will be the third group to move out.

²⁵"On the north side the armies led by Dan will camp under their flag. The leader for the people of Dan is Ahiezer, son of Ammishaddai.

²⁶The total number of men in his army is 62,700.

²⁷"Next to them will be the tribe of Asher. The leader for the people of Asher is Pagiel, son of Ocran.

²⁸The total number of men in his army is 41,500.

²⁹"Then will be the tribe of Naphtali. The leader for the people of Naphtali is Ahira, son of Enan.

³⁰The total number of men in his army is 53,400.

³¹"The grand total of all the men in Dans camp is 157,600. They will be the last group to move out. They will travel under their own flag."

³²This is the total number of Israelites, counted by households. The grand total of all the troops in the camps was 603,550.

³³As the LORD had commanded Moses, the Levites were not registered along with the other Israelites.

³⁴So the Israelites did everything as the LORD had commanded Moses. They set up camp under their flags, and each person traveled with his own family and household.

3¹ This is the list of Aaron and Moses descendants at the time when the LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai.

²The names of Aarons sons are Nadab (the firstborn), Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

³These are the names of Aarons sons, the anointed priests, who were ordained to serve as priests.

⁴Nadab and Abihu died in the LORDS presence because they offered unauthorized fire in his presence in the Desert of Sinai. They had no children. So only Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests during the lifetime of their father Aaron.

⁵The LORD said to Moses,

⁶"Bring the tribe of Levi, and have them stand in front of the priest Aaron to assist him.

⁷They will work for him and the whole community in front of the tent of meeting, doing what needs to be done for the inner tent.

⁸They will take care of all the furnishings in the tent of meeting and work for the Israelites, doing what needs to be done for the inner tent.

⁹Give the Levites to Aaron and his sons. The Levites will be the only Israelites given to them.

¹⁰Appoint Aaron and his sons to serve as priests. Anyone else who tries to do the priests duties must be put to death."

¹¹The LORD said to Moses,

¹²"Out of all the Israelites, I have taken the Levites to be substitutes for every firstborn male offspring among them. The Levites are mine,

¹³because every firstborn is mine. The day I killed every firstborn male in Egypt, I set apart as holy every firstborn in Israel, whether human or animal. They will be mine. I am the LORD."

¹⁴The LORD said to Moses in the Desert of Sinai,

¹⁵"Count the Levites by households and families. Count every male who is at least one month old."

¹⁶So Moses did what the LORD said and registered them as he had been commanded.

¹⁷Gershon, Kohath, and Merari were the sons of Levi.

¹⁸Libni and Shimei were the sons of Gershon. Their families were named after them.

¹⁹Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel were the sons of Kohath. Their families were named after them.

²⁰Mahli and Mushi were the sons of Merari. Their families were named after them. These were the households of Levite families.

²¹To Gershon belonged the families descended from Libni and Shimei. These were the families descended from Gershon.

²²The total number of all the males at least one month old was 7,500.

²³The families descended from Gershon put up their tents on the west side behind the tent of meeting.

²⁴The leader of the Gershonite households was Eliasaph, son of Lael.

²⁵At the tent of meeting the Gershonites were in charge of the inner tent, the outer tent and cover, the screen for the entrance to the tent of meeting,

²⁶the curtains for the courtyard, the screen for the entrance to the courtyard that surrounds the inner tent and the altar, and the ropes. They took care of all these things.

²⁷ To Kohath belonged the families descended from Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. These were the families descended from Kohath.

²⁸ The number of all the males at least one month old was 8,600. They were in charge of the holy place.

²⁹ The families descended from Kohath put up their tents on the south side of the tent of meeting.

³⁰ The leader of the Kohathite families and households was Elizaphan, son of Uzziel.

³¹ They were in charge of the ark, the table, the lamp stand, the altars, the utensils used in the holy place, and the screen. They took care of all these things.

³² The chief leader of the Levites was Eleazar, son of the priest Aaron. It was Eleazars duty to supervise those who were in charge of the holy place.

³³ To Merari belonged the families descended from Mahli and Mushi. These were the families descended from Merari.

³⁴ The total number of all the males at least one month old was 6,200.

³⁵ The leader of the Merarite families and households was Zuriel, son of Abihail. They put up their tents on the north side of the tent of meeting.

³⁶ It was the duty of the Merarites to be in charge of the framework of the inner tent, the crossbars, posts, sockets, and all the equipment. They took care of all these things.

³⁷ They also took care of the posts for the surrounding courtyard, the bases, pegs, and ropes.

³⁸ Moses, Aaron, and his sons put up their tents on the east side in front of the tent of meeting. They were in charge of the holy place on behalf of the Israelites. Anyone else who tried to do the Levites duties had to be put to death.

³⁹ The grand total of Levites that Moses and Aaron counted at the LORDS command, by families, every male who was at least one month old, was 22,000.

⁴⁰ The LORD said to Moses, "Register every firstborn male of the Israelites who is at least one month old, and make a list of their names.

⁴¹ I am the LORD. Take the Levites for me to be substitutes for all firstborn

Israelites. Also take the animals of the Levites to be substitutes for all firstborn animals of the Israelites."

⁴² So Moses registered all the firstborn Israelites as the LORD commanded him.

⁴³ The total of all the firstborn males at least one month old was 22,273. They were listed by name.

⁴⁴ The LORD said to Moses,

⁴⁵ "Take the Levites to be substitutes for all the firstborn Israelites and the animals of the Levites to be substitutes for their animals. The Levites will be mine. I am the LORD.

⁴⁶ There are 273 more firstborn male Israelites than there are Levites.

⁴⁷ It will cost you two ounces of silver per person (using the standard weight of the holy place) to buy them back.

⁴⁸ Give the silver to Aaron and his sons. It will buy back those Israelites who outnumber the Levites."

⁴⁹ So Moses took this ransom money from the Israelites who outnumbered the Levites.

⁵⁰ The silver Moses collected for the firstborn Israelites weighed 34 pounds

using the standard weight of the holy place.

⁵¹ Then Moses did what the LORD said and gave Aaron and his sons this ransom money as he had been commanded.

4 ¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ² "Take a census of the Levites who are descended from Kohath. List them by families and households.

³ Register all the men between the ages of 30 and 50 who are qualified to work at the tent of meeting.

⁴ "This is the work the Kohathites will do in the tent of meeting: They will take care of the most holy things.

⁵ When the camp is supposed to move, Aaron and his sons will go in and take down the canopy that hangs over the ark containing the words of Gods promise. First they will cover the ark with the canopy.

⁶ Over this they will put a covering of fine leather. On top of that they will spread a cloth made entirely of violet material. Then they will put the poles in place.

⁷ "They will spread a violet cloth over the table of the presence and put on it

the plates, dishes, bowls, and pitchers for the wine offerings. The bread that is always in the LORDS presence will also be on it.

⁸They will spread a bright red cloth over everything on the table. They will cover all this with fine leather. Then they will put the poles in place.

⁹"They will take a violet cloth and cover the lamp stand, as well as the lamps, tongs, trays, and all the containers for the olive oil used in the lamps.

¹⁰Then they will put the lamp stand and all its utensils under a covering of fine leather and put them on a frame to carry them.

¹¹"They will spread a violet cloth over the gold altar and cover the cloth with fine leather. Then they will put the poles in place.

¹²"They will take all the articles that are used in the holy place, put them in a violet cloth, cover that with fine leather, and put them on a frame to carry them.

¹³"After they take the ashes away, they will spread a purple cloth over the altar.

¹⁴Next, they will put all the accessories used at the altar on it. These are the

trays, forks, shovels, and bowls all the altars accessories. They will spread a covering of fine leather over all this. Then they will put the poles in place.

¹⁵"When Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy things and the camp is ready to move, the Kohathites will come to carry all the holy articles. They must never touch the holy things, or they will die. The Kohathites will carry all the things from the tent of meeting.

¹⁶"Eleazar, son of the priest Aaron, will be in charge of the oil for the lamps, the sweet-smelling incense, the daily grain offering, and the anointing oil. He is in charge of the whole tent and everything in it, the holy place and its contents."

¹⁷The LORD said to Moses and Aaron,

¹⁸"Don't let the Kohathite families from Levi's tribe be destroyed.

¹⁹This is what you must do so that they won't die when they come near the most holy things: Aaron and his sons will go into the holy place and tell each man what he will do and what he will carry.

²⁰But the Kohathites must not go in to look at the holy things, even for a moment, or they will die."

²¹ The LORD said to Moses,

²² "Also take a census of the Gershonites. List them by households and families.

²³ Register all the men between the ages of 30 and 50 who are qualified to serve at the tent of meeting.

²⁴ "This is what the Gershonite families will do and what they will carry:

²⁵ They will carry the sheets that are part of the inner tent and the tent of meeting. They will also carry the inner cover for the tent of meeting, the outer cover of fine leather that goes over it, the screen for the entrance to the tent of meeting,

²⁶ the curtains for the courtyard around the tent and the altar, the screen for the entrance to the courtyard, the ropes, and all the equipment used to set up the curtains. The Gershonites will do everything that needs to be done with these things.

²⁷ All their work, whatever they carry and all their duties, will be done under the direction of Aaron and his sons. You are in charge of telling them everything they're supposed to carry.

²⁸ This is the work of the Gershonite families in the tent of meeting. Ithamar, son of the priest Aaron, will be in charge of them.

²⁹ "Register the Merarites by families and households.

³⁰ Register all the men between the ages of 30 and 50 who are qualified to serve at the tent of meeting.

³¹ These are their duties as they work at the tent of meeting: They will carry the framework for the inner tent, the crossbars, posts, and sockets,

³² the posts for the surrounding courtyard, the bases, pegs, and ropes. They must take care of all this equipment. Tell each man by name the things he will carry.

³³ This is what the Merarite families will do as they work at the tent of meeting. Ithamar, son of the priest Aaron, will be in charge of them."

³⁴ Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of the community registered the Kohathites by their families and households.

³⁵ They registered all the men between the ages of 30 and 50 who were qualified to work at the tent of meeting.

³⁶The total of those who were registered was 2,750. They were listed by families.

³⁷This was the total of all those in the Kohathite families who served at the tent of meeting. Moses and Aaron did as the LORD had commanded Moses and registered the Kohathites.

³⁸The Gershonites were registered by families and households.

³⁹All the men between the ages of 30 and 50 who were qualified to serve at the tent of meeting were registered.

⁴⁰The total of those who were registered was 2,630. They were listed by families and households.

⁴¹This was the total of all those in the Gershonite families who worked at the tent of meeting. Moses and Aaron did as the LORD had commanded Moses and registered the Gershonites.

⁴²The Merarites were registered by families and households.

⁴³All the men between the ages of 30 and 50 who were qualified to serve at the tent of meeting were registered.

⁴⁴ The total of all those who were registered was 3,200. They were listed by families.

⁴⁵ This was the total of those registered in the Merarite families. Moses and Aaron did as the LORD had commanded Moses and registered the Merarites.

⁴⁶ The grand total of all the Levites whom Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of Israel registered was 8,580. They were listed by families and households.

⁴⁷ These were the men between the ages of 30 and 50 who were qualified to do the work of serving and who carried the tent of meeting.

⁴⁸ (SEE 4: 46)

⁴⁹ At the LORDS command through Moses each man was registered and told what to do and what to carry. So they were registered as the LORD commanded Moses.

5 ¹ The LORD said to Moses,
² "Command the Israelites to send outside the camp anyone who has a serious skin disease or a discharge or anyone who is unclean from touching a dead body.

³Send all of these unclean men and women outside the camp. They must not make this camp where I live among you unclean."

⁴So the Israelites did as the LORD had told Moses. They sent these unclean people outside the camp.

⁵The LORD said to Moses,

⁶"Tell the Israelites: If you do something wrong to another person, you have been unfaithful to the LORD. When you realize your guilt,

⁷you must confess your sin, pay in full for what you did wrong, add one-fifth to it, and give it to the person who was wronged.

⁸But there may be no heir to whom the payment can be made. In that case, the payment for what you did wrong must be given to the LORD for the priest to use. This payment is in addition to the ram which makes peace with the LORD.

⁹"Any contribution over and above the holy offerings that the Israelites bring to the priest will belong to the priest.

¹⁰Each person's holy offerings will belong to that person, but whatever is

given to the priest will belong to the priest."

¹¹ The LORD said to Moses:

¹² "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: A mans wife may have been unfaithful to him

¹³ and may have had sexual intercourse with another man without her husbands knowledge. She may have kept it secret if there were no witnesses to accuse her and she wasnt caught in the act.

¹⁴ "A husband may have a fit of jealousy and suspect his wife, whether she was actually unfaithful or not.

¹⁵ He must then take his wife to the priest along with eight cups of barley flour as an offering for her. He must not pour olive oil on the flour or put frankincense on it, since it is a grain offering brought because of the husbands jealousy, an offering used for a confession to remind someone of a sin that was committed.

¹⁶ "The priest will have the woman come forward and stand in the LORDS presence.

¹⁷ Then the priest will take holy water in a piece of pottery and put some dust from the floor of the tent into the water.

¹⁸ The priest will bring the woman into the LORDS presence and loosen her hair. In her hands he will put the offering used for a confession (that is, the grain offering brought because of the husbands jealousy). The priest will hold in his hands the bitter water that can bring a curse.

¹⁹ "Then the priest will say to her, If no other man has had sexual intercourse with you and you havent been unfaithful to your husband, youre not guilty. This bitter water that can bring a curse will not harm you.

²⁰ If, in fact, you have been unfaithful and have had sexual intercourse with another man,

²¹ may the LORD make you an example for your people to see what happens when the curse of this oath comes true: The LORD will make your uterus drop and your stomach swell. "Then the priest will administer the oath and the curse by saying:

²² May this water that can bring a curse go into your body and make your stomach swell and your uterus drop!

"Then the woman will say, Amen, amen!

²³ "The priest will write these curses on a scroll and wash them off into the bitter water.

²⁴ Then he will have the woman drink the bitter water that can bring the curse. This water will go into her and become bitter.

²⁵ The priest will take the grain offering she was holding, present it to the LORD, and bring it to the altar.

²⁶ The priest will take a handful of the grain offering as a memorial portion and burn it on the altar. Then he will have the woman drink the water.

²⁷ If she has become unclean by being unfaithful to her husband, the water that can bring the curse will go into her and become bitter. Her stomach will swell, her uterus will drop, and she will become cursed among her people.

²⁸ But if the woman is not unclean and is pure, she is not guilty and will be able to have children.

²⁹"These are the instructions for how to deal with jealousy. They tell you what to do when a woman is unfaithful to her husband and becomes unclean.

³⁰They also tell you what to do when a husband has a fit of jealousy and is suspicious of his wife. He will make his wife stand in the LORDS presence, and the priest will do everything these instructions tell him to do.

³¹The husband isnt guilty of doing anything wrong, but the woman will suffer the consequences of her sin."

6¹The LORD said to Moses,
²"Speak to the Israelites and tell them: A man or a woman may make a special vow to live as a Nazirite dedicated to the LORD.

³Nazirites must never drink wine, liquor, vinegar made from wine or liquor, or any kind of grape juice, and they must never eat fresh grapes or raisins.

⁴As long as they are Nazirites, they must never eat anything that comes from a grapevine, not even grape seeds or skins.

⁵"As long as they are under the Nazirite vow, no razor may touch their heads.

During the entire time that they are dedicated to the LORD as Nazirites, they will be holy. They must let their hair grow long.

⁶While they are dedicated to the LORD as Nazirites, they must never go near a dead body.

⁷Even if their own father, mother, brother, or sister dies, they must not make themselves unclean by going near them. Nazirites show their vow to God with their long hair.

⁸As long as they are Nazirites, they will be holy to the LORD.

⁹"Someone might suddenly drop dead next to a Nazirite and make the Nazirites hair unclean. Seven days later he must shave his head in order to be declared clean.

¹⁰On the eighth day he must bring two mourning doves or two young pigeons to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

¹¹The priest will sacrifice one as an offering for sin and the other one as a burnt offering. The priest will make peace with the LORD for the person who

touched the dead body. That same day the person must dedicate his head again.

¹²Once again he will dedicate himself to the LORD as a Nazirite for the same length of time as before. He must bring a oneyearold male lamb as an offering for guilt. The first time period wont count. He has to start over from when he became unclean.

¹³"These are the instructions for Nazirites who complete their vows: They must come to the entrance of the tent of meeting.

¹⁴They must bring these offerings to the LORD: a oneyearold male lamb as a burnt offering, a oneyearold female lamb as an offering for sin, and a ram as a fellowship offering. All of these animals must have no defects.

¹⁵They must also bring a basket of unleavened bread containing some rings of bread made with olive oil and wafers of unleavened bread brushed with olive oil, along with other grain offerings and wine offerings.

¹⁶"The priest will bring these offerings to the LORD and make the offering for sin and the burnt offering.

¹⁷ He will sacrifice the ram as a fellowship offering to the LORD, offer the basket of unleavened bread along with it, and make the grain offerings and wine offerings.

¹⁸ "Then the Nazirites will shave their heads at the entrance to the tent of meeting, take the hair as proof that they had made this vow, and put it on the fire under the fellowship offering.

¹⁹ "Then the priest will take one of the shoulders from a boiled ram, one ring of unleavened bread from the basket, and one wafer of unleavened bread and hand them to the Nazirites after they have shaved off their hair.

²⁰ The priest will present them as an offering to the LORD. They are holy and belong to the priest, along with the rams breast that is presented and the thigh that is given. After that, the Nazirites may drink wine.

²¹ "These are the instructions for those who have vowed to bring their offerings to the LORD because they were Nazirites. They must bring these offerings in addition to anything else they can afford. They must fulfill the

requirements of these instructions for Nazirites and finish whatever they vowed to do."

²²The LORD said to Moses,

²³"Tell Aaron and his sons, This is how you will bless the Israelites. Say to them:

²⁴The LORD will bless you and watch over you.

²⁵The LORD will smile on you and be kind to you.

²⁶The LORD will look on you with favor and give you peace.

²⁷"So whenever they use my name to bless the Israelites, I will bless them."

7¹ When Moses finished setting up the tent, he anointed it and dedicated it and all the furnishings. He also anointed and dedicated the altar and all the utensils.

² Then the leaders of Israel, the heads of the householdsthose tribal leaders who helped in the censuscame to give their offerings.

³ They brought these gifts to the LORD: six freight wagons and twelve oxen, one wagon from every two leaders and one ox from each leader. They brought them in front of the tent.

⁴The LORD said to Moses,

⁵"Accept these gifts from them to use in the work done for the tent of meeting. Give them to the Levites to use wherever they need these gifts for their work."

⁶Moses took the wagons and the oxen and gave them to the Levites.

⁷He gave two wagons and four oxen to the Gershonites for the work they had to do.

⁸He gave four wagons and eight oxen to the Merarites for the work they had to do under the direction of Ithamar, son of the priest Aaron.

⁹But Moses gave none of these gifts to the Kohathites, because they took care of the holy things. They had to carry the holy things on their own shoulders.

¹⁰The leaders also brought offerings for the dedication of the altar when it was anointed. They presented their gifts in front of the altar.

¹¹The LORD said to Moses, "Each day a different leader will bring his gift for the dedication of the altar."

¹²The one who brought his gifts on the first day was Nahshon, son of Amminadab, from the tribe of Judah.

¹³ He brought a silver plate that weighed 3 pounds and a silver bowl that weighed 1 pounds using the standard weight of the holy place. Each dish was filled with flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering.

¹⁴ He also brought a gold dish that weighed 4 ounces, filled with incense;

¹⁵ a young bull, a ram, and a oneyearold male lamb as a burnt offering;

¹⁶ a male goat as an offering for sin;

¹⁷ and two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five oneyearold male lambs as a fellowship offering. These were the gifts from Nahshon, son of Amminadab.

¹⁸ On the second day Nethanel, son of Zuar, the leader from the tribe of Issachar, brought his gifts.

¹⁹ He brought a silver plate that weighed 3 pounds and a silver bowl that weighed 1 pounds using the standard weight of the holy place. Each dish was filled with flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering.

²⁰ He also brought a gold dish that weighed 4 ounces, filled with incense;

²¹ a young bull, a ram, and a oneyearold male lamb as a burnt offering;

²² a male goat as an offering for sin;

²³ and two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five oneyearold male lambs as a fellowship offering. These were the gifts from Nethanel, son of Zuar.

²⁴ On the third day the leader of the descendants of Zebulun, Eliab, son of Helon,

²⁵ brought his gifts: a silver plate that weighed 3 pounds and a silver bowl that weighed 1 pounds using the standard weight of the holy place. Each dish was filled with flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering.

²⁶ He also brought a gold dish that weighed 4 ounces, filled with incense;

²⁷ a young bull, a ram, and a oneyearold male lamb as a burnt offering;

²⁸ a male goat as an offering for sin;

²⁹ and two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five oneyearold male lambs as a fellowship offering. These were the gifts from Eliab, son of Helon.

³⁰ On the fourth day the leader of the descendants of Reuben, Elizur, son of Shedeur,

³¹ brought his gifts: a silver plate that weighed 3 pounds and a silver bowl that

weighed 1 pounds using the standard weight of the holy place. Each dish was filled with flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering.

³²He also brought a gold dish that weighed 4 ounces, filled with incense;

³³a young bull, a ram, and a oneyearold male lamb as a burnt offering;

³⁴a male goat as an offering for sin;

³⁵and two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five oneyearold male lambs as a fellowship offering. These were the gifts from Elizur, son of Shedeur.

³⁶On the fifth day the leader of the descendants of Simeon, Shelumiel, son of Zurishaddai,

³⁷brought his gifts: a silver plate that weighed 3 pounds and a silver bowl that weighed 1 pounds using the standard weight of the holy place. Each dish was filled with flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering.

³⁸He also brought a gold dish that weighed 4 ounces, filled with incense;

³⁹a young bull, a ram, and a oneyearold male lamb as a burnt offering;

⁴⁰a male goat as an offering for sin;

⁴¹ and two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five oneyearold male lambs as a fellowship offering. These were the gifts from Shelumiel, son of Zurishaddai.

⁴² On the sixth day the leader of the descendants of Gad, Eliasaph, son of Deuel,

⁴³ brought his gifts: a silver plate that weighed 3 pounds and a silver bowl that weighed 1 pounds using the standard weight of the holy place. Each dish was filled with flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering.

⁴⁴ He also brought a gold dish that weighed 4 ounces, filled with incense;

⁴⁵ a young bull, a ram, and a oneyearold male lamb as a burnt offering;

⁴⁶ a male goat as an offering for sin;

⁴⁷ and two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five oneyearold male lambs as a fellowship offering. These were the gifts from Eliasaph, son of Deuel.

⁴⁸ On the seventh day the leader of the descendants of Ephraim, Elishama, son of Ammihud,

⁴⁹ brought his gifts: a silver plate that weighed 3 pounds and a silver bowl that weighed 1 pounds using the standard

weight of the holy place. Each dish was filled with flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering.

⁵⁰He also brought a gold dish that weighed 4 ounces, filled with incense;

⁵¹a young bull, a ram, and a oneyearold male lamb as a burnt offering;

⁵²a male goat as an offering for sin;

⁵³and two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five oneyearold male lambs as a fellowship offering. These were the gifts from Elishama, son of Ammihud.

⁵⁴On the eighth day the leader of the descendants of Manasseh, Gamaliel, son of Pedahzur,

⁵⁵brought his gifts: a silver plate that weighed 3 pounds and a silver bowl that weighed 1 pounds using the standard weight of the holy place. Each dish was filled with flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering.

⁵⁶He also brought a gold dish that weighed 4 ounces, filled with incense;

⁵⁷a young bull, a ram, and a oneyearold male lamb as a burnt offering;

⁵⁸a male goat as an offering for sin;

⁵⁹and two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five oneyearold male lambs

as a fellowship offering. These were the gifts from Gamaliel, son of Pedahzur.

⁶⁰On the ninth day the leader of the descendants of Benjamin, Abidan, son of Gideoni,

⁶¹brought his gifts: a silver plate that weighed 3 pounds and a silver bowl that weighed 1 pounds using the standard weight of the holy place. Each dish was filled with flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering.

⁶²He also brought a gold dish that weighed 4 ounces, filled with incense;

⁶³a young bull, a ram, and a oneyearold male lamb as a burnt offering;

⁶⁴a male goat as an offering for sin;

⁶⁵and two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five oneyearold male lambs as a fellowship offering. These were the gifts from Abidan, son of Gideoni.

⁶⁶On the tenth day the leader of the descendants of Dan, Ahiezer, son of Amishaddai,

⁶⁷brought his gifts: a silver plate that weighed 3 pounds and a silver bowl that weighed 1 pounds using the standard weight of the holy place. Each dish was

filled with flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering.

⁶⁸He also brought a gold dish that weighed 4 ounces, filled with incense;

⁶⁹a young bull, a ram, and a oneyearold male lamb as a burnt offering;

⁷⁰a male goat as an offering for sin;

⁷¹and two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five oneyearold male lambs as a fellowship offering. These were the gifts from Ahiezer, son of Amishaddai.

⁷²On the eleventh day the leader of the descendants of Asher, Pagiel, son of Ochran,

⁷³brought his gifts: a silver plate that weighed 3 pounds and a silver bowl that weighed 1 pounds using the standard weight of the holy place. Each dish was filled with flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering.

⁷⁴He also brought a gold dish that weighed 4 ounces, filled with incense;

⁷⁵a young bull, a ram, and a oneyearold male lamb as a burnt offering;

⁷⁶a male goat as an offering for sin;

⁷⁷and two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five oneyearold male lambs

as a fellowship offering. These were the gifts from Pagiel, son of Ochan.

⁷⁸On the twelfth day the leader of the descendants of Naphtali, Ahira, son of Enan,

⁷⁹brought his gifts: a silver plate that weighed 3 pounds and a silver bowl that weighed 1 pounds using the standard weight of the holy place. Each dish was filled with flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering.

⁸⁰He also brought a gold dish that weighed 4 ounces, filled with incense;

⁸¹a young bull, a ram, and a oneyearold male lamb as a burnt offering;

⁸²a male goat as an offering for sin;

⁸³and two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five oneyearold male lambs as a fellowship offering. These were the gifts from Ahira, son of Enan.

⁸⁴These were the gifts from the leaders of Israel for the dedication of the altar when it was anointed: 12 silver plates, 12 silver bowls, and 12 gold dishes.

⁸⁵Each silver plate weighed 3 pounds, and each bowl weighed 1 pounds. Together all the silver dishes weighed 60

pounds using the standard weight of the holy place.

⁸⁶The 12 gold dishes filled with incense weighed 4 ounces each using the standard weight of the holy place. Together all the gold dishes weighed about 3 pounds.

⁸⁷The total number of animals for the burnt offerings was 12 young bulls, 12 rams, 12 oneyearold male lambs, along with their grain offerings. Twelve male goats were used as offerings for sin.

⁸⁸The total number of animals for fellowship offerings was 24 bulls, 60 rams, 60 male goats, and 60 oneyearold male lambs. These were the gifts for the dedication of the altar after it was anointed.

⁸⁹Whenever Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the throne of mercy on the ark containing the words of Gods promise, from between the two angels. This is how the LORD spoke with Moses.

8¹The LORD said to Moses,
²"Speak to Aaron and tell him:
When you set up the seven lamps on

the lamp stand, they should light up the area in front of it."

³So Aaron set up the lamps on the lamp stand to light up the area in front of it, as the LORD commanded Moses.

⁴This is how the lamp stand was made: The whole lamp stand, from top to bottom, was hammered out of gold. It was made exactly like the one the LORD had shown Moses.

⁵The LORD said to Moses,

⁶"Separate the Levites from the rest of the Israelites, and make them clean.

⁷This is what you must do to make them clean: Sprinkle them with water to take away their sins. Make them shave their whole bodies and wash their clothes. Then they will be clean.

⁸Next, they must take a young bull and the grain offering of flour mixed with olive oil that is offered with it. You must take a second young bull as an offering for sin.

⁹Bring the Levites to the front of the tent of meeting, and assemble the whole community of Israel.

¹⁰Then bring the Levites into the LORDS presence, and the Israelites will place their hands on them.

¹¹Aaron will present the Levites to the LORD as an offering from the Israelites. Then they will be ready to do the LORDS work.

¹²"The Levites will place their hands on the heads of the young bulls. Sacrifice one of them as an offering for sin and the other one as a burnt offering to the LORD. These sacrifices will make peace with the LORD for the Levites.

¹³Make the Levites stand in front of Aaron and his sons, and present them as an offering to the LORD.

¹⁴In this way you will separate the Levites from the other Israelites, and the Levites will be mine.

¹⁵"Once you have made them clean and presented them as an offering, the Levites may come and do their work at the tent of meeting.

¹⁶They will be the only Israelites given to me. I have taken them to be mine as substitutes for every firstborn male offspring of the Israelites.

¹⁷ Every firstborn in Israel, whether human or animal, is mine. The day I killed every firstborn male in Egypt, I set them apart as holy to me.

¹⁸ So I have taken the Levites as substitutes for all the firstborn sons of the Israelites.

¹⁹ The Levites will be the only Israelites I give to Aaron and his sons. They will work for the Israelites at the tent of meeting. They will make peace with the LORD for the Israelites. Then no plague will strike the Israelites when they come near the holy place."

²⁰ Moses, Aaron, and the whole community of Israel did what the LORD commanded Moses to do to the Levites.

²¹ The Levites performed the ceremonies to take away their sins and washed their clothes. Aaron presented them as an offering to the LORD and made peace with the LORD for them in order to make them clean.

²² After that, the Levites came and did their work at the tent of meeting in the presence of Aaron and his sons. They did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²³ The LORD said to Moses,

²⁴ "These are the instructions for the Levites: Men 25 years old or older are eligible to serve at the tent of meeting.

²⁵ But when they're 50 years old, they must retire from active service and not work anymore.

²⁶ They may assist the other Levites in their duties at the tent of meeting, but they may not do any regular work. This is how you will handle the Levites duties."

9¹ In the first month of the second year after the Israelites left Egypt, the LORD spoke to Moses in the Desert of Sinai. He said,

² "The Israelites must celebrate the Passover at the same time every year.

³ You must celebrate it on the fourteenth day of this month at dusk. Follow all the rules and regulations for the celebration of the Passover."

⁴ So Moses told the Israelites to celebrate the Passover,

⁵ and they celebrated it on the fourteenth day of the first month at dusk while they were in the Desert of Sinai. The Israelites did everything as the LORD had commanded Moses.

⁶But there were some men who had become unclean from touching a dead body, and they couldnt celebrate the Passover that day. They came to Moses and Aaron

⁷and said, "We are unclean because we touched a dead body. Why wont you let us bring our offerings to the LORD at the same time the rest of the Israelites bring their offerings?"

⁸Moses answered them, "Wait here until I find out what the LORD commands you to do."

⁹Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites:

¹⁰Suppose you or any of your descendants is unclean from touching a dead body or is away on a long trip. You may still celebrate the Passover.

¹¹You will celebrate it on the fourteenth day of the second month at dusk. You must eat the Passover animal along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

¹²You must never leave any of the meat until morning or break any of the animals bones. You must follow all the rules for the Passover when you celebrate it.

¹³ But if you are clean and not on a trip and yet don't bother to celebrate the Passover, you must be excluded from the people. You didn't bring your offering to the LORD at the right time. You must suffer the consequences for your sin.

¹⁴ "Foreigners living with you may want to celebrate the LORD'S Passover. They must follow these same rules and regulations. The same rules will apply to foreigners and nativeborn Israelites."

¹⁵ On the day the tent of the words of God's promise was set up, the column of smoke covered it. From evening until morning, the smoke over the tent glowed like fire.

¹⁶ The smoke always glowed this way. At night the smoke covering the tent glowed like fire.

¹⁷ Whenever the smoke moved from the tent, the Israelites would break camp, and wherever it stopped, the Israelites would set up camp.

¹⁸ At the LORD'S command the Israelites would break camp, and at his command they would set up camp. As long as the column of smoke stayed over the tent, they would stay in the same place.

¹⁹When the smoke stayed over the tent for a long time, the Israelites obeyed the LORDS command and wouldnt break camp.

²⁰The same thing happened when the smoke stayed only a few days over the tent: At the LORDS command they would set up camp, and at his command they would break camp.

²¹Sometimes the column of smoke stayed only from evening until morning. When the smoke moved in the morning, they broke camp. Day or night, when the smoke moved, they broke camp.

²²Whether it was two days, a month, or a year, as long as the column of smoke stayed over the tent, the Israelites would stay in the same place and not break camp. But when the smoke moved, they would break camp.

²³At the LORDS command they set up camp, and at his command they broke camp. They obeyed the command that the LORD had given through Moses.

10¹The LORD said to Moses,
²"Make two trumpets out of hammered silver. Use them to call the

community together and as a signal to break camp.

³When you blow both trumpets, the whole community will meet with you at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁴If only one trumpet blows, the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, will meet with you.

⁵When they hear the trumpet fanfare, the tribes that are camped on the east side will break camp first.

⁶When the trumpets sound a second fanfare, the tribes that are camped on the south will break camp. The fanfare is the signal to break camp.

⁷But when you gather the assembly, the trumpets will blow without sounding a fanfare.

⁸The sons of Aaron, the priests, will blow the trumpets. This will be a permanent law for you and your descendants.

⁹"When you go to war in your own country against an enemy who is oppressing you, the trumpets will sound a fanfare. Then the LORD your God will remember you and rescue you from your enemies.

¹⁰Also, on your festival days and on the first day of the month, blow the trumpets when you sacrifice your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. The trumpets will be a reminder for you in Gods presence. I am the LORD your God."

¹¹On the twentieth day of the second month of the second year, the column of smoke left the tent of the words of Gods promise.

¹²So the Israelites moved from the Desert of Sinai and traveled from place to place until the column of smoke stopped in the Desert of Paran.

¹³This was the first time they moved, following the command that the LORD had given through Moses.

¹⁴With their flag in front, the armies led by Judahs descendants broke camp first. Nahshon, son of Amminadab, was in command.

¹⁵Nethanel, son of Zuar, commanded the army of Issachar.

¹⁶Eliab, son of Helon, commanded the army of Zebulun.

¹⁷ Then the tent of meeting was taken down, and the Gershonites and Merarites, who carried it, broke camp.

¹⁸ With their flag in front, the armies led by Reubens descendants broke camp next. Elizur, son of Shedeur, was in command.

¹⁹ Shelumiel, son of Zurishaddai, commanded the army of Simeon.

²⁰ Eliasaph, son of Deuel, commanded the army of Gad.

²¹ Then the Kohathites, who carried the holy things, broke camp. By the time they arrived, the tent of meeting would already be set up.

²² With their flag in front, the armies led by Ephraims descendants broke camp next. Elisha, son of Ammihud, was in command.

²³ Gamaliel, son of Pedahzur, commanded the army of Manasseh.

²⁴ Abidan, son of Gideon, commanded the army of Benjamin.

²⁵ As a rear guard for the whole camp, the armies led by Dans descendants broke camp last with their flag in front. Ahiezer, son of Ammishaddai, was in command.

²⁶ Pagiel, son of Ochran, commanded the army of Asher.

²⁷ Ahira, son of Enan, commanded the army of Naphtali.

²⁸ This was the order in which the Israelite armies broke camp when they went from place to place.

²⁹ Moses said to his brotherinlaw Hobab, son of Reuel the Midianite, "We are going to the place the LORD promised to give us. Come with us. We will be good to you, because the LORD has promised good things to Israel."

³⁰ Hobab answered, "No, I wont go. I want to go back to my own country where my relatives are."

³¹ But Moses said, "Please dont leave us. You know where we can set up camp in the desert, and you could be our guide.

³² If you come with us, we will share with you all the good things the LORD gives us."

³³ So they left the mountain of the LORD and traveled for three days. The ark of the LORDS promise went ahead of them a distance of three days journey to find them a place to rest.

³⁴The LORDS column of smoke was over them by day when they moved the camp.

³⁵Whenever the ark started to move, Moses would say, "Arise, O LORD! Scatter your enemies! Make those who hate you run away from you!"

³⁶And whenever it stopped, he would say, "Return, O LORD, to the countless thousands of Israel!"

11 ¹The people began complaining out loud to the LORD about their troubles. When the LORD heard them, he became angry, and fire from the LORD began to burn among them. It destroyed some people on the outskirts of the camp.

²The people cried out to Moses, Moses prayed to the LORD, and the fire died down.

³That place was called Taberah [Fire] because fire from the LORD burned among them there.

⁴Some foreigners among the Israelites had a strong craving for other kinds of food. Even the Israelites started crying again and said, "If only we had meat to eat!"

⁵ Remember all the free fish we ate in Egypt and the cucumbers, watermelons, leeks, onions, and garlic we had?

⁶ But now we've lost our appetite! Everywhere we look there's nothing but manna!"

⁷ (Manna was small like coriander seeds and looked like resin.

⁸ The people would go around and gather it, then grind it in a handmill or crush it in a mortar. They would cook it in a pot or make round loaves of bread out of it. It tasted like rich pastry made with olive oil.

⁹ When dew fell on the camp at night, manna fell with it.)

¹⁰ Moses heard people from every family crying at the entrance to their tents. The LORD became very angry, and Moses didn't like it either.

¹¹ So he asked, "LORD, why have you brought me this trouble? How have I displeased you that you put the burden of all these people on me?

¹² Am I their mother? Did I give birth to them? Are you really asking me to carry them in my arms as a nurse carries a

baby all the way to the land you promised their ancestors with an oath?

¹³Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep crying for me to give them meat to eat.

¹⁴I can't take care of all these people by myself. This is too much work for me!

¹⁵If this is how you're going to treat me, why don't you just kill me? I can't face this trouble anymore."

¹⁶The LORD answered Moses, "Bring me 70 Israelite men who you know are leaders and officers of the people. Take them to the tent of meeting, and have them stand with you.

¹⁷I'll come down and speak with you there. I'll take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. They will help you take care of the people. You won't have to take care of the people alone.

¹⁸Tell the people to get ready for tomorrow. They must be set apart as holy. Then they will eat meat. I, the LORD, heard them crying and saying, If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt! So I will give them meat.

¹⁹They won't eat it just for one or two days, or five, or ten, or twenty days,

²⁰but for a whole month, until it comes out of their ears and they're sick of it. This is because they rejected the LORD who is here among them and cried in front of him, asking, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"

²¹But Moses said, "Here I am with 600,000 foot soldiers around me. Yet, you say, I will give them meat to eat for a whole month!"

²²Would they have enough if all the flocks and herds were butchered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?"

²³The LORD asked Moses, "Is there a limit to the LORDS power? Now you will see whether or not my words come true."

²⁴Moses went out and told the people what the LORD said. He gathered 70 of the leaders of the people and had them stand around the tent.

²⁵Then the LORD came down in the column of smoke and spoke with him. He took some of the Spirit that was on Moses and put it on the 70 leaders. When the Spirit came to rest on them, they

prophesied, but they never prophesied again.

²⁶Two men, named Eldad and Medad, had stayed in the camp. They were on the list with the other leaders but hadn't gone with them to the tent. The Spirit came to rest on them, too, and they prophesied in the camp.

²⁷Then a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."

²⁸So Joshua, son of Nun, who had been Moses' assistant ever since he was a young man, spoke up and said, "Stop them, sir!"

²⁹But Moses asked him, "Do you think you need to stand up for me? I wish all the LORDS' people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them."

³⁰Then Moses and the leaders went back to the camp.

³¹The LORD sent a wind from the sea that brought quails and dropped them all around the camp. There were quails on the ground about three feet deep as far as you could walk in a day in any direction.

³²All that day and night and all the next day the people went out and gathered the quails. No one gathered less than 60 bushels. Then they spread the quails out all around the camp.

³³While the meat was still in their mouths before they had even had a chance to chew it the LORD became angry with the people and struck them with a severe plague.

³⁴That place was called Kibroth Hattaavah [Graves of Those Who Craved Meat] because there they buried the people who had a strong craving for meat.

³⁵From Kibroth Hattaavah the people moved to Hazeroth, and they stayed there.

12¹ Miriam and Aaron began to criticize Moses because he was married to a woman from Sudan.

²They asked, "Did the LORD speak only through Moses? Didn't he also speak through us?" The LORD heard their complaint.

³(Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on earth.)

⁴ Suddenly, the LORD said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, "All three of you come to the tent of meeting." So all three of them came.

⁵ Then the LORD came down in the column of smoke and stood at the entrance to the tent. He called to Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward.

⁶ He said, "Listen to my words: When there are prophets of the LORD among you, I make myself known to them in visions or speak to them in dreams.

⁷ But this is not the way I treat my servant Moses. He is the most faithful person in my household.

⁸ I speak with him face to face, plainly and not in riddles. He even sees the form of the LORD. Why weren't you afraid to criticize my servant Moses?"

⁹ The LORD was angry with them, so he left.

¹⁰ When the smoke left the tent, Miriam was covered with an infectious skin disease. She was as white as snow. Aaron turned to her and saw she was covered with the disease.

¹¹ So he said to Moses, "Please, sir, don't punish us for this foolish sin we committed.

¹² Don't let her be like a stillborn baby that's not completely developed."

¹³ So Moses cried to the LORD, "Please, God, heal her!"

¹⁴ The LORD replied to Moses, "If her own father had spit in her face, wouldn't she be excluded from the community for seven days? She must be put in isolation outside the camp for seven days. Then she can be brought back."

¹⁵ So Miriam was put in isolation outside the camp for seven days. The people didn't break camp until she was brought back.

¹⁶ After that, the people moved from Hazeroth and set up camp in the Desert of Paran.

13¹ The LORD said to Moses,
² "Send men to explore Canaan, which I'm giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of their ancestors' tribes."

³ So at the LORD'S command, Moses sent these men from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.

⁴These are their names: Shammua, son of Zaccur, from the tribe of Reuben;

⁵Shaphat, son of Hori, from the tribe of Simeon;

⁶Caleb, son of Jephunneh, from the tribe of Judah;

⁷Igal, son of Joseph, from the tribe of Issachar;

⁸Hoshea, son of Nun, from the tribe of Ephraim;

⁹Palti, son of Raphu, from the tribe of Benjamin;

¹⁰Gaddiel, son of Sodi, from the tribe of Zebulun;

¹¹Gaddi, son of Susi, from the tribe of Joseph (that is, the tribe of Manasseh);

¹²Ammiel, son of Gemalli, from the tribe of Dan;

¹³Sethur, son of Michael, from the tribe of Asher;

¹⁴Nahbi, son of Vophsi, from the tribe of Naphtali;

¹⁵Geuel, son of Machi, from the tribe of Gad.

¹⁶These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land. But Moses gave Hoshea, son of Nun, the name Joshua.

¹⁷When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he told them, "Go through the Negev and then into the mountain region.

¹⁸See what the land is like and whether the people living there are strong or weak, few or many.

¹⁹Is the land they live in good or bad? Do their cities have walls around them or not?

²⁰Is the soil rich or poor? Does the land have trees or not? Do your best to bring back some fruit from the land." (It was the season when grapes were beginning to ripen.)

²¹So the men explored the land from the Desert of Zin to the border of Hamath.

²²They went through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai lived. They are descendants of Anak. (Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)

²³When they came to the Eshcol Valley, they cut off a branch with only one bunch of grapes on it. They carried it on a pole between two of them. They also brought some pomegranates and figs.

²⁴ So they called that valley Eshcol [Bunch of Grapes] because of the bunch of grapes the Israelites cut off there.

²⁵ Forty days later, they came back from exploring the land.

²⁶ They came back to Moses, Aaron, and the whole community of Israel at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. They gave their report and showed them the fruit from the land.

²⁷ This is what they reported to Moses: "We went to the land where you sent us. It really is a land flowing with milk and honey. Heres some of its fruit.

²⁸ But the people who live there are strong, and the cities have walls and are very large. We even saw the descendants of Anak there.

²⁹ The Amalekites live in the Negev. The Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the mountain region. And the Canaanites live along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and all along the Jordan River."

³⁰ Caleb told the people to be quiet and listen to Moses. Caleb said, "Lets go now and take possession of the land. We should be more than able to conquer it."

³¹ But the men who had gone with him said, "We can't attack those people! They're too strong for us!"

³² So they began to spread lies among the Israelites about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored is one that devours those who live there. All the people we saw there are very tall.

³³ We saw Nephilim there. (The descendants of Anak are Nephilim.) We felt as small as grasshoppers, and that's how we must have looked to them."

14¹ Then all the people in the Israelite community raised their voices and cried out loud all that night.

² They complained to Moses and Aaron, "If only we had died in Egypt or this desert!

³ Why is the LORD bringing us to this land just to have us die in battle? Our wives and children will be taken as prisoners of war! Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?"

⁴ They said to each other, "Let's choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

⁵ Immediately, Moses and Aaron bowed with their faces touching the ground in

front of the whole community of Israel assembled there.

⁶At the same time, two of those who had explored the land, Joshua (son of Nun) and Caleb (son of Jephunneh), tore their clothes in despair.

⁷They said to the whole community of Israel, "The land we explored is very good.

⁸If the LORD is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us. This is a land flowing with milk and honey!

⁹Dont rebel against the LORD, and dont be afraid of the people of the land. We will devour them like bread. They have no protection, and the LORD is with us. So dont be afraid of them."

¹⁰But when the whole community of Israel talked about stoning Moses and Aaron to death, they all saw the glory of the LORD shining at the tent of meeting.

¹¹The LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to trust me in spite of all the miraculous signs I have done among them?

¹² "I will strike them with a plague, I will destroy them, and I will make you into a nation larger and stronger than they are."

¹³ But Moses said to the LORD, "What if the Egyptians hear about it? (You used your power to take these people away from them.)"

¹⁴ What if the Egyptians tell the people who live in this land? LORD, they have already heard that you are with these people, that they have seen you with their own eyes, that your column of smoke stays over them, and that you go ahead of them in a column of smoke by day and in a column of fire by night.

¹⁵ But if you kill all these people at the same time, then the nations who have heard these reports about you will say,

¹⁶ "The LORD wasn't able to bring these people into the land he promised them, so he slaughtered them in the desert."

¹⁷ "Lord, let your power be as great as when you said,

¹⁸ "The LORD is patient, forever loving. He forgives wrongdoing and disobedience. He never lets the guilty go unpunished,

punishing children for their parents sins
to the third and fourth generation

¹⁹By your great love, please forgive these peoples sins, as you have been forgiving them from the time they left Egypt until now."

²⁰The LORD said, "I forgive them, as you have asked.

²¹But as I live and as the glory of the LORD fills the whole earth, I solemnly swear that

²²none of the people who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I did in Egypt and in the desert will see the land which I promised their ancestors. They have tested me now ten times and refused to obey me.

²³None of those who treat me with contempt will see it!

²⁴But because my servant Caleb has a different attitude and has wholeheartedly followed me, I'll bring him to the land he already explored. His descendants will possess it.

²⁵(The Amalekites and Canaanites are living in the valleys.) Tomorrow you must turn around, go back into the desert,

and follow the road that goes to the Red Sea."

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,

²⁷"How long must I put up with this wicked community that keeps complaining about me? I've heard the complaints the Israelites are making about me.

²⁸So tell them, As I live, declares the LORD, I solemnly swear I will do everything to you that you said I would do.

²⁹Your bodies will drop dead in this desert. All of you who are at least 20 years old, who were registered and listed, and who complained about me will die.

³⁰I raised my hand and swore an oath to give you this land to live in. But none of you will enter it except Caleb (son of Jephunneh) and Joshua (son of Nun).

³¹You said your children would be taken as prisoners of war. Instead, I will bring them into the land you rejected, and they will enjoy it.

³²However, your bodies will drop dead in this desert.

³³Your children will be shepherds in the desert for 40 years. They will suffer for your unfaithfulness until the last of your bodies lies dead in the desert.

³⁴For 40 days you explored the land. So for 40 years one year for each day you will suffer for your sins and know what it means for me to be against you.

³⁵I, the LORD, have spoken. I swear I will do these things to all the people in this whole wicked community who have joined forces against me. They will meet their end in this desert. Here they will die!"

³⁶So the men Moses sent to explore the land died in front of the LORD from a plague.

³⁷They died because they had returned and made the whole community complain about Moses by spreading lies about the land.

³⁸Of all the men who went to explore the land, only Joshua (son of Nun) and Caleb (son of Jephunneh) survived.

³⁹When Moses told these things to all the Israelites, the people mourned bitterly, as if someone had died.

⁴⁰Early the next morning they headed into the mountain region. They said, "We have sinned. Now we'll go to the place the LORD promised."

⁴¹But Moses asked, "Why are you disobeying the LORDS command? Your plan won't work!

⁴²Don't go! You will be defeated by your enemies because the LORD is not with you.

⁴³The Amalekites and Canaanites are there, and you will die in battle. Now that you have turned away from the LORD, the LORD will not be with you."

⁴⁴But they headed into the mountain region anyway, even though the ark of the LORDS promise and Moses stayed in the camp.

⁴⁵The Amalekites and Canaanites who lived there came down from those mountains, attacked the Israelites, and defeated them at Hormah.

15¹The LORD said to Moses,
²"Speak to the Israelites and tell them: Once you're settled in the land I'm giving you,

³you may bring offerings by fire to the LORD. They may be burnt offerings or

any other kind of sacrifice. They may be offered to fulfill a vow, as a freewill offering, or as one of your festival offerings. They may be cattle, sheep, or goat offerings that are a soothing aroma to the LORD.

⁴ Whoever brings the offering must also give the LORD a grain offering of eight cups of flour mixed with one quart of olive oil.

⁵ With each sheep or goat for the burnt offering or any other sacrifice, also give an offering of one quart of wine.

⁶ "With a ram, give a grain offering of 16 cups of flour mixed with 1 quarts of oil

⁷ and an offering of 1 quarts of wine. Offer them as a soothing aroma to the LORD.

⁸ "Suppose you sacrifice a young bull as a burnt offering to the LORD or make any other kind of sacrifice to keep a vow or as a fellowship offering.

⁹ Offer with the young bull a grain offering of 24 cups of flour mixed with two quarts of olive oil.

¹⁰Also give an offering of two quarts of wine. It is an offering by fire, a soothing aroma to the LORD.

¹¹Do this for each bull, each ram, and each sheep or goat.

¹²Do it for each animal, however many you sacrifice.

¹³All nativeborn Israelites must do it this way when they bring an offering by fire, a soothing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁴"Suppose foreigners are visiting you or living among you in future generations. If they bring an offering by fire, a soothing aroma to the LORD, they must do as you do.

¹⁵There is one law for the whole assembly: for you and foreigners who are living with you. It is a permanent law for future generations. As far as the LORD is concerned, you and foreigners are the same.

¹⁶The instructions and rules are the same for you as well as foreigners who are living with you."

¹⁷The LORD said to Moses,

¹⁸"Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you enter the land where I'm taking you

¹⁹and eat any of the food from the land, give some of it as a contribution to the LORD.

²⁰Shape one part of your dough into a ring the same way you do with the contribution you make from the threshing floor.

²¹For generations to come, you must give one part of your dough as a contribution to the LORD.

²²"Suppose you unintentionally do something wrong by not obeying all these commands the LORD gave Moses.

²³(Everything the LORD commanded you through Moses holds as true for generations to come as it did the day the LORD gave the commands.)

²⁴If it was unintentional and no one else knows about it, the whole community must sacrifice a young bull as a burnt offering, a soothing aroma to the LORD, along with the proper grain and wine offerings, and a male goat as an offering for sin.

²⁵The priest will make peace with the LORD for the whole community of Israel. Then they will be forgiven because the wrongdoing was unintentional and they

brought these two offerings to the LORD for their sin: an offering by fire and an offering for sin.

²⁶ So the whole community of Israel will be forgiven, including foreigners who are living among them, since all the people were involved in the unintentional wrongdoing.

²⁷ "If one person unintentionally does something wrong, a oneyearold female goat must be sacrificed as an offering for sin.

²⁸ The priest will offer the sacrifice to make peace with the LORD for that person, and that person will be forgiven.

²⁹ You must give the same instructions to everyone who does something wrong unintentionally, whether they are nativeborn Israelites or not.

³⁰ "But any nativeborn Israelite or foreigner who deliberately does something wrong insults the LORD and must be excluded from the people.

³¹ That person has despised the word of the LORD and broken the LORDS command. He must be excluded completely. He remains guilty."

³²While the Israelites were in the desert, they found a man gathering wood on the day of worship.

³³Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron and the whole community.

³⁴They kept him in custody until they decided what to do with him.

³⁵Then the LORD said to Moses, "This man must be put to death. The whole community must take him outside the camp and stone him."

³⁶So the whole community took him outside the camp and stoned him to death, as the LORD commanded Moses.

³⁷The LORD said to Moses,

³⁸"Speak to the Israelites and tell them: For generations to come they must wear tassels on the corners of their clothes with violet threads in each tassel.

³⁹Whenever you look at the threads in the tassel, you will remember all the LORDS commands and obey them. Then you wont do whatever you want and go after whatever you see, as if you were chasing after prostitutes.

⁴⁰You will remember to obey all my commands, and you will be holy to your God.

⁴¹I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt to be your God. I am the LORD your God."

16¹Korah (son of Izhar), Dathan and Abiram (sons of Eliab), and On (son of Peleth) dared to challenge Moses. (Korah was a descendant of Kohath and Levi. Dathan, Abiram, and On were descendants of Reuben.)

²These four men were joined by 250 Israelite men, wellknown leaders of the community, chosen by the assembly.

³They came together to confront Moses and Aaron and said to them, "Youve gone far enough! Everyone in the whole community is holy, and the LORD is among them. Why do you set yourselves above the LORDS assembly?"

⁴As soon as Moses heard this, he bowed with his face touching the ground.

⁵Then he said to Korah and all his followers, "In the morning the LORD will show who belongs to him, who is holy, and who it is that he will allow to come near him. Only the person the LORD

chooses will be allowed to come near him.

⁶Korah, you and all your followers must do this tomorrow: Take incense burners,
⁷and put burning coals and incense in them in the LORDS presence. Then the LORD will choose the man who is holy. Youve gone far enough!"

⁸Moses also said to Korah, "Listen, you Levites!

⁹Isnt it enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the rest of the community of Israel? The LORD has brought you near himself to do the work for his tent and stand in front of the community to serve them.

¹⁰He has brought you and all the other Levites near himself, but now you demand to be priests.

¹¹So you and all your followers have joined forces against the LORD! Who is Aaron that you should complain about him?"

¹²Then Moses sent for Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab. But they said, "We wont come!

¹³Isnt it enough that you brought us out of a land flowing with milk and honey

only to kill us in the desert? Do you also have to order us around?

¹⁴ Certainly you havent brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey or given us any fields and vineyards to own. Do you think you can still pull the wool over our eyes? We wont come."

¹⁵ Moses became angry and said to the LORD, "Dont accept their offering. I havent taken anything from them, not even a donkey. And I havent mistreated any of them."

¹⁶ Moses said to Korah, "Tomorrow you and all your followers must come into the LORDS presence. Aaron will also be there with you.

¹⁷ Each man will take his incense burner and put incense in it. They will offer all 250 incense burners to the LORD. Then you and Aaron offer your incense burners."

¹⁸ So each man took his incense burner, put burning coals and incense in it, and stood with Moses and Aaron at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

¹⁹ When Korah had gathered all his followersthose who opposed Moses and Aaronat the entrance to the tent of

meeting, the glory of the LORD appeared to the whole group.

²⁰The LORD said to Moses and Aaron,

²¹"Move away from these men, and I'll destroy them in an instant."

²²Immediately, they bowed with their faces touching the ground and said, "O God, you are the God who gives the breath of life to everyone! If one man sins, will you be angry with the whole community?"

²³Then the LORD said to Moses,

²⁴"Tell the community: Move away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram."

²⁵Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the leaders of Israel followed him.

²⁶He said to the community, "Move away from the tents of these wicked men. Don't touch anything that belongs to them, or you'll be swept away because of all their sins."

²⁷So they moved away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Dathan and Abiram had come out and were standing at the entrances to their tents with their wives and children.

²⁸ Moses said, "This is how you will know that the LORD sent me to do all these things and that it wasn't my idea:

²⁹ If these men die like all other people if they die a natural death then the LORD hasn't sent me.

³⁰ But if the LORD does something totally new if the ground opens up, swallows them and everything that belongs to them, and they go down alive to their graves then you'll know that these men have treated the LORD with contempt."

³¹ As soon as he had finished saying all this, the ground under them split,

³² and the earth opened up to swallow them, their families, the followers of Korah, and all their property.

³³ They went down alive to their graves with everything that belonged to them. The ground covered them, and so they disappeared from the assembly.

³⁴ All the Israelites around them ran away when they heard their screams. They thought the ground would swallow them, too.

³⁵Fire came from the LORD and consumed the 250 men who were offering incense.

³⁶Then the LORD said to Moses,

³⁷"Tell Eleazar, son of the priest Aaron, to take the incense burners out of the fire and scatter the coals and incense somewhere else, because the incense burners have become holy.

³⁸The incense burners of these men who sinned and lost their lives are holy, because they were offered to the LORD. Hammer them into thin metal sheets to cover the altar. This will be a sign to the Israelites."

³⁹So the priest Eleazar took the bronze incense burners which had been brought by those who had been burned to death. The incense burners were then hammered into thin metal sheets to cover the altar,

⁴⁰following the command that the LORD had given through Moses. The bronzecovered altar will remind Israel that no one but a descendant of Aaron can come near to burn incense to the LORD. Everyone else will die like Korah and his followers.

⁴¹ The next day the whole community of Israel complained to Moses and Aaron. They said, "You have killed the LORDS people."

⁴² The community came together to confront Moses and Aaron. When they turned toward the tent of meeting, they saw the smoke covering it, and the glory of the LORD appeared.

⁴³ Then Moses and Aaron went to the front of the tent of meeting.

⁴⁴ The LORD said to Moses,

⁴⁵ "Get away from these people, and let me destroy them in an instant!" Immediately, they bowed with their faces touching the ground.

⁴⁶ Moses said to Aaron, "Take your incense burner, put burning coals from the altar and incense in it, and go quickly into the community to make peace with the LORD for the people. The LORD is showing his anger; a plague has started."

⁴⁷ Aaron took his incense burner, as Moses told him, and ran into the middle of the assembly, because the plague had already begun among the people. He put

incense on the incense burner to make peace with the LORD for the people.

⁴⁸He stood between those who had died and those who were still alive, and the plague stopped.

⁴⁹Still, 14,700 died from the plague in addition to those who had died because of Korah.

⁵⁰By the time Aaron came back to Moses at the entrance to the tent of meeting, the plague had stopped.

17 ¹The LORD said to Moses,
²"Speak to the Israelites, and get 12 staffs from them, one from the leader of each of their tribes. Write each mans name on his staff.

³Write Aarons name on the staff for Levi because there must be one staff for the head of each tribe.

⁴Put them in the tent of meeting where I meet with you, in front of the words of my promise.

⁵The staff from the man I choose will begin to grow. In this way I will silence the frequent complaints the Israelites make against you and Aaron."

⁶So Moses spoke to the Israelites. Their leaders gave him 12 staffs, one from

the leader of each of their tribes. Aarons staff was among them.

⁷ Moses put the staffs in the LORDS presence in the tent of the words of Gods promise.

⁸ The next day Moses went into the tent. He found that Aarons staff for the tribe of Levi had not only begun to grow, but it had also blossomed and produced ripe almonds.

⁹ Moses brought out the staffs from the LORDS presence and showed them to all the Israelites. They looked at them, and each man took his staff.

¹⁰ The LORD said to Moses, "Put Aarons staff back in front of the words of my promise, and keep it there as a sign to warn any other rebels. Then you will stop their complaints about me, and they wont die."

¹¹ Moses did exactly what the LORD commanded him to do.

¹² The Israelites said to Moses, "Now were going to die! Were lost! Were all lost!"

¹³ Anyone who comes near the LORDS tent will die! Are we all going to die?"

18¹ The LORD said to Aaron, "You, your sons, and your family will be responsible for any sins against the holy place. You and your sons will also be responsible for any sins you commit when you work as priests.

² Bring the other Levites from your ancestors tribe to join you and help you and your sons serve in front of the tent of the words of my promise.

³ They will work for you, doing whatever work is necessary for the whole tent. But they must not come near the altar or the furnishings in the holy place, or they will die, and you will die, too.

⁴ They will join you and do whatever work is necessary for the tent of meeting, including all the maintenance work for the tent. But no one else may come near you.

⁵ "You must be in charge of the work done at the holy place and at the altar. Then I won't show my anger against the Israelites again.

⁶ I have chosen the other Levites from among the Israelites to help you. They are a gift given to the LORD to do

whatever work is necessary at the tent of meeting.

⁷Only you and your sons may do the work of priestseverything done at the altar and under the canopy. This is my gift to you: You may serve me as priests. Anyone else who comes near the holy place to do this work must die."

⁸The LORD said to Aaron, "I am putting you in charge of all the contributions given to me. I am giving you and your descendants all the holy gifts from the Israelites as your share. These contributions will always be yours.

⁹That part of the most holy offerings which is not burned belongs to you. It may come from a grain offering, an offering for sin, or a guilt offering. Whatever is brought to me as a most holy offering will belong to you and your sons.

¹⁰Eat it in a most holy place. Any male may eat it. You must consider it holy.

¹¹"The contributions that come as gifts taken from the offerings presented by the Israelites are also yours. I am giving these to you, your sons, and your daughters. They will always be yours.

Anyone in your household who is clean may eat them.

¹²"I am also giving you the first of the produce they give the LORD: the best of all the olive oil and the best of the new wine and fresh grain.

¹³The first of all produce harvested in their land that they bring to the LORD is yours. Anyone in your household who is clean may eat it.

¹⁴"Anything in Israel that is claimed by the LORD is yours.

¹⁵Every firstborn male, human or animal, that is brought to the LORD is yours. But you must buy back every firstborn son and the firstborn male of any unclean animal.

¹⁶When they are one month old, you must buy them back at the fixed price of two ounces of silver using the standard weight of the holy place.

¹⁷"But you must never buy back a firstborn ox, sheep, or goat. They are holy. Throw the blood from these animals against the altar, and burn the fat as an offering by fire, a soothing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁸But the meat is yours, like the breast and the right thigh that are presented.

¹⁹I am giving you, your sons, and your daughters all the holy contributions the Israelites bring to the LORD. These contributions will always be yours. It is an everlasting promise of salt in the LORDS presence for you and your descendants."

²⁰The LORD said to Aaron, "You will have no land or property of your own as the other Israelites will have. I am your possession and your property among the Israelites.

²¹"I am giving the Levites onetenth of every Israelites income. This is in return for the work they do at the tent of meeting.

²²The other Israelites must never again come near the tent of meeting. Otherwise, theyll suffer the consequences of their sin and die.

²³Only the Levites will do the work at the tent of meeting. They will be responsible for their own sins. This is a permanent law for future generations. They will own no property as the other Israelites will.

²⁴ Instead, I will give the Levites what the Israelites contribute to the LORD on tenth of the Israelites income. This is why I said about them, They will own no property as the other Israelites do."

²⁵ The LORD said to Moses,

²⁶ "Speak to the Levites and say to them: You will take on tenth of the Israelites income which I'm giving you as your property. When you do, you must contribute on tenth of that income as your contribution to the LORD.

²⁷ Your contribution will be considered to be grain from the threshing floor or juice from the winepress.

²⁸ So you, too, will contribute on tenth of your income to the LORD out of all that you receive from the Israelites income. You will give the LORD'S contribution to the priest Aaron.

²⁹ Out of all the gifts you receive, you must contribute the best and holiest parts to the LORD.

³⁰ "Also tell them: When you contribute the best part, your contribution will be considered to be produce from the threshing floor or winepress.

³¹ So you and your households may eat it anywhere, because its the wages you receive for your work at the tent of meeting.

³² When you contribute the best part, you wont suffer the consequences of any sin. You wont be dishonoring the holy offerings given by the Israelites, and you wont die."

19¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron,

² "This is what the LORDS teachings have commanded: Tell the Israelites to bring you a red cow that is perfect, with no defects. Also, it must never have worn a yoke.

³ Give it to the priest Eleazar. It must be taken outside the camp and slaughtered in his presence.

⁴ The priest Eleazar will take some of the blood with his finger and sprinkle it seven times toward the front of the tent of meeting.

⁵ Then the entire cow (the skin, meat, blood, and excrement) will be burned while he watches.

⁶The priest will take some cedar wood, a hyssop sprig, and some red yarn and throw them onto the burning cow.

⁷The priest must then wash his clothes and his body. After that, he may go into the camp. But he will be unclean until evening.

⁸The person who burned the calf must also wash his clothes and his body. He, too, will be unclean until evening.

⁹"A man who is clean will collect the ashes from the cow and put them in a clean place outside the camp. They will be kept by the community of Israel and used in the water that takes away uncleanness. The cow is an offering for sin.

¹⁰The person who collected the ashes from the cow must also wash his clothes. He will be unclean until evening. This will be a permanent law for the Israelites and for the foreigners who live with them.

¹¹"Whoever touches the dead body of any human being will be unclean for seven days.

¹²The unclean person must use this water on the third day and the seventh day to take away his sin. Then he will

be clean. But if he doesnt use this water on the third day and the seventh day, he will not be clean.

¹³Whoever touches the dead body of a human being and doesnt use this water to take away his sin makes the LORDS tent unclean. That person must be excluded from Israel, because the water that takes away uncleanness wasnt sprinkled on him. He is unclean; his uncleanness stays with him.

¹⁴"These are your instructions for when a person dies in a tent: Everyone who goes into the tent and everyone who is in the tent will be unclean for seven days.

¹⁵Every container without a lid fastened on it is unclean.

¹⁶"Whoever is outdoors and touches someone who was killed or has died naturally or anyone who touches a human bone or a grave will be unclean for seven days.

¹⁷"This is what you must do for people who become unclean from touching a dead body. Put some of the ashes from the red cow that was burned as an offering for sin into a container. Then pour fresh water on them.

¹⁸A person who is clean will take a sprig of hyssop, dip it in the water, and sprinkle the tent, all the furnishings, and all the people who were in the tent with the dead body. He must also sprinkle any person who has touched a human bone or a grave and any person who has touched someone who has been killed or who has died naturally.

¹⁹A person who is clean will sprinkle these types of unclean people on the third day and the seventh day. On the seventh day the clean person will finish taking away their sins. Then they must wash their clothes and bodies, and in the evening they will be clean.

²⁰But if the person who becomes unclean doesn't have his sin taken away, that person must be excluded from the assembly. He has made the holy place of the LORD unclean. The water to take away uncleanness wasn't sprinkled on him. He is unclean.

²¹This will be a permanent law for them. "Whoever sprinkles the water to take away uncleanness must wash his clothes. And whoever touches this water will be unclean until evening.

²²Anything that an unclean person touches becomes unclean, and the person who touches it will be unclean until evening."

20¹In the first month the whole community of Israel came into the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. Miriam died and was buried there.

²Since the community was without water, they came together to confront Moses and Aaron.

³The people complained to Moses and said, "If only we had died when the other Israelites died in the LORDS presence!

⁴Did you bring the LORDS assembly into this desert just to have us and our animals die here?

⁵Why did you make us leave Egypt and bring us into this terrible place? This is no place to plant crops. Even figs, grapes, and pomegranates wont grow here. And theres no water to drink!"

⁶Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting. Immediately, they bowed with their faces touching the ground, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them.

⁷The LORD said to Moses,

⁸"Take your staff, then you and your brother Aaron gather the community. Right before their eyes, tell the rock to give up its water. In this way you will give the community water from the rock for them and their animals to drink."

⁹Moses took his staff out of the tent in the LORDS presence as he had been commanded.

¹⁰Then Moses and Aaron assembled the community in front of the rock and said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring water out of this rock for you?"

¹¹Moses raised his hand and hit the rock twice with the staff. Water came pouring out, and all the people and their animals drank.

¹²But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "You didnt trust me! You didnt show the Israelites how holy I am! So you will not bring this congregation into the land Im giving them."

¹³This was the oasis of Meribah [Complaining], where the Israelites complained about the LORD and where he showed them he was holy.

¹⁴ Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom. He said, "This is what your brother Israel says: You know all the hardships we've had.

¹⁵ Our ancestors went to Egypt, and we lived there for many years. The Egyptians mistreated us and our ancestors.

¹⁶ When we cried out to the LORD, he heard us, sent a messenger, and brought us out of Egypt. "Now we're here in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your territory.

¹⁷ Please let us go through your country. We won't go through any of your fields or vineyards, or drink any of the water from your wells. We'll stay on the king's highway and never leave it until we've passed through your territory."

¹⁸ But the Edomites answered, "You may not pass through our country. If you try, we'll come out and attack you."

¹⁹ The Israelites replied, "We'll stay on the main road, and if we or our livestock drink any of your water, we'll pay for it. We want to pass through on foot. That's all."

²⁰ But the Edomites said, "You may not pass through." Then they came out and attacked with many wellarmed troops.

²¹ Since the Edomites refused to let Israel go through their territory, the Israelites turned around and went a different way.

²² The whole community of Israel left Kadesh and came to Mount Hor.

²³ At Mount Hor, near the border of Edom, the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,

²⁴ "Aaron must now join his ancestors in death, since he cannot enter the land I'm giving the Israelites. This is because you both rebelled against my command at the oasis of Meribah.

²⁵ Bring Aaron and his son Eleazar up on Mount Hor.

²⁶ Take off Aarons priestly clothes, and put them on his son Eleazar. Then Aaron will die there and join his ancestors."

²⁷ Moses did as the LORD commanded. The whole community saw them go up on Mount Hor.

²⁸ Moses took off Aarons priestly clothes and put them on his son Eleazar. Aaron died there on top of the mountain. Then

Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain.

²⁹The whole community saw that Aaron had died, and all the Israelites mourned for Aaron 30 days.

21 ¹When the Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the Negev, heard that the Israelites were coming on the road to Atharim, he fought them and took some of them as prisoners.

²Then the Israelites made this vow to the LORD: "If you will hand these people over to us, we will destroy their cities because you've claimed them."

³The LORD listened to the Israelites and handed the Canaanites over to them. They destroyed the Canaanites and their cities. So they called the place Hormah [Claimed for Destruction].

⁴Then they moved from Mount Hor, following the road that goes to the Red Sea, in order to get around Edom. The people became impatient on the trip

⁵and criticized God and Moses. They said, "Why did you make us leave Egypt just to let us die in the desert? There's no bread or water, and we can't stand this awful food!"

⁶So the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people. They bit the people, and many of the Israelites died.

⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we criticized the LORD and you. Pray to the LORD so that he will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake, and put it on a pole. Anyone who is bitten can look at it and live."

⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it on a pole. People looked at the bronze snake after they were bitten, and they lived.

¹⁰The Israelites moved and set up camp at Oboth.

¹¹Next they moved from Oboth and set up camp at Iye Abarim in the desert west of Moab.

¹²From there they moved and set up camp at the Zered River.

¹³They moved from there and set up camp on the other side of the Arnon Valley in the desert that extends into Amorite territory. (The Arnon Valley is the border between Moab and the Amorites.)

¹⁴ This is how its described in the Book of the Wars of the LORD: "Waheb in Suphah and the valleys,

¹⁵ Arnon and the slopes of the valleys that go down to the site of Ar and lie along the border of Moab"

¹⁶ From there they went to Beer [Well]. This is the well where the LORD said to Moses, "Gather the people, and I will give them water."

¹⁷ Then Israel sang this song about the well: "Make your water spring up! Sing to the well,

¹⁸ the well dug by princes, dug out by the nobles of the people with their scepters and staffs." From the desert they went to Mattanah,

¹⁹ and from Mattanah to Nahaliel, and from Nahaliel to Bamoth,

²⁰ and from Bamoth to the valley in Moab where Mount Pisgah overlooks Jeshimon.

²¹ Then Israel sent messengers to say to King Sihon of the Amorites,

²² "Let us go through your country. We wont go through any of your fields or vineyards or drink any of the water from your wells. Well stay on the kings

highway until weve passed through your territory."

²³ Sihon wouldnt let Israel pass through his territory. Sihon gathered all his troops and came out into the desert to attack Israel. When Sihons troops came to Jahaz, they fought against Israel.

²⁴ But Israel defeated them in battle and took possession of their land from the Arnon Valley to the Jabbok River. They stopped at the border of the Ammon because it was fortified.

²⁵ Israel took all those Amorite cities, including Heshbon and all its villages, and lived in them.

²⁶ Heshbon was the city of King Sihon of the Amorites. He had fought the former king of Moab and had taken all his land up to the Arnon Valley.

²⁷ This is why the poets say: "Come to Heshbon! Rebuild it! Restore Sihons city!

²⁸ Fire came out of Heshbon, flames from Sihons city. They destroyed Ar of Moab, the rulers of Arnons worship sites.

²⁹ How horrible it is for you, Moab! You are destroyed, you people of the god Chemosh. Chemosh let his sons become refugees and he let his daughters

become prisoners of King Sihon of the Amorites.

³⁰But we shot the Amorites full of arrows. From Heshbon to Dibon they all died. We destroyed everyone and everything between Nophah and Medeba."

³¹So Israel settled in the land of the Amorites.

³²After Moses sent spies to Jazer, the Israelites captured its cities and villages and forced out the Amorites who were there.

³³Then they turned and followed the road that goes to Bashan. King Og of Bashan and all his troops came out to fight the Israelites at Edrei.

³⁴The LORD said to Moses, "Don't be afraid of him. I'll hand him, all his troops, and his land over to you. Do to him what you did to King Sihon of the Amorites, who ruled in Heshbon."

³⁵The Israelites defeated him, his sons, and all his troops, leaving no survivors. And they took possession of his land.

22¹Then the Israelites moved and set up camp across from Jericho,

on the plains of Moab east of the Jordan River.

²Balak, son of Zippor, saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

³The Moabites were very afraid because there were so many Israelites. Besides, the Moabites couldn't stand these people.

⁴So the Moabites said to the leaders of Midian, "All those people will eventually eat up everything around us the same way an ox eats up the grass in a field." At that time Balak, son of Zippor, was king of Moab.

⁵He sent messengers to summon Balaam, son of Beor, who was at Pethor, on the Euphrates River, in the land where his people lived. Balak's message was, "A nation has just come here from Egypt. They've spread out all over the countryside and are setting up their camp here in front of me.

⁶Please come and curse these people for me, because they are too strong for me. Maybe then I'll be able to defeat them and force them out of the country. I know that whomever you bless is blessed and whomever you curse is cursed."

⁷ The leaders of Moab and Midian left, taking money with them to pay for Balaams services. They came to Balaam and told him what Balak had said.

⁸ "Spend the night here," Balaam said to them, "and I'll report to you what the LORD tells me." So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam.

⁹ God came to Balaam and asked, "Who are these men with you?"

¹⁰ Balaam answered, "Balak, son of King Zippor of Moab, sent them with this message:

¹¹ Some people have just come from Egypt and are spreading out all over the countryside. Now come and curse them for me. Maybe I'll be able to fight them and force them out."

¹² But God said to Balaam, "Don't go with them! Don't curse these people, because they are blessed."

¹³ When Balaam got up in the morning, he said to Balaks princes, "Go back to your own country, because the LORD has refused to let me go with you."

¹⁴ So the Moabite princes went back to Balak and said, "Balaam refused to come with us."

¹⁵ Balak sent a larger group of more highly respected princes.

¹⁶ When they came to Balaam, they said to him, "This is what Balak, son of Zippor, says: Dont let anything keep you from coming to me.

¹⁷ I will make sure you are richly rewarded, and I will do whatever you ask. Please, come and curse these people for me."

¹⁸ But Balaam answered Balaks servants, "Even if Balak gave me his palace filled with silver and gold, I couldnt disobey the command of the LORD my God no matter whether the request was important or not.

¹⁹ Now, why dont you stay here tonight, as the others did, and Ill find out what else the LORD may have to tell me."

²⁰ That night God came to Balaam and said, "If these men have come to summon you, go with them, but do only what I tell you."

²¹ When Balaam got up in the morning, he saddled his donkey and left with the Moabite princes.

²² God became angry that he was going. So the Messenger of the LORD stood in

the road to stop him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, accompanied by his two servants.

²³When the donkey saw the Messenger of the LORD standing in the road with his sword drawn, the donkey turned off the road into a field. Balaam hit the donkey to get it back on the road.

²⁴Where the road went through the vineyards, it was narrow, with stone walls on both sides. Now the Messenger of the LORD stood there.

²⁵When the donkey saw the Messenger of the LORD, it moved over and pinned Balaams foot against the wall. So Balaam hit the donkey again.

²⁶Then the Messenger of the LORD moved ahead and stood in a narrower place where there was no room to turn to the right or the left.

²⁷When the donkey saw the Messenger of the LORD, it lay down under Balaam. Balaam became so angry he hit the donkey with his stick.

²⁸Then the LORD made the donkey speak, and it asked Balaam, "What have I done to make you hit me three times?"

²⁹Balaam answered, "Youve made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, Id kill you right now."

³⁰The donkey said to Balaam, "Im your own donkey. Youve always ridden me. Have I ever done this to you before?" "No," he answered.

³¹Then the LORD let Balaam see the Messenger of the LORD who was standing in the road with his sword drawn. So Balaam knelt, bowing with his face touching the ground.

³²The Messenger of the LORD asked him, "Why have you hit your donkey three times like this? Ive come here to stop you because the trip youre taking is evil.

³³The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If it had not turned away from me, I would certainly have killed you by now but spared the donkey."

³⁴Balaam said to the Messenger of the LORD, "Ive sinned. I didnt know you were standing there in the road to stop me. If you still think this trip is evil, Ill go back."

³⁵ The Messenger of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but say only what I tell you." So Balaam went with Balaks princes.

³⁶ When Balak heard that Balaam had come, he went out to meet him at Ir Moab, in the region of the Arnon Valley, right on the border of Moab.

³⁷ Balak said to Balaam, "Why didnt you come when I summoned you? You knew Id be able to reward you."

³⁸ Balaam replied, "Well, Ive come to you now. But I cant say whatever I want to. I can only say what God tells me to say."

³⁹ Balaam went with Balak to Kiriath Huzoth.

⁴⁰ Balak sacrificed cattle, sheep, and goats, and sent some of the meat to Balaam and the princes who were with him.

⁴¹ The next morning Balak took Balaam up to Bamoth Baal. From there he could see the outskirts of the Israelites camp.

23¹ Balaam said to Balak, "Build seven altars here, and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me."

²Balak did what Balaam told him, and the two of them offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

³Balaam said to Balak, "Stay here beside your burnt offering while I'm gone. Maybe the LORD will come and meet with me. I will tell you whatever he reveals to me." Then Balaam went off to a higher place where there were no trees.

⁴God came to him, and Balaam said, "I have set up seven altars, and I offered a bull and a ram on each altar."

⁵The LORD told Balaam, "Go back to Balak, and give him my message."

⁶So he went back to Balak and found him standing beside his burnt offering with all the princes of Moab.

⁷Then Balaam delivered this message: "Balak brought me from Aram. The king of Moab summoned me from the eastern mountains. Come, curse Jacob for me, he said. Come, condemn Israel.

⁸How can I curse those whom God hasn't cursed? How can I condemn those whom the LORD hasn't condemned?

⁹I see them from the top of rocky cliffs, I look at them from the hills. I see a

nation that lives by itself, people who do not consider themselves to be like other nations.

¹⁰The descendants of Jacob are like specks of dust. Who can count them or number even one-fourth of the people of Israel? Let me die the death of innocent people. Let my end be like theirs."

¹¹Balak said to Balaam, "What have you done to me? I brought you here to curse my enemies, but all you've done is bless them!"

¹²Balaam answered, "I must say what the LORD tells me to say."

¹³Then Balak said to him, "Please come with me to another place, where you can see the Israelites. You will see only some of them, not all of them. Curse them for me from there."

¹⁴So he took him to the Field of Zophim on top of Mount Pisgah, where he built seven altars. He offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

¹⁵Then Balaam said to Balak, "Stay here beside your burnt offering while I meet with God over there."

¹⁶The LORD came to Balaam and told him, "Go back to Balak, and give him my message."

¹⁷He came to Balak and found him standing beside his burnt offering with the princes of Moab. Balak asked him, "What did the LORD say?"

¹⁸Then Balaam delivered this message: "Stand up, Balak, and listen! Hear me, son of Zippor!

¹⁹God is not like people. He tells no lies. He is not like humans. He doesnt change his mind. When he says something, he does it. When he makes a promise, he keeps it.

²⁰I have received a command to bless. He has blessed, and I cant change it.

²¹He doesnt want any trouble for the descendants of Jacob. He sees no misfortune for the people of Israel. The LORD their God is with them, praised as their king.

²²The God who brought them out of Egypt has the strength of a wild bull.

²³No spell can curse the descendants of Jacob. No magic can harm the people of Israel. Now it will be said of Jacob and Israel: See what God has done!

²⁴ Here is a nation that attacks like a lioness and is as ferocious as a lion. It doesn't lie down until it eats its prey and drinks the blood of its victim."

²⁵ Balak said to Balaam, "If you won't curse them, then at least don't bless them!"

²⁶ Balaam answered, "Didn't I tell you that I must do whatever the LORD says?"

²⁷ Balak said to Balaam, "Come, let me take you to another place. Maybe God wants you to curse them for me from there."

²⁸ So Balak took Balaam to the top of Mount Peor, which overlooks Jeshimon.

²⁹ Balaam said to Balak, "Build seven altars here, and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me."

³⁰ Balak did what Balaam told him, and he offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

24¹ When Balaam saw that the LORD wanted to bless Israel, he didn't look for omens as he had done before. He turned toward the desert,

² looked up, and saw Israel's camp grouped by tribes. The Spirit of God entered him,

³and he delivered this message: "This is the message of Balaam, son of Beor. This is the message of the man whose eyesight is clear.

⁴This is the message of the one who hears the words of God, has a vision from the Almighty, and falls into a trance with his eyes open:

⁵How beautiful are your tents, Jacob, and the places where you live, Israel.

⁶Your tents spread out like rivers, like gardens by a river, like aloes planted by the LORD, like cedars by the water.

⁷Water will flow from their buckets, and their crops will have plenty of water. Their king will be greater than Agag, and their kingdom will be considered the best.

⁸The God who brought them out of Egypt has the strength of a wild bull. He will devour nations that are his enemies, crush their bones, and pierce them with arrows.

⁹His people lie down and rest like a lion. They are like a lioness. Who dares to disturb them? Those who bless you will be blessed! Those who curse you will be cursed!"

¹⁰Balak became angry with Balaam. He clapped his hands and said, "I summoned you to curse my enemies, and now you have blessed them three times.

¹¹Get out of here! Go home! I said I'd reward you richly, but the LORD has made you lose your reward."

¹²Balaam answered Balak, "I told the messengers you sent me,

¹³Even if Balak would give me his palace filled with silver and gold, I couldn't disobey the LORDS command no matter how good or bad the request might seem to me. I must say only what the LORD says.

¹⁴Even though I'm going back to my people, I'll give you some advice. I'll tell you what these people will do to your people in the days to come."

¹⁵Then Balaam delivered this message: "This is the message of Balaam, son of Beor. This is the message of the man whose eyesight is clear.

¹⁶This is the message of the one who hears the words of God, receives knowledge from the Most High, has a

vision from the Almighty, and falls into a trance with his eyes open:

¹⁷ I see someone who is not here now. I look at someone who is not nearby. A star will come from Jacob. A scepter will rise from Israel. He will crush the heads of the Moabites and destroy all the people of Sheth.

¹⁸ Edom will be conquered, and Seir, his enemy, will be conquered. So Israel will become wealthy.

¹⁹ He will rule from Jacob and destroy whoever is left in their cities."

²⁰ Then Balaam saw the Amalekites and delivered this message: "Amalek was first among the nations, but in the end it will be destroyed."

²¹ Then he saw the Kenites and delivered this message: "You have a permanent place to live. Your nest is built in a rock.

²² But it is destined to be burned, you descendants of Cain, when Assyria takes you as prisoners of war."

²³ He delivered this message: "Oh no! Who will live when God decides to do this?

²⁴Ships will come from the shores of Cyprus. They will conquer Assyria and Eber. But they, too, will be totally destroyed."

²⁵Then Balaam got up and went back home, and Balak also went on his way.

25¹While Israel was staying at Shittim, the men began to have sex with Moabite women

²who invited the people to the sacrifices offered to their gods. The people ate the meat from the sacrifices and worshiped these gods.

³Since the Israelites joined in worshiping the god Baal of Peor, the LORD became angry with Israel.

⁴The LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people, and execute them in broad daylight in the LORDS presence. This will turn the LORDS anger away from Israel."

⁵So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Each of you must kill the men who have joined in worshiping the god Baal of Peor."

⁶One of the Israelite men brought a Midianite woman to his brothers. He did this right in front of Moses and the

whole community of Israel while they were crying at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁷ Phinehas, son of Eleazar and grandson of the priest Aaron, saw this. So he left the assembly, took a spear in his hand,

⁸ and went into the tent after the Israelite man. He drove the spear through the man and into the womans body. Because of this, the plague that the Israelites were experiencing stopped.

⁹ However, 24,000 people died from that plague.

¹⁰ Then the LORD said to Moses,

¹¹ "Phinehas, son of Eleazar and grandson of the priest Aaron, turned my fury away from the Israelites. Since he stood up for me, I didnt have to stand up for myself and destroy them.

¹² So tell Phinehas that Im making a promise of peace to him.

¹³ My promise is that he and his descendants will be priests permanently because he stood up for his God and he made peace with the LORD for the Israelites."

¹⁴ The name of the Israelite man who was killed with the Midianite woman was

Zimri, son of Salu. (Salu was the leader of a family from Simeon.)

¹⁵The name of the Midianite woman who was killed was Cozbi, daughter of Zur. (Zur was the head of a family from the Midianite tribes.)

¹⁶The LORD said to Moses,

¹⁷"Treat the Midianites as your enemies, and kill them

¹⁸because they treated you as enemies. They plotted to trick you in the incident that took place at Peor. They used their sister Cozbi, daughter of a Midianite leader, who was killed on the day of the plague caused by the incident at Peor."

26¹ After the plague the LORD said to Moses and Eleazar, son of the priest Aaron,

²"Take a census of the whole community of Israel by households. List those who are at least 20 years old and eligible for military duty."

³So Moses and the priest Eleazar spoke to the Israelites on the plains of Moab near the Jordan River across from Jericho. They said,

⁴"Take a census of those at least 20 years old, as the LORD commanded

Moses." These are the Israelites who came from Egypt:

⁵Reuben was Israels firstborn. The descendants of Reuben were the family of Hanoach, the family of Pallu,

⁶the family of Hezron, and the family of Carmi.

⁷These were the families of Reuben. The total number of men was 43,730.

⁸Eliab was the son of Pallu,

⁹and Nemuel, Dathan, and Abiram were the sons of Eliab. (It was Dathan and Abiram, men chosen by the community, who defied Moses and Aarons authority. They joined Korahs followers when they defied the LORDS authority.

¹⁰The ground opened up and swallowed them along with Korah. They and their followers died when the fire consumed the 250 men. This was a warning.

¹¹But the descendants of Korah didnt die.)

¹²The families descended from Simeon were the family of Nemuel, the family of Jamin, the family of Jakin,

¹³the family of Zerah, and the family of Shaul.

¹⁴ These were the families of Simeon. The total number of men was 22,200.

¹⁵ The families descended from Gad were the family of Zephon, the family of Haggi, the family of Shuni,

¹⁶ the family of Ozni, the family of Eri,

¹⁷ the family of Arodi, and the family of Areli.

¹⁸ These were the families of Gads descendants. The total number of men was 40,500.

¹⁹ Er and Onan were sons of Judah, but they died in Canaan.

²⁰ The families descended from Judah were the family of Shelah, the family of Perez, and the family of Zerah.

²¹ The descendants of Perez were the family of Hezron and the family of Hamul.

²² These were the families of Judah. The total number of men was 76,500.

²³ The families descended from Issachar were the family of Tola, the family of Puah,

²⁴ the family of Jashub, and the family of Shimron.

²⁵ These were the families of Issachar. The total number of men was 64,300.

²⁶ The families descended from Zebulun were the family of Sered, the family of Elon, and the family of Jahleel.

²⁷ These were the families of Zebulun. The total number of men was 60,500.

²⁸ The families descended from Joseph through Manasseh and Ephraim were

²⁹ (from Manasseh) the family of Machir (Machir was the father of Gilead) and the family of Gilead.

³⁰ The descendants of Gilead were the family of Iezer, the family of Helek,

³¹ the family of Asriel, the family of Shechem,

³² the family of Shemida, and the family of Hephher.

³³ (Zelophehad, son of Hephher, had no son only daughters. Their names were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.)

³⁴ These were the families of Manasseh. The total number of men was 52,700.

³⁵ The families descended from Ephraim were the family of Shuthelah, the family of Beker, and the family of Tahan.

³⁶ The descendants of Shuthelah were the family of Eran.

³⁷ These were the families of Ephraim's descendants. The total number of men was 32,500. These were the families descended from Joseph.

³⁸ The families descended from Benjamin were the family of Bela, the family of Ashbel, the family of Ahiram,

³⁹ the family of Shupham, and the family of Hupham.

⁴⁰ The descendants of Bela (through Ard and Naaman) were the family of Ard and the family of Naaman.

⁴¹ These were the families descended from Benjamin. The total number of men was 45,600.

⁴² The family descended from Dan was the family of Shuham. This was the family descended from Dan.

⁴³ The total number of men in all the family of Shuham was 64,400.

⁴⁴ The families descended from Asher were the family of Imnah, the family of Ishvi, and the family of Beriah.

⁴⁵ The descendants of Beriah were the family of Heber and the family of Malchiel.

⁴⁶ (Asher had a daughter named Serah.)

⁴⁷ These were the families of Ashers descendants. The total number of men was 53,400.

⁴⁸ The families descended from Naphtali were the family of Jahzeel, the family of Guni,

⁴⁹ the family of Jezer, and the family of Shillem.

⁵⁰ These were the families of Naphtali. The total number of men was 45,400.

⁵¹ The total number of Israelite men was 601,730.

⁵² Then the LORD said to Moses,

⁵³ "The land these people will possess must be divided using the list of names from the census.

⁵⁴ Give more land to larger tribes and less land to smaller ones. Use the totals from the census in giving land to each tribe.

⁵⁵ But the land must be divided by drawing lots. The tribes will receive their land based on the names of their ancestors.

⁵⁶ Whether the tribes are large or small, the land must be divided by drawing lots."

⁵⁷ The families descended from Levi were listed as the family of Gershon, the family of Kohath, and the family of Merari.

⁵⁸ These were the families of Levi: the Libnite family, the Hebronite family, the Mahlite family, the Mushite family, and the Korahite family. Kohath was the ancestor of Amram.

⁵⁹ The name of Amrams wife was Jochebed, a descendant of Levi, who was born in Egypt. She gave birth to Amrams children: Aaron, Moses, and their sister Miriam.

⁶⁰ Aaron was the father of Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

⁶¹ But Nadab and Abihu had died because they offered unauthorized fire in the LORDS presence.

⁶² The total number of all the Levite males at least one month old was 23,000. They were not counted along with the other Israelites, because they were given no land of their own.

⁶³ Moses and the priest Eleazar added up the total number of Israelites on the plains of Moab near the Jordan River across from Jericho.

⁶⁴ Among them there wasn't a single one of the Israelites Moses and the priest Aaron had counted in the Desert of Sinai.

⁶⁵ The LORD had said, "They must all die in the desert." The only ones left were Caleb (son of Jephunneh) and Joshua (son of Nun).

27 ¹ The daughters of Zelophehad, son of Hopher, grandson of Gilead, descendant of Machir, whose father was Manasseh, belonged to the families of Manasseh, son of Joseph. Their names were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. They came

² to Moses and stood in front of him, the priest Eleazar, the leaders, and the whole community at the entrance to the tent of meeting. They said,

³ "Our father died in the desert. He was not a part of Korah's followers who joined forces against the LORD. He died for his own sin and left no sons.

⁴ Why should our father's name be allowed to die out in his family because he had no son? Give us property among our father's relatives."

⁵ So Moses brought their case to the LORD,

⁶and the LORD said to him,

⁷"Zelophehads daughters are right. You must give them property of their own among their fathers relatives. Turn their fathers property over to them.

⁸"Tell the Israelites: If a man dies and leaves no sons, turn his property over to his daughters.

⁹If he has no daughters, give his property to his brothers.

¹⁰If he has no brothers, give his property to his uncles on his fathers side of the family.

¹¹If he has no uncles, give his property to the nearest relative in his family, and that relative will take possession of it. This will be a rule for the Israelites, as the LORD commanded Moses."

¹²The LORD said to Moses, "Go up into the Abarim Mountains, and take a look at the land I will give the Israelites.

¹³After you see it, you, too, will join your ancestors in death, as your brother Aaron did.

¹⁴You both rebelled against my command in the Desert of Zin. You didnt show the people how holy I am when they were complaining at the oasis."

(This was the oasis of Meribah at Kadesh in the Desert of Zin.)

¹⁵ Moses said to the LORD,

¹⁶ "LORD, you are the God who gives the breath of life to everyone. Please appoint someone over the community

¹⁷ who will lead them in and out of battle so that the LORDS community will not be like sheep without a shepherd."

¹⁸ So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua, son of Nun, a man who has the Spirit, and place your hand on him.

¹⁹ Make him stand in front of the priest Eleazar and the whole community, and give him his instructions in their presence.

²⁰ Give him some of your authority so that the whole community of Israel will obey him.

²¹ He will stand in front of the priest Eleazar, who will use the Urim to make decisions in the LORDS presence. At his command Joshua and the whole community of Israel will go into battle. And at his command they will return."

²² Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and made him

stand in front of the priest Eleazar and the whole community.

²³ Moses placed his hands on Joshua and gave him his instructions as the LORD had told him.

28 ¹ The LORD said to Moses,
² "Give this command to the Israelites: Be sure to bring me my offerings at the right times. They are my food. They are offerings by fire, a soothing aroma.

³ These are the offerings by fire that you must bring to the LORD. Every day you must bring as a daily burnt offering two oneyearold lambs that have no defects.

⁴ Offer one in the morning and the other at dusk.

⁵ With each of them also bring a grain offering of eight cups of flour mixed with one quart of virgin olive oil.

⁶ This is the daily burnt offering which was established on Mount Sinai. This offering is a soothing aroma, an offering by fire to the LORD.

⁷ Also bring a wine offering of one quart of wine for each lamb. Pour it out to the LORD in a holy place.

⁸ Offer the other lamb at dusk along with the same grain offering and wine offering as you brought in the morning. This is an offering by fire, a soothing aroma to the LORD.

⁹ "On the day of worship offer two oneyearold lambs that have no defects, a grain offering of 16 cups of flour mixed with olive oil, and the wine offering that goes with it.

¹⁰ This burnt offering is for every day of worship in addition to the daily burnt offerings and the wine offerings that go with them.

¹¹ "On the first of every month bring the LORD a burnt offering of two young bulls, one ram, and seven oneyearold lambs that have no defects.

¹² With each bull there will be a grain offering of 24 cups of flour mixed with olive oil, with each ram a grain offering of 16 cups of flour mixed with olive oil,

¹³ and with each oneyearold lamb a grain offering of 8 cups of flour mixed with olive oil. This is a burnt offering, a soothing aroma, an offering by fire to the LORD.

¹⁴ The wine offering that goes with each bull will be 2 quarts of wine, with each ram 1 quart of wine, and with each lamb 1 quart of wine. This will be the monthly burnt offering for every month of the year.

¹⁵ In addition to the daily burnt offering with its wine offering, one male goat must be offered to the LORD as an offering for sin.

¹⁶ "The fourteenth day of the first month is the LORDS Passover.

¹⁷ The fifteenth of this same month is a pilgrimage festival. For seven days you must eat only unleavened bread.

¹⁸ On the first day there will be a holy assembly. Don't do any regular work.

¹⁹ Instead, bring the LORD an offering by fire, a burnt offering of two young bulls, one ram, and seven one-year-old lambs, all of them without defects.

²⁰ Along with them bring grain offerings of flour mixed with olive oil. Bring 24 cups for each bull, 16 cups for each ram,

²¹ and 8 cups for each of the seven lambs.

²² Also bring one male goat as an offering for sin to make peace with the LORD.

²³ Offer these in addition to the morning burnt offering.

²⁴ Bring all these offerings on each of the seven days. They are food. They are offerings by fire, a soothing aroma to the LORD. They will be offered in addition to the daily burnt offering and the wine offering that goes with it.

²⁵ On the seventh day you must have a holy assembly. You must not do any regular work.

²⁶ "During the Festival of Weeks, you must have a holy assembly. On that day you must not do any regular work. Bring the LORD your new grain offering, the first produce harvested from your fields.

²⁷ Bring a burnt offering as a soothing aroma to the LORD two young bulls, one ram, and seven oneyearold lambs.

²⁸ Along with them bring grain offerings of flour mixed with olive oil. Bring 24 cups for each bull, 16 cups for each ram,

²⁹ and 8 cups for each of the seven lambs.

³⁰Also bring one male goat to make peace with the LORD.

³¹Offer these animals that have no defects along with their wine offerings, in addition to the daily burnt offerings and their grain offerings."

29¹The LORD continued, "On the first day of the seventh month you must have a holy assembly. You must not do any regular work. It is a day for the trumpets to sound a fanfare.

²As a burnt offering, a soothing aroma to the LORD, bring one young bull, one ram, and seven oneyearold lambs that have no defects.

³Along with them bring grain offerings of flour mixed with olive oil. Bring 24 cups for each bull, 16 cups for each ram,

⁴and 8 cups for each of the seven lambs.

⁵Also bring one male goat as an offering for sin to make peace with the LORD.

⁶Offer these in addition to the monthly burnt offering with its grain offering, and the daily burnt offerings with their proper grain offerings and wine offerings. They are a soothing aroma, an offering by fire to the LORD.

⁷"On the tenth day of the seventh month you must have a holy assembly. You must humble yourselves. You must not do any work.

⁸As a burnt offering, a soothing aroma, bring one young bull, one ram, and seven oneyearold lambs, all of them without defects.

⁹Along with them bring grain offerings of flour mixed with olive oil. Bring 24 cups for each bull, 16 cups for each ram,

¹⁰and 8 cups for each of the seven lambs.

¹¹Also bring one male goat as an offering for sin (in addition to the other offering for sin to make peace with the LORD) and the daily burnt offerings with their grain offerings and wine offerings.

¹²"On the fifteenth day of the seventh month you must have a holy assembly. You must not do any regular work. Instead, celebrate a festival to the LORD for seven days.

¹³As a burnt offering, an offering by fire, a soothing aroma to the LORD, bring 13 young bulls, 2 rams, and 14 oneyearold lambs, all of them without defects.

¹⁴ Along with them bring grain offerings of flour mixed with olive oil. Bring 24 cups for each of the 13 bulls, 16 cups for each of the 2 rams,

¹⁵ and 8 cups for each of the 14 oneyearold lambs.

¹⁶ Also bring one male goat as an offering for sin in addition to the daily burnt offerings with their grain offerings and wine offerings.

¹⁷ "On the second day bring 12 young bulls, 2 rams, and 14 oneyearold lambs that have no defects.

¹⁸ Along with them bring the proper amount of grain offerings and wine offerings for each of the bulls, rams, and lambs.

¹⁹ Also bring one male goat as an offering for sin in addition to the daily burnt offerings with their grain offerings and wine offerings.

²⁰ "On the third day bring 11 bulls, 2 rams, and 14 oneyearold lambs that have no defects.

²¹ Along with them bring the proper amount of grain offerings and wine offerings for each of the bulls, rams, and lambs.

²² Also bring one male goat as an offering for sin in addition to the daily burnt offerings with their grain offerings and wine offerings.

²³ "On the fourth day bring 10 bulls, 2 rams, and 14 oneyearold lambs that have no defects.

²⁴ Along with them bring the proper amount of grain offerings and wine offerings for each of the bulls, rams, and lambs.

²⁵ Also bring one male goat as an offering for sin in addition to the daily burnt offerings with their grain offerings and wine offerings.

²⁶ "On the fifth day bring 9 bulls, 2 rams, and 14 oneyearold lambs that have no defects.

²⁷ Along with them bring the proper amount of grain offerings and wine offerings for each of the bulls, rams, and lambs.

²⁸ Also bring one male goat as an offering for sin in addition to the daily burnt offerings with their grain offerings and wine offerings.

²⁹"On the sixth day bring 8 bulls, 2 rams, and 14 oneyearold lambs that have no defects.

³⁰Along with them bring the proper amount of grain offerings and wine offerings for each of the bulls, rams, and lambs.

³¹Also bring one male goat as an offering for sin in addition to the daily burnt offerings with their grain offerings and wine offerings.

³²"On the seventh day bring 7 bulls, 2 rams, and 14 oneyearold lambs that have no defects.

³³Along with them bring the proper amount of grain offerings and wine offerings for each of the bulls, rams, and lambs.

³⁴Also bring one male goat as an offering for sin in addition to the daily burnt offerings with their grain offerings and wine offerings.

³⁵"On the eighth day you must hold a religious assembly. You must not do any daily work.

³⁶As a burnt offering, an offering by fire, a soothing aroma to the LORD, bring

one bull, one ram, and seven oneyearold lambs that have no defects.

³⁷ Along with them bring the proper amount of grain offerings and wine offerings for the bull, the ram, and the lambs.

³⁸ Also bring one male goat as an offering for sin in addition to the daily burnt offerings with their grain offerings and wine offerings.

³⁹ "These are the offerings you must bring to the LORD at your festivals. They are the offerings you must bring in addition to the offerings for anything you vowed to give to the LORD, your freewill offerings, your burnt offerings, your grain offerings, your wine offerings, and your fellowship offerings."

⁴⁰ Moses told the Israelites everything the LORD had commanded him.

30¹ Moses said to the heads of the tribes of Israel, "This is what the LORD has commanded about vows:

² If a man makes a vow to the LORD that he will do something or swears an oath that he wont do something, he must not break his word. He must do everything he said he would do.

³"A young girl, who still lives in her father's house, might make a vow to the LORD that she will do something or swear an oath that she won't do something.

⁴If her father says nothing to her when he hears about it, her vow or oath must be kept.

⁵But if her father objects when he hears about it, her vow or oath doesn't have to be kept. The LORD will free her from this vow or oath because her father objected.

⁶"An unmarried woman might make a vow that she will do something or carelessly promise that she won't do something. When she marries,

⁷her husband may hear about it but say nothing to her. Then her vow or oath must be kept.

⁸But if her husband objects when he hears about it, he can cancel the vow or promise she made. The LORD will free her from this vow or promise.

⁹"But a widow or a divorced woman must keep her vow or her promise.

¹⁰"A married woman might make a vow that she will do something or swear an oath that she won't do something.

¹¹ Her husband may hear about it but may say nothing and not object. Then her vow or oath must be kept.

¹² But if her husband cancels it when he hears about it, nothing she said in her vow or oath has to be kept. Her husband has canceled it, and the LORD will free her from this vow or oath.

¹³ "A husband decides whether or not his wife has to keep any vow to do something or any oath to do without something.

¹⁴ If he says nothing to her about it day after day, this means he's decided that she must keep her vow or oath. She must keep it because he said nothing to her when he heard about it.

¹⁵ But if he cancels it later, he will suffer the consequences."

¹⁶ These are the laws the LORD gave Moses for husbands and wives, and for fathers with young daughters still living at home.

31 ¹ The LORD said to Moses,
² "Get even with the Midianites for what they did to the Israelites. After that you will join your ancestors in death."

³ Moses said to the people, "Some of your men must get ready to go to war against the Midianites. The LORD will use them to get even with Midian.

⁴ Send 1,000 men from each of the tribes of Israel."

⁵ So 1,000 men from each tribe were supplied from the divisions of Israel 12,000 men ready for war.

⁶ Then Moses sent them off to war, 1,000 men from each tribe along with Phinehas, son of the priest Eleazar. Phinehas took with him the holy articles and the trumpets for the fanfare.

⁷ They went to war against Midian, as the LORD commanded Moses, and killed every man.

⁸ Among those killed were the five kings of Midian Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba. They also killed Balaam, son of Beor, in battle.

⁹ The Israelites took the Midianite women and children as prisoners of war. They also took all their animals, their livestock, and their valuables as loot.

¹⁰ They burned all the cities where the Midianites lived and all their settlements.

¹¹ Then they took everything as loot, including all the people and animals,

¹² and brought the prisoners of war, the loot, and everything to Moses, the priest Eleazar, and the community of Israel at the camp on the plains of Moab near the Jordan River across from Jericho.

¹³ Moses, the priest Eleazar, and all the leaders of the community went outside the camp to meet them.

¹⁴ Moses was angry with the officers of the army, the commanders of the companies and battalions, who were returning from battle.

¹⁵ "Why did you let all the women live?" he asked them.

¹⁶ "Remember, they were the ones who followed Balaam's advice and caused the Israelites to be unfaithful to the LORD in the incident that took place at Peor. The LORD'S community experienced a plague at that time.

¹⁷ So kill all the Midianite boys and every Midianite woman who has gone to bed with a man.

¹⁸ But save for yourselves every girl who has never gone to bed with a man.

¹⁹"Everyone who killed a person or touched a dead body must stay outside the camp seven days. You and your prisoners of war must use the ritual water on the third and seventh days in order to take away your sin.

²⁰Do the same for all the clothes and everything made of leather, goats hair, or wood."

²¹Then the priest Eleazar said to the soldiers who had gone into battle, "This is what the LORDS teachings told Moses to do:

²²Any gold, silver, bronze, iron, tin, or lead

²³anything that wont burn must be put through fire in order to make it clean. Then it must also be put through the ritual water in order to take away its sin. Whatever might burn must only be put through the ritual water.

²⁴On the seventh day wash your clothes, and you will be clean. Then you may come into the camp."

²⁵The LORD said to Moses,

²⁶"You, the priest Eleazar, and the heads of the families of the community

need to count all the loot, including the people and animals you captured.

²⁷ Divide the loot between the soldiers who served in the war and the rest of the community.

²⁸ Collect a tax for the LORD. From the soldiers who served in the war collect one out of every 500 things. This includes people, cattle, donkeys, sheep, and goats.

²⁹ Collect all these things from the soldiers half of the loot, and give them to the priest Eleazar as a contribution to the LORD.

³⁰ From the Israelites half of the loot, collect one out of every 50 things. This includes people, cattle, donkeys, sheep, goats, and every other kind of animal. Give them to the Levites who are in charge of the work done at the LORDS tent."

³¹ Moses and the priest Eleazar did as the LORD commanded Moses.

³² This is the loot that was left from everything that the troops took: 675,000 sheep and goats,

³³ 72,000 cattle,

³⁴ 61,000 donkeys, and

³⁵ 32,000 women who had never gone to bed with a man.

³⁶ Half of it went to the soldiers who served in the war. Of the 337,500 sheep and goats they received,

³⁷ 675 went to the LORD as taxes.

³⁸ Of the 36,000 cattle they received, 72 went to the LORD as taxes.

³⁹ Of the 30,500 donkeys they received, 61 went to the LORD as taxes.

⁴⁰ Of the 16,000 people they received, 32 went to the LORD as taxes.

⁴¹ Moses gave the LORDS taxes to the priest Eleazar, as the LORD had commanded him.

⁴² Moses took the Israelites half of the loot from the soldiers.

⁴³ The community received 337,500 sheep and goats,

⁴⁴ 36,000 cattle,

⁴⁵ 30,500 donkeys,

⁴⁶ and 16,000 people.

⁴⁷ From the Israelites half Moses collected one out of every 50 things, including people and animals, as the LORD commanded him. Then he gave all this to the Levites who were in charge of the work done at the LORDS tent.

⁴⁸Then the officers from the military divisions, the commanders of the companies and battalions of men, came to Moses.

⁴⁹They said to him, "Sir, we have counted all the soldiers under our command, and not one of them is missing.

⁵⁰So we have brought as gifts to the LORD the gold jewelry that each of us found arm bands, bracelets, signet rings, earrings, and pendants. We offer them to make peace with the LORD."

⁵¹Moses and the priest Eleazar took all the handcrafted gold articles from them.

⁵²All the gold contributed to the LORD by the commanders weighed about 420 pounds.

⁵³Each soldier kept his own loot.

⁵⁴Moses and the priest Eleazar took the gold from the commanders and brought it into the LORDS presence at the tent of meeting as a reminder to the Israelites.

32¹The tribes of Reuben and Gad had a large number of livestock. They saw that the regions of Jazer and Gilead were a good place for livestock.

²So they came to Moses, the priest Eleazar, and the leaders of the community, and said to them,

³"Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo, and Beon,

⁴the land that the LORD won for the community of Israel, is a good place for livestock. Gentlemen, we have livestock.

⁵Please give us this land as our property. Dont make us cross the Jordan River."

⁶Moses asked the tribes of Gad and Reuben, "Are you going to stay here while the rest of the Israelites go to war?

⁷That might discourage them from entering the land the LORD has given them.

⁸Thats what your ancestors did when I sent them from Kadesh Barnea to take a look at the land.

⁹They went as far as the Eshcol Valley and saw the land. But then they discouraged the rest of the Israelites from entering the land that the LORD had given them.

¹⁰That day the LORD became angry and swore this oath,

¹¹ None of the people 20 years old or older, who came from Egypt, will see the land I promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with an oath. This is because they didn't wholeheartedly follow me.

¹² Only Caleb (son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite) and Joshua (son of Nun) will get to see the land. This is because they wholeheartedly followed the LORD.

¹³ Since the LORD was angry with the Israelites, he made them wander in the desert for 40 years until the whole generation of those who had done evil in the LORD'S presence was gone.

¹⁴ "You're just like your parents! You're a bunch of sinners trying to make the LORD angry with Israel again.

¹⁵ If you turn away from him, he will abandon all these people in the desert. You would be responsible for their destruction."

¹⁶ Then the tribes of Gad and Reuben came up to Moses and said, "Allow us to build stone fences for our livestock and cities for our families here.

¹⁷ Then we'll be ready to march in battle formation ahead of the other Israelites until we have brought them to their land.

Meanwhile our families will live in walled cities, safe from the other people who live here.

¹⁸We will not return to our homes until every Israelite has received his own land.

¹⁹We wont take possession of any land on the other side of the Jordan River, to the west and beyond. We already have our land here, east of the Jordan."

²⁰Moses answered, "Do what you have said. In the LORDS presence have all your armed men get ready for battle.

²¹Have them cross the Jordan, and fight until the LORD forces out his enemies

²²and the land is conquered. Then you may come back. You will have fulfilled your military duty to the LORD and Israel. This land will be your own property in the LORDS presence.

²³"If you dont do all these things, you will be sinning against the LORD. You can be sure that you will be punished for your sin.

²⁴Build cities for your families and stone fences for your flocks, but do what you have promised."

²⁵ Then the tribes of Gad and Reuben said to Moses, "Sir, we will do as you command.

²⁶ Our children, our wives, our livestock, and all our other animals will stay here in the cities of Gilead.

²⁷ But in the LORDS presence we will all get ready for battle and go with you, as you have said."

²⁸ So Moses gave orders about them to the priest Eleazar, Joshua (son of Nun), and the family heads of the tribes of Israel.

²⁹ Moses told them, "If the tribes of Gad and Reuben get ready for battle in the LORDS presence and cross the Jordan River with you and you conquer the land, give them Gilead as their own property.

³⁰ If they dont get ready for battle and go with you, the land they will take possession of must be in Canaan with yours."

³¹ The tribes of Gad and Reuben answered, "Sir, we will do as the LORD has said.

³² We will enter Canaan as armed troops in the LORDS presence, but the land we

will take possession of is here, east of the Jordan."

³³ So Moses gave the tribes of Gad, Reuben, and half of the tribe of Manasseh, son of Joseph, the kingdoms of King Sihon of the Amorites and King Og of Bashan the whole land with its cities and its surrounding territory.

³⁴ The tribe of Gad rebuilt the cities of Dibon, Ataroth, Aroer,

³⁵ Atroth Shophan, Jazer, Jogbehah,

³⁶ Beth Nimrah, and Beth Haran as walled cities. They also built stone fences for their flocks.

³⁷ The tribe of Reuben rebuilt the cities of Heshbon, Elealeh, Kiriathaim,

³⁸ Nebo, Baal Meon (whose names were changed), and Sibmah. These are the names they gave the cities they rebuilt.

³⁹ The descendants of Machir, son of Manasseh, went to Gilead, captured it, and forced out the Amorites who were there.

⁴⁰ So Moses gave Gilead to the people of Machir (the descendants of Manasseh), and they lived there.

⁴¹ Then Jair, a descendant of Manasseh, captured the settlements in Gilead. He

called them Havvoth Jair [Settlements of Jair].

⁴²Nobah captured Kenath and its villages. He named it Nobah after himself.

33¹ This is a list of all the places where the Israelites set up camp after they left Egypt in organized groups under the leadership of Moses and Aaron.

²At the LORDS command Moses wrote down the places where they went as they traveled. This is the list:

³They moved from Rameses on the fifteenth day of the first month, the day after the Passover. The Israelites boldly left in full view of all the Egyptians.

⁴The Egyptians were burying all their firstborn sons, whom the LORD had killed in a mighty act of judgment on their gods.

⁵The Israelites moved from Rameses and set up camp at Succoth.

⁶They moved from Succoth and set up camp at Etham, on the edge of the desert.

⁷They moved from Etham and turned back to Pi Hahiroth, east of Baal Zephon, and set up camp near Migdol.

⁸They moved from Pi Hahiroth and went through the middle of the sea into the desert. After they traveled for three days in the Desert of Etham, they set up camp at Marah.

⁹They moved from Marah and came to Elim. Elim had 12 springs and 70 palm trees, so they set up camp there.

¹⁰They moved from Elim and set up camp by the Red Sea.

¹¹They moved from the Red Sea and set up camp in the Desert of Sin.

¹²They moved from the Desert of Sin and set up camp at Dophkah.

¹³They moved from Dophkah and set up camp at Alush.

¹⁴They moved from Alush and set up camp at Rephidim, where there was no water for the people to drink.

¹⁵They moved from Rephidim and set up camp in the Desert of Sinai.

¹⁶They moved from the Desert of Sinai and set up camp at Kibroth Hattaavah.

¹⁷They moved from Kibroth Hattaavah and set up camp at Hazeroth.

¹⁸They moved from Hazeroth and set up camp at Rithmah.

¹⁹They moved from Rithmah and set up camp at Rimmon Perez.

²⁰They moved from Rimmon Perez and set up camp at Libnah.

²¹They moved from Libnah and set up camp at Rissah.

²²They moved from Rissah and set up camp at Kehelathah.

²³They moved from Kehelathah and set up camp at Mount Shepher.

²⁴They moved from Mount Shepher and set up camp at Haradah.

²⁵They moved from Haradah and set up camp at Makheloth.

²⁶They moved from Makheloth and set up camp at Tahath.

²⁷They moved from Tahath and set up camp at Terah.

²⁸They moved from Terah and set up camp at Mithcah.

²⁹They moved from Mithcah and set up camp at Hashmonah.

³⁰They moved from Hashmonah and set up camp at Moseroth.

³¹They moved from Moseroth and set up camp at Bene Jaakan.

³²They moved from Bene Jaakan and set up camp at Hor Haggidgad.

³³They moved from Hor Haggidgad and set up camp at Jotbathah.

³⁴They moved from Jotbathah and set up camp at Abronah.

³⁵They moved from Abronah and set up camp at Ezion Geber.

³⁶They moved from Ezion Geber and set up camp at Kadesh in the Desert of Zin.

³⁷They moved from Kadesh and set up camp at Mount Hor on the border of Edom.

³⁸At the LORDS command the priest Aaron went up on Mount Hor. He died there on the first day of the fifth month in the fortieth year after the Israelites had left Egypt.

³⁹Aaron was 123 years old when he died on Mount Hor.

⁴⁰(The Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the Negev, which was in Canaan, heard that the Israelites were coming.)

⁴¹They moved from Mount Hor and set up camp at Zalmonah.

⁴²They moved from Zalmonah and set up camp at Punon.

⁴³They moved from Punon and set up camp at Oboth.

⁴⁴They moved from Oboth and set up camp at Iye Abarim on the border of Moab.

⁴⁵They moved from Iyim and set up camp at Dibon Gad.

⁴⁶They moved from Dibon Gad and set up camp at Almon Diblathaim.

⁴⁷They moved from Almon Diblathaim and set up camp in the Abarim Mountains east of Nebo.

⁴⁸They moved from the Abarim Mountains and set up camp on the plains of Moab near the Jordan River across from Jericho.

⁴⁹They set up camp on the plains of Moab along the Jordan. Their camp extended from Beth Jeshimoth to Abel Shittim.

⁵⁰The LORD said to Moses on the plains of Moab near the Jordan River across from Jericho,

⁵¹"Tell the Israelites, You will be crossing the Jordan River and entering Canaan.

⁵²As you advance, force out all the people who live there. Get rid of all their

stone and metal idols, and destroy all their places of worship.

⁵³Take possession of the land and live there, because I will give it to you for your own.

⁵⁴Divide the land among your families by drawing lots. Give more land to larger families and less land to smaller ones. The land must be given to each family by drawing lots. Divide it among your ancestors tribes.

⁵⁵"But if you do not force out those who live in the land, they will be like splinters in your eyes and thorns in your sides. They will constantly fight with you over the land you live in.

⁵⁶Then I will do to you what I planned to do to them."

34¹The LORD said to Moses,
²"Give the Israelites these instructions. When you enter Canaan, the land that will be given to you as your inheritance has these borders:

³"The southern side includes part of the Desert of Zin along the border of Edom. In the east the southern border starts from the end of the Dead Sea

⁴ and turns south of the Akrabbim Pass. It then goes past Zin and ends at Kadesh Barnea. From there it goes to Hazar Addar and on to Azmon.

⁵ From Azmon it turns toward the River of Egypt so that the border ends at the Mediterranean Sea.

⁶ "The western border is the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea.

⁷ "The northern border extends from the Mediterranean Sea to Mount Hor,

⁸ and from Mount Hor to the border of Hamath so that it ends at Zedad.

⁹ From there the border goes to Ziphron and ends at Hazar Enan.

¹⁰ "The eastern border extends from Hazar Enan to Shepham.

¹¹ From Shepham the border goes down to Riblah, east of Ain, and continues along the eastern slope of the Sea of Galilee.

¹² Then the border goes along the Jordan River so that it ends at the Dead Sea. "This will be your land and the borders around it."

¹³ Moses commanded the Israelites, "This is the land you will divide by drawing lots. The LORD has commanded

that this land will be given to the nineandahalf tribes.

¹⁴The households from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh have already received their land.

¹⁵Those twoandahalf tribes received land east of the Jordan River across from Jericho."

¹⁶The LORD said to Moses,

¹⁷"These are the names of the men who will divide the land for you: the priest Eleazar and Joshua, son of Nun.

¹⁸You must also take one leader from each tribe to divide the land.

¹⁹These are their names: Caleb, son of Jephunneh, from the tribe of Judah;

²⁰Shemuel, son of Ammihud, from the tribe of Simeon;

²¹Elidad, son of Kislou, from the tribe of Benjamin;

²²Bukki, son of Jogli, the leader of the tribe of Dan;

²³Hanniel, son of Ephod, the leader of the tribe of Manasseh;

²⁴Kemuel, son of Shiphtan, the leader of the tribe of Ephraim; (Manasseh and Ephraim are Josephs descendants.)

²⁵ Elizaphan, son of Parnach, the leader of the tribe of Zebulun;

²⁶ Paltiel, son of Azzan, the leader of the tribe of Issachar;

²⁷ Ahihud, son of Shelomi, the leader of the tribe of Asher;

²⁸ Pedahel, son of Ammihud, the leader of the tribe of Naphtali."

²⁹ These are the men the LORD commanded to divide Canaan for the Israelites.

35 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses on the plains of Moab near the Jordan River across from Jericho. He said,

² "Tell the Israelites to give the Levites some cities from their own property. They must also give the Levites the pastureland around those cities.

³ Then the Levites will have cities to live in and pastureland for their cattle, the flocks they own, and any other animals they have.

⁴ "The land around the cities that you give the Levites will extend 1,500 feet from the city wall.

⁵ Outside the city measure off 3,000 feet on the east side, 3,000 feet on the south side, 3,000 feet on the west side,

and 3,000 feet on the north side, with the city in the center. This will be their pastureland around the city.

⁶"Six of the cities you give the Levites will be cities of refuge. You must allow murderers to escape to these cities. In addition, you must also give the Levites 42 other cities.

⁷So you will give a total of 48 cities with pastureland to the Levites.

⁸The cities you give the Levites from the property of the other Israelites must be given based on the amount of land each tribe owns. Take more cities from larger tribes and fewer from smaller tribes."

⁹The LORD said to Moses,

¹⁰"Tell the Israelites: When you cross the Jordan River and enter Canaan,

¹¹select certain cities to be places of refuge. Anyone who unintentionally kills another person may run to them.

¹²These cities will be places of refuge from any relative who can avenge the death. So anyone accused of murder will not have to die until he has had a trial in front of the community.

¹³ There will be six cities you select as places of refuge,

¹⁴ three on the east side of the Jordan River and three in Canaan.

¹⁵ These six cities will be places of refuge for Israelites, foreigners, and strangers among you. Anyone who unintentionally kills another person may flee to these cities.

¹⁶ "But if any of you uses an iron weapon to kill another person, you are a murderer. Murderers must be put to death.

¹⁷ If any of you picks up a stone as a weapon and uses it to kill another person, you are a murderer. Murderers must be put to death.

¹⁸ Or if any of you picks up a piece of wood as a weapon and uses it to kill another person, you are a murderer. Murderers must be put to death.

¹⁹ The relative who can avenge the death must make sure a murderer is put to death. When he catches up with the murderer, he must kill him.

²⁰ If any of you kills someone you hate by shoving him or by deliberately throwing something at him,

²¹ or if you beat your enemy to death with your bare hands, you must be put to death. You are a murderer. The relative who can avenge the death must kill you when he catches up with you, because you are a murderer.

²² "But suppose you accidentally kill someone who wasn't your enemy. Maybe you shoved him or threw something at him but didn't mean to kill him.

²³ Or suppose you drop a big stone, and someone is killed. However, you didn't know the person was there, he wasn't your enemy, and you weren't trying to harm him.

²⁴ Then the community must use these rules in order to decide if you are innocent or if the dead person's relative can avenge the death.

²⁵ If you are innocent, the community must protect you from that relative. They must take you back to the city of refuge you fled to. You must live there until the death of the chief priest who was anointed with the holy oil.

²⁶ "But don't go outside the city of refuge you fled to.

²⁷ If the relative who can avenge the death finds you outside the city of refuge and kills you, the relative is not guilty of murder.

²⁸ Accused murderers must stay in their city of refuge until the death of the chief priest. They may go back to their own property only after his death.

²⁹ "These will be the rules for future generations wherever you live.

³⁰ "Whoever kills another person will be put to death as a murderer only on the testimony of more than one witness. No one can be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.

³¹ "Never accept a cash payment in exchange for the life of a convicted murderer who has been given the death penalty. Murderers must be put to death.

³² "An accused murderer who has fled to a city of refuge must never go back and live on his own land before the death of the chief priest. Don't accept a cash payment to allow him to do this.

³³ "You must not pollute the land where you live. Murder is what pollutes the land. The land where a murder was committed can never make peace with

the LORD except through the death of the murderer.

³⁴Never make the land where you and I live unclean. I, the LORD, live among the Israelites."

36¹The heads of the households whose families were descended from Gilead, son of Machir and grandson of Manasseh (families of Josephs descendants), came and spoke to Moses and the leaders of the other Israelite households.

²They said, "Sir, the LORD commanded you to give the Israelites their land by drawing lots. The LORD also commanded you to give the land of our relative Zelophehad to his daughters.

³Suppose they marry men from the other tribes of Israel. Their land will be taken away from that of our ancestors and added to the land of the tribe they marry into. Then we will have lost part of our land.

⁴When the Israelites jubilee year comes, their land will be added to that of the tribe they married into. Then part of the land of our ancestors tribe will be gone."

⁵So Moses gave the Israelites a command from the LORD. "The tribe of Josephs descendants is right.

⁶This is what the LORD commands for Zelophehads daughters: They may marry anyone they want to, but only within a family of their ancestors tribe.

⁷In this way no land of the Israelites will pass from one tribe to another. Every Israelite must keep the tribal land inherited from his ancestors.

⁸A woman who inherits land in any of the tribes of Israel may marry a man from any family in her ancestors tribe. In this way every Israelite keeps the land inherited from his ancestors.

⁹No land may pass from one tribe to another. Each Israelite tribe must keep the land it inherits."

¹⁰Zelophehads daughters did as the LORD commanded Moses.

¹¹Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Noah married their cousins on their fathers side of the family.

¹²They married within the families of the descendants of Manasseh, son of Joseph. So their land stayed in the tribe of their fathers family.

¹³These are the commands and rules the LORD gave the Israelites through Moses on the plains of Moab near the Jordan River across from Jericho.

Deuteronomy

1 ¹ This is the speech Moses gave in the desert east of the Jordan River, on the plains, near Suph, between Paran and Tophel, and near Laban, Hazeroth, and Di Zahab. He spoke to all the Israelites.

² (It takes 11 days to go from Mount Horeb to Kadesh Barnea by way of Mount Seir.)

³ On the first day of the eleventh month in the fortieth year after they had left Egypt, Moses told the Israelites everything the LORD had commanded him to tell them.

⁴ This was after he had defeated King Sihon of the Amorites, who ruled in Heshbon, and King Og of Bashan, who ruled in Ashtaroth and in Edrei.

⁵ The Israelites were east of the Jordan River in Moab when Moses began to review Gods teachings. This is what he said:

⁶At Mount Horeb the LORD our God said to us, "You have stayed at this mountain long enough.

⁷Break camp, and get ready! Go to the mountain region of the Amorites, and go to everyone living on the plains, in the mountains, in the foothills, in the Negev, on the whole Mediterranean coast (the land of the Canaanites), and into Lebanon as far as the Euphrates River.

⁸I'm giving you this land. Enter, and take possession of the land the LORD swore to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to you, their descendants."

⁹At that time I said to you, "I'm not able to take care of you by myself.

¹⁰The LORD your God has made your population increase so that you are now as numerous as the stars in the sky.

¹¹May the LORD God of your ancestors make you a thousand times more numerous, and may he bless you as he has promised.

¹²How can I take care of your problems, your troubles, and your disagreements all by myself?

¹³From each of your tribes, choose some men who are wise, intelligent, and experienced, and I'll appoint them to be your leaders."

¹⁴You agreed that this was a good idea.

¹⁵So I took the heads of your tribes who were wise and experienced men and made them officers for each of your tribes. I put them in charge of groups of 1,000, or 100, or 50, or 10 people.

¹⁶Also at that time I gave these instructions to your judges: "Hear the cases that your people bring. Judge each case fairly, no matter whether it is a dispute between two Israelites or a dispute between an Israelite and a non-Israelite.

¹⁷Be impartial in your decisions. Listen to the least important people the same way you listen to the most important people. Never be afraid of anyone, since your decisions come from God. You may bring me any case that's too hard for you, and I will hear it."

¹⁸So I told you how to handle these situations.

¹⁹So we left Mount Horeb, as the LORD our God had commanded. We traveled

through all that vast and dangerous desert you saw on the way to the mountain region of the Amorites. At last we came to Kadesh Barnea.

²⁰Then I said to you, "We have come to the mountain region of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us.

²¹The LORD your God is giving you this land. Go ahead! Take possession of it, as the LORD God of your ancestors told you. Don't be afraid or terrified."

²²All of you came to me and said, "Let's send men ahead of us to gather information about the land for us. Have them report to us about the route we should take and the cities we'll come to."

²³It seemed like a good idea to me. So I chose 12 of your men, one from each tribe.

²⁴They left and went into the mountains. When they came to the Eshcol Valley, they explored it.

²⁵They took some of the region's fruit with them and brought it back to us. They reported, "The land that the LORD our God is giving us is good."

²⁶But you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God and refused to go.

²⁷You complained in your tents and said, "The LORD hates us! That's why he brought us out of Egypt. He wanted to hand us over to the Amorites so that they could destroy us!

²⁸Where are we going anyway? Our own men have discouraged us by saying, 'The people there are taller and stronger than we are. The cities are big with sky-high walls! We even saw the people of Anak there.'

²⁹Then I said to you, "Don't tremble. Don't be afraid of them.

³⁰The LORD your God, who is going ahead of you, will fight for you as you saw him fight for you in Egypt

³¹and in the desert." There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as parents carry their children. He carried you wherever you went until you came to this place.

³²In spite of this, you didn't trust the LORD your God,

³³who went ahead of you to find places for you to camp. He appeared in a

column of fire at night and in a column of smoke during the day to show you which route to take.

³⁴When the LORD heard what you said, he was angry and took this oath:

³⁵"Not one of these evil people will ever see the good land that I swore to give to your ancestors,

³⁶except Caleb, son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give the land that he set his feet on to him and his descendants, because he wholeheartedly followed the LORD."

³⁷The LORD became angry with me because of you. He said, "You won't go there either.

³⁸But your assistant Joshua, son of Nun, will go there. Encourage him, because he will help Israel take possession of the land.

³⁹Although you thought the little children would be captured in war, your children, who are still too young to know the difference between good and evil, will enter that land. I will give it to them, and they will take possession of it.

⁴⁰Turn around, go back into the desert, and follow the road that goes to the Red Sea."

⁴¹You responded, "We have sinned against the LORD. Well go and fight, as the LORD our God commanded us to do." Each of you armed yourself for war, thinking you could easily invade the mountain region.

⁴²But the LORD said to me, "Tell them, Dont go and fight, because I wont be with you. You will be defeated by your enemies."

⁴³I told you, but you wouldnt listen. You defied the LORDS command and invaded the mountain region.

⁴⁴The Amorites who lived there came out and attacked you and chased you like a swarm of bees. They defeated you, chasing you from Seir all the way to Hormah.

⁴⁵When you came back, you cried to the LORD, but the LORD didnt listen to you or hear you.

⁴⁶Thats why you stayed in Kadesh as long as you did.

2¹We went back into the desert, following the road that goes to the

Red Sea as the LORD had told me. For a long time we traveled around the region of Mount Seir.

²The LORD said to me,

³"Youve traveled around this region long enough. Now go north.

⁴Give the people these instructions: Youre going to pass through the territory of your relatives, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. Theyll be afraid of you, but be very careful.

⁵Dont start a fight with them, because Im not giving you any of their landnot even enough to stand on. Ive given Esaus descendants the region of Mount Seir as their property.

⁶You must pay them in silver for the food you eat and the water you drink."

⁷The LORD your God has blessed you in everything you have done. He has watched over you as you traveled through this vast desert. For 40 years now the LORD your God has been with you, and you havent needed a thing.

⁸So we passed by our relatives, the descendants of Esau, who lived in Seir. We turned off the road that goes through the plains to Elath and Ezion Geber and

took the road that goes through the desert of Moab.

⁹The LORD said to me, "Don't bother the people of Moab or start a war with them. I'm not giving you any of Ar as your property. I have given it to the descendants of Lot."

¹⁰The Emites used to live there. These people were as strong, as numerous, and as tall as the people of Anak.

¹¹They were thought to be Rephaim, like the people of Anak, but the Moabites called them Emites.

¹²The Horites used to live in Seir, but the descendants of Esau claimed their land, wiped them out, and took their place, as Israel did in the land that the LORD gave them.

¹³Then the LORD said, "Now cross the Zered River." So we crossed the Zered River.

¹⁴Thirtyeight years passed from the time we left Kadesh Barnea until we crossed the Zered River. During that time all our soldiers from that generation died, as the LORD had sworn they would.

¹⁵In fact, it was the LORD himself who got rid of all of them until none were left in the camp.

¹⁶When the last of these soldiers had died,

¹⁷the LORD said to me,

¹⁸"Today you are going to pass by the border of Moab at Ar.

¹⁹When you come near the Ammonites, don't bother them or start a fight with them. I'm not giving you any of the land that I have already given to the descendants of Lot as their property."

²⁰This land was thought of as the land of the Rephaim who used to live there, but the Ammonites called them Zamzummim.

²¹These people were as strong, as numerous, and as tall as the people of Anak. But the LORD wiped them out before the Ammonites came so that the Ammonites claimed their land and took their place.

²²The LORD did the same thing for the descendants of Esau, who lived in Seir. Before the descendants of Esau came, he wiped out the Horites so that Esau's descendants claimed their land and took

their place. Esau's descendants are still there today.

²³The same thing happened to the Avvites who lived in villages as far away as Gaza. The Caphtorites, who came from Crete, wiped them out and took their place.

²⁴The LORD continued, "Now break camp. Cross the Arnon Valley. I'm going to hand King Sihon of Heshbon, the Amorite, over to you. Fight him, and take possession of his country.

²⁵Today I will start to make all the people under heaven terrified of you. When they hear about you, they will tremble and shake because of you."

²⁶From the desert of Kedemoth, I sent messengers to King Sihon of Heshbon with the following offer of peace:

²⁷"If you allow us to travel through your country, we'll go straight through and won't ever leave the road.

²⁸We'll pay you in silver for the food we eat and the water we drink. Please let us go through,

²⁹as the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir, and the Moabites, who live in Ar, did for us. We'll keep going until we cross

the Jordan River into the land the LORD our God is giving us."

³⁰But King Sihon of Heshbon wouldn't allow us to pass through. The LORD your God made him stubborn and overconfident in order to hand him over to you, as he has now done.

³¹The LORD said to me, "I have begun to give you Sihon and his country. Go ahead! Take possession of his land."

³²Sihon and all his troops came out to meet us in battle at Jahaz.

³³The LORD our God gave Sihon to us, and we defeated him, his sons, and all his troops.

³⁴At that time we captured all his cities and claimed them for God by destroying men, women, and children. There were no survivors.

³⁵However, we did loot the cities that we captured, taking the cattle and goods.

³⁶From Aroer on the edge of the Arnon Valley and the city in that valley as far as Gilead, no city had walls that could keep us out. The LORD our God gave us all of them.

³⁷ But the LORD our God had forbidden you to go anywhere near the land of the Ammonites. So you didn't enter the land along the bank of the Jabbok River or capture the cities in the mountains.

3¹ Next we turned and followed the road that goes to Bashan. King Og of Bashan and all his troops came to fight us at Edrei.

² The LORD said to me, "Don't be afraid of him. I'll hand him, all his troops, and his land over to you. Do to him what you did to King Sihon of the Amorites, who ruled in Heshbon."

³ So the LORD our God also handed King Og of Bashan and all his troops over to us. We defeated him, leaving no survivors.

⁴ At that time we captured all of his cities. There wasn't a city we didn't take. We captured a total of 60 cities—the whole territory of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan.

⁵ All of these cities were fortified with high walls and double-door gates with bars across the gates. We also captured a large number of unwalled villages.

⁶We claimed them all for God, destroying every city, including men, women, and children as we did to King Sihon of Heshbon.

⁷However, we did loot the cities, taking all of the cattle and goods.

⁸We took the land of the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River, from the Arnon Valley to Mount Hermon.

⁹(The Sidonians call Mount Hermon by the name Sirion, and the Amorites call it Senir.)

¹⁰We took all of the cities of the plateau, all of Gilead, and all of Bashan as far as Salcah and Edrei, cities of Ogs kingdom in Bashan.

¹¹(Of the Rephaim only King Og of Bashan was left. His bed was made of iron and was more than 13 feet long and 6 feet wide. It is still in the Ammonite city of Rabbah.)

¹²At that time we took possession of this land. I gave the tribes of Reuben and Gad the land north of Aroer near the Arnon Valley and half of the mountain region of Gilead with its cities.

¹³I gave the rest of Gilead and all of Bashan ruled by Og to half of the tribe of

Manasseh. (The whole territory of Argob in Bashan used to be called the land of the Rephaim.

¹⁴Jair, a descendant of Manasseh, took the whole territory of Argob as far as the border of the Geshurites and the Maacathites. The settlements in Bashan he named Havvoth Jair after himself. This is still their name today.)

¹⁵I gave Gilead to Machir.

¹⁶I gave the tribes of Reuben and Gad some of Gilead from the Arnon Valley (the middle of the valley is the border) to the Jabbok River, which is the border of Ammon.

¹⁷Their land included the plains around the Jordan River. The western border was the river, from the Sea of Galilee to the Sea of the Plains (the Dead Sea), which is near Mount Pisgah on the east.

¹⁸I gave the tribes of Reuben and Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh this command: "The LORD your God has given you this land so that you can take possession of it. All your soldiers must be ready for battle when they cross the Jordan River ahead of the other Israelites.

¹⁹I know you have a lot of livestock. Your wives, children, and livestock must stay here in the cities that I gave you.

²⁰Your soldiers will go with the other Israelites until they take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving them on the other side of the Jordan River. Then they will have a place to rest as you have. After that each of you may go back to the land I gave you."

²¹I also gave Joshua this command: "You have seen with your own eyes everything that the LORD your God has done to these two kings. The LORD will do the same to all of the kingdoms on the other side of the Jordan River where you're going.

²²Dont be afraid of them, because the LORD your God himself will fight for you."

²³Then I pleaded with the LORD:

²⁴"Almighty LORD, you have only begun to show me how great and powerful you are. What kind of god is there in heaven or on earth who can do the deeds and the mighty acts you have done?

²⁵Please let me go over and see the beautiful land on the other side of the

Jordan River those beautiful mountains in Lebanon."

²⁶The LORD was angry with me because of you, so he wouldn't listen to me. He said, "That's enough out of you! Don't talk to me anymore about this."

²⁷Go to the top of Mount Pisgah, and look west, north, south, and east. You may look at the land, but you will never cross the Jordan River.

²⁸Give instructions to Joshua. Encourage and strengthen him, because he will lead these people across the Jordan River, and he will help them take possession of the land you see."

²⁹So we stayed in the valley near Beth Peor.

4¹ Israel, listen to the laws and rules I am about to teach you. Obey them so that you will live and be able to enter and take possession of the land that the LORD God of your ancestors is giving you.

²Never add anything to what I command you, or take anything away from it. Then you will be able to obey the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

³With your own eyes you saw what the LORD did at Baal Peor. The LORD your God destroyed everyone among you who worshiped the god Baal while you were at Peor.

⁴But you were loyal to the LORD your God and are still alive today.

⁵I have taught you laws and rules as the LORD my God commanded me. You must obey them when you've entered the land and taken possession of it.

⁶Faithfully obey these laws. This will show the people of the world your wisdom and insight. When they hear about all these laws, they will say, "What wise and insightful people there are in this great nation!"

⁷What great nation ever had their gods as near to them as the LORD our God is near to us whenever we pray to him?

⁸Or what other great nation has such fair laws and rules as all these teachings I am giving you today?

⁹However, be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you don't forget the things which you have seen with your own eyes. Don't let them fade from your memory as long as you

live. Teach them to your children and grandchildren.

¹⁰Never forget the day you stood in front of the LORD your God at Mount Horeb. The LORD had said to me, "Assemble the people in front of me, and I will let them hear my words. Then they will learn to fear me as long as they live on earth, and they will teach their children the same thing."

¹¹So you came and stood at the foot of the mountain, which was on fire with flames shooting into the sky. It was dark, cloudy, and gloomy.

¹²The LORD spoke to you from the fire. You heard a voice speaking but saw no one. There was only a voice.

¹³The LORD told you about the terms of his promise, the ten commandments, which he commanded you to do. Then he wrote them on two stone tablets.

¹⁴The LORD also commanded me to teach you the laws and rules you must obey after you cross the Jordan River and take possession of the land.

¹⁵You didn't see the LORD the day he spoke to you from the fire at Mount Horeb. So be very careful

¹⁶that you dont become corrupt and make your own carved idols. Dont make statues that represent men or women,

¹⁷any animal on earth, any creature with wings that flies,

¹⁸any creature that crawls on the ground, or any fish in the water.

¹⁹Dont let yourselves be tempted to worship and serve what you see in the skythe sun, the moon, the stars, or anything else. The LORD your God has given them to all people everywhere.

²⁰But you are the people the LORD brought out of Egypt, the iron smelter, in order to make you his own people as you still are today.

²¹The LORD was angry with me because of you. So the LORD your God took an oath that I wouldnt cross the Jordan River and enter the good land he is giving you as your property.

²²Im going to die in this land and not cross the Jordan River, but youre going to go across and take possession of that good land.

²³Be careful that you dont forget the promise that the LORD your God made to you. Dont make your own carved idols

or statues that represent anything the LORD your God has forbidden.

²⁴The LORD your God is a raging fire, a God who does not tolerate rivals.

²⁵Even when you have children and grandchildren and have grown old in that land, dont become corrupt and make carved idols or statues that represent anything. I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today: If you do this thing that the LORD your God considers evil, making him furious,

²⁶you will quickly disappear from the land youre going to possess on the other side of the Jordan River. You wont live very long there. Youll be completely wiped out.

²⁷The LORD will scatter you among the people of the world, and only a few of you will be left among the nations where the LORD will force you to live.

²⁸There you will worship wooden and stone gods made by human hands. These gods cant see, hear, eat, or smell.

²⁹But if you look for the LORD your God when you are among those nations, you will find him whenever you search for

him with all your heart and with all your soul.

³⁰When you're in distress and all these things happen to you, then you will finally come back to the LORD your God and obey him.

³¹The LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not abandon you, destroy you, or forget the promise to your ancestors that he swore he would keep.

³²Search the distant past, long before your time. Start from the very day God created people on earth. Search from one end of heaven to the other. Has anything as great as this ever happened before, or has anything like it ever been heard of?

³³Have any other people ever heard God speak from a fire and lived? You did!

³⁴Or has any god ever tried to come and take one nation away from another for himself? The LORD your God used his mighty hand and powerful arm to do this for you in Egypt. He did this using plagues, miraculous signs, amazing things, and war. He did his great and aweinspiring deeds in front of you.

³⁵ You were shown these things so that you would know that the LORD is God. There is no other god.

³⁶ He let you hear his voice from heaven so that he could instruct you. He showed you his great fire on earth, and you heard him speak from the column of fire.

³⁷ Because he loved your ancestors and chose their descendants, he was with you as he brought you out of Egypt by his great power.

³⁸ He forced nations greater and stronger than you out of your way to bring you into their land and give it to you. This land is your own possession today.

³⁹ Remember today, and never forget that the LORD is God in heaven above and here on earth. There is no other god.

⁴⁰ Obey his laws and commands which I'm giving you today. Then things will go well for you and your descendants. You will live for a long time in the land. The LORD your God is giving you the land for as long as you live.

⁴¹ Then Moses set aside three cities on the east side of the Jordan River.

⁴² Those who unintentionally killed someone whom they had never hated could flee to one of these cities and save their lives.

⁴³ The cities were Bezer on the desert plateau for the tribe of Reuben, Ramoth in Gilead for the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan for the tribe of Manasseh.

⁴⁴ This is what Moses taught the people of Israel.

⁴⁵ These are the commandments, laws, and rules Moses gave the Israelites after they had left Egypt.

⁴⁶ He gave these to the people when they were east of the Jordan River in the valley near Beth Peor, in the land of King Sihon of the Amorites, who ruled in Heshbon. Moses and Israel defeated him after they left Egypt.

⁴⁷ They took possession of his land and the land of King Og of Bashan, the two kings of the Amorites who were east of the Jordan River.

⁴⁸ This land went from Aroer on the edge of the Arnon Valley to Mount Siyon (that is, Mount Hermon).

⁴⁹ It included all the plains on the east side of the Jordan River as far as the

Dead Sea at the foot of the slopes of Mount Pisgah.

5¹ Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: Israel, listen to the laws and rules I'm telling you today. Learn them and faithfully obey them.

² The LORD our God made a promise to us at Mount Horeb.

³ He didn't make this promise to our ancestors, but to all of us who are alive here today.

⁴ The LORD spoke to you face to face from the fire on the mountain.

⁵ I stood between the LORD and you to tell you the word of the LORD, because you were afraid of the fire and didn't go up on the mountain. The LORD said:

⁶ "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of slavery in Egypt.

⁷ "Never have any other gods.

⁸ Never make your own carved idols or statues that represent any creature in the sky, on the earth, or in the water.

⁹ Never worship them or serve them, because I, the LORD your God, am a God who does not tolerate rivals. I punish children for their parents' sins to the third

and fourth generation of those who hate me.

¹⁰ But I show mercy to thousands of generations of those who love me and obey my commandments.

¹¹ "Never use the name of the LORD your God carelessly. The LORD will make sure that anyone who uses his name carelessly will be punished.

¹² "Observe the day of worship as a holy day. This is what the LORD your God has commanded you.

¹³ You have six days to do all your work.

¹⁴ The seventh day is the day of worship dedicated to the LORD your God. You, your sons, your daughters, your male and female slaves, your oxen, your donkeys all of your animals even the foreigners living in your city must never do any work on that day. In this way your male and female slaves can rest as you do.

¹⁵ Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God used his mighty hand and powerful arm to bring you out of there. This is why the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the day of worship.

¹⁶"Honor your father and your mother as the LORD your God has commanded you. Then you will live for a long time, and things will go well for you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁷"Never murder.

¹⁸"Never commit adultery.

¹⁹"Never steal.

²⁰"Never avoid the truth when you testify about your neighbor.

²¹"Never desire to take your neighbors wife away from him. "Never long for your neighbors household, his field, his male or female slave, his ox, his donkey, or anything else that belongs to him."

²²These are the commandments the LORD spoke to your whole assembly on the mountain. He spoke in a loud voice from the fire, the cloud, and the gloomy darkness. Then he stopped speaking. He wrote the commandments on two stone tablets and gave them to me.

²³But when you heard the voice coming from the darkness and saw the mountain blazing with fire, all the leaders and heads of your tribes came to me.

²⁴You said, "The LORD our God has let us see how great and glorious he is.

Weve heard his voice come from the fire. Today weve seen that people can live even if God speaks to them.

²⁵Why should we die? This great fire will consume us! If we continue to hear the voice of the LORD our God, well die!

²⁶Who has ever heard the voice of the living God speak from a fire, as we did, and lived?

²⁷Moses, go and listen to everything that the LORD our God says. Then tell us whatever the LORD our God tells you. Well listen and obey."

²⁸When the LORD heard the words that you spoke to me, he said, "I have heard what these people said to you. Everything they said was good.

²⁹If only they would fear me and obey all my commandments as long as they live! Then things would go well for them and their children forever.

³⁰"Tell the people to go back to their tents.

³¹But you stay here with me. I will give you all the commands, laws, and rules that you must teach them to obey in the land which Im giving them to possess."

³² So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you. Never stop living this way.

³³ Follow all the directions the LORD your God has given you. Then you will continue to live, life will go well for you, and you will live for a long time in the land that you are going to possess.

6¹ These are the commands, laws, and rules the LORD your God commanded me to teach you. Obey them after you enter the land and take possession of it.

² As long as you live, you, your children, and your grandchildren must fear the LORD your God. All of you must obey all his laws and commands that I'm giving you, and you will live a long time.

³ Listen, Israel, and be careful to obey these laws. Then things will go well for you and your population will increase in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD God of your ancestors promised you.

⁴ Listen, Israel: The LORD is our God. The LORD is the only God.

⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

⁶Take to heart these words that I give you today.

⁷Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you're at home or away, when you lie down or get up.

⁸Write them down, and tie them around your wrist, and wear them as headbands as a reminder.

⁹Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

¹⁰The LORD your God will bring you into the land and give it to you, as he swore to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This land will have large, prosperous cities that you didn't build.

¹¹Your houses will be filled with all kinds of things that you didn't put there. You will have cisterns that you didn't dig and vineyards and olive trees that you didn't plant. After you have eaten all that you want,

¹²be careful that you don't forget the LORD, who brought you out of slavery in Egypt.

¹³You must fear the LORD your God, serve him, and take your oaths only in his name.

¹⁴Never worship any of the gods worshiped by the people around you.

¹⁵If you do, the LORD your God will become very angry with you and will wipe you off the face of the earth, because the LORD your God, who is with you, is a God who does not tolerate rivals.

¹⁶Never test the LORD your God as you did at Massah.

¹⁷Be sure to obey the commands of the LORD your God and the regulations and laws he has given you.

¹⁸Do what the LORD considers right and good. Then things will go well for you, and you will enter and take possession of that good land which the LORD promised to your ancestors with an oath.

¹⁹You will see the LORD expel your enemies as he said he would.

²⁰In the future your children will ask you, "What do these regulations, laws, and rules which the LORD our God commanded you mean to you?"

²¹Tell them, "We were Pharaohs slaves in Egypt, but the LORD used his mighty hand to bring us out of there."

²²Right before our eyes the LORD did miraculous signs and amazing things that were spectacular but terrible for Egypt, Pharaoh, and his whole family.

²³The LORD led us out of there to bring us here and give us this land he promised to our ancestors with an oath.

²⁴The LORD our God commanded us to obey all these laws and to fear him. These laws are for our own good as long as we live so that he will preserve our lives. Its still true today.

²⁵This is how well have the LORDS approval: If we faithfully obey all these laws in the presence of the LORD our God, as he has commanded us."

7¹The LORD your God will bring you to the land youre about to enter and take possession of. He will force many nations out of your way: the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusitesseven nations larger and more powerful than you.

²When the LORD your God gives them to you and you defeat them, destroy every one of them because they have been claimed by the LORD. Dont make

any treaties with them or show them any mercy.

³Never marry any of them. Never let your daughters marry their sons or your sons marry their daughters.

⁴These people will turn your children away from me to worship other gods. Then the LORD will get very angry with you and will quickly destroy you.

⁵But this is what you must do to these people: Tear down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their poles dedicated to the goddess Asherah, and burn their idols.

⁶You are a holy people, who belong to the LORD your God. He chose you to be his own special possession out of all the nations on earth.

⁷The LORD set his heart on you and chose you, even though you didn't outnumber all the other people. You were the smallest of all nations.

⁸You were chosen because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors. So he used his mighty hand to bring you out. He freed you from slavery under Pharaoh (the king of Egypt).

⁹Keep in mind that the LORD your God is the only God. He is a faithful God, who keeps his promise and is merciful to thousands of generations of those who love him and obey his commands.

¹⁰But he sends destruction to pay back everyone who hates him. He never takes long to pay back anyone who hates him.

¹¹So obey the commands, laws, and rules I'm giving you today.

¹²If you listen to these rules and faithfully obey them, the LORD your God will keep his promise to you and be merciful to you, as he swore to your ancestors.

¹³He will love you, bless you, and increase the number of your descendants. He will bless you with children. He will bless your land with produce: grain, new wine, and olive oil. He will bless your herds with calves, and your flocks with lambs and kids. This will all happen in the land the LORD will give you, as he swore to your ancestors.

¹⁴You will be blessed more than any other people. Your men and women will be able to have children, and your animals will be able to have offspring.

¹⁵The LORD will keep you from having any kind of illness. He will not strike you with any of the terrible diseases you experienced in Egypt. Instead, he will strike all those who hate you.

¹⁶You must destroy all the people the LORD your God hands over to you. Have no pity on them, and never worship their gods, because they will be a trap for you.

¹⁷You may say to yourselves, "These nations outnumber us. How can we force them out?"

¹⁸Dont be afraid of them. Remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and all of Egypt.

¹⁹You saw with your own eyes the terrible plagues, the miraculous signs, and the amazing things the LORD did. He used his mighty hand and powerful arm to bring you out. He will do the same thing to all the people youre afraid of.

²⁰The LORD your God will spread panic among them until they all die. There will be no one leftnot even those who were hiding from you.

²¹Dont be afraid of them, because the LORD your God is with you. He is a great and aweinspiring God.

²² Little by little he will force these nations out of your way. You won't be able to wipe them out quickly. Otherwise, you would be overrun with wild animals.

²³ The LORD your God will hand these people over to you and will throw them into a great panic until they're destroyed.

²⁴ He will hand their kings over to you, and no one on earth will even remember their names. No one will be able to stop you. You will destroy them all.

²⁵ Burn their idols. Don't ever long for the silver and gold on these idols or take any of it for yourselves. It might be a trap for you. Besides, these idols are disgusting to the LORD your God.

²⁶ Never bring a disgusting idol into your house. If you do, you and the idol will be destroyed. Consider it detestable and disgusting. It must be destroyed."

8¹ Be careful to obey every command I give you today. Then you will live, and your population will increase. You will enter and take possession of the land that the LORD promised to your ancestors with an oath.

² Remember that for 40 years the LORD your God led you on your journey

in the desert. He did this in order to humble you and test you. He wanted to know whether or not you would wholeheartedly obey his commands.

³So he made you suffer from hunger and then fed you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had seen before. He did this to teach you that a person cannot live on bread alone but on every word that the LORD speaks.

⁴Your clothes didnt wear out, and your feet didnt swell these past 40 years.

⁵Learn this lesson by heart: The LORD your God was disciplining you as parents discipline their children.

⁶Obey the commands of the LORD your God. Follow his directions, and fear him.

⁷The LORD your God is bringing you into a good land. It is a land with rivers that dont dry up. There are springs and underground streams flowing through the valleys and hills.

⁸The land has wheat and barley, grapevines, fig trees, and pomegranates. The land has honey and olive trees for olive oil.

⁹The land will have enough food for you, and you will have everything you

need. The land has rocks with iron ore, and you will be able to mine copper ore in the hills.

¹⁰When you have eaten all you want, thank the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

¹¹Be careful that you don't forget the LORD your God. Don't fail to obey his commands, rules, and laws that I'm giving you today.

¹²You will eat all you want. You will build nice houses and live in them.

¹³Your herds and flocks, silver and gold, and everything else you have will increase.

¹⁴When this happens, be careful that you don't become arrogant and forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of slavery in Egypt.

¹⁵He was the one who led you through that vast and dangerous desert, thirsty and arid land, with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He was the one who made water come out of solid rock for you.

¹⁶He was the one who fed you in the desert with manna, which your ancestors had never seen. He did this in order to humble you and test you. But he also did

this so that things would go well for you in the end.

¹⁷You may say to yourselves, "I became wealthy because of my own ability and strength."

¹⁸But remember the LORD your God is the one who makes you wealthy. Hes confirming the promise which he swore to your ancestors. Its still in effect today.

¹⁹I warn you today that if you forget the LORD your God and follow other gods, and if you serve them and bow down to them, you will certainly be destroyed.

²⁰The LORD is going to destroy other nations as you enter the land. You will be destroyed like them if you dont obey the LORD your God.

9¹ Listen, Israel, youre about to cross the Jordan River. Youll be forcing out nations that are larger and stronger than you, with big cities that have skyhigh walls.

²Their people are tall and strong. Theyre descendants of Anak. You know all about them. Youve also heard it said, "Who can oppose the descendants of Anak?"

³Realize today that the LORD your God is the one who is going ahead of you like a raging fire. He will wipe them out and will use you to crush their power. You will take possession of their land and will quickly destroy them as the LORD promised you.

⁴When the LORD your God expels these people in front of you, don't say to yourselves, "Because we've been living right, the LORD brought us here to take possession of this land." No, it's because these nations are so wicked that the LORD is forcing them out of your way.

⁵It's not because you've been living right or because you're so honest that you're entering to take possession of their land. It's because these people are so wicked that the LORD your God is forcing them out of your way. It's also because the LORD wants to confirm the promise he swore to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

⁶So understand this: It's not because you've been living right that the LORD your God is giving you this good land to possess. You are impossible to deal with!

⁷ Never forget how you made the LORD your God angry in the desert. You've rebelled against the LORD from the day you left Egypt until you came here.

⁸ Even at Mount Horeb you made the LORD so angry that he wanted to destroy you.

⁹ When I went up on the mountain to get the stone tablets, the tablets of the promise that the LORD made to you, I stayed on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights without food or water.

¹⁰ Then the LORD gave me the two stone tablets inscribed by God himself. On them were written all the words that the LORD spoke to you from the fire on the mountain on the day of the assembly.

¹¹ At the end of the 40 days and 40 nights, the LORD gave me the two stone tablets with his promise on them.

¹² He told me, "Leave right away. Your people whom you brought out of Egypt have ruined everything. They've quickly turned from the way I commanded them to live. They've made an idol for themselves."

¹³The LORD also said to me, "I've seen these people, and they are impossible to deal with.

¹⁴Leave me alone! I'll destroy them and wipe their name off the earth. Then I'll make you into a nation larger and stronger than they are."

¹⁵So I turned and went down the mountain while it was still burning with fire. I was carrying the two tablets with the promise on them.

¹⁶Then I saw that you had sinned against the LORD your God. You had made a statue of a calf for yourselves. You had quickly turned from the way the LORD commanded you to live.

¹⁷I took the two tablets, threw them down, and smashed them in front of you.

¹⁸Once again I threw myself down in front of the LORD. I went without food and water for 40 days and 40 nights because of the sin you committed. You did what the LORD considered evil and made him furious.

¹⁹I was terrified of the LORD'S anger and fury. He was so angry he wanted to destroy you. But once more the LORD listened to me.

²⁰The LORD also became very angry with Aaron and wanted to destroy him. But at that time I prayed for Aaron, too.

²¹I took that sinful calf you made and burned it. I crushed it, grinding it thoroughly until it was as fine as powder. Then I threw the powder into the river that flowed down the mountain.

²²You also made the LORD angry at Taberah, Massah, and Kibroth Hattaavah.

²³When the LORD sent you from Kadesh Barnea, he said, "Go and take possession of the land I'm giving you." But you rebelled against the word of the LORD your God. You didn't believe him or obey him.

²⁴You've rebelled against the LORD as long as I've known you.

²⁵I threw myself down in front of the LORD for 40 days and 40 nights because the LORD said he would destroy you.

²⁶I prayed to the LORD and said, "Almighty LORD, don't destroy your people. They belong to you. You saved them by your great power and used your mighty hand to bring them out of Egypt.

²⁷Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Disregard the

stubbornness, wickedness, and sin of these people.

²⁸Otherwise, the country we left will say, "The LORD wasn't able to bring them to the land he promised them. He hated them. That's why he brought them out to let them die in the desert."

²⁹They are your people. They belong to you. You used your great strength and powerful arm to bring them out of Egypt.

10¹At that time the LORD said to me, "Cut two more stone tablets like the first ones, and come up to me on the mountain. Also make an ark out of wood.

²I will write on the tablets the same words that were on the first tablets, which you smashed. Then you will put them in the ark."

³I made an ark out of acacia wood. I cut two more stone tablets like the first ones. I carried the two tablets up the mountain.

⁴The LORD wrote on these tablets the same words as before, the ten commandments. He had spoken these words to you from the fire on the

mountain on the day of the assembly.
Then the LORD gave them to me.

⁵I came back down the mountain and put the tablets in the ark I had made. They are still there, where the LORD commanded me to put them.

⁶The Israelites moved from the wells of the Jaakanites to Moserah. Aaron died there and was buried, and his son Eleazar succeeded him as priest.

⁷They moved from there to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a land with rivers that don't dry up.

⁸At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the LORDS promise, to stand in the LORDS presence when they serve him as priests, and to praise his name, as they still do today.

⁹This is why the tribe of Levi has no land of their own as the other tribes have. The LORD your God is their only possession, as he promised them.

¹⁰I stayed on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights as I did the first time. Once again the LORD listened to me and agreed not to destroy you.

¹¹ The LORD said to me, "Lead the people on their journey. They will enter and take possession of the land I will give them, as I swore to their ancestors."

¹² Israel, what does the LORD your God want you to do? He wants you to fear him, follow all his directions, love him, and worship him with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹³ The LORD wants you to obey his commands and laws that I'm giving you today for your own good.

¹⁴ Remember that the sky, the highest heaven, the earth and everything it contains belong to the LORD your God.

¹⁵ The LORD set his heart on your ancestors and loved them. Because of this, today he chooses you, their descendants, out of all the people of the world.

¹⁶ So circumcise your uncircumcised hearts, and don't be impossible to deal with any longer.

¹⁷ The LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, powerful, and aweinspiring God. He never plays favorites and never takes a bribe.

¹⁸He makes sure orphans and widows receive justice. He loves foreigners and gives them food and clothes.

¹⁹So you should love foreigners, because you were foreigners living in Egypt.

²⁰Fear the LORD your God, worship him, be loyal to him, and take your oaths in his name.

²¹He is your glory. He is your God, who did for you these spectacular and aweinspiring deeds you saw with your own eyes.

²²When your ancestors went to Egypt, there were 70 of them. Now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.

11 ¹Love the LORD your God, and do what he wants you to do. Always obey his laws, rules, and commands.

²Remember today the discipline you learned from the LORD your God. (I'm not talking to your children. They didn't see or experience any of this.) You saw and experienced his great powerhis mighty hand and powerful arm.

³You saw the miraculous signs and deeds he did in Egypt to Pharaoh (the king of Egypt) and to his whole country.

⁴You saw what he did to the Egyptian army, its horses and chariots. He drowned them in the Red Sea when they pursued you. So the LORD destroyed them forever.

⁵You saw what he did for you in the desert until you came here.

⁶You also saw what he did to Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, from the tribe of Reuben. In the middle of all the Israelites the ground opened up and swallowed them, their families, their tents, and every living creature with them.

⁷You saw with your own eyes all these spectacular things that the LORD did.

⁸Obey all the commands I'm giving you today. Then you will have the strength to enter and take possession of the land once you've crossed the Jordan River.

⁹Then you will also live for a long time in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors and their descendants a land flowing with milk and honey.

¹⁰The land youre about to enter and take possession of isnt like the land you left in Egypt. There you used to plant your seed, and you had to water it like a vegetable garden.

¹¹The land youre about to enter is a land with hills and valleys, watered by rain from the sky.

¹²It is a land the LORD your God cares about. He watches over it all year long.

¹³If you faithfully obey the commands that Im giving you today, love the LORD your God, and serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

¹⁴I will send rain on your land at the right time, both in the fall and in the spring. Then you will gather your own grain, new wine, and olive oil.

¹⁵I will provide grass in the fields for your animals, and you will be able to eat all you want.

¹⁶Be careful, or youll be tempted to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them.

¹⁷The LORD will become angry with you. Hell shut the sky so that therell be no rain. Then the ground wont grow any

crops, and you'll quickly disappear from this good land the LORD is giving you.

¹⁸Take these words of mine to heart and keep them in mind. Write them down, tie them around your wrist, and wear them as headbands as a reminder.

¹⁹Teach them to your children, and talk about them when you're at home or away, when you lie down or get up.

²⁰Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

²¹Then you and your children will live for a long time in this land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors as long as there's a sky above the earth.

²²Faithfully obey all these commands I'm giving you. Love the LORD your God, follow all his directions, and be loyal to him.

²³Then the LORD will force all these people out of your way. Then you will take possession of the land belonging to people taller and stronger than you.

²⁴I will give you every place on which you set foot. Your borders will be from the desert to Lebanon, from the Euphrates River to the Mediterranean Sea.

²⁵ No one will be able to stop you. As the LORD your God promised, he will make people terrified of you wherever you go in this land.

²⁶ Today I'm giving you the choice of a blessing or a curse.

²⁷ You'll be blessed if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I'm giving you today.

²⁸ You'll be cursed if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God, if you turn from the way I'm commanding you to live today, and if you worship other gods you never knew.

²⁹ When the LORD your God brings you into the land you're about to enter, recite the blessing from Mount Gerizim and the curse from Mount Ebal.

³⁰ (These mountains are on the west side of the Jordan, beyond the road that goes west, in the region of the Canaanites who live on the plains facing Gilgal, next to the oak trees of Moreh.)

³¹ You're about to cross the Jordan River to enter and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you. When you take possession of it and live there,

³²be careful to obey all the laws and rules I'm giving you today.

12¹ Here are the laws and rules you must faithfully obey in the land that the LORD God of your ancestors is giving you as your own. You must obey them as long as you live in the land.

² Completely destroy all the worship sites on the high mountains, on the hills, and under every large tree. The people you're forcing out worship their gods in these places.

³ Tear down their altars, crush their sacred stones, burn their poles dedicated to the goddess Asherah, cut down their idols, and wipe out the names of their gods from those places.

⁴ Never worship the LORD your God in the way they worship their gods.

⁵ The LORD your God will choose a place out of all your tribes to live and put his name. Go there and worship him.

⁶ Bring him your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, one-tenth of your income, your contributions, the offerings you vow to bring, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your cattle, sheep, and goats.

⁷ There, in the presence of the LORD your God, you and your families will eat and enjoy everything you've worked for, because the LORD your God has blessed you.

⁸ Never worship in the way that it's being done here today, where everyone does whatever he considers right.

⁹ Up until now you haven't come to your place of rest, the property the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁰ But you will cross the Jordan River and settle in the land the LORD your God is giving you as your own property. He will give you peace from all your enemies around you so that you will live securely.

¹¹ Then the LORD your God will choose a place where his name will live. You must bring everything I command you to that place. Bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, one-tenth of your income, your contributions, and all the best offerings you vow to bring to the LORD.

¹² Enjoy yourselves in the presence of the LORD your God along with your sons, daughters, male and female slaves, and the Levites. (The Levites live in your

cities because they have no land of their own as you have.)

¹³Be careful that you don't sacrifice your burnt offerings wherever you want.

¹⁴Instead, sacrifice them only at the place that the LORD will choose in one of your tribes. There you must do everything I command you.

¹⁵In whatever city you live, you may slaughter and eat as much meat as you want from what the LORD your God has blessed you with. Clean and unclean people may eat it as if they were eating a gazelle or a deer.

¹⁶But never eat the blood. Pour it on the ground like water.

¹⁷You may not eat the LORDS offerings in your cities. Those offerings are: one-tenth of your grain, new wine, and olive oil; the firstborn of your cattle, sheep, or goats; the offerings you vow to bring; your freewill offerings; and your contributions.

¹⁸Instead, you, your sons and daughters, male and female slaves, and the Levites who live in your cities must eat these in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose.

There in the presence of the LORD your God enjoy everything youve worked for.

¹⁹ Dont forget to take care of the Levites as long as you live in your land.

²⁰ The LORD your God will expand your countrys borders as he promised. You will say, "Im hungry for meat." Then eat as much meat as you want.

²¹ If the place the LORD your God chooses to put his name is too far away from you, you may slaughter an animal from the herds or flocks that the LORD has given you. Eat as much as you want in your city. I have commanded you to do this.

²² Eat it as you would eat a gazelle or a deer: Clean and unclean people may eat it together.

²³ However, be sure you never eat blood, because blood contains life. Never eat the life with the meat.

²⁴ Never eat blood. Pour it on the ground like water.

²⁵ If you dont eat blood, things will go well for you and your descendants. You will be doing what the LORD considers right.

²⁶Take the holy things and the offerings you have vowed to bring, and go to the place the LORD will choose.

²⁷Sacrifice the meat and the blood of your burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD your God. The blood of your sacrifices is to be poured out beside the altar of the LORD your God, but you may eat the meat.

²⁸Be sure you obey all these instructions I'm giving you. Then things will always go well for you and your descendants because you will be doing what the LORD your God considers good and right.

²⁹The LORD your God will destroy the nations where you're going and force them out of your way. You will take possession of their land and live there.

³⁰After they've been destroyed, be careful you aren't tempted to follow their customs. Don't even ask about their gods and say, "How did these people worship their gods? We want to do what they did."

³¹Never worship the LORD your God in the way they worship their gods, because everything they do for their gods is disgusting to the LORD. He

hates it! They even burn their sons and daughters as sacrifices to their gods.

³²Be sure to do everything I command you. Never add anything to it or take anything away from it.

13¹One of your people, claiming to be a prophet or to have prophetic dreams, may predict a miraculous sign or an amazing thing.

²What he predicts may even take place. But don't listen to that prophet or dreamer if he says, "Let's worship and serve other gods." (Those gods may be gods you've never heard of.)

³The LORD your God is testing you to find out if you really love him with all your heart and with all your soul.

⁴Worship the LORD your God, fear him, obey his commands, listen to what he says, serve him, and be loyal to him.

⁵That prophet or dreamer must be put to death because he preached rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt and freed you from slavery. He was trying to lead you away from following the directions the LORD your God gave you. You must get rid of this evil.

⁶Your own brother, son, or daughter, the wife you love, or your best friend may secretly tempt you, saying, "Let's go worship other gods." (Those gods may be gods that you and your ancestors never knew.

⁷They may be the gods of the people around you, who live near or far, from one end of the land to the other.)

⁸Don't be influenced by any of these people or listen to them. Have no pity on them. Don't feel sorry for them or protect them.

⁹You must put them to death. You must start the execution. Then all the other people will join you in putting them to death.

¹⁰Stone them to death because they were trying to lead you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of slavery in Egypt.

¹¹All Israel will hear about it and be afraid. Then no one among you will ever do such a wicked thing again.

¹²You may hear that the residents in one of the cities which the LORD your God is giving you to live in

¹³ have been led away from the LORD your God by worthless people. You may hear that these people have been saying, "Let's worship other gods." (Those gods may be gods you've never heard of.)

¹⁴ Then make a thorough investigation. If it is true, and you can prove that this disgusting thing has been done among you,

¹⁵ you must kill the residents of that city with swords and destroy that city and everyone in it, including the animals, because they are claimed by God.

¹⁶ Gather their goods into the middle of the city square. Then burn their city and all their goods as a burnt offering to the LORD your God. It must remain a mound of ruins and never be rebuilt.

¹⁷ Don't ever take any of the things claimed for destruction. Then the LORD will stop being angry and will show you mercy. In his mercy he will make your population increase, as he swore to your ancestors.

¹⁸ The LORD your God will do this if you listen to him, obey all the commands that I'm giving you today, and do what he considers right.

14¹ You are the children of the LORD your God. So when someone dies, don't mourn by cutting yourselves or shaving bald spots on your head.

² You are people who are holy to the LORD your God. Out of all the people who live on earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his own special possession.

³ Never eat anything that is disgusting to the LORD.

⁴ Here are the kinds of animals you may eat: oxen, sheep, goats,

⁵ deer, gazelles, fallow deer, wild goats, mountain goats, antelope, and mountain sheep.

⁶ You may eat all animals that have completely divided hoofs and that also chew their cud.

⁷ But some animals chew their cud, while others have completely divided hoofs. You may not eat these kinds of animals. They include camels, rabbits, and rock badgers. (Although they chew their cud, they don't have divided hoofs. They are unclean for you.)

⁸ Also, you may not eat pigs. (Although their hoofs are divided, they don't chew

their cud.) Never eat their meat or touch their dead bodies.

⁹Here's what you may eat of every creature that lives in the water: You may eat any creature that has fins and scales.

¹⁰But never eat anything that doesn't have fins and scales. It is unclean for you.

¹¹You may eat any clean bird.

¹²But here are the birds that you should never eat: eagles, bearded vultures, black vultures,

¹³buzzards, all types of kites,

¹⁴all types of crows,

¹⁵ostriches, night hawks, seagulls, all types of falcons,

¹⁶little owls, great owls, barn owls,

¹⁷pelicans, ospreys, cormorants,

¹⁸storks, all types of herons, hoopoes, and bats.

¹⁹Every swarming, winged insect is also unclean for you. They must never be eaten.

²⁰However, you may eat any other kind of flying creature that is clean.

²¹Never eat any creature that dies naturally. You may give it to the foreigners who live in your cities, and

they may eat it. You may also sell it to foreigners who are visiting. But you are people who are holy to the LORD your God. Never cook a young goat in its mother's milk.

²²Every year be sure to save a tenth of the crops harvested from whatever you plant in your fields.

²³Eat the tenth of your grain, new wine, and olive oil, and eat the firstborn of your cattle, sheep, and goats in the presence of the LORD your God in the place he will choose to put his name. Then you will learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live.

²⁴But the place the LORD your God will choose to put his name may be too far away. He may bless you with so much that you can't carry a tenth of your income that far.

²⁵If so, exchange the tenth part of your income for silver. Take the silver with you, and go to the place the LORD your God will choose.

²⁶Use the silver to buy whatever you want: cattle, sheep, goats, wine, liquor whatever you choose. Then you and your family will eat and enjoy

yourselves there in the presence of the LORD your God.

²⁷Never forget to take care of the Levites who live in your cities. They have no land of their own as you have.

²⁸At the end of every third year bring a tenth of that years crop, and store it in your cities.

²⁹Foreigners, orphans, and widows who live in your cities may come to eat all they want. The Levites may also come because they have no land of their own as you have. Then the LORD your God will bless you in whatever work you do.

15¹At the end of every seven years, you must cancel debts.

²This is what you will do: If youve made a loan, dont collect payment on the debt your neighbor still owes you. Dont demand that your neighbor or relative pay you, because the time for suspending payments on debts has been proclaimed in the LORDS honor.

³You may demand that a foreigner pay, but dont collect payment on the debt another Israelite still owes you.

⁴In any case, there shouldnt be any poor people among you, because the

LORD your God will certainly bless you in the land he is giving you as your own possession.

⁵He will bless you only if you listen carefully to the LORD your God and faithfully obey all these commands I'm giving you today.

⁶The LORD your God will bless you, as he promised. You will make loans to many nations, but you will not have to borrow from any of them. You will rule many nations, but no nation will ever rule you.

⁷This is what you must do whenever there are poor Israelites in one of your cities in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

⁸Be generous to these poor people, and freely lend them as much as they need. Never be hardhearted and tightfisted with them.

⁹When the seventh year the year when payments on debts are canceled is near, you might be stingy toward poor Israelites and give them nothing. Be careful not to think these worthless thoughts. The poor will complain to

the LORD about you, and you will be condemned for your sin.

¹⁰Be sure to give to them without any hesitation. When you do this, the LORD your God will bless you in everything you work for and set out to do.

¹¹There will always be poor people in the land. That's why I command you to be generous to other Israelites who are poor and needy.

¹²Whenever Hebrew men or women are sold to you as slaves, they will be your slaves for six years. In the seventh year you must let them go free.

¹³But when you let them go, don't send them away empty-handed.

¹⁴Generously give them provisions—sheep from your flocks, grain from your threshing floor, and wine from your winepress. Be as generous to them as the LORD your God has been to you.

¹⁵Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God freed you. That's why I'm giving you this command today.

¹⁶But suppose a male slave says to you, "I don't want to leave you," because

he loves you and your family and is happy with you.

¹⁷ Then take an awl and pierce it through his ear lobe into a door, and he will be your slave for life. Do the same to a female slave if she doesn't want to leave.

¹⁸ If you have to let your slave go free, it won't be a hardship for you. It would have cost you twice as much to hire someone to do the same work for those six years. Besides, the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do.

¹⁹ You must dedicate every firstborn male from your herds and flocks to the LORD your God. Never use a firstborn ox for work, and never shear a firstborn sheep.

²⁰ Every year you and your family must eat these animals in the presence of the LORD your God in the place the LORD will choose.

²¹ But if an animal is lame or blind or has any other serious defect, never sacrifice it to the LORD your God.

²² Eat it in your city. Clean and unclean people may eat them together as if they were eating a gazelle or a deer.

²³ But never eat the blood. Pour it on the ground like water.

16¹ Honor the LORD your God by celebrating Passover in the month of Abib. In the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt at night.

² Slaughter an animal from your flock or herd as the Passover sacrifice to the LORD your God. Do this at the place where the LORD will choose for his name to live.

³ Never eat leavened bread with the meat from this sacrifice. Instead, for seven days you must eat unleavened bread at this festival. (It is the bread of misery because you left Egypt in a hurry.) Eat this bread so that, as long as you live, you will remember the day you left Egypt.

⁴ There should be no yeast anywhere in your land for seven days. Never leave until morning any of the meat you slaughter on the evening of the first day.

⁵ You're not allowed to slaughter the animals for Passover in any of the cities the LORD your God is giving you.

⁶Instead, slaughter your animals for Passover in the place where the LORD your God will choose for his name to live. Do this in the evening as the sun goes down. This is the same time you did it when you left Egypt.

⁷Cook the meat, and eat it at the place the LORD your God will choose. In the morning you may go back to your tents.

⁸For six days eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day hold a religious assembly dedicated to the LORD your God. Don't do any work that day.

⁹Count seven weeks from the time you start harvesting grain.

¹⁰Then celebrate the Festival of Weeks to the LORD your God. Bring a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the LORD your God has given you.

¹¹Enjoy yourselves in the presence of the LORD your God along with your sons, daughters, male and female slaves, the Levites who live in your cities, the foreigners, orphans, and widows who live among you. Enjoy yourselves at the place the LORD your God will choose for his name to live.

¹²Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and obey these laws carefully.

¹³After you have gathered the grain from your threshing floor and made your wine, celebrate the Festival of Booths for seven days.

¹⁴Enjoy yourselves at the festival along with your sons, daughters, male and female slaves, the Levites, foreigners, orphans, and widows who live in your cities.

¹⁵For seven days you will celebrate this festival dedicated to the LORD your God in the place he will choose. You will enjoy yourselves, because the LORD your God will bless all your harvest and all your work.

¹⁶Three times a year all your men must come into the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Booths. But no one may come into the presence of the LORD without an offering.

¹⁷Each man must bring a gift in proportion to the blessings the LORD your God has given him.

¹⁸Appoint judges and officers for your tribes in every city that the LORD your God is giving you. They are to judge the people fairly.

¹⁹Never pervert justice. Instead, be impartial. Never take a bribe, because bribes blind wise people and deny justice to those who are in the right.

²⁰Strive for nothing but justice so that you will live and take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

²¹When you build the altar for the LORD your God, never plant beside it any tree dedicated to the goddess Asherah.

²²Never set up a sacred stone. These are things the LORD your God hates.

17¹Never offer an ox or a sheep that has a defect or anything seriously wrong with it as a sacrifice to the LORD your God. That would be disgusting to him.

²In one of the cities the LORD your God is giving you, there may be a man or woman among you who is doing what the LORD considers evil. This person may be disregarding the conditions of the LORDS promise

³by worshiping and bowing down to other gods, the sun, the moon, or the whole army of heaven. I have forbidden this.

⁴When you are told about it, investigate it thoroughly. If its true and it can be proven that this disgusting thing has been done in Israel,

⁵then bring the man or woman who did this evil thing to the gates of your city, and stone that person to death.

⁶The person can only be sentenced to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses, but no one should ever be sentenced to death on the testimony of only one witness.

⁷The witnesses must start the execution, then all the other people will join them in putting the person to death. You must get rid of this evil.

⁸There may be a case that is too hard for you to decide. It may involve murder, assault, or a disputeany case which may be brought to court in your cities. Take this case to the place that the LORD your God will choose.

⁹Go to the Levitical priests and the judge who is serving at that time. Ask

for their opinion, and they will give you their verdict

¹⁰at the place that the LORD will choose. Do what they tell you. Follow all their instructions carefully,

¹¹and do what they tell you to do in their verdict. Do exactly what they tell you to do in their decision.

¹²If anyone deliberately disobeys the priest (who serves the LORD your God) or the judge, that person must die. You must get rid of this evil in Israel.

¹³When all the people hear about it, they will be afraid and will never defy Gods law again.

¹⁴You will enter the land that the LORD your God is giving you. You will take possession of it and live there. You will say, "Lets have our own king like all the other nations around us."

¹⁵Be sure to appoint the king the LORD your God will choose. He must be one of your own people. Never let a foreigner be king, because hes not one of your own people.

¹⁶The king must never own a large number of horses or make the people return to Egypt to get more horses. The

LORD has told you, "You will never go back there again."

¹⁷The king must never have a large number of wives, or he will turn away from God. And he must never own a lot of gold and silver.

¹⁸When he becomes king, he should have the Levitical priests make him a copy of these teachings on a scroll.

¹⁹He must keep it with him and read it his entire life. He will learn to fear the LORD his God and faithfully obey everything found in these teachings and laws.

²⁰Then he won't think he's better than the rest of his people, and he won't disobey these commands in any way. So he and his sons will rule for a long time in Israel.

18¹The Levitical priests in fact, the whole tribe of Levi will receive no land or property of their own like the rest of the Israelites. They will eat what has been sacrificed to the LORD. These sacrifices will be what they receive.

²So the Levites will have no land of their own like the other Israelites. The

LORD will be their inheritance, as he promised them.

³This is what the people owe the priests whenever they sacrifice an ox, a sheep, or a goat: the shoulder, jaws, and stomach.

⁴Also, give them the first produce harvested: grain, new wine, olive oil, and the first wool you shear from your sheep.

⁵Out of all your tribes, the LORD your God has chosen the Levites and their descendants to do the work of serving in the name of the LORD forever.

⁶A Levite from any of your cities in Israel may come from where he has been living to the place the LORD will choose. He may come as often as he wants

⁷and may serve in the name of the LORD his God like all the other Levites who do their work in the LORDS presence.

⁸If he does, he'll get the same amount of food as they do, in addition to what he gets from selling his familys goods.

⁹When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, never learn the disgusting practices of those nations.

¹⁰You must never sacrifice your sons or daughters by burning them alive, practice black magic, be a fortuneteller, witch, or sorcerer,

¹¹cast spells, ask ghosts or spirits for help, or consult the dead.

¹²Whoever does these things is disgusting to the LORD. The LORD your God is forcing these nations out of your way because of their disgusting practices.

¹³You must have integrity in dealing with the LORD your God.

¹⁴These nations you are forcing out listen to fortunetellers and to those who practice black magic. But the LORD your God won't let you do anything like that.

¹⁵The LORD your God will send you a prophet, an Israelite like me. You must listen to him.

¹⁶This is what you asked the LORD your God to give you on the day of the assembly at Mount Horeb. You said, "We never want to hear the voice of the LORD

our God or see this raging fire again. If we do, we'll die!"

¹⁷The LORD told me, "What they've said is good.

¹⁸So I will send them a prophet, an Israelite like you. I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him.

¹⁹Whoever refuses to listen to the words that prophet speaks in my name will answer to me.

²⁰But any prophet who dares to say something in my name that I didn't command him to say or who speaks in the name of other gods must die."

²¹You may be wondering, "How can we recognize that the LORD didn't speak this message?"

²²If a prophet speaks in the LORD'S name and what he says doesn't happen or come true, then it didn't come from the LORD. That prophet has spoken on his own authority. Never be afraid of him.

19¹The LORD your God will destroy all the nations that are living in the land that he's giving you. You will

force them out and live in their cities and houses.

²When all this is done, set aside three cities in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

³Provide a route to each of these cities and divide the land that the LORD your God is giving you into three regions. Whoever kills someone may run to one of these cities.

⁴A person who unintentionally kills someone he never hated in the past may run to one of these cities to save his life.

⁵Suppose two people go into the woods to cut wood. As one of them swings the ax to cut down a tree, the head flies off the handle, hits, and kills the other person. The one who accidentally killed the other person may run to one of these cities and save his life.

⁶Otherwise, in a rage the relative who has the authority to avenge the death will pursue him. If the place is too far away, the relative may catch up with him and take his life even though he didn't deserve the death penalty, because in the past he never hated the person he killed.

⁷ This is why I'm commanding you to set aside three cities for yourselves.

⁸ The LORD your God may expand your countrys borders as he promised your ancestors with an oath. He may give you the whole land he promised to give them.

⁹ He may do this because you faithfully obey all these commands I am now giving you to love the LORD your God and follow his directions as long as you live. If this happens, you may add three more cities of refuge to these three.

¹⁰ That way, innocent people wont be killed in the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you wont be guilty of murder.

¹¹ Suppose someone hates another person, waits in ambush for him, attacks him, takes his life, and runs to one of these cities.

¹² If someone does this, the leaders of your city must send for that person. They must take him from that city and hand him over to the relative who has the authority to avenge the death. He must die.

¹³They must have no pity on him. The guilt of murdering an innocent person must be removed from Israel. Then things will go well for Israel.

¹⁴Never move your neighbors original boundary marker on any property in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁵One witness is never enough to convict someone of a crime, offense, or sin he may have committed. Cases must be settled based on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

¹⁶This is what you must do whenever a witness takes the stand to accuse a person falsely of a crime.

¹⁷The two people involved must stand in the LORDS presence, in front of the priests and judges who are serving at that time.

¹⁸The judges must make a thorough investigation. If it is found that the witness lied when he testified against the other Israelite,

¹⁹then do to him what he planned to do to the other person. You must get rid of this evil.

²⁰When the rest of the people hear about this, they will be afraid. Never again will such an evil thing be done among you.

²¹Have no pity on him: Take a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, and a foot for a foot.

20¹When you go to war against your enemies, you may see horses, chariots, and armies larger than yours. Don't be afraid of them, because the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, will be with you.

²Before the battle starts, a priest must come and speak to the troops.

³He should tell them, "Listen, Israel, today you're going into battle against your enemies. Don't lose your courage! Don't be afraid or alarmed or tremble because of them.

⁴The LORD your God is going with you. He will fight for you against your enemies and give you victory."

⁵The officers should tell the troops, "If you have built a new house but not dedicated it, you may go home.

Otherwise, you might die in battle, and someone else will dedicate it.

⁶If you have planted a vineyard and not enjoyed the grapes, you may go home. Otherwise, you might die in battle, and someone else will enjoy the grapes.

⁷If you are engaged to a woman but have not married her, you may go home. Otherwise, you might die in battle, and someone else will marry her."

⁸The officers should also tell the troops, "If you are afraid or have lost your courage, you may go home. Then you won't ruin the morale of the other Israelites."

⁹When the officers finish speaking to the troops, they should appoint commanders to lead them.

¹⁰When you approach a city to attack it, offer its people a peaceful way to surrender.

¹¹If they accept it and open their gates to you, then all the people there will be made to do forced labor and serve you.

¹²If they won't accept your offer of peace but declare war on you, set up a blockade around the city.

¹³When the LORD your God hands the city over to you, kill every man in that city with your swords.

¹⁴But take the women and children, the cattle and everything else in the city, including all its goods, as your loot. You may enjoy your enemies goods that the LORD your God has given you.

¹⁵This is what you must do to all the cities that are far away which dont belong to the nations nearby.

¹⁶However, you must not spare anyones life in the cities of these nations that the LORD your God is giving you as your property.

¹⁷You must claim the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites for the LORD and completely destroy them, as the LORD your God has commanded you.

¹⁸Otherwise, they will teach you to do all the disgusting things they do for their gods, and you will sin against the LORD your God.

¹⁹This is what you must do whenever you blockade a city for a long time in order to capture it in war. Dont harm any of its fruit trees with an ax. You can eat

the fruit. Never cut those trees down, because the trees of the field are not people you have come to blockade.

²⁰You may destroy trees that you know are not fruit trees. You may cut them down and use them in your blockade until you capture the city.

21 ¹This is what you must do if you find a murder victim lying in a field in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. If no one knows who committed the murder,

²your leaders and judges must go and measure the distance from the body to each of the neighboring cities.

³When it has been determined which city is nearest the body, the leaders from that city must choose a heifer that has never been put to work and never worn a yoke.

⁴The leaders of that city will bring the heifer down to a river, to a location where the land hasn't been plowed or planted. At the river they must break the heifer's neck.

⁵The priests, the descendants of Levi, must come forward. The LORD your God has chosen them to serve him as

priests and to bless people in the LORDS name. Their decision is final in all cases involving a disagreement or an assault.

⁶All the leaders from the city which was nearest the murder victim must wash their hands over the dead heifer.

⁷Then they must make this formal statement: "We didnt commit this murder, and we didnt witness it.

⁸LORD, make peace with your people Israel, whom you freed. Dont let the guilt of this unsolved murder remain among your people Israel." Then there will be peace with the LORD despite the murder.

⁹This is how you will get rid of the guilt of an unsolved murder by doing what the LORD considers right.

¹⁰When you go to war with your enemies and the LORD your God hands them over to you, you may take them captive.

¹¹If you see a beautiful woman among the captives and have your heart set on her, you may marry her.

¹²Bring her into your home. She must shave her head, cut her nails,

¹³and no longer wear the clothes she was wearing when you captured her.

Then she may live in your house and mourn the loss of her father and mother for one month. After that, you may sleep with her. Then you will become husband and wife.

¹⁴ But if it happens that you are no longer pleased with her, let her go wherever she wants. You must never sell her or mistreat her as if she were a slave, since you've already had sex with her.

¹⁵ A man might have two wives and love one but not the other. Both wives might have children, and the firstborn son might belong to the wife that the man doesn't love.

¹⁶ When the day comes for the father to give his sons their inheritance, he can't treat the son of the wife he loves as if that son were the firstborn. This would show a total disregard for the real firstborn (the son of the wife he doesn't love).

¹⁷ Instead, he must recognize the son of the wife he doesn't love as the firstborn. He must give that son a double portion of whatever he owns. That son is the

very first son he had. The rights of the firstborn son are his.

¹⁸Parents might have a stubborn and rebellious son who doesn't obey them. Even though they punish him, he still won't listen to them.

¹⁹His father and mother must take him to the leaders of the city at the city gate.

²⁰They will say to the leaders of the city, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He won't obey us. He eats too much and is a drunk."

²¹All the men of the city should stone him to death. You must get rid of this evil. When all Israel hears about it, they will be afraid.

²²When a convicted person is put to death,

²³never leave his dead body hung on a pole overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, because anyone whose body is hung on a pole is cursed by God. The land that the LORD your God is giving you must never become unclean.

22¹If you see another Israelite's ox or sheep out where it doesn't belong, don't pretend that you don't see it. Make sure you take it back.

²If the owner doesnt live near you or you dont know who owns it, take the animal home with you. Keep it until the owner comes looking for it. Then give it back.

³Do the same if you find a donkey, some clothes, or anything else that another Israelite may have lost. Dont pretend that you dont know what to do.

⁴If you see another Israelites donkey or ox lying on the road, dont pretend that you dont see it. Make sure you help him get it back on its feet.

⁵A woman must never wear anything men would wear, and a man must never wear womens clothes. Whoever does this is disgusting to the LORD your God.

⁶Whenever youre traveling and find a nest containing chicks or eggs, this is what you must do. If the mother bird is sitting on the nest, never take her with the chicks.

⁷You may take the chicks, but make sure you let the mother go. Then things will go well for you, and you will live for a long time.

⁸Whenever you build a new house, put a railing around the edge of the roof.

Then you wont be responsible for a death at your home if someone falls off the roof.

⁹Never plant anything between the rows in your vineyard. Otherwise, you will have to give everything that grows there to the holy place. This includes the crop you planted and the grapes from the vineyard.

¹⁰Never plow with an ox and a donkey harnessed together.

¹¹Never wear clothes made of wool and linen woven together.

¹²Make tassels on the four corners of the shawl you wear over your clothes.

¹³A man might marry a woman, sleep with her, and decide he doesnt like her.

¹⁴Then he might make up charges against her and ruin her reputation by saying, "I married this woman. But when I slept with her, I found out she wasnt a virgin."

¹⁵The girls father and mother must go to the city gate where the leaders of the city are and submit the evidence that their daughter was a virgin.

¹⁶The girls father will tell the leaders, "I gave my daughter in marriage to this man, but he doesnt like her.

¹⁷Now he has made up charges against her. He says he found out that my daughter wasnt a virgin. But heres the evidence!" Then the girls parents must spread out the cloth in front of the leaders of the city.

¹⁸The leaders of that city must take the man and punish him.

¹⁹They will fine him 2 pounds of silver and give it to the girls father. The husband ruined the reputation of an Israelite virgin. She will continue to be his wife, and he can never divorce her as long as he lives.

²⁰But if the charge is true, and no evidence that the girl was a virgin can be found,

²¹they must take the girl to the entrance of her fathers house. The men of her city must stone her to death because she has committed such a godless act in Israel: She had sex before marriage, while she was still living in her fathers house. You must get rid of this evil.

²²If a man is caught having sexual intercourse with a married woman, both that man and the woman must die. You must get rid of this evil in Israel.

²³This is what you must do when a man has sexual intercourse with a virgin who is engaged to another man. If this happens in a city,

²⁴take them to the gate of the city and stone them to death. The girl must die because she was in a city and didnt scream for help. The man must die because he had sex with another mans wife. You must get rid of this evil.

²⁵But if a man rapes an engaged girl out in the country, then only the man must die.

²⁶Dont do anything to the girl. She has not committed a sin for which she deserves to die. This is like the case of someone who attacks and murders another person.

²⁷The man found the girl out in the country. She may have screamed for help, but no one was there to rescue her.

²⁸This is what you must do when a man rapes a virgin who isnt engaged. When the crime is discovered,

²⁹ the man who had sexual intercourse with her must give the girl's father 1 pound of silver, and she will become his wife. Since he raped her, he can never divorce her as long as he lives.

³⁰ A man must never marry his father's wife because this would disgrace his father.

23¹ A man whose testicles are crushed or whose penis is cut off may never join the assembly of the LORD.

² A man born from an illicit union may not join the assembly of the LORD. No descendant of his may join the assembly of the LORD for ten generations.

³ Ammonites or Moabites may not join the assembly of the LORD. Not one descendant of theirs may join the assembly of the LORD for ten generations.

⁴ They cannot join because they didn't greet you with food and water on your trip from Egypt. They even hired Balaam, son of Beor, from Pethor in Aram Naharaim, to curse you.

⁵ But the LORD your God refused to listen to Balaam. Instead, he turned

Balaams curse into a blessing for you because the LORD your God loves you.

⁶Never offer them peace or friendship as long as you live.

⁷Never consider the Edomites disgusting. Theyre your relatives. Never consider the Egyptians disgusting. You once were foreigners living in their country.

⁸Their grandchildren may join the assembly of the LORD.

⁹When youre at war and have set up camp to fight your enemies, stay away from anything that will make you unclean.

¹⁰If one of your men becomes unclean from a nocturnal emission, he must go outside the camp and stay there.

¹¹Toward evening he must wash, and at sunset he may come back to camp.

¹²Choose a place outside the camp where you can go to relieve yourself.

¹³You must carry a pointed stick as part of your equipment. When you go outside to squat, dig a hole with it. When youre done, cover up your excrement.

¹⁴The LORD your God moves around in your camp to protect you and hand

your enemies over to you. So your camp must always be holy. This way, the LORD will never see anything offensive among you and turn away from you.

¹⁵If a slave escapes from his master and comes to you, don't return him to his master.

¹⁶Let him stay with you and live among your people wherever he chooses, in any of your cities that seems best to him. Never mistreat him.

¹⁷No Israelite man or woman should ever become a temple prostitute.

¹⁸Never bring gifts or money earned by prostitution into the house of the LORD your God as an offering you vowed to give. These earnings are disgusting to the LORD your God.

¹⁹Never charge another Israelite any interest on money, food, or anything else that is borrowed.

²⁰You may charge a foreigner interest, but not an Israelite. Then the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do once you've entered the land and taken possession of it.

²¹If you make a vow to the LORD your God, don't avoid keeping it. The LORD

your God expects you to keep it. You would be guilty of a sin if you didnt.

²²If you didnt make a vow, you would not be guilty.

²³Make sure you do what you said you would do in your vow. You freely chose to make your vow to the LORD your God.

²⁴If you go into your neighbors vineyard, you may eat as many grapes as you like until youre full. But never put any in your basket.

²⁵If you go into your neighbors grain field, you may pick grain by hand. But never use a sickle to cut your neighbors grain.

24¹ This is what you must do if a husband writes out a certificate of divorce, gives it to his wife, and makes her leave his house. (He divorced her because he found out something indecent about her and she no longer pleased him.)

²She might marry another man after she leaves his house.

³If her second husband doesnt love her and divorces her, or if he dies,

⁴her first husband is not allowed to marry her again. She has become

unclean. This would be disgusting in the LORDS presence. Dont pollute with sin the land that the LORD your God is giving you as your property.

⁵A man who has recently been married will be free from military duty or any other public service. For one year he is free to stay at home and make his new wife happy.

⁶Never let a familys handmill for grinding flour or even part of a handmill be taken to guarantee a loan. The family wouldnt be able to prepare food in order to stay alive.

⁷Whoever kidnaps another Israelite must die. The kidnapper must die, whether he treated the other person like a slave or sold him. You must get rid of this evil.

⁸Guard against outbreaks of serious skin diseases. Be very careful to do exactly as the Levitical priests instruct you. Make sure you do what I commanded them.

⁹Remember what the LORD your God did to Miriam on your trip from Egypt.

¹⁰When you make a loan to your neighbor, don't go into his house to take a security deposit.

¹¹Wait outside, and the person to whom you're making the loan will bring the deposit out to you.

¹²If the person is poor, don't keep the coat you took as a deposit overnight.

¹³Make sure you bring it back to him at sunset. When he wears his coat to bed that night, he'll bless you. You will have done the right thing in the presence of the LORD your God.

¹⁴Don't withhold pay from hired workers who are poor and needy, whether they are Israelites or foreigners living in one of your cities.

¹⁵Pay them each day before sunset because they are poor and need their pay. Otherwise, they will complain to the LORD about you, and you will be condemned for your sin.

¹⁶Parents must never be put to death for the crimes of their children, and children must never be put to death for the crimes of their parents. Each person must be put to death for his own crime.

¹⁷ Never deprive foreigners and orphans of justice. And never take widows clothes to guarantee a loan.

¹⁸ Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God freed you from slavery. So I'm commanding you to do this.

¹⁹ This is what you must do when you're harvesting wheat in your field. If you forget to bring in one of the bundles of wheat, don't go back to get it. Leave it there for foreigners, orphans, and widows. Then the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do.

²⁰ When you harvest olives from your trees, never knock down all of them. Leave some for foreigners, orphans, and widows.

²¹ When you pick the grapes in your vineyard, don't pick all of them. Leave some for foreigners, orphans, and widows.

²² Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. So I'm commanding you to do this.

25 ¹ This is what you must do whenever two people have a disagreement that is brought into court.

The judges will hear the case and decide whos right and whos wrong.

²If the person whos in the wrong deserves to be beaten, the judge will order him to lie down. Then the judge will have him beaten with as many lashes as the crime deserves.

³Forty lashes may be given, but no more. If an Israelite were given more than that, he would be publicly humiliated.

⁴Never muzzle an ox when its threshing grain.

⁵When brothers live together and one of them dies without having a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husbands brother must marry her and sleep with her. He must do his duty as her brotherinlaw.

⁶Then the first son she has will carry the dead brothers name so that his name wont die out in Israel.

⁷But if the man doesnt want to marry his brothers widow, she must go to the leaders of the city at the city gate. She must say, "My brotherinlaw refuses to let his brothers name continue in Israel.

He doesn't want to do his duty as my brother-in-law."

⁸Then the leaders of the city must summon him and talk to him. If he persists in saying that he doesn't want to marry her,

⁹his brother's widow must go up to him in the presence of the leaders. She must take off one of his sandals and spit in his face. She must make this formal statement: "This is what happens to a man who refuses to continue his brother's family line."

¹⁰Then in Israel his family will be called the Family of the Man Without a Sandal.

¹¹This is what you must do when two men are fighting and the wife of one of them comes to rescue her husband from the man who is beating him. If she tries to stop the fight by grabbing the other man's genitals,

¹²cut off her hand. Have no pity on her.

¹³Never carry two sets of weights, a heavier one and a lighter one.

¹⁴Never have two kinds of measures in your house, a larger one and a smaller one.

¹⁵ Use accurate and honest weights and measures. Then you will live for a long time in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁶ Everyone who uses dishonest weights and measures is disgusting to the LORD.

¹⁷ Remember what the Amalekites did to you on your trip from Egypt.

¹⁸ They attacked you when you were tired and exhausted and killed all those who were lagging behind. They weren't afraid of God.

¹⁹ So when the LORD your God gives you peace from all your enemies around you in the land that he is giving you as your own property, don't forget to erase every memory of the Amalekites from the earth.

26¹ Soon you will enter and take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving you as your property. When you have settled there,

² take some of the first produce harvested from the fields in the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and put it in a basket. Then go to the place where the LORD your God will choose for his name to live.

³Go to the priest who is serving at that time, and tell him, "I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land that the LORD is giving us, as he swore to our ancestors."

⁴Then the priest will take the basket from you and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God.

⁵You will make this formal statement in the presence of the LORD your God: "My ancestors were wandering Arameans. There were only a few of them when they went to Egypt and lived as foreigners. But then they became a great, powerful, and large nation.

⁶So the Egyptians treated us cruelly, oppressed us, and made us do backbreaking work for them.

⁷We cried out to the LORD God of our ancestors, and he heard us. He saw our misery, suffering, and oppression.

⁸Then the LORD used his mighty hand and powerful arm to bring us out of Egypt. He used spectacular and aweinspiring deeds, miraculous signs, and amazing things.

⁹He brought us to this place and gave us this land flowing with milk and honey.

¹⁰So now I've brought the first produce harvested from the fields you gave me, LORD." You will place the basket in the presence of the LORD your God and bow down in front of him.

¹¹Then you, the Levites, and the foreigners who live among you can enjoy all the good things which the LORD your God has given you and your family.

¹²Every third year is the year when you will store a tenth of that years crops in your houses. During that year distribute what you have stored to the Levites, foreigners, orphans, and widows in your cities, and they may eat all they want.

¹³When you have distributed all that was stored, say to the LORD your God, "Nothing is left of the holy offering stored in my house. I distributed it to the Levites, foreigners, orphans, and widows as you commanded me. I disobeyed none of your commands, and I didn't forget to do what you commanded.

¹⁴I didn't eat any of this holy offering while I was in mourning. I didn't distribute any of it while I was unclean. I didn't offer any of it to the dead. I have

obeyed the LORD my God. I have done everything you commanded me.

¹⁵Look down from your holy place in heaven. Bless your people Israel and the land flowing with milk and honey that you have given us, as you promised with an oath to our ancestors."

¹⁶Today the LORD your God is commanding you to obey these laws and rules. You must faithfully obey them with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹⁷Today you have declared that the LORD is your God and that you will follow his directions, obey his laws, commands, and rules, and listen to him.

¹⁸Today the LORD has declared that you are his people, his own special possession, as he told you. But you must be sure to obey his commands.

¹⁹Then he will place you high above all the other nations he has made. He will give you praise, fame, and honor, and you will be a people holy to the LORD your God, as he promised.

27 ¹Moses and the leaders of Israel told the people, "Obey every command I'm giving you today.

²"The day you cross the Jordan River and enter the land that the LORD your God is giving you, set up some large stones and cover them with plaster.

³The LORD God of your ancestors is giving you a land flowing with milk and honey, as he promised you. After you're in that land, write all the words of these teachings on the stones.

⁴After you cross the Jordan River, set up these stones on Mount Ebal, and cover them with plaster, following the command I'm giving you today.

⁵Build an altar of stones there dedicated to the LORD your God. Don't use an iron chisel on the stones.

⁶You must use uncut stones to build the altar of the LORD your God. Sacrifice burnt offerings on it to the LORD your God.

⁷Sacrifice fellowship offerings, eat them there, and enjoy yourselves in the presence of the LORD your God.

⁸Write clearly and carefully all the words of these teachings on the stones you set up."

⁹Then Moses and the Levitical priests said to all Israel, "Be quiet and listen,

Israel. Today you have become the people of the LORD your God.

¹⁰Obey the LORD your God and follow his commands and laws which I'm giving you today."

¹¹That same day Moses gave the people this command:

¹²After you cross the Jordan River, these are the tribes that will stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin.

¹³These are the tribes that will stand on Mount Ebal to announce the curses: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

¹⁴The Levites will declare to all the people of Israel in a loud voice:

¹⁵"Whoever has a carved or metal statue, anything disgusting to the LORD that was made by a craftsman, and sets it up in secret will be cursed." Then all the people will say amen.

¹⁶"Whoever curses his father or mother will himself be cursed." Then all the people will say amen.

¹⁷ "Whoever moves his neighbors boundary marker will be cursed." Then all the people will say amen.

¹⁸ "Whoever leads blind people in the wrong direction will be cursed." Then all the people will say amen.

¹⁹ "Whoever deprives foreigners, orphans, or widows of justice will be cursed." Then all the people will say amen.

²⁰ "Whoever has sexual intercourse with his fathers wife will be cursed. He has disgraced his father." Then all the people will say amen.

²¹ "Whoever has sexual intercourse with any animal will be cursed." Then all the people will say amen.

²² "Whoever has sexual intercourse with his sister, his fathers daughter, or his mothers daughter will be cursed." Then all the people will say amen.

²³ "Whoever has sexual intercourse with his motherinlaw will be cursed." Then all the people will say amen.

²⁴ "Whoever kills another person secretly will be cursed." Then all the people will say amen.

²⁵"Whoever accepts money to kill an innocent person will be cursed." Then all the people will say amen.

²⁶"Whoever doesn't obey every word of these teachings will be cursed." Then all the people will say amen.

28¹Carefully obey the LORD your God, and faithfully follow all his commands that I'm giving you today. If you do, the LORD your God will place you high above all the other nations in the world.

²These are all the blessings that will come to you and stay close to you because you obey the LORD your God:

³You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

⁴You will be blessed. You will have children. Your land will have crops. Your animals will have offspring. Your cattle will have calves, and your flocks will have lambs and kids.

⁵The grain you harvest and the bread you bake will be blessed.

⁶You will be blessed when you come and blessed when you go.

⁷The LORD will defeat your enemies when they attack you. They will attack

you from one direction but run away from you in seven directions.

⁸The LORD will bless your barns and everything you do. The LORD your God will bless you in the land that he is giving you.

⁹You will be the LORDS holy people, as he promised you with an oath. He will do this if you obey the commands of the LORD your God and follow his directions.

¹⁰Then all the people in the world will see that you are the LORDS people, and they will be afraid of you.

¹¹The LORD will give you plenty of blessings: You will have many children. Your animals will have many offspring. Your soil will produce many crops in the land the LORD will give you, as he swore to your ancestors.

¹²The LORD will open the heavens, his rich storehouse, for you. He will send rain on your land at the right time and bless everything you do. You will be able to make loans to many nations but wont need to borrow from any.

¹³The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. You will always be at the top, never at the bottom, if you faithfully

obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today.

¹⁴Do everything I'm commanding you today. Never worship other gods or serve them.

¹⁵Obey the LORD your God, and faithfully follow all his commands and laws that I am giving you today. If you don't, all these curses will come to you and stay close to you:

¹⁶You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country.

¹⁷The grain you harvest and the bread you bake will be cursed.

¹⁸You will be cursed. You will have few children. Your land will have few crops. Your cattle will be cursed with few calves, and your flocks will have few lambs and kids.

¹⁹You will be cursed when you come and cursed when you go.

²⁰The LORD will send you curses, panic, and frustration in everything you do until you're destroyed and quickly disappear for the evil you will do by abandoning the LORD.

²¹The LORD will send one plague after another on you until he wipes you out of

the land you're about to enter and take possession of.

²²The LORD will strike you with disease, fever, and inflammation; heat waves, drought, scorching winds, and ruined crops. They will pursue you until you die.

²³The sky above will look like bronze, and the ground below will be as hard as iron.

²⁴The LORD will send dust storms and sandstorms on you from the sky until you're destroyed.

²⁵The LORD will let your enemies defeat you. You will attack them from one direction but run away from them in seven directions. You will become a thing of horror to all the kingdoms in the world.

²⁶Your dead bodies will be food for all the birds and wild animals. There will be no one to scare them away.

²⁷The LORD will strike you with the same boils that plagued the Egyptians. He will strike you with hemorrhoids, sores, and itching that won't go away.

²⁸The LORD will strike you with madness, blindness, and panic.

²⁹You will grope in broad daylight as blind people grope in their blindness. You wont be successful in anything you do. As long as you live, you will be oppressed and robbed with no one to rescue you.

³⁰You will be engaged to a woman, but another man will have sex with her. You will build a house, but you wont live in it. You will plant a vineyard, but you wont enjoy the grapes.

³¹Your ox will be butchered as you watch, but you wont eat any of its meat. You will watch as your donkey is stolen from you, but youll never get it back. Your flock will be given to your enemies, and no one will rescue it.

³²You will watch with your own eyes as your sons and daughters are given to another nation. You will strain your eyes looking for them all day long, but there will be nothing you can do.

³³People you never knew will eat what your land and your hard work have produced. As long as you live, you will know nothing but oppression and abuse.

³⁴The things you see will drive you mad.

³⁵ The LORD will afflict your knees and legs with severe boils that can't be cured. The boils will cover your whole body from the soles of your feet to the top of your head.

³⁶ The LORD will lead you and the king you choose to a nation that you and your ancestors never knew. There you will worship gods made of wood and stone.

³⁷ You will become a thing of horror. All the nations where the LORD will send you will make an example of you and ridicule you.

³⁸ You will plant many crops in your fields, but harvest little because locusts will destroy your crops.

³⁹ You will plant vineyards and take care of them, but you won't drink any wine or gather any grapes, because worms will eat them.

⁴⁰ You will have olive trees everywhere in your country but no olive oil to rub on your skin, because the olives will fall off the trees.

⁴¹ You will have sons and daughters, but you won't be able to keep them because they will be taken as prisoners of war.

⁴²Crickets will swarm all over your trees and the crops in your fields.

⁴³The standard of living for the foreigners who live among you will rise higher and higher, while your standard of living will sink lower and lower.

⁴⁴They will be able to make loans to you, but you wont be able to make loans to them. They will be the head, and you will be the tail.

⁴⁵All these curses will come to you. They will pursue you and stay close to you until youre destroyed, because you didnt obey the LORD your God or follow his commands and laws, which Im giving you.

⁴⁶These curses will be a sign and an amazing thing to warn you and your descendants forever.

⁴⁷You didnt serve the LORD your God with a joyful and happy heart when you had so much.

⁴⁸So you will serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you. You will serve them even though you are already hungry, thirsty, naked, and in need of everything. The LORD will put a

heavy burden of hard work on you until he destroys you.

⁴⁹The LORD will bring against you a nation from far away, from the ends of the earth. The nation will swoop down on you like an eagle. It will be a nation whose language you won't understand.

⁵⁰Its people will be fierce-looking. They will show no respect for the old and no pity for the young.

⁵¹They'll eat the offspring of your animals and the crops from your fields until you're destroyed. They'll leave you no grain, no new wine, no olive oil, no calves from your herds, and no lambs or kids from your flocks. They'll continue to do this until they've completely ruined you.

⁵²They will blockade all your cities until the high, fortified walls in which you trust come down everywhere in your land. They'll blockade all the cities everywhere in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

⁵³Because of the hardships your enemies will make you suffer during the blockade, you will eat the flesh of your

own children, the sons and daughters, whom the LORD your God has given you.

⁵⁴ Even the most tender and sensitive man among you will become stingy toward his brother, the wife he loves, and the children he still has left.

⁵⁵ He will give none of them any of the flesh of his children that he is eating. It will be all that he has left, because of the hardships your enemies will make you suffer during the blockade of all your cities.

⁵⁶ The most tender and sensitive woman among you so sensitive and tender that she wouldn't even step on an ant will become stingy toward the husband she loves or toward her own son or daughter.

⁵⁷ She won't share with them the afterbirth from her body and the children she gives birth to. She will secretly eat them out of dire necessity, because of the hardships your enemies will make you suffer during the blockade of your cities.

⁵⁸ You might not faithfully obey every word of the teachings that are written in this book. You might not fear this

glorious and aweinspiring name: the LORD your God.

⁵⁹If so, the LORD will strike you and your descendants with unimaginable plagues. They will be terrible and continuing plagues and severe and lingering diseases.

⁶⁰He will again bring all the diseases of Egypt that you dreaded, and they will cling to you.

⁶¹The LORD will also bring you every kind of sickness and plague not written in this Book of Teachings. They will continue until youre dead.

⁶²At one time you were as numerous as the stars in the sky. But only a few of you will be left, because you didnt obey the LORD your God.

⁶³At one time the LORD was more than glad to make you prosperous and numerous. Now the LORD will be more than glad to destroy you and wipe you out. You will be torn out of the land youre about to enter and take possession of.

⁶⁴Then the LORD will scatter you among all the people of the world, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will serve gods made of wood

and stone that neither you nor your ancestors ever knew.

⁶⁵ Among those nations you will find no peace, no place to call your own. There the LORD will give you an unsettled mind, failing eyesight, and despair.

⁶⁶ Your life will always be hanging by a thread. You will live in terror day and night. You will never feel sure of your life.

⁶⁷ In the morning you'll say, "If only it were evening!" And in the evening you'll say, "If only it were morning!" You'll talk this way because of the things that will terrify you and because of the things you'll see.

⁶⁸ The LORD will bring you back to Egypt in ships on a journey that I said you would never take again. There you will try to sell yourselves as slaves to your enemies, but no one will buy you.

29¹ These are the terms of the promise that the LORD commanded Moses to give to the Israelites in Moab. This was in addition to the promise the LORD gave them at Mount Horeb.

²Moses summoned all the people of Israel and said to them: Youve seen with your own eyes everything that the LORD did in Egypt to Pharaoh, to all his officials, and to his whole country.

³You also saw those terrible plagues, those miraculous signs, and those spectacular, amazing things.

⁴But to this day the LORD hasnt given you a mind that understands, eyes that see, or ears that hear.

⁵For 40 years I led you through the desert. During that time your clothes and shoes never wore out.

⁶You ate no bread and drank no wine or liquor. I did this so that you would know that I am the LORD your God.

⁷When you came to this place, King Sihon of Heshbon and King Og of Bashan came out to fight us, but we defeated them.

⁸We took their land and gave it to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh as their property.

⁹Faithfully obey the terms of this promise. Then you will be successful in everything you do.

¹⁰All of you are standing here today in the presence of the LORD your God. The heads of your tribes, your leaders, your officers, and all the men of Israel are here.

¹¹Your children, your wives, and the foreigners who cut wood and carry water in your camp are also here.

¹²You are ready to accept the terms and conditions of the promise that the LORD your God is giving you today.

¹³With this promise the LORD will confirm today that you are his people and that he is your God. This is what he told you, and this is what he promised your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with an oath.

¹⁴You are not the only people to receive this promise and its conditions.

¹⁵It is for those of you who are standing here with us today in the presence of the LORD our God and also for those who are not here today.

¹⁶You know how we lived in Egypt and how we passed through other countries on our way here.

¹⁷ You saw their disgusting gods and idols made of wood, stone, silver, and gold.

¹⁸ Make sure there is no man, woman, family, or tribe among you today who turns from the LORD our God to worship the gods of those nations. Make sure that no one among you is the source of this kind of bitter poison.

¹⁹ Someone may hear the conditions of this promise. He may think that he is so blessed that he can say, "I'll be safe even if I go my own stubborn way. After all, the LORD would never sweep away wellwatered ground along with dry ground."

²⁰ The LORD will never be willing to forgive that person, because the LORDS burning anger will smolder against him. All the curses described in this book will happen to him. The LORD will erase every memory of that persons name from the earth.

²¹ And the LORD will single him out from all the tribes of Israel for disaster based on all the conditions of the promise written in this Book of the Teachings.

²²Then the next generation of your children and foreigners who come from distant countries will see the plagues that have happened in this land and the diseases the LORD sent here.

²³They will see all the soil poisoned with sulfur and salt. Nothing will be planted. Nothing will be growing. There will be no plants in sight. It will be as desolate as Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, cities the LORD destroyed in fierce anger.

²⁴Then all the other nations in the world will ask, "Why has the LORD done this to their land? Why is he so angry?"

²⁵The answer will be, "Because they abandoned the promise of the LORD God of their ancestors. He made this promise to them when he brought them out of Egypt.

²⁶They worshiped other gods and bowed down to them. These were gods they never heard of, gods the LORD didn't permit them to have.

²⁷So the LORD became angry with this land and brought on it all the curses described in this book.

²⁸In his fierce anger and fury the LORD uprooted these people from their land and deported them to another country, where they still are today."

²⁹Some things are hidden. They belong to the LORD our God. But the things that have been revealed in these teachings belong to us and to our children forever. We must obey every word of these teachings.

30¹All these blessings and curses I have spoken about will happen to you. Take them to heart when you are among all the nations where the LORD your God will scatter you.

²If you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul, doing everything I command you today,

³he will restore your fortunes. He will have mercy on you and gather you from all the nations of the world where he will scatter you.

⁴Even if you are scattered to the most distant country in the world, the LORD your God will gather you and bring you back from there.

⁵The LORD your God will bring you to the land your ancestors owned. You will take possession of it, and the LORD will make you more prosperous and numerous than your ancestors were.

⁶The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants. You will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and you will live.

⁷Then the LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies, those who hate you and persecute you.

⁸You will again obey the LORD and follow all his commands that I'm giving you today.

⁹The LORD your God will give you many blessings in everything you do: You will have many children. Your animals will have many offspring. Your soil will produce many crops. The LORD will again delight in making you as prosperous as he made your ancestors.

¹⁰He will do this if you obey him and follow his commands and laws that are written in this Book of Teachings and return to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹ This command I'm giving you today isn't too hard for you or beyond your reach.

¹² It's not in heaven. You don't have to ask, "Who will go to heaven to get this command for us so that we can hear it and obey it?"

¹³ This command isn't on the other side of the sea. You don't have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it for us so that we can hear it and obey it?"

¹⁴ No, these words are very near you. They're in your mouth and in your heart so that you will obey them.

¹⁵ Today I offer you life and prosperity or death and destruction.

¹⁶ This is what I'm commanding you today: Love the LORD your God, follow his directions, and obey his commands, laws, and rules. Then you will live, your population will increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you're about to enter and take possession of.

¹⁷ But your hearts might turn away, and you might not listen. You might be tempted to bow down to other gods and worship them.

¹⁸If you do, I tell you today that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live for a long time in the land that you're going to take possession of when you cross the Jordan River.

¹⁹I call on heaven and earth as witnesses today that I have offered you life or death, blessings or curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants will live.

²⁰Love the LORD your God, obey him, and be loyal to him. This will be your way of life, and it will mean a long life for you in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

31 ¹Moses continued to speak to all the Israelites:

²"I'm 120 years old now, and I'm not able to lead you anymore. Besides, the LORD has told me that I cannot cross the Jordan River.

³The LORD your God is the one who will cross the river ahead of you. He will destroy those nations as you arrive, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua will also cross the river ahead of you, as the LORD told you.

⁴The LORD will do to those nations what he did to King Sihon and King Og of the Amorites and to their lands when he destroyed them.

⁵The LORD will hand them over to you, and you must do to them everything that I commanded you.

⁶Be strong and courageous. Don't tremble! Don't be afraid of them! The LORD your God is the one who is going with you. He won't abandon you or leave you."

⁷Then Moses called for Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous. You will go with these people into the land that the LORD will give them, as he swore to their ancestors. You will help them take possession of the land.

⁸The LORD is the one who is going ahead of you. He will be with you. He won't abandon you or leave you. So don't be afraid or terrified."

⁹Moses wrote down these teachings and gave them to the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the LORDS promise and to all the leaders of Israel.

¹⁰Then Moses commanded them, "At the end of every seventh year you must cancel debts. At that time, during the Festival of Booths,

¹¹all the Israelites will come into the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose. Read these teachings so that they can hear them.

¹²Assemble the men, women, and children, as well as the foreigners who live in your cities. Have them listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and faithfully obey every word of these teachings.

¹³Their children, who don't know these teachings, must hear them and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land that you are going to take possession of when you cross the Jordan River."

¹⁴The LORD said to Moses, "The time of your death is coming soon. Call for Joshua. Both of you come to the tent of meeting, and I will give him his instructions." Moses and Joshua came to the tent of meeting.

¹⁵Then the LORD appeared in a column of smoke at the entrance to the tent.

¹⁶The LORD said to Moses, "Soon you are going to lie down in death with your ancestors. When these people enter the land and are living among the foreigners there, they will chase after foreign gods as though they were prostitutes. They will abandon me and reject the promise I made to them.

¹⁷On that day I will become angry with them. I will abandon them and turn away from them. They will be destroyed, and many terrible disasters will happen to them. On that day they will ask, Haven't these disasters happened to us because our God isn't with us?

¹⁸On that day I will certainly turn away from them because of all the evil they've done in turning to other gods.

¹⁹"Write down this song, teach it to the Israelites, and have them sing it. This song will be a witness for me against the Israelites.

²⁰I will bring them into the land that I swore to give to their ancestors, a land flowing with milk and honey. When they have eaten all they want and have become fat, they will turn to other gods

and worship them. They will despise me and reject my promise.

²¹ When many terrible disasters happen to them, this song will testify against them, because it will never be forgotten by their descendants. I know what their hearts are set on doing, even now before I bring them into the land that I swore to give them."

²² That day Moses wrote down this song and taught it to the Israelites.

²³ The LORD gave this command to Joshua, son of Nun: "Be strong and courageous, because you will bring the Israelites into the land that I swore to give them, and I will be with you."

²⁴ Finally, Moses finished writing all the words of these teachings in a book.

²⁵ He gave this command to the Levites who carried the ark of the LORDS promise:

²⁶ "Take this Book of Teachings, and put it next to the ark of the promise of the LORD your God, where it will be a witness against you.

²⁷ I know how rebellious you are. You are impossible to deal with. While I am alive and still with you, you are rebelling

against the LORD. How much more rebellious will you be after I die?

²⁸Assemble all the leaders of your tribes and your officers in front of me. As they listen, I will speak these words and call on heaven and earth to testify against them.

²⁹I know that after I die you will become thoroughly corrupt and turn from the way I have commanded you to live. In the days to come disasters will happen to you because you will make the LORD furious by doing what he considers evil."

³⁰Then, as the whole congregation of Israel listened, Moses recited all the words of this song:

32¹Listen, heaven, and I will speak. Earth, hear the words from my mouth.

²Let my teachings come down like raindrops. Let my words drip like dew, like gentle rain on grass, like showers on green plants.

³I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Give our God the greatness he deserves!

⁴He is a rock. What he does is perfect. All his ways are fair. He is a faithful God,

who does no wrong. He is honorable and reliable.

⁵He recognizes that his people are corrupt. To their shame they are no longer his children. They are devious and scheming.

⁶Is this how you repay the LORD, you foolish and silly people? Isn't he your Father and Owner, who made you and formed you?

⁷Remember a time long ago. Think about all the past generations. Ask your fathers to remind you, and your leaders to tell you.

⁸When the Most High gave nations their land, when he divided the descendants of Adam, he set up borders for the tribes corresponding to the number of the sons of Israel.

⁹But the LORDS people were his property. Jacob was his own possession.

¹⁰He found his people in a desert land, in a barren place where animals howl. He guarded them, took care of them, and protected them because they were helpless.

¹¹Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreads its wings

to catch them, and carries them on its feathers,

¹²so the LORD alone led his people. No foreign god was with him.

¹³He made them ride on the heights of the earth and fed them with the produce of the fields. He gave them honey from rocks and olive oil from solid rock.

¹⁴They ate cheese from cows and drank milk from sheep and goats. He gave them fat from lambs, rams from the stock of Bashan, male goats, and the best wheat. They drank the bloodred wine of grapes.

¹⁵Jeshurun got fat and disrespectful. (You got fat! You were stuffed! You were gorged!) They abandoned the God who made them and treated the rock of their salvation like a fool.

¹⁶They made him furious because they worshiped foreign gods and angered him because they worshiped worthless idols.

¹⁷They sacrificed to demons that are not God, to gods they never heard of. These were new gods, who came from nearby, gods your ancestors never worshiped.

¹⁸(You ignored the rock who fathered you and forgot the God who gave you life.)

¹⁹The LORD saw this and rejected them, because his own sons and daughters had made him angry.

²⁰He said, "I will turn away from them and find out what will happen to them. They are devious people, children who can't be trusted.

²¹They made him furious because they worshiped foreign gods and angered him because they worshiped worthless idols. So I will use those who are not my people to make them jealous and a nation of godless fools to make them angry.

²²My anger has started a fire that will burn to the depths of hell. It will consume the earth and its crops and set the foundations of the mountains on fire.

²³I will bring one disaster after another on them. I will use up all my arrows on them.

²⁴They will be starved by famines and ravaged by pestilence and deadly epidemics. I will send vicious animals

against them along with poisonous animals that crawl on the ground.

²⁵ Foreign wars will kill off their children, and even at home there will be horrors. Young men and young women alike will die as well as nursing babies and grayhaired men.

²⁶ I said that I would cut them in pieces and erase everyones memory of them.

²⁷ But I didnt want their enemies to make me angry. I didnt want their opponents to misunderstand and say, We won this victory! It wasnt the LORD who did all this!"

²⁸ My people have lost their good sense. They are not able to understand.

²⁹ If only they were wise enough to understand this and realize what will happen to them!

³⁰ How could one person chase a thousand or two people make ten thousand flee? Their rock used these people to defeat them and the LORD gave them no help.

³¹ Their rock isnt like our rock. Even our enemies will agree with this.

³² Their grapevines come from the vineyards of Sodom and from the

fields of Gomorrah. Their grapes are poisonous, and their clusters are bitter.

³³Their wine is snake venom, the deadly poison of cobras.

³⁴Isn't this what I've stored under lock and key in my storehouses?

³⁵I will take revenge and be satisfied. In due time their foot will slip, because their day of disaster is near. Their doom is coming quickly.

³⁶The LORD will judge his people and have compassion on his servants when he sees that their strength is gone and that no one is left, neither slaves nor free people.

³⁷Then he will ask, "Where are their gods? Where is the rock they took refuge in?"

³⁸Where are the gods who ate the fat from their sacrifices and drank the wine from their wine offerings? Let them come to help you! Let them be your refuge!"

³⁹See, I am the only God. There are no others. I kill, and I make alive. I wound, and I heal, and no one can rescue you from my power.

⁴⁰ I raise my hand toward heaven and solemnly swear: As surely as I live forever,

⁴¹ I will sharpen my flashing sword and take justice into my own hands. Then I will take revenge on my enemies and pay back those who hate me.

⁴² My arrows will drip with blood from those who were killed and taken captive. My sword will cut off the heads of the enemy who vowed to fight.

⁴³ Joyfully sing with the LORDS people, you nations, because he will take revenge for the death of his servants. He will get even with his enemies and make peace for his peoples land.

⁴⁴ Moses came with Hoshea, son of Nun, and recited all the words of this song as the people listened.

⁴⁵ When Moses had finished reciting all these words to Israel,

⁴⁶ he said to them, "Pay attention to all these warnings I've given you today. Then you will command your children to faithfully obey every word of these teachings.

⁴⁷ Don't think these words are idle talk. They are your life! By these words you

will be able to live for a long time in the land that you are going to take possession of when you cross the Jordan River."

⁴⁸That same day the LORD said to Moses,

⁴⁹"Go into the Abarim Mountains, to Mount Nebo in Moab, across from Jericho. Take a look at the land of Canaan that I'm giving the Israelites as their own property.

⁵⁰On this mountain where you're going, you will die and join your ancestors in death, as your brother Aaron died on Mount Hor.

⁵¹This is because both of you were unfaithful to me at the oasis of Meribah at Kadesh in the Desert of Zin. You didn't show the Israelites how holy I am.

⁵²You may see the land from a distance, but you may not enter the land I'm giving the Israelites."

33¹ Moses, the man of God, blessed the Israelites with this blessing before he died.

²He said, "The LORD came from Sinai. For his people he rose from Seir like the sun. He appeared like sunshine from

Mount Paran. He came with tens of thousands of holy ones. On his right was a raging fire for them.

³You certainly love your people. All your holy ones are in your hands. They bow at your feet to receive your instructions.

⁴Moses gave us these teachings. They belong to the assembly of Jacob.

⁵The LORD was king of Jeshurun when the leaders of the people assembled together with all the tribes of Israel.

⁶"May the tribe of Reuben live and not die out, though their people are few in number."

⁷This is what he said about the tribe of Judah: "Hear the cry of Judah, O LORD, and bring them to their people. They must defend themselves. Help them against their enemies."

⁸About the tribe of Levi he said, "Your Thummim and Urim belong to your faithful people. You tested your people at Massah. You quarreled with them at the oasis of Meribah.

⁹They said that they didnt know their father and mother. They didnt recognize their own brothers. They didnt acknowledge their own children. But

they obeyed your word and were faithful to the terms of your promise.

¹⁰They teach Jacob your rules and give Israel your teachings. They burn incense for you to smell and sacrifice burnt offerings on your altar.

¹¹LORD, bless them with strength and be pleased with the work they do. Break the backs of those who attack them and hate them so that they can never get up again."

¹²About the tribe of Benjamin he said, "The LORDS beloved people will live securely with him. The LORD will shelter them all day long, since he, too, lives on the mountain slopes."

¹³About the tribes of Joseph he said, "May the LORD bless their land with water, the best gift heaven can send, with dew and deep springs below the ground.

¹⁴May the LORD bless their land with crops, the best gift the sun can give, the best produce of each month,

¹⁵the finest fruits from the oldest mountains, the best from the ancient hills,

¹⁶and the most plentiful crops of the earth. May the LORD bless their land with the favor of the one who was in the burning bush. May these blessings come to the tribes of Joseph. May they crown the people who are like princes in Israel.

¹⁷They will be as majestic as a firstborn bull. Their horns will be like the horns of a wild ox. They will use them to push away nations including those at the ends of the earth. The tens of thousands from the tribe of Ephraim and the thousands from the tribe of Manasseh will be like this."

¹⁸About the tribe of Zebulun he said, "People of Zebulun, enjoy yourselves when you go to war, and you people of Issachar, enjoy yourselves when you stay at home.

¹⁹They will invite nations to their mountain, and there they will offer the proper sacrifices. They will be nourished by the abundance from the seas and the treasures hidden in the sand."

²⁰About the tribe of Gad he said, "Blessed is the one who gives the people of Gad more land. They wait there like a lion. They can tear off an arm or a head.

²¹ They chose the best land for themselves. Indeed, a commanders piece of land was reserved for them. They were leaders of the people and did for Israel what the LORD considers fair and honorable."

²² About the tribe of Dan he said, "The people of Dan are a lion cub. Out of Bashan they pounce on their enemies."

²³ About the tribe of Naphtali he said, "The people of Naphtali enjoy the LORDS favor and are filled with the LORDS blessings. They will take possession of the lake and the land south of it."

²⁴ About the tribe of Asher he said, "The people of Asher are the most blessed of the sons of Israel. May they be the Israelites favorite tribe and wash their feet in olive oil.

²⁵ May the locks and bolts of your gates be made of iron and copper. May your strength last as long as you live.

²⁶ "Theres no one like your God, Jeshurun! He rides through the heavens to help you. In majesty he rides through the clouds.

²⁷ The eternal God is your shelter, and his everlasting arms support you. He will

force your enemies out of your way and tell you to destroy them.

²⁸So Israel will live securely. Jacobs spring will be left alone in a land of grain and new wine. Dew will drip from Israels skies.

²⁹You are blessed, Israel! Who is like you, a nation saved by the LORD? He is a shield that helps you and a sword that wins your victories. Your enemies will come crawling to you, and you will stomp on their backs."

34¹ Then Moses went up on Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab. He went to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. The LORD showed him the whole land. He could see Gilead as far as Dan,

²all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the territory of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea,

³the Negev, and the Jordan Plainthe valley of Jericho (the City of Palms)as far as Zoar.

⁴Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land I promised with an oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I said I would give it to their descendants. I

have let you see it with your own eyes, but you may not go there."

⁵As the LORD had predicted, the LORDS servant Moses died in Moab.

⁶He was buried in a valley in Moab, near Beth Peor. Even today no one knows where his grave is.

⁷Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eyesight never became poor, and he never lost his physical strength.

⁸The Israelites mourned for Moses in the plains of Moab for 30 days. Then the time of mourning for him was over.

⁹Joshua, son of Nun, was filled with the Spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him. The Israelites obeyed him and did what the LORD had commanded through Moses.

¹⁰There has never been another prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD dealt with face to face.

¹¹He was the one the LORD sent to do all the miraculous signs and amazing things in Egypt to Pharaoh, to all his officials, and to his whole country.

¹²Moses used his mighty hand to do all the spectacular and aweinspiring deeds that were seen by all the Israelites.

Joshua

1 ¹ After the death of the LORDS servant Moses, the LORD said to Moses assistant Joshua, son of Nun,

² "My servant Moses is dead. Now you and all these people must cross the Jordan River into the land that I am going to give the people of Israel.

³ I will give you every place on which you set foot, as I promised Moses.

⁴ Your borders will be the desert on the south, nearby Lebanon to the Euphrates River (the country of the Hittites) on the north, and the Mediterranean Sea on the west.

⁵ No one will be able to oppose you successfully as long as you live. I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will never neglect you or abandon you.

⁶ Be strong and courageous, because you will help these people take possession of the land I swore to give their ancestors.

⁷ "Only be strong and very courageous, faithfully doing everything in the

teachings that my servant Moses commanded you. Don't turn away from them. Then you will succeed wherever you go.

⁸Never stop reciting these teachings. You must think about them night and day so that you will faithfully do everything written in them. Only then will you prosper and succeed.

⁹"I have commanded you, Be strong and courageous! Don't tremble or be terrified, because the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

¹⁰Then Joshua ordered the officers of the people,

¹¹"Go through the camp. Tell the people, Get your supplies ready. In three days you will cross the Jordan River to take possession of the land the LORD your God is going to give you."

¹²Next, Joshua said to the tribes of Reuben and Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh,

¹³"Remember what the LORDS servant Moses commanded you. Moses said, The LORD your God will give you this land a place to rest.

¹⁴Your wives, children, and livestock may stay in the land that Moses gave you east of the Jordan River. However, all your best soldiers must march in battle formation ahead of your relatives. You must help your relatives

¹⁵take possession of the land the LORD your God is going to give them. Then they will have a place to rest like you do. After that, you may go back and take possession of the land east of the Jordan River which the LORDS servant Moses gave you."

¹⁶The people responded to Joshua, "Well do everything you tell us and go wherever you send us.

¹⁷We will obey you as we obeyed Moses. May the LORD your God be with you as he was with Moses.

¹⁸Whoever rebels against your authority or does not obey your orders will be put to death. Just be strong and courageous!"

2¹From Shittim Joshua, son of Nun, secretly sent out two men as spies. He told them, "Go, look at that country, especially the city of Jericho." So they went to Jericho and entered the house of

a prostitute named Rahab to spend the night there.

²The king of Jericho was told, "Some Israelites have entered the city tonight. They came to gather information about our land."

³So the king of Jericho sent messengers to Rahab, who told her, "Bring out the men who came to your house. They came here to gather information about the entire land."

⁴But the woman had already taken the two men inside and hidden them. So she said, "Yes, the men did come here. But I didn't know where they had come from."

⁵When it was dark and the gate was just about to close, they left. I don't know where they went. If you hurry, you'll catch up with them."

⁶(She had taken them up to the roof and covered them with the flax which she had laid up there.)

⁷The king's men pursued them on the road leading to a shallow place to cross the Jordan River. As soon as the king's men had left, the gate was closed.

⁸Before the spies fell asleep, Rahab went up to them on the roof.

⁹She said to them, "I know the LORD will give you this land. Your presence terrifies us. All the people in this country are deathly afraid of you.

¹⁰We've heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea in front of you when you left Egypt. We've also heard what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites, who ruled east of the Jordan River. We've heard how you destroyed them for the LORD.

¹¹When we heard about it, we lost heart. There was no courage left in any of us because of you. The LORD your God is the God of heaven and earth.

¹²Please swear by the LORD that you'll be as kind to my father's family as I've been to you. Also give me some proof

¹³that you'll protect my father, mother, brothers, sisters, and their households, and that you'll save us from death."

¹⁴The men promised her, "We pledge our lives for your lives. If you don't tell anyone what we're doing here, we'll treat you kindly and honestly when the LORD gives us this land."

¹⁵So she let them down by a rope from her window since her house was built

into the city wall. (She lived in the city wall.)

¹⁶She told them, "Go to the mountains so that the men who are pursuing you will not find you. Hide there for three days until they return to Jericho. Then you can go on your way."

¹⁷The men told her, "We will be free from the oath which you made us swear, if you tell anyone what were doing here."

¹⁸When we invade your land, tie this red cord in the window through which you let us down. Also, gather your father, mother, brothers, and all your fathers family into your house.

¹⁹Whoever leaves your house will be responsible for his own life. We will be free from that responsibility. But we will take responsibility if anyone inside your house is harmed.

²⁰If you tell anyone what were doing here, we will be free from the oath which you made us swear."

²¹"I agree," she said. So she let them go and tied the red cord in the window.

²²The men went to the mountains and stayed there for three days until the kings men returned to Jericho. The kings

men had searched for them all along the road but had not found them.

²³Then the two spies came down out of the mountains, crossed the Jordan River, and returned to Joshua, son of Nun. They told him everything that had happened to them.

²⁴They told Joshua, "The LORD has given us the whole country. The people who live there are deathly afraid of us."

3¹Joshua got up early the next morning. He and all the Israelites left Shittim. They came to the Jordan River, where they camped before crossing.

²Three days later the officers went through the camp.

³They told the people, "As soon as you see the ark of the promise of the LORD your God and the Levitical priests who carry it, break camp and follow them.

⁴However, stay about half a mile behind them. Dont come any closer to them so that you will know which way to go because you have not gone this way before."

⁵Joshua told the people, "Perform the ceremonies to make yourselves holy

because tomorrow the LORD will do miracles among you."

⁶Joshua also told the priests, "Take the ark of the promise, and go ahead of the people." They did as they were told.

⁷Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to honor you in front of all the people of Israel. I will do this to let them know that I am with you just as I was with Moses.

⁸Order the priests who carry the ark of the promise, When you step into the water of the Jordan River, stand there."

⁹So Joshua said to the people of Israel, "Come here, and listen to the words of the LORD your God."

¹⁰Joshua continued, "This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly force the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites out of your way.

¹¹Watch the ark of the promise of the Lord of the whole earth as it goes ahead of you into the Jordan River.

¹²Choose one man from each of the 12 tribes of Israel.

¹³The priests who carry the ark of the LORD, the Lord of the whole earth, will stand in the water of the Jordan. Then the water flowing from upstream will stop and stand up like a dam."

¹⁴So they broke camp to cross the Jordan River. The priests who carried the ark of the promise went ahead of the people.

¹⁵(The Jordan overflows all its banks during the harvest season.) When the priests who were carrying the ark came to the edge of the Jordan River and set foot in

¹⁶the water, the water stopped flowing from upstream. The water rose up like a dam as far away as the city of Adam near Zarethan. The water flowing down toward the Sea of the Plains (the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. Then the people crossed from the east side of the Jordan River directly opposite Jericho.

¹⁷The priests who carried the ark of the LORDS promise stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan until the whole nation of Israel had crossed the Jordan River on dry ground.

4¹ The whole nation finished crossing the Jordan River. The LORD had told Joshua,

² "Choose one man from each of the 12 tribes.

³ Order them to pick up 12 stones from the middle of the Jordan, where the priests feet stood firmly. Take the stones along with you, and set them down where you will camp tonight."

⁴ Joshua called the 12 men whom he had selected (one from each tribe).

⁵ He said to them, "Go to the middle of the Jordan River in front of the ark of the LORD your God. Each man must take a stone on his shoulder, one for each tribe of Israel.

⁶ This will be a sign for you. In the future your children will ask, What do these stones mean to you?

⁷ You should answer, The water of the Jordan River was cut off in front of the ark of the LORDS promise. When the ark crossed the Jordan, the river stopped flowing. These stones are a permanent reminder for the people of Israel."

⁸ The people of Israel did as Joshua had ordered. They took 12 stones, one for

each of the tribes of Israel. They took them from the middle of the Jordan as the LORD had told Joshua. They carried them to the camp and set them down there.

⁹ Joshua also set 12 stones in the middle of the Jordan River, where the priests who carried the ark of the promise had stood. The stones are still there today.

¹⁰ The priests who carried the ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan. They stood there until everything the LORD had ordered Joshua to tell the people had been carried out. This was as Moses had told Joshua. The people hurried to the other side.

¹¹ As soon as everyone had crossed, the priests with the LORDS ark crossed and went ahead of them.

¹² The men of Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh did as Moses had told them. They marched across in battle formation ahead of the people of Israel.

¹³ About 40,000 armed men crossed the river in front of the LORD to the plains of Jericho for battle.

¹⁴ On that day the LORD honored Joshua in the presence of all the Israelites.

As long as Joshua lived, the Israelites respected him in the same way they had respected Moses.

¹⁵The LORD said to Joshua,

¹⁶"Order the priests who carry the ark of the testimony to come out of the Jordan River."

¹⁷So Joshua ordered the priests, "Come out of the Jordan."

¹⁸The priests who carried the ark of the LORDS promise came out of the middle of the Jordan. When their feet stepped onto dry land, the water of the Jordan returned to its seasonal flood level.

¹⁹On the tenth day of the first month, the people came out of the Jordan River. They made their camp at Gilgal, just east of Jericho.

²⁰At Gilgal Joshua set up the 12 stones they had taken from the Jordan.

²¹He said to the people of Israel, "In the future when children ask their parents, What do these stones mean?

²²the children should be told that Israel crossed the Jordan River on dry ground.

²³The LORD your God dried up the Jordan ahead of you until you had

crossed, as he did to the Red Sea until we had crossed.

²⁴The LORD did this so that everyone in the world would know his mighty power and that you would fear the LORD your God every day of your life."

5¹All the Amorite kings west of the Jordan River and all the Canaanite kings along the Mediterranean Sea heard that the LORD had dried up the Jordan River so that the Israelites could cross. So they lost heart and had no courage left to face the people of Israel.

²At that time the LORD spoke to Joshua, "Make flint knives, and circumcise the men of Israel."

³So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the men of Israel at the Hill of Circumcision.

⁴This is the reason Joshua circumcised them: All the soldiers had died on the way through the desert after they left Egypt.

⁵The men who left Egypt had been circumcised. However, the men born later, on the way through the desert, were not circumcised.

⁶For 40 years the Israelites wandered through the desert until all their soldiers who left Egypt died. They died because they disobeyed the LORD. The LORD swore that he would not let them see this land flowing with milk and honey which he had sworn to give our ancestors.

⁷The sons who took their place had not been circumcised on the way. So Joshua circumcised them.

⁸When all the men had been circumcised, they remained in the camp until they recovered.

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have removed the disgrace of Egypt from you." So Joshua named the place Gilgal, the name it still has today.

¹⁰The people of Israel camped at Gilgal in the Jericho plain. There they celebrated the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month.

¹¹On the day after the Passover, they ate some of the produce of the land, unleavened bread and roasted grain.

¹²The day after that, the manna stopped. The people of Israel never had manna again. That year they began to eat the crops that grew in Canaan.

¹³When Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you one of us or one of our enemies?"

¹⁴He answered, "Neither one! I am here as the commander of the LORDS army." Immediately, Joshua bowed with his face touching the ground and worshiped. He asked, "Sir, what do you want to tell me?"

¹⁵The commander of the LORDS army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals because this place where you are standing is holy." So Joshua did as he was told.

6¹ Jericho was bolted and barred shut because the people were afraid of the Israelites. No one could enter or leave.

²The LORD said to Joshua, "I am about to hand Jericho, its king, and its warriors over to you.

³All the soldiers will march around the city once a day for six days.

⁴Seven priests will carry rams horns ahead of the ark. But on the seventh day you must march around the city seven times while the priests blow their horns.

⁵When you hear a long blast on the horn, all the troops must shout very loudly. The wall around the city will collapse. Then the troops must charge straight ahead into the city."

⁶Joshua, son of Nun, summoned the priests. He said to them, "Pick up the ark of the promise, and have seven priests carry seven rams horns ahead of the LORDS ark."

⁷He told the troops, "March around the city. Let the armed men march ahead of the LORDS ark."

⁸After Joshua had given orders to the troops, the seven priests carrying the seven rams horns ahead of the LORD marched off as they blew their horns. The ark of the LORDS promise followed them.

⁹The armed men went ahead of the priests, who blew their horns. The rear guard followed the ark while the priests continued to blow their horns.

¹⁰Joshua ordered the troops, "Don't shout, make any noise, or let one word come out of your mouth until I tell you to shout. Then shout!"

¹¹ So the LORDS ark went around the city once. Then they went back to the camp and stayed there for the night.

¹² Joshua got up early in the morning. The priests carried the LORDS ark.

¹³ The seven priests carrying the seven rams horns were ahead of it. The priests blew their horns as they went. The armed men were ahead of them, and the rear guard followed the LORDS ark while the horns blew continually.

¹⁴ They went around the city once on the second day and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

¹⁵ On the seventh day they got up at dawn. They marched around the city seven times the same way they had done it before. That was the only day they marched around it seven times.

¹⁶ When they went around the seventh time, the priests blew their rams horns. Joshua said to the troops, "Shout, because the LORD has given you the city!

¹⁷ The city has been claimed by the LORD. Everything in it belongs to the LORD. Only the prostitute Rahab and all who are in the house with her will

live because she hid the messengers we sent.

¹⁸But stay away from what has been claimed by the LORD for destruction, or you, too, will be destroyed by the LORD. If you take anything that is claimed by the LORD, you will bring destruction and disaster on the camp of Israel.

¹⁹All the silver and gold and everything made of bronze and iron are holy and belong to the LORD. They must go into the LORDS treasury."

²⁰So the troops shouted very loudly when they heard the blast of the rams horns, and the wall collapsed. The troops charged straight ahead and captured the city.

²¹They claimed everything in it for the LORD. With their swords they killed men and women, young and old, as well as cattle, sheep, and donkeys.

²²But Joshua said to the two spies, "Go to the prostitutes house. Bring the woman out, along with everything she has, as you swore you would do for her."

²³The spies went and brought out Rahab, her father, mother, brothers, everything she had, and even all of

her relatives. They gave them a place outside the camp of Israel.

²⁴ Then Israel burned the city and everything in it. But they put the silver and gold and everything made of bronze and iron into the LORDS treasury.

²⁵ Joshua spared the prostitute Rahab, her fathers family, and everything she had. She still lives in Israel today because she hid the messengers Joshua had sent to look at Jericho.

²⁶ At that time Joshua pronounced this curse: "The LORD will curse whoever comes to rebuild the city of Jericho. It will cost him his firstborn son to lay the foundation. It will cost him his youngest son to set up the city doors."

²⁷ So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

7¹ The people of Israel proved to be disloyal about the things claimed by the LORD. Achan, son of Carmi, grandson of Zabdi, greatgrandson of Zerah, and a member of the tribe of Judah, took something that had been claimed by the LORD. So the LORD became angry with the people of Israel.

²Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai. Ai is near Beth Aven, east of Bethel. He said to them, "Go, look at that country." So the men went and looked at Ai.

³They came back to Joshua and told him, "You dont need to send all the troops. Only about two or three thousand men are needed to destroy Ai. Dont tire the troops out by sending all of them. There are only a few troops in Ai."

⁴So about three thousand men were sent. However, they fled from the men of Ai.

⁵The men of Ai killed about thirtysix of them, chasing them from the city gate to the slope of the stone quarries. Israels troops lost heart and were scared stiff.

⁶Joshua and the leaders of Israel tore their clothes in grief. They put dust on their heads and bowed down to the ground in front of the LORDS ark. They stayed there until evening.

⁷Joshua said, "Almighty LORD, why did you bring these people across the Jordan River? Was it to hand us over to the Amorites so that they could destroy us? I wish we had been content to live on the other side of the Jordan!

⁸Lord, what else can I say after Israel ran away from its enemy?

⁹When the Canaanites and everyone who lives in the land hears about it, they will surround us and remove every memory of us from the earth. What will you do then so that your great name will be remembered?"

¹⁰The LORD said to Joshua, "Get up! What are you doing bowing on the ground?"

¹¹Israel has sinned. They have ignored the requirements that I have placed on them. They have taken what I claimed for myself and put it among their own goods. They have not only stolen, but they have also lied.

¹²"The people of Israel will not be able to defend themselves against their enemies. They will run away from their enemies because the people of Israel are now claimed for destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy what I have claimed for myself.

¹³"Get up! Tell the people, Get ready for tomorrow by performing the ceremonies to make yourselves holy. This is what the LORD God of Israel says: You have

what I claimed for myself, Israel. You will not be able to defend yourselves against your enemies until you get rid of what I have claimed.

¹⁴In the morning come forward by tribes to the tent of meeting. The tribe the LORD selects will come forward by families. Then the family the LORD selects will come forward by households, and the household the LORD selects will come forward man by man.

¹⁵The man who is selected, along with everything he has, must be burned because he has stolen what the LORD has claimed. He has ignored the LORDS requirements and done a godless thing in Israel."

¹⁶Joshua got up early in the morning. He had Israel come forward by tribes. The tribe of Judah was selected.

¹⁷Then he had the families of Judah come forward, and the family of Zerah was selected. Then he had the family of Zerah come forward man by man, and Zabdi was selected.

¹⁸Then he had Zabdis household come forward man by man, and Achan was selected. Achan from the tribe of Judah

was the son of Carmi, grandson of Zabdi, and greatgrandson of Zerah.

¹⁹Joshua said to Achan, "Son, give honor and praise to the LORD God of Israel! Tell me what you have done. Dont hide anything from me."

²⁰Then Achan answered Joshua, "Its true. I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel. This is what I did:

²¹I saw a fine robe from Babylonia, five pounds of silver, and a bar of gold weighing about one pound among the loot. I wanted them, so I took them. You will find them buried inside my tent with the silver beneath them."

²²Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent. The loot was buried inside with the silver beneath it.

²³They took the loot from the tent and brought it to Joshua and all the people of Israel. Then they laid it out in the presence of the LORD.

²⁴Joshua and all Israel took Achan (son of Zerah), the silver, the robe, the bar of gold, his sons and daughters, his cattle, his donkeys, his sheep, and his tenteverything he hadand brought them to the valley of Achor [Disaster].

²⁵ Then Joshua said, "Why did you bring this disaster on us? The LORD will bring disaster on you today!" And all Israel stoned Achan and his family to death. Then they burned the bodies and piled stones over them.

²⁶ They made such a large pile of stones over Achan that it is still there today. Then the LORD withdrew his burning anger. For this reason that place is still called the valley of Achor today.

8¹ The LORD said to Joshua, "Don't be terrified or afraid. Take all the troops with you, and march against Ai. I am about to hand the king of Ai, his people, city, and land over to you.

² You will do the same thing to Ai and its king that you did to Jericho and its king. However, you may take its loot and livestock for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the city."

³ So Joshua and all the soldiers started to march against Ai. Joshua picked 30,000 of his best soldiers and sent them out at night

⁴ with these orders: "Set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far away from the city. Everyone must be ready.

⁵ I'll approach the city with the rest of the troops. When they come out to attack us as they did the first time, we will run away from them.

⁶ They'll come out after us, and we will lure them away from the city. They'll say, They're running away from us just like the first time. As we run away from them,

⁷ you come out of hiding and capture the city. The LORD your God will hand it over to you.

⁸ When you have captured the city, set it on fire. Do what the LORD says. These are your orders."

⁹ So Joshua sent them out, and they hid. They took their position west of Ai, between Bethel and Ai. Joshua spent the night with the troops.

¹⁰ Joshua got up early in the morning and assembled the troops. Then he and the leaders of Israel led the army to Ai.

¹¹ All the troops with him marched until they were near the city. They camped north of Ai with the ravine between them and Ai.

¹² Joshua had taken about five thousand men and had them hide between Bethel and Ai, west of the city.

¹³ All the troops were positioned. The main camp was north of the city, and the other troops were hiding west of the city. That night Joshua went down into the middle of the valley.

¹⁴ When the king of Ai saw the main camp, he and all his troops got up early in the morning. They rushed out toward the plains to meet Israel for battle, just where Joshua expected. However, the king didn't know there were troops behind the city waiting to attack him.

¹⁵ Joshua and all Israel pretended to be defeated. They ran away toward the desert.

¹⁶ All the troops in the city were called out to chase them. As they chased Joshua, they were lured away from the city.

¹⁷ Not one man was left in Ai or Bethel; they all went after Israel. So the city was left unprotected as they chased Israel.

¹⁸ Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Hold out the spear in your hand toward the

city, because I am handing Ai over to you." So Joshua held out his spear.

¹⁹The men who were hiding got up as soon as he stretched out his hand. They entered the city, captured it, and quickly set it on fire.

²⁰When the men of Ai looked back, they could see the city going up in smoke. They had no place to go, since the Israelites, who had been running toward the desert, had now turned back on them.

²¹When Joshua and all Israel saw that the men who had been hiding had captured the city and that it was going up in smoke, they turned and attacked the men of Ai.

²²The men who had captured the city also came out and attacked them. The men of Ai were caught between the battle lines of Israel. So Israel attacked them on both sides. None of them survived or escaped.

²³But they captured the king of Ai alive and brought him to Joshua.

²⁴Israel had finished killing all the inhabitants of Ai in the fields and in the desert where they had been pursued.

They put them all to death; not one person survived. Then the Israelites went back to Ai and killed everyone left there.

²⁵Twelve thousand men and women from Ai died that day.

²⁶Joshua did not lower his hand holding the spear until he had completely destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai.

²⁷Israel took the loot and the livestock of that city for themselves, as the LORD had commanded Joshua.

²⁸So Joshua burned Ai and made it a deserted mound of ruins. It is still in ruins today.

²⁹Joshua hung the king of Ais dead body on a pole and left him there until evening. When the sun went down, Joshua gave the order to take his body down. They threw it in the entrance of the city and made a large pile of stones over it. That pile is still there today.

³⁰At that time Joshua built an altar on Mount Ebal to the LORD God of Israel.

³¹He built an altar with uncut stones on which no iron chisels had been used. This was as the LORDS servant Moses had commanded the people of Israel

in the Book of Moses Teachings. They made burnt offerings to the LORD and sacrificed fellowship offerings on the altar.

³²There in front of the people of Israel he wrote on stone slabs a copy of the Teachings which Moses had written down.

³³All the people of Israel, whether foreigners or native Israelites, the leaders, officers, and judges were standing on opposite sides of the ark. They faced the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the LORDS promise. Half of the people were in front of Mount Gerizim and the other half in front of Mount Ebal. Right from the beginning, the LORDS servant Moses had commanded the priests to bless the people of Israel this way.

³⁴Afterwards, Joshua read all the Teachingsthe blessings and cursesas they had all been written down by Moses.

³⁵Joshua read Moses Teachings in front of the whole assembly of Israel, including women, children, and foreigners living among them. He did not leave out

one word from everything Moses had commanded.

9¹ When all the kings west of the Jordan River heard about these events,

² they joined together to fight Joshua and Israel. (They were the kings in the mountains, the foothills, and along the whole Mediterranean coast as far as Lebanon, the kings of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.)

³ When the people living in Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai,

⁴ they devised a scheme. They posed as messengers. They took wornout sacks on their donkeys. Their wineskins were old, split, and patched.

⁵ Their sandals were wornout and repaired, and their clothes were tattered. All their bread was dried out and crumbling.

⁶ They came to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal. They told Joshua and the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant country. Make a treaty with us right now."

⁷The men of Israel said to the Hivites, "What if you're living in this area? We wouldn't be able to make a treaty with you."

⁸They responded to Joshua, "We're at your mercy." Joshua asked them, "Who are you, and where did you come from?"

⁹They answered him, "We came from a country very far away because the LORD your God has become famous. We heard stories about him and everything he did in Egypt.

¹⁰We also heard everything he did to the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, King Sihon of Heshbon and King Og of Bashan in Ashtaroath.

¹¹Our leaders and everyone who lives in our country told us, Take what you need for the trip, and go meet them. Tell them, "We're at your mercy. Make a treaty with us right now."

¹²Our bread was warm when we left home to meet with you. Look at it now! It's dry and crumbling.

¹³These were new wineskins when we filled them. Look at them now! See how they are splitting! Our clothes and

sandals are also worn out because we have come such a long way."

¹⁴The men believed the evidence they were shown, but they did not ask the LORD about it.

¹⁵So Joshua made peace with them by making a treaty which allowed them to live. The leaders of the congregation swore to it with an oath.

¹⁶But three days after the treaty was made, the Israelites heard that these people were their neighbors and lived with them.

¹⁷The Israelites broke camp. They came to the cities of Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath Jearim two days later.

¹⁸The Israelites didn't destroy these other people, because the leaders of the congregation had sworn an oath about them to the LORD God of Israel. The whole congregation complained about the leaders.

¹⁹But all the leaders said to them, "We have sworn an oath about them to the LORD God of Israel, so we cannot touch them now."

²⁰We must let them live to avoid the LORDS anger because of the oath we swore."

²¹The leaders said that they should be allowed to live. So they became woodcutters and water carriers for the whole congregation, as the leaders had said.

²²Joshua sent for the people of Gibeon and asked, "Why did you deceive us by saying, We live very far away from you, when you live here with us?

²³You are under a curse now. You will always be servants. You will be woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God."

²⁴They answered Joshua, "We were told that the LORD your God commanded his servant Moses to give you the whole land and destroy all who live there. We deceived you because we feared for our lives.

²⁵Now were at your mercy. Do to us what you think is good and right."

²⁶So Joshua rescued them and did not let the people of Israel kill them.

²⁷But that day Joshua made them woodcutters and water carriers for the

congregation. They served the LORDS altar, wherever he chose to put it. They still serve today.

10¹ King Adoni Zedek of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai and claimed it for the LORD the same way he had destroyed Jericho and its king. He also heard that the people of Gibeon had made peace with the people of Israel and were living with them.

²He and his people were terribly afraid because Gibeon was a large city. It was like one of the royal cities, larger than Ai. All its men were warriors.

³So King Adoni Zedek of Jerusalem sent this message to King Hoham of Hebron, King Piram of Jarmuth, King Japhia of Lachish, and King Debir of Eglon:

⁴"Come, help me destroy Gibeon because it has made peace with Joshua and the people of Israel."

⁵So the five Amorite kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon combined their armies. They marched to Gibeon, camped there, and attacked it.

⁶The men of Gibeon sent this message to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal: "Don't abandon us! Come quickly, and save us."

Help us because all the Amorite kings who live in the mountains have united against us."

⁷ So Joshua, with all his soldiers and best warriors, set out from Gilgal.

⁸ The LORD told Joshua, "Don't be afraid of them. I have handed them over to you. None of them can stand up to you."

⁹ So Joshua marched all night from Gilgal and took them by surprise.

¹⁰ The LORD threw the enemy into disorder in front of Israel and defeated them decisively at Gibeon. He chased them along the road that goes to the slope of Beth Horon and continued to defeat them all the way to Azekah and Makkedah.

¹¹ As they fled from the Israelites down the slope of Beth Horon toward Azekah, the LORD threw huge hailstones on them. More died from the hailstones than from Israelite swords.

¹² The day the LORD handed the Amorites over to the people of Israel, Joshua spoke to the LORD while Israel was watching, "Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and moon, stand still over the valley of Aijalon!"

¹³The sun stood still, and the moon stopped until a nation got revenge on its enemies. Isn't this recorded in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the middle of the sky, and for nearly a day the sun was in no hurry to set.

¹⁴Never before or after this day was there anything like it. The LORD did what a man told him to do, because the LORD fought for Israel.

¹⁵Then Joshua and all Israel returned to the camp at Gilgal.

¹⁶The five kings ran away and hid in the cave at Makkedah.

¹⁷Someone told Joshua, "The five kings have been found. They are hiding in the cave at Makkedah."

¹⁸Joshua replied, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and post a guard there.

¹⁹But don't stop. Chase your enemies! Cut off their rear guard. Don't let them get back into their own cities, because the LORD your God has handed them over to you."

²⁰Joshua and the Israelites defeated them decisively, almost destroying them.

But some who survived got back into the fortified cities.

²¹ Then the whole army returned safely to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah. Not a single person dared to speak against any of the Israelites.

²² Joshua said, "Open the cave, and bring me the five kings!"

²³ So they brought him the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon.

²⁴ When they brought them to Joshua, he called for all the men of Israel. He told the officers who had gone with him, "Come forward and put your feet on the necks of these kings." So that's what they did.

²⁵ Joshua told them, "Don't be afraid or terrified! Be strong and courageous, because this is what the LORD will do to all the enemies you're fighting against."

²⁶ After this, Joshua put them to death and hung their bodies on five poles until evening.

²⁷ When the sun went down, Joshua gave the order to take them down from the poles. Then they threw them into the cave where they had been hiding and

put large stones over the mouth of the cave. These stones are still there today.

²⁸That same day Joshua captured Makkedah, and the Israelites killed its people and king with swords. He claimed them for the LORD by destroying them. There were no survivors. He did the same thing to the king of Makkedah that he had done to the king of Jericho.

²⁹Joshua and all Israel marched from Makkedah to Libnah and attacked it.

³⁰The LORD also handed Libnah and its king over to Israel. He killed all the people. There were no survivors. He did the same thing to the king of Libnah that he had done to the king of Jericho.

³¹Joshua and all Israel marched from Libnah to Lachish, camped there, and attacked it.

³²The LORD handed Lachish over to Israel. He captured it on the next day and killed all the people, the same way he had captured Libnah.

³³At that time King Horam of Gezer had come to help Lachish. But Joshua killed him and his troops. There were no survivors.

³⁴ Joshua and all Israel marched from Lachish to Eglon, camped there, and attacked it.

³⁵ They captured it that day and killed everyone in it. He claimed it for the LORD by destroying it the same way he had destroyed Lachish.

³⁶ Then Joshua and all Israel marched from Eglon to Hebron and attacked it.

³⁷ They captured it and its neighboring villages and killed its king and all the people. There were no survivors, the same as at Eglon. He claimed the city and all its people for the LORD by destroying them.

³⁸ Then Joshua and all Israel went back to Debir and attacked it.

³⁹ He captured it and its king and all its neighboring villages and killed everyone. So they claimed them all for the LORD by destroying them. There were no survivors. He did the same thing to Debir and its king that he had done to Hebron and Libnah and their kings.

⁴⁰ So Joshua captured the whole land the mountains, the Negev, the foothills, and the slopes. There were no survivors. He claimed every living creature for the

LORD by destroying it, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded.

⁴¹ So Joshua defeated the people from Kadesh Barnea to Gaza and from all the country of Goshen as far as Gibeon.

⁴² Joshua captured all these kings and their territories in one campaign because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.

⁴³ Then Joshua and all Israel returned to the camp at Gilgal.

11 ¹ King Jabin of Hazor heard what had happened. So he sent messengers to King Jobab of Madon and to the kings of Shimron and Achshaph.

² He also sent messengers to the northern kings in the mountains, the plains south of Chinneroth, the foothills, and Naphoth Dor in the west,

³ the Canaanites from east and west, the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, the Jebusites in the mountains, and the Hivites at the foot of Mount Hermon in Mizpah.

⁴ They came out with all their armies. Their troops were as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore. They also had horses and chariots.

⁵All these kings camped together by the Springs of Merom in order to fight Israel.

⁶The LORD told Joshua, "Don't be afraid of them because I am going to give them to Israel. About this time tomorrow they will all be dead. You must disable their horses so that they cannot be used in battle. You must burn their chariots."

⁷Joshua and all his troops arrived suddenly at the Springs of Merom and attacked the Canaanite armies.

⁸The LORD handed them over to Israel, and the Israelites defeated them. The Israelites chased them as far as Great Sidon, Misrephoth Maim, and the valley of Mizpah in the east. There were no survivors.

⁹Joshua disabled their horses and burned their chariots, as the LORD had told him.

¹⁰Then Joshua turned back and captured Hazor. He killed its king with a sword. (Hazor was formerly the head of all these kingdoms.)

¹¹They claimed everyone for the LORD by destroying them with swords. Not

one person survived. Joshua also burned Hazor.

¹²So Joshua captured all these cities and their kings. He claimed them for the LORD by destroying them, as the LORDS servant Moses had commanded him.

¹³Israel did not burn cities built on mounds. However, Joshua made an exception and burned Hazor.

¹⁴The people of Israel took all the loot and livestock from these cities. But they put everyone to death until they were all destroyed. Not one person survived.

¹⁵So Joshua carried out what the LORD had commanded his servant Moses and what Moses had commanded him. He did not leave out anything the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁶Joshua took all this land, the mountains, all the Negev, all the land of Goshen, the foothills, the plains, and the mountains and foothills of Israel.

¹⁷The land extended from Mount Halak which ascends to Seir as far as Baal Gad in the Lebanon Valley at the foot of Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings and killed them.

¹⁸Joshua waged war with all these kings for a long time.

¹⁹Not one city had made a peace treaty with the people of Israel except Gibeon, where the Hivites lived. Israel captured everything in battle.

²⁰The LORD made their enemies stubborn enough to continue fighting against Israel so that he could claim them all for destruction without mercy, as he had commanded Moses.

²¹At that time Joshua also wiped out the people of Anak in the mountains, in Hebron, Debir, and Anab, and in all the hills of Judah and Israel. Joshua claimed them for the LORD by destroying them and their cities.

²²None of the people of Anak remained in Israel. Some of them were left in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod.

²³Joshua captured the whole land as the LORD had promised Moses. He gave it to Israel as a possession, dividing it among the tribes. So the land had peace.

12¹These are the kings of the land east of the Jordan River that the people of Israel defeated. Israel also took possession of their lands from the

Arnon Valley to Mount Hermon, and all the eastern plains.

²Sihon was the Amorite king who lived in Heshbon. His rule extended from Aroer on the edge of the Arnon Valley to the Jabbok River, which is the border of Ammon. This included the middle of the valley and half of Gilead.

³It included the eastern plains from the Sea of Galilee to the Sea of the Plains (the Dead Sea) and the road that goes south from Beth Jeshimoth to the foot of the slopes of Pisgah.

⁴The territory of King Og of Bashan who lived in Ashtaroth and Edrei was captured. He was the last of the Rephaim.

⁵He ruled Mount Hermon, Salecah, all of Bashan to the border of Geshur and Maacath, and half of Gilead to the border of King Sihon of Heshbon.

⁶The LORDS servant Moses and the people of Israel defeated them. Then he gave their land as a possession to the tribes of Reuben and Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh.

⁷These are the kings of the land west of the Jordan River that Joshua and

the people of Israel defeated. Their lands extended from Baal Gad in the valley of Lebanon to Mount Halak which rises toward Seir. Joshua gave it as a possession to Israel, dividing it among the tribes.

⁸It included the mountains, foothills, plains, slopes, desert, and the Negev that the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites had possessed. The kings were

⁹the king of Jericho, the king of Ai (near Bethel),

¹⁰the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron,

¹¹the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish,

¹²the king of Eglon, the king of Gezer,

¹³the king of Debir, the king of Geder,

¹⁴the king of Hormah, the king of Arad,

¹⁵the king of Libnah, the king of Adullam,

¹⁶the king of Makkedah, the king of Bethel,

¹⁷the king of Tappuah, the king of Hopher,

¹⁸the king of Aphek, the king of Sharon,

¹⁹the king of Madon, the king of Hazor,

²⁰ the king of Shimron Meron, the king of Achshaph,

²¹ the king of Taanach, the king of Megiddo,

²² the king of Kedesh, the king of Jokneam in Carmel,

²³ the king of Dor in Naphoth Dor, the king of Goiim in Gilgal,

²⁴ the king of Tirzah. The total was 31 kings.

13¹ Joshua was old, near the end of his life. So the LORD said to him, "You are old, near the end of your life, and there is a lot of land left to be conquered.

² The land that is left includes all the districts that belong to the Philistines and Geshur.

³ It extends from the Shihor River, east of Egypt, northward as far as the border of Ekron. This is considered to be Canaanite territory, even though there are five Philistine rulers over Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron, as well as the Avvim people

⁴ in the south. This territory includes all the land of the Canaanites as well as

Mearah which belongs to Sidon as far as Aphek, the Amorite border.

⁵It also includes the land of the people of Gebal, all Lebanon eastward from Baal Gad at the foot of Mount Hermon to the border of Hamath.

⁶I will force out of the way of the people of Israel everyone who lives in the mountains from Lebanon to Misrephoth Maim and all the people of Sidon. However, you must distribute the land as an inheritance to Israel by drawing lots, as I commanded you.

⁷So divide this land. It will be an inheritance for the nine tribes and half of the tribe of Manasseh."

⁸The tribes of Reuben and Gad with half of the tribe of Manasseh had received their inheritance east of the Jordan River, since the LORDS servant Moses had already given it to them.

⁹The border extended from Aroer on the edge of the Arnon Valley, including the city in the middle of the valley, and the whole plateau from Medeba to Dibon.

¹⁰It included all the cities of King Sihon of the Amorites up to the border of Ammon. Sihons capital was Heshbon.

¹¹ It also included Gilead, the territory of the people of Geshur and Maacath, all of Mount Hermon, and all of Bashan as far as Salecah

¹² (the whole kingdom of Og in Bashan). Og ruled in Ashtaroth and Edrei. He was the last of the Rephaim. Moses had defeated them and forced them out.

¹³ But the Israelites did not force out the people of Geshur and Maacath. So they still live in Israel today.

¹⁴ Moses did not give any land as an inheritance to the tribe of Levi. The sacrifices offered to the LORD God of Israel are what the Levites inherited, as the LORD had promised them.

¹⁵ Moses gave some land as an inheritance to the tribe of Reuben for their families.

¹⁶ Their territory extended from Aroer on the edge of the Arnon Valley, including the city in the middle of the valley and the whole plateau near Medeba.

¹⁷ It included Heshbon and all its cities on the plateau, Dibon, Bamoth Baal, Beth Baal Meon,

¹⁸ Jahaz, Kedemoth, Mephaath,

¹⁹ Kiriathaim, Sibmah, Zereth Shahaar on the mountain in the valley,

²⁰ Beth Peor, the slopes of Pisgah, and Beth Jeshimoth.

²¹ It also included all the cities of the plateau, the whole kingdom of King Sihon of the Amorites, who ruled in Heshbon. Moses defeated him and Midians leaders Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba. They were princes of Sihon, who lived in that country.

²² Along with these leaders, the people of Israel also killed Balaam, son of Beor, who used black magic.

²³ The border of Reubens territory was the Jordan River. This was Reubens inheritance for its families. It included cities with their villages.

²⁴ Moses gave some land as an inheritance to the tribe of Gad for its families.

²⁵ Their territory included Jazer, all the cities of Gilead, and half of Ammon as far as Aroer, which is by Rabbah.

²⁶ It extended from Heshbon to Ramath Mizpeh and Betonim, and from Mahanaim as far as the border of Lidbir.

²⁷ In the Jordan Valley it included Beth Haram, Beth Nimrah, Succoth, and Zaphon, the rest of the kingdom of King Sihon of Heshbon. The Jordan River served as its western border, extending to the end of the Sea of Galilee.

²⁸ This was Gads inheritance for its families. It included cities with their villages.

²⁹ Moses gave some land as an inheritance to half of the tribe of Manasseh. It was only for the families of that half of the tribe.

³⁰ Their territory extended from Mahanaim and included all of Bashan (the whole kingdom of King Og of Bashan) and all 60 settlements of Jair that were in Bashan.

³¹ It also included half of Gilead with Ashtaroth and Edrei, the royal cities of Og in Bashan. They were given to half the families of Machir, son of Manasseh, for their inheritance.

³² This is the land that Moses distributed on Moabs plains, east of the Jordan River near Jericho.

³³ Moses did not give any land as an inheritance to the tribe of Levi. The LORD

God of Israel is what they inherited, as he had promised them.

14¹ This is the land that the people of Israel inherited in Canaan. The priest Eleazar, Joshua (son of Nun), and the heads of Israels tribes distributed it to the people.

² The land inherited by the nineandahalf tribes was determined by drawing lots as the LORD had commanded through Moses.

³ Moses had given the twoandahalf tribes their inheritance east of the Jordan River. He did not give any land as an inheritance to Levis tribe,

⁴ because Josephs descendants, Manasseh and Ephraim, formed two tribes. The Levites were not given a share of the land. Josephs descendants gave the Levites cities to live in with pasturelands for their cattle and everything they had.

⁵ So the people of Israel divided the land as the LORD had commanded Moses.

⁶ Then the people of Judah came to Joshua at Gilgal. Caleb, son of Jephunneh and grandson of Kenaz, said to him, "You

know what the LORD said to Moses, the man of God, at Kadesh Barnea about you and me.

⁷I was 40 years old when the LORDS servant Moses sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. I reported to him exactly what I thought.

⁸But my companions discouraged the people. However, I was completely loyal to the LORD my God.

⁹On that day Moses swore this oath: The land your feet walked on will be a permanent inheritance for you and your descendants because you were completely loyal to the LORD my God.

¹⁰"So look at me. The LORD has kept me alive as he promised. Its been 45 years since Israel wandered in the desert when the LORD made this promise to Moses. So now look at me today. Im 85 years old.

¹¹Im still as fit to go to war now as I was when Moses sent me out.

¹²Now give me this mountain region which the LORD spoke of that day. You heard that the people of Anak are still there and that they have large, fortified

cities. If the LORD is with me, I can force them out, as he promised."

¹³So Joshua blessed Caleb, son of Jephunneh, and gave him Hebron as his inheritance.

¹⁴Hebron is still the inheritance of Caleb, son of Jephunneh and grandson of Kenaz, because Caleb was completely loyal to the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁵In the past Hebron was called Kiriath Arba. Arba was the greatest man among the people of Anak. So the land had peace.

15¹The lot was drawn for the families of the tribe of Judah. Their territory extends as far south as the territory of Edom and the desert of Zin.

²The southern border starts from the south end of the Dead Sea

³and goes south of the Akrabbim Pass. It then passes Zin and goes up south of Kadesh Barnea. From there it goes to Hezron, up to Addar, around to Karka,

⁴and on to Azmon. It comes out at the River of Egypt so that the border ends at the Mediterranean Sea. This is the southern border.

⁵The eastern border is the Dead Sea as far north as the mouth of the Jordan River. The northern border starts from the north end of the Dead Sea at the mouth of the Jordan

⁶and goes up to Beth Hoglah. It then passes north to Beth Arabah and goes up to the Rock of Bohan, son of Reuben.

⁷From the valley of Achor, the border goes up to Debir and turns north to the region that faces the Adummim Pass, south of the valley. Then the border passes the Springs of En Shemesh and ends at En Rogel.

⁸It continues up the valley of Ben Hinnom to the south slope of the Jebusite city Jerusalem. It then goes to the top of the mountain that overlooks the valley of Hinnom to the west at the north end of the valley of Rephaim.

⁹From the top of that mountain the border goes around to the spring of Nephtoah. From there it goes to the cities of Mount Ephron and around to Baalah (now called Kiriath Jearim).

¹⁰From Baalah the border turns west to Mount Seir and over to the north slope of Mount Jearim (now called Chesalon).

Then it goes down to Beth Shemesh and on to Timnah.

¹¹ From there the border goes on the north side of Ekron and turns to Shikkeron, on to Mount Baalah, and comes out at Jabneel. The border ends at the Mediterranean Sea.

¹² The western border is the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea. These are the borders around Judah that belong to their families.

¹³ Joshua gave Caleb, son of Jephunneh, a share of land among the people of Judah as the LORD had told them. It was Kiriath Arba (now called Hebron). Arba was the father of Anak.

¹⁴ Caleb forced out Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai, three descendants of Anak from Hebron.

¹⁵ From there he marched against the people living in Debir. (In the past Debir was called Kiriath Sepher.)

¹⁶ Caleb said, "I will give my daughter Achsah as a wife to anyone who attacks Kiriath Sepher and captures it."

¹⁷ Then Othniel, son of Calebs brother Kenaz, captured it. So Caleb gave him his daughter Achsah as a wife.

¹⁸When she came to Othniel, she persuaded him to ask her father for a field. When she got down from her donkey, Caleb asked her, "What do you want?"

¹⁹She answered, "Give me a blessing. Since youve given me some dry land, also give me some springs." So Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs.

²⁰This is the land inherited by the families of the tribe of Judah.

²¹On the farthest edge of the Negev, on the border of Edom, they gave the tribe of Judah 29 cities with their villages:

Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur,

²²Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah,

²³Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan,

²⁴Ziph, Telem, Bealoth,

²⁵Hazor Hadattah, Keriioth Hezron (now called Hazor),

²⁶Amam, Shema, Moladah,

²⁷Hazar Gaddah, Heshmon, Beth Pelet,

²⁸Hazar Shual, Beersheba, Biziothiah,

²⁹Baalath, Iim, Ezem,

³⁰Eltolad, Chesil, Hormah,

³¹Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah,

³²Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon.

³³ In the foothills they gave Judah 14 cities with their villages: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah,

³⁴ Zanoah, En Gannim, Tappuah, Enam,

³⁵ Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah,

³⁶ Shaaraim, Adithaim, Gederah, and Gederothaim.

³⁷ They also gave Judah 16 other cities with their villages: Zenan, Hadashah, Migdalgad,

³⁸ Dilean, Mizpah, Joktheel,

³⁹ Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon,

⁴⁰ Cabbon, Lahmas, Chitlish,

⁴¹ Gederoth, Beth Dagon, Naamah, and Makkedah.

⁴² An additional nine cities with their villages were given to Judah: Libnah, Ether, Ashan,

⁴³ Iphtah, Ashnah, Nezib,

⁴⁴ Keilah, Achzib, and Mareshah.

⁴⁵ Judah also received Ekron with its cities and villages.

⁴⁶ This included all the cities with their villages between Ekron and the Mediterranean Sea and alongside Ashdod.

⁴⁷ Added to this were Ashdod and Gaza with their cities and villages as far as

the River of Egypt and the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

⁴⁸In the mountains they gave Judah 11 cities with their villages: Shamir, Jattir, Socoh,

⁴⁹Dannah, Kiriath Sannah (now called Debir),

⁵⁰Anab, Eshtemoah, Anim,

⁵¹Goshen, Holon, and Giloh.

⁵²They also gave Judah nine other cities with their villages: Arab, Dumah, Eshan,

⁵³Janin, Beth Tappuah, Aphekah,

⁵⁴Humtah, Kiriath Arba (now called Hebron), and Zior.

⁵⁵They also received another ten cities with their villages: Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah,

⁵⁶Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah,

⁵⁷Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah.

⁵⁸Halhul, Bethzur, Gedor,

⁵⁹Maarath, Bethanath, and Eltekon were six other cities with their villages that were given to Judah.

⁶⁰The two cities of Kiriath Baal (now called Kiriath Jearim) and Rabbah with their villages were given to Judah.

⁶¹ In the desert Judah was given six cities with their villages: Beth Arabah, Middin, Secacah,

⁶² Nibshan, Ir Hamelah, and En Gedi.

⁶³ However, Judah was not able to force out the people of Jebus who lived in Jerusalem. So they still live with Judah in Jerusalem today.

16 ¹ The lot was drawn for Joseph. The border of Josephs territory goes from the Jordan River at Jericho to the springs of Jericho on the east, through the desert that goes up from Jericho, and through the mountains to Bethel.

² From Bethel the border goes to Luz and over to Ataroth at the border of the Archites.

³ Then it descends west to the border of Japhlet and Lower Beth Horon, on to Gezer, and ends at the Mediterranean Sea.

⁴ So Josephs sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, received this land as their inheritance.

⁵ This is the territory for the families descended from Ephraim. The eastern

border of the land they inherited is from Ataroth Addar to Upper Beth Horon.

⁶From there the border goes west, with Michmethath on the north. The border then turns east to Taanath Shiloh and passes east to Janoah.

⁷From Janoah it descends to Ataroth and Naarah, touches Jericho, and ends at the Jordan River.

⁸At Tappuah the border goes west along the Kanah River and ends at the Mediterranean Sea. This is the land given as an inheritance to the families of the tribe of Ephraim

⁹with all the cities and their villages selected for Ephraim in Manassehs territory.

¹⁰However, they did not force out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer. So the Canaanites still live in Ephraim today, but they are required to do forced labor.

17¹The lot was drawn for the tribe of Manasseh, because Manasseh was Josephs firstborn. Machir, Manassehs firstborn, the ancestor of the people living in Gilead, had received Gilead and Bashan because he was a soldier.

²The land was given to the rest of the families descended from Manasseh, to the descendants of Abiezer, Helek, Asriel, Shechem, Hephher, and Shemida. These were the male descendants of Josephs son Manasseh listed by their families.

³Zelophehad, son of Hephher, grandson of Gilead, and greatgrandson of Machir, whose father was Manasseh, had no sononly daughters. Their names were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

⁴They came to the priest Eleazar, Joshua (son of Nun), and the leaders. They said, "The LORD commanded Moses to give us some land as an inheritance among our male relatives." So they gave them an inheritance among their fathers relatives as the LORD had required.

⁵Ten portions of land went to Manasseh, besides the land of Gilead and Bashan east of the Jordan River.

⁶These portions were distributed because Manassehs daughters were given an inheritance along with his sons, while Gilead belonged to Manassehs other descendants.

⁷ Manassehs border extends from Asher to Michmethath, which faces Shechem. Then the border goes south toward the people who live in En Tappuah.

⁸ (The land of Tappuah belongs to Manasseh, but Tappuah itself, on the border of Manasseh, belongs to Ephraim.)

⁹ The border then descends southward to the Kanah River. These cities belong to Ephraim, although they are among Manassehs cities. Manassehs southern border is the river, which ends at the Mediterranean Sea.

¹⁰ What is south of the river belongs to Ephraim, and what is north of it belongs to Manasseh. So the Mediterranean Sea is its western border, Asher its northern border, and Issachar its eastern border.

¹¹ In Issachar and Asher, Manasseh possessed Beth Shean and Ibleam with their villages and the people living in Dor, En Dor, Taanach, and Megiddo and their villages. The last three are on mountain ridges.

¹² But Manasseh was not able to take possession of these cities since the

Canaanites were determined to stay in this land.

¹³When the Israelites became strong enough, they made the Canaanites do forced labor, since they didn't force all of them out.

¹⁴Joseph's descendants asked Joshua, "Why did you give us only one region for an inheritance? We have a lot of people because the LORD has blessed us."

¹⁵Joshua replied, "If there are so many of you, go into the forest! Clear ground for yourselves there in the land of the Perizzites and Rephaim if the mountains of Ephraim are too confining for you."

¹⁶Joseph's descendants responded, "The mountains are not enough for us either. Besides, all the Canaanites living in the valley, in Beth Shean and its villages, and in the valley of Jezreel have chariots made of iron."

¹⁷Then Joshua said to the descendants of Joseph, the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, "You are an important and very powerful people. One region is really not enough for you."

¹⁸The mountain region will be yours as well. It is a forest, so you will have

to clear it. All of it will be yours. But you must force out the Canaanites, even though they are strong and have chariots made of iron."

18¹ The whole congregation of Israel gathered at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. The land was under their control.

² There were still seven tribes in Israel who had not yet received any land as their inheritance.

³ So Joshua asked the Israelites, "How long are you going to waste time conquering the land which the LORD God of your ancestors has given you?"

⁴ Choose three men from each tribe, and I will send them out. They will survey the land and write a description of it which shows the borders of their inheritance. Then they will come back to me.

⁵ They will divide the land into seven parts. Judah will stay within its territory in the south, and Josephs descendants will stay within their territory in the north.

⁶ You must describe the seven parts of the land and report to me here. I will

draw lots for you here in the presence of the LORD our God.

⁷Levi's tribe has no separate region among you, because their inheritance is to serve the LORD as priests. The tribes of Gad and Reuben and half of the tribe of Manasseh have received the inheritance that the LORD's servant Moses gave them on the east side of the Jordan River."

⁸As the men got ready to go, Joshua ordered them to write a description of the land. He said, "Go survey the land. Write a description of it, and return to me. Then I will draw lots for you in the presence of the LORD here in Shiloh."

⁹The men surveyed the land. They described it in a book. The land was divided into seven parts according to its cities. Then they returned to Joshua at the camp at Shiloh.

¹⁰So Joshua drew lots for them in the presence of the LORD in Shiloh. There Joshua divided the land among the tribes of Israel.

¹¹The lot was drawn for the families of the tribe of Benjamin. Their territory lies between Judah's and Joseph's.

¹² Their northern border starts at the Jordan, goes up the slope north of Jericho, west through the mountains, and ends at the desert of Beth Aven.

¹³ From there the border goes to the south slope of Luz (now called Bethel). Then the border goes down to Ataroth Addar over the mountains south of Lower Beth Horon.

¹⁴ The border turns and goes around on the west side, south of the mountain that faces Beth Horon, and ends at Kiriath Baal (now called Kiriath Jearim), a city of Judah.

¹⁵ The southern border begins just outside Kiriath Jearim and goes west, to the springs of Nephtoah.

¹⁶ Then the border descends to the foot of the mountain that overlooks the valley of Ben Hinnom, in the north end of the valley of Rephaim. It descends to the valley of Hinnom, to the south slope of the city of Jebus, and down to En Rogel.

¹⁷ Then it turns north and goes to En Shemesh and from there to the region opposite the Adummim Pass. It descends to the Rock of Bohan, son of Reuben.

¹⁸Then it continues on to the north side of the slope facing the plains and down into the plains.

¹⁹The border continues to the north slope of Beth Hoglah and ends at the northern bay of the Dead Sea at the south end of the Jordan River. This is its southern border.

²⁰The Jordan River is its eastern border. These are the borders surrounding the inheritance given to Benjamin for its families.

²¹These are the 12 cities with their villages that belong to the tribe of Benjamin for its families: Jericho, Beth Hoglah, Emek Keziz,

²²Beth Arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel,

²³Avvim, Parah, Ophrah,

²⁴Chephar Ammoni, Ophni, and Geba.

²⁵There were 14 other cities with their villages: Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth,

²⁶Mizpeh, Chephirah, Mozah,

²⁷Rekem, Ir Peel, Taralah,

²⁸Zela, Eleph, Jebus (now called Jerusalem), Gibeath, and Kiriath. This is Benjamins inheritance for its families.

19¹ The second lot was drawn for the families of the tribe of Simeon. Their inheritance was within Judah.

² In their inheritance they received 13 cities and their villages: Beersheba (Sheba), Moladah,

³ Hazar Shual, Balah, Ezem,

⁴ Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah,

⁵ Ziklag, Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susah,

⁶ Beth Lebaoth, and Sharuhén.

⁷ There were four other cities with their villages: Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan.

⁸ All the villages around these cities as far as Baalath Beer and Ramath Negev were also included. This is the inheritance of the tribe of Simeon for its families.

⁹ Simeon's inheritance was a part of Judah's because Judah had more land than it needed. So Simeon received its inheritance inside Judah's borders.

¹⁰ The third lot was drawn for the families descended from Zebulun. The border of their inheritance goes as far as Sarid.

¹¹ Toward the west the border ascends to Maralah and touches Dabbesheth and the river near Jokneam.

¹²But from Sarid it turns directly east toward the border of Chisloth Tabor, on to Daberath, and then ascends toward Japhia.

¹³From there it goes directly east to Gath Hopher, Eth Kazin, and Rimmon, where it turns to Neah.

¹⁴There the border turns north to Hannathon and ends at the valley of Iphtah El.

¹⁵This also includes Kattath, Nahalal, Shimron, Idalah, and Bethlehem. There were 12 cities with their villages.

¹⁶These cities with their villages are the inheritance given to the families descended from Zebulun.

¹⁷The fourth lot was drawn for the families descended from Issachar.

¹⁸Their territory included Jezreel, Chesulloth, Shunem,

¹⁹Hapharaim, Shion, Anaharath,

²⁰Rabbith, Kishion, Ebez,

²¹Remeth, En Gannim, En Haddah, and Beth Pazzes.

²²The border touches Tabor, Shahazimah, and Beth Shemesh and ends at the Jordan River. There were 16 cities with their villages.

²³ These cities with their villages are the inheritance for the families of the tribe of Issachar.

²⁴ The fifth lot was drawn for the families of the tribe of Asher.

²⁵ Their territory included Helkath, Hali, Beten, Achshaph,

²⁶ Allammelech, Amad, and Mishal. The border touches Carmel and Shihor Libnath in the west.

²⁷ Then it turns east to Beth Dagon and touches Zebulun and the valley of Iphtah El in the north and goes to Beth Emek and Neiel. From there it goes northward to Cabul,

²⁸ Abdon, Rehob, Hammon, Kanah, and as far as Great Sidon.

²⁹ Then it turns at Ramah and goes on to the fortified city of Tyre. The border then turns to Hosah and ends at the Mediterranean Sea. The territory includes Meheleb, Achzib,

³⁰ Umma, Acco, Aphek, and Rehob. There were 22 cities with their villages.

³¹ These cities with their villages are the inheritance for the families of the tribe of Asher.

³²The sixth lot was drawn for the families descended from the tribe of Naphtali.

³³Their border starts from Heleph at the oak tree at Zaanannim. It continues to Adami Nekeb, Jabneel, to Lakkum, and ends at the Jordan River.

³⁴The border turns west to Aznoth Tabor, and from there to Hukok. It touches Zebulun in the south, Asher in the west, and Judah in the east at the Jordan.

³⁵The fortified cities were Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Chinnereth,

³⁶Adamah, Ramah, Hazor,

³⁷Kedesh, Edrei, En Hazor,

³⁸Yiron, Migdal El, Horem, Beth Anath, and Beth Shemeth. There were 19 cities with their villages.

³⁹These cities with their villages are the inheritance for the families of the tribe of Naphtali.

⁴⁰The seventh lot was drawn for the families of the tribe of Dan.

⁴¹The territory of their inheritance included Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir Shemesh,

⁴²Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Ithlah,

⁴³Elon, Timnah, Ekron,

⁴⁴Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath,

⁴⁵Jehud, Bene Berak, Gath Rimmon,

⁴⁶Me Jarkon, and Rakkon, with the border passing in front of Joppa.

⁴⁷The border of Dan extended beyond them. Dans descendants went up and attacked Leshem, captured it, and killed everyone there. They took it, settled there, and renamed the city Dan after their ancestor Dan.

⁴⁸These cities with their villages are the inheritance for the families of the tribe of Dan.

⁴⁹When they all had finally received the land they were to inherit, the people of Israel also gave land within their territory as an inheritance to Joshua, son of Nun.

⁵⁰They gave him the city he asked for, as the LORD had instructed them to do. It was Timnath Serah in the mountains of Ephraim. He rebuilt the city and lived there.

⁵¹This is the land that the tribes of Israel drew by lot. The priest Eleazar, Joshua son of Nun, and the leaders of the families divided the land by drawing lots. They did this in Shiloh in the presence of

the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting. So they finished dividing the land.

20¹ The LORD said to Joshua,
² "Tell the people of Israel, Now choose for yourselves the cities of refuge about which I spoke to you through Moses.

³ Choose them so that anyone who unintentionally kills someone may run to them. They will be a place of refuge from any relative who can avenge the death.

⁴ "A person who kills someone accidentally can run to one of these cities. There he will stand at the entrance to the city, where court is held, and present his case to the leaders of that city. Then they will take him into their city and give him a place to live with them.

⁵ "If the relative who can avenge the death pursues him, the leaders must not hand him over to the relative because he didn't intend to kill the other person. He didn't even hate the person he killed.

⁶ The accused person may remain in that city until he can stand trial in front of the congregation or until whoever is

chief priest at that time dies. Then he may go back to his home in the city from which he ran away."

⁷ Kedesh in Galilee in the mountains of Naphtali, Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim, and Kiriath Arba (now called Hebron) in the mountains of Judah were chosen as cities of refuge.

⁸ Bezer on the desert plateau from the tribe of Reuben, Ramoth in Gilead from the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan from the tribe of Manasseh were chosen as cities of refuge on the east side of the Jordan River, east of Jericho.

⁹ These are the cities chosen as cities of refuge for all Israelites, including the foreigners living among them. Anyone who accidentally kills someone may escape to these cities. Then he will not be handed over to the relative who can avenge a death before he stands trial in front of the congregation.

21 ¹ Then the leaders of the families of Levi came to the priest Eleazar, to Joshua (son of Nun), and to the leaders of the families of the other Israelite tribes

²at Shiloh in Canaan. They said to them, "The LORD commanded through Moses that we should receive cities to live in and pasturelands for our livestock."

³So, as the LORD had instructed, Levis descendants were given the following cities with pasturelands from the Israelites inheritance.

⁴These are the cities for the families of Kohath that were chosen by drawing lots. These descendants of the priest Aaron the Levite received 13 cities from the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin.

⁵The rest of Kohaths descendants received 10 cities from the families of the tribes of Ephraim and Dan and half of the tribe of Manasseh.

⁶Gershons descendants received 13 cities from the families of the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and half of the tribe of Manasseh in Bashan.

⁷Meraris descendants received 12 cities for their families from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun.

⁸The Israelites gave these cities with pasturelands to Levis descendants

by drawing lots, as the LORD had commanded through Moses.

⁹These are the names of the cities from the tribes of Judah and Simeon

¹⁰that they gave Aarons descendants who were from the families of Kohath in the tribe of Levi. Their lot was the first one drawn.

¹¹They gave them Kiriath Arba (Arba was Anaks father) and the pastureland around it. This is the city of Hebron located in the mountains of Judah.

¹²But they gave its fields and villages to Caleb, son of Jephunneh, as his possession.

¹³So they gave the following cities with pasturelands to the descendants of Aaron, the priest. The nine cities from those two tribes were Hebron (a city of refuge for murderers), Libnah,

¹⁴Jattir, Eshtemoa,

¹⁵Holon, Debir,

¹⁶Ain, Juttah, and Beth Shemesh.

¹⁷The tribe of Benjamin also gave them four cities: Gibeon, Geba,

¹⁸Anathoth, and Almon.

¹⁹In all, 13 cities with pasturelands were given to the priests, the descendants of Aaron.

²⁰Cities were chosen by lot from the tribe of Ephraim to give to the rest of Levis descendants who were from the families of Kohath.

²¹These four cities with pasturelands were Shechem (a city of refuge for murderers) in the mountains of Ephraim, Gezer,

²²Kibzaim, and Beth Horon.

²³The tribe of Dan gave them four cities: Eltekeh, Gibbethon,

²⁴Aijalon, and Gath Rimmon.

²⁵Half of the tribe of Manasseh gave them two cities with pasturelands: Taanach and Gath Rimmon.

²⁶In all, ten cities with pasturelands were given to the rest of the families of Kohath.

²⁷They gave the families of Gershons descendants, who were in the tribe of Levi, two cities with pasturelands from half of the tribe of Manasseh: Golan in Bashan (a city of refuge for murderers) and Ashtaroth.

²⁸Four cities with pasturelands were also given to them from the tribe of Issachar: Kishion, Daberath,

²⁹Jarmuth, and En Gannim.

³⁰Another four cities with pasturelands were given to them from the tribe of Asher: Mishal, Abdon,

³¹Helkath, and Rehob.

³²Also three cities with pasturelands were given to them from the tribe of Naphtali: Kedesh in Galilee (a city of refuge for murderers), Hammoth Dor, and Kartan.

³³In all, 13 cities with pasturelands were given to Gershons families.

³⁴To the families of Merari, who were from the tribe of Levi, the tribe of Zebulun gave four cities with pasturelands: Jokneam, Kartah,

³⁵Dimnah, and Nahalal.

³⁶The tribe of Reuben also gave them four cities with pasturelands: Bezer, Jahaz,

³⁷Kedemoth, and Mephaath.

³⁸The tribe of Gad also gave them four cities with pasturelands: Ramoth in Gilead (a city of refuge for murderers), Mahanaim,

³⁹ Heshbon, and Jazer.

⁴⁰ All these cities belonged to the families of Merari. They were the last of the families of Levi. These 12 cities were chosen by lot.

⁴¹ Within the territory owned by the Israelites there were 48 cities in all for Levis descendants.

⁴² Each of these cities had its own pastureland around it.

⁴³ So the LORD gave Israel the whole land he had sworn to give their ancestors. They took possession of it and settled there.

⁴⁴ The LORD allowed them to have peace on every side, as he had sworn with an oath to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies stood up to them. The LORD handed all their enemies over to them.

⁴⁵ Every single good promise that the LORD had given the nation of Israel came true.

22¹ Joshua summoned the tribes of Reuben and Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh.

² He said to them, "You have done everything the LORDS servant Moses

commanded you. You have also obeyed me in everything I commanded you.

³All this time, to this day, you have never deserted your relatives. You have carefully kept the commands of the LORD your God.

⁴"Now the LORD your God has given your relatives peace, as he promised them. So return home, to the land that is your own possession. It is the land that the LORDS servant Moses gave you east of the Jordan River.

⁵Carefully follow the commands and teachings that the LORDS servant Moses gave you. Love the LORD your God, follow his directions, and keep his commands. Be loyal to him, and serve him with all your heart and soul."

⁶Then Joshua blessed them. He sent them on their way, and they went to their homes.

⁷Moses had given land in Bashan as an inheritance to half of Manasseh, and Joshua had given the other half of the tribe their land with their relatives west of the Jordan. When Joshua sent them home, he blessed them.

⁸He also said to them, "Return to your homes with your vast wealth, large herds of livestock, silver, gold, bronze, iron, and loads of clothing. Divide the loot from your enemies with your relatives."

⁹So the tribes of Reuben and Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh left the rest of the Israelites at Shiloh in Canaan. They returned to Gilead. This was their own possession which they had captured as the LORD had instructed them through Moses.

¹⁰Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh came to the region of the Jordan that was still in Canaan. They built an altar by the Jordan River. The altar was very large and highly visible.

¹¹The rest of the Israelites heard about it and said, "See there! Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh have built an altar at the border of Canaan. Its in the region near the Jordan River on Israels side."

¹²When the people of Israel heard about it, the whole congregation of Israel gathered at Shiloh. They intended to wage war against them.

¹³The Israelites sent Phinehas, son of the priest Eleazar, to the tribes of Reuben and Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh in Gilead.

¹⁴Ten leaders, one from each tribe in Israel, went with him. Each man was a leader of a household and head of a family division in Israel.

¹⁵When they arrived these leaders said to the people of Gilead,

¹⁶"All of the LORDS congregation is asking, What is this faithless act you have committed against the God of Israel? Today you have turned away from following the LORD by building an altar for yourselves. Today you have rebelled against the LORD!

¹⁷Does the sin we committed at Peor mean nothing to us anymore? Didn't we cleanse ourselves from it? Because of that sin there was a plague on the LORDS congregation!

¹⁸You have turned away from following the LORD! Today you rebel against the LORD, and tomorrow he will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel.

¹⁹If your land is unclean, come over here to the LORDS land. The LORDS tent

is standing here. Take some property for yourselves among us. Don't rebel against the LORD or against us by building an altar for yourselves in addition to the altar of the LORD our God.

²⁰ "Didn't Achan, son of Zerah, act faithlessly with the things claimed by the LORD? Didn't the LORD become angry with the whole congregation of Israel? Achan wasn't the only one who died because of his sin."

²¹ Then the tribes of Reuben and Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh answered the heads of the divisions of Israel.

²² They said, "The LORD is the only true God! The LORD is the only true God! He knows, so let Israel know! If our act is rebellious or unfaithful to the LORD,

²³ don't spare us today. If we built an altar with the intention of no longer following him, and if we built it for making burnt offerings, grain offerings, or fellowship offerings, let the LORD punish us.

²⁴ "We were worried because of the situation we were in. We thought sometime in the future your children might say to

our children, What relationship do you have with the LORD God of Israel?

²⁵The LORD has made the Jordan River a dividing line between us and you, the descendants of Reuben and Gad. You have no connection with the LORD! So your descendants would stop our descendants from worshiping the LORD.

²⁶Then we said, Lets build an altar for ourselves. It will not be for burnt offerings or sacrifices,

²⁷but it will stand as a witness between us for generations to come. It will stand as a witness that we may worship in the presence of the LORD with our burnt offerings, sacrifices, and fellowship offerings. Then your descendants cannot say to our descendants, You have no connection with the LORD!

²⁸So we thought, if this statement is made to us or to our descendants in the future, we will answer, Look at the model of the LORDS altar our ancestors made. They didnt make it for burnt offerings or sacrifices but to stand as a witness between us.

²⁹It would be unthinkable for us to rebel against the LORD or to turn back today

from following the LORD by building an altar for burnt offerings, grain offerings, or sacrifices in addition to the altar of the LORD our God that is in front of his tent."

³⁰When the priest Phinehas, the leaders of the congregation, and the heads of the divisions of Israel heard what the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh said, they were satisfied.

³¹Then Phinehas, son of the priest Eleazar, said to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh, "Today we know the LORD is among us, because you did not commit an unfaithful act against the LORD. Now you have rescued the people of Israel from the LORDS punishment."

³²Then Phinehas (son of the priest Eleazar) and the leaders returned from Reuben and Gad in Gilead to Israel in Canaan and gave them the report.

³³The people of Israel were satisfied with the report. So they praised God and didnt talk anymore about going to war against Reuben and Gad and destroying the land where they were living.

³⁴The tribes of Reuben and Gad gave the altar a name: Witness Between Us That the LORD Is the Only True God.

23¹A long time afterward, the LORD gave the Israelites peace with all their enemies around them. Joshua was old, near the end of his life.

²So he called all the leaders, chiefs, judges, and officers of Israel together. He said to them, "I am old, near the end of my life.

³You have seen for yourselves everything the LORD your God did to all those nations. The LORD your God fought for you!

⁴I have given you the territory of the nations that still remain as an inheritance for your tribes. This includes the territory of all the nations I have already destroyed from the Jordan River westward to the Mediterranean Sea.

⁵The LORD your God will expel them right in front of your eyes and force them out of your way. You will take their land as the LORD your God told you.

⁶Now you must be very strong to keep and to do everything written in the Book

of Moses Teachings. Dont turn away from them.

⁷ Dont get mixed up with the nations left in your territory. Dont ever mention the names of their gods or swear an oath to them. Dont ever serve their gods or bow down to them.

⁸ But you must be loyal to the LORD your God, as you have been until now.

⁹ The LORD has forced important and powerful nations out of your way. Not one person has ever been able to stand up to you.

¹⁰ One of you used to chase a thousand. That was because the LORD your God was fighting for you, as he had promised you.

¹¹ Be very careful to love the LORD your God.

¹² "But if you turn away and go along with the other nations within your borders, if you intermarry with them or associate with them,

¹³ then you should know that the LORD your God will never again force these people out of your way. Instead, they will be a snare and a trap for you, a whip laid to your sides, and thorns in your

eyes until none of you are left in this good land that the LORD your God has given you.

¹⁴"Pay attention, because I will soon die like everyone else. You know with all your heart and soul that not one single promise which the LORD your God has given you has ever failed to come true. Every single word has come true.

¹⁵"Every good word the LORD your God has promised you has come true for you. In the same way the LORD will bring about every evil curse until he has destroyed you from this good land that he has given you.

¹⁶When you ignore the conditions placed on you by the LORD your God and follow other gods, serve them and bow down to them, the LORD will be angry with you. Then you will quickly disappear from the good land he has given you."

24¹ Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem. He called together Israel's leaders, chiefs, judges, and officers, and they presented themselves to God.

² Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD God of Israel says: Long

ago your ancestors, Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor, lived on the other side of the Euphrates River and served other gods.

³But I took your ancestor Abraham from the other side of the Euphrates River. I led him through all of Canaan and gave him many descendants. I also gave him Isaac.

⁴To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau the mountains in Seir as his own. However, Jacob and his sons went to Egypt.

⁵"Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I struck Egypt with plagues. Later I led you out.

⁶When I led your ancestors out of Egypt, you came to the sea. The Egyptians with their chariots and horsemen chased your ancestors to the Red Sea.

⁷When your ancestors cried out to the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians. He made the sea flow back and cover them. You saw for yourselves what I did to Egypt. Then you lived in the desert for a long time.

⁸"After that I brought you to the land of the Amorites who lived on the east side of the Jordan River. They fought you. However, I handed them over to you. So you took their land, and I destroyed them in front of you.

⁹Then Balak, son of King Zippor of Moab, fought Israel. He summoned Balaam, son of Beor, to curse you.

¹⁰But I refused to listen to Balaam. All he could do was bless you. So I saved you from his power.

¹¹"Then you crossed the Jordan River and came to Jericho. The citizens of Jericho, the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites, and Jebusites fought you. But I handed them over to you.

¹²I sent hornets ahead of you to force out the two kings of the Amorites ahead of you. These things didn't happen because of your battle skills or fighting ability.

¹³So I gave you a land that you hadn't farmed, cities to live in that you hadn't built, vineyards and olive groves that you hadn't planted. So you ate all you wanted!

¹⁴"Fear the LORD, and serve him with integrity and faithfulness. Get rid of the gods your ancestors served on the other side of the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve only the LORD.

¹⁵But if you don't want to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve. Even if you choose the gods your ancestors served on the other side of the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live, my family and I will still serve the LORD."

¹⁶The people responded, "It would be unthinkable for us to abandon the LORD to serve other gods.

¹⁷The LORD our God brought us and our ancestors out of slavery in Egypt. He did these spectacular signs right before our eyes. He guarded us wherever we went, especially as we passed through other nations.

¹⁸The LORD forced out all the people ahead of us, including the Amorites who lived in this land. We, too, will serve the LORD, because he is our God."

¹⁹But Joshua answered the people, "Since the LORD is a holy God, you can't possibly serve him. He is a God who does

not tolerate rivals. He will not forgive your rebellious acts and sins.

²⁰ If you abandon the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you. He will destroy you, although he has been so good to you."

²¹ The people answered Joshua, "No! We will only serve the LORD!"

²² Joshua said to the people, "You have testified that you have chosen to serve the LORD." They answered, "Yes, we have!"

²³ "Get rid of the foreign gods that are among you. Turn yourselves entirely over to the LORD God of Israel."

²⁴ The people replied to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and obey him."

²⁵ That day Joshua made an agreement for the people and set up laws and rules for them at Shechem.

²⁶ Joshua wrote these things in the Book of Gods Teachings. Then he took a large stone and set it up under the oak tree at the LORDS holy place.

²⁷ Joshua told all the people, "This stone will stand as a witness for us. It has heard all the words which the LORD

spoke to us. It will stand as a witness for you. You cannot deceive your God."

²⁸Then Joshua sent the people away, each to his own property.

²⁹After these events, the LORDS servant Joshua, son of Nun, died. He was 110 years old.

³⁰He was buried on his own land at Timnath Serah in the mountains of Ephraim north of Mount Gaash.

³¹Israel served the LORD as long as Joshua and the older leaders, who outlived him and who knew everything the LORD had done for Israel, were alive.

³²Josephs bones, which the people of Israel had brought from Egypt, were buried at Shechem. They were placed in the plot of ground Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor, father of Shechem, for 100 pieces of silver. The plot was inherited by Josephs descendants.

³³Aarons son Eleazar also died. He was buried on the hill that had been given to his son Phinehas in the mountains of Ephraim.

Judges

1 ¹ Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to [those who are] called, loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ.

² May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you.

³ Dear friends, [although I] was making every effort to write to you concerning our common salvation, I considered [it] a necessity to write to you to encourage [you] to contend for the faith delivered once and for all to the saints.

⁴ For certain men have slipped in stealthily, who were designated long ago for this condemnation, ungodly ones, who change the grace of our God into licentiousness and who deny our only Master and Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵ Now I want to remind you, [although] you know everything once and for all, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, the second time destroyed those who did not believe.

⁶And [the] angels who did not keep to their own domain but deserted their proper dwelling place, he has kept in eternal bonds under deep gloom for the judgment of the great day,

⁷as Sodom and Gomorrah and the towns around them indulged in sexual immorality and _pursued unnatural desire_ [in] the same way as these, are exhibited as an example [by] undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

⁸Despite that, in the same way also these [men], [because of their] dreams, defile the flesh and reject authority and blaspheme majestic beings.

⁹But Michael the archangel, when he argued with the devil, disputing concerning the body of Moses, did not dare to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!

¹⁰But these persons blaspheme all that they do not understand, and all that they understand by instinct like the irrational animals, by these [things] they are being destroyed.

¹¹Woe to them! For they have traveled in the way of Cain, and have given

themselves up to the error of Balaam for gain, and have perished in the rebellion of Korah.

¹²These are the ones feasting together without reverence, hidden reefs at your love feasts, caring for themselves, waterless clouds carried away by winds, late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted,

¹³wild waves of the sea foaming up their own shameful deeds, wandering stars, for whom the deep gloom of darkness has been reserved for eternity.

¹⁴And Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied about these [people], saying, "Behold, the Lord came with tens of thousands of his holy ones

¹⁵to execute judgment against all, and to convict every soul concerning all their ungodly deeds that they have committed in an ungodly way, and concerning all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

¹⁶These [people] are grumblers, discontented, proceeding according to their own desires, and their mouths speaking pompous [words], _showing partiality to gain an advantage_ .

¹⁷ But you, dear friends, remember the words proclaimed beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹⁸ for they said to you that in the end time there will be scoffers following according to their own ungodly desires.

¹⁹ These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly, not having the Spirit.

²⁰ But you, dear friends, [by] building yourselves up in your most holy faith, [by] praying in the Holy Spirit,

²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, looking forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

²² And have mercy on those who doubt,

²³ and save others [by] snatching [them] from the fire, and have mercy on others with fear, hating even the tunic stained by the flesh.

²⁴ Now to the one who is able to protect you from stumbling and make [you] to stand before his glory blameless with exultation,

²⁵ to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, [be] glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time and now and for all eternity. Amen.

²⁶The man went to the land of the Hittites. There he built a city and called it Luz. The city still has that name today.

²⁷Now, the tribe of Manasseh did not force out the people of Beth Shean, Taanach, Dor, Ibleam, and Megiddo or their villages. The Canaanites were determined to live in this land.

²⁸When the Israelites were strong enough, they made the Canaanites do forced labor. But they did not force all of them out.

²⁹The tribe of Ephraim did not force out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer. So the Canaanites continued to live with them in Gezer.

³⁰The tribe of Zebulun did not force out those who lived at Kitron or Nahalol. So the Canaanites continued to live with them and were made to do forced labor.

³¹The tribe of Asher did not force out those who lived at Acco or Sidon, Ahlab, Achzib, Helbah, Aphek, or Rehob.

³²So the tribe of Asher continued to live with the Canaanites because they did not force them out.

³³The tribe of Naphtali did not force out those who lived at Beth Shemesh or Beth

Anath. So they continued to live with the Canaanites. But the people of Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath were made to do forced labor.

³⁴The Amorites forced the tribe of Dan into the mountains and would not let them come down into the valley.

³⁵The Amorites were determined to live at Har Heres, Aijalon, and Shaalbim. But when the tribes of Joseph became stronger, they made the Amorites do forced labor.

³⁶The territory of the Amorites extended from the Akrabbim Pass from Selah northward.

2¹The Messenger of the LORD went from Gilgal to Bochim. He said, "I brought you out of Egypt into the land that I swore to give to your ancestors. I said, I will never break my promise to you.

²You must never make a treaty with the people who live in this land. You must tear down their altars. But you didn't obey me. What do you think you're doing?

³So I have this to say, I will not force them out of your way. They will be like

thorns in your sides, and their gods will become a trap for you."

⁴While the Messenger of the LORD was saying this to all the people of Israel, they began to cry loudly.

⁵So they called that place Bochim [Those Who Cry]. They offered sacrifices there to the LORD.

⁶Now, Joshua sent the people of Israel home. So each family went to take possession of the territory they had inherited.

⁷The people served the LORD throughout Joshuas lifetime and throughout the lifetimes of the leaders who had outlived him and who had seen all the spectacular works the LORD had done for Israel.

⁸The LORDS servant Joshua, son of Nun, died at the age of 110.

⁹He was buried at Timnath Heres within the territory he had inherited. This was in the mountains of Ephraim north of Mount Gaash.

¹⁰That whole generation had joined their ancestors in death. So another generation grew up after them. They had

no personal experience with the LORD or with what he had done for Israel.

¹¹The people of Israel did what the LORD considered evil. They began to serve other gods the Baals.

¹²The Israelites abandoned the LORD God of their ancestors, the God who brought them out of Egypt. They followed the other gods of the people around them. They worshiped these gods, and that made the LORD angry.

¹³They abandoned the LORD to serve the god Baal and the goddess Astarte.

¹⁴So the LORD became angry with the people of Israel. He handed them over to people who robbed them. He also used their enemies around them to defeat them. They could no longer stand up against their enemies.

¹⁵Whenever the Israelites went to war, the power of the LORD brought disaster on them. This was what the LORD said he would do in an oath. So he made them suffer a great deal.

¹⁶Then the LORD would send judges to rescue them from those who robbed them.

¹⁷ But the people wouldn't listen to the judges. The Israelites chased after other gods as though they were prostitutes and worshiped them. They quickly turned from the ways of their ancestors who had obeyed the LORDS commands. They refused to be like their ancestors.

¹⁸ But when the LORD appointed judges for the Israelites, he was with each judge. The LORD rescued them from their enemies as long as that judge was alive. The LORD was moved by the groaning of those who were tormented and oppressed.

¹⁹ But after each judge died, the people went back to their old ways and acted more corruptly than their parents. They followed, served, and worshiped other gods. They never gave up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

²⁰ The LORD became angry with Israel. He said, "Because the people of this nation have rejected the promise I gave their ancestors and have not obeyed me,

²¹ I will no longer force out the nations Joshua left behind when he died.

²² I will test the people of Israel with these nations to see whether or not they

will carefully follow the LORDS ways as their ancestors did."

²³So the LORD let these nations stay. He had not handed them over to Joshua or forced them out quickly.

3¹These are the nations the LORD left behind to test all the Israelites who had not experienced any war in Canaan.

²The LORD left them to teach Israels descendants about war, at least those who had known nothing about it in the past.

³He left the five rulers of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who lived on Mount Lebanon from Mount Baal Hermon to the border of Hamath.

⁴These nations were left to test the Israelites, to find out if they would obey the commands the LORD had given their ancestors through Moses.

⁵So the people of Israel lived among the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.

⁶The Israelites allowed their sons and daughters to marry these people. Israel also served their gods.

⁷ The people of Israel did what the LORD considered evil. They forgot the LORD their God and served other gods and goddesses the Baals and the Asherahs.

⁸ The LORD became angry with the people of Israel. He used King Cushan Rishathaim of Aram Naharaim to defeat them. So Israel served Cushan Rishathaim for eight years.

⁹ Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help. The LORD sent a savior to rescue them. It was Othniel, son of Calebs younger brother Kenaz.

¹⁰ When the LORDS Spirit came over him, he became the judge of Israel. He went out to war. The LORD handed King Cushan Rishathaim of Aram Naharaim over to him, and Othniel overpowered him.

¹¹ So there was finally peace in the land for 40 years. Then Othniel, son of Kenaz, died.

¹² Once again, the people of Israel did what the LORD considered evil. So the LORD made King Eglon of Moab stronger than Israel, because Israel did what the LORD considered evil.

¹³Eglon got the Ammonites and the Amalekites to help him, and they defeated the Israelites and occupied the City of Palms.

¹⁴The Israelites served King Eglon of Moab for 18 years.

¹⁵Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help. The LORD sent a savior to rescue them. It was Ehud, a lefthanded man from the tribe of Benjamin. (Ehud was the son of Gera.) The people sent him with their tax payment to King Eglon of Moab.

¹⁶Ehud made a twoedged dagger for himself. He fastened it to his right side under his clothes.

¹⁷Then he brought the tax payment to King Eglon. (Eglon was a very fat man.)

¹⁸When Ehud had finished delivering the payment, he sent back the men who had carried it.

¹⁹However, Ehud turned around at the stone idols near Gilgal and returned to Eglon. He said, "Your Majesty, I have a secret message for you." The king replied, "Keep quiet!" Then all his advisers left the room.

²⁰Ehud came up to him as he sat alone in his room on the roof. He said to the king, "I have a message from God for you." As the king rose from his throne,

²¹Ehud reached with his left hand, took the dagger from his right side, and plunged it into Eglons belly.

²²Even the handle went in after the blade. Eglons fat covered the blade because Ehud didnt pull the dagger out. The blade stuck out in back.

²³Ehud left the room. (He had closed and locked the doors of the room before he left.)

²⁴After Ehud went out, Eglons advisers came in. They were surprised that the doors were locked. "He must be using the toilet," they said.

²⁵They waited and waited, but Eglon didnt open the doors. So they took the key and opened the door. They were shocked to see their ruler lying on the floor, dead.

²⁶While they had been waiting, Ehud escaped. He went past the stone idols and escaped to Seirah.

²⁷When he arrived there, he blew a rams horn in the mountains of Ephraim

to summon the troops. So the troops of Israel came down from the mountains with him, and he led them.

²⁸He told them, "Follow me! The LORD will hand your enemy Moab over to you." They followed him and captured the shallow crossings of the Jordan River that led to Moab and refused to let anyone cross.

²⁹At that time they killed about ten thousand of Moabs best fighting men. Not one of them escaped.

³⁰The power of Moab was crushed by Israel that day. So there was finally peace in the land for 80 years.

³¹After Ehud came Shamgar, son of Anath. He killed 600 Philistines with a sharp stick used for herding oxen. So he, too, rescued Israel.

4¹After Ehud died, the people of Israel again did what the LORD considered evil.

²So the LORD used King Jabin of Canaan, who ruled at Hazor, to defeat them. The commander of King Jabins army was Sisera, who lived at Harosheth Haggoyim.

³The people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help. King Jabin had 900 chariots made of iron and had cruelly oppressed Israel for 20 years.

⁴Deborah, wife of Lappidoth, was a prophet. She was the judge in Israel at that time.

⁵She used to sit under the Palm Tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. The people of Israel would come to her for legal decisions.

⁶Deborah summoned Barak, son of Abinoam, from Kedesh in Naphtali. She told him, "The LORD God of Israel has given you this order: Gather troops on Mount Tabor. Take 10,000 men from Naphtali and Zebulun with you.

⁷I will lead Sisera (the commander of Jabins army), his chariots, and troops to you at the Kishon River. I will hand him over to you."

⁸Barak said to her, "If you go with me, Ill go. But if you dont go with me, I wont go."

⁹Deborah replied, "Certainly, Ill go with you. But you wont win any honors for the way youre going about this, because

the LORD will use a woman to defeat Sisera." So Deborah started out for Kedesh with Barak.

¹⁰Barak called the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali together at Kedesh. Ten thousand men went to fight under his command. Deborah also went along with him.

¹¹Heber the Kenite had separated from the other Kenites (the descendants of Hobab, Moses fatherinlaw). Heber went as far away as the oak tree at Zaanannim near Kedesh and set up his tent.

¹²The report reached Sisera that Barak, son of Abinoam, had come to fight at Mount Tabor.

¹³So Sisera summoned all his chariots (900 chariots made of iron) and all his troops from Harosheth Haggoyim to come to the Kishon River.

¹⁴Then Deborah said to Barak, "Attack! This is the day the LORD will hand Sisera over to you. The LORD will go ahead of you." So Barak came down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men behind him.

¹⁵The LORD threw Sisera, all his chariots, and his whole army into a panic in front of Baraks deadly assault. Sisera

got down from his chariot and fled on foot.

¹⁶Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth Haggoyim. So Sisera's whole army was killed in combat. Not one man survived.

¹⁷Meanwhile, Sisera fled on foot toward the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite. Sisera did this because King Jabin of Hazor and Heber's family were on peaceful terms.

¹⁸When Jael came out of her tent, she met Sisera. She told him, "Sir, come in here! Come into my tent. Don't be afraid." So he went into her tent, and she hid him under a tent curtain.

¹⁹Sisera said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink. I'm thirsty." But instead she gave him milk to drink and covered him up again.

²⁰He said to her, "Stand at the door of the tent. If anyone comes and asks if there has been a man around here, tell them no."

²¹When Sisera had fallen sound asleep from exhaustion, Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent peg and walked quietly toward him with a hammer in her hand. She

hammered the tent peg through his temples into the ground. So Sisera died.

²²Barak was still pursuing Sisera. When Jael came out of her tent, she met him. She said to him, "Come in! I have something to show you the man you've been looking for." So Barak went into her tent. He saw Sisera lying there dead with the tent peg through his temples.

²³So on that day, God used the people of Israel to crush the power of King Jabin of Canaan.

²⁴The Israelites became stronger and stronger until they destroyed him.

5¹On that day Deborah and Barak, son of Abinoam, sang this song:

²Praise the LORD! Men in Israel vowed to fight, and people volunteered for service.

³Listen, you kings! Open your ears, you princes! I will sing a song to the LORD. I will make music to the LORD God of Israel.

⁴O LORD, when you went out from Seir, when you marched from the country of Edom, the earth quaked, the sky poured, the clouds burst,

⁵and the mountains shook in the presence of the LORD God of Sinai, in the presence of the LORD God of Israel.

⁶In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, in the days of Jael, roads were deserted. Those who traveled took back roads.

⁷Villages in Israel were deserted until I, Deborah, took a stand as a mother of Israel.

⁸When the people chose new gods, war broke out inside the city gates. Not a weapon was seen among 40,000 in Israel.

⁹My heart goes out to Israel's commanders, to those people who volunteered. Praise the LORD!

¹⁰You people who ride on brown donkeys, who sit on saddle blankets, and who walk on the road think.

¹¹Listen to the voices of those singing at the wells. Over and over again they repeat the victories of the LORD, the victories for his villages in Israel. Then the LORD'S people went down to the city gates.

¹²Get up! Get up, Deborah! Get up!
Get up and create a song! Barak, attack!
Take your prisoners, son of Abinoam.

¹³Then those mighty men who were
left came down. The LORDS people went
into battle for me against the mighty
soldiers.

¹⁴Those who had settled in Amaleks
country came down from Ephraim.
Benjamin came with its troops after
Ephraim. Commanders from Machir went
into battle. The officers from Zebulun
also went.

¹⁵Issachars commanders were with
Deborah. They were also with Barak,
sent into the valley under his command.
Among Reubens divisions important men
had second thoughts.

¹⁶Why did you sit between the
saddlebags? Was it to listen to the
shepherds playing their flutes? Reubens
divisions of important men had second
thoughts.

¹⁷Gilead remained east of the Jordan
River. And DanWhy did he stay by the
ships? Asher sat on the seashore and
remained along the inlets.

¹⁸But Zebulun mocked death, and Naphtali risked his life on the battlefield.

¹⁹Kings came and fought. Then the kings of Canaan fought. They fought at Taanach by the waters of Megiddo. But they didnt carry off any rich loot.

²⁰The stars fought from heaven. They fought against Sisera from their heavenly paths.

²¹The Kishon River swept them awaythat old river, the Kishon. I must march on with strength!

²²Then the horses hoofs pounded. The mighty war horses galloped on and on.

²³"Curse Meroz!" said the Messenger of the LORD. "Bitterly curse those who live there! They did not come to help the LORD, to help the LORD and his heroes."

²⁴Jael, wife of Heber the Kenite, should be the most blessed woman, the most blessed woman living in a tent.

²⁵Sisera asked for water. She gave him milk. She offered him buttermilk in a royal bowl.

²⁶She reached for a tent peg with one hand, for a workmans hammer with the other. She struck Sisera. She crushed

his head. She shattered and pierced his temples.

²⁷ He sank. He fell. He lay between her feet! He sank. He fell between her feet. Where he sank, he fell dead.

²⁸ Sisera's mother looked through her window and cried as she peered through the lattice. "Why is his chariot taking so long? Why don't I hear the clatter of his chariots?"

²⁹ Her wisest servants gave her an answer. But she kept repeating to herself,

³⁰ "They're really finding and dividing the loot: A girl or two for each soldier, colorful clothes for Sisera, colorful, embroidered clothes, and two pieces of colorful, embroidered cloth for the neck of the looter."

³¹ May all your enemies die like that, O LORD. But may those who love the LORD be like the sun when it rises in all its brightness. So the land had peace for 40 years.

6¹ The people of Israel did what the LORD considered evil. So the LORD handed them over to Midian for seven years.

²Midians power was too strong for Israel. The Israelites made hiding places in the mountains, caves, and mountain strongholds to protect themselves from Midian.

³Whenever Israel planted crops, Midian, Amalek, and Kedem came and damaged the crops.

⁴The enemy used to camp on the land and destroy the crops all the way to Gaza. They left nothing for Israel to live on not one sheep, cow, or donkey.

⁵Like swarms of locusts, they came with their livestock and their tents. They and their camels could not be counted. They came into the land only to ruin it.

⁶So the Israelites became very poor because of Midian and cried out to the LORD for help.

⁷When the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help because of what the Midianites had done to them,

⁸the LORD sent a prophet to them. He said, "This is what the LORD God of Israel says: I brought you out of Egypt. I took you away from slavery.

⁹I rescued you from the power of the Egyptians and from the power of those

who oppressed you. I forced people out of your way. I gave you their land.

¹⁰I said to you, I am the LORD your God. You must never fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you will live. But you have not obeyed me."

¹¹The Messenger of the LORD came and sat under the oak tree in Ophrah that belonged to Joash from Abiezers family. Joashs son Gideon was beating out wheat in a winepress to hide it from the Midianites.

¹²The Messenger of the LORD appeared to Gideon and said, "The LORD is with you, brave man."

¹³Gideon responded, "Excuse me, sir! But if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all the miracles our ancestors have told us about? Didnt they say, The LORD brought us out of Egypt? But now the LORD has abandoned us and has handed us over to Midian."

¹⁴The LORD turned to him and said, "You will rescue Israel from Midian with the strength you have. I am sending you."

¹⁵Gideon said to him, "Excuse me, sir! How can I rescue Israel? Look at my whole family. Its the weakest one in Manasseh. And me? Im the least important member of my family."

¹⁶The LORD replied, "I will be with you. You will defeat Midian as if it were only one man."

¹⁷Gideon said to him, "If you find me acceptable, give me a sign that it is really you speaking to me."

¹⁸Dont leave until I come back. I want to bring my gift and set it in front of you." "I will stay until you come back," he said.

¹⁹Then Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened bread made with 18 quarts of flour. He put the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot. Then he went out and presented them to the Messenger of the LORD under the oak tree.

²⁰The Messenger of the LORD told him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread, put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." Gideon did so.

²¹Then the Messenger of the LORD touched the meat and the bread with the

tip of the staff that was in his hand. Fire flared up from the rock and burned the meat and the bread. Then the Messenger of the LORD disappeared.

²²That's when Gideon realized that this had been the Messenger of the LORD. So he said, "LORD God! I have seen the Messenger of the LORD face to face."

²³The LORD said to him, "Calm down! Don't be afraid. You will not die."

²⁴So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD. He called it The LORD Calms. To this day it is still in Ophrah, which belongs to Abiezer's family.

²⁵That same night the LORD said to Gideon, "Take a bull from your father's herd, a bull that is seven years old. Tear down your father's altar dedicated to the god Baal and cut down the pole dedicated to the goddess Asherah that is next to it.

²⁶Then, in the proper way, build an altar to the LORD your God on top of this fortified place. Take this second bull and sacrifice it as a burnt offering on the wood from the Asherah pole that you have cut down."

²⁷ Gideon took ten of his servants and did what the LORD had told him to do. However, he didn't do anything during the day. He was too afraid of his father's family and the men of the city, so he did it at night.

²⁸ When the men of the city got up early in the morning, they saw that the Baal altar had been torn down. The Asherah pole next to it had also been cut down. They saw that the second bull had been sacrificed as a burnt offering on the altar that had been built.

²⁹ They asked each other, "Who did this?" While they were investigating the matter, someone said, "Gideon, son of Joash, did this."

³⁰ Then the men of the city told Joash, "Bring your son out. He must die. He has torn down the Baal altar and cut down the Asherah pole that was beside it."

³¹ But Joash said to everyone standing around him, "You're not going to defend Baal, are you? Do you think you should save him? Whoever defends him will be put to death in the morning. If he's a god, let him defend himself when someone tears down his altar."

³² So that day they nicknamed Gideon "Jerubbaal" [Let Baal Defend Himself], because they said, "When someone tears down Baals altar, let Baal defend himself."

³³ All of Midian, Amalek, and Kedem combined their armies, crossed the Jordan River, and camped in the valley of Jezreel.

³⁴ Then the LORDS Spirit gave Gideon strength. So Gideon blew the rams horn to summon Abiezers family to follow him.

³⁵ He also sent messengers throughout Manasseh to summon the people to follow him. The tribes of Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali were also summoned to follow him, and they went to meet the enemy in battle.

³⁶ Then Gideon said to God, "You said that you would rescue Israel through me.

³⁷ Ill place some wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the wool while all the ground is dry, then Ill know that you will rescue Israel through me, as you said."

³⁸And that is what happened. The next morning Gideon got up early. He squeezed out a bowl full of water from the wool.

³⁹Then Gideon said to God, "Don't be angry with me. But let me ask one more thing. Let me make one more test with the wool. Let the wool be dry while all the ground is covered with dew."

⁴⁰During the night, God did what Gideon asked. The wool was dry, but all the ground was covered with dew.

7¹ Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the troops with him got up early and camped above En Harod. Midian's camp was north of him at the hill of Moreh in the valley.

²The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men with you for me to hand Midian over to you. Israel might brag and say, We saved ourselves.

³Announce to the troops, Whoever is scared or frightened should leave Mount Gilead and go back home." So 22,000 men went back home, and 10,000 were left.

⁴The LORD said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Bring them down to

the water, and I will test them for you there. If I say to you, This one will go with you, he must go with you. And if I say to you, This one wont go with you, he must not go."

⁵So Gideon took the men down to the water. The LORD said to him, "Separate those who lap water with their tongues like dogs from those who kneel down to drink."

⁶Three hundred men lapped water with their hands to their mouths. All the rest of the men knelt down to drink water.

⁷Then the LORD said to Gideon, "With the 300 men who lapped water I will save you and hand Midian over to you. All the other men should go home."

⁸So Gideon sent the other men of Israel home, but the 300 men who stayed kept all the supplies and rams horns. The camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

⁹That night the LORD said to Gideon, "Attack! Go into the camp! I will hand it over to you.

¹⁰But if youre afraid to go, take your servant Purah to the camp with you.

¹¹ Listen to what people are saying. After that, you will have the courage to go into the camp and attack it." So Gideon and his servant Purah went to the edge of the camp.

¹² Midian, Amalek, and all of Kedem were spread out in the valley like a swarm of locusts. There were so many camels that they could not be counted. They were as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore.

¹³ When Gideon got there, he heard a man telling his friend a dream. The man said, "I had a strange dream. There was a loaf of barley bread rolling around in the camp of Midian. When it got to the command post, the loaf of bread hit that tent so hard that the tent collapsed, turned upside down, and fell flat."

¹⁴ His friend replied, "That can only be the sword of Gideon, son of Joash, from Israel. God is going to hand Midian and the whole camp over to him."

¹⁵ When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped the LORD. Then he went back to the camp of Israel and said, "Attack! The LORD will hand Midians camp over to you."

¹⁶Gideon divided the 300 men into three companies. He gave them each rams horns and jars with torches inside.

¹⁷He said to them, "Watch me, and do what I do. When I come to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do.

¹⁸When I and those with me blow our rams horns, then the rest of you around the camp do the same and shout, For the LORD and for Gideon!"

¹⁹Gideon and his 100 men came to the edge of the camp. It was the beginning of the midnight watch just at the change of the guards. They blew their rams horns and smashed the jars they were holding in their hands.

²⁰The three companies also blew their rams horns and broke their jars. They held the torches in their left hands and the rams horns in their right hands so that they could blow them. They shouted, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!"

²¹While each man kept his position around the camp, everyone in the Midianite camp began to run away, screaming as they fled.

²²The 300 men kept on blowing their rams horns, and the LORD caused the whole camp of Midian to fight among themselves. They fled as far as Beth Shittah, toward Zererah, and as far as the bank of the stream at Abel Meholah near Tabbath.

²³The men of Israel were summoned from Naphtali, Asher, and all Manasseh to help pursue the troops of Midian.

²⁴Gideon also sent messengers to the whole mountain region of Ephraim with this message, "Go into battle against Midian. Capture the watering holes as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan River." All the men of Ephraim were also summoned to help. They captured the watering holes as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan River.

²⁵They also captured Oreb and Zeeb, the two Midianite commanders. They killed Oreb at the Rock of Oreb and Zeeb at the Winepress of Zeeb and kept on pursuing Midian. Then they brought the severed heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of the Jordan River.

8¹ The men from Ephraim strongly protested Gideons actions. They said, "Why did you do this to us? You didnt invite us to go fight Midian with you."

²Gideon replied, "I havent done anything compared with what you have done. Arent the grapes that Ephraim picked after the harvest better than all the grapes in Abiezers entire harvest?"

³God handed Oreb and Zeeb, Midians commanders, over to you. What have I done compared with that?" When they heard what Gideon said, they werent angry with him anymore.

⁴Gideon and his 300 men headed toward the Jordan River. They were exhausted when they crossed it, but they kept pursuing the enemy.

⁵So Gideon said to the men of Succoth, "Please give me some food for the men under my command. Theyre exhausted, and Im pursuing King Zebah and King Zalmunna of Midian."

⁶The generals at Succoth replied, "We shouldnt give your army food. You havent captured Zebah and Zalmunna yet."

⁷Gideon responded, "Alright, then. When the LORD hands Zebah and Zalmunna over to me, I'll whip your bodies with thorns and thistles from the desert."

⁸Then Gideon went to Penuel and asked the people there for the same help. But they gave him the same reply that the men of Succoth gave.

⁹So he told them, "When I come back after my victory, I'll tear down this tower."

¹⁰Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor with an army of about 15,000 men. This was all that was left of Kedem's entire army. In the battle, 120,000 soldiers died.

¹¹So Gideon went up Tent Dwellers Road, east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and defeated the unsuspecting Midianite army.

¹²Zebah and Zalmunna fled as Gideon pursued them. He captured King Zebah and King Zalmunna of Midian, and the whole Midianite army panicked.

¹³Gideon, son of Joash, returned from the battle through the Heres Pass

¹⁴and captured a young man from Succoth. He questioned him, and the young man wrote down for him the names of the 77 officials and leaders of Succoth.

¹⁵Gideon went to the men of Succoth and said, "Here are Zebah and Zalmunna! You insulted me when you said, We shouldn't give your exhausted men food before you've captured Zebah and Zalmunna."

¹⁶So Gideon took the leaders of the city and taught them a lesson using thorns and thistles from the desert.

¹⁷Then he tore down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of that city.

¹⁸He asked Zebah and Zalmunna, "What kind of men did you kill at Tabor?" They answered, "They were like you. Each one looked like a king's son."

¹⁹Gideon replied, "They were my brothers, my mother's sons. I solemnly swear, as the LORD lives, if you had let them live, I would not have to kill you now."

²⁰Then he told Jether, his firstborn son, "Get up and kill them!" But Jether didn't

draw his sword. He was afraid because he was only a young man.

²¹ Zebah and Zalmunna said, "Get up and do it yourself! Its a mans job!" So Gideon got up and killed them. Then he took the halfmoon ornaments that were on their camels necks.

²² The men of Israel said to Gideon, "You, then your son, and then your grandson, must rule us. You rescued us from Midian."

²³ Gideon replied, "I will not rule you nor will my son. The LORD will rule you."

²⁴ Then Gideon said to them, "Do me a favor. Each of you give me the earrings from your loot." (Their enemies, the Ishmaelites, wore gold earrings.)

²⁵ The men of Israel answered, "Yes, well give them to you." So they spread out a coat. Each man took the earrings from his loot and dropped them on it.

²⁶ The gold earrings Gideon had asked for weighed 40 pounds. This did not include the halfmoon ornaments, the earrings, the purple clothes worn by the kings of Midian, and the chains from their camels necks.

²⁷ Then Gideon used the gold to make an idol and placed it in his hometown, Ophrah. All Israel chased after it there as though it were a prostitute. It became a trap for Gideon and his family.

²⁸ The power of Midian was crushed by the people of Israel, and Midian never again became a threat. So the land had peace for 40 years during Gideons life.

²⁹ Jerubbaal, son of Joash, went home to live.

³⁰ Gideon had 70 sons because he had many wives.

³¹ His concubine at Shechem also gave birth to a son. That son was named Abimelech.

³² Gideon, son of Joash, died at a very old age. He was buried in the tomb of his father Joash at Ophrah, the city belonging to Abiezers family.

³³ As soon as Gideon died, the people of Israel chased after other godsthe Baalsas though they were prostitutes. They made Baal Berith their god.

³⁴ The Israelites did not remember the LORD their God, who had rescued them from all the enemies around them.

³⁵ And they were not kind to the family of Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) despite all the good he had done for Israel.

9¹ Abimelech, son of Jerubbaal [Gideon], went to Shechem to see the uncles on his mothers side of the family. He spoke to them and his mothers whole family.

² He said, "Please ask all citizens of Shechem, What seems best to you? Do you really want all of Jerubbaals 70 sons to rule you or just one man? Remember, Im your own flesh and blood."

³ His uncles repeated everything he said to all citizens of Shechem. They were persuaded to follow Abimelech because he was their relative.

⁴ So they gave him 70 pieces of silver from the temple of Baal Berith. With the silver, Abimelech hired worthless and reckless men to follow him.

⁵ Then he went to his fathers home in Ophrah. There he executed his 70 brothers, Jerubbaals sons. But Jotham, Jerubbaals youngest son, survived because he hid.

⁶ All the citizens from Shechem and Beth Millo united. They went to the oak

tree that was still standing in Shechem and proclaimed Abimelech king.

⁷When Jotham was told about this, he went to a high spot on Mount Gerizim. He shouted to them, "Listen to me, you citizens of Shechem, so that God might listen to you.

⁸"The trees went to anoint someone to be king over them. They said to the olive tree, Be our king!

⁹But the olive tree responded, Should I stop producing oil, which people use to honor gods and humans, in order to rule the trees?

¹⁰Then the trees said to the fig tree, You come and be our king!

¹¹But the fig tree responded, Should I stop producing my good, sweet fruit in order to rule the trees?

¹²Then the trees said to the grapevine, You come and be our king!

¹³But the grapevine responded, Should I stop producing my wine, which makes gods and humans happy, in order to rule the trees?

¹⁴Then all the trees said to the thornbush, You come and be our king!

¹⁵ But the thornbush responded to the trees, If you really want to anoint me to be your king, then come and take shelter in my shade. But if not, fire will come out of the thornbush and burn up the cedars of Lebanon.

¹⁶ "If you acted with sincerity and integrity when you made Abimelech king, be happy. If you treated Jerubbaal and his family well, if you treated him as he deserved, be happy.

¹⁷ My father fought for you. He risked his life and rescued you from Midian.

¹⁸ But today you have attacked my fathers family. You have executed his 70 sons. You have made Abimelech, who is the son of my fathers slave girl, king over the citizens of Shechem just because hes your brother.

¹⁹ So if you are now acting with sincerity and integrity toward Jerubbaal and his family, then be happy with Abimelech and let Abimelech be happy with you.

²⁰ But if thats not the case, let fire come out of Abimelech and burn up citizens of Shechem and Beth Millo. Also let fire come out of citizens of Shechem and Beth Millo and burn up Abimelech."

²¹ Then Jotham ran away quickly. He went to Beerah and lived there to avoid his brother Abimelech.

²² Abimelech ruled Israel for three years.

²³ Then God sent an evil spirit to cause problems between Abimelech and citizens of Shechem. So citizens of Shechem turned against Abimelech.

²⁴ God did this so that the bloody violence committed against Jerubbaals 70 sons would happen to Abimelech and citizens of Shechem. Citizens of Shechem had helped Abimelech execute his brothers.

²⁵ So citizens of Shechem set ambushes for Abimelech on top of the mountains. They also robbed everyone who passed by them on the road. This was reported to Abimelech.

²⁶ Then Gaal (son of Ebed) and his brothers moved into Shechem. Citizens of Shechem trusted him.

²⁷ They went into the country and harvested grapes in the vineyards to make wine. Then they made an offering of praise in the temple of their gods. They ate, drank, and cursed Abimelech.

²⁸Gaal (son of Ebed) said, "Whos Abimelech, and who are we, the people of Shechem, that we should serve him? Isnt he Jerubbaals son, and isnt Zebul his officer? Serve the descendants of Hamor, Shechems father! Why should we serve Abimelech?

²⁹How I wish I controlled these people! Then Id get rid of Abimelech. I would tell him, Get yourself a big army and come out."

³⁰Zebul, Shechems ruler, heard what Gaal (son of Ebed) had said, and he became angry.

³¹He secretly sent messengers to Abimelech. "Watch out! Gaal (son of Ebed) and his brothers have come to Shechem. They have turned the city against you.

³²You and your men must start out tonight. Set an ambush for them in the fields around Shechem.

³³In the morning, when the sun rises, get up quickly and raid the city. When Gaal and his men come out to attack you, do whatever you want to him."

³⁴ Abimelech and all his troops started out at night. He used four companies to set ambushes around Shechem.

³⁵ Gaal (son of Ebed) went out and stood at the entrance to the city. Then Abimelech and his troops rose from their ambush.

³⁶ When Gaal saw the troops, he said to Zebul, "Look, troops are coming down from the mountaintops!" Zebul replied, "The shadows of the mountains look like men to you."

³⁷ Gaal spoke again, "No, there are troops coming down from Tabbur Haares. One company is coming along the road by the Fortunetellers Tree."

³⁸ Then Zebul said to him, "Where is your big mouth now? You were the one who said, Whos Abimelech that we should serve him? Arent these the troops whose ruler you despised? Now go out and fight him."

³⁹ Then Gaal led citizens of Shechem out to fight Abimelech.

⁴⁰ Abimelech chased Gaal so that he ran away from him. Many were killed at the entrance of the city.

⁴¹ Abimelech continued to live at Arumah. Zebul threw Gaal and his brothers out and would not let them live in Shechem.

⁴² The next day the people of Shechem went into the fields. Abimelech was told about it.

⁴³ So he took his troops, divided them into three companies, and set an ambush in the fields. He watched and saw the people coming out of the city. Then he began to attack them.

⁴⁴ Abimelech and his company charged the city and captured its entrance. The other two companies charged at everyone in the fields and attacked them.

⁴⁵ Abimelech attacked the city all day long. He captured the city and killed the people in it. He also tore down the city and scattered salt all over the land.

⁴⁶ All the citizens of Shechem's Tower heard about it and went into the basement of the temple of El Berith.

⁴⁷ When Abimelech was told that they had gathered there,

⁴⁸ he and all his men went to Mount Zalmon. Abimelech took an ax, cut

some brushwood, and carried it on his shoulder. He told his men, "Hurry and do what youve seen me do!"

⁴⁹ So all his troops also cut brushwood and followed Abimelech. They piled the brushwood on top of the basement and set it on fire with the people inside. So all the people in Shechems Tower died too. There were about a thousand men and women.

⁵⁰ Then Abimelech went to Thebez, camped there, and captured it.

⁵¹ Now, there was a strong tower inside the town. All the men, women, and leaders of the town fled to it. They locked the door behind them and went up on the roof of the tower.

⁵² Abimelech came to the tower. He began to fight against it and went near the entrance of the tower to burn it down.

⁵³ Then a woman threw a small millstone that hit Abimelech on the head and cracked his skull.

⁵⁴ He quickly called his armorbearer. He told him, "Take your sword and kill me! I dont want anyone to say, A woman killed

Abimelech." His armorbearer did as he said, so Abimelech died.

⁵⁵When the people of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they all went home.

⁵⁶So God paid back Abimelech for the evil he had done to his father when he killed his 70 brothers.

⁵⁷God also paid back the men of Shechem for all their evil. So the curse of Jotham, son of Jerubbaal, came true.

10¹After Abimelech, Tola, who was the son of Puah and grandson of Dodo, came to rescue Israel. Tola was from Issachar and lived in Shamir in the mountains of Ephraim.

²He judged Israel for 23 years. Tola died and was buried in Shamir.

³After Tola, Jair from Gilead became a judge. He judged Israel for 22 years.

⁴Jair had 30 sons who rode on 30 donkeys. He also had 30 towns that are still called Havvoth Jair to this day. They are in the region of Gilead.

⁵Jair died and was buried in Kamon.

⁶The people of Israel again did what the LORD considered evil. They began to serve other gods and goddesses the

Baals and the Astartes and the gods of Aram, Sidon, Moab, Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines. They abandoned the LORD and did not serve him.

⁷The LORD became angry with the people of Israel. So he used the Philistines and Ammonites to defeat them.

⁸They oppressed and crushed the people of Israel that year. For 18 years they oppressed all who lived east of the Jordan River in the land of the Amorites in Gilead.

⁹Ammon also crossed the Jordan River to fight the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Ephraim. So Israel suffered a great deal.

¹⁰Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help. They said, "We have sinned against you. We have abandoned our God and served other gods the Baals."

¹¹The LORD said to the people of Israel, "When the Egyptians, the Amorites, the Ammonites, the Philistines,

¹²the Sidonians, the Amalekites, and the Maonites oppressed you, you cried

out to me for help. Didn't I rescue you from them?

¹³But you still abandoned me and served other gods. That's why I won't rescue you again.

¹⁴Cry out for help to the gods you chose. Let them rescue you when you're in trouble."

¹⁵The people of Israel said to the LORD, "We have sinned. Do to us whatever you think is right. But please rescue us today!"

¹⁶Then they got rid of the foreign gods they had and served the LORD. So the LORD could not bear to have Israel suffer any longer.

¹⁷The troops of Ammon were summoned to fight, and they camped at Gilead. The people of Israel also gathered together and camped at Mizpah.

¹⁸The leaders of the people of Gilead said to each other, "Whoever starts the fight against Ammon will rule everyone who lives in Gilead."

11 ¹Jephthah was a soldier from the region of Gilead. Jephthah's father

was named Gilead. His mother was a prostitute.

²Gileads wife also gave birth to sons. When his wifes sons grew up, they threw Jephthah out. They told him, "Youll get no inheritance from our father. Youre the son of that other woman."

³Jephthah fled from his brothers. He went to live in the land of Tob. Worthless men gathered around Jephthah and went out on raids with him.

⁴Later, Ammon waged war with Israel.

⁵When the Ammonites attacked Israel, Gileads leaders went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob.

⁶They said to Jephthah, "Come and be our commander so that we can wage war against Ammon."

⁷But Jephthah replied to Gileads leaders, "Dont you hate me? Didnt you throw me out of my fathers house? So why are you coming to me now when youre in trouble?"

⁸Gileads leaders answered Jephthah, "The reason weve turned to you now is that we want you to go with us and wage war against Ammon. You will be the ruler of everyone who lives in Gilead."

⁹Jephthah told them, "If you take me back to fight against Ammonites and the LORD gives them to me, I will be your leader."

¹⁰Gileads leaders said to Jephthah, "The LORD is a witness between us. We will certainly do what you say."

¹¹Jephthah went with them, and the people made him their leader and commander. So Jephthah went to Mizpah and repeated all these things in the presence of the LORD.

¹²Jephthah sent messengers to the king of Ammon. They asked the king, "Why did you invade my land and wage war against me?"

¹³The king of Ammon answered Jephthahs messengers, "When the people of Israel left Egypt, they took my land. It stretched from the Arnon River to the Jabbok River and the Jordan River. Now give it back peacefully."

¹⁴Jephthah again sent messengers to the king of Ammon.

¹⁵They said, "This is what Jephthah says: The people of Israel didnt take away the land belonging to Moab or Ammon.

¹⁶When the people of Israel left Egypt, they went through the desert to the Red Sea and came to Kadesh.

¹⁷The people of Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom. They said, Please let us go through your country. But the king of Edom wouldnt listen to them. They also sent messengers to the king of Moab. But he wouldnt allow it, either. So the people of Israel remained at Kadesh.

¹⁸"Then they went through the desert, bypassing Edom and Moab. They camped east of Moab east of the Arnon River. They did not cross the Arnon River because it was Moabs border.

¹⁹"Then the people of Israel sent messengers to King Sihon of the Amorites. Sihon ruled from Heshbon. The people of Israel said to him, Please let us go through your land to our own.

²⁰But Sihon did not trust the Israelites enough to let them go through his territory. Sihon assembled all his troops. He camped at Jahaz and attacked Israel.

²¹But the LORD God of Israel handed Sihon and all his people over to Israel. Israel defeated them and took

possession of all the land of the Amorites who lived there.

²²Israel took all the Amorite territory from the Arnon River to the Jabbok River and from the desert to the Jordan River.

²³"The LORD God of Israel forced the Amorites out of the way of his people Israel. So what right do you have to take it back?

²⁴Shouldnt you take possession of what your god Chemosh took for you? Shouldnt we take everything the LORD our God took for us?

²⁵Youre not any better than Balak, son of King Zippor of Moab, are you? Did he ever have a case against Israel? Or did he ever fight against Israel?

²⁶Israel has now lived in Heshbon, Aroer, all their villages, and in all the cities along the Arnon River for 300 years. Why didnt you recapture these cities during that time?

²⁷I havent sinned against you. But you have done wrong by waging war against me. The LORD is the judge who will decide today whether Israel or Ammon is right."

²⁸ But the king of Ammon didn't listen to the message Jephthah sent him.

²⁹ Then the LORDS Spirit came over Jephthah. Jephthah went through Gilead, Manasseh, and Mizpah in Gilead to gather an army. From Mizpah in Gilead Jephthah went to attack Ammon.

³⁰ Jephthah made a vow to the LORD. He said, "If you will really hand Ammon over to me,

³¹ then whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me when I return safely from Ammon will belong to the LORD. I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering."

³² So Jephthah went to fight against Ammon. The LORD handed the people of Ammon over to him.

³³ He defeated them from Aroer to Minnith and on to Abel Keramim, 20 cities in all. It was a decisive defeat. So the Ammonites were crushed by the people of Israel.

³⁴ When Jephthah went to his home in Mizpah, he saw his daughter coming out to meet him. She was dancing with tambourines in her hands. She was his

only child. Jephthah had no other sons or daughters.

³⁵When he saw her, he tore his clothes in grief and said, "Oh no, Daughter! Youve brought me to my knees! What disaster youve brought me! I made a foolish promise to the LORD. Now I cant break it."

³⁶She said to him, "Father, you made a promise to the LORD. Do to me whatever you promised since the LORD has punished your enemy Ammon."

³⁷Then she said to her father, "Do me a favor. Give me two months for my friends and me to walk in the mountains and mourn that I will never have an opportunity to get married."

³⁸"Go!" he said, and he sent her off for two months. She and her friends went to the mountains, and she cried about never being able to get married.

³⁹At the end of those two months she came back to her father. He did to her what he had vowed, and she never had a husband. So the custom began in Israel

⁴⁰that for four days every year the girls in Israel would go out to sing the praises

of the daughter of Jephthah, the man from Gilead.

12¹ The men of Ephraim were summoned to fight. They crossed the Jordan River to Zaphon. They said to Jephthah, "Why did you fight against Ammon without inviting us to go with you? Now were going to burn your house down with you in it."

² Jephthah answered, "My people and I were involved in a legal dispute with Ammon. I asked you for help, but you didnt rescue me from them.

³ When I saw that you would not rescue me, I risked my life and went to fight the people of Ammon. The LORD handed them over to me. So why did you come to fight against me today?"

⁴ Then Jephthah gathered all the men of Gilead and fought Ephraim. The men of Gilead defeated Ephraim. They did this because Ephraim had said, "You people from Gilead are nothing but fugitives from Ephraim and Manasseh."

⁵ The men of Gilead captured the shallow crossings of the Jordan River leading back to Ephraim. Whenever a fugitive from Ephraim said, "Let me

cross," the men of Gilead would ask, "Are you from Ephraim?" If he answered, "No,"

⁶they would tell him, "Say the word shibboleth." If the fugitive would say sibboleth, because he couldn't pronounce the word correctly, they would grab him and kill him at the shallow crossings of the Jordan River. At that time 42,000 men from Ephraim died.

⁷Jephthah judged Israel for six years. Then Jephthah of Gilead died and was buried in one of the cities of Gilead.

⁸After Jephthah, Ibzan from Bethlehem judged Israel.

⁹He had 30 sons and 30 daughters. His sons and daughters married people from outside their own families. He judged Israel for seven years.

¹⁰When Ibzan died, he was buried in Bethlehem.

¹¹After Ibzan, Elon from the tribe of Zebulun judged Israel. He judged Israel for ten years.

¹²When Elon died, he was buried in Aijalon in the territory of Zebulun.

¹³After Elon, Abdon, son of Hillel, from Pirathon judged Israel.

¹⁴He had 40 sons and 30 grandsons who rode on 70 donkeys. He judged Israel for eight years.

¹⁵When Abdon died, he was buried in Pirathon, in the territory of Ephraim, in the mountains of Amalek.

13¹The people of Israel again did what the LORD considered evil. So the LORD handed them over to the Philistines for 40 years.

²There was a man from Zorah named Manoah. Manoah was from the family of Dan. His wife was not able to have children.

³The Messenger of the LORD appeared to her and said, "You've never been able to have a child, but now you will become pregnant and have a son.

⁴Now you must be careful. Don't drink any wine or liquor or eat any unclean food.

⁵You're going to become pregnant and have a son. You must never cut his hair because the boy will be a Nazirite dedicated to God from birth. He will begin to rescue Israel from the power of the Philistines."

⁶The woman went to tell her husband. She said, "A man of God came to me. He had a very frightening appearance like the Messenger of God. So I didn't ask him where he came from, and he didn't tell me his name.

⁷He told me, "You're going to become pregnant and have a son. So don't drink any wine or liquor or eat any unclean food because the boy will be a Nazirite dedicated to God from the time he is born until he dies."

⁸Then Manoah pleaded with the LORD, "Please, Lord, let the man of God you sent come back to us. Let him teach us what we must do for the boy who will be born."

⁹God did what Manoah asked. The Messenger of God came back to his wife while she was sitting out in the fields. But her husband Manoah was not with her.

¹⁰The woman ran quickly to tell her husband. She said, "The man who came to me the other day has just appeared to me again."

¹¹Manoah immediately followed his wife. When he came to the man, he

asked him, "Are you the man who spoke to my wife?" "Yes," he answered.

¹²Then Manoah asked, "When your words come true, how should the boy live and what should he do?"

¹³The Messenger of the LORD answered Manoah, "Your wife must be careful to do everything I told her to do.

¹⁴She must not eat anything that comes from the grapevines, drink any wine or liquor, or eat any unclean food. She must be careful to do everything I commanded."

¹⁵Manoah said to the Messenger of the LORD, "Please stay while we prepare a young goat for you to eat."

¹⁶But the Messenger of the LORD responded, "If I stay here, I will not eat any of your food. But if you make a burnt offering, sacrifice it to the LORD." (Manoah did not realize that it was the Messenger of the LORD.)

¹⁷Then Manoah asked the Messenger of the LORD, "What is your name? When your words come true, we will honor you."

¹⁸The Messenger of the LORD asked him, "Why do you ask for my name? Its a name that works miracles."

¹⁹So Manoah took a young goat and a grain offering and sacrificed them to the LORD on a rock he used as an altar. While Manoah and his wife watched, the LORD did something miraculous.

²⁰As the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the Messenger of the LORD went up in the flame. When Manoah and his wife saw this, they immediately bowed down with their faces touching the ground.

²¹The Messenger of the LORD didnt appear again to Manoah and his wife. Then Manoah knew that this had been the Messenger of the LORD.

²²So Manoah said to his wife, "We will certainly die because we have seen God."

²³But Manoahs wife replied, "If the LORD wanted to kill us, he would not have accepted our burnt offering and grain offering. He would not have let us see or hear all these things just now."

²⁴ So the woman had a son and named him Samson. The boy grew up, and the LORD blessed him.

²⁵ The LORDS Spirit began to stir in him while he was at Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

14¹ When Samson went to Timnah, he saw a young Philistine woman.

² He went home and told his father and mother, "I've seen a Philistine woman at Timnah. Now get her for me so that I can marry her."

³ His father and mother asked him, "Arent there any women among our relatives or all our people? Do you have to marry a woman from those godless Philistines?" But Samson told his father, "Get her for me! Shes the one I want!"

⁴ His father and mother didnt know that the LORD was behind this. The LORD was looking for an opportunity to do something to the Philistines. (At that time the Philistines were ruling Israel.)

⁵ Samson went with his father and mother to Timnah. When they were coming to the vineyards of Timnah, a young roaring lion met Samson.

⁶The LORDS Spirit came over him. With his bare hands, he tore the lion apart as if it were a young goat. He didnt tell his parents what he had done.

⁷Then he went to talk to the young woman. She was the one he wanted.

⁸Later he went back to marry her. On his way he left the road to look at the lion he had killed. He saw a swarm of bees and some honey in the lions dead body.

⁹He scraped the honey into his hands and ate it as he walked along. When he came to his father and mother, he gave them some of the honey to eat. He didnt tell them he had scraped it out of the lions dead body.

¹⁰After his father went to see the woman, Samson threw a party. (This is what young men used to do.)

¹¹When her family saw him, they chose 30 of their friends to be with him.

¹²Then Samson said to them, "Let me tell you a riddle. If you solve it during the seven days of the party, Ill give you 30 linen shirts and 30 changes of clothes.

¹³But if you cant solve it, you will give me the same things." They responded, "Tell us your riddle! Lets hear it!"

¹⁴So Samson said to them, "From the eater came something to eat. From the strong one came something sweet." For three days they couldnt solve the riddle.

¹⁵On the fourth day they said to Samsons wife, "Trick your husband into solving the riddle for us. If you dont, well burn you and your family to death. Did the two of you invite us just to make us poor?"

¹⁶So Samsons wife cried on his shoulder. She said, "You hate me! You dont really love me! You gave my friends a riddle and didnt tell me the answer." Samson replied, "I havent even told my father and mother, so why should I tell you?"

¹⁷But she cried on his shoulder for the rest of the seven days of the party. Finally, on the seventh day he told her the answer because she made his life miserable. Then she told her friends the answer to the riddle.

¹⁸So before sundown on the seventh day, the men of the city said to him,

"What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?" Samson replied, "If you hadnt used my cow to plow, you wouldnt know my riddle now."

¹⁹When the LORDS Spirit came over him, he went to Ashkelon and killed 30 men there. He took their clothes and gave them to the men who solved the riddle. He was angry, and he went to his fathers house.

²⁰Samsons wife was given to his best man.

15 ¹Later, during the wheat harvest, Samson went to visit his wife. He took a young goat along for her. He said, "Im going to sleep with my wife in her bedroom." But her father would not let him go in.

²Her father said, "I thought you hated her. So I gave her to your best man. Isnt her younger sister better looking? Marry her instead!"

³Samson said to him, "This time I wont be guilty when I get even with the Philistines, even though Im going to do something terrible to them."

⁴So Samson caught 300 foxes. He tied them together in pairs by their tails.

Then he fastened a torch between their tails.

⁵He set the torches on fire and released the foxes in the Philistines grain fields. So he set fire to all their grain, whether it was stacked or in the fields. Their olive orchards also caught on fire.

⁶Some Philistines asked, "Who did this?" They were told, "Samson! Hes the soninlaw of the man at Timnah. Samson did it because the man at Timnah took Samsons wife and gave her to his best man." So the Philistines burned Samsons wife and her father to death.

⁷Samson said to them, "If thats how youre going to act, Ill get even with you before I stop."

⁸So he attacked them violently and slaughtered them. Then he went to live in a cave in the cliff at Etam.

⁹The Philistines came, camped in Judah, and overran Lehi.

¹⁰The men of Judah asked, "Why did you come to fight us?" The Philistines answered, "Weve come to tie up Samson and do to him what he did to us."

¹¹So 3,000 men from Judah went to the cave in the cliff at Etam. They said

to Samson, "Don't you know that the Philistines rule us? Why have you done this to us?" Samson replied, "I did to them what they did to me."

¹²So the men from Judah told him, "We've come to tie you up and hand you over to the Philistines." Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you won't harm me yourselves."

¹³They told him, "We promise we'll only tie you up and hand you over to them. We certainly won't kill you." So they tied him up with two new ropes and brought him back from the cliff.

¹⁴When he came to Lehi, the Philistines met him with shouts of triumph. But the LORD'S Spirit came over him. The ropes on his arms became like strings burned in a fire, and those on his hands snapped.

¹⁵Samson found the jawbone from a donkey that had just died. He picked it up and killed 1,000 men with it.

¹⁶Then Samson said, "With a jawbone from a donkey, I've made two piles of them. With a jawbone from a donkey, I've killed a thousand men."

¹⁷When he finished saying this, he threw the jawbone away. He called that place Ramath Lehi [Jawbone Hill].

¹⁸Samson was very thirsty. So he called out to the LORD and said, "You have given me this great victory. But now I'll die from thirst and fall into the power of godless men."

¹⁹So God split open the hollow place at Lehi, and water gushed out. Samson drank some water. Then he was refreshed and revived. So he called the place En Hakkore [Spring of the One Who Calls Out]. It is still there at Lehi today.

²⁰Samson judged Israel for 20 years during the time of the Philistines.

16¹Samson went to Gaza. There he saw a prostitute and slept with her.

²The people of Gaza were told, "Samsons here!" So they surrounded the place and waited all night at the city gate to ambush him. They were quiet all night. They thought, "We'll kill him at dawn."

³But Samson was in bed with the prostitute only until midnight. Then he

got up, took hold of the doors, door posts, and bar of the city gate and pulled them out. He carried them on his shoulders to the top of the hill facing Hebron.

⁴After leaving Gaza, he fell in love with a woman in the Sorek Valley. Her name was Delilah.

⁵The Philistine rulers came to her and said, "Trick him, and find out what makes him so strong. Find out how we can overpower him. We want to tie him up in order to torture him. Each of us will give you 1,100 pieces of silver."

⁶So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me what makes you so strong. How can you be tied up so that someone could torture you?"

⁷Samson told her, "If someone ties me up with seven new bowstrings that are not dried out, I will be like any other man."

⁸The Philistine rulers brought her seven new bowstrings that were not dried out. She tied Samson up with them.

⁹Some men were hiding in the bedroom waiting for her to tie him up. Then she said to him, "Samson, the Philistines

are attacking!" Samson snapped the bowstrings as a thread snaps when it touches fire. So no one found out why he was so strong.

¹⁰Delilah told Samson, "Look, you're making fun of me by telling me lies. Now, tell me how you can be tied up."

¹¹Samson told her, "If someone ties me up tightly with new ropes that have never been used, I will be like any other man."

¹²So Delilah took some new ropes and tied him up with them. Then she said to him, "Samson, the Philistines are attacking!" Some men were in her bedroom waiting to ambush him. But Samson tore the ropes off his arms as though they were strings.

¹³Delilah told Samson, "You're still making fun of me by telling me lies. Tell me how you can be tied up." Samson replied, "Just weave the seven braids of my hair with the other threads in the loom."

¹⁴So Delilah tied his braids to the loom shuttle. Then she said to him, "Samson, the Philistines are attacking!"

But Samson woke up and tore his braids and the threads out of the loom shuttle.

¹⁵Delilah said to Samson, "How can you say that you love me when your heart isn't mine? You've made fun of me three times now, but you still haven't told me what makes you so strong."

¹⁶Every day she made his life miserable with her questions. She pestered him until he wished he were dead.

¹⁷Finally, he told her the truth. He told her, "Because I'm a Nazirite, no one has ever cut the hair on my head. I was dedicated to God before I was born. If my hair is ever shaved off, my strength will leave me. Then I'll be like any other man."

¹⁸When Delilah realized that he had told her everything, she sent a message to the Philistine rulers, "Come here once more." (She did this because Samson had told her everything.) So the Philistine rulers arrived with the money in their hands.

¹⁹Delilah put Samson to sleep on her lap. She called for a man to shave off his seven braids. Then she began to torture him because his strength had left him.

²⁰She said, "Samson, the Philistines are attacking!" Samson woke up. He thought, "I'll get out of this as usual and shake myself free." (He didn't realize that the LORD had left him.)

²¹The Philistines grabbed him. They poked out his eyes and took him to the prison in Gaza. They tied him up with double chains and made him grind grain in the mill there.

²²But his hair started to grow back as soon as it was shaved off.

²³Now, the Philistine rulers gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to their god Dagon and to celebrate. They said, "Our god handed Samson, our enemy, over to us."

²⁴When the people saw him, they praised their god. They said, "Our god gave our enemy, destroyer of our land and killer of so many, into our very hand!"

²⁵When all the Philistines were enjoying themselves, they said, "Call Samson in to entertain us." Samson was called from the prison, and he made them laugh. They made him stand between two columns.

²⁶Samson told the young man who was leading him by the hand, "Let me rest. Let me touch the columns on which the building stands so that I can lean against them."

²⁷The building was filled with people. All the Philistine rulers were there. On the roof there were about three thousand men and women who watched Samson entertain them.

²⁸Then Samson called to the LORD, "Almighty LORD, please remember me! God, give me strength just one more time! Let me get even with the Philistines for at least one of my two eyes."

²⁹Samson felt the two middle columns on which the building stood. With his right hand on one column and his left on the other, he pushed hard against them.

³⁰"Let me die with the Philistines," he said. With that, he pushed with all his might, and the building fell on the rulers and everyone in it. So he killed more Philistines when he died than he had when he was alive.

³¹Then his relatives and his fathers whole family went to Gaza. They took Samson and buried him between Zorah

and Eshtaol in the tomb of his father Manoah. Samson had judged Israel for 20 years.

17 ¹There was a man named Micah from the mountain region of Ephraim.

²He told his mother, "You were upset about the 1,100 pieces of silver that were taken from you. I even heard you put a curse on them. Heres the silver. I took it!" His mother said, "The LORD bless you, my son!"

³So Micah gave the 1,100 pieces of silver back to his mother. Then his mother said, "I dedicate this silver to the LORD for my sons benefit. I want to make a carved idol and a metal idol. So now Im giving the silver back to you."

⁴When Micah returned the silver to his mother, she took 200 pieces of the silver and gave it to a silversmith. He made a carved idol and a metal idol. Both were placed in Micahs home.

⁵Micah owned a shrine. He also made an ephod and household idols. He ordained one of his sons to be his priest.

⁶In those days Israel didn't have a king. Everyone did whatever he considered right.

⁷There was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah. (Bethlehem belongs to the family of Judah.) He was a Levite but was living in Bethlehem.

⁸This man left Bethlehem in Judah to live wherever he could find a place. He came to Micah's house in the mountains of Ephraim to carry on his work.

⁹Micah asked him, "Where do you come from?" The man told him, "I'm a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah. I'm going to live wherever I can find a place."

¹⁰Micah told him, "Stay with me! Be a father and a priest to me. I'll give you ten pieces of silver a year, a set of clothes, and your room and board." The Levite accepted the offer

¹¹and agreed to live with Micah. The young man became like one of Micah's sons.

¹²Micah ordained the Levite. So the young man became his priest and a part of his family.

¹³Then Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will be good to me. I have a Levite for my priest."

18¹In those days Israel didnt have a king. And in those days the tribe of Dan was looking for a place to live. Up to that time they had not received land as an inheritance among the tribes of Israel as they should have.

²So all the families of Dan sent out five qualified men from Zorah and Eshtaol. They were sent to spy throughout the land and explore it. They were told, "Go and explore the land!" They came to Micahs house in the mountains of Ephraim. They spent the night there.

³While they were at Micahs house, they recognized the young Levites voice. So they stopped to ask him, "Who brought you here? What are you doing here? Why are you here?"

⁴The Levite told them what Micah had done for him and added, "Micah hired me, so I became his priest."

⁵They said to him, "Please find out from God if our journey will be successful."

⁶The priest told them, "Go in peace. The LORD approves of your journey."

⁷The five men left there and came to the city of Laish. They saw that the people there lived without a care. These people were like the people of Sidon. They were peaceful and secure. There was no one around who threatened to take away their property by force. They were far from the people of Sidon and totally independent.

⁸The men went back to their relatives in Zorah and Eshtaol. Their relatives asked them, "What did you find?"

⁹They replied, "Get up, lets attack Laish. We saw the land. Its very good! "Dont just sit there! Go at once and take the land.

¹⁰When you get there, you will come to a secure people. The land is wide open to you. God will hand it over to you. Its a place where you will have everything you could want."

¹¹So 600 men from the tribe of Dan left Zorah and Eshtaol armed for war.

¹²They camped at Kiriath Jearim in Judah. This is why the place just west of Kiriath Jearim is still called Mahaneh Dan [The Camp of Dan] today.

¹³From there they marched to the mountains of Ephraim as far as Micah's house.

¹⁴Then the five men who had gone to spy throughout the land around Laish spoke up. They said to the other men of Dan, "Do you know that there's an ephod, a carved idol, a metal idol, and household idols in these houses? What do you think we should do?"

¹⁵So they stopped and entered Micah's house and greeted the young Levite.

¹⁶The 600 armed men from Dan stood at the entrance to the city.

¹⁷The five men who had gone to spy throughout the land went inside. They took the carved idol, the ephod, the household idols, and the metal idol. The priest stood at the entrance to the city with the 600 armed men.

¹⁸When these men entered Micah's house and took the carved idol, the ephod, the household idols, and the metal idol, the priest asked them, "What are you doing?"

¹⁹They told him, "Keep quiet! Don't say a word! Come with us and be our father and priest. Is it better for you to be a

priest for one mans house or for a tribe in Israel and its families?"

²⁰The priest was content. He took the ephod, the household idols, and the carved idol and went with the people.

²¹When they left, they put their children, livestock, and property in front of them.

²²When they had already gone some distance from Micahs house, Micahs neighbors were called together to help him catch up to the people of Dan.

²³They shouted at them. But the people of Dan turned around and said to Micah, "Whats your problem? Why did you call your neighbors together to attack us?"

²⁴Micah answered, "Youve taken away the gods I made as well as my priest. What do I have left? How can you say to me, Whats your problem?"

²⁵The people of Dan replied, "Dont make another sound, or some violent men will attack you. Then you and your family will lose your lives."

²⁶The people of Dan went on their way. Micah saw they were stronger than he was, so he turned around and went home.

²⁷ The people of Dan took what Micah had made and the man who had become his priest and went to the city of Laish. They attacked a peaceful and secure people, killed them all with swords, and burned their city.

²⁸ There was no one to rescue them because their city was far from Sidon and totally independent. The city was in the valley that belonged to Beth Rehob. The people of Dan rebuilt the city and lived in it.

²⁹ They named the city Dan in honor of their ancestor Dan, Israel's son. Originally, the city was called Laish.

³⁰ The people of Dan set up the carved idol for themselves. Jonathan (son of Gershom and grandson of Moses) and his descendants were priests for Dan's tribe until the people living in that land were taken captive.

³¹ So they set up for themselves the carved idol Micah had made. It stayed there the whole time the house of God was at Shiloh.

19¹ In those days when Israel didn't have a king, there was a Levite who lived in a remote area in

the mountains of Ephraim. He took a woman from Bethlehem in Judah to be his concubine.

²But she was unfaithful to him. She left him and went to her fathers home, to Bethlehem in Judah. When she had been there four months,

³her husband went to persuade her to come back home. He took along his servant and two donkeys. She took her husband into her fathers house. Her father was thrilled to see him.

⁴He made the Levite stay there with him, celebrating for three days.

⁵On the fourth day they got up early in the morning to leave, but the womans father told his soninlaw, "Eat something to keep up your strength and then you can go."

⁶So they both sat down and ate and drank together. The womans father said to his soninlaw, "Why dont you spend the night and enjoy yourself?"

⁷When the Levite started to leave, his fatherinlaw urged him to stay another night, so he did.

⁸On the morning of the fifth day, the Levite got up early to leave. The womans

father said, "Eat something to keep up your strength!" So they spent the time eating until late afternoon.

⁹The Levite started to leave with his concubine and his servant. But his fatherinlaw said to him, "Its already evening. Please stay another night. Its too late to leave now. Stay here, and enjoy yourself. Tomorrow you can start out early to go home."

¹⁰But the Levite refused to spend another night. He left and traveled as far as Jebus (now called Jerusalem). He had with him two saddled donkeys and his concubine.

¹¹By the time they were near Jebus, it was very late in the day. The Levites servant said to him, "Lets go spend the night in Jebus."

¹²The Levite told him, "Well never go into a city of foreigners. Theyre not Israelites. Well go on to Gibeah."

¹³He told his servant, "Lets go someplace else. Well spend the night either at Gibeah or Ramah."

¹⁴So they went on. It was sunset by the time they arrived at Gibeah. (Gibeah belonged to the tribe of Benjamin.)

¹⁵They went to spend the night there. The Levite entered Gibeah and sat down in the city square, because no one offered to take them home for the night.

¹⁶That evening an old man came into the city from his work in the fields. He was from the mountain region of Ephraim but lived in Gibeah. The other people who lived there were from the tribe of Benjamin.

¹⁷He saw the traveler in the city square. So the old man asked, "Where do you come from? And where are you going?"

¹⁸The Levite replied, "Were on our way from Bethlehem in Judah to a remote area in the mountains of Ephraim. Thats where Im from. I had gone to Bethlehem in Judah. Now Im going to the LORDS house, but no one has offered to take me into his home.

¹⁹We have straw and fodder for our donkeys. I even have bread and wine for myself, the woman, and my servant. We have everything we need."

²⁰Then the old man said, "Welcome! Let me take care of your needs. Just dont spend the night in the city square."

²¹ So he took the Levite to his house and fed the donkeys. After they washed, they ate and drank.

²² While they were enjoying themselves, some worthless men from the city surrounded the house and pounded on the door. They told the old man, the owner of the house, "Bring out the man who came to your house so that we can have sex with him."

²³ The owner went out to them. He told them, "No, my friends! Please don't do anything so evil! This man is a guest in my home. Don't do such a godless thing!

²⁴ Here, let me bring out my virgin daughter and this man's concubine. Rape them, and do with them whatever you want. Just don't do such a godless thing to this man."

²⁵ But the men refused to listen to him. So the Levite grabbed his concubine and forced her outside. They had sex with her and abused her all night until morning. They let her go when the sun was coming up.

²⁶ At daybreak, the woman came to the door of the house where her husband

was and collapsed. She was still there when it became light.

²⁷ Her husband got up in the morning, opened the doors of the house, and was about to leave. His wife (that is, his concubine) was lying at the door of the house with her hands on the doorstep.

²⁸ The Levite said to her, "Get up! Let's go!" But she did not answer. So he put her on the donkey and left for home.

²⁹ When he arrived home, he got a knife. He took his concubine and cut her limb from limb into 12 pieces. Then he sent the pieces throughout the territories of Israel.

³⁰ Everyone who saw it said, "Never has such a thing happened or been seen from the time the people of Israel came out of Egypt until today. Think about it! Form a plan, and speak out!"

20¹ All the people of Israel from Dan to Beersheba and from Gilead came to Mizpah. The congregation stood united in the presence of the LORD.

² The leaders of all Israel's tribes took their places in the congregation of God's people. There were 400,000 foot soldiers with swords.

³The people of Benjamin heard that Israel had come to Mizpah. The people of Israel said, "Tell us how such an evil thing could happen."

⁴The Levite, the husband of the murdered woman, answered, "My concubine and I went to Gibeah in Benjamin to spend the night.

⁵The citizens of Gibeah came to attack me. They surrounded the house where I was staying that night. They intended to kill me, but instead, they raped my concubine until she died.

⁶So I took my concubine and cut her into pieces. Then I sent the pieces throughout the territory of Israel. I did this because the citizens of Gibeah did this perverted and godless thing in Israel.

⁷All you people of Israel, tell me what you think. Give me your advice right now!"

⁸All the people stood united, saying, "None of us will go to his tent or return to his house.

⁹This is what we'll do to Gibeah. We'll decide by lot who should attack it.

¹⁰Well take onetenth of all the men from the tribes of Israel to get supplies for the troops. When the troops go to Gibeah in the territory of Benjamin they can punish the citizens of Gibeah for the godless thing they did in Israel."

¹¹So all the men of Israel assembled. They stood united against the city.

¹²The tribes of Israel sent men throughout the tribe of Benjamin. They asked, "How could such an evil thing happen among you?

¹³Now hand over those worthless men in Gibeah. We must put them to death to rid ourselves of this kind of evil in Israel." But the men of Benjamin refused to listen to the men of Israel.

¹⁴So the men of Benjamin went from their towns and assembled at Gibeah to go to war with the men of Israel.

¹⁵That day 26,000 men armed with swords came from Benjamins cities and organized for battle along with 700 of Gibeahs best men.

¹⁶Out of all these troops, the best 700 were lefthanded. Each could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.

¹⁷ The men of Israel (Benjamin not included) totaled 400,000 soldiers armed with swords.

¹⁸ The men of Israel went to Bethel. They asked God, "Who will go first to fight Benjamin?" The LORD answered, "Judah will go first."

¹⁹ The Israelites got up early in the morning and camped at Gibeah.

²⁰ So the men of Israel went to war with the men of Benjamin. The Israelites formed their battle line facing Gibeah.

²¹ That day the men of Benjamin came out from Gibeah. They slaughtered 22,000 of Israel's men.

²² But Israel's troops got reinforcements. They formed their battle line where they had formed it on the first day.

²³ The Israelites went and cried in the presence of the LORD until evening. They asked the LORD, "Should we continue to wage war against our close relatives, the men of Benjamin?" The LORD answered, "Go fight them!"

²⁴ On the second day the Israelite troops advanced against Benjamin.

²⁵ Benjamin went out from Gibeah to meet them. This time they slaughtered

18,000 men from Israel who were armed with swords.

²⁶Then all the men of Israel and all the troops went to Bethel. They sat there and cried in the presence of the LORD and fasted that day until evening. Then they sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the LORD.

²⁷In those days the ark of Gods promise was at Bethel.

²⁸(Phinehas, son of Eleazar and grandson of Aaron, served in front of it.) So the people of Israel asked the LORD, "Should we continue to wage war against our close relatives, the men of Benjamin? Or should we stop?" The LORD answered, "Go! Tomorrow I will hand them over to you."

²⁹Then Israel placed troops in ambush around Gibeah.

³⁰On the third day the men of Israel went to fight the men of Benjamin. They formed their battle line facing Gibeah as they did before.

³¹The men of Benjamin went out to attack Israels troops and were led away from the city. They started to inflict casualties as before. They killed about

30 men from Israel in the open country and on the roads to Bethel and Gibeah.

³²The men of Benjamin shouted, "They're defeated as before!" But the men of Israel had said, "Let's flee in order to lead them from the city to the roads."

³³So the men of Israel left their positions. They formed their battle line at Baal Tamar. Meanwhile, those waiting in ambush rushed from their position to the west of Gibeah.

³⁴Then 10,000 of Israel's best men attacked Gibeah. The battle was fierce. But Benjamin's men didn't realize their own evil was about to overtake them.

³⁵So the LORD defeated them in front of Israel. On that day the Israelites slaughtered 25,100 men from Benjamin who were armed with swords.

³⁶Then the men of Benjamin realized they were defeated. The Israelites had allowed the men of Benjamin to take back some ground. The Israelites relied on those waiting in ambush near Gibeah.

³⁷The men in ambush quickly charged toward Gibeah. They spread out in the city and killed everyone.

³⁸The men of Israel had arranged with those waiting in ambush that they would make a big column of smoke rise from the city as a signal.

³⁹Then the men of Israel would turn around in the battle. The men of Benjamin had already killed about 30 men of Israel. They even said, "Israel is completely defeated, just like in the first battle."

⁴⁰But when the column of smoke started to rise from the city, the men of Benjamin turned around and saw the whole city going up in smoke.

⁴¹Then the men of Israel turned around, and the men of Benjamin panicked. They realized that their evil had overtaken them.

⁴²They turned in front of Israel toward the road to the desert. But the battle caught up with the men of Benjamin. Israel slaughtered whoever came out of the cities on the road to the desert.

⁴³They closed in on the men of Benjamin and pursued them without stopping. They overtook them east of Gibeah.

⁴⁴ There were 18,000 experienced men from Benjamin who died in battle.

⁴⁵ The others turned and fled into the desert to Rimmon Rock. But the men of Israel killed 5,000 more on the roads. They caught up with another 2,000 and killed them near Gidom.

⁴⁶ In all, 25,000 men from Benjamin who were armed with swords were killed that day. They were all experienced men.

⁴⁷ But 600 men turned and fled into the desert to Rimmon Rock. They stayed at Rimmon Rock for four months.

⁴⁸ Then the men of Israel went back to attack the rest of the territory of Benjamin. They killed all the people and cattle they found in every city. They also burned down every city they came to.

21 ¹ The men of Israel had taken this oath in Mizpah: "None of us will ever let our daughters marry anyone from Benjamin."

² The people went to Bethel and sat there in the presence of God until evening. They cried very loudly,

³ "LORD God of Israel, why has this happened among us? Why should one tribe be missing today in Israel?"

⁴The next day the people got up early. They built an altar there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings.

⁵The people asked, "Is there any family from Israel that did not take part in the assembly in the presence of the LORD?" They had taken a solemn oath that whoever had not come into the presence of the LORD at Mizpah must be put to death.

⁶The people of Israel felt sorry for their close relatives, the men of Benjamin. They said, "Today one tribe has been excluded from Israel.

⁷What will we do to provide wives for the men who are left? We swore to the LORD that we would not let any of our daughters marry them."

⁸Then they asked, "Is there any family from Israel that did not come into the presence of the LORD at Mizpah?" No one from Jabesh Gilead had come to the assembly in the camp.

⁹So they questioned the people, and there was no one there from Jabesh Gilead.

¹⁰The congregation sent 12,000 soldiers. They ordered them, "Go and kill

the people of Jabesh Gilead, including the women and children.

¹¹ These are your directions: Claim every female who has gone to bed with a man, and claim every male. Claim them for the LORD by destroying them."

¹² Among the people of Jabesh Gilead they found 400 unmarried women who had never gone to bed with a man. They brought them to the camp at Shiloh in Canaan.

¹³ Then the whole congregation sent messengers to the men of Benjamin at Rimmon Rock and offered them peace.

¹⁴ So the men of Benjamin came back at that time. These men were given the women from Jabesh Gilead who had been kept alive. However, the congregation had not found enough women for all of them.

¹⁵ The congregation felt sorry for the people of Benjamin because the LORD had broken the unity of the tribes of Israel.

¹⁶ The leaders of the congregation asked, "What should we do to provide wives for the men who are left, since the women in Benjamin have been killed?"

¹⁷ Some said, "Benjamins men who survived must be allowed to have families. No tribe of Israel should be wiped out.

¹⁸ However, we cant give them any of our daughters as wives. The people of Israel have taken an oath that whoever gives wives to the men of Benjamin is under a curse."

¹⁹ Others said, "Every year the LORDS festival is held at Shiloh. Shiloh is north of Bethel, east of the highway going from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah."

²⁰ So they told the men of Benjamin, "Hide in the vineyards and

²¹ watch. When the young women of Shiloh come out to take part in the dances, come out of the vineyards. Each of you catch a woman from Shiloh to be your wife. Then go back to the territory of Benjamin.

²² When their fathers or brothers come to us to complain, well tell them, Have pity on them, since we didnt provide a wife for each man in the battle. You wont be guilty because you didnt give them the wives yourselves."

²³The men of Benjamin did just that. They captured the number of wives they needed from the women who were dancing and went home. So they rebuilt their cities and lived in them.

²⁴At that time the people of Israel left. Each man went to his tribe and family. They all went home.

²⁵In those days Israel didnt have a king. Everyone did whatever he considered right.

Ruth

1 ¹In the days when the judges were ruling, there was a famine in the land. A man from Bethlehem in Judah went with his wife and two sons to live for a while in the country of Moab.

²The mans name was Elimelech, his wifes name was Naomi, and the names of their two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were descendants of Ephrathah from Bethlehem in the territory of Judah. They went to the country of Moab and lived there.

³Now, Naomis husband Elimelech died, and she was left alone with her two sons.

⁴Each son married a woman from Moab. One son married a woman named Orpah, and the other son married a woman named Ruth. They lived there for about ten years.

⁵Then both Mahlon and Chilion died as well. So Naomi was left alone, without her two sons or her husband.

⁶Naomi and her daughtersinlaw started on the way back from the country of

Moab. (While they were still in Moab she heard that the LORD had come to help his people and give them food.

⁷ So she left the place where she had been living, and her two daughters-in-law went with her.) They began to walk back along the road to the territory of Judah.

⁸ Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back! Each of you should go back to your mother's home. May the LORD be as kind to you as you were to me and to our loved ones who have died.

⁹ May the LORD repay each of you so that you may find security in a home with a husband." When she kissed them goodbye, they began to cry loudly.

¹⁰ They said to her, "We are going back with you to your people."

¹¹ But Naomi said, "Go back, my daughters. Why should you go with me? Do I have any more sons in my womb who could be your husbands?

¹² Go back, my daughters. Go, because I am too old to get married again. If I said that I still have hope. And if I had a husband tonight. And even if I gave birth to sons,

¹³would you wait until they grew up and stay single just for them? No, my daughters. My bitterness is much worse than yours because the LORD has sent me so much trouble."

¹⁴They began to cry loudly again. Then Orpah kissed her motherinlaw goodbye, but Ruth held on to her tightly.

¹⁵Naomi said, "Look, your sisterinlaw has gone back to her people and to her gods. Go back with your sisterinlaw."

¹⁶But Ruth answered, "Dont force me to leave you. Dont make me turn back from following you. Wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

¹⁷Wherever you die, I will die, and I will be buried there with you. May the LORD strike me down if anything but death separates you and me!"

¹⁸When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she ended the conversation.

¹⁹So both of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they entered Bethlehem, the whole town was excited

about them. "This cant be Naomi, can it?" the women asked.

²⁰She answered them, "Dont call me Naomi [Sweet]. Call me Mara [Bitter] because the Almighty has made my life very bitter.

²¹I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi when the LORD has tormented me and the Almighty has done evil to me?"

²²When Naomi came back from the country of Moab, Ruth, her Moabite daughterinlaw, came along with her. They happened to enter Bethlehem just when the barley harvest began.

2¹Naomi had a relative. He was from Elimelechs side of the family. He was a man of outstanding character named Boaz.

²Ruth, who was from Moab, said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field of anyone who will be kind to me. There I will gather the grain left behind by the reapers." Naomi told her, "Go, my daughter."

³So Ruth went. She entered a field and gathered the grain left behind by the

reapers. Now it happened that she ended up in the part of the field that belonged to Boaz, who was from Elimelechs family.

⁴Just then, Boaz was coming from Bethlehem, and he said to his reapers, "May the LORD be with all of you!" They answered him, "May the LORD bless you!"

⁵Boaz asked the young man in charge of his reapers, "Who is this young woman?"

⁶The young man answered, "Shes a young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.

⁷She said, Please let me gather grain. I will only gather among the bundles behind the reapers. So she came here and has been on her feet from daybreak until now. She just sat down this minute in the shelter."

⁸Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen, my daughter. Dont go in any other field to gather grain, and dont even leave this one. Stay here with my young women.

⁹Watch where my men are reaping, and follow the young women in that field. I have ordered my young men not to touch you. When youre thirsty, go to

the jars and drink some of the water that the young men have drawn."

¹⁰Ruth immediately bowed down to the ground and said to him, "Why are you so helpful? Why are you paying attention to me? I'm only a foreigner."

¹¹Boaz answered her, "People have told me about everything you have done for your mother-in-law after your husband died. They told me how you left your father and mother and the country where you were born. They also told me how you came to people that you didn't know before."

¹²May the LORD reward you for what you have done! May you receive a rich reward from the LORD God of Israel, under whose protection you have come for shelter."

¹³Ruth replied, "Sir, may your kindness to me continue. You have comforted me and reassured me, and I'm not even one of your own servants."

¹⁴When it was time to eat, Boaz told her, "Come here. Have some bread, and dip it into the sour wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he handed

her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over.

¹⁵When she got up to gather grain, Boaz ordered his servants, "Let her gather grain even among the bundles. Dont give her any problems.

¹⁶Even pull some grain out of the bundles and leave it for her to gather. Dont give her a hard time about it."

¹⁷So Ruth gathered grain in the field until evening. Then she separated the grain from its husks. She had about half a bushel of barley.

¹⁸She picked it up and went into the town, and her motherinlaw saw what she had gathered. Ruth also took out what she had left over from lunch and gave it to Naomi.

¹⁹Her motherinlaw asked her, "Where did you gather grain today? Just where did you work? May the man who paid attention to you be blessed." So Ruth told her motherinlaw about the person with whom she worked. She said, "The man I worked with today is named Boaz."

²⁰Naomi said to her daughterinlaw, "May the LORD bless him. The LORD

hasnt stopped being kind to people living or dead." Then Naomi told her, "That man is a relative of ours. He is a close relative, one of those responsible for taking care of us."

²¹ Ruth, who was from Moab, told her, "He also said to me, Stay with my younger workers until they have finished the harvest."

²² Naomi told her daughter-in-law Ruth, "Its a good idea, my daughter, that you go out to the fields with his young women. If you go to someone elses field, you may be molested."

²³ So Ruth stayed with the young women who were working for Boaz. She gathered grain until both the barley harvest and the wheat harvest ended. And she continued to live with her mother-in-law.

3¹ Naomi, Ruths mother-in-law, said to her, "My daughter, shouldnt I try to look for a home that would be good for you?"

² Isnt Boaz, whose young women youve been working with, our relative? He will be separating the barley from its husks on the threshing floor tonight.

³ Freshen up, put on some perfume, dress up, and go down to the threshing floor. Don't let him know that you're there until he's finished eating and drinking.

⁴ When he lies down, notice the place where he is lying. Then uncover his feet, and lie down there. He will make it clear what you must do."

⁵ Ruth answered her, "I will do whatever you say."

⁶ Ruth went to the threshing floor and did exactly as her mother-in-law had directed her.

⁷ Boaz had eaten and drunk to his heart's content, so he went and lay at the edge of a pile of grain. Then she went over to him secretly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

⁸ At midnight the man was shivering. When he turned over, he was surprised to see a woman lying at his feet.

⁹ "Who are you?" he asked. She answered, "I am Ruth. Spread the corner of your garment over me because you are a close relative who can take care of me."

¹⁰ Boaz replied, "May the LORD bless you, my daughter. This last kindness that

you didnt go after the younger men, whether rich or poor is better than the first.

¹¹ Dont be afraid, my daughter. I will do whatever you say. The whole town knows that you are a woman who has strength of character.

¹² It is true that I am a close relative of yours, but there is a relative closer than I.

¹³ Stay here tonight. In the morning if he will agree to take care of you, that is good. He can take care of you. But if he does not wish to take care of you, then, I solemnly swear, as the LORD lives, I will take care of you myself. Lie down until morning."

¹⁴ So Ruth lay at his feet until morning. Then she got up early before anyone could be recognized. At that moment Boaz thought to himself, "I hope that no one will ever know that this woman came to the threshing floor."

¹⁵ Then Boaz told Ruth, "Stretch out the cape youre wearing and hold it tight." So she held it tight while he measured out six measures of barley. Then he placed it on her back and went into the town.

¹⁶When Ruth returned, her motherinlaw Naomi asked, "How did things go, my daughter?" Ruth told Naomi everything the man had done for her.

¹⁷She said, "He gave me these six measures of barley and told me not to come back to you emptyhanded."

¹⁸Naomi replied, "Stay here, my daughter, until you know how it turns out. The man wont rest unless he settles this matter today."

4¹Boaz went to the city gate and sat there. Just then, the relative about whom he had spoken was passing by. Boaz said, "Please come over here and sit, my friend." So the man came over and sat down.

²Then Boaz chose ten men who were leaders of that city and said, "Sit here." So they also sat down.

³Boaz said to the man, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the field that belonged to our relative Elimelech.

⁴So I said that I would inform you. Buy it in the presence of these men sitting here and in the presence of the leaders of our people. If you wish to buy back the

property, you can buy back the property. But if you do not wish to buy back the property, tell me. Then I will know that I am next in line because there is no other relative except me." The man said, "I'll buy back the property."

⁵Boaz continued, "When you buy the field from Naomi, you will also assume responsibility for the Moabite Ruth, the dead mans widow. This keeps the inheritance in the dead mans name."

⁶The man replied, "In that case I cannot assume responsibility for her. If I did, I would ruin my inheritance. Take all my rights to buy back the property for yourself, because I cannot assume that responsibility."

⁷(This is the way it used to be in Israel concerning buying back property and exchanging goods: In order to make every matter legal, a man would take off his sandal and give it to the other man. This was the way a contract was publicly approved in Israel.)

⁸So when the man said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," he took off his sandal.

⁹Then Boaz said to the leaders and to all the people, "Today you are witnesses

that I have bought from Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon.

¹⁰In addition, I have bought as my wife the Moabite Ruth, Mahlons widow, to keep the inheritance in the dead mans name. In this way the dead mans name will not be cut off from his relatives or from the public records. Today you are witnesses."

¹¹All the people who were at the gate, including the leaders, said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make this wife, who is coming into your home, like Rachel and Leah, both of whom built our family of Israel. So show your strength of character in Ephrathah and make a name for yourself in Bethlehem.

¹²Also, from the descendant whom the LORD will give you from this young woman, may your family become like the family of Perez, the son whom Tamar gave birth to for Judah."

¹³Then Boaz took Ruth home, and she became his wife. He slept with her, and the LORD gave her the ability to become pregnant. So she gave birth to a son.

¹⁴ The women said to Naomi, "Praise the LORD, who has remembered today to give you someone who will take care of you. The child's name will be famous in Israel.

¹⁵ He will bring you a new life and support you in your old age. Your daughter-in-law who loves you is better to you than seven sons, because she has given birth."

¹⁶ Naomi took the child, held him on her lap, and became his guardian.

¹⁷ The women in the neighborhood said, "Naomi has a son." So they gave him the name Obed. He became the father of Jesse, who was the father of David.

¹⁸ This is the account of Perez and his family. Perez was the father of Hezron.

¹⁹ Hezron was the father of Ram. Ram was the father of Amminadab.

²⁰ Amminadab was the father of Nahshon. Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

²¹ Salmon was the father of Boaz. Boaz was the father of Obed.

²² Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of David.

1 Samuel

1 ¹ There was a man named Elkanah from Ramathaim Zophim in the mountains of Ephraim. He was the son of Jeroham, grandson of Elihu, greatgrandson of Tohu, whose father was Zuph from the tribe of Ephraim.

² Elkanah had two wives, one named Hannah, the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.

³ Every year this man would go from his own city to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of Armies at Shiloh. Elis two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, served there as priests of the LORD.

⁴ Whenever Elkanah offered a sacrifice, he would give portions of it to his wife Peninnah and all her sons and daughters.

⁵ He would also give one portion to Hannah because he loved her, even though the LORD had kept her from having children.

⁶ Because the LORD had made her unable to have children, her rival

Peninnah tormented her endlessly in order to make her miserable.

⁷This happened year after year. Whenever Hannah went to the LORDS house, Peninnah would make her miserable, and Hannah would cry and not eat.

⁸Her husband Elkanah would ask her, "Hannah, why are you crying? Why havent you eaten? Why are you so downhearted? Dont I mean more to you than ten sons?"

⁹One day, after Hannah had something to eat and drink in Shiloh, she got up. (The priest Eli was sitting on a chair by the door of the Lords temple.)

¹⁰Though she was resentful, she prayed to the LORD while she cried.

¹¹She made this vow, "LORD of Armies, if you will look at my misery, remember me, and give me a boy, then I will give him to you for as long as he lives. A razor will never be used on his head."

¹²While Hannah was praying a long time in front of the LORD, Eli was watching her mouth.

¹³She was praying silently. Her voice couldn't be heard; only her lips were moving. Eli thought she was drunk.

¹⁴"How long are you going to stay drunk?" Eli asked her. "Get rid of your wine."

¹⁵Hannah responded, "No, sir. I'm not drunk. I'm depressed. I'm pouring out my heart to the LORD.

¹⁶Don't take me to be a good-for-nothing woman. I was praying like this because I've been troubled and tormented."

¹⁷Eli replied, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant your request."

¹⁸"May you continue to be kind to me," she said. Then the woman went her way and ate. She was no longer sad.

¹⁹Early in the morning Elkanah and his family got up and worshiped in front of the LORD. Then they returned home to Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her.

²⁰Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel [God Hears], because she said, "I asked the LORD for him."

²¹ To keep his vow, Elkanah and his entire household again went to offer the annual sacrifice to the LORD.

²² But Hannah didn't go. She told her husband, "I'll wait until the boy is weaned. Then I'll bring him and present him to the LORD, and he'll stay there permanently."

²³ "Do what you think is best," her husband Elkanah told her. "Wait until you've weaned him. May the LORD keep his word." The woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

²⁴ As soon as she had weaned Samuel, she took him with her. She also brought a three-year-old bull, half a bushel of flour, and a full wineskin. She brought him to the LORD'S house at Shiloh while the boy was still a child.

²⁵ Then the parents butchered the bull and brought the child to Eli.

²⁶ "Sir," Hannah said, "as sure as you live, I'm the woman who stood here next to you and prayed to the LORD.

²⁷ I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request.

²⁸ In return, I am giving him to the LORD. He will be dedicated to the LORD

for his whole life." And they worshiped the LORD there.

2¹ Hannah prayed out loud, "My heart finds joy in the LORD. My head is lifted to the LORD. My mouth mocks my enemies. I rejoice because you saved me.

²There is no one holy like the LORD. There is no one but you, O LORD. There is no Rock like our God.

³"Do not boast or let arrogance come out of your mouth because the LORD is a God of knowledge, and he weighs our actions.

⁴"The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumble are armed with strength.

⁵Those who were wellfed hire themselves out for a piece of bread, but those who were hungry hunger no more. Even the woman who was childless gives birth to seven children, but the mother of many children grieves all alone.

⁶"The LORD kills, and he gives life. He makes people go down to the grave, and he raises them up again.

⁷The LORD causes poverty and grants wealth. He humbles people; he also promotes them.

⁸He raises the poor from the dust. He lifts the needy from the trash heap in order to make them sit with nobles and even to make them inherit a glorious throne. "The pillars of the earth are the LORDS. He has set the world on them.

⁹He safeguards the steps of his faithful ones, but wicked people are silenced in darkness because humans cannot succeed by their own strength.

¹⁰"Those who oppose the LORD are broken into pieces. He thunders at them from the heavens. The LORD judges the ends of the earth. He gives strength to his King and lifts the head of his Messiah."

¹¹Then Elkanah went home to Ramah. But the boy Samuel served the LORD under the priest Eli.

¹²Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were good-for-nothing priests; they had no faith in the LORD.

¹³Now, this was how the priests dealt with the people who were offering sacrifices: While the meat was boiling,

the priests servant would come with a threepronged fork in his hand.

¹⁴Then he would stick it into the pot, kettle, cauldron, or pan. Whatever the fork brought up from the pot belonged to the priest. This is what the priests did in Shiloh to all the people of Israel who came there to sacrifice.

¹⁵But in the case of Elis sons, even before the people burned the fat, their servants would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give the meat to the priest to roast. He doesnt want boiled meat from you. He wants it raw."

¹⁶If the man said to the servant, "First let the fat be burned, then take as much as you want," the servant would say to him, "Give it to me now, or Ill take it by force."

¹⁷The sin of Elis sons was a serious matter to the LORD, because these men were treating the offerings made to the LORD with contempt.

¹⁸Meanwhile, Samuel continued to serve in front of the LORD. As a boy he was already wearing a linen ephod.

¹⁹His mother would make him a robe and bring it to him every year when

she went with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice.

²⁰Eli would bless Elkanah (and his wife) and say, "May the LORD give you children from this woman in place of the one which she has given to the LORD." Then they would go home.

²¹The LORD came to Hannah. She became pregnant five times and had three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in front of the LORD.

²²Now, Eli was very old, and he had heard everything that his sons were doing to all Israel and that they were sleeping with the women who served at the gate of the tent of meeting.

²³So he asked them, "Why are you doing such things? I hear about your wicked ways from all these people.

²⁴Sons, the report that I hear the people of the LORD spreading isn't good!

²⁵If one person sins against another, God will take care of him. However, when a person sins against the LORD, who will pray for him?" But they wouldn't listen to their fathers warning the LORD wanted to kill them.

²⁶The boy Samuel continued to grow and gained the favor of the LORD and the people.

²⁷Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "This is what the LORD says: I revealed myself to your ancestors when they were under Pharaohs control in Egypt.

²⁸I chose one of your ancestors out of all the tribes of Israel to serve as my priest, to sacrifice burnt offerings on my altar, to burn incense, and to wear the ephod in my presence. And I gave your ancestors the right to keep portions of the sacrifices that the people of Israel burned on the altar.

²⁹Why do you show no respect for my sacrifices and grain offerings that I have commanded people to make in my dwelling place? Why do you honor your sons more than me by making yourselves fat on the best of all the sacrifices offered by my people Israel?

³⁰"Therefore, the LORD God of Israel declares: I certainly thought that your family and your fathers family would always live in my presence. "But now the LORD declares: I promise that I

will honor those who honor me, and those who despise me will be considered insignificant.

³¹ The time is coming when I will break your strength and the strength of your fathers house so that no one will grow old in your family.

³² You will see distress in my dwelling place. In spite of the good that I do for Israel, no one in your family will live to an old age.

³³ Any man in your family whom I do not remove from my altar will have his eyes fail, and he will be heartbroken. And all your descendants will die in the prime of life.

³⁴ What is going to happen to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you: Both of them will die on the same day.

³⁵ Then I will appoint a faithful priest to serve me. He will do everything I want him to do. I will give him faithful descendants, and he will always live as my anointed one.

³⁶ Then anyone who is left from your household will bow down in front of him to get a coin or a loaf of bread and say,

Please appoint me to one of the priestly classes so that I may eat a piece of bread."

3¹ The boy Samuel was serving the LORD under Eli. In those days a prophecy from the LORD was rare; visions were infrequent.

² One night Eli was lying down in his room. His eyesight had begun to fail so that he couldn't see well.

³ The lamp in God's temple hadn't gone out yet, and Samuel was asleep in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was kept.

⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel. "Here I am," Samuel responded.

⁵ He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go back to bed." So Samuel went back and lay down.

⁶ The LORD called Samuel again. Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I didn't call you, son," he responded. "Go back to bed."

⁷ Samuel had no experience with the LORD, because the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸The LORD called Samuel a third time. Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy.

⁹"Go, lie down," Eli told Samuel. "When he calls you, say, Speak, LORD. I'm listening." So Samuel went and lay down in his room.

¹⁰The LORD came and stood there. He called as he had called the other times: "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak. I'm listening."

¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, "I am going to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears it ring.

¹²On that day I am going to do to Eli and his family everything I said from beginning to end.

¹³I told him that I would hand down a permanent judgment against his household because he knew about his sons sin that they were cursing God but he didn't try to stop them.

¹⁴That is why I have taken an oath concerning Eli's family line: No offering or

sacrifice will ever be able to make peace for the sins that Elis family committed."

¹⁵Samuel remained in bed until morning. Then he opened the doors of the LORDS house. But Samuel was afraid to tell Eli about the vision.

¹⁶Then Eli called Samuel. "Samuel, my son!" he said. "Here I am," he responded.

¹⁷"What did the LORD tell you?" he asked. "Please dont hide anything from me. May God strike you dead if you hide anything he told you from me."

¹⁸So Samuel told Eli everything. Eli replied, "He is the LORD. May he do what he thinks is right."

¹⁹Samuel grew up. The LORD was with him and didnt let any of his words go unfulfilled.

²⁰All Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew Samuel was the LORDS appointed prophet.

²¹The LORD continued to appear in Shiloh, since the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh through the word of the LORD. And Samuel spoke to all Israel.

4¹ Israel went to fight against the Philistines and camped near Ebenezer while the Philistines camped at Aphek.

² The Philistines organized their troops to meet Israel in battle. As the battle spread, the Philistines defeated Israel and killed about 4,000 soldiers in the field.

³ When the troops came back to the camp, the leaders of Israel asked, "Why has the LORD used the Philistines to defeat us today? Lets get the ark of the LORDS promise from Shiloh so that he may be with us and save us from our enemies."

⁴ The troops sent some men who brought back the ark of the promise of the LORD of Armieswho is enthroned over the angels. Elis two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, came along with Gods ark.

⁵ When the LORDS ark came into the camp, all Israel shouted so loudly that the earth rang with echoes.

⁶ As the Philistines heard the noise, they asked, "Whats all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?" The Philistines found

out that the LORDS ark had come into the camp.

⁷Then they were frightened and said, "A god has come into their camp." They also said, "Oh no! Nothing like this has ever happened before.

⁸Were in trouble now! Who can save us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every kind of plague in the desert.

⁹Be strong, Philistines, and act like men, or else you will serve the Hebrews as they served you. Act like men and fight."

¹⁰The Philistines fought and defeated Israel. Every Israelite soldier fled to his tent. It was a major defeat in which 30,000 Israelite foot soldiers died.

¹¹The ark of God was captured. Both of Elis sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

¹²A man from the tribe of Benjamin ran from the front line of the battle. He went to Shiloh that day with his clothes torn and dirt on his head.

¹³When he arrived, Eli was sitting on a chair beside the road, watching. He was worried about the ark of God. The man

went into the city to tell the news. The whole city cried out.

¹⁴Hearing the cry, Eli asked, "What is this commotion?" So the man went quickly to tell Eli the news.

¹⁵(Eli was 98 years old, and his eyesight had failed so that he couldn't see.)

¹⁶The man told Eli, "I'm the one who came from the battle. I fled from the front line today." "What happened, son?" Eli asked.

¹⁷"Israel fled from the Philistines," the messenger answered. "Our troops suffered heavy casualties. Your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, also are dead, and the ark of God has been captured."

¹⁸When the messenger mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell from his chair backwards toward the gate. He broke his neck, and he died. (The man was old and heavy.) He had judged Israel for 40 years.

¹⁹His daughter-in-law, Phinehas' wife, was pregnant. When she heard the news that the ark of God had been captured and her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she went into labor prematurely and gave birth to a son.

²⁰As she was dying, the women helping her said, "Don't be afraid. You've given birth to a son." But she didn't answer or pay attention.

²¹She called the boy Ichabod [No Glory], saying, "Israel's glory is gone," because the ark of God had been captured and because her father-in-law and her husband died.

²²"Israel's glory is gone because the ark of God has been captured," she said.

5¹After the Philistines had captured the ark of God, they brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod.

²They brought it into the temple of Dagon and placed it beside Dagon.

³Early the next day the people of Ashdod saw that Dagon had fallen forward on the ground in front of the LORD'S ark. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place.

⁴But the next morning they saw that Dagon had again fallen forward on the ground in front of the LORD'S ark. Dagon's head and his two hands were cut off and were lying on the temple's threshold. The rest of Dagon's body was intact.

⁵This is why the priests of Dagon and everyone else who comes into Dagon's temple in Ashdod still don't step on the temple's threshold.

⁶The LORD dealt harshly with the people of Ashdod. He destroyed them by striking the people in the vicinity of Ashdod with tumors.

⁷When the people of Ashdod realized what was happening, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not stay with us, because their God is dealing harshly with us and our god Dagon."

⁸The people of Ashdod called together all the Philistine rulers. "What should we do with the ark of the God of Israel?" they asked. "The ark of the God of Israel must be taken to Gath," the rulers said. So the people took the ark of the God of Israel there.

⁹But after they had moved it, the LORD threw the city into a great panic: He struck all the important and unimportant people in the city, and they were covered with tumors.

¹⁰So the people of Gath sent the ark of God to Ekron. But when the ark of God came to Ekron, the people of Ekron cried

out, "They brought the ark of the God of Israel here to kill us."

¹¹ They called together all the Philistine rulers. "Send the ark of the God of Israel away," they said. "Let it go back to its own place so that it won't kill us or our people." There was a fear of death throughout the city, where God dealt with them very harshly.

¹² The people who didn't die were struck with tumors. So the cry of the city went up to heaven.

6¹ The ark of the LORD had been in Philistine territory seven months

² when the Philistines called for priests and people skilled in explaining omens. The Philistines asked, "What should we do with the ark of the LORD? Tell us how to return it to its proper place."

³ The priests answered, "If you're returning the ark of the God of Israel, don't send it away empty, but by all means return it to its proper place with a guilt offering. Then you will be healed, and you will know why he would not turn his anger away from you."

⁴ The Philistines asked, "What kind of guilt offering should we give him?" The

priests answered, "Five gold tumors and five gold mice for the five Philistine rulers because all of you and your rulers suffer from the same plague.

⁵Make models of your tumors and your mice which are destroying the country, and give glory to the God of Israel. Maybe he will no longer be so hard on you, your gods, and your country.

⁶Why should you be as stubborn as the Egyptians and their Pharaoh were? After he toyed with the Egyptians, didnt they send the Israelites on their way?

⁷Now get a new cart ready for two dairy cows that have never been yoked. Hitch the cows to the cart. Take their calves away, and leave them in their stall.

⁸Take the ark of the LORD, and put it on the cart. Put the gold objects which youre giving him as a guilt offering in a box beside the ark. Send the cart on its way,

⁹but then watch where it goes. If it goes up the road to its own country toward Beth Shemesh, then this disaster is the LORDS doing. But if not, well know it wasnt his hand that struck us, but what happened to us was an accident."

¹⁰The people did this. They took two dairy cows, hitched them to a cart, and shut the calves in the stall.

¹¹They put the ark of the LORD and the box containing the gold mice and the models of their hemorrhoids on the cart.

¹²The cows went straight up the road to Beth Shemesh. Continually mooing, they stayed on the road and didn't turn right or left. The rulers of the Philistines followed them to the border of Beth Shemesh.

¹³The people of Beth Shemesh were harvesting wheat in the valley. When they looked up and saw the ark, they were overjoyed.

¹⁴The cart came into the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh and stopped there by a large rock. The people chopped up the wood of the cart and sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD.

¹⁵(The Levites had already taken down from the cart the ark of the LORD and the box which contained the gold objects and put them on the large rock.) The people of Beth Shemesh presented burnt offerings and sacrifices to the LORD that day.

¹⁶After the five rulers of the Philistines saw this, they went back to Ekron that same day.

¹⁷The gold hemorrhoids which the Philistines sent as a guilt offering to the LORD were for the cities of Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron.

¹⁸And the number of gold mice was the same as the number of Philistine cities belonging to the five rulers, including walled cities and farm villages. The large rock on which they put the ark of the LORD is a witness. It is still there today in the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh.

¹⁹God struck down some of the people from Beth Shemesh because they looked inside the ark of the LORD. He struck down 70 people. The people mourned because the LORD struck them with such a great blow.

²⁰The people of Beth Shemesh asked, "Who can stand before the LORD, this holy God? And to which people will he go when he leaves us?"

²¹They sent messengers to the people living at Kiriath Jearim to say, "The Philistines have brought back the ark of

the LORD. Come and take it back with you."

7¹ The men of Kiriath Jearim came to take the LORDS ark and brought it into Abinadabs house on the hill. They gave Abinadabs son Eleazar the holy occupation of guarding the LORDS ark.

² A long time passed after the ark came to stay at Kiriath Jearim. For 20 years the entire nation of Israel mournfully sought the LORD.

³ Samuel told the entire nation of Israel, "If you are returning to the LORD wholeheartedly, get rid of the foreign gods you have, including the statues of the goddess Astarte. Make a commitment to the LORD, and serve only him. Then he will rescue you from the Philistines."

⁴ So the Israelites got rid of the statues of Baal and Astarte and served only the LORD.

⁵ Then Samuel said, "Gather all the Israelites together at Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you."

⁶ So the Israelites gathered together at Mizpah. They drew some water, poured it out in front of the LORD, and fasted that

day. They confessed, "We have sinned against the LORD." So Samuel judged Israel in Mizpah.

⁷When the Philistines heard that the Israelites had gathered at Mizpah, the Philistine rulers came to attack Israel. The Israelites heard about the Philistine plan and were afraid of them.

⁸The Israelites said to Samuel, "Don't turn a deaf ear to us! Don't stop crying to the LORD our God for us! Ask him to save us from the Philistines!"

⁹Then Samuel took a lamb, one still feeding on milk, and sacrificed it as a burnt offering to the LORD. Samuel cried to the LORD on behalf of Israel, and the LORD answered him.

¹⁰While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines came to fight against Israel. On that day the LORD thundered loudly at the Philistines and threw them into such confusion that they were defeated by Israel.

¹¹Israel's soldiers left Mizpah, pursued the Philistines, and killed them as far as Beth Car.

¹²Then Samuel took a rock and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named

it Ebenezer [Rock of Help] and said, "Until now the LORD has helped us."

¹³The power of the Philistines was crushed, so they didn't come into Israel's territory again. The LORD restrained the Philistines as long as Samuel lived.

¹⁴The cities between Ekron and Gath which the Philistines took from Israel were returned to Israel. And Israel recovered the territory controlled by these cities from the Philistines. There was also peace between Israel and the Amorites.

¹⁵Samuel judged Israel as long as he lived.

¹⁶Every year he went around to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah in order to judge Israel in all those places.

¹⁷Then he would return home to Ramah. There, too, he judged Israel. And in Ramah he built an altar to the LORD.

8¹When Samuel was old, he made his sons judges over Israel.

²The name of his firstborn son was Joel; the name of his second son was Abijah. They were judges in Beersheba.

³The sons didn't follow their fathers example but turned to dishonest ways of making money. They took bribes and denied people justice.

⁴Then all the leaders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah.

⁵They told him, "You're old, and your sons aren't following your example. Now appoint a king to judge us so that we will be like all the other nations."

⁶But Samuel considered it wrong for them to request a king to judge them. So Samuel prayed to the LORD.

⁷The LORD told Samuel, "Listen to everything the people are saying to you. They haven't rejected you; they've rejected me."

⁸They're doing just what they've done since I took them out of Egypt leaving me and serving other gods.

⁹Listen to them now, but be sure to warn them and tell them about the rights of a king."

¹⁰Then Samuel told the people who had asked him for a king everything the LORD had said.

¹¹Samuel said, "These are the rights of a king: He will draft your sons,

make them serve on his chariots and horses, and make them run ahead of his chariots.

¹²He will appoint them to be his officers over 1,000 or over 50 soldiers, to plow his ground and harvest his crops, and to make weapons and equipment for his chariots.

¹³He will take your daughters and have them make perfumes, cook, and bake.

¹⁴He will take the best of your fields, vineyards, and olive orchards and give them to his officials.

¹⁵He will take a tenth of your grain and wine and give it to his aids and officials.

¹⁶He will take your male and female slaves, your best cattle, and your donkeys for his own use.

¹⁷He will take a tenth of your flocks. In addition, you will be his servants.

¹⁸"When that day comes, you will cry out because of the king whom you have chosen for yourselves. The LORD will not answer you when that day comes."

¹⁹But the people refused to listen to Samuel. They said, "No, we want a king!

²⁰Then we, too, will be like all the other nations. Our king will judge us, lead us out to war, and fight our battles."

²¹When Samuel heard everything the people had to say, he reported it privately to the LORD.

²²The LORD told him, "Listen to them, and give them a king." Then Samuel told the people of Israel, "Go back to your own cities."

9¹There was a man from the tribe of Benjamin whose name was Kish. He was a son of Abiel, grandson of Zeror, and greatgrandson of Becorath, whose father was Aphiah, a descendant of Benjamin. Kish was a powerful man.

²He had a son named Saul, a handsome, young man. No man in Israel was more handsome than Saul. He stood a head taller than everyone else.

³When some donkeys belonging to Saul's father Kish were lost, Kish told Saul, "Take one of the servants with you, and go look for the donkeys."

⁴They went through the mountains of Ephraim and the region of Shalisha without finding the donkeys. Then Saul and his servant went through the

region of Shaalim, but the donkeys werent there. The men went through the territory of Benjamin but still didnt find them.

⁵When they came to the territory of Zuph, Saul told his servant who was with him, "Lets go back, or my father will stop worrying about the donkeys and worry about us instead."

⁶The servant responded, "Theres a man of God in this city, a highly respected man. Everything he says is sure to happen. Lets go there. Maybe hell tell us which way we should go."

⁷"If we go," Saul asked his servant, "what could we bring the man since the food in our sacks is gone? Theres no present we can bring the man of God. What do we have?"

⁸The servant again answered Saul, "Look, here! I have onetenth of an ounce of silver. Ill give it to the man of God. Then hell tell us where to find the donkeys."

⁹(Formerly in Israel, when a person went to ask God a question, he would say, "Come, lets go to the seer," because

a person we now call a prophet used to be called a seer.)

¹⁰Saul told his servant, "That's a good idea! Come on, let's go." They went to the city where the man of God was.

¹¹As they were going up the hill to the city, they met girls coming out to get water. They asked the girls, "Is the seer here?"

¹²The girls answered, "He's there ahead of you. Hurry! He just went into the city today since the people are offering a sacrifice on the worship site.

¹³As you go into the city, you can find him before he goes to the worship site to eat. The people will not eat until he comes, since he blesses the sacrifice. Then those who are invited may eat. Go. You should be able to find him now."

¹⁴So Saul and his servant went to the city. As they entered it, Samuel was coming toward them on his way to the worship site.

¹⁵Now, the LORD had revealed the following message to Samuel one day before Saul came:

¹⁶"About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the territory of

Benjamin. Anoint him to be ruler of my people Israel. He will save my people from the Philistines because I've seen my peoples suffering and their cry has come to me."

¹⁷When Samuel noticed Saul, the LORD told him, "There's the man I told you about. This man will govern my people."

¹⁸Saul approached Samuel inside the gateway and said, "Please tell me where the seer's house is."

¹⁹Samuel replied, "I'm the seer. Go ahead of me to the worship site. You will eat with me today. In the morning I'll let you go after I tell you all that's on your mind."

²⁰Don't trouble yourself about the donkeys that were lost three days ago because they've been found. Who will have all that is desirable in Israel? Won't it be you and your father's family?"

²¹Saul replied, "I am a man from the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest tribe of Israel. My family is the most insignificant of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin. So why are you saying such things to me?"

²²Samuel brought Saul and his servant to the banquet hall and had them sit at the head of the guests about 30 people.

²³Samuel said to the cook, "Bring me the portion of the sacrificial meat that I gave you and told you to put aside."

²⁴So the cook picked up the leg and thigh and laid it in front of Saul. Samuel said, "This was kept in order to be laid in front of you. Eat it. When I invited people to the feast, I set it aside for you." Saul ate with Samuel that day.

²⁵Then they left the worship site for the city. They spread blankets on the roof for Saul, and he slept there.

²⁶At dawn Samuel called to Saul on the roof, "Get up! Its time for me to send you away." Saul got up, and both he and Samuel went outside.

²⁷As they were going toward the city limits, Samuel told Saul, "Have the servant go ahead of you." (He went ahead.) "But you stay here, and I will tell you Gods word."

10¹Samuel took a flask of olive oil, poured it on Sauls head, kissed him, and said, "The LORD has anointed you to be ruler of his people Israel. You

will rule his people and save them from all their enemies. This will be the sign that the LORD has anointed you to be ruler of his people.

²When you leave me today, two men will be at Rachels grave on the border of Benjamin at Zelzah. Theyll tell you, Weve found the donkeys you went looking for. Your father no longer cares about them. Instead, hes worried about you. He keeps asking, "What can I do to find my son?"

³Keep going until you come to the oak tree at Tabor. There you will find three men on their way to worship God at Bethel: One will be carrying three young goats, one will be carrying three loaves of bread, and one will be carrying a full wineskin.

⁴They will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you should accept from them.

⁵After that, you will come to the hill of God, where the Philistines have a military post. When you arrive at the city, you will meet a group of prophets prophesying as they come from the worship site. They will be led by men

playing a harp, a tambourine, a flute, and a lyre.

⁶Then the LORDS Spirit will come over you. You will be a different person while you prophesy with them.

⁷When these signs happen to you, do what you must, because God is with you.

⁸Go ahead of me to Gilgal. Then I will come to sacrifice burnt offerings and make fellowship offerings. Wait seven days until I come to tell you what to do."

⁹When Saul turned around to leave Samuel, God changed Sauls attitude. That day all these signs happened.

¹⁰When Saul came to the hill, a group of prophets came to meet him, and Gods Spirit came over him. He prophesied with them.

¹¹When all who had known him before saw how he prophesied with the prophets, the people asked one another, "What has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul one of the prophets?"

¹²But a man from that place asked, "But whos the chief prophet?" So it became a proverb: "Is Saul one of the prophets?"

¹³And when he had finished prophesying, he came to the worship site.

¹⁴Sauls uncle asked him and his servant, "Where did you go?" Saul answered, "To look for the donkeys, and when we couldnt find them, we went to Samuel."

¹⁵Sauls uncle said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you."

¹⁶"He assured us the donkeys had been found," Saul answered his uncle. But Saul didnt tell him what Samuel said about his becoming king.

¹⁷Samuel called the people to come into the presence of the LORD at Mizpah.

¹⁸He said to the Israelites, "This is what the LORD God of Israel says: I brought Israel out of Egypt and rescued you from the power of the Egyptians and all the kings who were oppressing you.

¹⁹But now you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your troubles and distresses. You said, No! Place a king over us. Now then, stand in front of the LORD by your tribes and family groups."

²⁰When Samuel had all the tribes of Israel come forward, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen.

²¹When he had the tribe of Benjamin come forward by families, the family of Matri was chosen. Then Saul, the son of Kish, was chosen. They looked for him but couldn't find him.

²²They asked the LORD again, "Has he arrived here yet?" The LORD answered, "He's hiding among the baggage."

²³They ran and got him from there. As he stood among the people, he was a head taller than everyone else.

²⁴Samuel asked the people, "Do you see whom the LORD has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people." Then all the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

²⁵Samuel explained the laws concerning kingship to the people. He wrote the laws on a scroll, which he placed in front of the LORD. Then Samuel sent the people back to their homes.

²⁶Saul also went home to Gibeah. With him went some soldiers whose hearts God had touched.

²⁷ However, some good-for-nothing people asked, "How can this man save us?" They despised him and wouldn't bring him presents, but he didn't respond.

11 ¹ King Nahash of Ammon was severely oppressing the tribes of Gad and Reuben. He would poke out everyone's right eye and allow no one to rescue Israel. There was no one among the Israelites east of the Jordan River whose right eye King Nahash of Ammon had not poked out. However, seven thousand men had escaped from the Ammonites and gone to Jabesh Gilead. About a month later Nahash the Ammonite blockaded Jabesh Gilead. All the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a treaty with us, and we'll serve you."

² Nahash the Ammonite responded, "I'll make a treaty with you on this one condition: I'll poke out everyone's right eye and bring disgrace on all Israel."

³ The leaders of Jabesh told him, "Give us seven days so that we can send messengers throughout the territory of Israel. And if there's no one to save us, we'll surrender to you."

⁴The messengers came to Sauls town, Gibeah. When they told the people the news, the people cried loudly.

⁵Just then Saul was coming from the field behind some oxen. "Why are these people crying?" Saul asked. So they told him the news about the men of Jabesh.

⁶When he heard this news, Gods Spirit came over him, and he became very angry.

⁷Saul took a pair of oxen, cut them in pieces, and sent them by messengers throughout the territory of Israel with the following message: "This is what will be done to the oxen of anyone who doesnt follow Saul and Samuel into battle." So the people became terrified by the LORD, and they came out united behind Saul.

⁸When Saul counted them at Bezek, there were 300,000 troops from Israel and 30,000 troops from Judah.

⁹They told the messengers who had come, "This is what you are to say to the men of Jabesh Gilead: Tomorrow, by the time the sun gets hot, you will be rescued." When the men of

Jabesh received the message, they were overjoyed.

¹⁰They said to Nahash, "Tomorrow well surrender to you, and you may do to us whatever you think is right."

¹¹The next day Saul arranged the army in three divisions. They came into the Ammonite camp during the morning hours and continued to defeat the Ammonites until it got hot that day. The survivors were so scattered that no two of them were left together.

¹²Then the people asked Samuel, "Who said that Saul shouldnt rule us? Let us have them, and well kill them."

¹³But Saul said, "No one will be killed today, because today the LORD saved Israel."

¹⁴Samuel told the troops, "Come, lets go to Gilgal and there acknowledge Sauls kingship."

¹⁵Then all the troops went to Gilgal, and there in the LORDS presence, they confirmed Saul as their king. There they sacrificed fellowship offerings to the LORD. Saul and all of Israels soldiers celebrated.

12¹ Then Samuel said to all Israel, "I have listened to everything you have said to me and appointed a king over you.

² And now, here is the king who will lead you. I am old and gray, but my sons are with you. I have led you from my youth until this day.

³ Here I am. Testify against me in front of the LORD and in front of his anointed king. Did I take anyones ox? Did I take anyones donkey? Did I cheat or oppress anyone? Did I take a bribe from anyone to look the other way? If so, I will give it all back."

⁴ They answered, "You didnt cheat us, oppress us, or take anything from anyone."

⁵ Samuel told them, "The LORD is a witness to what youve said, and his anointed king is a witness today that youve found nothing in my hands." "He is a witness," they answered.

⁶ Samuel told the people, "The LORD appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your ancestors out of Egypt.

⁷ Now, stand up while I put you on trial in front of the LORD and cite all the

righteous things the LORD did for you and your ancestors.

⁸When your ancestors went with Jacob to Egypt and were oppressed, they cried out to the LORD, who sent Moses and Aaron to bring them out of Egypt. The LORD settled them in this place.

⁹But they forgot the LORD their God. So he handed them over to Sisera, who was the commander of the army of Hazor, to the Philistines, and to the king of Moab. All of them fought against your ancestors.

¹⁰Then they cried out to the LORD and said, We have sinned. We have abandoned the LORD and served other gods and goddesses the Baals and the Astartes. But rescue us from our enemies now, and we will serve you.

¹¹"Then the LORD sent Jerubbaal, Bedan, Jephthah, and Samuel and rescued you from your enemies on every side so that you could live securely.

¹²But when you saw King Nahash of Ammon coming to attack you, you told me, No, a king should rule over us, though the LORD your God was your king.

¹³"Now, here is the king you have chosen, the one you asked for. See, the LORD has put a king over you.

¹⁴If you fear the LORD, serve him, obey him, and don't rebel against what he says, then you and your king will follow the LORD your God.

¹⁵But if you don't obey the LORD, if you rebel against what he says, then the LORD will be against you as he was against your ancestors.

¹⁶Now then, stand still and watch this great thing the LORD is going to do right before your eyes.

¹⁷Isn't the wheat being harvested today? I will call on the LORD, and he'll send thunder and rain. Then you will realize what a wicked thing you did in the LORD'S presence when you asked for a king."

¹⁸Then Samuel called on the LORD. That day the LORD sent thunder and rain so that all the people feared the LORD and Samuel very much.

¹⁹All the people pleaded with Samuel, "Pray to the LORD your God for us so that we will not die. We have added

another evil thing to all our other sins by asking for a king."

²⁰"Don't be afraid," Samuel told the people. "You did do all these evil things. But don't turn away from the LORD. Instead, serve the LORD wholeheartedly.

²¹Don't turn away to follow other gods. They can't help or rescue you, because they don't exist.

²²For the sake of his great name, the LORD will not abandon his people, because the LORD wants to make you his people.

²³It would be unthinkable for me to sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. I will go on teaching you the way that is good and right.

²⁴Fear the LORD, and serve him sincerely. Consider the great things he did for you.

²⁵But if you go on doing what is evil, you and your king will be wiped out."

13¹ Saul was thirty years old when he became king, and he was king of Israel forty-two years.

²Saul chose 3,000 men from Israel; 2,000 of them were stationed with Saul at Michmash and in the mountains of

Bethel, and 1,000 were stationed with Jonathan at Gibeah in Benjamin. But the rest of the people he sent home.

³ Jonathan defeated the Philistine troops at Geba, and the Philistines heard about it. With the sounding of the rams horn throughout the land, Saul announced, "Listen, Hebrews!"

⁴ (So all Israel listened.) "I, Saul, have defeated the Philistine troops, and now Israel has become offensive to the Philistines!" All the troops rallied behind Saul at Gilgal.

⁵ The Philistines assembled to fight against Israel. They had 30,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen, and as many soldiers as the sand on the seashore. They camped at Michmash, east of Beth Aven.

⁶ When the Israelites saw they were in trouble because the army was hardpressed, they hid in caves, in thorny thickets, among rocks, in pits, and in cisterns.

⁷ Some Hebrews crossed the Jordan River into the territory of Gad and Gilead. But Saul remained in Gilgal, and all the people who followed him trembled in fear.

⁸He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel. But Samuel had not come to Gilgal, and the troops began to scatter.

⁹Then Saul said, "Bring me the animals for the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." So he sacrificed the burnt offering.

¹⁰As he finished sacrificing the burnt offering, Samuel came, and Saul went to greet him.

¹¹Samuel asked, "What have you done?" Saul replied, "I saw the troops were scattering. You didnt come when you said you would, and the Philistines were assembling at Michmash.

¹²So I thought, Now, the Philistines will come against me at Gilgal, but I havent sought the LORDS favor. I felt pressured into sacrificing the burnt offering."

¹³"You did a foolish thing," Samuel told Saul. "You didnt follow the command of the LORD your God. If you had, the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel permanently.

¹⁴But now your kingdom will not last. The LORD has searched for a man after his own heart. The LORD has appointed

him as ruler of his people, because you didn't follow the command of the LORD."

¹⁵Samuel left Gilgal. The rest of the people followed Saul to meet the soldiers. They went from Gilgal to Gibeah in Benjamin, where Saul counted the troops who were still with him about 600 men.

¹⁶Saul, his son Jonathan, and the troops who were with them stayed at Geba in Benjamin while the Philistines camped at Michmash.

¹⁷Raiding parties left the Philistine camp in three columns. One column turned onto the road to Ophrah to the region of Shual.

¹⁸Another column turned onto the road to Beth Horon. And one turned onto the road toward the region that overlooks the valley of Zeboim and the desert.

¹⁹No blacksmith could be found in the entire land of Israel. In this way the Philistines kept the Hebrews from making swords and spears.

²⁰Everyone in Israel had to go to the Philistines to sharpen the blade of his plow, his mattock, ax, or sickle.

²¹ The price was a pim for plow blades and mattocks, and onetenth of an ounce of silver to sharpen a mattock or set a metal point on a cattleprod.

²² So on the day of battle, not one sword or spear could be found among all the troops who were with Saul and Jonathan. But Saul and his son Jonathan had them.

²³ Now, Philistine troops had gone out to the pass at Michmash.

14 ¹ One day Sauls son Jonathan said to his armorbearer, "Lets go to the Philistine military post on the other side." But Jonathan didnt tell his father he was going.

² Saul was staying on the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree at Migron. He had with him about 600 men

³ in addition to Ahijah, the son of Ichabods brother Ahitub, who was the son of Phinehas and the grandson of Eli, the LORDS priest at Shiloh. Ahijah was wearing the priestly ephod. The troops didnt know Jonathan had left.

⁴ There was a cliff on each side of the mountain pass where Jonathan searched for a way to cross over to attack the

Philistine military post. The name of one cliff was Bozez, and the name of the other was Seneh.

⁵One cliff stood like a pillar on the north facing Michmash, the other stood south facing Geba.

⁶Jonathan said to his armorbearer, "Let's go to the military post of these uncircumcised people. Maybe the LORD will act on our behalf. The LORD can win a victory with a few men as well as with many."

⁷His armorbearer answered him, "Do whatever you have in mind. Go ahead! I agree with you."

⁸Jonathan continued, "Listen, we'll cross over to the Philistines and show ourselves to them."

⁹If they say to us, Stay where you are until we come to you, then we'll stay where we are and not go up to them.

¹⁰But if they say to us, Come up here, then we'll go up, because that will be our sign that the LORD has handed them over to us."

¹¹So both of them showed themselves to the Philistine troops. The Philistines

said, "Look, some Hebrews are coming out of the holes they were hiding in."

¹²"Come up here," the men of the military post said to Jonathan and his armorbearer. "We have something to show you." Jonathan told his armorbearer, "Follow me up to the military post because the LORD has handed the troops over to Israel."

¹³Jonathan climbed up the cliff, and his armorbearer followed him. Jonathan struck down the Philistines. His armorbearer, who was behind him, finished killing them.

¹⁴In their first slaughter Jonathan and his armorbearer killed about twenty men within about a hundred yards.

¹⁵There was panic among the army in the field and all the troops in the military post. The raiding party also trembled in fear. The earth shook, and there was a panic sent from God.

¹⁶Saul's watchmen at Gibeah in Benjamin could see the crowd in the Philistine camp dispersing in all directions.

¹⁷"Look around," Saul told the troops who were with him, "and see who has

left our camp." They looked and found that Jonathan and his armorbearer were not there.

¹⁸Then Saul said to Ahijah, "Bring the priestly ephod," because Ahijah carried the ephod in front of Israel that day.

¹⁹While Saul was talking to the priest, the confusion in the Philistine camp grew worse and worse. Then Saul said to the priest, "Remove your hand from the ephod."

²⁰Saul and all the troops with him assembled and went into battle. They found Philistine soldiers killing their fellow soldiers in wild confusion.

²¹The Hebrews who had been with the Philistines before this and had been stationed in the camp now joined the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan.

²²When all the men of Israel who had been hiding in the mountains of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were fleeing, they also pursued the Philistines in battle.

²³So the LORD saved Israel that day. Now, the battle moved beyond Beth Aven.

²⁴ Israel's soldiers were driven hard that day. Saul made the troops swear, "Cursed is anyone who eats food before the evening comes and before I've gotten revenge on my enemies." So none of his troops tasted any food.

²⁵ The entire land had honeycombs, and there was honey on the ground.

²⁶ When the troops entered the woods, the honey was flowing. But no one put his hand to his mouth, because the troops were afraid of violating their oath.

²⁷ Jonathan hadn't heard that his father forced the troops to take an oath. So he stretched out the tip of the staff he had in his hand and dipped it in the honeycomb. When he put it to his mouth, his eyes lit up.

²⁸ Then one of the soldiers told him, "Your father forced the troops to take a solemn oath: Cursed is anyone who eats food today." Now, the army was exhausted.

²⁹ Jonathan answered, "My father has brought trouble to the country. See how my eyes lit up when I tasted a little of this honey?"

³⁰ "If only the troops had eaten some of the enemies food, which they found today. We would have killed more Philistines."

³¹ That day they struck down the Philistines from Michmash to Aijalon, but the troops were thoroughly exhausted.

³² So the troops seized the Philistines belongings. They took sheep, cows, and calves, and butchered them on the ground. The troops ate the meat with blood still in it.

³³ Some soldiers told Saul, "The troops are sinning against the LORD by eating meat with blood in it." Saul replied, "You have been unfaithful. Roll a large rock over to me now."

³⁴ Then Saul said, "Spread out through the troops, and tell them, Each of you, bring me your ox or your sheep, and butcher it here, and eat. But don't sin against the LORD by eating meat with blood in it." So each of the soldiers brought his ox with him that night and butchered it there.

³⁵ Then Saul built an altar to the LORD; it was the first time he had built an altar to the LORD.

³⁶ Saul said to his men, "Let's attack the Philistines tonight and take their possessions until the light of dawn. And let's not leave any of them alive." "Do whatever you think is best," they responded. But the priest said, "Let's consult God first."

³⁷ Then Saul asked God, "Should I attack the Philistines? Will you hand them over to Israel?" But he received no answer that day.

³⁸ So Saul ordered all the leaders of the troops, "Come here! Find out what sin was committed today."

³⁹ I solemnly swear, as the LORD and Savior of Israel lives, even if it is my son Jonathan who did it, he must die." But not one of the soldiers replied.

⁴⁰ Saul told all Israel, "You stand on one side, and my son Jonathan and I will stand on the other side." "Do whatever you think is best," the troops responded to Saul.

⁴¹ Then Saul said to the LORD, "O God of Israel, why didn't you answer me today? If this sin is mine or my son Jonathan's, LORD God of Israel, let the priest draw Urim. But if it is in your

people Israel, let him draw Thummim." Jonathan and Saul were chosen, and the people were freed from guilt.

⁴²"Choose between me and my son Jonathan," Saul said. Then Jonathan was chosen.

⁴³"Tell me," Saul asked Jonathan. "What did you do?" So Jonathan told him, "I tasted a little honey on the tip of the staff I had in my hand. And for that I am to die?"

⁴⁴Saul said, "May God do worse things to me than are in this curse if you do not die, Jonathan!"

⁴⁵The troops asked Saul, "Should Jonathan die after he has won this great victory in Israel? That would be unthinkable! We solemnly swear, as the LORD lives, not a single hair of his head will fall to the ground, because he has done this with Gods help today." So the troops rescued Jonathan from death.

⁴⁶Then Saul stopped pursuing the Philistines. So the Philistines returned to their own land.

⁴⁷When Saul had taken over the kingdom of Israel, he fought against his enemies on every side against Moab, the

Ammonites, Edom, the kings of Zobah, and the Philistines. Wherever he turned, he was victorious.

⁴⁸He acted forcefully and defeated Amalek. He rescued Israel from the enemies who looted their possessions.

⁴⁹Sauls sons were Jonathan, Ishvi, and Malchishua. The names of his two daughters were Merab (the firstborn daughter) and Michal (the younger daughter).

⁵⁰The name of Sauls wife was Ahinoam, the daughter of Ahimaaz. The name of the commander of his army was Abner, the son of Sauls uncle Ner.

⁵¹Kish (Sauls father) and Ner (Abners father) were the sons of Abiel.

⁵²There was intense warfare with the Philistines as long as Saul lived. Whenever any warrior or any skilled fighting man came to Sauls attention, Saul would enlist him in the army.

15¹ Samuel told Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king of his people Israel. Now listen to the LORDS words.

²This is what the LORD of Armies says: I will punish Amalek for what they did

to Israel. They blocked Israels way after the Israelites came from Egypt.

³Now go and attack Amalek. Claim everything they have for God by destroying it. Dont spare them, but kill men and women, infants and children, cows and sheep, camels and donkeys."

⁴Saul organized the troops, and he counted them at Telaim: 200,000 foot soldiers and 10,000 men from Judah.

⁵Saul went to the city of Amalek and set an ambush in the valley.

⁶Then Saul said to the Kenites, "Get away from the Amalekites so that I wont destroy you with them. You were kind to all the Israelites when they came from Egypt." So the Kenites left the Amalekites.

⁷Saul attacked the Amalekites from Havilah to Shur, east of Egypt.

⁸He captured King Agag of Amalek alive. But he claimed all the people for God by destroying them.

⁹Saul and the army spared Agag and the best sheep and cows, the fattened animals, the lambs, and all the best property. The army refused to claim them for God by destroying them. But

everything that was worthless and weak the army did claim for God and destroy.

¹⁰Then the LORD spoke to Samuel:

¹¹"I regret that I made Saul king. He turned away from me and did not carry out my instructions." Samuel was angry, and he prayed to the LORD all night.

¹²Early in the morning he got up to meet Saul. Samuel was told, "Saul went to Carmel to set up a monument in his honor. Then he left there and went to Gilgal."

¹³Samuel came to Saul, who said, "The LORD bless you. I carried out the LORDS instructions."

¹⁴However, Samuel asked, "But what is this sound of sheep in my ears and this sound of cows that I hear?"

¹⁵Saul answered, "The army brought them from the Amalekites. They spared the best sheep and cows to sacrifice to the LORD your God. But the rest they claimed for God and destroyed."

¹⁶"Be quiet," Samuel told Saul, "and let me tell you what the LORD told me last night." "Speak," Saul replied.

¹⁷Samuel said, "Even though you dont consider yourself great, you were

the head of Israels tribes. The LORD anointed you king of Israel.

¹⁸And the LORD sent you on a mission. He said, Claim those sinners, the Amalekites, for me by destroying them. Wage war against them until theyre wiped out.

¹⁹Why didnt you obey the LORD? Why have you taken their belongings and done what the LORD considers evil?"

²⁰"But I did obey the LORD," Saul told Samuel. "I went where the LORD sent me, brought back King Agag of Amalek, and claimed the Amalekites for God.

²¹The army took some of their belongingsthe best sheep and cows were claimed for Godin order to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."

²²Then Samuel said, "Is the LORD as delighted with burnt offerings and sacrifices as he would be with your obedience? To follow instructions is better than to sacrifice. To obey is better than sacrificing the fat of rams.

²³The sin of black magic is rebellion. Wickedness and idolatry are arrogance. Because you rejected the word of the LORD, he rejects you as king."

²⁴ Then Saul told Samuel, "I have sinned by not following the LORDS command or your instructions. I was afraid of the people and listened to them.

²⁵ Now please forgive my sin and come back with me so that I may worship the LORD."

²⁶ Samuel told Saul, "I will not go back with you because you rejected what the LORD told you. So the LORD rejects you as king of Israel."

²⁷ When Samuel turned to leave, Saul grabbed the hem of his robe, and it tore.

²⁸ Samuel told him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today. He has given it to your neighbor who is better than you.

²⁹ In addition, the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind, because he is not a mortal who changes his mind."

³⁰ Saul replied, "I have sinned! Now please honor me in front of the leaders of my people and in front of Israel. Come back with me, and let me worship the LORD your God."

³¹ Then Samuel turned and followed Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.

³²"Bring me King Agag of Amalek," Samuel said. Agag came to him trembling. "Surely, the bitterness of death is past," Agag said.

³³But Samuel said, "As your sword made women childless, so your mother will be made childless among women." And Samuel cut Agag in pieces in the presence of the LORD at Gilgal.

³⁴Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went to his home at Gibeah.

³⁵Samuel didn't see Saul again before he died, though Samuel mourned over Saul. And the LORD regretted that he had made Saul king of Israel.

16¹The LORD asked Samuel, "How long are you going to mourn for Saul now that I have rejected him as king of Israel? Fill a flask with olive oil and go. I'm sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem because I've selected one of his sons to be king."

²"How can I go?" Samuel asked. "When Saul hears about it, he'll kill me." The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, I've come to sacrifice to the LORD.

³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice. I will reveal to you what you should do, and

you will anoint for me the one I point out to you."

⁴Samuel did what the LORD told him. When he came to Bethlehem, the leaders of the city, trembling with fear, greeted him and said, "May peace be with you."

⁵"Greetings," he replied, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Perform the ceremonies to make yourselves holy, and come with me to the sacrifice." He performed the ceremonies for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he saw Eliab and thought, "Certainly, here in the LORDS presence is his anointed king."

⁷But the LORD told Samuel, "Don't look at his appearance or how tall he is, because I have rejected him. God does not see as humans see. Humans look at outward appearances, but the LORD looks into the heart."

⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and brought him to Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either."

⁹Then Jesse had Shammah come to Samuel. "The LORD has not chosen this one either," Samuel said.

¹⁰So Jesse brought seven more of his sons to Samuel, but Samuel told Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these.

¹¹"Are these all the sons you have?" "Theres still the youngest one," Jesse answered. "Hes tending the sheep." Samuel told Jesse, "Send someone to get him. We wont continue until he gets here."

¹²So Jesse sent for him. He had a healthy complexion, attractive eyes, and a handsome appearance. The LORD said, "Go ahead, anoint him. He is the one."

¹³Samuel took the flask of olive oil and anointed David in the presence of his brothers. The LORDS Spirit came over David and stayed with him from that day on. Then Samuel left for Ramah.

¹⁴Now, the LORDS Spirit had left Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him.

¹⁵Sauls officials told him, "An evil spirit from God is tormenting you.

¹⁶Your Majesty, why dont you command us to look for a man who can play the

lyre well? When the evil spirit from God comes to you, he'll strum a tune, and you'll feel better."

¹⁷ Saul told his officials, "Please find me a man who can play well and bring him to me."

¹⁸ One of the officials said, "I know one of Jesse's sons from Bethlehem who can play well. He's a courageous man and a warrior. He has a way with words, he is handsome, and the LORD is with him."

¹⁹ Saul sent messengers to Jesse to say, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."

²⁰ Jesse took six bushels of bread, a full wineskin, and a young goat and sent them with his son David to Saul.

²¹ David came to Saul and served him. Saul loved him very much and made David his armorbearer.

²² Saul sent this message to Jesse, "Please let David stay with me because I have grown fond of him."

²³ Whenever God's spirit came to Saul, David took the lyre and strummed a tune. Saul got relief from his terror and felt better, and the evil spirit left him.

17 ¹The Philistines assembled their armies for war. They assembled at Socoh, which is in Judah, and camped between Socoh and Azekah at Ephes Dammim.

²So Saul and the army of Israel assembled and camped in the Elah Valley. They formed a battle line to fight the Philistines.

³The Philistines were stationed on a hill on one side, and the Israelites were stationed on a hill on the other side. There was a ravine between the two of them.

⁴The Philistine army's champion came out of their camp. His name was Goliath from Gath. He was ten feet tall.

⁵He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he wore a bronze coat of armor scales weighing 125 pounds.

⁶On his legs he had bronze shin guards and on his back a bronze javelin.

⁷The shaft of his spear was like the beam used by weavers. The head of his spear was made of 15 pounds of iron. The man who carried his shield walked ahead of him.

⁸Goliath stood and called to the Israelites, "Why do you form a battle line? Am I not a Philistine, and arent you Sauls servants? Choose a man, and let him come down to fight me.

⁹If he can fight me and kill me, then we will be your slaves. But if I overpower him and kill him, then you will be our slaves and serve us."

¹⁰The Philistine added, "I challenge the Israelite battle line today. Send out a man so that we can fight each other."

¹¹When Saul and all the Israelites heard what this Philistine said, they were gripped with fear.

¹²David was a son of a man named Jesse from the region of Ephrath and the city of Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Sauls day he was an old man.

¹³Jesses three oldest sons joined Sauls army for the battle. The firstborn was Eliab, the second was Abinadab, the third was Shammah,

¹⁴and David was the youngest. The three oldest joined Sauls army.

¹⁵David went back and forth from Sauls camp to Bethlehem, where he tended his fathers flock.

¹⁶Each morning and evening for 40 days, the Philistine came forward and made his challenge.

¹⁷Jesse told his son David, "Take this halfbushel of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread to your brothers. Take them to your brothers in the camp right away.

¹⁸And take these ten cheeses to the captain of the regiment. See how your brothers are doing, and bring back some news about them.

¹⁹They, along with Saul and all the soldiers of Israel, are in the Elah Valley fighting the Philistines."

²⁰David got up early in the morning and had someone else watch the sheep. He took the food and went, as Jesse ordered him. He went to the camp as the army was going out to the battle line shouting their war cry.

²¹Israel and the Philistines formed their battle lines facing each other.

²²David left the supplies behind in the hands of the quartermaster, ran to the battle line, and greeted his brothers.

²³While he was talking to them, the Philistine champion, Goliath from Gath, came from the battle lines of the Philistines. He repeated his words, and David heard them.

²⁴When all the men of Israel saw Goliath, they fled from him because they were terrified.

²⁵The men of Israel said, "Did you see that man coming from the Philistine lines? He keeps coming to challenge Israel. The king will make the man who kills this Philistine very rich. He will give his daughter to that man to marry and elevate the social status of his family."

²⁶David asked the men who were standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and gets rid of Israel's disgrace? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should challenge the army of the living God?"

²⁷The soldiers repeated to David how the man who kills Goliath would be treated.

²⁸Eliab, Davids oldest brother, heard David talking to the men. Then Eliab became angry with David. "Why did you come here," he asked him, "and with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how overconfident and headstrong you are. You came here just to see the battle."

²⁹"What have I done now?" David snapped at him. "Didn't I merely ask a question?"

³⁰He turned to face another man and asked the same question, and the other soldiers gave him the same answer.

³¹What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, who then sent for him.

³²David told Saul, "No one should be discouraged because of this. I will go and fight this Philistine."

³³Saul responded to David, "You can't fight this Philistine. You're just a boy, but he's been a warrior since he was your age."

³⁴David replied to Saul, "I am a shepherd for my father's sheep. Whenever a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock,

³⁵I went after it, struck it, and rescued the sheep from its mouth. If it attacked me, I took hold of its mane, struck it, and killed it.

³⁶I have killed lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them because he has challenged the army of the living God."

³⁷David added, "The LORD, who saved me from the lion and the bear, will save me from this Philistine." "Go," Saul told David, "and may the LORD be with you."

³⁸Saul put his battle tunic on David; he put a bronze helmet on Davids head and dressed him in armor.

³⁹David fastened Sauls sword over his clothes and tried to walk, but he had never practiced doing this. "I cant walk in these things," David told Saul. "Ive never had any practice doing this." So David took all those things off.

⁴⁰He took his stick with him, picked out five smooth stones from the riverbed, and put them in his shepherds bag. With a sling in his hand, he approached the Philistine.

⁴¹ The Philistine, preceded by the man carrying his shield, was coming closer and closer to David.

⁴² When the Philistine got a good look at David, he despised him. After all, David was a young man with a healthy complexion and good looks.

⁴³ The Philistine asked David, "Am I a dog that you come to attack me with sticks?" So the Philistine called on his gods to curse David.

⁴⁴ "Come on," the Philistine told David, "and I'll give your body to the birds."

⁴⁵ David told the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Armies, the God of the army of Israel, whom you have insulted.

⁴⁶ Today the LORD will hand you over to me. I will strike you down and cut off your head. And this day I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals. The whole world will know that Israel has a God.

⁴⁷ Then everyone gathered here will know that the LORD can save without sword or spear, because the LORD

determines every battles outcome. He will hand all of you over to us."

⁴⁸When the Philistine moved closer in order to attack, David quickly ran toward the opposing battle line to attack the Philistine.

⁴⁹Then David reached into his bag, took out a stone, hurled it from his sling, and struck the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank into Goliaths forehead, and he fell to the ground on his face.

⁵⁰So using only a sling and a stone, David proved to be stronger than the Philistine. David struck down and killed the Philistine, even though David didnt have a sword in his hand.

⁵¹David ran and stood over the Philistine. He took Goliaths sword, pulled it out of its sheath, and made certain the Philistine was dead by cutting off his head. When the Philistines saw their hero had been killed, they fled.

⁵²Then the soldiers of Israel and Judah rose up, shouted a battle cry, and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Wounded Philistines lay on the road to Shaaraim and all the way to Gath and Ekron.

⁵³When the Israelites came back from their pursuit of the Philistines, they looted all the goods in the Philistine camp.

⁵⁴David took the Philistines head and brought it to Jerusalem, but he kept Goliaths armor in his tent.

⁵⁵As Saul watched David going out against the Philistine, he asked Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this young man?" Abner answered, "I solemnly swear, as you live, Your Majesty, I dont know."

⁵⁶The king said, "Find out whose son this young man is."

⁵⁷When David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner brought him to Saul. David had the Philistines head in his hand.

⁵⁸Saul asked him, "Whose son are you, young man?" "The son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem," David answered.

18¹David finished talking to Saul. After that, Jonathan became Davids closest friend. He loved David as much as he loved himself.

²(From that day on Saul kept David as his servant and didnt let him go back to his family.)

³So Jonathan made a pledge of mutual loyalty with David because he loved him as much as he loved himself.

⁴Jonathan took off the coat he had on and gave it to David along with his battle tunic, his sword, his bow, and his belt.

⁵David was successful wherever Saul sent him. Saul put him in charge of the fighting men. This pleased all the people, including Sauls officials.

⁶As they arrived, David was returning from a campaign against the Philistines. Women from all of Israels cities came to meet King Saul. They sang and danced, accompanied by tambourines, joyful music, and triangles.

⁷The women who were celebrating sang, "Saul has defeated thousands but David tens of thousands!"

⁸Saul became very angry because he considered this saying to be insulting. "To David they credit tens of thousands," he said, "but to me they credit only a few thousand. The only thing left for David is my kingdom."

⁹From that day on Saul kept an eye on David.

¹⁰The next day an evil spirit from God seized Saul. He began to prophesy in his house while David strummed a tune on the lyre as he did every day. Now, Saul had a spear in his hand.

¹¹He raised the spear and thought, "I'll nail David to the wall." But David got away from him twice.

¹²Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had left Saul.

¹³So he kept David away. He made David captain of a regiment. David led the troops out to battle and back again.

¹⁴He was successful in everything he undertook because the LORD was with him.

¹⁵Saul noticed how very successful he was and became even more afraid of him.

¹⁶Everyone in Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in and out of battle.

¹⁷Finally, Saul said to David, "Here is my oldest daughter Merab. I will give her to you as your wife if you prove yourself to be a warrior for me and fight the

LORDS battles." (Saul thought, "I must not lay a hand on him. Let the Philistines do that.")

¹⁸"Who am I?" David asked Saul. "And how important are my relatives or my fathers family in Israel that I should be the kings soninlaw?"

¹⁹But when the time came to give Sauls daughter Merab to David, she was married to Adriel from Meholah.

²⁰However, Sauls daughter Michal fell in love with David. When Saul was told about it, the news pleased him.

²¹Saul thought, "Ill give her to David. She will trap him, and the Philistines will get him." So he said to David a second time, "You will now be my soninlaw."

²²Saul ordered his officers, "Talk to David in private. Tell him, The king likes you, and all his officers are fond of you. Become the kings soninlaw."

²³When Sauls officers made it a point to say this, David asked, "Do you think its easy to become the kings soninlaw? I am a poor and unimportant person."

²⁴When the officers told Saul what David had said,

²⁵ Saul replied, "Tell David, The king doesnt want any payment for the bride except 100 Philistine foreskins so that he can get revenge on his enemies." In this way Saul planned to have David fall into the hands of the Philistines.

²⁶ When his officers told David this, David concluded that it was acceptable to become the kings soninlaw. Before the time was up,

²⁷ David and his men went out and struck down 200 Philistines. David brought the foreskins, and they counted them out for the king so that David could become the kings soninlaw. Then Saul gave him his daughter Michal as his wife.

²⁸ Saul realized that the LORD was with David and that his daughter Michal loved David.

²⁹ Then Saul was even more afraid of David, and so Saul became Davids constant enemy.

³⁰ The Philistine generals still went out to fight Israel. But whenever they went out to fight, David was more successful than the rest of Sauls officers. So David gained a good reputation.

19¹ Saul told his son Jonathan and all his officers to kill David. But Saul's son Jonathan was very fond of David,

²so he reported to David, "My father Saul is trying to kill you. Please be careful tomorrow morning. Go into hiding, and stay out of sight.

³I'll go out and stand beside my father in the field where you'll be. I'll speak with my father about you. If I find out anything, I'll tell you."

⁴So Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul. "You should not commit a sin against your servant David," he said. "He hasn't sinned against you. Instead, he has done some very fine things for you:

⁵He risked his life and killed the Philistine Goliath, and the LORD gave all Israel a great victory. When you saw it, you rejoiced. Why then should you sin by shedding David's innocent blood for no reason?"

⁶Saul listened to Jonathan, and he promised, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD lives, he will not be killed."

⁷ Jonathan told David all of this. Then Jonathan took David to Saul. So David was returned to his former status in Sauls court.

⁸ When war broke out again, David went to fight the Philistines. He defeated them so decisively that they fled from him.

⁹ Then an evil spirit from the LORD came over Saul while he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand. David was strumming a tune.

¹⁰ Saul tried to nail David to the wall with his spear. But David dodged it, and Sauls spear struck the wall. David fled, escaping from Saul that night.

¹¹ Saul sent messengers to watch Davids house and kill him in the morning. But Michal, Davids wife, advised him, "If you dont save yourself tonight, youll be dead tomorrow!"

¹² So Michal lowered David through a window, and he ran away to escape.

¹³ Then Michal took some idols, laid them in the bed, put a goathair blanket at its head, and covered the idols with a garment.

¹⁴ When Saul sent messengers to get David, Michal said, "Hes sick."

¹⁵Then Saul sent the messengers back to see David themselves. Saul told them, "Bring him here to me in his bed so that I can kill him."

¹⁶The messengers came, and there in the bed were the idols with the goathair blanket at its head.

¹⁷Saul asked Michal, "Why did you betray me by sending my enemy away so that he could escape?" Michal answered, "He told me, Let me go! Why should I kill you?"

¹⁸David escaped and went to Samuel at Ramah. He told Samuel everything Saul had done to him. Then he and Samuel went to the pastures and lived there.

¹⁹When it was reported to Saul that David was in the pastures at Ramah,

²⁰Saul sent messengers to get David. But when they saw a group of prophets prophesying with Samuel serving as their leader, Gods Spirit came over Sauls messengers so that they also prophesied.

²¹When they told Saul about this, he sent other messengers, but they also prophesied. Saul even sent a third group of messengers, but they also prophesied.

²²Then he went to Ramah himself. He went as far as the big cistern in Secu and asked the people, "Where are Samuel and David?" He was told, "Over there in the pastures at Ramah."

²³As he went toward the pastures at Ramah, Gods Spirit came over him too. He continued his journey, prophesying until he came to the pastures at Ramah.

²⁴He even took off his clothes as he prophesied in front of Samuel and lay there naked all day and all night. This is where the saying, "Is Saul one of the prophets?" came from.

20¹David fled from the pastures at Ramah, came to Jonathan, and asked, "What have I done? What crime am I guilty of? What sin have I committed against your father that hes trying to kill me?"

²Jonathan answered, "Thats unthinkable! Youre not going to die! My father does nothing without telling me, whether its important or not. Why should my father hide this from me? Its just not that way."

³But David took an oath, saying, "Your father certainly knows that you support

me, so he said to himself, Jonathan must not know about this. It will bring him distress. But I solemnly swear, as the LORD and you live, I'm only one step away from death."

⁴Jonathan said to David, "I'll do whatever you say."

⁵David replied, "Tomorrow is the New Moon Festival, when I should sit and eat at the king's table. But let me go and hide in the countryside for two more nights."

⁶If your father really misses me, tell him, David repeatedly begged me to let him run to Bethlehem, his hometown, because his relatives are offering the annual sacrifice there.

⁷If he says, Good! then I will be safe. But if he gets really angry, then you'll know for sure that he has decided to harm me.

⁸Now, be kind to me. After all, you forced me into an agreement with the LORD. If I have committed any crime, kill me yourself. Why bother taking me to your father?"

⁹Jonathan answered, "That's unthinkable! If I knew for sure

that my father had decided to harm you, I would have told you about it."

¹⁰Then David asked, "Who will tell me whether or not your father gives you a harsh answer?"

¹¹Jonathan said, "Lets go out into the country." So they went out into the country.

¹²"As the LORD God of Israel is my witness," Jonathan continued, "Ill find out in the next two or three days how my father feels about you. If he does feel kindly toward you, then I will send someone to tell you.

¹³If my father plans to harm you and I fail to tell you and send you away safely, may the LORD harm me even more. May the LORD be with you as he used to be with my father.

¹⁴But as long as I live, promise me that you will show me kindness because of the LORD. And even when I die,

¹⁵never stop being kind to my family. The Lord will wipe each of Davids enemies off the face of the earth.

¹⁶At that time, if Jonathans name is cut off from Davids family, then may the LORD punish Davids house."

¹⁷ Once again Jonathan swore an oath to David because of his love for David. He loved David as much as he loved himself.

¹⁸ "Tomorrow is the New Moon Festival," Jonathan told him, "and you will be missed when your seat is empty.

¹⁹ The day after tomorrow you will be missed even more. So go to the place where you hid on that other occasion, and stay by the rock.

²⁰ I will shoot three arrows from beside it toward a target.

²¹ Then I will send out a boy and say, Go, find the arrows. Now, if I tell the boy, Look, the arrows are next to you; get them, then come back with me. You will be safe, and there will be no trouble. I swear it, as the LORD lives.

²² But if I tell the boy, The arrows are next to you, then go, because the LORD has sent you away.

²³ We have made a promise to each other, and the LORD is a witness between you and me forever."

²⁴ So David hid in the countryside. When the New Moon Festival came, King Saul sat down to eat the festival meal.

²⁵ He sat in his usual seat by the wall, while Jonathan stood. Abner sat beside Saul, but Davids place was empty.

²⁶ Saul didnt say anything that day, thinking, "Something has happened to him so that hes unclean. He must be unclean."

²⁷ But on the second day of the month, Davids place was still empty. Saul asked his son Jonathan, "Why hasnt Jesses son come to the meal either yesterday or today?"

²⁸ Jonathan answered Saul, "David repeatedly begged me to let him go to Bethlehem.

²⁹ David said to me Please let me go. Our relatives will offer a sacrifice in the city, and my brother ordered me to be there. If you will permit it, please let me go to see my brothers. This is why he hasnt come to your banquet."

³⁰ Then Saul got angry with Jonathan. "Son of a crooked and rebellious woman!" he called Jonathan. "I know youve sided with Jesses son. You have no shame. You act as if you are your mothers son but not mine.

³¹ As long as Jesses son lives on earth, neither you nor your right to be king is secure. Now, send some men to bring him to me. Hes a dead man!"

³² Jonathan asked his father, "Why should he be killed? What has he done?"

³³ Saul raised his spear to strike him. Then Jonathan knew his father was determined to kill David.

³⁴ Jonathan got up from the table very angry and ate nothing that second day of the month. He was worried sick about David because Jonathan had been humiliated by his own father.

³⁵ In the morning Jonathan went out to the country to the place he and David had agreed on. Jonathan had a young boy with him.

³⁶ "Run," he told the boy, "please find the arrows I shoot." The boy ran, and Jonathan shot the arrow over him.

³⁷ When the boy reached the place where Jonathans arrow had landed, Jonathan called after him, "The arrows are next to you!"

³⁸ Jonathan added, "Quick! Hurry up! Dont stand there!" Jonathans young

servant gathered the arrows and came to his master.

³⁹The boy had no idea what was going on, but Jonathan and David understood.

⁴⁰Then Jonathan gave his weapons to the boy. He told the boy, "Take them back into town."

⁴¹When the boy had left, David came out from the south side of the rock and quickly bowed down three times with his face touching the ground. Then they kissed each other and cried together, but David cried the loudest.

⁴²"Go in peace!" Jonathan told David. "We have both taken an oath in the LORDS name, saying, The LORD will be a witness between me and you and between my descendants and your descendants forever." So David left, and Jonathan went into the city.

21 ¹David went to the priest Ahimelech at Nob. Ahimelech was trembling as he went to meet David. "Why are you alone?" he asked David. "Why is no one with you?"

²"The king ordered me to do something," David answered the priest Ahimelech, "and he told me, No one

must know anything about this mission I'm sending you on and about the orders I've given you. I've stationed my young men at a certain place."

³David added, "Now, what do you have to eat? Give me five loaves of bread or whatever you can find."

⁴"I don't have any ordinary bread," the chief priest answered David. "But there is holy bread for the young men if they haven't had sexual intercourse today."

⁵David answered the priest, "Of course women have been kept away from us as usual when we go on a mission. The young men's bodies are kept holy even on ordinary campaigns. How much more then will their bodies be holy today?"

⁶So the priest gave him holy bread because he only had the bread of the presence which had been taken from the LORDS presence and replaced with warm bread that day.

⁷That same day one of Saul's servants who was obligated to stay in the LORDS presence was there. His name was Doeg. A foreman for Saul's shepherds, he was from Edom.

⁸David asked Ahimelech, "Don't you have a spear or a sword here? I didn't take either my spear or any other weapon because the king's business was urgent."

⁹The chief priest answered, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Elah Valley, is here. It is wrapped in a cloth behind the priestly ephod. If you want to take it, take it. There's no other weapon here." David said, "There's none like it. Let me have the sword."

¹⁰That day David left. He was still fleeing from Saul when he came to King Achish of Gath.

¹¹Achish's officers asked, "Isn't this David, the king of his country? He's the one they used to sing about in the dances: Saul has defeated thousands but David tens of thousands."

¹²When David realized what they had said, he was terrified of King Achish of Gath.

¹³So he changed his behavior when he was in their presence and acted insane as long as he was under their authority. He scribbled on the doors of the city gate and let his spit run down his beard.

¹⁴ Achish said to his officers, "Look at him! Don't you see that he's insane? Why bring him to me?"

¹⁵ Do I have such a shortage of lunatics that you bring this man so that he can show me he is insane? Does this man have to come into my house?"

22¹ So David escaped from that place and fled to the cave at Adullam. When his brothers and all the rest of his family heard about it, they went to him.

² Then everyone who was in trouble, in debt, or bitter about life joined him, and he became their commander. There were about four hundred men with him.

³ From there David went to Mizpah in Moab. He asked the king of Moab, "Please let my father and mother stay with you until I know what God is going to do for me."

⁴ He brought them to the king of Moab, and they stayed with him as long as David was living in his fortified camp.

⁵ "Don't live in your fortified camp," the prophet Gad told David. "Go to the land of Judah." So David went to the forest of Hereth.

⁶Saul heard that David and his men had been found. Saul was staying in Gibeah under the tamarisk tree at the worship site with his spear in his hand and all his officials standing around him.

⁷He said to his officials, "Listen here, men of Benjamin! Will Jesses son give every one of you fields and vineyards? Will he make you all officers over a regiment or a battalion of soldiers?

⁸All of you are plotting against me, and no one informed me when my son entered into a loyalty pledge with Jesses son. No one felt sorry for me and informed me that my son has encouraged my servant David to ambush me, as hes doing now."

⁹Then Doeg from Edom, standing with Sauls officials, answered him, "I saw Jesses son when he came to Ahimelech, Ahitubs son, in Nob.

¹⁰Ahimelech prayed to the LORD for David and gave him food and the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

¹¹Then the king sent for the priest Ahimelech, who was Ahitubs son, and his entire family who were the priests in Nob. All of them came to the king.

¹² Saul said, "Listen here, son of Ahitub!" "Yes, sir?" he responded.

¹³ Saul asked him, "Why did you and Jesses son plot against me? You gave him bread and a sword and prayed to God for him so that he can rise up against me and ambush me, as hes doing now."

¹⁴ Ahimelech asked the king, "But whom among all your officials can you trust like David? Your Majesty, hes your soninlaw, the commander of your bodyguard. Hes honored in your own household.

¹⁵ Is this the first time I have prayed to God for him? Not at all! You shouldnt blame me or anyone in my family for this. I knew nothing at all about this."

¹⁶ Saul said, "Ahimelech, you and your entire family are going to die."

¹⁷ "Turn and kill the LORDS priests because they support David," the king said to the runners standing around him. "When they knew David was fleeing, they didnt inform me." But the kings men refused to attack the LORDS priests.

¹⁸ So the king said to Doeg, "You turn and attack the priests." Doeg from Edom turned and attacked the priests, and that

day he killed 85 men wearing the linen priestly ephod.

¹⁹He also killed the people of Nob, the city of the priests. Using his sword, he killed men and women, children and infants, cows, donkeys, and sheep.

²⁰But Ahimelech, Ahitubs son, had one son who escaped. His name was Abiathar. He fled to David.

²¹Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the LORDS priests.

²²David told Abiathar, "I knew that day when Doeg from Edom was there that he would be certain to tell Saul. I am the one responsible for all the lives of your family.

²³Stay with me. Dont be afraid. The one who is seeking my life is also seeking your life. However, you will be under my protection."

23¹ David was asked, "Did you know that the Philistines are fighting against Keilah? They are robbing the threshing floors."

²David asked the LORD, "Should I go and attack these Philistines?" "Go," the LORD told David, "attack the Philistines, and save Keilah."

³ Davids men told him, "Were afraid of staying here in Judah. How much more afraid do you think well be if we go to Keilah against the Philistine army?"

⁴ David asked the LORD again, and the LORD answered him. He said, "Go to Keilah. Im giving you the power to defeat the Philistines."

⁵ David and his men went to Keilah, fought the Philistines, drove off their livestock, and decisively defeated them. So David rescued the people who lived in Keilah.

⁶ When Ahimelechs son Abiathar fled to David at Keilah, Abiathar brought a priestly ephod with him.

⁷ When Saul was told that David went to Keilah, Saul said, "God has delivered him into my hands. He has trapped himself by going into a city which has a gate with a double door held shut by a bar."

⁸ So Saul called together all the troops to go to war and blockade Keilah, where David and his men were.

⁹ When David learned that Saul was planning to harm him, he told the priest Abiathar, "Bring the ephod."

¹⁰Then David said, "LORD God of Israel, I have actually heard that Saul is going to come to Keilah and destroy the city on account of me.

¹¹Will the citizens of Keilah hand me over to him? Will Saul come here as I have heard? LORD God of Israel, please tell me." "He will come," the LORD answered.

¹²"Will the citizens of Keilah hand me and my men over to Saul?" David asked. "They will hand you over," the LORD answered.

¹³So David and his men, about six hundred in all, left Keilah. They went wherever they could go. Then Saul was told, "David has escaped from Keilah!" So he gave up the campaign.

¹⁴David lived in fortified camps in the desert, and he lived in fortified camps in the mountains of the desert of Ziph. Saul was always searching for him, but God didn't let him capture David.

¹⁵David was afraid because Saul had come to kill him at Horesh in the desert of Ziph.

¹⁶Sauls son Jonathan came to David at Horesh. He strengthened Davids faith in the LORD.

¹⁷"Dont be afraid," he told David, "my father Saul wont find you. You will rule Israel, and I will be your secondincommand. Even my father Saul knows this."

¹⁸Both of them made a pledge in the LORDS presence. David stayed in Horesh, and Jonathan went home.

¹⁹Then the men of Ziph went to Saul in Gibeah. They said, "David is hiding with us in fortified camps at Horesh on the hills of Hachilah, south of Jeshimon.

²⁰Come, Your Majesty, whenever you want. We will hand him over to you."

²¹Saul responded, "The LORD bless you for feeling sorry for me!

²²Please make more plans, and watch where he goes. Who has seen him there? Im told hes very clever.

²³Watch and learn about all the hiding places where he may be hiding, and come back to me with the facts. Then Ill go with you, and if hes in the country, Ill search for him among all the families of Judah."

²⁴ They left for Ziph ahead of Saul. David and his men were in the desert of Maon, in the plains south of Jeshimon.

²⁵ When Saul and his men came to look for him, David was told the news. So he went to his mountain stronghold in the desert of Maon. Saul heard about it and pursued David into the desert of Maon.

²⁶ Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men went on the other side of the mountain. David was hurrying to get away from Saul, and Saul and his men were going around the mountain toward David and his men, trying to capture them.

²⁷ Then a messenger came to Saul and said, "Come quickly! The Philistines are raiding the country."

²⁸ Saul gave up pursuing David and went to fight the Philistines. So that place was called Slippery Rock.

²⁹ From there David went to stay in the fortified camps of En Gedi.

24¹ When Saul came back from fighting the Philistines, he was told "Now David is in the desert near En Gedi."

²Then Saul took 3,000 of the besttrained men from all Israel and went to search for David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

³He came to some sheep pens along the road where there was a cave. Saul went into it to relieve himself while David and his men were sitting further back in the cave.

⁴David's men told him, "Today is the day the LORD referred to when he said, I'm going to hand your enemy over to you. You will do to him whatever you think is right." David quietly got up and cut off the border of Saul's robe.

⁵But afterward, David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the border of Saul's robe.

⁶He said to his men, "It would be unthinkable for me to raise my hand against His Majesty, the LORD'S anointed king, since he is the LORD'S anointed."

⁷So David stopped his men by saying this to them and didn't let them attack Saul. Saul left the cave and went out onto the road.

⁸Later, David got up, left the cave, and called to Saul, "Your Majesty!" When

Saul looked back, David knelt down with his face touching the ground.

⁹David asked Saul, "Why do you listen to rumors that I am trying to harm you?

¹⁰Today you saw how the LORD handed you over to me in the cave. Although I was told to kill you, I spared you, saying, I will not raise my hand against Your Majesty because you are the LORDS anointed.

¹¹My master, look at this! The border of your robe is in my hand! Since I cut off the border of your robe and didnt kill you, you should know and be able to see I mean no harm or rebellion. I havent sinned against you, but you are trying to ambush me in order to take my life.

¹²May the LORD decide between you and me. May the LORD take revenge on you for what you did to me. However, I will not lay a hand on you.

¹³Its like people used to say long ago, Wickedness comes from wicked people. But I will not lay a hand on you.

¹⁴Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? One flea?

¹⁵ So the LORD must be the judge. He will decide between you and me. He will watch and take my side in this matter and set me free from you."

¹⁶ When David finished saying this, Saul asked, "Is that you speaking, my servant David?" and Saul cried loudly.

¹⁷ He told David, "You are more righteous than I. You treated me well while I treated you badly.

¹⁸ Today you have proved how good youve been to me. When the LORD handed me over to you, you didnt kill me.

¹⁹ When a person finds an enemy, does he send him away unharmed? The LORD will repay you completely for what you did for me today.

²⁰ Now I know that you certainly will rule as king, and under your guidance the kingdom of Israel will prosper.

²¹ Swear an oath to the LORD for me that you will not wipe out my descendants or destroy my name in my fathers family."

²² So David swore to Saul. Then Saul went home, and David and his men went to their fortified camp.

25¹ Samuel died, and all Israel gathered to mourn for him. They buried him at his home in Ramah. Then David went to the desert of Paran.

² Now, there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel. He was a very rich man. He had 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats. And he was shearing his sheep in Carmel.

³ This mans name was Nabal, and his wifes name was Abigail. She was sensible and beautiful, but he was harsh and mean. He was a descendant of Caleb.

⁴ While David was in the desert, he heard that Nabal was shearing his sheep.

⁵ So David sent ten young men and told them, "Go to Carmel, visit Nabal, and greet him for me.

⁶ Say to him, May you live long! May you, your home, and all you have prosper!

⁷ I hear that your sheepshearers are with you. Your shepherds have been with us, and we have not mistreated them. Nothing of theirs has been missing as long as theyve been in Carmel.

⁸Ask your young men, and let them tell you. Be kind to my young men, since we have come on a special occasion. Please give us and your son David anything you can spare."

⁹When Davids young men came to Nabal, they repeated all of this to him for David, and then they waited.

¹⁰"Who is David?" Nabal answered Davids servants. "Who is Jesses son? So many servants nowadays are leaving their masters.

¹¹Should I take my bread, my water, and my meat that I butchered for my shearers and give them to men coming from who knows where?"

¹²Davids young men returned and told him all this.

¹³"Each of you put on your swords!" David told his men. And everyone, including David, put on his sword. About four hundred men went with David, while two hundred men stayed with the supplies.

¹⁴One of the young men told Abigail, Nabals wife, "David sent messengers from the desert to greet our master, who yelled at them.

¹⁵Those men were very good to us. They didnt mistreat us, and we found that nothing was missing wherever we went with them when we were in the fields.

¹⁶They were a wall protecting us day and night as long as we were watching the sheep near them.

¹⁷Now, consider what you should do because our master and his whole household are doomed. And hes such a worthless man that its useless to talk to him."

¹⁸So Abigail quickly took 200 loaves of bread, 2 full wineskins, 5 butchered sheep, a bushel of roasted grain, 100 bunches of raisins, and 200 fig cakes and loaded them on donkeys.

¹⁹"Go on ahead," she told her young men, "and Ill follow you." But she didnt tell her husband Nabal about it.

²⁰She was riding on her donkey down a hidden mountain path when she met David and his men coming toward her.

²¹David had thought, "I guarded this mans stuff in the desert for nothing! Not one of his possessions was missing. Yet,

he has paid me back with evil when I was good to him.

²²May God punish me if I leave even one of his men alive in the morning."

²³When Abigail saw David, she quickly got down from her donkey. She immediately bowed down in front of David with her face touching the ground.

²⁴After she bowed at his feet, she said, "Sir, let me be held responsible for this wrong. Please let me speak with you. Please listen to my words.

²⁵You shouldn't take this worthless person Nabal seriously. He is like his name. His name is Nabal [Godless Fool], and he's foolish. But I didn't see the young men you sent.

²⁶"The LORD has kept you from spilling innocent blood and from getting a victory by your own efforts. Now, sir, I solemnly swear, as the LORD and you live, may your enemies and those who are trying to harm you end up like Nabal.

²⁷Here is a gift I am bringing to you. May it be given to the young men who are in your service.

²⁸Please forgive my offense. The LORD will certainly give you, sir, a lasting

dynasty, because you are fighting the LORDS battles. May evil never be found in you as long as you live.

²⁹Even though someone pursued you and sought your life, your life is wrapped in the bundle of life which comes from the LORD your God. But he will dispose of the lives of your enemies like stones thrown from a sling.

³⁰When the LORD does all the good he promised and makes you ruler of Israel,

³¹you shouldnt have a troubled conscience because you spilled blood for no good reason and claimed your own victory. When the LORD has given you success, remember me."

³²David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who sent you today to meet me.

³³May your good judgment be blessed. Also, may you be blessed for keeping me from slaughtering people today and from getting a victory by my own efforts.

³⁴But I solemnly swearas the LORD God of Israel, who has kept me from harming you, livesif you hadnt come to meet me quickly, Nabal certainly wouldnt have had one of his men left at dawn."

³⁵ Then David accepted what she brought him and told her, "Go home in peace. I've listened to what you've said and granted your request."

³⁶ When Abigail came to Nabal, he was holding a banquet in his home. It was like a king's banquet. He was in a good mood and very drunk, so she didn't tell him anything until dawn.

³⁷ But in the morning, when the effects of the wine had worn off, his wife told him what had happened. Nabal's heart failed, and he could not move.

³⁸ About ten days later the LORD made him even more sick, and Nabal died.

³⁹ When David heard Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the LORD, who defended me against the insults of Nabal and kept me from doing wrong. The LORD has turned Nabal's own wickedness back on him." Then David sent men on his behalf to propose marriage to Abigail.

⁴⁰ When David's servants came to Abigail at Carmel, they told her, "David has sent us to you so that we can take you to him to be his wife."

⁴¹ She bowed down with her face touching the ground. "I am ready to

serve," she said. "I am ready to wash the feet of my masters servants."

⁴²Then Abigail quickly got up and rode on a donkey with five of her female servants following her. So she went with Davids messengers and became his wife.

⁴³David also married Ahinoam of Jezreel. Both she and Abigail were his wives.

⁴⁴Saul had given his daughter Michal, Davids wife, to Palti, Laishs son, who was from Gallim.

26¹ The people of Ziph came to Saul at Gibeah. "David is hiding at the hill of Hachilah near Jeshimon," they said.

²Saul went to the desert of Ziph, taking with him 3,000 of Israels besttrained men to search for David.

³Saul camped by the road at the hill of Hachilah near Jeshimon, but David stayed in the desert. When he realized Saul had come to the desert for him,

⁴David sent spies to confirm that Saul had arrived.

⁵Then David went to the place where Saul had camped. David saw the place where Saul and Ners son Abner, the

commander of the army, were lying. Saul was lying in the camp, and the troops were camped around him.

⁶David asked Ahimelech the Hittite and Abishai, who was Zeruiahs son and Joabs brother, "Who will go with me to Saul in the camp?" Abishai answered, "Ill go with you."

⁷So David and Abishai went among Sauls troops that night. Saul was lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him.

⁸Abishai said to David, "Today God has turned your enemy over to you. Please let me nail him to the ground with one stab of the spear. I wont have to do it twice!"

⁹"Dont kill him!" David told Abishai. "No one has ever attacked the LORDS anointed king and remained free of guilt.

¹⁰I solemnly swear, as the LORD lives," David added, "the LORD will strike him. Either his time will come when hell die naturally, or hell go into battle and be swept away.

¹¹It would be unthinkable for me to attack the LORDS anointed king. But

please take that spear near his head and that jar of water, and lets go."

¹²David took the spear and the jar of water near Sauls head, and they left. All of them were asleep. No one saw them, knew about it, or woke up. The LORD had made them fall into a deep sleep.

¹³David went over to the other side and stood on top of the hill some distance away. (There was a wide space between them.)

¹⁴Then David called to the troops and to Ners son Abner. "Wont you answer, Abner?" he asked. "Who is calling the king?" Abner asked.

¹⁵David asked Abner, "Arent you a man? Is there anyone like you in Israel? Then why didnt you guard your master, the king? Someone came to kill His Royal Majesty.

¹⁶What youve done isnt good. I solemnly swear, as the LORD lives, you are dead men. You didnt guard your master, the LORDS anointed king. Look at the kings spear and the jar of water that were near his head."

¹⁷Saul recognized Davids voice. "Is that your voice, my servant David?"

he asked. "It is my voice, Your Royal Majesty," David answered.

¹⁸"Why are you pursuing me?" he added. "What have I done? What crime have I committed?"

¹⁹Your Majesty, please listen to my words. If the LORD has turned you against me, let him be satisfied with an offering. But if mere mortals have turned you against me, let them be cursed by the LORD. They have prevented me from having a share of the LORDS inheritance. Go and serve other gods, they tell me.

²⁰Dont let my blood fall to the ground, away from the LORDS presence. The king of Israel has come to search for one flea like someone hunting a partridge in the hills."

²¹"My servant David," Saul said, "I have sinned. Come back. I will not harm you again, because you valued my life today. Ive acted like a fool and made a terrible mistake."

²²David responded, "Heres the kings spear. One of the young men should come over and get it.

²³The LORD will reward any person who is righteous and faithful. The LORD

handed you over to me today, but I refused to attack the LORDS anointed king.

²⁴As I placed great value on your life today, may the LORD place great value on my life and rescue me from all trouble."

²⁵Then Saul said, "Blessed are you, my servant David. You will accomplish many things and certainly will succeed." So David went his way, while Saul returned home.

27¹David said to himself, "One of these days Saul will sweep me away. The best thing for me to do is to make sure that I escape to Philistine territory. Then Saul will give up looking all over Israel for me, and I'll escape from him."

²So David went with his 600 men to King Achish of Gath, Moachs son.

³David and his men stayed with Achish in Gath. Each one had his family, and David had his two wives, Ahinoam from Jezreel and Abigail (who had been Nabals wife) from Carmel.

⁴When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he didn't search for him anymore.

⁵David said to Achish, "If you will permit me, let me have a place in one of the outlying towns so that I can live there. Why should I live in the royal city with you?"

⁶So Achish immediately gave him Ziklag. (This is why Ziklag still belongs to the kings of Judah today.)

⁷David stayed in Philistine territory for one year and four months.

⁸Then David and his men went to raid the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites. (They lived in the territory which extends from Telaim to Shur and Egypt.)

⁹Whenever David attacked the territory, he left no man or woman alive. He also took sheep, cattle, donkeys, camels, and clothing and returned to Achish.

¹⁰Achish would ask, "Whom did you raid today?" And David would answer, "the Negev in Judah," or "the portion of the Negev where the descendants of Jerahmeel live," or "the portion of the Negev where the Kenites live."

¹¹ He did not bring a single man or woman back to Gath alive. He thought, "They could tell Achish what I really did." This was his practice as long as he lived in Philistine territory.

¹² And Achish believed David. Achish thought, "He has definitely made his own people in Israel despise him. He'll be my servant from now on."

28 ¹ At that time the Philistines had gathered their army to fight against Israel. Then Achish said to David, "You need to know that you and your men will be going with me into battle."

² "Very well," David responded to Achish, "you will then know what I can do." "Very well," Achish told David, "I will make you my bodyguard for life."

³ Meanwhile, Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in his hometown Ramah. (Saul had rid the land of mediums and psychics.)

⁴ The Philistines assembled and camped in Shunem. Saul also assembled the whole Israelite army, and they camped at Gilboa.

⁵ When Saul looked at the Philistine army, he was very afraid/terrified.

⁶He prayed to the LORD, but the LORD didn't answer him through dreams, the Urim, or prophets.

⁷Saul told his officers, "Find me a woman who conjures up the dead. Then I'll go to her and ask for her services." His officers told him, "There is a woman at Endor who conjures up the dead."

⁸After disguising himself by putting on other clothes, Saul left with two men and came to the woman that night. He said to her, "Please consult with a dead person for me. Conjure up the person I request."

⁹The woman told him, "You know that Saul rid the land of mediums and psychics. Why are you trying to trap me and have me killed?"

¹⁰But Saul took an oath in the LORD'S name, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD lives, you will not be harmed if you do this."

¹¹"Whom should I conjure up for you?" the woman asked. "Conjure up Samuel for me," he answered.

¹²When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out loudly and asked, "Why did you deceive me? You're Saul!"

¹³"Don't be afraid," the king said to her. "What do you see?" "I see a god rising from the ground," the woman answered.

¹⁴"In what form?" he asked her. She answered, "An old man is coming up, and he's wearing a robe." Then Saul knew it was Samuel. Saul knelt down with his face touching the ground.

¹⁵Samuel asked Saul, "Why did you disturb me by conjuring me up?" Saul answered, "I'm in serious trouble. The Philistines are at war with me, and God has turned against me and doesn't answer me anymore either by the prophets or in dreams. So I've called on you to tell me what to do."

¹⁶Samuel said, "Why are you asking me when the LORD has turned against you and become your enemy?"

¹⁷The LORD has done to you exactly what he spoke through me: The LORD has torn the kingship out of your hands and given it to your fellow Israelite David.

¹⁸The LORD is doing this to you today because you didn't listen to him or unleash his burning anger on Amalek.

¹⁹For the same reasons the LORD will hand you and Israel over to the Philistines. Tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. And then the LORD will hand Israels army over to the Philistines."

²⁰Immediately, Saul fell flat on the ground. He was frightened by Samuels words. He also had no strength left, because he hadnt eaten anything all day or all night.

²¹The woman came over to Saul and saw that he was terrified. "I listened to you," she told him, "and I took my life in my hands when I did what you told me to do.

²²Now please listen to me. I will serve you something to eat. Eat it so that you will have strength when you leave."

²³But he refused. "I dont want to eat," he said. Nevertheless, his officers and the woman kept urging him until he listened to them. So he got up from the ground and sat on the bed.

²⁴The woman immediately butchered a fattened calf that she owned. She took flour, kneaded it, and baked some unleavened bread.

²⁵ Then she served it to Saul and his officers. They ate and left that same night.

29¹ The Philistines assembled their whole army at Aphek, and Israel camped at the spring in Jezreel.

² The Philistine leaders were marching by with their companies and regiments. David and his men were marching in the rear with Achish.

³ The Philistine officers asked, "What are these Hebrews doing here?" Achish asked the Philistine officers, "Isnt this David, the servant of King Saul of Israel, who has been with me now for a year or two? Ive found nothing wrong with him from the day he defected until now."

⁴ But the Philistine officers were angry with Achish. "Send the man back," the Philistine officers told him. "Return him to the place you assigned him. He shouldnt go with us into battle. He shouldnt be allowed to become our enemy during the battle. Is this man going to try to regain his masters favor? Hell do it with the lives of our men!

⁵Isnt this David of whom people sing in dances: Saul has defeated thousands but David tens of thousands?"

⁶Then Achish called David and told him, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD lives, you are a dependable man. I consider your campaigning with me a good thing, because Ive never found anything wrong with you from the day you came to me until now. But the rulers dont approve of you.

⁷So leave peacefully without doing anything to displease the Philistine rulers."

⁸"What have I done?" David asked Achish. "What have you learned about me from the time I came to you until now? Why shouldnt I fight your enemies, Your Majesty?"

⁹Achish answered David, "I admit that in my judgment youre as good as Gods Messenger. However, the Philistine officers said, He shouldnt go into battle with us.

¹⁰Get up early in the morning with Sauls servants who came with you, and go to the place I have assigned to you. Dont worry about the unkind words,

because I still approve of you. Get up in the morning, and leave when its light."

¹¹ Early the next morning David and his men returned to Philistine territory, while the Philistines went to Jezreel.

30¹ Two days later, when David and his men came to Ziklag, the Amalekites had raided the Negev, including Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it.

² Although they captured the young and old women who were there, they killed no one. Instead, they had taken the women and other prisoners and gone away.

³ By the time David and his men came to the town, it had been burned down, and their wives, sons, and daughters had been taken captive.

⁴ Then David and his men cried loudly until they didnt have the strength to cry anymore.

⁵ The Amalekites also captured Davids two wives, Ahinoam from Jezreel and Abigail (who had been Nabals wife) from Carmel.

⁶ David was in great distress because the people in their bitterness said he

should be stoned. (They were thinking of their sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.)

⁷David told the priest Abiathar, Ahimelechs son, "Please bring me the priestly ephod." So Abiathar brought David the ephod.

⁸Then David asked the LORD, "Should I pursue these troops? Will I catch up with them?" "Pursue them," the LORD told him. "You will certainly catch up with them and rescue the captives."

⁹So David and his 600 men went to the Besor Valley, where some were left behind.

¹⁰David and 400 men went in pursuit, while 200 men who were too exhausted to cross the Besor Valley stayed behind.

¹¹David's men found an Egyptian in the open country and took him to David. They gave him food to eat and water to drink.

¹²They gave him a slice of fig cake and two bunches of raisins. After he had eaten, he revived. (He hadn't eaten any food or drunk any water for three whole days.)

¹³David asked him, "To whom do you belong? Where do you come from?" "I'm an Egyptian, the slave of an Amalekite," the young man answered. "My master left me behind because I got sick three days ago."

¹⁴We raided the portion of the Negev where the Cherethites live, the territory of Judah, the portion of the Negev where Caleb settled, and we burned down Ziklag."

¹⁵"Will you lead me to these troops?" David asked him. He answered, "Take an oath in front of God that you won't kill me or hand me over to my master, and I'll lead you to these troops."

¹⁶The Egyptian led him to them. They were spread out all over the land, eating, and drinking. They were celebrating because they had taken so much loot from Philistine territory and from the land of Judah.

¹⁷From dawn until evening the next day, David attacked them. No one escaped except 400 young men who rode away on camels.

¹⁸David rescued everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives.

¹⁹Nothing was missing young or old, sons or daughters, the loot or anything else they had taken with them. David brought back everything.

²⁰He took all the sheep and the cattle. His men drove the animals ahead of him and said, "This is Davids loot."

²¹David came to the 200 men who had been too exhausted to go with him and had stayed in the Besor Valley. They came to meet David and the people with him. As David approached the men, he greeted them.

²²Then every wicked and worthless man who had gone with David said, "Since they didnt go with us, they shouldnt be given any of the loot we recovered. Each of them should take only his wife and children and leave."

²³But David said, "My brothers, dont do that with the things which the LORD has given us. He has protected us and handed the troops that attacked us over to us.

²⁴ Besides, who is going to pay attention to what you have to say in this matter? Certainly, the share of those who go into battle must be like the share of those who stay with the supplies. They will all share alike."

²⁵ From that time on he made this a rule and a custom in Israel as it is to this day.

²⁶ When David came to Ziklag, he sent part of the loot to his friends, the leaders of Judah. He said, "Here is a gift for you from the loot taken from the LORDS enemies."

²⁷ There were shares for those in Bethel, Ramoth in the Negev, Jattir,

²⁸ Aroer, Siphmoth, Eshtemoa,

²⁹ Racal, the cities belonging to the Jerahmeelites, the cities belonging to the Kenites,

³⁰ Hormah, Borashan, Athach,

³¹ Hebron, and to all the places David and his men visited from time to time.

31 ¹ When the Philistines were fighting against Israel, the men of Israel fled from the Philistines and were killed in battle on Mount Gilboa.

²The Philistines caught up to Saul and his sons. They killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Sauls sons.

³The heaviest fighting was against Saul. When the archers got him in their range, he was badly wounded by them.

⁴Saul told his armorbearer, "Draw your sword! Stab me, or these godless men will come, stab me, and make fun of me." But his armorbearer refused because he was terrified. So Saul took the sword and fell on it.

⁵When the armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword and died with him.

⁶So Saul, his three sons, his armorbearer, and all his men died together that day.

⁷When the people of Israel on the other side of the valley and across the Jordan River saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities. So the Philistines came to live in these cities.

⁸The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the dead, they found Saul and his three sons lying on Mount Gilboa.

⁹They cut off his head and stripped off his armor. Then they sent men throughout Philistine territory to tell the people this good news in their idols temples.

¹⁰They put his armor in the temple of their goddesses the Asherahs and fastened his corpse to the wall of Beth Shan.

¹¹When the people living in Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul,

¹²all the fighting men marched all night and took the dead bodies of Saul and his sons from the wall of Beth Shan. They came back to Jabesh and burned the bodies there.

¹³They took the bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh. Then they fasted seven days.

2 Samuel

1 ¹After Saul died and David returned from defeating the Amalekites, David stayed in Ziklag two days.

²On the third day a man came from Sauls camp. His clothes were torn, and he had dirt on his head. When he came to David, he immediately bowed down with his face touching the ground.

³"Where did you come from?" David asked him. "I escaped from the camp of Israel," he answered.

⁴"What happened?" David asked him. "Please tell me." The man answered, "The army fled from the battle, and many of the soldiers died. Saul and his son Jonathan are dead too."

⁵"How do you know Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?" David asked the young man who had brought him the news.

⁶The young man answered, "I happened to be on Mount Gilboa. Saul was there leaning on his spear, and the

chariots and horsemen were catching up with him.

⁷When he looked back and saw me, he called to me, and I said, Yes?"

⁸"He asked me, Who are you? "I said to him, Im an Amalekite.

⁹"He said to me, Please stand over me and kill me. Im alive, but Im suffering.

¹⁰"So I stood over him and killed him, since I knew he couldnt survive after he had been wounded. And I took the crown that was on his head and the band that was on his arm and brought them here to you, sir."

¹¹Then David grabbed his own clothes and tore them in grief. All the men with him did the same.

¹²They mourned, cried, and fasted until evening because Saul, his son Jonathan, the LORDS army, and the nation of Israel had been defeated in battle.

¹³David asked the young man who had brought him the news, "Where are you from?" And the young man answered, "Im an Amalekite, the son of a foreign resident."

¹⁴David asked, "Why werent you afraid to take it upon yourself to destroy the LORDS anointed king?"

¹⁵Then David called one of his young men and told him, "Come here and attack him." Davids young man executed him

¹⁶while David said, "You are responsible for spilling your own blood. You testified against yourself when you said, I killed the LORDS anointed king."

¹⁷David wrote this song of mourning for Saul and his son Jonathan.

¹⁸He said, "Teach this kesheth to the people of Judah." (It is recorded in the Book of Jashar.)

¹⁹"Your glory, Israel, lies dead on your hills. See how the mighty have fallen!

²⁰Dont tell the news in Gath. Dont announce the victory in the streets of Ashkelon, or the daughters of the Philistines will be glad, and the daughters of godless men will celebrate.

²¹You mountains in Gilboa, may there be no dew or rain on you or on your slopes, because warriors shields were tarnished there. Sauls shield was never rubbed with olive oil.

²²From the blood of those killed and the fat of the warriors, Jonathans bow did not turn away, nor did Sauls sword return unused.

²³Saul and Jonathan were loved and wellliked while they were living. They were not separated even when they died. They were swifter than eagles and stronger than lions.

²⁴Daughters of Israel, cry over Saul, who dressed you in decorated, red clothes, who put gold jewelry on your clothes.

²⁵See how the mighty have fallen in battle! On your hills Jonathan was killed!

²⁶I am heartbroken over you, my brother Jonathan. You were my great delight. Your love was more wonderful to me than the love of women.

²⁷See how the mighty have fallen! See how the weapons of war have been destroyed!"

2¹After this, David asked the LORD, "Should I go to one of the cities of Judah?" "Go," the LORD answered him. "Where should I go?" David asked. "To Hebron," the LORD replied.

²David went there with his two wives, Ahinoam from Jezreel and Abigail (who had been Nabals wife) from Carmel.

³David took his men and their families with him, and they settled in the towns around Hebron.

⁴Then the people of Judah came to Hebron and anointed David to be king over the tribe of Judah. They told David, "The people of Jabesh Gilead were the ones who buried Saul."

⁵So David sent messengers to the people of Jabesh Gilead. He said to them, "May the LORD bless you because you showed kindness to your master Saul by burying him.

⁶May the LORD always show you kindness. I, too, will be good to you because you did this.

⁷Now, be strong and courageous. Because your master Saul is dead, the tribe of Judah has anointed me to be their king."

⁸Ners son Abner, commander of Sauls army, took Sauls son Ishbosheth and brought him to Mahanaim.

⁹Abner made him king of Gilead, Asher, Jezreel, Ephraim, and Benjamin, that is, all Israel.

¹⁰Sauls son Ishbosheth was 40 years old when he became king of Israel. He ruled for two years, but the tribe of Judah followed David.

¹¹In Hebron David was king over the tribe of Judah for seven years and six months.

¹²Ners son Abner and the officers of Sauls son Ishbosheth went from Mahanaim to Gibeon.

¹³Zeruiahs son Joab and Davids officers also left Hebron. Both groups met at the pool of Gibeon. They sat down there, one group on one side of the pool and the other group on the other side of the pool.

¹⁴Abner said to Joab, "Lets have the young men hold a contest." Joab agreed.

¹⁵The men got up and were counted as they passed by. Twelve were from the tribe of Benjamin (representing Sauls son Ishbosheth), and twelve were from Davids officers.

¹⁶Each one grabbed his opponent by the head, stuck his sword into his

opponents side, and they fell down together. Therefore, that place in Gibeon is called the Field of Enemies.

¹⁷Fierce fighting broke out that day, and Davids men defeated Abner and the men of Israel.

¹⁸Zeruiahs three sons were there: Joab, Abishai, and Asahel. Asahel was as fast on his feet as a wild gazelle.

¹⁹He chased Abner and refused to leave him alone.

²⁰When Abner looked back, he asked, "Are you Asahel?" "Yes," Asahel answered.

²¹Abner told him, "Leave me alone! Catch one of the young men, and take his weapon." But Asahel refused to turn away from him.

²²So Abner spoke again to Asahel. "Stop following me," he said. "Why should I kill you? How could I look your brother Joab in the face again?"

²³But Asahel refused to turn away. So Abner struck him with the butt of the spear. The spear went into his belly and came out his back. He fell down there and died on the spot. And everyone who

came to the place where Asahel fell and died stopped there.

²⁴ But Joab and Abishai chased Abner. When the sun went down, they came to the hill of Ammah, opposite Giah on the road from Gibeon to the desert.

²⁵ The men of Benjamin rallied behind Abner, banding together and taking their position on top of a hill.

²⁶ Then Abner called to Joab, "Should this slaughter go on forever? Dont you know this will end in bitterness? How long will it be before you will call off your troops from chasing their relatives?"

²⁷ Joab answered, "I solemnly swear, as God lives, if you had not spoken, the men would not have stopped chasing their relatives until morning."

²⁸ So Joab blew a rams horn, and all the troops stopped. They didnt chase or fight Israel anymore.

²⁹ Abner and his men marched through the plains all that night. They crossed the Jordan River and passed through the entire Bithron until they came to Mahanaim.

³⁰ Joab returned from chasing Abner. When he had gathered all the troops,

only 19 of Davids officers and Asahel were missing.

³¹ However, Davids officers had killed 360 of the men of Benjamin under Abners command.

³² They took Asahel and buried him in his fathers tomb in Bethlehem. Then Joab and his men marched all night and arrived at Hebron by daybreak.

3¹ As the war between the royal families of Saul and David dragged on, Davids family became stronger and stronger, and Sauls family became weaker and weaker.

² Sons were born to David while he was in Hebron. His first son was Amnon, born to Ahinoam from Jezreel.

³ The second was Chileab, born to Abigail (who had been Nabals wife) from Carmel. The third was Absalom, whose mother was Maacah (the daughter of King Talmai) from Geshur.

⁴ The fourth was Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith. The fifth was Shephatiah, whose mother was Abital.

⁵ The sixth was Ithream, born to Davids wife Eglah. These sons were born to David while he was in Hebron.

⁶ During the war between the families of Saul and David, Abner strengthened his position in Sauls royal family.

⁷ Saul had a concubine named Rizpah (Aiahs daughter). Ishbosheth asked Abner, "Why did you have sex with my fathers concubine?"

⁸ Ishbosheths question made Abner very angry. "Have I been behaving like some Judean dog?" he asked. "Until now Ive been faithful to your father Sauls family, to his relatives and friends, and I havent handed you over to David. But now you charge me with a crime because of this woman.

⁹ May God strike me dead unless I do for David what the LORD had promised him with an oath:

¹⁰ I, the LORD, will transfer the kingship from Sauls family and establish Davids throne over Israel and Judah from Dan to Beersheba."

¹¹ Ishbosheth couldnt respond to a single word, because he was afraid of Abner.

¹² Then Abner sent messengers to David to speak on his behalf. "Who owns this country?" he asked. "Make an agreement

with me," he said. "I'll support you and bring all Israel to you."

¹³"Good!" David answered. "I'll make an agreement with you. But theres one condition: You cant come to see me unless you bring Michal, Sauls daughter, when you come."

¹⁴Then David sent messengers to Sauls son Ishbosheth to say, "Give me my wife Michal. I made a payment of 100 Philistine foreskins for her."

¹⁵So Ishbosheth sent men to take her from her husband Paltiel, son of Laish.

¹⁶Her husband went with her and cried over her all the way to Bahurim. "Go home," Abner told him. So he went home.

¹⁷Meanwhile, Abner sent the following message to the leaders of Israel: "For some time now youve wanted to make David your king.

¹⁸Do it now, because the LORD said about David: I will save my people Israel from the Philistines and all their other enemies through my servant David."

¹⁹Abner also spoke specifically to the people of Benjamin. Then Abner went directly to David in Hebron to tell him

everything Israel and the entire tribe of Benjamin had approved.

²⁰ So Abner came with 20 men to David in Hebron, and David had a feast for Abner and his men.

²¹ Abner told David, "I must go now so that I can gather all Israel for you, Your Majesty. They will make a treaty with you, and you will rule everything your heart desires." Then David dismissed Abner, who left peacefully.

²² Just then Davids men and Joab were coming home from a raid with a lot of goods. Abner had been dismissed, so he was no longer with David in Hebron.

²³ When Joab came back with the whole army, he was told, "Ners son Abner came to the king, but David dismissed him, and Abner left peacefully."

²⁴ Then Joab went to the king and asked, "What have you done? Abner came to see you. Why did you dismiss him and let him get away?"

²⁵ Certainly you must know that Ners son Abner came to deceive you, to find out about your movements and learn everything youre doing!"

²⁶After leaving David, Joab sent messengers after Abner. They brought him back from the cistern of Sirah without David knowing about it.

²⁷When Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gateway as if to talk to him privately. There he stabbed Abner in the belly. Abner died because he spilled the blood of Joabs brother Asahel.

²⁸Later when David heard about it, he said, "As far as the LORD is concerned, my kingdom and I are forever innocent of spilling the blood of Ners son Abner.

²⁹May the blame fall on the head of Joab and all of his family. May there always be members of Joabs family who have oozing sores and skin diseases, who can only work a spindle, who die in battle, and who never have any food."

³⁰(Joab and his brother Abishai killed Abner because he had killed their brother Asahel in the battle at Gibeon.)

³¹David told Joab and all the people with him, "Tear your clothes, put on sackcloth, and mourn for Abner." King David followed the open casket.

³²They buried Abner in Hebron. The king cried loudly at Abners grave, and all the people cried.

³³The king sang a funeral song for Abner: Should Abner die like a godless fool?

³⁴Your hands were not tied. Your feet were not chained. You fell as one falls in front of wicked men. And all the people continued to cry for him.

³⁵That entire day all the people tried to get David to eat some food. But David had taken an oath: "May God strike me dead if I taste any food or anything else before the sun goes down."

³⁶Then all the people understood and approved of this, as all the people approved of everything the king did.

³⁷That day all the people of Israel knew the king wasnt responsible for killing Ners son Abner.

³⁸The king said to his officers, "Dont you know that today a leader, a great man, has fallen in Israel?"

³⁹Today Im weak, though Im the anointed king. These men, Zeruiahs sons, are too cruel for me. May the LORD

repay this evildoer as his evil deeds deserve."

4¹ When Sauls son Ishbosheth heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost his courage, and all Israel was alarmed.

² Sauls son had two men who were captains of raiding parties. One was named Baanah, and the other was named Rechab. They were the sons of Rimmon from Beeroth from the tribe of Benjamin. (Beeroth was considered a part of Benjamin,

³ even though the people of Beeroth had fled to Gittaim. They still live there today.

⁴ In addition, Sauls son Jonathan had a son who was crippled. When the boy was five years old, the news about the death of Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled to Gittaim. She was in a hurry when she left, and he fell from her arms and became disabled. His name was Mephibosheth.)

⁵ Rechab and Baanah, the sons of Rimmon from Beeroth, came to Ishbosheths home at the hottest time

of the day. Ishbosheth was taking his midday nap

⁶when they came into the house as though they were going to get some flour. Instead, they stabbed him in the belly. Then Rechab and his brother Baanah escaped.

⁷(They had come into the house while Ishbosheth was sleeping on his bed in his bedroom. They stabbed him, killed him, and cut off his head.) They took his head and traveled all night along the road to the plains.

⁸They brought Ishbosheth's head to David at Hebron. "Here is the head of Ishbosheth, the son of your enemy Saul who tried to kill you," they told the king. "Today the LORD has given Your Royal Majesty revenge on Saul and his descendants."

⁹David responded to Rechab and his brother Baanah, the sons of Rimmon from Beeroth,

¹⁰"I once seized a man who told me that Saul had died. He thought he was bringing good news. I killed him in Ziklag to reward him for his news.

¹¹ How much more should I reward wicked men who kill an innocent man on his own bed in his home? The LORD has rescued me from every trouble. I solemnly swear, as the LORD lives, I'll now seek revenge for his murder and rid the land of you."

¹² So David gave an order to his young men, who executed Rechab and Baanah, cut off their hands and feet, and hung their dead bodies by the pond in Hebron. Then they took Ishbosheth's head and buried it in Abner's tomb in Hebron.

5¹ All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. "We are your own flesh and blood," they said.

² "Even in the past when Saul ruled us, you were the one who led Israel in battle. The LORD has said to you, You will be shepherd of my people Israel, the leader of Israel."

³ All the leaders of Israel had come to Hebron. King David made an agreement with them at Hebron in front of the LORD. So they anointed David king of Israel.

⁴ David was 30 years old when he became king, and he ruled for 40 years.

⁵In Hebron he ruled Judah for seven years and six months. In Jerusalem he ruled for 33 years over all Israel and Judah.

⁶The king and his men went to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived in that region. The Jebusites told David, "You will never get in here. Even the blind and the lame could turn you away" (meaning that David could never get in there).

⁷But David captured the fortress Zion (that is, the City of David).

⁸That day David said, "Whoever wants to defeat the Jebusites must reach the lame and the blind who hate me by using the water shaft." So there is a saying, "The blind and the lame will not get into the palace."

⁹David lived in the fortress and called it the City of David. He built the city of Jerusalem around it from the Millo to the palace.

¹⁰David continued to grow more powerful because the LORD God of Armies was with him.

¹¹Then King Hiram of Tyre sent messengers to David, along

with cedarwood, carpenters, and stonemasons. They built a palace for David.

¹²So David realized that the LORD had established him as king of Israel and made his kingship famous for the sake of Israel, the LORDS people.

¹³David married more concubines and wives from Jerusalem after he had come there from Hebron, and he fathered more sons and daughters.

¹⁴These are the names of the children born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,

¹⁵Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia,

¹⁶Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

¹⁷When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king of Israel, all of them came to attack David. But David heard about it and went to the fortress.

¹⁸The Philistines had come and overrun the valley of Rephaim.

¹⁹David asked the LORD, "Should I attack the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?" The LORD answered David, "Attack! I will certainly hand the Philistines over to you."

²⁰So David went to Baal Perazim and defeated the Philistines there. He said, "The LORD has overwhelmed my enemies in front of me like an overwhelming flood." That is why that place is called Baal Perazim [The Lord Overwhelms].

²¹The Philistines left their idols there, so David and his men carried the idols away.

²²The Philistines again attacked and overran the valley of Rephaim.

²³David asked the LORD, and he answered, "Don't attack now, but circle around behind them, and come at them in front of the balsam trees.

²⁴When you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, act immediately because the LORD has gone ahead of you to defeat the Philistine army."

²⁵David did as the LORD ordered him and defeated the Philistines from Geba to Gezer.

6¹David again assembled all the best soldiers in Israel, 30,000 men.

²He and all the people with him left Baalah in Judah to bring God's ark to

Jerusalem. (The ark is called by the name of the LORD of Armies, who is enthroned over the angels.

³David and his men put Gods ark on a new cart and brought it from Abinadabs home on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, Abinadabs sons, were guiding the new cart.

⁴They brought it from Abinadabs home, with Ahio walking ahead of the ark.

⁵David and the entire nation of Israel were celebrating in the LORDS presence with all kinds of instruments made from cypress wood and with lyres, harps, tambourines, sistrums, and cymbals.

⁶But when they came to Nacons threshing floor, the oxen stumbled. So Uzzah reached out for the ark of God and grabbed it.

⁷The LORD became angry with Uzzah, so God killed him there for his lack of respect. He died beside the ark of God.

⁸David was angry because the LORD had struck Uzzah so violently. (That place is still called Perez Uzzah [The Striking of Uzzah] today.)

⁹David was afraid of the LORD that day. "How can the ark of the LORD come to my city?" he asked.

¹⁰So David wouldnt bring the ark of the LORD with him to the City of David. Instead, he rerouted it to the home of Obed Edom, who was from Gath.

¹¹The ark of the LORD stayed at the home of Obed Edom from Gath for three months, and the LORD blessed Obed Edom and his whole family.

¹²King David was told, "The LORD has blessed Obed Edoms home and everything he owns because of the ark of God." Then David joyfully went to get the ark of God from Obed Edoms house and bring it to the City of David.

¹³When those who carried the ark of the LORD had gone six steps, David sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf.

¹⁴Wearing a linen ephod, David danced in the LORDS presence with all his might.

¹⁵He and the entire nation of Israel brought the ark of the LORD with shouts of joy and the sounding of rams horns.

¹⁶When the ark of the LORD came to the City of David, Sauls daughter Michal looked out of a window and saw King

David leaping and dancing in the LORDS presence, so she despised him.

¹⁷The men carrying the ark set it in its place inside the tent David had put up for it. David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings in the LORDS presence.

¹⁸When David had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and the fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of Armies.

¹⁹He also distributed to all the people to the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women one loaf of bread, one date cake, and one raisin cake. Then all the people went home.

²⁰When David returned to bless his family, Sauls daughter Michal came out to meet him. "How dignified Israels king was today! He was exposing himself before the eyes of the slave girls of his palace staff like a mindless fool might expose himself!"

²¹David answered Michal, "I didnt dance in front of the slave girls but in front of the LORD. He chose me rather than your father or anyone in your fathers house, and he appointed me

leader of Israel, the LORDS people. I will celebrate in the LORDS presence,

²²and I will degrade myself even more than this. Even if I am humiliated in your eyes, I will be honored by these slave girls you speak about."

²³So Sauls daughter Michal was childless her entire life.

7¹ While King David was living in his house, the LORD gave him peace with all his enemies around him.

²So the king said to the prophet Nathan, "Look, Im living in a house made of cedar, while the ark of God remains in the tent."

³Nathan told the king, "Do everything you have in mind, because the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the LORD spoke his word to Nathan:

⁵"Say to my servant David, This is what the LORD says: Are you the one who will build me a house to live in?

⁶I havent lived in a house from the day I took Israel out of Egypt to this day. Instead, I moved around in a tent, the tent of meeting.

⁷In all the places I've moved with all the Israelites, did I ever ask any of the judges of Israel whom I ordered to be shepherds of my people Israel why they didn't build me a house of cedar?

⁸"Now this is what you will say to my servant David: This is what the LORD of Armies says: I took you from the pasture where you followed sheep so that you could be the leader of my people Israel.

⁹I was with you wherever you went, and I destroyed all your enemies in front of you. I will make your name famous like the names of the greatest people on earth.

¹⁰I will make a place for my people Israel and plant them there. They will live in their own place and not be troubled anymore. The wicked will no longer oppress them as they used to do

¹¹ever since I appointed judges to rule my people Israel. So I will give you peace with all your enemies. I, the LORD, tell you that I will make a house for you.

¹²"When the time comes for you to lie down in death with your ancestors, I will send one of your descendants, one who

will come from you. I will establish his kingdom.

¹³He will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

¹⁴I will be his Father, and he will be my Son. If he sins, I will punish him with a rod and with blows inflicted by people.

¹⁵But I will never stop showing him my love as I did to Saul, whom I took out of your way.

¹⁶Your royal house will remain in my presence forever. Your throne will be established forever."

¹⁷Nathan told David all these words and everything he had seen.

¹⁸King David went into the tent and sat in front of the LORD. "Who am I, Almighty LORD," he asked, "and why is my house so important that you have brought me this far?

¹⁹And even this you consider to be a small act, Almighty LORD. Youve also spoken about the distant future of my house. Almighty LORD, this is the teaching about the man.

²⁰"What more can I, David, say to you, Almighty LORD, since you know me so well!

²¹Youve done this great thing because of your promise and your own desire. You made it known to me.

²²"That is why you are great, LORD God. There is no one like you, and there is no other god except you, as we have heard with our own ears.

²³Who is like your people Israel? It is the one nation on earth that God came to free in order to make its people his own, to make his name known, and to do great and wonderful things for them. You forced nations and their gods out of the way of your people, whom you freed from Egypt to be your own.

²⁴You created the people of Israel to be your people forever. And you, LORD, became their God.

²⁵"Now, LORD God, keep the promise you made to me and my house forever. Do as you promised.

²⁶Your name will be respected forever when people say, The LORD of Armies is God over Israel. And the house of your

servant David will be established in your presence.

²⁷You, LORD of Armies, God of Israel, have revealed it especially to me, saying, I will build a house for you. That is why I have found the courage to offer this prayer to you.

²⁸"Almighty LORD, you are God, and your words are trustworthy. You promised me this good thing.

²⁹Now, please bless my house so that it may continue in your presence forever. Indeed, you, Almighty LORD, have promised it. With your blessing my house will be blessed forever."

8¹After this, David defeated and crushed the Philistines. He took control of the main Philistine city from them.

²He also defeated Moab, made the Moabites lie down on the ground, and measured them with a rope. He measured two lengths which were to be killed, and one length which was to be spared. So the Moabites became Davids subjects and paid taxes to him.

³When David went to restore his control over the territory along the

Euphrates River, he defeated Zobahs King Hadadezer, son of Rehob.

⁴David took 1,700 horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers from him. David also disabled all but 100 of their horses so that they couldnt pull chariots.

⁵When the Arameans from Damascus came to help King Hadadezer of Zobah, David killed 22,000 of them.

⁶David put troops in the Aramean kingdom of Damascus, and the Arameans became his subjects and paid taxes to him. Everywhere David went, the LORD gave him victories.

⁷David took the gold shields that belonged to Hadadezers servants, and he brought them to Jerusalem.

⁸King David also took a large quantity of bronze from Betah and Berothai, Hadadezers cities.

⁹When King Toi of Hamath heard that David had defeated Hadadezers whole army,

¹⁰he sent his son Joram to greet King David and congratulate him for fighting and defeating Hadadezer. (There had often been war between Hadadezer and

Toi.) Joram brought articles of gold, silver, and bronze with him.

¹¹ King David dedicated these articles to the LORD, along with the silver and gold he had dedicated from all the nations he conquered

¹² from Edom, Moab, Ammon, the Philistines, Amalek, and from the goods taken from Zobahs King Hadadezer, son of Rehob.

¹³ David made a name for himself by killing 18,000 Edomites in the Dead Sea region as he returned to Jerusalem.

¹⁴ He put troops everywhere in Edom, and all the Edomites were Davids subjects. Everywhere David went, the LORD gave him victories.

¹⁵ So David ruled all Israel. He did what was fair and right for all his people.

¹⁶ Zeruiahs son Joab was in charge of the army. Ahiluds son Jehoshaphat was the royal historian.

¹⁷ Ahitubs son Zadok and Abiathars son Ahimelech were priests. Seraiah was the royal scribe.

¹⁸ Jehoiadas son Benaiah was commander of the Cherethites and the Pelethites. And Davids sons were priests.

9¹ David asked, "Is there anyone left in Sauls family to whom I can show kindness for Jonathans sake?"

² Now, Sauls family had a servant whose name was Ziba. He was summoned to come to David. "Are you Ziba?" the king asked him. "Yes, I am," he answered.

³ David asked, "Is there someone left in Sauls family to whom I can show Gods kindness?" "Jonathan has a son who is disabled," Ziba answered.

⁴ "Where is he?" the king asked. Ziba replied, "He is at the home of Machir, Ammiels son, in Lo Debar."

⁵ So King David sent men to get him from the home of Ammiels son Machir in Lo Debar.

⁶ When Mephibosheth (son of Jonathan and grandson of Saul) came to David, he quickly bowed down with his face touching the ground. "Mephibosheth!" David said to him. "Yes, sir," he answered.

⁷ "Dont be afraid," David told him, "I will certainly show you kindness for your father Jonathans sake. I will give back to you all the land of your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table."

⁸ Mephibosheth bowed down again and answered, "Who am I that you would look at a dead dog like me?"

⁹ Then the king called for Ziba, Sauls servant, and said to him, "I have given your masters grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family.

¹⁰ You, your sons, and your servants should farm the land for him and harvest the crops so that your masters family will have food to eat. However, your masters grandson Mephibosheth will always eat at my table." (Ziba had 15 sons and 20 servants.)

¹¹ Ziba responded, "I will do everything youve commanded, Your Majesty." From then on, Mephibosheth ate at Davids table as one of the kings sons.

¹² Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. Everyone who lived at Zibas home became Mephibosheths servant.

¹³ However, Mephibosheth, who was disabled, lived in Jerusalem. He always ate at the kings table.

10¹ Later the king of Ammon died, and his son Hanun became king in his place.

²David thought, "I will show kindness to Hanun as his father Nahash showed me kindness." So David sent his servants to comfort Hanun after his fathers death. But when Davids servants entered Ammonite territory,

³the Ammonite princes asked their master Hanun, "Do you think David is honoring your father because he sent men to comfort you? Hasnt David sent his men to explore the city, spy on it, and destroy it?"

⁴So Hanun took Davids men, shaved off half of each mans beard, cut off their clothes from the waist down, and sent them away.

⁵After David was told what had happened, he sent someone to meet them because they were deeply humiliated. The king said to them, "Stay in Jericho until your beards have grown back, and then return to Jerusalem."

⁶The Ammonites realized that they had made themselves offensive to David. So they hired the Arameans from Beth Rehob and Zobah(20,000 foot soldiers), the army of the king of Maacah(1,000 men), and the men of Tob(12,000 men).

⁷After David heard about this, he sent Joab and all the elite troops.

⁸The Ammonites formed a battle line at the entrance of the city gate, while the Arameans from Zobah and Rehob and the men from Tob and Maacah remained by themselves in the open country.

⁹When Joab saw he was under attack in front and behind, he took the select troops of Israel and organized them for combat against the Arameans.

¹⁰He put his brother Abishai in charge of the rest of the troops. Abishai organized them for combat against the Ammonites.

¹¹Joab said, "If the Arameans are too strong for my troops, be ready to help me. And if the Ammonites are too strong for your troops, I'll come to help you.

¹²Be strong! Let's prove ourselves strong for our people and for the cities of our God, and the LORD will do what he considers right."

¹³Then Joab and his troops advanced to fight the Arameans, and the Arameans fled.

¹⁴When the Ammonites saw that the Arameans had fled, the Ammonites fled

from Abishai and went into the city. So Joab stopped his campaign against the Ammonites and returned to Jerusalem.

¹⁵Realizing that Israel had defeated them, the Arameans reassembled their troops.

¹⁶Hadadezer sent messengers to get Arameans from beyond the Euphrates River. The Arameans came to Helam with Shobach, the commander of Hadadezers army, leading them.

¹⁷When David was told about this, he assembled Israels army, crossed the Jordan River, and came to Helam. The Arameans formed a battle line against Davids troops and fought him.

¹⁸The Arameans fled from Israel, and David killed 700 chariot drivers and 40,000 horsemen. David struck Shobach dead.

¹⁹When all the kings who were subject to Hadadezer saw that Israel had defeated them, they made peace with Israel and became their subjects. And the Arameans were afraid to help the Ammonites anymore.

11 ¹In the spring, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent

Joab, his mercenaries, and Israel's army to war. They destroyed the Ammonites and attacked Rabbah, while David stayed in Jerusalem.

²Now, when evening came, David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the royal palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing, and she was very pretty.

³David sent someone to ask about the woman. The man said, "She's Bathsheba, daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah the Hittite."

⁴So David sent messengers and took her. She came to him, and he went to bed with her. (She had just cleansed herself after her monthly period.) Then she went home.

⁵The woman had become pregnant. So she sent someone to tell David that she was pregnant.

⁶Then David sent a messenger to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent Uriah to David.

⁷When Uriah arrived, David asked him how Joab and the troops were and how the war was going.

⁸"Go home," David said to Uriah, "and wash your feet." Uriah left the royal palace, and the king sent a present to him.

⁹But Uriah slept at the entrance of the royal palace among his superiors mercenaries. He didnt go home.

¹⁰When they told David, "Uriah didnt go home," David asked Uriah, "Dint you just come from a journey? Why didnt you go home?"

¹¹Uriah answered David, "The ark and the army of Israel and Judah are in temporary shelters, and my commander Joab and Your Majestys mercenaries are living in the field. Should I then go to my house to eat and drink and go to bed with my wife? I solemnly swear, as sure as youre living, I wont do this!"

¹²David said to Uriah, "Then stay here today, and tomorrow Ill send you back." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next.

¹³David summoned him, ate and drank with him, and got him drunk. But that evening Uriah went to lie down on his bed among his superiors mercenaries. He didnt go home.

¹⁴In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah.

¹⁵In the letter he wrote, "Put Uriah on the front line where the fighting is heaviest. Then abandon him so that he'll be struck down and die."

¹⁶Since Joab had kept the city under observation, he put Uriah at the place where he knew the experienced warriors were.

¹⁷The men of the city came out and fought Joab. Some of the people, namely, some of Davids mercenaries, fell and died including Uriah the Hittite.

¹⁸Then Joab sent a messenger to report to David all the details of the battle.

¹⁹And he commanded the messenger, "When you finish telling the king about the battle,

²⁰the king may become angry. He might ask you, Why did you go so close to the city to fight? Didn't you know they would shoot from the wall?

²¹Who killed Jerubbesheth's son Abimelech? Didn't a woman on the wall of Thebez throw a small millstone at him and kill him? Why did you go so close to

the wall? If the king asks this, then say, Your man Uriah the Hittite is also dead."

²²The messenger left, and when he arrived, he reported to David everything Joab told him to say.

²³The messenger said, "Their men overpowered us and came to attack us in the field. Then we forced them back to the entrance of the city gate.

²⁴The archers on the wall shot down at your mercenaries, and some of Your Majestys mercenaries died. Your man Uriah the Hittite also is dead."

²⁵David said to the messenger, "This is what you are to say to Joab, Dont let this thing trouble you, because a sword can kill one person as easily as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and destroy it. Say this to encourage him."

²⁶When Uriahs wife heard that her husband Uriah was dead, she mourned for him.

²⁷When her mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her to his home, and she became his wife. Then she gave birth to a son. But the LORD considered Davids actions evil.

12¹ So the LORD sent Nathan to David. Nathan came to him and said, "There were two men in a certain city. One was rich, and the other was poor.

² The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cows,

³ but the poor man had only one little female lamb that he had bought. He raised her, and she grew up in his home with his children. She would eat his food and drink from his cup. She rested in his arms and was like a daughter.

⁴ "Now, a visitor came to the rich man. The rich man thought it would be a pity to take one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler. So he took the poor mans lamb and prepared her for the traveler."

⁵ David burned with anger against the man. "I solemnly swear, as the LORD lives," he said to Nathan, "the man who did this certainly deserves to die!

⁶ And he must pay back four times the price of the lamb because he did this and had no pity."

⁷ "You are the man!" Nathan told David. "This is what the LORD God of Israel

says: I anointed you king over Israel and rescued you from Saul.

⁸I gave you your master Sauls house and his wives. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if this werent enough, I would have given you even more.

⁹Why did you despise my word by doing what I considered evil? You had Uriah the Hittite killed in battle. You took his wife as your wife. You used the Ammonites to kill him.

¹⁰So warfare will never leave your house because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.

¹¹"This is what the LORD says: I will stir up trouble against you within your own household, and before your own eyes I will take your wives and give them to someone close to you. He will go to bed with your wives in broad daylight.

¹²You did this secretly, but I will make this happen in broad daylight in front of all Israel."

¹³Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan

replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin; you will not die.

¹⁴But since you have shown total contempt for the LORD by this affair, the son that is born to you must die."

¹⁵Then Nathan went home. The LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife had given birth to for David so that the child became sick.

¹⁶David pleaded with God for the child; he fasted and lay on the ground all night.

¹⁷The older leaders in his palace stood beside him to raise him up from the ground, but he was unwilling. And he wouldn't eat with them.

¹⁸On the seventh day the child died. But David's officials were afraid to tell him that the child was dead. They thought, "While the child was alive, we talked to him, and he wouldn't listen to us. How can we tell him the child is dead? He may harm himself."

¹⁹But when David saw that his officials were whispering to one another, he realized that the child was dead. "Is the child dead?" David asked them. "Yes, he is dead," they answered.

²⁰ So David got up from the ground, bathed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes. He went into the LORDS house and worshiped. Then he went home and asked for food. They placed food in front of him, and he ate.

²¹ His officials asked him, "Why are you acting this way? You fasted and cried over the child when he was alive. But as soon as the child died, you got up and ate."

²² David answered, "As long as the child was alive, I fasted and cried. I thought, Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.

²³ But why should I fast now that hes dead? Can I bring him back? Someday Ill go to him, but he wont come back to me."

²⁴ Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba. He went to bed with her, and she later gave birth to a son. David named him Solomon. The LORD loved the child

²⁵ and sent a message through the prophet Nathan to name the baby Jedidiah [The LORDS Beloved].

²⁶ Meanwhile, Joab fought against the Ammonite city of Rabbah and captured its royal fortress.

²⁷ So he sent messengers to tell David, "I fought against Rabbah and captured the fortress guarding its water supply.

²⁸ Gather the rest of the troops, surround the city, and capture it. Otherwise, I will capture the city, and it will be named after me."

²⁹ So David gathered all the troops and went to Rabbah. He fought against the city and captured it.

³⁰ He took the gold crown from the head of Rabbah's king and put it on his own head. (The crown weighed 75 pounds and contained a precious stone.) David also took a lot of goods from the city.

³¹ He brought out the troops who were there and put them to work with saws, hoes, and axes. He did the same to all the Ammonite cities. Then David and all the troops returned to Jerusalem.

13¹ After this, David's son Amnon fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of David's son Absalom.

² Amnon was so obsessed with his half sister Tamar that he made himself sick.

It seemed impossible for him to be alone with her because she was a virgin.

³Amnon had a friend by the name of Jonadab, a son of Davids brother Shimea. Jonadab was a very clever man.

⁴He asked Amnon, "Why are you, the kings son, so worn out morning after morning? Wont you tell me?" "Im in love with Absaloms sister Tamar," he answered.

⁵Then Jonadab told him, "Lie down on your bed. Act sick, and when your father comes to see you, say to him, Please let my sister Tamar come to feed me. She can prepare a meal in front of me as I watch her, and she can feed me."

⁶So Amnon lay down and acted sick, and the king came to see him. Amnon asked the king, "Please let my sister Tamar come and make some bread in front of me, and she can feed me."

⁷David sent for Tamar at the palace. "Please go to your brother Amnons home," he said, "and prepare some food for him."

⁸So Tamar went to her brother Amnons home. He was lying down. She took

dough, kneaded it, made flat bread in front of him, and cooked it.

⁹Then she took the pan and served him the bread. But he refused to eat. "Have everyone leave me," he said. So everyone left him.

¹⁰Amnon told Tamar, "Bring the food into the bedroom so that you can feed me." Tamar took the bread she had prepared and brought it to her brother Amnon in the bedroom.

¹¹When she handed it to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, "Come to bed with me, Tamar!"

¹²"No," she told him, "don't rape me! That shouldn't be done in Israel. Don't do this godless act!"

¹³Where could I go in my disgrace? And you will be considered one of the godless fools in Israel! Speak to the king. He won't refuse your request to marry me."

¹⁴But Amnon wouldn't listen to her. He grabbed his sister and raped her.

¹⁵Now, Amnon developed an intense hatred for her. His hatred for her was greater than the lust he had felt for her. "Get out of here," he told her.

¹⁶She said to him, "No, sending me away is a greater wrong than the other thing you did to me!" But he wouldn't listen to her.

¹⁷Then he called his personal servant and said, "Get rid of her. Put her out, and bolt the door behind her."

¹⁸(She was wearing a longsleeved gown. The king's virgin daughters wore this kind of robe.) So his servant took her out and bolted the door behind her.

¹⁹Tamar put ashes on her head, tore the longsleeved gown she had on, put her hands on her head, and went away crying.

²⁰Her brother Absalom asked her, "Has your brother Amnon been with you? Sister, be quiet for now. He's your brother. Don't dwell on this matter." So Tamar stayed there at the home of her brother Absalom and was depressed.

²¹When King David heard about this, he became very angry. But David didn't punish his son Amnon. He favored Amnon because he was his firstborn son.

²²Absalom wouldn't speak at all to Amnon. He hated Amnon for raping his sister Tamar.

²³Two years later Absalom had sheepshearers at Baal Hazor near Ephraim. He invited all the kings sons.

²⁴Absalom went to the king and said, "Since I have sheepshearers, Your Majesty and your officials are invited to feast with me."

²⁵"No, Son," the king answered Absalom. "If we all go, well be a burden to you." Even when Absalom continued to urge him, David did not want to go, though he did give Absalom his blessing.

²⁶So Absalom said, "If you wont go, then please let my brother Amnon go with us." "Why should he go with you?" the king asked him.

²⁷But when Absalom urged him, he let Amnon and all the rest of the kings sons go with him.

²⁸Then Absalom gave an order to his servants. "Watch now," he said. "When Amnon begins to feel good from drinking too much wine, Ill tell you, Attack Amnon. Then kill him. Dont be afraid. Ive given you the order, havent I? Be strong and courageous."

²⁹Absaloms servants did to Amnon as Absalom had ordered. Then all the kings

sons got up, mounted their mules, and fled.

³⁰While they were on their way, David heard this rumor: "Absalom has killed all the kings sons, and not a single one is left."

³¹The king stood up, tore his clothes, and lay down on the ground. All his servants were standing beside him with their clothes torn to show their grief.

³²Then Jonadab, the son of Davids brother Shimea, said, "Sir, dont think that all the young men, all the kings sons, have been killed. Only Amnon is dead. Absalom decided to do this the day his half brother raped his sister Tamar.

³³You shouldnt burden your heart with the idea that all the kings sons are dead, Your Majesty. Only Amnon is dead.

³⁴Absalom has fled." When the servant who kept watch looked up, he saw many people coming down the road beside the mountain west of him.

³⁵Then Jonadab told the king, "The kings sons have come. Its just as I said."

³⁶When he finished speaking, the kings sons arrived and cried loudly. The king and all his men also cried very bitterly.

³⁷ Absalom, however, fled to Geshurs King Talmai, Ammihuds son. But the king mourned for his son Amnon every day.

³⁸ Absalom, having fled to Geshur, stayed there three years.

³⁹ King David began to long for Absalom once people had consoled him over Amnons death.

14¹ Joab, Zeruiahs son, knew the king was still thinking about Absalom.

² So Joab sent someone to Tekoa to get a clever woman from there. He told her, "Please act like a mourner, and dress in mourning clothes. Dont rub olive oil on yourself, but act like a woman who has been mourning for the dead for a long time.

³ Go to the king, and tell him this." Then Joab told her exactly what to say.

⁴ The woman from Tekoa came to the king and immediately bowed down with her face touching the ground. "Help me, Your Majesty," she said.

⁵ The king asked her, "What can I do for you?" She answered, "Im a widow; my husband is dead.

⁶I had two sons who quarreled in the field, and there was no one to separate them. One killed the other.

⁷Then the entire family turned against me. They said, Give us the man who killed his brother so that we can kill him because he took his brothers life. Were going to destroy the one who now would be the heir. In this way they wish to extinguish the one burning coal that is left for me. They will not let my husbands name or descendants remain on the face of the earth."

⁸"Go home," the king told the woman. "I will order someone to take care of this matter."

⁹The woman from Tekoa said to the king, "Let me be held responsible for the sin, Your Majesty. Let my fathers family be held responsible. Your Majesty and your throne are innocent."

¹⁰The king said, "If anyone says anything against you, bring him to me. He'll never harm you again."

¹¹She said, "Your Majesty, please pray to the LORD your God in order to keep an avenger from doing more harm by destroying my son." "I solemnly swear,

as the LORD lives," he said, "not a hair on your sons head will fall to the ground."

¹²The woman said, "Please let me say something else to you." "Speak," he said.

¹³"Why have you devised something like this against Gods people?" she said. "When you say this, you condemn yourself because you havent brought back the one you banished!

¹⁴We are all going to die; we are all like water that is poured on the ground and cant be gathered up. But doesnt God forgive a person? He never plans to keep a banished person in exile.

¹⁵"Ive come to say this to you because the people have frightened me. So I thought, I will speak to the king about this. Maybe the king will do something for me, his subject.

¹⁶Maybe the king will listen and rescue me, his subject, from the man who wants to cut off both me and my son from our Godgiven inheritance.

¹⁷I thought that you would reassure me. You are like Gods Messenger, who

is able to distinguish right from wrong. May the LORD your God be with you!"

¹⁸The king said to the woman, "Please don't refuse to answer the question I'm going to ask you." The woman responded, "Please speak, Your Majesty."

¹⁹"Did Joab put you up to this?" the king asked. The woman answered, "I solemnly swear on your life, Your Majesty, you are absolutely right. Yes, your servant Joab ordered me to do this. He told me to say exactly what I said."

²⁰Your servant Joab has done this to portray the matter in a different light. You are as wise as God's Messenger, who knows everything on earth."

²¹Then the king told Joab, "This is what you'll do. Bring back the young man Absalom."

²²Joab quickly bowed down with his face touching the ground, and he blessed the king. He said, "Today I know that you have been kind to me because you have done what I wanted."

²³So Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem.

²⁴But the king said, "Absalom should return to his own house. He will not see

me." So Absalom returned to his house and didn't see the king.

²⁵ Now, no one in all Israel was praised for his good looks as much as Absalom was. He had no blemish from head to toe.

²⁶ At the end of every year, he used to cut his hair because it became heavy for him. When he cut the hair on his head and weighed it, it weighed five pounds according to the royal standard.

²⁷ Absalom had three sons and one daughter. His daughter Tamar was a beautiful woman.

²⁸ Absalom stayed in Jerusalem two full years without seeing the king.

²⁹ So Absalom sent for Joab in order to send him to the king, but Joab refused to come. Absalom sent for him a second time, but he still refused to come.

³⁰ So Absalom said to his servants, "Look, Joab's field is next to mine. He has barley in it. Go and set it on fire." So Absalom's servants set it on fire. Joab's servants came to him in grief and said, "Absalom's servants have set your field on fire."

³¹ Then Joab immediately went to Absalom at his home. "Why did your servants set my field on fire?" he asked.

³² Absalom answered Joab, "I sent someone to tell you to come here because I wanted to send you to the king to ask him why I had to come from Geshur. It would be better for me if I were still there. Let me see the king now! If I'm guilty of a sin, he should kill me."

³³ Joab went to the king and told him this. The king then called for Absalom, who came to the king and bowed down with his face touching the ground. And the king kissed Absalom.

15¹ Soon after this, Absalom acquired a chariot, horses, and 50 men to run ahead of him.

² Absalom used to get up early and stand by the road leading to the city gate. When anyone had a case to be tried by King David, Absalom would ask, "Which city are you from?" After the person had told him which tribe in Israel he was from,

³ Absalom would say, "Your case is good and proper, but the king hasn't appointed anyone to hear it."

⁴ He would add, "I wish someone would make me judge in the land. Then anyone who had a case to be tried could come to me, and I would make sure that he got justice."

⁵ When anyone approached him and bowed down, Absalom would reach out, take hold of him, and kiss him.

⁶ This is what he did for all Israelites who came to the king to have him try their case. So Absalom stole the hearts of the people of Israel.

⁷ Four years later Absalom said to the king, "Let me go to Hebron and keep the vow I made to the LORD.

⁸ I made a vow while I was living at Geshur in Aram. I said, If the LORD will bring me back to Jerusalem, I will serve the LORD."

⁹ "Go in peace," the king told him. So he went to Hebron.

¹⁰ But Absalom sent his loyal supporters to all the tribes of Israel and said, "When you hear the sound of the rams

horn, say, Absalom has become king in Hebron."

¹¹Two hundred men invited from Jerusalem went with Absalom. They went innocently, knowing nothing about Absaloms plans.

¹²While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he sent for Ahithophel, Davids adviser, to come from his home in Giloh. Meanwhile, the conspiracy grew stronger, and the number of people siding with Absalom kept getting larger.

¹³Someone came to tell David, "The hearts of the people of Israel are with Absalom."

¹⁴David told all his men who were with him in Jerusalem, "Lets flee immediately, or none of us will escape from Absalom. Lets leave right away, or hell catch up to us and bring disaster on us when he massacres the city."

¹⁵The kings servants told him, "No matter what happens, we are Your Majestys servants."

¹⁶The king left on foot, and his whole household followed him except ten concubines whom the king left behind to take care of the palace.

¹⁷As the king and his troops were leaving the city on foot, they stopped at the last house.

¹⁸All his mercenaries passed by him; all the Cherethites, all the Pelethites, Ittai, and all 600 men who had followed him from Gath were marching past the king.

¹⁹The king asked Ittai from Gath, "Why should you go with us? Go back, and stay with King Absalom. You are a foreigner, an exile from your homeland.

²⁰You came to us just yesterday. Should I make you wander around with me when I don't even know where I'm going? Go back, and take your countrymen with you. May the LORD always show you kindness."

²¹But Ittai answered the king, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD and the king live: Wherever you are, whether you're dead or alive, I'll be there."

²²So David told Ittai, "Go ahead and keep marching." So Ittai from Gath marched on with all his men and all the families who were with him.

²³The whole country was crying loudly as all the troops were passing by. The king was crossing the Kidron Valley, and

all the people were moving down the road toward the desert.

²⁴ Zadok and all the Levites with him were carrying the ark of Gods promise. They set down the ark of God beside Abiathar until all the troops had withdrawn from the city.

²⁵ The king told Zadok, "Take Gods ark back to the city. If the LORD looks favorably on me, he will allow me to come back and see both it and its dwelling place again.

²⁶ But if he says, Im not pleased with you, let him do to me what he considers right."

²⁷ "Arent you a seer?" the king asked Zadok the priest. "Go back to the city peacefully, and take your son Ahimaaz and Abiathars son Jonathan with you.

²⁸ Ill wait at the river crossings in the desert until I receive a message from you."

²⁹ So Zadok and Abiathar took the ark of God back to Jerusalem and stayed there.

³⁰ David cried as he went up the Mount of Olives. He covered his head and walked barefoot. And all of the troops

with him covered their heads and cried as they went.

³¹ Then David was told, "Ahithophel is among those conspiring with Absalom." So David prayed, "LORD, make Ahithophels advice foolish."

³² When David came to the top of the Mount of Olives where people worshiped God, Hushai from Archis family was there to meet him. His clothes were torn, and he had dirt on his head.

³³ David told him, "If you go with me, you will only be a burden to me.

³⁴ But if you go back to the city and say to Absalom, Your Majesty, Ill be your servant. I was your fathers servant in the past, but now Ill be your servant, then youll help me by undoing Ahithophels advice.

³⁵ The priests Zadok and Abiathar will be with you there. When you hear anything from the royal palace, tell it to the priests Zadok and Abiathar.

³⁶ They have two sons with them: Zadok has Ahimaaz, and Abiathar has Jonathan. Send them to report to me anything you hear."

³⁷ So Hushai, Davids friend, went to the city as Absalom was entering Jerusalem.

16¹ When David had gone over the top of the Mount of Olives, Ziba, Mephibosheths servant, met him with a pair of saddled donkeys. They were loaded with 200 loaves of bread, 100 bunches of raisins, 100 pieces of ripened fruit, and a full wineskin.

² "Why did you bring these?" David asked Ziba. "The donkeys are for the kings family to ride on," Ziba answered. "The bread and the ripe fruit are for your servants to eat. The wine is for those who become tired and thirsty in the desert."

³ "Where is your master Sauls grandson?" the king asked. "Hes staying in Jerusalem," Ziba answered the king. "He said, Today the house of Israel will give me back my grandfathers kingdom."

⁴ The king told Ziba, "In that case everything that belonged to Mephibosheth now belongs to you." "I sincerely thank you," said Ziba. "I hope to remain in your good graces, Your Majesty."

⁵ When King David came to Bahurim, a man who was a distant cousin of Saul came out cursing. His name was Shimei, son of Gera.

⁶ He threw stones at David and Davids servants, although all the people and all the warriors were shielding David.

⁷ Shimei cursed and said, "Get out! Get out, you bloodthirsty man! You worthless person!

⁸ The LORD is paying you back for all the blood you spilled in the family of Saul, whom you succeeded as king. The LORD is giving the kingship to your son Absalom. Now youre in trouble because youre a bloodthirsty man."

⁹ Abishai, Zeruiahs son, asked the king, "Why should this dead dog curse you, Your Majesty? Let me go over there and tear off his head."

¹⁰ But the king said, "You dont think like me at all, sons of Zeruiah. Let him curse. If the LORD has told him, Curse David, should anyone ask, Why do you do that?"

¹¹ David told Abishai and all his servants, "My own son, my own flesh and blood, is trying to kill me. Why,

then, shouldn't this Benjaminite do this? Leave him alone. Let him curse, since the LORD has told him to do it.

¹²Maybe the LORD will see my misery and turn his curse into a blessing for me today."

¹³As David and his men went along the road, Shimei was walking along the hillside parallel to him. Shimei cursed, hurled stones, and threw dirt at David.

¹⁴The king and all the people with him finally arrived at their destination and rested there.

¹⁵Meanwhile, Absalom and all Israel's troops came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel was with him.

¹⁶When David's friend Hushai from Archis' family came to Absalom, he said, "Long live the king! Long live the king!"

¹⁷"Is that how loyal you are to your friend?" Absalom asked Hushai. "Why didn't you go with him?"

¹⁸Hushai answered Absalom, "No, I want to be with the one whom the LORD, these people, and all Israel have chosen. I will be his friend and stay with him.

¹⁹And besides, whom should I serve? Shouldnt it be his son? As I served your father, so Ill serve you."

²⁰Then Absalom asked Ahithophel, "Whats your advice? What should we do?"

²¹Ahithophel told Absalom, "Sleep with your fathers concubines whom he left to take care of the palace. Then all Israel will hear about how you have made your father despise you. Everyone who is with you will support you even more."

²²So a tent was put up on the roof for Absalom, and he slept with his fathers concubines in plain sight of Israel.

²³In those days both David and Absalom thought that Ahithophels advice was like getting an answer from God.

17¹ Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Let me choose 12,000 men and leave tonight to go after David.

²Ill attack him while hes tired and weak, and Ill cause him to panic. All the people with him will flee, but Ill kill only him.

³Ill return all the people to you as a bride is returned to her husband. Since

you will be seeking the life of only one man, all the people will have peace."

⁴Absalom and all the leaders of Israel approved this plan.

⁵Absalom said, "Please call Hushai, who is descended from Archis family, and let us hear what he, too, has to say."

⁶When Hushai arrived, Absalom said to him, "Ahithophel has told us his plan. Should we do what he says? If not, tell us."

⁷"This time Ahithophels advice is no good," Hushai said to Absalom.

⁸"You know your father and his men. They are warriors as fierce as a wild bear whose cubs have been stolen. Your father is an experienced soldier. He will not camp with the troops tonight.

⁹He has already hidden in one of the ravines or some other place. If some of our soldiers are killed in the initial attack, others will definitely hear about it and say, The troops that support Absalom have been defeated.

¹⁰Even the bravest man with a heart like a lion would lose his courage, because all Israel knows that your father

is a warrior and the men with him are brave.

¹¹ So my advice is to gather all Israel's troops from Dan to Beersheba, since they are as numerous as the sand on the seashore. Lead them into battle yourself.

¹² Then we'll attack him wherever we find him. We'll fall on him as dew falls on the ground. Neither he nor any of his men will be left alive.

¹³ If he retreats into a city, all Israel will bring ropes to that city and drag it into a valley so that not even a pebble will be found there."

¹⁴ Absalom and all the people of Israel said, "The advice of Hushai from Archis' family is better than Ahithophel's advice." (The LORD had commanded Ahithophel's good advice to be defeated in order to ruin Absalom.)

¹⁵ Then Hushai told the priests Zadok and Abiathar, "Ahithophel advised Absalom and the leaders of Israel to do one thing, but I advised them to do something else.

¹⁶ Now send messengers quickly to tell David, Don't rest tonight in the river crossings in the desert, but make sure

you cross the river, or Your Majesty and all the troops with him will be wiped out."

¹⁷ Jonathan and Ahimaaz were waiting at En Rogel. They could not risk being seen coming into the city, so a servant girl was to go and tell them, and they were to go and tell King David.

¹⁸ But a young man saw Jonathan and Ahimaaz and told Absalom. So both of them left quickly and came to the home of a man in Bahurim who had a cistern in his courtyard, and they went down into it.

¹⁹ The mans wife took a cover, spread it over the top of the cistern, and scattered some grain over it so that no one could tell it was there.

²⁰ Absaloms servants came to the woman at her home. "Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?" they asked. The woman said, "Theyve crossed the stream." The servants looked for them but did not find them. So Absaloms servants returned to Jerusalem.

²¹ After Absaloms servants left, both men came out of the cistern and went and told King David. "Leave right away,"

they told David. "Cross the river quickly because this is what Ahithophel has advised against you."

²²David and all the troops with him left to cross the Jordan River. When the dawn came, everyone had crossed the Jordan River.

²³When Ahithophel saw that his advice hadn't been followed, he saddled his donkey, left, and went home to his own city. He gave instructions to his family. Then he hanged himself, died, and was buried in his father's tomb.

²⁴David had already come to Mahanaim by the time Absalom and all the men of Israel with him crossed the Jordan River.

²⁵Absalom appointed Amasa to take Joab's place as commander of the army. (Amasa was the son of a man named Ithra, a descendant of Ishmael. His mother was Abigail, the daughter of Nahash and sister of Joab's mother Zeruiah.)

²⁶The Israelites and Absalom camped in the region of Gilead.

²⁷When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi, son of Nahash from Rabbah in Ammon, and Machir, son of Ammiel from

Lo Debar, and Barzillai from Rogelim in Gilead

²⁸brought supplies and food for David and his troops: bedding, bowls, pots, wheat, barley, flour, roasted grain, beans, lentils,

²⁹honey, buttermilk, sheep, and calves. They brought these things because they thought, "The troops in the desert are hungry, exhausted, and thirsty."

18¹David called together the troops that were with him. He appointed commanders in charge of regiments and battalions.

²David put a third of the troops under Joabs command, another third under Joabs brother Abishai (Zeruiahs son), and the last third under Ittai from Gath. "I am going into battle with you," the king said to the troops.

³"Youre not going with us," the troops said. "If we flee, they wont care about us, and if half of us die, they wont care either. But youre worth 10,000 of us. Its better for you to be ready to send us help from the city."

⁴"Ill do what you think best," the king responded. So the king stood by the

gate while all the troops marched out by battalions and regiments.

⁵The king ordered Joab, Abishai, and Ittai, "Treat the young man Absalom gently for my sake." All the troops heard him give all the commanders this order regarding Absalom.

⁶So the troops went out to the country to fight Israel in the forest of Ephraim.

⁷There Davids men defeated Israels army, and the massacre was sizable that day 20,000 men.

⁸The fighting spread over the whole country. That day the woods devoured more people than the battle.

⁹Absalom happened to come face to face with some of Davids men. He was riding on a mule, and the mule went under the tangled branches of a large tree. Absaloms head became caught in the tree. So he was left hanging in midair when the mule that was under him ran away.

¹⁰A man who saw this told Joab, "I saw Absalom hanging in a tree."

¹¹"What! You saw that!" Joab said to the man who told him. "Why didnt you strike him to the ground? Then I would

have felt obligated to give you four ounces of silver and a belt."

¹²But the man told Joab, "Even if I felt the weight of 25 pounds of silver in my hand, I wouldn't raise my hand against the king's son. We heard the order the king gave you, Abishai, and Ittai: Protect the young man Absalom for my sake.

¹³If I had done something treacherous to him, would you have stood by me? Like everything else, it wouldn't stay hidden from the king."

¹⁴Then Joab said, "I shouldn't waste time with you like this." He took three sharp sticks and plunged them into Absalom's heart while he was still alive in the tree.

¹⁵Then ten of Joab's armorbearers surrounded Absalom, attacked him, and killed him.

¹⁶Joab blew the ram's horn to stop their fighting, and the troops returned from pursuing Israel.

¹⁷They took Absalom, threw him into a huge pit in the forest, and piled a large heap of stones over him. Meanwhile, all Israel fled and went back to their homes.

¹⁸(While he was still living, Absalom had taken a rock and set it up for himself in the kings valley. He said, "I have no son to keep the memory of my name alive." He called the rock by his name, and it is still called Absaloms Monument today.)

¹⁹Then Ahimaaz, Zadoks son, said, "Let me run and bring the king the good news that the LORD has freed him from his enemies."

²⁰But Joab told him, "You wont be the man carrying good news today. You can carry the news some other day. You must not deliver the news today because the kings son is dead."

²¹Then Joab said to a man from Sudan, "Go, tell the king what you saw." The messenger bowed down with his face touching the ground in front of Joab and then ran off.

²²Ahimaaz, Zadoks son, spoke to Joab again, "Whatever may happen, I also want to run after the Sudanese messenger." "Now, son, why should you deliver the message?" Joab asked. "You wont be rewarded for this news."

²³ "Whatever happens, I'd like to run," replied Ahimaaz. "Run," Joab told him. So Ahimaaz ran along the valley road and got ahead of the Sudanese messenger.

²⁴ David was sitting between the two gates while the watchman walked along the roof of the gate by the wall. As he looked, he saw a man running alone.

²⁵ The watchman called and alerted the king. "If hes alone," the king said, "he has good news to tell." The runner continued to come closer.

²⁶ When the watchman saw another man running, the watchman called, "Theres another man running alone." The king said, "This one is also bringing good news."

²⁷ The watchman said, "It seems to me that the first one runs like Ahimaaz, Zadoks son." "Hes a good man," the king said. "He must be coming with good news."

²⁸ Then Ahimaaz came up to the king, greeted him, and bowed down in front of him. Ahimaaz said, "May the LORD your God be praised. He has handed over the men who rebelled against Your Majesty."

²⁹"Is the young man Absalom alright?" the king asked. Ahimaaz answered, "I saw a lot of confusion when Joab sent me away, but I didn't know what it meant."

³⁰"Step aside, and stand here," the king said. He stepped aside and stood there.

³¹Then the Sudanese messenger came. "Good news for Your Majesty!" he said. "Today the LORD has freed you from all who turned against you."

³²"Is the young man Absalom alright?" the king asked. The Sudanese messenger answered, "May your enemies and all who turned against you be like that young man!"

³³The king was shaken by the news. He went to the room above the gate and cried. "My son Absalom!" he said as he went. "My son, my son Absalom! I wish I had died in your place! Absalom, my son, my son!"

19¹Joab was told, "The king is crying and mourning for Absalom."

²The victory of that day was turned into mourning because all the troops heard that the king was grieving for his son.

³That day the troops sneaked into the city as if they had fled from battle and were ashamed of it.

⁴The king covered his face and cried loudly, "My son Absalom! Absalom, my son, my son!"

⁵Then Joab came into the house. "Today you have made all your men feel ashamed," he said. "They saved your life and the lives of your sons, daughters, wives, and concubines today.

⁶You love those who hate you and hate those who love you. Today, you have made it clear that your commanders and servants mean nothing to you. I think you would be pleased if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead.

⁷Now, get up, go out, and encourage your men. I swear to you by the LORD that if you don't go out, no one will stay with you tonight, and that will be worse than all the trouble you've had in your entire life."

⁸The king sat in the gateway. When all the troops were told, "The king is sitting in the gateway," they came to the king. Meanwhile, Israel had fled and went back to their own homes.

⁹All the people in all the tribes of Israel were arguing with one another, saying, "The king rescued us from our enemies and saved us from the Philistines, but now he has fled from Absalom and left the country.

¹⁰However, Absalom, whom we anointed to rule us, has died in battle. Why is no one talking about bringing back the king?"

¹¹What all Israel was saying reached the king at his house. So King David sent this message to the priests Zadok and Abiathar: "Ask the leaders of Judah, Why should you be the last tribe to bring the king back to his palace?"

¹²You are my relatives, my own flesh and blood. Why should you be the last to bring back the king?

¹³And tell Amasa, Arent you my flesh and blood? May God strike me dead unless you are given Joabs place to serve me always as the commander of the army."

¹⁴All the people of Judah were in total agreement. So they sent the king this message: "Come back with all your servants."

¹⁵The king came back to the Jordan River, and the people of Judah came to Gilgal to meet the king and bring him across the Jordan River.

¹⁶Shimei, Geras son from the tribe of Benjamin and the town of Bahurim, hurried down with the people of Judah to meet King David.

¹⁷One thousand people from Benjamin were with him. And Ziba, the servant of Sauls family, rushed to the Jordan River across from the king. Ziba brought his 15 sons and 20 servants.

¹⁸They crossed the river to bring over the kings family and to do anything else the king wanted. Shimei, Geras son, bowed down in front of the king as he was going to cross the Jordan River.

¹⁹He pleaded with the king, "Dont remember the crime I committed the day you left Jerusalem. Dont hold it against me or even think about it, Your Majesty.

²⁰I know Ive sinned. Today Ive come as the first of all the house of Joseph to meet you."

²¹ But Abishai, Zeruiah's son, replied, "Shouldn't Shimei be put to death for cursing the LORDS anointed king?"

²² David responded, "Are you sure were from the same family, sons of Zeruiah? You are my enemies today. Should anyone in Israel be killed today? Don't I know that I'm king of Israel again?"

²³ The king promised Shimei, "You won't die," and the king swore to it.

²⁴ Mephibosheth, Saul's grandson, went to meet the king. He had not tended to his feet, trimmed his mustache, or washed his clothes from the day the king left until he came home safely.

²⁵ When he came from Jerusalem to meet the king, the king asked him, "Why didn't you go with me, Mephibosheth?"

²⁶ He answered, "My servant deceived me, Your Majesty. Since I am disabled, I said, Saddle the donkey for me, and I'll ride on it and go with the king.

²⁷ He told you lies about me, Your Majesty. However, you are like God's Messenger. Do what you think is right.

²⁸ You could have killed anyone in my entire family, Your Majesty. Instead, you've seated me with those who eat at

your table. So I no longer have the right to complain to the king."

²⁹The king asked him, "Why do you keep talking about it? I've said that you and Ziba should divide the land."

³⁰"Let him take it all," Mephibosheth told the king. "It's enough for me that you've come home safely."

³¹Barzillai, the man from Gilead, came from Rogelim with the king to the Jordan River to send him on his way.

³²Barzillai was an elderly man, 80 years old. Because he was a very rich man, he had provided the king with food while he was staying at Mahanaim.

³³The king told Barzillai, "Cross the river with me. I'll provide for you in Jerusalem."

³⁴Barzillai replied, "I don't have much longer to live. I shouldn't go with Your Majesty to Jerusalem."

³⁵I'm 80 years old now. How can I tell what is pleasant and what is not? Can I taste what I eat or drink? Can I still hear the singing of men and women? Why should I now become a burden to you, Your Majesty?

³⁶ "I'll just cross the Jordan River with you. Why should you give me such a reward?"

³⁷ "Please let me go back so that I can die in my city near the grave of my father and mother. But here is Chimham. Let him go across with you. And do for him what you think is right."

³⁸ "Chimham will go across with me," the king said. "I will do for him whatever you want. Anything you wish I'll do for you."

³⁹ All the troops crossed the Jordan River, and then the king crossed. The king kissed Barzillai and blessed him. Then Barzillai went back home.

⁴⁰ The king crossed the river to Gilgal, and Chimham went with him. All the troops from Judah and half of the troops from Israel brought the king across.

⁴¹ Then all the people of Israel kept coming to the king. They asked, "Why did our cousins, the people of Judah, kidnap you and bring Your Majesty and your family and men across the Jordan River?"

⁴² All the people of Judah answered the people of Israel, "Because the king is our

relative. Why are you angry about this? Did we eat the kings food, or did he give us any gifts?"

⁴³The people of Israel answered the people of Judah, "We have ten times your interest in the king and a greater claim on David than you have. Why, then, do you despise us? Werent we the first to suggest bringing back our king?" But the people of Judah spoke even more harshly than the people of Israel.

20¹A goodfornothing man by the name of Sheba, Bichris son, from the tribe of Benjamin happened to be at Gilgal. He blew a rams horn to announce, "We have no share in Davids kingdom. We wont receive an inheritance from Jesses son. Everyone to his own tent, Israel!"

²So all the people of Israel left David to follow Sheba, Bichris son. But the people of Judah remained loyal to their king on his way from the Jordan River to Jerusalem.

³When David came to his palace in Jerusalem, he took the ten concubines he had left to look after the palace and put them in a house under guard. He

provided for them but no longer slept with them. So they lived like widows in confinement until they died.

⁴The king told Amasa, "Call the people of Judah together for me, and in three days be here yourself."

⁵Amasa went to call Judah together, but he took longer to do it than David had given him.

⁶David then told Abishai, "Sheba, son of Bichri, will do us more harm than Absalom. Take my men and go after him, or he will find some fortified cities and take the best ones for himself."

⁷So Joabs men, the Cherethites, Pelethites, and all the soldiers went with Abishai. They left Jerusalem to pursue Sheba, Bichris son.

⁸When they were at the large rock in Gibeon, Amasa met them there. Joab wore a military uniform, and strapped over it at his hip was a sword in a scabbard. As he stepped forward, the sword dropped into his hand.

⁹"How are you, my brother?" Joab asked Amasa. He took hold of Amasas beard with his right hand to kiss him.

¹⁰Amasa wasnt on his guard against the sword in Joabs left hand. Joab stabbed him in the stomach, and his intestines poured out on the ground. (He died without being stabbed again.) Then Joab and his brother Abishai pursued Sheba, son of Bichri.

¹¹One of Joabs young men stood beside Amasa and said, "Anyone who favors Joab and is on Davids side should follow Joab."

¹²Amasa was wallowing in his blood in the middle of the road. When the man saw that all the troops stopped as they came to the body, he carried Amasa from the road to the field and threw a sheet over him.

¹³As soon as he was moved from the road, everyone followed Joab and pursued Sheba, Bichris son.

¹⁴Sheba passed through all the tribes of Israel to Abel (Beth Maacah). All the Berites were gathered together and followed him to the city.

¹⁵Joabs army came and attacked him in Abel (Beth Maacah). They put up a dirt ramp against the city, and it stood level with the outer wall. All the troops

with Joab were trying to destroy the wall and tear it down.

¹⁶Then a clever woman called from the city, "Listen, listen! Tell Joab to come here so that I can talk to him."

¹⁷He came near, and she asked, "Are you Joab?" "I am," he answered. "Listen to what I have to say," she told him. "I'm listening," he answered.

¹⁸So she said, "Theres an old saying: Be sure to ask at Abel before doing anything. Thats the way they settle matters.

¹⁹We are peaceful and faithful Israelites. Are you trying to destroy a mother city in Israel? Why should you swallow up what belongs to the LORD?"

²⁰Joab answered, "Thats unthinkable! I dont wish to swallow it up or destroy it.

²¹That isnt the case. A man from the mountains of Ephraim by the name of Sheba, son of Bichri, has rebelled against King David. Give him to me, and Ill withdraw from the city." "Thats fine," the woman told Joab. "His head will be thrown to you from the wall."

²²Then the woman went to all the people with her clever plan. They cut

off Shebas head and threw it to Joab. He blew the rams horn, and everyone scattered and withdrew from the city and went home. Joab went back to the king in Jerusalem.

²³ Now, Joab was put in charge of Israels whole army. Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, was in charge of the Cherethites and Pelethites.

²⁴ Adoram was in charge of forced labor. Jehoshaphat, son of Ahilud, was the royal historian.

²⁵ Sheva was the royal scribe. Zadok and Abiathar were priests.

²⁶ And Ira, a descendant of Jair, was a priest to David.

21 ¹ In the time of David, there was a famine for three successive years, and David asked the LORDS advice about it. The LORD answered, "Its because of Saul and his family. They are guilty of murder because they killed the people of Gibeon."

² (The Gibeonites were not a part of Israel but were left over from the Amorites. Although the Israelites had sworn to spare them, Saul, in his eagerness, tried to destroy them for

Israel and Judah.) The king called the Gibeonites

³and asked them, "What can I do for you? What should I give you to make peace with you so that you will bless what belongs to the LORD?"

⁴"We do not want silver or gold from Sauls family," the Gibeonites answered him. "And none of us wants to kill anyone in Israel." The king asked, "What are you saying that I should do for you?"

⁵They answered the king, "Give us seven of the male descendants of the man who wanted to finish us off. He planned to wipe us out to keep us from staying anywhere in Israels territory.

⁶We will execute them in the LORDS presence at Sauls town Gibeah." (It was Saul whom the LORD had chosen.) "I will give them to you," the king said.

⁷But the king spared Mephibosheth, Jonathans son and Sauls grandson, because of the oath in the LORDS name between David and Jonathan, son of Saul.

⁸The king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons whom Rizpah (Aiahs daughter) gave birth to for

Saul, and five sons whom Merab (Sauls daughter) gave birth to for Adriel, son of Barzillai from Meholah.

⁹The king handed them over to the Gibeonites, who executed them on the mountain in the LORDS presence. All seven died together. They were killed at the beginning of the harvest, when people started harvesting barley.

¹⁰Rizpah (Aiahs daughter) took sackcloth and stretched it out on the rock for herself from the beginning of the harvest until the sky rained on the dead bodies. She wouldnt let any birds land on them during the day or any wild animals come near them during the night.

¹¹When David was told what Sauls concubine Rizpah (Aiahs daughter) had done,

¹²David went and took the bones of Saul and of his son Jonathan from the citizens of Jabesh Gilead. They had stolen them from the public square of Beth Shean, where the Philistines had hung them the day they killed Saul at Gilboa.

¹³When David brought up the bones of Saul and Jonathan, his men gathered the bones of those who had been executed.

¹⁴Then they buried the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan in the land of Benjamin, in Zela, in the tomb of Sauls father Kish. They did everything the king ordered. After that, God answered the prayers for the land.

¹⁵Once again there was a battle between the Philistines and Israel. So David and his men went to fight the Philistines, but David became exhausted.

¹⁶A descendant of Haraphah named Benob, who had a bronze spear weighing 7 pounds which he wore on a new belt, captured David and intended to kill him.

¹⁷But Abishai, son of Zeruiah, came to help David. He attacked the Philistine and killed him. Then Davids men swore an oath, saying, "Youll never go into battle with us again. The lamp of Israel must never be extinguished."

¹⁸After this, there was another battle with the Philistines at Gob. Then Sibbecai from Hushah killed Saph, another descendant of Haraphah.

¹⁹When more fighting broke out with the Philistines at Gob, Elhanan, son of Jaare Oregim from Bethlehem, killed Goliath of Gath. (The shaft of Goliaths spear was like a beam used by weavers.)

²⁰In another battle at Gath, there was a tall man who had a total of 24 fingers and toes: six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. He also was a descendant of Haraphah.

²¹When he challenged Israel, Jonathan, son of Davids brother Shimei, killed him.

²²These four were descendants of Haraphah from Gath, and David and his men killed them.

22¹David sang this song to the LORD when the LORD rescued him from all his enemies, especially from Saul.

²He said, The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my Savior,

³my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, the strength of my salvation, my stronghold, my refuge, and my Savior who saved me from violence.

⁴The LORD should be praised. I called on him, and I was saved from my enemies.

⁵The waves of death had surrounded me. The torrents of destruction had overwhelmed me.

⁶The ropes of the grave had surrounded me. The clutches of death had confronted me.

⁷I called on the LORD in my distress. I called to my God for help. He heard my voice from his temple, and my cry for help reached his ears.

⁸Then the earth shook and quaked. Even the foundations of the heavens trembled. They shook violently because he was angry.

⁹Smoke went up from his nostrils, and a raging fire came out of his mouth. Glowing coals flared up from it.

¹⁰He spread apart the heavens and came down with a dark cloud under his feet.

¹¹He rode on one of the angels as he flew, and he soared on the wings of the wind.

¹²He surrounded himself with darkness. He made the dark rain clouds his covering.

¹³Out of the brightness in front of him, he made lightning.

¹⁴The LORD thundered from heaven.
The Most High made his voice heard.

¹⁵He shot arrows and scattered them.
He flashed streaks of lightning and threw
them into confusion.

¹⁶Then the ocean floor could be seen.
The foundations of the earth were laid
bare at the LORDS stern warning, at the
blast of the breath from his nostrils.

¹⁷He reached down from high above
and took hold of me. He pulled me out
of the raging water.

¹⁸He rescued me from my strong
enemy and from those who hated me,
because they were too strong for me.

¹⁹On the day when I faced disaster,
they confronted me, but the LORD
became my defense.

²⁰He brought me out to a wideopen
place. He rescued me because he was
pleased with me.

²¹The LORD rewarded me because of
my righteousness, because my hands
are clean. He paid me back

²²because I have kept the ways of the
LORD and I have not wickedly turned
away from my God,

²³because all his judgments are in front of me and I have not turned away from his laws.

²⁴I was innocent as far as he was concerned. I have kept myself from guilt.

²⁵The LORD paid me back because of my righteousness, because he can see that I am clean.

²⁶In dealing with faithful people you are faithful, with innocent warriors you are innocent,

²⁷with pure people you are pure. In dealing with devious people you are clever.

²⁸You save humble people, but your eyes bring down arrogant people.

²⁹O LORD, you are my lamp. The LORD turns my darkness into light.

³⁰With you I can attack a line of soldiers. With my God I can break through barricades.

³¹God's way is perfect! The promise of the LORD has proven to be true. He is a shield to all those who take refuge in him.

³²Who is God but the LORD? Who is a rock other than our God?

³³ God arms me with strength. His perfect way sets me free.

³⁴ He makes my feet like those of a deer and gives me sure footing on high places.

³⁵ He trains my hands for battle so that my arms can bend an archers bow of bronze.

³⁶ You have given me the shield of your salvation. Your help makes me great.

³⁷ You make a wide path for me to walk on so that my feet do not slip.

³⁸ I chased my enemies and destroyed them. I did not return until I had ended their lives.

³⁹ I ended their lives by shattering them. They were unable to get up. They fell under my feet.

⁴⁰ You armed me with strength for battle. You made my opponents bow at my feet.

⁴¹ You made my enemies turn their backs to me, and I destroyed those who hated me.

⁴² They looked, but there was no one to save them. They looked to the LORD, but he did not answer them.

⁴³I beat them into a powder as fine as the dust on the ground. I crushed them and stomped on them like the dirt on the streets.

⁴⁴You rescued me from my conflicts with my people. You kept me as the leader of nations. A people I did not know will serve me.

⁴⁵Foreigners will cringe in front of me. As soon as they hear of me, they will obey me.

⁴⁶Foreigners will lose heart, although they are armed in their fortifications.

⁴⁷The LORD lives! Thanks be to my rock! May God, the rock of my salvation, be glorified.

⁴⁸God gives me vengeance! He brings people under my authority.

⁴⁹He frees me from my enemies. You lift me up above my opponents. You rescue me from violent people.

⁵⁰That is why I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the nations and make music to praise your name.

⁵¹He gives great victories to his king. He shows mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his descendant forever.

23¹ These are the last words of David: "Here is the declaration by David, son of Jesse the declaration by the man whom God raised up, whom the God of Jacob anointed, the singer of Israel's psalms:

² "The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me. His words were on my tongue.

³ The God of Israel spoke to them. The rock of Israel told me, The one who rules humans with justice rules with the fear of God.

⁴ He is like the morning light as the sun rises, like a morning without clouds, like the brightness after a rainstorm. The rain makes the grass grow from the earth.

⁵ "Truly, God considers my house to be that way, because he has made a lasting promise to me, with every detail arranged and assured. He promised everything that helps me, everything that pleases me. Truly, he makes these things happen.

⁶ "Worthless people are like thorns. All of them are thrown away, because they cannot be picked by hand.

⁷ A person who touches them uses iron tools or the shaft of a spear. Fire will burn them up completely wherever they are."

⁸ These are the names of Davids fighting men: Josheb Basshebeth from Tahkemons family was leader of the three. He used a spear to kill 800 men on one occasion.

⁹ Next in rank to him was Eleazar, another one of the three fighting men. He was the son of Dodo and grandson of Aho. Eleazar was with David at Pas Dammim when the Philistines gathered there for battle. When the soldiers from Israel retreated,

¹⁰ he attacked and killed Philistines until his hand got tired and stuck to his sword. So the LORD won an impressive victory that day. The army returned to Eleazar, but they only returned to strip the dead.

¹¹ Next in rank to him was Shammah, the son of Agee from Harar. The Philistines had gathered at Lehi, where there was a field of ripe lentils. When the troops fled from the Philistines,

¹²he stood in the middle of the field and defended it by killing Philistines. So the LORD won an impressive victory.

¹³At harvest time three of the thirty leading men came to David at the cave of Adullam when a troop from the Philistine army was camping in the valley of Rephaim.

¹⁴While David was in the fortified camp, Philistine troops were at Bethlehem.

¹⁵When David became thirsty, he said, "I wish I could have a drink of water from the well at the city gate of Bethlehem."

¹⁶So the three fighting men burst into the Philistine camp and drew water from the well. They brought it to David, but he refused to drink it. He poured it out as an offering to the LORD and said,

¹⁷"It's unthinkable that I would do this, LORD. This is the blood of men who risked their lives!" So he refused to drink it. These are the things which the three fighting men did.

¹⁸Joab's brother Abishai, Zeruiah's son, was the leader of the thirty. He used his spear to kill 300 men. He was as famous as the three

¹⁹and was honored more than they were. So he became their captain, but he didn't become a member of the three.

²⁰Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, was from Kabzeel and was a brave man who did many things. He killed two distinguished soldiers from Moab. He also went into a pit and killed a lion on the day it snowed.

²¹And he killed a handsome Egyptian. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand. Benaiah went to him with a club, grabbed the spear from him, and killed him with it.

²²These are the things that Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, did. He was as famous as the three fighting men.

²³He was honored more than the thirty, but he was not a member of the three. David put him in charge of his bodyguards.

²⁴One of the thirty was Joab's brother Asahel. The thirty leading men were Elhanan (son of Dodo) from Bethlehem,

²⁵Shammah from Harod, Elikah from Harod,

²⁶Helez the Paltite, Ira (son of Ikkesh) from Tekoa,

²⁷ Abiezer from Anathoth, Mebunnai (son of Hushai),

²⁸ Zalmon (descendant of Ahohi), Maharai from Netophah,

²⁹ Heleb (son of Baanah) from Netophah, Ittai (son of Ribai) from Gibeah in Benjamin,

³⁰ Benaiah from Pirathon, Hiddai from the Gaash ravines,

³¹ Abi Albon from Beth Arabah, Azmaveth from Bahurim,

³² Elihba from Shaalbon, Bene Jashen,

³³ Jonathan (son of Shammah the Hararite), Ahiam (son of Sharar the Hararite),

³⁴ Eliphelet (son of Ahasbai and grandson of a man from Maacah), EIAM (son of Ahithophel) from Gilo,

³⁵ Hezrai from Carmel, Paarai from Arabah,

³⁶ Igal (son of Nathan) from Zobah, Bani from the tribe of Gad,

³⁷ Zelek from Ammon, Naharai from Beeroth, armorbearer for Zeruias son Joab,

³⁸ Ira (descendant of Ithra), Gareb (descendant of Ithra),

³⁹ Uriah the Hittite³⁷ in all.

24¹ The LORD became angry with Israel again, so he provoked David to turn against Israel. He said, "Go, count Israel and Judah."

² King David said to Joab, the commander of the army who was with him, "Go throughout the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba and count the people. That way I will know how many there are."

³ Joab responded to the king, "May the LORD your God multiply the people a hundred times over, and may Your Majesty live to see it. But why does Your Majesty wish to do this?"

⁴ However, the king overruled Joab and the commanders of the army. So they left the king in order to count the people of Israel.

⁵ They crossed the Jordan River and camped at Aroer, south of the city in the middle of the valley. Then they went to Gad and to Jazer.

⁶ They went to Gilead and to Tahtim Hodshi and then to Dan Jaan and around toward Sidon.

⁷ They went to the fortified city of Tyre and all the cities of the Hivites

and the Canaanites. Then they went to Beersheba in the Negev of Judah.

⁸When they had covered the whole country, they came to Jerusalem after 9 months and 20 days.

⁹Joab reported the census figures to the king: In Israel there were 800,000 able-bodied men who could serve in the army, and in Judah there were 500,000.

¹⁰After David counted the people, his conscience troubled him. David said to the LORD, "I have committed a terrible sin by what I have done. LORD, please forgive me because I have acted very foolishly."

¹¹When David got up in the morning, the LORD spoke his word to the prophet Gad, David's seer.

¹²"Go and tell David, This is what the LORD says: I'm offering you three choices. Choose the one you want me to do to you."

¹³When Gad came to David, he told David this and asked, "Should seven years of famine come to you and your land, or three months during which you flee from your enemies as they pursue you, or should there be a threeday

plague in your land? Think it over, and decide what answer I should give the one who sent me."

¹⁴"I'm in a desperate situation," David told Gad. "Please let us fall into the LORDS hands because he is very merciful. But dont let me fall into human hands."

¹⁵So the LORD sent a plague among the Israelites from that morning until the time he had chosen. Of the people from Dan to Beersheba, 70,000 died.

¹⁶But when the Messenger stretched out his arm to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD changed his mind about the disaster. "Enough!" he said to the Messenger who was destroying the people. "Put down your weapon." The Messenger of the LORD was at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

¹⁷When David saw the Messenger who had been killing the people, he said to the LORD, "I've sinned. I've done wrong. What have these sheep done? Please let your punishment be against me and against my fathers family."

¹⁸That day Gad came to David and said to him, "Go, set up an altar for the

LORD at Araunah the Jebusites threshing floor."

¹⁹David went as Gad had told him and as the LORD had commanded him.

²⁰When Araunah looked down and saw the king and his men coming toward him, he went out and bowed down with his face touching the ground in front of the king.

²¹"Why has Your Majesty come to me?" Araunah asked. David answered, "To buy the threshing floor from you and to build an altar for the LORD. Then the plague on the people will stop."

²²Araunah said to David, "Take it, Your Majesty, and offer whatever you think is right. There are oxen for the burnt offering, and there are threshers and oxen yokes for firewood."

²³All this Araunah gave to the king and said, "May the LORD your God accept you."

²⁴And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy [it] of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought

the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

²⁵And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.

1 Kings

1 ¹ King David had grown old, and although he was covered with blankets, he couldn't get warm.

² His officials told him, "Your Majesty, let us search for a young woman who has never been married. She can stay with you and be your servant. She can lie in your arms and keep you warm."

³ So they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful, young woman. They found Abishag from Shunem and brought her to the king.

⁴ The woman was very beautiful. She became the king's servant and took care of him, but the king did not make love to her.

⁵ Adonijah, son of Haggith, was very handsome. His mother gave birth to him after Maacah had Absalom. Adonijah was boasting that he was king. So he got a chariot and horses and 50 men to run ahead of him.

⁶ His father had never confronted him by asking why he was doing this.

⁷ But Adonijah had discussed his actions with Joab (son of Zeruiah) and with the priest Abiathar, so they supported him.

⁸ But the priest Zadok, Benaiah (son of Jehoiada), the prophet Nathan, Shimei, Rei, and Davids thirty fighting men did not join Adonijah.

⁹ Adonijah sacrificed sheep, cattle, and fattened calves at Zoheleth Rock near En Rogel. He had invited all his brothers, the kings other sons, all the men of Judah, and the kings officials.

¹⁰ But he didnt invite the prophet Nathan, Benaiah, the fighting men, or his brother Solomon.

¹¹ Then Nathan asked Solomons mother Bathsheba, "Havent you heard that Adonijah, Haggiths son, has become king, and our master David doesnt even know about it?

¹² Bathsheba, let me give you some advice about how to save your life and your sons life.

¹³ Go to King David and ask him, Your Majesty, didnt you swear to me that my son Solomon will be king after you, and that he will sit on your throne? Why is Adonijah acting as king?

¹⁴And while youre still there talking to the king, Ill come in and confirm what you have said."

¹⁵Bathsheba went to the king in his private room. The king was very old, and Abishag from Shunem was taking care of him.

¹⁶Bathsheba knelt and bowed down in front of the king. "What do you want?" the king asked.

¹⁷"Sir," she answered, "You took an oath to the LORD your God. You said that my son Solomon will be king after you, and that he will sit on your throne.

¹⁸But now, you see, Adonijah has become king, and you dont even know anything about it, Your Majesty.

¹⁹He has sacrificed many fattened calves, bulls, and sheep. He has invited all the kings sons, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army to his feast. But he hasnt invited your servant Solomon.

²⁰All Israel is looking to you, Your Majesty, to tell them who should succeed you on your throne.

²¹ Otherwise, my son Solomon and I will be treated like criminals when you lie down in death with your ancestors."

²² While she was still talking to the king, the prophet Nathan arrived.

²³ The servants told the king, "The prophet Nathan is here." When he came to the king, he bowed down in front of him.

²⁴ Nathan said, "Your Majesty, you must have said that Adonijah will be king after you and that he will sit on your throne,

²⁵ because today he went and sacrificed many bulls, fattened calves, and sheep. He invited all the kings sons, the armys commanders, and the priest Abiathar to his feast. They are eating and drinking with him and saying, Long live King Adonijah!

²⁶ But he didnt invite me or the priest Zadok or Benaiah, who is Jehoiadas son, or your servant Solomon.

²⁷ Did you allow this to happen without telling me who would sit on your throne next?"

²⁸ Then King David answered, "Call Bathsheba in here." So she stood in front of him,

²⁹and he swore an oath. He said, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD who has saved my life from all trouble lives,

³⁰I will do today exactly what I swore to you by the LORD God of Israel. Your son Solomon will be king after me. He will sit on my throne."

³¹Then Bathsheba bowed down with her face touching the ground in front of the king. "May Your Majesty, King David, live forever!" she said.

³²King David said, "Summon the priest Zadok, the prophet Nathan, and Benaiah, son of Jehoiada." So they came to the king,

³³and he said, "Take my officials with you. Put my son Solomon on my mule, and take him to Gihon.

³⁴Have the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan anoint him king of Israel there. Then blow the rams horn and say, Long live King Solomon!

³⁵Follow him back here when he comes to sit on my throne. He will be king in place of me. I have appointed him to be the leader of Israel and Judah."

³⁶"So be it!" Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, answered the king. "The LORD your God says so too.

³⁷As the LORD has been with you, so may he be with Solomon. May Solomon be an even greater king than you, King David."

³⁸Then the priest Zadok, the prophet Nathan, Benaiah (son of Jehoiada), the Cherethites, and the Pelethites put Solomon on King Davids mule and brought him to Gihon.

³⁹The priest Zadok took the container of olive oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. They blew the rams horn, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!"

⁴⁰All the people followed him, blew flutes, and celebrated so loudly that their voices shook the ground.

⁴¹Adonijah and all his guests heard this as they finished eating. When Joab heard the sound of the horn, he asked, "Whats the reason for the noise in the city?"

⁴²He was still speaking when Jonathan, son of the priest Abiathar, arrived. "Come in," Adonijah said. "Youre an

honorable man, so you must be bringing good news."

⁴³"Not at all," Jonathan answered Adonijah. "His Majesty King David has made Solomon king.

⁴⁴The king has sent the priest Zadok, the prophet Nathan, Benaiah (son of Jehoiada), the Cherethites, and the Pelethites with him. They have put him on the king's mule.

⁴⁵The priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan have anointed him king at Gihon. They have come from there celebrating, so the city is excited. That is the sound you heard.

⁴⁶Solomon is now seated on the royal throne.

⁴⁷Furthermore, the royal officials have come to congratulate His Majesty King David, saying, May your God make Solomon's name more famous than yours and his reign greater than your reign.

The king himself bowed down on his bed

⁴⁸and said, Praise the LORD God of Israel who has let me see the heir to my throne."

⁴⁹ Adonijah's guests were frightened, so they got up and scattered in all directions.

⁵⁰ Adonijah was afraid of Solomon. He got up, went to the tent of meeting, and took hold of the horns of the altar.

⁵¹ Someone told Solomon, "Adonijah is afraid of you, King Solomon. He is holding on to the horns of the altar and saying, Make King Solomon swear to me today that he will not have me killed."

⁵² Solomon said, "If he will behave like an honorable man, not one hair on his head will fall to the ground. But if he does anything wrong, he will die."

⁵³ King Solomon sent men to take him from the altar. Adonijah bowed down in front of King Solomon. "Go home," Solomon told him.

2¹ When David was about to die, he instructed his son Solomon,

² "I'm about to leave this world. Be strong and mature.

³ Fulfill your duty to the LORD your God. Obey his directions, laws, commands, rules, and written instructions as they are recorded in Moses Teachings. Then

you'll succeed in everything you do wherever you may go.

⁴You'll succeed because the LORD will keep the promise he made to me: If your descendants are faithful to me with all their hearts and lives, you will never fail to have an heir on the throne of Israel.

⁵"You know what Joab (Zeruiah's son) did to me and to the two commanders of Israel's army Abner, son of Ner, and Amasa, son of Jether. Joab killed them. When there was peace, he shed blood as if it were wartime. With their blood he stained the belt around his waist and the shoes on his feet.

⁶Use your wisdom. Don't let that gray-haired, old man go to his grave peacefully.

⁷"Be kind to the sons of Barzillai from Gilead. Let them eat at your table. They helped me when I was fleeing from your brother Absalom.

⁸"Shimei, son of Gera from Bahurim in Benjamin, is still with you. He cursed me repeatedly when I went to Mahanaim. But when he came to meet me at the Jordan River, I took an oath by the LORD

and said, As long as I'm king, I won't have you killed.

⁹Now, don't let him go unpunished. You are wise and know what to do to him: Put that grayhaired, old man into his grave by slaughtering him."

¹⁰David lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David.

¹¹He ruled as king of Israel for 40 years. He ruled for 7 years in Hebron and for 33 years in Jerusalem.

¹²Solomon sat on his father David's throne, and his power was firmly established.

¹³Then Adonijah, son of Haggith, went to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother. "Is this a friendly visit?" she asked. "Yes," he answered.

¹⁴Then he added, "I have a matter to discuss with you." "What is it?" she asked.

¹⁵He said, "You know the kingship was mine. All Israel expected me to be their king. But the kingship has been turned over to my brother because the LORD gave it to him.

¹⁶Now I want to ask you for one thing. Dont refuse me." "What is it?" she asked.

¹⁷He said, "Please ask King Solomon to give me Abishag from Shunem as my wife. He will not refuse you."

¹⁸"Very well," Bathsheba answered. "I will talk to the king for you."

¹⁹Bathsheba went to King Solomon to talk to him on Adonijahs behalf. The king got up to meet her and bowed down in front of her. Then he sat on his throne. He had a throne brought for his mother, and she sat at his right side.

²⁰"Im asking you for one little thing," she said. "Dont refuse me." "Ask, Mother," the king told her. "I wont refuse you."

²¹She replied, "Let Abishag from Shunem be given to your brother Adonijah as his wife."

²²King Solomon then said, "Why do you ask that Abishag from Shunem be given to Adonijah? That would be the same as giving him the kingship. After all, he is my older brother. The priest Abiathar and Joab (Zeruiahs son) are supporting him."

²³ King Solomon took an oath by the LORD and said, "May God strike me dead if Adonijah doesn't pay with his life for this request!

²⁴ The LORD set me on my father David's throne and gave me a dynasty as he promised. So I solemnly swear, as the LORD who has established me lives, that Adonijah will be put to death today."

²⁵ King Solomon gave this task to Benaiah, son of Jehoiada. Benaiah attacked and killed Adonijah.

²⁶ The king told the priest Abiathar, "Go to your land in Anathoth. You deserve to die, but I won't kill you at this time because you carried the ark of the Almighty LORD ahead of my father David and because you shared all my father's sufferings."

²⁷ So Solomon removed Abiathar as the LORDS priest and fulfilled the LORDS word spoken at Shiloh about Elis family.

²⁸ The news reached Joab. (He had supported Adonijah, although he hadn't supported Absalom.) So Joab fled to the LORDS tent and clung to the horns of the altar.

²⁹After King Solomon heard that Joab had fled to the altar in the tent of the LORD, Solomon sent Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, to kill Joab.

³⁰When Benaiah came to the tent of the LORD, he told Joab, "The king says, Come out." "No," Joab answered, "I'll die here." So Benaiah reported to the king what Joab had said and how he had answered.

³¹The king answered, "Do as he said. Kill him, and bury him. You can remove the innocent blood the blood which Joab shed from me and my fathers family.

³²The LORD will repay him for the slaughter he caused. Joab killed two honorable men who were better than he was. He used his sword to kill Abner (who was the son of Ner and the commander of Israels army) and Amasa (who was the son of Jether and the commander of Judahs army). Joab did this without my fathers knowledge.

³³The responsibility for their blood will fall on Joab and his descendants forever. But may David, his descendants, family, and throne always receive peace from the LORD."

³⁴ Then Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, went and attacked Joab, killed him, and buried him at his home in the desert.

³⁵ The king then appointed Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, to replace Joab as commander of the army. King Solomon also replaced Abiathar with the priest Zadok.

³⁶ The king summoned Shimei and said to him, "Build a house for yourself in Jerusalem, and stay there. Don't leave the city to go anywhere else.

³⁷ But the day you leave and cross the brook in the Kidron Valley, you can be certain that you will die. You will be responsible for your own death."

³⁸ "Very well," Shimei answered. "I'll do just what Your Majesty said." So Shimei stayed in Jerusalem for a long time.

³⁹ But after three years, two of Shimei's slaves fled to Gath's King Achish, son of Maacah. Shimei was told that his slaves were in Gath,

⁴⁰ so he saddled his donkey and went to Achish in Gath to search for his slaves. Shimei went to Gath and got his slaves.

⁴¹ After Solomon heard that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and back,

⁴² he summoned Shimei. Solomon asked him, "Didn't I make you take an oath by the LORD? Didn't I warn you that if you left the city to go anywhere, you could be certain that you would die? Didn't you say to me, Very well. I'll do just what you said?"

⁴³ Why didn't you keep your oath to the LORD and obey the command I gave you?

⁴⁴ Shimei, you know in your heart all the evil that you did to my father David. The LORD is going to pay you back for the evil you have done.

⁴⁵ But King Solomon is blessed, and Davids dynasty will always be firmly established by the LORD."

⁴⁶ Then the king gave orders to Benaiah, son of Jehoiada. He went to attack and kill Shimei. Solomons power as king was now firmly established.

3¹ Solomon became the son-in-law of Pharaoh (the king of Egypt). After marrying Pharaoh's daughter, Solomon brought her to the City of David until he finished building his own house, the LORDS house, and the wall around Jerusalem.

²The people were still sacrificing at other worship sites because a temple for the name of the LORD had not yet been built.

³Solomon loved the LORD and lived by his father Davids rules. However, he still sacrificed and burned incense at these other worship sites.

⁴King Solomon went to Gibeon to sacrifice because it was the most important place of worship. Solomon sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings on that altar.

⁵In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. He said, "What can I give you?"

⁶Solomon responded, "Youve shown great love to my father David, who was your servant. He lived in your presence with truth, righteousness, and commitment. And you continued to show him your great love by giving him a son to sit on his throne today.

⁷"LORD my God, although Im young and inexperienced, youve made me king in place of my father David.

⁸Im among your people whom you have chosen. They are too numerous to count or record.

⁹Give me a heart that listens so that I can judge your people and tell the difference between good and evil. After all, who can judge this great people of yours?"

¹⁰The LORD was pleased that Solomon asked for this.

¹¹God replied, "Youve asked for this and not for a long life, or riches for yourself, or the death of your enemies. Instead, youve asked for understanding so that you can do what is right.

¹²So Im going to do what youve asked. Im giving you a wise and understanding heart so that there will never be anyone like you.

¹³Im also giving you what you havent asked for riches and honor so that no other king will be like you as long as you live.

¹⁴And if you follow me and obey my laws and commands as your father David did, then I will also give you a long life."

¹⁵Solomon woke up and realized it had been a dream. He went to Jerusalem and

stood in front of the ark of the LORDS promise. He sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings and held a banquet for all his officials.

¹⁶A short time later two prostitutes came to the king and stood in front of him.

¹⁷One woman said to him, "Sir, this woman and I live in the same house. I gave birth to a son while she was with me in the house.

¹⁸Two days later this woman also gave birth to a son. We were alone. No one else was with us. Just the two of us were in the house.

¹⁹That night this womans son died because she rolled over on top of him.

²⁰So she got up during the night and took my son, who was beside me, while I was asleep. She held him in her arms. Then she laid her dead son in my arms.

²¹When I got up in the morning to nurse my son, he was dead! I took a good look at him and realized that he wasnt my son at all!"

²²The other woman said, "No! My son is aliveyour son is dead." The first woman kept on saying, "No! Your son is deadmy

son is alive." So they argued in front of the king.

²³The king said, "This one keeps saying, My son is alive your son is dead, and that one keeps saying, No! Your son is dead my son is alive."

²⁴So the king told his servants to bring him a sword. When they brought it,

²⁵he said, "Cut the living child in two. Give half to the one and half to the other."

²⁶Then the woman whose son was still alive was deeply moved by her love for the child. She said to the king, "Please, sir, give her the living child. Please don't kill him!" But the other woman said, "He won't be mine or yours. Cut him in two."

²⁷The king replied, "Give the living child to the first woman. Don't kill him. She is his mother."

²⁸All Israel heard about the decision the king made. They respected the king very highly, because they saw he possessed wisdom from God to do what was right.

4¹ When King Solomon was the king of all Israel,

² these were his officials: Azariah, son of Zadok, was the chief priest.

³Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha, were scribes. Jehoshaphat, son of Ahilud, was the royal historian.

⁴Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, was commander of the army. Zadok and Abiathar were priests.

⁵Azariah, son of Nathan, was in charge of the district governors. Zabud, son of Nathan, was the kings adviser.

⁶Ahishar was in charge of the palace. Adoniram, son of Abda, was in charge of forced labor.

⁷Solomon appointed 12 district governors in Israel. They were to provide food for the king and his palace. Each one had to supply food for one month every year.

⁸Their names were Benhur, who was in charge of the hills of Ephraim,

⁹Bendeker, who was in charge of Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth Shemesh, and Elon Beth Hanan, and

¹⁰Benhesed, who was in charge of Arubboth, Socoh, and the entire region of Hephher.

¹¹Benabinadab had the entire region of Dor. (Solomons daughter Taphath was his wife.)

¹²Baana, son of Ahilud, had Taanach, Megiddo, and all of Beth Shean. (This was near Zarethan, below Jezreel, from Beth Shean to Abel Meholah and over to Jokmeam.)

¹³Bengeber was in charge of Ramoth Gilead; he had the settlements of Jair, a descendant of Manasseh, in Gilead. He also had the territory of Argob in Bashan, 60 large cities with walls and bronze bars across their gates.

¹⁴Ahinadab, son of Iddo, was in charge of Mahanaim.

¹⁵Ahimaaz was in charge of Naphtali. (He also married Solomons daughter Basemath.)

¹⁶Baana, son of Hushai, was in charge of Asher and Aloth.

¹⁷Jehoshaphat, son of Paruah, was in charge of Issachar.

¹⁸Shimei, son of Ela, was in charge of Benjamin.

¹⁹Geber, son of Uri, was in charge of Gilead, the territory of King Sihon the Amorite and King Og of Bashan. (There was only one governor in that territory.)

²⁰The people of Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand on the

seashore. They ate and drank and lived happily.

²¹ Solomon ruled all the kingdoms from the Euphrates River to the country of the Philistines and as far as the Egyptian border. These kingdoms paid taxes and were subject to Solomon as long as he lived.

²² Solomons food supply for one day was 180 bushels of flour, 360 bushels of coarse flour,

²³ 10 fattened cows, 20 cows from the pasture, and 100 sheep in addition to deer, gazelles, fallow deer, and fattened birds.

²⁴ He controlled all the territory west of the Euphrates River from Tiphseh to Gaza and all of its kings. So he lived in peace with all the neighboring countries.

²⁵ As long as Solomon lived, Judah and Israel (from Dan to Beersheba) lived securely, everyone under his own vine and fig tree.

²⁶ Solomon had stalls for 40,000 chariot horses. He also had 12,000 chariot soldiers.

²⁷ Each of the governors provided food for one month every year for King

Solomon and all who ate at his table. The governors saw to it that nothing was in short supply.

²⁸They brought their quota of barley and straw for the chariot horses to the proper places.

²⁹God gave Solomon wisdomkeen insight and a mind as limitless as the sand on the seashore.

³⁰Solomons wisdom was greater than that of all the eastern people and all the wisdom of the Egyptians.

³¹He was wiser than anyone, than Ethan the Ezrahite, or Heman, Calcol, or Darda, Mahols sons. His fame spread to all the nations around him.

³²Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs and wrote 1,005 songs.

³³He described and classified treesfrom the cedar in Lebanon to the hyssop growing out of the wall. He described and classified animals, birds, reptiles, and fish.

³⁴People came from every nation to hear his wisdom; they came from all the kings of the earth who had heard about his wisdom.

5¹ King Hiram of Tyre sent his officials to Solomon when he heard that Solomon had been anointed king to succeed his father. Hiram had always been Davids friend.

² Solomon sent word to Hiram, by saying,

³ "You know that my father David was surrounded by war. He couldnt build a temple for the name of the LORD our God until the LORD let him defeat his enemies.

⁴ But the LORD my God has surrounded me with peace. I have no rival and no trouble.

⁵ Now Im thinking of building a temple for the name of the LORD my God as the LORD spoke to my father David: Your son, whom I will put on your throne to succeed you, will build a temple for my name.

⁶ So order men to cut down cedars from Lebanon for me. My workers will work with your workers. I will pay you whatever wages you ask for your workers. You know we dont have any skilled lumberjacks like those from Sidon."

⁷ Hiram was very glad to hear what Solomon had said. Hiram responded, "May the LORD be praised today. He has given David a wise son to rule this great nation."

⁸ Hiram sent men to Solomon to say, "I've received the message you sent me. I will do everything you want in regard to the cedar and cypress logs.

⁹ My workers will bring logs from Lebanon to the sea, and I will have them make them into rafts to go by sea to any place you specify. There I will have them taken apart, and you can use them. You can pay me by providing food for my palace."

¹⁰ So Hiram gave Solomon all the cedar and cypress wood he wanted.

¹¹ Solomon gave Hiram 120,000 bushels of wheat and 120,000 gallons of pure olive oil. Solomon paid Hiram this much every year.

¹² The LORD gave Solomon wisdom as he had promised. There was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and they made a treaty with one another.

¹³ King Solomon forced 30,000 men from all over Israel to work for him.

¹⁴He sent a shift of 10,000 men to Lebanon for a month. They would spend one month in Lebanon and two months at home. Adoniram was in charge of forced labor.

¹⁵Solomon had 70,000 men who carried heavy loads, 70,000 who quarried stone in the mountains,

¹⁶and 3,300 foremen who were in charge of the workers.

¹⁷The king commanded them to quarry large, expensive blocks of stone in order to provide a foundation of cut stone for the temple.

¹⁸Solomons workmen, Hiram's workmen, and men from Gebal quarried the stone and prepared the logs and stone to build the temple.

6¹ Solomon began to build the LORDS temple 480 years after Israel left Egypt. He began building in the month of Ziv (the second month) of the fourth year of his reign over Israel.

²The temple that King Solomon built for the LORD was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high.

³The entrance hall in front of the main room of the temple was the same length

as the shorter side of the temple. It extended 15 feet in front of the temple.

⁴He also made latticed windows for the temple.

⁵He built an annex containing side rooms all around the temple. This annex was next to the walls of the main building and the inner sanctuary.

⁶The interior of the lowest story of the annex was 7 feet wide, the second story was 9 feet wide, and the third story was 10 feet wide. Solomon made ledges all around the temple so that this annex would not be fastened to the walls of the temple.

⁷The temple was built with stone blocks that were finished at the quarry. No hammer, chisel, or any other iron tool made a sound at the temple construction site.

⁸The entrance to the first story was on the south side of the temple. A staircase went up to the middle story and then to the third story.

⁹When he had finished building the walls, he roofed the temple with rows of cedar beams and planks.

¹⁰He built each story of the annex 7 feet high alongside the entire temple. Its cedar beams were attached to the temple.

¹¹The LORD spoke to Solomon, saying,

¹²"This concerns the temple you are building: If you live by my laws, follow my rules, and keep my commands, I will fulfill the promise I made about you to your father David.

¹³I will live among the Israelites and never abandon my people."

¹⁴When Solomon had finished building the temple's frame,

¹⁵he began to line the inside walls of the temple with cedar boards. He paneled the inside of the temple with wood from floor to ceiling. He covered the floor of the temple with cypress planks.

¹⁶He sectioned off a 30-foot-long room at the rear of the temple with cedar boards from the floor to the rafters. He built it to serve as an inner room, the most holy place.

¹⁷The 60-foot-long room at the front of the temple served as the main hall.

¹⁸Gourds and flowers were carved into the cedar paneling inside the temple. Everything was covered with cedar. No stone could be seen.

¹⁹He prepared the inner room of the temple in order to put the ark of the LORDS promise there.

²⁰The inner room was 30 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 30 feet high. Solomon covered it and the cedar altar with pure gold.

²¹He covered the inside of the temple with pure gold. He put golden chains across the front of the inner room which was covered with gold.

²²He covered the entire inside of the temple with gold. He also covered the entire altar in the inner room with gold.

²³In the inner room he made two 15foottall angels out of olive wood.

²⁴Each wing of the angels was 7 feet long. The distance from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other was 15 feet.

²⁵Both angels had a 15foot wingspan. Both had the same measurements and the same shape.

²⁶Each was 15 feet high.

²⁷ Solomon put the angels in the inner room of the temple. The wings of the angels extended so that the wing of one of the angels touched the one wall, and the wing of the other touched the other wall. Their remaining wings touched each other in the center of the room.

²⁸ He covered the angels with gold.

²⁹ He carved angels, palm trees, and flowers into the walls all around the inner and outer rooms of the temple.

³⁰ He covered the floor of the inner and outer rooms of the temple with gold.

³¹ He made doors for the entrance to the inner room out of olive wood. The doorposts had five sides.

³² The two doors were made out of olive wood. He carved angels, palm trees, and flowers into them and covered them with gold. The gold was hammered onto the angels and the palm trees.

³³ In the same way he made square doorposts out of olive wood for the temple's entrance.

³⁴ He made two doors from cypress. Each of the doors had two folding panels.

³⁵On them he carved angels, palm trees, and flowers. He evenly covered them with gold.

³⁶He built the inner courtyard with three courses of finished stones and a course of finished cedar beams.

³⁷In the month of Ziv of the fourth year of Solomons reign, the foundation of the LORDS temple was laid.

³⁸In the month of Bul (the eighth month) of the eleventh year of his reign, the temple was finished according to all its plans and specifications. He spent seven years building it.

7¹Solomon took 13 years to finish building his palace.

²He built a hall named the Forest of Lebanon. It was 150 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It had four rows of cedar pillars supporting cedar beams.

³The hall was covered with cedar above the side rooms, which were supported by 45 pillars (15 per row).

⁴The windows were in three rows facing each other on opposite sides of the palace.

⁵All the doors and doorframes were square. There were three doors facing

each other on opposite sides of the palace.

⁶Solomon made the Hall of Pillars 75 feet long and 45 feet wide. In front of the hall was an entrance hall with pillars.

⁷He made the Hall of Justice, where he sat on his throne and served as judge. The hall was covered with cedar from floor to ceiling.

⁸His own private quarters were in a different location than the Hall of Justice, but they were similar in design. Solomon also built private quarters like this for his wife, Pharaoh's daughter.

⁹From the foundation to the roof, all these buildings, including the large courtyard, were built with highgrade stone blocks. The stone blocks were cut to size and trimmed with saws on their inner and outer faces.

¹⁰The foundation was made with large, highgrade stones (some 12 feet long, others 15 feet long).

¹¹Above the foundation were cedar beams and highgrade stone blocks, which had been cut to size.

¹²The large courtyard had three layers of cut stone blocks and a layer of cedar

beams, like the inner courtyard of the LORDS temple and the entrance hall.

¹³King Solomon had Hiram brought from Tyre.

¹⁴Hiram was the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali. His father, a native of Tyre, was a skilled bronze craftsman. Hiram was highly skilled, resourceful, and knowledgeable about all kinds of bronze craftsmanship. He came to King Solomon and did all his bronze work.

¹⁵He made two bronze pillars. Each was 27 feet high and 18 feet in circumference.

¹⁶He made two capitals of cast bronze to put on top of the pillars. Each capital was 7 feet high.

¹⁷He also made seven rows of filigree and chains for each capital.

¹⁸After he made the pillars, he made two rows of decorations around the filigree to cover the capitals which were above the pillars. He made the capitals identical to each other.

¹⁹The capitals on top of the pillars in the entrance hall were lilyshaped. Each was six feet high.

²⁰Two hundred pomegranates in rows were directly above the bowlshaped parts around the filigree on the capitals on both pillars.

²¹Hiram set up the pillars in the temples entrance hall. He set up the pillar on the right and named it Jachin [He Establishes]. Then he set up the pillar on the left and named it Boaz [In Him Is Strength].

²²There were lilyshaped capitals at the top of the pillars. He finished the work on the pillars.

²³Hiram made a pool from cast metal. It was 15 feet in diameter. It was round, 7 feet high, and had a circumference of 45 feet.

²⁴Under the rim were two rows of gourds all around the 45foot circumference of the pool. They were cast in metal when the pool was cast.

²⁵The pool was set on 12 metal bulls. Three bulls faced north, three faced west, three faced south, and three faced east. The pool was set on them, and their hindquarters were toward the center of the pool.

²⁶The pool was three inches thick. Its rim was like the rim of a cup, shaped like a lily's bud. It held 12,000 gallons.

²⁷He made ten bronze stands. Each stand was 6 feet square and 4 feet high.

²⁸The stands were made this way: They had side panels set in frames.

²⁹On the panels set in frames were lions, oxen, and angels. These were also on the frames. Above and below the lions and the cattle were engraved designs.

³⁰Each stand had four bronze wheels on bronze axles and four supports beneath the basin. The supports were made of cast metal with designs on the sides.

³¹Each had a 1 foot deep opening in the center to the circular frame on top. The opening was round, formed like a pedestal, and was two feet wide. Around the opening there were engravings. But the panels were square, not round.

³²The four wheels were under the panels, and the axles were attached to the stand. Each wheel was two feet high.

³³The wheels were made like chariot wheels. The axles, rims, spokes, and hubs were all cast metal.

³⁴ The four supports at the four corners of each stand were part of the stand.

³⁵ The top of each stand had a round, nineinchhigh band. Above the stand were supports which were part of the panels.

³⁶ Hiram engraved angels, lions, palm trees, and designs in every available space on the supports and panels.

³⁷ This is the way he made the ten stands. All of them were cast in the same mold, identical in size and shape.

³⁸ Hiram also made ten bronze basins. Each basin held 240 gallons. Every basin was six feet wide. There was one basin on each of the ten stands.

³⁹ He put five stands on the south side of the temple and five on the north side of the temple. He set the pool on the south side of the temple in the southeast corner.

⁴⁰ Hiram also made pots, shovels, and bowls. So Hiram finished all the work for King Solomon on the LORDS temple:

⁴¹ 2 pillars, the bowlshaped capitals on top of the 2 pillars, and 2 sets of filigree to cover the 2 bowlshaped capitals on top of the pillars,

⁴² 400 pomegranates for the 2 sets of filigree (2 rows of pomegranates for each filigree to cover the 2 bowlshaped capitals on the pillars),

⁴³ 10 stands and 10 basins on the stands,

⁴⁴ 1 pool, 12 bulls under the pool,

⁴⁵ pots, shovels, and bowls. Hiram made all these utensils out of polished bronze for the LORDS temple at King Solomons request.

⁴⁶ The king cast them in foundries in the Jordan Valley between Succoth and Zarethan.

⁴⁷ Solomon left all the products unweighed because so much bronze was used. No one tried to determine how much the bronze weighed.

⁴⁸ Solomon made all the furnishings for the LORDS temple: the gold altar, the gold table on which the bread of the presence was placed,

⁴⁹ lamp stands of pure gold (five on the south side and five on the north in front of the inner room), flowers, lamps, gold tongs,

⁵⁰ dishes, snuffers, bowls, saucers, incense burners of pure gold, the gold

sockets for the doors of the inner room (the most holy place), and the doors of the temple.

⁵¹ All the work King Solomon did on the LORDS temple was finished. He brought the holy things that had belonged to his father David the silver, gold, and utensils and put them in the storerooms of the LORDS temple.

8¹ Then Solomon assembled the respected leaders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes, and the leaders of the Israelite families. They came to King Solomon in Jerusalem to take the ark of the LORDS promise from the City of David (that is, Zion).

² All the people of Israel gathered around King Solomon at the Festival of Booths in the month of Ethanim, the seventh month.

³ When all the leaders of Israel had arrived, the priests picked up the LORDS ark.

⁴ They brought the ark, the tent of meeting, and all the holy utensils in it to the temple. The priests and the Levites carried them

⁵while King Solomon with the whole assembly from Israel were offering countless sheep and cattle sacrifices in front of the ark.

⁶The priests brought the ark of the LORDS promise to its place in the inner room of the temple (the most holy place) under the wings of the angels.

⁷When the angels outstretched wings were over the place where the ark rested, the angels became a covering above the ark and its poles.

⁸The poles were so long that their ends could be seen in the holy place by anyone standing in front of the inner room, but they couldnt be seen outside. (They are still there today.)

⁹There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a promise to the Israelites after they left Egypt.

¹⁰When the priests left the holy place, a cloud filled the LORDS temple.

¹¹The priests couldnt serve because of the cloud. The LORDS glory filled his temple.

¹²Then Solomon said, "The LORD said he would live in a dark cloud.

¹³ "I certainly have built you a high temple, a home for you to live in permanently."

¹⁴ Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel while they were standing.

¹⁵ "Thanks be to the LORD God of Israel. With his mouth he made a promise to my father David; with his hand he carried it out. He said,

¹⁶ Ever since I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I didn't choose any city in any of the tribes of Israel as a place to build a temple for my name. But now I've chosen David to rule my people Israel.

¹⁷ "My father David had his heart set on building a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁸ However, the LORD said to my father David, Since you had your heart set on building a temple for my name, your intentions were good.

¹⁹ But you must not build the temple. Instead, your own son will build the temple for my name.

²⁰ The LORD has kept the promise he made. I have taken my father David's place, and I sit on the throne of Israel as

the LORD promised. I've built the temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

²¹ I've made a place there for the ark which contains the LORDS promise that he made to our ancestors when he brought them out of Egypt."

²² In the presence of the entire assembly of Israel, Solomon stood in front of the LORDS altar. He stretched out his hands toward heaven

²³ and said, "LORD God of Israel, there is no god like you in heaven above or on earth below. You keep your promise of mercy to your servants, who obey you wholeheartedly.

²⁴ You have kept your promise to my father David, your servant. With your mouth you promised it. With your hand you carried it out as it is today.

²⁵ "Now, LORD God of Israel, keep your promise to my father David, your servant. You said, You will never fail to have an heir sitting in front of me on the throne of Israel if your descendants are faithful to me as you have been faithful to me.

²⁶"So now, God of Israel, may the promise you made to my father David, your servant, come true.

²⁷"Does God really live on earth? If heaven itself, the highest heaven, cannot hold you, then how can this temple that I have built?

²⁸Nevertheless, my LORD God, please pay attention to my prayer for mercy. Listen to my cry for help as I pray to you today.

²⁹Night and day may your eyes be on this temple, the place about which you said, My name will be there. Listen to me as I pray toward this place.

³⁰Hear the plea for mercy that your people Israel and I pray toward this place. Hear us when we pray to heaven, the place where you live. Hear and forgive.

³¹"If anyone sins against another person and is required to take an oath and comes to take the oath in front of your altar in this temple,

³²then hear that person in heaven, take action, and make a decision. Condemn the guilty person with the proper

punishment, but declare the innocent person innocent.

³³"An enemy may defeat your people Israel because they have sinned against you. But when your people turn to you, praise your name, pray, and plead with you in this temple,

³⁴then hear them in heaven, forgive the sins of your people Israel, and bring them back to the land that you gave to their ancestors.

³⁵"When the sky is shut and theres no rain because they are sinning against you, and they pray toward this place, praise your name, and turn away from their sin because you made them suffer,

³⁶then hear them in heaven. Forgive the sins of your servants, your people Israel. Teach them the proper way to live. Then send rain on the land, which you gave to your people as an inheritance.

³⁷"There may be famine in the land. Plant diseases, heat waves, funguses, locusts, or grasshoppers may destroy crops. Enemies may blockade Israels city gates. During every plague or sickness

³⁸hear every prayer for mercy, made by one person or by all the people in Israel, whose consciences bother them, who stretch out their hands toward this temple.

³⁹Hear them in heaven, where you live. Forgive them, and take action. Give each person the proper reply. (You know what is in their hearts, because you alone know what is in the hearts of all people.)

⁴⁰Then, as long as they live in the land that you gave to our ancestors, they will fear you.

⁴¹"People will hear about your great name, mighty hand, and powerful arm. So when people who are not Israelites come from distant countries because of your name

⁴²to pray facing this temple,

⁴³hear them in heaven, the place where you live. Do everything they ask you so that all the people of the world may know your name and fear you like your people Israel and learn also that this temple which I built bears your name.

⁴⁴"When your people go to war against their enemies (wherever you may send them) and they pray to you, O LORD,

toward the city you have chosen and the temple I built for your name,

⁴⁵ then hear their prayer for mercy in heaven, and do what is right for them.

⁴⁶ "They may sin against you. (No one is sinless.) You may become angry with them and hand them over to an enemy who takes them to another country as captives, whether it is far or near.

⁴⁷ If they come to their senses, are sorry for what they've done, and plead with you in the land where they are captives, saying, We have sinned. We have done wrong. We have been wicked,

⁴⁸ if they change their attitude toward you in the land of their enemies where they are captives, if they pray to you toward the land that you gave their ancestors, and the city you have chosen, and the temple I have built for your name,

⁴⁹ then in heaven, the place where you live, hear their prayer for mercy. Do what is right for them.

⁵⁰ Forgive your people, who have sinned against you. Forgive all their wrongs when they rebelled against you, and

cause those who captured them to have mercy on them

⁵¹ because they are your own people whom you brought out of Egypt from the middle of an iron smelter.

⁵² "May your eyes always see my plea and your people Israel's plea so that you will listen to them whenever they call on you.

⁵³ After all, you, LORD God, set them apart from all the people of the world to be your own as you promised through your servant Moses when you brought our ancestors out of Egypt."

⁵⁴ When Solomon finished praying this prayer for mercy to the LORD, he stood in front of the LORDS altar, where he had been kneeling with his hands stretched out toward heaven.

⁵⁵ Then he stood and in a loud voice blessed the entire assembly of Israel,

⁵⁶ "Thanks be to the LORD! He has given his people Israel rest, as he had promised. None of the good promises he made through his servant Moses has failed to come true.

⁵⁷ May the LORD our God be with us as he was with our ancestors. May he never leave us or abandon us.

⁵⁸ May he bend our hearts toward him. Then we will follow him and keep his commands, laws, and rules, which he commanded our ancestors to keep.

⁵⁹ May these words which I have prayed to the LORD be near the LORD our God day and night. Then he will give me and his people Israel justice every day as it is needed.

⁶⁰ In this way all the people of the world will know that the LORD is God and there is no other god.

⁶¹ May your hearts be committed to the LORD our God. Then you will live by his laws and keep his commands as you have today."

⁶² Then the king and all Israel offered sacrifices to the LORD.

⁶³ Solomon sacrificed 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep as fellowship offerings to the LORD. So the king and all the people of Israel dedicated the LORDS temple.

⁶⁴ On that day the king designated the courtyard in front of the LORDS temple as a holy place. He sacrificed the burnt

offerings, grain offerings, and the fat from the fellowship offerings because the bronze altar in front of the LORD was too small to hold all of them.

⁶⁵At that time Solomon and all Israel celebrated the Festival of Booths. A large crowd had come from the territory between the border of Hamath and the River of Egypt to be near the LORD our God for seven days.

⁶⁶On the eighth day he dismissed the people. They blessed the king and went to their tents. They rejoiced with cheerful hearts for all the blessings the LORD had given his servant David and his people Israel.

9¹Solomon finished building the LORDS temple, the royal palace, and everything else he wanted to build.

²Then the LORD appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him in Gibeon.

³The LORD said to him, "I have heard your prayer for mercy that you made to me. I have declared that this temple which you have built is holy so that my name may be placed there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

⁴"If you will be faithful to me as your father David was (with a sincere and upright heart), do everything I command, and keep my laws and rules,
⁵ then I will establish your royal dynasty over Israel forever as I promised your father David when I said, You will never fail to have an heir on the throne of Israel.

⁶But if you and your descendants dare to turn away from me and do not keep my commands and laws that I gave to you, and follow and serve other gods and worship them,

⁷ then I will cut Israel out of the land I gave them. I will reject this temple that I declared holy for my name. Israel will be an example and an object of ridicule for all the people of the world.

⁸Everyone passing by this temple, as impressive as it is, will be appalled. They will gasp and ask, Why did the LORD do these things to this land and this temple?

⁹They will answer themselves, They abandoned the LORD their God, who brought their ancestors out of Egypt. They adopted other gods, worshiped,

and served them. That is why the LORD brought this disaster on them."

¹⁰It took Solomon 20 years to build the two houses (the LORDS house and the royal palace).

¹¹When King Solomon had finished, he gave King Hiram of Tyre 20 cities in Galilee. (Hiram had supplied Solomon with as much cedar and cypress lumber and gold as he wanted.)

¹²Hiram left Tyre to see the cities Solomon gave him. However, they didnt please him.

¹³"What kind of cities have you given me, brother?" he asked. So he named it the region of Cabul [Good for Nothing]. (Theyre still called that today.)

¹⁴Hiram had sent the king 9,000 pounds of gold.

¹⁵This is the record of the forced laborers whom King Solomon drafted to build the LORDS house, his own house, the Millo, the walls of Jerusalem, and the cities of Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer.

¹⁶(The king of Egypt captured Gezer, burned it down, and killed the Canaanites living there. Then he gave

it to his daughter, Solomons wife, as a wedding present.)

¹⁷ So Solomon rebuilt Gezer, Lower Beth Horon,

¹⁸ Baalath, Tadmor in the desert (inside the country), and

¹⁹ all the storage cities that he owned. He also built cities for his chariots, cities for his war horses, and whatever else he wanted to build in Jerusalem, Lebanon, or the entire territory that he governed.

²⁰ The Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites had been left in the land because the Israelites had not been able to claim them for God by destroying them. They were not Israelites,

²¹ but they had descendants who were still in the land. Solomon drafted them for slave labor. (They are still slaves today.)

²² But Solomon didnt make any of the Israelites slaves. Instead, they were soldiers, officials, officers, generals, and commanders of his chariot and cavalry units.

²³ These were the officers in charge of Solomons projects: 550 foremen for the people who did the work.

²⁴ Pharaohs daughter moved from the City of David to the palace that Solomon had built for her. Then he built the Millo.

²⁵ Three times a year Solomon sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings on the altar he built for the LORD. He burnt them on the altar that was in the LORDS presence. And he finished the temple.

²⁶ King Solomon also built a fleet near the Red Sea coast at Ezion Geber by Elath in Edom.

²⁷ Hiram sent his own servants who were experienced seamen with the fleet. Along with Solomons servants

²⁸ they went to Ophir, got 31,500 pounds of gold, and brought it to King Solomon.

10¹ The queen of Sheba heard about Solomons reputation. (He owed his reputation to the name of the LORD.) So she came to test him with riddles.

² She arrived in Jerusalem with a large group of servants, with camels carrying spices, a very large quantity of gold,

and precious stones. When she came to Solomon, she talked to him about everything she had on her mind.

³Solomon answered all her questions. No question was too difficult for the king to answer.

⁴When the queen of Sheba saw all of Solomons wisdom, the palace he built,

⁵the food on his table, his officers seating arrangement, the organization of his officials and the uniforms they wore, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings that he sacrificed at the LORDS temple, she was breathless.

⁶She told the king, "What I heard in my country about your words and your wisdom is true!

⁷But I didnt believe the reports until I came and saw it with my own eyes. I wasnt even told half of it. Your wisdom and wealth surpass the stories Ive heard.

⁸How blessed your men must be! How blessed these servants of yours must be because they are always stationed in front of you, listening to your wisdom!

⁹Thank the LORD your God, who is pleased with you. He has put you on the throne of Israel. Because of your Gods

eternal love for the people of Israel, he has made you king so that you would maintain justice and righteousness."

¹⁰She gave the king 9,000 pounds of gold, a very large quantity of spices, and precious stones. Never again was such a large quantity of spices brought into Israel as those that the queen of Sheba gave King Solomon.

¹¹Hiram's fleet that brought gold from Ophir also brought a large quantity of sandalwood and precious stones from Ophir.

¹²With the sandalwood the king made supports for the LORDS temple and the royal palace, and lyres and harps for the singers. Never again was sandalwood like this imported into Israel, nor has any been seen there to this day.

¹³King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba anything she wanted, whatever she asked for, besides what he had given her out of his royal generosity. Then she and her servants went back to her country.

¹⁴The gold that came to Solomon in one year weighed 49,950 pounds,

¹⁵not counting the gold which came from the merchants, the traders profits, all the Arab kings, and the governors of the country.

¹⁶King Solomon made 200 large shields of hammered gold, using 15 pounds of gold on each shield.

¹⁷He also made 300 small shields of hammered gold, using four pounds of gold on each shield. The king put them in the hall which he called the Forest of Lebanon.

¹⁸The king also made a large ivory throne and covered it with fine gold.

¹⁹Six steps led to the throne. Carved into the back of the throne was a calfs head. There were armrests on both sides of the seat. Two lions stood beside the armrests.

²⁰Twelve lions stood on six steps, one on each side. Nothing like this had been made for any other kingdom.

²¹All King Solomons cups were gold, and all the utensils for the hall which he called the Forest of Lebanon were fine gold. (Nothing was silver, because it wasnt considered valuable in Solomons time.)

²²The king had a fleet headed for Tarshish with Hiram's fleet. Once every three years the Tarshish fleet would bring gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys.

²³In wealth and wisdom King Solomon was greater than all the other kings of the world.

²⁴The whole world wanted to listen to the wisdom that God gave Solomon.

²⁵So everyone who came brought him gifts: articles of silver and gold, clothing, weapons, spices, horses, and mules.

This happened year after year.

²⁶Solomon built up his army with chariots and war horses. He had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 war horses. He stationed some in chariot cities and others with himself in Jerusalem.

²⁷The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars as plentiful as fig trees in the foothills.

²⁸Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and Kue. The king's traders bought them from Kue for a fixed price.

²⁹Each chariot was imported from Egypt for 15 pounds of silver and each horse for 6 ounces of silver. For the same

price they obtained horses to export to all the Hittite and Aramean kings.

11 ¹King Solomon loved many foreign women in addition to Pharaoh's daughter. He loved Hittite women and women from Moab, Ammon, Edom, and Sidon.

²They came from the nations about which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, "Never intermarry with them. They will surely tempt you to follow their gods." But Solomon was obsessed with their love.

³He had 700 wives who were princesses and 300 wives who were concubines.

⁴In his old age, his wives tempted him to follow other gods. He was no longer committed to the LORD his God as his father David had been.

⁵Solomon followed Astarte (the goddess of the Sidonians) and Milcom (the disgusting idol of the Ammonites).

⁶So Solomon did what the LORD considered evil. He did not wholeheartedly follow the LORD as his father David had done.

⁷Then Solomon built an illegal worship site on the hill east of Jerusalem for

Chemosh (the disgusting idol of Moab) and for Molech (the disgusting idol of the Ammonites).

⁸He did these things for each of his foreign wives who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

⁹So the LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice.

¹⁰God had given him commands about this. He told him not to follow other gods. But Solomon did not obey Gods command.

¹¹The LORD told Solomon, "Because this is your attitude and you have no respect for my promises or my laws that I commanded you to keep, I will certainly tear the kingdom away from you. I will give it to one of your servants.

¹²But I will not do it in your lifetime because of your father David. I will tear it away from the hands of your son.

¹³However, I will not tear the whole kingdom away from you. I will give your son one tribe for my servant Davids sake and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that I chose."

¹⁴The LORD raised up Hadad the Edomite as a rival to Solomon. Hadad was from the Edomite royal family.

¹⁵When David had conquered Edom, Joab, the commander of the army, went to bury those killed in battle and killed every male in Edom.

¹⁶(Joab and all Israel stayed there six months until they had destroyed every male in Edom.)

¹⁷Hadad was a young boy at the time. He and some of his fathers Edomite servants fled to Egypt.

¹⁸They left Midian and went to Paran. Taking some men from Paran with them, they went to Pharaoh (the king of Egypt). Pharaoh gave Hadad a home, a food allowance, and land.

¹⁹Pharaoh approved of Hadad. So he gave Hadad his sisterinlaw, the sister of Queen Tahpenes, to be Hadads wife.

²⁰Tahpenes sister had a son named Genubath. Tahpenes presented the boy to Pharaoh in the palace, and Genubath lived in the palace among Pharaohs children.

²¹When Hadad heard in Egypt that David had lain down in death with his

ancestors and that Joab, the commander of the army, had died, he said to Pharaoh, "Let me go to my own country."

²²Pharaoh asked him, "What don't you have here that makes you eager to go home?" "Nothing," he said. "But let me leave anyway."

²³God also raised up Rezon, son of Eliada, as a rival to Solomon. Rezon fled from his master, King Hadadezer of Zobah,

²⁴after David killed the men of Zobah. Rezon gathered men and became the leader of a troop of warriors. They went to Damascus, settled there, and ruled a kingdom in Damascus.

²⁵In addition to the trouble that Hadad caused, Rezon was Israel's rival as long as Solomon lived. He ruled Aram and despised Israel.

²⁶There was also Jeroboam, who was the son of Nebat and an Ephrathite from Zeredah. His mother Zeruah was a widow. He was one of Solomon's officers, but he rebelled against the king.

²⁷This was the situation when he rebelled against the king: Solomon was

building the Millo and repairing a break in the wall of the City of David.

²⁸Solomon saw that Jeroboam was a very able and hardworking man. So he put Jeroboam in charge of all forced labor from the tribes of Joseph.

²⁹At that time Jeroboam left Jerusalem. The prophet Ahijah from Shiloh met him on the road. The two of them were alone in the open country, and Ahijah had on new clothes.

³⁰Ahijah took his new garment and tore it into 12 pieces.

³¹He told Jeroboam, "Take 10 pieces because this is what the LORD God of Israel says: I am going to tear the kingdom out of Solomons hands and give ten tribes to you.

³²He will have one tribe left because of my servant David and Jerusalem, the city I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel.

³³I will do this because he has abandoned me and worshiped Astarte (the goddess of the Sidonians), Chemosh (the god of Moab), and Milcom (the god of Ammon). He has not followed my ways. He did not do what I consider

right or keep my laws and decrees as his father David did.

³⁴"I will not take the whole kingdom from him. Instead, I will allow him to be ruler as long as he lives because of my servant David whom I chose, who obeyed my commands and laws.

³⁵But I will take the kingdom away from his son and give you ten tribes.

³⁶I will give his son one tribe so that my servant David will always have a lamp in my presence in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to place my name.

³⁷"I will choose you so that you can rule everything you desire. You will be king of Israel.

³⁸If you will do all I command you, follow my ways, and do what I consider right by obeying my laws and commands as my servant David did, then I will be with you. I will build a permanent dynasty for you as I did for David. And I will give you Israel.

³⁹I will make Davids descendants suffer for this, but not always."

⁴⁰Then Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam fled to King Shishak of

Egypt. He stayed in Egypt until Solomon died.

⁴¹ Arent the rest of Solomons actseverything he didand his wisdom written in the records of Solomon?

⁴² The length of Solomons reign in Jerusalem over all Israel was 40 years.

⁴³ Solomon lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. His son Rehoboam succeeded him as king.

12¹ Rehoboam went to Shechem because all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king.

² Jeroboam (Nebats son) was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon. When he heard about Rehoboam, he returned from Egypt.

³ Israel sent for Jeroboam and invited him back. Jeroboam and the entire assembly of Israel went to speak to Rehoboam. They said,

⁴ "Your father made us carry a heavy burden. Reduce the hard work and lighten the heavy burden he put on us, and we will serve you."

⁵He said to them, "Leave and come back the day after tomorrow." So the people left.

⁶King Rehoboam sought advice from the older leaders who had served his father Solomon while he was still alive. He asked, "What do you advise? How should I respond to these people?"

⁷They told him, "If you will serve these people today, humble yourself, and speak gently, then they will always be your servants."

⁸But he ignored the advice the older leaders gave him. He sought advice from the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him.

⁹He asked them, "What is your advice? How should we respond to these people who are asking me to lighten the burden my father put on them?"

¹⁰The young men who had grown up with him answered, "This is what you should tell them: My little finger is heavier than my fathers whole body.

¹¹If my father put a heavy burden on you, I will add to it. If my father punished you with whips, I will punish you with scorpions."

¹²So Jeroboam and all the people came back to Rehoboam two days later, as the king had instructed them.

¹³The king answered the people harshly. He ignored the advice the older leaders gave him.

¹⁴He spoke to them as the young men advised. He said, "If my father made your burden heavy, I will add to it. If my father punished you with whips, I will punish you with scorpions."

¹⁵The king refused to listen to the people because the LORD was directing these events to carry out the promise he had made to Jeroboam (Nebats son) through Ahijah from Shiloh.

¹⁶When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, the people answered the king, "What share do we have in Davids kingdom? We wont receive an inheritance from Jesses son. To your own tents, Israel! Now look after your own house, David!" So Israel went home to their own tents.

¹⁷But Rehoboam ruled the Israelites who lived in the cities of Judah.

¹⁸Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram to Israel. He was in charge of forced labor,

but they stoned him to death. So King Rehoboam got on his chariot as fast as he could and fled to Jerusalem.

¹⁹ Israel has rebelled against Davids dynasty to this day.

²⁰ When all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent men to invite him to the assembly. They made him king of all Israel. Only the tribe of Judah remained loyal to Davids dynasty.

²¹ When Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he gathered all the people of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, 180,000 of the best soldiers, to fight against the people of Israel and return the kingdom to Rehoboam, son of Solomon.

²² But God spoke his word to Shemaiah, the man of God. He said,

²³ "Speak to Judahs King Rehoboam, son of Solomon, and all the people of Judah and Benjamin, and the rest of the people.

²⁴ This is what the LORD says: Dont wage war against your relatives from Israel. Everyone, go home. What has happened is my doing." So they obeyed the word of the LORD. They returned home, as the LORD told them.

²⁵ Jeroboam rebuilt Shechem in the hills of Ephraim and lived there. Then he left that place and built Penuel.

²⁶ He said to himself, "The kingdom will probably return to Davids dynasty now.

²⁷ King Rehoboam of Judah, the former master of these people, will regain popularity if they go to sacrifice in the LORDS temple in Jerusalem. Then they will kill me and return to King Rehoboam of Judah."

²⁸ After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said, "Youve been worshiping in Jerusalem long enough. Israel, here are your gods who brought you out of Egypt."

²⁹ He put one in Bethel and the other in Dan.

³⁰ Worshiping them became Israels sin. The people went as far as Dan to worship the one calf.

³¹ Jeroboam built worship sites on hilltops. He appointed men who were not descended from Levi to be priests.

³² Jeroboam appointed a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, just like the festival in Judah. He went to the altar in Bethel to sacrifice to the calves

he had made. He appointed priests from the illegal worship sites to serve in Bethel.

³³He went to his altar in Bethel to burn an offering on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, the festival he had invented for the Israelites.

13¹A man of God from Judah had come to Bethel. When he arrived, Jeroboam was standing at the altar to offer a sacrifice.

²By a command of the LORD, this man condemned the altar. "Altar, altar! This is what the LORD says: There will be a son born in Davids family line. His name will be Josiah. Here on you Josiah will sacrifice the priests from the illegal worship sites who offer sacrifices on you. Human bones will be burned on you."

³That day the man of God also gave them a miraculous sign, saying, "This is the sign that the LORD will give you: You will see the altar torn apart. The ashes on it will be poured on the ground."

⁴When King Jeroboam heard the man of God condemning the altar in Bethel, he pointed to the man across the altar. "Arrest him," he said. But the arm that

he used to point to the man of God was paralyzed so that he couldn't pull it back.

⁵The altar was torn apart, and the ashes from the altar were poured on the ground. This was the miraculous sign the man of God performed at the LORD'S command.

⁶Then the king asked the man of God, "Please make an appeal to the LORD your God, and pray for me so that I can use my arm again." So the man of God made an appeal to the LORD, and the king was able to use his arm again, as he had earlier.

⁷The king told the man of God, "Come home with me; have something to eat and drink, and I will give you a gift."

⁸The man of God told the king, "Even if you gave me half of your palace, I would never go with you to eat or drink there.

⁹When the LORD spoke to me, he commanded me not to eat or drink or go back on the same road I took."

¹⁰So the man of God left on another road and didn't go back on the road he had taken to Bethel.

¹¹An old prophet was living in Bethel. His sons told him everything the man of

God did in Bethel that day and the exact words he had spoken to the king. When they told their father,

¹²he said to them, "Which road did he take?" (His sons had seen which road the man of God from Judah had taken.)

¹³The old prophet told his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." After they had saddled the donkey for him, he got on it.

¹⁴He went after the man of God and found him sitting under an oak tree. The old prophet asked him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?" "Yes," he answered.

¹⁵"Come home with me, and eat a meal," the old prophet replied.

¹⁶The man of God said, "I'm not allowed to go back with you. I'm not allowed to eat or drink with you.

¹⁷When the LORD spoke to me, he told me not to eat or drink there or go back on the road I took to get there."

¹⁸The old prophet said, "I'm also a prophet, like you. An angel spoke the word of the LORD to me. He said, Bring him home with you so that he may have something to eat and drink." (But the old prophet was lying.)

¹⁹The man of God went back with him and ate and drank in his home.

²⁰When they were sitting at the table, the LORD spoke his word to the old prophet who had brought back the man of God.

²¹The LORD also called to the man of God. He said, "This is what the LORD says: You rebelled against the words from the LORDS mouth and didnt obey the command that the LORD your God gave you.

²²You came back, ate, and drank at this place about which he told you, Dont eat or drink there. That is why your dead body will not be allowed to be placed in the tomb of your ancestors."

²³After the old prophet had something to eat and drink, he saddled the donkey for the prophet whom he had brought back.

²⁴The man of God left. A lion found him as he traveled on the road and killed him. His dead body was thrown on the road. The donkey and the lion were standing by the body.

²⁵People who passed by saw the body lying on the road and the lion standing

by the body. They talked about it in the city where the old prophet was living.

²⁶When the old prophet who had brought the man of God back from the road heard about it, he said, "It's the man of God who rebelled against the words from the LORDS mouth! The LORD gave him to the lion. It tore him to pieces and killed him as the word of the LORD had told him."

²⁷Then the old prophet told his sons to saddle his donkey for him. So they did.

²⁸He found the body of the man thrown on the road. He also found the donkey and the lion standing beside it. The lion had not eaten the body, nor had it torn the donkey to pieces.

²⁹The old prophet picked up the body of the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it back. He came to his own city to mourn for him and to bury him.

³⁰He laid the body of the man of God in his own tomb and mourned over the man, saying, "Oh no, my brother, my brother!"

³¹After he had buried the man of God, he said to his sons, "When I die, bury me

in the tomb where the man of God was buried. Lay my bones beside his bones.

³²The things that he announced by a command of the LORD against the altar in Bethel and all the illegal worship sites in the cities of Samaria will happen."

³³Even after this, Jeroboam didn't change his evil ways, but he once again made some men priests for the illegal worship sites. He took all who were willing and appointed them to be priests at the worship sites.

³⁴Appointing illegal priests became the sin of Jeroboam's family so that it had to be destroyed and wiped off the face of the earth.

14¹At that time Abijah, son of Jeroboam, got sick.

²Jeroboam told his wife, "Go to Shiloh, but disguise yourself so that people will not recognize you as my wife. The prophet Ahijah, who told me I would be king of these people, is there.

³Take ten loaves of bread, some raisins, and a jar of honey with you, and go to him. He will tell you what will happen to the boy."

⁴ Jeroboams wife did this. She left, went to Shiloh, and came to the home of Ahijah. Ahijah couldnt see. His eyesight had failed because he was old.

⁵ However, the LORD had told Ahijah, "Jeroboams wife is coming to ask you about her son who is sick. When she comes, she will pretend to be someone else." He also told Ahijah what to say to her.

⁶ Ahijah heard her footsteps when she came into the room. He said, "Come in. Youre Jeroboams wife. Why are you pretending to be someone else? Ive been told to give you some terrible news.

⁷ Tell Jeroboam, This is what the LORD God of Israel says: I picked you out of the people and made you a leader over my people Israel.

⁸ I tore the kingdom away from Davids heirs and gave it to you. But you have not been like my servant David. He obeyed my commands and faithfully followed me by doing only what I considered right.

⁹ You have done more evil things than everyone before you. You made other

gods, metal idols, for yourself. You made me furious and turned your back to me.

¹⁰"That is why I will bring disaster on Jeroboams house. I will destroy every male in his house, whether slave or freeman in Israel. I will burn down Jeroboams house. It will burn like manure until it is gone.

¹¹If anyone from Jeroboams house dies in the city, dogs will eat him. If anyone dies in the country, birds will eat him. The LORD has said this!

¹²"Get up, and go home. The moment you set foot in the city the child will die.

¹³All Israel will mourn for him and bury him. He is the only one of Jeroboams family who will be properly buried. He was the only one in Jeroboams house in whom the LORD God of Israel found anything good.

¹⁴The LORD will appoint a king over Israel. That king will destroy Jeroboams house. This will happen today. It will happen right now.

¹⁵"The LORD will strike Israel like cattails which shake in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land which he gave their ancestors. He will

scatter them beyond the Euphrates River because they dedicated poles to the goddess Asherah and made the LORD furious.

¹⁶So the LORD will desert Israel because of Jeroboams sins, the sins which he led Israel to commit."

¹⁷Jeroboams wife got up, left, and went to Tirzah. When she walked across the threshold of her home, the boy died.

¹⁸All Israel buried him and mourned for him as the LORD had said through his servant, the prophet Ahijah.

¹⁹Everything else concerning Jeroboam, his wars, and his reign is written in the official records of the kings of Israel.

²⁰Jeroboam ruled for 22 years. Then he lay down in death with his ancestors. His son Nadab succeeded him as king.

²¹Rehoboam, son of Solomon, ruled Judah. He was 41 years old when he began to rule. He ruled for 17 years in Jerusalem, the city that the LORD chose from all the tribes of Israel, the city where the LORD put his name. Rehoboams mother was an Ammonite woman named Naamah.

²²The people of Judah did what the LORD considered evil. Their sins made him more angry than anything their ancestors had done.

²³They built worship sites for themselves and put up large stones and Asherah poles to worship on every high hill and under every large tree.

²⁴There were even male prostitutes in the temples of idols throughout the land. The people of Judah did all the disgusting practices done by the nations that the LORD had forced out of the Israelites way.

²⁵In the fifth year of Rehoboams reign, King Shishak of Egypt attacked Jerusalem.

²⁶He took the treasures from the LORDS temple and the royal palace. He took them all. He took all the gold shields Solomon had made.

²⁷So King Rehoboam made bronze shields to replace them and put them by the entrance to the royal palace, where the captains of the guards were stationed.

²⁸Whenever the king went into the LORDS temple, guards carried the

shields and then returned them to the guardroom.

²⁹Isn't everything else concerning Rehoboam everything he did written in the official records of the kings of Judah?

³⁰There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam as long as they lived.

³¹Rehoboam lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried with them in the City of David. (His mother was an Ammonite woman named Naamah.) His son Abijam succeeded him as king.

15¹In the eighteenth year of the reign of Jeroboam (Nebats son), Abijam began to rule Judah.

²He ruled for three years in Jerusalem. His mother was named Maacah, daughter of Abishalom.

³He followed the sinful example his father had set and wasn't committed to the LORD his God as his ancestor David had been.

⁴But for David's sake the LORD his God made Abijam a lamp in Jerusalem. He appointed David's descendant to rule after him and protected Jerusalem.

⁵The LORD did this because David did what the LORD considered right: David

never failed to do anything the LORD commanded him to do his entire life (except in the matter concerning Uriah the Hittite).

⁶There was war between Abijam and Rehoboam throughout their lives.

⁷Isn't everything else about Abijam everything he did written in the official records of the kings of Judah? There was war between Abijam and Jeroboam.

⁸Abijam lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. His son Asa succeeded him as king.

⁹In Jeroboam's twentieth year as king of Israel, Asa began to rule as king of Judah.

¹⁰He ruled 41 years in Jerusalem. His grandmother was named Maacah, daughter of Abishalom.

¹¹Asa did what the LORD considered right, as his ancestor David had done.

¹²He forced the male temple prostitutes out of the land and got rid of the idols his father had made.

¹³He also removed his grandmother Maacah from the position of queen

mother because she made a statue of the repulsive goddess Asherah. Asa cut the statue down and burned it in the Kidron Valley.

¹⁴Although the illegal worship sites were not torn down, Asa remained committed to the LORD his entire life.

¹⁵He brought into the LORDS temple the silver, the gold, and the utensils he and his father had set apart as holy.

¹⁶There was war between Asa and King Baasha of Israel as long as they lived.

¹⁷King Baasha of Israel invaded Judah and fortified Ramah to keep anyone from going to or coming from King Asa of Judah.

¹⁸Then Asa took all the silver and gold that was left in the treasuries of the LORDS temple and the royal palace and turned them over to his officials. King Asa sent them to Damascus to Arams King Benhadad, son of Tabrimmon and grandson of Hezion.

¹⁹He said, "Theres a treaty between you and me as there was between your father and my father. Im sending you a present of silver and gold. Now break

your treaty with King Baasha of Israel so that he will leave me alone."

²⁰Benhadad did what King Asa requested. He sent his generals and their armies to attack the cities of Israel. He conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel Beth Maacah, and the entire area around Chinneroth with the entire territory of Naphtali.

²¹When Baasha heard the news, he stopped fortifying Ramah and lived in Tirzah.

²²Then King Asa drafted everyone in Judah and excused no one. He made them carry the stones and lumber from Ramah. Baasha had been using those to fortify the city. King Asa used the materials to fortify Geba in Benjamin and Mizpah.

²³Isn't everything else about Asa all his heroic acts, everything he did, and the cities he fortified written in the official records of the kings of Judah? But when he was old, he had a foot disease.

²⁴Asa lay down in death with his ancestors. He was buried with his ancestors in the city of his ancestor, David. His son Jehoshaphat succeeded him as king.

²⁵ Nadab, son of Jeroboam, began to rule Israel in Asas second year as king of Judah. He ruled for two years.

²⁶ He did what the LORD considered evil, living as his father did, leading Israel into the same sins.

²⁷ Then Baasha, son of Ahijah from the tribe of Issachar, plotted against Nadab. Baasha assassinated him in the Philistine city of Gibbethon while Nadab and the Israelite forces were attacking it.

²⁸ The assassination happened in Asas third year as king of Judah. Baasha succeeded Nadab as king of Israel.

²⁹ As soon as he was king, he killed everyone else in Jeroboams family. He did not spare a soul, as the LORD had spoken through his servant Ahijah from Shiloh.

³⁰ This was because of Jeroboams sins and the sins which he led Israel to commit. Those sins made the LORD God of Israel furious.

³¹ Isnt everything else about Nadabeverything he didwritten in the official records of the kings of Israel?

³² There was war between Asa and Baasha as long as they lived.

³³In Asas third year as king of Judah, Baasha, son of Ahijah, began to rule Israel in Tirzah. He ruled for 24 years.

³⁴He did what the LORD considered evil. He lived like Jeroboam and led Israel into committing the same sins.

16¹The LORD spoke his word to Jehu, Hananis son, against Baasha.

²He said, "I raised you from the dust and made you leader of my people Israel. But you have lived like Jeroboam. You have led my people to sin, and their sins make me furious.

³So I will destroy Baasha and his family. I will make his family like the family of Jeroboam (Nebats son).

⁴Dogs will eat anyone from Baashas family who dies in the city. Birds will eat anyone from his family who dies in the country."

⁵Isnt everything else about Baashawhat he did and his heroic actswritten in the official records of the kings of Israel?

⁶Baasha lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried in Tirzah. His son Elah succeeded him as king.

⁷In addition, the LORD spoke his word to the prophet Jehu, Hananis son, against Baasha and his family because of all the things Baasha did which the LORD considered evil. Baashas actions, which made the LORD furious, were like the sin of Jeroboams family. The LORD was also furious because Baasha destroyed Jeroboams family.

⁸Elah, son of Baasha, began to rule Israel in Asas twentysixth year as Judahs king. He ruled in Tirzah for two years.

⁹But Zimri, the general who commanded half of Elahs chariots, plotted against him. Elah was getting drunk in Tirzah at Arzas house. (Arza was in charge of the palace in Tirzah.)

¹⁰Zimri entered Arzas house, attacked Elah, and killed him in Asas twentyseventh year as king of Judah. Zimri succeeded Elah as king of Israel.

¹¹At the beginning of Zimris reign, as soon as he was on his throne, he killed Baashas entire family. He didnt spare any of Baashas male relatives or friends.

¹²So Zimri destroyed Baashas entire family, as the LORD had spoken through the prophet Jehu.

¹³This was for all the sins committed by Baasha and his son Elah. They sinned, led Israel to sin, and made the LORD God of Israel furious because of their worthless idols.

¹⁴Isnt everything else about Elah everything he did written in the official records of the kings of Israel?

¹⁵In Asas twentyseventh year as Judahs king, Zimri ruled for seven days in Tirzah while the army was camped near the Philistine city of Gibbethon.

¹⁶When the army heard that Zimri had plotted against the king and killed him, the Israelite troops in the camp made Omri, the commander of the army, king of Israel.

¹⁷Omri and the Israelite troops with him left Gibbethon and attacked Tirzah.

¹⁸When Zimri saw that the city had been captured, he went into the stronghold in the royal palace and burned down the palace over his own head. He died

¹⁹because of the sins he had committed the things the LORD considered evil. Zimri lived like Jeroboam and led Israel to sin.

²⁰Isn't everything else about Zimri and his plot written in the official records of the kings of Israel?

²¹Then the army of Israel was divided into two factions. Half of the army followed Tibni, son of Ginath, and wanted to make him king. The other half followed Omri.

²²But the half which followed Omri was stronger than the half which followed Tibni, Ginath's son. Tibni died, and Omri became king.

²³Omri began to rule Israel in Asa's thirtyfirst year as king of Judah. He ruled for 12 years, 6 of them in Tirzah.

²⁴Omri bought a hill from Shemer for 150 pounds of silver. He fortified the hill and built the city of Samaria on it. He named the city after its former owner, Shemer.

²⁵Omri did what the LORD considered evil. He did more evil things than all the kings before him.

²⁶He lived exactly like Jeroboam (Nebats son). He sinned and led Israel to sin with worthless idols, and the Israelites made the LORD God of Israel furious.

²⁷ Isn't everything else about Omri what he did and his heroic acts written in the official records of the kings of Israel?

²⁸ Omri lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried in Samaria. His son Ahab succeeded him as king.

²⁹ Ahab, son of Omri, began to rule Israel in Ahas thirtyeighth year as king of Judah. He ruled for 22 years in Samaria.

³⁰ Ahab, son of Omri, did what the LORD considered evil. He was worse than all the kings who were before him.

³¹ It wasn't enough that he committed the same sins as Jeroboam (Nebats son). He also married Jezebel, daughter of King Ethbaal of Sidon. Ahab then served and worshiped Baal.

³² He built the temple of Baal in Samaria and set up an altar there.

³³ Ahab made poles dedicated to the goddess Asherah. He did more to make the LORD God of Israel furious than all the kings of Israel who came before him.

³⁴ In Ahab's time Hiel from Bethel rebuilt Jericho. Laying the foundation cost him his firstborn son, Abiram. Setting up the city doors cost him his youngest

son, Segub. The LORD had spoken this through Joshua, son of Nun.

17 ¹Elijah, who was from Tishbe but had settled in Gilead, said to Ahab, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD God of Israel whom I serve lives, there will be no dew or rain during the next few years unless I say so."

²Then the LORD spoke his word to Elijah:

³"Leave here, turn east, and hide beside the Cherith River, which is east of the Jordan River.

⁴You can drink from the stream, and I've commanded ravens to feed you there."

⁵Elijah left and did what the word of the LORD had told him. He went to live by the Cherith River, which is east of the Jordan River.

⁶Ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and in the evening. And he drank from the stream.

⁷But after some time the stream dried up because no rain had fallen in the land.

⁸Then the LORD spoke his word to Elijah:

⁹"Get up, go to Zarephath (which belongs to Sidon), and stay there. I've commanded a widow there to feed you."

¹⁰He got up and went to Zarephath. As he came to the town's entrance, a widow was gathering wood. He called to her, "Please bring me a drink of water."

¹¹As she was going to get it, he called to her again, "Please bring me a piece of bread too."

¹²She said, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD your God lives, I didn't bake any bread. I have one handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I'm gathering wood. I'm going to prepare something for myself and my son so that we can eat it and then die."

¹³Then Elijah told her, "Don't be afraid. Go home, and do as you've said. But first make a small loaf and bring it to me. Then prepare something for yourself and your son."

¹⁴This is what the LORD God of Israel says: Until the LORD sends rain on the land, the jar of flour will never be empty and the jug will always contain oil."

¹⁵She did what Elijah had told her. So she, Elijah, and her family had food for a long time.

¹⁶The jar of flour never became empty, and the jug always contained olive oil, as the LORD had promised through Elijah.

¹⁷Afterwards, the son of the woman who owned the house got sick. He got so sick that finally no life was left in him.

¹⁸The woman asked Elijah, "What do you and I have in common, man of God? Did you come here to remind me of my sin and kill my son?"

¹⁹He said to her, "Give me your son." Elijah took him from her arms, carried him to the upstairs room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed.

²⁰Then he called to the LORD, "LORD my God, have you brought misery on the widow I'm staying with by killing her son?"

²¹Then Elijah stretched himself over the boy three times and called to the LORD, "LORD my God, please make this child's life return to him."

²²The LORD heard Elijah's request, and the child's life returned to him. He was alive again.

²³ Elijah took the child, brought him down from the upstairs room of the house, and gave him to his mother. He said, "Look! Your son is alive."

²⁴ The woman said to Elijah, "Now I'm convinced that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is true."

18¹ A while later in the third year of the drought, the LORD spoke his word to Elijah: "Present yourself to Ahab. I will allow rain to fall on the ground."

² So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab. The famine was particularly severe in Samaria.

³ Ahab sent for Obadiah, who was in charge of the palace. Obadiah was a devout worshiper of the LORD.

⁴ (When Jezebel was killing the LORDS prophets, Obadiah had hidden 100 prophets in caves. He put 50 prophets in each cave and kept them alive by providing bread and water for them.)

⁵ Ahab told Obadiah, "Let's go throughout the countryside to every spring and stream. If we can find grass, then we can keep the horses and mules alive and not lose any animals."

⁶So they split up in order to cover the entire countryside. Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went the other way by himself.

⁷Obadiah was on the road when he met Elijah. Obadiah recognized him and immediately bowed down to the ground. "Is it you, my master Elijah?" he asked.

⁸"Yes," Elijah answered him. "Tell your master that Elijah is here."

⁹Obadiah asked, "What have I done wrong to make you hand me over to Ahab to be killed?"

¹⁰I solemnly swear, as the LORD your God lives, my master has searched for you in every region and kingdom. When people would say, He isn't here, my master made that kingdom or region take an oath that they hadn't found you.

¹¹"Now you say, Tell your master that Elijah is here.

¹²This is what will happen: When I leave you, the LORDS Spirit will take you away to some unknown place. I'll tell Ahab, but he won't be able to find you. Then he will kill me. "I have been faithful to the LORD since I was a child.

¹³ Havent you heard what I did when Jezebel killed the LORDS prophets? Havent you heard how I hid 100 of the LORDS prophets in caves? I hid 50 prophets in each cave and provided bread and water for them.

¹⁴ Now you say that I should tell my master that Elijah is here. He will kill me."

¹⁵ Elijah said, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD of Armies whom I serve lives, I will present myself to Ahab."

¹⁶ So Obadiah went to tell Ahab. Ahab went to meet Elijah.

¹⁷ When he saw Elijah, Ahab said, "Is that you, you troublemaker of Israel?"

¹⁸ Elijah answered, "I havent troubled Israel. You and your fathers family have done it by disobeying the LORDS commands and following the various Baal gods.

¹⁹ Order all Israel to gather around me on Mount Carmel. And bring the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah who eat at Jezebels table."

²⁰ Ahab sent word to all the Israelites and brought the prophets together on Mount Carmel.

²¹ Elijah stood up in front of all the people and asked them, "How long will you try to have it both ways? If the LORD is God, follow him; if Baal is God, follow him." The people didn't say a word.

²² So Elijah told the people, "I'm the only surviving prophet of the LORD, but there are 450 prophets of Baal.

²³ Give us two bulls. Let the prophets of Baal choose one for themselves, cut it into pieces, lay it on the wood, but not set it on fire. I'll do the same with the other bull.

²⁴ "You call on the name of your gods, but I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire is the real God." All the people answered, "That's fine."

²⁵ Elijah told the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves. Prepare yours first, because there are more of you. Call on the name of your god, but don't set the wood on fire."

²⁶ They took the bull he gave them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon. They said, "Baal, answer us!" But there wasn't a

sound or an answer. So they danced around the altar they had made.

²⁷ At noon Elijah started to make fun of them. "Shout louder, since he is a god. Maybe hes thinking, relieving himself, or traveling! Maybe hes sleeping, and you have to wake him!"

²⁸ So they shouted louder. They also cut themselves with swords and spears until their blood flowed. (This is what their ritual called for.)

²⁹ In the afternoon they continued to rant and rave until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no sound, no answer, no attention given to them.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come over here." So all the people came to him. He rebuilt the LORDS altar that had been torn down.

³¹ Elijah took 12 stones, one for each of the tribes named after Jacobs sons. (The LORD had spoken his word to Jacob: "Your name will be Israel.")

³² Elijah built an altar in the LORDS name with those stones. He also made a trench that could hold 12 quarts of grain around the altar.

³³ He arranged the wood, cut up the bull, and put it on the wood.

³⁴ He said, "Fill four jars with water. Pour the water on the offering and on the wood." Then he said, "Do it again," and they did it again. Then he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time.

³⁵ The water flowed around the altar, and even the trench was filled with water.

³⁶ When it was time to offer the sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward. He said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, make known today that you are God in Israel and that I'm your servant and have done all these things by your instructions.

³⁷ Answer me, LORD! Answer me! Then these people will know that you, LORD, are God and that you are winning back their hearts."

³⁸ So a fire from the LORD fell down and consumed the burnt offering, wood, stones, and dirt. The fire even dried up the water that was in the trench.

³⁹ All the people saw it and immediately bowed down to the ground. "The LORD is God!" they said. "The LORD is God!"

⁴⁰ Elijah told them, "Seize the prophets of Baal. Dont let any of them escape." The people seized them, and Elijah took them to the Kishon River and slaughtered them there.

⁴¹ Then Elijah told Ahab, "Get up, eat, and drink. It sounds like a heavy rain is coming."

⁴² Ahab got up to eat and drink. Elijah went to the top of Carmel and bowed down on the ground to pray.

⁴³ He said to his servant, "Please go back to Mount Carmel, and look toward the sea." He went up, looked, came back, and said, "Theres nothing." Seven times Elijah told him, "Go back."

⁴⁴ After the seventh time the servant said, "A little cloud like a mans hand is coming from the sea." Elijah said, "Go and tell Ahab, Prepare your chariot, and leave before the rain delays you."

⁴⁵ Gradually, the sky grew darker with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. Ahab got into his chariot to go back to Jezreel.

⁴⁶ The LORDS power was on Elijah. He hiked up his robe and ran ahead of Ahab until they came to Jezreel.

19¹ Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done, including how he had executed all the prophets.

² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah. She said, "May the gods strike me dead if by this time tomorrow I don't take your life the way you took the lives of Baal's prophets."

³ Frightened, Elijah fled to save his life. He came to Beersheba in Judah and left his servant there.

⁴ Then he traveled through the wilderness for a day. He sat down under a broom plant and wanted to die. "I've had enough now, LORD," he said. "Take my life! I'm no better than my ancestors."

⁵ Then he lay down and slept under the broom plant. An angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat."

⁶ When he looked, he saw near his head some bread baked on hot stones and a jar of water. So he ate, drank, and went to sleep again.

⁷ The angel of the LORD came back and woke him up again. The angel said, "Get up and eat, or your journey will be too much for you."

⁸He got up, ate, and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled for 40 days and nights until he came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

⁹There he went into a cave and spent the night. Then the LORD spoke his word to Elijah. He asked, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁰He answered, "LORD God of Armies, I have eagerly served you. The Israelites have abandoned your promises, torn down your altars, and executed your prophets. I'm the only one left, and they're trying to take my life."

¹¹God said, "Go out and stand in front of the LORD on the mountain." As the LORD was passing by, a fierce wind tore mountains and shattered rocks ahead of the LORD. But the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the LORD wasn't in the earthquake.

¹²After the earthquake there was a fire. But the LORD wasn't in the fire. And after the fire there was a quiet, whispering voice.

¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his coat, went out, and stood at

the entrance of the cave. Then the voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴He answered, "LORD God of Armies, I have eagerly served you. The Israelites have abandoned your promises, torn down your altars, and executed your prophets. I'm the only one left, and they're trying to take my life."

¹⁵The LORD told him, "Go back to the wilderness near Damascus, the same way you came. When you get there, anoint Hazael as king of Aram.

¹⁶Anoint Jehu, son of Nimshi, as king of Israel. And anoint Elisha, son of Shaphat, from Abel Meholah as prophet to take your place.

¹⁷If anyone escapes from Hazael's sword, Jehu will kill him. And if anyone escapes from Jehu's sword, Elisha will kill him.

¹⁸But I still have 7,000 people in Israel whose knees have not knelt to worship Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."

¹⁹Elijah found Elisha, son of Shaphat. Elisha was plowing behind 12 pairs of oxen. He was using the twelfth pair.

Elijah took off his coat and put it on Elisha.

²⁰ So Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and mother goodbye. Then I will follow you." "Go back," Elijah answered him. "I'm not stopping you."

²¹ Elisha left him, took two oxen, and butchered them. He boiled the meat, using the oxens yoke for firewood. He gave the meat to the people to eat. Then he left to follow and assist Elijah.

20¹ King Benhadad of Aram gathered together his whole army. With him were 32 kings along with their horses and chariots. He went to blockade Samaria and fight against it.

² He sent messengers into the city to King Ahab of Israel. They told Ahab, "This is what Benhadad says:

³ Your silver and gold are mine. Your beloved wives and children are mine."

⁴ The king of Israel answered, "As you say, Your Majesty. I and everything I have are yours."

⁵ But Benhadad sent messengers back to Ahab. They said, "Benhadad has sent this message to you: Your silver, gold,

wives, and children are mine. Give them to me.

⁶At this time tomorrow I'm going to send my servants to search your palace and your servants' houses. They will take anything that you consider valuable."

⁷Then the king of Israel called for all the leaders of the country. He said, "You can see how this man is looking for trouble. When he sent for my wives, children, silver, and gold, I didn't refuse him."

⁸All the leaders and all the people told him, "Don't listen to him. Don't agree to his demands."

⁹Ahab told Benhadad's messengers, "Tell His Majesty, I did everything your messengers told me the first time, but I can't do this." The messengers left to take back his answer.

¹⁰Then Benhadad sent Ahab the following message: "May the gods strike me dead if there will be enough dust left from Samaria to give a handful to each soldier who follows me."

¹¹The king of Israel answered, "The saying goes, Don't brag about a victory before you have even dressed for battle."

¹² Benhadad heard this as he and his allies were drinking in their tents. He told his officers to get ready. So they got ready to attack the city.

¹³ Then a prophet came to King Ahab of Israel and said, "This is what the LORD says: Have you seen this large army? I will hand it over to you today. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

¹⁴ Ahab asked, "How will this be done?" The prophet answered, "This is what the LORD says: by using the young officers of the district governors." "Who will start the battle?" Ahab asked. "You will," the prophet answered.

¹⁵ Ahab counted the young officers of the district governors. There were 232. After counting them, he counted all the Israelite soldiers. There were 7,000.

¹⁶ They attacked at noon, when Benhadad was in his tent getting drunk with the 32 kings who were his allies.

¹⁷ The young officers of the district governors went out first. Benhadad had sent men to watch the city. They informed him that some men had come out of Samaria.

¹⁸He said, "Take them alive, whether they have come out to make peace or to fight."

¹⁹The young officers of the district governors led an attack, and the troops followed them.

²⁰Each officer killed his opponent. The Arameans fled, and Israel pursued them. King Benhadad of Aram escaped on a horse with the cavalry.

²¹The king of Israel went out and destroyed the horses and chariots and decisively defeated the Arameans.

²²Then the prophet came to the king of Israel and said, "Reinforce your army. Consider what you have to do. When spring comes, the king of Aram will attack again."

²³Meanwhile, the officers of King Benhadad of Aram told him, "Their god is a god of the hills. That is why they were stronger than we were. However, if we fight them on the plain, we will be stronger than they are.

²⁴This is what we must do: Remove all of the kings from their positions, and substitute governors for them.

²⁵ Recruit an army with as many horses and chariots as the one which was defeated. Then, if we fight them on the plain, we will be stronger than they are." He took their advice and followed it.

²⁶ Spring came, and Benhadad organized the Aramean army and went to Aphek to fight Israel.

²⁷ When the Israelite troops had been organized and given provisions, they went to meet the enemy. The Israelites, while camped opposite the Arameans who filled the country, seemed like two newborn goats.

²⁸ The man of God came again. He said to the king of Israel, "This is what the LORD says: Because the Arameans said that the LORD is a god of the hills but not a god of the valleys, I will hand over their entire army to you. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

²⁹ They camped facing one another for seven days, and on the seventh day the battle started. The Israelites killed 100,000 Aramean foot soldiers in one day.

³⁰ The survivors fled to Aphek, the city where the wall fell on 27,000 of them.

Benhadad had also fled. He came to the city and hid in an inner room.

³¹ His officers told him, "We have heard that the kings of Israel are merciful. Allow us to dress in sackcloth, put ropes around our necks, and go to the king of Israel. Maybe he'll let you live."

³² So they dressed in sackcloth and put ropes around their necks. They went to the king of Israel and said, "Your servant Benhadad says, Please let me live." Ahab asked, "He's still alive? He's my brother."

³³ The men, watching for a good sign, were quick to take him at his word. "Benhadad is your brother," they said. Ahab said, "Bring him here." When Benhadad arrived, Ahab had him come up on the chariot with him.

³⁴ Benhadad told him, "I will give back the towns my father took from your father. You may set up trading centers in Damascus as my father did in Samaria." Ahab said, "If you will put this into a treaty, I will let you go." So Ahab made a treaty with Benhadad and let him go.

³⁵ A disciple of the prophets spoke to a friend as the word of the LORD had told

him. The disciple said, "Punch me," but the man refused to punch him.

³⁶The disciple said, "Since you didnt obey the LORD, a lion will kill you when you leave me." When the friend left, a lion found him and killed him.

³⁷Then the disciple found another man. He said, "Punch me." The man punched him hard and wounded him.

³⁸Then the prophet, disguised with a bandage over his eyes, waited for the king by the road.

³⁹When the king passed by, the disciple called to him. "I went to fight in the battle. A man turned around and brought a prisoner to me. He said, Guard this prisoner. If he gets away, you will pay for his life with your own life or be fined 75 pounds of silver.

⁴⁰But while I was busy doing other things, he got away." The king of Israel told him, "Thats your own penalty. You have determined it yourself."

⁴¹Then he quickly took the bandage off his eyes. The king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets.

⁴²The prophet told him, "This is what the LORD says: You let the man go. He

was claimed by God and should have been killed. For that reason your life will be taken in place of his life and your people in place of his people."

⁴³Resentful and upset, the king of Israel went home to Samaria.

21 ¹This is what happened next. Naboth from Jezreel had a vineyard in Jezreel next to the palace of King Ahab of Samaria.

²Ahab told Naboth, "Give me your vineyard. It will become my vegetable garden because it is near my house. I will give you a better vineyard for it. Or if you prefer, I will pay you a fair price for it."

³Naboth told Ahab, "The LORD has forbidden me to give you what I inherited from my ancestors."

⁴Resentful and upset, Ahab went home because of what Naboth from Jezreel had told him. (Naboth had said, "I will not give you what I inherited from my ancestors.") So Ahab lay on the couch, turned his face from everyone, and refused to eat.

⁵ His wife Jezebel came to him and asked, "Why are you so resentful of everything? Why don't you eat?"

⁶ He told her, "I talked to Naboth from Jezreel. I said to him, Sell me your vineyard. Or, if you like, I'll give you another vineyard for it. But he said, I won't give you my vineyard."

⁷ His wife Jezebel said to him, "Aren't you king of Israel? Get up, eat, and cheer up. I'll give you the vineyard belonging to Naboth from Jezreel."

⁸ So Jezebel wrote letters, signed them with Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal. She sent them to the respected leaders and nobles living in Naboth's city.

⁹ In these letters she wrote: "Announce a fast. Seat Naboth as leader of the people."

¹⁰ Have two good-for-nothing men sit opposite him and accuse him of cursing God and the king. Then stone him to death outside the city."

¹¹ The men in Naboth's city—the respected leaders and nobles who lived there—did what Jezebel asked them to do. They did just as she had written in the letters she sent.

¹²They announced a fast and had Naboth seated as the leader of the people.

¹³The two goodfornothing men came in and sat opposite him. In front of the people, these men accused Naboth of cursing God and the king. So the people stoned him to death outside the city.

¹⁴Then the leaders sent this message to Jezebel: "Naboth has been stoned to death."

¹⁵Jezebel received the message and said to Ahab, "Get up! Confiscate the vineyard which Naboth from Jezreel refused to sell you. Hes dead now."

¹⁶When he heard about Naboths death, Ahab went to confiscate the vineyard.

¹⁷Then the LORD spoke his word to Elijah from Tishbe:

¹⁸"Go, meet King Ahab of Israel, who lives in Samaria. He went to confiscate Naboths vineyard.

¹⁹Tell him, This is what the LORD asks: Have you murdered someone just to confiscate a vineyard? Then tell him, This is what the LORD says: At the place where the dogs licked up Naboths blood, the dogs will lick up your blood."

²⁰Ahab asked Elijah, "So youve found me, my enemy?" Elijah answered, "I found you. Because you sold yourself to do what the LORD considers evil.

²¹So I am going to bring evil on you. I will destroy your descendants. I will destroy every male in Ahabs house, whether slave or freeman in Israel.

²²I will make your family like the family of Jeroboam (Nebats son) and like the house of Baasha, son of Ahijah, because you made me furious. You led Israel to sin."

²³Then the LORD also spoke through Elijah about Jezebel: "The dogs will eat Jezebel inside the walls of Jezreel.

²⁴If anyone from Ahabs house dies in the city, dogs will eat him. If anyone dies in the country, birds will eat him."

²⁵There was no one else like Ahab. At the urging of his wife, he sold himself to do what the LORD considered evil.

²⁶He did many disgusting things as a result of worshiping idols as the Amorites had done. (The LORD confiscated their land for Israel.)

²⁷When Ahab heard these things, he tore his clothes in distress and dressed

in sackcloth. He fasted, lay in sackcloth, and walked around depressed.

²⁸Then the LORD spoke his word to Elijah from Tishbe:

²⁹"Do you see how Ahab is humbling himself in my presence? Because he is humbling himself in my presence, I will not let any evil happen to his family while he is alive. I will bring evil on it during his sons lifetime."

22¹For three years there was no war between Aram and Israel.

²In the third year King Jehoshaphat of Judah went to visit the king of Israel.

³The king of Israel asked his staff, "Do you know that Ramoth in Gilead belongs to us, and we are doing nothing to take it back from the king of Aram?"

⁴Then he asked Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to fight at Ramoth in Gilead?" Jehoshaphat told the king of Israel, "I will do what you do. My troops will do what your troops do. My horses will do what your horses do."

⁵Then Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "But first, find out what the word of the LORD is in this matter."

⁶So the king of Israel called 400 prophets together. He asked them, "Should I go to war against Ramoth in Gilead or not?" "Go," they said. "The Lord will hand over Ramoth to you."

⁷But Jehoshaphat asked, "Isn't there a prophet of the LORD whom we could ask?"

⁸The king of Israel told Jehoshaphat, "We can ask the LORD through Micaiah, son of Imlah, but I hate him. He doesn't prophesy anything good about me, only evil." Jehoshaphat answered, "The king must not say that."

⁹The king of Israel called for an officer and said, "Quick! Get Micaiah, son of Imlah!"

¹⁰The king of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah were dressed in royal robes and seated on thrones. They were on the threshing floor at the entrance to the gate of Samaria. All the prophets were prophesying in front of them.

¹¹Zedekiah, son of Chenaanah, made iron horns and said, "This is what the LORD says: With these horns you will push the Arameans to their destruction."

¹²All the other prophets made the same prophecy. They said, "Attack Ramoth in Gilead, and you will win. The LORD will hand it over to you."

¹³The messenger who went to call Micaiah told him, "The prophets have all told the king the same good message. Make your message agree with their message. Say something good."

¹⁴Micaiah answered, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD lives, I will tell him whatever the LORD tells me."

¹⁵When he came to the king, the king asked him, "Micaiah, should we go to war against Ramoth in Gilead or not?" Micaiah said to him, "Attack and you will win. The LORD will hand it over to you."

¹⁶The king asked him, "How many times must I make you take an oath in the LORDS name to tell me nothing but the truth?"

¹⁷So Micaiah said, "I saw Israels troops scattered in the hills like sheep without a shepherd. The LORD said, These sheep have no master. Let each one go home in peace."

¹⁸The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Didn't I tell you he wouldn't prophesy anything good about me, only evil?"

¹⁹Micaiah added, "Then hear the word of the LORD. I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and the entire army of heaven was standing near him on his right and his left.

²⁰The LORD asked, Who will deceive Ahab so that he will attack and be killed at Ramoth in Gilead? Some answered one way, while others said something else.

²¹"Then the Spirit stepped forward, stood in front of the LORD, and said, I will deceive him. "How?" the LORD asked.

²²"The Spirit answered, I will go out and be a spirit that tells lies through the mouths of all of Ahab's prophets. "The LORD said, You will succeed in deceiving him. Go and do it.

²³"So, the LORD has put into the mouths of all these prophets of yours a spirit that makes them tell lies. The LORD has spoken evil about you."

²⁴Then Zedekiah, son of Chenaanah, went to Micaiah and struck him on the

cheek. "How did the LORDS Spirit leave me to talk to you?" he asked.

²⁵ Micaiah answered, "You will find out on the day you go into an inner room to hide."

²⁶ The king of Israel then said, "Send Micaiah back to Amon, the governor of the city, and to Joash, the prince.

²⁷ Say, This is what the king says: Put this man in prison, and feed him nothing but bread and water until I come home safely."

²⁸ Micaiah said, "If you really do come back safely, then the LORD wasnt speaking through me. Pay attention to this, everyone!"

²⁹ So the king of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah went to Ramoth in Gilead.

³⁰ The king of Israel told Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle, but you should wear your royal robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle.

³¹ The king of Aram had given orders to the 32 chariot commanders. He said, "Dont fight anyone except the king of Israel."

³²When the chariot commanders saw Jehoshaphat, they said, "He must be the king of Israel." So they turned to fight him. But when Jehoshaphat cried out,

³³the chariot commanders realized that he wasn't the king of Israel. They turned away from him.

³⁴One man aimed his bow at random and hit the king of Israel between his scale armor and his breastplate. Ahab told his chariot driver, "Turn around, and get me away from these troops. I'm badly wounded."

³⁵But the battle got worse that day, and the king was kept propped up in his chariot facing the Arameans. He died that evening. The blood from the wound had flowed into the chariot.

³⁶At sundown a cry went through the army, "Every man to his own city! Every man to his own property!"

³⁷When the king was dead, he was brought to Samaria to be buried.

³⁸His chariot was washed at the pool of Samaria, where the prostitutes bathed. The dogs licked up his blood, as the LORD had predicted.

³⁹Isnt everything else about Ahab everything he did, the ivory palace he built, and all the cities he fortified written in the official records of the kings of Israel?

⁴⁰Ahab lay down in death with his ancestors. His son Ahaziah succeeded him as king.

⁴¹Jehoshaphat, son of Asa, became king of Judah in Ahabs fourth year as king of Israel.

⁴²Jehoshaphat was 35 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 25 years in Jerusalem. His mothers name was Azubah, daughter of Shilhi.

⁴³Jehoshaphat carefully followed the example his father Asa had set and did what the LORD considered right.

⁴⁴But the illegal worship sites were not torn down. The people continued to sacrifice and burn incense at these worship sites. Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel.

⁴⁵Isnt everything else about Jehoshaphat the heroic acts he did and the wars he fought written in the official records of the kings of Judah?

⁴⁶He rid the land of the male temple prostitutes who were left there from the time of his father Asa.

⁴⁷There was no king in Edom; instead, a deputy ruled.

⁴⁸Jehoshaphat made Tarshishstyle ships to go to Ophir for gold. But they didnt go because the ships were wrecked at Ezion Geber.

⁴⁹Then Ahaziah, son of Ahab, said to Jehoshaphat, "Let my servants go with your servants in the ships." But Jehoshaphat refused.

⁵⁰Jehoshaphat lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried with them in the city of his ancestor David. His son Jehoram succeeded him as king.

⁵¹Ahaziah, son of Ahab, became king of Israel in Samaria during Jehoshaphats seventeenth year as king of Judah. Ahaziah ruled Israel for two years.

⁵²He did what the LORD considered evil. He followed the example of his father and mother and of Jeroboam (Nebats son) who led Israel to sin.

⁵³Ahaziah served Baal, worshiped him, and made the LORD God of Israel furious, as his father had done.

2 Kings

1 ¹After Ahab died, Moab rebelled against Israel.

²During the rebellion King Ahaziah fell through a window lattice in his upstairs room in Samaria and injured himself. So he sent messengers to Ekron. He had told them, "Go ask Baalzebub, the god of Ekron, if I will recover from this injury."

³Then the angel of the LORD said to Elijah from Tishbe, "Meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and ask them, Do you seek advice from Baalzebub, the god of Ekron, because you think there is no God in Israel?"

⁴This is what the LORD says: You will not get up from the bed you are lying on. Instead, you will die there." Then Elijah left.

⁵When the messengers returned, the king asked them, "Why have you come back so soon?"

⁶They told him that a man came to meet them and said to them, "Go back to the king who sent you. Tell him,

This is what the LORD says: Do you send messengers to seek advice from Baalzebub, the god of Ekron, because you think there is no God in Israel? You will not get up from the bed you are lying on. Instead, you will die there."

⁷The king asked them, "What was the man who told you this like?"

⁸They replied, "He was hairy and had a leather belt around his waist." "That's Elijah from Tishbe," the king answered.

⁹The king sent an army officer with 50 men to Elijah. When the officer found Elijah sitting on top of a hill, he told Elijah, "Man of God, the king says, Come down."

¹⁰Elijah answered the officer, "If I'm a man of God, fire will come from heaven and burn up you and your 50 men." Then fire came from heaven and burned up the officer and his 50 men.

¹¹The king sent another officer with 50 men to Elijah. The officer said, "Man of God, this is what the king says: Come here right away!"

¹²Elijah answered the officer, "If I'm a man of God, fire will come from heaven and burn up you and your 50 men." Then

Gods fire came from heaven and burned up the officer and his 50 men.

¹³The king sent a third officer with 50 men. The officer of the third group went up the hill and knelt in front of Elijah. The officer begged him, "Man of God, please treat my life and the lives of these 50 servants of yours as something precious.

¹⁴Fire has come from heaven and burned up the first two officers and their 100 men. But treat my life as something precious."

¹⁵The angel of the LORD told Elijah, "Go with him. Dont be afraid of him." So Elijah got up and went with him to the king.

¹⁶Elijah told the king, "This is what the LORD says: You sent messengers to seek advice from Baalzebub, the god of Ekron. Is this because you think there is no God in Israel whose word you can seek? You will not get up from the bed you are lying on. Instead, you will die there."

¹⁷So Ahaziah died as the LORD had predicted through Elijah. Joram succeeded him as king because Ahaziah had no son.

¹⁸Isn't everything else about Ahaziah the things he did written in the official records of the kings of Israel?

2¹When the LORD was going to take Elijah to heaven in a windstorm, Elijah and Elisha left Gilgal.

²Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here because the LORD is sending me to Bethel." Elisha answered, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not abandon you." So they went to Bethel.

³Some of the disciples of the prophets at Bethel came to Elisha. They asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" He answered, "Yes, I know. Be quiet."

⁴Elijah said, "Elisha, please stay here because the LORD is sending me to Jericho." Elisha answered, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not abandon you." So they went to Jericho.

⁵Then some of the disciples of the prophets who were in Jericho approached Elisha. They asked, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master

from you today?" He answered, "Yes, I know. Be quiet."

⁶Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here because the LORD is sending me to the Jordan River." Elisha answered, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not abandon you."

⁷Fifty disciples of the prophets stood at a distance as Elijah and Elisha stood by the Jordan River.

⁸Elijah took his coat, rolled it up, and struck the water with it. The water divided to their left and their right, and the two men crossed the river on dry ground.

⁹While they were crossing, Elijah asked Elisha, "What should I do for you before I'm taken from you?" Elisha answered, "Let me inherit a double share of your spirit."

¹⁰Elijah said, "You have asked for something difficult. If you see me taken from you, it will be yours. Otherwise, it will not."

¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a fiery chariot with fiery horses separated the two of them, and Elijah went to heaven in a windstorm.

¹²When Elisha saw this, he cried out, "Master! Master! Israels chariot and horses!" When he couldnt see Elijah anymore, he grabbed his own garment and tore it in two to show his grief.

¹³Then he picked up Elijahs coat (which had fallen off Elijah), went back, and stood on the bank of the Jordan River.

¹⁴He took the coat and struck the water with it. He asked, "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" As he struck the water, it divided to his left and his right, and Elisha crossed the river.

¹⁵The disciples of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him from a distance. They said, "Elijahs spirit rests on Elisha!" Then they went to meet him and bowed in front of him with their faces touching the ground.

¹⁶They said to him, "There are 50 strong men here with us. Please let them go and search for your master. Maybe the LORDS Spirit lifted him up and dropped him on one of the hills or in one of the valleys." Elisha answered, "Dont send them to look."

¹⁷But the disciples kept urging him to send the men until he was embarrassed.

So he said, "Send them." They sent 50 men who searched for three days without finding him.

¹⁸They returned to Elisha in Jericho, where he was waiting. He said, "Didn't I tell you not to go?"

¹⁹The people of the city of Jericho told Elisha, "This city's location is as good as you will ever find. But the water is bad, and the land cannot grow crops."

²⁰Elisha said, "Bring me a new jar, and put salt in it." They brought it to him.

²¹He went to the spring and threw the salt into it. Then he said, "This is what the LORD says: I have purified this water. No more deaths or crop failures will come from this water."

²²To this day the water is still pure, as Elisha had said.

²³From there he went to Bethel. As he walked along the road, some boys came out of the city and mocked him. They said, "Go away, baldy! Go away!"

²⁴Looking back, he saw them and cursed them in the LORD'S name. Two bears came out of the woods and tore 42 of these youths apart.

²⁵He left that place, went to Mount Carmel, and returned to Samaria.

3¹Joram, son of Ahab, became king of Israel in Samaria during Jehoshaphats eighteenth year as king of Judah. He ruled for 12 years.

²He did what the LORD considered evil, but he didnt do what his father or mother had done. He put away the sacred stone that his father had set up and dedicated to Baal.

³But he would not give up the sins that Jeroboam (Nebats son) led Israel to commit. Joram would not turn away from those sins.

⁴King Mesha of Moab raised sheep. Each year he had to pay the king of Israel 100,000 male lambs and the wool from 100,000 rams.

⁵But when Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the new king of Israel.

⁶King Joram immediately left Samaria to prepare Israels army for war.

⁷He sent this message to King Jehoshaphat of Judah: "The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you fight Moab with me?" Jehoshaphat answered, "Ill go. I will do what you do. My troops

will do what your troops do. My horses will do what your horses do."

⁸Joram asked, "Which road should we take?" Jehoshaphat answered, "The road through the desert of Edom."

⁹So the king of Israel, the king of Judah, and the king of Edom took an indirect route to Moab. After seven days they ran out of water for the army and the animals.

¹⁰The king of Israel said, "Oh no! The LORD has put the three of us at the mercy of the people of Moab."

¹¹But Jehoshaphat asked, "Isn't there a prophet of the LORD whom we could ask?" One of the officials of the king of Israel answered, "Elisha, the son of Shaphat, is here. He used to be Elijah's assistant."

¹²Jehoshaphat said, "The LORDS word is with him." So King Jehoshaphat of Judah, the king of Israel, and the king of Edom went to Elisha.

¹³Elisha asked the king of Israel, "Why did you come to me? Go to your fathers prophets or your mothers prophets." The king of Israel answered him, "No. The

LORD has called the three of us in order to put us at Moabs mercy."

¹⁴Elisha answered, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD of Armies whom I serve lives, I wouldnt even bother to look at you or notice you if it werent for my respect for King Jehoshaphat of Judah.

¹⁵But get me someone to play some music." While the musician was playing, the LORDS power came over Elisha.

¹⁶He said, "This is what the LORD says: Make this valley full of ditches.

¹⁷You will not see wind or rain, but this valley will be filled with water. You, your cattle, and your other animals will drink.

¹⁸The LORD considers that an easy thing to do. In addition, he will put Moab at your mercy.

¹⁹You will defeat every walled city and every important city. You will cut down every good tree, seal all the wells, and use rocks to ruin every good piece of land."

²⁰That is what happened in the morning. At the time of the grain offering, water flowed from Edom and filled the countryside.

²¹ All the people of Moab heard that the kings had come to fight them. So all men old enough to bear arms were called to fight. They stood at the border.

²² When the Moabites got up early in the morning as the sun was rising over the water, they saw the water from a distance. It was as red as blood.

²³ They said, "Its blood! The kings have been fighting one another and have killed each other. Now, Moabites, lets take their goods!"

²⁴ So when the Moabites came to Israels camp, the Israelites attacked them, and they fled from the Israelites. Israel went after the Moabites and defeated them.

²⁵ Then Israel tore down the cities, each man throwing rocks on every good field until it was covered. They sealed every well and cut down every good tree. Only the stones in the walls of Kir Hareseth were left. Soldiers surrounded Kir Hareseth and attacked it with slings and stones.

²⁶ When the king of Moab saw he was losing the battle, he took 700 swordsmen to try to break through to the king of Edom. But they couldnt do it.

²⁷ Then he took his firstborn son, who would have succeeded him as king, and sacrificed him on the wall as a burnt offering. There was bitter anger against the Israelites. So they went home to their own country.

4¹ One of the wives of a disciple of the prophets called to Elisha, "Sir, my husband is dead! You know how he feared the LORD. Now a creditor has come to take my two children as slaves."

² Elisha asked her, "What should I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?" She answered, "I have nothing in the house except a jar of olive oil."

³ Elisha said, "Borrow many empty containers from all your neighbors.

⁴ Then close the door behind you and your children, and pour oil into all those containers. When one is full, set it aside."

⁵ So she left him and closed the door behind her and her children. The children kept bringing containers to her, and she kept pouring.

⁶ When the containers were full, she told her son, "Bring me another container." He told her, "There are

no more containers." So the olive oil stopped flowing.

⁷She went and told the man of God. He said, "Sell the oil, and pay your debt. The rest is for you and your children."

⁸One day Elisha was traveling through Shunem, where a rich woman lived. She had invited him to eat with her. So whenever he was in the area, he stopped in to eat.

⁹She told her husband, "I know hes a holy man of God. And he regularly travels past our house.

¹⁰Lets make a small room on the roof and put a bed, table, chair, and lamp stand there for him. He can stay there whenever he comes to visit us."

¹¹One day he came to their house, went into the upstairs room, and rested there.

¹²He told his servant Gehazi, "Call this Shunem woman." Gehazi called her, and she stood in front of him.

¹³Elisha said to Gehazi, "Ask her what we can do for her, since she has gone to a lot of trouble for us. Maybe she would like us to speak to the king or the commander of the army for her." She

answered, "I'm already living among my own people."

¹⁴"What should we do for her?" Elisha asked. Gehazi answered, "Well, she has no son, and her husband is old."

¹⁵Elisha said, "Call her." So Gehazi called her, and she stood in the doorway.

¹⁶Elisha said, "At this time next spring, you will hold a baby boy in your arms." She answered, "Don't say that, sir. Don't lie to me. You're a man of God."

¹⁷But the woman became pregnant and had a son at that time next year, as Elisha had told her.

¹⁸Several years later the boy went to his father, who was with the harvest workers.

¹⁹Suddenly, he said to his father, "My head! My head!" The father told his servant, "Carry him to his mother."

²⁰The servant picked him up and brought him to his mother. The boy sat on her lap until noon, when he died.

²¹She took him upstairs and laid him on the bed of the man of God, left the room, and shut the door behind her.

²²She called her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and

one of the donkeys. I will go quickly to the man of God and come back again."

²³ Her husband asked, "Why are you going to him today? It isn't a New Moon Festival or a day of worship." But she said goodbye to him.

²⁴ She saddled the donkey. Then she told her servant, "Lead on. Don't slow down unless I tell you."

²⁵ So she came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When he saw her coming at a distance, he told his servant Gehazi, "There is the woman from Shunem.

²⁶ Run to meet her and ask her how she, her husband, and the boy are doing." "Everyone's fine," she answered.

²⁷ When she came to the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi went to push her away. But the man of God said, "Leave her alone. She is bitter. The LORD has hidden the reason from me. He hasn't told me."

²⁸ The woman said, "I didn't ask you for a son. I said, Don't raise my hopes."

²⁹ The man of God told Gehazi, "Put on a belt, take my shepherd's staff in your hand, and go. Whenever you meet anyone, don't stop to greet him. If he

greeted you, don't stop to answer him. Lay my staff on the boy's face."

³⁰The boy's mother said, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD and you live, I will not leave without you." So Elisha got up and followed her.

³¹Gehazi went ahead of them and put the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or sign of life. So Gehazi came back to meet the man of God. Gehazi told him, "The boy didn't wake up."

³²When Elisha came to the house, the dead boy was lying on Elisha's bed.

³³He went into the room, closed the door, and prayed to the LORD.

³⁴Then he lay on the boy, putting his mouth on the boy's mouth, his eyes on the boy's eyes, his hands on the boy's hands. He crouched over the boy's body, and it became warm.

³⁵Elisha got up, walked across the room and came back, and then got back on the bed and crouched over him. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

³⁶Elisha called Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunem woman." Gehazi called her.

When she came to him, he said, "Take your son."

³⁷ Then she immediately bowed at his feet. She took her son and left.

³⁸ When Elisha went back to Gilgal, there was a famine in the country. One day, while the disciples of the prophets were meeting with him, he told his servant, "Put a large pot on the fire, and cook some stew for the disciples of the prophets."

³⁹ One of them went into the field to gather vegetables and found a wild vine. He filled his clothes with wild gourds. Then he cut them into the pot of stew without knowing what they were.

⁴⁰ They dished out the food for the men to eat. As they were eating the stew, they cried out, "Theres death in the pot, man of God!" So they couldnt eat it.

⁴¹ Elisha said, "Bring some flour." He threw it into the pot and said, "Dish it out for the people to eat." Then there was nothing harmful in the pot.

⁴² A man from Baal Shalisha brought bread made from the first harvested grain, 20 barley loaves, and fresh grain

to the man of God. The man of God said, "Give it to the people to eat."

⁴³ But his servant asked, "How can I set this in front of a hundred people?" "Give it to the people to eat," the man of God said. "This is what the LORD says: They will eat and even have some left over."

⁴⁴ The servant set it in front of them. They ate and had some left over, as the LORD had predicted.

5¹ Naaman, the commander of the Aramean king's army, was respected and highly honored by his master. The LORD had given Aram a victory through Naaman. This man was a good soldier, but he had a skin disease.

² Once, when the Arameans went on raids, they had brought back a little girl from Israel. She became the servant of Naaman's wife.

³ The girl told her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet in Samaria. Then the prophet could cure him of his skin disease."

⁴ Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said.

⁵ The king of Aram said, "You may go. I will also send a letter to the king of

Israel." When Naaman left, he took 750 pounds of silver, 150 pounds of gold, and 10 sets of clothing with him.

⁶He brought the letter to the king of Israel. It read, "I'm sending my officer Naaman with this letter. Cure him of his skin disease."

⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes in distress. He asked, "Am I God? Can I kill someone and then bring him back to life? This man sends someone to me so that I can cure his skin disease! All of you should realize and understand that he's trying to pick a fight with me."

⁸But when Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a messenger to the king. He asked, "Why did you tear your clothes? Please let Naaman come to me and find out that there is a prophet in Israel."

⁹Naaman came with his horses and chariot and stopped at the entrance to Elisha's home.

¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him. He said, "Wash yourself seven times in

the Jordan River, and your skin will be healthy and clean."

¹¹ But Naaman became angry and left. He said, "I thought he would at least come out of his house, stand somewhere, call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the infected place, and heal the skin disease.

¹² The Abana and Pharpar Rivers in Damascus have better water than any of the rivers in Israel. Couldn't I wash in them and be clean?" So he turned around and left in anger.

¹³ But Naaman's servants went to him and said, "Master, if the prophet had asked you to do some extraordinary act, wouldn't you have done it? Why shouldn't you do as he said: Wash and be clean?"

¹⁴ So he went to dip himself in the Jordan River seven times, as the man of God had instructed him. His skin became healthy again like a little child's skin.

¹⁵ Then he and all his men returned to the man of God. Naaman stood in front of Elisha and said, "Now I know that there's no god in the whole world, except the God of Israel. So please accept a present from me."

¹⁶Elisha said, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD whom I serve lives, I will not accept it." Naaman urged him to take it, but he refused.

¹⁷So Naaman said, "If you wont take it, please have someone give me as much dirt as a pair of mules can carry. From now on I will sacrifice to the LORD alone. I will not offer any burnt offering or sacrifice to any other gods.

¹⁸May the LORD forgive me when my master goes to the temple of Rimmon to worship, leans on my arm, and I have to bow down in the temple of Rimmon. When I do this, may the LORD forgive me for this one thing."

¹⁹Elisha told Naaman, "Go in peace." After Elisha had left him and gone some distance,

²⁰Gehazi, the servant of Elisha (the man of God), thought, "My master let this Aramean Naaman go without accepting what he had brought. As sure as the LORD lives, Ill run after Naaman and get something from him."

²¹So Gehazi went after Naaman. When Naaman saw Gehazi running after him,

he got down from his chariot to speak to him. "Is something wrong?" he asked.

²²Gehazi answered, "No. My master has sent me. He says, Just now two young men from the disciples of the prophets in the hills of Ephraim have arrived. Please give them 75 pounds of silver and two sets of clothing."

²³Naaman replied, "Please let me give you 150 pounds of silver." Naaman urged him to take the silver. Naaman tied up 150 pounds of silver in two bags with two sets of clothing. He gave them to a couple of his own servants to carry in front of Gehazi.

²⁴When Gehazi came to the Ophel in Samaria, he took these things and put them away in the house. Then he dismissed the men, and they left.

²⁵He went and stood in front of his master. Elisha asked him, "Where were you, Gehazi?" "I didnt go anywhere," he answered.

²⁶Then Elisha said to him, "I went with you in spirit when the man turned around in his chariot to speak to you. How could you accept silver, clothes,

olive orchards, vineyards, sheep, cattle, or slaves?

²⁷Naamans skin disease will cling to you and your descendants permanently!" When he left Elisha, Gehazi had a disease that made his skin as flaky as snow.

6¹The disciples of the prophets said to Elisha, "The place where were staying is too small for us.

²Lets go to the Jordan River. Each of us can get some logs and make a place for us to live there." Elisha said, "Go ahead."

³Then one of the disciples asked, "Wont you please come with us?" Elisha answered, "Ill go."

⁴So he went with them. They came to the Jordan River and began to cut down trees.

⁵As one of them was cutting down a tree, the ax head fell into the water. He cried out, "Oh no, master! It was borrowed!"

⁶The man of God asked, "Where did it fall?" When he showed Elisha the place, Elisha cut off a piece of wood. He threw it into the water at that place and made the ax head float.

⁷ Elisha said, "Pick it up." The disciple reached for it and picked it up.

⁸ Whenever the king of Aram was fighting against Israel, he asked for advice from his officers about where they were to camp.

⁹ So the man of God would send a message to the king of Israel, "Be careful not to go by that place. The Arameans are hiding there."

¹⁰ Then the king of Israel would send someone to the place that the man of God told him about. Elisha warned them so that they would be on their guard. He did this repeatedly.

¹¹ The king of Aram was very angry about this. He called his officers and asked them, "Wont you tell me who among us is a spy for the king of Israel?"

¹² One of his officers answered, "No one, Your Majesty. Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel everything you say even what you say in your bedroom."

¹³ The king said, "Find out where he is. Then I will send men to capture him." The king was told, "He is in Dothan."

¹⁴ So the king sent horses and chariots and a large fighting unit there. They came at night and surrounded the city.

¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up in the morning and went outside, he saw troops, horses, and chariots surrounding the city. Elisha's servant asked, "Master, what should we do?"

¹⁶ Elisha answered, "Don't be afraid. We have more forces on our side than they have on theirs."

¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed, "LORD, please open his eyes so that he may see." The LORD opened the servant's eyes and let him see. The mountain around Elisha was full of fiery horses and chariots.

¹⁸ As the Arameans came down to get him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, "Please strike these people with blindness." The LORD struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.

¹⁹ Elisha told them, "This isn't the way! This isn't the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you're looking for." So he led them into Samaria.

²⁰ When they came into Samaria, Elisha said, "LORD, open the eyes of these men, and let them see." The LORD

opened their eyes and let them see that they were in the middle of Samaria.

²¹ When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, "Master, should I kill them? Should I kill them?"

²² Elisha answered, "Don't kill them. Do you kill everyone you take captive in combat? Give them food and water. Let them eat and drink. Then let them go back to their master."

²³ So the king prepared a great feast for them. They ate and drank, and then he sent them back to their master. After this, Aramean troops didn't raid Israel's territory anymore.

²⁴ Later King Benhadad of Aram assembled his whole army. They went to Samaria and blockaded it.

²⁵ The shortages caused by the blockade of Samaria became so severe that a donkey's head sold for two pounds of silver and a halfpint of dove manure for two ounces of silver.

²⁶ As the king of Israel was walking on the city wall, a woman cried to him, "Help me, Your Majesty!"

²⁷ He answered, "If the LORD doesn't help you, how can I help you? I can't give

you something from the threshing floor or the winepress."

²⁸Then the king asked her, "Whats the matter?" She answered, "This woman told me, Give up your son. Lets eat him today. Well eat my son tomorrow.

²⁹So we boiled my son and ate him. The next day I told her, Give up your son. Well eat him, but she hid her son."

³⁰When the king heard the woman say this, he tore his clothes in distress. As he was walking on the city wall, the people saw that he was wearing sackcloth under his clothes.

³¹He said, "May God strike me dead if the head of Elisha, son of Shaphat, stays on his body today."

³²Elisha was sitting in his home with the citys leaders. The king had sent one of his men ahead of him to Elishas house. But before the messenger arrived, Elisha asked the leaders, "Do you see how this murderer has sent someone to tear off my head? When the messenger comes, close the door. Hold it shut because the king will be following him."

³³While he was still talking to them, the messenger arrived. He said to Elisha,

"This severe famine is from the LORD. Why should I wait any longer for the LORD to help us?"

7¹ Elisha answered, "Listen to the word of the LORD! This is what the LORD says: About this time tomorrow 24 cups of the best flour will sell for half an ounce of silver in the gateway to Samaria. And 48 cups of barley will sell for half an ounce of silver."

² The servant on whose arm the king was leaning answered the man of God, "Could this happen even if the LORD poured rain through windows in the sky?" Elisha replied, "You will see it with your own eyes, but you won't eat any of it."

³ Four men with skin diseases were at the entrance of the city gate. One of them asked, "Why are we sitting here waiting to die?"

⁴ If we go into the city, the famine is also there, and we'll still die. But if we stay here, we'll die. So let's go to the Aramean camp. If they give us something to keep us alive, we'll live. But if they kill us, we'll die anyway."

⁵ So they started out at dusk to go into the Aramean camp. When they came to the edge of the camp, no one was there.

⁶ (The LORD had made the Aramean army hear what sounded like chariots, horses, and a large army. The Aramean soldiers said to one another, "The king of Israel has hired the Hittite and Egyptian kings to attack us!")

⁷ So at dusk they fled. They abandoned the camp as it was with its tents, horses, and donkeys and ran for their lives.)

⁸ When the men with skin diseases came to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent, ate and drank, and carried off the silver, gold, and clothes they found in that tent. They went away and hid them. Then they came back, went into another tent, carried off its contents, went away, and hid them.

⁹ Then they said to one another, "What were doing is not right. This is a day of good news, and were not telling anyone about it. If we wait until morning when its light out, well be punished. Lets bring the news to the royal palace."

¹⁰ So they called the city gatekeepers and told them, "We went into the

Aramean camp, and we didn't see or hear anyone. The horses and donkeys were still tied up. Even the tents were left exactly as they were."

¹¹ The gatekeepers announced the news to the royal palace.

¹² So the king got up at night and told his officers what the Arameans had planned for them. He said, "They know we were starving, so they've left the camp to hide in the countryside. They're thinking, When they've left the city, we'll capture them alive and get into the city."

¹³ One of his officers replied, "Please let some men take five of the horses that are left here. Those men will be no worse off than the rest of the Israelites who are dying. Let's send them to take a look."

¹⁴ So they took two chariots with horses, and the king sent them to follow the Aramean army and told them to find out what happened.

¹⁵ They followed them as far as the Jordan River and saw how the whole road was littered with clothes and equipment that the Arameans had thrown away in their hurry. The messengers returned and told the king about it.

¹⁶So the people went out and looted the Aramean camp. Then 24 cups of the best flour sold for half an ounce of silver, and 48 cups of barley sold for half an ounce of silver, as the LORD had predicted.

¹⁷The king appointed the servant on whose arm he used to lean to be in charge of the gate. But the people trampled him to death in the gateway, as the man of God had predicted when the king came to him.

¹⁸(It happened exactly as the man of God told the king, "Fortyeight cups of barley will sell for half an ounce of silver. And twentyfour cups of the best flour will sell for half an ounce of silver. This will happen about this time tomorrow in the gateway to Samaria.")

¹⁹Then the servant answered the man of God, "Could this happen even if the LORD poured rain through windows in the sky?" Elisha answered, "You will see it with your own eyes, but you wont eat any of it.")

²⁰So this is what happened to the kings servant: The people trampled him to death in the gateway.

8¹ Elisha had told the woman whose son he had brought back to life, "Go away with your family. Stay wherever you can. The LORD has decided to send a famine on this country, and it will last seven years."

² The woman did what the man of God told her. She and her family went to live in Philistine territory for seven years.

³ At the end of seven years, the woman came home from Philistine territory but left again to make an appeal to the king about her house and land.

⁴ The king was talking to Gehazi, the servant of the man of God. He said, "Please tell me about all the great things Elisha has done."

⁵ While Gehazi was telling the king how Elisha brought a dead child back to life, the mother came to make an appeal to the king about her house and land. Gehazi said, "Your Majesty, this is the woman, and this is her son whom Elisha brought back to life."

⁶ When the king asked the woman about this, she told him the story. So the king assigned to her an attendant to whom he said, "Restore all that is hers, including

whatever her property produced from the day she left the country until now."

⁷Elisha went to Damascus. King Benhadad of Aram, who was sick, was told, "The man of God has come here."

⁸The king told Hazael, "Take a present, and meet the man of God. Ask the LORD through him, Will I recover from this illness?"

⁹Hazael went to meet Elisha. He took with him a present and all kinds of goods from Damascus. He had loaded the goods on 40 camels. He stood in front of Elisha and said, "Your humble servant King Benhadad of Aram has sent me to you. He asks whether he will recover from this illness."

¹⁰Elisha replied, "Tell him that he will get better, although the LORD has shown me that he is actually going to die."

¹¹He stared at him until he became embarrassed. Then the man of God began to cry.

¹²"Sir, why are you crying?" Hazael asked. Elisha answered, "I know the evil you will do to the Israelites: You will set their fortresses on fire, kill their best

young men, smash their little children, and rip open their pregnant women."

¹³But Hazael asked, "How can a dog like me do such a significant thing?" Elisha answered, "The LORD has shown me that you will become king of Aram."

¹⁴Hazael left Elisha and went to his master Benhadad, who asked him what Elisha had said. Hazael answered, "He told me that you will get better."

¹⁵But the next day Hazael took a blanket, soaked it in water, and smothered the king with it. Hazael ruled as king in his place.

¹⁶Joram (Ahabs son) was in his fifth year as king of Israel when Jehoram, son of King Jehoshaphat of Judah, began to rule. Jehoram ruled while Jehoshaphat was still king of Judah.

¹⁷He was 32 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 8 years in Jerusalem.

¹⁸He followed the ways of the kings of Israel, as Ahabs family had done, because his wife was Ahabs daughter. So he did what the LORD considered evil.

¹⁹But for Davids sake the LORD didnt want to destroy Judah. The LORD had

told David that he would always give him and his descendants a shining lamp.

²⁰ During Jehorams time Edom rebelled against Judah and chose its own king.

²¹ Jehoram took all his chariots to attack Zair. The Edomites and their chariot commanders surrounded him, but he got up at night, broke through their lines, and his troops fled home.

²² So Edom rebelled against Judahs rule and is still independent today. At that time Libnah also rebelled.

²³ Isnt everything else about Jehorameverything he didwritten in the official records of the kings of Judah?

²⁴ Jehoram lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried with them in the City of David. His son Ahaziah succeeded him as king.

²⁵ Joram (Ahabs son) was in his twelfth year as king of Israel when Jehorams son Ahaziah became king of Judah.

²⁶ Ahaziah was 22 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for one year in Jerusalem. His mother was Athaliah, the granddaughter of King Omri of Israel.

²⁷ Ahaziah followed the ways of Ahabs family. He did what the LORD considered evil, as Ahabs family had done, because he was related to Ahabs family by marriage.

²⁸ Ahaziah went with Ahabs son Joram to fight against King Hazael of Aram at Ramoth Gilead. There the Arameans wounded Joram.

²⁹ King Joram returned to Jezreel to let his wounds heal. (He had been wounded by the Arameans at Ramah when he fought against King Hazael of Aram.) Then Jehorams son Ahaziah went to Jezreel to see Ahabs son Joram, who was sick.

9¹ The prophet Elisha called one of the disciples of the prophets. He said, "Put on your belt. Take this flask of olive oil, and go to Ramoth Gilead.

² When you arrive there, look for Jehu, son of Jehoshaphat and grandson of Nimshi. Go inside, and have him get up and leave his companions. Take him into an inner room.

³ Take the flask of oil, pour it on his head, and say, This is what the LORD says: I have anointed you king of

Israel. Then open the door and leave immediately."

⁴The young man, the servant of the prophet, went to Ramoth Gilead.

⁵When he arrived there, the army's generals were sitting together. He said, "I have something to tell you, General." Jehu asked, "Which one of us?" He answered, "You, General!"

⁶Jehu got up and went into the house. The prophet poured olive oil on his head and told him, "This is what the LORD God of Israel says: I have anointed you king of the LORDS people, king of Israel.

⁷You will destroy the family of your master Ahab. I will get revenge on Jezebel for shedding the blood of my servants the prophets and all the LORDS other servants.

⁸Ahabs entire family will die. I will destroy every male from Ahabs family, whether slave or freeman in Israel.

⁹I will make Ahabs family like the family of Jeroboam (Nebats son) and like the family of Baasha, son of Ahijah.

¹⁰Dogs will eat Jezebel inside the walls of Jezreel, and no one will bury her." Then he opened the door and left.

¹¹ Jehu came out to his masters officials. One of them asked him, "Is everything alright? Why did this lunatic come to you?" He answered, "You know the man and the kind of things he says."

¹² They said, "That's not an answer. Please tell us." Jehu replied, "We talked for a while, and he said to me, This is what the LORD says: I have anointed you king of Israel."

¹³ Then each one of them immediately took off his coat and laid it on the stairs below him. They blew a ram's horn and said, "Jehu is king!"

¹⁴ So Jehu, son of Jehoshaphat and grandson of Nimshi, plotted against Joram. (Joram and all Israel were guarding Ramoth Gilead against King Hazael of Aram.)

¹⁵ But King Joram had returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds he received while fighting King Hazael of Aram.) Then Jehu said, "If you want me to be king, don't let anyone escape from the city to take the news to Jezreel."

¹⁶ So Jehu got on his chariot and drove to Jezreel because Joram was lying in

bed there. (King Ahaziah of Judah had come to see Joram.)

¹⁷ The watchman standing on the tower in Jezreel saw Jehu's troops coming. He said, "I see some troops." So Joram said, "Take a chariot driver, send him to meet them, and ask, 'Is everything alright?'"

¹⁸ So a chariot driver rode off, met Jehu, and said, "The king asks, 'Is everything alright?'" Jehu replied, "Why should that matter to you? Follow me." So the watchman announced, "The messenger you sent has reached them, but he isn't coming back."

¹⁹ Then Joram sent out a second driver. When he came to them, he said, "The king asks, 'Is everything alright?'" Jehu replied, "Why should that matter to you? Follow me."

²⁰ So the watchman announced, "He has reached them, but he isn't coming back. The troops' leader is driving like a lunatic, like Jehu, grandson of Nimshi."

²¹ "Hitch the horses to the chariot," Joram ordered. When that was done, King Joram of Israel and King Ahaziah of Judah went to meet Jehu, each in his

own chariot. They found him in the field that belonged to Naboth from Jezreel.

²²When Joram saw Jehu, he asked, "Is everything alright, Jehu?" Jehu answered, "How can everything be alright as long as your mother continues her idolatry and witchcraft?"

²³As Joram turned his chariot around and tried to flee, he said to Ahaziah, "It's a trap, Ahaziah!"

²⁴But Jehu took his bow and shot Joram between the shoulders. The arrow came out of his chest, and he slumped over in his chariot.

²⁵Then Jehu said to his attendant Bidkar, "Take him away, and throw him into the field that belonged to Naboth from Jezreel. Remember when you and I were driving our chariots behind his father Ahab? The LORD revealed this prophecy about him:

²⁶Just as I saw the blood of Naboth and his sons yesterday, I will pay you back in this field, declares the LORD. Now take him and throw him into the field as the LORD predicted."

²⁷When King Ahaziah of Judah saw this, he fled on the road leading to Beth

Haggan. Jehu pursued him and ordered, "Shoot him down in his chariot." They shot him at Gur Pass, which is near Ibleam. Ahaziah continued to flee until he got to Megiddo, where he died.

²⁸His servants brought him in a chariot to Jerusalem. They buried him in a tomb with his ancestors in the City of David.

²⁹(Ahaziah had become king of Judah in the eleventh year that Joram, Ahabs son, was king of Israel.)

³⁰When Jehu arrived in Jezreel, Jezebel heard about it. She put on eye shadow, fixed her hair, and looked out of a secondstory window.

³¹When Jehu entered the gateway, she asked, "Is everything alright, Zimri, murderer of your master?"

³²Looking up at the window, he asked, "Is anyone on my side? Anyone?" Then two or three eunuchs looked out at him.

³³He said, "Throw her down." They threw her down, and some of her blood splattered on the wall and the horses. The horses trampled her.

³⁴He went inside, ate, and drank. Then he said, "Take care of this woman who

had a curse on her. After all, she was a kings daughter."

³⁵But when they went out to bury her, they couldnt find any of her body except her skull, feet, and hands.

³⁶They came back and told him. Jehu said, "The LORD spoke through his servant Elijah from Tishbe. He said, Dogs will eat Jezebels body inside the walls of Jezreel.

³⁷Jezebels corpse will be like manure on the ground in the fields surrounding Jezreel so that no one will be able to say that this is Jezebel."

10¹Ahab had 70 male heirs in Samaria. So Jehu wrote letters to the officials of Jezreel, the respected leaders, and the guardians of Ahabs descendants in Samaria. The letters read,

²"Your masters heirs are with you, and you have chariots, horses, fortified cities, and weapons. As soon as this letter reaches you,

³choose the best and most honest of your masters heirs, and put him on Ahabs throne. Fight for your masters family."

⁴But they panicked. They said, "If two kings couldn't stand up to him, how can we stand up to him?"

⁵So the official in charge of the palace, the mayor of the city, the respected leaders, and the guardians sent this message to Jehu: "We are your servants. We'll do everything you tell us. We won't make anyone king. Do what you think is best."

⁶So he wrote them a second letter. It read, "If you are on my side and ready to listen to me, bring the heads of your masters' heirs to me in Jezreel about this time tomorrow." The 70 male heirs were staying with the city's most powerful men. These men had raised them.

⁷When the letter came to the men, they slaughtered all 70 heirs. They put the heads in baskets and sent them to Jehu in Jezreel.

⁸A messenger told him, "They've brought the heads of the king's heirs." Jehu said, "Put them in two piles at the entrance to the gateway until morning."

⁹In the morning he stood there. He told the people, "You are innocent. I plotted

against my master and killed him. But who killed all these men?

¹⁰You can be sure that the word of the LORD spoken about Ahabs family will be fulfilled. The LORD will do what he said through his servant Elijah."

¹¹Jehu also killed every member of Ahabs household who was left in Jezreel: all the most powerful men, friends, and priests. Not one of them was left.

¹²Then Jehu left for Samaria. When he came to Beth Eked of the Shepherds,

¹³he found some relatives of King Ahaziah of Judah. "Who are you?" he asked. They answered, "Were Ahaziahs relatives. Weve come to greet the families of the king and the queen mother."

¹⁴Jehu ordered, "Capture them!" Jehus men captured and slaughtered 42 of them at a cistern near Beth Eked. They didnt leave any survivors.

¹⁵When he left that place, he met Jehonadab, son of Rechab, who was coming to meet him. Jehu greeted him and asked, "Are you as loyal to me as I am to you?" "I am," Jehonadab answered. So Jehu said, "If you are,

give me your hand." When he gave Jehu his hand, Jehu helped him up into the chariot.

¹⁶Jehu said, "Come with me. See how devoted I am to the LORD." So he had Jehonadab ride on his chariot.

¹⁷When they arrived in Samaria, Jehu killed the rest of Ahab's family, every member who was left in Samaria. He wiped them out, as the LORD had told Elijah.

¹⁸Then Jehu brought all the people together. He said, "Ahab served Baal a little, but Jehu will serve him a lot.

¹⁹Summon all the prophets, servants, and priests of Baal. Make sure no one is missing because I have a great sacrifice to offer Baal. Whoever is missing will not live." (Jehu was deceiving them. He actually wanted to destroy those who worshiped Baal.)

²⁰Jehu said, "Call a holy assembly to honor Baal." So they did.

²¹Jehu sent messengers to all the Israelites. All the worshipers of Baal came, and there wasn't one who didn't come. They went into the temple of Baal and filled it from one end to the other.

²² Then Jehu told the man in charge of the priests robes, "Bring out the robes for all the worshipers of Baal." So he brought out robes for them.

²³ Jehu and Jehonadab, son of Rechab, went into the temple of Baal and said to the worshipers of Baal, "Make sure that there are no worshipers of the LORD here with you. Only the worshipers of Baal should be here."

²⁴ So they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings. But Jehu had stationed 80 of his men outside. He said to them, "If any of the people I'm putting in your hands escape, you will pay for their lives with yours."

²⁵ When the burnt offerings had been made, Jehu said to the guards and attendants, "Kill them. Don't let anyone get away." So they used swords to kill the Baal worshipers and threw out the bodies until the guards and attendants came to the stronghold in the temple of Baal.

²⁶ Then they brought out the large sacred stone of the temple of Baal and burned it.

²⁷ They destroyed the sacred stone of Baal and the temple of Baal and made it into a latrine. It is still a latrine today.

²⁸ So Jehu got rid of Baal worship throughout Israel.

²⁹ But Jehu did not turn away from the sins that Jeroboam (Nebats son) led Israel to commit the worship of the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan.

³⁰ The LORD said to Jehu, "You did what I consider right, and you did it well. You did everything I wanted done to Ahabs family. That is why four generations of your descendants will sit on the throne of Israel."

³¹ But Jehu didnt wholeheartedly obey the teachings of the LORD God of Israel. He didnt turn away from the sins that Jeroboam led Israel to commit.

³² So in those days the LORD began to take away some of Israels territory. Hazael defeated Jehus army throughout Israels territory

³³ east of the Jordan River: the entire region of Gilead (the territory belonging to Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh) from

Aroer, which is near the Arnon River, to Gilead and Bashan.

³⁴Isn't everything else about Jehu everything he did, all his heroic acts written in the official records of the kings of Israel?

³⁵Jehu lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried in Samaria. His son Jehoahaz succeeded him as king.

³⁶Jehu ruled as king of Israel in Samaria for 28 years.

11 ¹When Athaliah's mother, Athaliah, saw that her son was dead, she began to destroy the entire royal family.

²But Jehosheba, daughter of King Jehoram and sister of Ahaziah, took Ahaziah's son Joash. She saved him from being killed with the king's other sons, and in a bedroom she hid him and his nurse from Athaliah. So Joash wasn't killed

³but was hidden with her in the LORDS temple for six years while Athaliah ruled the country.

⁴In the seventh year of Athaliah's reign, Jehoiada sent for the company commanders of the Carites and the guards and had them come to him in the

LORDS temple. He made an agreement with them, put them under oath in the LORDS temple, and showed them the kings son.

⁵He ordered them, "This is what you must do: One third of you, those who are on duty on the day of worship, must guard the royal palace.

⁶Another third must be at Sur Gate. And another third must be at the gate behind the guards. You will guard the kings residence.

⁷Then your two groups who normally go off duty on the day of worship must guard the king at the LORDS temple.

⁸Surround the king. Each man should have his weapons in his hand. Kill anyone who tries to break through your ranks. Stay with the king wherever he goes."

⁹The company commanders did as the priest Jehoiada had ordered them. Each commander took his men who were coming on duty on the day of worship as well as those who were about to go off duty and came to the priest Jehoiada.

¹⁰He gave the commanders the spears and the shields that had belonged to

King David but were now in the LORDS temple.

¹¹The guards stood with their weapons in their hands. They were stationed around the king and around the altar and the temple (from the south side to the north side of the temple).

¹²Then Jehoiada brought out the kings son, gave him the crown and the religious instructions, and made him king by anointing him. As the guards clapped their hands, they said, "Long live the king!"

¹³When Athaliah heard the noise made by the guards and the other people, she went into the LORDS temple, where the people were.

¹⁴She looked, and the king was standing by the pillar according to custom. The commanders and the trumpeters were by his side. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. As Athaliah tore her clothes in distress, she cried, "Treason, treason!"

¹⁵Then the priest Jehoiada ordered the company commanders who were in charge of the army, "Take her out of the

temple. Use your sword to kill anyone who follows her." (The priest had said, "She must not be killed in the LORDS temple.")

¹⁶So they arrested her as she came to the street where the horses enter the royal palace, and there she was killed.

¹⁷Jehoiada made a promise to the LORD on behalf of the king and his people that they would be the LORDS people. He made other promises between the king and the people.

¹⁸Then all the people of the land went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed Baals altars and his statues and killed Mattan, the priest of Baal, in front of the altars. Next, the priest appointed officials to be in charge of the LORDS temple.

¹⁹He took the company commanders of the Carites and the guards and all the people of the land, and they brought the king from the LORDS temple. They went down the street that goes through Guards Gate to the royal palace. Then Joash sat on the royal throne.

²⁰All the people of the land were celebrating. But the city was quiet

because they had killed Athaliah with a sword at the royal palace.

²¹ Joash was seven years old when he began to rule.

12¹ Joash began to rule in Jehus seventh year as king of Israel, and he ruled for 40 years in Jerusalem. His mother was Zibiah from Beersheba.

² Joash did what the LORD considered right, as long as the priest Jehoiada instructed him.

³ But the illegal places of worship werent torn down. The people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense at these worship sites.

⁴ Joash told the priests, "Collect all the holy contributions that are brought into the LORDS templethe money each person is currently required to bring and all the money brought voluntarily to the LORDS temple.

⁵ Each of the priests should receive it from the donors and use it to make repairs on the temple where they are needed."

⁶ But by Joashs twentythird year as king, the priests still had not repaired the temple.

⁷ So King Joash called for Jehoiada and the other priests and asked them, "Why aren't you repairing the damage in the temple? Don't take any more money from the donors for your own use. Instead, use it to make repairs on the temple."

⁸ The priests agreed neither to receive money from the people for personal use nor to be responsible for repairing the temple.

⁹ Then the priest Jehoiada took a box, drilled a hole in its lid, and put it at the right side of the altar as one comes into the LORDS temple. The priests who guarded the entrance put the money that was brought to the LORDS temple in the box.

¹⁰ Whenever they saw a lot of money in the box, the king's scribe and the chief priest would collect and count the money that was donated in the LORDS temple.

¹¹ Then they would give the money that had been weighed to the men who had been appointed to work on the LORDS temple. They used it to pay the carpenters, builders,

¹² masons, and stonecutters. They also used it to buy wood and cut stones to

make repairs on the LORDS temple and to buy anything else that they needed for the temple repairs.

¹³But no silver bowls, snuffers, dishes, trumpets, or any other gold and silver utensils were made for the LORDS temple with the money that was brought.

¹⁴Instead, the money was given to the workmen, and they used it to repair the temple.

¹⁵They didnt require the men who were entrusted with the money for the workers to give an account, because they were honest people.

¹⁶The money from the guilt offerings and the offerings for sin was not brought into the LORDS temple. It belonged to the priests.

¹⁷At this time King Hazael of Aram fought against Gath and conquered it. He was also determined to attack Jerusalem.

¹⁸So King Joash of Judah took all the gifts his ancestors Kings Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, and Ahaziah of Judah, had dedicated to the LORD, the things he had dedicated to the LORD, and all the gold

that could be found in the storerooms of the LORDS temple and the royal palace. He sent these things to King Hazael of Aram, who called off the attack on Jerusalem.

¹⁹Isnt everything else about Joasheverything he didwritten in the official records of the kings of Judah?

²⁰His own officials plotted against him and killed him at Beth Millo on the road that goes down to Silla.

²¹Joashs officials Jozacar, son of Shimeath, and Jehozabad, son of Shomer, executed him. They buried him with his ancestors in the City of David. His son Amaziah succeeded him as king.

13¹Ahaziahs son King Joash of Judah was in his twentythird year as king of Judah when Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, began to rule in Samaria as king of Israel. He ruled for 17 years.

²He did what the LORD considered evil. He continued to commit the sins that Jeroboam (Nebats son) led Israel to commit. He never gave up committing those sins.

³So the LORD became angry with Israel and put it at the mercy of King Hazael of

Aram and Hazael's son Benhadad as long as they lived.

⁴Then Jehoahaz pleaded with the LORD, and the LORD heard him because he saw how the Aramean king was oppressing Israel.

⁵So the LORD gave the Israelites someone to save them, and they were freed from Aram's power. They were able to live in their homes again as they had done before.

⁶But they didn't turn away from the sins that Jeroboam and his dynasty led Israel to commit. They continued to commit those sins. In addition, the pole dedicated to the goddess Asherah remained standing in Samaria.

⁷Jehoahaz had no army left except for 50 horses, 10 chariots, and 10,000 foot soldiers because the king of Aram had destroyed the rest. He had made them like dust that people trample.

⁸Isn't everything else about Jehoahaz everything he did, his heroic acts written in the official records of the kings of Israel?

⁹Jehoahaz lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried in Samaria. His son Jehoash ruled as king in his place.

¹⁰In Joashs thirtyseventh year as king of Judah, Jehoahazs son Jehoash began to rule Israel in Samaria. He ruled for 16 years.

¹¹He did what the LORD considered evil and never gave up committing the sins that Jeroboam led Israel to commit. He continued to commit them.

¹²Isnt everything else about Jehoasheverything he did, his heroic acts when he fought against King Amaziah of Judahwritten in the official records of the kings of Israel?

¹³Jehoash lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried with the kings of Israel in Samaria. Then Jeroboam claimed the throne.

¹⁴Elisha became fatally ill. King Jehoash of Israel visited him, cried over him, and said, "Master! Master! Israels chariot and horses!"

¹⁵Elisha told him, "Get a bow and some arrows." So he got a bow and some arrows.

¹⁶Then Elisha told the king of Israel, "Take the bow in your hand." So the king picked up the bow. Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands.

¹⁷Elisha said, "Open the window that faces east." So the king opened it. "Shoot," Elisha said, and the king shot. Then Elisha said, "That is the arrow of the LORDS' victory, the arrow of victory against Aram. You will completely defeat the Arameans at Aphek."

¹⁸Then Elisha said, "Take the arrows." So the king took them. "Stomp on them," he told the king of Israel. The king stomped three times and stopped.

¹⁹Then the man of God became angry with him. "You should have stomped five or six times!" he said. "Then you would have completely defeated the Arameans. But now you will only defeat the Arameans three times."

²⁰Elisha died and was buried. Moabite raiding parties used to invade the country in the spring.

²¹One day some people who were burying a man saw one of these raiding parties. So they quickly put the man into Elisha's tomb. But when the body

touched Elishas bones, the man came back to life and stood up.

²²King Hazael of Aram oppressed Israel as long as Jehoahaz ruled.

²³But the LORD was kind and merciful to the Israelites because of his promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He didnt want to destroy the Israelites, and even now he hasnt turned away from them.

²⁴King Hazael of Aram died, and his son Benhadad succeeded him as king.

²⁵Then Jehoash, son of Jehoahaz, reconquered the cities that Benhadad had taken from his father Jehoahaz. Jehoash defeated Benhadad three times and recovered those cities of Israel.

14¹ Jehoahazs son King Jehoash was in his second year as king of Israel when King Amaziah, son of Joash of Judah, began to rule.

²Amaziah was 25 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 29 years in Jerusalem. His mother was Jehoaddin from Jerusalem.

³He did what the LORD considered right, but not exactly what his ancestor David had done. He did everything his father Joash had done.

⁴ But the illegal places of worship were still not torn down. The people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense at these worship sites.

⁵ As soon as he had a firm control over the kingdom, he executed the officials who had killed his father, the former king.

⁶ But he didn't execute their children. He obeyed the LORDS command written in the Book of Moses Teachings: "Parents must never be put to death for the crimes of their children, and children must never be put to death for the crimes of their parents. Each person must be put to death for his own crime."

⁷ Amaziah killed 10,000 Edomites in the Dead Sea region and took the city of Sela in battle. He gave it the name Joktheel, which is still its name today.

⁸ Then Amaziah sent messengers to King Jehoash, son of Jehoahaz and grandson of Jehu of Israel, to declare war on Israel.

⁹ King Jehoash of Israel sent this message to King Amaziah of Judah: "A thistle in Lebanon sent a message to a cedar in Lebanon. It said, Let your

daughter marry my son, but a wild animal from Lebanon came along and trampled the thistle.

¹⁰You certainly defeated Edom, and now you have become arrogant. Enjoy your fame, but stay home. Why must you invite disaster and your own defeat and take Judah with you?"

¹¹But Amaziah wouldnt listen. So King Jehoash of Israel attacked, and King Amaziah of Judah met him in battle at Beth Shemesh in Judah.

¹²Israel defeated the army of Judah, and the Judeans fled to their homes.

¹³King Jehoash of Israel captured King Amaziah, son of Joash and grandson of Ahaziah of Judah, at Beth Shemesh and went to Jerusalem. He tore down a 600foot section of the wall around Jerusalem from Ephraim Gate to Corner Gate.

¹⁴He took all the gold, silver, and all the utensils he found in the LORDS temple and in the royal palace treasury. He also took hostages. Then he returned to Samaria.

¹⁵Isnt everything else about Jehoashwhat he did, his heroic

acts when he fought against King Amaziah of Judah written in the official records of the kings of Israel?

¹⁶Jehoash lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried with the kings of Israel in Samaria. His son Jeroboam succeeded him as king.

¹⁷Joashs son King Amaziah of Judah lived 15 years after the death of Jehoahazs son King Jehoash of Israel.

¹⁸Isnt everything else about Amaziah written in the official records of the kings of Judah?

¹⁹Conspirators in Jerusalem plotted against him, so he fled to Lachish. But they sent men to Lachish after him and killed him there.

²⁰They brought him back by horse, and he was buried in Jerusalem, in the City of David, with his ancestors.

²¹All the people of Judah took Azariah, who was 16 years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah.

²²Azariah rebuilt Elath and returned it to Judah after King Amaziah lay down in death with his ancestors.

²³Joashs son Amaziah was in his fifteenth year as king of Judah when

Jehoashs son King Jeroboam of Israel began to rule in Samaria. Jeroboam ruled for 41 years.

²⁴He did what the LORD considered evil. He didnt turn away from any of the sins that Jeroboam (Nebats son) led Israel to commit.

²⁵He restored Israels boundaries from the border of Hamath to the Dead Sea as the LORD God of Israel predicted through his servant Jonah, the prophet from Gath Hepher and the son of Amittai.

²⁶The LORD did this because he saw how bitterly everyone in Israel was suffering. No slave or free person could help Israel.

²⁷Since the LORD had said he was not going to wipe out Israels name completely, he saved them through Jeroboam, son of Jehoash.

²⁸Isnt everything else about Jeroboameverything he did, his heroic acts when he fought, how he recovered Damascus and Hamath for Israel written in the official records of the kings of Israel?

²⁹ Jeroboam lay down in death with his ancestors, the kings of Israel. His son Zechariah succeeded him as king.

15¹ In Jeroboams twentyseventh year as king of Israel, Amaziahs son Azariah began to rule as king of Judah.

² He was 16 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 52 years in Jerusalem. His mother was Jecoliah from Jerusalem.

³ He did what the LORD considered right, as his father Amaziah had done.

⁴ But the illegal places of worship were still not torn down. The people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense at these worship sites.

⁵ The LORD inflicted the king with a skin disease that lasted until the day the king died. So the king lived in a separate house. The kings son Jotham was in charge of the palace and governed the country.

⁶ Isnt everything else about Azariaheverything he didwritten in the official records of the kings of Judah?

⁷ Azariah lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried with them

in the City of David. His son Jotham succeeded him as king.

⁸In Azariahs thirtieth year as king of Judah, Jeroboams son Zechariah was king of Israel in Samaria for six months.

⁹He did what the LORD considered evil, as his ancestors had done. He didnt turn away from the sins that Jeroboam (Nebats son) led Israel to commit.

¹⁰Shallum, son of Jabesh, plotted against Zechariah, attacked him at Kabal Am, killed him, and succeeded him as king.

¹¹Everything else about Zechariah is written in the official records of the kings of Israel.

¹²It happened exactly as the LORD had told Jehu: "Four generations of your descendants will sit on the throne of Israel."

¹³Shallum, son of Jabesh, became king in Azariahs thirtyninth year as king of Judah. Shallum ruled for an entire month in Samaria.

¹⁴Then Menahem, son of Gadi, came from Tirzah to Samaria, attacked Shallum (son of Jabesh), killed him, and succeeded him as king.

¹⁵ Everything else about Shallum all about his conspiracy is written in the official records of the kings of Israel.

¹⁶ Then Menahem attacked Tiphshah, everyone there, and its territory. Because the city didn't open its gates for him, he attacked it and ripped open all its pregnant women.

¹⁷ In Azariah's thirtieth year as king of Judah, Menahem, son of Gadi, began to rule as king of Israel. He ruled for 10 years in Samaria.

¹⁸ He did what the LORD considered evil. During his entire life he never turned away from the sins that Jeroboam (Nebat's son) led Israel to commit.

¹⁹ King Pul of Assyria came to attack the country. So Menahem gave Pul 75,000 pounds of silver to gain his support and help strengthen his hold on the kingdom.

²⁰ Menahem raised the money from all the wealthy men in Israel. Each gave 20 ounces of silver for the king of Assyria. Then the king of Assyria left the country.

²¹ Isn't everything else about Menahem everything he did written in the official records of the kings of Israel?

²²Menahem lay down in death with his ancestors, and his son Pekahiah succeeded him as king.

²³In Azariah's fiftieth year as king of Judah, Menahem's son Pekahiah began to rule. Pekahiah was king of Israel in Samaria for two years.

²⁴He did what the LORD considered evil. He didn't turn away from the sins that Jeroboam (Nebat's son) led Israel to commit.

²⁵His officer Pekah, son of Remaliah, plotted against him. With 50 men from Gilead, Pekah attacked Pekahiah, Argob, and Arieah in the fortress of the royal palace in Samaria. Pekah killed him and succeeded him as king.

²⁶Everything else about Pekahiaheverything he didis written in the official records of the kings of Israel.

²⁷In Azariah's fiftysecond year as king of Judah, Pekah, son of Remaliah, began to rule Israel in Samaria. He ruled for 20 years.

²⁸He did what the LORD considered evil. He did not turn away from the sins that Jeroboam (Nebat's son) led Israel to commit.

²⁹In the days of King Pekah of Israel, King Tiglath Pileser of Assyria took Ijon, Abel Beth Maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, Galilee, and the entire territory of Naphtali. He also took the people away to Assyria as captives.

³⁰Hoshea, son of Elah, plotted against Pekah, son of Remaliah. Hoshea attacked him and killed him. Hoshea began to rule as king in his place in the twentieth year that Jotham, son of Azariah, was king of Judah.

³¹Everything else about Pekaheverything he didis written in the official records of the kings of Israel.

³²In the second year that King Pekah, son of Remaliah, ruled Israel, Jotham, son of Azariah, began to rule as king of Judah.

³³He was 25 years old when he began to rule. He ruled for 16 years in Jerusalem. His mother was Jerusha, daughter of Zadok.

³⁴He did what the LORD considered right, as his father Azariah had done.

³⁵But the illegal places of worship were not torn down. The people continued to

offer sacrifices and burn incense at these worship sites. Jotham built the Upper Gate of the LORDS temple.

³⁶Isnt everything else about Jothameverything he didwritten in the official records of the kings of Judah?

³⁷In those days the LORD began to use King Rezin of Aram and Pekah, son of Remaliah, to attack Judah.

³⁸Jotham lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried with them in the city of his ancestor David. His son Ahaz succeeded him as king.

16¹ Pekah, son of Remaliah, was in his seventeenth year as king of Israel when King Ahaz, son of Jotham, began to rule as king of Judah.

²Ahaz was 20 years old when he began to rule. He ruled for 26 years in Jerusalem. He didnt do what the LORD his God considered right, as his ancestor David had done.

³He followed the example of the kings of Israel and even sacrificed his son by burning him alive. Sacrificing children was one of the disgusting things done by the nations that the LORD had forced out of the Israelites way.

⁴He offered sacrifices and burned incense as an offering at the illegal worship sites, which were on hills and under every large tree.

⁵Then King Rezin of Aram and King Pekah, son of Remaliah of Israel, came to wage war against Jerusalem. They blockaded Ahaz but couldnt get him to fight.

⁶At that time King Rezin of Aram drove the Judeans out of Elath and gave it back to Edom. The Edomites came to Elath and still live there today.

⁷Ahaz sent messengers to King Tiglath Pileser of Assyria to say, "Im your servant, your son. Come and save me from the kings of Aram and Israel who are attacking me."

⁸Ahaz took the silver and gold he found in the LORDS temple and in the treasury in the royal palace and sent them to the king of Assyria as a present.

⁹The king of Assyria listened to him and attacked Damascus. He captured it, took the people to Kir as captives, and killed Rezin.

¹⁰Then King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet King Tiglath Pileser of Assyria. He

saw an altar there in Damascus. So King Ahaz sent the priest Urijah a model of the altar and a set of detailed plans.

¹¹ Urijah built an altar exactly like the model King Ahaz sent from Damascus. He finished it before Ahaz returned home from Damascus.

¹² When the king came from Damascus, he saw the altar. The king approached the altar and went up to it.

¹³ He sacrificed his burnt offering and grain offering, poured out his wine offering, and sprinkled the blood of his fellowship offering on the altar.

¹⁴ But he moved the bronze altar dedicated to the LORD. It had been in front of the temple between his altar and the LORDS temple. Ahaz put it on the north side of his altar.

¹⁵ King Ahaz gave this command to the priest Urijah: "On this great altar you must burn the morning burnt offerings and the evening grain offering, the kings burnt offerings and grain offerings, and the burnt offerings, grain offerings, and wine offerings of all the people of the land. Sprinkle all the blood of the burnt

offerings and other sacrifices on it. I will use the bronze altar for prayer."

¹⁶The priest Urijah did what King Ahaz had commanded.

¹⁷King Ahaz cut off the side panels of the bronze stands used in the temple and removed the basin from each of them. He took the bronze pool down from the bronze bulls that were under it and set it on a stone base.

¹⁸Ahaz removed the covered walkway used on the day of worship. This walkway had been built in the temple. He also removed the outer entrance for the king from the LORDS temple. He did this to please the king of Assyria.

¹⁹Isnt everything else about Ahaz the things he did written in the official records of the kings of Judah?

²⁰Ahaz lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried with them in the City of David. His son Hezekiah succeeded him as king.

17 ¹In Ahazs twelfth year as king of Judah, Hoshea, son of Elah, began to rule as king of Israel in Samaria. He ruled for nine years.

²He did what the LORD considered evil, but he didnt do what the kings of Israel before him had done.

³King Shalmaneser of Assyria defeated Hoshea, who became his servant and was required to make annual payments to him.

⁴The king of Assyria found Hoshea to be a traitor. (Hoshea had sent messengers to King Dais of Egypt and had stopped making annual payments to the king of Assyria.) So the king of Assyria arrested him and put him in prison.

⁵Then the king of Assyria attacked the entire country. He attacked Samaria and blockaded it for three years.

⁶In Hosheas ninth year as king of Israel, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and took the Israelites to Assyria as captives. He settled them in Halah, along the Habor River in Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

⁷The Israelites sinned against the LORD their God, who brought them out of Egypt and rescued them from the power of Pharaoh (the king of Egypt). They worshiped other gods

⁸and lived by the customs of the nations that the LORD had forced out of the Israelites way. They also did what their kings wanted them to do.

⁹The Israelites secretly did things against the LORD their God that werent right: They built for themselves illegal places of worship in all of their cities, from the smallest watchtower to the largest fortified city.

¹⁰They set up sacred stones and poles dedicated to the goddess Asherah on every high hill and under every large tree.

¹¹At all the illegal places of worship, they sacrificed in the same way as the nations that the LORD had removed from the land ahead of them. They did evil things and made the LORD furious.

¹²They served idols, although the LORD had said, "Never do this."

¹³The LORD had warned Israel and Judah through every kind of prophet and seer, "Turn from your evil ways, and obey my commands and decrees as I commanded your ancestors in all my teachings, the commands I sent to you through my servants the prophets."

¹⁴But they refused to listen. They became as impossible to deal with as their ancestors who refused to trust the LORD their God.

¹⁵They rejected his decrees, the promise he made to their ancestors, and the warnings he had given them. They went after worthless idols and became as worthless as the idols. They behaved like the nations around them, although the LORD had commanded them not to do that.

¹⁶They abandoned all the commands of the LORD their God: They made two calves out of cast metal. They made a pole dedicated to the goddess Asherah. They prayed to the entire army of heaven. They worshiped Baal.

¹⁷They sacrificed their sons and daughters by burning them alive. They practiced black magic and cast evil spells. They sold themselves by doing what the LORD considered evil, and they made him furious.

¹⁸The LORD became so angry with Israel that he removed them from his sight. Only the tribe of Judah was left.

¹⁹Even Judah didn't obey the commands of the LORD their God but lived according to Israel's customs.

²⁰So the LORD rejected all of Israel's descendants, made them suffer, handed them over to those who looted their property, and finally turned away from Israel.

²¹When he tore Israel away from the family of David, the people of Israel made Jeroboam (Nebats son) king. Jeroboam forced Israel away from the LORD and led them to commit a serious sin.

²²The Israelites followed all the sins Jeroboam committed and never turned away from them.

²³Finally, the LORD turned away from Israel as he had said he would through all his servants, the prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their land to Assyria as captives, and they are still there today.

²⁴The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim and settled them in the cities of Samaria in place of the

Israelites. They took over Samaria and lived in its cities.

²⁵When they first came to live there, they didnt worship the LORD. So the LORD sent lions to kill some of them.

²⁶Then someone said to the king of Assyria, "The people you took as captives and settled in the cities of Samaria dont know the customs of the god of that country, so he sent lions. Now the lions are killing them because they dont know the customs of the god of this country."

²⁷The king of Assyria gave this command: "Bring one of the priests you captured from there. Let him go back to teach them the customs of the god of that country."

²⁸So one of the priests who had been taken prisoner from Samaria went to live in Bethel. He taught them how to worship the LORD.

²⁹But each group that settled in Samaria continued to make its own gods. They put them at the illegal places of worship, which the people of Samaria had made. Each group did this in the cities where they lived:

³⁰The people from Babylon made Succoth Benoth. The people from Cuth made Nergal. The people from Hamath made Ashima.

³¹The people from Avva made Nibhaz and Tartak. The people from Sepharvaim burned their children for Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

³²So while these people were worshiping the LORD, they also appointed all kinds of people to serve as priests for the shrines at their illegal places of worship.

³³They worshiped the LORD but also served their own gods according to the customs of the nations from which they had come.

³⁴Today they are still following their customs, as theyve done from the beginning. They dont fear the LORD or live by the decrees, customs, teachings, or commands that the LORD gave to the descendants of Jacob (whom he named Israel).

³⁵When the LORD made a promise to Israel, he commanded, "Never worship

other gods, bow down to them, serve them, or sacrifice to them.

³⁶Instead, worship the LORD, who used his great power and a mighty arm to bring you out of Egypt. Bow down to the LORD, and sacrifice to him.

³⁷Faithfully obey the laws, rules, teachings, and commands that he wrote for you: Never worship other gods.

³⁸Never forget the promise I made to you. Never worship other gods.

³⁹Instead, worship the LORD your God, and he will rescue you from your enemies."

⁴⁰The people of Israel had refused to listen and made up their own rules, as they had done from the beginning.

⁴¹These other nations worshiped the LORD but also served their own idols. So did their children and their grandchildren. They still do whatever their ancestors did.

18¹ King Hoshea, son of Elah, had been king in Israel for three years when King Hezekiah, son of Ahaz of Judah, began to rule as king.

²Hezekiah was 25 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 29

years in Jerusalem. His mother was Abi, daughter of Zechariah.

³He did what the LORD considered right, as his ancestor David had done.

⁴He got rid of the illegal places of worship, crushed the sacred stones, and cut down the poles dedicated to the goddess Asherah. He even crushed the bronze snake that Moses had made because up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. They called it Nehushtan.

⁵Hezekiah trusted the LORD God of Israel. No king among all the kings of Judah was like Hezekiah.

⁶He was loyal to the LORD and never turned away from him. He obeyed the commands that the LORD had given through Moses,

⁷so the LORD was with him. He succeeded in everything he tried: He rebelled against the king of Assyria and wouldn't serve him anymore.

⁸He conquered the Philistines from the smallest watchtower to the largest fortified city all the way to Gaza and its territory.

⁹In Hezekiahs fourth year as king (which was the seventh year in the reign of King Hoshea, son of Elah of Israel) King Shalmaneser of Assyria attacked Samaria, blockaded it,

¹⁰and captured it at the end of three years. Samaria was taken in Hezekiahs sixth year as king (which was Hosheas ninth year as king of Israel).

¹¹The king of Assyria took the Israelites to Assyria as captives. He put them in Halah, along the Habor River in Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

¹²This happened because they refused to obey the LORD their God and disregarded the conditions of the promise he made to them. They refused to obey everything that Moses, the LORDS servant, had commanded.

¹³In Hezekiahs fourteenth year as king, King Sennacherib of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them.

¹⁴Then King Hezekiah of Judah sent this message to the king of Assyria at Lachish: "I have done wrong. Go away, and leave me alone. Ill pay whatever penalty you give me." So the king of

Assyria demanded that King Hezekiah of Judah pay 22,500 pounds of silver and 2,250 pounds of gold.

¹⁵Hezekiah gave him all the silver that could be found in the LORDS temple and in the royal palace treasury.

¹⁶At that time Hezekiah stripped the gold off the doors and doorposts of the LORDS temple. (Earlier Hezekiah had them covered with gold.) He gave the gold to the king of Assyria.

¹⁷Then the king of Assyria sent his commanderinchief, his quartermaster, and his field commander with a large army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. They came there and stood at the channel for the Upper Pool on the road to the Laundrymans Field.

¹⁸When they called for King Hezekiah, Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace and was the son of Hilkiah, Shebna the scribe, and Joah, who was the royal historian and the son of Asaph, went out to the field commander.

¹⁹He said to them, "Tell Hezekiah, This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: What makes you so confident?

²⁰You give useless advice about getting ready for war. Whom, then, do you trust for support in your rebellion against me?

²¹Now, look! When you trust Egypt, youre trusting a broken stick for a staff. If you lean on it, it stabs your hand and goes through it. This is what Pharaoh (the king of Egypt) is like for everyone who trusts him.

²²Suppose you tell me, "Were trusting the LORD our God." Hes the god whose places of worship and altars Hezekiah got rid of. He told Judah and Jerusalem, "Worship at this altar in Jerusalem."

²³"Now, make a deal with my master, the king of Assyria. Ill give you 2,000 horses if you can put riders on them.

²⁴How can you defeat my masters lowestranging officers when you trust Egypt for chariots and horses?

²⁵"Have I come to destroy this place without the LORD on my side? The LORD said to me, Attack this country, and destroy it."

²⁶Then Eliakim (son of Hilkiah), Shebnah, and Joah said to the field commander, "Speak to us in Aramaic, since we understand it. Dont speak to us

in the Judean language as long as there are people on the wall listening."

²⁷ But the field commander asked them, "Did my master send me to tell these things only to you and your master? Didn't he send me to the men sitting on the wall who will have to eat their own excrement and drink their own urine with you?"

²⁸ Then the field commander stood and shouted loudly in the Judean language, "Listen to the great king, the king of Assyria.

²⁹ This is what the king says: Don't let Hezekiah deceive you. He can't rescue you from me.

³⁰ Don't let Hezekiah get you to trust the LORD by saying, The LORD will certainly rescue us, and this city will not be put under the control of the king of Assyria.

³¹ Don't listen to Hezekiah, because this is what the king of Assyria says: Make peace with me! Come out and give yourselves up to me! Everyone will eat from his own grapevine and fig tree and drink from his own cistern.

³² Then I will come and take you away to a country like your own. It's a country

with grain and new wine, a country with bread and vineyards, a country with olive trees, olive oil, and honey. Live! Don't die! Don't listen to Hezekiah when he tries to mislead you by saying to you, The LORD will rescue us.

³³ Did any of the gods of the nations rescue their countries from the king of Assyria?

³⁴ Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah? Did they rescue Samaria from my control?

³⁵ Did the gods of those countries rescue them from my control? Could the LORD then rescue Jerusalem from my control?"

³⁶ But the people were silent and didn't say anything to him because the king commanded them not to answer him.

³⁷ Then Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace and was the son of Hilkiah, Shebna the scribe, and Joah, who was the royal historian and the son of Asaph, went to Hezekiah with their clothes torn in grief. They told him the message from the field commander.

19¹ When King Hezekiah heard the message, he tore his clothes in grief, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the LORDS temple.

² Then he sent Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace, Shebna the scribe, and the leaders of the priests, clothed in sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah, son of Amoz.

³ They said to him, "This is what Hezekiah says: Today is a day filled with misery, punishment, and disgrace. We are like a woman who is about to give birth but doesnt have the strength to do it.

⁴ The LORD your God may have heard all the words of the field commander. His master, the king of Assyria, sent him to defy the living God. The LORD your God may punish him because of the message that the LORD your God heard. Pray for the few people who are left."

⁵ So King Hezekiahs men went to Isaiah.

⁶ Isaiah answered them, "Say this to your master, This is what the LORD says: Dont be afraid of the message that you heard when the Assyrian kings assistants slandered me.

⁷Im going to put a spirit in him so that he will hear a rumor and return to his own country. Ill have him assassinated in his own country."

⁸The field commander returned and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah. He had heard that the king left Lachish.

⁹Now, Sennacherib heard that King Tirhakah of Sudan was coming to fight him. Sennacherib sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,

¹⁰"Tell King Hezekiah of Judah, Dont let the god whom you trust deceive you by saying that Jerusalem will not be put under the control of the king of Assyria.

¹¹You heard what the kings of Assyria did to all countries, how they totally destroyed them. Will you be rescued?

¹²Did the gods of the nations which my ancestors destroyed rescue Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar?

¹³Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, and the king of the cities of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah?"

¹⁴Hezekiah took the letters from the messengers, read them, and went to the

LORDS temple. He spread them out in front of the LORD

¹⁵and prayed to the LORD, "LORD of Armies, God of Israel, you are enthroned over the angels. You alone are God of all the kingdoms of the world. You made heaven and earth.

¹⁶Turn your ear toward me, LORD, and listen. Open your eyes, LORD, and see. Listen to the message that Sennacherib sent to defy the living God.

¹⁷It is true, LORD, that the kings of Assyria have leveled nations.

¹⁸They have thrown the gods from these countries into fires because these gods arent real gods. Theyre only wooden and stone statues made by human hands. So the Assyrians have destroyed them.

¹⁹Now, LORD our God, rescue us from Assyrias control so that all the kingdoms on earth will know that you alone are the LORD God."

²⁰Then Isaiah, son of Amoz, sent a message to Hezekiah, "This is what the LORD God of Israel says: You prayed to me about King Sennacherib of Assyria. I have heard you.

²¹ This is the message that the LORD speaks to him, My dear people in Zion despise you and laugh at you. My people in Jerusalem shake their heads behind your back.

²² Whom are you defying and slandering? Against whom are you shouting? Who are you looking at so arrogantly? It is the Holy One of Israel!

²³ Through your servants you defy the Lord and say, "With my many chariots I'll ride up the high mountains, up the slopes of Lebanon. I'll cut down its tallest cedars and its finest cypresses. I'll come to its most distant borders and its most fertile forests.

²⁴ I'll dig wells and drink foreign water. I'll dry up all the streams of Egypt with the trampling of my feet."

²⁵ "Havent you heard? I did this long ago. I planned it in the distant past. Now I make it happen so that you will turn fortified cities into piles of rubble.

²⁶ Those who live in these cities are weak, discouraged, and ashamed. They will be like plants in the field, like fresh, green grass on the roofs, scorched before it sprouted.

²⁷ I know when you get up and sit down, when you go out and come in, and how you rage against me.

²⁸ Since you rage against me and your boasting has reached my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bridle in your mouth. I will make you go back the way you came.

²⁹ "And this will be a sign for you, Hezekiah: You will eat what grows by itself this year and next year. But in the third year you will plant and harvest, plant vineyards, and eat what is produced.

³⁰ Those few people from the nation of Judah who escape will again take root and produce crops.

³¹ Those few people will go out from Jerusalem, and those who escape will go out of Mount Zion. The LORD is determined to do this.

³² "This is what the LORD says about the king of Assyria: He will never come into this city, shoot an arrow here, hold a shield in front of it, or put up dirt ramps to attack it.

³³He will go back the way he came, and he won't come into this city," declares the LORD of Armies.

³⁴"I will shield this city to rescue it for my sake and for the sake of my servant David."

³⁵It happened that night. The LORDS angel went out and killed 185,000 soldiers in the Assyrian camp. When the Judeans got up early in the morning, they saw all the corpses.

³⁶Then King Sennacherib of Assyria left. He went home to Nineveh and stayed there.

³⁷While he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, Adrammelech and Sharezer assassinated him and escaped to the land of Ararat. His son Esarhaddon succeeded him as king.

20¹In those days Hezekiah became sick and was about to die. The prophet Isaiah, son of Amoz, came to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Give final instructions to your household, because you're about to die. You won't get well."

²Hezekiah turned to the wall and prayed to the LORD,

³"Please, LORD, remember how I've lived faithfully and sincerely in your presence. I've done what you consider right." And he cried bitterly.

⁴Isaiah hadn't gone as far as the middle courtyard when the LORD spoke his word to him:

⁵"Go back and say to Hezekiah, leader of my people, This is what the LORD God of your ancestor David says: I've heard your prayer. I've seen your tears. Now I'm going to heal you. The day after tomorrow you will go to the LORDS temple.

⁶I'll give you 15 more years to live. I'll rescue you and defend this city from the control of the king of Assyria for my sake and for the sake of my servant David."

⁷Then Isaiah said, "Get a fig cake, and put it on the boil so that the king will get well."

⁸Hezekiah asked Isaiah, "What is the sign that the LORD will heal me and that I'll go to the LORDS temple the day after tomorrow?"

⁹Isaiah said, "This is your sign from the LORD that he will do what he promises.

Do you want the shadow to go forward ten steps or come back ten steps?"

¹⁰Hezekiah replied, "Its easy for the shadow to extend ten more steps forward. No, let it come back ten steps."

¹¹Then the prophet Isaiah called on the LORD, and the LORD made the shadow that had gone down on Ahazs stairway go back up ten steps.

¹²At that time Baladans son, King Merodach Baladan of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah because he heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

¹³Hezekiah was so happy with them that he showed the messengers his warehouse: the silver, gold, balsam, fine olive oil, his entire armory, and everything in his treasury. Hezekiah showed them everything in his palace and every corner of his kingdom.

¹⁴Then the prophet Isaiah came to King Hezekiah and asked, "What did these men say? And where did they come from?" Hezekiah answered, "They came to me from the distant country of Babylon."

¹⁵Isaiah asked, "What did they see in your palace?" Hezekiah answered, "They saw everything in my palace, and I showed them everything in my treasury."

¹⁶Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD!

¹⁷The LORD says, The days are going to come when everything in your palace, everything your ancestors have stored up to this day, will be taken away to Babylon. Nothing will be left.

¹⁸Some of your own descendants will be taken away. They will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon."

¹⁹Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The LORDS word that you have spoken is good." He added, "Isn't it enough if there is peace and security as long as I live?"

²⁰Isn't everything else about Hezekiah, all his heroic acts and how he made the pool and tunnel to bring water into the city, written in the official records of the kings of Judah?

²¹Hezekiah lay down in death with his ancestors. His son Manasseh succeeded him as king.

21 ¹Manasseh was 12 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 55 years in Jerusalem. His mothers name was Hephzibah.

²He did what the LORD considered evil by copying the disgusting things done by the nations that the LORD had forced out of the Israelites way.

³He rebuilt the illegal places of worship that his father Hezekiah had destroyed. He set up altars dedicated to Baal and made a pole dedicated to the goddess Asherah as King Ahab of Israel had done. Manasseh, like Ahab, worshiped and served the entire army of heaven.

⁴He built altars in the LORDS temple, where the LORD had said, "I will put my name in Jerusalem."

⁵In the two courtyards of the LORDS temple, he built altars for the entire army of heaven.

⁶He burned his son as a sacrifice, consulted fortunetellers, cast evil spells, and appointed royal mediums and psychics. He did many things that made the LORD furious.

⁷Manasseh had an idol of Asherah made. Then he set it up in the temple,

where the LORD had said to David and his son Solomon, "I have chosen this temple and Jerusalem from all the tribes of Israel. I will put my name here forever.

⁸I will never again make Israels feet wander from the land that I gave to their ancestors if they will obey all the commands and all the Teachings that my servant Moses gave them."

⁹(But they wouldnt obey.) Manasseh misled Israel so that they did more evil things than the nations that the LORD had destroyed when the Israelites arrived in the land.

¹⁰Then the LORD spoke through his servants the prophets:

¹¹"King Manasseh of Judah has done disgusting things, things more evil than what the Amorites who were here before him had done. Manasseh has also made Judah sin by worshiping his idols.

¹²So this is what I, the LORD God of Israel, said: Im going to bring such a disaster on Jerusalem and Judah that the ears of everyone who hears about it will ring.

¹³I will measure Jerusalem with the measuring line used for Samaria and the

plumb line used for Ahabs dynasty. I will wipe out Jerusalem in the same way that a dish is wiped out and turned upside down.

¹⁴I will abandon the rest of my people. I will put them under the control of their enemies, and they will become property that their enemies capture.

¹⁵I will do this because they have done what I consider evil and have been making me furious from the time their ancestors left Egypt until this day."

¹⁶In addition to his sin that he led Judah to commit in front of the LORD, Manasseh also killed a lot of innocent people from one end of Jerusalem to the other.

¹⁷Isn't everything else about Manasseh everything he did, the sins he committed written in the official records of the kings of Judah?

¹⁸Manasseh lay down in death with his ancestors. He was buried in the garden of his own palace, in the garden of Uzza. His son Amon succeeded him as king.

¹⁹Amon was 22 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 2 years in Jerusalem. His mother was

Meshullemeth, daughter of Haruz from Jotbah.

²⁰He did what the LORD considered evil, as his father Manasseh had done.

²¹He lived like his father in every way and worshiped and prayed to the idols his father had worshiped.

²²He abandoned the LORD God of his ancestors and didn't live the LORDS way.

²³Amons officials plotted against him and killed him in his palace.

²⁴Then the people of the land killed everyone who had plotted against King Amon. They made his son Josiah king in his place.

²⁵Isn't everything else about Amon the things he did written in the official record of the kings of Judah?

²⁶He was buried in his tomb in the garden of Uzza. His son Josiah succeeded him as king.

22¹ Josiah was 8 years old when he began to rule, and he was king for 31 years in Jerusalem. His mother was Jedidah, daughter of Adaiah from Bozkath.

² Josiah did what the LORD considered right. He lived in the ways of his ancestor David and never stopped.

³ In Josiah's eighteenth year as king of Judah, he sent the scribe Shaphan, son of Azaliah and grandson of Meshullam, to the LORDS temple with these instructions:

⁴ "Go to the chief priest Hilkiah. Have him count the money that has been brought into the LORDS temple, the money that the doorkeepers have collected from the people.

⁵ Give some of it to the foremen who are in charge of the LORDS temple. They should give it to the workmen who are making repairs on the LORDS temple.

⁶ (These workers include the carpenters, builders, and masons.) Also, use the rest of the money to buy lumber and quarried stones to repair the temple.

⁷ Since the workmen are honest, don't require them to account for the money you give them."

⁸ The chief priest Hilkiah told the scribe Shaphan, "I have found the Book of Moses Teachings in the LORDS temple."

Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, who then read it.

⁹The scribe Shaphan went to the king and reported, "We have taken the money donated in the temple and have given it to the workmen who are in charge of the LORDS temple."

¹⁰Then the scribe Shaphan told the king, "The priest Hilkiah has given me a book." And Shaphan read it to the king.

¹¹When the king heard what the book of the Teachings said, he tore his clothes in distress.

¹²Then the king gave an order to the priest Hilkiah, to Ahikam (son of Shaphan), Achbor (son of Micaiah), the scribe Shaphan, and the royal official Asaiah. He said,

¹³"On behalf of the people, all of Judah, and me, ask the LORD about the words in this book that has been found. The LORDS fierce anger is directed towards us because our ancestors did not obey the things in this book or do everything written in it."

¹⁴So the priest Hilkiah, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to talk to the prophet Huldah. She was the wife of

Shallum, son of Tikvah and grandson of Harhas. Shallum was in charge of the royal wardrobe. Huldah was living in the Second Part of Jerusalem.

¹⁵She told them, "This is what the LORD God of Israel says: Tell the man who sent you to me,

¹⁶This is what the LORD says: I'm going to bring disaster on this place and on the people living here according to everything written in the book that the king of Judah has read.

¹⁷I will do this because they have abandoned me and sacrificed to other gods in order to make me furious. Therefore, my burning anger directed at this place will never be extinguished."

¹⁸Huldah added, "But tell Judah's king who sent you to me to ask the LORD a question, This is what the LORD God of Israel says about the words you heard:

¹⁹You had a change of heart and humbled yourself in front of the LORD when you heard my words against this place and those who live here. I had said that those who live here will be destroyed and cursed. You also tore your clothes in distress and cried in front of

me. So I will listen to you, declares the LORD.

²⁰That is why I'm going to bring you to your ancestors. I'm going to bring you to your grave in peace, and your eyes will not see any of the disaster I'm going to bring on this place." So they reported this to the king.

23¹ Then the king sent for all the respected leaders of Judah and Jerusalem to join him.

²The king, everyone in Judah, everyone living in Jerusalem, the priests, the prophets, and all the people (young and old) went to the LORDS temple. Josiah read everything written in the Book of the Promise found in the LORDS temple so that they could hear it.

³The king stood beside the pillar and made a promise to the LORD that he would follow the LORD and obey his commands, instructions, and laws with all his heart and soul. He confirmed the terms of the promise written in this book. And all the people joined in the promise.

⁴Then the king ordered the chief priest Hilkiah, the priests who served under

Hilkiah, and the doorkeepers to take out of the LORDS temple all the utensils that had been made for Baal, Asherah, and the entire army of heaven. Josiah burned the utensils outside Jerusalem in an open field near the Kidron Brook. Then he carried their ashes to Bethel.

⁵He got rid of the pagan priests whom the kings of Judah had appointed to sacrifice at the illegal places of worship in the cities of Judah and all around Jerusalem. They had been sacrificing to Baal, the sun god, the moon god, the zodiac, and the entire army of heaven.

⁶He took the pole dedicated to the goddess Asherah from the temple to the Kidron Valley outside Jerusalem. He burned it in the Kidron Valley, ground it to dust, and threw its ashes on the tombs of the common people.

⁷He tore down the houses of the male temple prostitutes who were in the LORDS temple, where women did weaving for Asherah.

⁸He brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah from Geba to Beersheba and made the places where those priests sacrificed unclean. He tore down the

worship site at the entrance of the Gate of Joshua, the gate named after the mayor of the city. (The worship site was to the left of anyone going through the city gate.)

⁹The priests of the illegal worship sites had never gone to the LORDS altar in Jerusalem. Instead, they ate their unleavened bread among the other worshipers.

¹⁰Josiah also made Topheth in the valley of Ben Hinnom unclean so that people would never again sacrifice their sons or daughters by burning them to the god Molech.

¹¹He removed the horses that Judahs kings had dedicated to the sun god at the entrance of the LORDS temple. They were in the temple courtyard near the room of the eunuch Nathan Melech. He also burned the chariots of the sun god,

¹²the altars that Judahs kings had made and placed on the roof of Ahazs upstairs room, and the altars Manasseh had made in the two courtyards of the LORDS temple. The king tore them down from there, crushed them, and dumped their rubble in the Kidron Valley.

¹³The king made the illegal places of worship east of Jerusalem unclean. They were on the southern part of the Hill of Destruction. King Solomon of Israel had built them for Astarte (the disgusting goddess of the Sidonians), Chemosh (the disgusting god of Moab), and Milcom (the disgusting god of the Ammonites).

¹⁴Josiah crushed the sacred stones, cut down the poles dedicated to Asherah, and filled their places with human bones.

¹⁵He also tore down the altar at Bethel the place of worship made by Jeroboam (Nebats son), who had made Israel sin. He tore down both the altar and the place of worship. They burned the worship site, crushing it to powder and burning the pole dedicated to Asherah.

¹⁶When Josiah turned and saw the tombs on the hill there, he sent men to take the bones out of the tombs and burn them on the altar to make it unclean. This fulfilled the word of the LORD announced by the man of God.

¹⁷Then he asked, "What is this monument that I see?" The people of the city answered him, "Its the tomb of

the man of God who came from Judah to announce that you would do these things to the altar of Bethel."

¹⁸So Josiah said, "Let him rest. Don't disturb his bones." So they left his bones with the bones of the prophet who had come from Samaria.

¹⁹Josiah also got rid of all the temples at the illegal places of worship in the cities of Samaria. The kings of Israel had built these places to make the LORD furious. He did to them everything that he had done to the worship places at Bethel.

²⁰He slaughtered all the priests of the illegal worship sites on their altars and then burned human bones on them. He went back to Jerusalem.

²¹The king ordered all the people to celebrate the Passover for the LORD their God as it is written in this Book of the Promise.

²²The Passover had never been celebrated like this during the time of the judges who governed Israel or during the entire time of the kings of Israel and Judah.

²³ But in the eighteenth year of King Josiahs reign, this Passover was celebrated in Jerusalem for the LORD.

²⁴ Josiah also got rid of the mediums, psychics, family idols, other idols, and disgusting gods that could be seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem. He did this to confirm the words of the Teachings written in the book that the priest Hilkiah found in the LORDS temple.

²⁵ No king before Josiah had turned to the LORD with all his heart, soul, and strength, as directed in Moses Teachings. No other king was like Josiah.

²⁶ But the LORD still didnt turn his hot, burning anger from Judah. After all, Manasseh had done all these things to make him furious.

²⁷ The LORD had said, "I will put Judah out of my sight as I put Israel out of my sight. I will reject Jerusalem, the city that I chose, and I will reject the temple where I said my name would be."

²⁸ Isnt everything else about Josiaheverything he didwritten in the official records of the kings of Judah?

²⁹In Josiahs days Pharaoh Necho (the king of Egypt) came to help the king of Assyria at the Euphrates River. King Josiah went to attack Necho. When Pharaoh saw him at Megiddo, Pharaoh killed him.

³⁰His officers put his dead body in a chariot and brought it from Megiddo to Jerusalem. They buried Josiah in his tomb. Then the people of the land took Josiahs son Jehoahaz, anointed him, and made him king in place of his father.

³¹Jehoahaz was 23 years old when he became king, and he was king for 3 months in Jerusalem. His mother was Hamutal, daughter of Jeremiah from Libnah.

³²He did what the LORD considered evil, as his ancestors had done.

³³Pharaoh Necho made him a prisoner at Riblah in the territory of Hamath during his reign in Jerusalem and fined the country 7,500 pounds of silver and 75 pounds of gold.

³⁴Then Pharaoh Necho made Josiahs son Eliakim king in place of his father Josiah and changed Eliakims name to

Jehoiakim. He took Jehoahaz away to Egypt, where he died.

³⁵ Jehoiakim gave Pharaoh the silver and the gold. But he had to tax the country to pay the silver Pharaoh had demanded. He taxed each person according to his wealth so that he could get the silver and gold from the people of the land and give it to Pharaoh Necho.

³⁶ Jehoiakim was 25 years old when he began to rule, and he was king for 11 years in Jerusalem. His mother was Zebidah, daughter of Pedaiah from Rumah.

³⁷ Jehoiakim did what the LORD considered evil, as his ancestors had done.

24¹ During Jehoiakim's reign King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked Judah, and Jehoiakim became subject to him for three years. Then Jehoiakim turned against him and rebelled.

² The LORD sent raiding parties of Babylonians, Arameans, Moabites, and Ammonites against Jehoiakim to destroy Judah as the LORD had predicted through his servants the prophets.

³ Without a doubt, this happened to Judah because the LORD had commanded it to happen. He wanted to remove the people of Judah from his sight because of Manassehs sinseverything he had done,

⁴ including the innocent blood he had shed. He had a lot of innocent people in Jerusalem killed, and the LORD refused to forgive him.

⁵ Isnt everything else about Jehoiakimeverything he didwritten in the official records of the kings of Judah?

⁶ Jehoiakim lay down in death with his ancestors, and his son Jehoiakin succeeded him as king.

⁷ The king of Egypt didnt leave his own country again because the king of Babylon had taken all the territory from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates River. This territory had belonged to the king of Egypt.

⁸ Jehoiakin was 18 years old when he began to rule as king. He was king for three months in Jerusalem. His mother was Nehushta, daughter of Elnathan from Jerusalem.

⁹Jehoiakin did what the LORD considered evil, as his father had done.

¹⁰At that time the officers of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked Jerusalem. (The city was blockaded.)

¹¹King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon arrived while his officers were blockading the city.

¹²King Jehoiakin of Judah, his mother, officials, generals, and eunuchs surrendered to the king of Babylon. In the eighth year of his reign, the king of Babylon captured Jehoiakin.

¹³He also took away all the treasures in the LORDS temple and the royal palace. As the LORD had predicted, Nebuchadnezzar stripped the gold off all the furnishings that King Solomon of Israel had made for the LORDS temple.

¹⁴He captured all Jerusalem, all the generals, all the soldiers(10,000 prisoners), and all the craftsmen and smiths. Only the poorest people of the land were left.

¹⁵He took Jehoiakin to Babylon as a captive. He also took the kings mother, wives, eunuchs, and the leading citizens

of the land from Jerusalem as captives to Babylon.

¹⁶The king of Babylon brought all 7,000 of the prominent landowners, 1,000 craftsmen and smiths, and all the men who could fight in war as captives to Babylon.

¹⁷The king of Babylon made King Jehoiakins Uncle Mattaniah king in his place and changed Mattaniahs name to Zedekiah.

¹⁸Zedekiah was 21 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 11 years in Jerusalem. His mother was Hamutal, daughter of Jeremiah from Libnah.

¹⁹Zedekiah did what the LORD considered evil, as Jehoiakim had done.

²⁰The LORD became angry with Jerusalem and Judah and threw the people out of his sight. Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

25¹ On the tenth day of the tenth month of the ninth year of Zedekiahs reign, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked Jerusalem with his entire army. They set up camp and built dirt ramps around the city walls.

²The blockade of the city lasted until Zedekiahs eleventh year as king.

³On the ninth day of the fourth month, the famine in the city became so severe that the common people had no food.

⁴The enemy broke through the city walls that night. All Judahs soldiers left on the road of the gate between the two walls beside the kings garden. While the Babylonians were attacking the city from all sides, the king took the road to the plain of Jericho.

⁵The Babylonian army pursued King Zedekiah and caught up with him in the plain of Jericho. His entire army had deserted him.

⁶The Babylonians captured the king, brought him to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and passed sentence on him.

⁷They slaughtered Zedekiahs sons as he watched, and then they blinded Zedekiah. They put him in bronze shackles and took him to Babylon.

⁸On the seventh day of the fifth month of Nebuchadnezzars nineteenth year as king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan, who was the captain of the guard and an officer of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.

⁹He burned down the LORDS temple, the royal palace, and all the houses in Jerusalem. Every important building was burned down.

¹⁰The entire Babylonian army that was with the captain of the guard tore down the walls around Jerusalem.

¹¹Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, captured the few people left in the city, those who surrendered to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the population.

¹²The captain of the guard left some of the poorest people in the land to work in the vineyards and on the farms.

¹³The Babylonians broke apart the bronze pillars of the LORDS temple, the stands, and the bronze pool in the LORDS temple. They shipped the bronze to Babylon.

¹⁴They took the pots, shovels, snuffers, dishes, and all the bronze utensils used in the temple service.

¹⁵The captain of the guard took all of the incense burners and bowls that were made of gold or silver.

¹⁶The bronze from the two pillars, the pool, and the stands that Solomon had

made for the LORDS temple couldnt be weighed.

¹⁷ One pillar was 27 feet high and had a bronze capital on it that was 4 feet high. The filigree and the pomegranates around the capital were all made of bronze. The second pillar and its filigree were the same.

¹⁸ The captain of the guard took the chief priest Seraiah, the second priest Zephaniah, and the 3 doorkeepers.

¹⁹ From the city he also took an army commander, 5 men who had access to the king whom he found in the city, the scribe who was in charge of the militia, and 60 of the common people whom he found in the city.

²⁰ Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah.

²¹ The king of Babylon executed them at Riblah in the territory of Hamath. So the people of Judah were captives when they left their land.

²² King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon appointed Gedaliah, son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan, to govern the remaining people in the land of Judah.

²³When all the army commanders and their men heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah, they went to Gedaliah at Mizpah. They were Ishmael (son of Nethaniah), Johanan (son of Kareah), Seraiah (son of Tanhumeth from Netophah), and Jaazaniah from Beth Maacah and their men.

²⁴Gedaliah swore an oath to them and their men. He said, "Don't be afraid of the Babylonian officers. Live in this country, serve the king of Babylon, and you will prosper."

²⁵In the seventh month Ishmael (son of Nethaniah and grandson of Elishama, a descendant of the kings) went with ten men to kill Gedaliah and the Judeans and Babylonians who were with him at Mizpah.

²⁶Then people of all classes and the army commanders left for Egypt because they were afraid of the Babylonians.

²⁷On the twentyseventh day of the twelfth month of the thirtyseventh year of the imprisonment of King Jehoiakin of Judah, King Evil Merodach of Babylon, in the first year of his reign, freed King Jehoiakin of Judah from prison.

²⁸He treated him well and gave him a special position higher than the other kings who were with him in Babylon.

²⁹Jehoiakin no longer wore prison clothes, and he ate his meals in the king's presence as long as he lived.

³⁰The king of Babylon gave him a daily food allowance as long as he lived.

1 Chronicles

1 ¹Adam, Seth, Enosh,
²Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared,
³Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech,
⁴Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
⁵Japheths descendants were Gomer,
Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech,
and Tiras.

⁶Gomers descendants were Ashkenaz,
Riphath, and Togarmah.

⁷Javans descendants were the people
from Elishah, Tarshish, Cyprus, and
Rhodes.

⁸Hams descendants were Cush, Egypt,
Put, and Canaan.

⁹Cushs descendants were Seba,
Havilah, Sabta, Raama, and Sabteca.
Raamas descendants were Sheba and
Dedan.

¹⁰Cush was the father of Nimrod, the
first mighty warrior on the earth.

¹¹Egypt was the ancestor of the Ludites,
Anamites, Lehabites, Naphtuhites,

¹²Pathrusites, Casluhites (from whom the Philistines came), and the Caphtorites.

¹³Canaan was the father of Sidon his firstborn, then Heth,

¹⁴also the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites,

¹⁵the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites,

¹⁶the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites.

¹⁷The descendants of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, Aram, Uz, Hul, Gether, and Meshech.

¹⁸Arpachshad was the father of Shelah, and Shelah was the father of Eber.

¹⁹Two sons were born to Eber. The name of the one was Peleg [Division], because in his day the earth was divided. His brothers name was Joktan.

²⁰Joktan was the father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

²¹Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,

²²Ebal, Abimael, Sheba,

²³Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were sons of Joktan.

²⁴Shem, Arpachshad, Shelah,

²⁵Eber, Peleg, Reu,

²⁶Serug, Nahor, Terah,

²⁷ Abram (that is, Abraham).

²⁸ Abrahams sons were Isaac and Ishmael.

²⁹ This is their list of descendants: Ishmaels firstborn was Nebaioth, then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

³⁰ Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema,

³¹ Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. These were the sons of Ishmael.

³² Keturah, Abrahams concubine, gave birth to the following sons: Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. Jokshans sons were Sheba and Dedan.

³³ The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoah, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were descendants of Keturah.

³⁴ Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaacs sons were Esau and Israel.

³⁵ Esaus sons were Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.

³⁶ Eliphazs sons were Teman and Omar, Zephi and Gatam, Kenaz and Amalek, son of Timna.

³⁷ Reuels sons were Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.

³⁸Seirs sons were Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan.

³⁹Lotans sons were Hori and Homam. Timna was Lotans sister.

⁴⁰Shobals sons were Alian, Manahath, Ebal, Shephi, and Onam. Zibeons sons were Aiah and Anah.

⁴¹Anahs son was Dishon. Dishons sons were Hamran, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.

⁴²Ezers sons were Bilhan, Zaavan, and Jaakan. Dishans sons were Uz and Aran.

⁴³These were the kings who ruled Edom before any king ruled the people of Israel: Bela, son of Beor, and the name of his capital city was Dinhabah.

⁴⁴After Bela died, Jobab, son of Zerah from Bozrah, succeeded him as king.

⁴⁵After Jobab died, Husham from the land of the Temanites succeeded him as king.

⁴⁶After Husham died, Hadad, son of Bedad, who defeated the Midianites in the country of Moab, succeeded him as king, and the name of his capital city was Avith.

⁴⁷After Hadad died, Samlah from Masrekah succeeded him as king.

⁴⁸After Samlah died, Shaul from Rehoboth on the river succeeded him as king.

⁴⁹After Shaul died, Baal Hanan, son of Achbor, succeeded him as king.

⁵⁰After Baal Hanan died, Hadad succeeded him as king, and the name of his capital city was Pai. His wives name was Mehetabel, daughter of Matred and granddaughter of Mezahab.

⁵¹Then Hadad died. The tribal leaders of Edom were Timna, Aliah, Jetheth,

⁵²Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon,

⁵³Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar,

⁵⁴Magdiel, and Iram. These were the tribal leaders of Edom.

2¹These were Israels sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun,

²Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

³Judahs sons were Er, Onan, and Shelah. These three were born to him by Bathshua, a Canaanite woman. The LORD considered Er, Judahs firstborn, evil, so the LORD killed Er.

⁴Tamar, Judahs daughterinlaw, gave birth to Judahs sons Perez and Zerah. Judah had five sons in all.

⁵Perezs sons were Hezron and Hamul.

⁶Zerahs sons were Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol, and Dara five in all.

⁷Carmis son was Achar, who caused trouble for Israel by taking goods that were claimed by God.

⁸Ethans son was Azariah.

⁹The sons born to Hezron were Jerahmeel, Ram, and Chelubai.

¹⁰Ram was the father of Amminadab. Amminadab was the father of Nahshon, leader of Judahs people.

¹¹Nahshon was the father of Salma, and Salma was the father of Boaz.

¹²Boaz was the father of Obed, and Obed was the father of Jesse.

¹³Jesse was the father of Eliab (his firstborn), Abinadab (his second son), Shimea (his third son),

¹⁴Nethanel (his fourth son), Raddai (his fifth son),

¹⁵Ozem (his sixth son), and David (his seventh son).

¹⁶Their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail. Zeruiah's three sons were Abishai, Joab, and Asahel.

¹⁷Abigail was the mother of Amasa, whose father was Jether, a descendant of Ishmael.

¹⁸Hezron's son was Caleb. Caleb and his wife Azubah had a son named Jerioth. Her other sons were Jeshar, Shobab, and Ardon.

¹⁹After Azubah died, Caleb married Ephrath. She gave birth to Hur.

²⁰Hur was the father of Uri, and Uri was the father of Bezalel.

²¹Afterwards, Hezron slept with the daughter of Machir, the man who first settled Gilead. Hezron had married her when he was 60 years old. She gave birth to Segub.

²²Segub was the father of Jair, who had 23 towns in Gilead.

²³Geshur and Aram captured Havvoth Jair with Kenath and its villages (60 cities in all). All of these people were descendants of Machir, the man who first settled Gilead.

²⁴ After Hezron died in Caleb Ephrathah, Hezrons wife Abijah gave birth to Ashhur, who first settled Tekoa.

²⁵ Jerahmeel (the firstborn son of Hezron) fathered Ram (his firstborn), then Bunah, Oren, Ozem, and Ahijah.

²⁶ Jerahmeel had another wife. Her name was Atarah, and she was the mother of Onam.

²⁷ The sons of Ram (the firstborn son of Jerahmeel) were Maaz, Jamin, and Eker.

²⁸ Onams sons were Shammai and Jada. Shammais sons were Nadab and Abishur.

²⁹ The name of Abishurs wife was Abihail. She gave birth to Ahban and Molid.

³⁰ Nadabs sons were Seled and Appaim, but Seled died without children.

³¹ Appaims son was Ishi, and Ishis son was Sheshan, and Sheshans son was Ahlai.

³² The sons of Jada (Shammais brother) were Jether and Jonathan. Jether died without children.

³³ Jonathans sons were Peleth and Zaza. These were the descendants of Jerahmeel.

³⁴ Sheshan had no sons, but he had daughters. He had an Egyptian slave named Jarha.

³⁵ Sheshan let Jarha marry one of his daughters. She gave birth to Attai.

³⁶ Attai was the father of Nathan. Nathan was the father of Zabad.

³⁷ Zabad was the father of Ephlal. Ephlal was the father of Obed.

³⁸ Obed was the father of Jehu. Jehu was the father of Azariah.

³⁹ Azariah was the father of Helez. Helez was the father of Eleasah.

⁴⁰ Eleasah was the father of Sismai. Sismai was the father of Shallum.

⁴¹ Shallum was the father of Jekamiah. Jekamiah was the father of Elishama.

⁴² The descendants of Caleb (Jerahmeels brother) were his firstborn son Mesha, who first settled Ziph, and the sons of Mareshah, who first settled Hebron.

⁴³ Hebrons sons were Korah, Tappuah, Rekem, and Shema.

⁴⁴ Shema was the father of Raham, who first settled Jorkeam. Rekem was the father of Shammai.

⁴⁵ Shammais son was Maon, who first settled Beth Zur.

⁴⁶ Ephah, Calebs concubine, was the mother of Haran, Moza, and Gazez. Haran was the father of Gazez.

⁴⁷ Jahdais sons were Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah, and Shaaph.

⁴⁸ Maacah, Calebs concubine, was the mother of Sheber and Tirhanah.

⁴⁹ Also, she was the mother of Shaaph, who first settled Madmannah, and of Sheva, who first settled Machbenah and Gibeah. Calebs daughter was Achsah.

⁵⁰ These people were the descendants of Caleb. The sons of Hur, the firstborn son of Ephrath, were Shobal, who first settled Kiriath Jearim,

⁵¹ Salma, who first settled Bethlehem, and Hareph, who first settled Beth Gadar.

⁵² Shobal, who first settled Kiriath Jearim, had these descendants: Haroeh, half of the Manahathites,

⁵³ the families of Kiriath Jearim, the Ithrites, the Puthites, the Shumathites, and the Mishraitites. From these people came the Zorahites and Eshtaolites.

⁵⁴ The descendants of Salma, who first settled Bethlehem, were the

Netophathites, Atroth, who first settled Beth Joab, half of the Manahathites, the Zorites,

⁵⁵and the families of scribes who lived at Jabez. These families were the people of Tira, Shimea, and Sucah. These people are the Kenites who came from Hammath. They first settled Beth Rechab.

3¹ These were Davids sons who were born to him while he was in Hebron: His first son was Amnon, born to Ahinoam from Jezreel. The second was Daniel, born to Abigail from Carmel.

² The third was Absalom, born to Maacah (the daughter of King Talmai) from Geshur. The fourth was Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith.

³ The fifth was Shephatiah, born to Abital. The sixth was Ithream, born to Davids wife Eglah.

⁴ Six sons were born to him in Hebron, where he ruled for seven years and six months. He ruled for 33 years in Jerusalem.

⁵ These children were born to David in Jerusalem: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan,

and Solomon (the mother of these four was Ammiels daughter Bathshua) and

⁶Ibhar, Elishama, Eliphelet,

⁷Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia,

⁸Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet (nine by other wives).

⁹All of these were Davids sons. Besides these, there were the sons of the concubines. Tamar was their sister.

¹⁰Solomons son was Rehoboam. Rehoboams son was Abijah. Abijahs son was Asa. Asas son was Jehoshaphat.

¹¹Jehoshaphats son was Joram. Jorams son was Ahaziah. Ahaziahs son was Joash.

¹²Joashs son was Amaziah. Amaziahs son was Azariah. Azariahs son was Jotham.

¹³Jothams son was Ahaz. Ahazs son was Hezekiah. Hezekiahs son was Manasseh.

¹⁴Manassehs son was Amon. Amons son was Josiah.

¹⁵Josiahs firstborn son was Johanan, the second was Jehoiakim, the third was Zedekiah, and the fourth was Shallum.

¹⁶Jehoiakims son was Jeconiah, whose son was Zedekiah.

¹⁷ The descendants of the prisoner Jeconiah were his son Shealtiel,

¹⁸ then Malchiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama, and Nedabiah.

¹⁹ Pedaiahs sons were Zerubbabel and Shimei. Zerubbabels sons were Meshullam and Hananiah, and Shelomith was their sister.

²⁰ There were also five other sons: Hashubah, Ohel, Berechiah, Hasadiah, and Jushab Hesed.

²¹ Hananiahs sons were Pelatiah and Jeshaiah. Jeshaiahs son was Rephaiah. Rephaiahs son was Arnan. Arnans son was Obadiah. Obadiahs son was Shecaniah.

²² Shecaniahs son was Shemaiah. Shemaiahs six sons were Hattush, Igal, Bariah, Neariah, and Shaphat.

²³ Neariahs three sons were Elioenai, Hizkiah, and Azrikam.

²⁴ Elioenais seven sons were Hodaviah, Eliashib, Pelaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah, and Anani.

4¹ Judahs descendants were Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hur, and Shobal.

² Reaiah, son of Shobal, was the father of Jahath. Jahath was the father of

Ahumai and Lahad. These were the families of the Zorathites.

³These were the first settlers in Etam: Jezreel, Ishma, and Idbash. Their sisters name was Hazelelponi.

⁴Penuel was the father of Gedor, and Ezer was the father of Hushah. These were the sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah, who first settled Bethlehem.

⁵Ashhur, who first settled Tekoa, had two wives, Helah and Naarah.

⁶Naarah gave birth to Ahuzzam, Hephher, Temeni, and Haahashtari. These were Naarahs sons.

⁷Helahs sons were Zereth, Izohar, and Ethnan.

⁸Koz was the father of Anub and Zobebah, and he was the ancestor of the families of Aharhel, son of Harum.

⁹Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez [Painful], because she said that his birth was painful.

¹⁰Jabez prayed to the God of Israel, "Please bless me and give me more territory. May your power be with me and free me from evil so that I will not be

in pain." God gave him what he prayed for.

¹¹Chelub, Shuhahs brother, was the father of Mehir, who was the father of Eshton.

¹²Eshton was the first to settle Beth Rapha. He was the father of Paseah and Tehinnah, who first settled the city of Nahash. These were the men from Recah.

¹³Kenazs sons were Othniel and Seraiah. The sons of Othniel were Hathath and Meonothai.

¹⁴Meonothai was the father of Ophrah. Seraiah was the father of Joab, who first settled the valley of Craftsmen. (It was named this because they were craftsmen.)

¹⁵The sons of Caleb, son of Jephunneh, were Iru, Elah, and Naam. Elahs son was Kenaz.

¹⁶Jehallelels sons were Ziph, Ziphah, Tiria, and Asarel.

¹⁷Ezrahs sons were Jether, Mered, Ephraim, and Jalon. His wife gave birth to Miriam, Shammai, and Ishbah, who first settled Eshtemoa.

¹⁸His Judean wife was the mother of Jered, who first settled Gedor, Heber, who first settled Soco, and Jekuthiel, who first settled Zanoah.

¹⁹The sons of Hodiahs wife, the sister of Naham, first settled Keilah of the Garmites and Eshtemoa of the Maacathites.

²⁰Shimons sons were Amnon, Rinnah, Ben Hanan, and Tilon. Ishis sons were Zoheth and Ben Zoheth.

²¹The descendants of Shelah, son of Judah, were Er, who first settled Lecah, Laadah, who first settled Mareshah, families of the guild of linen workers at Beth Ashbea,

²²Jokim, Joash, Saraph, and the men of Cozeba. Saraph ruled Moab and Jashubi Lehem (according to ancient records).

²³They were the potters who lived at Netaim and Gederah. They lived there with the king and did his work.

²⁴Simeons sons were Nemuel, Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, and Shaul.

²⁵Shauls son was Shallum. Shallums son was Mibsam. Mibsams son was Mishma.

²⁶ Mishmas son was Hammuel.
Hammuels son was Zaccur. Zaccurs son was Shimei.

²⁷ Shimei had 16 sons and 6 daughters. But his brothers didnt have many children, so their entire family didnt become as large as the people of Judah.

²⁸ Simeons descendants lived in Beersheba, Moladah, Hazar Shual,

²⁹ Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad,

³⁰ Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag,

³¹ Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susim, Beth Biri, and Shaaraim. These were their cities until David became king.

³² Their five cities were Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Tochen, and Ashan.

³³ They also had all the villages around these cities as far as the city of Baal. These places were where they lived, and they had their own genealogical records:

³⁴ Meshobab, Jamlech, Joshah (son of Amaziah),

³⁵ Joel, Jehu (son of Joshibiah, grandson of Seraiah, and greatgrandson of Asiel),

³⁶ Elioenai, Jaakobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adiel, Jesimiel, Benaiah, and

³⁷ Ziza (son of Shiphi, grandson of Allon, greatgrandson of Jedaiah, a descendant of Shimri and Shemaiah).

³⁸ These who are mentioned by name were leaders in their families, and the number of people in their households increased.

³⁹ They moved to the outskirts of Gedor, on the east side of the valley, to find pasture for their flocks.

⁴⁰ They found pasture that was rich and good. The land was vast, peaceful, and quiet because the Hamites used to live there.

⁴¹ In the days of King Hezekiah of Judah, the men listed here knocked down tents and killed the Meunites. They claimed the Meunites for God and destroyed them. (Even today no Meunites live there.) They lived in that land in place of the Meunites in order to have pasture for their flocks.

⁴² Ishis sons Pelatiah, Neariah, Rephaiah, and Uzziel led 500 of Simeons male descendants to Mount Seir.

⁴³ They killed the Amalekites who were left. Simeons descendants still live there today.

5¹ These are the sons of Reuben, Israels firstborn. (Although he was the firstborn, his rights as firstborn were given to his nephews, Josephs sons, because he dishonored his fathers bed. However, Joseph couldnt be listed in the genealogy as the firstborn son.

² Even though Judah was more prominent than his brothers and the prince was to come from him, Joseph received the rights as firstborn.)

³ The sons of Reuben, Israels firstborn, were Hanoah, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

⁴ Joels son was Shemaiah. Shemaiahs son was Gog. Gogs son was Shimei.

⁵ Shimeis son was Micah. Micahs son was Reaiah. Reaiahs son was Baal.

⁶ Baals son was Beerah. King Tiglath Pilneser of Assyria took him away as a captive. He was leader of the tribe of Reuben.

⁷ Beerahs brothers according to their families, when they were enrolled in the genealogical records according to their ancestry, were as follows: The first was Jeiel, then Zechariah

⁸ and Bela (son of Azaz, grandson of Shema, and greatgrandson of Joel).

Reubens descendants lived in Aroer as far as Nebo and Baal Meon.

⁹Some of them lived eastward as far as the edge of the desert that extends to the Euphrates River, because they had so much livestock in Gilead.

¹⁰In Sauls day they fought a war against the Hagrites, defeated them, and lived in their tents throughout the entire region east of Gilead.

¹¹Gads descendants lived next to Reubens descendants in Bashan as far east as Salcah.

¹²One family descended from Gads first son Joel. Another family descended from Gads second son Shapham. Other families descended from Gads sons Janai and Shaphat in Bashan.

¹³Their seven relatives by families were Michael, Meshullam, Sheba, Jorai, Jacan, Zia, and Eber.

¹⁴These were the sons of Abihail, who was the son of Huri, grandson of Jaroah, and greatgrandson of Gilead. Gilead was the son of Michael, grandson of Jeshishai, greatgrandson of Jahdo, and greatgreatgrandson of Buz.

¹⁵Ahi, son of Abdiel and grandson of Guni, was the head of their families.

¹⁶They lived in Gilead, in Bashan and its villages, and in the entire pastureland of Sharon to its extreme edges.

¹⁷All these people were recorded in genealogical records in the days of King Jotham of Judah and King Jeroboam of Israel.

¹⁸The descendants of Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh had 44,760 soldiers ready to go to war. They were skilled fighters who could carry shields and swords and shoot arrows.

¹⁹They went to war against Hagars descendants (including Jetur, Naphish, and Nodab)

²⁰and received help while fighting them. Hagars descendants and the nations with them were handed over to Reubens descendants. They had called out to God during the battle, and he answered their prayers because they trusted him.

²¹They confiscated the Hagrites livestock: 50,000 of their camels, 250,000 sheep and goats, and 2,000 donkeys. They captured 100,000 people.

²² Many were killed in battle because this was Gods war. Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh lived in the Hagrites land until the Assyrians captured them.

²³ Half of the tribe of Manasseh lived in the land from Bashan to Baal Hermon, Senir, and Mount Hermon. The tribe members were numerous.

²⁴ These were the heads of Manassehs families: Ephraim, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah, and Jahdiel. They were soldiers who were famous heads of their families.

²⁵ But Gad, Reuben, and half of the tribe of Manasseh were unfaithful to the God of their ancestors. They chased after the gods of the people of the land as if they were prostitutes. God had destroyed these people as the Israelites arrived.

²⁶ Then the God of Israel led King Pul of Assyria (King Tiglath Pilneser of Assyria) to take Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh into captivity. He brought them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the Gozan River. They are still there today.

6¹ Levis sons were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

² Kohaths sons were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

³ Amrams children were Aaron, Moses, and Miriam. Aarons sons were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

⁴ Eleazar was the father of Phinehas. Phinehas was the father of Abishua.

⁵ Abishua was the father of Bukki. Bukki was the father of Uzzi.

⁶ Uzzi was the father of Zerariah. Zerariah was the father of Meraioth.

⁷ Meraioth was the father of Amariah. Amariah was the father of Ahitub.

⁸ Ahitub was the father of Zadok. Zadok was the father of Ahimaaz.

⁹ Ahimaaz was the father of Azariah. Azariah was the father of Johanan.

¹⁰ Johanan was the father of Azariah. (He was the one who served as priest in the temple Solomon built in Jerusalem.)

¹¹ Azariah was the father of Amariah. Amariah was the father of Ahitub.

¹² Ahitub was the father of Zadok. Zadok was the father of Shallum.

¹³ Shallum was the father of Hilkiah. Hilkiah was the father of Azariah.

¹⁴ Azariah was the father of Seraiah. Seraiah was the father of Jehozadak.

¹⁵ Jehozadak was taken captive when the LORD used Nebuchadnezzar to take Judah and Jerusalem away into captivity.

¹⁶ Levis sons were Gershom, Kohath, and Merari.

¹⁷ These are the names of Gershoms sons: Libni and Shimei.

¹⁸ Kohaths sons were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

¹⁹ Meraris sons were Mahli and Mushi. These are the descendants of Levis sons. They are grouped by families:

²⁰ Gershoms son was Libni. Libnis son was Jahath. Jahaths son was Zimmah.

²¹ Zimmahs son was Joah. Joahs son was Iddo. Iddos son was Zerah. Zerahs son was Jeatherai.

²² These were Kohaths descendants: Kohaths son was Amminadab. Amminadabs son was Korah. Korahs son was Assir.

²³ Assirs son was Elkanah. Elkanahs son was Ebiasaph. Ebiasaphs son was Assir.

²⁴ Assirs son was Tahath. Tahaths son was Uriel. Uriels son was Uzziah. Uzziahs son was Shaul.

²⁵Elkanahs sons were Amasai and Ahimoth.

²⁶Ahimoths son was Elkanah. Elkanahs son was Zophai. Zophais son was Nahath.

²⁷Nahaths son was Eliab. Eliabs son was Jeroham. Jerohams son was Elkanah.

²⁸Samuels sons were Joel, who was his firstborn, and Abijah, who was his second son.

²⁹These were Meraris descendants: Meraris son was Mahli. Mahlis son was Libni. Libnis son was Shimei. Shimeis son was Uzzah.

³⁰Uzzahs son was Shimea. Shimeas son was Haggiah. Haggiahs son was Asaiah.

³¹David put men in charge of the music in the LORDS temple after the ark was placed there permanently.

³²They served as musicians in the courtyard in front of the tent of meeting until Solomon built the LORDS temple in Jerusalem. They performed their duties according to the regulations set down for them.

³³These are the men who served (their descendants also served): The musician Heman was from Kohaths family line.

Heman was the son of Joel, who was the son of Samuel,

³⁴ who was the son of Elkanah, who was the son of Jeroham, who was the son of Eliel, who was the son of Toah,

³⁵ who was the son of Zuph, who was the son of Elkanah, who was the son of Mahath, who was the son of Amasai,

³⁶ who was the son of Elkanah, who was the son of Joel, who was the son of Azariah, who was the son of Zephaniah,

³⁷ who was the son of Tahath, who was the son of Assir, who was the son of Ebiasaph, who was the son of Korah,

³⁸ who was the son of Izhar, who was the son of Kohath, who was the son of Levi, who was the son of Israel.

³⁹ Hemans relative Asaph stood on his right. He was the son of Berechiah, who was the son of Shimea,

⁴⁰ who was the son of Michael, who was the son of Baaseiah, who was the son of Malchiah,

⁴¹ who was the son of Ethni, who was the son of Zerah, who was the son of Adaiah,

⁴²who was the son of Ethan, who was the son of Zimmah, who was the son of Shimei,

⁴³who was the son of Jahath, who was the son of Gershom, who was the son of Levi.

⁴⁴On the left was Ethan, one of Hemans relatives descended from Merari. Ethan was the son of Kishi, who was the son of Abdi, who was the son of Malluch,

⁴⁵who was the son of Hashabiah, who was the son of Amaziah, who was the son of Hilkiah,

⁴⁶who was the son of Amzi, who was the son of Bani, who was the son of Shemer,

⁴⁷who was the son of Mahli, who was the son of Mushi, who was the son of Merari, who was the son of Levi.

⁴⁸Their relatives, the Levites, were assigned all the other duties in the tent, the house of God.

⁴⁹Aaron and his descendants offered sacrifices on the altar for burnt offerings and on the altar for incense. They did all the work in the most holy place and removed Israel's sins to make Israel

acceptable to God. They did exactly what Gods servant Moses had commanded.

⁵⁰These were Aarons descendants:
His son was Eleazar. Eleazars son was Phinehas. Phinehas son was Abishua.

⁵¹Abishuas son was Bukki. Bukkis son was Uzzi. Uzzis son was Zerahiah.

⁵²Zerahiahs son was Meraioth.
Meraioths son was Amariah. Amariahs son was Ahitub.

⁵³Ahitubs son was Zadok. Zadoks son was Ahimaaz.

⁵⁴These are the places where Levis descendants lived, the places where they settled in the territory chosen for them when lots were drawn: The first lot was drawn for the descendants of Aaron from the family descended from Kohath.

⁵⁵They were given Hebron in the territory of Judah as well as the pastureland around it,

⁵⁶but the fields belonging to the city and its villages were given to Caleb, son of Jephunneh.

⁵⁷Aarons descendants were given Hebron as a city of refuge, Libnah with its pastureland, Jattir, Eshtemoa with its pastureland,

⁵⁸ Hilan with its pastureland, Debir with its pastureland,

⁵⁹ Ashan with its pastureland, and Beth Shemesh with its pastureland.

⁶⁰ From the tribe of Benjamin, Aarons descendants received Geba with its pastureland, Alemeth with its pastureland, and Anathoth with its pastureland. There was a total of 13 cities for their families.

⁶¹ The rest of Kohath's descendants received 10 cities chosen by lot from the families of half of the tribe of Manasseh.

⁶² The families of Gershon's descendants were given 13 cities chosen by lot from the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and the part of the tribe of Manasseh that lived in Bashan.

⁶³ The families of Merari's descendants were given 12 cities chosen by lot from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun.

⁶⁴ So the Israelites gave the Levites the cities with their pasturelands.

⁶⁵ They gave them the cities chosen by lot and mentioned here by name from the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin.

⁶⁶Some of the families of Kohaths descendants had cities chosen by lot from the tribe of Ephraim.

⁶⁷They were given these cities of refuge: Shechem with its pastureland in the hills of Ephraim, Gezer with its pastureland,

⁶⁸Jokmeam with its pastureland, Beth Horon with its pastureland,

⁶⁹Aijalon with its pastureland, and Gath Rimmon with its pastureland.

⁷⁰From half of the tribe of Manasseh, they were given Aner with its pastureland and Bileam with its pastureland for the families of the rest of Kohaths descendants.

⁷¹Gershoms descendants received Golan in Bashan with its pastureland and Ashtaroth with its pastureland from the families of half of the tribe of Manasseh.

⁷²From the tribe of Issachar, they received Kedesh with its pastureland, Daberath with its pastureland,

⁷³Ramoth with its pastureland, and Anem with its pastureland.

⁷⁴From the tribe of Asher, they received Mashal with its pastureland, Abdon with its pastureland,

⁷⁵ Hukok with its pastureland, and Rehob with its pastureland.

⁷⁶ From the tribe of Naphtali, they received Kedesh in Galilee with its pastureland, Hammon with its pastureland, and Kiriathaim with its pastureland.

⁷⁷ The rest of Meraris descendants received Rimmono with its pastureland and Tabor with its pastureland from the tribe of Zebulun.

⁷⁸ From the tribe of Reuben, Meraris descendants received land east of the Jordan River and across from Jericho: Bezer in the wilderness with its pastureland, Jahzah with its pastureland,

⁷⁹ Kedemoth with its pastureland and Mephaath with its pastureland.

⁸⁰ From the tribe of Gad, they received Ramoth in Gilead with its pastureland, Mahanaim with its pastureland,

⁸¹ Heshbon with its pastureland, and Jazer with its pastureland.

7 ¹ Issachars four sons were Tola, Puah, Jashub, and Shimron.

² Tolas sons were Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Ibsam, and Shemuel. These men were heads of the families of Tola.

They were soldiers grouped according to their ancestry. In Davids day there were 22,600 of them.

³The five descendants of Uzzi were Izrahiah and Izrahiahs sons Michael, Obadiah, Joel, and Isshiah. All of them were heads of families.

⁴They had many wives and children. So in addition to these men grouped according to their ancestry and families, there were 36,000 soldiers.

⁵Their relatives (that is, all of Issachars families) were fighting men. A total of 87,000 of them was recorded in the genealogy.

⁶Benjamin had three sons: Bela, Becher, and Jediael.

⁷Belas five sons were Ezbon, Uzzi, Uzziel, Jerimoth, and Iri. They were heads of families and fighting men. In the genealogy 22,034 of them were recorded.

⁸Bechers sons were Zemirah, Joash, Eliezer, Elioenai, Omri, Jeremoth, Abijah, Anathoth, and Alemeth. These were all of Bechers sons.

⁹In the genealogy 22,200 of them were recorded according to their ancestry

(the heads of their families and fighting men).

¹⁰Jediaels son was Bilhan. Bilhans sons were Jeush, Benjamin, Ehud, Chenaanah, Zethan, Tarshish, and Ahishahar.

¹¹All of these men were Jediaels descendants. They headed families that produced 17,200 fighting men who could go to war.

¹²The Shuppites and Huppites were Irs descendants. The Hushites were descendants of someone else.

¹³Naphtalis sons were Jahziel, Guni, Jezer, and Shallum. They were Bilhahs grandsons.

¹⁴Manassehs sons were Asriel and Machir. Their mother was Manassehs Aramean concubine. Machir was the first to settle Gilead.

¹⁵He married a wife from the Huppites and Shuppites. His wifes name was Maacah. The name of his second son was Zelophehad. Zelophehad had only daughters.

¹⁶Maacah, Machirs wife, had a son, and she named him Peresh. His brothers

name was Sheresh, whose sons were Ulam and Rakem.

¹⁷Ulams son was Bedan. These were the people of Gilead, descendants of Machir (son of Manasseh).

¹⁸Bedans sister Hammolecheth gave birth to Ishhod, Abiezer, and Mahlah.

¹⁹Shemidas sons were Ahian, Shechem, Likhi, and Aniam.

²⁰Ephraims son was Shuthelah. Shuthelahs son was Bered. Bereds son was Tahath. Tahaths son was Eleadah. Eleadahs son was Tahath.

²¹Tahaths son was Zabad. Zabads son was Shuthelah. Ephraims sons Ezer and Elead were killed by the men of Gath when they came to take their livestock.

²²Their father Ephraim mourned a long time, even though his brothers tried to comfort him.

²³Then he slept with his wife, and she became pregnant. She gave birth to a son, and Ephraim named him Beriah [Tragedy], because tragedy had come to his home.

²⁴Beriahs daughter was Sheerah, who built Upper and Lower Beth Horon and Uzen Sheerah.

²⁵Beriahs son was Rephah. Rephahs son was Resheph. Reshephs son was Telah. Telahs son was Tahan.

²⁶Tahans son was Ladan. Ladans son was Ammihud. Ammihuds son was Elishama.

²⁷Elishamas son was Nun. Nuns son was Joshua.

²⁸The land and homes of Ephraims descendants were in Bethel and its villages, Naaran to the east, Gezer with its villages to the west, Shechem and its villages, and as far as Gaza and its villages.

²⁹Next to Manasseh were Beth Shean and its villages, Taanach and its villages, Megiddo and its villages, and Dor and its villages. The descendants of Joseph, son of Israel, live in these cities.

³⁰Ashers sons were Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, and Beriah. Their sister was Serah.

³¹Beriahs sons were Heber and Malchiel, who first settled Birzaith.

³²Heber was the father of Japhlet, Shomer, Hotham, and their sister Shua.

³³Japhlets sons were Pasach, Bimhal, and Ashvath. These were Japhlets sons.

³⁴ The sons of his brother Shomer were Rohgah, Jehubbah, and Aram.

³⁵ His brother Helems sons were Zophah, Imna, Shelesh, and Amal.

³⁶ Zophahs sons were Suah, Harnepher, Shual, Beri, Imrah,

³⁷ Bezer, Hod, Shamma, Shilsha, Ithran, and Beera.

³⁸ Jethers sons were Jephunneh, Pispah, and Ara.

³⁹ Ullas sons were Arah, Hanniel, and Rizia.

⁴⁰ All of these men were Ashers descendants, heads of their families, outstanding men, soldiers, and distinguished leaders. Their military roster had 26,000 recorded in it.

8¹ Benjamin was the father of Bela (his firstborn), Ashbel (his second son), Aharah (his third son),

² Nohah (his fourth son), and Rapha (his fifth son).

³ Belas sons were Addar, Gera, Abihud,

⁴ Abishua, Naaman, Ahoah,

⁵ Gera, Shephuphan, and Hiram.

⁶ These were Ehuds sons, who were heads of the families living in Geba and

who were taken away as captives to Manahath:

⁷Naaman, Ahijah, and Gera. Gera led the rest of them away as captives. He was the father of Uzza and Ahihud.

⁸Shaharaim divorced his wives Hushim and Baara. But later in Moab,

⁹he and his wife Hodesh had the following sons: Jobab, Zibia, Mesha, Malcam,

¹⁰Jeuz, Sachia, and Mirmah. All of Shaharaim's sons became heads of families.

¹¹He and Hushim were the parents of Abitub and Elpaal.

¹²Elpaal's sons were Eber, Misham, and Shemed (who built Ono, Lod, and Lods villages).

¹³Beriah and Shema were the heads of the families who lived in Aijalon. They forced out the people living in Gath.

¹⁴Their brothers were Shashak and Jeremoth.

¹⁵Beriah's sons were Zebadiah, Arad, Eder,

¹⁶Michael, Ishpah, and Joha.

¹⁷Elpaal's sons were Zebadiah, Meshullam, Hizki, Heber,

¹⁸ Ishmerai, Izliah, and Jobab.

¹⁹ Shimeis sons were Jakim, Zichri, Zabdi,

²⁰ Elienai, Zillethai, Eliel,

²¹ Adaiah, Beraiah, and Shimrath.

²² Shashaks sons were Ishpan, Eber, Eliel,

²³ Abdon, Zichri, Hanan,

²⁴ Hananiah, Elam, Anthothijah,

²⁵ Iphdeiah, and Penuel.

²⁶ Jerohams sons were Shamsheraï, Shehariah, Athaliah,

²⁷ Jareshiah, Elijah, and Zichri.

²⁸ These were the heads of families listed by their ancestry. They were the heads of families. They lived in Jerusalem.

²⁹ Jeiel, who first settled Gibeon, lived in Gibeon, and his wives name was Maacah.

³⁰ His firstborn son was Abdon, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Nadab,

³¹ Gedor, Ahio, Zecher,

³² and Mikloth, who was the father of Shimeah. They lived next to their relatives in Jerusalem.

³³ Ner was the father of Kish. Kish was the father of Saul. Saul was the father

of Jonathan, Malchishua, Abinadab, and Eshbaal.

³⁴Jonathans son was Meribbaal, and Meribbaal was the father of Micah.

³⁵Micahs sons were Pithon, Melech, Tarea, and Ahaz.

³⁶Ahaz was the father of Jehoaddah. Jehoaddah was the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri. Zimri was the father of Moza.

³⁷Moza was the father of Binea. Bineas son was Raphah. Raphahs son was Eleasah. Eleasahs son was Azel.

³⁸Azel had six sons. Their names were Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. All of these men were Azels sons.

³⁹His brother Esheks sons were Ulam (the firstborn), Jeush (the second son), and Eliphelet (the third son).

⁴⁰Ulams sons were soldiers, skilled archers. They had many sons and grandsons, 150 in all. All of these men were Benjamins descendants.

9¹All Israel was recorded in the genealogies in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. The Israelites were

taken away to Babylon as captives because they had sinned.

²The first to settle again on their property in their own cities were some Israelites, the priests, the Levites, and the temple servants.

³Jerusalem was settled by descendants of Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh:

⁴From the descendants of Perez, son of Judah, was Uthai, who was the son of Ammihud, grandson of Omri, and greatgrandson of Imri. (Imri's father was Bani.)

⁵From the descendants of Shilah were Asaiah (the firstborn) and his sons.

⁶And from the descendants of Zerah were Jeuel and their relatives, 690 in all.

⁷From the descendants of Benjamin were Sallu (son of Meshullam, grandson of Hodaviah, and greatgrandson of Hassenuah),

⁸Ibneiah (son of Jeroham), Elah (son of Uzzi and grandson of Michri), and Meshullam (son of Shephatiah, grandson of Reuel, and greatgrandson of Ibneiah),

⁹and their relatives according to their ancestry. All of these men were heads

of their families. A total of 956 of them lived in Jerusalem.

¹⁰From the priests were Jedaiah, Jehoiarib, Jachin,

¹¹and Azariah. Azariah was the son of Hilkiah, grandson of Meshullam, and greatgrandson of Zadok. Zadoks father was Meraioth, the son of Ahitub (the official in charge of Gods temple).

¹²Also from the priests were Adaiah (son of Jeroham, grandson of Pashhur, and greatgrandson of Malchiah) and Maasai (son of Adiel, grandson of Jahzerah, and greatgrandson of Meshullam, whose father was Meshillemith, son of Immer).

¹³Their relatives who were heads of their families totaled 1,760 soldiers. They served in Gods temple and settled in Jerusalem.

¹⁴From the Levites descended from Merari were Shemaiah (son of Hasshub, grandson of Azrikam, and greatgrandson of Hashabiah),

¹⁵Bakbakkar, Heresh, Galal, Mattaniah (son of Mica, grandson of Zichri, and greatgrandson of Asaph),

¹⁶Obadiah (son of Shemaiah, grandson of Galal, and greatgrandson of Jeduthun), and Berechiah (son of Asa and grandson of Elkanah, who lived in the villages belonging to the Netophathites).

¹⁷The gatekeepers were Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman, and their relatives. (Shallum was in charge.)

¹⁸Formerly, they were stationed at the kings gate on the east side. They were the gatekeepers for the Levite quarters.

¹⁹Shallum (son of Kore, grandson of Ebiasaph, greatgrandson of Korah) and the members of his family (Korahs descendants) were responsible for serving as watchmen at the entrances to the tent, as their ancestors had been in charge of guarding the entrances to the LORDS camp.

²⁰(Phinehas, Eleazars son, had been the official in charge of the gatekeepers, and the LORD was with him.)

²¹Zechariah, son of Meshelemiah, was the keeper at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

²²The men chosen to be gatekeepers at the entrances totaled 212. Their

genealogies were recorded in their villages. David and the seer Samuel appointed them to these positions because they were trustworthy.

²³ So they and their descendants were assigned to be gatekeepers for the LORDS house, that is, the tent.

²⁴ The gatekeepers were on the four sides (east, west, north, and south).

²⁵ Their relatives had to come from their villages from time to time. They would come to serve under the gatekeepers supervision for a period of seven days.

²⁶ The four chief Levite gatekeepers were in charge of the rooms and treasures in Gods temple because of their faithfulness.

²⁷ They would spend the night stationed around Gods temple because they had to guard it and open it every morning.

²⁸ Some of them were in charge of the utensils for worship. They would count them when they brought them in and when they took them out.

²⁹ Other descendants of Korah were placed in charge of the utensils, the holy utensils, the flour, wine, olive oil, incense, and spices.

³⁰ Some of the priests sons prepared the mixture of spices.

³¹ Mattithiah, a Levite, the firstborn son of Shallum, Korahs descendant, was entrusted with preparing the flat bread.

³² Some of their Kohathite relatives were responsible for setting the bread out in rows every day of worship.

³³ These were the musicians who were the heads of the Levite families. They lived in rooms in the temple and were free from other duties because they were on duty day and night.

³⁴ They were the heads of the Levite families according to their ancestry. These head Levites lived in Jerusalem.

³⁵ Jeiel, who first settled Gibeon, lived in Gibeon, and his wifes name was Maacah.

³⁶ His firstborn son was Abdon, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Nadab,

³⁷ Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah, and Mikloth.

³⁸ Mikloth was the father of Shimeam. They lived next to their relatives in Jerusalem.

³⁹ Ner was the father of Kish. Kish was the father of Saul. Saul was the father of Jonathan, Malchishua, Abinadab, and Eshbaal.

⁴⁰Jonathans son was Meribbaal, and Meribbaal was the father of Micah.

⁴¹Micahs sons were Pithon, Melech, and Tarea.

⁴²Ahaz was the father of Jarah. Jarah was the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri. Zimri was the father of Moza.

⁴³Moza was the father of Binea. Bineas son was Rephaiah. Rephaiahs son was Eleasah. Eleasahs son was Azel.

⁴⁴Azel had six sons. Their names were Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. All of these men were Azels sons.

10¹When the Philistines fought against Israel, the men of Israel fled from the Philistines and were killed in battle on Mount Gilboa.

²The Philistines caught up to Saul and his sons. They killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Sauls sons.

³The heaviest fighting was against Saul. When the archers got him in their range, he was wounded by them.

⁴Saul told his armorbearer, "Draw your sword! Stab me, or these godless men will come and make fun of me." But his armorbearer refused because he was

terrified. So Saul took the sword and fell on it.

⁵When the armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on the sword and died.

⁶So Saul, his three sons, and his dynasty died together.

⁷When all the people of Israel in the valley saw that their army had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities. So the Philistines came to live in these cities.

⁸The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the dead, they found Saul and his sons lying on Mount Gilboa.

⁹They stripped him and took his head and his armor. Then they sent men throughout Philistine territory to tell their idols and the people this good news.

¹⁰They put his armor in the temple of their gods and fastened his head to the temple of Dagon.

¹¹When all the people of Jabesh Gilead heard about everything the Philistines had done to Saul,

¹²all the fighting men came and took away the dead bodies of Saul and his sons and brought them to Jabesh. They

buried the bones under the oak tree in Jabesh. Then they fasted seven days.

¹³ So Saul died because of his unfaithfulness to the LORD: He did not obey the word of the LORD. He asked a medium to request information from a dead person.

¹⁴ He didnt request information from the LORD. So the LORD killed him and turned the kingship over to David, Jesses son.

11 ¹ All Israel gathered around David at Hebron. "We are your own flesh and blood," they said.

² "Even in the past when Saul ruled, you were the one who led Israel on its campaigns to war. The LORD your God has said to you, You will be shepherd of my people Israel, the leader of my people Israel."

³ All the leaders of Israel had come to Hebron. David made an agreement with them at Hebron in front of the LORD. So they anointed David king of Israel, as the LORD had spoken through Samuel.

⁴ David and all Israel went to Jerusalem (that is, Jebus). The Jebusites were living in that region.

⁵They told David, "You will never get in here." But David captured the fortress Zion (that is, the City of David).

⁶Now, David said, "Whoever is the first to kill a Jebusite will be made a general and a prince." Zeruiah's son Joab was the first to go into Jerusalem, so he became the general.

⁷David lived in the fortress, so it was called the City of David.

⁸He built the city of Jerusalem around it, starting from the Millo and making a complete circuit. Joab rebuilt the rest of the city.

⁹David continued to grow more powerful because the LORD of Armies was with him.

¹⁰Now, these were the commanders of David's fighting men, who exercised power with him in his kingdom, and with all Israel they made him king according to the LORDS word to Israel.

¹¹The first of David's fighting men was Jashobeam, son of Hachmon, the leader of the three. He used his spear to kill 300 men on one occasion.

¹²Next in rank to him was Eleazar, another one of the three fighting men.

He was the son of Dodo and grandson of Aho.

¹³Eleazar was with David at Pas Dammim when the Philistines gathered there for battle. There was a field of ripe barley. When the troops fled from the Philistines,

¹⁴they stood in the middle of the field and defended it by killing Philistines. So the LORD saved them with an impressive victory.

¹⁵Once three of the thirty leading men went down to Davids rock at the cave of Adullam when the army of the Philistines was camping in the valley of Rephaim.

¹⁶While David was in the fortified camp, Philistine troops were in Bethlehem.

¹⁷David was thirsty and said, "I wish I could have a drink of water from the cistern at the city gate of Bethlehem."

¹⁸So the three burst into the Philistine camp and drew water from the cistern. They brought it to David, but he refused to drink it. He poured it out as an offering to the LORD

¹⁹and said, "Its unthinkable that I would do this, God. Should I drink the blood of these men who risked their

lives? They had to risk their lives to get this water." So he refused to drink it. These are the things which the three fighting men did.

²⁰Joabs brother Abishai was the leader of the thirty. He used his spear to kill 300 men, but he was not one of the three,

²¹although he was honored more than they were. So he became their captain but didnt become a member of the three.

²²Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, was from Kabzeel and was a brave man who did many things. He killed two distinguished soldiers from Moab. He also went into a cistern and killed a lion on the day it snowed.

²³He killed an eightfoottall Egyptian. The Egyptian had a spear like a weavers beam in his hand. But Benaiah went to him with a club, grabbed the spear away from him, and killed him with it.

²⁴These are the things that Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, did. He was as famous as the three fighting men.

²⁵He was honored more than the thirty, but he was not a member of the three. David put him in charge of his bodyguards.

²⁶The distinguished fighting men were Joabs brother Asahel, Elhanan (son of Dodo) from Bethlehem,

²⁷Shammoth from Harod, Helez the Pelonite,

²⁸Ira (son of Ikkesh) from Tekoa, Abiezer from Anathoth,

²⁹Sibbecai (son of Hushai), Ilai (descendant of Ahohi),

³⁰Maharai from Netophah, Heled (son of Baanah) from Netophah,

³¹Ithai (son of Ribai) from Gibeah in Benjamin, Benaiah from Pirathon,

³²Hurai from the Gaash ravines, Abiel from Beth Arabah,

³³Azmaveth from Bahurim, Eliahba from Shaalbon,

³⁴Bene Hashem from Gizon, Jonathan (son of Shage the Hararite),

³⁵Ahiam (son of Sachar the Hararite), Eliphai (son of Ur),

³⁶Hepher the Mecherathite, Ahijah the Pelonite,

³⁷Hezro from Carmel, Naari (son of Ezbai),

³⁸Joel (son of Nathan), Mibhar (son of Hagri),

³⁹ Zelek from Ammon, Naharai from Beroth, armorbearer for Zeruiah's son Joab,

⁴⁰ Ira (descendant of Ithra), Gareb (descendant of Ithra),

⁴¹ Uriah the Hittite, Zabad (son of Ahlai),

⁴² Adina (son of Shiza) from the tribe of Reuben (who was leader of the tribe of Reuben and had his own group of thirty soldiers),

⁴³ Hanan (son of Maacah), and Joshaphat the Mithnite,

⁴⁴ Uzzia from Ashteroth, Shama and Jeiel (sons of Hotham from Aroer),

⁴⁵ Jediahel (son of Shimri) and his brother Joha the Tizite,

⁴⁶ Eliel the Mahavite, Jeribai and Joshaviah (sons of Elnaam), Ithmah from Moab,

⁴⁷ Eliel, Obed, and Jaasiel the Mezobaite.

12¹ These are the men who came to David at Ziklag when he was banished by Saul, son of Kish. They were among the soldiers who went into battle with David.

² They were armed with bows and could sling stones or shoot arrows with either

their right or their left hands. They were Sauls relatives, from the tribe of Benjamin.

³Ahiezzer was the leader, then Joash (they were the sons of Shemaah from Gibeah), Azmaveths sons Jeziel and Pelet, Beracah and Jehu from Anathoth,

⁴Ishmaiah from Gibeon (one of the thirty fighting men and one of their leaders), Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, and Jozabad from Gederah,

⁵Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah, and Shephatiah from Haruph,

⁶Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer, and Jashobeam (Korahs descendants),

⁷and Joelah and Zebadiah, Jerohams sons from Gedor.

⁸Some men left Gad to join David at the fortified camp in the desert. They were warriors, trained soldiers, able to fight with shields and spears. They looked like lions and were as fast as gazelles on the hills.

⁹Ezer was the first of these soldiers. The second was Obadiah. The third was Eliab.

¹⁰The fourth was Mishmannah. The fifth was Jeremiah.

¹¹ The sixth was Attai. The seventh was Eliel.

¹² The eighth was Johanan. The ninth was Elzabad.

¹³ The tenth was Jeremiah. The eleventh was Machbannai.

¹⁴ These descendants of Gad were army officers. The least able one was in command of 100 men, and the best one was in command of 1,000.

¹⁵ In the first month of the year, these men crossed the Jordan River when it was flooding its banks. They chased away all the people in the valleys to the east and west.

¹⁶ Some of the men of Benjamin and Judah came to David at the fortified camp.

¹⁷ David went to meet them. He told them, "If youve come to help me as friends would, then you may join me. But if youve come to betray me to my enemies, even though I havent committed a crime, may the God of our ancestors see this and judge you."

¹⁸ Then the Spirit gave Amasai, the leader of the thirty, the strength to say, "We are yours, David. We are with you,

son of Jesse. Success, success to you! Success to those who help you, because your God is helping you." So David welcomed them and made them officers over his troops.

¹⁹Some men from Manasseh had deserted Saul's army to join David when he went with the Philistines to attack Saul. (However, David didn't help the Philistines because their rulers sent him away after considering the matter. They said, "It will cost us our heads when he deserts and joins his master Saul.")

²⁰When David went to Ziklag, these men from Manasseh deserted to join him: Adnah, Jozabad, Jedaiel, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai. Each one was an officer over 1,000 men in Manasseh.

²¹They helped David fight raiding parties because they were all warriors, commanders in the army.

²²From day to day, men came to help David until he had an army as large as God's army.

²³These are the numbers of the men equipped for war. The men joined David

at Hebron to turn Sauls kingship over to David, as the LORD had said.

²⁴From Judahs descendants there were 6,800 men equipped for war. They carried shields and spears.

²⁵From Simeons descendants there were 7,100 warriors.

²⁶From Levis descendants there were 4,600

²⁷as well as Jehoiada (leader of Aarons families). With him there were 3,700 men,

²⁸and Zadok, a young warrior from whose family came 22 officers.

²⁹From Benjamins descendants, Sauls relatives, there were 3,000 men, though most of them remained loyal to Sauls family.

³⁰From Ephraims descendants there were 20,800 warriors who were famous among their families.

³¹From half of the tribe of Manasseh there were 18,000 who had been designated by name to make David king.

³²From Issachars descendants there were 200 leaders who understood the times and knew what Israel should

do. Their relatives were under their command.

³³From Zebulun there were 50,000 experienced soldiers. They were equipped for battle with every kind of weapon. Their loyalty was unquestioned.

³⁴From Naphtali there were 1,000 commanders. With them were 37,000 who fought with shields and spears.

³⁵From Dan there were 28,600 ready for battle.

³⁶From Asher there were 40,000 experienced soldiers ready for battle.

³⁷From the east side of the Jordan River, from Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh, there were 120,000 soldiers ready to fight with all kinds of weapons.

³⁸All of these soldiers, who were prepared for battle, came with a single purpose to Hebronto make David king of all Israel. The rest of Israel also had agreed to make David king.

³⁹They ate and drank with David for three days because their relatives in Judah had provided enough for them.

⁴⁰Also, their neighbors as far as the territories of Issachar, Zebulun, and

Naphtali brought food on donkeys, camels, mules, and oxen. There was plenty of flour, fig cakes, raisins, wine, olive oil, cattle, and sheep, because Israel was celebrating.

13¹ David consulted with every officer who commanded a regiment or battalion.

² Then he told the whole assembly of Israel, "If you approve and if the LORD our God has consented, we will send an invitation to the rest of our relatives in every region of Israel and to the priests and Levites in their cities and pasturelands so that they may join us.

³ Then we'll bring back our God's ark, which we ignored while Saul was king."

⁴ The whole assembly agreed to this because the people considered it the right thing to do.

⁵ So David gathered all Israel from the Shihor River near Egypt to the border of Hamath in order to bring God's ark from Kiriath Jearim.

⁶ David and all Israel went to Baalah in Kiriath Jearim, which is in Judah, to bring God's ark to Jerusalem. (The LORD

is enthroned over the angels on the ark where his name is used.)

⁷David and his men put Gods ark on a new cart from Abinadabs home. Uzzah and Ahio guided the cart.

⁸David and all Israel were celebrating in Gods presence with all their might, with songs, with lyres, harps, tambourines, cymbals, and trumpets.

⁹But when they came to Chidons threshing floor, the oxen stumbled. So Uzzah reached out to grab the ark.

¹⁰The LORD became angry with Uzzah and killed him for reaching for the ark. He died in Gods presence.

¹¹David was angry because the LORD had struck Uzzah so violently. (That place is still called Perez Uzzah [The Striking of Uzzah] today.)

¹²David was afraid of God that day. "How can I bring Gods ark to my city?" he asked.

¹³So he didnt bring Gods ark to his home, the City of David. Instead, he rerouted it to the home of Obed Edom, who was from Gath.

¹⁴Gods ark stayed at the home of Obed Edom with his family for three months,

and the LORD blessed Obed Edoms family and everything he owned.

14¹ King Hiram of Tyre sent messengers to David, along with cedarwood, masons, and carpenters to build a palace for David.

² So David realized that the LORD had established him as king of Israel and that his kingdom was made famous for the sake of Israel, the LORDS people.

³ David married more wives in Jerusalem and fathered more sons and daughters.

⁴ These are the names of the children who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,

⁵ Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet,

⁶ Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia,

⁷ Elishama, Beeliada, and Eliphelet.

⁸ When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king of Israel, all of them came to attack David. But David heard about it and went out to meet them.

⁹ The Philistines had come and raided the valley of Rephaim.

¹⁰ David asked God, "Should I attack the Philistines? Will you hand them

over to me?" The LORD answered him, "Attack! I will hand them over to you."

¹¹ So David and his men attacked and defeated the Philistines at Baal Perazim. David said, "Using my power like an overwhelming flood, God has overwhelmed my enemies." That is why they call that place Baal Perazim [The Lord Overwhelms].

¹² The Philistines left their gods there, so David ordered that the gods be burned.

¹³ The Philistines again raided the valley.

¹⁴ Once more David asked God. God answered him, "Don't go after them. Circle around, and come at them in front of the balsam trees.

¹⁵ As you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then go out and fight because God has gone ahead of you to defeat the Philistine army."

¹⁶ David did as God ordered him, and his men defeated the Philistine army from Gibeon to Gezer.

¹⁷ David's fame spread through all lands, and the LORD made all the nations fear him.

15¹ After David constructed buildings for himself in the City of David, he prepared a place for Gods ark and set up a tent for it.

² Then David insisted that only the Levites carry Gods ark because the LORD had chosen them to carry his ark and to serve him forever.

³ David called together all Israel at Jerusalem to bring the LORDS ark to the place he had prepared for it.

⁴ David also called together Aarons descendants and the Levites.

⁵ Leading Kohaths descendants was Uriel, who came with 120 of his relatives.

⁶ Leading Meraris descendants was Asaiah, who came with 220 of his relatives.

⁷ Leading Gershoms descendants was Joel, who came with 130 of his relatives.

⁸ Leading Elizaphans descendants was Shemaiah, who came with 200 of his relatives.

⁹ Leading Hebrons descendants was Eliel, who came with 80 of his relatives.

¹⁰ Leading Uzziels descendants was Amminadab, who came with 112 of his relatives.

¹¹ David called for the priests Zadok and Abiathar and for the Levites Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab.

¹² He said to them, "You are the heads of the Levite families. You and your relatives must perform the ceremonies to make yourselves holy. Then bring the ark of the LORD God of Israel to the place I prepared for it.

¹³ Because you werent there the first time, the LORD our God struck us. We hadnt dedicated our lives to serving him in the way he designated."

¹⁴ So the priests and the Levites made themselves holy in order to move the ark of the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁵ The Levites carried Gods ark on their shoulders. They used poles as Moses had commanded according to the LORDS instructions.

¹⁶ David told the Levite leaders to appoint some of their relatives to serve as musicians. They were expected to play music on harps, lyres, and cymbals to produce joyful music for singing.

¹⁷ So the Levites appointed Heman, son of Joel, and from his relatives they

appointed Asaph, Berechiah's son. From their own relatives, Merari's descendants, they appointed Ethan, son of Kushaiah.

¹⁸In addition, they appointed their relatives from the second division: Zechariah, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, and Mikneiah. Obed Edom and Jeiel were appointed gatekeepers.

¹⁹The musicians Heman, Asaph, and Ethan were appointed to play bronze cymbals.

²⁰Zechariah, Jaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah were appointed to play harps according to alamothe.

²¹Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed Edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah were appointed to play lyres and to conduct the sheminith.

²²Chenaniah, a Levite leader, instructed others how to sing prophetic songs because he was skilled at it.

²³Berechiah and Elkanah were gatekeepers for the ark.

²⁴The priests Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah,

and Eliezer blew trumpets in front of Gods ark. Obed Edom and Jehiah were doorkeepers for the ark.

²⁵ So David, the leaders of Israel, and the armys commanders joyfully went to get the ark of the LORDS promise from Obed Edoms house.

²⁶ Because God helped the Levites who carried the ark of the LORDS promise, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams.

²⁷ David was dressed in a fine linen robe, as were all the Levites who carried the ark, the Levites who were singers, and Chenaniah, the leader of the musicians prophetic songs. David also wore a linen ephod.

²⁸ All Israel brought the ark of the LORDS promise with shouts of joy and the sounding of rams horns, trumpets, cymbals, harps, and lyres.

²⁹ When the ark of the LORDS promise came to the City of David, Sauls daughter Michal looked out of a window and saw King David dancing and celebrating, so she despised him.

16¹ The men carrying the ark set it inside the tent David had put up

for it. They presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings in Gods presence.

²When David had finished sacrificing burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD.

³He also distributed to every person in Israel both men and women a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake.

⁴David appointed some Levites to serve in front of the LORDS ark by offering prayers, thanks, and praise to the LORD God of Israel.

⁵Asaph was the head; Zechariah was second, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed Edom, and Jeiel with harps and lyres. Asaph played the cymbals.

⁶The priests Benaiah and Jahaziel played trumpets all the time in front of the ark of Gods promise.

⁷For the first time David entrusted Asaph and his relatives with the task of singing songs of thanks to the LORD:

⁸"Give thanks to the LORD. Call on his name. Make known among the nations what he has done.

⁹Sing to him. Make music to praise him. Meditate on all the miracles he has done.

¹⁰Brag about his holy name. Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

¹¹Search for the LORD and his strength. Always seek his presence.

¹²Remember the miracles he performed, the amazing things he did and the judgments he pronounced,

¹³you descendants of Israel, his servant, you descendants of Jacob, his chosen ones.

¹⁴"He is the LORD our God. His judgments are pronounced throughout the earth.

¹⁵Remember his promise forever, the word that he commanded for a thousand generations,

¹⁶the promise that he made to Abraham, and his sworn promise to Isaac.

¹⁷He confirmed it as a law for Jacob, as an everlasting promise to Israel,

¹⁸by saying, I will give you Canaan. It is your share of the inheritance.

¹⁹"While they were few in number, a small group of foreigners living in that land,

²⁰they wandered from nation to nation and from one kingdom to another.

²¹He didnt permit anyone to oppress them. He warned kings about them:

²²Do not touch my anointed ones or harm my prophets.

²³"Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Day after day announce that the LORD saves his people.

²⁴Tell people about his glory. Tell all the nations about his miracles.

²⁵"The LORD is great! He should be highly praised. He should be feared more than all other gods

²⁶because all the gods of the nations are idols. The LORD made the heavens.

²⁷Splendor and majesty are in his presence. Strength and joy are where he is.

²⁸"Give to the LORD, you families of the nations. Give to the LORD glory and power.

²⁹Give to the LORD the glory his name deserves. Bring an offering, and come

to him. Worship the LORD in his holy splendor.

³⁰ Tremble in his presence, all the earth! "The earth stands firm; it cannot be moved.

³¹ Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. Say to the nations, The LORD rules as king!

³² Let the sea and everything in it roar like thunder. Let the fields and everything in them rejoice.

³³ Then the trees in the forest will sing with joy in the presence of the LORD when he comes to judge the earth.

³⁴ "Give thanks to the LORD because he is good, because his mercy endures forever.

³⁵ Say, Rescue us, O God our Savior. Gather us and save us from the nations so that we may give thanks to your holy name and make your praise our glory.

³⁶ Thanks be to the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting." Then all the people said amen and praised the LORD.

³⁷ David left Asaph and his relatives to serve continually in front of the ark of

the LORDS promise, as the daily work required.

³⁸David also left Obed Edom and 68 of his relatives to serve there. Obed Edom (Jeduthuns son) and Hosah were to be gatekeepers.

³⁹David left Zadok and his priestly relatives to serve in the LORDS tent at the place of worship in Gibeon.

⁴⁰They were ordered to sacrifice burnt offerings to the LORD. This happened on the altar of burnt offerings continually, morning and evening, as written in the LORDS Teachings that he gave Israel.

⁴¹With Zadok and his relatives were Heman, Jeduthun, and the rest of the Levites who had been selected, chosen by name, to give thanks to the LORD by singing, "His mercy endures forever."

⁴²Also, Heman and Jeduthun played trumpets, cymbals, and the other musical instruments that accompany sacred songs. Jeduthuns sons were stationed at the gate.

⁴³Then all the people went home. David went back to bless his family.

17¹ When David was living in his house, he said to the prophet

Nathan, "I'm living in a house made of cedar, while the ark of the LORDS promise is inside a tent."

² Nathan told David, "Do everything you have in mind, because God is with you."

³ But that same night God spoke his word to Nathan:

⁴ "Say to David, my servant, This is what the LORD says: You must not build this house for me to live in.

⁵ I havent lived in a house from the day I brought Israel out of Egypt to this day, but I've gone from tent site to tent site, moving the tent of meeting from one location to another.

⁶ In all the places I've moved with all Israel, did I ever ask any of the judges of Israel whom I ordered to be shepherds of my people why they didnt build me a house of cedar?

⁷ "Now this is what you will say to my servant David: This is what the LORD of Armies says: I took you from the pasture where you followed sheep so that you could be the leader of my people Israel.

⁸ I was with you wherever you went, and I destroyed all your enemies in front

of you. I will make your name like the names of the greatest people on earth.

⁹I will make a place for my people Israel and plant them there. They will live in their own place and not be troubled anymore. The wicked will no longer frighten them as they used to do

¹⁰ever since I appointed judges to rule my people Israel. I will crush all your enemies. I even tell you that I, the LORD, will build a house for you.

¹¹"When the time comes for you to go and be with your ancestors, I will send one of your descendants. He will be one of your sons. I will establish his kingdom.

¹²He will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever.

¹³I will be his Father, and he will be my Son. And I will never stop showing him my love as I did to your predecessor.

¹⁴I will place him in my royal house forever, and his throne will be established forever."

¹⁵Nathan told David all these words and everything he had seen.

¹⁶Then King David went into the tent and sat in front of the LORD. "Who am I, LORD God," he asked, "and why is

my house so important that you have brought me this far?

¹⁷And this you consider to be a small act, God. Youve spoken about the distant future of my house. LORD God, youve shown me the generation of the great man.

¹⁸"What more can I do for you in light of the honor you have given to me and since you know me so well!

¹⁹LORD, youve done this great thing for my sake and your own desire. You made this great thing known to me.

²⁰"LORD, there is no one like you, and there is no other god except you, as we have heard with our own ears.

²¹Who is like your people Israel? It is the one nation on earth that God came to free in order to make its people his own, to make your name known, and to do great and wonderful things for them. You forced the nations and their gods out of the way of your people, whom you freed from Egypt.

²²You made the people of Israel to be your people forever. And you, LORD, became their God.

²³"Now, LORD, faithfully keep the promise you made to me and my house forever. Do as you promised.

²⁴Your name will endure and be respected forever when people say, The LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, is Israels God. And the house of David, your servant, will be established in your presence.

²⁵You, my God, have revealed especially to me that you will build me a house. That is why I have found the courage to pray to you.

²⁶"Almighty LORD, you are God. You promised me this good thing.

²⁷Now, you were pleased to bless my house so that it may continue in your presence forever. Indeed, you, LORD, have blessed it. It will be blessed forever."

18¹After this, David defeated and crushed the Philistines. He took Gath and its surrounding villages from them.

²He also defeated Moab, and the Moabites became Davids subjects and paid taxes to him.

³When David went to establish his control over the territory along the Euphrates River, he defeated King Hadadezer at Hamath.

⁴David took 1,000 chariots, 7,000 horsemen, and 20,000 foot soldiers from him. David also disabled all but 100 of their horses so that they couldnt pull chariots.

⁵When the Arameans from Damascus came to help King Hadadezer of Zobah, David killed 22,000 of them.

⁶David put troops in the Aramean kingdom of Damascus, and the Arameans became his subjects and paid taxes to him. Everywhere David went, the LORD gave him victories.

⁷David took the gold shields that Hadadezers servants carried, and he brought them to Jerusalem.

⁸David also took a large quantity of bronze from Tibhath and Cun, Hadadezers cities. (Later Solomon used it to make the pool, pillars, and utensils for the temple.)

⁹When King Tou of Hamath heard that David had defeated the whole army of Zobahs King Hadadezer,

¹⁰he sent his son Hadoram to greet King David and congratulate him for fighting and defeating Hadadezer. (There had often been war between Hadadezer and Tou.)

¹¹King David dedicated all the articles of gold, silver, and bronze to the LORD, along with the silver and gold he had taken from other nations from Edom, Moab, Ammon, the Philistines, and Amalek.

¹²Zeruiahs son Abishai killed 18,000 Edomites in the Dead Sea region.

¹³He put troops in Edom, and all its people became Davids subjects. Everywhere David went, the LORD gave him victories.

¹⁴So David ruled all Israel. He did what was fair and right for all his people.

¹⁵Zeruiahs son Joab was in charge of the army. Ahiluds son Jehoshaphat was the royal historian.

¹⁶Ahitubs son Zadok and Abiathars son Abimelech were priests. Shavsha was the royal scribe.

¹⁷Jehoiadas son Benaiah was commander of the Cherethites and the

Pelethites. And Davids sons were his main officials.

19¹ Later King Nahash of Ammon died, and his son became king in his place.

² David thought, "I will show kindness to Hanun because his father Nahash showed me kindness." So David sent messengers to comfort Hanun after his fathers death. But when Davids servants entered Ammonite territory to comfort Hanun,

³ the Ammonite princes asked Hanun, "Do you think David is honoring your father because he sent men to comfort you? Havent his servants come to explore, destroy, and spy on the country?"

⁴ So Hanun took Davids men, shaved them, cut off their clothes from the waist down, and sent them away.

⁵ After people told David what had happened to the men, he sent someone to meet them because they were deeply humiliated. The king said to them, "Stay in Jericho until your beards have grown back, and then return to Jerusalem."

⁶The Ammonites realized that they had made themselves offensive to David. So Hanun and the Ammonites sent 75,000 pounds of silver to hire chariots and horses from the Arameans in Upper Mesopotamia, Maacah, and Zobah.

⁷They hired 32,000 chariots and the king of Maacah with his army. They camped near Medeba. The Ammonites gathered for the battle from their cities.

⁸After David heard about this, he sent Joab and all the elite troops.

⁹The Ammonites formed a battle line at the entrance of the city, while the Arameans from Zobah and Rehob and the kings who had come remained by themselves in the open country.

¹⁰When Joab saw he was under attack in front and behind, he took the select troops of Israel and organized them for combat against the Arameans.

¹¹He put his brother Abishai in charge of the rest of the troops. They organized for combat against the Ammonites.

¹²Joab said, "If the Arameans are too strong for my troops, be ready to help me. And if the Ammonites are too strong for your troops, I'll help you."

¹³Be strong! Lets prove ourselves strong for our people and for the cities of our God, and the LORD will do what he considers right."

¹⁴Then Joab and his troops advanced to fight the Arameans, and the Arameans fled.

¹⁵When the Ammonites saw that the Arameans had fled, they, too, fled from Joabs brother Abishai and went into the city. So Joab returned to Jerusalem.

¹⁶Realizing that Israel had defeated them, the kings sent messengers to get other Arameans from beyond the Euphrates River. Shophach, the commander of Hadadezers army, led them.

¹⁷When David was told about this, he assembled Israels army, crossed the Jordan, and confronted them. David formed a battle line against the Arameans, and they fought him.

¹⁸The Arameans fled from Israel, and David killed 7,000 chariot drivers and 40,000 foot soldiers. David also killed Shophach.

¹⁹When all the kings who were subject to Hadadezer saw that Israel had

defeated them, they made peace with David and became his subjects. And the Arameans were no longer willing to help the Ammonites.

20¹In the spring, the time when kings go out to battle, Joab led the army to war. They destroyed the Ammonites and came to Rabbah to attack it, while David stayed in Jerusalem. Joab defeated Rabbah and tore it down.

²He took the gold crown from the head of Rabbah's king and put it on David's head. (The crown was found to weigh 75 pounds, and in it was a precious stone.) David also took a lot of goods from the city.

³He brought out the troops who were there and put them to work with saws, hoes, and axes. He did the same to all the Ammonite cities. Then David and all the troops returned to Jerusalem.

⁴After this, war broke out with the Philistines at Gezer. Then Sibbecai from Hushah killed Sippai, a descendant of Haraphah, and the Philistines were defeated.

⁵When more fighting broke out with the Philistines, Elhanan, son of Jair, killed Lahmi, the brother of Goliath from Gath. (The shaft of Lahmis spear was like a beam used by weavers.)

⁶In another battle at Gath, there was a tall man who had 24 fingers and toes: six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. He also was a descendant of Haraphah.

⁷When he challenged Israel, Jonathan, son of Davids brother Shimea, killed him.

⁸These men were the descendants of Haraphah from Gath, and David and his men killed them.

21 ¹Satan attempted to attack Israel by provoking David to count the Israelites.

²David said to Joab and the leaders of the people, "Go, count Israel from Beersheba to Dan. Bring me the results so that I may know how many people there are."

³Joab responded, "May the LORD multiply his people a hundred times over. But, Your Majesty, arent they all your servants? Why are you trying to do this?"

Why do you wish to make Israel guilty of this sin?"

⁴ However, the king overruled Joab. So Joab left, went throughout Israel, and returned to Jerusalem.

⁵ Joab reported the census figures to David: In Israel there were 1,100,000 men who could serve in the army, and in Judah there were 470,000 who could serve in the army.

⁶ Joab didn't include Levi and Benjamin in the number because he was disgusted with the king's order.

⁷ God considered the census to be sinful, so he struck Israel with a plague.

⁸ David said to God, "I have committed a terrible sin by doing this thing. Forgive me because I have acted very foolishly."

⁹ The LORD spoke to Gad, David's seer.

¹⁰ "Go and tell David, This is what the LORD says: I'm offering you three choices. Choose the one you want me to do to you."

¹¹ When Gad came to David, he said, "This is what the LORD says: Take your pick:

¹² either three years of famine, or three months during which your enemies will

chase you away when their swords catch up to you, or three days of the LORDS sworda plague in the land with the Messenger of the LORD destroying the whole country of Israel. Decide what answer I should give the one who sent me."

¹³"Im in a desperate situation," David told Gad. "Please let me fall into the LORDS hands because he is extremely merciful. But dont let me fall into human hands."

¹⁴So the LORD sent a plague on Israel, and 70,000 Israelites died.

¹⁵God also sent a Messenger to Jerusalem to destroy it, but as he was destroying it, the LORD reconsidered and changed his mind about the disaster. "Enough!" he said to the destroying Messenger. "Put down your weapon." The Messenger of the LORD was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

¹⁶When David looked up, he saw the Messenger of the LORD standing between heaven and earth. The Messenger had a sword in his hand and stretched it over Jerusalem. David and the leaders were

dressed in sackcloth. They bowed down with their faces touching the ground.

¹⁷David said to God, "I'm the one who ordered the people to be counted. I am the one who sinned and did wrong. What have these sheep done? LORD my God, let your punishment be against me and my fathers family, but dont punish your people with a plague."

¹⁸The LORDS Messenger told Gad to tell David to go and set up an altar for the LORD at Ornan the Jebusites threshing floor.

¹⁹David went as Gad had told him in the LORDS name.

²⁰Now, Ornan had turned around and seen the Messenger. Ornans four sons who were with him hid, but Ornan kept on threshing the wheat.

²¹When David arrived, Ornan looked up and saw him. So he left the threshing floor and bowed down with his face touching the ground in front of David.

²²David said to Ornan, "Let me have the land this threshing floor is on. Ill build an altar for the LORD on it. Sell it to me for the full price. Then the plague on the people will stop."

²³Ornan said to David, "Take it, Your Majesty, and do whatever you think is right. Ill give you oxen for the burnt offering, threshers for firewood, and wheat for the grain offering. Ill give you everything."

²⁴"No," King David told Ornan, "I insist on buying it for the full price. I wont take what is yours for the LORD and offer burnt sacrifices that cost me nothing."

²⁵So David gave Ornan 15 pounds of gold for that place.

²⁶David built an altar for the LORD there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. He called on the LORD, and the LORD answered him by sending fire from heaven on the altar for burnt offerings.

²⁷So the LORD spoke to the Messenger, and he put his sword back in its scabbard.

²⁸At that time, when David saw the LORD had answered him at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he offered sacrifices there.

²⁹The LORDS tent that Moses made in the desert and the altar for burnt

offerings were at the worship site at Gibeon.

³⁰However, David couldnt go there to consult God because he was frightened by the sword of the LORDS Messenger.

22¹ Then David said, "This is where the LORD Gods temple will be. Israels altar for burnt offerings will also be here."

²David ordered the foreigners living in Israel to gather. He appointed some of them to cut stones to build Gods temple.

³David prepared a large quantity of iron for nails and fittings on the doors of the gates. He also prepared so much bronze that it couldnt be weighed.

⁴The men of Sidon and Tyre brought David so many cedar logs that the logs couldnt be counted.

⁵David thought, "My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the temple that will be built for the LORD must be magnificent, large, famous, praised, and honored in all other countries. Ill prepare the building materials for him." So David prepared many materials for Solomon before he died.

⁶He summoned his son Solomon and commanded him to build a temple for the LORD God of Israel.

⁷David told his son Solomon, "I had my heart set on building a temple for the name of the LORD, my God.

⁸But the LORD spoke his word to me by saying, You have caused a lot of bloodshed and fought in a lot of wars. You must not build a temple for my name because you have caused so much bloodshed in my presence.

⁹You will have a son who will be a peaceful man. I will give him peace from all the enemies around him. His name will be Solomon [Peace], and in his time I will give Israel peace and quiet.

¹⁰He will build a temple for my name. He will be my son, and I will be his father. I will establish the throne of his kingdom permanently over Israel."

¹¹David continued, "Now, son, the LORD will be with you. You will be successful, and you will build the temple of the LORD your God as he predicted you would.

¹²The LORD will give you insight and understanding as he commands you to

take charge of Israel and to follow the Teachings of the LORD your God.

¹³Then you will succeed if you will carefully obey the laws and decrees the LORD commanded Moses to give to Israel. Be strong and courageous. Dont be afraid or terrified.

¹⁴"Despite my troubles Ive made preparations for the LORDS temple. There are 7,500,000 pounds of gold, 75,000,000 pounds of silver, and so much bronze and iron that it cant be weighed. Ive also prepared wood and stones, and you may add to them.

¹⁵You have many kinds of workers: stonecutters, masons, carpenters, and men skilled in every kind of work.

¹⁶The gold, silver, bronze, and iron are more than can be counted. So get to work! May the LORD be with you."

¹⁷David ordered all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon.

¹⁸David said, "Isnt the LORD your God with you? Hasnt he given you peace with all your neighbors? He put the people who live in this country under my power, and the country has been conquered by the LORD and his people.

¹⁹So dedicate your hearts and lives to serving the LORD your God. Start building the holy place of the LORD God so that you can bring the ark of the LORDS promise and Gods holy utensils into the temple that will be built for the LORDS name."

23¹When David had grown old and had lived out his years, he made his son Solomon king of Israel.

²He gathered all the officials of Israel and the priests and Levites.

³Every male Levite who was at least 30 years old was counted. There were 38,000.

⁴Of these, 24,000 were appointed to supervise the work on the LORDS temple, 6,000 were appointed to be officers and judges,

⁵4,000 were appointed to be gatekeepers, and 4,000 were appointed to praise the LORD with the instruments David had made for praising God.

⁶David organized the Levites into divisions based on which of Levis sons (Gershon, Kohath, or Merari) they were descended from.

⁷Ladan and Shimei were Gershons descendants.

⁸Ladan had three sons: Jehiel was the first, then Zetham, and Joel.

⁹Shimei had three sons: Shelomith, Haziel, and Haran. They were the heads of Ladans families.

¹⁰Shimeis sons were Jahath, Zina, Jeush, and Beriah. They were Shimeis four sons.

¹¹Jahath was the first, and Ziza was the second. Jeush and Beriah didnt have many sons, so they were given an assignment as one family.

¹²Kohath had four sons: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

¹³Amrams sons were Aaron and Moses. Aaron and his sons were forever designated to dedicate the most holy things to God, to offer sacrifices to the LORD, to serve him, and always give the blessing in his name.

¹⁴The sons of Moses, the man of God, were counted with the tribe of Levi.

¹⁵Moses sons were Gershom and Eliezer.

¹⁶Gershoms only son was Shebuel.

¹⁷ Eliezers only son was Rehabiah. Eliezer had no other sons, but Rehabiah had many sons.

¹⁸ Izhars only son was Shelomith.

¹⁹ Hebrons first son was Jeriah; his second was Amariah; his third was Jahaziel; his fourth was Jekameam.

²⁰ Uzziels first son was Micah; his second was Isshiah.

²¹ Meraris sons were Mahli and Mushi. Mahlis sons were Eleazar and Kish.

²² Eleazar died without having any sons. He only had daughters. Their cousins, the sons of Kish, married them.

²³ Mushi had three sons: Mahli, Eder, and Jeremoth.

²⁴ These were Levis descendants, who were grouped according to their families. The heads of their families were registered by name as they were counted. Everyone who served in the LORDS temple was at least 20 years old.

²⁵ David had said, "The LORD God of Israel has given his people rest. He will now live in Jerusalem forever.

²⁶ The Levites will no longer have to carry the tent and all the utensils used in worship."

²⁷ Davids last instructions were to count the Levites who were at least 20 years old.

²⁸ They were appointed to stand beside Aarons descendants to serve in the LORDS temple. They were appointed to be in charge of the courtyards and the temple rooms, to ensure that all the holy things were clean, and to serve in Gods temple.

²⁹ They were also responsible for the rows of bread, the flour for the grain offerings, the unleavened bread wafers, and the bread made in frying pans. In addition, they were responsible for mixing the ingredients and keeping track of all weights and measures.

³⁰ They were appointed to stand to give thanks and praise to the LORD every morning. They were appointed to do the same thing in the evening.

³¹ They were appointed to stand in front of the LORD in the required numbers whenever burnt offerings were made on weekly worship days, at New Moon Festivals, and on appointed annual festivals.

³²They were appointed to follow the regulations for the tent of meeting and the holy place and to help their relatives, Aarons descendants, as they served in the LORDS temple.

24¹The divisions of Aarons descendants were as follows: Aarons sons were Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

²Nadab and Abihu died before their father died, and neither had any children. So Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests.

³David, Eleazars descendant Zadok, and Ithamars descendant Ahimelech divided Aarons descendants into groups for service.

⁴Since Eleazars descendants had more men who were family heads than Ithamars descendants, they were divided so that Eleazars descendants had 16 family leaders and Ithamars descendants had 8 family leaders.

⁵Both groups were divided impartially by drawing lots so that there were officers for the holy place and officers for God among both Eleazars and Ithamars descendants.

⁶The scribe Shemaiah was a son of Nethanel and a descendant of Levi. Shemaiah recorded their names in the presence of the king, the princes, the priest Zadok, Ahimelech (son of Abiathar), and the family leaders of the priests and Levites. One family was chosen for Eleazar, another for Ithamar.

⁷The first lot drawn was for Jehoiarib, the second for Jedaiah,

⁸the third for Harim, the fourth for Seorim,

⁹the fifth for Malchiah, the sixth for Mijamin,

¹⁰the seventh for Hakkoz, the eighth for Abijah,

¹¹the ninth for Jeshua, the tenth for Shecaniah,

¹²the eleventh for Eliashib, the twelfth for Jakim,

¹³the thirteenth for Huppah, the fourteenth for Jeshebeab,

¹⁴the fifteenth for Bilgah, the sixteenth for Immer,

¹⁵the seventeenth for Hezir, the eighteenth for Happizzesz,

¹⁶the nineteenth for Pethahiah, the twentieth for Jehezkel,

¹⁷ the twentyfirst for Jachin, the twentysecond for Gamul,

¹⁸ the twentythird for Delaiah, the twentyfourth for Maaziah.

¹⁹ These were their priestly groups when they went to serve at the LORDS temple. Their ancestor Aaron made these rules for them, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.

²⁰ The following men were leaders for Levis descendants from Kohath: Jehdeiah (for Amrams descendants through Shubael),

²¹ Isshiah (for Amrams descendants through Rehabiah),

²² Jahath (for Izhars descendants through Shelomoth),

²³ Jeriah (for Hebrons descendants), Amariah (the second of Hebrons descendants), Jahaziel (the third of Hebrons descendants), Jekameam (the fourth of Hebrons descendants),

²⁴ Shamir (for Uzziels descendants through Micah),

²⁵ and Zechariah (for Uzziels descendants through Micahs brother Isshiah).

²⁶The following men were leaders from Levis descendants from Merari: Mahli, Mushi, and Meraris son Jaaziah,

²⁷Shoham, Zaccur, and Ibri (for Meraris descendants through his son Jaaziah),

²⁸Eleazar (who had no sons, for Mahlis descendants),

²⁹Jerahmeel (for Mahlis descendants through Kish),

³⁰Mahli, Eder, and Jerimoth (for Mushis descendants). These were Levis descendants according to their families.

³¹They drew lots as their relatives, Aarons descendants, had done. They drew them in front of King David, Zadok, Ahimelech, and the leaders of the families of the priests and Levites. The families of the oldest brother were treated the same way as those of the youngest.

25¹David and the army commanders appointed the sons of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun to serve as prophets with lyres, harps, and cymbals. This is the list of the men who performed this service:

²From the sons of Asaph were Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asharelah. (They

were directed by Asaph, who served as a prophet under the kings direction.)

³From the sons of Jeduthun were Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, Mattithiah. (The six brothers were directed by their father, the prophet Jeduthun. They thanked and praised the LORD as they played lyres.)

⁴From the sons of Heman were Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, Romamti Ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth.

⁵(All of them were the sons of the kings seer Heman. They were given to him to make him prominent, as God had promised. So God gave Heman 14 sons and 3 daughters.)

⁶All these Levites sang at the LORDS temple under the direction of their fathers Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman. They played cymbals, lyres, and harps for worship in Gods temple under the direction of the king.

⁷They, along with their relatives, were trained, skilled musicians for the LORD. There were 288 of them.

⁸They drew lots for their assignment of duties, the youngest as well as the oldest, the skilled musicians along with the students.

⁹The first lot drawn chose Joseph, the son of Asaph. The second chose Gedaliah, his sons, and his relatives 12 men.

¹⁰The third chose Zaccur, his sons, and his relatives 12 men.

¹¹The fourth chose Izri, his sons, and his relatives 12 men.

¹²The fifth chose Nethaniah, his sons, and his relatives 12 men.

¹³The sixth chose Bukkiah, his sons, and his relatives 12 men.

¹⁴The seventh chose Jesarelah, his sons, and his relatives 12 men.

¹⁵The eighth chose Jeshaiiah, his sons, and his relatives 12 men.

¹⁶The ninth chose Mattaniah, his sons, and his relatives 12 men.

¹⁷The tenth chose Shimei, his sons, and his relatives 12 men.

¹⁸The eleventh chose Azarel, his sons, and his relatives 12 men.

¹⁹The twelfth chose Hashabiah, his sons, and his relatives 12 men.

²⁰The thirteenth chose Shubael, his sons, and his relatives12 men.

²¹The fourteenth chose Mattithiah, his sons, and his relatives12 men.

²²The fifteenth chose Jeremoth, his sons, and his relatives12 men.

²³The sixteenth chose Hananiah, his sons, and his relatives12 men.

²⁴The seventeenth chose Joshbekashah, his sons, and his relatives12 men.

²⁵The eighteenth chose Hanani, his sons, and his relatives12 men.

²⁶The nineteenth chose Mallothi, his sons, and his relatives12 men.

²⁷The twentieth chose Eliathah, his sons, and his relatives12 men.

²⁸The twentyfirst chose Hothir, his sons, and his relatives12 men.

²⁹The twentysecond chose Giddalti, his sons, and his relatives12 men.

³⁰The twentythird chose Mahazioth, his sons, and his relatives12 men.

³¹The twentyfourth chose Romamti Ezer, his sons, and his relatives12 men.

26¹The following were the divisions of the gatekeepers: For Korahs descendants there was Meshelemiah,

the son of Kore, from the descendants of Asaph.

²Meshelemiahs sons were Zechariah (the firstborn), Jediahel (the second), Zebadiah (the third), Jathniel (the fourth),

³Elam (the fifth), Jehohanan (the sixth), and Eliehoenai (the seventh).

⁴Also for Korahs descendants there were Obed Edoms sons Shemaiah (the firstborn), Jehozabad (the second), Joah (the third), Sachar (the fourth), Nethanel (the fifth),

⁵Ammiel (the sixth), Issachar (the seventh), and Peullethai (the eighth). God had blessed Obed Edom.

⁶His son Shemaiah had sons who ruled their families because they were soldiers.

⁷Shemaiahs sons were Othni, and Othnis skilled brothers Rephael, Obed, Elzabad, as well as Elihu and Semachiah.

⁸All of these people were Obed Edoms descendants. They, their sons, and their relatives were skilled and had the ability to perform the service. Obed Edoms family included 62 men.

⁹Meshelemiahs sons and relatives were 18 skilled men.

¹⁰From the descendants of Merari there were Hosah's sons. Shimri was the head, although he was not the firstborn. His father appointed him head.

¹¹Hosah's other sons were Hilkiah (the second), Tebaliah (the third), and Zechariah (the fourth). There were 13 sons and relatives of Hosah.

¹²These divisions of gatekeepers through their head men were assigned duties with their relatives to serve in the LORDS temple.

¹³They drew lots by families, youngest and oldest alike, for every gate.

¹⁴Shelemiah was chosen for the east side. His son Zechariah, a counselor who displayed insight, was chosen for the north side.

¹⁵Obed Edom was chosen for the south side, and his sons were chosen for the storerooms.

¹⁶Shuppim and Hosah were chosen for the west side with Shallecheth Gate at the gateway that goes to the palace. One squad of guards served its watch after another.

¹⁷On the east side there were six Levites. On the north there were four

every day. On the south there were four every day. At the storerooms there were four, two at each entrance.

¹⁸At the courtyard on the west there were four Levites at the gateway to the palace and two at the courtyard itself.

¹⁹These were the divisions of the gatekeepers among Korahs and Meraris descendants.

²⁰Ahijah, a Levite, was in charge of the treasuries in Gods temple and the treasuries of the gifts dedicated to God.

²¹There were also the descendants of Ladan, who was descended from Gershon. Those who served for Ladan, the descendant of Gershon, were the heads of Ladans families: Jehiel

²²and Jehiels sons Zetham and Joel. They were in charge of the treasuries in the LORDS temple.

²³For the descendants of Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel,

²⁴there was Shebuel, a descendant of Moses son Gershom. He was the highestranking official in charge of the treasuries.

²⁵From his relatives on Eliezers side of the family was Shelomith. (Eliezers

son was Rehabiah; his grandson was Jeshaiiah; his greatgrandson was Joram. Jorams son was Zichri; his grandson was Shelomith.)

²⁶He and his relatives were in charge of all the treasuries of the gifts dedicated to God that King David, the heads of families, the commanders of regiments and battalions, and the commanders of the army had donated.

²⁷(They had donated some of the loot taken in battle to support the LORDS temple.)

²⁸Everything that Samuel the seer, Saul (son of Kish), Abner (son of Ner), and Joab (son of Zeruiah) had donatedeverything that had been donatedwas under the supervision of Shelomith and his relatives.

²⁹From Izhars descendants Chenaniah and his sons were assigned duties. They served as officials and judges outside the temple in Israel.

³⁰From Hebrons descendants Hashabiah and his 1,700 skilled, male relatives were appointed to serve Israel west of the Jordan River. They did

everything the LORD wanted them to do, and they served the king.

³¹ Jeriah was the head of Hebrons descendants. In the fortieth year of Davids reign, the ancestry of Hebrons descendants was researched family by family. Warriors from these families were found at Jazer in Gilead.

³² Jeriahs relatives were 2,700 skilled men, who were heads of families. King David appointed them to be overseers in every matter involving God or the king for the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh.

27 ¹ This is a list of Israelite family heads, regiment and battalion commanders, and officers who were serving the king in all the armys units. Throughout each year they came for a month at a time and then left. Each unit consisted of 24,000 men.

² Jashobeam, son of Zabdiel, was in charge of the first unit, the one during the first month. In his unit there were 24,000.

³ He was a descendant of Perez, and he was head of all of the armys officers for the first month.

⁴Dodai, Ahohs descendant, was in charge of the unit during the second month. It was his unit. (Mikloth was one of its leaders.) In Dodais unit there were 24,000.

⁵The third commander of the army during the third month was Benaiah, son of the priest Jehoiada. He was the head, and in his unit there were 24,000.

⁶This Benaiah was one of the thirty fighting men and commander of the thirty as well as his own unit. His son was Ammizabad.

⁷Asahel, Joabs brother, was in charge of the fourth unit during the fourth month, and after him was his son Zebadiah. In his unit there were 24,000.

⁸Shamhuth, Izrahs descendant, was commander of the fifth unit during the fifth month. In his unit there were 24,000.

⁹Ira, the son of Ikkesh from Tekoa, was in charge of the sixth unit during the sixth month. In his unit there were 24,000.

¹⁰Helez, a Pelonite from the descendants of Ephraim, was in charge

of the seventh unit during the seventh month. In his unit there were 24,000.

¹¹ Sibbecai, a descendant of Zerah from Hushah, was in charge of the eighth unit during the eighth month. In his unit there were 24,000.

¹² Abiezer, a member of the tribe of Benjamin from Anathoth, was in charge of the ninth unit during the ninth month. In his unit there were 24,000.

¹³ Mahrai, a descendant of Zerah from Netophah, was in charge of the tenth unit during the tenth month. In his unit there were 24,000.

¹⁴ Benaiah, a member of the tribe of Ephraim from Pirathon, was in charge of the eleventh unit during the eleventh month. In his unit there were 24,000.

¹⁵ During the twelfth month, the twelfth unit was commanded by Heldai from Netophah. He was Othniel's descendant. In his unit there were 24,000.

¹⁶ The following officers were in charge of the tribes of Israel: for the tribe of Reuben Eliezer, son of Zichri for the tribe of Simeon Shephatiah, son of Maacah

¹⁷ for the tribe of Levi Hashabiah, son of Kemuel for the family of Aaron Zadok

¹⁸for the tribe of Judah Elihu, one of Davids brothers for the tribe of Issachar Omri, son of Michael

¹⁹for the tribe of Zebulun Ishmaiah, son of Obadiah for the tribe of Naphtali Jerimoth, son of Azriel

²⁰for the tribe of Ephraim Hoshea, son of Azaziah for half of the tribe of Manasseh Joel, son of Pedaiah

²¹for the half of Manasseh in Gilead Iddo, son of Zechariah for the tribe of Benjamin Jaasiel, son of Abner

²²for the tribe of Dan Azarel, son of Jeroham These were the commanders of Israels tribes.

²³David didnt count those under 20 years old, because the LORD had promised that the people of Israel would be as numerous as the stars in the sky.

²⁴Joab, son of Zeruiah, started to count them but didnt finish. God was angry with Israel because of this, and the report from it was never included in the official records of King David.

²⁵These were all the commanders in charge of King Davids property: for the royal treasuries Azmaveth, son of Adiel for the goods in the fields, cities,

villages, and watchtowers Jonathan, son of Uzziah

²⁶for the farm workers in the fields Ezri, son of Chelub

²⁷for the vineyards Shimei from Ramah for storing wine that came from the vineyards Zabdi from Shepham

²⁸for the olive and fig trees in the foothills Baal Hanan from Gedor for storing olive oil Joash

²⁹for the herds grazing in Sharon Shitrai from Sharon for the herds in the valleys Shaphat, son of Adlai

³⁰for the camels Obil, a descendant of Ishmael for the donkeys Jehdeiah from Meronoth

³¹for the flocks Jaziz from Hagar

³²Dauids uncle Jonathan, an educated man who possessed insight, was Dauids adviser. Jonathan and Jehiel, son of Hachmoni, were in charge of the kings sons.

³³Ahithophel was the kings adviser. Hushai, a descendant of Archi, was the kings friend.

³⁴Jehoiada (son of Benaiah) and Abiathar succeeded Ahithophel. Joab was the commander of the royal army.

28¹ David held a meeting in Jerusalem for all the leaders of Israel the leaders of the tribes, the leaders of the army units that served the king, the commanders of regiments and battalions, the officials in charge of all the property and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, the palace officials, the soldiers, and the fighting men.

² David stood in front of them and said, "Listen to me, my relatives and subjects. I had my heart set on building the temple where the ark of the LORDS promise could be placed. This temple would be a stool for our Gods feet, and I have made preparations to build it.

³ But God told me, You must not build the temple for my name. You have fought wars and caused bloodshed.

⁴ Yet, from my entire family the LORD God of Israel chose me to be king of Israel permanently. He had chosen the tribe of Judah to lead Israel. From the families of Judah he chose my fathers family. From among my fathers sons he was pleased to make me king of all Israel.

⁵And of all my sons (the LORD has given me many sons) he chose my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the LORDS kingdom to rule Israel.

⁶"He told me, Your son Solomon will build my temple and my courtyards because I have chosen him to be my son. I will be his father.

⁷I will establish his kingdom forever if he will remain determined to obey my commands and laws, as he is doing today.

⁸Now, leaders, I order you in the sight of Israel (the LORDS congregation) and as our God listens to dedicate your lives to doing everything the LORD your God has commanded. Then you will be able to possess this good land and leave it as an inheritance to your descendants.

⁹"And you, my son Solomon, learn to know your fathers God. Serve the LORD wholeheartedly and willingly because he searches every heart and understands every thought we have. If you dedicate your life to serving him, he will accept you. But if you abandon him, he will reject you from then on.

¹⁰So be careful, because the LORD has chosen you to build the temple as his holy place. Be strong, and do it."

¹¹Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the entrance hall and the temple, its storerooms, upper rooms, inner rooms, and the room for the throne of mercy.

¹²He gave him plans for the courtyards of the LORDS temple and for all the rooms around it. (These rooms served as treasuries for Gods temple and the gifts dedicated to God.)

¹³He determined the divisions of priests and Levites. He planned all the work done for worship in the LORDS temple. He designed all the utensils for worship in the LORDS temple.

¹⁴David specified the weight of gold to be used for each of the utensils for worship,

¹⁵the weight of the gold lamp stands and their gold lamps (that is, the weight of gold for each lamp stand and its lamps), the weight of silver for each silver lamp stand and its lamps (according to the use of each lamp stand for worship),

¹⁶ the weight of gold for each table with the rows of bread, and the silver for the silver tables,

¹⁷ the pure gold for the forks, bowls, and pitchers, the weight of each gold bowl, the weight of each silver bowl,

¹⁸ and the refined gold for the altar of incense. He also gave Solomon the plans for the chariot, that is, the gold angels with their wings spread to cover the ark of the LORDS promise.

¹⁹ David said, "All this was written for me by the LORDS hand. He made all the details of the plan clear to me."

²⁰ David also told his son Solomon, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Dont be afraid or terrified. The LORD God, my God, will be with you. He will not abandon you before all the work on the LORDS temple is finished.

²¹ Here are also the divisions of the priests and Levites for every type of worship in Gods temple. You have with you every skilled worker to do all the work. In addition, all the leaders and people are at your command."

29¹ Then King David said to the whole assembly, "My son

Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. Yet, the work is important because this palace is not for a person but for the LORD God.

²With all my might I gathered the materials for the temple of my God: gold for gold objects, silver for silver objects, bronze for bronze objects, iron for iron objects, wood for wooden objects, onyx stones and settings, black stones, stones of different colors, gems, and marble.

³Moreover, I delight in the temple of my God. I have a personal treasury of gold and silver that I'm giving to my God's temple in addition to everything else I gathered for the holy temple.

⁴There are 225,000 pounds of gold from Ophir and 525,000 pounds of refined silver. They are to be used to cover the walls of the buildings,

⁵to make gold objects, silver objects, and everything else the craftsmen will make. Who else is willing to make an offering and dedicate himself to the LORD today?"

⁶Then the leaders of the families, the leaders of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of regiments and

battalions, and the officials in charge of the kings work gave generously.

⁷They gave 375,186 pounds of gold, 750,000 pounds of silver, 135,000 pounds of bronze, and 7,500,000 pounds of iron for the work on Gods temple.

⁸Whoever happened to have precious stones gave them to Jehiel, Gershons descendant, for the treasury of the LORDS temple.

⁹The people were overjoyed that the leaders gave so generously and wholeheartedly to the LORD. King David was also overjoyed, and

¹⁰he praised the LORD while the whole assembly watched. David said, "May you be praised, LORD God of Israel, our father forever and ever.

¹¹Greatness, power, splendor, glory, and majesty are yours, LORD, because everything in heaven and on earth is yours. The kingdom is yours, LORD, and you are honored as head of all things.

¹²Riches and honor are in front of you. You rule everything. You hold power and strength in your hands, and you can make anyone great and strong.

¹³"Our God, we thank you and praise your wonderful name.

¹⁴But who am I and who are my people that you enable us to give so generously? Everything comes from you. We give you only what has come from your hands.

¹⁵To you we are all like our ancestors foreigners without permanent homes. Our days are as fleeting as shadows on the ground. There's no hope for them.

¹⁶"LORD, our God, all this wealth that we gathered to build a temple for your holy name is from you. All of it is yours.

¹⁷I know, my God, that you examine hearts and delight in honesty. With an honest heart I have willingly offered all these things. I've been overjoyed to see your people here offering so willingly to you.

¹⁸LORD God of our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, always watch over your peoples deepest thoughts. Keep their hearts directed toward you.

¹⁹Make my son Solomon completely committed to you so that he will obey your commands, requests, and laws and do everything to build the palace I have planned."

²⁰Then David said to the whole assembly, "Praise the LORD your God!" So the whole assembly praised the LORD God of their ancestors and knelt in front of the LORD and the king.

²¹The next day they sacrificed to the LORD. They sacrificed burnt offerings to the LORD: 1,000 bulls, 1,000 rams, 1,000 lambs, wine offerings, and many sacrifices for all Israel.

²²That day they ate and drank as they joyfully celebrated in front of the LORD. For the second time they made Davids son Solomon king. On the LORDS behalf they anointed Solomon to be leader and Zadok to be the priest.

²³Then Solomon sat on the LORDS throne as king in place of his father David. Solomon was successful and all Israel obeyed him.

²⁴All the leaders and soldiers and all of King Davids sons pledged their loyalty to King Solomon.

²⁵The LORD made Solomon extremely powerful, as all Israel could see. The people of Israel gave him royal honor like no king of Israel before him ever had.

²⁶David, son of Jesse, had ruled all Israel.

²⁷He ruled as king of Israel for 40 years. He ruled for 7 years in Hebron and for 33 in Jerusalem.

²⁸He died at a very old age. His long life was full of wealth and honor. Then his son Solomon succeeded him as king.

²⁹Everything about King David from first to last is written in the records of the seer Samuel, the prophet Nathan, and the seer Gad.

³⁰It includes everything about his reign, his power, and the things that happened to him, Israel, and all the other kingdoms.

2 Chronicles

1 ¹ Solomon, son of David, strengthened his position over the kingdom. The LORD his God was with him and made him very powerful.

² Solomon spoke to all Israel to the commanders of regiments and battalions, judges, every prince, and the heads of Israel's families.

³ Then Solomon and the entire assembly went to the place of worship in Gibeon because God's tent of meeting was there. Moses, the LORD'S servant, had made the tent in the desert.

⁴ (However, David had already brought God's ark from Kiriath Jearim to a place he had prepared for it. He had put up a tent for it in Jerusalem.)

⁵ The bronze altar that Bezalel, son of Uri and grandson of Hur, had made was in front of the LORD'S tent. There Solomon and the assembly worshiped the LORD.

⁶ In the LORD'S presence Solomon went to the bronze altar in front of the tent

of meeting and sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings on it.

⁷ That night God appeared to Solomon. He said, "What can I give you?"

⁸ Solomon responded to God, "Youve shown great love to my father David, and youve made me king in his place.

⁹ Now, LORD God, youve kept the promise you made to my father David. Youve made me king of people who are as numerous as specks of dust on the ground.

¹⁰ Give me wisdom and knowledge so that I may lead these people. After all, who can judge this great people of yours?"

¹¹ God replied to Solomon, "I know this request is from your heart. You didnt ask for riches, fortunes, honor, or the death of those who hate you. You didnt even ask for a long life. Instead, youve asked for wisdom and knowledge to judge my people, over whom I made you king.

¹² So wisdom and knowledge will be given to you. I will also give you riches, fortunes, and honor like no other king before or after you."

¹³Solomon went from the tent of meeting at the place of worship in Gibeon to Jerusalem. And he ruled Israel.

¹⁴Solomon built up his army with chariots and war horses. He had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 war horses. He stationed some in chariot cities and others with himself in Jerusalem.

¹⁵The king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars as plentiful as fig trees in the foothills.

¹⁶Solomons horses were imported from Egypt and Kue. The kings traders bought them from Kue for a fixed price.

¹⁷They imported each chariot from Egypt for 15 pounds of silver and each horse for 6 ounces of silver. For the same price they obtained horses to export to all the Hittite and Aramean kings.

2¹Solomon gave orders to begin building the temple for the LORDS name and a royal palace for himself.

²Solomon drafted 70,000 men to carry heavy loads, 80,000 to quarry stones in the mountains, and 3,600 foremen.

³Solomon sent word to King Hiram of Tyre by saying, "Do what you did for my father David. You sent him cedar so that he could build a palace to live in.

⁴I want to build the temple for the name of the LORD my God. I want to dedicate it to him, burn sweet-smelling incense in his presence, and have rows of bread there continually. I want to sacrifice burnt offerings every morning and evening, on weekly worship days, New Moon Festivals, and during the annual festivals appointed by the LORD our God. (These festivals are always to be celebrated by Israel.)

⁵The temple I am building will be great because our God is greater than all other gods.

⁶But who is able to build him a temple when heaven itself, the highest heaven, cannot hold him? Who am I to build him a temple except as a place to sacrifice in his presence?

⁷"Send me a man who has the skill to work with gold, silver, bronze, and iron as well as purple, dark red, and violet cloth. He should know how to make engravings with the skilled men

whom my father David provided for me in Judah and Jerusalem.

⁸Send me cedar, cypress, and sandalwood from Lebanon. I know that your servants are skilled Lebanese lumberjacks. My workers will work with your workers.

⁹They'll prepare plenty of lumber for me, because the temple I want to build will be large and astonishing.

¹⁰I will give your lumberjacks 120,000 bushels of ground wheat, 120,000 bushels of barley, 200,000 gallons of wine, and 200,000 gallons of olive oil."

¹¹Then King Hiram of Tyre responded to Solomon by sending a letter that said, "Because the LORD loves his people, he made you their king."

¹²Hiram added, "May the LORD God of Israel be praised. He made the heavens and the earth and has given King David a wise son who has insight and intelligence and can build the LORDS temple and a royal palace.

¹³And now, I'm sending a man with skill and intelligence Hiram Abi.

¹⁴He was the son of a woman from the tribe of Dan, and his father is a native

of Tyre. Hiram knows how to work with gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone, wood, purple, violet, and dark red cloth, and linen. He also knows how to make all kinds of engravings and follow any set of plans that will be given to him. He can work with your skilled workmen and the skilled workmen of His Majesty David, your father.

¹⁵Your Majesty may now send the wheat, barley, olive oil, and wine he promised the workers.

¹⁶We will cut all the lumber you need in Lebanon. Then we will make rafts out of it and send them to you in Joppa by sea. You can take it from there to Jerusalem."

¹⁷Solomon counted all the men who were foreigners in the land of Israel, as his father David had counted them. Solomon counted 153,600 foreigners.

¹⁸He made 70,000 of them carry heavy loads, 80,000 of them quarry stone in the mountains, and 3,600 of them supervise the work as foremen.

3¹Solomon began to build the LORDS temple in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared to his father David. There David had prepared

the site on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

²He began to build on the second day in the second month of the fourth year of his reign.

³This is how Solomon laid the foundation to build Gods temple. It was 90 feet long and 30 feet wide. (They used the old standard measurement.)

⁴The entrance hall in front of the main room was 30 feet wide (the same as the width of the temple) and 30 feet high. He covered its inside walls with pure gold.

⁵He paneled the larger building with cypress, overlaid it with fine gold, and decorated it with designs in the form of palm trees and chains.

⁶He covered the building with gems to beautify it and used gold from Parvaim.

⁷He also overlaid the building, the rafters, the threshold, the walls, and the doors with gold, and he carved angels into the walls.

⁸He made the most holy place. It was as long as the temple was wide, 30 feet long. It was also 30 feet wide. He

overlaid it with 45,000 pounds of fine gold.

⁹The gold nails weighed 20 ounces. He also overlaid the upper rooms with gold.

¹⁰In the most holy place he made two sculptured angels and covered them with gold.

¹¹The combined length of the angels wings was 30 feet. A wing of one of the angels was 7 feet long and touched the wall of the building. Its other wing was 7 feet long and touched one wing of the other.

¹²The wing of the other one of the angels was 7 feet long and touched the other wall of the building. Its other wing was 7 feet long and touched the wing of the first. So the angels combined wingspan was 30 feet.

¹³They stood on their feet and faced the main hall.

¹⁴Solomon made the canopy of violet, purple, and dark red cloth and of linen and decorated it with angels.

¹⁵He made two pillars for the front of the temple. They were 53 feet long, and the capital on each pillar was 7 feet high.

¹⁶He made chains for the inner room and also put them on the capitals. He made 100 pomegranates and put them on the chains.

¹⁷He set up the pillars in front of the temple, one on the right and the other on the left. He named the one on the right Jachin [He Establishes] and the one on the left Boaz [In Him Is Strength].

4¹He made a bronze altar 30 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 15 feet high.

²Huram made a pool from cast metal. It was 15 feet in diameter. It was round, 7 feet high, and had a circumference of 45 feet.

³Under the rim were two rows of figurines shaped like bulls all around the 45foot circumference of the pool. They were cast in metal when the pool was cast.

⁴The pool was set on 12 metal bulls. Three bulls faced north, three faced west, three faced south, and three faced east. The pool was set on them, and their hindquarters were toward the center of the pool.

⁵The pool was three inches thick. Its rim was like the rim of a cup, shaped like a lily's bud. It held 18,000 gallons.

⁶Huram also made ten basins for washing and put five on the south side and five on the north side. The priests rinsed the meat prepared for the burnt offerings in them. They used the pool to wash themselves.

⁷Huram made ten gold lamp stands according to their specifications and put them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north side.

⁸He made ten tables and put them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north side. And he made 100 gold bowls.

⁹He also made the priests' courtyard and the large courtyard and its doors. He covered the doors with bronze.

¹⁰He set the pool on the south side in the southeast corner.

¹¹Huram also made the pots, shovels, and bowls. So Hiram finished the work for King Solomon in God's temple:

¹²2 pillars, bowl-shaped capitals on top of the 2 pillars, and 2 sets of filigree to

cover the 2 bowlshaped capitals on top of the pillars,

¹³ 400 pomegranates for the 2 sets of filigree (2 rows of pomegranates for each filigree to cover the 2 bowlshaped capitals on the pillars),

¹⁴ 10 stands and 10 basins on the stands,

¹⁵ 1 pool and the 12 bulls under it,

¹⁶ pots, shovels, and threepronged forks. Hiram made all of them out of polished bronze for the LORDS temple at King Solomons request.

¹⁷ The king cast them in foundries in the Jordan Valley between Succoth and Zeredah.

¹⁸ Solomon made so many of these products that no one tried to determine how much the bronze weighed.

¹⁹ Solomon made all the furnishings for Gods temple: the gold altar, the gold tables on which the bread of the presence was placed,

²⁰ lamp stands and lamps of pure gold (to burn as directed in front of the inner room),

²¹ flowers, lamps, pure gold tongs,

²²snuffers, basins, dishes, incense burners of pure gold, the gold entrance to the temple, the gold doors of the inner room (the most holy place), and the gold doors of the temple.

5¹All the work Solomon did on the LORDS temple was finished. He brought the holy things that had belonged to his father Davidthe silver, gold, and all the utensilsand put them in the storerooms of Gods temple.

²Then Solomon assembled the respected leaders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes, and the leaders of the Israelite families. They came to Jerusalem to take the ark of the LORDS promise from the City of David (that is, Zion).

³All the men of Israel gathered around the king at the Festival of Booths in the seventh month.

⁴When all the leaders of Israel had arrived, the Levites picked up the ark.

⁵They brought the ark, the tent of meeting, and all the holy utensils in it to the temple. The priests and the Levites carried them

⁶while King Solomon and the whole assembly from Israel were offering countless sheep and cattle sacrifices in front of the ark.

⁷The priests brought the ark of the LORDS promise to its place in the inner room of the temple (the most holy place) under the wings of the angels.

⁸The angels outstretched wings were over the place where the ark rested so that the angels became a covering above the ark and its poles.

⁹The poles were so long that their ends could be seen in the holy place by anyone standing in front of the inner room, but they couldnt be seen outside. (They are still there today.)

¹⁰There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets Moses placed there at Horeb, where the LORD made a promise to the Israelites after they left Egypt.

¹¹All the priests who were present had performed the ceremonies to make themselves holy to God without regard to staying in their divisions.

¹²All the Levites who were musiciansAsaph, Heman, Jeduthun, their sons, and their relativeswere dressed

in fine linen and stood east of the altar with cymbals, harps, and lyres. With the musicians were 120 priests blowing trumpets. When the priests left the holy place,

¹³ the trumpeters and singers praised and thanked the LORD in unison. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other musical instruments, they sang in praise to the LORD: "He is good; his mercy endures forever." Then the LORDS temple was filled with a cloud.

¹⁴ The priests couldnt serve because of the cloud. The LORDS glory filled Gods temple.

6¹ Then Solomon said, "The LORD said he would live in a dark cloud.

² But I have built you a high temple, a home for you to live in permanently."

³ Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly from Israel while they were standing.

⁴ "Thanks be to the LORD God of Israel. With his mouth he made a promise to my father David; with his hand he carried it out. He said,

⁵ Ever since I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I didnt choose any city

from the tribes of Israel as a place to build a temple for my name. And I didnt choose any man to be prince over my people Israel.

⁶But now Ive chosen Jerusalem to be a place for my name; Ive chosen David to rule my people Israel.

⁷"My father David had his heart set on building a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

⁸However, the LORD said to my father David, Since you had your heart set on building a temple for my name, your intentions were good.

⁹But you must not build the temple. Instead, your own son will build the temple for my name.

¹⁰The LORD has kept the promise he made. Ive taken my father Davids place, and I sit on the throne of Israel as the LORD promised. Ive built the temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

¹¹Ive put the ark which contains the LORDS promise to Israel there."

¹²In the presence of the entire assembly of Israel, Solomon stood in front of the LORDS altar. He stretched out his hands to pray.

¹³(Solomon had made a bronze platform 7 feet long, 7 feet wide, and 4 feet high. He put it in the middle of the courtyard. He stood on the platform, knelt in front of the entire assembly, and stretched out his hands toward heaven.)

¹⁴He said, "LORD God of Israel, there is no god like you in heaven or on earth. You keep your promise of mercy to your servants, who obey you wholeheartedly.

¹⁵You have kept your promise to my father David, your servant. With your mouth you promised it. With your hand you carried it out as it is today.

¹⁶"Now, LORD God of Israel, keep your promise to my father David, your servant. You said, You will never fail to have an heir sitting in front of me on the throne of Israel if your descendants are faithful to me as you have been faithful to me.

¹⁷"So now, LORD God of Israel, may the promise you made to David, your servant, come true.

¹⁸"Does God really live on earth with people? If heaven itself, the highest heaven, cannot hold you, then how can this temple that I have built?

¹⁹Nevertheless, my LORD God, please pay attention to my prayer for mercy. Listen to my cry for help as I pray to you.

²⁰Day and night may your eyes be on this temple, the place about which you said your name will be there. Listen to me as I pray toward this place.

²¹Hear the plea for mercy that your people Israel and I pray toward this place. Hear us in heaven, the place where you live. Hear and forgive.

²²"If anyone sins against another person and is required to take an oath and comes to take the oath in front of your altar in this temple,

²³then hear that person in heaven, take action, and make a decision. Repay the guilty person with the proper punishment, but declare the innocent person innocent.

²⁴"An enemy may defeat your people Israel because they have sinned against you. But when your people turn, praise your name, pray, and plead with you in this temple,

²⁵then hear them in heaven, forgive the sins of your people Israel, and bring

them back to the land that you gave to them and their ancestors.

²⁶"When the sky is shut and theres no rain because they are sinning against you and they pray toward this place, praise your name, and turn away from their sin because you made them suffer,

²⁷ then hear them in heaven. Forgive the sins of your servants, your people Israel. Teach them the proper way to live. Then send rain on the land, which you gave to your people as an inheritance.

²⁸"There may be famine in the land. Plant diseases, heat waves, funguses, locusts, or grasshoppers may destroy crops. Enemies may blockade Israels city gates. During every plague or sickness

²⁹hear every prayer for mercy made by one person or by all the people in Israel, all who know suffering or pain, who stretch out their hands toward this temple.

³⁰Hear them in heaven, where you live. Forgive them, and give each person the proper reply. (You know what is in their hearts, because you alone know what is in peoples hearts.)

³¹ Then, as long as they live in the land that you gave to our ancestors, they will fear you and follow you.

³² "People who are not Israelites will come from distant countries because of your great name, mighty hand, and powerful arm. When they come to pray facing this temple,

³³ then hear them in heaven, the place where you live. Do everything they ask you so that all the people of the world may know your name and fear you like your people Israel and learn that this temple which I built bears your name.

³⁴ "When your people go to war against their enemies (wherever you may send them) and they pray to you toward this city you have chosen and the temple I built for your name,

³⁵ then hear their prayer for mercy in heaven, and do what is right for them.

³⁶ "They may sin against you. (No one is sinless.) You may become angry with them and hand them over to an enemy who takes them to another country as captives, whether it is far or near.

³⁷ If they come to their senses, are sorry for what theyve done, and plead

with you in the land where they are captives, saying, We have sinned. We have done wrong. We have been wicked,
³⁸if they change their attitude toward you in the land where they are captives, if they pray to you toward the land that you gave their ancestors, and the city you have chosen, and the temple I have built for your name,

³⁹then in heaven, the place where you live, hear their prayer for mercy. Do what is right for them. Forgive your people, who have sinned against you.

⁴⁰"Finally, my God, may your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

⁴¹"Now arise, and come to your resting place, LORD God you and the ark of your power. Clothe your priests, LORD God, with salvation. Let your godly ones rejoice in what is good.

⁴²LORD God, do not reject your anointed one. Remember your mercy to your servant David!"

7¹ When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offerings and the

other sacrifices, and the LORDS glory filled the temple.

²The priests couldnt go into the LORDS temple because the LORDS glory had filled the LORDS temple.

³When all the Israelites saw the fire come down and the LORDS glory on the temple, they knelt down with their faces on the pavement. They worshiped and praised the LORD, by saying, "He is good; his mercy endures forever."

⁴Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices to the LORD.

⁵King Solomon offered 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep as sacrifices to the LORD. So the king and all the people dedicated Gods temple.

⁶The priests were standing at their posts. So were the Levites who had the LORDS musical instruments which King David made for praising the LORD with "his mercy endures forever" and which he used to offer praise. The priests were opposite the Levites blowing trumpets while all Israel was standing there.

⁷Solomon designated the courtyard in front of the LORDS temple as a holy place. He sacrificed the burnt offerings,

grain offerings, and the fat because the bronze altar that he had made and that was in front of the LORD was not able to hold all of them.

⁸At that time Solomon and all Israel celebrated the Festival of Booths. A very large crowd had come from the territory between the border of Hamath and the River of Egypt.

⁹On the eighth day there was an assembly. They had observed the dedication of the altar for seven days and celebrated the festival for another seven days.

¹⁰On the twentythird day of the seventh month, Solomon dismissed the people to their tents. They rejoiced with cheerful hearts for all the blessings the LORD had given David, Solomon, and his people Israel.

¹¹Solomon finished the LORDS temple and the royal palace and completed everything he had in mind for the LORDS temple and his own palace.

¹²Then the LORD appeared to him at night. He said to Solomon, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices.

¹³I may shut the sky so that there is no rain, or command grasshoppers to devour the countryside, or send an epidemic among my people.

¹⁴However, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, pray, search for me, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear their prayer from heaven, forgive their sins, and heal their country.

¹⁵My eyes will be open, and my ears will pay attention to those prayers at this place.

¹⁶I have chosen and declared this temple holy so that my name may be placed there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

¹⁷"If you will be faithful to me as your father David was, do everything I command, and obey my laws and rules,

¹⁸then I will establish your royal dynasty as I said in a promise to your father David, You will never fail to have an heir ruling Israel.

¹⁹But if you and your descendants turn away from me and abandon my commands and laws that I gave you, and

follow and serve other gods and worship them,

²⁰ then I will uproot Israel from the land I gave them. I will reject this temple that I declared holy for my name. I will make it an example and an object of ridicule for all the people of the world.

²¹ Everyone passing by this impressive temple will be appalled. They will ask, Why did the LORD do these things to this land and this temple?

²² They will answer themselves, They abandoned the LORD God of their ancestors, who brought them out of Egypt. They adopted other gods, worshiped, and served them. That is why he brought this disaster on them."

8¹ It took Solomon 20 years to build the LORDS house and his own house.

² He rebuilt the cities Hiram gave him, and he had Israelites live in them.

³ Then Solomon went to Hamath Zobah and conquered it.

⁴ He rebuilt Tadmor in the desert and built all the storage cities in Hamath.

⁵ He rebuilt Upper Beth Horon and Lower Beth Horon into cities fortified with walls, doubledoor gates, and bars.

⁶He also rebuilt Baalath and all the storage cities that he owned. He built all the cities for his chariots, all the cities for his war horses, and whatever else he wanted to build in Jerusalem, Lebanon, or the entire territory that he governed.

⁷The Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites had been left in the land because the Israelites had not been able to destroy them. They were not Israelites,

⁸but they had descendants who were still in the land. Solomon drafted them for slave labor. (They are still slaves today.)

⁹But Solomon didn't make any of the Israelites slaves for his projects. Instead, they were the soldiers, officers, generals, and commanders of his chariot and cavalry units.

¹⁰These were the officers in charge of King Solomons projects: 250 foremen for the people who did the work.

¹¹Solomon brought Pharaohs daughter from the City of David to a palace he had built for her. He said, "My wife will not live in the palace of King David of Israel

because these places where the LORDS ark has come are holy."

¹²Then Solomon sacrificed burnt offerings to the LORD on the LORDS altar that he built in front of the entrance hall.

¹³He sacrificed every day, on weekly worship days, on the New Moon Festivals, and on the three annual festivals (the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Booths) as Moses had commanded.

¹⁴As Solomons father David had directed, he set up the divisions of priests for their service and the divisions of Levites for their appointed places. The Levites were to lead in praising the LORD and to serve beside the priests by doing whatever needed to be done each day. Solomon also set up divisions of doorkeepers at every gate because this is what David, the man of God, had commanded.

¹⁵No one neglected the kings orders to the priests or the Levites in any matter, including the temples finances.

¹⁶All of Solomons work was carried out from the day the foundation of the LORDS temple was laid until it was

completed. The LORDS temple was now finished.

¹⁷ Then Solomon went to the coast near Ezion Geber and Elath in Edom.

¹⁸ Hiram sent his own servants and his experienced sailors with ships to Solomon. They went with Solomons servants to Ophir, got 33,750 pounds of gold, and brought it to King Solomon.

9¹ The queen of Sheba heard about Solomons reputation. So she came to Jerusalem to test him with riddles. She arrived with a large group of servants, with camels carrying spices, a large quantity of gold, and precious stones. When she came to Solomon, she talked to him about everything she had on her mind.

² Solomon answered all her questions. No question was too difficult for Solomon to answer.

³ When the queen of Sheba saw Solomons wisdom, the palace he built,

⁴ the food on his table, his officers seating arrangement, the organization of his officials and the uniforms they wore, his cupbearers and their uniforms, and

the burnt offerings that he sacrificed at the LORDS temple, she was breathless.

⁵She told the king, "What I heard in my country about your words and your wisdom is true!

⁶But I didnt believe the reports until I came and saw it with my own eyes. I wasnt even told about half of the extent of your wisdom. Youve surpassed the stories Ive heard.

⁷How blessed your men must be! How blessed these servants of yours must be because they are always stationed in front of you and listen to your wisdom!

⁸Thank the LORD your God, who is pleased with you. He has put you on his throne to be king on behalf of the LORD your God. Because of your Gods love for the people of Israel, he has established them permanently and made you king over them so that you would maintain justice and righteousness."

⁹She gave the king 9,000 pounds of gold, a very large quantity of spices, and precious stones. Never was there such a large quantity of spices in Israel as those that the queen of Sheba gave King Solomon.

¹⁰Hurams servants and Solomons servants who brought gold from Ophir also brought sandalwood and precious stones.

¹¹With the sandalwood the king made gateways to the LORDS temple and the royal palace, and lyres and harps for the singers. No one had ever seen anything like them in Judah.

¹²King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba anything she wanted, whatever she asked for, more than what she had brought him. Then she and her servants went back to her country.

¹³The gold that came to Solomon in one year weighed 49,950 pounds,

¹⁴not counting the gold which the merchants and traders brought. All the Arab kings and governors of the land also brought gold and silver to Solomon.

¹⁵King Solomon made 200 large shields of hammered gold, using 15 pounds of gold on each shield.

¹⁶He also made 300 small shields of hammered gold, using 7 pounds of gold on each shield. The king put them in the hall named the Forest of Lebanon.

¹⁷The king also made a large ivory throne and covered it with pure gold.

¹⁸Six steps led to the throne, which had a gold footstool attached to it. There were armrests on both sides of the seat. Two lions stood beside the armrests.

¹⁹Twelve lions stood on six steps, one on each side. Nothing like this had been made for any other kingdom.

²⁰All King Solomons cups were gold, and all the utensils for the hall named the Forest of Lebanon were fine gold. (Silver wasnt considered valuable in Solomons time.)

²¹The king had ships going to Tarshish with Hurams sailors. Once every three years the Tarshish ships would bring gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys.

²²In wealth and wisdom King Solomon was greater than all the other kings of the world.

²³All the kings of the world wanted to listen to the wisdom that God gave Solomon.

²⁴So everyone who came brought him gifts: articles of silver and gold, clothing, weapons, spices, horses, and mules. This happened year after year.

²⁵ Solomon had 4,000 stalls for horses and chariots, and 12,000 war horses. He stationed some in chariot cities and others with himself in Jerusalem.

²⁶ He ruled all the kings from the Euphrates River to the country of the Philistines and as far as the Egyptian border.

²⁷ The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars as plentiful as fig trees in the foothills.

²⁸ Horses were imported for Solomon from Egypt and from all other countries.

²⁹ Arent the rest of Solomons acts from first to last written in the records of Nathan the prophet, in the prophecy of Ahijah from Shiloh, and in Iddo the seers visions about Jeroboam (son of Nebat)?

³⁰ Solomon ruled in Jerusalem over all Israel for 40 years.

³¹ Solomon lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. His son Rehoboam succeeded him as king.

10¹ Rehoboam went to Shechem because all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king.

²Jeroboam (Nebats son) was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon. When he heard about Rehoboam, he returned from Egypt.

³Israel sent for Jeroboam and invited him back. Jeroboam and all Israel went to speak to Rehoboam. They said,

⁴"Your father made us carry a heavy burden. Reduce the hard work and lighten the heavy burden he put on us, and we will serve you."

⁵He said to them, "Come back the day after tomorrow." So the people left.

⁶King Rehoboam sought advice from the older leaders who had served his father Solomon while he was still alive. He asked, "What do you advise? How should I respond to these people?"

⁷They told him, "If you are good to these people and try to please them by speaking gently to them, then they will always be your servants."

⁸But he ignored the advice the older leaders gave him. He sought advice from the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him.

⁹He asked them, "What is your advice? How should we respond to these people

who are asking me to lighten the burden my father put on them?"

¹⁰The young men who had grown up with him answered, "This is what you should tell them: My little finger is heavier than my fathers whole body.

¹¹If my father put a heavy burden on you, I will add to it. If my father punished you with whips, I will punish you with scorpions."

¹²So Jeroboam and all the people came back to Rehoboam two days later, as the king had instructed them.

¹³The king answered them harshly. He ignored the older leaders advice.

¹⁴He spoke to them as the young men advised. He said, "If my father made your burden heavy, I will add to it. If my father punished you with whips, I will use scorpions."

¹⁵The king refused to listen to the people because the LORD was directing these events to carry out the promise he had made to Jeroboam (Nebats son) through Ahijah from Shiloh.

¹⁶When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, the people answered the king, "What share do

we have in Davids kingdom? We wont receive an inheritance from Jesses son. Everyone to his own tent, Israel! Now look after your own house, David!" So all Israel went home to their own tents.

¹⁷ But Rehoboam ruled the Israelites who lived in the cities of Judah.

¹⁸ Then King Rehoboam sent Hadoram to the Israelites. He was in charge of forced labor, but they stoned him to death. So King Rehoboam got on his chariot as fast as he could and fled to Jerusalem.

¹⁹ Israel has rebelled against Davids dynasty to this day.

11 ¹ When Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he gathered the people of Judah and Benjamin, 180,000 of the best soldiers, to fight against Israel and return the kingdom to Rehoboam.

² But God spoke his word to Shemaiah, the man of God. He said,

³ "Speak to Judahs King Rehoboam, son of Solomon, and all Israel in Judah and Benjamin.

⁴ This is what the LORD says: Dont wage war against your relatives. Everyone, go home. What has happened is my doing."

So they obeyed the word of the LORD. They turned back from their attack on Jeroboam.

⁵ Rehoboam lived in Jerusalem and built fortified cities in Judah.

⁶ He rebuilt Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa,

⁷ Beth Zur, Soco, Adullam,

⁸ Gath, Mareshah, Ziph,

⁹ Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah,

¹⁰ Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron. These were fortified cities in Judah and Benjamin.

¹¹ He strengthened them and put army officers with reserves of food, olive oil, and wine in them.

¹² In each city he stored shields and spears. He made the cities very secure. So Rehoboam held on to Judah and Benjamin.

¹³ The priests and Levites in every region of Israel sided with Rehoboam.

¹⁴ The priests abandoned their land and property and went to Judah and Jerusalem because Jeroboam and his descendants rejected them as the LORDS priests.

¹⁵ Instead, Jeroboam appointed his own priests for the illegal worship sites and

the goat and calf statues he had made as idols.

¹⁶ People from every tribe of Israel who were determined to seek the LORD God of Israel followed the Levitical priests to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the LORD God of their ancestors.

¹⁷ So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah by supporting Rehoboam, son of Solomon, for three years. During those three years they lived the way David and Solomon had lived.

¹⁸ Rehoboam married Mahalath, daughter of Jerimoth. (Jerimoth was the son of David and Abihail. Abihail was the daughter of Eliab, son of Jesse.)

¹⁹ Mahalath gave birth to the following sons: Jeush, Shemariah, and Zaham.

²⁰ After marrying Mahalath, he married Maacah, Absaloms granddaughter. She gave birth to Abijah, Attai, Ziza, and Shelomith.

²¹ Rehoboam loved Maacah, Absaloms granddaughter, more than all his other wives and concubines. (He had 18 wives and 60 concubines. He fathered 28 sons and 60 daughters.)

²² Rehoboam appointed Abijah, son of Maacah, as family head and prince among his brothers. By doing this, Rehoboam could make him king.

²³ He wisely placed his sons in every region of Judah and Benjamin, in every fortified city. He gave them allowances and obtained many wives for them.

12¹ When Rehoboam had established his kingdom and made himself strong, he and all Israel abandoned the LORDS teachings.

² In the fifth year of Rehoboams reign, King Shishak of Egypt attacked Jerusalem. This happened because all Israel was not loyal to the LORD.

³ Shishak had 1,200 chariots, 60,000 horses, and an army of countless Libyans, Sukkites, and Sudanese from Egypt.

⁴ He captured the fortified cities in Judah and then came to Jerusalem.

⁵ The prophet Shemaiah came to Rehoboam and the leaders of Judah who had gathered in Jerusalem because of Shishak. Shemaiah said to them, "This is what the LORD says: You have

abandoned me, so I will abandon you. I will hand you over to Shishak."

⁶Then the commanders of Israel and the king humbled themselves. "The LORD is right!" they said.

⁷When the LORD saw that they had humbled themselves, he spoke his word to Shemaiah: "They have humbled themselves. I will not destroy them. In a little while I will give them an escape. I will not use Shishak to pour my anger on Jerusalem.

⁸But they will become his servants so that they can learn the difference between serving me and serving foreign kings."

⁹King Shishak of Egypt attacked Jerusalem and took the treasures from the LORDS temple and the royal palace. He took them all. He took the gold shields Solomon had made.

¹⁰So King Rehoboam made bronze shields to replace them and put them by the entrance to the royal palace, where the captains of the guards were stationed.

¹¹Whenever the king went into the LORDS temple, guards carried the

shields and then returned them to the guardroom.

¹²After Rehoboam humbled himself, the LORD was no longer angry with him and didn't completely destroy him. So things went well in Judah.

¹³King Rehoboam strengthened his position in Jerusalem and ruled. He was 41 years old when he began to rule. He ruled for 17 years in Jerusalem, the city that the LORD chose from all the tribes of Israel, the city where the LORD put his name. (Rehoboam's mother was an Ammonite woman named Naamah.)

¹⁴He did evil things because he was not serious about dedicating himself to serving the LORD.

¹⁵Aren't the events concerning Rehoboam from first to last written in the records of the prophet Shemaiah and the records of the seer Iddo in the genealogies? There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam as long as they lived.

¹⁶Rehoboam lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. His son Abijah succeeded him as king.

13¹ In the eighteenth year of the reign of Jeroboam, Abijah began to rule Judah.

² He ruled for three years in Jerusalem. His mother was named Micaiah, daughter of Uriel from Gibeah. There was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.

³ Abijah prepared for battle with an army of 400,000 of the best soldiers, while Jeroboam arranged to oppose him with 800,000 of the best professional soldiers.

⁴ Then Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim in the mountains of Ephraim. He called out, "Jeroboam and all Israel, listen to me!

⁵ Don't you know that the LORD God of Israel gave the kingdom of Israel to David and his descendants forever in a permanent promise?

⁶ But Jeroboam (Nebats son) rebelled against his master. He had been the servant of Davids son Solomon.

⁷ Worthless, good-for-nothing men gathered around him. They opposed Rehoboam, son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was too young and inexperienced to challenge them.

⁸Do you now intend to challenge the LORDS kingdom, which has been placed in the hands of Davids descendants? You are a large crowd, and you have the gold calves that Jeroboam made to be your gods.

⁹You forced out the LORDS priests who were Aarons descendants, and you forced out the Levites so that you could appoint your own priests, as the people in foreign countries do. Anyone who has a young bull and seven rams can be ordained as a priest of nonexistent gods.

¹⁰"However, the LORD is our God. We havent abandoned him. The priests who serve the LORD are Aarons descendants, and the Levites assist them.

¹¹They sacrifice burnt offerings to the LORD every morning and every evening. They offer sweet-smelling incense and rows of bread on the clean table. The lamps on the gold lamp stand burn every evening. We're following the instructions the LORD our God gave us, but you have abandoned him.

¹²God is with us as our leader. His priests will sound their trumpets to call the army to fight you. Men of Israel,

don't wage war against the LORD God of your ancestors. You won't succeed."

¹³But Jeroboam had set an ambush to attack them from behind. So Jeroboam's army was in front of Judah, and the ambush was behind them.

¹⁴When Judah's soldiers looked around, the battle was in front of them and behind them. They cried out to the LORD, the priests blew the trumpets,

¹⁵and the men of Judah shouted. When they shouted, God attacked Jeroboam and all Israel in front of Abijah and Judah.

¹⁶The Israelites fled from Judah's army, and God handed them over to Judah.

¹⁷So Abijah and his men defeated them decisively, and 500,000 of the best men of Israel were killed.

¹⁸So the Israelites were humbled at that time, and the men of Judah won because they trusted the LORD God of their ancestors.

¹⁹Abijah pursued Jeroboam and captured some of his cities: Bethel and its villages, Jeshanah and its villages, and Ephron and its villages.

²⁰ Jeroboam never regained power during Abijah's time. The LORD caused Jeroboam to become sick, and Jeroboam died.

²¹ But Abijah became strong. He married 14 wives and fathered 22 sons and 16 daughters.

²² Everything else about Abijah how he lived and what he said is written in the history by the prophet Iddo.

14¹ Abijah lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. His son Asa succeeded him as king. In Asa's time the land had peace for ten years.

² Asa did what the LORD his God considered good and right.

³ He got rid of the altars of foreign gods, broke down the sacred stones, and cut down the poles dedicated to the goddess Asherah.

⁴ He told the people of Judah to dedicate their lives to serving the LORD God of their ancestors and follow his teachings and commands.

⁵ He got rid of the illegal places of worship and the altars for incense in all

the cities of Judah. The kingdom was at peace during his reign.

⁶He built fortified cities in Judah because the land had peace. There was no war during those years because the LORD gave him a time of peace.

⁷So Asa told Judah, "Let's build these cities and make walls around them with towers and doors that can be barred. The country is still ours because we have dedicated our lives to serving the LORD our God. We have dedicated our lives to him, and he has surrounded us with peace." So they built the cities, and everything went well.

⁸Asa had an army of 300,000 Judeans who were armed with large shields and spears and 280,000 Benjaminites who were armed with small shields and bows. All of these men were good fighting men.

⁹Then Zerah from Sudan came with 1,000,000 men and 300 chariots to attack Asa. Zerah got as far as Mareshah.

¹⁰Asa went to confront him, and the two armies set up their battle lines in the Zephathah Valley at Mareshah.

¹¹Asa called on the LORD his God. He said, "LORD, there is no one except you

who can help those who are not strong so that they can fight against a large army. Help us, LORD our God, because we are depending on you. In your name we go against this large crowd. You are the LORD our God. Don't let anyone successfully oppose you."

¹²The LORD attacked the Sudanese army in front of Asa and Judah. The Sudanese army fled.

¹³Asa and his troops pursued them as far as Gerar. Many of the Sudanese died in battle. As a result, the Sudanese army couldn't fight again. It was crushed in front of the LORD and his army. The LORDS army captured a lot of goods.

¹⁴It attacked all the cities around Gerar because the cities were afraid of the LORD. The army looted all the cities because there were many things to take.

¹⁵It also attacked those who were letting their cattle graze and captured many sheep and camels. Then it returned to Jerusalem.

15¹ Gods Spirit came to Azariah, son of Oded.

²Azariah went to Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa and all you men from

Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you will dedicate your lives to serving him, he will accept you. But if you abandon him, he will abandon you.

³For a long time Israel was without the true God, without a priest who taught correctly, and without Moses Teachings.

⁴But when they were in trouble, they turned to the LORD God of Israel. When they searched for him, he let them find him.

⁵At those times no one could come and go in peace, because everyone living in the land had a lot of turmoil.

⁶One nation crushed another nation; one city crushed another. God had tormented them with every kind of trouble.

⁷But you must remain strong and not become discouraged. Your actions will be rewarded."

⁸When Asa heard the prophet Odeds words of prophecy, he was encouraged and put away the detestable idols from all of Judah, Benjamin, and the cities he had captured in the mountains of

Ephraim. He also repaired the LORDS altar in front of the LORDS entrance hall.

⁹Then Asa gathered all the people from Judah and Benjamin and the foreigners who had come from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon. (Many of them had come to him from Israel when they saw that Asas God, the LORD, was with him.)

¹⁰In the third month of the fifteenth year of Asas reign, they gathered in Jerusalem.

¹¹On that day they sacrificed to the LORD a part of the loot they had brought with them: 700 cattle and 7,000 sheep.

¹²They made an agreement with one another to dedicate their lives to serving the LORD God of their ancestors with all their heart and soul.

¹³All people (young or old, male or female) who refused to dedicate their lives to the LORD God of Israel were to be killed.

¹⁴Asa and the people swore their oath to the LORD with shouts, singing, and the blowing of trumpets and rams horns.

¹⁵All the people of Judah were overjoyed because of the oath, since they took the oath wholeheartedly. They

took great pleasure in looking for the LORD, and he let them find him. So the LORD surrounded them with peace.

¹⁶King Asa also removed his grandmother Maacah from the position of queen mother because she made a statue of the repulsive goddess Asherah. Asa cut the statue down, crushed it, and burned it in the Kidron Valley.

¹⁷Although the illegal worship sites in Israel were not taken down, Asa remained committed to the LORD his entire life.

¹⁸He brought into God's temple the silver, the gold, and the utensils he and his father had set apart as holy.

¹⁹There was no war until the thirtyfifth year of Asa's reign.

16¹In the thirtysixth year of Asa's reign, King Baasha of Israel invaded Judah and fortified Ramah to keep anyone from going to or coming from King Asa of Judah.

²Then Asa brought out all the silver and gold that was left in the treasuries of the LORDS temple and the royal palace. He sent them to Damascus to Aram's King Benhadad.

³He said, "There's a treaty between you and me as there was between your father and my father. I'm sending you silver and gold. Now break your treaty with King Baasha of Israel so that he will leave me alone."

⁴Benhadad did what King Asa requested. He sent his generals and their armies to attack the cities of Israel. He conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel Maim, and all the storage cities in the territory of Naphtali.

⁵When Baasha heard the news, he stopped fortifying Ramah and abandoned his work on it.

⁶Then King Asa took everyone in Judah to Ramah. He made them carry the stones and lumber from Ramah. Baasha had been using those to fortify the city. Asa used the materials to fortify Geba in Benjamin and Mizpah.

⁷At that time the seer Hanani came to King Asa of Judah and said to him, "Because you depended on the king of Syria and did not depend on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped your grasp."

⁸Werent the Sudanese and Libyans a large army with many chariots and drivers? But when you depended on the LORD, he handed them over to you.

⁹The LORDS eyes scan the whole world to find those whose hearts are committed to him and to strengthen them. You acted foolishly in this matter. So from now on, you will have to fight wars."

¹⁰Asa was furious at the seer. He was so angry with Hanani that he put Hanani in prison. Asa also oppressed some of the people at that time in his reign.

¹¹Everything about Asa from first to last is written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.

¹²In the thirtyninth year of his reign, Asa got a foot disease that became progressively worse. Instead of asking the LORD for help, he went to doctors.

¹³Asa lay down in death with his ancestors. He died in the fortyfirst year of his reign.

¹⁴They buried him in the tomb that he had prepared for himself in the City of David. They laid him on a bed full of

spices and blended perfumes. And they burned a bonfire in his honor.

17 ¹Asas son Jehoshaphat succeeded him as king. Jehoshaphat strengthened himself to wage war against Israel.

²He put troops in all the fortified cities of Judah and placed military posts in Judah and in the cities of Ephraim that his father Asa had captured.

³The LORD was with Jehoshaphat, who lived in the old way like his ancestor David. Jehoshaphat didnt dedicate his life to serving other godsthe Baals.

⁴Instead, he dedicated his life to his ancestors God and lived by Gods commands. Jehoshaphat did not do what Israel was doing.

⁵So the LORD established Jehoshaphats power over the kingdom. All the people of Judah gave gifts to Jehoshaphat, and he had a lot of riches and honor.

⁶He had the confidence to live the way the LORD wanted him to live. He also got rid of the illegal places of worship and poles dedicated to the goddess Asherah in Judah.

⁷In the third year of his reign, he sent his officers Ben Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Micaiah to teach in the cities of Judah.

⁸With them were the Levites Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, Tob Adonijah, and the priests Elishama and Jehoram.

⁹They taught in Judah. They had the Book of the LORDS Teachings with them when they taught the people in all the cities of Judah.

¹⁰Fear of the LORD came to all the kingdoms around Judah. As a result, they didnt wage war against Jehoshaphat.

¹¹Some of the Philistines brought gifts and silver as taxes. The Arabs also brought him flocks: 7,700 rams and 7,700 male goats.

¹²So Jehoshaphat became more and more powerful. He built fortresses and cities where supplies were stored in Judah.

¹³He had large supplies of food in the cities of Judah and an army of professional soldiers with him in Jerusalem.

¹⁴The following is a breakdown of these soldiers. They are listed by families. Judah's regimental commanders were Commander Adnah (with 300,000 fighting men),

¹⁵next to him Commander Jehohanan (with 280,000),

¹⁶and next to him Amasiah, Zichris son, who volunteered to serve the LORD (with 200,000 fighting men).

¹⁷From Benjamin there was the fighting man Eliada (with 200,000 armed men with bows and shields),

¹⁸and next to him was Jehozabad (with him was an army of 180,000 armed men).

¹⁹These were the men who served the king in addition to those whom the king put in the fortified cities throughout Judah.

18¹ Jehoshaphat was wealthy and honorable and became Ahab's in-law.

²A few years later he went to visit Ahab in Samaria. Ahab slaughtered many sheep and cattle for a banquet in honor of Jehoshaphat and the people who were with him. And Ahab persuaded

Jehoshaphat to attack Ramoth in Gilead with him.

³King Ahab of Israel asked King Jehoshaphat of Judah, "Will you go with me to Ramoth in Gilead?" Jehoshaphat told the king of Israel, "I will do what you do. My troops will do what your troops do. We will join your troops in battle."

⁴Then Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "But first, find out what the word of the LORD is in this matter."

⁵So the king of Israel called 400 prophets together. He asked them, "Should we go to war against Ramoth in Gilead or not?" "Go," they said. "God will hand over Ramoth to you."

⁶But Jehoshaphat asked, "Isn't there a prophet of the LORD whom we could ask?"

⁷The king of Israel told Jehoshaphat, "We can ask the LORD through Micaiah, son of Imla, but I hate him. Nothing he prophesies about me is good; it's always evil." Jehoshaphat answered, "The king must not say that."

⁸The king of Israel called for an officer and said, "Quick! Get Micaiah, son of Imla!"

⁹The king of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah were dressed in royal robes and seated on thrones. They were sitting on the threshing floor at the entrance to the gate of Samaria. All the prophets were prophesying in front of them.

¹⁰Zedekiah, son of Chenaanah, made iron horns and said, "This is what the LORD says: With these horns you will push the Arameans to their destruction."

¹¹All the other prophets made the same prophecy. They said, "Attack Ramoth in Gilead, and you will win. The LORD will hand it over to you."

¹²The messenger who went to call Micaiah told him, "The prophets have all told the king the same good message. Make your message agree with their message. Say something good."

¹³Micaiah answered, "I solemnly swear, as the LORD lives, I will tell him whatever my God says to me."

¹⁴When he came to the king, the king asked him, "Micaiah, should we go to war against Ramoth in Gilead or not?" Micaiah said, "Attack and you will win. They will be handed over to you."

¹⁵ The king asked him, "How many times must I make you take an oath in the LORDS name to tell me nothing but the truth?"

¹⁶ So Micaiah said, "I saw Israels troops scattered in the hills like sheep without a shepherd. The LORD said, These sheep have no master. Let each one go home in peace."

¹⁷ The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Didnt I tell you he wouldnt prophesy anything good about me?"

¹⁸ Micaiah added, "Then hear the word of the LORD. I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and the entire army of heaven was standing on his right and his left.

¹⁹ The LORD asked, Who will deceive King Ahab of Israel so that he will attack and be killed at Ramoth in Gilead? Some answered one way, while others were saying something else.

²⁰ "Then the Spirit stepped forward, stood in front of the LORD, and said, I will deceive him. "How? the LORD asked.

²¹ "The Spirit answered, I will go out and be a spirit that tells lies through the mouths of all of Ahabs prophets. "The

LORD said, You will succeed in deceiving him. Go and do it.

²²"So the LORD has put into the mouths of these prophets of yours a spirit that makes them tell lies. The LORD has spoken evil about you."

²³Zedekiah, son of Chenaanah, went to Micaiah and struck him on the cheek. "Which way did the Spirit go when he left me to talk to you?" he asked.

²⁴Micaiah answered, "You will find out on the day you go into an inner room to hide."

²⁵The king of Israel then said, "Send Micaiah back to Amon, the governor of the city, and to Joash, the prince.

²⁶Say, This is what the king says: Put this man in prison, and feed him nothing but bread and water until I return home safely."

²⁷Micaiah said, "If you really do come back safely, then the LORD wasn't speaking through me. Pay attention to this, everyone!"

²⁸So the king of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah went to Ramoth in Gilead.

²⁹The king of Israel told Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle, but you should wear your royal robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle.

³⁰The king of Aram had given orders to the chariot commanders. He said, "Don't fight anyone except the king of Israel."

³¹When the chariot commanders saw Jehoshaphat, they said, "He must be the king of Israel." So they surrounded him in order to fight him. But when Jehoshaphat cried out, the LORD helped him. God drew them away from him,

³²and the chariot commanders realized that Jehoshaphat wasn't the king of Israel. Then they turned away from him.

³³One man aimed his bow at random and hit the king of Israel between his scale armor and his breastplate. Ahab told the chariot driver, "Turn around, and get me away from these troops. I'm badly wounded."

³⁴But the battle got worse that day, and the king propped himself up in his chariot facing the Arameans until evening. At sundown he died.

19¹ King Jehoshaphat of Judah returned safely to his home in Jerusalem.

² Jehu, son of the seer Hanani, asked King Jehoshaphat, "Why do you help wicked people and love those who hate the LORD? The LORDS anger is directed toward you because you have done this.

³ However, youve done some good things: Youve burned the Asherah poles in this country, and youve wholeheartedly dedicated your life to serving God."

⁴ While Jehoshaphat was living in Jerusalem, he regularly went to the people between Beersheba and the mountains of Ephraim. He brought the people back to the LORD God of their ancestors.

⁵ He appointed judges in the country, in each fortified city of Judah.

⁶ He told the judges, "Pay attention to what youre doing. When you judge, you arent doing it for a human but for the LORD. He will be with you when you hear a case.

⁷ May you have the fear of the LORD in you. Be careful about what you do.

The LORD our God is never unjust. He is impartial and never takes bribes."

⁸In Jerusalem Jehoshaphat also appointed some Levites, priests, and family heads from Israel to administer the LORDS laws and decide cases. They lived in Jerusalem.

⁹He ordered them, "Do this wholeheartedly with the fear of the LORD and with faithfulness.

¹⁰Warn your relatives living in other cities about every case they bring to you, even if the case involves bloodshed or commands, rules, or regulations derived from Moses Teachings. Then your relatives will not become guilty in front of the LORD. Otherwise, he will become angry with you and your relatives. Do this, and you wont be guilty of anything.

¹¹Now, the chief priest Amariah will be in charge of you in every matter involving the LORD. Zebadiah, who is the son of Ishmael and the leader of the tribe of Judah, will be in charge of every matter involving the king. The Levites will serve as officers of the court. Be

strong, and do your job. May the LORD be with those who do right."

20¹ Later the Moabites, Ammonites, and some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat.

² Some men reported to Jehoshaphat, "A large crowd is coming against you from the other side of the Dead Sea, from Edom. The crowd is already in Hazazon Tamar" (also called En Gedi).

³ Frightened, Jehoshaphat decided to ask for the LORDS help. He announced a fast throughout Judah.

⁴ The people of Judah gathered to seek the LORDS help. They came from every city in Judah.

⁵ In the new courtyard at the LORDS temple, Jehoshaphat stood in front of the people.

⁶ He said, "LORD God of our ancestors, arent you the God in heaven? You rule all the kingdoms of the nations. You possess power and might, and no one can oppose you.

⁷ Didnt you, our God, force those who were living in this country out of Israels way? Didnt you give this country to the

descendants of your friend Abraham to have permanently?

⁸His descendants have lived in it and built a holy temple for your name in it. They said,

⁹If evil comes in the form of war, flood, plague, or famine, we will stand in front of this temple and in front of you because your name is in this temple. We will cry out to you in our troubles, and you will hear us and save us.

¹⁰"The Ammonites, Moabites, and the people of Mount Seir have come here. However, you didnt let Israel invade them when they came out of Egypt. The Israelites turned away from them and didnt destroy them.

¹¹They are now paying us back by coming to force us out of your land that you gave to us.

¹²Youre our God. Wont you judge them? We dont have the strength to face this large crowd that is attacking us. We dont know what to do, so were looking to you."

¹³All the people from Judah, their infants, wives, and children were standing in front of the LORD.

¹⁴Then the LORDS Spirit came to Jahaziel. (He was the son of Zechariah, grandson of Benaiah, greatgrandson of Jeiel, whose father was Mattaniah, a Levite descended from Asaph.)

¹⁵Jahaziel said, "Pay attention to me, everyone from Judah, everyone living in Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat. This is what the LORD says to you: Dont be frightened or terrified by this large crowd. The battle isnt yours. Its Gods.

¹⁶Tomorrow go into battle against them. They will be coming up the Ziz Pass. You will find them at the end of the valley in front of the Jeruel Desert.

¹⁷You wont fight this battle. Instead, take your position, stand still, and see the victory of the LORD for you, Judah and Jerusalem. Dont be frightened or terrified. Tomorrow go out to face them. The LORD is with you."

¹⁸Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face touching the ground. Everyone from Judah and the people who lived in Jerusalem immediately bowed down in front of the LORD.

¹⁹The Levites, descendants of Kohath and Korah, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with very loud songs.

²⁰They got up early in the morning and went to the desert of Tekoa. As they were leaving, Jehoshaphat stopped and said, "Listen to me, people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem. Trust the LORD your God, and believe. Believe his prophets, and you will succeed."

²¹After he had advised the people, he appointed people to sing to the LORD and praise him for the beauty of his holiness. As they went in front of the troops, they sang, "Thank the LORD because his mercy endures forever!"

²²As they started to sing praises, the LORD set ambushes against the Ammonites, Moabites, and the people of Mount Seir who had come into Judah. They were defeated.

²³Then the Ammonites and Moabites attacked the people from Mount Seir and annihilated them. After they had finished off the people of Seir, they helped destroy one another.

²⁴The people of Judah went to the watchtower in the desert and looked for

the crowd. Corpses were lying on the ground. No one had escaped.

²⁵When Jehoshaphat and his troops came to take the loot, they found among them a lot of goods, clothes, and valuables. They found more than they could carry. They spent three days collecting the loot.

²⁶On the fourth day they gathered in the valley of Beracah. Because they thanked the LORD there, that place is still called the valley of Beracah [Thanks] today.

²⁷All the men of Judah and Jerusalem returned to Jerusalem. They rejoiced while Jehoshaphat led them. The LORD gave them a reason to rejoice about what had happened to their enemies.

²⁸So they brought harps, lyres, and trumpets to the LORDS temple in Jerusalem.

²⁹The fear of the LORD came over the kingdoms in that area when they heard how the LORD waged war against Israels enemies.

³⁰Jehoshaphats kingdom was peaceful, since his God surrounded him with peace.

³¹ Jehoshaphat ruled as king of Judah. He was 35 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 25 years in Jerusalem. His mothers name was Azubah, daughter of Shilhi.

³² Jehoshaphat carefully followed the example his father Asa had set and did what the LORD considered right.

³³ But the illegal worship sites on the hills were not torn down. The people still didnt have their hearts set on the God of their ancestors.

³⁴ Everything else about Jehoshaphat from first to last is written in the records of Jehu, son of Hanani, which is included in the Book of the Kings of Israel.

³⁵ After this, King Jehoshaphat of Judah allied himself with King Ahaziah of Israel, who led him to do evil.

³⁶ Jehoshaphat joined him in making ships to go to Tarshish. They made the ships in Ezion Geber.

³⁷ Then Eliezer, son of Dodavahu from Mareshah, prophesied against Jehoshaphat. He said, "The LORD will destroy your work because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah." So the

ships were wrecked and couldn't go to Tarshish.

21 ¹ Jehoshaphat lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried with them in the City of David. His son Jehoram succeeded him as king.

² He had the following brothers, sons of Jehoshaphat: Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azariahu, Michael, and Shephatiah. All were the sons of King Jehoshaphat of Israel.

³ Their father gave them many gifts: silver, gold, and other expensive things, along with fortified cities in Judah. But Jehoshaphat gave the kingdom to Jehoram, who was the firstborn.

⁴ After Jehoram had taken over his father's kingdom, he strengthened his position and then executed all his brothers and some of the officials of Israel.

⁵ Jehoram was 32 years old when he became king, and he ruled for 8 years in Jerusalem.

⁶ He followed the ways of the kings of Israel, as Ahab's family had done, because his wife was Ahab's daughter. So he did what the LORD considered evil.

⁷ But the LORD, recalling the promise he had made to David, didn't want to destroy David's family. The LORD had told David that he would always give him and his descendants a shining lamp.

⁸ During Jehoram's time Edom rebelled against Judah and chose its own king.

⁹ Jehoram took all his chariot commanders to attack. The Edomites and their chariot commanders surrounded him, but he got up at night and broke through their lines.

¹⁰ So Edom rebelled against Judah's rule and is still independent today. At the same time Edom rebelled, Libnah rebelled because Jehoram had abandoned the LORD God of his ancestors.

¹¹ Jehoram made illegal places of worship in the hills of Judah. This caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to chase after foreign gods as if they were prostitutes. So he led Judah astray.

¹² Then a letter came to him from the prophet Elijah. It read, "This is what the LORD God of your ancestor David says: You haven't followed the ways of your

father Jehoshaphat or the ways of King Asa of Judah.

¹³Instead, you have followed the ways of the kings of Israel. You, like Ahabs family, have caused Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to chase after foreign gods as if they were prostitutes. You have killed your brothers, your fathers family. Your brothers were better than you.

¹⁴The LORD will strike a great blow to your people, your sons, your wives, and all your property because you did this.

¹⁵You will suffer from a chronic intestinal disease until your intestines come out."

¹⁶The LORD prompted the Philistines and the Arabs who lived near the people of Sudan to attack Jehoram.

¹⁷They fought against Judah, broke into the country, and took away everything that could be found in the royal palace. They even took Jehorams sons and wives. The only son left was Ahaziah, Jehorams youngest son.

¹⁸After this, the LORD struck Jehoram with an incurable intestinal disease.

¹⁹Two years later, as his life was coming to an end, his intestines fell out because of his sickness. He died a painful death. His people did not make a bonfire in his honor as they had done for his ancestors.

²⁰He was 32 years old when he became king, and he ruled for 8 years in Jerusalem. No one was sorry to see him die. He was buried in the City of David but not in the tombs of the kings.

22¹The people of Jerusalem made Jehorams youngest son Ahaziah king in his place, because the raiders who came to the camp with the Arabs had killed all the older sons. So Jehorams son Ahaziah became king of Judah.

²Ahaziah was 42 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for one year in Jerusalem. His mother was Athaliah, the granddaughter of Omri.

³Ahaziah also followed the ways of Ahabs family, because his mother gave him advice that led him to sin.

⁴He did what the LORD considered evil, as Ahabs family had done. After his father died, they advised him to do what Ahabs family had done. They did this to destroy him.

⁵ Ahaziah followed their advice and went with Ahabs son King Joram of Israel to fight against King Hazael of Aram at Ramoth Gilead. There the Arameans wounded Joram.

⁶ Joram returned to Jezreel to let his wounds heal. (He had been wounded by the Arameans at Ramah when he fought against King Hazael of Aram.) Then Jehorams son Ahaziah went to Jezreel to see Ahabs son Joram, who was sick.

⁷ God brought about Ahaziahs downfall when he went to Joram. He went with Joram to meet Jehu, grandson of Nimshi. (The LORD had anointed Jehu to destroy Ahabs family.)

⁸ When Jehu was executing judgment on Ahabs family, he found Judahs leaders (Ahaziahs nephews) who were serving Ahaziah, and he killed them.

⁹ He searched for Ahaziah, and Jehus men captured him while he was hiding in Samaria. They brought him to Jehu and killed him. Then they buried him. They explained, "Ahaziah is Jehoshaphats grandson. Jehoshaphat dedicated his life to serving the LORD with all his heart."

But no one in Ahaziahs family was able to rule as king.

¹⁰When Ahaziahs mother, Athaliah, saw that her son was dead, she began to destroy the entire royal family of the house of Judah.

¹¹But Jehoshebeth, daughter of the king and sister of Ahaziah, took Ahaziahs son Joash. She saved him from being killed with the kings other sons, and she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Jehoshebeth was the daughter of King Jehoram and wife of Jehoiada the priest. Because she was also Ahaziahs sister, she hid Joash from Athaliah. So he wasnt killed.

¹²Joash was with the priests. He was hidden in Gods temple for six years while Athaliah ruled the country.

23¹In the seventh year of Athaliahs reign, Jehoiada strengthened his position by making an agreement with the company commanders: Azariah, son of Jeroham, Ishmael, son of Jehohanan, Azariah, son of Obed, Maaseiah, son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat, son of Zichri.

²They went around Judah, gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah

and the leaders of the families of Israel, and came to Jerusalem.

³The whole assembly made an agreement with the king in Gods temple. Then Jehoiada said to them, "Here is the kings son. He should be king, as the LORD said about Davids descendants.

⁴This is what you must do: One third of you, the priests and Levites who are on duty on the day of worship, must guard the gates.

⁵Another third must be at the royal palace. And another third must be at Foundation Gate. All the people must be in the courtyards of the LORDS temple.

⁶No one should come into the LORDS temple except the priests and the Levites who are on duty with them. They may enter because they are holy, but all other people should follow the LORDS regulations.

⁷The Levites should surround the king. Each man should have his weapon in his hand. Kill anyone who tries to come into the temple. Stay with the king wherever he goes."

⁸So the Levites and all the Judeans did what the priest Jehoiada had ordered

them. Each took his men who were coming on duty on the day of worship as well as those who were about to go off duty. Jehoiada had not dismissed the priestly divisions.

⁹ Jehoiada gave the commanders the spears and the small and large shields that had belonged to King David but were now in Gods temple.

¹⁰ All the troops stood with their weapons drawn. They were stationed around the king and around the altar and the temple (from the south side to the north side of the temple).

¹¹ Then they brought out the kings son, gave him the crown and the religious instructions, and Jehoiada and his sons made him king by anointing him. They said, "Long live the king!"

¹² When Athaliah heard the people running and praising the king, she went into the LORDS temple, where the people were.

¹³ She looked, and the king was standing by the pillar at the entrance. The commanders and the trumpeters were by his side. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing

trumpets. The singers were leading the celebration with songs accompanied by musical instruments. As Athaliah tore her clothes in distress, she said, "Treason, treason!"

¹⁴Then the priest Jehoiada brought the company commanders who were in charge of the army out of the temple. He said to them, "Take her out of the temple. Use your sword to kill anyone who follows her." (The priest had said, "Don't kill her in the LORDS temple.")

¹⁵So they arrested her as she entered Horse Gate of the royal palace, and they killed her there.

¹⁶Jehoiada made a promise to the LORD on behalf of the king and his people that they would be the LORDS people.

¹⁷Then all the people went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed Baals altars and his statues and killed Mattan, the priest of Baal, in front of the altars.

¹⁸Next, Jehoiada appointed officials to be in charge of the LORDS temple under the direction of the priests and Levites. (David had arranged them in divisions for

the LORDS temple. They were appointed to sacrifice burnt offerings to the LORD as it is written in Moses Teachings. They made these offerings with joy and singing as David had directed.)

¹⁹Jehoiada appointed gatekeepers for the gates of the LORDS temple so that no one who was unclean for any reason could enter.

²⁰He took the company commanders, the nobles, the peoples governors, and all the people of the land, and they brought the king from the LORDS temple. They went through Upper Gate to the royal palace and seated the king on the royal throne. The nobles, the governors of the people, and

²¹all the people of the land were celebrating. But the city was quiet because they had killed Athaliah with a sword.

24¹ Joash was 7 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 40 years in Jerusalem. His mother was Zibiah from Beersheba.

²Joash did what the LORD considered right, as long as the priest Jehoiada lived.

³ Jehoiada got Joash two wives, and Joash had sons and daughters.

⁴ After this, Joash wanted to renovate the LORDS temple.

⁵ He gathered the priests and the Levites and said to them, "Go to the cities of Judah, and collect money throughout Israel to repair the temple of your God every year. Do it immediately!" But the Levites didnt do it immediately.

⁶ So the king called for the chief priest Jehoiada and asked him, "Why didnt you require the Levites to bring the contributions from Judah and Jerusalem? The LORDS servant Moses and the assembly had required Israel to give contributions for the use of the tent containing the words of Gods promise."

⁷ (The sons of that wicked woman Athaliah had broken into Gods temple and used all the holy things of the LORDS temple to worship other godsthe Baals.)

⁸ The king issued an order, and they made a box and placed it outside the gate of the LORDS temple.

⁹ Then they issued a proclamation in Judah and Jerusalem that the contributions should be brought to the

LORD. (In the desert the LORDS servant Moses had required Israel to make contributions.)

¹⁰All the officials and all the people were overjoyed. They brought the money and dropped it into the box until it was full.

¹¹Whenever the Levites brought the box to the kings officers and they saw a lot of money, the kings scribe and the chief priests officer would empty the box and put it back in its place. They would do this every day, so they collected a lot of money.

¹²The king and Jehoiada would give the money to the foremen who were working on the LORDS temple, and they hired masons and carpenters to renovate the LORDS temple. They also hired men who worked with iron and bronze to repair the LORDS temple.

¹³As the men worked, the project progressed under the foremens guidance. They restored Gods temple to its proper condition and reinforced it.

¹⁴When they finished, they brought the rest of the money to the king and Jehoiada, who used it to make utensils

for the LORDS temple. They made dishes and gold and silver utensils for the service and for the offerings. As long as Jehoiada lived, they sacrificed burnt offerings in the LORDS temple.

¹⁵When Jehoiada was old and had lived out his years, he died. He was 130 years old when he died.

¹⁶He was buried in the City of David with the kings because of the good he had done in Israel for God and the temple.

¹⁷After he died, the officials of Judah bowed in front of the king with their faces touching the ground. Then the king listened to their advice.

¹⁸They abandoned the temple of the LORD God of their ancestors and worshiped idols and the poles dedicated to the goddess Asherah. This offense of theirs brought Gods anger upon Judah and Jerusalem.

¹⁹The LORD sent them prophets to bring them back to himself. The prophets warned them, but they wouldnt listen.

²⁰Gods Spirit gave Zechariah, son of the priest Jehoiada, strength. Zechariah stood in front of the people and said to

them, "This is what God says: Why are you breaking the LORDS commands? You wont prosper that way! The LORD has abandoned you because you have abandoned him."

²¹ But they plotted against Zechariah, and by the kings order they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the LORDS temple.

²² King Joash did not remember how kind Zechariahs father, Jehoiada, had been to him. Instead, he killed Jehoiadas son. As Zechariah died, he said, "May the LORD see this and get revenge!"

²³ At the end of the year, the Aramean army attacked Joash. They came to Judah and Jerusalem and destroyed all the peoples leaders. The Arameans sent all the loot they took from Judah and Jerusalem to the king of Damascus.

²⁴ The Aramean army had come with a small number of men, but the LORD handed Joashs large army over to them because Joashs soldiers had abandoned the LORD God of their ancestors. So the Arameans carried out the LORDS judgment on Joash.

²⁵When the Arameans withdrew, they left him suffering from many wounds. His own officials plotted against him for murdering the son of the priest Jehoiada. They killed Joash in his bed. When he died, they buried him in the City of David, but they didn't bury him in the tombs of the kings.

²⁶These were the men who conspired against him: Zabad, son of an Ammonite woman named Shimeath, and Jehozabad, son of a Moabite woman named Shimrith.

²⁷The record about his sons, the many divine revelations against him, and the rebuilding of God's temple is in the notes made in the Book of the Kings. His son Amaziah succeeded him as king.

25¹Amaziah was 25 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 29 years in Jerusalem. His mother was Jehoaddan from Jerusalem.

²He did what the LORD considered right, but he did not do it wholeheartedly.

³As soon as he had firm control over the kingdom, he executed the officials who killed his father, the former king.

⁴ But he didnt execute their children. He obeyed the LORDS command written in the Book of Moses Teachings: "Parents must never be put to death for the crimes of their children, and children must never be put to death for the crimes of their parents. Each person must be put to death for his own crime."

⁵ Amaziah called the people of Judah together and assigned them by families to regiment and battalion commanders for all of Judah and Benjamin. He organized those who were at least 20 years old and found that he had 300,000 of the best men for the army, those who could handle a spear and a shield.

⁶ He also hired 100,000 soldiers from Israel for 7,500 pounds of silver.

⁷ But a man of God came to him and said, "Your Majesty, Israels army must not go with you, because the LORD isnt with Israel. Hes not with these men from Ephraim.

⁸ If you go into battle with them, no matter how courageous you are, God will use the enemy to defeat you, because God has the power to help you or to defeat you."

⁹Amaziah asked the man of God, "What should I do about the 7,500 pounds of silver I gave the troops from Israel?" The man of God answered, "The LORD can give you much more than that."

¹⁰Then Amaziah dismissed the troops that had come to him from Ephraim. But they became furious with Judah and returned home.

¹¹Amaziah courageously led his troops. When he came to the Dead Sea region, he killed 10,000 men from Seir.

¹²The Judeans captured another 10,000 alive, took them to the top of a cliff, and threw them off the top of the cliff so that they were dismembered.

¹³The troops that Amaziah sent back so that they couldnt go with him into battle raided the towns in Judah from Samaria to Beth Horon. They killed 3,000 people and took a lot of goods.

¹⁴After Amaziah came back from defeating the Edomites, he brought the gods of the people of Seir, set them up as his gods, bowed down to them, and burned sacrifices to them.

¹⁵The LORD became angry with Amaziah. He sent him a prophet who

asked him, "Why do you dedicate your life to serving the gods of those people? Those gods couldn't save their own people from you."

¹⁶As he was talking, the king asked him, "Did we make you an adviser to the king? Stop! Do you want me to have you killed?" The prophet stopped. He said, "I know that God has decided to destroy you because you did this, but you refuse to listen to my advice."

¹⁷After getting advice from his advisers, King Amaziah of Judah sent messengers to King Jehoash, son of Jehoahaz and grandson of Jehu of Israel, to declare war on Israel.

¹⁸King Jehoash of Israel sent this message to King Amaziah of Judah: "A thistle in Lebanon sent a message to a cedar in Lebanon. It said, Let your daughter marry my son, but a wild animal from Lebanon came along and trampled the thistle.

¹⁹You say you defeated Edom, and now you've become arrogant enough to look for more fame. Stay home! Why must you invite disaster and your own defeat and take Judah with you?"

²⁰ But Amaziah wouldnt listen. (God made this happen because he wanted to hand over the Judeans to Jehoash because they had sought help from Edoms gods.)

²¹ So King Jehoash of Israel attacked, and King Amaziah of Judah met him in battle at Beth Shemesh in Judah.

²² Israel defeated the army of Judah, and the Judeans fled to their homes.

²³ King Jehoash of Israel captured King Amaziah, son of Joash and grandson of Ahaziah of Judah, at Beth Shemesh and brought him to Jerusalem. He tore down a 600foot section of the wall around Jerusalem from Ephraim Gate to Corner Gate.

²⁴ He took all the gold, silver, and all the utensils he found in Gods temple with Obed Edom and in the royal palace treasury. He also took hostages. Then he returned to Samaria.

²⁵ Joashs son King Amaziah of Judah lived 15 years after the death of Jehoahazs son King Jehoash of Israel.

²⁶ Isnt everything else about Amaziah, from beginning to end, written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel?

²⁷ After Amaziah turned away from the LORD, conspirators in Jerusalem plotted against him. Amaziah fled to Lachish, but they sent men to Lachish after him and killed him there.

²⁸ They brought him back by horse and buried him in the city of Judah with his ancestors.

26 ¹ All the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was 16 years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah.

² Uzziah rebuilt Elath and returned it to Judah after King Amaziah lay down in death with his ancestors.

³ Uzziah was 16 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 52 years in Jerusalem. His mother was Jecoliah from Jerusalem.

⁴ He did what the LORD considered right, as his father Amaziah had done.

⁵ He dedicated his life to serving God in the days of Zechariah, who taught him to fear God. As long as he dedicated his life to serving the LORD, the LORD gave him success.

⁶ Uzziah went to wage war against the Philistines. He tore down the walls of

Gath, Jabneh, and Ashdod. He built cities near Ashdod and elsewhere among the Philistines.

⁷God helped him when he attacked the Philistines, the Arabs who lived in Gur Baal, and the Meunites.

⁸The Ammonites paid taxes to Uzziah, and his fame spread to the border of Egypt because he became very powerful.

⁹Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at Corner Wall, Valley Gate, and the Angle, and he reinforced them.

¹⁰He built towers in the desert. He dug many cisterns because he had a lot of herds in the foothills and the plains. He had farmers and vineyard workers in the mountains and the fertile fields because he loved the soil.

¹¹Uzziah had an army of professional soldiers. They were ready to go to war in their companies based on the number organized by the scribe Jeiel and the officer Maaseiah. They were commanded by Hananiah, one of the king's officials.

¹²The total number of family heads among these warriors was 2,600.

¹³Under them was an army of 307,500 soldiers. They were a powerful force

that could support the king against the enemy.

¹⁴For the entire army Uzziah prepared shields, spears, helmets, armor, bows, and stones for slings.

¹⁵In Jerusalem he made machines designed by inventive people. The machines were placed on the towers and corners to shoot arrows and hurl large stones. Uzziahs fame spread far and wide because he had strong support until he became powerful.

¹⁶But when he became powerful, his pride destroyed him. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God. He went into the LORDS temple to burn incense on the incense altar.

¹⁷The priest Azariah went in after him with 80 of the LORDS courageous priests.

¹⁸They opposed King Uzziah. They said to him, "Uzziah, you have no right to burn incense as an offering to the LORD. That right belongs to the priests, Aarons descendants, who have been given the holy task of burning incense. Get out of the holy place because you have been

unfaithful. The LORD God will not honor you for this."

¹⁹Uzziah, who held an incense burner in his hand, became angry. While he was angry with the priests, a skin disease broke out on his forehead. This happened in front of the priests in the LORDS temple as Uzziah was at the incense altar.

²⁰When the chief priest Azariah and all the priests turned toward him, a skin disease was on his forehead. They rushed him away. Uzziah was in a hurry to get out because the LORD had inflicted him with the disease.

²¹King Uzziah had a skin disease until the day he died. Since he had a skin disease, he lived in a separate house and was barred from the LORDS temple. His son Jotham was in charge of the royal palace and governed the country.

²²Everything else about Uzziah, from beginning to end, is recorded by the prophet Isaiah, son of Amoz.

²³Uzziah lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried with them in a field containing tombs that belonged to the kings. People said, "He had a skin

disease." His son Jotham succeeded him as king.

27¹ Jotham was 25 years old when he began to rule. He ruled for 16 years in Jerusalem. His mother was Jerushah, daughter of Zadok.

²He did what the LORD considered right, as his father Uzziah had done. But unlike his father, he didn't illegally enter the LORDS temple. Nevertheless, the people continued their corrupt ways.

³Jotham built the Upper Gate of the LORDS temple and did extensive building of the wall at the Ophel.

⁴He built cities in the hills of Judah, and he built forts and towers in the wooded areas.

⁵He fought with the king of the Ammonites and conquered them. That year the Ammonites gave him 7,500 pounds of silver, 60,000 bushels of wheat, and 60,000 bushels of barley. The Ammonites gave him the same amount for two more years.

⁶Jotham grew powerful because he was determined to live as the LORD his God wanted.

⁷ Everything else about Jotham all his wars and his life is written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

⁸ He was 25 years old when he began to rule as king. He ruled for 16 years in Jerusalem.

⁹ Jotham lay down in death with his ancestors, and they buried him in the City of David. His son Ahaz succeeded him as king.

28¹ Ahaz was 20 years old when he began to rule. He ruled for 26 years in Jerusalem. He didn't do what the LORD considered right, as his ancestor David had done.

² He followed the example of the kings of Israel and even made metal idols for worshiping other gods the Baals.

³ He burned sacrifices in the valley of Ben Hinnom and sacrificed his son by burning him alive, one of the disgusting things done by the nations that the LORD had forced out of the Israelites way.

⁴ He offered sacrifices and burned incense as an offering at the illegal worship sites, which were on hills and under every large tree.

⁵So the LORD his God handed him over to the king of Aram, who defeated him, captured many prisoners, and brought them to Damascus. He also handed him over to the king of Israel, who decisively defeated him.

⁶In one day Pekah, son of Remaliah, killed 120,000 soldiers in Judah because they had abandoned the LORD God of their ancestors.

⁷Zichri, a fighting man from Ephraim, killed Maaseiah, who was the king's son, Azrikam, who was in charge of the palace, and Elkanah, who was the king's second in command.

⁸The Israelites captured 200,000 women, boys, and girls from their relatives the Judeans. They also took a lot of goods from Judah and brought them to Samaria.

⁹A prophet of the LORD named Oded was there. He went to meet the army coming home to Samaria. He said to them, "The LORD God of your ancestors handed Judah over to you in his anger. You killed them in a rage that reaches up to heaven.

¹⁰Now you intend to enslave the men and women of Judah and Jerusalem. But aren't you also guilty of sinning against the LORD your God?

¹¹Listen to me. Return these prisoners you have captured from your relatives, because the LORD is very angry with you."

¹²Then Azariah, son of Jehohan, Berechiah, son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah, son of Shallum, and Amasa, son of Hadlai (some leaders of Ephraim) opposed those coming home from the army.

¹³They said to the army, "Don't bring the prisoners here. You'll make us responsible for this sin against the LORD. Do you intend to add to all our sins? The LORD is very angry with Israel because we have already sinned."

¹⁴So the army left the prisoners and the loot in front of the leaders and the whole assembly.

¹⁵Then the men who were mentioned by name took charge of the prisoners and gave clothes from the loot to all the prisoners who were naked. They provided clothes for them, gave them

sandals, gave them something to eat and drink, and let them bathe. They put everyone who was exhausted on donkeys and brought them to Jericho (the City of Palms) near their own people. Then they returned to Samaria.

¹⁶At that time King Ahaz sent for help from the kings of Assyria.

¹⁷The Edomites had again invaded and defeated Judah and captured prisoners.

¹⁸The Philistines had raided the foothills and the Negev in Judah. They captured and began living in Beth Shemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, Soco and its villages, Timnah and its villages, and Gimzo and its villages.

¹⁹The LORD humbled Judah because of King Ahaz of Israel. Ahaz had spread sin throughout Judah and was unfaithful to the LORD.

²⁰King Tillegath Pilneser of Assyria attacked Ahaz. Instead of strengthening Ahaz, Tillegath Pilneser made trouble for him.

²¹Ahaz took some of the things from the LORDS temple, the royal palace, and the princes, and he gave them to the king of Assyria. But that didnt help him.

²²When he had this trouble, King Ahaz became more unfaithful to the LORD.

²³He sacrificed to the gods of Damascus, the gods who had defeated him. He thought, "The gods of the kings of Aram are helping them. I'll sacrifice to them so that they will help me." But they ruined him and all Israel.

²⁴Ahaz collected the utensils in God's temple, cut them up, and closed the doors to the LORD'S temple. He made altars for himself on every corner in Jerusalem.

²⁵And in each city of Judah, he made places of worship to sacrifice to other gods. So he made the LORD God of his ancestors angry.

²⁶Everything else about him everything from beginning to end is written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.

²⁷Ahaz lay down in death with his ancestors and was buried in the city of Jerusalem because they didn't put him into the tombs of the kings of Israel. His son Hezekiah succeeded him as king.

29¹Hezekiah began to rule as king when he was 25 years old. He ruled for 29 years in Jerusalem.

His mother was Abijah, daughter of Zechariah.

²He did what the LORD considered right, as his ancestor David had done.

³In the first month of his first year as king, he opened the doors of the LORDS temple and repaired them.

⁴He brought the priests and Levites together in the square on the east side of the temple.

⁵He said to them, "Listen to me, Levites. Perform the ceremonies to make the temple of the LORD God of your ancestors holy. Remove anything that has been corrupted from the holy place.

⁶Our ancestors were unfaithful and did what the LORD our God considered evil. They deserted him. They turned away from the LORDS tent and turned their backs on him.

⁷They also shut the doors of the temples entrance hall, extinguished the lamps, and didnt burn incense or sacrifice burnt offerings in the holy place to the God of Israel.

⁸So the LORD was angry with Judah and Jerusalem. He made them something that shocks and terrifies people and that

people ridicule, as you can see with your own eyes.

⁹Our fathers were killed in battle, and our sons, daughters, and wives are prisoners because of this.

¹⁰Now I intend to make a pledge to the LORD God of Israel so that he may turn his burning anger away from us.

¹¹Dont be negligent, my sons. The LORD has chosen you to stand in front of him, serve him, be his servants, and burn sacrifices."

¹²So the Levites started to work. From Kohaths descendants were Mahath, son of Amasai, and Joel, son of Azariah. From Meraris descendants were Kish, son of Abdi, and Azariah, son of Jehallelel. From Gershons descendants were Joah, son of Zimmah, and Eden, son of Joah.

¹³From Elizaphans descendants were Shimri and Jeiel. From Asaphs descendants were Zechariah and Mattaniah.

¹⁴From Hemans descendants were Jehiel and Shimei. From Jeduthuns descendants were Shemaiah and Uzziel.

¹⁵These men gathered their relatives and performed the ceremonies to make

themselves holy. Then they obeyed the kings order from the LORDS word and entered the temple to make it clean.

¹⁶The priests entered the LORDS temple to make it clean. They carried into the courtyard every unclean thing that they found in the LORDS temple. Then the Levites took the unclean items outside the city to the Kidron Brook.

¹⁷They started on the first day of the first month. On the eighth day they went into the LORDS entrance hall, and for eight days they performed the ceremonies to make the LORDS temple holy. They finished on the sixteenth day of the first month.

¹⁸Then they went to King Hezekiah. They said to him, "We have made all of the LORDS temple clean. This includes the altar for burnt offerings, all its utensils, the table for the rows of bread and all its utensils,

¹⁹and all the utensils King Ahaz refused to use during his reign when he was unfaithful. We have restored them and made them holy. They are in front of the LORDS altar."

²⁰Early in the morning Hezekiah gathered the leaders of the city and went to the LORDS temple.

²¹They brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven male goats as an offering for sin for the kingdom, the holy place, and Judah. Hezekiah told the priests, Aarons descendants, to sacrifice the animals on the LORDS altar.

²²So they slaughtered the bulls, and the priests sprinkled the blood on the altar. Then they slaughtered the rams and sprinkled the blood on the altar. After that, they slaughtered the lambs and sprinkled the blood on the altar.

²³Then they brought the male goats for the offering for sin in front of the king and the assembly, who laid their hands on them.

²⁴The priests slaughtered the goats and made their blood an offering for sin at the altar to make peace with the LORD for Israel. The king had said that the burnt offerings and offerings for sin should be for all Israel.

²⁵He had the Levites stand in the LORDS temple with cymbals, harps, and

lyres as David, the kings seer Gad, and the prophet Nathan had ordered. This command came from the LORD through his prophets.

²⁶The Levites stood with Davids instruments, and the priests had the trumpets.

²⁷Then Hezekiah ordered the sacrificing of burnt offerings on the altar. When the burnt offerings started, the songs to the LORD started. These songs were accompanied by trumpets and the instruments of King David of Israel.

²⁸The whole assembly bowed down with their faces touching the ground, singers began to sing, and the trumpets blew until the burnt offering was finished.

²⁹When the burnt offerings were finished, the king and everyone who was with him kneeled and bowed down.

³⁰Then King Hezekiah and the leaders told the Levites to praise the LORD with the words of David and the seer Asaph. They joyfully sang praises, bowed down, and worshiped.

³¹Hezekiah said, "You have dedicated your lives to the LORD. Come, bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the

LORDS temple." The assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and everyone who was willing brought burnt offerings.

³²The burnt offerings brought by the assembly totaled 70 bulls, 100 rams, and 200 lambs. All of these were burnt offerings to the LORD.

³³The animals dedicated as holy sacrifices were 600 bulls and 3,000 sheep.

³⁴But the priests needed more help to skin all the burnt offerings. So their relatives, the Levites, helped them until the work was completed and the priests could make themselves holy. The Levites were more diligent in making themselves holy than the priests were.

³⁵There were many burnt offerings in addition to the fat of the fellowship offerings and wine offerings that accompanied the burnt offerings. So the worship in the LORDS temple was reestablished.

³⁶Hezekiah and all the people were overjoyed because of what God had done for the people. Everything had happened so quickly.

30¹ Hezekiah sent a message to all Israel and Judah and wrote letters to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. He invited them to come to the LORDS temple in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover of the LORD God of Israel.

² The king, his officials, and the whole assembly in Jerusalem decided to celebrate the Passover in the second month.

³ They couldnt celebrate it at the regular time because not enough priests had performed the ceremonies to make themselves holy and the people hadnt gathered in Jerusalem.

⁴ The king and the whole assembly considered their plan to be the right thing to do.

⁵ So they decided to send an announcement throughout Israel from Beersheba to Dan. They summoned everyone to come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover of the LORD God of Israel. These people had not celebrated it in large numbers as the written instructions said they should.

⁶ Messengers took letters from the king and his officials throughout Israel and

Judah. The kings order said, "Israelites, return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. Then he will return to the few of you who escaped from the power of the kings of Assyria.

⁷ Dont be like your ancestors and your relatives who were unfaithful to the LORD God of their ancestors. He made them something that shocks people, as you have seen.

⁸ Dont be impossible to deal with like your ancestors. Reach out for the LORD. Come to his holy place that he made holy forever. Serve the LORD your God, and he will turn his burning anger away from you.

⁹When you return to the LORD, your relatives and children will find compassion from those who captured them. They will return to this land. The LORD your God is merciful and compassionate. He will not turn his face away from you if you return to him."

¹⁰So the messengers went from city to city in the territories of Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun. But the people ridiculed them.

¹¹ However, some people from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem.

¹² Also, God guided the people of Judah so that they united to carry out the command which the king and the leaders gave from the LORDS word.

¹³ Many people gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread in the second month. They formed a large assembly.

¹⁴ Then the people got rid of the idols altars in Jerusalem. They got rid of all the altars for incense by dumping them in the Kidron Valley.

¹⁵ They slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and Levites were ashamed, so they performed the ceremonies to make themselves holy. Then they brought burnt offerings to the LORDS temple.

¹⁶ They stood in their regular places as instructed by Moses Teachings. (Moses was a man of God.) The priests sprinkled the blood they received from the Levites.

¹⁷ Many people in the assembly had not made themselves holy. So the Levites

had to kill the Passover lambs for all who werent clean and couldnt make their lambs holy for the LORD.

¹⁸Many people from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun had not made themselves clean. So they ate the Passover, but not in the way the written instructions said they should. Hezekiah prayed for them: "May the good LORD forgive

¹⁹those who have their hearts set on dedicating their lives to serving God. May the LORD God of their ancestors do this for those who are not clean as required for the holy place."

²⁰The LORD listened to Hezekiah and healed the people.

²¹So the Israelites in Jerusalem celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great joy. Each day the Levites and priests praised the LORD in song. They played the LORDS instruments loudly.

²²Hezekiah spoke encouraging words to all the Levites who had the skills to serve the LORD. They ate the festival meals for seven days, sacrificed fellowship

offerings, and confessed their sins to the LORD God of their ancestors.

²³Then the whole assembly decided to celebrate the festival for seven more days. So they joyfully celebrated for seven more days.

²⁴King Hezekiah of Judah provided 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep as sacrifices for the assembly. The leaders provided 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep for the assembly. So a large number of priests were able to perform the ceremonies to make themselves holy.

²⁵The whole assembly from Judah, the priests, the Levites, the whole assembly from Israel, the foreigners who came from Israel, and those who lived in Judah rejoiced.

²⁶The city of Jerusalem was filled with joy. Nothing like this had happened in Jerusalem since the days of King Solomon of Israel.

²⁷Then the Levitical priests blessed the people. Their voices were heard, and their prayers went to God's holy place in heaven.

31 ¹When this was over, all the Israelites who were there went

to the cities in Judah. They crushed the sacred stones, cut down the poles dedicated to the goddess Asherah, and tore down the illegal places of worship and the altars throughout Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh. The Israelites destroyed all of these things. Then all the Israelites returned to their own cities. Each person went to his own property.

²Hezekiah assigned the priests and the Levites to divisions. Each priest or Levite was put in a division based on the service he performed: sacrificing burnt offerings, sacrificing fellowship offerings, serving, giving thanks, or praising within the gates of the LORDS camp.

³He set aside part of the kings property for burnt offerings, the morning and evening offerings, burnt offerings on the weekly worship days, the New Moon Festivals, and the annual festivals, as it is written in the LORDS Teachings.

⁴He told the people living in Jerusalem to give the priests and Levites the portions they were due so that they could devote themselves to the LORDS Teachings.

⁵As soon as the word spread, the Israelites brought plenty of offerings from the first of their produce: grain, new wine, fresh olive oil, honey, and every crop from the fields. They brought large quantities, a tenth of everything.

⁶The people of Israel and Judah who were living in the cities of Judah brought a tenth of their cattle and sheep and a tenth of the holy things they had dedicated to the LORD their God. They piled these holy things in heaps.

⁷In the third month they started piling them up, and in the seventh month they finished.

⁸When Hezekiah and the leaders saw the heaps, they praised the LORD and his people Israel.

⁹Hezekiah asked the priests and the Levites about the heaps.

¹⁰The chief priest Azariah from Zadoks family said, "Since the people started to bring the offerings to the LORDS temple, we have had all we wanted to eat and plenty to spare. The LORD has blessed his people, and theres a lot left over."

¹¹ Then Hezekiah told them to prepare storerooms in the LORDS temple. After they had prepared them,

¹² they faithfully brought in the contributions, the offerings of onetenth of the crops, and the gifts dedicated to God. The Levite Conaniah was in charge of these things, and his brother Shimei was his assistant.

¹³ King Hezekiah and Azariah, who was in charge of Gods temple, appointed Jehiel, Azaziah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eliel, Ismachiah, Mahath, and Benaiah to serve under Conaniah and his brother Shimei.

¹⁴ Kore, son of Imnah the Levite, was the gatekeeper at East Gate and had to take care of the freewill offerings made to God. His responsibility was to distribute the offerings made to the LORD and the holy gifts dedicated to God.

¹⁵ Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah served under him in the cities belonging to the priests. They were to distribute the offerings faithfully to all their relatives, young and old, by their divisions.

¹⁶They were appointed to distribute them to males who were at least three years old. The way they were enrolled in the genealogical records did not matter. The six men who served under Kore were to distribute the offerings to everyone who went to the LORDS temple to perform the daily service that each division was responsible for.

¹⁷They were to distribute offerings to the priests who were enrolled by families and to the Levites who were at least 20 years old. Distribution was based on the way they served in their divisions.

¹⁸The priests and Levites were enrolled with their wives, sons, daughters, and other people who depended on them the whole community. The priests and Levites had to be faithful in keeping themselves holy for the holy work.

¹⁹Men were appointed to give a portion of the offerings to all the males in the priestly families and to everyone listed in the genealogies of the Levites. These men were Aarons descendants, priests who lived in the pasturelands of every Levite city.

²⁰This is what Hezekiah did throughout Judah. He did what was good and right and true to the LORD his God.

²¹Hezekiah incorporated Moses Teachings and commands into worship and dedicated his life to serving God. Whatever he did for the worship in Gods temple, he did wholeheartedly, and he succeeded.

32¹After everything Hezekiah had done so faithfully, King Sennacherib of Assyria came to invade Judah. He set up camp to attack the fortified cities. He intended to conquer them himself.

²When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come to wage war against Jerusalem,

³he, his officers, and his military staff made plans to stop the water from flowing out of the springs outside the city. They helped him do it.

⁴A large crowd gathered as they stopped all the springs and the brook that flowed through the land. They said, "Why should the kings of Assyria find plenty of water?"

⁵Hezekiah worked hard. He rebuilt all the broken sections of the wall, made the towers taller, built another wall outside the city wall, strengthened the Millo in the City of David, and made plenty of weapons and shields.

⁶He appointed military commanders over the troops and gathered the commanders in the square by the city gate. He spoke these words of encouragement:

⁷"Be strong and courageous. Don't be frightened or terrified by the king of Assyria or the crowd with him. Someone greater is on our side.

⁸The king of Assyria has human power on his side, but the LORD our God is on our side to help us and fight our battles." So the people were encouraged by what King Hezekiah of Judah said.

⁹After this, while King Sennacherib of Assyria and all his royal forces were attacking Lachish, he sent his officers to King Hezekiah of Judah and to all of the people in Judah who were in Jerusalem to say:

¹⁰"This is what King Sennacherib of Assyria says: Why are you so confident

as you live in Jerusalem while it is blockaded?

¹¹Isnt Hezekiah misleading you and abandoning you to die from hunger and thirst when he says, The LORD our God will rescue us from the king of Assyria?

¹²Isnt this the same Hezekiah who got rid of the LORDS places of worship and altars and told Judah and Jerusalem, Worship and sacrifice at one altar?

¹³Dont you know what I and my predecessors have done to the people of all other countries? Were any of the gods of these other nations ever able to rescue their countries from me?

¹⁴Were the gods of these nations able to rescue their people from my control? My predecessors claimed and destroyed those nations. Is your God able to rescue you from my control?

¹⁵Dont let Hezekiah deceive you or persuade you like this. Dont believe him. No god of any nation or kingdom could save his people from me or my ancestors. Certainly, your God will not rescue you from me!"

¹⁶Sennacheribs officers said more against the LORD God and his servant Hezekiah.

¹⁷Sennacherib wrote letters cursing the LORD God of Israel. These letters said, "As the gods of the nations in other countries couldnt rescue their people from me, Hezekiahs God cannot rescue his people from me."

¹⁸Sennacheribs officers shouted loudly in the Judean language to the troops who were on the wall of Jerusalem. They tried to frighten and terrify the troops so that they could capture the city.

¹⁹They spoke about the God of Jerusalem as if he were one of the gods made by human hands and worshiped by the people in other countries.

²⁰Then King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah, son of Amoz, prayed about this and called to heaven.

²¹The LORD sent an angel who exterminated all the soldiers, officials, and commanders in the Assyrian kings camp. Humiliated, Sennacherib returned to his own country. When he went into the temple of his god, some of his own sons killed him with a sword.

²² So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the people living in Jerusalem from King Sennacherib of Assyria and from everyone else. The LORD gave them peace with all their neighbors.

²³ Many people still went to Jerusalem to bring gifts to the LORD and expensive presents to King Hezekiah of Judah. From then on, he was considered important by all the nations.

²⁴ In those days Hezekiah became sick and was about to die. He prayed to the LORD, who answered him and gave him a miraculous sign.

²⁵ But Hezekiah was conceited, so he didnt repay the LORD for his kindness. The LORD became angry with him, with Judah, and with Jerusalem.

²⁶ Hezekiah and the people living in Jerusalem humbled themselves when they realized they had become conceited. So the LORD didnt vent his anger on them during Hezekiahs time.

²⁷ Hezekiah became richer and was highly honored. He prepared storerooms for himself to hold silver, gold, precious stones, spices, shields, and all kinds of valuables.

²⁸He made sheds to store his harvests of grain, new wine, and fresh olive oil, and he made barns for all his cattle and stalls for his flocks.

²⁹He made cities for himself because he had many sheep and cattle. God had given him a lot of property.

³⁰Hezekiah was the one who stopped the water from flowing from the upper outlet of Gihon. He channeled the water directly underground to the west side of the City of David. Hezekiah succeeded in everything he did.

³¹When the leaders of Babylon sent ambassadors to ask him about the miraculous sign that had happened in the land, God left him. God did this to test him, to find out everything that was in Hezekiahs heart.

³²Everything else about Hezekiah, including his devotion to God, is written in the vision of the prophet Isaiah, son of Amoz, and in the records of the kings of Judah and Israel.

³³Hezekiah lay down in death with his ancestors. He was buried in the upper tombs of Davids descendants. When Hezekiah died, all of Judah and the

people in Jerusalem honored him. His son Manasseh succeeded him as king.

33¹ Manasseh was 12 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 55 years in Jerusalem.

² He did what the LORD considered evil by copying the disgusting things done by the nations that the LORD had forced out of the Israelites way.

³ He rebuilt the illegal places of worship that his father Hezekiah had torn down. He set up altars dedicated to other godsthe Baalsand made a pole dedicated to the goddess Asherah as King Ahab of Israel had done. Manasseh, like Ahab, worshiped and served the entire army of heaven.

⁴ He built altars in the LORDS temple, where the LORD had said, "My name will be in Jerusalem forever."

⁵ In the two courtyards of the LORDS temple, he built altars for the entire army of heaven.

⁶ He burned his son as a sacrifice in the valley of Ben Hinnom, consulted fortunetellers, cast evil spells, practiced witchcraft, and appointed royal mediums

and psychics. He did many things that made the LORD furious.

⁷Manasseh had a carved idol made. Then he set it up in Gods temple, where God had said to David and his son Solomon, "I have chosen this temple and Jerusalem from all the tribes of Israel. I will put my name here forever.

⁸I will never again remove Israel from the land that I set aside for their ancestors if they will obey all the commands, all the teachings, the ordinances, and the regulations I gave through Moses."

⁹Manasseh misled Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem so that they did more evil things than the nations that the LORD had destroyed when the Israelites arrived in the land.

¹⁰When the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, they wouldnt even pay attention.

¹¹So the LORD made the army commanders of the king of Assyria invade Judah. They took Manasseh captive, put a hook in his nose, put him in bronze shackles, and brought him to Babylon.

¹²When he experienced this distress, he begged the LORD his God to be kind and humbled himself in front of the God of his ancestors.

¹³He prayed to the LORD, and the LORD accepted his prayer and listened to his request. The LORD brought him back to his kingdom in Jerusalem. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD is God.

¹⁴After this, Manasseh rebuilt the outer wall of the City of David from west of Gihon Spring in the valley to the entrance of Fish Gate. He made the wall go around the Ophel, and he built it very high. He put army commanders in every fortified city in Judah.

¹⁵Manasseh got rid of the foreign gods and the idol in the LORDS temple. He got rid of the altars he had built in the temple on the LORDS mountain and in Jerusalem.

¹⁶He built the LORDS altar and sacrificed fellowship offerings and thank offerings on it. And he told Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁷The people continued to sacrifice at the illegal places of worship, but they sacrificed only to the LORD their God.

¹⁸Everything else about Manasseh including his prayer to his God and the words that the seers spoke to him in the name of the LORD God of Israel are in the records of the kings of Israel.

¹⁹His prayer and how God accepted it are written in the records of Hozai. The things he did before he humbled himself are also written there. This includes all his sins and unfaithfulness and the places where he built illegal worship sites and set up idols and poles dedicated to the goddess Asherah.

²⁰Manasseh lay down in death with his ancestors. They buried him in his own palace. His son Amon succeeded him as king.

²¹Amon was 22 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 2 years in Jerusalem.

²²He did what the LORD considered evil, as his father Manasseh had done. Amon sacrificed to all the idols his father Manasseh had made, and he worshiped them.

²³He didn't humble himself in front of the LORD as his father Manasseh

had humbled himself. Instead, Amon continued to sin.

²⁴His officials plotted against him and killed him in his palace.

²⁵Then the people of the land killed everyone who had plotted against King Amon. They made his son Josiah king in his place.

34¹ Josiah was 8 years old when he began to rule, and he was king for 31 years in Jerusalem.

²He did what the LORD considered right. He lived in the ways of his ancestor David and never stopped living this way.

³In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still a boy, he began to dedicate his life to serving the God of his ancestor David. In his twelfth year as king, he began to make Judah and Jerusalem clean by destroying the illegal places of worship, poles dedicated to the goddess Asherah, carved idols, and metal idols.

⁴He had the altars of the various Baal gods torn down. He cut down the incense altars that were above them. He destroyed the Asherah poles, carved idols, and metal idols. He ground them into powder and scattered the

powder over the tombs of those who had sacrificed to them.

⁵He burned the bones of the priests on their altars. So he made Judah and Jerusalem clean.

⁶In the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, Simeon, and as far as Naphtali, he removed all their temples,

⁷tore down the altars, beat the Asherah poles and idols into powder, and cut down all the incense altars everywhere in Israel. Then he went back to Jerusalem.

⁸In the eighteenth year of his reign as he was making the land and the temple clean, Josiah sent Shaphan, son of Azaliah, Maaseiah, the mayor of the city, and Joah, the royal historian and son of Joahaz, to repair the temple of the LORD his God.

⁹They came to the chief priest Hilkiah and gave him the money that had been brought to Gods temple, the money that the Levite doorkeepers had collected from the tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim, from all who were left in Israel, from everyone in the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, and from the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

¹⁰They gave the money to the foremen who were in charge of the LORDS temple. These foremen gave it to the workmen who were restoring and repairing the temple.

¹¹(These workers included carpenters and builders.) They were to buy quarried stones and wood for the fittings and beams of the buildings that the kings of Judah had allowed to become rundown.

¹²The men did their work faithfully under the supervision of Jahath and Obadiah (Levites descended from Merari), and Zechariah and Meshullam (descendants of Kohath). The Levites, who were skilled musicians,

¹³also supervised the workers and directed all the workmen on the various jobs. Some of the Levites served as scribes, officials, or gatekeepers.

¹⁴When they brought out the money that had been deposited in the LORDS temple, the priest Hilkiah found the book of the LORDS Teachings written by Moses.

¹⁵Hilkiah told the scribe Shaphan, "I have found the book of the Teachings

in the LORDS temple." Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan.

¹⁶Shaphan took the book to the king and reported, "We are doing everything you told us to do.

¹⁷We took the money that was donated in the LORDS temple and gave it to the supervisors and the workmen."

¹⁸Then the scribe Shaphan told the king, "The priest Hilkiah has given me a book." And Shaphan read it to the king.

¹⁹When the king heard what the Teachings said, he tore his clothes in distress.

²⁰Then the king gave an order to Hilkiah, Ahikam (son of Shaphan), Abdon (son of Micah), the scribe Shaphan, and the royal official Asaiah. He said,

²¹"On behalf of those who are left in Israel and Judah and me, ask the LORD about the words in this book that was found. The LORDS fierce anger has been poured on us because our ancestors did not obey the word of the LORD by doing everything written in this book."

²²So Hilkiah and the kings officials went to talk to the prophet Huldah about this matter. She was the wife of

Shallum, son of Tokhath and grandson of Hasrah. Shallum was in charge of the royal wardrobe. Huldah was living in the Second Part of Jerusalem.

²³She told them, "This is what the LORD God of Israel says: Tell the man who sent you to me,

²⁴This is what the LORD says: I'm going to bring disaster on this place and on the people living here according to the curses written in the book that was read to the king of Judah.

²⁵I will do this because they have abandoned me and sacrificed to other gods in order to make me furious. Therefore, my anger will be poured on this place and will never come to an end."

²⁶Huldah added, "Tell Judah's king who sent you to me to ask the LORD a question, This is what the LORD God of Israel says about the words you heard:

²⁷You had a change of heart and humbled yourself in front of God when you heard my words against this place and those who live here. You humbled yourself, tore your clothes in distress,

and cried in front of me. So I will listen to you, declares the LORD.

²⁸That is why I'm going to bring you to your ancestors. I'm going to bring you to your grave in peace, and your eyes will not see any of the disaster I'm going to bring on this place and those who live here." So they reported this to the king.

²⁹Then the king sent for all the respected leaders of Judah and Jerusalem to join him.

³⁰The king, everyone in Judah, everyone living in Jerusalem, the priests, the Levites, and all the people (young and old) went up to the LORDS temple. He read everything written in the Book of the Promise found in the LORDS temple so that they could hear it.

³¹The king stood in his place and made a promise to the LORD that he would follow the LORD and obey his commands, instructions, and laws with all his heart and soul. He said he would live by the terms of the promise written in this book.

³²He also made all those found in Jerusalem and Benjamin join with him in the promise. Then the people of

Jerusalem lived according to the promise of God, the God of their ancestors.

³³ Josiah got rid of all the disgusting idols throughout Israelite territory. He made all people found in Israel serve the LORD their God. As long as he lived, they didnt stop following the LORD God of their ancestors.

35¹ Josiah celebrated the Passover for the LORD in Jerusalem. The Passover lamb was slaughtered on the fourteenth day of the first month.

² Josiah appointed the priests to their duties and encouraged them to serve in the LORDS temple.

³ He told the Levites, who instructed all Israel and performed ceremonies to make themselves holy to the LORD, "Put the holy ark in the temple that Solomon, son of David and king of Israel, built. It shouldnt be carried on your shoulders any longer. Serve the LORD your God and his people Israel.

⁴ Get yourselves ready with the family groups of your divisions, which are listed in the records of King David of Israel and the records of his son Solomon.

⁵Stand in the holy place representing the family divisions of your relatives, the people of Israel. Let the Levites be considered a part of each family.

⁶Slaughter the Passover lamb, perform the ceremonies to make yourselves holy, and prepare the lambs for the other Israelites as the LORD instructed us through Moses."

⁷Josiah provided the people with 33,000 sheep and goats to be sacrificed as Passover offerings for all who were present. In addition, he provided 3,000 bulls. (These animals were the kings property.)

⁸His officials also voluntarily gave animals to the people, priests, and Levites. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, the men in charge of Gods temple, gave the priests 2,600 sheep and goats and 300 bulls for Passover sacrifices.

⁹Conaniah and his brothers Shemaiah and Nethanel, and Hashabiah, Jeiel, and Jozabad, the leaders of the Levites, gave the Levites 5,000 sheep and goats and 500 bulls as Passover sacrifices.

¹⁰So the service was prepared. The priests took their positions with the

Levites according to their divisions, as the king had ordered.

¹¹ They slaughtered the Passover lambs. The priests sprinkled the blood with their hands while the Levites skinned the lambs.

¹² They set aside the burnt offerings to give them to the laypeople according to their family divisions. The laypeople could then present them to the LORD as written in the Book of Moses. The Levites did the same with the bulls.

¹³ They roasted the Passover lambs according to the directions. They boiled the holy offerings in pots, kettles, and pans and immediately served them to all the people.

¹⁴ Later, they prepared the animals for themselves and for the priests because the priests (Aarons descendants) were sacrificing the burnt offerings and the fat until that evening. So the Levites prepared the animals for themselves and the priests.

¹⁵ The singers (Asaphs descendants) were in their places as David, Asaph, Heman, and the kings seer Jeduthun had commanded. The gatekeepers were

stationed at each gate. They didn't need to leave their work, because their relatives, the Levites, prepared animals for them.

¹⁶So everything was arranged that day for the worship of the LORD. The Passover was celebrated, and the burnt offerings were sacrificed on the LORDS altar as King Josiah had commanded.

¹⁷The Israelites who were present celebrated the Passover at that time. They also celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days.

¹⁸Never had a Passover like this been celebrated in Israel during the time of the prophet Samuel or the kings of Israel. They did not celebrate the Passover as Josiah celebrated it with priests, Levites, all of Judah, the people of Israel who could be found, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

¹⁹In the eighteenth year of Josiahs reign, this Passover was celebrated.

²⁰After all this, when Josiah had repaired the temple, King Neco of Egypt came to fight a battle at Carchemish at the Euphrates River. Josiah went to attack him.

²¹ But Neco sent messengers to Josiah to say, "Whats your quarrel with me, king of Judah? Im not attacking you. Ive come to fight those who are at war with me. God told me to hurry. God is with me, so stop now or else he will destroy you."

²² But Josiah would not stop his attack. He disguised himself as he went into battle. He refused to listen to Necos words, which came from God, and he went to fight in the valley of Megiddo.

²³ Some archers shot King Josiah. The king told his officers, "Take me away because Im badly wounded."

²⁴ His officers took him out of the chariot and brought him to Jerusalem in his other chariot. He died and was buried in the tombs of his ancestors. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

²⁵ Jeremiah sang a funeral song about Josiah. All the male and female singers still sing funeral songs about Josiah today. This became a tradition in Israel. They are written in the Book of the Funeral Songs.

²⁶ Everything else about Josiah including his devotion to God by following what is written in the LORDS Teachings

²⁷ and his acts from first to last are written in the records of the kings of Israel and Judah.

36 ¹ Then people of the land took Josiah's son Jehoahaz and made him king in Jerusalem in place of his father.

² Jehoahaz was 23 years old when he became king, and he was king in Jerusalem for 3 months.

³ The king of Egypt removed him from office in Jerusalem and fined the country 7,500 pounds of silver and 75 pounds of gold.

⁴ The king of Egypt made Jehoahaz's brother Eliakim king of Judah and Jerusalem and changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. Neco took Jehoahaz away to Egypt.

⁵ Jehoiakim was 25 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 11 years in Jerusalem. He did what the LORD his God considered evil.

⁶King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked Jehoiakim and put him in bronze shackles to take him to Babylon.

⁷Nebuchadnezzar also brought some of the utensils of the LORDS temple to Babylon. He put them in his palace in Babylon.

⁸Everything else about Jehoiakim the disgusting things he did and all the charges against him is written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. His son Jehoiakin succeeded him as king.

⁹Jehoiakin was eight years old when he began to rule as king. He was king for three months and ten days in Jerusalem. He did what the LORD considered evil.

¹⁰In the spring King Nebuchadnezzar sent for Jehoiakin and brought him to Babylon with the valuable utensils from the LORDS temple. Nebuchadnezzar made Jehoiakins uncle Zedekiah king of Judah and Jerusalem.

¹¹Zedekiah was 21 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 11 years in Jerusalem.

¹²He did what the LORD his God considered evil and didnt humble himself

in front of the prophet Jeremiah, who spoke for the LORD.

¹³Zedekiah also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar had made Zedekiah swear an oath of allegiance to him in Gods name. But Zedekiah became so stubborn and so impossible to deal with that he refused to turn back to the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁴All the officials, the priests, and the people became increasingly unfaithful and followed all the disgusting practices of the nations. Although the LORD had made the temple in Jerusalem holy, they made the temple unclean.

¹⁵The LORD God of their ancestors repeatedly sent messages through his messengers because he wanted to spare his people and his dwelling place.

¹⁶But they mocked Gods messengers, despised his words, and made fun of his prophets until the LORD became angry with his people. He could no longer heal them.

¹⁷So he had the Babylonian king attack them and execute their best young men in their holy temple. He didnt spare the best men or the unmarried women,

the old people or the sick people. God handed all of them over to him.

¹⁸He brought to Babylon each of the utensils from Gods temple, the treasures from the LORDS temple, and the treasures of the king and his officials.

¹⁹They burned Gods temple, tore down Jerusalems walls, burned down all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value.

²⁰The king of Babylon took those who werent executed to Babylon to be slaves for him and his sons. They remained captives until the Persian Empire began to rule.

²¹This happened so that the LORDS words spoken through Jeremiah would be fulfilled. The land had its years of rest and was made acceptable again. While it lay in ruins, the land had its 70 years of rest.

²²The promise the LORD had spoken through Jeremiah was about to come true in Cyrus first year as king of Persia. The LORD inspired the king to make this announcement throughout his whole kingdom and then to put it in writing.

²³This is what King Cyrus of Persia says: The LORD God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the world. Then he ordered me to build a temple for him in Jerusalem (which is in Judah). May the LORD God be with all of you who are his people. You may go.

Ezra

1 ¹ The promise the LORD had spoken through Jeremiah was about to come true in Cyrus first year as king of Persia. The LORD inspired the king to make this announcement throughout his whole kingdom and then to put it in writing.

² This is what King Cyrus of Persia says: The LORD God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the world. Then he ordered me to build a temple for him in Jerusalem (which is in Judah).

³ May God be with all of you who are his people. You may go to Jerusalem (which is in Judah) and build a temple for the LORD God of Israel. He is the God who is in Jerusalem.

⁴ All who choose to remain behind, wherever they may be living, should provide the people who are leaving with silver, gold, supplies, livestock, and freewill offerings to be used in Gods temple in Jerusalem.

⁵ Then the heads of the families of Judah and Benjamin, the priests, and the

Levites everyone God had inspired came forward to rebuild the LORDS temple in Jerusalem.

⁶All their neighbors who were remaining behind provided them with articles made from silver and gold, supplies, livestock, and valuable gifts besides everything that was freely offered.

⁷King Cyrus brought out the utensils belonging to the LORDS temple. Nebuchadnezzar had taken these utensils from Jerusalem and put them in the temple of his own god.

⁸King Cyrus of Persia put the treasurer Mithredath in charge of bringing them out. So Mithredath made a list of them for Prince Sheshbazzar of Judah.

⁹This is the inventory: gold dishes 30; silver dishes 1,000; knives 29;

¹⁰gold bowls 30; other silver bowls 410; other utensils 1,000;

¹¹The gold and silver utensils totaled 5,400. Sheshbazzar took all these utensils with him when the exiles left Babylon to go to Jerusalem.

2¹These were the people in the province. They were the ones who left the place where the exiles had been

taken captive. (King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had taken them to Babylon.) These exiles returned to Jerusalem and Judah. All of them went to their own cities.

² They went with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah. This is the number of Israelite men from the people in exile:

³ the descendants of Parosh 2,172

⁴ of Shephatiah 372

⁵ of Arah 775

⁶ of Pahath Moab, that is, of Jeshua and Joab 2,812

⁷ of Elam 1,254

⁸ of Zattu 945

⁹ of Zaccai 760

¹⁰ of Bani 642

¹¹ of Bebai 623

¹² of Azgad 1,222

¹³ of Adonikam 666

¹⁴ of Bigvai 2,056

¹⁵ of Adin 454

¹⁶ of Ater, that is, Hezekiah 98

¹⁷ of Bezai 323

¹⁸ of Jorah 112

¹⁹ of Hashum 223

- ²⁰ of Gibbar 95
- ²¹ The people of Bethlehem 123
- ²² of Netophah 56
- ²³ of Anathoth 128
- ²⁴ of Azmaveth 42
- ²⁵ of Kiriath Jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth 743
- ²⁶ of Ramah and Geba 621
- ²⁷ of Michmas 122
- ²⁸ of Bethel and Ai 223
- ²⁹ of Nebo 52
- ³⁰ of Magbish 156
- ³¹ of the other Elam 1,254
- ³² of Harim 320
- ³³ of Lod, Hadid, and Ono 725
- ³⁴ of Jericho 345
- ³⁵ of Senaah 3,630
- ³⁶ These priests returned from exile: the descendants of Jedaiah (through the family of Jeshua) 973
- ³⁷ of Immer 1,052
- ³⁸ of Pashhur 1,247
- ³⁹ of Harim 1,017
- ⁴⁰ These Levites returned from exile: the descendants of Jeshua and Kadmiel, that is, of Hodaviah 74
- ⁴¹ These singers returned from exile: the descendants of Asaph 128

⁴²These gatekeepers returned from exile: the descendants of Shallum, Ater, Talmon, Akkub, Hatita, and Shobai 139

⁴³These temple servants returned from exile: the descendants of Ziha, Hasupha, Tabbaoth,

⁴⁴Keros, Siaha, Padon,

⁴⁵Lebanah, Hagabah, Akkub,

⁴⁶Hagab, Shalmai, Hanan,

⁴⁷Giddel, Gahar, Reaiah,

⁴⁸Rezin, Nekoda, Gazzam,

⁴⁹Uzza, Paseah, Besai,

⁵⁰Asnah, Meunim, Nephusim,

⁵¹Bakbuk, Hakupha, Harhur,

⁵²Bazluth, Mehida, Harsha,

⁵³Barkos, Sisera, Temah,

⁵⁴Neziah, and Hatipha.

⁵⁵These descendants of Solomons servants returned from exile: the descendants of Sotai, Hassophereth, Peruda,

⁵⁶Jaalah, Darkon, Giddel,

⁵⁷Shephatiah, Hattil, Pochereth Hazzebaim, and Ami.

⁵⁸The temple servants and the descendants of Solomons servants totaled 392.

⁵⁹The following people came from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer, but they couldnt prove they were Israelites on the basis of their fathers family or their genealogy:

⁶⁰the descendants of Delaiah, Tobiah, and Nekoda. These people totaled 652.

⁶¹These descendants of the priests couldnt prove their families were Israelites: the descendants of Hobaiah, Hakkoz, and Barzillai (who had married one of the daughters of Barzillai from Gilead and took that family name).

⁶²These people searched for their family names in the genealogical records, but their names couldnt be found there. For this reason they were considered contaminated and couldnt be priests.

⁶³The governor told them not to eat any of the most holy food until a priest could use the Urim and Thummim to settle the problem.

⁶⁴The whole assembly totaled 42,360.

⁶⁵In addition to the male and female servants who numbered 7,337, they also had 200 male and female singers.

⁶⁶They had 736 horses, 245 mules,

⁶⁷ 435 camels, and 6,720 donkeys.

⁶⁸ When some of the heads of the families came to the LORDS temple in Jerusalem, they contributed freewill offerings to help rebuild Gods temple on its former site.

⁶⁹ They contributed as much as they could to the treasury for this work: 1,030 pounds of gold, 5,740 pounds of silver, and 100 robes for the priests.

⁷⁰ The priests, the Levites, some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the temple servants settled in their own cities. All the other Israelites settled in their own cities.

3¹ When the seventh month came, the people gathered together in Jerusalem. (The Israelites had already settled in their cities.)

² Then Jozadaks son Jeshua and his relatives who were priests and Shealtiels son Zerubbabel and his relatives built an altar for the God of Israel. They built it in order to sacrifice burnt offerings. They followed the directions written in Moses Teachings. (Moses was a man of God.)

³ So they rebuilt the altar on its original site, though they were afraid of the

people in the neighboring regions. They sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the LORD every morning and evening.

⁴Following the written directions, they celebrated the Festival of Booths. Each day they sacrificed the required number of burnt offerings.

⁵After that, they sacrificed the daily burnt offerings, the offerings for the New Moon Festival and all the other holy festivals of the LORD, and all the freewill offerings brought to the LORD.

⁶They started to bring these burnt offerings to the LORD on the first day of the seventh month, even though the foundation of the LORDS temple had not yet been laid.

⁷So they gave money to the stonecutters and carpenters. Then they gave food, drink, and olive oil to the men from Sidon and Tyre in exchange for cedar, which the men would bring by sea from Lebanon to Joppa as King Cyrus of Persia had authorized them to do.

⁸Zerubbabel (who was Shealtiels son), Jeshua (who was Jozadaks son), and the rest of the Jews, (the priests, Levites, and all the others who had come back

from exile to Jerusalem) began to rebuild the temple. This happened in the second month of the second year following their return to the site of Gods house in Jerusalem. They began by appointing the Levites who were at least 20 years old to direct the work on the LORDS house.

⁹Then Jeshua with his sons and relatives and Kadmiel with his sons who were Judahs descendants joined Henadads family and their sons and relatives, the Levites, in directing those working on Gods house.

¹⁰The builders laid the foundation of the LORDS temple. Then the priests who were dressed in their robes took their places with trumpets, and the Levites who were Asaphs descendants took their places with cymbals to praise the LORD according to the instructions of King David of Israel.

¹¹As they praised and gave thanks to the LORD, they sang antiphonally: "He is good; his mercy toward Israel endures forever." Then all the people shouted, "Praise the LORD," because the foundation for the house of the LORD had been laid.

¹² But many of the priests, Levites, and the heads of the families who were old enough to have seen the first temple with their own eyes began to sob when they saw the foundation of this temple. Many others shouted for joy.

¹³ No one could distinguish between the joyful shouts and the loud sobbing because the people were shouting so loudly. The noise was heard from far away.

4¹ When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the people who returned from exile were building a temple for the LORD God of Israel,

² they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of the families. They told them, "We want to help you build because we worship the same God you worship. We have been sacrificing to him since the time of King Esarhaddon of Assyria, who brought us here."

³ But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of Israel's families told them, "It isn't right for your people and our people to build a temple for our God together. We must build it alone for the

LORD God of Israel, as King Cyrus of Persia ordered us to do."

⁴Then the people of that region discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to continue building.

⁵They bribed officials to keep the people of Judah from carrying out their plans throughout the reign of King Cyrus of Persia until the reign of King Darius of Persia.

⁶When Xerxes began to rule, the enemies of Judah and Jerusalem wrote a letter in which they made an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

⁷Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of their group wrote to him when Artaxerxes was king of Persia. The letter was written with the Aramaic script and translated into the Aramaic language.

⁸Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe wrote another letter against the people of Jerusalem to King Artaxerxes.

⁹At that time, Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe were with the others of their group the people from

Denya, Partakka, Tarpel, Persia, Erech, Babylon, Susa, (that is, those of Elam),
¹⁰and the rest of the people whom the great and noble Assurbanipal deported. (Assurbanipal settled them in the cities of Samaria and the rest of the lands west of the Euphrates River.)

¹¹This is the copy of the letter they sent to him: To King Artaxerxes, From your servants, the people west of the Euphrates:

¹²Your Majesty, you should know that the Jews who came to us from you are now in Jerusalem. They are rebuilding that rebellious and wicked city. They are close to finishing the walls. The foundations are already in place.

¹³You should also know that if this city is rebuilt and its walls are finished, the Jews will no longer pay taxes, fees, and tolls. Ultimately, this will hurt the kings income.

¹⁴Now, because we are paid by your palace, it isnt right for us to watch something happen that will dishonor the king. So we are sending this letter to inform you

¹⁵ that you should search the official records of your predecessors. You will find in those official records that this city has been rebellious and has been a threat to kings and provinces. This city has a history of rebelliousness. That's why this city was destroyed.

¹⁶ We want the king to know that if this city is rebuilt and its walls are finished, you will have nothing left of your province west of the Euphrates River.

¹⁷ Then the king sent this reply: To Rehum the commander, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their group living in Samaria, and to others west of the Euphrates River: I wish you peace and prosperity!

¹⁸ The letter you sent me has been read word for word in my presence.

¹⁹ I gave the order, and a search was made. I discovered that this city has a long history of uprisings against kings. Its inhabitants are guilty of treason and rebellion.

²⁰ Jerusalem has had powerful kings who have ruled the whole province west

of the Euphrates. Taxes, fees, and tolls were paid to them.

²¹ So order these men to stop rebuilding. Keep this city from being rebuilt until I give the order.

²² Be careful not to neglect your duty in this matter. Why should I, the king, suffer any more harm?

²³ Rehum the commander, Shimshai the scribe, and their group hurried to Jerusalem after hearing a copy of King Artaxerxes letter. They forced the Jews to stop rebuilding.

²⁴ Then the work on Gods temple in Jerusalem was stopped. Nothing more was done until Darius second year as king of Persia.

5¹ The prophet Haggai and Zechariah, grandson of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of Israels God, who was over them.

² Then Zerubbabel, who was Shealtiels son, and Jeshua, who was Jozadaks son, began to rebuild Gods temple in Jerusalem. Gods prophets were with them and supported them.

³ At the same time, Governor Tattenai from the province west of the Euphrates

River, Shethar Bozenai, and their group went to the Jews and asked them, "Who gave you permission to rebuild this temple and finish its walls?"

⁴They also asked the Jews for the names of the men who were working on this building.

⁵But the leaders of the Jews were under Gods watchful eye. They couldnt be stopped until Darius received a report and sent a reply to it.

⁶Here is a copy of the letter Governor Tattenai from the province west of the Euphrates River, Shethar Bozenai and his group (the Persians west of that river) sent to King Darius.

⁷They sent him the following report: To King Darius, We wish you peace and prosperity in everything you do.

⁸Your Majesty should know that we went to the province of Judah, to the temple of the great God. The temple is being built with large stones and with wooden beams laid in its walls. The builders are doing an excellent job and making rapid progress.

⁹We asked their leaders the following question: "Who gave you permission to rebuild this temple and finish its walls?"

¹⁰For your information, we also asked them for their names so that we would have a record of the men who were their leaders.

¹¹This was their reply to us: "We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth. We are rebuilding the temple that was originally built many years ago by a great king of Israel.

¹²But because our ancestors made the God of heaven angry, he handed them over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon (a Chaldean). So Nebuchadnezzar destroyed this temple and deported its people to Babylon.

¹³"However, in the first year of the reign of King Cyrus of Babylon, Cyrus gave permission for Gods temple to be rebuilt.

¹⁴In addition, Cyrus took out of a temple in Babylon the gold and silver utensils that belonged to Gods temple. (Nebuchadnezzar had taken them out of Gods temple in Jerusalem and brought them into a temple in Babylon.) Cyrus

gave them to a man named Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor.

¹⁵ Cyrus told him, Take these utensils. Place them in the temple in Jerusalem. Rebuild Gods temple on its original site.

¹⁶ Then Sheshbazzar laid the foundation of Gods temple in Jerusalem. The temple has been under construction from that time until now, but it still isnt finished."

¹⁷ If it pleases Your Majesty, allow someone to search the kings archives in Babylon to determine whether King Cyrus gave permission for the temple of God to be rebuilt in Jerusalem. Then please send us Your Majestys decision on this matter.

6¹ Then King Darius gave the order to search the library where the archives were stored in Babylon.

² A scroll was found in the palace of Ecbatana, which is in the province of Media. This was written on it:

MEMORANDUM

³ Date: Cyrus first year as king From: King Cyrus Subject: Gods temple in Jerusalem. The temple should be rebuilt as a place to offer sacrifices. Its

foundation should be laid. It should be 90 feet high and 90 feet wide

⁴with three rows of large stones and a row of wood. The kings palace will pay for it.

⁵In addition, Cyrus took out of a temple in Babylon the gold and silver utensils that belonged to Gods temple. (Nebuchadnezzar had taken them out of Gods temple in Jerusalem and brought them into a temple in Babylon.) They should be returned to their proper place in the temple in Jerusalem. You should put each one in Gods temple.

⁶Governor Tattenai from the province west of the Euphrates, Shethar Bozenai, and those of your group (the Persians west of the river): You must stay away from there.

⁷Dont interfere with the work on Gods temple. Let the governor of the Jews and the leaders of Judah rebuild Gods temple on its original foundation.

⁸I am issuing this decree about how you must help the Jewish leaders rebuild Gods temple: The cost for this should be paid out of the kings own money from the taxes on the province west of the

Euphrates. Full payment should be made to these men so that the work is not interrupted.

⁹Also, whatever the priests in Jerusalem need for burnt offerings to the God of heaven—young bulls, rams, lambs, wheat, salt, wine, and olive oil—should be provided for them each day. Make sure that nothing is omitted.

¹⁰Then they can offer sacrifices that please the God of heaven and pray for the life of the king and his sons.

¹¹I am also issuing a decree that if anyone tampers with my orders, that person should be impaled on a beam torn from his own house and his house should be turned into a pile of rubble.

¹²May the God whose name is worshiped there cause the downfall of each king and nation who tries to tamper with my orders or tries to destroy the temple of the God in Jerusalem. I, Darius, have issued a decree. It is to be carried out exactly as ordered.

¹³Then Governor Tattenai from the province west of the Euphrates River, Shethar Bozenai, and their group did exactly what King Darius had ordered.

¹⁴ So the Jewish leaders continued to make progress because of the message from the prophet Haggai and Zechariah, the grandson of Iddo. They finished building as the God of Israel had ordered and as Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes (the kings of Persia) had ordered.

¹⁵ This temple was finished on the third day of the month of Adar in the sixth year of King Darius reign.

¹⁶ Then the people of Israel, the priests, the Levites, and the others who had returned from exile celebrated at the dedication of Gods temple.

¹⁷ At the dedication of Gods temple, they sacrificed 100 bulls, 200 rams, and 400 lambs. They sacrificed 12 male goats as an offering for sin, one goat for each of the tribes of Israel.

¹⁸ The priests were assigned to their divisions and the Levites to their groups to lead the worship of God in Jerusalem by following the directions written in the Book of Moses.

¹⁹ On the fourteenth day of the first month, those who had returned from exile celebrated the Passover.

²⁰ Since the priests and Levites had cleansed themselves, all of them were now clean. They killed the Passover lambs for all the people who had returned from exile, for the rest of the priests, and for themselves.

²¹ The lambs were eaten by the Israelites who had returned from exile and by all who had separated themselves from the unclean practices of the nonJews in the land to worship the LORD God of Israel.

²² So for seven days they celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread because the LORD had made them joyful. The LORD had made the king of Assyria change his mind so that he supported the people in their work on the temple of God, the God of Israel.

7 ¹ After these things, during the reign of King Artaxerxes of Persia, Ezra left Babylon. Ezra was the son of Seraiah, who was the son of Azariah, who was the son of Hilkiah,

² who was the son of Shallum, who was the son of Zadok, who was the son of Ahitub,

³who was the son of Amariah, who was the son of Azariah, who was the son of Meraioth,

⁴who was the son of Zerahiah, who was the son of Uzzi, who was the son of Bukki,

⁵who was the son of Abishua, who was the son of Phinehas, who was the son of Eleazer, who was the son of Aaron (the first priest).

⁶As a scribe, Ezra was an expert in Moses Teachings, which the LORD God of Israel had given. The king gave Ezra everything he requested because the LORD his God was guiding him.

⁷Some Israelites (including priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, and temple servants) went to Jerusalem in Artaxerxes seventh year as king.

⁸In that same year in the fifth month, Ezra arrived in Jerusalem.

⁹He had left Babylon on the first day of the first month, and on the first day of the fifth month, he arrived in Jerusalem, since his God was good to him.

¹⁰Ezra was determined to study the LORDS Teachings, live by them, and

teach their rules and regulations in Israel.

¹¹ This is a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave Ezra the priest and scribe, a man with a thorough knowledge of the LORDS commands and laws for Israel:

¹² From: Artaxerxes, king of kings To: Ezra the priest, a scribe for the Teachings of the God of Heaven: I wish you peace and prosperity!

¹³ I have issued a decree that any Israelites who are in my kingdom and want to go with you to Jerusalem may go. This also includes the priests and Levites.

¹⁴ I, the king, and my seven advisers are sending you to evaluate the situation in Judah and Jerusalem on the basis of your Gods Teachings, which you hold in your hands.

¹⁵ Also, you must take the silver and gold that the king and his advisers willingly contributed to the God of Israel, the God whose temple is in Jerusalem.

¹⁶ Take any silver and gold that you find in the whole province of Babylon when you take the gifts contributed by the

people and the priests. They willingly contributed these gifts for the temple of their God in Jerusalem.

¹⁷You must use this money to buy bulls, rams, lambs, grain, and wine to offer on the altar of the temple of your God in Jerusalem.

¹⁸You and your relatives may do whatever you think is right with the rest of the silver and gold. However, what you do must conform to the will of your God.

¹⁹The utensils that have been given to you so that they can be used in your Gods temple must all be presented to the God of Jerusalem.

²⁰You may use the kings treasury to pay for anything else that you must provide for your Gods temple.

²¹I, King Artaxerxes, order all the treasurers in the province west of the Euphrates River to do exactly what Ezra the priest, a scribe for the Teachings of the God of Heaven, asks you to do.

²²You may give him up to 7,500 pounds of silver, 100 measures of wheat, 600 gallons of wine, 600 gallons of olive oil, and as much salt as he needs.

²³ Whatever the God of heaven has commanded must be carried out in detail for the temple of the God of heaven. Why should God become angry with the kings empire and his sons?

²⁴ Furthermore, we are notifying you that you are forbidden to make any priest, Levite, singer, gatekeeper, servant, or worker in the temple of this God pay any taxes, fees, or tolls.

²⁵ You, Ezra, using your Gods wisdom the Teachings you hold in your hands will appoint judges and administrators for all the people who know your Gods Teachings and live in the province west of the Euphrates River. In addition, you will teach anyone who doesnt know the Teachings.

²⁶ Whoever will not strictly follow your Gods Teachings and the kings orders should be promptly exiled, have his goods confiscated, be imprisoned or be sentenced to die.

²⁷ I, Ezra, said: Thanks be to the LORD God of our ancestors. He put this into the kings mind to make the LORDS temple in Jerusalem beautiful.

²⁸He made the king, his advisers, and all the king's powerful officials treat me kindly. I was encouraged because the LORD my God was guiding me. So I gathered leaders in Israel to go with me.

8¹ These are the leaders of the families and the genealogy of those who left Babylon with me during the reign of King Artaxerxes:

²from the family of Phinehas Gershom
from the family of Ithamar Daniel

³from the family of David Hattush,
son of Shecaniah from the family of
Parosh Zechariah, with 150 males whose
genealogies were known

⁴from the family of Pahath Moab
Eliehoenai, son of Zerahiah, with 200
males

⁵from the family of Zattu Shecaniah,
son of Jahaziel, with 300 males

⁶from the family of Adin Ebed, son of
Jonathan, with 50 males

⁷from the family of Elam Jeshaiiah, son
of Athaliah, with 70 males

⁸from the family of Shephatiah
Zebadiah, son of Michael, with 80 males

⁹from the family of Joab Obadiah, son
of Jehiel, with 210 males

¹⁰from the family of Bani Shelomith, son of Josiphiah, with 160 males

¹¹from the family of Bebai Zechariah, son of Bebai, with 38 males

¹²from the family of Azgad Johanan, son of Hakkatan, with 110 males

¹³from the family of Adonikam Eliphelet, Jeuel, and Shemaiah, who arrived later with 60 males

¹⁴from the family of Bigvai Uthai and Zabbud, with 70 males.

¹⁵I had this group gather by the river that flows to Ahava, and we camped there for three days. I noticed laypeople and priests there, but I didnt find any Levites.

¹⁶Then I sent for Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan, Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah, and Meshullam (who were leading men) and for Joiarib and Elnathan (who were wise).

¹⁷I sent them to Iddo, the leader in Casiphia. I told them to tell Iddo and his relatives, the temple servants in Casiphia, that they should bring us men who can serve in our Gods temple.

¹⁸God was guiding us, so Iddo and his relatives brought us someone

competent, Sherebiah, who was a descendant of Mahli, Levi, and Israel. They brought us 18 of Sherebiahs sons and relatives.

¹⁹They also brought Hashabiah, Jeshaiiah (who was a descendant of Merari), 20 of Jeshaiahs relatives and their sons,

²⁰and 220 temple servants. They were descended from the temple servants whom David and his officials had appointed to work for the Levites. These were all listed by name.

²¹Then I announced a fast there at the Ahava River so that we might humble ourselves in the presence of our God to ask him for a safe journey for ourselves, for our little ones, and for all our goods.

²²I was ashamed to ask the king for an armed escort with cavalry to help us against an enemy attack on the way. We had already told the king, "Our God works things out for the good of everyone who dedicates his life to serving him, but his power and his anger oppose everyone who abandons him."

²³ So we fasted and asked our God for a safe journey, and he answered our prayer.

²⁴ Then I selected 12 leaders from the priests Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and 10 of their relatives.

²⁵ I weighed for them the silver, the gold, and the utensils. These were the contributions that the king, his advisers, his officials, and all the Israelites had contributed for our Gods temple.

²⁶ I weighed the contributions for them to guard: about 24 tons of silver, 100 silver utensils weighing 150 pounds apiece, 7,500 pounds of gold,

²⁷ 20 gold bowls weighing 18 pounds apiece, and two utensils of fine polished bronze that were as precious as gold.

²⁸ I told them, "You and the utensils are holy to the LORD. The silver and gold are freewill offerings to the LORD God of your ancestors.

²⁹ Guard them carefully. In Jerusalem, inside the storerooms of the LORDS temple, weigh these items. Do this in front of the chief priests, Levites, and the leaders of Israels families."

³⁰ So the priests and the Levites took charge of the silver, the gold, and the utensils. They were responsible for bringing these items to the temple of our God in Jerusalem.

³¹ Then we left the Ahava River on the twelfth day of the first month to go to Jerusalem. God was guiding us, and he rescued us from our enemies and from ambushes along the way.

³² When we reached Jerusalem, we rested for three days.

³³ On the fourth day we weighed the silver, the gold, and the utensils in our Gods temple. We put them under the supervision of Meremoth, son of the priest Uriah, as well as Eleazar, the son of Phinehas. The Levites, Jeshuas son Jozabad, and Binnuis son Noadiah, assisted them.

³⁴ Everything was counted and weighed, and the entire weight was recorded at that time.

³⁵ The exiles who had come back from captivity sacrificed burnt offerings to the God of Israel: 12 bulls for all Israel, 96 rams, 77 lambs, and 12 male goats for

an offering for sin. All of these animals were burnt offerings for the LORD.

³⁶The exiles delivered the king's orders to the king's satraps and governors in the province west of the Euphrates River. These officials then gave their support to the people and the temple of God.

9¹After these things had been done, the leaders came to me and said, "The people of Israel, including the priests and Levites, have failed to keep themselves separate from the neighboring groups of people and from the disgusting practices of the Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, Ammonites, Moabites, Egyptians, and Amorites.

²The Israelites and their sons have married some of these foreign women. They have mixed our holy race with the neighboring groups of people. Furthermore, the leaders and officials have led the way in being unfaithful."

³When I heard this, I tore my clothes in distress, pulled hair from my scalp and my beard, and sat down in shock.

⁴Since the former exiles had been unfaithful, everyone who gathered

around me there trembled at the words of the God of Israel. I sat in shock until the evening sacrifice.

⁵At the evening sacrifice I got up from my misery, and with my clothes torn, I knelt down, stretched out my hands to the LORD my God in prayer,

⁶and said, "I am ashamed, my God. I am embarrassed to look at you. Our sins have piled up over our heads, and our guilt is so overwhelming that it reaches heaven.

⁷From our ancestors days until now, we have been deep in guilt. Our kings and our priests have been handed over to foreign kings to be executed. We have been taken captive, robbed, and humiliated, as we still are today because of our sins.

⁸And now, for a brief moment, the LORD our God has been kind enough to leave us a few survivors from Babylon and to give us a secure hold on his holy place. Our God has made our eyes light up and has given us new opportunities while we were slaves.

⁹We are slaves, but our God hasn't abandoned us in our slavery. Instead,

he has made the kings of Persia treat us kindly. He did this to give us an opportunity to rebuild our Gods temple and restore its ruins and to give us a protective wall in Judah and Jerusalem.

¹⁰"And now, our God, what can we say after all this? We have abandoned your commandments!

¹¹The commandments you gave us through your servants the prophets, said, The land you are going to take possession of has been polluted by its perverted people and by their disgusting practices that have filled it with wickedness from one end to another.

¹²So never let your daughters marry their sons or your sons marry their daughters, and never seek peace or trade with them. Then you will be strong, be able to eat the good things the land produces, and be able to give this land as a longlasting inheritance to your children.

¹³"After all that has happened to us because of the evil things we have done and because of our overwhelming guilt, you, our God, have punished us far less

than we deserve and have permitted a few of us to survive.

¹⁴If we break your commandments again and intermarry with people doing these disgusting things, you will become even more angry with us until you finally destroy us and no survivors are left.

¹⁵LORD God of Israel, because you are fair, a few of us continue to remain as survivors. Look at us. All of us are guilty. None of us can stand in your presence because of this."

10¹While Ezra was praying, confessing these sins, crying, and throwing himself down in front of God's temple, a large crowd of Israelite men, women, and children gathered around him. They also began to cry bitterly.

²Then Shecaniah, son of Jehiel, one of the descendants of Elam, interrupted by saying to Ezra, "We have been unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women who came from the people around us. However, there is still hope for Israel.

³So we must now make a promise to our God to get rid of all foreign women and the children born from them, as my lord Ezra and the others who tremble

at the commandments of our God have advised us to do. We must do what Moses Teachings tell us.

⁴Get up! Its your duty to take action. We are with you, so be strong and take action."

⁵Then Ezra got up and made the leaders, priests, Levites, and all the rest of Israel swear to do what they had said. So they took an oath.

⁶Then Ezra left the front of Gods temple and went to the room of Jehohanan, son of Eliashib. Ezra didnt eat any food or drink any water while he was there. He was mourning because these former exiles had been so unfaithful.

⁷Then he sent a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem that all the former exiles must gather in Jerusalem.

⁸If any of them didnt come within three days as the leaders and the older men had advised, then they would lose all their property and be excluded from the community of former exiles.

⁹Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered within three days in Jerusalem. On the twentieth day of the

ninth month, all the people sat in the courtyard of Gods temple. They were trembling because of this matter and shivering because of the heavy rain.

¹⁰Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have been unfaithful by marrying foreign women, and now you have added to Israels guilt.

¹¹Confess to the LORD God of your ancestors what you have done, and do what he wants. Separate yourselves from the people of this land and from your foreign wives."

¹²Then the whole assembly shouted in reply, "Yes! We will do as you say.

¹³But the crowd is too large, and its the rainy season. We cant take care of this outside. Besides, there are so many of us who are involved in this sin that it cant be taken care of in a day or two.

¹⁴Let our leaders represent the whole community. At a set time, everyone who has married a foreign woman must meet with the leaders and judges of each city until our Gods burning anger has turned away from us in this matter."

¹⁵(Only Jonathan, Asahels son, and Jahzeiah, Tikvahs son, opposed this.

Meshullam and Shabbethai, the Levite, supported Jonathan and Jahzeiah.)

¹⁶The former exiles did this. Ezra the priest chose men who were heads of families. He chose one from each family division. (They were all listed by name.) They sat down on the first day of the tenth month to investigate the matter.

¹⁷By the first day of the first month, they had finished dealing with all the men who had married foreign women.

¹⁸Among the descendants of the priests, the following were married to foreign women: Maaseiah, Eliezer, Jarib, and Gedaliah, a descendant of Jeshua (who was Jozadaks son) and his brothers.

¹⁹They shook hands as a pledge that they would get rid of their wives. They sacrificed a ram from their flock as an offering for guilt because they were guilty.

²⁰From the descendants of Immer Hanani and Zebadiah

²¹From the descendants of Harim Maaseiah, Elijah, Shemaiah, Jehiel, and Uziah

²²From the descendants of Pashhur Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad, and Elasah

²³From the Levites Jozabad, Shimei, Kelaiah (that is, Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer

²⁴From the singers Eliashib From the gatekeepers Shallum, Telem, and Uri

²⁵From the other Israelites From the descendants of Parosh Ramiah, Izziah, Malchiah, Mijamin, Eleazar, Malchiah, and Benaiah

²⁶From the descendants of Elam Mattaniah, Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdi, Jeremoth, and Elijah

²⁷From the descendants of Zattu Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabad, and Aziza

²⁸From the descendants of Bebai Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai

²⁹From the descendants of Bani Meshullam, Malluch, Adaiah, Jashub, Sheal, and Jeremoth

³⁰From the descendants of Pahath Moab Adna, Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, Binnui, and Manasseh

³¹ From the descendants of Harim
Eliezer, Isshiah, Malchiah, Shemaiah,
Shimeon,

³² Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah

³³ From the descendants of Hashum
Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet,
Jeremai, Manasseh, and Shimei

³⁴ From the descendants of Bani Maadai,
Amram, Uel,

³⁵ Benaiah, Bedeiah, Cheluhi,

³⁶ Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,

³⁷ Mattaniah, Mattenai, Jaasau

³⁸ From the descendants of Binnui
Shimei,

³⁹ Shelemiah, Nathan, Adaiah,

⁴⁰ Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai,

⁴¹ Azarel, Shelemiah, Shemariah,

⁴² Shallum, Amariah, and Joseph

⁴³ From the descendants of Nebo Jeiel,
Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jaddai, Joel,
and Benaiah

⁴⁴ All of these men had married foreign
women. Some of these women had given
birth to children.

Nehemiah

1 ¹ These are the words of Nehemiah, son of Hacaliah: During the month of Chislev, in Artaxerxes twentieth year as king, while I was in the fortress at Susa, ² one of my brothers, Hanani, arrived with some men from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had survived captivity and about Jerusalem.

³ They told me, "Those who survived captivity are in the province. They are enduring serious troubles and being insulted. The wall of Jerusalem has been broken down, and its gates have been destroyed by fire."

⁴ When I heard this, I sat down and cried. I mourned for days. I continued to fast and pray to the God of heaven.

⁵ I said, "LORD God of heaven, great and aweinspiring God, you faithfully keep your promise and show mercy to those who love you and obey your commandments.

⁶ Open your eyes, and pay close attention with your ears to what I, your

servant, am praying. I am praying to you day and night about your servants the Israelites. I confess the sins that we Israelites have committed against you as well as the sins that my fathers family and I have committed.

⁷We have done you a great wrong. We havent obeyed the commandments, laws, or regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses.

⁸Please remember what you told us through your servant Moses: If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations.

⁹But if you return to me and continue to obey my commandments, though your people may be driven to the most distant point on the horizon, I will come and get you from there and bring you to the place where I chose to put my name.

¹⁰These are your servants and your people whom you have saved by your great power and your strong hand.

¹¹Lord, please pay attention to my prayer and to the prayers of all your other servants who want to worship your name. Please give me success today and make this man, King Artaxerxes, show

me compassion." I was cupbearer to the king at this time.

2¹ In the month of Nisan, in Artaxerxes twentieth year as king, after some wine was brought for the king, I picked up the cup of wine and gave it to the king. I had never been sad in his presence before.

² The king asked me, "Why do you look so sad? You aren't sick, are you? You must be troubled about something." (I was really afraid.)

³ "May the king live forever!" I said to the king. "Why shouldn't I look sad when the city, the place where my ancestors are buried, is in ruins and its gates are burned down?"

⁴ "What do you want?" the king asked me. So I prayed to the God of heaven,

⁵ and I asked the king, "If it pleases Your Majesty, and you are willing to grant my request, let me go to Judah, to the city where my ancestors are buried, so that I can rebuild it."

⁶ Then, while the queen was sitting beside him, the king asked me, "How long will you be gone, and when will you

come back?" When I gave him a specific date, he was willing to let me go.

⁷I also asked the king, "If it pleases Your Majesty, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River. In the letters tell them to grant me safe conduct until I arrive in Judah.

⁸Also, let me have a letter addressed to Asaph, the supervisor of Your Majestys forest. In the letter order him to give me wood for the gates of the fortress near the temple, for the city wall, and for the house Ill move into." (The king let me have the letters, because God was guiding me.)

⁹I went to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River and gave them the kings letters. (The king had sent army officers and cavalry to be with me.)

¹⁰But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, they were very upset that someone had come to give the people of Israel so much assistance.

¹¹I went to Jerusalem and was there for three days.

¹² During the night I went out with a few men without telling anyone what my God had inspired me to do for Jerusalem. The only animal I had was the one I was riding.

¹³ I went through Valley Gate that night toward Snake Fountain and Dung Gate and examined the places where the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and where its gates had been burned.

¹⁴ Passing through Fountain Gate, I arrived at Kings Pool, but the animal I was riding couldnt get through.

¹⁵ So I went through the valley that night and examined the wall. Then I turned back, entered Valley Gate, and returned.

¹⁶ The officials didnt know where I had gone or what I had done. I hadnt yet told the Jews, the priests, the leaders, the other officials, or any of the rest who would be doing the work.

¹⁷ Then I told them, "You see the trouble were in. Jerusalem is in ruins, and its gates are burned down. Lets rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be insulted."

¹⁸Then I told them that my God had been guiding me and what the king had told me. They replied, "Let's begin to rebuild." So they encouraged one another to begin this Godpleasing work.

¹⁹When Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite servant, and Geshem the Arab heard about this, they made fun of us and ridiculed us. They asked, "What are you doing? Are you going to rebel against the king?"

²⁰"The God of heaven will give us success," I answered them. "We, his servants, are going to rebuild. You have no property or claim or historic right in Jerusalem."

3¹The chief priest Eliashib and his relatives, the priests, started by rebuilding Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place. They rebuilt as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and then as far as the Tower of Hananel.

²The men from Jericho were rebuilding next to Eliashib. Zaccur, son of Imri, was next to them.

³The sons of Hassenaah rebuilt Fish Gate. They laid its beams and set its doors, locks, and bars in place.

⁴Next to them Meremoth, son of Uriah and grandson of Hakkoz, made repairs. Next to them Meshullam, son of Berechiah and grandson of Meshezabel, made repairs. Next to them Zadok, son of Baana, made repairs.

⁵Next to them the men from Tekoa made repairs. However, the nobles wouldnt lower themselves to work under supervisors.

⁶Joiada, Paseahs son, and Meshullam, Besodeiahs son, made repairs on Old Gate. They laid its beams and set its doors, locks, and bars in place.

⁷Next to them Melatiah from Gibeon and Jadon from Meronoth, with men from Gibeon and Mizpah, made repairs on the wall. They did this under the authority of the governor from the province west of the Euphrates River.

⁸Next to them Uzziel, Harhaiahs son, a goldsmith, made repairs. Next to him Hananiah, a perfume maker, made repairs. They left out part of Jerusalem as far as Broad Wall.

⁹Next to them Rephaiah, Hurs son, an official in charge of half a district of Jerusalem, made repairs.

¹⁰Next to them Jedaiah, Harumaphs son, made repairs across from his own home. Next to them Hattush, Hashabneiahs son, made repairs.

¹¹Malchiah, Harims son, and Hasshub, Pahath Moabs son, made repairs on a section that included the Tower of the Ovens.

¹²Next to them Shallum, Halloheshs son, an official in charge of half a district of Jerusalem, made repairs with the help of his daughters.

¹³Hanun and the people of Zanoah repaired Valley Gate. They rebuilt it and set its doors, locks, and bars in place, and they repaired 1,500 feet of the wall, as far as Dung Gate.

¹⁴Dung Gate itself was repaired by Malchiah, Rechabs son, the official in charge of the district of Beth Hakkerem. He rebuilt it and set its doors, locks, and bars in place.

¹⁵Shallun, Col Hozehs son, the official in charge of the district of Mizpah, repaired Fountain Gate. He rebuilt it, put

a roof over it, and set its doors, locks, and bars in place. He also made repairs on the wall of the Pool of Shelah by the Kings Garden as far as the stairs going down from the City of David.

¹⁶After him Nehemiah, Azbuks son, the official in charge of half the district of Beth Zur, made repairs all the way to a point across from the tombs of David as far as the pool and the soldiers barracks.

¹⁷After him the Levites, including Rehum (Banis son), made repairs. Next to him Hashabiah, the official in charge of half the district of Keilah, made repairs for his district.

¹⁸After him their relatives made repairs. This included Binnui, Henadads son, the official in charge of half the district of Keilah.

¹⁹Next to him Ezer, Jeshuas son, the official in charge of Mizpah, repaired a section across from the ascent to the Armory at the Angle.

²⁰After him Baruch, Zabbais son, made repairs on a section from the Angle to the door of the house of the chief priest Eliashib.

²¹ After him Meremoth, son of Uriah and grandson of Hakkoz, made repairs on a section from the door of Eliashibs house to the end of Eliashibs house.

²² After him the priests who lived in that area made repairs.

²³ After them Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs across from their own homes. After them Azariah, son of Maaseiah and grandson of Ananiah, made repairs next to his home.

²⁴ After him Binnui, Henadads son, made repairs on a section from Azariahs home to the Angle and to the corner of the wall.

²⁵ Palal, Uzais son, made repairs across from the Angle and the upper tower that projects from the kings palace to the guards courtyard. After him Pedaiah, Paroshs son,

²⁶ and the temple servants who were living on the Ophel made repairs on the wall as far as a point across from Water Gate toward the east and the projecting tower.

²⁷ After him the men from Tekoa repaired a section across from the large

projecting tower as far as the Wall of the Ophel.

²⁸Above Horse Gate the priests made repairs. Each priest made repairs across from his own home.

²⁹After them Zadok, Immers son, made repairs across from his own home. After him Shemaiah, Shecaniahs son, the guard at East Gate, made repairs.

³⁰After him Hananiah, Shelemiahs son, and Hanun, Zalaphs sixth son, repaired another section. After him Meshullam, Berechiahs son, made repairs across from his living quarters.

³¹After him Malchiah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the building that housed the temple servants and merchants across from Inspection Gate and as far as the upper room at the corner.

³²The goldsmiths and merchants made repairs between the upper room at the corner and Sheep Gate.

4¹When Sanballat heard we were rebuilding the wall, he became enraged and made fun of the Jews.

²In front of his allies and the army from Samaria, he said, "What do these

miserable Jews think they're doing? Can they rebuild it by themselves? Are they going to offer sacrifices? Can they finish it in a day? Will they get the stones out of the rubbish heaps, burned as these stones are, and give them new strength?"

³Tobiah the Ammonite, who was beside Sanballat, said, "Even a fox would make their stone wall collapse if it walked on top of what they're building!"

⁴Nehemiah prayed, "Our God, hear us. We are despised. Turn their insults back on them, and let them be robbed in the land where they are prisoners.

⁵Dont ignore their guilt, and dont let their sins disappear from your records. They have insulted you in front of these builders."

⁶So we rebuilt the wall, which was rebuilt to about half its original height. The people worked with determination.

⁷When Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the people from Ashdod heard that the repair work on the walls of Jerusalem was making progress and that the gaps were being filled in, they became furious.

⁸All of them plotted to attack Jerusalem to create confusion.

⁹But we prayed to our God and set guards to protect us day and night.

¹⁰Then the people of Judah said, "The work crews are worn out, and there is too much rubble. We can't continue to rebuild the wall."

¹¹Our enemies said, "Before they know what is happening or see a thing, we will be right in the middle of them. We'll kill them and bring the work to an end."

¹²Jews who were living near our enemies warned us ten times that our enemies would attack us from every direction.

¹³That is why I positioned people by their families behind the wall where it was lowest and most exposed. The people were armed with swords, spears, and bows.

¹⁴I looked them over and proceeded to tell the nobles, the leaders, and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of our enemies. Remember how great and aweinspiring the LORD is. Fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."

¹⁵When our enemies heard that we knew about their plots and that God had prevented their plans from being successful, we all went back to the work on the wall. Each person performed his own job.

¹⁶From that day on, half of my men worked on the wall, and the other half were wearing body armor and holding spears, shields, and bows. The leaders stood behind all the Judeans

¹⁷who were rebuilding the wall. The workers who were carrying loads did the work with one hand and held their weapons with the other,

¹⁸and each builder had his sword fastened to his side. The man who was supposed to sound the trumpet alarm was with me.

¹⁹I told the nobles, the leaders, and the rest of the people, "So much work has to be done in different places that we are widely separated from one another on the wall.

²⁰When you hear the trumpet, assemble around me. Our God will fight for us!"

²¹ So we continued to work. Half of us held spears from early dawn until the stars came out.

²² At that time I told the people, "Every man and his servant should stay overnight in Jerusalem so that we can set a guard at night and work during the day."

²³ My brothers, my servants, and the guards assigned to me never changed their clothes. Neither did I. We each kept our weapons at hand.

5¹ Then some of the people, the men and their wives, complained publicly about their Jewish relatives.

² Some of them said, "We have large families! We need some grain if we are going to eat and stay alive."

³ Others said, "Weve had to mortgage our fields, our vineyards, and our homes in order to get some grain because of this famine."

⁴ Others said, "Weve had to borrow money to pay the kings taxes on our fields and vineyards."

⁵ We have the same flesh and blood as our relatives. Our children are just like theirs. Yet, we have to force our sons

and daughters to become slaves. Some of our daughters have already become slaves. But we can't do anything else when our fields and vineyards belong to others."

⁶I became furious when I heard their complaint and what they had to say.

⁷After thinking it over, I confronted the nobles and the leaders. I told them, "You are charging interest on loans made to your own relatives." I arranged for a large meeting to deal with them.

⁸Then I told them, "We have done our best to buy back our Jewish relatives who had been sold to other nations. Now you are selling your Jewish relatives so that we have to buy them back again!" They were unable to say anything.

⁹I added, "What you're doing is wrong. Shouldn't you live in the fear of our God to keep our enemies from ridiculing us?"

¹⁰My brothers, my servants, and I are lending money and grain to the poor. But we must stop charging them interest.

¹¹You must return their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their homes today. Also, you must return the

interest on the money, grain, new wine, and olive oil you've been charging them."

¹²They responded, "We'll return it and not try to get it from them again. We'll do what you say." Then I called the priests and made them swear to do what they promised.

¹³I brushed off my clothes and said, "In the same way, may God brush off from home and work everyone who refuses to keep this promise. In the same way, may everyone be brushed off and left with nothing." Then the whole congregation said amen and praised the LORD. The people did what they had promised.

¹⁴During the 12 years that I was governor of Judah, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign to the thirty-second year of his reign, my brothers and I never ate any food that was paid for by the governors' food allowance.

¹⁵Those who were governors before me had made life difficult for the people by taking from them food and wine plus one pound of silver. Even the governors' servants took advantage of their power

over the people. But I didn't do that, because I feared God.

¹⁶Instead, I put my best effort into the work on this wall, and we bought no land. All my men gathered here for work.

¹⁷I fed 150 Jewish leaders and their people who came to us from the surrounding nations.

¹⁸Preparing one ox and six choice sheep was necessary every day. Poultry was prepared for me. Once every ten days a supply of wine was ordered. Yet, in spite of all this, I never demanded anything from the governors food allowance, because these people were already carrying a heavy load.

¹⁹Remember me, my God. Consider everything that I have done for these people.

6¹Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall and that no gaps had been left in it (although at that time I had not yet hung the doors in the city gates).

²Then Sanballat and Geshem sent this message to me: "Let's meet in

Hakkephirim on the plain of Ono." They were planning to harm me.

³I sent messengers to tell them, "I'm working on an important project and can't get away. Why should the work stop while I leave to meet with you?"

⁴They sent the same message to me four times, and I answered them the same way.

⁵When Sanballat sent me the same message a fifth time, his servant held in his hand an unsealed letter.

⁶In it was written: It has been reported throughout the nations, and Geshem has confirmed it, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel. That's why you're rebuilding the wall. According to this report, you want to become their king.

⁷You've appointed prophets to announce about you in Jerusalem, There's a king in Judah! This report will get back to the king. So let's talk about this.

⁸Then I sent someone to tell him, "None of your accusations are true. You are making them up out of your own imagination."

⁹They were all trying to intimidate us. They thought we would give up and

not finish the work. But God made me strong.

¹⁰One day I went to the home of Shemaiah, son of Delaiah and grandson of Mehetabel. Shemaiah who was confined to his house, said, "Let's meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and close the temple doors. Some men are coming at night to kill you."

¹¹But I asked, "Should a man like me run away? Would a man like me go into the temple to save his life? I won't go."

¹²Then I realized that God hadn't sent him. Instead, Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him to prophesy against me.

¹³He was hired to intimidate me into doing this so that I would sin. Then they could give me a bad reputation in order to discredit me.

¹⁴Nehemiah prayed, "My God, remember what Tobiah and Sanballat have done. Also, remember the female prophet Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who have been trying to intimidate me."

¹⁵The wall was finished on the twentyfifth day of the month of Elul. The wall took 52 days to finish.

¹⁶When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their selfconfidence. They realized we had done this work with the help of our God.

¹⁷In those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and Tobiah sent many letters back to them.

¹⁸Many in Judah had promised to support Tobiah because he was the soninlaw of Shecaniah, Arah's son. In addition, Tobiah's son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam, Berechiah's son.

¹⁹The nobles were singing Tobiah's praises to me and reporting to him what I said. Tobiah kept sending letters to intimidate me.

7¹ The gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites were assigned their duties after the wall had been rebuilt and I had hung the doors.

²I put my brother Hanani and Hananiah, the commander of the fortress, in charge of Jerusalem. Hananiah was a trustworthy man, and he feared God more than most people do.

³I told them, "The gates of Jerusalem should not be opened at the hottest time of the day. While the gatekeepers are still standing there, they should shut the doors and bar them. Order some of the men in Jerusalem to stand guard, some at their posts and others in front of their homes."

⁴The city was large and wideopen. Few people were in it, and no houses were being built.

⁵Then my God put the idea into my head that I should gather the nobles, leaders, and people so that they could check their genealogy. I found the book with the genealogy of those who came back the first time. I found the following written in it:

⁶These were the people in the province. They were the ones who left the place where the exiles had been taken captive. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had taken them captive. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah. All of them went to their own cities.

⁷They went with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai,

Nehum, and Baanah. This is the number of Israelite men from the people in exile:

⁸ the descendants of Parosh 2,172

⁹ of Shephatiah 372

¹⁰ of Arah 652

¹¹ of Pahath Moab, that is, of Jeshua and Joab 2,818

¹² of Elam 1,254

¹³ of Zattu 845

¹⁴ of Zaccai 760

¹⁵ of Binnui 648

¹⁶ of Bebai 628

¹⁷ of Azgad 2,322

¹⁸ of Adonikam 667

¹⁹ of Bigvai 2,067

²⁰ of Adin 655

²¹ of Ater, that is, Hezekiah 98

²² of Hashum 328

²³ of Bezai 324

²⁴ of Hariph 112

²⁵ of Gibeon 95

²⁶ the people of Bethlehem and Netophah 188

²⁷ of Anathoth 128

²⁸ of Beth Azmaveth 42

²⁹ of Kiriath Jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth 743

³⁰ of Ramah and Geba 621

³¹ of Michmas 122

³² of Bethel and Ai 123

³³ of the other Nebo 52

³⁴ of the other Elam 1,254

³⁵ of Harim 320

³⁶ of Jericho 345

³⁷ of Lod, Hadid, and Ono 721

³⁸ of Senaah 3,930

³⁹ These priests returned from exile:
the descendants of Jedaiah (through the
family of Jeshua) 973

⁴⁰ of Immer 1,052

⁴¹ of Pashhur 1,247

⁴² of Harim 1,017

⁴³ These Levites returned from exile:
the descendants of Jeshua, that is, of
Kadmiel and of Hodeiah 74

⁴⁴ These singers returned from exile:
the descendants of Asaph 148

⁴⁵ These gatekeepers returned from
exile: the descendants of Shallum, Ater,
Talmon, Akkub, Hatita, and Shobai 138

⁴⁶ These temple servants returned from
exile: the descendants of Ziha, Hasupha,
Tabbaath,

⁴⁷ Keros, Sia, Padon,

⁴⁸ Lebanah, Hagabah, Shalmal,

⁴⁹ Hanan, Giddel, Gahar,

⁵⁰ Reaiah, Rezin, Nekoda,

⁵¹ Gazzam, Uzza, Paseah,

⁵² Besai, Meunim, Nephusheshim,

⁵³ Bakbuk, Hakupha, Harhur,

⁵⁴ Bazlith, Mehida, Harsha,

⁵⁵ Barkos, Sisera, Temah,

⁵⁶ Neziah, and Hatipha.

⁵⁷ These descendants of Solomons servants returned from exile: the descendants of Sotai, Sophereth, Perida,

⁵⁸ Jaala, Darkon, Giddel,

⁵⁹ Shephatiah, Hattil, Pochereth Hazzebaim, and Amon.

⁶⁰ The temple servants and the descendants of Solomons servants totaled 392.

⁶¹ The following people came from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer, but they couldnt prove they were Israelites on the basis of their fathers family or their genealogy:

⁶² the descendants of Delaiah, Tobiah, and Nekoda. These people totaled 642.

⁶³ These priests couldnt prove they were Israelites: the descendants of Hobaiah, Hakkoz, and Barzillai (who had married one of the daughters of Barzillai from Gilead and took that family name).

⁶⁴ These people searched for their family names in the genealogical records, but their names couldn't be found there. For this reason they were considered contaminated and couldn't be priests.

⁶⁵ The governor told them not to eat any of the most holy food until a priest could use the Urim and Thummim to settle the problem.

⁶⁶ The whole assembly totaled 42,360.

⁶⁷ In addition to the male and female servants who numbered 7,337, they also had 245 male and female singers.

⁶⁸ They had 736 horses, 245 mules,

⁶⁹ 435 camels, and 6,720 donkeys.

⁷⁰ Some of the heads of the families contributed to this work. The governor contributed the following to the treasury: nearly 18 pounds of gold, 50 bowls, and 530 robes for the priests.

⁷¹ Some of the heads of the families contributed to the treasury for this work: 337 pounds of gold and 3,215 pounds of silver.

⁷² The rest of the people contributed 337 pounds of gold, 2,923 pounds of silver, and 67 robes for the priests.

⁷³The priests, Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and the rest of Israel settled in their own cities. When the seventh month came, the people of Israel were in their own cities.

8¹When the seventh month came, all the people gathered together in the courtyard in front of Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of Moses Teachings, which the Lord had commanded Israel to follow.

²Then Ezra the priest brought the Teachings in front of the assembly. This included men, women, and any children who could understand what they heard. This took place on the first day of the seventh month.

³From daybreak until noon, he read from it in the courtyard in front of Water Gate to the men, women, and children who could understand it. All the people listened to the Book of Moses Teachings.

⁴Ezra the scribe stood on a raised wooden platform made for this occasion. Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah stood beside him on his right. Pedaiah, Mishaël, Malchiah,

Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam stood beside him on his left.

⁵Ezra, standing higher than all the other people, opened the book in front of all the people. As he opened it, all the people stood up.

⁶Ezra thanked the LORD, the great God. All the people responded, "Amen! Amen!" as they raised their hands and then bowed with their faces to the ground and worshiped the LORD.

⁷The Levites Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pelaiah explained the Teachings to the people while they were standing there.

⁸They read the Book of Gods Teachings clearly and explained the meaning so that the people could understand what was read.

⁹Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people told them, "This is a holy day for the LORD your God. Dont mourn or cry." All the people were crying as they listened to the reading of Gods Teachings.

¹⁰Then he told them, "Go, eat rich foods, drink sweet drinks, and send portions to those who cannot provide for themselves. Today is a holy day for the Lord. Don't be sad because the joy you have in the LORD is your strength."

¹¹So the Levites calmed all the people by saying, "Listen. Today is a holy day. Don't be sad."

¹²Then all the people went to eat and drink and to send portions. They had a big, joyful celebration because they understood the words that had been explained to them.

¹³On the second day the leaders of the families of all the people, including the priests and the Levites, met with Ezra the scribe to study the words of God's Teachings.

¹⁴They found written in the Teachings that the LORD had given an order through Moses that the people of Israel should live in booths during a festival in the seventh month.

¹⁵They should announce this command and send this message throughout all their cities and Jerusalem: "Go to the mountains, and get branches of olive and

wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other thicketleaved branches to make booths as it is written."

¹⁶So the people went to get branches to make booths for themselves. Some made booths on their roofs, others in their courtyards, in the courtyards of God's temple, in the open area by Water Gate, or in the open area at Ephraim Gate.

¹⁷The whole assembly that had come back from exile made booths and lived in them. From the time of Joshua (son of Nun) to that day, the people of Israel had not done this. There was a big, joyful celebration.

¹⁸Day by day, from the first day of the festival to the last day, Ezra continued to read from the Book of God's Teachings. The people celebrated the festival for seven days, and on the eighth day, they had a closing festival assembly in accordance with the regulations.

9¹When the Israelites assembled on the twenty-fourth day of this month, they fasted, wore sackcloth, and threw dirt on their heads.

²Those who were descendants of Israel separated themselves from all foreigners. They stood and confessed their sins as well as the wicked things their ancestors had done.

³They stood in their places, and for one-fourth of the day, they listened as the Book of the Teachings of the LORD their God was read, and for another fourth of the day, they confessed their sins and worshiped the LORD their God.

⁴Then Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chanani stood on the stairs built for the Levites and cried loudly to the LORD their God.

⁵Then the Levites Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah said, "Stand up, and thank the LORD your God: From everlasting to everlasting your glorious name is praised and lifted high above all blessing and praise.

⁶You alone are the LORD. You made heaven, the highest heaven, with all its armies. You made the earth and everything on it, the seas and everything

in them. You give life to them all, and the armies of heaven worship you.

⁷You are the LORD, the God who chose Abram and took him from Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham.

⁸You found that his heart was faithful to you. You made a promise to him to give the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites, and Gergashites to his descendants. You kept your promise because you are fair.

⁹You saw how our ancestors suffered in Egypt, and you heard them crying at the Red Sea.

¹⁰You performed miraculous signs and did amazing things to Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people in his land because you knew how arrogantly they were treating our ancestors. You made a name for yourself, a name which remains to this day.

¹¹You divided the sea in front of them so that they could walk through the sea on dry ground. You threw into deep water those who pursued your people as someone throws a stone into raging water.

¹²You led them during the day by a column of smoke and during the night by a column of fire to give them light to see the way they should go.

¹³You came from heaven to Mount Sinai and spoke with them from heaven. You gave them fair rules, trustworthy teachings, and good laws and commandments.

¹⁴You taught them about your holy day of worship. You gave them commandments, laws, and teachings through your servant Moses.

¹⁵You gave them bread from heaven to satisfy their hunger and made water flow from a rock to quench their thirst. You told them to take possession of the land that you swore you would give them.

¹⁶But theyour own ancestorsacted arrogantly. They became stubborn and wouldnt obey your commands.

¹⁷They refused to listen. They forgot the miracles you performed for them. They became stubborn and appointed a leader to take them back to slavery in Egypt. But you are a forgiving God, one who is compassionate, merciful, patient,

and always ready to forgive. You never abandoned them,

¹⁸even when they made a metal statue of a calf for themselves and said, This is your god who took you out of Egypt. They committed outrageous sins.

¹⁹But because of your endless compassion, you didn't abandon them in the desert. The column of smoke didn't leave them during the day, but it led them on their way. The column of fire didn't leave them during the night, but it gave them light to see the way they should go.

²⁰You gave them your good Spirit to teach them. You didn't keep your manna to yourself. You gave them water to quench their thirst.

²¹You provided for them in the desert for 40 years, and they had everything they needed. Their clothes didn't wear out, and their feet didn't swell.

²²You gave kingdoms and nations to the Israelites and assigned them their boundaries. So they took possession of the land of Sihon, the land of the king of Heshbon, and the land of King Og of Bashan.

²³You made their children as numerous as the stars in the sky. You brought them into the land you told their parents to enter and possess.

²⁴Their children took possession of the land. You defeated for them the Canaanites, who lived in the land. You handed the Canaanite kings and their people over to them to do whatever they wanted with the Canaanites.

²⁵The Israelites captured fortified cities and a rich land. They took possession of houses filled with all sorts of good things, cisterns, vineyards, olive trees, and plenty of fruit trees. So they ate and were satisfied and grew fat. They enjoyed the vast supply of good things you gave them.

²⁶But they were defiant and rebelled against you. They threw your teachings over their shoulders and killed your prophets who warned them to turn back to you. They committed outrageous sins.

²⁷You handed them over to their enemies, who made them suffer. When they began to suffer, they cried to you. You heard them from heaven. You gave them saviors to rescue them from

their enemies because of your endless compassion.

²⁸As soon as they felt some relief, they were again doing what you considered evil. You abandoned them to their enemies, who conquered them. They cried to you again, and you heard them from heaven. You rescued them many times because of your compassion.

²⁹You warned them in order to bring them back to your teachings, but they became arrogant and would not obey your commandments. They sinned by not following your regulations. If anyone follows them, he will find life in them. But they gave you the cold shoulder, became impossible to deal with, and wouldn't listen.

³⁰You were patient with them for many years. You warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. However, they wouldn't listen. So you handed them over to the people in the surrounding nations.

³¹But your compassion is endless. You didn't destroy them or abandon them. You are a merciful and compassionate God.

³²And now, our God, you are the great, mighty, and aweinspiring God. You faithfully keep your promises. Do not consider all the hardships that we have been going through as unimportant. The hardships have come to our kings, leaders, priests, prophets, ancestors, and all your people from the time of the kings of Assyria until now.

³³But you were fair about everything that has happened to us. You have been faithful, but we have been wicked.

³⁴Our kings, leaders, priests, and ancestors didnt obey your teachings. They didnt pay attention to your commandments or the warnings that you gave them.

³⁵When they lived in their own kingdom and enjoyed the many good things that you gave them in a vast, fertile land which was set in front of them, they didnt serve you or turn away from their wicked lives.

³⁶Look at us now. Were slaves! In the land you gave our ancestors, they could eat its produce and enjoy its good things. But now were slaves!

³⁷ The many products from our land go to the kings you put over us. This is because of our sins. These kings have control over our bodies, and they do as they please with our livestock. We are in agony.

³⁸ "We are making a binding agreement and putting it in writing because of all this. Our leaders, Levites, and priests are putting their seals on the document."

10¹ The following people sealed the agreement: Governor Nehemiah (son of Hacaliah), Zedekiah,

² Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah,

³ Pashhur, Amariah, Malchiah,

⁴ Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch,

⁵ Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah,

⁶ Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch,

⁷ Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin,

⁸ Maaziah, Bilgai, and Shemaiah. These were the priests.

⁹ These were the Levites: Jeshua (son of Azaniah), Binnui (of the sons of Henadad), Kadmiel,

¹⁰ and their relatives Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,

¹¹ Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah,

¹² Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,

¹³ Hodiah, Bani, and Beninu.

¹⁴ These were the leaders of the people: Parosh, Pahath Moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,

¹⁵ Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,

¹⁶ Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,

¹⁷ Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur,

¹⁸ Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai,

¹⁹ Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai,

²⁰ Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir,

²¹ Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua,

²² Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah,

²³ Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub,

²⁴ Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek,

²⁵ Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah,

²⁶ Ahiah, Hanan, Anan,

²⁷ Malluch, Harim, and Baanah.

²⁸ The rest of the people took an oath.

These people included the priests, Levites, gatekeepers, singers, temple servants, and all who had separated themselves from the inhabitants of the land for the sake of Gods Teachings. Their wives, sons, daughters, and everyone who is capable of understanding also took an oath.

²⁹ They joined their relatives, the nobles, in binding themselves with a curse and an oath to follow Gods

teachings given by Moses, Gods servant. They also bound themselves to follow all the commandments, rules, and regulations of the LORD our Lord.

³⁰We will not allow our daughters to marry the inhabitants of the land or allow their daughters to marry our sons.

³¹If the inhabitants of the land bring merchandise or grain to sell on the day of worship, we wont buy anything from them on the day of worship or any other holy day. During the seventh year, we wont plant the fields or collect any debts.

³²Also, we take upon ourselves the obligation to give an eighth of an ounce of silver every year for worship in our Gods temple:

³³for rows of the bread of the presence, and for the daily grain offerings and daily burnt offerings, on the weekly days of worship, and on the New Moon Festivals, and at the appointed annual festivals, for the holy gifts and offerings for sin that make peace with God for Israel, and for all the other work in the temple of our God.

³⁴We priests, Levites, and laypeople have drawn lots to decide the order in

which the heads of our families should bring wood to our Gods temple to burn on the altar of the LORD our God at appointed times every year according to the directions in the Teachings.

³⁵We have drawn lots to decide who should bring the first produce harvested and the first fruit from every tree each year to the LORDS temple.

³⁶Following the directions in the Teachings, we have drawn lots to decide who should bring the firstborn of our sons, our cattle, and our flocks to the priests serving in our Gods temple.

³⁷Also, we have drawn lots to decide who should bring the best of our coarse flour, contributions, fruit from every tree, new wine, and olive oil to the priests, to the storerooms. We will bring for the Levites onetenth of the produce from our fields, because the Levites are the ones who collect onetenth of the produce from all our farm communities.

³⁸A priestone of Aarons descendantssould be with the Levites when they collect the tenth. Then the Levites should bring onetenth

of these tenths to our Gods temple, into the rooms of the storehouses there.

³⁹The Israelites and the Levites should bring into the storerooms their contributions of grain, new wine, and olive oil. They should bring these products to the place where the utensils of the holy place are and where the priests who serve and the gatekeepers and the singers are. We wont neglect our Gods temple.

11 ¹The leaders of the people settled in Jerusalem. The rest of the people drew lots to bring one out of every ten to live in Jerusalem, the holy city. The remaining ninetenths were supposed to live in the other cities.

²The people blessed everyone who willingly offered to live in Jerusalem.

³These were the officials of the province who settled in Jerusalem. Some Israelites, priests, Levites, temple servants, and descendants of Solomons servants settled in the cities of Judah. They lived on their own property in their own cities.

⁴Some of the descendants of Judah and of Benjamin settled in Jerusalem.

The descendants of Judah were Athaiah, who was the son of Uzziah, who was the son of Zechariah, who was the son of Amariah, who was the son of Shephatiah, who was the son of Mahalalel, who was the son of Perez;

⁵Maaseiah was the son of Baruch, who was the son of Col Hozeh, who was the son of Hazaiah, who was the son of Adaiah, who was the son of Joiarib, who was the son of Zechariah, who was the son of Shiloni.

⁶All the descendants of Perez who settled in Jerusalem were 468 outstanding men.

⁷These are the descendants of Benjamin: Sallu, who was the son of Meshullam, who was the son of Joed, who was the son of Pedaiah, who was the son of Kolaiah, who was the son of Maaseiah, who was the son of Ithiel, who was the son of Jeshaiiah,

⁸and after him, Gabbai and Sallai. The number of Benjamins descendants totaled 928.

⁹Joel, son of Zichri, was in charge, and Judah, son of Senuah, was second in command over the city.

¹⁰These were the priests: Jedaiah (son of Joiarib), Jachin,

¹¹Seraiah, who was the son of Hilkiah, who was the son of Meshullam, who was the son of Zadok, who was the son of Meraioth, who was the son of Ahitub, who was the supervisor of Gods temple.

¹²From Seraiahs relatives 822 did the work in the temple. Also, Adaiah worked in the temple. He was the son of Jeroham, who was the son of Pelaliah, who was the son of Amzi, who was the son of Zechariah, who was the son of Pashhur, who was the son of Malchiah.

¹³Adaiahs relatives, the heads of the families, totaled 242. Amashsai was the son of Azarel, who was the son of Ahzai, who was the son of Meshillemoth, who was the son of Immer.

¹⁴Their relatives, who were warriors, totaled 128. The man in charge of them was Zabdiel, son of Haggadolim.

¹⁵These were the Levites: Shemaiah who was the son of Hasshub, who was the son of Azrikam, who was the son of Hashabiah, who was the son of Bunni.

¹⁶Shabbethai and Jozabad, Levite leaders, who were in charge of the work outside Gods temple.

¹⁷Mattaniah was the son of Mica, who was the son of Zabdi, who was the son of Asaph, the leader who led the prayer of thanksgiving. The Levite leader Bakbukiah was the second in command among his relatives; and so was Abda who was the son of Shammua, who was the son of Galal, who was the son of Jeduthum.

¹⁸All the Levites in the holy city totaled 284.

¹⁹These were the gatekeepers: Akkub, Talmon, and their relatives who guarded the gates totaled 172.

²⁰The rest of the Israelites, priests, and Levites lived in all the cities of Judah. Everyone lived on his own inherited property.

²¹But the temple servants lived on Mount Ophel with Ziha and Gishpa in charge of them.

²²The man in charge of the Levites in Jerusalem was Uzzi, who was the son of Bani, who was the son of Hashabiah, who was the son of Mattaniah, who was

the son of Mica from Asaphs descendants who were the singers in charge of worship in Gods temple.

²³They were under orders from the king, orders that determined which duties they should perform day by day.

²⁴Pethahiah, son of Meshezabel, one of the descendants of Zerah, Judahs son, was the kings adviser on all matters concerning the people.

²⁵Many people lived in villages that had fields. Some people of Judah lived in Kiriath Arba and its villages, in Dibon and its villages, in Jekabzeel and its villages,

²⁶in Jeshua, Moladah, and Beth Pelet,

²⁷in Hazar Shual, in Beersheba and its villages,

²⁸in Ziklag, and in Meconah and its villages,

²⁹in En Rimmon, Zorah, Jarmuth,

³⁰Zanoah, and Adullam and their villages, in Lachish and its fields, and in Azekah and its villages. So they settled in the land from Beersheba to the Valley of Hinnom.

³¹Benjamins descendants live in the area of Geba, in Michmash, Aija, Bethel and its villages,

³²in Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah,

³³Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,

³⁴Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,

³⁵Lod, Ono, and in the valley of the Craftsmen.

³⁶Some divisions of Levites in Judah were assigned to Benjamin.

12¹ These are the priests and Levites who came back with Zerubbabel (Shealtiels son) and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,

²Amariah, Malluch, Hattush,

³Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,

⁴Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah,

⁵Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah,

⁶Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah,

⁷Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah, and Jedaiah.

These were the leaders of the priests and of their relatives at the time of Jeshua.

⁸The Levites were Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who with his relatives was in charge of the thanksgiving hymns.

⁹Their relatives Bakbukiah and Unno stood across from them in worship.

¹⁰Jeshua was the father of Joiakim. Joiakim was the father of Eliashib. Eliashib was the father of Joiada.

¹¹ Joiada was the father of Jonathan.
Jonathan was the father of Jaddua.

¹² At the time of Joiakim, these were the priests who were the leaders of their families: From Seraiah, Meraiah; from Jeremiah, Hananiah;

¹³ from Ezra, Meshullam; from Amariah, Jehohanan;

¹⁴ from Malluchi, Jonathan; from Shebaniah, Joseph;

¹⁵ from Harim, Adna; from Meraioth, Helkai;

¹⁶ from Iddo, Zechariah; from Ginnethon, Meshullam;

¹⁷ from Abijah, Zichri; from Miniamin, from Moadiah, Piltai;

¹⁸ from Bilgah, Shammua; from Shemaiah, Jehonathan;

¹⁹ from Joiarib, Mattenai; from Jedaiah, Uzzi;

²⁰ from Sallai, Kallai; from Amok, Eber;

²¹ from Hilkiah, Hashabiah; from Jedaiah, Nethanel.

²² The names of the family heads of the Levites and the priests at the time of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan, and Jaddua were recorded until the reign of Darius the Persian.

²³ The names of the family heads of the Levites were recorded in the Book of Chronicles until the time of Johanan, grandson of Eliashib.

²⁴ The heads of the Levites were Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua (son of Kadmiel). They and their relatives stood in groups across from one another to sing hymns of praise and thanksgiving antiphonally as David, the man of God, had ordered.

²⁵ Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers standing guard at the storehouses by the gates.

²⁶ They lived in the days of Joiakim, son of Jeshua, grandson of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra the priest and scribe.

²⁷ When the wall of Jerusalem was going to be dedicated, they went to wherever the Levites lived and had them come to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication joyfully with hymns of thanksgiving, with songs and cymbals, and with harps and lyres.

²⁸ So the groups of singers came together from the countryside around

Jerusalem, from the villages of Netophah,

²⁹from Beth Gilgal, and from the region of Geba and Azmaveth. The singers had built villages for themselves around Jerusalem.

³⁰The priests and the Levites cleansed themselves. Then they cleansed the people, the gates, and the wall.

³¹Then I had the leaders of Judah come up on the wall, and I arranged two large choirs to give thanks and march in procession. One choir went to the right on the wall to Dung Gate.

³²Hoshaiah and half of the leaders of Judah followed them.

³³Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam,

³⁴Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, and Jeremiah also followed.

³⁵So did some priests with trumpets: Zechariah, who was the son of Jonathan, who was the son of Shemaiah, who was the son of Mattaniah, who was the son of Micaiah, who was the son of Zaccur, who was the son of Asaph.

³⁶Also, these relatives of Zechariah followed: Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and

Hanani with the musical instruments of David, the man of God. Ezra the scribe led them.

³⁷ At Fountain Gate they went straight up the stairs of the City of David. There the wall rises past Davids palace and reaches Water Gate on the east.

³⁸ The other choir went to the left. I followed them with the other half of the people. We walked on the wall, past the Tower of the Ovens, as far as Broad Wall,

³⁹ then past Ephraim Gate, over Old Gate and Fish Gate, and by the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, as far as Sheep Gate. The choir stopped at Guards Gate.

⁴⁰ So both choirs stood in Gods temple, as did I and the half of the leaders who were with me.

⁴¹ Likewise, these priests stood in Gods temple: Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah with trumpets,

⁴² and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchiah, Elam, and Ezer. The singers sang under the direction of Jezrahiah.

⁴³ That day they offered many sacrifices and rejoiced because God had given them reason to rejoice. The women and children rejoiced as well. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard from far away.

⁴⁴ On that day men were put in charge of the storerooms for the contributions, the first produce harvested, and a tenth of the peoples money. They stored in those rooms the gifts designated by Moses Teachings for the priests and Levites from the fields around the cities. The people of Judah were pleased with the ministry of the priests and Levites.

⁴⁵ They were doing what their God required, what needed to be done for cleansing. The singers and the gatekeepers did what David and his son Solomon had ordered them to do.

⁴⁶ Long ago in the time of David and Asaph, there had been directors for the singers to lead in singing the songs of praise and hymns of thanksgiving to God.

⁴⁷ At the time of Zerubbabel and Nehemiah, all the Israelites were giving gifts for the daily support of the singers

and the gatekeepers. They set aside holy gifts for the daily support of the Levites, and the Levites set aside holy gifts for support of Aarons descendants.

13¹ On that day the Book of Moses was read while the people were listening. They heard the passage that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever be admitted into Gods assembly.

² (After all, they didnt welcome the Israelites with food and water. Instead, they hired Balaam to curse the Israelites. But our God turned the curse into a blessing.)

³ After the people heard this Teaching, they separated the nonIsraelites from the Israelites.

⁴ Even before this, the priest Eliashib, who was related to Tobiah and had been put in charge of the storerooms of our Gods temple,

⁵ had provided a large room for Tobiah. Previously, this room had been used to store grain offerings, incense, utensils, a tenth of all the grain harvested, new wine, and olive oil. These things belonged by law to the Levites, singers,

and gatekeepers. The contributions for the priests had also been stored there.

⁶While all of this was taking place, I wasnt in Jerusalem. In the thirtysecond year of King Artaxerxes reign in Babylon, I returned to the king. Later, I asked the king for permission to return.

⁷I went to Jerusalem and discovered the evil thing Eliashib had done by providing Tobiah with a room in Gods temple.

⁸I was furious. So I threw all of Tobiahs household goods out of the room.

⁹Then I told them to cleanse the rooms, and I put back in there the utensils from Gods temple, the offerings, and the incense.

¹⁰I learned that the Levites had not been given their portions. So each of the Levites and singers, who conducted the worship in the temple, had left for their own fields.

¹¹I reprimanded the leaders. "Why is Gods temple being neglected?" I asked. So I brought the Levites back together and put them back in their places of service.

¹²Then all Judah brought a tenth of all the grain harvested, new wine, and olive oil to the storerooms.

¹³I appointed the following men to be in charge of the storerooms: Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah the Levite, and I appointed Hanan, son of Zaccur and grandson of Mattaniah to help them. Since they could be trusted, I made them responsible for distributing the portions to their relatives.

¹⁴Nehemiah prayed, "Remember me for what I have done, my God, and don't wipe out the good things that I have done for your temple and for the worship that is held there."

¹⁵In those days I saw people in Judah stomping grapes in the winepresses on the day of worship. I saw them bringing in loads of wine, grapes, figs, and every other kind of load. They piled the loads on donkeys and brought them into Jerusalem on the day of worship. I warned them about selling food on that day.

¹⁶People from Tyre who lived in Jerusalem were bringing in fish and all kinds of goods. They were selling them

on the day of worship to the people of Judah, even in Jerusalem.

¹⁷I reprimanded the nobles of Judah and asked them, "What is this evil thing you're doing? How dare you treat the day of worship as unholy!

¹⁸Isn't this what your ancestors did, with the results that our God brought all these evils on us and on this city? Now you're making him even more angry with Israel by treating the day of worship as unholy."

¹⁹Before the day of worship, when the gates of Jerusalem were cleared of traffic, I ordered the doors to be shut and not to be reopened until after the day of worship. I stationed some of my men by the gates to make sure that no loads could be brought in on the day of worship.

²⁰Once or twice merchants and those who sell all kinds of goods spent the night outside Jerusalem.

²¹I warned them. "Why are you spending the night in front of the wall?" I asked them. "If you do it again, I'll arrest you." After that, they no longer came on the day of worship.

²²Then I told the Levites to cleanse themselves and guard the gates to keep the day of worship holy. Nehemiah prayed, "Remember me also for this, my God, and spare me, since you are very kind."

²³In those days I saw some Jews who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab.

²⁴Half their children spoke the language of Ashdod or one of the other languages, but they couldnt understand the language of Judah well enough to speak it.

²⁵So I reprimanded those Jews, cursed them, beat some of them, and pulled out their hair. I made them swear by God: "We wont allow our daughters to marry their sons, and we wont allow their daughters to marry us or our sons."

²⁶I said, "Wasnt it because of marriages like these that King Solomon of Israel sinned? There wasnt a king like him among all nations. God loved him, and God made him king of all Israel. But his nonIsraelite wives led him to sin.

²⁷Should we follow your example, commit such a serious crime against

our God, and be unfaithful to him by marrying nonIsraelite women?"

²⁸Even one of Joiadas sons was a soninlaw of Sanballat from Beth Horon. (Joiada was the son of the chief priest Eliashib.) I chased Joiadas son away from me.

²⁹Nehemiah prayed, "Remember them, my God, because they have contaminated the priestly office and the promise you made to the priests and Levites."

³⁰So I cleansed them from everything that was foreign. I assigned duties to the priests and Levites. Each one had his own assignment.

³¹I also arranged for delivering wood at regular times and for bringing the first produce to be harvested. Nehemiah prayed, "Remember me, my God, for my benefit."

Esther

1 ¹In the days of Xerxes the following events took place. This was the same Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces from India to Sudan.

²At the time when King Xerxes sat on the royal throne in the fortress of Susa,

³he held a banquet in the third year of his reign. The banquet was for all his officials and advisers, that is, the military officers of the Persians and Medes, the nobles and officials of the provinces who had access to him.

⁴He showed them the enormous wealth of his kingdom and the costly splendor of his greatness for many days, 180 to be exact.

⁵When those days were over, the king held a banquet lasting seven days. This banquet was held in the enclosed garden of the king's palace for all people in the fortress of Susa, whatever their rank.

⁶The garden had white and violet linen curtains. These curtains were attached to silver rods and marble pillars by cords

made of white and purple fine linen. Gold and silver couches were on a mosaic pavement of purple rock, white marble, pearllike stone, and black marble.

⁷People drank from golden cups. No two cups were alike. The king also provided plenty of royal wine out of his royal generosity.

⁸The drinking followed this rule: Drink as you please. (The king had ordered all the waiters in his palace to let everyone do as he pleased.)

⁹Queen Vashti also held a banquet for the women at the royal palace of King Xerxes.

¹⁰On the seventh day when the king was drunk on wine, he ordered Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven eunuchs who served under King Xerxes,

¹¹to bring Queen Vashti in front of the king, wearing her royal crown. He wanted to show the people, especially the officials, her beauty, because she was very attractive.

¹²But Queen Vashti refused the kings command that the eunuchs delivered to

her. As a result, the king became very angry, and his rage burned inside him.

¹³Now, the king usually asked for advice from all the experts in royal decrees and decisions,

¹⁴from those closest to him Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan. These seven officials of the Persians and Medes had access to the king and held the highest rank in the kingdom. The king asked these wise men who knew the times,

¹⁵"According to the royal decrees, what must we do with Queen Vashti since she did not obey King Xerxes command, which the eunuchs delivered?"

¹⁶Then Memucan spoke up in the presence of the king and the officials, "Queen Vashti has done wrong, not only against the king but also against all the officials and all the people in every province of King Xerxes.

¹⁷The news of what the queen has done will spread to all women, and they will despise their husbands. They will say, King Xerxes ordered Queen Vashti to be brought to him, but she would not come.

¹⁸Today the wives of the officials in Persia and Media who have heard what the queen did will talk back to all the kings officials. There will be contempt and short tempers.

¹⁹If it pleases you, Your Majesty, issue a royal decree. It should be recorded in the decrees of the Persians and Medes, never to be repealed, that Vashti may never again appear in front of King Xerxes. Furthermore, Your Majesty, you should give her royal position to another woman who is more worthy than she.

²⁰When you issue your decree, your whole kingdom, great as it is, will hear it. Then all the wives will honor their husbands, regardless of their status."

²¹The king and his officials approved of this, and so the king did as Memucan suggested.

²²He sent official documents to all the kings provinces, to each province in its own script and to the people in each province in their own language: "Let every husband be the ruler in his own house and speak with authority."

2¹ Later, when King Xerxes got over his raging anger, he remembered

Vashti, what she had done, and what had been decided against her.

²So the kings personal staff said to him, "Search for attractive young virgins for the king.

³And appoint scouts in all the provinces of your kingdom to gather all the attractive young virgins and bring them to the fortress of Susa, to the womens quarters. There, in the care of the kings eunuch Hegai, the guardian of the women, they will have their beauty treatment.

⁴Then the young woman who pleases you, Your Majesty, will become queen instead of Vashti." The king liked the suggestion, and so he did just that.

⁵In the fortress of Susa there was a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin named Mordecai. He was the son of Jair, the grandson of Shimei, and the greatgrandson of Kish.

⁶(Kish had been taken captive from Jerusalem together with the others who had gone into exile along with Judahs King Jehoiakin, whom King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had carried away.)

⁷ Mordecai had raised Hadassah, also known as Esther, his uncles daughter, because she was an orphan. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was very attractive. When her father and mother died, Mordecai adopted her as his own daughter.

⁸ When the kings announcement and decree were heard, many young women were gathered together and brought to the fortress of Susa. They were placed in the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the kings palace and placed in the care of Hegai, the guardian of the women.

⁹ The young woman pleased him and won his affection. So he immediately provided her with the beauty treatment, a daily supply of food, and seven suitable female servants from the kings palace. Then he moved her and her servants to the best place in the womens quarters.

¹⁰ Esther did not reveal her nationality or her family background, because Mordecai had ordered her not to.

¹¹ Every day Mordecai would walk back and forth in front of the courtyard of the

womens quarters to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her.

¹²Each young woman had her turn to go to King Xerxes after she had completed the required 12month treatment for women. The time of beauty treatment was spent as follows: six months using oil of myrrh and six months using perfumes and other treatments for women.

¹³After that, the young woman would go to the king. Anything she wanted to take with her from the womens quarters to the kings palace was given to her.

¹⁴She would go in the evening and come back in the morning to the other quarters for women. There she would be in the care of the kings eunuch Shaashgaz, the guardian of the concubines. She never went to the king again unless the king desired her and requested her by name.

¹⁵(Esther was the daughter of Abihail, Mordecais uncle. Mordecai had adopted her as his own daughter.) When Esthers turn came to go to the king, she asked only for what the kings eunuch Hegai,

the guardian of the women, advised. Everyone who saw Esther liked her.

¹⁶So Esther was taken to King Xerxes in his royal palace in the month of Tebeth, the tenth month, in the seventh year of his reign.

¹⁷Now, the king loved Esther more than all the other women and favored her over all the other virgins. So he put the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

¹⁸Then the king held a great banquet for Esther. He invited all his officials and his advisers. He also declared that day a holiday in the provinces, and he handed out gifts from his royal generosity.

¹⁹When the virgins were gathered a second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate.

²⁰Esther still had not revealed her family background or nationality, as Mordecai had ordered her. Esther always did whatever Mordecai told her, as she did when she was a child.

²¹In those days, while Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who

guarded the entrance, became angry and planned to kill King Xerxes.

²²But Mordecai found out about it and informed Queen Esther. Then Esther told the king, on behalf of Mordecai.

²³When the report was investigated and found to be true, the dead bodies of Bigthan and Teresh were hung on a pole. The matter was written up in the king's presence in his official record of daily events.

3¹Later, King Xerxes promoted Haman. (Haman was the son of Hammedatha and was from Agag.) He gave Haman a position higher in authority than all the other officials who were with him.

²All the king's advisers were at the king's gate, kneeling and bowing to Haman with their faces touching the ground, because the king had commanded it. But Mordecai would not kneel and bow to him.

³Then the king's advisers at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you ignore the king's command?"

⁴Although they asked him day after day, he paid no attention to them.

So they informed Haman to see if Mordecais actions would be tolerated, since Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew.

⁵When Haman saw that Mordecai did not kneel and bow to him, Haman was infuriated.

⁶Because the kings advisers had informed him about Mordecais nationality, he thought it beneath himself to kill only Mordecai. So Haman planned to wipe out Mordecais peopleall the Jews in the entire kingdom of Xerxes.

⁷In Xerxes twelfth year as king, Pur (which means the lot) was thrown in front of Haman for every day of every month, from Nisan, the first month, until Adar, the twelfth month.

⁸Now, Haman told King Xerxes, "Your Majesty, there is a certain nationality scattered amongbut separate from the nationalities in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws differ from those of all other nationalities. They do not obey your decrees. So it is not in your interest to tolerate them, Your Majesty.

⁹If you approve, have the orders for their destruction be written. For this I

will pay 750,000 pounds of silver to your treasurers to be put in your treasury."

¹⁰At that, the king removed his signet ring and gave it to Haman, the enemy of the Jews. (Haman was the son of Hammedatha and was from Agag.)

¹¹The king told Haman, "You can keep your silver and do with the people whatever you like."

¹²On the thirteenth day of the first month the kings scribes were summoned. All Hamans orders were written to the kings satraps, the governors of every province, and the officials of every people. They wrote to each province in its own script and to the people in each province in their own language. The orders were signed in the name of King Xerxes and sealed with the kings ring.

¹³Messengers were sent with official documents to all the kings provinces. The people were ordered to wipe out, kill, and destroy all the Jewsyong and old, women and childrenon a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar. Their possessions were also to be seized.

¹⁴A copy of the document was made public in a decree to every province. All the people were to be ready for this day.

¹⁵The messengers hurried out as the king told them. The decree was also issued at the fortress of Susa. So the king and Haman sat down to drink a toast, but the city of Susa was in turmoil.

4¹ When Mordecai found out about everything that had been done, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes. He went into the middle of the city and cried loudly and bitterly.

²He even went right up to the kings gate. (No one could enter it wearing sackcloth.)

³In every province touched by the kings command and decree, the Jews went into mourning, fasting, weeping, and wailing. Many put on sackcloth and ashes.

⁴Esthers servants and eunuchs came and informed her about Mordecai. The queen was stunned. She sent clothing for Mordecai to put on in place of his sackcloth, but he refused to accept it.

⁵Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the kings eunuchs appointed to serve

her. She commanded him to go to Mordecai and find out what was going on and why.

⁶So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square in front of the kings gate.

⁷Mordecai informed him about everything that had happened to him. He told him the exact amount of silver that Haman had promised to pay into the kings treasury to destroy the Jews.

⁸He also gave him a copy of the decree that was issued in Susa. The decree gave permission to exterminate the Jews. Hathach was supposed to show it to Esther to inform and command her to go to the king, beg him for mercy, and appeal to him for her people.

⁹So Hathach returned and told Esther what Mordecai had said.

¹⁰Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to say to Mordecai,

¹¹"All the kings advisers and the people in the kings provinces know that no one approaches the king in the throne room without being summoned. By law that person must be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to him will he live. I, myself, have not been

summoned to enter the kings presence for 30 days now."

¹² So Esthers servants told Mordecai what Esther said.

¹³ Mordecai sent this answer back to Esther, "Do not imagine that just because you are in the kings palace you will be any safer than all the rest of the Jews.

¹⁴ The fact is, even if you remain silent now, someone else will help and rescue the Jews, but you and your relatives will die. And who knows, you may have gained your royal position for a time like this."

¹⁵ Esther sent this reply back to Mordecai,

¹⁶ "Assemble all the Jews in Susa. Fast for me: Do not eat or drink at all for three entire days. My servants and I will also fast. After that, I will go to the king, even if it is against a royal decree. If I die, I die."

¹⁷ Mordecai did just as Esther had commanded him.

5¹ On the third day Esther put on her royal robes. She stood in the courtyard of the kings palace, facing the kings throne room. The king was sitting

on the royal throne inside the palace, facing the entrance.

²When the king saw Queen Esther standing in the entrance, she won his favor. So the king held out the golden scepter that was in his hand to Esther. Esther went up to him and touched the top of the scepter.

³Then the king asked her, "What is troubling you, Queen Esther? What would you like? Even if it is up to half of the kingdom, it will be granted to you."

⁴So Esther answered, "If it pleases you, Your Majesty, come today with Haman to a dinner I have prepared for you."

⁵The king replied, "Bring Haman right away, and do whatever Esther asks." So the king and Haman came to the dinner that Esther had prepared.

⁶While they were drinking wine, the king asked Esther, "What is your request? It will be granted to you. What would you like? Even if it is up to half of the kingdom, it will be granted."

⁷Esther answered, "My request? What would I like?

⁸Your Majesty, come with Haman to a dinner I will prepare for you.

And tomorrow I will answer you, Your Majesty. If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, Your Majesty, may you then grant my request and do what I would like."

⁹When Haman left that day, he was happy and feeling good. But when Haman saw Mordecai at the kings gate, neither getting up nor trembling in his presence, Haman was furious with Mordecai.

¹⁰However, Haman controlled himself. He went home and sent for his friends and his wife Zeresh.

¹¹Then Haman began to relate in detail to them how very rich he was, the many sons he had, and all about how the king promoted him to a position over the officials and the kings advisers.

¹²Haman went on to say, "Whats more, Queen Esther allowed no one except me to come with the king to the dinner she had prepared. And again tomorrow I am her invited guest together with the king.

¹³Yet, all this is worth nothing to me every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the kings gate."

¹⁴ Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Have a pole set up, 75 feet high, and in the morning ask the king to have Mordecai's dead body hung on it. Then go with the king to the dinner in good spirits." Haman liked the idea, so he had the pole set up.

6 ¹ That night the king could not sleep. So he told a servant to bring the official daily records, and they were read to the king.

² The records showed how Mordecai had informed him that Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who guarded the entrance, had plotted a rebellion against King Xerxes.

³ The king asked, "How did I reward and promote Mordecai for this?" The king's personal staff replied, "Nothing was done for him."

⁴ The king asked, "Who is in the courtyard?" At that moment, Haman came through the courtyard to the king's palace to ask the king about hanging Mordecai on the pole he had prepared for him.

⁵The king's staff answered him, "Haman happens to be standing in the courtyard." "Let him come in," the king said.

⁶So Haman came in. The king then asked him, "What should be done for the man whom the king wishes to reward?" Haman thought to himself, "Whom would the king wish to reward more than me?"

⁷So Haman told the king, "This is what should be done:

⁸The servants should bring a royal robe that the king has worn and a horse that the king has ridden, one that has a royal crest on its head.

⁹Give the robe and the horse to one of the king's officials, who is a noble. Put the robe on the man whom the king wishes to reward and have him ride on the horse in the city square. The king's servants are also to shout ahead of him, "This is what is done for the man whom the king wishes to reward."

¹⁰The king told Haman, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse as you said. Do this for Mordecai the Jew who sits at the king's gate. Do not omit anything you have said."

¹¹ So Haman took the robe and the horse. He put the robe on Mordecai and had him ride in the city square, shouting ahead of him, "This is what is done for the man whom the king wishes to reward."

¹² After that, Mordecai returned to the king's gate, but Haman hurried home. He was in despair and covered his head.

¹³ There, Haman began to relate in detail to his wife Zeresh and to all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his counselors and his wife Zeresh told him, "You are starting to lose power to Mordecai. If Mordecai is of Jewish descent, you will never win out over him. He will certainly lead to your downfall."

¹⁴ While they were still speaking with him, the king's eunuchs arrived and quickly took Haman to the dinner Esther had prepared.

7 ¹ So the king and Haman came to have dinner with Queen Esther.

² On the second day, while they were drinking wine, the king asked Esther, "What is your request, Queen Esther? It will be granted to you. And what would

you like? Even if it is up to half of the kingdom, it will be granted."

³Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, Your Majesty, spare my life. That is my request. And spare the life of my people. That is what I ask for.

⁴You see, we my people and I have been sold so that we can be wiped out, killed, and destroyed. If our men and women had only been sold as slaves, I would have kept silent because the enemy is not worth troubling you about, Your Majesty."

⁵Then King Xerxes interrupted Queen Esther and said, "Who is this person? Where is the person who has dared to do this?"

⁶Esther answered, "Our vicious enemy is this wicked man Haman!" Then Haman became panicstricken in the presence of the king and queen.

⁷The king was furious as he got up from dinner and went into the palace garden. But Haman stayed to beg Queen Esther for his life, because he saw that the king had a terrible end in mind for him.

⁸When the king returned from the palace garden to the palace dining room, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was lying. The king thought, "Is he even going to rape the queen while I'm in the palace?" Then the king passed sentence on him, and servants covered Haman's face.

⁹Harbona, one of the eunuchs present with the king, said, "What a coincidence! The 75-foot pole Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke up for the wellbeing of the king, is still standing at Haman's house." The king responded, "Hang him on it!"

¹⁰So servants hung Haman's dead body on the very pole he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king got over his raging anger.

8¹On that same day King Xerxes gave the property of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, to Queen Esther. Also, Mordecai came to the king because Esther had told him how Mordecai was related to her.

²Then the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and

gave it to Mordecai. And Esther put Mordecai in charge of Hamans property.

³Esther spoke again to the king. She fell down at his feet crying and begged him to have mercy and to undo the evil plot of Haman, who was from Agag, and his conspiracy against the Jews.

⁴The king held out his golden scepter to Esther, and Esther got up and stood in front of the king.

⁵She said, "Your Majesty, if it pleases you, and if I have found favor with you, if you consider my cause to be reasonable and if I am pleasing to you, cancel the official orders concerning the plot of Haman (who was the son of Hammedatha and was from Agag). He signed the order to destroy the Jews in all your provinces, Your Majesty.

⁶I cannot bear to see my people suffer such evil. And I simply cannot bear to see the destruction of my relatives."

⁷King Xerxes said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, "I have given Hamans property to Esther, and Hamans dead body was hung on the pole because he tried to kill the Jews.

⁸You write what you think is best for the Jews in the kings name. Seal it also with the kings signet ring, because whatever is written in the kings name and sealed with the kings signet ring cannot be canceled."

⁹At that time on the twentythird day of Sivan, the third month, the kings scribes were summoned. What Mordecai had ordered was written to the Jews and to the satraps, governors, and officers of the 127 provinces from India to Sudan. It was written to each province in its own script, to each people in their own language, and to the Jews in their own script and their own language.

¹⁰Mordecai wrote in King Xerxes name and sealed the official documents with the kings signet ring. Then he sent them by messengers who rode special horses bred for speed. He wrote

¹¹that the king had given permission for the Jews in every city to assemble, to defend themselves, to wipe out, to kill, and to destroy every armed force of the people and province that is hostile to them, even women and children, and to seize their goods.

¹²This was permitted on one day in all the provinces of King Xerxes, on the thirteenth day of Adar, the twelfth month.

¹³The copy of the document was made public in a decree to every province for all people. On that day the Jews were to be ready to take revenge on their enemies.

¹⁴The messengers rode the kings fastest horses. They left quickly, in keeping with the kings command. The decree was issued also in the fortress of Susa.

¹⁵Mordecai went out from the presence of the king wearing the royal violet and white robe, a large gold crown, and a purple outer robe of fine linen. And the city of Susa cheered and rejoiced.

¹⁶So the Jews were cheerful, happy, joyful, and successful.

¹⁷In every province and every city where the kings message and decree arrived, the Jews were happy and joyful, feasting and enjoying a holiday. Then many common people pretended to be Jews because they were terrified of the Jews.

9¹ On the thirteenth day of Adar, the twelfth month, the kings command and decree were to be carried out. On that very day, when the enemies of the Jews expected to overpower them, the exact opposite happened: The Jews overpowered those who hated them.

² The Jews assembled in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Xerxes to kill those who were planning to harm them. No one could stand up against them, because all the people were terrified of them.

³ All the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and the kings treasurers assisted the Jews because they were terrified of Mordecai.

⁴ Mordecai was an important man in the kings palace. Moreover, his reputation was spreading to all the provinces, since Mordecai was becoming more and more powerful.

⁵ Then with their swords, the Jews attacked all their enemies, killing them, destroying them, and doing whatever they pleased to those who hated them.

⁶ In the fortress of Susa the Jews killed and wiped out 500 men.

⁷ They also killed Parshandatha,
Dalphon, Aspatha,

⁸ Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha,

⁹ Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and
Vaizatha.

¹⁰ These were the ten sons of Haman,
who was the son of Hammedatha and
the enemy of the Jews. But the Jews did
not seize any of their possessions.

¹¹ On that day the number of those
killed in the fortress of Susa was reported
to the king.

¹² So the king said to Queen Esther, "In
the fortress of Susa the Jews have killed
and wiped out 500 men and Hamans 10
sons. What must they have done in the
rest of the kings provinces! Now, what is
your request? It will be granted to you.
And what else would you like? It, too,
will be granted."

¹³ Esther said, "If it pleases you, Your
Majesty, allow the Jews in Susa to do
tomorrow what was decreed for today.
Let them hang Hamans ten sons on
poles."

¹⁴ The king commanded this, issuing
a decree in Susa. And so they hung
Hamans ten sons on poles.

¹⁵The Jews in Susa also assembled on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and killed 300 men in Susa, but they did not seize any of their possessions.

¹⁶The other Jews who were in the kings provinces had also assembled to defend and free themselves from their enemies. They killed 75,000 of those who hated them, but they did not seize any of their possessions.

¹⁷This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar. On the fourteenth they rested and made it a day of feasting and celebration.

¹⁸But the Jews in Susa had assembled on the thirteenth and fourteenth. They rested on the fifteenth and made it a day of feasting and celebration.

¹⁹That is why the Jews who live in the villages and in the unwallled towns make the fourteenth day of the month of Adar a holiday for feasting and celebration. They also send gifts of food to one another.

²⁰Now, Mordecai wrote these things down and sent official letters to all the Jews in all the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far.

²¹ He established the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as days they must observe every year.

²² They were to observe them just like the days when the Jews freed themselves from their enemies. In that month their grief turned to joy and their mourning into a holiday. He declared that these days are to be days for feasting and celebrating and for sending gifts of food to one another, especially gifts to the poor.

²³ So the Jews accepted as tradition what they had begun, as Mordecai had written to them.

²⁴ It was because Haman, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them. (Haman was the son of Hammedatha and was from Agag.) Haman had the Pur (which means the lot) thrown in order to determine when to crush and destroy them.

²⁵ But when this came to the kings attention, he ordered, in the wellknown letter, that the evil plan Haman had plotted against the Jews should turn back on his own head. As a result, they hung Haman and his sons on poles.

²⁶ So the Jews called these days Purim, based on the word Pur. Therefore, because of everything that was said in this letter both what they had seen and what had happened to them

²⁷ the Jews established a tradition for themselves and their descendants and for anyone who would join them. The tradition was that a person should never fail to observe these two days every year, as they were described and at their appointed time.

²⁸ So these days must be remembered and observed in every age, family, province, and city. These days of Purim must not be ignored among the Jews, and the importance of these days must never be forgotten by the generations to come.

²⁹ Abihails daughter Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew wrote with full authority in order to establish with this second letter the wellknown celebration of Purim.

³⁰ Mordecai sent official documents granting peace and security to all the Jews in the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Xerxes.

³¹ He did this in order to establish these days of Purim at the appointed time. Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther established them for themselves, as they had established for themselves and their descendants the practices of fasting with sadness.

³² Esthers command had established these practices of Purim, and they are written in a book.

10¹ King Xerxes levied a tax on the country and the islands of the sea.

² All his acts of power and might along with the whole account of the greatness of Mordecai, whom the king had promoted, are recorded in the history of the kings of the Medes and Persians.

³ Mordecai the Jew was ranked second only to King Xerxes. He was greatly respected by, and popular with, all of the other Jews, since he provided for the good of his people and spoke for the welfare of his fellow Jews.

Job

1 ¹ A man named Job lived in Uz. He was a man of integrity: He was decent, he feared God, and he stayed away from evil.

² He had seven sons and three daughters.

³ He owned 7,000 sheep and goats, 3,000 camels, 1,000 oxen, 500 donkeys, and a large number of servants. He was the most influential person in the Middle East.

⁴ His sons used to go to each others homes, where they would have parties. (Each brother took his turn having a party.) They would send someone to invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

⁵ When they finished having their parties, Job would send for them in order to cleanse them from sin. He would get up early in the morning and sacrifice burnt offerings for each of them. Job thought, "My children may have sinned

and cursed God in their hearts." Job offered sacrifices for them all the time.

⁶One day when the sons of God came to stand in front of the LORD, Satan the Accuser came along with them.

⁷The LORD asked Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From wandering all over the earth."

⁸The LORD asked Satan, "Have you thought about my servant Job? No one in the world is like him! He is a man of integrity: He is decent, he fears God, and he stays away from evil."

⁹Satan answered the LORD, "Havent you given Job a reason to fear God?"

¹⁰Havent you put a protective fence around him, his home, and everything he has? You have blessed everything he does. His cattle have spread out over the land.

¹¹But now stretch out your hand, and strike everything he has. I bet hell curse you to your face."

¹²The LORD told Satan, "Everything he has is in your power, but you must not lay a hand on him!" Then Satan left the LORDS presence.

¹³One day when Jobs sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brothers home,

¹⁴a messenger came to Job. He said, "While the oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby,

¹⁵men from Sheba attacked. They took the livestock and massacred the servants. Im the only one who has escaped to tell you."

¹⁶While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "A fire from God fell from heaven and completely burned your flocks and servants. Im the only one who has escaped to tell you."

¹⁷While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three companies and made a raid on the camels. They took the camels and massacred the servants. Im the only one who has escaped to tell you."

¹⁸While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine at their oldest brothers home

¹⁹when suddenly a great storm swept across the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It fell on the young people, and they died. I'm the only one who has escaped to tell you."

²⁰Job stood up, tore his robe in grief, and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground and worshiped.

²¹He said, "Naked I came from my mother, and naked I will return. The LORD has given, and the LORD has taken away! May the name of the LORD be praised."

²²Through all this Job did not sin or blame God for doing anything wrong.

2¹One day when the sons of God came to stand in front of the LORD, Satan the Accuser came along with them.

²The LORD asked Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From wandering all over the earth."

³The LORD asked Satan, "Have you thought about my servant Job? No one in the world is like him! He is a man of integrity: He is decent, he fears God, and he stays away from evil. And he still holds on to his principles. You're trying

to provoke me into ruining him for no reason."

⁴Satan answered the LORD, "Skin for skin! Certainly, a man will give everything he has for his life.

⁵But stretch out your hand, and strike his flesh and bones. I bet hell curse you to your face."

⁶The LORD told Satan, "He is in your power, but you must spare his life!"

⁷Satan left the LORDS presence and struck Job with painful boils from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.

⁸Job took a piece of broken pottery to scratch himself as he sat in the ashes.

⁹His wife asked him, "Are you still holding on to your principles? Curse God and die!"

¹⁰He said to her, "Youre talking like a godless fool. We accept the good that God gives us. Shouldnt we also accept the bad?" Through all this Jobs lips did not utter one sinful word.

¹¹When Jobs three friends heard about all the terrible things that had happened to him, each of them came from his homeEliphaz of Teman, Bildad of Shuah, Zophar of Naama. They had agreed they

would go together to sympathize with Job and comfort him.

¹²When they saw him from a distance, they didnt even recognize him. They cried out loud and wept, and each of them tore his own clothes in grief. They threw dust on their heads.

¹³Then they sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him because they saw that he was in such great pain.

3¹After all this, Job finally opened his mouth and cursed the day he was born.

²Job said,

³"Scratch out the day I was born and the night that said, A boy has been conceived!

⁴"That daylet it be pitchblack. Let God above not even care about it. Let no light shine on it.

⁵Let the darkness and long shadows claim it as their own. Let a dark cloud hang over it. Let the gloom terrify it.

⁶"That nightlet the blackness take it away. Let it not be included in the days

of the year or be numbered among the months.

⁷ Let that night be empty. Let no joyful singing be heard in it.

⁸ Let those who curse the day (those who know how to wake up Leviathan) curse that night.

⁹ Let its stars turn dark before dawn. Let it hope for light and receive none. Let it not see the first light of dawn

¹⁰ because it did not shut the doors of the womb from which I came or hide my eyes from trouble.

¹¹ "Why didn't I die as soon as I was born and breathe my last breath when I came out of the womb?

¹² Why did knees welcome me? Why did breasts let me nurse?

¹³ Instead of being alive, I would now be quietly lying down. I would now be sleeping peacefully.

¹⁴ I would be with the kings and the counselors of the world who built for themselves what are now ruins.

¹⁵ I would be with princes who had gold, who filled their homes with silver.

¹⁶I would be buried like a stillborn baby. I would not exist. I would be like infants who never saw the light.

¹⁷There the wicked stop their raging. There the weary are able to rest.

¹⁸There the captives have no troubles at all. There they do not hear the shouting of the slave driver.

¹⁹There you find both the unimportant and important people. There the slave is free from his master.

²⁰"Why give light to one in misery and life to those who find it so bitter,

²¹to those who long for death but it never comes though they dig for it more than for buried treasure?

²²They are ecstatic, delighted to find the grave.

²³Why give light to those whose paths have been hidden, to those whom God has fenced in?

²⁴"When my food is in front of me, I sigh. I pour out my groaning like water.

²⁵What I fear most overtakes me. What I dread happens to me.

²⁶I have no peace! I have no quiet! I have no rest! And trouble keeps coming!"

4¹ Then Eliphaz from Teman replied to Job,

²"If someone tries to talk to you, will you become impatient? But who can keep from talking?

³Certainly, you have instructed many people: When hands were weak, you made them strong.

⁴When someone stumbled, you lifted him up with your words. When knees were weak, you gave them strength.

⁵But trouble comes to you, and you're impatient. It touches you, and you panic.

⁶Doesn't your fear of God give you confidence and your lifetime of integrity give you hope?

⁷"Now think about this: Which innocent person ever died an untimely death? Find me a decent person who has been destroyed.

⁸Whenever I saw those who plowed wickedness and planted misery, they gathered its harvest.

⁹God destroys them with his breath and kills them with a blast of his anger.

¹⁰Though the roar of the lion and the growl of the ferocious lion is loud, the

young lions have had their teeth knocked out.

¹¹The old lions die without any prey to eat, and the cubs of the lioness are scattered.

¹²"I was told something secretly and heard something whispered in my ear.

¹³With disturbing thoughts from visions in the night, when deep sleep falls on people,

¹⁴fear and trembling came over me, and all my bones shook.

¹⁵A spirit passed in front of me. It made my hair stand on end.

¹⁶Something stood there. I couldn't tell what it was. A vague image was in front of my eyes. I heard a soft voice:

¹⁷Can any mortal be righteous to God? Can any human being be pure to his maker?

¹⁸"You see, God doesn't trust his own servants, and he accuses his angels of making mistakes.

¹⁹How much more will he accuse those who live in clay houses that have their foundation in the dust. Those houses can be crushed quicker than a moth!

²⁰From morning to evening, they are shattered. They will disappear forever without anyone paying attention.

²¹Havent the ropes of their tent been loosened? Wont they die without wisdom?

5¹"Cry out! Is there anyone to answer you? To which of the holy ones will you turn?

²Certainly, anger kills a stubborn fool, and jealousy murders a gullible person.

³I have seen a stubborn fool take root, but I quickly cursed his house.

⁴His children are far from help. They are crushed at the city gate, and no one is there to rescue them.

⁵What a stubborn fool gathers, hungry people eat. They take it even from among the thorns, and thirsty people pant after his wealth.

⁶Certainly, sorrow doesnt come from the soil, and trouble doesnt sprout from the ground.

⁷But a person is born for trouble as surely as sparks fly up from a fire.

⁸"But I would seek Gods help and present my case to him.

⁹He does great things that we cannot understand and miracles that we cannot count.

¹⁰He gives rain to the earth and sends water to the fields.

¹¹He places lowly people up high. He lifts those who mourn to safety.

¹²He keeps shrewd people from carrying out their plans so that they cannot do anything successfully.

¹³He catches the wise with their own tricks. The plans of schemers prove to be hasty.

¹⁴In the daytime they meet darkness and grope in the sunlight as if it were night.

¹⁵"But he saves other people from their slander and the needy from the power of the mighty.

¹⁶Then the poor have hope while wrongdoing shuts its mouth.

¹⁷"Blessed is the person whom God corrects. That person should not despise discipline from the Almighty.

¹⁸God injures, but he bandages. He beats you up, but his hands make you well.

¹⁹He will keep you safe from six troubles, and when the seventh one comes, no harm will touch you:

²⁰"In famine he will save you from death, and in war he will save you from the sword.

²¹"When the tongue lashes out, you will be safe, and you will not be afraid of destruction when it comes.

²²"You will be able to laugh at destruction and starvation, so do not be afraid of wild animals on the earth.

²³"You will have a binding agreement with the stones in the field, and wild animals will be at peace with you.

²⁴"You will know peace in your tent. You will inspect your house and find nothing missing.

²⁵"You will find that your children are many and your descendants are like the grass of the earth.

²⁶"You will come to your grave at a ripe old age like a stack of hay in the right season.

²⁷"We have studied all of this thoroughly! This is the way it is. Listen to it, and learn it for yourself."

6¹ Then Job replied to his friends,
² "If only my grief could be weighed,
if only my misery could be laid on the
scales with it,

³ then they would be heavier than the
sand of the seas. I spoke carelessly

⁴ because the arrows of the Almighty
have found their target in me, and my
spirit is drinking their poison. Gods
terrors line up in battle against me.

⁵ "Does a wild donkey bray when its
eating grass, or does an ox make a
sound over its hay?

⁶ Is tasteless food eaten without salt,
or is there any flavor in the white of an
egg?

⁷ I refuse to touch such things. They are
disgusting to me.

⁸ "How I wish that my prayer would be
answered that God would give me what
I'm hoping for,

⁹ that God would finally be willing to
crush me, that he would reach out to cut
me off.

¹⁰ Then I would still have comfort. I
would be happy despite my endless pain,
because I have not rejected the words of
the Holy One.

¹¹ What strength do I have left that I can go on hoping? What goal do I have that I would want to prolong my life?

¹² Do I have the strength of rocks? Does my body have the strength of bronze?

¹³ Am I not completely helpless? Haven't my skills been taken away from me?

¹⁴ "A friend should treat a troubled person kindly, even if he abandons the fear of the Almighty.

¹⁵ My brothers have been as deceptive as seasonal rivers, like the seasonal riverbeds that flood.

¹⁶ They are dark with ice. They are hidden by snow.

¹⁷ They vanish during a scorching summer. In the heat their riverbeds dry up.

¹⁸ They change their course. They go into a wasteland and disappear.

¹⁹ Caravans from Tema look for them. Travelers from Sheba search for them.

²⁰ They are ashamed because they relied on the streams. Arriving there, they are disappointed.

²¹ "So you are as unreliable to me as they are. You see something terrifying, and you are afraid.

²² Did I ever say, Give me a gift, or
Offer me a bribe from your wealth,

²³ or Rescue me from an enemy, or
Ransom me from a tyrant?

²⁴ Teach me, and I'll be silent. Show me
where I've been wrong.

²⁵ How painful an honest discussion
can be! In correcting me, you correct
yourselves!

²⁶ Do you think my words need
correction? Do you think they're what a
desperate person says to the wind?

²⁷ Would you also throw dice for an
orphan? Would you buy and sell your
friend?

²⁸ "But now, if you're willing, look at me.
I won't lie to your face.

²⁹ Please change your mind. Don't
permit any injustice. Change your mind
because I am still right about this!

³⁰ Is there injustice on my tongue, or is
my mouth unable to tell the difference
between right and wrong?

7¹ "Isn't a mortal's stay on earth
difficult like a hired hand's daily work?

² Like a slave, he longs for shade. Like a
hired hand, he eagerly looks for his pay.

³Likewise, I have been given months that are of no use, and I have inherited nights filled with misery.

⁴When I lie down, I ask, When will I get up? But the evening is long, and I'm exhausted from tossing about until dawn.

⁵My body is covered with maggots and scabs. My skin is crusted over with sores; then they ooze.

⁶My days go swifter than a weavers shuttle. They are spent without hope.

⁷Remember, my life is only a breath, and never again will my eyes see anything good.

⁸The eye that watches over me will no longer see me. Your eye will look for me, but I'll be gone.

⁹As a cloud fades away and disappears, so a person goes into the grave and doesn't come back again.

¹⁰He doesn't come back home again, and his household doesn't recognize him anymore.

¹¹So I won't keep my mouth shut, but I will speak from the distress that is in my spirit and complain about the bitterness in my soul.

¹²"Am I the sea or a sea monster that you have set a guard over me?

¹³When I say, My couch may give me comfort. My bed may help me bear my pain,

¹⁴then you frighten me with dreams and terrify me with visions.

¹⁵My throat would rather be choked. My body would prefer death to these dreams.

¹⁶I hate my life; I do not want to live forever. Leave me alone because my days are so brief.

¹⁷"What is a mortal that you should make so much of him, that you should be concerned about him?

¹⁸What is he that you should inspect him every morning and examine him every moment?

¹⁹Why dont you stop looking at me long enough to let me swallow my spit?

²⁰If I sin, what can I possibly do to you since you insist on spying on people? Why do you make me your target? Ive become a burden even to myself.

²¹Why dont you forgive my disobedience and take away my

sin? Soon I'll lie down in the dust. Then you will search for me, but I'll be gone!"

8¹ Then Bildad from Shuah replied to Job,

²"How long will you say these things? How long will your words be so windy?

³Does God distort justice, or does the Almighty distort righteousness?

⁴If your children sinned against him, he allowed them to suffer the consequences of their sinfulness.

⁵If you search for God and plead for mercy from the Almighty,

⁶if you are moral and ethical, then he will rise up on your behalf and prove your righteousness by rebuilding your home.

⁷Then what you had in the past will seem small compared with the great prosperity you'll have in the future.

⁸"Ask the people of past generations. Find out what their ancestors had learned.

⁹We have only been around since yesterday, and we know nothing. Our days on earth are only a fleeting shadow.

¹⁰Won't their words teach you? Won't they share their thoughts with you?

¹¹ "Can papyrus grow up where there is no swamp? Can rushes grow tall without water?

¹² Even if they were fresh and not cut, they would wither quicker than grass.

¹³ The same thing happens to all who forget God. The hope of the godless dies.

¹⁴ His confidence is easily shattered. His trust is a spiders web.

¹⁵ If one leans on his house, it collapses. If one holds on to it, it will not support his weight.

¹⁶ He is like a wellwatered plant in the sunshine. The shoots spread over his garden.

¹⁷ Its roots weave through a pile of stones. They cling to a stone house.

¹⁸ But when it is uprooted from its place, the ground denies it and says, I never saw you!

¹⁹ That is its joy in this life, and others sprout from the same ground to take its place.

²⁰ "Certainly, God does not reject a person of integrity or give a helping hand to wicked people.

²¹ He will fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with happy shouting.

²²Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, and the tent of the wicked will cease to exist."

9¹ Then Job replied to his friends,
²"Yes, I know that this is true. But how can a mortal be declared righteous to God?

³If he wished to debate with God, he wouldn't be able to answer one question in a thousand.

⁴"God is wise in heart and mighty in power. Who could oppose him and win?

⁵He moves mountains without their knowing it, and he topples them in his anger.

⁶He shakes the earth from its place, and its pillars tremble.

⁷He commands the sun not to rise. He doesn't let the stars come out.

⁸He stretches out the heavens by himself and walks on the waves of the sea.

⁹He made the constellations Ursa Major, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the clusters of stars in the south.

¹⁰He does great things that are unsearchable and miracles that cannot be numbered.

¹¹ He passes alongside of me, and I don't even see him. He goes past me, and I don't even notice him.

¹² He takes something away, but who can stop him? Who is going to ask him, What are you doing?

¹³ God does not hold back his anger. Even Rahab's helpers bow humbly in front of him.

¹⁴ "How can I possibly answer God? How can I find the right words to speak with him?

¹⁵ Even if I were right, I could not answer him. I would have to plead for mercy from my judge.

¹⁶ If I cried out and he answered me, I do not believe that he would listen to me.

¹⁷ He would knock me down with a storm and bruise me without a reason.

¹⁸ He would not let me catch my breath. He fills me with bitterness.

¹⁹ If it is a matter of strength, then he is the mighty one. If it is about justice, who will charge me with a crime?

²⁰ If I am righteous, my own mouth would condemn me. It would declare

that I am corrupt even if I am a man of integrity.

²¹ If I am a man of integrity, I have no way of knowing it. I hate my life!

²² It is all the same. That is why I say, He destroys both the man of integrity and the wicked.

²³ When a sudden disaster brings death, he makes fun of the despair of innocent people.

²⁴ The earth is handed over to the wicked. He covers the faces of its judges. If he isn't the one doing this, who is?

²⁵ "My days go by more quickly than a runner. They sprint away. They don't see anything good.

²⁶ They pass by quickly like boats made from reeds, like an eagle swooping down on its prey.

²⁷ Even if I say, I will forget my complaining; I will change my expression and smile,

²⁸ I still dread everything I must suffer. I know that you won't declare me innocent.

²⁹ I've already been found guilty. Why should I work so hard for nothing?

³⁰ If I wash myself with lye soap and cleanse my hands with bleach,

³¹ then you would plunge me into a muddy pit, and my own clothes would find me disgusting.

³² A human like me cannot answer God, Lets take our case to court.

³³ There is no mediator between us to put his hand on both of us.

³⁴ God should take his rod away from me, and he should not terrify me.

³⁵ Then I would speak and not be afraid of him. But I know that I am not like that.

10¹ "I hate my life. I will freely express my complaint. I will speak as bitterly as I feel.

² I will say to God, Dont condemn me. Let me know why you are quarreling with me.

³ What do you gain by mistreating me, by rejecting the work of your hands while you favor the plans of the wicked?

⁴ Do you actually have human eyes? Do you see as a mortal sees?

⁵ Are your days like a mortals days? Are your years like a humans years?

⁶ Is that why you look for guilt in me and search for sin in me?

⁷ You know I'm not guilty, but there is no one to rescue me from your hands.

⁸ "Your hands formed me and made every part of me, then you turned to destroy me.

⁹ Please remember that you made me out of clay and that you will return me to the dust again.

¹⁰ Didn't you pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese?

¹¹ Didn't you dress me in skin and flesh and weave me together with bones and tendons?

¹² You gave me life and mercy. Your watchfulness has preserved my spirit.

¹³ But in your heart you hid these things. I know this is what you did.

¹⁴ "If I sin, you watch me and will not free me from my guilt.

¹⁵ How terrible it will be for me if I'm guilty! Even if I'm righteous, I dare not lift up my head. I am filled with disgrace while I look on my misery.

¹⁶ Like a proud, ferocious lion you hunt me down. You keep working your miracles against me.

¹⁷ You keep finding new witnesses against me. You keep increasing your

anger toward me. You keep bringing new armies against me.

¹⁸"Why did you take me out of the womb? I wish I had breathed my last breath before anyone had laid eyes on me.

¹⁹Then it would be as if I had never existed, as if I had been carried from the womb to the tomb.

²⁰"Isn't my life short enough? So stop this, and leave me alone. Let me smile a little

²¹before I go away to a land of darkness and gloom,

²²to a dismal land of long shadows and confusion where light is as bright as darkness. I'll never return."

11 ¹Then Zophar from Naama replied to Job,

²"Shouldn't someone answer this flood of words? Should a good public speaker be acquitted?

³Should your empty talk silence others so that you can make fun of us without any shame?

⁴You say, My teaching is morally correct, and, As you can see, I'm innocent.

⁵ I only wish God would speak and open his mouth to talk to you.

⁶ He would tell you the secrets of wisdom, because true wisdom is twice as great as your wisdom, and you would know that God forgets your sin.

⁷ "Can you discover Gods hidden secrets, or are you able to find the Almightys limits?

⁸ Gods wisdom is higher than heaven. What can you do? It is deeper than the depths of hell. What can you know?

⁹ It is longer than the earth and wider than the sea.

¹⁰ If God comes along and imprisons someone and then calls a court into session, who can stop him?

¹¹ He knows who the scoundrels are. And when he sees sin, doesnt he pay attention to it?

¹² But an emptyheaded person will gain understanding when a wild donkey is born tame.

¹³ "If you want to set your heart right, then pray to him.

¹⁴ If youre holding on to sin, put it far away, and dont let injustice live in your tent.

¹⁵Then you will be able to show your face without being ashamed, and you will be secure and unafraid.

¹⁶Then you will forget your misery and remember it like water that has flowed downstream.

¹⁷Then your life will be brighter than the noonday sun. The darkness in your life will become like morning.

¹⁸You will feel confident because there's hope, and you will look around and rest in safety.

¹⁹You will lie down with no one to frighten you, and many people will try to gain your favor.

²⁰But the wicked will lose their eyesight. Their escape route will be closed. Their only hope is to take their last breath."

12¹Then Job replied to his friends,
²"You certainly are wise people, and when you die, wisdom will die.

³Like you, I have a mind. I am not inferior to you. But who doesn't know these things?

⁴I am a laughingstock to my neighbors. I am one who calls on God and expects an answer. A man of integrity, a

man who is righteous, has become a laughingstock.

⁵"A person who has an easy life has no appreciation for misfortune. He thinks it is the fate of those who slip up.

⁶But robbers tents are prosperous, and there is security for those who provoke God, for those whose god is their power.

⁷"Instead, ask the animals, and they will teach you. Ask the birds, and they will tell you.

⁸Or speak with the earth, and it will teach you. Even the fish will relate the story to you.

⁹What creature doesn't know that the LORDS hands made it?

¹⁰The life of every living creature and the spirit in every human body are in his hands.

¹¹Doesn't the ear distinguish sounds and the tongue taste food?

¹²"Wisdom is with the ancient one. The one who has had many days has insight.

¹³God has wisdom and strength. Advice and insight are his.

¹⁴When he tears something down, it cannot be rebuilt. When he puts

someone in prison, that person cannot be freed.

¹⁵When he holds back the waters, there is a drought. When he releases them, they flood the earth.

¹⁶"God has power and priceless wisdom. He owns both the deceiver and the person who is deceived.

¹⁷He leads counselors away barefoot and makes fools out of judges.

¹⁸He loosens kings belts and strips them of their pants.

¹⁹He leads priests away barefoot and misleads those who serve in a temple.

²⁰He makes trusted advisers unable to speak and takes away the good judgment of respected leaders.

²¹He pours contempt on influential people and unbuckles the belt of the mighty.

²²He uncovers mysteries hidden in the darkness and brings gloom into the light.

²³He makes nations important and then destroys them. He makes nations large and leads them away.

²⁴He takes away the common sense of a countrys leaders and makes them stumble about in a pathless wilderness.

²⁵They grope in the dark with no light,
and he makes them stumble like drunks.

13¹"My eye has certainly seen all
of this! My ear has heard and
understood it.

²After all, I know it as well as you do. I
am not inferior to you.

³However, I want to speak to the
Almighty, and I wish to argue my case in
front of God.

⁴But you are smearing me with lies. All
of you are worthless physicians.

⁵I wish you would keep silent. For you,
that would be wisdom.

⁶Please listen to my argument, and pay
attention to my plea.

⁷"Will you talk wickedly for God and
talk deceitfully on his behalf?

⁸Will you favor him as if you were
arguing in court on Gods behalf?

⁹Will it go well when he crossexamines
you? Will you try to trick him as one
mortal tricks another?

¹⁰Will he really defend you if you
secretly favor him?

¹¹Doesnt his majesty terrify you?
Doesnt the fear of him fall upon you?

¹²"Your recollections are worthless proverbs. Your answers are absolutely useless.

¹³Be quiet, because I want to speak. Let whatever may happen to me happen!

¹⁴I am biting off more than I can chew and taking my life in my own hands.

¹⁵If God would kill me, I would have no hope left. Nevertheless, I will defend my behavior to his face.

¹⁶This also will be my salvation because no godless person could face him.

¹⁷"Listen carefully to my words. Hear my declaration.

¹⁸I have prepared my case. I know that I will be declared righteous.

¹⁹Who can make a case against me? If someone could, I'd be silent and die.

²⁰"Please don't do two things to me so that I won't have to hide from you:

²¹Stop oppressing me. Don't let your terror frighten me.

²²Then call, and I'll answer. Otherwise, I'll speak, and you'll answer me.

²³How many crimes and sins have I committed? Make me aware of my disobedience and my sin.

²⁴Why do you hide your face from me and consider me your enemy?

²⁵Are you trying to make a fluttering leaf tremble or trying to chase dry husks?

²⁶You write down bitter accusations against me. You make me suffer for the sins of my youth.

²⁷You put my feet in shackles. You follow my trail by engraving marks on the soles of my feet.

²⁸I am like wornout wineskins, like moth-eaten clothes.

14¹"A person who is born of a woman is short-lived and is full of trouble.

²He comes up like a flower; then he withers. He is like a fleeting shadow; he doesn't stay long.

³You observe this and call me to account to you.

⁴"If only an unclean person could become clean! It's not possible.

⁵If the number of his days and the number of his months are determined by you, and you set his limit, then he cannot go past it.

⁶Look away from him, and he will cease to be. Meanwhile, he loves life as a laborer loves work.

⁷There is hope for a tree when it is cut down. It will sprout again. Its shoots will not stop sprouting.

⁸If its roots grow old in the ground and its stump dies in the soil,

⁹merely a scent of water will make it sprout and grow branches like a plant.

¹⁰But a human dies and is powerless. A person breathes his last breath, and where is he?

¹¹As water drains out of a lake, or as a river dries up completely,

¹²so each person lies down and does not rise until the heavens cease to exist. He does not wake up. He is not awakened from his sleep.

¹³I wish you would hide me in Sheol and keep me hidden there until your anger cools. Set a specific time for me when you will remember me.

¹⁴"If a person dies, will he go on living? I will wait for my relief to come as long as my hard labor continues.

¹⁵You will call, and I will answer you.
You will long for the person your hands
have made.

¹⁶Though now you count my steps, you
will not keep a record of my sins.

¹⁷My disobedience will be closed up in
a bag, and you will cover over my sins.

¹⁸As surely as a mountain falls and
rocks are dislodged,

¹⁹so water wears away stone, floods
wash away soil from the land, and you
destroy a mortals hope.

²⁰You overpower him forever, and he
passes away. You change his appearance
and send him away.

²¹His sons are honored, and he doesnt
know it. Or they become unimportant,
and he doesnt realize it.

²²He feels only his bodys pain. He is
only worried about himself."

15¹ Then Eliphaz from Teman replied
to Job,

²"Should a wise person answer with
endless details and fill his stomach with
the east wind?

³Should he argue with words that
dont help, with speeches that dont help
anyone?

⁴ Yes, you destroy the fear of God and diminish devotion to God.

⁵ Your sin teaches you what to say. You choose to talk with a sly tongue.

⁶ Your own mouth condemns you, not I. Your lips testify against you.

⁷ "Were you the first human to be born? Were you delivered before the hills existed?

⁸ Did you listen in on Gods council meeting and receive a monopoly on wisdom?

⁹ What do you know that we dont know? What do you understand that we dont?

¹⁰ Both the old and the grayhaired are among us. They are older than your father.

¹¹ Isnt Gods comfort enough for you, even when gently spoken to you?

¹² Why have your emotions carried you away? Why do your eyes flash

¹³ when you turn against God and spit these words out of your mouth?

¹⁴ Why should a mortal be considered faultless or someone born of a woman be considered righteous?

¹⁵ If God doesnt trust his holy ones, and the heavens are not pure in his sight,

¹⁶how much less will he trust the one who is disgusting and corrupt, the one who drinks wickedness like water.

¹⁷"I'll tell you; listen to me! I'll relate what I have seen.

¹⁸I'll tell you what wise people have declared and what was not kept secret from their ancestors.

¹⁹(The land was given to them alone, and no stranger passed through their land.)

²⁰"The wicked person is tortured all his days. Only a few years are reserved for the ruthless person.

²¹Terrifying sounds are in his ears. While he enjoys peace, the destroyer comes to him.

²²He doesn't believe he'll return from the dark. He is destined to be killed with a sword.

²³He wanders around for food and asks, Where is it? He knows that his ruin is close at hand.

²⁴"The day of darkness troubles him. Distress and anguish terrify him like a king ready for battle.

²⁵ He stretches out his hand against God and attacks the Almighty like a warrior.

²⁶ He stubbornly charges at him with a thick shield.

²⁷ "His face is bloated with fat, and he is fat around the waist.

²⁸ He lives in ruined cities where no one dwells, in houses that are doomed to be piles of rubble.

²⁹ He wont get rich, and his wealth wont last. His possessions wont spread out over the land.

³⁰ "He wont escape the darkness. A flame will shrivel his branches. He will be blown away by his own breath.

³¹ He shouldnt trust in worthless things and deceive himself because he will get worthless things in return.

³² It will happen before his time has come, and his branch will not become green.

³³ He will drop his unripened grapes like a vine and throw off his blossoms like an olive tree

³⁴ because a mob of godless people produces nothing, and fire burns up the tents of those who offer bribes.

³⁵They conceive trouble and give birth to evil. Their wombs produce deception."

16¹ Then Job replied to his friends,
²"I have heard many things like this before. You are all pathetic at comforting me.

³Will your longwinded speeches never end? What disturbs you that you keep on answering me?

⁴I, too, could speak like you if we could trade places. I could string words together against you and shake my head at you.

⁵I could encourage you with my mouth, and my quivering lips could ease your pain.

⁶If I speak, my pain is not eased. If I stop talking, how much of it will go away?

⁷"But now, God has worn me out. You, God, have destroyed everyone who supports me.

⁸You have shriveled me up, which itself is a witness against me. My frail body rises up and testifies against me.

⁹"Gods anger tore me apart and attacked me. He gritted his teeth at me. My opponent looked sharply at me.

¹⁰ People gaped at me with wideopen mouths. In scorn they slapped my cheeks. They united against me.

¹¹ God handed me over to unjust people and threw me into the hands of wicked people.

¹² I was at ease, and he shattered me. He grabbed me by the back of the neck and smashed my skull. He set me up as his target,

¹³ and his archers surrounded me. He slashes open my kidneys without mercy and spills my blood on the ground.

¹⁴ He inflicts wound after wound on me. He lunges at me like a warrior.

¹⁵ "I have sewn sackcloth over my skin, and I have thrown my strength in the dust.

¹⁶ My face is red from crying, and dark shadows encircle my eyes,

¹⁷ although my hands have done nothing violent, and my prayer is sincere.

¹⁸ "Earth, dont cover my blood. Dont ever let my cry for justice be stopped.

¹⁹ Even now, look! My witness is in heaven, and the one who testifies for me is above,

²⁰ the spokesman for my thoughts. My eyes drip with tears to God

²¹ But my witness will plead for a human in front of God. The Son of Man will plead for his friend!

²² because in a few short years I will take the path of no return.

17 ¹ "My spirit is broken. My days have been snuffed out. The cemetery is waiting for me.

² Certainly, mockers are around me. My eyes are focused on their opposition.

³ Please guarantee my bail yourself. Who else will guarantee it with a handshake?

⁴ You have closed their minds so that they cannot understand. That is why you will not honor them.

⁵ (Whoever turns in friends to get their property should have his childrens eyesight fail.)

⁶ "Now he has made me a laughingstock for many people. Now they spit in my face.

⁷ Now my eyes are blurred from grief. Now all my limbs are like a shadow.

⁸Decent people are shocked by this, and it stirs up the innocent against godless people.

⁹Yet, the righteous person clings to his way, and the one with clean hands grows stronger.

¹⁰"But now, all of you, come and try again! I won't find one wise man among you.

¹¹My days are passing by. My plans are broken. My dreams are shattered.

¹²You say that night is day. Light has nearly become darkness.

¹³If I look for the grave as my home and make my bed in the darkness,

¹⁴if I say to the pit, You are my father, and to the worm, You are my mother and sister,

¹⁵then where is my hope? Can you see any hope left in me?

¹⁶Will hope go down with me to the gates of the grave? Will my hope rest with me in the dust?"

18¹Then Bildad from Shuah replied to Job,

²"How long before your words will end? Think it through, and then we'll talk.

³ Why do you think of us as cattle? Why are we considered stupid in your eyes?

⁴ Why do you rip yourself apart in anger? Should the earth be abandoned for your sake or a boulder be dislodged?

⁵ "Indeed, the light of the wicked is snuffed out. The flame of his fire stops glowing.

⁶ The light in his tent becomes dark, and the lamp above him is snuffed out.

⁷ "His healthy stride is shortened, and his own planning trips him up.

⁸ His own feet get him tangled in a net as he walks around on its webbing.

⁹ A trap catches his heel. A snare holds him.

¹⁰ A rope is hidden on the ground for him. A trap is on his path to catch him.

¹¹ "Terrors suddenly pounce on him from every side and chase him every step he takes.

¹² Hunger undermines his strength. Disaster is waiting beside him.

¹³ His skin is eaten away by disease. Deaths firstborn son eats away at the limbs of his body.

¹⁴He is dragged from the safety of his tent and marched off to the king of terrors.

¹⁵Fire lives in his tent. Sulfur is scattered over his home.

¹⁶His roots dry up under him. His branches wither over him.

¹⁷All memory about him will vanish from the earth, and his reputation will not be known on the street corner.

¹⁸He will be driven from the light into the dark and chased out of the world.

¹⁹He will not have any children or descendants among his people or any survivor where he used to live.

²⁰People in the west are shocked by what happens to him. People in the east are seized with horror.

²¹This is what happens to the homes of wicked people and to those who do not know God."

19¹ Then Job replied to his friends,
²"How long will you torment me and depress me with words?

³You have insulted me ten times now. You're not even ashamed of mistreating me.

⁴Even if it were true that I've made a mistake without realizing it, my mistake would affect only me.

⁵If you are trying to make yourselves look better than me by using my disgrace as an argument against me,

⁶then I want you to know that God has wronged me and surrounded me with his net.

⁷Indeed, I cry, Help! I'm being attacked! but I get no response. I call for help, but there is no justice.

⁸"God has blocked my path so that I can't go on. He has made my paths dark.

⁹He has stripped me of my honor. He has taken the crown off my head.

¹⁰He beats me down on every side until I'm gone. He uproots my hope like a tree.

¹¹He is very angry at me. He considers me to be his enemy.

¹²His troops assemble against me. They build a ramp to attack me and camp around my tent.

¹³"My brothers stay far away from me. My friends are complete strangers to me.

¹⁴My relatives and my closest friends have stopped coming. My house guests have forgotten me.

¹⁵My female slaves consider me to be a stranger. I am like a foreigner to them.

¹⁶I call my slave, but he doesn't answer, though I beg him.

¹⁷My breath offends my wife. I stink to my own children.

¹⁸Even young children despise me. If I stand up, they make fun of me.

¹⁹All my closest friends are disgusted with me. Those I love have turned against me.

²⁰I am skin and bones, and I have escaped only by the skin of my teeth.

²¹"Have pity on me, my friends! Have pity on me because God's hand has struck me down.

²²Why do you pursue me as God does? Why are you never satisfied with my flesh?

²³"I wish now my words were written. I wish they were inscribed on a scroll.

²⁴I wish they were forever engraved on a rock with an iron stylus and lead.

²⁵But I know that my defender lives, and afterwards, he will rise on the earth.

²⁶Even after my skin has been stripped off my body, I will see God in my own flesh.

²⁷ I will see him with my own eyes, not with someone else's. My heart fails inside me!

²⁸ "You say, We will persecute him! The root of the problem is found in him.

²⁹ Fear death, because your anger is punishable by death. Then you will know there is a judge."

20¹ Then Zophar from Naama replied to Job,

² "My disturbing thoughts make me answer, and because of them I am upset.

³ I have heard criticism that makes me ashamed, but a spirit beyond my understanding gives me answers.

⁴ "Don't you know that from ancient times, from the time humans were placed on earth,

⁵ the triumph of the wicked is shortlived, and the joy of the godless person lasts only a moment?

⁶ If his height reaches to the sky and his head touches the clouds,

⁷ he will certainly rot like his own feces. Those who have seen him will say, Where is he?

⁸He will fly away like a dream and not be found. He will be chased away like a vision in the night.

⁹Eyes that saw him will see him no more. His home will not look at him again.

¹⁰His children will have to ask the poor for help. His own hands will have to give back his wealth.

¹¹His bones, once full of youthful vigor, will lie down with him in the dust.

¹²Though evil is sweet in his mouth and he hides it under his tongue

¹³Though he savors it and wont let go of it and he holds it on the roof of his mouth,

¹⁴the food in his belly turns sour. It becomes snake venom in his stomach.

¹⁵He vomits up the riches that he swallowed. God forces them out of his stomach.

¹⁶The godless person sucks the poison of snakes. A vipers fang kills him.

¹⁷He wont be able to drink from the streams or from the rivers of honey and buttermilk.

¹⁸He will give back what he earned without enjoying it. He will get no joy from the profits of his business

¹⁹because he crushed and abandoned the poor. He has taken by force a house that he didn't build.

²⁰He will never know peace in his heart. He will never allow anything he desires to escape his grasp.

²¹"Nothing is left for him to eat. His prosperity won't last.

²²Even with all his wealth the full force of misery comes down on him.

²³Let that misery fill his belly. God throws his burning anger at the godless person and makes his wrath come down on him like rain.

²⁴If that person flees from an iron weapon, a bronze bow will pierce him.

²⁵He pulls it out, and it comes out of his back. The glittering point comes out of his gallbladder. "Terrors come quickly to the godless person:

²⁶Total darkness waits in hiding for his treasure. A fire that no one fans will burn him. Whatever is left in his tent will be devoured.

²⁷ Heaven exposes his sin. Earth rises up against him.

²⁸ A flood will sweep away his house, a flash flood on the day of his anger.

²⁹ This is the reward God gives to the wicked person, the inheritance God has appointed for him."

21 ¹ Then Job replied to his friends,
² "Listen carefully to my words, and let that be the comfort you offer me.

³ Bear with me while I speak. Then after I've spoken, you may go on mocking.

⁴ Am I complaining about a person? Why shouldn't I be impatient?

⁵ Look at me, and be shocked, and put your hand over your mouth.

⁶ When I remember it, I'm terrified, and shuddering seizes my body.

⁷ "Why do the wicked go on living, grow old, and even become more powerful?

⁸ They see their children firmly established with them, and they get to see their descendants.

⁹ Their homes are free from fear, and God doesn't use his rod on them.

¹⁰ Their bulls are fertile when they breed. Their cows give birth to calves and never miscarry.

¹¹ They send their little children out to play like a flock of lambs, and their children dance around.

¹² They sing with the tambourine and lyre, and they are happy with the music of the flute.

¹³ They spend their days in happiness, and they go peacefully to the grave.

¹⁴ But they say to God, Leave us alone. We don't want to know your ways.

¹⁵ Who is the Almighty that we should serve him? What do we gain if we pray to him?

¹⁶ Anyhow, isn't their happiness in their own power? (The plan of the wicked is foreign to my way of thinking.)

¹⁷ "How often is the lamp of the wicked snuffed out? How often does disaster happen to them? How often does an angry God give them pain?

¹⁸ How often are they like straw in the wind or like husks that the storm sweeps away?

¹⁹ "You say, God saves a person's punishment for his children. God should pay back that person so that he would know that it is a punishment.

²⁰His eyes should see his own ruin.
He should drink from the wrath of the Almighty.

²¹How can he be interested in his family after hes gone, when the number of his months is cut short?

²²"Can anyone teach God knowledge?
Can anyone judge the Most High?

²³One person dies in his prime and feels altogether happy and contented.

²⁴His stomach is full of milk, and his bones are strong and healthy.

²⁵Another person, never having tasted happiness, dies with a bitter soul.

²⁶Together they lie down in the dust, and worms cover them.

²⁷"You see, I know your thoughts and the schemes you plot against me

²⁸because you ask, Where is the house of the influential person? Where is the tent where wicked people live?

²⁹Havent you asked travelers? But you didnt pay attention to their directions.

³⁰On the day of disaster the wicked person is spared. On the day of Gods anger he is rescued.

³¹ Who will tell him to his face how he lived? Who will pay him back for what he did?

³² He is carried to the cemetery, and his grave is guarded.

³³ The soil in the creekbed is sweet to him. Everyone follows him. Countless others went before him.

³⁴ How can you comfort me with this nonsense when your answers continue to betray me?"

22¹ Then Eliphaz from Teman replied to Job,

² "Can a human be of any use to God when even a wise person is only useful to himself?

³ Is the Almighty pleased when you are righteous? Does he gain anything when you follow the path of integrity?

⁴ Does God correct you and bring you into a court of law because you fear him?

⁵ "Aren't you really very wicked? Is there no end to your wrongdoing?

⁶ For no reason you take your brothers goods as security for a loan and strip them of their clothes.

⁷You don't even give a tired person a drink of water, and you take food away from hungry people.

⁸A strong person owns the land. A privileged person lives in it.

⁹You send widows away empty-handed, and the arms of orphans are broken.

¹⁰That is why traps are all around you and great fear suddenly grips you.

¹¹That is why darkness surrounds you and you cannot see and a flood of water covers you.

¹²"Isn't God high above in the heavens? Look how high the highest stars are!

¹³You ask, What does God know? Can he judge anything from behind a dark cloud?

¹⁴Thick clouds surround him so that he cannot see. He walks above the clouds.

¹⁵"Are you following the old path that wicked people have taken?

¹⁶They are snatched up before their time. A river washes their foundation away.

¹⁷They told God, Leave us alone! What can the Almighty do for us?

¹⁸Yet, he filled their homes with good things. (The plan of the wicked is foreign to my way of thinking.)

¹⁹The righteous saw it and were glad, and the innocent made fun of them by saying,

²⁰Indeed, their wealth has been wiped out, and a fire has burned up what little they had left.

²¹"Be in harmony and at peace with God. In this way you will have prosperity.

²²Accept instruction from his mouth, and keep his words in your heart.

²³If you return to the Almighty, you will prosper. If you put wrongdoing out of your tent,

²⁴and lay your gold down in the dust, and put your gold from Ophir among the pebbles in the rivers,

²⁵then the Almighty will become your gold and your large supply of silver.

²⁶Then you will be happy with the Almighty and look up toward God.

²⁷You will pray to him, and he will listen to you, and you will keep your vow to him.

²⁸When you promise to do something, you will succeed, and light will shine on your path.

²⁹When others are discouraged, you will say, Cheer up! Then he will save the humble person.

³⁰He will rescue one who is not innocent. That person will be rescued by your purity."

23 ¹Then Job replied to his friends,
²"My complaint is bitter again today. I try hard to control my sighing.

³"If only I knew where I could find God! I would go where he lives.

⁴I would present my case to him. I would have a mouthful of arguments.

⁵I want to know the words he would use to answer me. I want to understand the things he would say to me.

⁶Would he sue me and hide behind great legal maneuvers? No, he certainly would press charges against me.

⁷Then decent people could argue with him, and I would escape my judgment forever.

⁸However, if I go east, he isn't there. If I go west, I can't find him.

⁹If I go northward, where he is at work,
I cant observe him. If I turn southward,
I cant see him.

¹⁰I cant find him because he knows the
road I take. When he tests me, Ill come
out as pure as gold.

¹¹I have followed his footsteps closely.
I have stayed on his path and did not
turn from it.

¹²I have not left his commands behind.
I have treasured his words in my heart.

¹³"But God is one of a kind. Who can
make him change his mind? He does
whatever he wants!

¹⁴He will carry out his orders concerning
me as he does with so many other
things.

¹⁵That is why Im terrified of him. When
I think of it, Im afraid of him.

¹⁶God has discouraged me. The
Almighty has filled me with terror.

¹⁷But I am not silenced by the dark or
by the thick darkness that covers my
face.

24¹"Why doesnt the Almighty set
aside times for punishment? Why
dont those who are close to him see his
days of judgment?

²"People move boundary markers. They steal flocks and tend them as shepherds.

³They drive away the orphans donkey. They take the widows ox as security for a loan.

⁴They force needy people off the road. All the poor people of the country go into hiding.

⁵Like wild donkeys in the desert, poor people go out to do their work, looking for food. The plains provide food for their children.

⁶They harvest animal food in the field to feed themselves. They pick the leftover grapes in the wicked persons vineyard.

⁷All night they lie naked without a covering from the cold.

⁸They are drenched by the rainstorms in the mountains. They hug the rocks because they cant find shelter.

⁹"People snatch the nursing orphan from a breast and take a poor womans baby as security for a loan.

¹⁰That is why the poor go around naked. They are hungry, yet they carry bundles of grain.

¹¹ They press out olive oil between rows of olive trees. They stomp on grapes in wine vats, yet they are thirsty.

¹² Those dying in the city groan. Wounded people cry for help, but God pays no attention to their prayers.

¹³ "Such people are among those who rebel against the light. They are not acquainted with its ways. They do not stay on its paths.

¹⁴ At dawn murderers rise; they kill the poor and needy. At night they become thieves.

¹⁵ Adulterers watch for twilight. They say, No one is watching us, as they cover their faces.

¹⁶ In the dark, they break into houses, but by day they lock themselves in. They do not even know the light,

¹⁷ because morning and deep darkness are the same to them, because they are familiar with the terrors of deep darkness.

¹⁸ Such people are like scum on the surface of the water. Their property is cursed in the land. People do not travel the road that goes to their vineyards.

¹⁹ Just as drought and heat steal water from snow, so the grave steals people who sin.

²⁰ The womb forgets them. Worms feast on them. No one remembers them anymore, and wickedness is snapped like a twig.

²¹ These men take advantage of childless women. These men show no kindness to widows.

²² God will drag away these mighty men by his power. These people may prosper, but they will never feel secure about life.

²³ God may let them feel confident and selfreliant, but his eyes are on their ways.

²⁴ Such people may be prosperous for a little while, but then theyre gone. They are brought down low and disappear like everything else. They wither like heads of grain.

²⁵ "If it isnt so, who can prove Im a liar and show that my words are worthless?"

25 ¹ Then Bildad from Shuah replied to Job,

² "Authority and terror belong to God. He establishes peace in his high places.

³Is there any limit to the number of his troops? Is there anyone on whom his light does not rise?

⁴How can a person be righteous to God? How can anyone born of a woman be pure?

⁵Even the moon isn't bright, and the stars aren't pure in his sight.

⁶How much less pure is a mortal who is only a maggot a descendant of Adam who is only a worm!"

26 ¹Then Job replied to his friends,
²"You have helped the person who has no power and saved the arm that isn't strong.

³You have advised the person who has no wisdom and offered so much assistance.

⁴To whom have you spoken these words, and whose spirit has spoken through you?

⁵"The souls of the dead tremble beneath the water, and so do the creatures living there.

⁶Sheol is naked in God's presence, and Abaddon has no clothing.

⁷ "He stretches out his heavens over empty space. He hangs the earth on nothing whatsoever.

⁸ He holds the water in his thick clouds, and the clouds don't even split under its weight.

⁹ He covers his throne by spreading his cloud over it.

¹⁰ He marks the horizon on the surface of the water at the boundary where light meets dark.

¹¹ The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished when he yells at them.

¹² With his power he calmed the sea. With his insight he killed Rahab the sea monster.

¹³ With his wind the sky was cleared. With his hand he stabbed the fleeing snake.

¹⁴ "These are only glimpses of what he does. We only hear a whisper of him! Who can understand the thunder of his power?"

27 ¹ Job continued his poems and said,

² "I swear an oath by God, the one who has taken away my rights, by the Almighty, who has made my life bitter:

³As long as there is one breath left in me and Gods breath fills my nostrils,

⁴my lips will not say anything wrong, and my tongue will not mumble anything deceitful.

⁵Its unthinkable for me to admit that you are right. Until I breathe my last breath, I will never give up my claim of integrity.

⁶I cling to my righteousness and wont let go. My conscience wont accuse me as long as I live.

⁷"Let my enemy be treated like wicked people. Let anyone who attacks me be treated like unrighteous people.

⁸After all, what hope does the godless person have when he is cut off, when God takes away his life?

⁹Will God hear his cry when trouble comes upon him?

¹⁰Can he be happy with the Almighty? Can he call on God at all times?

¹¹"I will teach you about Gods power. I will not hide what the Almighty has done.

¹²Certainly, you have all seen it. Why then do you chatter on about such nonsense?

¹³ This is what God has waiting for the wicked person, the inheritance that tyrants receive from the Almighty:

¹⁴ If he has many children, swords will kill them, and his descendants wont have enough food.

¹⁵ Those who survive him will be buried by a plague, and their widows wont cry for them.

¹⁶ Though he collects silver like dust and piles up clothing like dirt,

¹⁷ righteous people will wear what he piles up, and the innocent will divide the silver among themselves.

¹⁸ He builds his house like a moth, like a shack that a watchman makes.

¹⁹ He may go to bed rich, but hell never be rich again. When he opens his eyes, nothing will be left.

²⁰ Terrors overtake him like a flood. A windstorm snatches him away at night.

²¹ The east wind carries him away, and hes gone. It sweeps him from his place.

²² It hurls itself at him without mercy. He flees from its power.

²³ It claps its hands over him. It whistles at him from his own place.

28¹ "There is a place where silver is mined and a place where gold is refined.

² Iron is taken from the ground, and rocks are melted for their copper.

³ Humans bring an end to darkness there and search to the limit of the gloomy, pitchblack rock.

⁴ They open up a mineshaft far from civilization, where no one has set foot. In this shaft men dangle and swing back and forth.

⁵ "Above the ground food grows, but beneath it the food decays as if it were burned by fire.

⁶ That places stones are sapphire. Its dust contains gold.

⁷ No bird of prey knows the way to it. No hawk's eye has ever seen it.

⁸ No proud beast has ever walked on it. No ferocious lion has ever passed over it.

⁹ "Humans exert their power on the flinty rocks and overturn mountains at their base.

¹⁰ They cut out mineshafts in the rocks. Their eyes see every precious thing.

¹¹ They explore the sources of rivers so that they bring hidden treasures to light.

¹²"Where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding live?

¹³No mortal knows where it is. It cannot be found in this world of the living.

¹⁴The deep ocean says, It isn't in me. The sea says, It isn't with me.

¹⁵You cannot obtain it with solid gold or buy it for any amount of silver.

¹⁶It can't be bought with the gold from Ophir or with precious onyx or sapphire.

¹⁷Neither gold nor glass can equal its value. Nor can gold ornaments, jewels, or crystal

¹⁸be exchanged for it. Wisdom is more valuable than gems.

¹⁹Topaz from Ethiopia cannot equal its value. It cannot be bought for any amount of pure gold.

²⁰"Where does wisdom come from? Where does understanding live?

²¹It is hidden from the eyes of every living being, hidden even from the birds in the air.

²²Decay and Death say, We've heard a rumor about it.

²³"God understands the way to it. He knows where it lives

²⁴ because he can see to the ends of the earth and observe everything under heaven.

²⁵ When he gave the wind its force and measured the water in the sea,

²⁶ when he made rules for the rain and set paths for the thunderstorms,

²⁷ then he saw it and announced it. He confirmed it and examined it.

²⁸ So he told humans, The fear of the Lord is wisdom! To stay away from evil is understanding."

29¹ Job continued his poems and said,

² "If only my life could be like it used to be, in the days when God watched over me,

³ when he made his lamp shine on my head, when I walked through the dark in his light.

⁴ If only I were in the prime of my life again, when God was an adviser in my tent.

⁵ When the Almighty was still with me and my children were around me,

⁶ my steps were bathed in buttermilk, and the rocks poured streams of olive oil on me.

⁷ When I went through the city gate and took my seat in the town square,

⁸ young men saw me and kept out of sight. Old men stood up straight out of respect for me.

⁹ Princes held back their words and put their hands over their mouths.

¹⁰ The voices of nobles were hushed, and their tongues stuck to the roofs of their mouths.

¹¹ "Any ears that heard me blessed me. Any eyes that saw me spoke well of me,

¹² because I rescued the poor who called for help and the orphans who had no one to help them.

¹³ I received a blessing from the dying. I made the widows heart sing for joy.

¹⁴ I put on righteousness, and it was my clothing. I practiced justice, and it was my robe and my turban.

¹⁵ I was eyes for the blind person. I was feet for the lame person.

¹⁶ I was father to the needy. I carefully investigated cases brought by strangers.

¹⁷ I broke the teeth of the wicked person and made him drop the prey out of his mouth.

¹⁸"I thought, I may die in my own house, but I will make my days as numerous as the sand.

¹⁹My roots will grow toward the water, and dew will lie on my branches all night.

²⁰My power will be fresh every day, and the bow in my hand will remain new.

²¹"People listened to me eagerly, quietly waiting for my advice.

²²After I had spoken, they wouldnt speak again. After all, my words fell gently on them.

²³They were as eager to hear me as they were for rain. They opened their mouths wide as if waiting for a spring shower.

²⁴When I smiled at them, they could hardly believe it, but the expression on my face did not change.

²⁵I decided how they should live. I sat as their leader. I lived like a king among his troops, like one who comforts mourners.

30¹"But now those who are younger than I am laugh at me. I didnt think their fathers were fit to sit with the dogs of my flock.

²Of what use to me was the strength of their hands? Their strength is gone.

³Shriveled up from need and hunger, they gnaw at the dry and barren ground during the night.

⁴They pick saltwort from the underbrush, and the roots of the broom plant are their food.

⁵They are driven from the community. People shout at them in the same way they shout at thieves.

⁶They have to live in dry riverbeds, in holes in the ground, and among rocks.

⁷They howl in bushes and huddle together under thornbushes.

⁸Godless fools and worthless people are forced out of the land with whips.

⁹"And now they make fun of me with songs. I have become a joke to them.

¹⁰Since they consider me disgusting, they keep their distance from me and don't hesitate to spit in my face.

¹¹Because God has untied my cord and has made me suffer, they are no longer restrained in my presence.

¹²They have attacked me on my right side like a mob. They trip my feet and then prepare ways to destroy me.

¹³Yes, they remove all traces of my path in order to destroy me. No one is there to help me against them.

¹⁴They come through a wide hole in the wall. They crawl through the ruins.

¹⁵Terrors are directed toward me. They blow away my dignity like the wind. My prosperity vanishes like a cloud.

¹⁶"Now my life is pouring out of me. Days of suffering seize me.

¹⁷At night God pierces my bones. My body doesn't rest.

¹⁸With great strength he grabs my clothes. He seizes me by the collar of my robe.

¹⁹He throws me into the dirt so that I become like dust and ashes.

²⁰"I call to you for help, but you don't answer me. I stand up, but you just look at me.

²¹You have begun to treat me cruelly. With your mighty hand you assault me.

²²You pick me up and let the wind carry me away. You toss me around with a storm.

²³I know you will lead me to death, to the dwelling place appointed for all living beings.

²⁴ "But God doesn't stretch out his hand against one who is ruined when that person calls for help in his disaster.

²⁵ Didn't I cry for the person whose days were difficult? Didn't my soul grieve for the poor?

²⁶ When I waited for good, evil came. When I looked for light, darkness came.

²⁷ My insides are churning and won't calm down. Days of misery are ahead of me.

²⁸ I walk in the dark without the sun. I stand up in public and call for help.

²⁹ I'm a brother to jackals and a companion of ostriches.

³⁰ My skin turns dark and peels. My body burns with fever.

³¹ So my lyre is used for mourning and my flute for loud weeping.

31 ¹ "I have made an agreement with my eyes. Then how can I look with lust at a virgin?

² What would God above do to me? What would be my inheritance from the Almighty on high?

³ Aren't there catastrophes for wicked people and disasters for those who do wrong?

⁴Doesn't he see my ways and count all my steps?

⁵"If I have walked with lies or my feet have run after deception,

⁶then let God weigh me on honest scales, and he will know I have integrity.

⁷"If my steps have left the proper path, or my heart has followed the desire of my eyes, or my hands are stained with sin,

⁸then let someone else eat what I have planted, and let my crops be uprooted.

⁹"If I have been seduced by a woman or I have secretly waited near my neighbor's door,

¹⁰then let my wife grind for another man, and let other men kneel over her.

¹¹That would be a scandal, and that would be a criminal offense.

¹²It would be a fire that burns even in Abaddon. It would uproot my entire harvest.

¹³"If I have abused the rights of my servants, male or female, when they have disagreed with me,

¹⁴then what could I do if God rises up? If he examines me, how could I answer him?

¹⁵ Didn't he who made me in my mother's belly make them? Didn't the same God form us in the womb?

¹⁶ "If I have refused the requests of the poor or made a widow's eyes stop looking for help,

¹⁷ or have eaten my food alone without letting the orphan eat any of it.

¹⁸ (From my youth the orphan grew up with me as though I were his father, and from my birth I treated the widow kindly.)

¹⁹ If I have seen anyone die because he had no clothes or a poor person going naked.

²⁰ (If his body didn't bless me, or the wool from my sheep didn't keep him warm.)

²¹ If I have shaken my fist at an orphan because I knew that others would back me up in court,

²² then let my shoulder fall out of its socket, and let my arm be broken at the elbow.

²³ "A disaster from God terrifies me. In the presence of his majesty I can do nothing.

²⁴"If I put my confidence in gold or said to fine gold, I trust you.

²⁵If I enjoyed being very rich because my hand had found great wealth.

²⁶If I saw the light shine or the moon move along in its splendor

²⁷so that my heart was secretly tempted, and I threw them a kiss with my hand,

²⁸then that, too, would be a criminal offense, and I would have denied God above.

²⁹"If I enjoyed the ruin of my enemy or celebrated when harm came to him

³⁰(even though I didnt speak sinfully by calling down a curse on his life).

³¹"If the people who were in my tent had said, We wish we had never filled our stomachs with his food.

³²(The visitor never spent the night outside, because I opened my door to the traveler.)

³³"If I have covered my disobedience like Adam and kept my sin to myself,

³⁴because I dreaded the large, noisy crowd and because the contempt of the local mobs terrified me so that I kept quiet and didnt go outside.

³⁵"If only I had someone who would listen to me! Look, here is my signature! Let the Almighty answer me. Let the prosecutor write his complaint on a scroll.

³⁶I would certainly carry it on my shoulder and place it on my head like a crown.

³⁷I would tell him the number of my steps and approach him like a prince.

³⁸"If my land has cried out against me, and its furrows have wept.

³⁹If I have eaten its produce without paying for it and made its owners breathe their last,

⁴⁰then let it grow thistles instead of wheat, and foulsmelling weeds instead of barley." This is the end of Job's words.

32¹These three men stopped answering Job because Job thought he was righteous.

²Then Elihu, son of Barachel, a descendant of Buz from the family of Ram, became very angry with Job because Job thought he was more righteous than God.

³Elihu was also very angry with Job's three friends because they had found no

answer. They made it look as if God were wrong.

⁴Elihu waited as they spoke to Job because they were older than he was.

⁵When Elihu saw that the three men had no further responses, he became very angry.

⁶So Elihu, son of Barachel, the descendant of Buz, replied to Job, "I am young, and you are old. That's why I refrained from speaking and was afraid to tell you what I know.

⁷I thought, Age should speak, and experience should teach wisdom.

⁸However, there is in humans a Spirit, the breath of the Almighty, that gives them understanding.

⁹People do not become wise merely because they live long. They don't understand what justice is merely because they're old.

¹⁰"That is why I say, Listen to me! Let me tell you what I know.

¹¹I waited for you to speak. I listened for you to share your understanding until you could find the right words.

¹²I've paid close attention to you, but none of you refuted Job. None of you has an answer to what he says.

¹³So don't say, We've found wisdom. Let God, not humans, defeat him.

¹⁴Job did not choose his words to refute me, so I won't answer him with your speeches.

¹⁵"Job's friends have been overwhelmed and don't have any more answers. They don't have another word to say.

¹⁶Should I wait because they don't speak, because they stand there and don't have any more answers?

¹⁷"I'll give my answer. I'll tell you what I know.

¹⁸I'm full of words. The Spirit within me forces me to speak.

¹⁹My belly is like a bottle of wine that has not been opened, like new wineskins that are ready to burst.

²⁰I must speak to get relief. I must open my mouth and answer.

²¹I won't be partial toward anyone or flatter anyone.

²²I don't know how to flatter. If I did, my maker would soon carry me away.

33¹ "Please, Job, listen to my words and consider everything I say.

² I've opened my mouth. The words are on the tip of my tongue.

³ My words are straight from the heart, and I sincerely speak the knowledge that is on my lips.

⁴ "God's Spirit has made me. The breath of the Almighty gives me life.

⁵ Answer me if you can. Present your case to me, and take your stand.

⁶ Indeed, I stand in front of God as you do. I, too, was formed from a piece of clay.

⁷ You certainly don't need to be terrified of me. I won't put too much pressure on you.

⁸ "But you spoke directly to me, and I listened to your words.

⁹ You said, I'm pure without any rebellious acts against God. I'm clean; I have no sin.

¹⁰ God is only looking for an excuse to attack me. He considers me his enemy.

¹¹ He puts my feet in the stocks and watches all my paths.

¹²You are not right about this! I've got an answer for you: God is greater than any mortal.

¹³Why do you quarrel with him since he doesn't answer any questions?

¹⁴"God speaks in one way, even in two ways without people noticing it:

¹⁵In a dream, a prophetic vision at night, when people fall into a deep sleep, when they sleep on their beds,

¹⁶he opens people's ears and terrifies them with warnings.

¹⁷He warns them to turn away from doing wrong and to stop being arrogant.

¹⁸He keeps their souls from the pit and their lives from crossing the River of Death.

¹⁹In pain on their sickbeds, they are disciplined with endless aching in their bones

²⁰so that their whole being hates food and they lose their appetite for a delicious meal.

²¹Their flesh becomes so thin that it can't be seen. Their bones, not seen before, will be exposed.

²²Their souls approach the pit. Their lives come close to those already dead.

²³"If they have a messenger for them, a spokesman, one in a thousand, to tell people what is right for them,

²⁴then he will have pity on them and say, Free them from going into the pit. I have found a ransom.

²⁵Then their flesh will become softer than a child's. They will go back to the days of their youth.

²⁶They will pray to God, who will be pleased with them. They will see God's face and shout for joy as he restores their righteousness.

²⁷Each one sings in front of other people and says, I sinned and did wrong instead of what was right, and it did me no good.

²⁸The messenger has freed my soul from going into the pit, and my life will see the light.

²⁹Truly, God does all this two or three times with people

³⁰to turn their souls away from the pit and to enlighten them with the light of life.

³¹"Pay attention, Job! Listen to me! Keep quiet, and let me speak.

³²If you have a response, answer me. Speak, because I'd be happy if you were right.

³³If not, you listen to me. Keep quiet, and I'll teach you wisdom."

34¹ Elihu continued to speak to Job and his friends,

²"Listen to my words, you wise men. Open your ears to me, you intelligent men.

³The ear tests words like the tongue tastes food.

⁴Lets decide for ourselves what is right and agree among ourselves as to what is good,

⁵because Job has said, I'm righteous, but God has taken away my rights.

⁶I'm considered a liar in spite of my rights. I've been wounded by a deadly arrow, though I haven't been disobedient.

⁷What person is like Job, who drinks scorn like water,

⁸who travels with troublemakers and associates with evil people?

⁹He says, It doesn't do any good to try to please God.

¹⁰"You people who have understanding, listen to me. It is unthinkable that God

would ever do evil or that the Almighty would ever do wicked things.

¹¹ God will repay humanity for what it has done and will give each person what he deserves.

¹² Certainly, God will never do anything evil, and the Almighty will never pervert justice.

¹³ Who put him in charge of the earth? Who appointed him to be over the whole world?

¹⁴ If he thought only of himself and withdrew his Spirit and his breath,

¹⁵ all living beings would die together, and humanity would return to dust.

¹⁶ "If you understand, listen to this. Open your ears to my words!

¹⁷ Should anyone who hates justice be allowed to govern? Will you condemn the one who is righteous and mighty?

¹⁸ Should anyone even say to a king, You goodfornothing scoundrel! or to nobles, You wicked people!

¹⁹ The one who is righteous and mighty does not grant special favors to princes or prefer important people over poor people because his hands made them all.

²⁰They die suddenly in the middle of the night. People have seizures and pass away. Mighty people are taken away but not by human hands.

²¹Gods eyes are on a persons ways. He sees all his steps.

²²Theres no darkness or deep shadow where troublemakers can hide.

²³He doesnt have to set a time for a person in order to bring him to divine judgment.

²⁴He breaks mighty people into pieces without examining them and puts others in their places.

²⁵He knows what they do, so he overthrows them at night, and theyre crushed.

²⁶In return for their evil, he strikes them in public,

²⁷because they turned away from following him and didnt consider any of his ways.

²⁸They forced the poor to cry out to him, and he hears the cry of those who suffer.

²⁹If he keeps quiet, who can condemn him? If he hides his face, who can see

him whether it is a nation or a single person?

³⁰He does this so that godless people cannot rule and so that they cannot trap people.

³¹"But suppose such a person says to God, I am guilty, I will stop my immoral behavior.

³²Teach me what I cannot see. If I've done wrong, I won't do it again.

³³Should God reward you on your own terms since you have rejected his? You must choose, not I. Tell me what you know. Speak!

³⁴"People of understanding, the wise people who listen to me, will say,

³⁵Job speaks without knowledge. His words show no insight.

³⁶"My Father, let Job be thoroughly tested for giving answers like wicked people do.

³⁷He adds disobedience to his sin. He claps his hands to insult us. He multiplies his words against God."

35¹ Elihu continued to speak to Job and his friends,

²"Do you think this is right when you say, My case is more just than God's,

³when you ask, What benefit is it to you? and, What would I gain by sinning?

⁴I will answer you and your friends.

⁵"Look at the heavens and see. Observe the clouds high above you.

⁶If youve sinned, what effect can you have on God? If youve done many wrongs, what can you do to him?

⁷If youre righteous, what can you give him, or what can he get from you?

⁸Your wickedness affects only someone like yourself. Your righteousness affects only the descendants of Adam.

⁹The weight of oppression makes them cry out. The power of mighty people makes them call for help.

¹⁰But no one asks, Where is God, my Creator, who inspires songs in the night,

¹¹who teaches us more than he teaches the animals of the earth, who makes us wiser than the birds in the sky?

¹²Then they cry out, but he doesnt answer them because of the arrogance of those evil people.

¹³"Surely, God doesnt listen to idle complaints. The Almighty doesnt even pay attention to them.

¹⁴ Although you say that you pay attention to him, your case is in front of him, but you'll have to wait for him.

¹⁵ And now you say that his anger doesn't punish anyone and he isn't too concerned about evil.

¹⁶ Job opens his mouth for no good reason and talks a lot without having any knowledge."

36 ¹ Elihu continued to speak to Job,
² "Be patient with me a little longer, and I will show you that there is more to be said in God's defense.

³ I will get my knowledge from far away and prove that my Creator is fair.

⁴ Certainly, my words are not lies. The one who knows everything is speaking with you.

⁵ "Certainly, God is mighty. He doesn't despise anyone. He is mighty and brave.

⁶ He doesn't allow the wicked person to live. He grants justice to those who are oppressed.

⁷ He doesn't take his eyes off righteous people. He seats them on thrones with kings to honor them forever.

⁸ However, if righteous people are bound in chains and tangled in ropes of misery,

⁹ he tells them what they've done wrong and that they've behaved arrogantly.

¹⁰ He makes them listen to his warning and orders them to turn away from wrong.

¹¹ "If righteous people listen and serve him, they will live out their days in prosperity and their years in comfort.

¹² But if they don't listen, they will cross the River of Death and die like those who have no knowledge.

¹³ But those who have godless hearts remain angry. They don't even call for help when he chains them up.

¹⁴ They die while they're young, or they live on as male prostitutes in the temples of idols.

¹⁵ He rescues suffering people through their suffering, and he opens their ears through distress.

¹⁶ "Yes, he lured you away from the jaws of trouble into an open area where you were not restrained, and your table was covered with rich foods.

¹⁷ But you are given the judgment evil people deserve. A fair judgment will be upheld.

¹⁸ Be careful that you are not led astray with riches. Don't let a large bribe turn you to evil ways.

¹⁹ Will your riches save you from having to suffer? Will all your mighty strength help you?

²⁰ Don't look forward to the night, when people disappear from their places.

²¹ Be careful! Don't turn to evil, because you have chosen evil instead of suffering.

²² "God does great things by his power. Is there any teacher like him?

²³ Who can tell him which way he should go? Who can say to him, You did wrong?

²⁴ Remember that you should praise his work. People have sung about it.

²⁵ Every person has seen it. Mortals have looked at it from a distance.

²⁶ "Certainly, God is so great that he is beyond our understanding. The number of his years cannot be counted.

²⁷ He collects drops of water. He distills rain from his mist,

²⁸ which then drips from the clouds. It pours down on many people.

²⁹ Can anyone really understand how clouds spread out or how he thunders from his dwelling place?

³⁰ Look, he scatters his flashes of lightning around him and covers the depths of the sea.

³¹ This is how he uses the rains to provide for people and to give them more than enough food.

³² He fills his hands with lightning and orders it to hit the target.

³³ The thunder announces his coming. The storm announces his angry wrath.

37 ¹ "My heart pounds because of this and jumps out of its place.

² Listen! Listen to the roar of Gods voice, to the rumbling that comes from his mouth.

³ He flashes his lightning everywhere under heaven. His light flashes to the ends of the earth.

⁴ It is followed by the roar of his voice. He thunders with his majestic voice. He doesnt hold the lightning back when his thunder is heard.

⁵ Gods voice thunders in miraculous ways. It does great things that we cannot understand.

⁶"He says to the snow, Fall to the ground, and to the pouring rain, Rain harder!

⁷He makes it impossible to do anything so that people will recognize his work.

⁸Animals go into their dens and stay in their lairs.

⁹A storm comes out of its chamber. It is cold because of the strong winds.

¹⁰Gods breath produces ice, and the seas freeze over.

¹¹Yes, he loads the thick clouds with moisture and scatters his lightning from the clouds.

¹²He guides the clouds as they churn round and round over the face of the inhabited earth to do everything he orders them.

¹³Whether for discipline, or for the good of his earth, or out of mercy, he makes the storm appear.

¹⁴"Open your ears to this, Job. Stop and consider Gods miracles.

¹⁵Do you know how God controls them and makes the lightning flash from his clouds?

¹⁶Do you know how the clouds drift
(these are the miracles of the one who
knows everything),

¹⁷you whose clothes are hot and
sweaty, when the earth is calm under a
south wind?

¹⁸Can you stretch out the skies with
him and make them as firm as a mirror
made of metal?

¹⁹Teach us what we should say to him.
We are unable to prepare a case because
of darkness.

²⁰Should he be told that I want to
speak? Can a person speak when he is
confused?

²¹People cant look at the sun when
its bright among the clouds or after the
wind has blown and cleared those clouds
away.

²²A golden light comes from the north.
A terrifying majesty is around God.

²³The Almighty, whom we cant reach,
is great in power and judgment, has
more than enough righteousness, and
does not oppress.

²⁴That is why people should fear him.
He does not respect those who think
theyre wise."

38¹ Then the LORD answered Job
out of the storm.

² "Who is this that belittles my advice
with words that do not show any
knowledge about it?

³ Brace yourself like a man! I will ask
you, and you will teach me.

⁴ "Where were you when I laid the
foundation of the earth? Tell me if you
have such insight.

⁵ Who determined its dimensions?
Certainly, you know! Who stretched a
measuring line over it?

⁶ On what were its footings sunk? Who
laid its cornerstone

⁷ when the morning stars sang together
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸ "Who shut the sea behind gates when
it burst through and came out of the
womb,

⁹ when I clothed it with clouds and
wrapped it up in dark clouds,

¹⁰ when I set a limit for it and put up
bars and gates,

¹¹ when I said, You may come this far
but no farther. Here your proud waves
will stop?

¹²"Have you ever given orders to the morning or assigned a place for the dawn

¹³so that it could grab the earth by its edges and shake wicked people out of it?

¹⁴The earth changes like clay stamped by a seal, and parts of it stand out like folds in clothing.

¹⁵Wicked people are deprived of their light, and an arm raised in victory is broken.

¹⁶Have you gone to the springs in the sea or walked through the valleys of the ocean depths?

¹⁷Have the gateways to death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gateways to total darkness?

¹⁸Have you even considered how wide the earth is? Tell me, if you know all of this!

¹⁹"What is the way to the place where light lives? Where is the home of darkness

²⁰so that you may lead it to its territory, so that you may know the path to its home?

²¹You must know because you were born then and have lived such a long time!

²² Have you been to the warehouses where snow is stored or seen the warehouses for hail

²³ that I have stored up for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war?

²⁴ Which is the way to the place where light is scattered and the east wind is spread across the earth?

²⁵ "Who made a channel for the flooding rains and a path for the thunderstorms

²⁶ to bring rain on a land where no one lives, on a desert where there are no humans,

²⁷ to saturate the desolate wasteland in order to make it sprout with grass?

²⁸ Does the rain have a father? Who gave birth to the dewdrops?

²⁹ From whose womb came the ice, and who has given birth to the frost in the air?

³⁰ The water hardens like a stone, and the surface of the ocean freezes over.

³¹ "Can you connect the chains of the constellation Pleiades or untie the ropes of Orion?

³² Can you bring out the constellations at the right time or guide Ursa Major with its cubs?

³³ Do you know the laws of the sky or make them rule the earth?

³⁴ Can you call to the clouds and have a flood of water cover you?

³⁵ Can you send lightning flashes so that they may go and say to you, Here we are?

³⁶ Who put wisdom in the heart or gave understanding to the mind?

³⁷ Who is wise enough to count the clouds or pour out the water jars of heaven

³⁸ when the dirt hardens into clumps and the soil clings together?

³⁹ "Can you hunt prey for the lioness and satisfy the hunger of her cubs

⁴⁰ as they crouch in their dens and lie ready to ambush from their lairs?

⁴¹ "Who provides food for the crow when its young ones cry to God and wander around in need of food?

39¹ "Do you know the time when the mountain goats give birth? Do you watch the does when they are in labor?

² Can you count the months they are pregnant or know the time when they'll give birth?

³They kneel down to give birth and deliver their young. Then the pain of giving birth is over.

⁴Their young are healthy and grow up in the wild. They leave and don't come back.

⁵"Who lets the wild donkey go free? Who unties the ropes of the wild donkey?

⁶I gave it the desert to live in and the salt flats as its dwelling place.

⁷It laughs at the noise of the city and doesn't even listen to the shouting of its master.

⁸It explores the mountains for its pasture and looks for anything green.

⁹"Will the wild ox agree to serve you, or will it stay at night beside your feeding trough?

¹⁰Can you guide a wild ox in a furrow, or will it plow the valleys behind you?

¹¹Can you trust it just because it's so strong or leave your labor to it?

¹²Can you rely on it to bring your grain back and take it to your threshing floor?

¹³"Does the ostrich flap its wings in joy, or do its wings lack feathers?

¹⁴It lays its eggs on the ground and warms them in the dust.

¹⁵It forgets that a foot may crush them or a wild animal may trample them.

¹⁶It acts harshly toward its young as if they werent its own. It is not afraid that its work is for nothing

¹⁷because God has deprived it of wisdom and did not give it any understanding.

¹⁸It laughs at the horse and its rider when it gets up to flee.

¹⁹"Can you give strength to a horse or dress its neck with a flowing mane?

²⁰Can you make it leap like a locust, when its snorting causes terror?

²¹It paws in strength and finds joy in its power. It charges into battle.

²²It laughs at fear, is afraid of nothing, and doesnt back away from swords.

²³A quiver of arrows rattles on it along with the flashing spear and javelin.

²⁴Anxious and excited, the horse eats up the ground and doesnt trust the sound of the rams horn.

²⁵As often as the horn sounds, the horse says, Aha! and it smells the battle far away the thundering orders of the captains and the battle cries.

²⁶"Does your understanding make a bird of prey fly and spread its wings toward the south?

²⁷Is it by your order that the eagle flies high and makes its nest on the heights?

²⁸It perches for the night on a cliff. Its fortress is on a jagged peak.

²⁹From there it seeks food, and its eyes see it from far away.

³⁰Its young ones feed on blood. It is found wherever there are dead bodies."

40¹The LORD responded to Job,
²"Will the person who finds fault with the Almighty correct him? Will the person who argues with God answer him?"

³Job answered the LORD,

⁴"I'm so insignificant. How can I answer you? I will put my hand over my mouth.

⁵I spoke once, but I can't answer twice, but not again."

⁶Then the LORD responded to Job out of a storm,

⁷"Brace yourself like a man! I will ask you, and you will teach me.

⁸"Would you undo my justice? Would you condemn me so that you can be righteous?

⁹Do you have power like Gods? Can you thunder with a voice like his?

¹⁰Then dress yourself in majesty and dignity. Clothe yourself in splendor and glory.

¹¹Unleash your outbursts of anger. Look at all who are arrogant, and put them down.

¹²Look at all who are arrogant, and humble them. Crush wicked people wherever they are.

¹³Hide them completely in the dust, and cover their faces in the hidden place.

¹⁴Then even I will praise you because your right hand can save you.

¹⁵"Look at Behemoth, which I made along with you. It eats grass as cattle do.

¹⁶Look at the strength in its back muscles, the power in its stomach muscles.

¹⁷It makes its tail stiff like a cedar. The ligaments of its thighs are intertwined.

¹⁸Its bones are bronze tubes. They are like iron bars.

¹⁹Behemoth is the first of Gods conquests. Its maker approaches it with his sword.

²⁰The hills bring it food, and all the wild animals play there.

²¹It lies down under the lotus plants in a hiding place among reeds and swamps.

²²Lotus plants provide it with cover. Poplars by the stream surround it.

²³Though the river flows powerfully against it, its not alarmed. Its confident even when the Jordan rushes against its mouth.

²⁴Can anyone blind its eyes or pierce its nose with snares?

41 ¹"Can you pull Leviathan out of the water with a fishhook or tie its tongue down with a rope?

²Can you put a ring through its nose or pierce its jaw with a hook?

³Will it plead with you for mercy or speak tenderly to you?

⁴Will it make an agreement with you so that you can take it as your permanent slave?

⁵Can you play with it like a bird or keep it on a leash for your girls?

⁶Will traders bargain over it and divide it among the merchants?

⁷Can you fill its hide with harpoons or its head with fishing spears?

⁸Lay your hand on it. Think of the struggle! Dont do it again!

⁹Certainly, any hope of defeating it is a false hope. Doesnt the sight of it overwhelm you?

¹⁰No one is brave enough to provoke Leviathan. Then who can stand in front of me?

¹¹Who can confront me that I should repay him? Everything under heaven belongs to me!

¹²"I will not be silent about Leviathans limbs, its strength, or its graceful form.

¹³Who can skin its hide? Who can approach it with a harness?

¹⁴Who can open its closed mouth? Its teeth are surrounded by terror.

¹⁵Its back has rows of scales that are tightly sealed.

¹⁶One is so close to the other that there is no space between them.

¹⁷Each is joined to the other. They are locked together and inseparable.

¹⁸When Leviathan sneezes, it gives out a flash of light. Its eyes are like the first rays of the dawn.

¹⁹Flames shoot from its mouth. Sparks of fire fly from it.

²⁰Smoke comes from its nostrils like a boiling pot heated over brushwood.

²¹Its breath sets coals on fire, and a flame pours from its mouth.

²²Strength resides in its neck, and power dances in front of it.

²³The folds of its flesh stick to each other. They are solid and cannot be moved.

²⁴Its chest is solid like a rock, solid like a millstone.

²⁵"The mighty are afraid when Leviathan rises. Broken down, they draw back.

²⁶A sword may strike it but not pierce it. Neither will a spear, lance, or dart.

²⁷It considers iron to be like straw and bronze to be like rotten wood.

²⁸An arrow wont make it run away. Stones from a sling turn to dust against it.

²⁹It considers clubs to be like stubble, and it laughs at a rattling javelin.

³⁰Its underside is like sharp pieces of broken pottery. It stretches out like a threshing sledge on the mud.

³¹It makes the deep sea boil like a pot. It stirs up the ocean like a boiling kettle.

³²It leaves a shining path behind it so that the sea appears to have silvery hair.

³³Nothing on land can compare to it. It was made fearless.

³⁴It looks down on all high things. It is king of everyone who is arrogant."

42¹ Then Job answered the LORD,
²"I know that you can do everything and that your plans are unstoppable.

³"You said, Who is this that belittles my advice without having any knowledge about it? Yes, I have stated things I didn't understand, things too mysterious for me to know.

⁴"You said, Listen now, and I will speak. I will ask you, and you will teach me.

⁵I had heard about you with my own ears, but now I have seen you with my own eyes.

⁶That is why I take back what I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show that I am sorry."

⁷After the LORD had said those things to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz from Teman, "I'm very angry with you and your two friends because you didn't

Speak what is right about me as my servant Job has done.

⁸So take seven young bulls and seven rams. Go to my servant Job, and make a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you. Then I will accept his prayer not to treat you as godless fools. After all, you didn't speak what is right about me as my servant Job has done."

⁹Then Eliphaz of Teman, Bildad of Shuah, and Zophar of Naama went and did what the LORD had told them to do. And the LORD accepted Job's prayer.

¹⁰After Job prayed for his friends, the LORD restored Job's prosperity and gave him twice as much as he had before.

¹¹Then all his brothers and sisters and everyone who had previously known him came to him. They ate with him at his house, sympathized with him, and comforted him for all the evil the LORD had brought to him. Each one gave him some money and a gold ring.

¹²The LORD blessed the latter years of Job's life more than the earlier years. He had 14,000 sheep and goats, 6,000 camels, 2,000 oxen, and 1,000 donkeys.

¹³He also had seven sons and three daughters.

¹⁴He named the first daughter Jemimah, the second Cassia, and the third Keren Happuch.

¹⁵Nowhere in the whole country could be found women who were as beautiful as Jobs daughters. Their father gave them and their brothers an inheritance.

¹⁶Job lived 140 years after this. He saw his children, grandchildren, and greatgrandchildren.

¹⁷Then at a very old age, Job died.

Psalms

1 ¹ Blessed is the person who does not follow the advice of wicked people, take the path of sinners, or join the company of mockers.

² Rather, he delights in the teachings of the LORD and reflects on his teachings day and night.

³ He is like a tree planted beside streams a tree that produces fruit in season and whose leaves do not wither. He succeeds in everything he does.

⁴ Wicked people are not like that. Instead, they are like husks that the wind blows away.

⁵ That is why wicked people will not be able to stand in the judgment and sinners will not be able to stand where righteous people gather.

⁶ The LORD knows the way of righteous people, but the way of wicked people will end.

2 ¹ Why do the nations gather together? Why do their people devise useless plots?

²Kings take their stands. Rulers make plans together against the LORD and against his Messiah by saying,

³"Let's break apart their chains and shake off their ropes."

⁴The one enthroned in heaven laughs. The Lord makes fun of them.

⁵Then he speaks to them in his anger. In his burning anger he terrifies them by saying,

⁶"I have installed my own king on Zion, my holy mountain."

⁷I will announce the LORDS decree. He said to me: "You are my Son. Today I have become your Father.

⁸Ask me, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance and the ends of the earth as your own possession.

⁹You will break them with an iron scepter. You will smash them to pieces like pottery."

¹⁰Now, you kings, act wisely. Be warned, you rulers of the earth!

¹¹Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

¹²Kiss the Son, or he will become angry and you will die on your way because his

anger will burst into flames. Blessed is everyone who takes refuge in him.

3¹ A psalm by David when he fled from his son Absalom. O LORD, look how my enemies have increased! Many are attacking me.

² Many are saying about me, "Even with God on his side, he won't be victorious." Selah

³ But you, O LORD, are a shield that surrounds me. You are my glory. You hold my head high.

⁴ I call aloud to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy mountain. Selah

⁵ I lie down and sleep. I wake up again because the LORD continues to support me.

⁶ I am not afraid of the tens of thousands who have taken positions against me on all sides.

⁷ Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God! You have slapped all my enemies in the face. You have smashed the teeth of wicked people.

⁸ Victory belongs to the LORD! May your blessing rest on your people. Selah

4¹ For the choir director; with stringed instruments; a psalm by David.

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness. You have freed me from my troubles. Have pity on me, and hear my prayer!

² You important people, how long are you going to insult my honor? How long are you going to love what is empty and seek what is a lie? Selah

³ Know that the LORD singles out godly people for himself. The LORD hears me when I call to him.

⁴ Tremble and do not sin. Think about this on your bed and remain quiet. Selah

⁵ Offer the sacrifices of righteousness by trusting the LORD.

⁶ Many are saying, "Who can show us anything good?" Let the light of your presence shine on us, O LORD.

⁷ You put more joy in my heart than when their grain and new wine increase.

⁸ I fall asleep in peace the moment I lie down because you alone, O LORD, enable me to live securely.

5¹ For the choir director; for flutes; a psalm by David. Open your ears

to my words, O LORD. Consider my innermost thoughts.

²Pay attention to my cry for help, my king and my God, because I pray only to you.

³In the morning, O LORD, hear my voice. In the morning I lay my needs in front of you, and I wait.

⁴You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness. Evil will never be your guest.

⁵Those who brag cannot stand in your sight. You hate all troublemakers.

⁶You destroy those who tell lies. The LORD is disgusted with bloodthirsty and deceitful people.

⁷But I will enter your house because of your great mercy. Out of reverence for you, I will bow toward your holy temple.

⁸O LORD, lead me in your righteousness because of those who spy on me. Make your way in front of me smooth.

⁹Nothing in their mouths is truthful. Destruction comes from their hearts. Their throats are open graves. They flatter with their tongues.

¹⁰Condemn them, O God. Let their own schemes be their downfall. Throw them

out for their many crimes because they have rebelled against you.

¹¹ But let all who take refuge in you rejoice. Let them sing with joy forever. Protect them, and let those who love your name triumph in you.

¹² You bless righteous people, O LORD. Like a large shield, you surround them with your favor.

6¹ For the choir director; with stringed instruments, on the sheminith; a psalm by David. O LORD, do not punish me in your anger or discipline me in your rage.

² Have pity on me, O LORD, because I am weak. Heal me, O LORD, because my bones shake with terror.

³ My soul has been deeply shaken with terror. But you, O LORD, how long?

⁴ Come back, O LORD. Rescue me. Save me because of your mercy!

⁵ In death, no one remembers you. In the grave, who praises you?

⁶ I am worn out from my groaning. My eyes flood my bed every night. I soak my couch with tears.

⁷ My eyes blur from grief. They fail because of my enemies.

⁸Get away from me, all you troublemakers, because the LORD has heard the sound of my crying.

⁹The LORD has heard my plea for mercy. The LORD accepts my prayer.

¹⁰All my enemies will be put to shame and deeply shaken with terror. In a moment they will retreat and be put to shame.

7¹ A shiggaion by David; he sang it to the LORD about the slanderous words of Cush, a descendant of Benjamin. O LORD my God, I have taken refuge in you. Save me, and rescue me from all who are pursuing me.

²Like a lion they will tear me to pieces and drag me off with no one to rescue me.

³O LORD my God, if I have done this if my hands are stained with injustice,

⁴if I have paid back my friend with evil or rescued someone who has no reason to attack me

⁵then let the enemy chase me and catch me. Let him trample my life into the ground. Let him lay my honor in the dust. Selah

⁶Arise in anger, O LORD. Stand up against the fury of my attackers. Wake up, my God. You have already pronounced judgment.

⁷Let an assembly of people gather around you. Take your seat high above them.

⁸The LORD judges the people of the world. Judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, according to my integrity.

⁹Let the evil within wicked people come to an end, but make the righteous person secure, O righteous God who examines thoughts and emotions.

¹⁰My shield is God above, who saves those whose motives are decent.

¹¹God is a fair judge, a God who is angered by injustice every day.

¹²If a person does not change, God sharpens his sword. By bending his bow, he makes it ready to shoot.

¹³He prepares his deadly weapons and turns them into flaming arrows.

¹⁴See how that person conceives evil, is pregnant with harm, and gives birth to lies.

¹⁵He digs a pit and shovels it out. Then he falls into the hole that he made for others.

¹⁶His mischief lands back on his own head. His violence comes down on top of him.

¹⁷I will give thanks to the LORD for his righteousness. I will make music to praise the name of the LORD Most High.

8¹For the choir director; on the gittith; a psalm by David. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth! Your glory is sung above the heavens.

²From the mouths of little children and infants, you have built a fortress against your opponents to silence the enemy and the avenger.

³When I look at your heavens, the creation of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have set in place

⁴what is a mortal that you remember him or the Son of Man that you take care of him?

⁵You have made him a little lower than yourself. You have crowned him with glory and honor.

⁶You have made him rule what your hands created. You have put everything under his control:

⁷all the sheep and cattle, the wild animals,

⁸the birds, the fish, whatever swims in the currents of the seas.

⁹O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!

9¹For the choir director; according to muth labben; a psalm by David. I will give you thanks, O LORD, with all my heart. I will tell about all the miracles you have done.

²I will find joy and be glad about you. I will make music to praise your name, O Most High.

³When my enemies retreat, they will stumble and die in your presence.

⁴You have defended my just cause: You sat down on your throne as a fair judge.

⁵You condemned nations. You destroyed wicked people. You wiped out their names forever and ever.

⁶The enemy is finished in ruins forever. You have uprooted their cities. Even the memory of them has faded.

⁷ Yet, the LORD is enthroned forever. He has set up his throne for judgment.

⁸ He alone judges the world with righteousness. He judges its people fairly.

⁹ The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

¹⁰ Those who know your name trust you, O LORD, because you have never deserted those who seek your help.

¹¹ Make music to praise the LORD, who is enthroned in Zion. Announce to the nations what he has done.

¹² The one who avenges murder has remembered oppressed people. He has never forgotten their cries.

¹³ Have pity on me, O LORD. Look at what I suffer because of those who hate me. You take me away from the gates of death

¹⁴ so that I may recite your praises one by one in the gates of Zion and find joy in your salvation.

¹⁵ The nations have sunk into the pit they have made. Their feet are caught in the net they have hidden to trap others.

¹⁶The LORD is known by the judgment he has carried out. The wicked person is trapped by the work of his own hands.

Higgaion Selah

¹⁷Wicked people, all the nations who forget God, will return to the grave.

¹⁸Needy people will not always be forgotten. Nor will the hope of oppressed people be lost forever.

¹⁹Arise, O LORD. Do not let mortals gain any power. Let the nations be judged in your presence.

²⁰Strike them with terror, O LORD. Let the nations know that they are only mortal. Selah

10¹Why are you so distant, LORD? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

²The wicked person arrogantly pursues oppressed people. He will be caught in the schemes that he planned.

³The wicked person boasts about his selfish desires. He blesses robbers, but he curses the LORD.

⁴He turns up his nose and says, "God doesn't care." His every thought concludes, "There is no God."

⁵He always seems to succeed.
Your judgments are beyond his
understanding. He spits at all his
opponents.

⁶He says to himself, "Nothing can shake
me. Ill never face any trouble."

⁷His mouth is full of cursing, deception,
and oppression. Trouble and wrongdoing
are on the tip of his tongue.

⁸He waits in ambush in the villages.
From his hiding places he kills innocent
people. His eyes are on the lookout for
victims.

⁹He lies in his hiding place like a lion
in his den. He hides there to catch
oppressed people. He catches oppressed
people when he draws them into his net.

¹⁰His victims are crushed. They
collapse, and they fall under the weight
of his power.

¹¹He says to himself, "God has
forgotten. He has hidden his face. He will
never see it!"

¹²Arise, O LORD! Lift your hand, O God.
Do not forget oppressed people!

¹³Why does the wicked person despise
God? Why does he say to himself, "God
doesnt care"?

¹⁴You have seen it; yes, you have taken note of trouble and grief and placed them under your control. The victim entrusts himself to you. You alone have been the helper of orphans.

¹⁵Break the arm of the wicked and evil person. Punish his wickedness until you find no more.

¹⁶The LORD is king forever and ever. The nations have vanished from his land.

¹⁷You have heard the desire of oppressed people, O LORD. You encourage them. You pay close attention to them

¹⁸in order to provide justice for orphans and oppressed people so that no mere mortal will terrify them again.

11 ¹For the choir director; by David. I have taken refuge in the LORD. How can you say to me: "Flee to your mountain like a bird?"

²Wicked people bend their bows. They set their arrows against the strings to shoot in the dark at people whose motives are decent.

³When the foundations of life are undermined, what can a righteous person do?"

⁴The LORD is in his holy temple. The LORDS throne is in heaven. His eyes see. They examine Adams descendants.

⁵The LORD tests righteous people, but he hates wicked people and the ones who love violence.

⁶He rains down fire and burning sulfur upon wicked people. He makes them drink from a cup filled with scorching wind.

⁷The LORD is righteous. He loves a righteous way of life. Decent people will see his face.

12¹ For the choir director; on the sheminith; a psalm by David. Help, O LORD. No godly person is left. Faithful people have vanished from among Adams descendants!

²All people speak foolishly. They speak with flattering lips. They say one thing but mean another.

³May the LORD cut off every flattering lip and every bragging tongue

⁴that has said, "We will overcome with our tongues. With lips such as ours, who can be our master?"

⁵"Because oppressed people are robbed and needy people groan, I will now

arise," says the LORD. "I will provide safety for those who long for it."

⁶The promises of the LORD are pure, like silver refined in a furnace and purified seven times.

⁷O LORD, you will protect them. You will keep each one safe from those people forever.

⁸Wicked people parade around when immorality increases among Adams descendants.

13¹ For the choir director; a psalm by David. How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

²How long must I make decisions alone with sorrow in my heart day after day? How long will my enemy triumph over me?

³Look at me! Answer me, O LORD my God! Light up my eyes, or else I will die

⁴and my enemy will say, "I have overpowered him." My opponents will rejoice because I have been shaken.

⁵But I trust your mercy. My heart finds joy in your salvation.

⁶I will sing to the LORD because he has been good to me.

14¹ For the choir director; by David.
Godless fools say in their hearts,
"There is no God." They are corrupt.
They do disgusting things. There is no
one who does good things.

² The LORD looks down from heaven
on Adams descendants to see if there
is anyone who acts wisely, if there is
anyone who seeks help from God.

³ Everyone has turned away. Together
they have become rotten to the core. No
one, not even one person, does good
things.

⁴ Are all those troublemakers, those
who devour my people as if they were
devouring food, so ignorant that they do
not call on the LORD?

⁵ There they are panicstricken because
God is with the person who is righteous.

⁶ They put the advice of oppressed
people to shame because the LORD is
their refuge.

⁷ If only salvation for Israel would come
from Zion! When the LORD restores the
fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice.
Israel will be glad.

15¹ A psalm by David. O LORD, who may stay in your tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?

² The one who walks with integrity, does what is righteous, and speaks the truth within his heart.

³ The one who does not slander with his tongue, do evil to a friend, or bring disgrace on his neighbor.

⁴ The one who despises those rejected by God but honors those who fear the LORD. The one who makes a promise and does not break it, even though he is hurt by it.

⁵ The one who does not collect interest on a loan or take a bribe against an innocent person. Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

16¹ A miktam by David. Protect me, O God, because I take refuge in you.

² I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord. Without you, I have nothing good."

³ Those who lead holy lives on earth are the noble ones who fill me with joy.

⁴ Those who quickly chase after other gods multiply their sorrows. I will not pour out their sacrificial offerings of

blood or use my lips to speak their names.

⁵The LORD is my inheritance and my cup. You are the one who determines my destiny.

⁶Your boundary lines mark out pleasant places for me. Indeed, my inheritance is something beautiful.

⁷I will praise the LORD, who advises me. My conscience warns me at night.

⁸I always keep the LORD in front of me. When he is by my side, I cannot be moved.

⁹That is why my heart is glad and my soul rejoices. My body rests securely

¹⁰because you do not abandon my soul to the grave or allow your holy one to decay.

¹¹You make the path of life known to me. Complete joy is in your presence. Pleasures are by your side forever.

17 ¹A prayer by David. Hear my plea for justice, O LORD. Pay attention to my cry. Open your ears to my prayer, which comes from lips free from deceit.

²Let the verdict of my innocence come directly from you. Let your eyes observe what is fair.

³You have probed my heart. You have confronted me at night. You have tested me like silver, but you found nothing wrong. I have determined that my mouth will not sin.

⁴I have avoided cruelty because of your word. In spite of what others have done,

⁵my steps have remained firmly in your paths. My feet have not slipped.

⁶I have called on you because you answer me, O God. Turn your ear toward me. Hear what I have to say.

⁷Reveal your miraculous deeds of mercy, O Savior of those who find refuge by your side from those who attack them.

⁸Guard me as if I were the pupil in your eye. Hide me in the shadow of your wings.

⁹Hide me from wicked people who violently attack me, from my deadly enemies who surround me.

¹⁰They have shut out all feeling. Their mouths have spoken arrogantly.

¹¹They have tracked me down. They have surrounded me. They have focused their attention on throwing me to the ground.

¹²Each one of them is like a lion eager to tear its prey apart and like a young lion crouching in hiding places.

¹³Arise, O LORD; confront them! Bring them to their knees! With your sword rescue my life from wicked people.

¹⁴With your power rescue me from mortals, O LORD, from mortals who enjoy their inheritance only in this life. You fill their bellies with your treasure. Their children are satisfied with it, and they leave what remains to their children.

¹⁵I will see your face when I am declared innocent. When I wake up, I will be satisfied with seeing you.

18¹For the choir director; by David, the servant of the LORD. He sang this song to the LORD when the LORD rescued him from all his enemies, especially from Saul. He said, I love you, O LORD, my strength.

²The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my Savior, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the strength of my salvation, my stronghold.

³The LORD should be praised. I called on him, and I was saved from my enemies.

⁴The ropes of death had become tangled around me. The torrents of destruction had overwhelmed me.

⁵The ropes of the grave had surrounded me. The clutches of death had confronted me.

⁶I called on the LORD in my distress. I cried to my God for help. He heard my voice from his temple, and my cry for help reached his ears.

⁷Then the earth shook and quaked. Even the foundations of the mountains trembled. They shook violently because he was angry.

⁸Smoke went up from his nostrils, and a raging fire came out of his mouth. Glowing coals flared up from it.

⁹He spread apart the heavens and came down with a dark cloud under his feet.

¹⁰He rode on one of the angels as he flew, and he soared on the wings of the wind.

¹¹He made the darkness his hiding place, the dark rain clouds his covering.

¹²Out of the brightness in front of him, those rain clouds passed by with hailstones and lightning.

¹³The LORD thundered in the heavens. The Most High made his voice heard with hailstones and lightning.

¹⁴He shot his arrows and scattered them. He flashed streaks of lightning and threw them into confusion.

¹⁵Then the ocean floor could be seen. The foundations of the earth were laid bare at your stern warning, O LORD, at the blast of the breath from your nostrils.

¹⁶He reached down from high above and took hold of me. He pulled me out of the raging water.

¹⁷He rescued me from my strong enemy and from those who hated me, because they were too strong for me.

¹⁸On the day when I faced disaster, they confronted me, but the LORD came to my defense.

¹⁹He brought me out to a wide open place. He rescued me because he was pleased with me.

²⁰The LORD rewarded me because of my righteousness, because my hands are clean. He paid me back

²¹ because I have kept the ways of the LORD and I have not wickedly turned away from my God,

²² because all his judgments are in front of me and I have not turned away from his laws.

²³ I was innocent as far as he was concerned. I have kept myself from guilt.

²⁴ The LORD paid me back because of my righteousness, because he can see that my hands are clean.

²⁵ In dealing with faithful people you are faithful, with innocent people you are innocent,

²⁶ with pure people you are pure. In dealing with devious people you are clever.

²⁷ You save humble people, but you bring down a conceited look.

²⁸ O LORD, you light my lamp. My God turns my darkness into light.

²⁹ With you I can attack a line of soldiers. With my God I can break through barricades.

³⁰ God's way is perfect! The promise of the LORD has proven to be true. He is a shield to all those who take refuge in him.

³¹ Who is God but the LORD? Who is a rock except our God?

³² God arms me with strength and makes my way perfect.

³³ He makes my feet like those of a deer and gives me sure footing on high places.

³⁴ He trains my hands for battle so that my arms can bend an archers bow of bronze.

³⁵ You have given me the shield of your salvation. Your right hand supports me. Your gentleness makes me great.

³⁶ You make a wide path for me to walk on so that my feet do not slip.

³⁷ I chased my enemies and caught up with them. I did not return until I had ended their lives.

³⁸ I wounded them so badly that they were unable to get up. They fell under my feet.

³⁹ You armed me with strength for battle. You made my opponents bow at my feet.

⁴⁰ You made my enemies turn their backs to me, and I destroyed those who hated me.

⁴¹ They cried out for help, but there was no one to save them. They cried out to the LORD, but he did not answer them.

⁴² I beat them into a powder as fine as the dust blown by the wind. I threw them out as though they were dirt on the streets.

⁴³ You rescued me from my conflicts with the people. You made me the leader of nations. A people I did not know will serve me:

⁴⁴ As soon as they hear of me, they will obey me. Foreigners will cringe in front of me.

⁴⁵ Foreigners will lose heart, and they will tremble when they come out of their fortifications.

⁴⁶ The LORD lives! Thanks be to my rock! May God my Savior be honored.

⁴⁷ God gives me vengeance! He brings people under my authority.

⁴⁸ He saves me from my enemies. You lift me up above my opponents. You rescue me from violent people.

⁴⁹ That is why I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the nations and make music to praise your name.

⁵⁰He gives great victories to his king. He shows mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his descendant forever.

19¹For the choir director; a psalm by David. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky displays what his hands have made.

²One day tells a story to the next. One night shares knowledge with the next

³without talking, without words, without their voices being heard.

⁴Yet, their sound has gone out into the entire world, their message to the ends of the earth. He has set up a tent in the heavens for the sun,

⁵which comes out of its chamber like a bridegroom. Like a champion, it is eager to run its course.

⁶It rises from one end of the heavens. It circles around to the other. Nothing is hidden from its heat.

⁷The teachings of the LORD are perfect. They renew the soul. The testimony of the LORD is dependable. It makes gullible people wise.

⁸The instructions of the LORD are correct. They make the heart rejoice.

The command of the LORD is radiant. It makes the eyes shine.

⁹The fear of the LORD is pure. It endures forever. The decisions of the LORD are true. They are completely fair.

¹⁰They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even the drippings from a honeycomb.

¹¹As your servant I am warned by them. There is a great reward in following them.

¹²Who can notice every mistake? Forgive my hidden faults.

¹³Keep me from sinning. Do not let anyone gain control over me. Then I will be blameless, and I will be free from any great offense.

¹⁴May the words from my mouth and the thoughts from my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my defender.

20¹For the choir director; a psalm by David. The LORD will answer you in times of trouble. The name of the God of Jacob will protect you.

²He will send you help from his holy place and support you from Zion.

³He will remember all your grain offerings and look with favor on your burnt offerings. Selah

⁴He will give you your hearts desire and carry out all your plans.

⁵We will joyfully sing about your victory. We will wave our flags in the name of our God. The LORD will fulfill all your requests.

⁶Now I know that the LORD will give victory to his anointed king. He will answer him from his holy heaven with mighty deeds of his powerful hand.

⁷Some rely on chariots and others on horses, but we will boast in the name of the LORD our God.

⁸They will sink to their knees and fall, but we will rise and stand firm.

⁹Give victory to the king, O LORD. Answer us when we call.

21 ¹For the choir director; a psalm by David. The king finds joy in your strength, O LORD. What great joy he has in your victory!

²You gave him his hearts desire. You did not refuse the prayer from his lips. Selah

³You welcomed him with the blessings of good things and set a crown of fine gold on his head.

⁴He asked you for life. You gave him a long life, forever and ever.

⁵Because of your victory his glory is great. You place splendor and majesty on him.

⁶Yes, you made him a blessing forever. You made him glad with the joy of your presence.

⁷Indeed, the king trusts the LORD, and through the mercy of the Most High, he will not be moved.

⁸Your hand will discover all your enemies. Your powerful hand will find all who hate you.

⁹When you appear, you will make them burn like a blazing furnace. The LORD will swallow them up in his anger. Fire will devour them.

¹⁰You will destroy their children from the earth and their offspring from among Adams descendants.

¹¹Although they scheme and plan evil against you, they will not succeed.

¹²They turn their backs and flee because you aim your bow at their faces.

¹³ Arise, O LORD, in your strength. We will sing and make music to praise your power.

22 ¹ For the choir director; according to ayyeleth hashachar; a psalm by David. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away from helping me, so far away from the words of my groaning?

² My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer also at night, but I find no rest.

³ Yet, you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴ Our ancestors trusted you. They trusted, and you rescued them.

⁵ They cried to you and were saved. They trusted you and were never disappointed.

⁶ Yet, I am a worm and not a man. I am scorned by humanity and despised by people.

⁷ All who see me make fun of me. Insults pour from their mouths. They shake their heads and say,

⁸ "Put yourself in the LORDS hands. Let the LORD save him! Let God rescue him since he is pleased with him!"

⁹Indeed, you are the one who brought me out of the womb, the one who made me feel safe at my mothers breasts.

¹⁰I was placed in your care from birth. From my mothers womb you have been my God.

¹¹Do not be so far away from me. Trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

¹²Many bulls have surrounded me. Strong bulls from Bashan have encircled me.

¹³They have opened their mouths to attack me like ferocious, roaring lions.

¹⁴I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax. It has melted within me.

¹⁵My strength is dried up like pieces of broken pottery. My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth. You lay me down in the dust of death.

¹⁶Dogs have surrounded me. A mob has encircled me. They have pierced my hands and feet.

¹⁷I can count all my bones. People stare. They gloat over me.

¹⁸They divide my clothes among themselves. They throw dice for my clothing.

¹⁹Do not be so far away, O LORD. Come quickly to help me, O my strength.

²⁰Rescue my soul from the sword, my life from vicious dogs.

²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion and from the horns of wild oxen. You have answered me.

²²I will tell my people about your name. I will praise you within the congregation.

²³All who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify him! Stand in awe of him, all you descendants of Israel.

²⁴The LORD has not despised or been disgusted with the plight of the oppressed one. He has not hidden his face from that person. The LORD heard when that oppressed person cried out to him for help.

²⁵My praise comes from you while I am among those assembled for worship. I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶ Oppressed people will eat until they are full. Those who look to the LORD will praise him. May you live forever.

²⁷ All the ends of the earth will remember and return to the LORD. All the families from all the nations will worship you

²⁸ because the kingdom belongs to the LORD and he rules the nations.

²⁹ All prosperous people on earth will eat and worship. All those who go down to the dust will kneel in front of him, even those who are barely alive.

³⁰ There will be descendants who serve him, a generation that will be told about the Lord.

³¹ They will tell people yet to be born about his righteousness that he has finished it.

23¹ A psalm by David. The LORD is my shepherd. I am never in need.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside peaceful waters.

³ He renews my soul. He guides me along the paths of righteousness for the sake of his name.

⁴Even though I walk through the dark valley of death, because you are with me, I fear no harm. Your rod and your staff give me courage.

⁵You prepare a banquet for me while my enemies watch. You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows.

⁶Certainly, goodness and mercy will stay close to me all the days of my life, and I will remain in the LORDS house for days without end.

24¹A psalm by David. The earth and everything it contains are the LORDS. The world and all who live in it are his.

²He laid its foundation on the seas and set it firmly on the rivers.

³Who may go up the LORDS mountain? Who may stand in his holy place?

⁴The one who has clean hands and a pure heart and does not long for what is false or lie when he is under oath.

⁵This person will receive a blessing from the LORD and righteousness from God, his savior.

⁶This is the person who seeks him, who searches for the face of the God of Jacob. Selah

⁷ Lift your heads, you gates. Be lifted, you ancient doors, so that the king of glory may come in.

⁸ Who is this king of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty! The LORD, heroic in battle!

⁹ Lift your heads, you gates. Be lifted, you ancient doors, so that the king of glory may come in.

¹⁰ Who, then, is this king of glory? The LORD of Armies is the king of glory! Selah

25 ¹ By David. To you, O LORD, I lift my soul.

² I trust you, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame. Do not let my enemies triumph over me.

³ No one who waits for you will ever be put to shame, but all who are unfaithful will be put to shame.

⁴ Make your ways known to me, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me because you are God, my savior. I wait all day long for you.

⁶ Remember, O LORD, your compassionate and merciful deeds. They have existed from eternity.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my rebellious ways. Remember me, O LORD, in keeping with your mercy and your goodness.

⁸ The LORD is good and decent. That is why he teaches sinners the way they should live.

⁹ He leads humble people to do what is right, and he teaches them his way.

¹⁰ Every path of the LORD is one of mercy and truth for those who cling to his promise and written instructions.

¹¹ For the sake of your name, O LORD, remove my guilt, because it is great.

¹² Who, then, is this person that fears the LORD? He is the one whom the LORD will teach which path to choose.

¹³ He will enjoy good things in life, and his descendants will inherit the land.

¹⁴ The LORD advises those who fear him. He reveals to them the intent of his promise.

¹⁵ My eyes are always on the LORD. He removes my feet from traps.

¹⁶ Turn to me, and have pity on me. I am lonely and oppressed.

¹⁷ Relieve my troubled heart, and bring me out of my distress.

¹⁸Look at my misery and suffering, and forgive all my sins.

¹⁹See how my enemies have increased in number, how they have hated me with vicious hatred!

²⁰Protect my life, and rescue me! Do not let me be put to shame. I have taken refuge in you.

²¹Integrity and honesty will protect me because I wait for you.

²²Rescue Israel, O God, from all its troubles!

26¹ By David. Judge me favorably, O LORD, because I have walked with integrity and I have trusted you without wavering.

²Examine me, O LORD, and test me. Look closely into my heart and mind.

³I see your mercy in front of me. I walk in the light of your truth.

⁴I did not sit with liars, and I will not be found among hypocrites.

⁵I have hated the mob of evildoers and will not sit with wicked people.

⁶I will wash my hands in innocence. I will walk around your altar, O LORD,

⁷so that I may loudly sing a hymn of thanksgiving and tell about all your miracles.

⁸O LORD, I love the house where you live, the place where your glory dwells.

⁹Do not sweep away my soul along with hardened sinners or my life along with bloodthirsty people.

¹⁰Evil schemes are in their hands. Their right hands are full of bribes.

¹¹But I walk with integrity. Rescue me, and have pity on me.

¹²My feet stand on level ground. I will praise the LORD with the choirs in worship.

27 ¹By David. The LORD is my light and my salvation. Who is there to fear? The LORD is my life's fortress. Who is there to be afraid of?

²Evildoers closed in on me to tear me to pieces. My opponents and enemies stumbled and fell.

³Even though an army sets up camp against me, my heart will not be afraid. Even though a war breaks out against me, I will still have confidence in the LORD.

⁴I have asked one thing from the LORD. This I will seek: to remain in the LORDS house all the days of my life in order to gaze at the LORDS beauty and to search for an answer in his temple.

⁵He hides me in his shelter when there is trouble. He keeps me hidden in his tent. He sets me high on a rock.

⁶Now my head will be raised above my enemies who surround me. I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy in his tent. I will sing and make music to praise the LORD.

⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud. Have pity on me, and answer me.

⁸When you said, "Seek my face," my heart said to you, "O LORD, I will seek your face."

⁹Do not hide your face from me. Do not angrily turn me away. You have been my help. Do not leave me! Do not abandon me, O God, my savior!

¹⁰Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD will take care of me.

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD. Lead me on a level path because I have enemies who spy on me.

¹²Do not surrender me to the will of my opponents. False witnesses have risen against me. They breathe out violence.

¹³I believe that I will see the goodness of the LORD in this world of the living.

¹⁴Wait with hope for the LORD. Be strong, and let your heart be courageous. Yes, wait with hope for the LORD.

28¹By David. O LORD, I call to you. O my rock, do not turn a deaf ear to me. If you remain silent, I will be like those who go into the pit.

²Hear my prayer for mercy when I call to you for help, when I lift my hands toward your most holy place.

³Do not drag me away with wicked people, with troublemakers who speak of peace with their neighbors but have evil in their hearts.

⁴Pay them back for what they have done, for their evil deeds. Pay them back for what their hands have done, and give them what they deserve.

⁵The LORD will tear them down and never build them up again, because they never consider what he has done or what his hands have made.

⁶Thank the LORD! He has heard my prayer for mercy!

⁷The LORD is my strength and my shield. My heart trusted him, so I received help. My heart is triumphant; I give thanks to him with my song.

⁸The LORD is the strength of his people and a fortress for the victory of his Messiah.

⁹Save your people, and bless those who belong to you. Be their shepherd, and carry them forever.

29¹A psalm by David. Give to the LORD, you heavenly beings. Give to the LORD glory and power.

²Give to the LORD the glory his name deserves. Worship the LORD in his holy splendor.

³The voice of the LORD rolls over the water. The God of glory thunders. The LORD shouts over raging water.

⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful. The voice of the LORD is majestic.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars. The LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶He makes Lebanon skip along like a calf and Mount Sirion like a wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning.

⁸ The voice of the LORD makes the wilderness tremble. The LORD makes the wilderness of Kadesh tremble.

⁹ The voice of the LORD splits the oaks and strips the trees of the forests bare. Everyone in his temple is saying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ The LORD sat enthroned over the flood. The LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

¹¹ The LORD will give power to his people. The LORD will bless his people with peace.

30¹ A psalm by David sung at the dedication of the temple. I will honor you highly, O LORD, because you have pulled me out of the pit and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

² O LORD my God, I cried out to you for help, and you healed me.

³ O LORD, you brought me up from the grave. You called me back to life from among those who had gone into the pit.

⁴ Make music to praise the LORD, you faithful people who belong to him. Remember his holiness by giving thanks.

⁵His anger lasts only a moment. His favor lasts a lifetime. Weeping may last for the night, but there is a song of joy in the morning.

⁶When all was well with me, I said, "I will never be shaken."

⁷O LORD, by your favor you have made my mountain stand firm. When you hid your face, I was terrified.

⁸I will cry out to you, O LORD. I will plead to the Lord for mercy:

⁹"How will you profit if my blood is shed, if I go into the pit? Will the dust of my body give thanks to you? Will it tell about your truth?"

¹⁰Hear, O LORD, and have pity on me! O LORD, be my helper!

¹¹You have changed my sobbing into dancing. You have removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy

¹²so that my soul may praise you with music and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

31 ¹For the choir director; a psalm by David. I have taken refuge in you, O LORD. Never let me be put to shame. Save me because of your righteousness.

²Turn your ear toward me. Rescue me quickly. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

³Indeed, you are my rock and my fortress. For the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴You are my refuge, so pull me out of the net that they have secretly laid for me.

⁵Into your hands I entrust my spirit. You have rescued me, O LORD, God of truth.

⁶I hate those who cling to false gods, but I trust the LORD.

⁷I will rejoice and be glad because of your mercy. You have seen my misery. You have known the troubles in my soul.

⁸You have not handed me over to the enemy. You have set my feet in a place where I can move freely.

⁹Have pity on me, O LORD, because I am in distress. My eyes, my soul, and my body waste away from grief.

¹⁰My life is exhausted from sorrow, my years from groaning. My strength staggers under the weight of my guilt, and my bones waste away.

¹¹ I have become a disgrace because of all my opponents. I have become someone dreaded by my friends, even by my neighbors. Those who see me on the street run away from me.

¹² I have faded from memory as if I were dead and have become like a piece of broken pottery.

¹³ I have heard the whispering of many people terror on every side while they made plans together against me. They were plotting to take my life.

¹⁴ I trust you, O LORD. I said, "You are my God."

¹⁵ My future is in your hands. Rescue me from my enemies, from those who persecute me.

¹⁶ Smile on me. Save me with your mercy.

¹⁷ O LORD, I have called on you, so do not let me be put to shame, Let wicked people be put to shame. Let them be silent in the grave.

¹⁸ Let their lying lips be speechless, since they speak against righteous people with arrogance and contempt.

¹⁹ Your kindness is so great! You reserve it for those who fear you. Adams

descendants watch as you show it to those who take refuge in you.

²⁰You hide them in the secret place of your presence from those who scheme against them. You keep them in a shelter, safe from quarrelsome tongues.

²¹Thank the LORD! He has shown me the miracle of his mercy in a city under attack.

²²When I was panicstricken, I said, "I have been cut off from your sight." But you heard my pleas for mercy when I cried out to you for help.

²³Love the LORD, all you godly ones! The LORD protects faithful people, but he pays back in full those who act arrogantly.

²⁴Be strong, all who wait with hope for the LORD, and let your heart be courageous.

32¹A psalm by David; a maskil.
Blessed is the person whose disobedience is forgiven and whose sin is pardoned.

²Blessed is the person whom the LORD no longer accuses of sin and who has no deceitful thoughts.

³When I kept silent about my sins, my bones began to weaken because of my groaning all day long.

⁴Day and night your hand lay heavily on me. My strength shriveled in the summer heat. Selah

⁵I made my sins known to you, and I did not cover up my guilt. I decided to confess them to you, O LORD. Then you forgave all my sins. Selah

⁶For this reason let all godly people pray to you when you may be found. Then raging floodwater will not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding place. You protect me from trouble. You surround me with joyous songs of salvation. Selah

⁸The LORD says, "I will instruct you. I will teach you the way that you should go. I will advise you as my eyes watch over you.

⁹Dont be stubborn like a horse or mule. They need a bit and bridle in their mouth to restrain them, or they will not come near you."

¹⁰Many heartaches await wicked people, but mercy surrounds those who trust the LORD.

¹¹ Be glad and find joy in the LORD, you righteous people. Sing with joy, all whose motives are decent.

33 ¹ Joyfully sing to the LORD, you righteous people. Praising the LORD is proper for decent people.

² Give thanks with a lyre to the LORD. Make music for him on a tenstringed harp.

³ Sing a new song to him. Play beautifully and joyfully on stringed instruments.

⁴ The word of the LORD is correct, and everything he does is trustworthy.

⁵ The LORD loves righteousness and justice. His mercy fills the earth.

⁶ The heavens were made by the word of the LORD and all the stars by the breath of his mouth.

⁷ He gathers the water in the sea like a dam and puts the oceans in his storehouses.

⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD. Let all who live in the world stand in awe of him.

⁹ He spoke, and it came into being. He gave the order, and there it stood.

¹⁰The LORD blocks the plans of the nations. He frustrates the schemes of the people of the world.

¹¹The LORDS plan stands firm forever. His thoughts stand firm in every generation.

¹²Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD. Blessed are the people he has chosen as his own.

¹³The LORD looks down from heaven. He sees all of Adams descendants.

¹⁴From the place where he sits enthroned, he looks down upon all who live on earth.

¹⁵The one who formed their hearts understands everything they do.

¹⁶No king achieves a victory with a large army. No warrior rescues himself by his own great strength.

¹⁷Horses are not a guarantee for victory. Their great strength cannot help someone escape.

¹⁸The LORDS eyes are on those who fear him, on those who wait with hope for his mercy

¹⁹to rescue their souls from death and keep them alive during a famine.

²⁰We wait for the LORD. He is our help and our shield.

²¹In him our hearts find joy. In his holy name we trust.

²²Let your mercy rest on us, O LORD, since we wait with hope for you.

34¹ By David when he pretended to be insane in the presence of Abimelech; Abimelech threw him out, so David left. I will thank the LORD at all times. My mouth will always praise him.

²My soul will boast about the LORD. Those who are oppressed will hear it and rejoice.

³Praise the LORDS greatness with me. Let us highly honor his name together.

⁴I went to the LORD for help. He answered me and rescued me from all my fears.

⁵All who look to him will be radiant. Their faces will never be covered with shame.

⁶Here is a poor man who called out. The LORD heard him and saved him from all his troubles.

⁷The Messenger of the LORD camps around those who fear him, and he rescues them.

⁸Taste and see that the LORD is good. Blessed is the person who takes refuge in him.

⁹Fear the LORD, you holy people who belong to him. Those who fear him are never in need.

¹⁰Young lions go hungry and may starve, but those who seek the LORDS help have all the good things they need.

¹¹Come, children, listen to me. I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

¹²Which of you wants a full life? Who would like to live long enough to enjoy good things?

¹³Keep your tongue from saying evil things and your lips from speaking deceitful things.

¹⁴Turn away from evil, and do good. Seek peace, and pursue it!

¹⁵The LORDS eyes are on righteous people. His ears hear their cry for help.

¹⁶The LORD confronts those who do evil in order to wipe out all memory of them from the earth.

¹⁷Righteous people cry out. The LORD hears and rescues them from all their troubles.

¹⁸The LORD is near to those whose hearts are humble. He saves those whose spirits are crushed.

¹⁹The righteous person has many troubles, but the LORD rescues him from all of them.

²⁰The LORD guards all of his bones. Not one of them is broken.

²¹Evil will kill wicked people, and those who hate righteous people will be condemned.

²²The LORD protects the souls of his servants. All who take refuge in him will never be condemned.

35¹ By David. O LORD, attack those who attack me. Fight against those who fight against me.

²Use your shields, both small and large. Arise to help me.

³Hold your spear to block the way of those who pursue me. Say to my soul, "I am your savior."

⁴Let those who seek my life be put to shame and disgraced. Let those who plan my downfall be turned back in confusion.

⁵Let them be like husks blown by the wind as the Messenger of the LORD chases them.

⁶Let their path be dark and slippery as the Messenger of the LORD pursues them.

⁷For no reason they hid their net in a pit. For no reason they dug the pit to trap me.

⁸Let destruction surprise them. Let the net that they hid catch them. Let them fall into their own pit and be destroyed.

⁹My soul will find joy in the LORD and be joyful about his salvation.

¹⁰All my bones will say, "O LORD, who can compare with you? You rescue the weak person from the one who is too strong for him and weak and needy people from the one who robs them."

¹¹Malicious people bring charges against me. They ask me things I know nothing about.

¹²I am devastated because they pay me back with evil instead of good.

¹³But when they were sick, I wore sackcloth. I humbled myself with fasting. When my prayer returned unanswered,

¹⁴I walked around as if I were mourning for my friend or my brother. I was bent over as if I were mourning for my mother.

¹⁵Yet, when I stumbled, they rejoiced and gathered together. They gathered together against me. Unknown attackers tore me apart without stopping.

¹⁶With crude and abusive mockers, they grit their teeth at me.

¹⁷O Lord, how long will you look on? Rescue me from their attacks. Rescue my precious life from the lions.

¹⁸I will give you thanks in a large gathering. I will praise you in a crowd of worshipers.

¹⁹Do not let my treacherous enemies gloat over me. Do not let those who hate me for no reason wink at me.

²⁰They do not talk about peace. Instead, they scheme against the peaceful people in the land.

²¹They open their big mouths and say about me, "Aha! Aha! Our own eyes have seen it."

²²You have seen it, O LORD. Do not remain silent. O Lord, do not be so far away from me.

²³Wake up, and rise to my defense.
Plead my case, O my God and my Lord.

²⁴Judge me by your righteousness, O
LORD my God. Do not let them gloat
over me

²⁵or think, "Aha, just what we wanted!"
Do not let them say, "We have swallowed
him up."

²⁶Let those who gloat over my
downfall be thoroughly put to shame
and confused. Let those who promote
themselves at my expense be clothed
with shame and disgrace.

²⁷Let those who are happy when I
am declared innocent joyfully sing and
rejoice. Let them continually say, "The
LORD is great. He is happy when his
servant has peace."

²⁸Then my tongue will tell about your
righteousness, about your praise all day
long.

36 ¹For the choir director; by David,
the LORDS servant. There is an
inspired truth about the wicked person
who has rebellion in the depths of his
heart: He is not terrified of God.

²He flatters himself and does not hate
or even recognize his guilt.

³The words from his mouth are nothing but trouble and deception. He has stopped doing what is wise and good.

⁴He invents trouble while lying on his bed and chooses to go the wrong direction. He does not reject evil.

⁵O LORD, your mercy reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

⁶Your righteousness is like the mountains of God, your judgments like the deep ocean. You save people and animals, O LORD.

⁷Your mercy is so precious, O God, that Adams descendants take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

⁸They are refreshed with the rich foods in your house, and you make them drink from the river of your pleasure.

⁹Indeed, the fountain of life is with you. In your light we see light.

¹⁰Continue to show your mercy to those who know you and your righteousness to those whose motives are decent.

¹¹Do not let the feet of arrogant people step on me or the hands of wicked people push me away.

¹²Look at the troublemakers who have fallen. They have been pushed down and are unable to stand up again.

37 ¹By David. Do not be preoccupied with evildoers. Do not envy those who do wicked things.

²They will quickly dry up like grass and wither away like green plants.

³Trust the LORD, and do good things. Live in the land, and practice being faithful.

⁴Be happy with the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

⁵Entrust your ways to the LORD. Trust him, and he will act on your behalf.

⁶He will make your righteousness shine like a light, your just cause like the noonday sun.

⁷Surrender yourself to the LORD, and wait patiently for him. Do not be preoccupied with an evildoer who succeeds in his way when he carries out his schemes.

⁸Let go of anger, and leave rage behind. Do not be preoccupied. It only leads to evil.

⁹Evildoers will be cut off from their inheritance, but those who wait with hope for the LORD will inherit the land.

¹⁰In a little while a wicked person will vanish. Then you can carefully examine where he was, but there will be no trace of him.

¹¹Oppressed people will inherit the land and will enjoy unlimited peace.

¹²The wicked person plots against a righteous one and grits his teeth at him.

¹³The Lord laughs at him because he has seen that his time is coming.

¹⁴Wicked people pull out their swords and bend their bows to kill oppressed and needy people, to slaughter those who are decent.

¹⁵But their own swords will pierce their hearts, and their bows will be broken.

¹⁶The little that the righteous person has is better than the wealth of many wicked people.

¹⁷The arms of wicked people will be broken, but the LORD continues to support righteous people.

¹⁸The LORD knows the daily struggles of innocent people. Their inheritance will last forever.

¹⁹They will not be put to shame in trying times. Even in times of famine they will be satisfied.

²⁰But wicked people will disappear. The LORDS enemies will vanish like the best part of a meadow. They will vanish like smoke.

²¹A wicked person borrows, but he does not repay. A righteous person is generous and giving.

²²Those who are blessed by him will inherit the land. Those who are cursed by him will be cut off.

²³A persons steps are directed by the LORD, and the LORD delights in his way.

²⁴When he falls, he will not be thrown down headfirst because the LORD holds on to his hand.

²⁵I have been young, and now I am old, but I have never seen a righteous person abandoned or his descendants begging for food.

²⁶He is always generous and lends freely. His descendants are a blessing.

²⁷Avoid evil, do good, and live forever.

²⁸The LORD loves justice, and he will not abandon his godly ones. They will be

kept safe forever, but the descendants of wicked people will be cut off.

²⁹ Righteous people will inherit the land and live there permanently.

³⁰ The mouth of the righteous person reflects on wisdom. His tongue speaks what is fair.

³¹ The teachings of his God are in his heart. His feet do not slip.

³² The wicked person watches the righteous person and seeks to kill him.

³³ But the LORD will not abandon him to the wicked persons power or condemn him when he is brought to trial.

³⁴ Wait with hope for the LORD, and follow his path, and he will honor you by giving you the land. When wicked people are cut off, you will see it.

³⁵ I have seen a wicked person acting like a tyrant, spreading himself out like a large cedar tree.

³⁶ But he moved on, and now there is no trace of him. I searched for him, but he could not be found.

³⁷ Notice the innocent person, and look at the decent person, because the peacemaker has a future.

³⁸ But rebels will be completely destroyed. The future of wicked people will be cut off.

³⁹ The victory for righteous people comes from the LORD. He is their fortress in times of trouble.

⁴⁰ The LORD helps them and rescues them. He rescues them from wicked people. He saves them because they have taken refuge in him.

38¹ A psalm by David; to be kept in mind. O LORD, do not angrily punish me or discipline me in your wrath.

² Your arrows have struck me. Your hand has struck me hard.

³ No healthy spot is left on my body because of your rage. There is no peace in my bones because of my sin.

⁴ My guilt has overwhelmed me. Like a heavy load, it is more than I can bear.

⁵ My wounds smell rotten. They fester because of my stupidity.

⁶ I am bent over and bowed down very low. All day I walk around in mourning.

⁷ My insides are filled with burning pain, and no healthy spot is left on my body.

⁸ I am numb and completely devastated. I roar because my hearts in turmoil.

⁹You know all my desires, O Lord, and my groaning has not been hidden from you.

¹⁰My heart is pounding. I have lost my strength. Even the light of my eyes has left me.

¹¹My loved ones and my friends keep their distance and my relatives stand far away because of my sickness.

¹²Those who seek my life lay traps for me. Those who are out to harm me talk about ruining me. All day long they think of ways to deceive me.

¹³But I am like a person who cannot hear and like a person who cannot speak.

¹⁴I am like one who cannot hear and who can offer no arguments.

¹⁵But I wait with hope for you, O LORD. You will answer, O Lord, my God.

¹⁶I said, "Do not let them gloat over me. When my foot slips, do not let them promote themselves at my expense."

¹⁷I am ready to fall. I am continually aware of my pain.

¹⁸I confess my guilt. My sin troubles me.

¹⁹My mortal enemies are growing stronger. Many hate me for no reason.

²⁰They pay me back with evil instead of good, and they accuse me because I try to do what is good.

²¹Do not abandon me, O LORD. O my God, do not be so distant from me.

²²Come quickly to help me, O Lord, my savior.

39¹For the choir director; for Jeduthun; a psalm by David. I said, "I will watch my ways so that I do not sin with my tongue. I will bridle my mouth while wicked people are in my presence."

²I remained totally speechless. I kept silent, although it did me no good. While I was deep in thought, my pain grew worse.

³My heart burned like a fire flaring up within me. Then I spoke with my tongue:

⁴"Teach me, O LORD, about the end of my life. Teach me about the number of days I have left so that I may know how temporary my life is.

⁵Indeed, you have made the length of my days only a few inches. My life span is nothing compared to yours. Certainly,

everyone alive is like a whisper in the wind. Selah

⁶Each person who walks around is like a shadow. They are busy for no reason. They accumulate riches without knowing who will get them."

⁷And now, Lord, what am I waiting for? My hope is in you!

⁸Rescue me from all my rebellious acts. Do not disgrace me in front of godless fools.

⁹I remained speechless. I did not open my mouth because you are the one who has done this.

¹⁰Remove the sickness you laid upon me. My life is over because you struck me with your hand.

¹¹With stern warnings you discipline people for their crimes. Like a moth you eat away at what is dear to them. Certainly, everyone is like a whisper in the wind. Selah

¹²Listen to my prayer, O LORD. Open your ear to my cry for help. Do not be deaf to my tears, for I am a foreign resident with you, a stranger like all my ancestors.

¹³Look away from me so that I may smile again before I go away and am no more.

40¹For the choir director; a psalm by David. I waited patiently for the LORD. He turned to me and heard my cry for help.

²He pulled me out of a horrible pit, out of the mud and clay. He set my feet on a rock and made my steps secure.

³He placed a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see this and worship. They will trust the LORD.

⁴Blessed is the person who places his confidence in the LORD and does not rely on arrogant people or those who follow lies.

⁵You have done many miraculous things, O LORD my God. You have made many wonderful plans for us. No one compares to you! I will tell others about your miracles, which are more than I can count.

⁶You were not pleased with sacrifices and offerings. You have dug out two ears for me. You did not ask for burnt offerings or sacrifices for sin.

⁷Then I said, "I have come! (It is written about me in the scroll of the book.)

⁸I am happy to do your will, O my God." Your teachings are deep within me.

⁹I will announce the good news of righteousness among those assembled for worship. I will not close my lips. You know that, O LORD.

¹⁰I have not buried your righteousness deep in my heart. I have been outspoken about your faithfulness and your salvation. I have not hidden your mercy and your truth from those assembled for worship.

¹¹Do not withhold your compassion from me, O LORD. May your mercy and your truth always protect me.

¹²Countless evils have surrounded me. My sins have caught up with me so that I can no longer see. They outnumber the hairs on my head. I have lost heart.

¹³O LORD, please rescue me! Come quickly to help me, O LORD!

¹⁴Let all those who seek to end my life be confused and put to shame. Let those

who want my downfall be turned back and disgraced.

¹⁵Let those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!" be stunned by their own shame.

¹⁶Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad because of you. Let those who love your salvation continually say, "The LORD is great!"

¹⁷But I am oppressed and needy. May the Lord think of me. You are my help and my savior. O my God, do not delay!

41 ¹For the choir director; a psalm by David. Blessed is the one who has concern for helpless people. The LORD will rescue him in times of trouble.

²The LORD will protect him and keep him alive. He will be blessed in the land. Do not place him at the mercy of his enemies.

³The LORD will support him on his sickbed. You will restore this person to health when he is ill.

⁴I said, "O LORD, have pity on me! Heal my soul because I have sinned against you."

⁵My enemies say terrible things about me: "When will he die, and when will his family name disappear?"

⁶When one of them comes to visit me, he speaks foolishly. His heart collects gossip. Then he leaves to tell others.

⁷Everyone who hates me whispers about me. They think evil things about me and say,

⁸"A devilish disease has attached itself to him. He will never leave his sickbed."

⁹Even my closest friend whom I trusted, the one who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

¹⁰Have pity on me, O LORD! Raise me up so that I can pay them back

¹¹and my enemy cannot shout in triumph over me. When you do this, I know that you are pleased with me.

¹²You defend my integrity, and you set me in your presence forever.

¹³Thank the LORD God of Israel through all eternity! Amen and amen!

42¹For the choir director; a maskil by Korah's descendants. As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When may I come to see God's face?

³My tears are my food day and night. People ask me all day long, "Where is your God?"

⁴I will remember these things as I pour out my soul: how I used to walk with the crowd and lead it in a procession to God's house. I sang songs of joy and thanksgiving while crowds of people celebrated a festival.

⁵Why are you discouraged, my soul? Why are you so restless? Put your hope in God, because I will still praise him. He is my savior and my God.

⁶My soul is discouraged. That is why I will remember you in the land of Jordan, on the peaks of Hermon, on Mount Mizar.

⁷One deep sea calls to another at the roar of your waterspouts. All the whitecaps on your waves have swept over me.

⁸The LORD commands his mercy during the day, and at night his song is with me a prayer to the God of my life.

⁹I will ask God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I walk around in mourning while the enemy oppresses me?"

¹⁰With a shattering blow to my bones, my enemies taunt me. They ask me all day long, "Where is your God?"

¹¹Why are you discouraged, my soul? Why are you so restless? Put your hope in God, because I will still praise him. He is my savior and my God.

43 ¹Judge me, O God, and plead my case against an ungodly nation. Rescue me from deceitful and unjust people.

²You are my fortress, O God! Why have you rejected me? Why must I walk around in mourning while the enemy oppresses me?

³Send your light and your truth. Let them guide me. Let them bring me to your holy mountain and to your dwelling place.

⁴Then let me go to the altar of God, to God my highest joy, and I will give thanks to you on the lyre, O God, my God.

⁵Why are you discouraged, my soul? Why are you so restless? Put your hope in God, because I will still praise him. He is my savior and my God.

44¹ For the choir director; a maskil by Korah's descendants. O God, we have heard it with our own ears. Our ancestors have told us about the miracle you performed in their day, in days long ago.

² By your power you forced nations out of the land, but you planted our ancestors there. You shattered many groups of people, but you set our ancestors free.

³ It was not with their swords that they took possession of the land. They did not gain victory with their own strength. It was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your presence that did it, because you were pleased with them.

⁴ You alone are my king, O God. You won those victories for Jacob.

⁵ With you we can walk over our enemies. With your name we can trample those who attack us.

⁶ I do not rely on my bow, and my sword will never save me.

⁷ But you saved us from our enemies. You put to shame those who hate us.

⁸ All day long we praise our God. We give thanks to you forever. Selah

⁹But now you have rejected and disgraced us. You do not even go along with our armies.

¹⁰You make us retreat from the enemy. Those who hate us rob us at will.

¹¹You hand us over to be butchered like sheep and scatter us among the nations.

¹²You sell your people for almost nothing, and at that price you have gained nothing.

¹³You made us a disgrace to our neighbors and an object of ridicule and contempt to those around us.

¹⁴You made our defeat a proverb among the nations so that people shake their heads at us.

¹⁵All day long my disgrace is in front of me. Shame covers my face

¹⁶because of the words of those who insult and slander us, because of the presence of the enemy and the avenger.

¹⁷Although all of this happened to us, we never forgot you. We never ignored your promise.

¹⁸Our hearts never turned away. Our feet never left your path.

¹⁹Yet, you crushed us in a place for jackals and covered us with the shadow of death.

²⁰If we forgot the name of our God or stretched out our hands to pray to another god,

²¹wouldnt God find out, since he knows the secrets in our hearts?

²²Indeed, we are being killed all day long because of you. We are thought of as sheep to be slaughtered.

²³Wake up! Why are you sleeping, O Lord? Awake! Do not reject us forever!

²⁴Why do you hide your face? Why do you forget our suffering and misery?

²⁵Our souls are bowing in the dust. Our bodies cling to the ground.

²⁶Arise! Help us! Rescue us because of your mercy!

45¹For the choir director; according to shoshannim; a maskil by Korahs descendants; a love song. My heart is overflowing with good news. I will direct my song to the king. My tongue is a pen for a skillful writer.

²You are the most handsome of Adams descendants. Grace is poured on your

lips. That is why God has blessed you forever.

³O warrior, strap your sword to your side with your splendor and majesty.

⁴Ride on victoriously in your majesty for the cause of truth, humility, and righteousness. Let your right hand teach you aweinspiring things.

⁵Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the kings enemies. Nations fall beneath you.

⁶Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter in your kingdom is a scepter for justice.

⁷You have loved what is right and hated what is wrong. That is why God, your God, has anointed you, rather than your companions, with the oil of joy.

⁸All your robes are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia. From ivory palaces the music of stringed instruments delights you.

⁹The daughters of kings are among your noble ladies. The queen takes her place at your right hand and wears gold from Ophir.

¹⁰Listen, daughter! Look closely! Turn your ear toward me. Forget your people, and forget your fathers house.

¹¹The king longs for your beauty. He is your Lord. Worship him.

¹²The people of Tyre, the richest people, want to win your favor with a gift.

¹³The daughter of the king is glorious inside the palace. Her dress is embroidered with gold.

¹⁴Wearing a colorful gown, she is brought to the king. Her bridesmaids follow her. They will be brought to you.

¹⁵With joy and delight they are brought in. They enter the palace of the king.

¹⁶Your sons will take the place of your father. You will make them princes over the whole earth.

¹⁷I will cause your name to be remembered throughout every generation. That is why the nations will give thanks to you forever and ever.

46¹For the choir director; a song by the descendants of Korah; according to alamothe. God is our refuge and strength, an everpresent help in times of trouble.

²That is why we are not afraid even when the earth quakes or the mountains topple into the depths of the sea.

³Water roars and foams, and mountains shake at the surging waves. Selah

⁴There is a river whose streams bring joy to the city of God, the holy place where the Most High lives.

⁵God is in that city. It cannot fall. God will help it at the break of dawn.

⁶Nations are in turmoil, and kingdoms topple. The earth melts at the sound of Gods voice.

⁷The LORD of Armies is with us. The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah

⁸Come, see the works of the LORD, the devastation he has brought to the earth.

⁹He puts an end to wars all over the earth. He breaks an archers bow. He cuts spears in two. He burns chariots.

¹⁰Let go of your concerns! Then you will know that I am God. I rule the nations. I rule the earth.

¹¹The LORD of Armies is with us. The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah

47 ¹For the choir director; a psalm by Korahs descendants. Clap your

hands, all you people. Shout to God with a loud, joyful song.

²We must fear the LORD, the Most High. He is the great king of the whole earth.

³He brings people under our authority and puts nations under our feet.

⁴He chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved. Selah

⁵God has gone up with a joyful shout. The LORD has gone up with the sound of a rams horn.

⁶Make music to praise God. Play music for him! Make music to praise our king. Play music for him!

⁷God is the king of the whole earth. Make your best music for him!

⁸God rules the nations. He sits upon his holy throne.

⁹The influential people from the nations gather together as the people of the God of Abraham. The rulers of the earth belong to God. He rules everything.

48¹A song; a psalm by Korahs descendants. The LORD is great. He should be highly praised. His holy mountain is in the city of our God.

²Its beautiful peak is the joy of the whole earth. Mount Zion is on the northern ridge. It is the city of the great king.

³God is in its palaces. He has proved that he is a stronghold.

⁴The kings have gathered. They marched together.

⁵When they saw Mount Zion, they were astonished. They were terrified and ran away in fear.

⁶Trembling seized them like the trembling that a woman experiences during labor.

⁷With the east wind you smash the ships of Tarshish.

⁸The things we had only heard about, we have now seen in the city of the LORD of Armies, in the city of our God. God makes Zion stand firm forever. Selah

⁹Inside your temple we carefully reflect on your mercy, O God.

¹⁰Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with righteousness.

¹¹Let Mount Zion be glad and the cities of Judah rejoice because of your judgments.

¹²Walk around Zion. Go around it.
Count its towers.

¹³Examine its embankments. Walk
through its palaces. Then you can tell
the next generation,

¹⁴"This God is our God forever and
ever. He will lead us beyond death."

49¹For the choir director; a psalm
by Korah's descendants. Listen to
this, all you people. Open your ears, all
who live in the world

²common people and important ones,
rich people and poor ones.

³My mouth will speak wise sayings, the
insights I have carefully considered.

⁴I will turn my attention to a proverb. I
will explain my riddle with the music of a
lyre.

⁵Why should I be afraid in times of
trouble, when slanderers surround me
with evil?

⁶They trust their riches and brag about
their abundant wealth.

⁷No one can ever buy back another
person or pay God a ransom for his life.

⁸The price to be paid for his soul is too
costly. He must always give up

⁹in order to live forever and never see the pit.

¹⁰Indeed, one can see that wise people die, that foolish and stupid people meet the same end. They leave their riches to others.

¹¹Although they named their lands after themselves, their graves have become their homes for ages to come, their dwelling places throughout every generation.

¹²But mortals will not continue here with what they treasure. They are like animals that die.

¹³This is the final outcome for fools and their followers who are delighted by what they say: Selah

¹⁴Like sheep, they are driven to hell with death as their shepherd. (Decent people will rule them in the morning.) Their forms will decay in the grave, far away from their comfortable homes.

¹⁵But God will buy me back from the power of hell because he will take me. Selah

¹⁶Do not be afraid when someone becomes rich, when the greatness of his house increases.

¹⁷ He will not take anything with him when he dies. His greatness cannot follow him.

¹⁸ Even though he blesses himself while he is alive (and they praise you when you do well for yourself),

¹⁹ he must join the generation of his ancestors, who will never see light again.

²⁰ Mortals, with what they treasure, still don't have understanding. They are like animals that die.

50¹ A psalm by Asaph. The LORD, the only true God, has spoken. He has summoned the earth from where the sun rises to where it sets.

² God shines from Zion, the perfection of beauty.

³ Our God will come and will not remain silent. A devouring fire is in front of him and a raging storm around him.

⁴ He summons heaven and earth to judge his people:

⁵ "Gather around me, my godly people who have made a pledge to me through sacrifices."

⁶ The heavens announce his righteousness because God is the judge. Selah

⁷ "Listen, my people, and I will speak. Listen, Israel, and I will testify against you: I am God, your God!

⁸ I am not criticizing you for your sacrifices or burnt offerings, which are always in front of me.

⁹ But I will not accept another young bull from your household or a single male goat from your pens.

¹⁰ Every creature in the forest, even the cattle on a thousand hills, is mine.

¹¹ I know every bird in the mountains. Everything that moves in the fields is mine.

¹² If I were hungry, I would not tell you, because the world and all that it contains are mine.

¹³ Do I eat the meat of bulls or drink the blood of goats?

¹⁴ Bring your thanks to God as a sacrifice, and keep your vows to the Most High.

¹⁵ Call on me in times of trouble. I will rescue you, and you will honor me."

¹⁶ But God says to wicked people, "How dare you quote my decrees and mouth my promises!

¹⁷You hate discipline. You toss my words behind you.

¹⁸When you see a thief, you want to make friends with him. You keep company with people who commit adultery.

¹⁹You let your mouth say anything evil. Your tongue plans deceit.

²⁰You sit and talk against your own brother. You slander your own mothers son.

²¹When you did these things, I remained silent. That made you think I was like you. I will argue my point with you and lay it all out for you to see.

²²Consider this, you people who forget God. Otherwise, I will tear you to pieces, and there will be no one left to rescue you.

²³Whoever offers thanks as a sacrifice honors me. I will let everyone who continues in my way see the salvation that comes from God."

51 ¹For the choir director; a psalm by David when the prophet Nathan came to him after Davids adultery with Bathsheba. Have pity on me, O God, in keeping with your mercy. In keeping

with your unlimited compassion, wipe out my rebellious acts.

²Wash me thoroughly from my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin.

³I admit that I am rebellious. My sin is always in front of me.

⁴I have sinned against you, especially you. I have done what you consider evil. So you hand down justice when you speak, and you are blameless when you judge.

⁵Indeed, I was born guilty. I was a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶Yet, you desire truth and sincerity. Deep down inside me you teach me wisdom.

⁷Purify me from sin with hyssop, and I will be clean. Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

⁸Let me hear sounds of joy and gladness. Let the bones that you have broken dance.

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and wipe out all that I have done wrong.

¹⁰Create a clean heart in me, O God, and renew a faithful spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not force me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore the joy of your salvation to me, and provide me with a spirit of willing obedience.

¹³ Then I will teach your ways to those who are rebellious, and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴ Rescue me from the guilt of murder, O God, my savior. Let my tongue sing joyfully about your righteousness!

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will tell about your praise.

¹⁶ You are not happy with any sacrifice. Otherwise, I would offer one to you. You are not pleased with burnt offerings.

¹⁷ The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. O God, you do not despise a broken and sorrowful heart.

¹⁸ Favor Zion with your goodness. Rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

¹⁹ Then you will be pleased with sacrifices offered in the right spirit with burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings. Young bulls will be offered on your altar.

52¹ For the choir director; a maskil;
a psalm by David when Doeg
(who was from Edom) told Saul that
David had come to Ahimelechs home.
Why do you brag about the evil youve
done, you hero? The mercy of God lasts
all day long!

²Your tongue makes up threats. Its like
a sharp razor, you master of deceit.

³You prefer evil to good. You prefer
lying to speaking the truth. Selah

⁴You love every destructive accusation,
you deceitful tongue!

⁵But God will ruin you forever. He will
grab you and drag you out of your tent.
He will pull your roots out of this world
of the living. Selah

⁶Righteous people will see this and be
struck with fear. They will laugh at you
and say,

⁷"Look at this person who refused
to make God his fortress! Instead, he
trusted his great wealth and became
strong through his greed."

⁸But I am like a large olive tree in Gods
house. I trust the mercy of God forever
and ever.

⁹I will give thanks to you forever for what you have done. In the presence of your godly people, I will wait with hope in your good name.

53¹For the choir director; according to mahalath, a maskil by David. Godless fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." They are corrupt. They do disgusting things. There is no one who does good things.

²God looks down from heaven on Adams descendants to see if there is anyone who acts wisely, if there is anyone who seeks help from God.

³Everyone has fallen away. Together they have become rotten to the core. No one, not even one person, does good things.

⁴Are all those troublemakers, those who devour my people as if they were devouring food, so ignorant that they do not call on God?

⁵There they arepanicstrickenbut there was no reason to panic, because God has scattered the bones of those who set up camp against you. You put them to shame. After all, God has rejected them.

⁶If only salvation for Israel would come from Zion! When God restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice. Israel will be glad.

54 ¹For the choir director; on stringed instruments; a maskil by David when people from the city of Ziph told Saul that David was hiding among them. O God, save me by your name, and defend me with your might.

²O God, hear my prayer, and open your ears to the words from my mouth.

³Strangers have attacked me. Ruthless people seek my life. They do not think about God. Selah

⁴God is my helper! The Lord is the provider for my life.

⁵My enemies spy on me. Pay them back with evil. Destroy them with your truth!

⁶I will make a sacrifice to you along with a freewill offering. I will give thanks to your good name, O LORD.

⁷Your name rescues me from every trouble. My eyes will gloat over my enemies.

55 ¹For the choir director; on stringed instruments; a maskil by David. Open your ears to my prayer,

O God. Do not hide from my plea for mercy.

²Pay attention to me, and answer me. My thoughts are restless, and I am confused

³because my enemy shouts at me and a wicked person persecutes me. They bring misery crashing down on me, and they attack me out of anger.

⁴My heart is in turmoil. The terrors of death have seized me.

⁵Fear and trembling have overcome me. Horror has overwhelmed me.

⁶I said, "If only I had wings like a dove I would fly away and find rest.

⁷Indeed, I would run far away. I would stay in the desert. Selah

⁸I would hurry to find shelter from the raging wind and storm."

⁹Completely confuse their language, O Lord, because I see violence and conflict in the city.

¹⁰Day and night they go around on top of the city walls. Trouble and misery are everywhere.

¹¹Destruction is everywhere. Oppression and fraud never leave the streets.

¹²If an enemy had insulted me, then I could bear it. If someone who hated me had attacked me, then I could hide from him.

¹³But it is you, my equal, my best friend, one I knew so well!

¹⁴We used to talk to each other in complete confidence and walk into God's house with the festival crowds.

¹⁵Let death suddenly take wicked people! Let them go into the grave while they are still alive, because evil lives in their homes as well as in their hearts.

¹⁶But I call on God, and the LORD saves me.

¹⁷Morning, noon, and night I complain and groan, and he listens to my voice.

¹⁸With his peace, he will rescue my soul from the war waged against me, because there are many soldiers fighting against me.

¹⁹God will listen. The one who has sat enthroned from the beginning will deal with them. Selah They never change. They never fear God.

²⁰My best friend has betrayed his friends. He has broken his solemn promise.

²¹ His speech is smoother than butter, but there is war in his heart. His words are more soothing than oil, but they are like swords ready to attack.

²² Turn your burdens over to the LORD, and he will take care of you. He will never let the righteous person stumble.

²³ But you, O God, will throw wicked people into the deepest pit. Bloodthirsty and deceitful people will not live out half their days. But I will trust you.

56 ¹ For the choir director; according to yonath elem rechokim; a miktam by David when the Philistines captured him in Gath. Have pity on me, O God, because people are harassing me. All day long warriors oppress me.

² All day long my enemies spy on me. They harass me. There are so many fighting against me.

³ Even when I am afraid, I still trust you.

⁴ I praise the word of God. I trust God. I am not afraid. What can mere flesh and blood do to me?

⁵ All day long my enemies twist my words. Their every thought is an evil plan against me.

⁶They attack, and then they hide. They watch my every step as they wait to take my life.

⁷With the wrong they do, can they escape? O God, angrily make the nations fall.

⁸(You have kept a record of my wanderings. Put my tears in your bottle. They are already in your book.)

⁹Then my enemies will retreat when I call to you. This I know: God is on my side.

¹⁰I praise the word of God. I praise the word of the LORD.

¹¹I trust God. I am not afraid. What can mortals do to me?

¹²I am bound by my vows to you, O God. I will keep my vows by offering songs of thanksgiving to you.

¹³You have rescued me from death. You have kept my feet from stumbling so that I could walk in your presence, in the light of life.

57 ¹For the choir director; al tashcheth; a miktam by David when he fled from Saul into the cave. Have pity on me, O God. Have pity on me, because my soul takes refuge in

you. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until destructive storms pass by.

²I call to God Most High, to the God who does everything for me.

³He sends his help from heaven and saves me. He disgraces the one who is harassing me. Selah God sends his mercy and his truth!

⁴My soul is surrounded by lions. I must lie down with maneating lions. Their teeth are spears and arrows. Their tongues are sharp swords.

⁵May you be honored above the heavens, O God. Let your glory extend over the whole earth.

⁶My enemies spread out a net to catch me. (My soul is bowed down.) They dug a pit to trap me, but then they fell into it. Selah

⁷My heart is confident, O God. My heart is confident. I want to sing and make music.

⁸Wake up, my soul! Wake up, harp and lyre! I want to wake up at dawn.

⁹I want to give thanks to you among the people, O Lord. I want to make music to praise you among the nations

¹⁰because your mercy is as high as the heavens. Your truth reaches the skies.

¹¹May you be honored above the heavens, O God. Let your glory extend over the whole earth.

58¹For the choir director; al
tashcheth; a miktam by David.
Do you rulers really give fair verdicts?
Do you judge Adams descendants fairly?

²No, you invent new crimes on earth,
and your hands spread violence.

³Even inside the womb wicked people
are strangers to God. From their birth
liars go astray.

⁴They have poisonous venom like
snakes. They are like a deaf cobra that
shuts its ears

⁵so that it cannot hear the voice of a
snake charmer or of anyone trained to
cast spells.

⁶O God, knock the teeth out of their
mouths. Break the young lions teeth, O
LORD.

⁷Let them disappear like water that
drains away. When they aim their bows,
let their arrows miss the target.

⁸Let them become like a snail that leaves behind a slimy trail or like a stillborn child who never sees the sun.

⁹Let God sweep them away faster than a cooking pot is heated by burning twigs.

¹⁰Righteous people will rejoice when they see God take revenge. They will wash their feet in the blood of wicked people.

¹¹Then people will say, "Righteous people certainly have a reward. There is a God who judges on earth."

59¹For the choir director; al tashcheth; a miktam by David when Saul sent men to watch Davids home and kill him. Rescue me from my enemies, O my God. Protect me from those who attack me.

²Rescue me from troublemakers. Save me from bloodthirsty people.

³They lie in ambush for me right here! Fierce men attack me, O LORD, but not because of any disobedience,

⁴or any sin, or any guilt on my part. They hurry to take positions against me. Wake up, and help me; see for yourself.

⁵O LORD God of Armies, God of Israel, arise to punish all the nations. Have no pity on any traitors. Selah

⁶They return in the evening. They howl like dogs. They prowl the city.

⁷See what pours out of their mouths swords from their lips! They think, "Who will hear us?"

⁸O LORD, you laugh at them. You make fun of all the nations.

⁹O my strength, I watch for you! God is my stronghold, my merciful God!

¹⁰God will come to meet me. He will let me gloat over those who spy on me.

¹¹Do not kill them. Otherwise, my people may forget. Make them wander aimlessly by your power. Bring them down, O Lord, our shield,

¹²because of the sins from their mouths and the words on their lips. Let them be trapped by their own arrogance because they speak curses and lies.

¹³Destroy them in your rage. Destroy them until not one of them is left. Then they will know that God rules Jacob to the ends of the earth. Selah

¹⁴They return in the evening. They howl like dogs. They prowl the city.

¹⁵They wander around to find something to eat. If they are not full enough, they will stay all night.

¹⁶But I will sing about your strength. In the morning I will joyfully sing about your mercy. You have been my stronghold and a place of safety in times of trouble.

¹⁷O my strength, I will make music to praise you! God is my stronghold, my merciful God!

60¹For the choir director; according to shushan eduth; a miktam by David; for teaching. When David fought Aram Naharaim and Aram Zobah, and when Joab came back and killed 12,000 men from Edom in the Dead Sea region. O God, you have rejected us. You have broken down our defenses. You have been angry. Restore us!

²You made the land quake. You split it wide open. Heal the cracks in it because it is falling apart.

³You have made your people experience hardships. You have given us wine that makes us stagger.

⁴Yet, you have raised a flag for those who fear you so that they can rally to

it when attacked by bows and arrows.

Selah

⁵Save us with your powerful hand, and answer us so that those who are dear to you may be rescued.

⁶God has promised the following through his holiness: "I will triumph! I will divide Shechem. I will measure the valley of Succoth.

⁷Gilead is mine. Manasseh is mine. Ephraim is the helmet on my head. Judah is my scepter.

⁸Moab is my washtub. I will throw my shoe over Edom. I will shout in triumph over Philistia."

⁹Who will bring me into the fortified city? Who will lead me to Edom?

¹⁰Isn't it you, O God, who rejected us? Isn't it you, O God, who refused to accompany our armies?

¹¹Give us help against the enemy because human assistance is worthless.

¹²With God we will display great strength. He will trample our enemies.

61 ¹For the choir director; on a stringed instrument; by David. Listen to my cry for help, O God. Pay attention to my prayer.

²From the ends of the earth, I call to you when I begin to lose heart. Lead me to the rock that is high above me.

³You have been my refuge, a tower of strength against the enemy.

⁴I would like to be a guest in your tent forever and to take refuge under the protection of your wings. Selah

⁵O God, you have heard my vows. You have given me the inheritance that belongs to those who fear your name.

⁶Add days upon days to the life of the king. May his years endure throughout every generation.

⁷May he sit enthroned in the presence of God forever. May mercy and truth protect him.

⁸Then I will make music to praise your name forever, as I keep my vows day after day.

62¹For the choir director; according to Jeduthun; a psalm by David. My soul waits calmly for God alone. My salvation comes from him.

²He alone is my rock and my savior my stronghold. I cannot be severely shaken.

³How long will all of you attack a person? How long will you try to murder

him, as though he were a leaning wall or a sagging fence?

⁴They plan to force him out of his high position. They are happy to lie. They bless with their mouths, but in their hearts they curse. Selah

⁵Wait calmly for God alone, my soul, because my hope comes from him.

⁶He alone is my rock and my savior my stronghold. I cannot be shaken.

⁷My salvation and my glory depend on God. God is the rock of my strength, my refuge.

⁸Trust him at all times, you people. Pour out your hearts in his presence. God is our refuge. Selah

⁹Common people are only a whisper in the wind. Important people are only a delusion. When all of them are weighed on a scale, they amount to nothing. They are less than a whisper in the wind.

¹⁰Do not count on extortion to make you rich. Do not hope to gain anything through robbery. When riches increase, do not depend on them.

¹¹God has spoken once. I have heard it said twice: "Power belongs to God.

¹² Mercy belongs to you, O Lord. You reward a person based on what he has done."

63 ¹ A psalm by David when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, you are my God. At dawn I search for you. My soul thirsts for you. My body longs for you in a dry, parched land where there is no water.

² So I look for you in the holy place to see your power and your glory.

³ My lips will praise you because your mercy is better than life itself.

⁴ So I will thank you as long as I live. I will lift up my hands to pray in your name.

⁵ You satisfy my soul with the richest foods. My mouth will sing your praise with joyful lips.

⁶ As I lie on my bed, I remember you. Through the long hours of the night, I think about you.

⁷ You have been my help. In the shadow of your wings, I sing joyfully.

⁸ My soul clings to you. Your right hand supports me.

⁹ But those who try to destroy my life will go into the depths of the earth.

¹⁰They will be cut down by swords.
Their dead bodies will be left as food for jackals.

¹¹But the king will find joy in God.
Everyone who takes an oath by God will brag, but the mouths of liars will be shut.

64¹For the choir director; a psalm
by David. Hear my voice, O God,
when I complain. Protect my life from a
terrifying enemy.

²Hide me from the secret plots
of criminals, from the mob of
troublemakers.

³They sharpen their tongues like
swords. They aim bitter words like
arrows

⁴to shoot at innocent people from
their hiding places. They shoot at them
suddenly, without any fear.

⁵They encourage one another in their
evil plans. They talk about setting traps
and say, "Who can see them?"

⁶They search for the perfect crime
and say, "We have perfected a foolproof
scheme!" Human nature and the human
heart are a mystery!

⁷But God will shoot them with an arrow.
Suddenly, they will be struck dead.

⁸They will trip over their own tongues. Everyone who sees them will shake his head.

⁹Everyone will be afraid and conclude, "This is an act of God!" They will learn from what he has done.

¹⁰Righteous people will find joy in the LORD and take refuge in him. Everyone whose motives are decent will be able to brag.

65 ¹For the choir director; a psalm by David; a song. You are praised with silence in Zion, O God, and vows made to you must be kept.

²You are the one who hears prayers. Everyone will come to you.

³Various sins overwhelm me. You are the one who forgives our rebellious acts.

⁴Blessed is the person you choose and invite to live with you in your courtyards. We will be filled with good food from your house, from your holy temple.

⁵You answer us with aweinspiring acts done in righteousness, O God, our savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the most distant sea,

⁶ the one who set the mountains in place with his strength, the one who is clothed with power,

⁷ the one who calms the roar of the seas, their crashing waves, and the uproar of the nations.

⁸ Those who live at the ends of the earth are in awe of your miraculous signs. The lands of the morning sunrise and evening sunset sing joyfully.

⁹ You take care of the earth, and you water it. You make it much richer than it was. (The river of God is filled with water.) You provide grain for them. Indeed, you even prepare the ground.

¹⁰ You drench plowed fields with rain and level their clumps of soil. You soften them with showers and bless what grows in them.

¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness, and richness overflows wherever you are.

¹² The pastures in the desert overflow with richness. The hills are surrounded with joy.

¹³ The pastures are covered with flocks. The valleys are carpeted with grain. All

of them shout triumphantly. Indeed, they sing.

66¹ For the choir director; a song; a psalm. Shout happily to God, all the earth!

² Make music to praise the glory of his name. Make his praise glorious.

³ Say to God, "How aweinspiring are your deeds! Your power is so great that your enemies will cringe in front of you.

⁴ The whole earth will worship you. It will make music to praise you. It will make music to praise your name." Selah

⁵ Come and see what God has done his aweinspiring deeds for Adams descendants.

⁶ He turned the sea into dry land. They crossed the river on foot. We rejoiced because of what he did there.

⁷ He rules forever with his might. His eyes watch the nations. Rebels will not be able to oppose him. Selah

⁸ Thank our God, you nations. Make the sound of his praise heard.

⁹ He has kept us alive and has not allowed us to fall.

¹⁰You have tested us, O God. You have refined us in the same way silver is refined.

¹¹You have trapped us in a net. You have laid burdens on our backs.

¹²You let people ride over our heads. We went through fire and water, but then you brought us out and refreshed us.

¹³I will come into your temple with burnt offerings. I will keep my vows to you,

¹⁴the vows made by my lips and spoken by my own mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵I will offer you a sacrifice of fattened livestock for burnt offerings with the smoke from rams. I will offer cattle and goats. Selah

¹⁶Come and listen, all who fear God, and I will tell you what he has done for me.

¹⁷With my mouth I cried out to him. High praise was on my tongue.

¹⁸If I had thought about doing anything sinful, the Lord would not have listened to me.

¹⁹But God has heard me. He has paid attention to my prayer.

²⁰Thanks be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or taken away his mercy from me.

67 ¹For the choir director; on stringed instruments; a psalm; a song. May God have pity on us and bless us! May he smile on us. Selah

²Then your ways will be known on earth, your salvation throughout all nations.

³Let everyone give thanks to you, O God. Let everyone give thanks to you.

⁴Let the nations be glad and sing joyfully because you judge everyone with justice and guide the nations on the earth. Selah

⁵Let the people give thanks to you, O God. Let all the people give thanks to you.

⁶The earth has yielded its harvest. May God, our God, bless us.

⁷May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth worship him.

68 ¹For the choir director; a psalm by David; a song. God will arise. His enemies will be scattered. Those who hate him will flee from him.

² Blow them away like smoke. Let wicked people melt in Gods presence like wax next to a fire.

³ But let righteous people rejoice. Let them celebrate in Gods presence. Let them overflow with joy.

⁴ Sing to God; make music to praise his name. Make a highway for him to ride through the deserts. The LORD is his name. Celebrate in his presence.

⁵ The God who is in his holy dwelling place is the father of the fatherless and the defender of widows.

⁶ God places lonely people in families. He leads prisoners out of prison into productive lives, but rebellious people must live in an unproductive land.

⁷ O God, when you went in front of your people, when you marched through the desert, Selah

⁸ the earth quaked and the sky poured in the presence of the God of Sinai, in the presence of the God of Israel.

⁹ You watered the land with plenty of rain, O God. You refreshed it when your land was exhausted.

¹⁰Your flock settled there. Out of your goodness, O God, you provided for oppressed people.

¹¹The Lord gives instructions. The women who announce the good news are a large army.

¹²They say, "The kings of the armies flee; they run away. The women who remained at home will divide the goods.

¹³Though you stayed among the sheep pens, you will be like the wings of a dove covered with silver, its feathers with yellow gold.

¹⁴Meanwhile, the Almighty was still scattering kings there like snow falling on Mount Zalmon."

¹⁵The mountain of Bashan is the mountain of God. The mountain of Bashan is the mountain with many peaks.

¹⁶Why do you look with envy, you mountains with many peaks, at the mountain where God has chosen to live? Certainly, the LORD will live there forever.

¹⁷The chariots of God are twenty thousand in number, thousands upon

thousands. The Lord is among them. The God of Sinai is in his holy place.

¹⁸You went to the highest place. You took prisoners captive. You received gifts from people, even from rebellious people, so that the LORD God may live there.

¹⁹Thanks be to the Lord, who daily carries our burdens for us. God is our salvation. Selah

²⁰Our God is the God of victories. The Almighty LORD is our escape from death.

²¹Certainly, God will crush the heads of his enemies and destroy even the hair on the heads of those who continue to be guilty.

²²The Lord said, "I will bring them back from Bashan. I will bring them back from the depths of the sea

²³so that you, my people, may bathe your feet in blood and the tongues of your dogs may lick the blood of your enemies."

²⁴Your festival processions, O God, can be seen by everyone. They are the processions for my God, my king, into the holy place.

²⁵The singers are in front. The musicians are behind them. The young women beating tambourines are between them.

²⁶Thank God, the Lord, the source of Israel, with the choirs.

²⁷Benjamin, the youngest, is leading them, next the leaders of Judah with their noisy crowds, then the leaders of Zebulun, then the leaders of Naphtali.

²⁸Your God has decided you will be strong. Display your strength, O God, as you have for us before.

²⁹Kings will bring you gifts because of your temple high above Jerusalem.

³⁰Threaten the beast who is among the cattails, the herd of bulls with the calves of the nations, until it humbles itself with pieces of silver. Scatter the people who find joy in war.

³¹Ambassadors will come from Egypt. Sudan will stretch out its hands to God in prayer.

³²You kingdoms of the world, sing to God. Make music to praise the Lord.
Selah

³³God rides through the ancient heaven, the highest heaven. Listen! He

makes his voice heard, his powerful voice.

³⁴ Acknowledge the power of God. His majesty is over Israel, and his power is in the skies.

³⁵ God, the God of Israel, is aweinspiring in his holy place. He gives strength and power to his people. Thanks be to God!

69 ¹ For the choir director; according to shoshannim; by David. Save me, O God! The water is already up to my neck!

² I am sinking in deep mud. There is nothing to stand on. I am in deep water. A flood is sweeping me away.

³ I am exhausted from crying for help. My throat is hoarse. My eyes are strained from looking for my God.

⁴ Those who hate me for no reason outnumber the hairs on my head. Those who want to destroy me are mighty. They have no reason to be my enemies. I am forced to pay back what I did not steal.

⁵ O God, you know my stupidity, and the things of which I am guilty are not hidden from you.

⁶Do not let those who wait with hope for you be put to shame because of me, O Almighty LORD of Armies. Do not let those who come to you for help be humiliated because of me, O God of Israel.

⁷Indeed, for your sake I have endured insults. Humiliation has covered my face.

⁸I have become a stranger to my own brothers, a foreigner to my mothers sons.

⁹Indeed, devotion for your house has consumed me, and the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.

¹⁰I cried and fasted, but I was insulted for it.

¹¹I dressed myself in sackcloth, but I became the object of ridicule.

¹²Those who sit at the gate gossip about me, and drunkards make up songs about me.

¹³May my prayer come to you at an acceptable time, O LORD. O God, out of the greatness of your mercy, answer me with the truth of your salvation.

¹⁴Rescue me from the mud. Do not let me sink into it. I want to be rescued

from those who hate me and from the deep water.

¹⁵Do not let floodwaters sweep me away. Do not let the ocean swallow me up, or the pit close its mouth over me.

¹⁶Answer me, O LORD, because your mercy is good. Out of your unlimited compassion, turn to me.

¹⁷I am in trouble, so do not hide your face from me. Answer me quickly!

¹⁸Come close, and defend my soul. Set me free because of my enemies.

¹⁹You know that I have been insulted, put to shame, and humiliated. All my opponents are in front of you.

²⁰Insults have broken my heart, and I am sick. I looked for sympathy, but there was none. I looked for people to comfort me, but I found no one.

²¹They poisoned my food, and when I was thirsty, they gave me vinegar to drink.

²²Let the table set for them become a trap and a snare for their friends.

²³Let their vision become clouded so that they cannot see. Let their thighs continually shake.

²⁴ Pour your rage on them. Let your burning anger catch up with them.

²⁵ Let their camp be deserted and their tents empty.

²⁶ They persecute the one you have struck, and they talk about the pain of those you have wounded.

²⁷ Charge them with one crime after another. Do not let them be found innocent.

²⁸ Let their names be erased from the Book of Life. Do not let them be listed with righteous people.

²⁹ I am suffering and in pain. Let your saving power protect me, O God.

³⁰ I want to praise the name of God with a song. I want to praise its greatness with a song of thanksgiving.

³¹ This will please the LORD more than sacrificing an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs.

³² Oppressed people will see this and rejoice. May the hearts of those who look to God for help be refreshed.

³³ The LORD listens to needy people. He does not despise his own who are in prison.

³⁴ Let heaven and earth, the seas, and everything that moves in them, praise him.

³⁵ When God saves Zion, he will rebuild the cities of Judah. His servants will live there and take possession of it.

³⁶ The descendants of his servants will inherit it. Those who love him will live there.

70¹ For the choir director; by David; to be kept in mind. Come quickly to rescue me, O God! Come quickly to help me, O LORD!

² Let those who seek my life be confused and put to shame. Let those who want my downfall be turned back and disgraced.

³ Let those who say, "Aha! Aha!" be turned back because of their own shame.

⁴ Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad because of you. Let those who love your salvation continually say, "God is great!"

⁵ But I am oppressed and needy. O God, come to me quickly. You are my help and my savior. O LORD, do not delay!

71 ¹I have taken refuge in you, O LORD. Never let me be put to shame.

²Rescue me and free me because of your righteousness. Turn your ear toward me, and save me.

³Be a rock on which I may live, a place where I may always go. You gave the order to save me! Indeed, you are my rock and my fortress.

⁴My God, free me from the hands of a wicked person, from the grasp of one who is cruel and unjust.

⁵You are my hope, O Almighty LORD. You have been my confidence ever since I was young.

⁶I depended on you before I was born. You took me from my mothers womb. My songs of praise constantly speak about you.

⁷I have become an example to many people, but you are my strong refuge.

⁸My mouth is filled with your praise, with your glory all day long.

⁹Do not reject me when I am old or abandon me when I lose my strength.

¹⁰My enemies talk about me. They watch me as they plot to take my life.

¹¹ They say, "God has abandoned him. Pursue him and grab him because there is no one to rescue him."

¹² O God, do not be so distant from me. O my God, come quickly to help me.

¹³ Let those who accuse me come to a shameful end. Let those who want my downfall be covered with disgrace and humiliation.

¹⁴ But I will always have hope. I will praise you more and more.

¹⁵ My mouth will tell about your righteousness, about your salvation all day long. Even then, it is more than I can understand.

¹⁶ I will come with the mighty deeds of the Almighty LORD. I will praise your righteousness, yours alone.

¹⁷ O God, you have taught me ever since I was young, and I still talk about the miracles you have done.

¹⁸ Even when I am old and gray, do not abandon me, O God. Let me live to tell the people of this age what your strength has accomplished, to tell about your power to all who will come.

¹⁹Your righteousness reaches to the heavens, O God. You have done great things. O God, who is like you?

²⁰You have made me endure many terrible troubles. You restore me to life again. You bring me back from the depths of the earth.

²¹You comfort me and make me greater than ever.

²²Because of your faithfulness, O my God, even I will give thanks to you as I play on a lyre. I will make music with a harp to praise you, O Holy One of Israel.

²³My lips will sing with joy when I make music to praise you. My soul, which you have rescued, also will sing joyfully.

²⁴My tongue will tell about your righteousness all day long, because those who wanted my downfall have been disgraced and put to shame.

72¹ By Solomon. O God, give the king your justice and the king's son your righteousness

²so that he may judge your people with righteousness and your oppressed people with justice.

³May the mountains bring peace to the people and the hills bring righteousness.

⁴ May he grant justice to the people who are oppressed. May he save the children of needy people and crush their oppressor.

⁵ May they fear you as long as the sun and moon shine throughout every generation.

⁶ May he be like rain that falls on freshly cut grass, like showers that water the land.

⁷ May righteous people blossom in his day. May there be unlimited peace until the moon no longer shines.

⁸ May he rule from sea to sea, from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth.

⁹ May the people of the desert kneel in front of him. May his enemies lick the dust.

¹⁰ May the kings from Tarshish and the islands bring presents. May the kings from Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

¹¹ May all kings worship him. May all nations serve him.

¹² He will rescue the needy person who cries for help and the oppressed person who has no one's help.

¹³He will have pity on the poor and needy and will save the lives of the needy.

¹⁴He will rescue them from oppression and violence. Their blood will be precious in his sight.

¹⁵May he live long. May the gold from Sheba be given to him. May the people pray for him continually. May they praise him all day long.

¹⁶May there be plenty of grain in the land. May it wave in the breeze on the mountaintops, its fruit like the treetops of Lebanon. May those from the city flourish like the grass on the ground.

¹⁷May his name endure forever. May his name continue as long as the sun shines. May all nations be blessed through him and call him blessed.

¹⁸Thank the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does miracles.

¹⁹Thanks be to his glorious name forever. May the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and amen!

²⁰The prayers by David, son of Jesse, end here.

73¹ A psalm by Asaph. God is truly good to Israel, to those whose lives are pure.

² But my feet had almost stumbled.
They had almost slipped

³ because I was envious of arrogant people when I saw the prosperity that wicked people enjoy.

⁴ They suffer no pain. Their bodies are healthy.

⁵ They have no drudgery in their lives like ordinary people. They are not plagued with problems like others.

⁶ That is why they wear arrogance like a necklace and acts of violence like clothing.

⁷ Their eyes peer out from their fat faces, and their imaginations run wild.

⁸ They ridicule. They speak maliciously. They speak arrogantly about oppression.

⁹ They verbally attack heaven, and they order people around on earth.

¹⁰ That is why God's people turn to wickedness and swallow their words.

¹¹ Then wicked people ask, "What does God know?" "Does the Most High know anything?"

¹²Look how wicked they are! They never have a worry. They grow more and more wealthy.

¹³I've received no reward for keeping my life pure and washing my hands of any blame.

¹⁴I'm plagued with problems all day long, and every morning my punishment begins again.

¹⁵If I had said, "I will continue to talk like that," I would have betrayed Gods people.

¹⁶But when I tried to understand this, it was too difficult for me.

¹⁷Only when I came into Gods holy place did I finally understand what would happen to them.

¹⁸You put them in slippery places and make them fall into ruin.

¹⁹They are suddenly destroyed. They are completely swept away by terror!

²⁰As someone gets rid of a dream when he wakes up, so you, O Lord, get rid of the thought of them when you wake up.

²¹When my heart was filled with bitterness and my mind was seized with envy,

²²I was stupid, and I did not understand. I was like a dumb animal in your presence.

²³Yet, I am always with you. You hold on to my right hand.

²⁴With your advice you guide me, and in the end you will take me to glory.

²⁵As long as I have you, I don't need anyone else in heaven or on earth.

²⁶My body and mind may waste away, but God remains the foundation of my life and my inheritance forever.

²⁷Without a doubt, those who are far from you will die. You destroy all who are unfaithful to you.

²⁸Being united with God is my highest good. I have made the Almighty LORD my refuge so that I may report everything that he has done.

74¹ A maskil by Asaph. Why, O God, have you rejected us forever? Why does your anger smolder against the sheep in your care?

²Remember your congregation. Long ago you made it your own. You bought this tribe to be your possession. This tribe is Mount Zion, where you have made your home.

³ Turn your steps toward these pathetic ruins. The enemy has destroyed everything in the holy temple.

⁴ Your opponents have roared inside your meeting place. They have set up their own emblems as symbols.

⁵ Starting from its entrance, they hacked away like a woodcutter in a forest.

⁶ They smashed all its carved paneling with axes and hatchets.

⁷ They burned your holy place to the ground. They dishonored the place where you live among us.

⁸ They said to themselves, "We will crush them." They burned every meeting place of God in the land.

⁹ We no longer see miraculous signs. There are no prophets anymore. No one knows how long this will last.

¹⁰ How long, O God, will the enemy insult us? Will the enemy despise you forever?

¹¹ Why do you hold back your hand, especially your right hand? Take your hands out of your pockets. Destroy your enemies!

¹²And yet, from long ago God has been my king, the one who has been victorious throughout the earth.

¹³You stirred up the sea with your own strength. You smashed the heads of sea monsters in the water.

¹⁴You crushed the heads of Leviathan and gave them to the creatures of the desert for food.

¹⁵You opened the springs and brooks. You dried up the everflowing rivers.

¹⁶The day and the night are yours. You set the moon and the sun in their places.

¹⁷You determined all the boundaries of the earth. You created summer and winter.

¹⁸Remember how the enemy insulted you, O LORD. Remember how an entire nation of godless fools despised your name.

¹⁹Do not hand over the soul of your dove to wild animals. Do not forget the life of your oppressed people forever.

²⁰Consider your promise because every dark corner of the land is filled with violence.

²¹ Do not let oppressed people come back in disgrace. Let weak and needy people praise your name.

²² Arise, O God! Fight for your own cause! Remember how godless fools insult you all day long.

²³ Do not forget the shouting of your opponents. Do not forget the uproar made by those who attack you.

75 ¹ For the choir director; al tashcheth; a psalm by Asaph; a song. We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks. You are present, and your miracles confirm that.

² When I choose the right time, I will judge fairly.

³ When the earth and everyone who lives on it begin to melt, I will make its foundations as solid as rock. Selah

⁴ I said to those who brag, "Dont brag," and to wicked people, "Dont raise your weapons.

⁵ Dont raise your weapons so proudly or speak so defiantly."

⁶ The authority to reward someone does not come from the east, from the west, or even from the wilderness.

⁷ God alone is the judge. He punishes one person and rewards another.

⁸ A cup is in the LORDS hand. (Its foaming wine is thoroughly mixed with spices.) He will empty it, and all the wicked people on earth will have to drink every last drop.

⁹ But I will speak about your miracles forever. I will make music to praise the God of Jacob.

¹⁰ I will destroy all the weapons of wicked people, but the weapons of righteous people will be raised proudly.

76 ¹ For the choir director; on stringed instruments; a psalm by Asaph; a song. God is known in Judah. His name is great in Israel.

² His tent is in Salem. His home is in Zion.

³ There he destroyed flaming arrows, shields, swords, and weapons of war. Selah

⁴ You are the radiant one. You are more majestic than the ancient mountains.

⁵ Brave people were robbed. They died. None of the warriors were able to lift a hand.

⁶At your stern warning, O God of Jacob, chariot riders and horses were put to sleep.

⁷You alone must be feared! Who can stand in your presence when you become angry?

⁸From heaven you announced a verdict. The earth was fearful and silent

⁹when you rose to judge, O God, when you rose to save every oppressed person on earth. Selah

¹⁰Even angry mortals will praise you. You will wear the remainder of their anger.

¹¹Make vows to the LORD your God, and keep them. Let everyone around him bring gifts to the one who must be feared.

¹²He cuts short the lives of influential people. He terrifies the kings of the earth.

77 ¹For the choir director; according to Jeduthun; a psalm by Asaph. Loudly, I cried to God. Loudly, I cried to God so that he would open his ears to hear me.

²On the day I was in trouble, I went to the Lord for help. At night I stretched

out my hands in prayer without growing tired. Yet, my soul refused to be comforted.

³I sigh as I remember God. I begin to lose hope as I think about him. Selah

⁴(You keep my eyelids open.) I am so upset that I cannot speak.

⁵I have considered the days of old, the years long ago.

⁶I remember my song in the night and reflect on it. My spirit searches for an answer:

⁷Will the Lord reject me for all time? Will he ever accept me?

⁸Has his mercy come to an end forever? Has his promise been canceled throughout every generation?

⁹Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has he locked up his compassion because of his anger? Selah

¹⁰Then I said, "It makes me feel sick that the power of the Most High is no longer the same."

¹¹I will remember the deeds of the LORD. I will remember your ancient miracles.

¹²I will reflect on all your actions and think about what you have done.

¹³ O God, your ways are holy! What god is as great as our God?

¹⁴ You are the God who performs miracles. You have made your strength known among the nations.

¹⁵ With your might you have defended your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Selah

¹⁶ The water saw you, O God. The water saw you and shook. Even the depths of the sea trembled.

¹⁷ The clouds poured out water. The sky thundered. Even your arrows flashed in every direction.

¹⁸ The sound of your thunder rumbled in the sky. Streaks of lightning lit up the world. The earth trembled and shook.

¹⁹ Your road went through the sea. Your path went through raging water, but your footprints could not be seen.

²⁰ Like a shepherd, you led your people. You had Moses and Aaron take them by the hand.

78¹ A maskil by Asaph. Open your ears to my teachings, my people. Turn your ears to the words from my mouth.

²I will open my mouth to illustrate points. I will explain what has been hidden long ago,

³things that we have heard and known about, things that our parents have told us.

⁴We will not hide them from our children. We will tell the next generation about the LORDS power and great deeds and the miraculous things he has done.

⁵He established written instructions for Jacobs people. He gave his teachings to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to make them known to their children

⁶so that the next generation would know them. Children yet to be born would learn them. They will grow up and tell their children

⁷to trust God, to remember what he has done, and to obey his commands.

⁸Then they will not be like their ancestors, a stubborn and rebellious generation. Their hearts were not loyal. Their spirits were not faithful to God.

⁹The men of Ephraim, wellequipped with bows and arrows, turned and ran on the day of battle.

¹⁰They had not been faithful to Gods promise. They refused to follow his teachings.

¹¹They forgot what he had done the miracles that he had shown them.

¹²In front of their ancestors he performed miracles in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

¹³He divided the sea and led them through it. He made the waters stand up like a wall.

¹⁴He guided them by a cloud during the day and by a fiery light throughout the night.

¹⁵He split rocks in the desert. He gave them plenty to drink, an ocean of water.

¹⁶He made streams come out of a rock. He made the water flow like rivers.

¹⁷They continued to sin against him, to rebel in the desert against the Most High.

¹⁸They deliberately tested God by demanding the food they craved.

¹⁹They spoke against God by saying, "Can God prepare a banquet in the desert?"

²⁰True, he did strike a rock, and water did gush out, and the streams did

overflow. But can he also give us bread or provide us, his people, with meat?"

²¹ When the LORD heard this, he became furious. His fire burned against Jacob and his anger flared up at Israel

²² because they did not believe God or trust him to save them.

²³ In spite of that, he commanded the clouds above and opened the doors of heaven.

²⁴ He rained manna down on them to eat and gave them grain from heaven.

²⁵ Humans ate the bread of the mighty ones, and God sent them plenty of food.

²⁶ He made the east wind blow in the heavens and guided the south wind with his might.

²⁷ He rained meat down on them like dust, birds like the sand on the seashore.

²⁸ He made the birds fall in the middle of his camp, all around his dwelling place.

²⁹ They ate more than enough. He gave them what they wanted,

³⁰ but they still wanted more. While the food was still in their mouths,

³¹ the anger of God flared up against them. He killed their strongest men

and slaughtered the best young men in Israel.

³²In spite of all this, they continued to sin, and they no longer believed in his miracles.

³³He brought their days to an end like a whisper in the wind. He brought their years to an end in terror.

³⁴When he killed some of them, the rest searched for him. They turned from their sins and eagerly looked for God.

³⁵They remembered that God was their rock, that the Most High was their defender.

³⁶They flattered him with their mouths and lied to him with their tongues.

³⁷Their hearts were not loyal to him. They were not faithful to his promise.

³⁸But he is compassionate. He forgave their sin. He did not destroy them. He restrained his anger many times. He did not display all of his fury.

³⁹He remembered that they were only flesh and blood, a breeze that blows and does not return.

⁴⁰How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness! How often they caused him grief in the desert!

⁴¹ Again and again they tested God, and they pushed the Holy One of Israel to the limit.

⁴² They did not remember his power the day he freed them from their oppressor,

⁴³ when he performed his miraculous signs in Egypt, his wonders in the fields of Zoan.

⁴⁴ He turned their rivers into blood so that they could not drink from their streams.

⁴⁵ He sent a swarm of flies that bit them and frogs that ruined them.

⁴⁶ He gave their crops to grasshoppers and their produce to locusts.

⁴⁷ He killed their vines with hail and their fig trees with frost.

⁴⁸ He let the hail strike their cattle and bolts of lightning strike their livestock.

⁴⁹ He sent his burning anger, rage, fury, and hostility against them. He sent an army of destroying angels.

⁵⁰ He cleared a path for his anger. He did not spare them. He let the plague take their lives.

⁵¹ He slaughtered every firstborn in Egypt, the ones born in the tents of Ham when their fathers were young.

⁵² But he led his own people out like sheep and guided them like a flock through the wilderness.

⁵³ He led them safely. They had no fear while the sea covered their enemies.

⁵⁴ He brought them into his holy land, to this mountain that his power had won.

⁵⁵ He forced nations out of their way and gave them the land of the nations as their inheritance. He settled the tribes of Israel in their own tents.

⁵⁶ They tested God Most High and rebelled against him. They did not obey his written instructions.

⁵⁷ They were disloyal and treacherous like their ancestors. They were like arrows shot from a defective bow.

⁵⁸ They made him angry because of their illegal worship sites. They made him furious because they worshiped idols.

⁵⁹ When God heard, he became furious. He completely rejected Israel.

⁶⁰ He abandoned his dwelling place in Shiloh, the tent where he had lived among humans.

⁶¹ He allowed his power to be taken captive and handed his glory over to an oppressor.

⁶² He let swords kill his people. He was furious with those who belonged to him.

⁶³ Fire consumed his best young men, so his virgins heard no wedding songs.

⁶⁴ His priests were cut down with swords. The widows of his priests could not even weep for them.

⁶⁵ Then the Lord woke up like one who had been sleeping, like a warrior sobering up from too much wine.

⁶⁶ He struck his enemies from behind and disgraced them forever.

⁶⁷ He rejected the tent of Joseph. He did not choose the tribe of Ephraim,

⁶⁸ but he chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which he loved.

⁶⁹ He built his holy place to be like the high heavens, like the earth which he made to last for a long time.

⁷⁰ He chose his servant David. He took him from the sheep pens.

⁷¹ He brought him from tending the ewes that had lambs so that David could be the shepherd of the people of Jacob,

of Israel, the people who belonged to the LORD.

⁷²With unselfish devotion David became their shepherd. With skill he guided them.

79¹A psalm by Asaph. O God, the nations have invaded the land that belongs to you. They have dishonored your holy temple. They have left Jerusalem in ruins.

²They have given the dead bodies of your servants to the birds for food. They have given the flesh of your godly ones to the animals.

³They have shed the blood of your people around Jerusalem as though it were water. There is no one to bury your people.

⁴We have become a disgrace to our neighbors, an object of ridicule and contempt to those around us.

⁵How long, O LORD? Will you remain angry forever? Will your fury continue to burn like fire?

⁶Pour your fury on the nations that do not know you, on the kingdoms that have not called you.

⁷ They have devoured Jacob. They have destroyed his home.

⁸ Do not hold the crimes of our ancestors against us. Reach out to us soon with your compassion, because we are helpless.

⁹ Help us, O God, our savior, for the glory of your name. Rescue us, and forgive our sins for the honor of your name.

¹⁰ Why should the nations be allowed to say, "Where is their God?" Let us watch as the nations learn that there is punishment for shedding the blood of your servants.

¹¹ Let the groans of prisoners come into your presence. With your powerful arm rescue those who are condemned to death.

¹² Pay each one of our neighbors back with seven times the number of insults they used to insult you, O Lord.

¹³ Then we, your people, the flock in your pasture, will give thanks to you forever. We will praise you throughout every generation.

80¹ For the choir director; according to shoshannim eduth; by Asaph;

a psalm. Open your ears, O Shepherd of Israel, the one who leads the descendants of Joseph like sheep, the one who is enthroned over the angels.

²Appear in front of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh. Wake up your power, and come to save us.

³O God, restore us and smile on us so that we may be saved.

⁴O LORD God, commander of armies, how long will you smolder in anger against the prayer of your people?

⁵You made them eat tears as food. You often made them drink their own tears.

⁶You made us a source of conflict to our neighbors, and our enemies made fun of us.

⁷O God, commander of armies, restore us and smile on us so that we may be saved.

⁸You brought a vine from Egypt. You forced out the nations and planted it.

⁹You cleared the ground for it so that it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰Its shade covered the mountains. Its branches covered the mighty cedars.

¹¹ It reached out with its branches to the Mediterranean Sea. Its shoots reached the Euphrates River.

¹² Why did you break down the stone fences around this vine? All who pass by are picking its fruit.

¹³ Wild boars from the forest graze on it. Wild animals devour it.

¹⁴ O God, commander of armies, come back! Look from heaven and see! Come to help this vine.

¹⁵ Take care of what your right hand planted, the son you strengthened for yourself.

¹⁶ The vine has been cut down and burned. Let them be destroyed by the threatening look on your face.

¹⁷ Let your power rest on the man you have chosen, the son of man you strengthened for yourself.

¹⁸ Then we will never turn away from you. Give us life again, and we will call on you.

¹⁹ O LORD God, commander of armies, restore us, and smile on us so that we may be saved.

81 ¹ For the choir director; on the gittith; by Asaph. Sing joyfully to

God, our strength. Shout happily to the God of Jacob.

²Begin a psalm, and strike a tambourine. Play lyres and harps with their pleasant music.

³Blow the rams horn on the day of the new moon, on the day of the full moon, on our festival days.

⁴This is a law for Israel, a legal decision from the God of Jacob.

⁵These are the instructions God set in place for Joseph when Joseph rose to power over Egypt. I heard a message I did not understand:

⁶"I removed the burden from his shoulder. His hands were freed from the basket.

⁷When you were in trouble, you called out to me, and I rescued you. I was hidden in thunder, but I answered you. I tested your loyalty at the oasis of Meribah. Selah

⁸Listen, my people, and I will warn you. Israel, if you would only listen to me!

⁹Never keep any strange god among you. Never worship a foreign god.

¹⁰I am the LORD your God, the one who brought you out of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

¹¹"But my people did not listen to me. Israel wanted nothing to do with me.

¹²So I let them go their own stubborn ways and follow their own advice.

¹³If only my people would listen to me! If only Israel would follow me!

¹⁴I would quickly defeat their enemies. I would turn my power against their foes.

¹⁵Those who hate the LORD would cringe in front of him, and their time for punishment would last forever.

¹⁶But I would feed Israel with the finest wheat and satisfy them with honey from a rock."

82¹ A psalm by Asaph. God takes his place in his own assembly. He pronounces judgment among the gods:

²"How long are you going to judge unfairly? How long are you going to side with wicked people?" Selah

³Defend weak people and orphans. Protect the rights of the oppressed and the poor.

⁴Rescue weak and needy people. Help them escape the power of wicked people.

⁵Wicked people do not know or understand anything. As they walk around in the dark, all the foundations of the earth shake.

⁶I said, "You are gods. You are all sons of the Most High.

⁷You will certainly die like humans and fall like any prince."

⁸Arise, O God! Judge the earth, because all the nations belong to you.

83¹A song; a psalm by Asaph. O God, do not remain silent. Do not turn a deaf ear to me. Do not keep quiet, O God.

²Look, your enemies are in an uproar. Those who hate you hold their heads high.

³They make plans in secret against your people and plot together against those you treasure.

⁴They say, "Let's wipe out their nation so that the name of Israel will no longer be remembered."

⁵They agree completely on their plan. They form an alliance against you:

⁶ the tents from Edom and Ishmael,
Moab and Hagar,

⁷ Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek, Philistia,
along with those who live in Tyre.

⁸ Even Assyria has joined them. They
helped the descendants of Lot. Selah

⁹ Do to them what you did to Midian, to
Sisera and Jabin at the Kishon River.

¹⁰ They were destroyed at Endor. They
became manure to fertilize the ground.

¹¹ Treat their influential people as you
treated Oreb and Zeeb. Treat all their
leaders like Zebah and Zalmunna.

¹² They said, "Let's take God's
pasturelands for ourselves."

¹³ O my God, blow them away like
tumbleweeds, like husks in the wind.

¹⁴ Pursue them with your storms, and
terrify them with your windstorms

¹⁵ the way fire burns a forest and flames
set mountains on fire.

¹⁶ Let their faces blush with shame, O
LORD, so that they must look to you for
help.

¹⁷ Let them be put to shame and
terrified forever. Let them die in disgrace

¹⁸so that they must acknowledge you. Your name is the LORD. You alone are the Most High God of the whole earth.

84 ¹For the choir director; on the gittith; a psalm by Korahs descendants. Your dwelling place is lovely, O LORD of Armies!

²My soul longs and yearns for the LORDS courtyards. My whole body shouts for joy to the living God.

³Even sparrows find a home, and swallows find a nest for themselves. There they hatch their young near your altars, O LORD of Armies, my king and my God.

⁴Blessed are those who live in your house. They are always praising you. Selah

⁵Blessed are those who find strength in you. Their hearts are on the road that leads to you.

⁶As they pass through a valley where balsam trees grow, they make it a place of springs. The early rains cover it with blessings.

⁷Their strength grows as they go along until each one of them appears in front of God in Zion.

⁸O LORD God, commander of armies, hear my prayer. Open your ears, O God of Jacob. Selah

⁹Look at our shield, O God. Look with favor on the face of your anointed one.

¹⁰One day in your courtyards is better than a thousand anywhere else. I would rather stand in the entrance to my Gods house than live inside wicked peoples homes.

¹¹The LORD God is a sun and shield. The LORD grants favor and honor. He does not hold back any blessing from those who live innocently.

¹²O LORD of Armies, blessed is the person who trusts you.

85¹ For the choir director; a psalm by Korahs descendants. You favored your land, O LORD. You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²You removed your peoples guilt. You pardoned all their sins. Selah

³You laid aside all your fury. You turned away from your burning anger.

⁴Restore us, O God, our savior. Put an end to your anger against us.

⁵ Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you ever let go of your anger in the
generations to come?

⁶ Wont you restore our lives again so
that your people may find joy in you?

⁷ Show us your mercy, O LORD, by
giving us your salvation.

⁸ I want to hear what God the LORD
says, because he promises peace to his
people, to his godly ones. But they must
not go back to their stupidity.

⁹ Indeed, his salvation is near those
who fear him, and his glory will remain
in our land.

¹⁰ Mercy and truth have met.
Righteousness and peace have kissed.

¹¹ Truth sprouts from the ground, and
righteousness looks down from heaven.

¹² The LORD will certainly give us what
is good, and our land will produce crops.

¹³ Righteousness will go ahead of him
and make a path for his steps.

86 ¹ A prayer by David. Turn your ear
toward me, O LORD. Answer me,
because I am oppressed and needy.

² Protect me, because I am faithful to
you. Save your servant who trusts you.
You are my God.

³ Have pity on me, O Lord, because I call out to you all day long.

⁴ Give me joy, O Lord, because I lift my soul to you.

⁵ You, O Lord, are good and forgiving, full of mercy toward everyone who calls out to you.

⁶ Open your ears to my prayer, O LORD. Pay attention when I plead for mercy.

⁷ When I am in trouble, I call out to you because you answer me.

⁸ No god is like you, O Lord. No one can do what you do.

⁹ All the nations that you have made will bow in your presence, O Lord. They will honor you.

¹⁰ Indeed, you are great, a worker of miracles. You alone are God.

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, so that I may live in your truth. Focus my heart on fearing you.

¹² I will give thanks to you with all my heart, O Lord my God. I will honor you forever

¹³ because your mercy toward me is great. You have rescued me from the depths of hell.

¹⁴ O God, arrogant people attack me, and a mob of ruthless people seeks my life. They think nothing of you.

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and merciful God. You are patient, always faithful and ready to forgive.

¹⁶ Turn toward me, and have pity on me. Give me your strength because I am your servant. Save me because I am the son of your female servant.

¹⁷ Grant me some proof of your goodness so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame. You, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

87 ¹ By Korah's descendants; a psalm; a song. The city the LORD has founded stands on holy mountains.

² The LORD loves the city of Zion more than any other place in Jacob.

³ Glorious things are said about you, O city of God! Selah

⁴ The LORD says, "I will add Egypt and Babylon as well as Philistia, Tyre, and Sudan to the list of those who acknowledge me. Each nation will claim that it was born there."

⁵ But it will be said of Zion, "Every race is born in it. The Most High will make it secure."

⁶ The LORD will record this in the Book of Nations: "Every race claims that it was born there." Selah

⁷ Singers and dancers will sing, "Zion is the source of all our blessings."

88¹ A song; a psalm by Korahs descendants; for the choir director; according to mahalath leannoth; a maskil by Heman the Ezrahite. O LORD God, my savior, I cry out to you during the day and at night.

² Let my prayer come into your presence. Turn your ear to hear my cries.

³ My soul is filled with troubles, and my life comes closer to the grave.

⁴ I am numbered with those who go into the pit. I am like a man without any strength

⁵ abandoned with the dead, like those who have been killed and lie in graves, like those whom you no longer remember, who are cut off from your power.

⁶ You have put me in the bottom of the pit in deep, dark places.

⁷Your rage lies heavily on me. You make all your waves pound on me. Selah

⁸You have taken my friends far away from me. You made me disgusting to them. I'm shut in, and I can't get out.

⁹My eyes grow weak because of my suffering. All day long I call out to you, O LORD. I stretch out my hands to you in prayer.

¹⁰Will you perform miracles for those who are dead? Will the spirits of the dead rise and give thanks to you? Selah

¹¹Will anyone tell about your mercy in Sheol or about your faithfulness in Abaddon?

¹²Will anyone know about your miracles in that dark place or about your righteousness in the place where forgotten people live?

¹³I cry out to you for help, O LORD, and in the morning my prayer will come into your presence.

¹⁴Why do you reject my soul, O LORD? Why do you hide your face from me?

¹⁵Ever since I was young, I have been suffering and near death. I have endured your terrors, and now I am in despair.

¹⁶Your burning anger has swept over me. Your terrors have destroyed me.

¹⁷They swirl around me all day long like water. They surround me on all sides.

¹⁸You have taken my loved ones and friends far away from me. Darkness is my only friend!

89¹ A maskil by Ethan the Ezrahite.
I will sing forever about the evidence of your mercy, O LORD. I will tell about your faithfulness to every generation.

²I said, "Your mercy will last forever. Your faithfulness stands firm in the heavens."

³You said, "I have made a promise to my chosen one. I swore this oath to my servant David:

⁴I will make your dynasty continue forever. I built your throne to last throughout every generation." Selah

⁵O LORD, the heavens praise your miracles and your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.

⁶Who in the skies can compare with the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD?

⁷God is terrifying in the council of the holy ones. He is greater and more aweinspiring than those who surround him.

⁸O LORD God of Armies, who is like you? Mighty LORD, even your faithfulness surrounds you.

⁹You rule the raging sea. When its waves rise, you quiet them.

¹⁰You crushed Rahab; it was like a corpse. With your strong arm you scattered your enemies.

¹¹The heavens are yours. The earth is also yours. You made the world and everything in it.

¹²You created north and south. Mount Tabor and Mount Hermon sing your name joyfully.

¹³Your arm is mighty. Your hand is strong. Your right hand is lifted high.

¹⁴Righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne. Mercy and truth stand in front of you.

¹⁵Blessed are the people who know how to praise you. They walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

¹⁶They find joy in your name all day long. They are joyful in your righteousness

¹⁷because you are the glory of their strength. By your favor you give us victory.

¹⁸Our shield belongs to the LORD. Our king belongs to the Holy One of Israel.

¹⁹Once in a vision you said to your faithful ones: "I set a boy above warriors. I have raised up one chosen from the people.

²⁰I found my servant David. I anointed him with my holy oil.

²¹My hand is ready to help him. My arm will also give him strength.

²²No enemy will take him by surprise. No wicked person will mistreat him.

²³I will crush his enemies in front of him and defeat those who hate him.

²⁴My faithfulness and mercy will be with him, and in my name he will be victorious.

²⁵I will put his left hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

²⁶He will call out to me, You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.

²⁷ Yes, I will make him the firstborn. He will be the Most High to the kings of the earth.

²⁸ My mercy will stay with him forever. My promise to him is unbreakable.

²⁹ I will make his dynasty endure forever and his throne like the days of heaven.

³⁰ "If his descendants abandon my teachings and do not live by my rules,

³¹ if they violate my laws and do not obey my commandments,

³² then with a rod I will punish their rebellion and their crimes with beatings.

³³ But I will not take my mercy away from him or allow my truth to become a lie.

³⁴ I will not dishonor my promise or alter my own agreement.

³⁵ On my holiness I have taken an oath once and for all: I will not lie to David.

³⁶ His dynasty will last forever. His throne will be in my presence like the sun.

³⁷ Like the moon his throne will stand firm forever. It will be like a faithful witness in heaven."

³⁸ But you have despised, rejected, and become angry with your anointed one.

³⁹ You have refused to recognize the promise to your servant and have thrown his crown into the dirt.

⁴⁰ You have broken through all his walls and have laid his fortified cities in ruins.

⁴¹ (Everyone who passed by robbed him. He has become the object of his neighbors scorn.)

⁴² You held the right hand of his enemies high and made all of his adversaries rejoice.

⁴³ You even took his sword out of his hand and failed to support him in battle.

⁴⁴ You put an end to his splendor and hurled his throne to the ground.

⁴⁵ You cut short the days of his youth and covered him with shame. Selah

⁴⁶ How long, O LORD? Will you hide yourself forever? How long will your anger continue to burn like fire?

⁴⁷ Remember how short my life is! Have you created Adams descendants for no reason?

⁴⁸ Can a mortal go on living and never see death? Who can set himself free from the power of the grave? Selah

⁴⁹Where is the evidence of your mercy, Lord? You swore an oath to David on the basis of your faithfulness.

⁵⁰Remember, O LORD, how your servant has been insulted. Remember how I have carried in my heart the insults from so many people.

⁵¹Your enemies insulted me. They insulted your Messiah every step he took.

⁵²Thank the LORD forever. Amen and amen!

90¹A prayer by Moses, the man of God. O Lord, you have been our refuge throughout every generation.

²Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, you were God. You are God from everlasting to everlasting.

³You turn mortals back into dust and say, "Return, descendants of Adam."

⁴Indeed, in your sight a thousand years are like a single day, like yesterday already past like an hour in the night.

⁵You sweep mortals away. They are a dream. They sprout again in the morning like cut grass.

⁶In the morning they blossom and sprout. In the evening they wither and dry up.

⁷Indeed, your anger consumes us. Your rage terrifies us.

⁸You have set our sins in front of you. You have put our secret sins in the light of your presence.

⁹Indeed, all our days slip away because of your fury. We live out our years like one long sigh.

¹⁰Each of us lives for 70 years or even 80 if we are in good health. But the best of them bring trouble and misery. Indeed, they are soon gone, and we fly away.

¹¹Who fully understands the power of your anger? A person fears you more when he better understands your fury.

¹²Teach us to number each of our days so that we may grow in wisdom.

¹³Return, LORD! How long? Change your plans about us, your servants.

¹⁴Satisfy us every morning with your mercy so that we may sing joyfully and rejoice all our days.

¹⁵ Make us rejoice for as many days as you have made us suffer, for as many years as we have experienced evil.

¹⁶ Let us, your servants, see what you can do. Let our children see your glorious power.

¹⁷ Let the kindness of the Lord our God be with us. Make us successful in everything we do. Yes, make us successful in everything we do.

91 ¹ Whoever lives under the shelter of the Most High will remain in the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say to the LORD, "You are my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust."

³ He is the one who will rescue you from hunters traps and from deadly plagues.

⁴ He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge. His truth is your shield and armor.

⁵ You do not need to fear terrors of the night, arrows that fly during the day,

⁶ plagues that roam the dark, epidemics that strike at noon.

⁷ They will not come near you, even though a thousand may fall dead beside you or ten thousand at your right side.

⁸You only have to look with your eyes to see the punishment of wicked people.

⁹You, O LORD, are my refuge! You have made the Most High your home.

¹⁰No harm will come to you. No sickness will come near your house.

¹¹He will put his angels in charge of you to protect you in all your ways.

¹²They will carry you in their hands so that you never hit your foot against a rock.

¹³You will step on lions and cobras. You will trample young lions and snakes.

¹⁴Because you love me, I will rescue you. I will protect you because you know my name.

¹⁵When you call to me, I will answer you. I will be with you when you are in trouble. I will save you and honor you.

¹⁶I will satisfy you with a long life. I will show you how I will save you.

92¹A psalm; a song; for the day of worship. It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to make music to praise your name, O Most High.

²It is good to announce your mercy in the morning and your faithfulness in the evening

³on a tenstringed instrument and a harp and with a melody on a lyre.

⁴You made me find joy in what you have done, O LORD. I will sing joyfully about the works of your hands.

⁵How spectacular are your works, O LORD! How very deep are your thoughts!

⁶A stupid person cannot know and a fool cannot understand

⁷that wicked people sprout like grass and all troublemakers blossom like flowers, only to be destroyed forever.

⁸But you, O LORD, are highly honored forever.

⁹Now look at your enemies, O LORD. Now look at your enemies. They disappear, and all troublemakers are scattered.

¹⁰But you make me as strong as a wild bull, and soothing lotion is poured on me.

¹¹My eyes gloat over those who spy on me. My ears hear the cries of evildoers attacking me.

¹²Righteous people flourish like palm trees and grow tall like the cedars in Lebanon.

¹³They are planted in the LORDS house.
They blossom in our Gods courtyards.

¹⁴Even when they are old, they still
bear fruit. They are always healthy and
fresh.

¹⁵They make it known that the LORD is
decent. He is my rock. He is never unfair.

93¹The LORD rules as king! He is
clothed with majesty. The LORD
has clothed himself; he has armed
himself with power. The world was set in
place; it cannot be moved.

²Your throne was set in place a long
time ago. You are eternal.

³The ocean rises, O LORD. The ocean
rises with a roar. The ocean rises with its
pounding waves.

⁴The LORD above is mighty mightier
than the sound of raging water, mightier
than the foaming waves of the sea.

⁵Your written testimonies are
completely reliable. O LORD, holiness
is what makes your house beautiful for
days without end.

94¹O LORD, God of vengeance, O
God of vengeance, appear!

²Arise, O Judge of the earth. Give
arrogant people what they deserve.

³How long, O LORD, will wicked people triumph? How long?

⁴They ramble. They speak arrogantly. All troublemakers brag about themselves.

⁵They crush your people, O LORD. They make those who belong to you suffer.

⁶They kill widows and foreigners, and they murder orphans.

⁷They say, "The LORD doesn't see it. The God of Jacob doesn't even pay attention to it."

⁸Pay attention, you stupid people! When will you become wise, you fools?

⁹God created ears. Do you think he can't hear? He formed eyes. Do you think he can't see?

¹⁰He disciplines nations. Do you think he can't punish? He teaches people. Do you think he doesn't know anything?

¹¹The LORD knows that people's thoughts are pointless.

¹²O LORD, blessed is the person whom you discipline and instruct from your teachings.

¹³You give him peace and quiet from times of trouble while a pit is dug to trap wicked people.

¹⁴The LORD will never desert his people or abandon those who belong to him.

¹⁵The decisions of judges will again become fair, and everyone whose motives are decent will pursue justice.

¹⁶Who will stand up for me against evildoers? Who will stand by my side against troublemakers?

¹⁷If the LORD had not come to help me, my soul would have quickly fallen silent in death.

¹⁸When I said, "My feet are slipping," your mercy, O LORD, continued to hold me up.

¹⁹When I worried about many things, your assuring words soothed my soul.

²⁰Are wicked rulers who use the law to do unlawful things able to be your partners?

²¹They join forces to take the lives of righteous people. They condemn innocent people to death.

²²The LORD has become my stronghold. My God has become my rock of refuge.

²³He has turned their own wickedness against them. He will destroy them because of their sins. The LORD our God will destroy them.

95 ¹ Come, let's sing joyfully to the LORD. Let's shout happily to the rock of our salvation.

² Let's come into his presence with a song of thanksgiving. Let's shout happily to him with psalms.

³ The LORD is a great God and a great king above all gods.

⁴ In his hand are the deep places of the earth, and the mountain peaks are his.

⁵ The sea is his. He made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

⁶ Come, let's worship and bow down. Let's kneel in front of the LORD, our maker,

⁷ because he is our God and we are the people in his care, the flock that he leads. If only you would listen to him today!

⁸ "Do not be stubborn like my people were at Meribah, like the time at Massah in the desert.

⁹ Your ancestors challenged me and tested me there, although they had seen what I had done.

¹⁰ For 40 years I was disgusted with those people. So I said, They are a

people whose hearts continue to stray.
They have not learned my ways.

¹¹That is why I angrily took this solemn oath: They will never enter my place of rest!"

96 ¹Sing to the LORD a new song!
Sing to the LORD, all the earth!

²Sing to the LORD! Praise his name!
Day after day announce that the LORD
saves his people.

³Tell people about his glory. Tell all the
nations about his miracles.

⁴The LORD is great! He should be
highly praised. He should be feared more
than all other gods

⁵because all the gods of the nations are
idols. The LORD made the heavens.

⁶Splendor and majesty are in his
presence. Strength and beauty are in his
holy place.

⁷Give to the LORD, you families of the
nations. Give to the LORD glory and
power.

⁸Give to the LORD the glory he
deserves. Bring an offering, and come
into his courtyards.

⁹Worship the LORD in his holy splendor.
Tremble in his presence, all the earth!

¹⁰Say to the nations, "The LORD rules as king!" The earth stands firm; it cannot be moved. He will judge people fairly.

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. Let the sea and everything in it roar like thunder.

¹²Let the fields and everything in them rejoice. Then all the trees in the forest will sing joyfully

¹³in the LORDS presence because he is coming. He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness and its people with his truth.

97 ¹The LORD rules as king. Let the earth rejoice. Let all the islands be joyful.

²Clouds and darkness surround him. Righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

³Fire spreads ahead of him. It burns his enemies who surround him.

⁴His flashes of lightning light up the world. The earth sees them and trembles.

⁵The mountains melt like wax in the presence of the LORD, in the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

⁶The heavens tell about his righteousness, and all the people of the world see his glory.

⁷Everyone who worships idols and brags about false gods will be put to shame. All the gods will bow to him.

⁸Zion hears about this and rejoices. The people of Judah are delighted with your judgments, O LORD.

⁹You, O LORD, the Most High, are above the whole earth. You are highest. You are above all the gods.

¹⁰Let those who love the LORD hate evil. The one who guards the lives of his godly ones will rescue them from the power of wicked people.

¹¹Light dawns for righteous people and joy for those whose motives are decent.

¹²Find joy in the LORD, you righteous people. Give thanks to him as you remember how holy he is.

98¹A psalm. Sing a new song to the LORD because he has done miraculous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gained victory for him.

²The LORD has made his salvation known. He has uncovered his righteousness for the nations to see.

³He has not forgotten to be merciful and faithful to Israels descendants. All the ends of the earth have seen how our God saves them.

⁴Shout happily to the LORD, all the earth. Break out into joyful singing, and make music.

⁵Make music to the LORD with a lyre, with a lyre and the melody of a psalm,

⁶with trumpets and the playing of a rams horn. Shout happily in the presence of the king, the LORD.

⁷Let the sea, everything in it, the world, and those who live in it roar like thunder.

⁸Let the rivers clap their hands and the mountains sing joyfully

⁹in the LORDS presence because he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice and its people with fairness.

99¹The LORD rules as king. Let the people tremble. He is enthroned over the angels. Let the earth quake.

²The LORD is mighty in Zion. He is high above all people.

³Let them give thanks to your great and fearful name. He is holy!

⁴The king's strength is that he loves justice. You have established fairness. You have done what is fair and right for Jacob.

⁵Highly honor the LORD our God. Bow down at his footstool. He is holy!

⁶Moses and Aaron were among his priests. Samuel was among those who prayed to him. They called to the LORD, and he answered them.

⁷He spoke to them from a column of smoke. They obeyed his written instructions and the laws that he gave them.

⁸O LORD, our God, you answered them. You showed them that you are a forgiving God and that you are a God who punishes their sinful deeds.

⁹Highly honor the LORD our God. Bow at his holy mountain. The LORD our God is holy!

100¹ A psalm of thanksgiving.
Shout happily to the LORD, all the earth.

²Serve the LORD cheerfully. Come into his presence with a joyful song.

³Realize that the LORD alone is God. He made us, and we are his. We are his people and the sheep in his care.

⁴Enter his gates with a song of thanksgiving. Come into his courtyards with a song of praise. Give thanks to him; praise his name.

⁵The LORD is good. His mercy endures forever. His faithfulness endures throughout every generation.

101 ¹A psalm by David. I will sing about mercy and justice. O LORD, I will make music to praise you.

²I want to understand the path to integrity. When will you come to me? I will live in my own home with integrity.

³I will not put anything wicked in front of my eyes. I hate what unfaithful people do. I want no part of it.

⁴I will keep far away from devious minds. I will have nothing to do with evil.

⁵I will destroy anyone who secretly slanders his neighbor. I will not tolerate anyone with a conceited look or arrogant heart.

⁶My eyes will be watching the faithful people in the land so that they may

live with me. The person who lives with integrity will serve me.

⁷The one who does deceitful things will not stay in my home. The one who tells lies will not remain in my presence.

⁸Every morning I will destroy all the wicked people in the land to rid the LORDS city of all troublemakers.

102¹ A prayer by someone who is suffering, when he is weary and pours out his troubles in the LORDS presence. O LORD, hear my prayer, and let my cry for help come to you.

²Do not hide your face from me when I am in trouble. Turn your ear toward me. Answer me quickly when I call.

³My days disappear like smoke. My bones burn like hot coals.

⁴My heart is beaten down and withered like grass because I have forgotten about eating.

⁵I am nothing but skin and bones because of my loud groans.

⁶I am like a desert owl, like an owl living in the ruins.

⁷I lie awake. I am like a lonely bird on a rooftop.

⁸All day long my enemies insult me.
Those who ridicule me use my name as
a curse.

⁹I eat ashes like bread and my tears
are mixed with my drink

¹⁰because of your hostility and anger,
because you have picked me up and
thrown me away.

¹¹My days are like a shadow that is
getting longer, and I wither away like
grass.

¹²But you, O LORD, remain forever.
You are remembered throughout every
generation.

¹³You will rise and have compassion on
Zion, because it is time to grant a favor
to it. Indeed, the appointed time has
come.

¹⁴Your servants value Zions stones,
and they pity its rubble.

¹⁵The nations will fear the LORDS
name. All the kings of the earth will fear
your glory.

¹⁶When the LORD builds Zion, he will
appear in his glory.

¹⁷He will turn his attention to the
prayers of those who have been

abandoned. He will not despise their prayers.

¹⁸This will be written down for a future generation so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD:

¹⁹"The LORD looked down from his holy place high above. From heaven he looked at the earth.

²⁰He heard the groans of the prisoners and set free those who were condemned to death.

²¹The LORDS name is announced in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem

²²when nations and kingdoms gather to worship the LORD."

²³He has weakened my strength along the way. He has reduced the number of my days.

²⁴I said, "My God, dont take me now in the middle of my life. Your years continue on throughout every generation.

²⁵Long ago you laid the foundation of the earth. Even the heavens are the works of your hands.

²⁶They will come to an end, but you will still go on. They will all wear out like clothing. You will change them like clothes, and they will be thrown away.

²⁷ But you remain the same, and your life will never end.

²⁸ The children of your servants will go on living here. Their descendants will be secure in your presence."

103¹ By David. Praise the LORD, my soul! Praise his holy name, all that is within me.

² Praise the LORD, my soul, and never forget all the good he has done:

³ He is the one who forgives all your sins, the one who heals all your diseases,

⁴ the one who rescues your life from the pit, the one who crowns you with mercy and compassion,

⁵ the one who fills your life with blessings so that you become young again like an eagle.

⁶ The LORD does what is right and fair for all who are oppressed.

⁷ He let Moses know his ways. He let the Israelites know the things he had done.

⁸ The LORD is compassionate, merciful, patient, and always ready to forgive.

⁹ He will not always accuse us of wrong or be angry with us forever.

¹⁰He has not treated us as we deserve for our sins or paid us back for our wrongs.

¹¹As high as the heavens are above the earth that is how vast his mercy is toward those who fear him.

¹²As far as the east is from the west that is how far he has removed our rebellious acts from himself.

¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

¹⁴He certainly knows what we are made of. He bears in mind that we are dust.

¹⁵Human life is as shortlived as grass. It blossoms like a flower in the field.

¹⁶When the wind blows over the flower, it disappears, and there is no longer any sign of it.

¹⁷But from everlasting to everlasting, the LORDS mercy is on those who fear him. His righteousness belongs to their children and grandchildren,

¹⁸to those who are faithful to his promise, to those who remember to follow his guiding principles.

¹⁹The LORD has set his throne in heaven. His kingdom rules everything.

²⁰Praise the LORD, all his angels, you mighty beings who carry out his orders and are ready to obey his spoken orders.

²¹Praise the LORD, all his armies, his servants who carry out his will.

²²Praise the LORD, all his creatures in all the places of his empire. Praise the LORD, my soul!

104¹Praise the LORD, my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great. You are clothed with splendor and majesty.

²You cover yourself with light as though it were a robe. You stretch out the heavens as though they were curtains.

³You lay the beams of your home in the water. You use the clouds for your chariot. You move on the wings of the wind.

⁴You make your angels winds and your servants flames of fire.

⁵You set the earth on its foundations so that it can never be shaken.

⁶You covered the earth with an ocean as though it were a robe. Water stood above the mountains

⁷and fled because of your threat. Water ran away at the sound of your thunder.

⁸The mountains rose and the valleys sank to the place you appointed for them.

⁹Water cannot cross the boundary you set and cannot come back to cover the earth.

¹⁰You make water gush from springs into valleys. It flows between the mountains.

¹¹Every wild animal drinks from them. Wild donkeys quench their thirst.

¹²The birds live by the streams. They sing among the branches.

¹³You water the mountains from your home above. You fill the earth with the fruits of your labors.

¹⁴You make grass grow for cattle and make vegetables for humans to use in order to get food from the ground.

¹⁵You make wine to cheer human hearts, olive oil to make faces shine, and bread to strengthen human hearts.

¹⁶The LORDS trees, the cedars in Lebanon which he planted, drink their fill.

¹⁷Birds build their nests in them. Storks make their homes in fir trees.

¹⁸The high mountains are for wild goats. The rocks are a refuge for badgers.

¹⁹He created the moon, which marks the seasons, and the sun, which knows when to set.

²⁰He brings darkness, and it is nighttime, when all the wild animals in the forest come out.

²¹The young lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God.

²²When the sun rises, they gather and lie down in their dens.

²³Then people go to do their work, to do their tasks until evening.

²⁴What a large number of things you have made, O LORD! You made them all by wisdom. The earth is filled with your creatures.

²⁵The sea is so big and wide with countless creatures, living things both large and small.

²⁶Ships sail on it, and Leviathan, which you made, plays in it.

²⁷All of them look to you to give them their food at the right time.

²⁸You give it to them, and they gather it up. You open your hand, and they are filled with blessings.

²⁹You hide your face, and they are terrified. You take away their breath, and they die and return to dust.

³⁰You send out your Spirit, and they are created. You renew the face of the earth.

³¹May the glory of the LORD endure forever. May the LORD find joy in what he has made.

³²He looks at the earth, and it trembles. He touches the mountains, and they smoke.

³³I will sing to the LORD throughout my life. I will make music to praise my God as long as I live.

³⁴May my thoughts be pleasing to him. I will find joy in the LORD.

³⁵May sinners vanish from the world. May there no longer be any wicked people. Praise the LORD, my soul! Hallelujah!

105¹ Give thanks to the LORD. Call on him. Make known among the nations what he has done.

²Sing to him. Make music to praise him. Meditate on all the miracles he has performed.

³Brag about his holy name. Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

⁴Search for the LORD and his strength. Always seek his presence.

⁵Remember the miracles he performed, the amazing things he did, and the judgments he pronounced,

⁶you descendants of his servant Abraham, you descendants of Jacob, his chosen ones.

⁷He is the LORD our God. His judgments are pronounced throughout the earth.

⁸He always remembers his promise, the word that he commanded for a thousand generations,

⁹the promise that he made to Abraham, and his sworn oath to Isaac.

¹⁰He confirmed it as a law for Jacob, as an everlasting promise to Israel,

¹¹by saying, "I will give you the land of Canaan. It is your share of the inheritance."

¹²While the people of Israel were few in number, a small group of foreigners living in that land,

¹³they wandered from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another.

¹⁴He didnt permit anyone to oppress them. He warned kings about them:

¹⁵"Do not touch my anointed ones or harm my prophets."

¹⁶He brought famine to the land. He took away their food supply.

¹⁷He sent a man ahead of them. He sent Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

¹⁸They hurt his feet with shackles, and cut into his neck with an iron collar.

¹⁹The LORDS promise tested him through fiery trials until his prediction came true.

²⁰The king sent someone to release him. The ruler of nations set him free.

²¹He made Joseph the master of his palace and the ruler of all his possessions.

²²Joseph trained the kings officers the way he wanted and taught his respected leaders wisdom.

²³Then Israel came to Egypt. Jacob lived as a foreigner in the land of Ham.

²⁴ The LORD made his people grow rapidly in number and stronger than their enemies.

²⁵ He changed their minds so that they hated his people, and they dealt treacherously with his servants.

²⁶ He sent his servant Moses, and he sent Aaron, whom he had chosen.

²⁷ They displayed his miraculous signs among them and did amazing things in the land of Ham.

²⁸ He sent darkness and made their land dark. They did not rebel against his orders.

²⁹ He turned their water into blood and caused their fish to die.

³⁰ He made their land swarm with frogs, even in the kings bedrooms.

³¹ He spoke, and swarms of flies and gnats infested their whole territory.

³² He gave them hail and lightning instead of rain throughout their land.

³³ He struck their grapevines and fig trees and smashed the trees in their territory.

³⁴ He spoke, and countless locusts and grasshoppers came.

³⁵ They devoured all the plants in the land. They devoured the crops in the fields.

³⁶ He killed all the firstborn sons, the first ones born in the land when their fathers were young.

³⁷ He brought Israel out with silver and gold, and no one among his tribes stumbled.

³⁸ The Egyptians were terrified of Israel, so they were glad when Israel left.

³⁹ He spread out a cloud as a protective covering and a fire to light up the night.

⁴⁰ The Israelites asked, and he brought them quail and filled them with bread from heaven.

⁴¹ He opened a rock, and water gushed and flowed like a river through the dry places.

⁴² He remembered his holy promise to his servant Abraham.

⁴³ He brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with a song of joy.

⁴⁴ He gave them the lands of other nations, and they inherited what others had worked for

⁴⁵ so that they would obey his laws and follow his teachings. Hallelujah!

106¹ Hallelujah! Give thanks to the LORD because he is good, because his mercy endures forever.

² Who can speak about all the mighty things the LORD has done? Who can announce all the things for which he is worthy of praise?

³ Blessed are those who defend justice and do what is right at all times.

⁴ Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your people. Come to help me with your salvation

⁵ so that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, find joy in our peoples happiness, and brag with the people who belong to you.

⁶ We have sinned, and so did our ancestors. We have done wrong. We are guilty.

⁷ When our ancestors were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles. They did not remember your numerous acts of mercy, so they rebelled at the sea, the Red Sea.

⁸ He saved them because of his reputation so that he could make his mighty power known.

⁹He angrily commanded the Red Sea, and it dried up. He led them through deep water as though it were a desert.

¹⁰He rescued them from the power of the one who hated them. He rescued them from the enemy.

¹¹Water covered their adversaries. Not one Egyptian survived.

¹²Then our ancestors believed what he said. They sang his praise.

¹³They quickly forgot what he did. They did not wait for his advice.

¹⁴They had an unreasonable desire for food in the wilderness. In the desert they tested God.

¹⁵He gave them what they asked for. He also gave them a degenerative disease.

¹⁶In the camp certain men became envious of Moses. They also became envious of Aaron, the LORDS holy one.

¹⁷The ground split open and swallowed Dathan. It buried Abirams followers.

¹⁸A fire broke out among their followers. Flames burned up wicked people.

¹⁹At Mount Horeb they made a statue of a calf. They worshiped an idol made of metal.

²⁰They traded their glorious God for the statue of a bull that eats grass.

²¹They forgot God, their savior, the one who did spectacular things in Egypt,

²²miracles in the land of Ham, and terrifying things at the Red Sea.

²³God said he was going to destroy them, but Moses, his chosen one, stood in his way to prevent him from exterminating them.

²⁴They refused to enter the pleasant land. They did not believe what he said.

²⁵They complained in their tents. They did not obey the LORD.

²⁶Raising his hand, he swore that he would kill them in the wilderness,

²⁷kill their descendants among the nations, and scatter them throughout various lands.

²⁸They joined in worshiping the god Baal while they were at Peor, and they ate what was sacrificed to the dead.

²⁹They infuriated God by what they did, and a plague broke out among them.

³⁰Then Phinehas stood between God and the people, and the plague was stopped.

³¹ Because of this, Phinehas was considered righteous forever, throughout every generation.

³² They made God angry by the water at Meribah. Things turned out badly for Moses because of what they did,

³³ since they made him bitter so that he spoke recklessly.

³⁴ They did not destroy the people as the LORD had told them.

³⁵ Instead, they intermarried with other nations. They learned to do what other nations did,

³⁶ and they worshiped their idols, which became a trap for them.

³⁷ They sacrificed their sons and daughters to demons.

³⁸ They shed innocent blood, the blood of their own sons and daughters whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan. The land became polluted with blood.

³⁹ They became filthy because of what they did. They behaved like prostitutes.

⁴⁰ The LORD burned with anger against his own people. He was disgusted with those who belonged to him.

⁴¹ He handed them over to other nations, and those who hated them ruled them.

⁴² Their enemies oppressed them and made them subject to their power.

⁴³ He rescued them many times, but they continued to plot rebellion against him and to sink deeper because of their sin.

⁴⁴ He saw that they were suffering when he heard their cry for help.

⁴⁵ He remembered his promise to them. In keeping with his rich mercy, he changed his plans.

⁴⁶ He let them find compassion from all those who held them captive.

⁴⁷ Rescue us, O LORD our God, and gather us from the nations so that we may give thanks to your holy name and make your praise our glory.

⁴⁸ Thanks be to the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting. Let all the people say amen. Hallelujah!

107 ¹ Give thanks to the LORD because he is good, because his mercy endures forever.

² Let the people the LORD defended repeat these words. They are the people

he defended from the power of their enemies

³and gathered from other countries, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

⁴They wandered around the desert on a deserted road without finding an inhabited city.

⁵They were hungry and thirsty. They began to lose hope.

⁶In their distress they cried out to the LORD. He rescued them from their troubles.

⁷He led them on a road that went straight to an inhabited city.

⁸Let them give thanks to the LORD because of his mercy. He performed his miracles for Adams descendants.

⁹He gave plenty to drink to those who were thirsty. He filled those who were hungry with good food.

¹⁰Those who lived in the dark, in death's shadow were prisoners in misery. They were held in iron chains

¹¹because they had rebelled against Gods words and had despised the advice given by the Most High.

¹² So he humbled them with hard work. They fell down, but no one was there to help them.

¹³ In their distress they cried out to the LORD. He saved them from their troubles.

¹⁴ He brought them out of the dark, out of death's shadow. He broke apart their chains.

¹⁵ Let them give thanks to the LORD because of his mercy. He performed his miracles for Adam's descendants.

¹⁶ He shattered bronze gates and cut iron bars in two.

¹⁷ Fools suffered because of their disobedience and because of their crimes.

¹⁸ All food was disgusting to them, and they came near death's gates.

¹⁹ In their distress they cried out to the LORD. He saved them from their troubles.

²⁰ He sent his message and healed them. He rescued them from the grave.

²¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD because of his mercy. He performed his miracles for Adam's descendants.

²²Let them bring songs of thanksgiving as their sacrifice. Let them tell in joyful songs what he has done.

²³Those who sail on the sea in ships, who do business on the high seas,

²⁴have seen what the LORD can do, the miracles he performed in the depths of the sea.

²⁵He spoke, and a storm began to blow, and it made the waves rise high.

²⁶The sailors aboard ship rose toward the sky. They plunged into the depths. Their courage melted in the face of disaster.

²⁷They reeled and staggered like drunks, and all their skills as sailors became useless.

²⁸In their distress they cried out to the LORD. He led them from their troubles.

²⁹He made the storm calm down, and the waves became still.

³⁰The sailors were glad that the storm was quiet. He guided them to the harbor they had longed for.

³¹Let them give thanks to the LORD because of his mercy. He performed his miracles for Adams descendants.

³²Let them glorify him when the people are gathered for worship. Let them praise him in the company of respected leaders.

³³He changes rivers into a desert, springs into thirsty ground,

³⁴and fertile ground into a layer of salt because of the wickedness of the people living there.

³⁵He changes deserts into lakes and dry ground into springs.

³⁶There he settles those who are hungry, and they build cities to live in.

³⁷They plant in fields and vineyards that produce crops.

³⁸He blesses them, and their numbers multiply, and he does not allow a shortage of cattle.

³⁹They became few in number and were humiliated because of oppression, disaster, and sorrow.

⁴⁰He poured contempt on their influential people and made them stumble around in a pathless desert.

⁴¹But now he lifts needy people high above suffering and makes their families like flocks.

⁴²Decent people will see this and rejoice, but all the wicked people will shut their mouths.

⁴³Let those who think they are wise pay attention to these things so that they may understand the LORDS blessings.

108¹A song; a psalm by David.
My heart is confident, O God. I want to sing and make music even with my soul.

²Wake up, harp and lyre! I want to wake up at dawn.

³I want to give thanks to you among the people, O LORD. I want to make music to praise you among the nations

⁴because your mercy is higher than the heavens. Your truth reaches the skies.

⁵May you be honored above the heavens, O God. Let your glory extend over the whole earth.

⁶Save us with your powerful hand, and answer us so that those who are dear to you may be rescued.

⁷God has promised the following through his holiness: "I will triumph! I will divide Shechem. I will measure the valley of Succoth.

⁸Gilead is mine. Manasseh is mine.
Ephraim is the helmet on my head.
Judah is my scepter.

⁹Moab is my washtub. I will throw my
shoe over Edom. I will shout in triumph
over Philistia."

¹⁰Who will bring me into the fortified
city? Who will lead me to Edom?

¹¹Isn't it you, O God, who rejected
us? Isn't it you, O God, who refused to
accompany our armies?

¹²Give us help against the enemy
because human assistance is worthless.

¹³With God we will display great
strength. He will trample our enemies.

109¹For the choir director; a
psalm by David. O God, whom
I praise, do not turn a deaf ear to me.

²Wicked and deceitful people have
opened their mouths against me. They
speak against me with lying tongues.

³They surround me with hateful words.
They fight against me for no reason.

⁴In return for my love, they accuse me,
but I pray for them.

⁵They reward me with evil instead of
good and with hatred instead of love.

⁶I said, "Appoint the evil one to oppose him. Let Satan stand beside him.

⁷When he stands trial, let him be found guilty. Let his prayer be considered sinful.

⁸Let his days be few in number. Let someone else take his position.

⁹"Let his children become fatherless and his wife a widow.

¹⁰Let his children wander around and beg. Let them seek help far from their ruined homes.

¹¹Let a creditor take everything he owns. Let strangers steal what he has worked for.

¹²Let no one be kind to him anymore. Let no one show any pity to his fatherless children.

¹³Let his descendants be cut off and their family name be wiped out by the next generation.

¹⁴Let the LORD remember the guilt of his ancestors and not wipe out his mothers sin.

¹⁵Let their guilt and sin always remain on record in front of the LORD. Let the LORD remove every memory of him from the earth,

¹⁶because he did not remember to be kind. "He drove oppressed, needy, and brokenhearted people to their graves.

¹⁷He loved to put curses on others, so he, too, was cursed. He did not like to bless others, so he never received a blessing.

¹⁸He wore cursing as though it were clothing, so cursing entered his body like water and his bones like oil.

¹⁹Let cursing be his clothing, a belt he always wears."

²⁰This is how the LORD rewards those who accuse me, those who say evil things against me.

²¹O LORD Almighty, deal with me out of the goodness of your name. Rescue me because of your mercy.

²²I am oppressed and needy. I can feel the pain in my heart.

²³I fade away like a lengthening shadow. I have been shaken off like a grasshopper.

²⁴My knees give way because I have been fasting. My body has become lean, without any fat.

²⁵I have become the victim of my enemies insults. They look at me and shake their heads.

²⁶Help me, O LORD my God. Save me because of your mercy.

²⁷Then they will know that this is your doing, that you, O LORD, are the one who saved me.

²⁸They may curse, but you will bless. Let those who attack me be ashamed, but let me rejoice.

²⁹Let those who accuse me wear disgrace as though it were clothing. Let them be wrapped in their shame as though it were a robe.

³⁰With my mouth I will give many thanks to the LORD. I will praise him among many people,

³¹because he stands beside needy people to save them from those who would condemn them to death.

110¹A psalm by David. The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit in the highest position in heaven until I make your enemies your footstool."

²The LORD will extend your powerful scepter from Zion. Rule your enemies who surround you.

³Your people will volunteer when you call up your army. Your young people will come to you in holy splendor like dew in the early morning.

⁴The LORD has taken an oath and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the way Melchizedek was a priest."

⁵The Lord is at your right side. He will crush kings on the day of his anger.

⁶He will pass judgment on the nations and fill them with dead bodies. Throughout the earth he will crush their heads.

⁷He will drink from the brook along the road. He will hold his head high.

111 ¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart in the company of decent people and in the congregation.

²The LORDS deeds are spectacular. They should be studied by all who enjoy them.

³His work is glorious and majestic. His righteousness continues forever.

⁴He has made his miracles unforgettable. The LORD is merciful and compassionate.

⁵He provides food for those who fear him. He always remembers his promise.

⁶He has revealed the power of his works to his people by giving them the lands of other nations as an inheritance.

⁷His works are done with truth and justice. All his guiding principles are trustworthy.

⁸They last forever and ever. They are carried out with truth and decency.

⁹He has sent salvation to his people. He has ordered that his promise should continue forever. His name is holy and terrifying.

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. Good sense is shown by everyone who follows Gods guiding principles. His praise continues forever.

112¹Hallelujah! Blessed is the person who fears the LORD and is happy to obey his commands.

²His descendants will grow strong on the earth. The family of a decent person will be blessed.

³Wealth and riches will be in his home. His righteousness continues forever.

⁴Light will shine in the dark for a decent person. He is merciful, compassionate, and fair.

⁵All goes well for the person who is generous and lends willingly. He earns an honest living.

⁶He will never fail. A righteous person will always be remembered.

⁷He is not afraid of bad news. His heart remains secure, full of confidence in the LORD.

⁸His heart is steady, and he is not afraid. In the end he will look triumphantly at his enemies.

⁹He gives freely to poor people. His righteousness continues forever. His head is raised in honor.

¹⁰The wicked person sees this and becomes angry. He angrily grits his teeth and disappears. The hope that wicked people have will vanish.

113¹ Hallelujah! You servants of the LORD, praise him. Praise the name of the LORD.

²Thank the name of the LORD now and forever.

³From where the sun rises to where the sun sets, the name of the LORD should be praised.

⁴The LORD is high above all the nations. His glory is above the heavens.

⁵Who is like the LORD our God? He is seated on his high throne.

⁶He bends down to look at heaven and earth.

⁷He lifts the poor from the dust. He lifts the needy from a garbage heap.

⁸He seats them with influential people, with the influential leaders of his people.

⁹He makes a woman who is in a childless home a joyful mother.
Hallelujah!

114 ¹When Israel left Egypt, when Jacobs family left people who spoke a foreign language,

²Judah became his holy place and Israel became his kingdom.

³The Red Sea looked at this and ran away. The Jordan River turned back.

⁴The mountains jumped like rams. The hills jumped like lambs.

⁵Red Sea, why did you run away?
Jordan River, what made you turn back?

⁶Mountains, what made you jump like rams? Hills, what made you jump like lambs?

⁷Earth, tremble in the presence of the Lord, in the presence of the God of Jacob.

⁸He turns a rock into a pool filled with water and turns flint into a spring flowing with water.

115¹ Don't give glory to us, O LORD. Don't give glory to us. Instead, give glory to your name because of your mercy and faithfulness.

²Why should other nations say, "Where is their God?"

³Our God is in heaven. He does whatever he wants.

⁴Their idols are made of silver and gold. They were made by human hands.

⁵They have mouths, but they cannot speak. They have eyes, but they cannot see.

⁶They have ears, but they cannot hear. They have noses, but they cannot smell.

⁷They have hands, but they cannot feel. They have feet, but they cannot walk. They cannot even make a sound with their throats.

⁸Those who make idols end up like them. So does everyone who trusts them.

⁹Israel, trust the LORD. He is your helper and your shield.

¹⁰Descendants of Aaron, trust the LORD. He is your helper and your shield.

¹¹If you fear the LORD, trust the LORD. He is your helper and your shield.

¹²The LORD, who is always thinking about us, will bless us. He will bless the descendants of Israel. He will bless the descendants of Aaron.

¹³He will bless those who fear the LORD, from the least important to the most important.

¹⁴May the LORD continue to bless you and your children.

¹⁵You will be blessed by the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

¹⁶The highest heaven belongs to the LORD, but he has given the earth to the descendants of Adam.

¹⁷Those who are dead do not praise the LORD, nor do those who go into the silence of the grave.

¹⁸But we will thank the LORD now and forever. Hallelujah!

116¹ I love the LORD because he hears my voice, my pleas for mercy.

² I will call on him as long as I live because he turns his ear toward me.

³ The ropes of death became tangled around me. The horrors of the grave took hold of me. I experienced pain and agony.

⁴ But I kept calling on the name of the LORD: "Please, LORD, rescue me!"

⁵ The LORD is merciful and righteous. Our God is compassionate.

⁶ The LORD protects defenseless people. When I was weak, he saved me.

⁷ Be at peace again, my soul, because the LORD has been good to you.

⁸ You saved me from death. You saved my eyes from tears and my feet from stumbling.

⁹ I will walk in the LORDS presence in this world of the living.

¹⁰ I kept my faith even when I said, "I am suffering terribly."

¹¹ I also said when I was panicstricken, "Everyone is undependable."

¹² How can I repay the LORD for all the good that he has done for me?

¹³I will take the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

¹⁴I will keep my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.

¹⁶O LORD, I am indeed your servant. I am your servant, the son of your female servant. You have freed me from my chains.

¹⁷I will bring a song of thanksgiving to you as a sacrifice. I will call on the name of the LORD.

¹⁸I will keep my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹in the courtyards of the LORDS house, in the middle of Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

117 ¹Praise the LORD, all you nations! Praise him, all you people of the world!

²His mercy toward us is powerful. The LORDS faithfulness endures forever.
Hallelujah!

118 ¹Give thanks to the LORD because he is good, because his mercy endures forever.

²Israel should say, "His mercy endures forever."

³The descendants of Aaron should say, "His mercy endures forever."

⁴Those who fear the LORD should say, "His mercy endures forever."

⁵During times of trouble I called on the LORD. The LORD answered me and set me free from all of them.

⁶The LORD is on my side. I am not afraid. What can mortals do to me?

⁷The LORD is on my side as my helper. I will see the defeat of those who hate me.

⁸It is better to depend on the LORD than to trust mortals.

⁹It is better to depend on the LORD than to trust influential people.

¹⁰All the nations surrounded me, but armed with the name of the LORD, I defeated them.

¹¹They surrounded me. Yes, they surrounded me, but armed with the name of the LORD, I defeated them.

¹²They swarmed around me like bees, but they were extinguished like burning thornbushes. So armed with the name of the LORD, I defeated them.

¹³They pushed hard to make me fall,
but the LORD helped me.

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my
song. He is my savior.

¹⁵The sound of joyful singing and
victory is heard in the tents of righteous
people. The right hand of the LORD
displays strength.

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is held
high. The right hand of the LORD displays
strength.

¹⁷I will not die, but I will live and tell
what the LORD has done.

¹⁸The LORD disciplined me severely,
but he did not allow me to be killed.

¹⁹Open the gates of righteousness for
me. I will go through them and give
thanks to the LORD.

²⁰This is the gate of the LORD through
which righteous people will enter.

²¹I give thanks to you, because you
have answered me. You are my savior.

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

²³The LORD is responsible for this, and
it is amazing for us to see.

²⁴This is the day the LORD has made.
Let's rejoice and be glad today!

²⁵We beg you, O LORD, save us! We beg you, O LORD, give us success!

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the LORDS house.

²⁷The LORD is God, and he has given us light. March in a festival procession with branches to the horns of the altar.

²⁸You are my God, and I give thanks to you. My God, I honor you highly.

²⁹Give thanks to the LORD because he is good, because his mercy endures forever.

119¹ Blessed are those whose lives have integrity, those who follow the teachings of the LORD.

²Blessed are those who obey his written instructions. They wholeheartedly search for him.

³They do nothing wrong. They follow his directions.

⁴You have commanded that your guiding principles be carefully followed.

⁵I pray that my ways may become firmly established so that I can obey your laws.

⁶Then I will never feel ashamed when I study all your commandments.

⁷ I will give thanks to you as I learn your regulations, which are based on your righteousness.

⁸ I will obey your laws. Never abandon me.

⁹ How can a young person keep his life pure? He can do it by holding on to your word.

¹⁰ I wholeheartedly searched for you. Do not let me wander away from your commandments.

¹¹ I have treasured your promise in my heart so that I may not sin against you.

¹² Thanks be to you, O LORD. Teach me your laws.

¹³ With my lips I have repeated every regulation that comes from your mouth.

¹⁴ I find joy in the way shown by your written instructions more than I find joy in all kinds of riches.

¹⁵ I want to reflect on your guiding principles and study your ways.

¹⁶ Your laws make me happy. I never forget your word.

¹⁷ Be kind to me so that I may live and hold on to your word.

¹⁸ Uncover my eyes so that I may see the miraculous things in your teachings.

¹⁹I am a foreigner in this world. Do not hide your commandments from me.

²⁰My soul is overwhelmed with endless longing for your regulations.

²¹You threaten arrogant people, who are condemned and wander away from your commandments.

²²Remove the insults and contempt that have fallen on me because I have obeyed your written instructions.

²³Even though influential people plot against me, I reflect on your laws.

²⁴Indeed, your written instructions make me happy. They are my best friends.

²⁵I am close to death. Give me a new life as you promised.

²⁶I told you what I have done, and you answered me. Teach me your laws.

²⁷Help me understand your guiding principles so that I may reflect on your miracles.

²⁸I am drowning in tears. Strengthen me as you promised.

²⁹Turn me away from a life of lies. Graciously provide me with your teachings.

³⁰I have chosen a life of faithfulness. I have set your regulations in front of me.

³¹I have clung tightly to your written instructions. O LORD, do not let me be put to shame.

³²I will eagerly pursue your commandments because you continue to increase my understanding.

³³Teach me, O LORD, how to live by your laws, and I will obey them to the end.

³⁴Help me understand so that I can follow your teachings. I will guard them with all my heart.

³⁵Lead me on the path of your commandments, because I am happy with them.

³⁶Direct my heart toward your written instructions rather than getting rich in underhanded ways.

³⁷Turn my eyes away from worthless things. Give me a new life in your ways.

³⁸Keep your promise to me so that I can fear you.

³⁹Take away insults, which I dread, because your regulations are good.

⁴⁰I long for your guiding principles. Give me a new life in your righteousness.

⁴¹ Let your blessings reach me, O LORD.
Save me as you promised.

⁴² Then I will have an answer for the
one who insults me since I trust your
word.

⁴³ Do not take so much as a single word
of truth from my mouth. My hope is
based on your regulations.

⁴⁴ I will follow your teachings forever
and ever.

⁴⁵ I will walk around freely because I
sought out your guiding principles.

⁴⁶ I will speak about your written
instructions in the presence of kings and
not feel ashamed.

⁴⁷ Your commandments, which I love,
make me happy.

⁴⁸ I lift my hands in prayer because of
your commandments, which I love. I will
reflect on your laws.

⁴⁹ Remember the word you gave me.
Through it you gave me hope.

⁵⁰ This is my comfort in my misery:
Your promise gave me a new life.

⁵¹ Arrogant people have mocked me
with cruelty, yet I have not turned away
from your teachings.

⁵²I remembered your regulations from long ago, O LORD, and I found comfort in them.

⁵³I am burning with anger because of wicked people, who abandon your teachings.

⁵⁴Your laws have become like psalms to me in this place where I am only a foreigner.

⁵⁵At night I remember your name, O LORD, and I follow your teachings.

⁵⁶This has happened to me because I have obeyed your guiding principles.

⁵⁷You are my inheritance, O LORD. I promised to hold on to your words.

⁵⁸With all my heart I want to win your favor. Be kind to me as you promised.

⁵⁹I have thought about my life, and I have directed my feet back to your written instructions.

⁶⁰Without any hesitation I hurry to obey your commandments.

⁶¹Though the ropes of wicked people are tied around me, I never forget your teachings.

⁶²At midnight I wake up to give thanks to you for the regulations, which are based on your righteousness.

⁶³I am a friend to everyone who fears you and to everyone who follows your guiding principles.

⁶⁴Your mercy, O LORD, fills the earth. Teach me your laws.

⁶⁵You have treated me well, O LORD, as you promised.

⁶⁶Teach me to use good judgment and knowledge, because I believe in your commandments.

⁶⁷Before you made me suffer, I used to wander off, but now I hold on to your word.

⁶⁸You are good, and you do good things. Teach me your laws.

⁶⁹Arrogant people have smeared me with lies, yet I obey your guiding principles with all my heart.

⁷⁰Their hearts are cold and insensitive, yet I am happy with your teachings.

⁷¹It was good that I had to suffer in order to learn your laws.

⁷²The teachings that come from your mouth are worth more to me than thousands in gold or silver.

⁷³Your hands created me and made me what I am. Help me understand so that I may learn your commandments.

⁷⁴Those who fear you will see me and rejoice, because my hope is based on your word.

⁷⁵I know that your regulations are fair, O LORD, and that you were right to make me suffer.

⁷⁶Let your mercy comfort me as you promised.

⁷⁷Let your compassion reach me so that I may live, because your teachings make me happy.

⁷⁸Let arrogant people be put to shame because they lied about me, yet I reflect on your guiding principles.

⁷⁹Let those who fear you turn to me so that they can come to know your written instructions.

⁸⁰Let my heart be filled with integrity in regard to your laws so that I will not be put to shame.

⁸¹My soul is weak from waiting for you to save me. My hope is based on your word.

⁸²My eyes have become strained from looking for your promise. I ask, "When will you comfort me?"

⁸³ Although I have become like a shriveled and dried out wineskin, I have not forgotten your laws.

⁸⁴ What is left of my life? When will you bring those who persecute me to justice?

⁸⁵ Arrogant people have dug pits to trap me in defiance of your teachings.

⁸⁶ (All your commandments are reliable.) Those people persecute me with lies. Help me!

⁸⁷ They almost wiped me off the face of the earth. But I did not abandon your guiding principles.

⁸⁸ Give me a new life through your mercy so that I may obey the written instructions, which came from your mouth.

⁸⁹ O LORD, your word is established in heaven forever.

⁹⁰ Your faithfulness endures throughout every generation. You set the earth in place, and it continues to stand.

⁹¹ All things continue to stand today because of your regulations, since they are all your servants.

⁹² If your teachings had not made me happy, then I would have died in my misery.

⁹³I will never forget your guiding principles, because you gave me a new life through them.

⁹⁴I am yours. Save me, because I have searched for your guiding principles.

⁹⁵The wicked people have waited for me in order to destroy me, yet I want to understand your written instructions.

⁹⁶I have seen a limit to everything else, but your commandments have no limit.

⁹⁷Oh, how I love your teachings! They are in my thoughts all day long.

⁹⁸Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, because your commandments are always with me.

⁹⁹I have more insight than all my teachers, because your written instructions are in my thoughts.

¹⁰⁰I have more wisdom than those with many years of experience, because I have obeyed your guiding principles.

¹⁰¹I have kept my feet from walking on any evil path in order to obey your word.

¹⁰²I have not neglected your regulations, because you have taught me.

¹⁰³How sweet the taste of your promise is! It tastes sweeter than honey.

¹⁰⁴From your guiding principles I gain understanding. That is why I hate every path that leads to lying.

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

¹⁰⁶I took an oath, and I will keep it. I took an oath to follow your regulations, which are based on your righteousness.

¹⁰⁷I have suffered so much. Give me a new life, O LORD, as you promised.

¹⁰⁸Please accept the praise I gladly give you, O LORD, and teach me your regulations.

¹⁰⁹I always take my life into my own hands, but I never forget your teachings.

¹¹⁰Wicked people have set a trap for me, but I have never wandered away from your guiding principles.

¹¹¹Your written instructions are mine forever. They are the joy of my heart.

¹¹²I have decided to obey your laws. They offer a reward that never ends.

¹¹³I hate twofaced people, but I love your teachings.

¹¹⁴You are my hiding place and my shield. My hope is based on your word.

¹¹⁵Get away from me, you evildoers, so that I can obey the commandments of my God.

¹¹⁶Help me God, as you promised, so that I may live. Do not turn my hope into disappointment.

¹¹⁷Hold me, and I will be safe, and I will always respect your laws.

¹¹⁸You reject all who wander away from your laws, because their lies mislead them.

¹¹⁹You get rid of all wicked people on earth as if they were rubbish. That is why I love your written instructions.

¹²⁰My body shudders in fear of you, and I am afraid of your regulations.

¹²¹I have done what is fair and right. Do not leave me at the mercy of those who oppress me.

¹²²Guarantee my wellbeing. Do not let arrogant people oppress me.

¹²³My eyes are strained from looking for you to save me and from looking for the fulfillment of your righteous promise.

¹²⁴Treat me with kindness, and teach me your laws.

¹²⁵I am your servant. Help me understand so that I may come to know your written instructions.

¹²⁶It is time for you to act, O LORD. Even though people have abolished your teachings,

¹²⁷I love your commandments more than gold, more than pure gold.

¹²⁸I follow the straight paths of your guiding principles. I hate every pathway that leads to lying.

¹²⁹Your written instructions are miraculous. That is why I obey them.

¹³⁰Your word is a doorway that lets in light, and it helps gullible people understand.

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³²Turn toward me, and have pity on me as you have pledged to do for those who love your name.

¹³³Make my steps secure through your promise, and do not let any sin control me.

¹³⁴Save me from human oppression so that I may obey your guiding principles.

¹³⁵Smile on me, and teach me your laws.

¹³⁶Streams of tears flow from my eyes because others do not follow your teachings.

¹³⁷You are righteous, O LORD, and your regulations are fair.

¹³⁸You have issued your written instructions. They are fair and completely dependable.

¹³⁹My devotion for your words consumes me, because my enemies have forgotten your words.

¹⁴⁰Your promise has been thoroughly tested, and I love it.

¹⁴¹I am unimportant and despised, yet I never forget your guiding principles.

¹⁴²Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and your teachings are reliable.

¹⁴³Trouble and hardship have found me, but your commandments still make me happy.

¹⁴⁴Your written instructions are always right. Help me understand them so that I will live.

¹⁴⁵I have called out with all my heart. Answer me, O LORD. I want to obey your laws.

¹⁴⁶I have called out. Save me, so that I can obey your written instructions.

¹⁴⁷I got up before dawn, and I cried out for help. My hope is based on your word.

¹⁴⁸My eyes are wide open throughout the nighttime hours to reflect on your word.

¹⁴⁹In keeping with your mercy, hear my voice. O LORD, give me a new life guided by your regulations.

¹⁵⁰Those who carry out plots against me are near, yet they are far away from your teachings.

¹⁵¹You are near, O LORD, and all your commandments are reliable.

¹⁵²Long ago I learned from your written instructions that you made them to last forever.

¹⁵³Look at my misery, and rescue me, because I have never forgotten your teachings.

¹⁵⁴Plead my case for me, and save me. Give me a new life as you promised.

¹⁵⁵Wicked people are far from being saved, because they have not searched for your laws.

¹⁵⁶Your acts of compassion are many in number, O LORD. Give me a new life guided by your regulations.

¹⁵⁷I have many persecutors and opponents, yet I have not turned away from your written instructions.

¹⁵⁸I have seen traitors, and I am filled with disgust. They have not accepted your promise.

¹⁵⁹See how I have loved your guiding principles! O LORD, in keeping with your mercy, give me a new life.

¹⁶⁰There is nothing but truth in your word, and all of your righteous regulations endure forever.

¹⁶¹Influential people have persecuted me for no reason, but it is only your words that fill my heart with terror.

¹⁶²I find joy in your promise like someone who finds a priceless treasure.

¹⁶³I hate lying; I am disgusted with it. I love your teachings.

¹⁶⁴Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous regulations.

¹⁶⁵There is lasting peace for those who love your teachings. Nothing can make those people stumble.

¹⁶⁶I have waited with hope for you to save me, O LORD. I have carried out your commandments.

¹⁶⁷I have obeyed your written instructions. I have loved them very much.

¹⁶⁸I have followed your guiding principles and your written instructions, because my whole life is in front of you.

¹⁶⁹Let my cry for help come into your presence, O LORD. Help me understand as you promised.

¹⁷⁰Let my plea for mercy come into your presence. Rescue me as you promised.

¹⁷¹Let my lips pour out praise because you teach me your laws.

¹⁷²Let my tongue sing about your promise because all your commandments are fair.

¹⁷³Let your hand help me because I have chosen to follow your guiding principles.

¹⁷⁴I have longed for you to save me, O LORD, and your teachings make me happy.

¹⁷⁵Let my soul have new life so that it can praise you. Let your regulations help me.

¹⁷⁶I have wandered away like a lost lamb. Search for me, because I have never forgotten your commandments.

120¹A song for going up to worship. When I was in trouble, I cried out to the LORD, and he answered me.

²O LORD, rescue me from lying lips and from a deceitful tongue.

³You deceitful tongue, what can the LORD give you? What more can he do for you?

⁴He will give you a warriors sharpened arrows and redhot coals.

⁵How horrible it is to live as a foreigner in Meshech or to stay in the tents of Kedar.

⁶I have lived too long with those who hate peace.

⁷I am for peace, but when I talk about it, they only talk about war.

121¹A song for going up to worship. I look up toward the mountains. Where can I find help?

²My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

³He will not let you fall. Your guardian will not fall asleep.

⁴Indeed, the Guardian of Israel never rests or sleeps.

⁵The LORD is your guardian. The LORD is the shade over your right hand.

⁶The sun will not beat down on you during the day, nor will the moon at night.

⁷The LORD guards you from every evil. He guards your life.

⁸The LORD guards you as you come and go, now and forever.

122 ¹A song by David for going up to worship. I was glad when they said to me, "Let's go to the house of the LORD."

²Our feet are standing inside your gates, Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built to be a city where the people are united.

⁴All of the LORDS tribes go to that city because it is a law in Israel to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

⁵The court of justice sits there. It consists of princes who are Davids descendants.

⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you prosper.

⁷May there be peace inside your walls and prosperity in your palaces."

⁸For the sake of my relatives and friends, let me say, "May it go well for you!"

⁹For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek what is good for you.

123¹ A song for going up to worship. I look up to you, to the one who sits enthroned in heaven.

²As servants depend on their masters, as a maid depends on her mistress, so we depend on the LORD our God until he has pity on us.

³Have pity on us, O LORD. Have pity on us because we have suffered more than our share of contempt.

⁴We have suffered more than our share of ridicule from those who are carefree. We have suffered more than our share of contempt from those who are arrogant.

124¹ A song by David for going up to worship. "If the LORD

had not been on our side" (Israel should repeat this.)

²"If the LORD had not been on our side when people attacked us,

³then they would have swallowed us alive when their anger exploded against us.

⁴Then the floodwaters would have swept us away. An overflowing stream would have washed us away.

⁵Then raging water would have washed us away."

⁶Thank the LORD, who did not let them sink their teeth into us.

⁷We escaped like a bird caught in a hunters trap. The trap was broken, and we escaped.

⁸Our help is in the name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

125¹A song for going up to worship. Those who trust the LORD are like Mount Zion, which can never be shaken. It remains firm forever.

²As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people now and forever.

³A wicked ruler will not be allowed to govern the land set aside for righteous

people. That is why righteous people do not use their power to do wrong.

⁴Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, to those whose motives are decent.

⁵But when people become crooked, the LORD will lead them away with troublemakers. Let there be peace in Israel!

126¹A song for going up to worship. When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, it was as if we were dreaming.

²Then our mouths were filled with laughter and our tongues with joyful songs. Then the nations said, "The LORD has done spectacular things for them."

³The LORD has done spectacular things for us. We are overjoyed.

⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD, as you restore streams to dry riverbeds in the Negev.

⁵Those who cry while they plant will joyfully sing while they harvest.

⁶The person who goes out weeping, carrying his bag of seed, will come home singing, carrying his bundles of grain.

127 ¹A song by Solomon for going up to worship. If the LORD does not build the house, it is useless for the builders to work on it. If the LORD does not protect a city, it is useless for the guard to stay alert.

²It is useless to work hard for the food you eat by getting up early and going to bed late. The LORD gives food to those he loves while they sleep.

³Children are an inheritance from the LORD. They are a reward from him.

⁴The children born to a man when he is young are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.

⁵Blessed is the man who has filled his quiver with them. He will not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the city gate.

128 ¹A song for going up to worship. Blessed are all who fear the LORD and live his way.

²You will certainly eat what your own hands have provided. Blessings to you! May things go well for you!

³Your wife will be like a fruitful vine inside your home. Your children will be like young olive trees around your table.

⁴This is how the LORD will bless the person who fears him.

⁵May the LORD bless you from Zion so that you may see Jerusalem prospering all the days of your life.

⁶May you live to see your childrens children. Let there be peace in Israel!

129¹A song for going up to worship. "From the time I was young, people have attacked me" (Israel should repeat this.)

²"From the time I was young, people have attacked me, but they have never overpowered me.

³They have plowed my back like farmers plow fields. They made long slashes like furrows."

⁴The LORD is righteous. He has cut me loose from the ropes that wicked people tied around me.

⁵Put to shame all those who hate Zion. Force them to retreat.

⁶Make them be like grass on a roof, like grass that dries up before it produces a stalk.

⁷It will never fill the barns of those who harvest or the arms of those who gather bundles.

⁸Those who pass by will never say to them, "May you be blessed by the LORD" or "We bless you in the name of the LORD."

130¹ A song for going up to worship. O LORD, out of the depths I call to you.

²O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be open to my pleas for mercy.

³O LORD, who would be able to stand if you kept a record of sins?

⁴But with you there is forgiveness so that you can be feared.

⁵I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and with hope I wait for his word.

⁶My soul waits for the LORD more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, because with the LORD there is mercy and with him there is unlimited forgiveness.

⁸He will rescue Israel from all its sins.

131¹ A song by David for going up to worship. O LORD, my heart is not conceited. My eyes do not look down on others. I am not involved in things too big or too difficult for me.

²Instead, I have kept my soul calm and quiet. My soul is content as a weaned child is content in its mothers arms.

³Israel, put your hope in the LORD now and forever.

132¹ A song for going up to worship. O LORD, remember David and all the hardships he endured.

²Remember how he swore an oath to the LORD and made this vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:

³"I will not step inside my house,

⁴get into my bed, shut my eyes, or close my eyelids

⁵until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."

⁶Now, we have heard about the ark of the promise being in Ephrathah. We have found it in Jaar.

⁷Lets go to his dwelling place. Lets worship at his footstool.

⁸O LORD, arise, and come to your resting place with the ark of your power.

⁹Clothe your priests with righteousness. Let your godly ones sing with joy.

¹⁰For the sake of your servant David, do not reject your anointed one.

¹¹ The LORD swore an oath to David. This is a truth he will not take back: "I will set one of your own descendants on your throne.

¹² If your sons are faithful to my promise and my written instructions that I will teach them, then their descendants will also sit on your throne forever."

¹³ The LORD has chosen Zion. He wants it for his home.

¹⁴ "This will be my resting place forever. Here I will sit enthroned because I want Zion.

¹⁵ I will certainly bless all that Zion needs. I will satisfy its needy people with food.

¹⁶ I will clothe its priests with salvation. Then its godly ones will sing joyfully.

¹⁷ There I will make a horn sprout up for David. I will prepare a lamp for my anointed one.

¹⁸ I will clothe his enemies with shame, but the crown on my anointed one will shine."

133¹ A song by David for going up to worship. See how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in harmony!

²It is like fine, scented oil on the head, running down the beard down Aarons beard running over the collar of his robes.

³It is like dew on Mount Hermon, dew which comes down on Zions mountains. That is where the LORD promised the blessing of eternal life.

134¹ A song for going up to worship. Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, all who stand in the house of the LORD night after night.

²Lift your hands toward the holy place, and praise the LORD.

³May the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth, bless you from Zion.

135¹ Hallelujah! Praise the name of the LORD. Praise him, you servants of the LORD

²who are standing in the house of the LORD, in the courtyards of the house of our God.

³Praise the LORD because he is good. Make music to praise his name because his name is beautiful.

⁴The LORD chose Jacob to be his own and chose Israel to be his own special treasure.

⁵I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all the false gods.

⁶The LORD does whatever he wants in heaven or on earth, on the seas or in all the depths of the oceans.

⁷He is the one who makes the clouds rise from the ends of the earth, who makes lightning for the thunderstorms, and who brings wind out of his storerooms.

⁸He is the one who killed every firstborn male in Egypt. He killed humans and animals alike.

⁹He sent miraculous signs and amazing things into the heart of Egypt against Pharaoh and all his officials.

¹⁰He is the one who defeated many nations and killed mighty kings:

¹¹King Sihon of the Amorites, King Og of Bashan, and all the kingdoms in Canaan.

¹²He gave their land as an inheritance, an inheritance to his people Israel.

¹³O LORD, your name endures forever.
O LORD, you will be remembered
throughout every generation.

¹⁴The LORD will provide justice for
his people and have compassion on his
servants.

¹⁵The idols of the nations are made
of silver and gold. They were made by
human hands.

¹⁶They have mouths, but they cannot
speak. They have eyes, but they cannot
see.

¹⁷They have ears, but they cannot
hear. They cannot breathe.

¹⁸Those who make idols end up like
them. So does everyone who trusts
them.

¹⁹Descendants of Israel, praise the
LORD. Descendants of Aaron, praise the
LORD.

²⁰Descendants of Levi, praise the
LORD. You people who fear the LORD,
praise the LORD.

²¹Thank the LORD in Zion. Thank the
one who lives in Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

136 ¹Give thanks to the LORD
because he is good, because
his mercy endures forever.

²Give thanks to the God of gods
because his mercy endures forever.

³Give thanks to the Lord of lords
because his mercy endures forever.

⁴Give thanks to the only one who does
miraculous things because his mercy
endures forever.

⁵to the one who made the heavens by
his understanding because his mercy
endures forever.

⁶to the one who spread out the earth
on the water because his mercy endures
forever.

⁷to the one who made the great lights
because his mercy endures forever.

⁸the sun to rule the day because his
mercy endures forever.

⁹the moon and stars to rule the night
because his mercy endures forever.

¹⁰Give thanks to the one who killed
the firstborn males in Egypt because his
mercy endures forever.

¹¹He brought Israel out from among
them because his mercy endures forever.

¹²with a mighty hand and a powerful
arm because his mercy endures forever.

¹³ Give thanks to the one who divided the Red Sea because his mercy endures forever.

¹⁴ He led Israel through the middle of it because his mercy endures forever.

¹⁵ He swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea because his mercy endures forever.

¹⁶ Give thanks to the one who led his people through the desert because his mercy endures forever.

¹⁷ Give thanks to the one who defeated powerful kings because his mercy endures forever.

¹⁸ He killed mighty kings because his mercy endures forever.

¹⁹ King Sihon of the Amorites because his mercy endures forever.

²⁰ and King Og of Bashan because his mercy endures forever.

²¹ He gave their land as an inheritance because his mercy endures forever.

²² as an inheritance for his servant Israel because his mercy endures forever.

²³ He remembered us when we were humiliated because his mercy endures forever.

²⁴ He snatched us from the grasp of our enemies because his mercy endures forever.

²⁵ He gives food to every living creature because his mercy endures forever.

²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven because his mercy endures forever.

137 ¹ By the rivers of Babylon, we sat down and cried as we remembered Zion.

² We hung our lyres on willow trees.

³ It was there that those who had captured us demanded that we sing. Those who guarded us wanted us to entertain them. They said, "Sing a song from Zion for us!"

⁴ How could we sing the LORDS song in a foreign land?

⁵ If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand forget how to play the lyre.

⁶ Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth if I don't remember you, if I don't consider Jerusalem my highest joy.

⁷ O LORD, remember the people of Edom. Remember what they did the day Jerusalem was captured. They said, "Tear it down! Tear it down to its foundation."

⁸You destructive people of Babylon, blessed is the one who pays you back with the same treatment you gave us.

⁹Blessed is the one who grabs your little children and smashes them against a rock.

138¹ By David. I will give thanks to you with all my heart. I will make music to praise you in front of the false gods.

²I will bow toward your holy temple. I will give thanks to your name because of your mercy and truth. You have made your name and your promise greater than everything.

³When I called, you answered me. You made me bold by strengthening my soul.

⁴All the kings of the earth will give thanks to you, O LORD, because they have heard the promises you spoke.

⁵They will sing this about the ways of the LORD: "The LORDS honor is great!"

⁶Even though the LORD is high above, he sees humble people close up, and he recognizes arrogant people from a distance.

⁷Even though I walk into the middle of trouble, you guard my life against the

anger of my enemies. You stretch out your hand, and your right hand saves me.

⁸The LORD will do everything for me. O LORD, your mercy endures forever. Do not let go of what your hands have made.

139¹For the choir director; a psalm by David. O LORD, you have examined me, and you know me.

²You alone know when I sit down and when I get up. You read my thoughts from far away.

³You watch me when I travel and when I rest. You are familiar with all my ways.

⁴Even before there is a single word on my tongue, you know all about it, LORD.

⁵You are all around mein front of me and in back of me. You lay your hand on me.

⁶Such knowledge is beyond my grasp. It is so high I cannot reach it.

⁷Where can I go to get away from your Spirit? Where can I run to get away from you?

⁸If I go up to heaven, you are there. If I make my bed in hell, you are there.

⁹If I climb upward on the rays of the morning sun or land on the most distant shore of the sea where the sun sets,

¹⁰even there your hand would guide me and your right hand would hold on to me.

¹¹If I say, "Let the darkness hide me and let the light around me turn into night,"

¹²even the darkness is not too dark for you. Night is as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.

¹³You alone created my inner being. You knitted me together inside my mother.

¹⁴I will give thanks to you because I have been so amazingly and miraculously made. Your works are miraculous, and my soul is fully aware of this.

¹⁵My bones were not hidden from you when I was being made in secret, when I was being skillfully woven in an underground workshop.

¹⁶Your eyes saw me when I was only a fetus. Every day of my life was recorded in your book before one of them had taken place.

¹⁷How precious are your thoughts concerning me, O God! How vast in number they are!

¹⁸If I try to count them, there would be more of them than there are grains of sand. When I wake up, I am still with you.

¹⁹I wish that you would kill wicked people, O God, and that bloodthirsty people would leave me alone.

²⁰They say wicked things about you. Your enemies misuse your name.

²¹Shouldnt I hate those who hate you, O LORD? Shouldnt I be disgusted with those who attack you?

²²I hate them with all my heart. They have become my enemies.

²³Examine me, O God, and know my mind. Test me, and know my thoughts.

²⁴See whether I am on an evil path. Then lead me on the everlasting path.

140¹For the choir leader; a psalm by David. Rescue me from evil people, O LORD. Keep me safe from violent people.

²They plan evil things in their hearts. They start fights every day.

³They make their tongues as sharp as a snake's fang. Their lips hide the venom of poisonous snakes. Selah

⁴Protect me from the hands of wicked people, O LORD. Keep me safe from violent people. They try to trip me.

⁵Arrogant people have laid a trap for me. They have spread out a net with ropes. They have set traps for me along the road. Selah

⁶I said to the LORD, "You are my God." O LORD, open your ears to hear my plea for pity.

⁷O LORD Almighty, the strong one who saves me, you have covered my head in the day of battle.

⁸O LORD, do not give wicked people what they want. Do not let their evil plans succeed, or they will become arrogant. Selah

⁹Let the heads of those who surround me be covered with their own threats.

¹⁰Let burning coals fall on them. Let them be thrown into a pit, never to rise again.

¹¹Do not let slanderers prosper on earth. Let evil hunt down violent people with one blow after another.

¹²I know that the LORD will defend the rights of those who are oppressed and the cause of those who are needy.

¹³Indeed, righteous people will give thanks to your name. Decent people will live in your presence.

141 ¹A psalm by David. O LORD, I cry out to you, "Come quickly." Open your ears to me when I cry out to you.

²Let my prayer be accepted as sweet-smelling incense in your presence. Let the lifting up of my hands in prayer be accepted as an evening sacrifice.

³O LORD, set a guard at my mouth. Keep watch over the door of my lips.

⁴Do not let me be persuaded to do anything evil or to become involved with wickedness, with people who are troublemakers. Do not let me taste their delicacies.

⁵A righteous person may strike me or correct me out of kindness. It is like lotion for my head. My head will not refuse it, because my prayer is directed against evil deeds.

⁶When their judges are thrown off a cliff, they will listen to what I have to say. It will sound pleasant to them.

⁷As someone plows and breaks up the ground, so our bones will be planted at the mouth of the grave.

⁸My eyes look to you, LORD Almighty. I have taken refuge in you. Do not leave me defenseless.

⁹Keep me away from the trap they set for me and from the traps set by troublemakers.

¹⁰Let wicked people fall into their own nets, while I escape unharmed.

142¹A maskil by David when he was in the cave; a prayer. Loudly, I cry to the LORD. Loudly, I plead with the LORD for mercy.

²I pour out my complaints in his presence and tell him my troubles.

³When I begin to lose hope, you already know what I am experiencing. My enemies have hidden a trap for me on the path where I walk.

⁴Look to my right and see that no one notices me. Escape is impossible for me. No one cares about me.

⁵I call out to you, O LORD. I say, "You are my refuge, my own inheritance in this world of the living."

⁶Pay attention to my cry for help because I am very weak. Rescue me from those who pursue me because they are too strong for me.

⁷Release my soul from prison so that I may give thanks to your name. Righteous people will surround me because you are good to me.

143¹ A psalm by David. O LORD, listen to my prayer. Open your ears to hear my urgent requests. Answer me because you are faithful and righteous.

²Do not take me to court for judgment, because there is no one alive who is righteous in your presence.

³The enemy has pursued me. He has ground my life into the dirt. He has made me live in dark places like those who have died long ago.

⁴That is why I begin to lose hope and my heart is in a state of shock.

⁵I remember the days long ago. I reflect on all that you have done. I

carefully consider what your hands have made.

⁶I stretch out my hands to you in prayer. Like parched land, my soul thirsts for you. Selah

⁷Answer me quickly, O LORD. My spirit is worn out. Do not hide your face from me, or I will be like those who go into the pit.

⁸Let me hear about your mercy in the morning, because I trust you. Let me know the way that I should go, because I long for you.

⁹Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD. I come to you for protection.

¹⁰Teach me to do your will, because you are my God. May your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

¹¹O LORD, keep me alive for the sake of your name. Because you are righteous, lead me out of trouble.

¹²In keeping with your mercy, wipe out my enemies and destroy all who torment me, because I am your servant.

144¹By David. Thank the LORD, my rock, who trained my hands to fight and my fingers to do battle,

²my merciful one, my fortress, my stronghold, and my savior, my shield, the one in whom I take refuge, and the one who brings people under my authority.

³O LORD, what are humans that you should care about them? What are mere mortals that you should think about them?

⁴Humans are like a breath of air. Their life span is like a fleeting shadow.

⁵O LORD, bend your heaven low, and come down. Touch the mountains, and they will smoke.

⁶Hurl bolts of lightning, and scatter them. Shoot your arrows, and throw them into confusion.

⁷Stretch out your hands from above. Snatch me, and rescue me from raging waters and from foreigners hands.

⁸Their mouths speak lies. Their right hands take false pledges.

⁹O God, I will sing a new song to you. I will sing a psalm to you on a tenstringed harp.

¹⁰You are the one who gives victory to kings. You are the one who snatches your servant David away from a deadly sword.

¹¹ Snatch me, and rescue me from foreigners hands. Their mouths speak lies. Their right hands take false pledges.

¹² May our sons be like fullgrown, young plants. May our daughters be like stately columns that adorn the corners of a palace.

¹³ May our barns be filled with all kinds of crops. May our sheep give birth to thousands of lambs, tens of thousands in our fields.

¹⁴ May our cattle have many calves. May no one break in, and may no one be dragged out. May there be no cries of distress in our streets.

¹⁵ Blessed are the people who have these blessings! Blessed are the people whose God is the LORD!

145¹ A song of praise by David. I will highly praise you, my God, the king. I will bless your name forever and ever.

² I will bless you every day. I will praise your name forever and ever.

³ The LORD is great, and he should be highly praised. His greatness is unsearchable.

⁴One generation will praise your deeds to the next. Each generation will talk about your mighty acts.

⁵I will think about the glorious honor of your majesty and the miraculous things you have done.

⁶People will talk about the power of your terrifying deeds, and I will tell about your greatness.

⁷They will announce what they remember of your great goodness, and they will joyfully sing about your righteousness.

⁸The LORD is merciful, compassionate, patient, and always ready to forgive.

⁹The LORD is good to everyone and has compassion for everything that he has made.

¹⁰Everything that you have made will give thanks to you, O LORD, and your faithful ones will praise you.

¹¹Everyone will talk about the glory of your kingdom and will tell the descendants of Adam about your might

¹²in order to make known your mighty deeds and the glorious honor of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. Your empire endures throughout every generation.

¹⁴The LORD supports everyone who falls. He straightens the backs of those who are bent over.

¹⁵The eyes of all creatures look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.

¹⁶You open your hand, and you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷The LORD is fair in all his ways and faithful in everything he does.

¹⁸The LORD is near to everyone who prays to him, to every faithful person who prays to him.

¹⁹He fills the needs of those who fear him. He hears their cries for help and saves them.

²⁰The LORD protects everyone who loves him, but he will destroy all wicked people.

²¹My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and all living creatures will praise his holy name forever and ever.

146¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD,
my soul!

²I want to praise the LORD throughout my life. I want to make music to praise my God as long as I live.

³Do not trust influential people, mortals who cannot help you.

⁴When they breathe their last breath, they return to the ground. On that day their plans come to an end.

⁵Blessed are those who receive help from the God of Jacob. Their hope rests on the LORD their God,

⁶who made heaven, earth, the sea, and everything in them. The LORD remains faithful forever.

⁷He brings about justice for those who are oppressed. He gives food to those who are hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free.

⁸The LORD gives sight to blind people. The LORD straightens the backs of those who are bent over. The LORD loves righteous people.

⁹The LORD protects foreigners. The LORD gives relief to orphans and widows. But he keeps wicked people from reaching their goal.

¹⁰The LORD rules as king forever.
Zion, your God rules throughout every
generation. Hallelujah!

147 ¹Hallelujah! It is good to
sing psalms to our God. It is
pleasant to sing his praise beautifully.

²The LORD is the builder of Jerusalem.
He is the one who gathers the outcasts
of Israel together.

³He is the healer of the brokenhearted.
He is the one who bandages their
wounds.

⁴He determines the number of stars.
He gives each one a name.

⁵Our Lord is great, and his power
is great. There is no limit to his
understanding.

⁶The LORD gives relief to those who
are oppressed. He brings wicked people
down to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD a song of
thanksgiving. Make music to our God
with a lyre.

⁸He covers the sky with clouds. He
provides rain for the ground. He makes
grass grow on the mountains.

⁹He is the one who gives food to animals and to young ravens when they call out.

¹⁰He finds no joy in strong horses, nor is he pleased by brave soldiers.

¹¹The LORD is pleased with those who fear him, with those who wait with hope for his mercy.

¹²Praise the LORD, Jerusalem! Praise your God, Zion!

¹³He makes the bars across your gates strong. He blesses the children within you.

¹⁴He is the one who brings peace to your borders and satisfies your hunger with the finest wheat.

¹⁵He is the one who sends his promise throughout the earth. His word travels with great speed.

¹⁶He is the one who sends snow like wool and scatters frost like ashes.

¹⁷He is the one who throws his hailstones like breadcrumbs. Who can withstand his chilling blast?

¹⁸He sends out his word and melts his hailstones. He makes wind blow and water flow.

¹⁹He speaks his word to Jacob, his laws and judicial decisions to Israel.

²⁰He has done nothing like this for any other nation. The other nations do not know the decisions he has handed down. Hallelujah!

148¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens. Praise him in the heights above.

²Praise him, all his angels. Praise him, his entire heavenly army.

³Praise him, sun and moon. Praise him, all shining stars.

⁴Praise him, you highest heaven and the water above the sky.

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD because they were created by his command.

⁶He set them in their places forever and ever. He made it a law that no one can break.

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth. Praise him, large sea creatures and all the ocean depths,

⁸lightning and hail, snow and fog, strong winds that obey his commands,

⁹mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedar trees,

¹⁰wild animals and all domestic animals, crawling animals and birds,

¹¹kings of the earth and all its people, officials and all judges on the earth,

¹²young men and women, old and young together.

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD because his name is high above all others. His glory is above heaven and earth.

¹⁴He has given his people a strong leader, someone praiseworthy for his faithful ones, for the people of Israel, the people who are close to him. Hallelujah!

149¹ Hallelujah! Sing a new song to the LORD. Sing his praise in the assembly of godly people.

²Let Israel find joy in their creator. Let the people of Zion rejoice over their king.

³Let them praise his name with dancing. Let them make music to him with tambourines and lyres,

⁴because the LORD takes pleasure in his people. He crowns those who are oppressed with victory.

⁵Let godly people triumph in glory. Let them sing for joy on their beds.

⁶Let the high praises of God be in their throats and twoedged swords in their hands

⁷to take vengeance on the nations, to punish the people of the world,

⁸to put their kings in chains and their leaders in iron shackles,

⁹to carry out the judgment that is written against them. This is an honor that belongs to all his godly ones.

Hallelujah!

150¹ Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy place. Praise him in his mighty heavens.

²Praise him for his mighty acts. Praise him for his immense greatness.

³Praise him with sounds from horns. Praise him with harps and lyres.

⁴Praise him with tambourines and dancing. Praise him with stringed instruments and flutes.

⁵Praise him with loud cymbals. Praise him with crashing cymbals.

⁶Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Hallelujah!

Proverbs

1 ¹ The proverbs of Solomon, Davids son who was king of Israel, given ² to grasp wisdom and discipline, to understand deep thoughts,

³ to acquire the discipline of wise behavior, righteousness and justice and fairness

⁴ to give insight to gullible people, to give knowledge and foresight to the young

⁵ a wise person will listen and continue to learn, and an understanding person will gain direction

⁶ to understand a proverb and a clever saying, the words of wise people and their riddles.

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge. Stubborn fools despise wisdom and discipline.

⁸ My son, listen to your fathers discipline, and do not neglect your mothers teachings,

⁹because discipline and teachings are a graceful garland on your head and a golden chain around your neck.

¹⁰My son, if sinners lure you, do not go along.

¹¹If they say, "Come with us. Let's set an ambush to kill someone. Let's hide to ambush innocent people for fun.

¹²We'll swallow them alive like the grave, like those in good health who go into the pit.

¹³We'll find all kinds of valuable possessions. We'll fill our homes with stolen goods.

¹⁴Join us. We'll split the loot equally."

¹⁵My son, do not follow them in their way. Do not even set foot on their path,

¹⁶because they rush to do evil and hurry to shed blood.

¹⁷It does no good to spread a net within the sight of any bird.

¹⁸But these people set an ambush for their own murder. They go into hiding only to lose their lives.

¹⁹This is what happens to everyone who is greedy for unjust gain. Greed takes away his life.

²⁰Wisdom sings her song in the streets. In the public squares she raises her voice.

²¹At the corners of noisy streets she calls out. At the entrances to the city she speaks her words,

²²"How long will you gullible people love being so gullible? How long will you mockers find joy in your mocking? How long will you fools hate knowledge?

²³"Turn to me when I warn you. I will generously pour out my spirit for you. I will make my words known to you.

²⁴"I called, and you refused to listen. I stretched out my hands to you, and no one paid attention.

²⁵You ignored all my advice. You did not want me to warn you.

²⁶I will laugh at your calamity. I will make fun of you when panic strikes you,

²⁷when panic strikes you like a violent storm, when calamity strikes you like a wind storm, when trouble and anguish come to you.

²⁸"They will call to me at that time, but I will not answer. They will look for me, but they will not find me,

²⁹because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD.

³⁰They refused my advice. They despised my every warning.

³¹They will eat the fruit of their lifestyle. They will be stuffed with their own schemes.

³²"Gullible people kill themselves because of their turning away. Fools destroy themselves because of their indifference.

³³But whoever listens to me will live without worry and will be free from the dread of disaster."

2¹My son, if you take my words to heart and treasure my commands within you,

²if you pay close attention to wisdom, and let your mind reach for understanding,

³if indeed you call out for insight, if you ask aloud for understanding,

⁴if you search for wisdom as if it were money and hunt for it as if it were hidden treasure,

⁵then you will understand the fear of the LORD and you will find the knowledge of God.

⁶The LORD gives wisdom. From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

⁷He has reserved priceless wisdom for decent people. He is a shield for those who walk in integrity

⁸in order to guard those on paths of justice and to watch over the way of his godly ones.

⁹Then you will understand what is right and just and fair every good course in life.

¹⁰Wisdom will come into your heart. Knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

¹¹Foresight will protect you. Understanding will guard you.

¹²Wisdom will save you from the way of evil, from the person who speaks devious things,

¹³from those who abandon the paths of righteousness to walk the ways of darkness,

¹⁴from those who enjoy doing evil, from those who find joy in the deviousness of evil.

¹⁵Their paths are crooked. Their ways are devious.

¹⁶Wisdom will also save you from an adulterous woman, from a loose woman with her smooth talk,

¹⁷who leaves her husband, the closest friend of her youth, and forgets her marriage vows to her God.

¹⁸Her house sinks down to death. Her ways lead to the souls of the dead.

¹⁹None who have sex with her come back. Nor do they ever reach the paths of life.

²⁰So walk in the way of good people and stay on the paths of righteous people.

²¹Decent people will live in the land. People of integrity will remain in it.

²²But wicked people will be cut off from the land and treacherous people will be torn from it.

3¹ My son, do not forget my teachings, and keep my commands in mind,
²because they will bring you long life, good years, and peace.

³Do not let mercy and truth leave you. Fasten them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴Then you will find favor and much success in the sight of God and humanity.

⁵Trust the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding.

⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths smooth.

⁷Do not consider yourself wise. Fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

⁸Then your body will be healed, and your bones will have nourishment.

⁹Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first and best part of all your income.

¹⁰Then your barns will be full, and your vats will overflow with fresh wine.

¹¹Do not reject the discipline of the LORD, my son, and do not resent his warning,

¹²because the LORD warns the one he loves, even as a father warns a son with whom he is pleased.

¹³Blessed is the one who finds wisdom and the one who obtains understanding.

¹⁴The profit gained from wisdom is greater than the profit gained from silver. Its yield is better than fine gold.

¹⁵Wisdom is more precious than jewels, and all your desires cannot equal it.

¹⁶Long life is in wisdom's right hand. In wisdom's left hand are riches and honor.

¹⁷Wisdoms ways are pleasant ways,
and all its paths lead to peace.

¹⁸Wisdom is a tree of life for those who
take firm hold of it. Those who cling to it
are blessed.

¹⁹By Wisdom the LORD laid
the foundation of the earth. By
understanding he established the
heavens.

²⁰By his knowledge the deep waters
were divided, and the skies dropped
dew.

²¹My son, do not lose sight of these
things. Use priceless wisdom and
foresight.

²²Then they will mean life for you, and
they will grace your neck.

²³Then you will go safely on your way,
and you will not hurt your foot.

²⁴When you lie down, you will not be
afraid. As you lie there, your sleep will
be sweet.

²⁵Do not be afraid of sudden terror or
of the destruction of wicked people when
it comes.

²⁶The LORD will be your confidence. He
will keep your foot from getting caught.

²⁷ Do not hold back anything good from those who are entitled to it when you have the power to do so.

²⁸ When you have the good thing with you, do not tell your neighbor, "Go away! Come back tomorrow. I'll give you something then."

²⁹ Do not plan to do something wrong to your neighbor while he is sitting there with you and suspecting nothing.

³⁰ Do not quarrel with a person for no reason if he has not harmed you.

³¹ Do not envy a violent person. Do not choose any of his ways.

³² The devious person is disgusting to the LORD. The LORDS intimate advice is with decent people.

³³ The LORD curses the house of wicked people, but he blesses the home of righteous people.

³⁴ When he mocks the mockers, he is gracious to humble people.

³⁵ Wise people will inherit honor, but fools will bear disgrace.

4¹ Sons, listen to your fathers discipline, and pay attention in order to gain understanding.

²After all, I have taught you well. Do not abandon my teachings.

³When I was a boy learning from my father, when I was a tender and only child of my mother,

⁴they used to teach me and say to me, "Cling to my words wholeheartedly. Obey my commands so that you may live.

⁵Acquire wisdom. Acquire understanding. Do not forget. Do not turn away from the words that I have spoken.

⁶Do not abandon wisdom, and it will watch over you. Love wisdom, and it will protect you.

⁷The beginning of wisdom is to acquire wisdom. Acquire understanding with all that you have.

⁸Cherish wisdom. It will raise you up. It will bring you honor when you embrace it.

⁹It will give you a graceful garland for your head. It will hand you a beautiful crown."

¹⁰My son, listen and accept my words, and they will multiply the years of your life.

¹¹ I have taught you the way of wisdom.
I have guided you along decent paths.

¹² When you walk, your stride will not
be hampered. Even if you run, you will
not stumble.

¹³ Cling to discipline. Do not relax your
grip on it. Keep it because it is your life.

¹⁴ Do not stray onto the path of wicked
people. Do not walk in the way of evil
people.

¹⁵ Avoid it. Do not walk near it. Turn
away from it, and keep on walking.

¹⁶ Wicked people cannot sleep unless
they do wrong, and they are robbed of
their sleep unless they make someone
stumble.

¹⁷ They eat food obtained through
wrongdoing and drink wine obtained
through violence.

¹⁸ But the path of righteous people
is like the light of dawn that becomes
brighter and brighter until it reaches
midday.

¹⁹ The way of wicked people is like deep
darkness. They do not know what makes
them stumble.

²⁰ My son, pay attention to my words.
Open your ears to what I say.

²¹ Do not lose sight of these things.
Keep them deep within your heart

²² because they are life to those who
find them and they heal the whole body.

²³ Guard your heart more than anything
else, because the source of your life
flows from it.

²⁴ Remove dishonesty from your mouth.
Put deceptive speech far away from your
lips.

²⁵ Let your eyes look straight ahead and
your sight be focused in front of you.

²⁶ Carefully walk a straight path, and all
your ways will be secure.

²⁷ Do not lean to the right or to the left.
Walk away from evil.

5¹ My son, pay attention to my
wisdom. Open your ears to my
understanding

² so that you may act with foresight and
speak with insight.

³ The lips of an adulterous woman drip
with honey. Her kiss is smoother than
oil,

⁴ but in the end she is as bitter as
wormwood, as sharp as a twoedged
sword.

⁵ Her feet descend to death. Her steps lead straight to hell.

⁶ She doesn't even think about the path of life. Her steps wander, and she doesn't realize it.

⁷ But now, sons, listen to me, and do not turn away from what I say to you.

⁸ Stay far away from her. Do not even go near her door.

⁹ Either you will surrender your reputation to others and the rest of your years to some cruel person,

¹⁰ or strangers will benefit from your strength and you will have to work hard in a pagan's house.

¹¹ Then you will groan when your end comes, when your body and flesh are consumed. You will say,

¹² "Oh, how I hated discipline! How my heart despised correction!

¹³ I didn't listen to what my teachers said to me, nor did I keep my ear open to my instructors.

¹⁴ I almost reached total ruin in the assembly and in the congregation."

¹⁵ Drink water out of your own cistern and running water from your own well.

¹⁶Why should water flow out of your spring? Why should your streams flow into the streets?

¹⁷They should be yours alone, so do not share them with strangers.

¹⁸Let your own fountain be blessed, and enjoy the girl you married when you were young,

¹⁹a loving doe and a graceful deer. Always let her breasts satisfy you. Always be intoxicated with her love.

²⁰Why should you, my son, be intoxicated with an adulterous woman and fondle a loose womans breast?

²¹Each persons ways are clearly seen by the LORD, and he surveys all his actions.

²²A wicked person will be trapped by his own wrongs, and he will be caught in the ropes of his own sin.

²³He will die for his lack of discipline and stumble around because of his great stupidity.

6¹My son, if you guarantee a loan for your neighbor or pledge yourself for a stranger with a handshake,

²you are trapped by the words of your own mouth, caught by your own promise.

³Do the following things, my son, so that you may free yourself, because you have fallen into your neighbors hands: Humble yourself, and pester your neighbor.

⁴Don't let your eyes rest or your eyelids close.

⁵Free yourself like a gazelle from the hand of a hunter and like a bird from the hand of a hunter.

⁶Consider the ant, you lazy bum. Watch its ways, and become wise.

⁷Although it has no overseer, officer, or ruler,

⁸in summertime it stores its food supply. At harvest time it gathers its food.

⁹How long will you lie there, you lazy bum? When will you get up from your sleep?

¹⁰"Just a little sleep, just a little slumber, just a little nap."

¹¹Then your poverty will come to you like a drifter, and your need will come to you like a bandit.

¹²A goodfornothing scoundrel is a person who has a dishonest mouth.

¹³He winks his eye, makes a signal with his foot, and points with his fingers.

¹⁴He devises evil all the time with a twisted mind. He spreads conflict.

¹⁵That is why disaster will come on him suddenly. In a moment he will be crushed beyond recovery.

¹⁶There are six things that the LORD hates, even seven that are disgusting to him:

¹⁷arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill innocent people,

¹⁸a mind devising wicked plans, feet that are quick to do wrong,

¹⁹a dishonest witness spitting out lies, and a person who spreads conflict among relatives.

²⁰My son, obey the command of your father, and do not disregard the teachings of your mother.

²¹Fasten them on your heart forever. Hang them around your neck.

²²When you walk around, they will lead you. When you lie down, they will watch over you. When you wake up, they will talk to you

²³ because the command is a lamp, the teachings are a light, and the warnings from discipline are the path of life

²⁴ to keep you from an evil woman and from the smooth talk of a loose woman.

²⁵ Do not desire her beauty in your heart. Do not let her catch you with her eyes.

²⁶ A prostitutes price is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts for your life itself.

²⁷ Can a man carry fire in his lap without burning his clothes?

²⁸ Can anyone walk on redhot coals without burning his feet?

²⁹ So it is with a man who has sex with his neighbors wife. None who touch her will escape punishment.

³⁰ People do not despise a thief who is hungry when he steals to satisfy his appetite,

³¹ but when he is caught, he has to repay it seven times. He must give up all the possessions in his house.

³² Whoever commits adultery with a woman has no sense. Whoever does this destroys himself.

³³ An adulterous man will find disease and dishonor, and his disgrace will not be blotted out,

³⁴ because jealousy arouses a husband's fury. The husband will show no mercy when he takes revenge.

³⁵ No amount of money will change his mind. The largest bribe will not satisfy him.

7 ¹ My son, pay attention to my words. Treasure my commands that are within you.

² Obey my commands so that you may live. Follow my teachings just as you protect the pupil of your eye.

³ Tie them on your fingers. Write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴ Say to wisdom, "You are my sister." Give the name "my relative" to understanding

⁵ in order to guard yourself from an adulterous woman, from a loose woman with her smooth talk.

⁶ From a window in my house I looked through my screen.

⁷ I was looking at gullible people when I saw a young man without much sense among youths.

⁸He was crossing a street near her corner and walking toward her house

⁹in the twilight, in the evening, in the dark hours of the night.

¹⁰A woman with an ulterior motive meets him. She is dressed as a prostitute.

¹¹She is loud and rebellious. Her feet will not stay at home.

¹²One moment she is out on the street, the next she is at the curb, on the prowl at every corner.

¹³She grabs him and kisses him and brazenly says to him,

¹⁴"I have some sacrificial meat. Today I kept my vows.

¹⁵That's why I came to meet you. Eagerly, I looked for you, and I've found you.

¹⁶I've made my bed, with colored sheets of Egyptian linen.

¹⁷I've sprinkled my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

¹⁸Come, let's drink our fill of love until morning. Let's enjoy making love,

¹⁹because my husband's not home. He has gone on a long trip.

²⁰He took lots of money with him. He won't be home for a couple of weeks."

²¹With all her seductive charms, she persuades him. With her smooth lips, she makes him give in.

²²He immediately follows her like a steer on its way to be slaughtered, like a ram hobbling into captivity

²³until an arrow pierces his heart, like a bird darting into a trap. He does not realize that it will cost him his life.

²⁴Now, sons, listen to me. Pay attention to the words from my mouth.

²⁵Do not let your heart be turned to her ways. Do not wander onto her paths,

²⁶because she has brought down many victims, and she has killed all too many.

²⁷Her home is the way to hell and leads to the darkest vaults of death.

8¹ Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise its voice?

²Wisdom takes its stand on high ground, by the wayside where the roads meet,

³near the gates to the city. At the entrance wisdom sings its song,

⁴"I am calling to all of you, and my appeal is to all people.

⁵You gullible people, learn how to be sensible. You fools, get a heart that has understanding.

⁶Listen! I am speaking about noble things, and my lips will say what is right.

⁷My mouth expresses the truth, and wickedness is disgusting to my lips.

⁸Everything I say is fair, and there is nothing twisted or crooked in it.

⁹All of it is clear to a person who has understanding and right to those who have acquired knowledge.

¹⁰Take my discipline, not silver, and my knowledge rather than fine gold,

¹¹because wisdom is better than jewels. Nothing you desire can equal it.

¹²"I, Wisdom, live with insight, and I acquire knowledge and foresight.

¹³To fear the LORD is to hate evil. I hate pride, arrogance, evil behavior, and twisted speech.

¹⁴Advice and priceless wisdom are mine. I, Understanding, have strength.

¹⁵Through me kings reign, and rulers decree fair laws.

¹⁶Through me princes rule, so do nobles and all fair judges.

¹⁷I love those who love me. Those eagerly looking for me will find me.

¹⁸I have riches and honor, lasting wealth and righteousness.

¹⁹What I produce is better than gold, pure gold. What I yield is better than fine silver.

²⁰I walk in the way of righteousness, on the paths of justice,

²¹to give an inheritance to those who love me and to fill their treasuries.

²²"The LORD already possessed me long ago, when his way began, before any of his works.

²³I was appointed from everlasting from the first, before the earth began.

²⁴I was born before there were oceans, before there were springs filled with water.

²⁵I was born before the mountains were settled in their places and before the hills,

²⁶when he had not yet made land or fields or the first dust of the world.

²⁷"When he set up the heavens, I was there. When he traced the horizon on the surface of the ocean,

²⁸when he established the skies above,
when he determined the currents in the
ocean,

²⁹when he set a limit for the sea so the
waters would not overstep his command,
when he traced the foundations of the
earth,

³⁰I was beside him as a master
craftsman. I made him happy day after
day, I rejoiced in front of him all the
time,

³¹found joy in his inhabited world, and
delighted in the human race.

³²"Now, sons, listen to me. Blessed are
those who follow my ways.

³³Listen to discipline, and become wise.
Do not leave my ways.

³⁴Blessed is the person who listens to
me, watches at my door day after day,
and waits by my doorposts.

³⁵Whoever finds me finds life and
obtains favor from the LORD.

³⁶Whoever sins against me harms
himself. All those who hate me love
death."

9¹Wisdom has built her house. She
has carved out her seven pillars.

²She has prepared her meat. She has mixed her wine. She has set her table.

³She has sent out her servant girls. She calls from the highest places in the city,

⁴"Whoever is gullible turn in here!" She says to a person without sense,

⁵"Come, eat my bread, and drink the wine I have mixed.

⁶Stop being gullible and live. Start traveling the road to understanding."

⁷Whoever corrects a mocker receives abuse. Whoever warns a wicked person gets hurt.

⁸Do not warn a mocker, or he will hate you. Warn a wise person, and he will love you.

⁹Give advice to a wise person, and he will become even wiser. Teach a righteous person, and he will learn more.

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. The knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

¹¹You will live longer because of me, and years will be added to your life.

¹²If you are wise, your wisdom will help you. If you mock, you alone will be held responsible.

¹³The woman Stupidity is loud, gullible, and ignorant.

¹⁴She sits at the doorway of her house. She is enthroned on the high ground of the city

¹⁵and calls to those who pass by, those minding their own business,

¹⁶"Whoever is gullible turn in here!" She says to a person without sense,

¹⁷"Stolen waters are sweet, and food eaten in secret is tasty."

¹⁸But he does not know that the souls of the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of hell.

10¹The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son makes his father happy, but a foolish son brings grief to his mother.

²Treasures gained dishonestly profit no one, but righteousness rescues from death.

³The LORD will not allow a righteous person to starve, but he intentionally ignores the desires of a wicked person.

⁴Lazy hands bring poverty, but hardworking hands bring riches.

⁵Whoever gathers in the summer is a wise son. Whoever sleeps at harvest time brings shame.

⁶Blessings cover the head of a righteous person, but violence covers the mouths of wicked people.

⁷The name of a righteous person remains blessed, but the names of wicked people will rot away.

⁸The one who is truly wise accepts commands, but the one who talks foolishly will be thrown down headfirst.

⁹Whoever lives honestly will live securely, but whoever lives dishonestly will be found out.

¹⁰Whoever winks with his eye causes heartache. The one who talks foolishly will be thrown down headfirst.

¹¹The mouth of a righteous person is a fountain of life, but the mouths of wicked people conceal violence.

¹²Hate starts quarrels, but love covers every wrong.

¹³Wisdom is found on the lips of a person who has understanding, but a rod is for the back of one without sense.

¹⁴Those who are wise store up knowledge, but the mouth of a stubborn fool invites ruin.

¹⁵The rich persons wealth is his strong city. Poverty ruins the poor.

¹⁶A righteous persons reward is life. A wicked persons harvest is sin.

¹⁷Whoever practices discipline is on the way to life, but whoever ignores a warning strays.

¹⁸Whoever conceals hatred has lying lips. Whoever spreads slander is a fool.

¹⁹Sin is unavoidable when there is much talk, but whoever seals his lips is wise.

²⁰The tongue of a righteous person is pure silver. The hearts of wicked people are worthless.

²¹The lips of a righteous person feed many, but stubborn fools die because they have no sense.

²²It is the LORDS blessing that makes a person rich, and hard work adds nothing to it.

²³Like the laughter of a fool when he carries out an evil plan, so is wisdom to a person who has understanding.

²⁴That which wicked people dread happens to them, but the LORD grants the desire of righteous people.

²⁵When the storm has passed, the wicked person has vanished, but the

righteous person has an everlasting foundation.

²⁶Like vinegar to the teeth, like smoke to the eyes, so is the lazy person to those who send him on a mission.

²⁷The fear of the LORD lengthens the number of days, but the years of wicked people are shortened.

²⁸The hope of righteous people leads to joy, but the eager waiting of wicked people comes to nothing.

²⁹The way of the LORD is a fortress for an innocent person but a ruin to those who are troublemakers.

³⁰A righteous person will never be moved, but wicked people will not continue to live in the land.

³¹The mouth of a righteous person increases wisdom, but a devious tongue will be cut off.

³²The lips of a righteous person announce good will, but the mouths of wicked people are devious.

11 ¹Dishonest scales are disgusting to the LORD, but accurate weights are pleasing to him.

²Arrogance comes, then comes shame, but wisdom remains with humble people.

³ Integrity guides decent people, but hypocrisy leads treacherous people to ruin.

⁴ Riches are of no help on the day of fury, but righteousness saves from death.

⁵ The righteousness of innocent people makes their road smooth, but wicked people fall by their own wickedness.

⁶ Decent people are saved by their righteousness, but treacherous people are trapped by their own greed.

⁷ At the death of a wicked person, hope vanishes. Moreover, his confidence in strength vanishes.

⁸ A righteous person is rescued from trouble, and a wicked person takes his place.

⁹ With his talk a godless person can ruin his neighbor, but righteous people are rescued by knowledge.

¹⁰ When righteous people prosper, a city is glad. When wicked people die, there are songs of joy.

¹¹ With the blessing of decent people a city is raised up, but by the words of wicked people, it is torn down.

¹²A person who despises a neighbor has no sense, but a person who has understanding keeps quiet.

¹³Whoever gossips gives away secrets, but whoever is trustworthy in spirit can keep a secret.

¹⁴A nation will fall when there is no direction, but with many advisers there is victory.

¹⁵Whoever guarantees a strangers loan will get into trouble, but whoever hates the closing of a deal remains secure.

¹⁶A gracious woman wins respect, but ruthless men gain riches.

¹⁷A merciful person helps himself, but a cruel person hurts himself.

¹⁸A wicked person earns dishonest wages, but whoever spreads righteousness earns honest pay.

¹⁹As righteousness leads to life, so whoever pursues evil finds his own death.

²⁰Devious people are disgusting to the LORD, but he is delighted with those whose ways are innocent.

²¹Certainly, an evil person will not go unpunished, but the descendants of righteous people will escape.

²² Like a gold ring in a pig's snout, so is a beautiful woman who lacks good taste.

²³ The desire of righteous people ends only in good, but the hope of wicked people ends only in fury.

²⁴ One person spends freely and yet grows richer, while another holds back what he owes and yet grows poorer.

²⁵ A generous person will be made rich, and whoever satisfies others will himself be satisfied.

²⁶ People will curse the one who hoards grain, but a blessing will be upon the head of the one who sells it.

²⁷ Whoever eagerly seeks good searches for good will, but whoever looks for evil finds it.

²⁸ Whoever trusts his riches will fall, but righteous people will flourish like a green leaf.

²⁹ Whoever brings trouble upon his family inherits only wind, and that stubborn fool becomes a slave to the wise in heart.

³⁰ The fruit of a righteous person is a tree of life, and a winner of souls is wise.

³¹ If the righteous person is rewarded on earth, how much more the wicked person and the sinner!

12¹ Whoever loves discipline loves to learn, but whoever hates correction is a dumb animal.

² A good person obtains favor from the LORD, but the LORD condemns everyone who schemes.

³ A person cannot stand firm on a foundation of wickedness, and the roots of righteous people cannot be moved.

⁴ A wife with strength of character is the crown of her husband, but the wife who disgraces him is like bone cancer.

⁵ The thoughts of righteous people are fair. The advice of wicked people is treacherous.

⁶ The words of wicked people are a deadly ambush, but the words of decent people rescue.

⁷ Overthrow wicked people, and they are no more, but the families of righteous people continue to stand.

⁸ A person will be praised based on his insight, but whoever has a twisted mind will be despised.

⁹ Better to be unimportant and have a slave than to act important and have nothing to eat.

¹⁰ A righteous person cares even about the life of his animals, but the compassion of wicked people is nothing but cruelty.

¹¹ Whoever works his land will have plenty to eat, but the one who chases unrealistic dreams has no sense.

¹² A wicked person delights in setting a trap for other evil people, but the roots of righteous people produce fruit.

¹³ An evil person is trapped by his own sinful talk, but a righteous person escapes from trouble.

¹⁴ One person enjoys good things as a result of his speaking ability. Another is paid according to what his hands have accomplished.

¹⁵ A stubborn fool considers his own way the right one, but a person who listens to advice is wise.

¹⁶ When a stubborn fool is irritated, he shows it immediately, but a sensible person hides the insult.

¹⁷ A truthful witness speaks honestly, but a lying witness speaks deceitfully.

¹⁸Careless words stab like a sword, but the words of wise people bring healing.

¹⁹The word of truth lasts forever, but lies last only a moment.

²⁰Deceit is in the heart of those who plan evil, but joy belongs to those who advise peace.

²¹No lasting harm comes to a righteous person, but wicked people have lots of trouble.

²²Lips that lie are disgusting to the LORD, but honest people are his delight.

²³A sensible person discreetly hides knowledge, but foolish minds preach stupidity.

²⁴Hardworking hands gain control, but lazy hands do slave labor.

²⁵A person's anxiety will weigh him down, but an encouraging word makes him joyful.

²⁶A righteous person looks out for his neighbor, but the path of wicked people leads others astray.

²⁷A lazy hunter does not catch his prey, but a hardworking person becomes wealthy.

²⁸Everlasting life is on the way of righteousness. Eternal death is not along its path.

13¹ A wise son listens to his fathers discipline, but a mocker does not listen to reprimands.

²A person eats well as a result of his speaking ability, but the appetite of treacherous people craves violence.

³Whoever controls his mouth protects his own life. Whoever has a big mouth comes to ruin.

⁴A lazy person craves food and there is none, but the appetite of hardworking people is satisfied.

⁵A righteous person hates lying, but a wicked person behaves with shame and disgrace.

⁶Righteousness protects the honest way of life, but wickedness ruins a sacrifice for sin.

⁷One person pretends to be rich but has nothing. Another pretends to be poor but has great wealth.

⁸A persons riches are the ransom for his life, but the poor person does not pay attention to threats.

⁹The light of righteous people beams brightly, but the lamp of wicked people will be snuffed out.

¹⁰Arrogance produces only quarreling, but those who take advice gain wisdom.

¹¹Wealth gained through injustice dwindles away, but whoever gathers little by little has plenty.

¹²Delayed hope makes one sick at heart, but a fulfilled longing is a tree of life.

¹³Whoever despises Gods words will pay the penalty, but the one who fears Gods commands will be rewarded.

¹⁴The teachings of a wise person are a fountain of life to turn one away from the grasp of death.

¹⁵Good sense brings favor, but the way of treacherous people is always the same.

¹⁶Any sensible person acts with knowledge, but a fool displays stupidity.

¹⁷An undependable messenger gets into trouble, but a dependable envoy brings healing.

¹⁸Poverty and shame come to a person who ignores discipline, but whoever pays

attention to constructive criticism will be honored.

¹⁹A fulfilled desire is sweet to the soul, but turning from evil is disgusting to fools.

²⁰Whoever walks with wise people will be wise, but whoever associates with fools will suffer.

²¹Disaster hunts down sinners, but righteous people are rewarded with good.

²²Good people leave an inheritance to their grandchildren, but the wealth of sinners is stored away for a righteous person.

²³When poor people are able to plow, there is much food, but a person is swept away where there is no justice.

²⁴Whoever refuses to spank his son hates him, but whoever loves his son disciplines him from early on.

²⁵A righteous person eats to satisfy his appetite, but the bellies of wicked people are always empty.

14¹The wisest of women builds up her home, but a stupid one tears it down with her own hands.

²Whoever lives right fears the LORD, but a person who is devious in his ways despises him.

³Because of a stubborn fools words a whip is lifted against him, but wise people are protected by their speech.

⁴Where there are no cattle, the feeding trough is empty, but the strength of an ox produces plentiful harvests.

⁵A trustworthy witness does not lie, but a dishonest witness breathes lies.

⁶A mocker searches for wisdom without finding it, but knowledge comes easily to a person who has understanding.

⁷Stay away from a fool, because you will not receive knowledge from his lips.

⁸The wisdom of a sensible person guides his way of life, but the stupidity of fools misleads them.

⁹Stubborn fools make fun of guilt, but there is forgiveness among decent people.

¹⁰The heart knows its own bitterness, and no stranger can share its joy.

¹¹The houses of wicked people will be destroyed, but the tents of decent people will continue to expand.

¹²There is a way that seems right to a person, but eventually it ends in death.

¹³Even while laughing a heart can ache, and joy can end in grief.

¹⁴A heart that turns from God becomes bored with its own ways, but a good person is satisfied with Gods ways.

¹⁵A gullible person believes anything, but a sensible person watches his step.

¹⁶A wise person is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is careless and overconfident.

¹⁷A shorttempered person acts stupidly, and a person who plots evil is hated.

¹⁸Gullible people are gifted with stupidity, but sensible people are crowned with knowledge.

¹⁹Evil people will bow to good people. Wicked people will bow at the gates of a righteous person.

²⁰A poor person is hated even by his neighbor, but a rich person is loved by many.

²¹Whoever despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is the one who is kind to humble people.

²² Don't those who stray plan what is evil, while those who are merciful and faithful plan what is good?

²³ In hard work there is always something gained, but idle talk leads only to poverty.

²⁴ The crown of wise people is their wealth. The stupidity of fools is just that stupidity!

²⁵ An honest witness saves lives, but one who tells lies is dangerous.

²⁶ In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and his children will have a place of refuge.

²⁷ The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life to turn one away from the grasp of death.

²⁸ A large population is an honor for a king, but without people a ruler is ruined.

²⁹ A person of great understanding is patient, but a short temper is the height of stupidity.

³⁰ A tranquil heart makes for a healthy body, but jealousy is like bone cancer.

³¹ Whoever oppresses the poor insults his maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors him.

³²A wicked person is thrown down by his own wrongdoing, but even in his death a righteous person has a refuge.

³³Wisdom finds rest in the heart of an understanding person. Even fools recognize this.

³⁴Righteousness lifts up a nation, but sin is a disgrace in any society.

³⁵A king is delighted with a servant who acts wisely, but he is furious with one who acts shamefully.

15¹A gentle answer turns away rage, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

²The tongues of wise people give good expression to knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out a flood of stupidity.

³The eyes of the LORD are everywhere. They watch evil people and good people.

⁴A soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue breaks the spirit.

⁵A stubborn fool despises his fathers discipline, but whoever appreciates a warning shows good sense.

⁶Great treasure is in the house of a righteous person, but trouble comes along with the income of a wicked person.

⁷The lips of wise people spread knowledge, but a foolish attitude does not.

⁸A sacrifice brought by wicked people is disgusting to the LORD, but the prayers of decent people please him.

⁹The way of wicked people is disgusting to the LORD, but he loves those who pursue righteousness.

¹⁰Discipline is a terrible burden to anyone who leaves the right path. Anyone who hates a warning will die.

¹¹If Sheol and Abaddon lie open in front of the LORD how much more the human heart!

¹²A mocker does not appreciate a warning. He will not go to wise people.

¹³A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, but with a heartache comes depression.

¹⁴The mind of a person who has understanding searches for knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on stupidity.

¹⁵Every day is a terrible day for a miserable person, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast.

¹⁶Better to have a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and turmoil.

¹⁷ Better to have a dish of vegetables where there is love than juicy steaks where there is hate.

¹⁸ A hothead stirs up a fight, but one who holds his temper calms disputes.

¹⁹ The path of lazy people is like a thorny hedge, but the road of decent people is an open highway.

²⁰ A wise son makes his father happy, but a foolish child despises its mother.

²¹ Stupidity is fun to the one without much sense, but a person who has understanding forges straight ahead.

²² Without advice plans go wrong, but with many advisers they succeed.

²³ A person is delighted to hear an answer from his own mouth, and a timely word oh, how good!

²⁴ The path of life for a wise person leads upward in order to turn him away from hell below.

²⁵ The LORD tears down the house of an arrogant person, but he protects the property of widows.

²⁶ The thoughts of evil people are disgusting to the LORD, but pleasant words are pure to him.

²⁷ Whoever is greedy for unjust gain brings trouble to his family, but whoever hates bribes will live.

²⁸ The heart of a righteous person carefully considers how to answer, but the mouths of wicked people pour out a flood of evil things.

²⁹ The LORD is far from wicked people, but he hears the prayers of righteous people.

³⁰ A twinkle in the eye delights the heart. Good news refreshes the body.

³¹ The ear that listens to a lifegiving warning will be at home among wise people.

³² Whoever ignores discipline despises himself, but the person who listens to warning gains understanding.

³³ The fear of the LORD is discipline leading to wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

16 ¹ The plans of the heart belong to humans, but an answer on the tongue comes from the LORD.

² A person thinks all his ways are pure, but the LORD weighs motives.

³ Entrust your efforts to the LORD, and your plans will succeed.

⁴The LORD has made everything for his own purpose, even wicked people for the day of trouble.

⁵Everyone with a conceited heart is disgusting to the LORD. Certainly, such a person will not go unpunished.

⁶By mercy and faithfulness, peace is made with the LORD. By the fear of the LORD, evil is avoided.

⁷When a persons ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

⁸Better a few possessions gained honestly than many gained through injustice.

⁹A person may plan his own journey, but the LORD directs his steps.

¹⁰When a divine revelation is on a kings lips, he cannot voice a wrong judgment.

¹¹Honest balances and scales belong to the LORD. He made the entire set of weights.

¹²Wrongdoing is disgusting to kings because a throne is established through righteousness.

¹³Kings are happy with honest words, and whoever speaks what is right is loved.

¹⁴ A king's anger announces death, but a wise man makes peace with him.

¹⁵ When the king is cheerful, there is life, and his favor is like a cloud bringing spring rain.

¹⁶ How much better it is to gain wisdom than gold, and the gaining of understanding should be chosen over silver.

¹⁷ The highway of decent people turns away from evil. Whoever watches his way preserves his own life.

¹⁸ Pride precedes a disaster, and an arrogant attitude precedes a fall.

¹⁹ Better to be humble with lowly people than to share stolen goods with arrogant people.

²⁰ Whoever gives attention to the LORD'S word prospers, and blessed is the person who trusts the LORD.

²¹ The person who is truly wise is called understanding, and speaking sweetly helps others learn.

²² Understanding is a fountain of life to the one who has it, but stubborn fools punish themselves with their stupidity.

²³ A wise person's heart controls his speech, and what he says helps others learn.

²⁴ Pleasant words are like honey from a honeycomb, sweet to the spirit and healthy for the body.

²⁵ There is a way that seems right to a person, but eventually it ends in death.

²⁶ A laborer's appetite works to his advantage, because his hunger drives him on.

²⁷ A worthless person plots trouble, and his speech is like a burning fire.

²⁸ A devious person spreads quarrels. A gossip separates the closest of friends.

²⁹ A violent person misleads his neighbor and leads him on a path that is not good.

³⁰ Whoever winks his eye is plotting something devious. Whoever bites his lips has finished his evil work.

³¹ Silver hair is a beautiful crown found in a righteous life.

³² Better to get angry slowly than to be a hero. Better to be even-tempered than to capture a city.

³³ The dice are thrown, but the LORD determines every outcome.

17 ¹ Better a bite of dry bread eaten in peace than a family feast filled with strife.

² A wise slave will become master over a son who acts shamefully, and he will share the inheritance with the brothers.

³ The crucible is for refining silver and the smelter for gold, but the one who purifies hearts by fire is the LORD.

⁴ An evildoer pays attention to wicked lips. A liar opens his ears to a slanderous tongue.

⁵ Whoever makes fun of a poor person insults his maker. Whoever is happy to see someones distress will not escape punishment.

⁶ Grandchildren are the crown of grandparents, and parents are the glory of their children.

⁷ Refined speech is not fitting for a godless fool. How much less does lying fit a noble person!

⁸ A bribe seems like a jewel to the one who gives it. Wherever he turns, he prospers.

⁹ Whoever forgives an offense seeks love, but whoever keeps bringing up the issue separates the closest of friends.

¹⁰A reprimand impresses a person who has understanding more than a hundred lashes impress a fool.

¹¹A rebel looks for nothing but evil. Therefore, a cruel messenger will be sent to punish him.

¹²Better to meet a bear robbed of its cubs than a fool carried away with his stupidity.

¹³Whoever pays back evil for good evil will never leave his home.

¹⁴Starting a quarrel is like opening a floodgate, so stop before the argument gets out of control.

¹⁵Whoever approves of wicked people and whoever condemns righteous people is disgusting to the LORD.

¹⁶Why should a fool have money in his hand to buy wisdom when he doesn't have a mind to grasp anything?

¹⁷A friend always loves, and a brother is born to share trouble.

¹⁸A person without good sense closes a deal with a handshake. He guarantees a loan in the presence of his friend.

¹⁹Whoever loves sin loves a quarrel. Whoever builds his city gate high invites destruction.

²⁰ A twisted mind never finds happiness, and one with a devious tongue repeatedly gets into trouble.

²¹ The parent of a fool has grief, and the father of a godless fool has no joy.

²² A joyful heart is good medicine, but depression drains one's strength.

²³ A wicked person secretly accepts a bribe to corrupt the ways of justice.

²⁴ Wisdom is directly in front of an understanding person, but the eyes of a fool are looking around all over the world.

²⁵ A foolish son is a heartache to his father and bitter grief to his mother.

²⁶ To punish an innocent person is not good. To strike down noble people is not right.

²⁷ Whoever has knowledge controls his words, and a person who has understanding is even-tempered.

²⁸ Even a stubborn fool is thought to be wise if he keeps silent. He is considered intelligent if he keeps his lips sealed.

18¹ A loner is out to get what he wants for himself. He opposes all sound reasoning.

²A fool does not find joy in understanding but only in expressing his own opinion.

³When wickedness comes, contempt also comes, and insult comes along with disgrace.

⁴The words of a persons mouth are like deep waters. The fountain of wisdom is an overflowing stream.

⁵It is not good to be partial toward a wicked person, thereby depriving an innocent person of justice.

⁶By talking, a fool gets into an argument, and his mouth invites a beating.

⁷A fools mouth is his ruin. His lips are a trap to his soul.

⁸The words of a gossip are swallowed greedily, and they go down into a persons innermost being.

⁹Whoever is lazy in his work is related to a vandal.

¹⁰The name of the LORD is a strong tower. A righteous person runs to it and is safe.

¹¹A rich persons wealth is his strong city and is like a high wall in his imagination.

¹² Before destruction a persons heart is arrogant, but humility comes before honor.

¹³ Whoever gives an answer before he listens is stupid and shameful.

¹⁴ A persons spirit can endure sickness, but who can bear a broken spirit?

¹⁵ The mind of a person who has understanding acquires knowledge. The ears of wise people seek knowledge.

¹⁶ A gift opens doors for the one who gives it and brings him into the presence of great people.

¹⁷ The first to state his case seems right until his neighbor comes to crossexamine him.

¹⁸ Flipping a coin ends quarrels and settles issues between powerful people.

¹⁹ An offended brother is more resistant than a strong city, and disputes are like the locked gate of a castle tower.

²⁰ A persons speaking ability provides for his stomach. His talking provides him a living.

²¹ The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love to talk will have to eat their own words.

²²Whoever finds a wife finds something good and has obtained favor from the LORD.

²³A poor person is timid when begging, but a rich person is blunt when replying.

²⁴Friends can destroy one another, but a loving friend can stick closer than family.

19¹ Better to be a poor person who lives innocently than to be one who talks dishonestly and is a fool.

²A person without knowledge is no good. A person in a hurry makes mistakes.

³The stupidity of a person turns his life upside down, and his heart rages against the LORD.

⁴Wealth adds many friends, but a poor person is separated from his friend.

⁵A lying witness will not go unpunished. One who tells lies will not escape.

⁶Many try to win the kindness of a generous person, and everyone is a friend to a person who gives gifts.

⁷The entire family of a poor person hates him. How much more do his friends keep their distance from him!

When he chases them with words, they are gone.

⁸A person who gains sense loves himself. One who guards understanding finds something good.

⁹A lying witness will not go unpunished. One who tells lies will die.

¹⁰Luxury does not fit a fool, much less a slave ruling princes.

¹¹A person with good sense is patient, and it is to his credit that he overlooks an offense.

¹²The rage of a king is like the roar of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.

¹³A foolish son ruins his father, and a quarreling woman is like constantly dripping water.

¹⁴Home and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a sensible wife comes from the LORD.

¹⁵Laziness throws one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will go hungry.

¹⁶Whoever obeys the law preserves his life, but whoever despises the LORDS ways will be put to death.

¹⁷ Whoever has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his good deed.

¹⁸ Discipline your son while there is still hope. Do not be the one responsible for his death.

¹⁹ A person who has a hot temper will pay for it. If you rescue him, you will have to do it over and over.

²⁰ Listen to advice and accept discipline so that you may be wise the rest of your life.

²¹ Many plans are in the human heart, but the advice of the LORD will endure.

²² Loyalty is desirable in a person, and it is better to be poor than a liar.

²³ The fear of the LORD leads to life, and such a person will rest easy without suffering harm.

²⁴ A lazy person puts his fork in his food. He doesn't even bring it back to his mouth.

²⁵ Strike a mocker, and a gullible person may learn a lesson. Warn an understanding person, and he will gain more knowledge.

²⁶A son who assaults his father and who drives away his mother brings shame and disgrace.

²⁷If you stop listening to instruction, my son, you will stray from the words of knowledge.

²⁸A worthless witness mocks justice, and the mouths of wicked people swallow up trouble.

²⁹Punishments are set for mockers and beatings for the backs of fools.

20¹Wine makes people mock, liquor makes them noisy, and everyone under their influence is unwise.

²The rage of a king is like the roar of a lion. Whoever makes him angry forfeits his life.

³Avoiding a quarrel is honorable. After all, any stubborn fool can start a fight.

⁴A lazy person does not plow in the fall. He looks for something in the harvest but finds nothing.

⁵A motive in the human heart is like deep water, and a person who has understanding draws it out.

⁶Many people declare themselves loyal, but who can find someone who is really trustworthy?

⁷ A righteous person lives on the basis of his integrity. Blessed are his children after he is gone.

⁸ A king who sits on his throne to judge sifts out every evil with his eyes.

⁹ Who can say, "I've made my heart pure. I'm cleansed from my sin"?

¹⁰ A double standard of weights and measures both are disgusting to the LORD.

¹¹ Even a child makes himself known by his actions, whether his deeds are pure or right.

¹² The ear that hears, the eye that sees the LORD made them both.

¹³ Do not love sleep or you will end up poor. Keep your eyes open, and you will have plenty to eat.

¹⁴ "Bad! Bad!" says the buyer. Then, as he goes away, he brags about his bargain.

¹⁵ There are gold and plenty of jewels, but the lips of knowledge are precious gems.

¹⁶ Hold on to the garment of one who guarantees a stranger's loan, and hold responsible the person who makes a loan on behalf of a foreigner.

¹⁷ Food gained dishonestly tastes sweet to a person, but afterwards his mouth will be filled with gravel.

¹⁸ Plans are confirmed by getting advice, and with guidance one wages war.

¹⁹ Whoever goes around as a gossip tells secrets. Do not associate with a person whose mouth is always open.

²⁰ The lamp of the person who curses his father and mother will be snuffed out in total darkness.

²¹ An inheritance quickly obtained in the beginning will never be blessed in the end.

²² Do not say, "I'll get even with you!" Wait for the LORD, and he will save you.

²³ A double standard of weights is disgusting to the LORD, and dishonest scales are no good.

²⁴ The LORD is the one who directs a person's steps. How then can anyone understand his own way?

²⁵ It is a trap for a person to say impulsively, "This is a holy offering!" and later to have second thoughts about those vows.

²⁶A wise king scatters the wicked and then runs them over.

²⁷A persons soul is the LORDS lamp. It searches his entire innermost being.

²⁸Mercy and truth protect a king, and with mercy he maintains his throne.

²⁹While the glory of young men is their strength, the splendor of older people is their silver hair.

³⁰Brutal beatings cleanse away wickedness. Such beatings cleanse the innermost being.

21 ¹The kings heart is like streams of water. Both are under the LORDS control. He turns them in any direction he chooses.

²A person thinks everything he does is right, but the LORD weighs hearts.

³Doing what is right and fair is more acceptable to the LORD than offering a sacrifice.

⁴A conceited look and an arrogant attitude, which are the lamps of wicked people, are sins.

⁵The plans of a hardworking person lead to prosperity, but everyone who is always in a hurry ends up in poverty.

⁶Those who gather wealth by lying are wasting time. They are looking for death.

⁷The violence of wicked people will drag them away since they refuse to do what is just.

⁸The way of a guilty person is crooked, but the behavior of those who are pure is moral.

⁹Better to live on a corner of a roof than to share a home with a quarreling woman.

¹⁰The mind of a wicked person desires evil and has no consideration for his neighbor.

¹¹When a mocker is punished, a gullible person becomes wise, and when a wise person is instructed, he gains knowledge.

¹²A righteous person wisely considers the house of a wicked person. He throws wicked people into disasters.

¹³Whoever shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will call and not be answered.

¹⁴A gift given in secret calms anger, and a secret bribe calms great fury.

¹⁵When justice is done, a righteous person is delighted, but troublemakers are terrified.

¹⁶A person who wanders from the way of wise behavior will rest in the assembly of the dead.

¹⁷Whoever loves pleasure will become poor. Whoever loves wine and expensive food will not become rich.

¹⁸Wicked people become a ransom for righteous people, and treacherous people will take the place of decent people.

¹⁹Better to live in a desert than with a quarreling and angry woman.

²⁰Costly treasure and wealth are in the home of a wise person, but a fool devours them.

²¹Whoever pursues righteousness and mercy will find life, righteousness, and honor.

²²A wise man attacks a city of warriors and pulls down the strong defenses in which they trust.

²³Whoever guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

²⁴An arrogant, conceited person is called a mocker. His arrogance knows no limits.

²⁵The desire of a lazy person will kill him because his hands refuse to work.

²⁶ All day long he feels greedy, but a righteous person gives and does not hold back.

²⁷ The sacrifice of wicked people is disgusting, especially if they bring it with evil intent.

²⁸ A lying witness will die, but a person who listens to advice will continue to speak.

²⁹ A wicked person puts up a bold front, but a decent person's way of life is his own security.

³⁰ No wisdom, no understanding, and no advice can stand up against the LORD.

³¹ The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD.

22¹ A good name is more desirable than great wealth. Respect is better than silver or gold.

² The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all.

³ Sensible people foresee trouble and hide from it, but gullible people go ahead and suffer the consequence.

⁴ On the heels of humility (the fear of the LORD) are riches and honor and life.

⁵ A devious person has thorns and traps ahead of him. Whoever guards himself will stay far away from them.

⁶ Train a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not turn away from it.

⁷ A rich person rules poor people, and a borrower is a slave to a lender.

⁸ Whoever plants injustice will harvest trouble, and this weapon of his own fury will be destroyed.

⁹ Whoever is generous will be blessed because he has shared his food with the poor.

¹⁰ Drive out a mocker, and conflict will leave. Quarreling and abuse will stop.

¹¹ Whoever loves a pure heart and whoever speaks graciously has a king as his friend.

¹² The LORDS eyes watch over knowledge, but he overturns the words of a treacherous person.

¹³ A lazy person says, "Theres a lion outside! Ill be murdered in the streets!"

¹⁴ The mouth of an adulterous woman is a deep pit. The one who is cursed by the LORD will fall into it.

¹⁵ Foolishness is firmly attached to a child's heart. Spanking will remove it far from him.

¹⁶ Oppressing the poor for profit or giving to the rich certainly leads to poverty.

¹⁷ Open your ears, and hear the words of wise people, and set your mind on the knowledge I give you.

¹⁸ It is pleasant if you keep them in mind so that they will be on the tip of your tongue,

¹⁹ so that your trust may be in the LORD. Today I have made them known to you, especially to you.

²⁰ Didn't I write to you previously with advice and knowledge

²¹ in order to teach you the words of truth so that you can give an accurate report to those who send you?

²² Do not rob the poor because they are poor or trample on the rights of an oppressed person at the city gate,

²³because the LORD will plead their case and will take the lives of those who rob them.

²⁴Do not be a friend of one who has a bad temper, and never keep company with a hothead,

²⁵or you will learn his ways and set a trap for yourself.

²⁶Do not be found among those who make deals with a handshake, among those who guarantee other peoples loans.

²⁷If you have no money to pay back a loan, why should your bed be repossessed?

²⁸Do not move an ancient boundary marker that your ancestors set in place.

²⁹Do you see a person who is efficient in his work? He will serve kings. He will not serve unknown people.

23¹When you sit down to eat with a ruler, pay close attention to what is in front of you,

²and put a knife to your throat if you have a big appetite.

³Do not crave his delicacies, because this is food that deceives you.

⁴ Do not wear yourself out getting rich.
Be smart enough to stop.

⁵ Will you catch only a fleeting glimpse
of wealth before it is gone? It makes
wings for itself like an eagle flying into
the sky.

⁶ Do not eat the food of one who is
stingy, and do not crave his delicacies.

⁷ As he calculates the cost to himself,
this is what he does: He tells you, "Eat
and drink," but he doesn't really mean it.

⁸ You will vomit the little bit you
have eaten and spoil your pleasant
conversation.

⁹ Do not talk directly to a fool, because
he will despise the wisdom of your
words.

¹⁰ Do not move an ancient boundary
marker or enter fields that belong to
orphans,

¹¹ because the one who is responsible
for them is strong. He will plead their
case against you.

¹² Live a more disciplined life, and listen
carefully to words of knowledge.

¹³ Do not hesitate to discipline a child.
If you spank him, he will not die.

¹⁴ Spank him yourself, and you will save his soul from hell.

¹⁵ My son, if you have a wise heart, my heart will rejoice as well.

¹⁶ My heart rejoices when you speak what is right.

¹⁷ Do not envy sinners in your heart. Instead, continue to fear the LORD.

¹⁸ There is indeed a future, and your hope will never be cut off.

¹⁹ My son, listen, be wise, and keep your mind going in the right direction.

²⁰ Do not associate with those who drink too much wine, with those who eat too much meat,

²¹ because both a drunk and a glutton will become poor. Drowsiness will dress a person in rags.

²² Listen to your father since you are his son, and do not despise your mother because she is old.

²³ Buy truth (and do not sell it), that is, buy wisdom, discipline, and understanding.

²⁴ A righteous person's father will certainly rejoice. Someone who has a wise son will enjoy him.

²⁵ May your father and your mother be glad. May she who gave birth to you rejoice.

²⁶ My son, give me your heart. Let your eyes find happiness in my ways.

²⁷ A prostitute is a deep pit. A loose woman is a narrow well.

²⁸ She is like a robber, lying in ambush. She spreads unfaithfulness throughout society.

²⁹ Who has trouble? Who has misery? Who has quarrels? Who has a complaint? Who has wounds for no reason? Who has bloodshot eyes?

³⁰ Those who drink glass after glass of wine and mix it with everything.

³¹ Do not look at wine because it is red, because it sparkles in the cup, because it goes down smoothly.

³² Later it bites like a snake and strikes like a poisonous snake.

³³ Your eyes will see strange sights, and your mouth will say embarrassing things.

³⁴ You will be like someone lying down in the middle of the sea or like someone lying down on top of a ship's mast, saying,

³⁵"They strike me, but I feel no pain. They beat me, but I'm not aware of it. Whenever I wake up, I'm going to look for another drink."

24¹ Do not envy evil people or wish you were with them,

²because their minds plot violence, and their lips talk trouble.

³With wisdom a house is built. With understanding it is established.

⁴With knowledge its rooms are filled with every kind of riches, both precious and pleasant.

⁵A strong man knows how to use his strength, but a person with knowledge is even more powerful.

⁶After all, with the right strategy you can wage war, and with many advisers there is victory.

⁷Matters of wisdom are beyond the grasp of a stubborn fool. At the city gate he does not open his mouth.

⁸Whoever plans to do evil will be known as a schemer.

⁹Foolish scheming is sinful, and a mocker is disgusting to everyone.

¹⁰If you faint in a crisis, you are weak.

¹¹ Rescue captives condemned to death, and spare those staggering toward their slaughter.

¹² When you say, "We didn't know this," won't the one who weighs hearts take note of it? Won't the one who guards your soul know it? Won't he pay back people for what they do?

¹³ Eat honey, my son, because it is good. Honey that flows from the honeycomb tastes sweet.

¹⁴ The knowledge of wisdom is like that for your soul. If you find it, then there is a future, and your hope will never be cut off.

¹⁵ You wicked one, do not lie in ambush at the home of a righteous person. Do not rob his house.

¹⁶ A righteous person may fall seven times, but he gets up again. However, in a disaster wicked people fall.

¹⁷ Do not be happy when your enemy falls, and do not feel glad when he stumbles.

¹⁸ The LORD will see it, he won't like it, and he will turn his anger away from that person.

¹⁹Do not get overly upset with evildoers. Do not envy wicked people,
²⁰because an evil person has no future, and the lamps of wicked people will be snuffed out.

²¹Fear the LORD, my son. Fear the king as well. Do not associate with those who always insist upon change,

²²because disaster will come to them suddenly. Who knows what misery both may bring?

²³These also are the sayings of wise people: Showing partiality as a judge is not good.

²⁴Whoever says to a guilty person, "You are innocent," will be cursed by people and condemned by nations.

²⁵But people will be pleased with those who convict a guilty person, and a great blessing will come to them.

²⁶Giving a straight answer is like a kiss on the lips.

²⁷Prepare your work outside, and get things ready for yourself in the field. Afterwards, build your house.

²⁸Do not testify against your neighbor without a reason, and do not deceive with your lips.

²⁹Do not say, "I'll treat him as he treated me. I'll pay him back for what he has done to me."

³⁰I passed by a lazy persons field, the vineyard belonging to a person without sense.

³¹I saw that it was all overgrown with thistles. The ground was covered with weeds, and its stone fence was torn down.

³²When I observed this, I took it to heart. I saw it and learned my lesson.

³³"Just a little sleep, just a little slumber, just a little nap."

³⁴Then your poverty will come like a drifter, and your need will come like a bandit.

25¹These also are Solomons proverbs that were copied by the men of King Hezekiah of Judah.

²It is the glory of God to hide things but the glory of kings to investigate them.

³Like the high heavens and the deep earth, so the mind of kings is unsearchable.

⁴Take the impurities out of silver, and a vessel is ready for the silversmith to mold.

⁵Take a wicked person away from the presence of a king, and justice will make his throne secure.

⁶Do not brag about yourself in front of a king or stand in the spot that belongs to notable people,

⁷because it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put down in front of a prince whom your eyes have seen.

⁸Do not be in a hurry to go to court. What will you do in the end if your neighbor disgraces you?

⁹Present your argument to your neighbor, but do not reveal another person's secret.

¹⁰Otherwise, when he hears about it, he will humiliate you, and his evil report about you will never disappear.

¹¹Like golden apples in silver settings, so is a word spoken at the right time.

¹²Like a gold ring and a fine gold ornament, so is constructive criticism to the ear of one who listens.

¹³Like the coolness of snow on a harvest day, so is a trustworthy messenger to those who send him: He refreshes his masters.

¹⁴ Like a dense fog or a dust storm, so is a person who brags about a gift that he does not give.

¹⁵ With patience you can persuade a ruler, and a soft tongue can break bones.

¹⁶ When you find honey, eat only as much as you need. Otherwise, you will have too much and vomit.

¹⁷ Do not set foot in your neighbors house too often. Otherwise, he will see too much of you and hate you.

¹⁸ Like a club and a sword and a sharp arrow, so is a person who gives false testimony against his neighbor.

¹⁹ Like a broken tooth and a lame foot, so is confidence in an unfaithful person in a time of crisis.

²⁰ Like taking off a coat on a cold day or pouring vinegar on baking soda, so is singing songs to one who has an evil heart.

²¹ If your enemy is hungry, give him some food to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him some water to drink.

²² In this way you will make him feel guilty and ashamed, and the LORD will reward you.

²³ As the north wind brings rain, so a whispering tongue brings angry looks.

²⁴ Better to live on a corner of a roof than to share a home with a quarreling woman.

²⁵ Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from far away.

²⁶ Like a muddied spring and a polluted well, so is a righteous person who gives in to a wicked person.

²⁷ Eating too much honey is not good, and searching for honor is not honorable.

²⁸ Like a city broken into and left without a wall, so is a person who lacks selfcontrol.

26 ¹ Like snow in summertime and rain at harvest time, so honor is not right for a fool.

² Like a fluttering sparrow, like a darting swallow, so a hastily spoken curse does not come to rest.

³ A whip is for the horse, a bridle is for the donkey, and a rod is for the backs of fools.

⁴ Do not answer a fool with his own stupidity, or you will be like him.

⁵ Answer a fool with his own stupidity, or he will think he is wise.

⁶Whoever uses a fool to send a message cuts off his own feet and brings violence upon himself.

⁷Like a lame persons limp legs, so is a proverb in the mouths of fools.

⁸Like tying a stone to a sling, so is giving honor to a fool.

⁹Like a thorn stuck in a drunks hand, so is a proverb in the mouths of fools.

¹⁰Like many people who destroy everything, so is one who hires fools or drifters.

¹¹As a dog goes back to its vomit, so a fool repeats his stupidity.

¹²Have you met a person who thinks he is wise? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

¹³A lazy person says, "Theres a ferocious lion out on the road! Theres a lion loose in the streets!"

¹⁴As a door turns on its hinges, so the lazy person turns on his bed.

¹⁵A lazy person puts his fork in his food. He wears himself out as he brings it back to his mouth.

¹⁶A lazy person thinks he is wiser than seven people who give a sensible answer.

¹⁷ Like grabbing a dog by the ears,
so is a bystander who gets involved in
someone else's quarrel.

¹⁸ Like a madman who shoots flaming
arrows, arrows, and death,

¹⁹ so is the person who tricks his
neighbor and says, "I was only joking!"

²⁰ Without wood a fire goes out, and
without gossip a quarrel dies down.

²¹ As charcoal fuels burning coals and
wood fuels fire, so a quarrelsome person
fuels a dispute.

²² The words of a gossip are swallowed
greedily, and they go down into a
person's innermost being.

²³ Like a clay pot covered with cheap
silver, so is smooth talk that covers up
an evil heart.

²⁴ Whoever is filled with hate disguises
it with his speech, but inside he holds on
to deceit.

²⁵ When he talks charmingly, do
not trust him because of the seven
disgusting things in his heart.

²⁶ His hatred is deceitfully hidden, but
his wickedness will be revealed to the
community.

²⁷ Whoever digs a pit will fall into it.
Whoever rolls a stone will have it roll
back on him.

²⁸ A lying tongue hates its victims, and
a flattering mouth causes ruin.

27 ¹ Do not brag about tomorrow,
because you do not know what
another day may bring.

² Praise should come from another
person and not from your own mouth,
from a stranger and not from your own
lips.

³ A stone is heavy, and sand weighs a
lot, but annoyance caused by a stubborn
fool is heavier than both.

⁴ Anger is cruel, and fury is
overwhelming, but who can survive
jealousy?

⁵ Open criticism is better than
unexpressed love.

⁶ Wounds made by a friend are intended
to help, but an enemys kisses are too
much to bear.

⁷ One who is full despises honey, but
to one who is hungry, even bitter food
tastes sweet.

⁸ Like a bird wandering from its nest, so
is a husband wandering from his home.

⁹Perfume and incense make the heart glad, but the sweetness of a friend is a fragrant forest.

¹⁰Do not abandon your friend or your father's friend. Do not go to a relative's home when you are in trouble. A neighbor living nearby is better than a relative far away.

¹¹Be wise, my son, and make my heart glad so that I can answer anyone who criticizes me.

¹²Sensible people foresee trouble and hide. Gullible people go ahead and suffer.

¹³Hold on to the garment of one who guarantees a stranger's loan, and hold responsible the person who makes a loan in behalf of a foreigner.

¹⁴Whoever blesses his friend early in the morning with a loud voice his blessing is considered a curse.

¹⁵Constantly dripping water on a rainy day is like a quarreling woman.

¹⁶Whoever can control her can control the wind. He can even pick up olive oil with his right hand.

¹⁷As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens the wits of another.

¹⁸Whoever takes care of a fig tree can eat its fruit, and whoever protects his master is honored.

¹⁹As a face is reflected in water, so a person is reflected by his heart.

²⁰Hell and decay are never satisfied, and a person's eyes are never satisfied.

²¹The crucible is for refining silver and the smelter for gold, but a person is tested by the praise given to him.

²²If you crush a stubborn fool in a mortar with a pestle along with grain, even then his stupidity will not leave him.

²³Be fully aware of the condition of your flock, and pay close attention to your herds.

²⁴Wealth is not forever. Nor does a crown last from one generation to the next.

²⁵When grass is cut short, the tender growth appears, and vegetables are gathered on the hills.

²⁶Lambs will provide you with clothing, and the money from the male goats will buy a field.

²⁷ There will be enough goat milk to feed you, to feed your family, and to keep your servant girls alive.

28¹ A wicked person flees when no one is chasing him, but righteous people are as bold as lions.

² When a country is in revolt, it has many rulers, but only with a person who has understanding and knowledge will it last a long time.

³ A poor person who oppresses poorer people is like a driving rain that leaves no food.

⁴ Those who abandon Gods teachings praise wicked people, but those who follow Gods teachings oppose wicked people.

⁵ Evil people do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand everything.

⁶ Better to be a poor person who has integrity than to be rich and doubledealing.

⁷ Whoever follows Gods teachings is a wise son. Whoever associates with gluttons disgraces his father.

⁸Whoever becomes wealthy through unfair loans and interest collects them for the one who is kind to the poor.

⁹Surely the prayer of someone who refuses to listen to Gods teachings is disgusting.

¹⁰Whoever leads decent people into evil will fall into his own pit, but innocent people will inherit good things.

¹¹A rich person is wise in his own eyes, but a poor person with understanding sees right through him.

¹²When righteous people triumph, there is great glory, but when wicked people rise, people hide themselves.

¹³Whoever covers over his sins does not prosper. Whoever confesses and abandons them receives compassion.

¹⁴Blessed is the one who is always fearful of sin, but whoever is hardhearted falls into disaster.

¹⁵Like a roaring lion and a charging bear, so a wicked ruler is a threat to poor people.

¹⁶A leader without understanding taxes his people heavily, but those who hate unjust gain will live longer.

¹⁷ A person burdened with the guilt of murder will be a fugitive down to his grave. No one will help him.

¹⁸ Whoever lives honestly will be safe. Whoever lives dishonestly will fall all at once.

¹⁹ Whoever works his land will have plenty to eat. Whoever chases unrealistic dreams will have plenty of nothing.

²⁰ A trustworthy person has many blessings, but anyone in a hurry to get rich will not escape punishment.

²¹ Showing partiality is not good, because some people will turn on you even for a piece of bread.

²² A stingy person is in a hurry to get rich, not realizing that poverty is about to overtake him.

²³ Whoever criticizes people will be more highly regarded in the future than the one who flatters with his tongue.

²⁴ The one who robs his father or his mother and says, "It isn't wrong!" is a companion to a vandal.

²⁵ A greedy person stirs up a fight, but whoever trusts the LORD prospers.

²⁶Whoever trusts his own heart is a fool. Whoever walks in wisdom will survive.

²⁷Whoever gives to the poor lacks nothing. Whoever ignores the poor receives many curses.

²⁸When wicked people rise, people hide. When they die, righteous people increase.

29¹A person who will not bend after many warnings will suddenly be broken beyond repair.

²When righteous people increase, the people of God rejoice, but when a wicked person rules, everybody groans.

³A person who loves wisdom makes his father happy, but one who pays prostitutes wastes his wealth.

⁴By means of justice, a king builds up a country, but a person who confiscates religious contributions tears it down.

⁵A person who flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for him to step into.

⁶To an evil person sin is bait in a trap, but a righteous person runs away from it and is glad.

⁷ A righteous person knows the just cause of the poor. A wicked person does not understand this.

⁸ Mockers create an uproar in a city, but wise people turn away anger.

⁹ When a wise person goes to court with a stubborn fool, he may rant and rave, but there is no peace and quiet.

¹⁰ Bloodthirsty people hate an innocent person, but decent people seek to protect his life.

¹¹ A fool expresses all his emotions, but a wise person controls them.

¹² If a ruler pays attention to lies, all his servants become wicked.

¹³ A poor person and an oppressor have this in common: The LORD gives both of them sight.

¹⁴ When a king judges the poor with honesty, his throne will always be secure.

¹⁵ A spanking and a warning produce wisdom, but an undisciplined child disgraces his mother.

¹⁶ When wicked people increase, crime increases, but righteous people will witness their downfall.

¹⁷ Correct your son, and he will give you peace of mind. He will bring delight to your soul.

¹⁸ Without prophetic vision people run wild, but blessed are those who follow Gods teachings.

¹⁹ A slave cannot be disciplined with words. He will not respond, though he may understand.

²⁰ Have you met a person who is quick to answer? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

²¹ Pamper a slave from childhood, and later he will be ungrateful.

²² An angry person stirs up a fight, and a hothead does much wrong.

²³ A persons pride will humiliate him, but a humble spirit gains honor.

²⁴ Whoever is a thieves partner hates his own life. He will not testify under oath.

²⁵ A persons fear sets a trap for him, but one who trusts the LORD is safe.

²⁶ Many seek an audience with a ruler, but justice for humanity comes from the LORD.

²⁷ An unjust person is disgusting to righteous people. A decent person is disgusting to wicked people.

30¹ The words of Agur, son of Jakeh.
Agurs prophetic revelation. [To God] This mans declaration: "Im weary, O God. Im weary and worn out, O God.

²Im more like a dumb animal than a human being. I dont even have human understanding.

³I havent learned wisdom. I dont have knowledge of the Holy One.

⁴[To the audience] "Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in the palm of his hand? Who has wrapped water in a garment? Who has set up the earth from one end to the other? What is his name or the name of his son? Certainly, you must know!

⁵"Every word of God has proven to be true. He is a shield to those who come to him for protection.

⁶Do not add to his words, or he will reprimand you, and you will be found to be a liar.

⁷[To God] "Ive asked you for two things. Dont keep them from me before I die:

⁸Keep vanity and lies far away from me. Don't give me either poverty or riches. Feed me only the food I need,

⁹or I may feel satisfied and deny you and say, Who is the LORD? or I may become poor and steal and give the name of my God a bad reputation.

¹⁰[To the audience] "Do not slander a slave to his master. The slave will curse you, and you will be found guilty."

¹¹A certain kind of person curses his father and does not bless his mother.

¹²A certain kind of person thinks he is pure but is not washed from his own feces.

¹³A certain kind of person looks around arrogantly and is conceited.

¹⁴A certain kind of person, whose teeth are like swords and whose jaws are like knives, devours oppressed people from the earth and people from among humanity.

¹⁵The bloodsucking leech has two daughters "Give!" and "Give!" Three things are never satisfied. Four never say, "Enough!":

¹⁶the grave, a barren womb, a land that never gets enough water, a fire that does not say, "Enough!"

¹⁷The eye that makes fun of a father and hates to obey a mother will be plucked out by ravens in the valley and eaten by young vultures.

¹⁸Three things are too amazing to me, even four that I cannot understand:

¹⁹an eagle making its way through the sky, a snake making its way over a rock, a ship making its way through high seas, a man making his way with a virgin.

²⁰This is the way of a woman who commits adultery: She eats, wipes her mouth, and says, "I havent done anything wrong!"

²¹Three things cause the earth to tremble, even four it cannot bear up under:

²²a slave when he becomes king, a godless fool when he is filled with food,

²³a woman who is unloved when she gets married, a maid when she replaces her mistress.

²⁴Four things on earth are small, yet they are very wise:

²⁵Ants are not a strong species, yet they store their food in summer.

²⁶Rock badgers are not a mighty species, yet they make their home in the rocks.

²⁷Locusts have no king, yet all of them divide into swarms by instinct.

²⁸A lizard you can hold in your hands, yet it can even be found in royal palaces.

²⁹There are three things that walk with dignity, even four that march with dignity:

³⁰a lion, mightiest among animals, which turns away from nothing,

³¹a strutting rooster, a male goat, a king at the head of his army.

³²If you are such a godless fool as to honor yourself, or if you scheme, you had better put your hand over your mouth.

³³As churning milk produces butter and punching a nose produces blood, so stirring up anger produces a fight.

31¹The sayings of King Lemuel, a prophetic revelation, used by his mother to discipline him.

²"What, my son? What, son to whom I gave birth? What, son of my prayers?

³Don't give your strength to women or your power to those who ruin kings.

⁴"It is not for kings, Lemuel. It is not for kings to drink wine or for rulers to crave liquor.

⁵Otherwise, they drink and forget what they have decreed and change the standard of justice for all oppressed people.

⁶Give liquor to a person who is dying and wine to one who feels resentful.

⁷Such a person drinks and forgets his poverty and does not remember his trouble anymore.

⁸"Speak out for the one who cannot speak, for the rights of those who are doomed.

⁹Speak out, judge fairly, and defend the rights of oppressed and needy people."

¹⁰"Who can find a wife with a strong character? She is worth far more than jewels.

¹¹Her husband trusts her with all his heart, and he does not lack anything good.

¹²She helps him and never harms him all the days of her life.

¹³"She seeks out wool and linen with care and works with willing hands.

¹⁴She is like merchant ships. She brings her food from far away.

¹⁵She wakes up while it is still dark and gives food to her family and portions of food to her female slaves.

¹⁶"She picks out a field and buys it. She plants a vineyard from the profits she has earned.

¹⁷She puts on strength like a belt and goes to work with energy.

¹⁸She sees that she is making a good profit. Her lamp burns late at night.

¹⁹"She puts her hands on the distaff, and her fingers hold a spindle.

²⁰She opens her hands to oppressed people and stretches them out to needy people.

²¹She does not fear for her family when it snows because her whole family has a double layer of clothing.

²²She makes quilts for herself. Her clothes are made of linen and purple cloth.

²³"Her husband is known at the city gates when he sits with the leaders of the land.

²⁴ "She makes linen garments and sells them and delivers belts to the merchants.

²⁵ She dresses with strength and nobility, and she smiles at the future.

²⁶ "She speaks with wisdom, and on her tongue there is tender instruction.

²⁷ She keeps a close eye on the conduct of her family, and she does not eat the bread of idleness.

²⁸ Her children and her husband stand up and bless her. In addition, he sings her praises, by saying,

²⁹ Many women have done noble work, but you have surpassed them all!

³⁰ "Charm is deceptive, and beauty evaporates, but a woman who has the fear of the LORD should be praised.

³¹ Reward her for what she has done, and let her achievements praise her at the city gates."

Ecclesiastes

1 ¹ The words of the spokesman,
the son of David and the king in
Jerusalem.

² "Absolutely pointless!" says the
spokesman. "Absolutely pointless!
Everything is pointless."

³ What do people gain from all their
hard work under the sun?

⁴ Generations come, and generations
go, but the earth lasts forever.

⁵ The sun rises, and the sun sets, and
then it rushes back to the place where it
will rise again.

⁶ The wind blows toward the south and
shifts toward the north. Round and round
it blows. It blows in a full circle.

⁷ All streams flow into the sea, but the
sea is never full. The water goes back to
the place where the streams began in
order to start flowing again.

⁸ All of these sayings are wornout
phrases. They are more than anyone can
express, comprehend, or understand.

⁹Whatever has happened before will happen again. Whatever has been done before will be done again. There is nothing new under the sun.

¹⁰Can you say that anything is new? It has already been here long before us.

¹¹Nothing from the past is remembered. Even in the future, nothing will be remembered by those who come after us.

¹²I, the spokesman, have been king of Israel in Jerusalem.

¹³With all my heart I used wisdom to study and explore everything done under heaven. Mortals are weighed down with a terrible burden that God has placed on them.

¹⁴I have seen everything that is done under the sun. Look at it! Its all pointless. Its like trying to catch the wind.

¹⁵No one can straighten what is bent. No one can count what is not there.

¹⁶I thought to myself, "I have grown wiser than anyone who has ruled Jerusalem before me. Ive had a lot of experience with wisdom and knowledge."

¹⁷I've used my mind to understand wisdom and knowledge as well as madness and stupidity. Now I know that this is like trying to catch the wind.

¹⁸With a lot of wisdom comes a lot of heartache. The greater your knowledge, the greater your pain.

2¹I thought to myself, "Now I want to experiment with pleasure and enjoy myself." But even this was pointless.

²I thought, "Laughter doesn't make any sense. What does pleasure accomplish?"

³I explored ways to make myself feel better by drinking wine. I also explored ways to do some foolish things. During all that time, wisdom continued to control my mind. I was able to determine whether this was good for mortals to do during their brief lives under heaven.

⁴I accomplished some great things: I built houses for myself. I planted vineyards for myself.

⁵I made gardens and parks for myself. I planted every kind of fruit tree in them.

⁶I made pools to water the forest of growing trees.

⁷I bought male and female slaves. In addition, slaves were born in my

household. I owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me.

⁸I also gathered silver and gold for myself. I gathered the treasures of kings and provinces. I provided myself with male and female singers and the pleasures men have with one concubine after another.

⁹So I grew richer than anyone in Jerusalem before me. Yet, my wisdom remained with me.

¹⁰If something appealed to me, I did it. I allowed myself to have any pleasure I wanted, since I found pleasure in my work. This was my reward for all my hard work.

¹¹But when I turned to look at all that I had accomplished and all the hard work I had put into it, I saw that it was all pointless. It was like trying to catch the wind. I gained nothing from any of my accomplishments under the sun.

¹²Then I turned my attention to experience wisdom, madness, and foolishness. For instance, what can the man who replaces the king do? Only what has already been done.

¹³But I saw that wisdom has an advantage over foolishness as light has an advantage over darkness.

¹⁴A wise person uses the eyes in his head, but a fool walks in the dark. But I have also come to realize that the same destiny waits for both of them.

¹⁵I thought to myself, "If the destiny that waits for the fool waits for me as well, then what is the advantage in being wise?" So I thought that even this is pointless.

¹⁶Neither the wise person nor the fool will be remembered for long, since both will be forgotten in the days to come. Both the wise person and the fool will die.

¹⁷So I came to hate life because everything done under the sun seemed wrong to me. Everything was pointless. It was like trying to catch the wind.

¹⁸I came to hate everything for which I had worked so hard under the sun, because I will have to leave it to the person who replaces me.

¹⁹Who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? He will still have control over everything under the sun

for which I worked so hard and used my wisdom. Even this is pointless.

²⁰Then I fell into despair over everything for which I had worked so hard under the sun.

²¹Here is someone who had worked hard with wisdom, knowledge, and skill. Yet, he must turn over his estate to someone else, who didn't work for it. Even this is pointless and a terrible tragedy.

²²What do people get from all of their hard work and struggles under the sun?

²³Their entire life is filled with pain, and their work is unbearable. Even at night their minds don't rest. Even this is pointless.

²⁴There is nothing better for people to do than to eat, drink, and find satisfaction in their work. I saw that even this comes from the hand of God.

²⁵Who can eat or enjoy themselves without God?

²⁶God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy to anyone who pleases him. But to the person who continues to sin, he gives the job of gathering and collecting wealth. The sinner must turn his wealth

over to the person who pleases God.
Even this is pointless. Its like trying to catch the wind.

3¹ Everything has its own time, and there is a specific time for every activity under heaven:

² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pull out what was planted,

³ a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build up,

⁴ a time to cry and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to hug and a time to stop hugging,

⁶ a time to start looking and a time to stop looking, a time to keep and a time to throw away,

⁷ a time to tear apart and a time to sew together, a time to keep quiet and a time to speak out,

⁸ a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

⁹ What do working people gain from their hard labor?

¹⁰I have seen mortals weighed down with a burden that God has placed on them.

¹¹It is beautiful how God has done everything at the right time. He has put a sense of eternity in peoples minds. Yet, mortals still cant grasp what God is doing from the beginning to the end of time.

¹²I realize that theres nothing better for them to do than to be cheerful and enjoy what is good in their lives.

¹³It is a gift from God to be able to eat and drink and experience the good that comes from every kind of hard work.

¹⁴I realize that whatever God does will last forever. Nothing can be added to it, and nothing can be taken away from it. God does this so that people will fear him.

¹⁵Whatever has happened in the past is present now. Whatever is going to happen in the future has already happened in the past. God will call the past to account.

¹⁶I saw something else under the sun: There is wickedness where justice should

be found. There is wickedness where righteousness should be found.

¹⁷I thought to myself, "God will judge righteous people as well as wicked people, because there is a specific time for every activity and every work that is done."

¹⁸I thought to myself, "God is going to test humans in order to show them that they are like animals."

¹⁹Humans and animals have the same destiny. One dies just like the other. All of them have the same breath of life. Humans have no advantage over animals. All of life is pointless.

²⁰All life goes to the same place. All life comes from the ground, and all of it goes back to the ground.

²¹Who knows whether a human spirit goes upward or whether an animal spirit goes downward to the earth?

²²I saw that theres nothing better for people to do than to enjoy their work because that is their lot in life. Who will allow them to see what will happen after them?

4¹Next, I turned to look at all the acts of oppression that make people

suffer under the sun. Look at the tears of those who suffer! No one can comfort them. Their oppressors have all the power. No one can comfort those who suffer.

²I congratulate the dead, who have already died, rather than the living, who still have to carry on.

³But the person who hasnt been born yet is better off than both of them. He hasnt seen the evil that is done under the sun.

⁴Then I saw that all hard work and skillful effort come from rivalry. Even this is pointless. Its like trying to catch the wind.

⁵A fool folds his hands and wastes away.

⁶One handful of peace and quiet is better than two handfuls of hard work and of trying to catch the wind.

⁷Next, I turned to look at something pointless under the sun:

⁸There are people who are all alone. They have no children or other family members. So there is no end to all the hard work they have to do. Their eyes are never satisfied with riches.

But they never ask themselves why they are working so hard and depriving themselves of good things. Even this is pointless and a terrible tragedy.

⁹Two people are better than one because together they have a good reward for their hard work.

¹⁰If one falls, the other can help his friend get up. But how tragic it is for the one who is all alone when he falls. There is no one to help him get up.

¹¹Again, if two people lie down together, they can keep warm, but how can one person keep warm?

¹²Though one person may be overpowered by another, two people can resist one opponent. A triplebraided rope is not easily broken.

¹³A young man who is poor and wise is better than an old, foolish king who won't take advice any longer.

¹⁴A young man came out of prison to rule as king, even though he had been born in poverty in that same kingdom.

¹⁵I saw all living people moving about under the sun. They sided with the second young man, the king's successor.

¹⁶There was no end to all those people, everyone whom he led. But those who will come later will not be happy with the successor. Even this is pointless. Its like trying to catch the wind.

5¹ Watch your step when you go to the house of God. It is better to go there and listen than to bring the sacrifices fools bring. Fools are unaware that they are doing something evil.

² Dont be in a hurry to talk. Dont be eager to speak in the presence of God. Since God is in heaven and you are on earth, limit the number of your words.

³ Daydreaming comes when there are too many worries. Careless speaking comes when there are too many words.

⁴ When you make a promise to God, dont be slow to keep it because God doesnt like fools. Keep your promise.

⁵ It is better not to make a promise than to make one and not keep it.

⁶ Dont let your mouth talk you into committing a sin. Dont say in the presence of a temple messenger, "My promise was a mistake!" Why should God become angry at your excuse and destroy what youve accomplished?

⁷In spite of many daydreams, pointless actions, and empty words, you should still fear God.

⁸Dont be surprised if you see poor people being oppressed, denied justice, or denied their rights in any district. One authority is watching over another, and they both have authorities watching over them.

⁹Yet, a king is an advantage for a country with cultivated fields.

¹⁰Whoever loves money will never be satisfied with money. Whoever loves wealth will never be satisfied with more income. Even this is pointless.

¹¹As the number of goods increase, so do the number of people who consume them. What do owners gain from all their goods except the opportunity to look at them?

¹²The sleep of working people is sweet, whether they eat a little or a lot. But the full stomachs that rich people have will not allow them to sleep.

¹³There is a painful tragedy that I have seen under the sun: Riches lead to the downfall of those who hoard them.

¹⁴ These hoarded riches were then lost in bad business deals. The owners had children, but now they have nothing to give them.

¹⁵ They came from their mothers womb naked. They will leave as naked as they came. They wont even be able to take a handful of their earnings with them from all their hard work.

¹⁶ This also is a painful tragedy: They leave exactly as they came. What advantage do they gain from working so hard for the wind?

¹⁷ They spend their entire lives in darkness, in constant frustration, sickness, and resentment.

¹⁸ At last I have seen what is good and beautiful: It is to eat and drink and to enjoy the good in all our hard work under the sun during the brief lives God gives us. That is our lot in life.

¹⁹ It is a gift from God when God gives some people wealth and possessions, the power to enjoy them, the ability to accept their lot in life, and the ability to rejoice in their own hard work.

²⁰ These people wont give much thought to their brief lives because God keeps

them occupied with the joy in their hearts.

6¹ There is a tragedy that I have seen under the sun. It is a terrible one for mortals.

² God gives one person riches, wealth, and honor so that he doesn't lack anything he wants. Yet, God doesn't give him the power to enjoy any of them. Instead, a stranger enjoys them. This is pointless and is a painful tragedy.

³ Suppose a rich person wasn't satisfied with good things while he was alive and didn't even get an honorable burial after he died. Suppose he had a hundred children and lived for many years. No matter how long he would have lived, it still would have been better for him to have been born dead.

⁴ A stillborn baby arrives in a pointless birth and goes out into the darkness. The darkness then hides its name.

⁵ Though it has never seen the sun or known anything, the baby finds more rest than the rich person.

⁶ Even if the rich person lives two thousand years without experiencing

anything good dont we all go to the same place?

⁷ Everything that people work so hard for goes into their mouths, but their appetite is never satisfied.

⁸ What advantage does a wise person have over a fool? What advantage does a poor person have in knowing how to face life?

⁹ It is better to look at what is in front of you than to go looking for what you want. Even this is pointless. Its like trying to catch the wind.

¹⁰ Whatever has happened in the past already has a name. Mortals are already known for what they are. Mortals cannot argue with the one who is stronger than they.

¹¹ The more words there are, the more pointless they become. What advantage do mortals gain from this?

¹² Who knows what may be good for mortals while they are alive, during the brief, pointless days they live? Mortals pass by like a shadow. Who will tell them about their future under the sun?

7¹ A good name is better than expensive perfume, and the day you die is better than the day you're born.

² It is better to go to a funeral than to a banquet because that is where everyone will end up. Everyone who is alive should take this to heart!

³ Sorrow is better than laughter because, in spite of a sad face, the heart can be joyful.

⁴ The minds of wise people think about funerals, but the minds of fools think about banquets.

⁵ It is better to listen to wise people who reprimand you than to fools who sing your praises.

⁶ The laughter of a fool is like the crackling of thorns burning under a pot. Even this is pointless.

⁷ Oppression can turn a wise person into a fool, and a bribe can corrupt the mind.

⁸ The end of something is better than its beginning. It is better to be patient than arrogant.

⁹ Don't be quick to get angry, because anger is typical of fools.

¹⁰Don't ask, "Why were things better in the old days than they are now?" It isn't wisdom that leads you to ask this!

¹¹Wisdom is as good as an inheritance. It is an advantage to everyone who sees the sun.

¹²Wisdom protects us just as money protects us, but the advantage of wisdom is that it gives life to those who have it.

¹³Consider what God has done! Who can straighten what God has bent?

¹⁴When times are good, be happy. But when times are bad, consider this: God has made the one time as well as the other so that mortals cannot predict their future.

¹⁵I have seen it all in my pointless life: Righteous people die in spite of being righteous. Wicked people go on living in spite of being wicked.

¹⁶Don't be too virtuous, and don't be too wise. Why make yourself miserable?

¹⁷Don't be too wicked, and don't be a fool. Why should you die before your time is up?

¹⁸It's good to hold on to the one and not let go of the other, because the one

who fears God will be able to avoid both extremes.

¹⁹Wisdom will help a wise person more than ten rulers can help a city.

²⁰Certainly, there is no one so righteous on earth that he always does what is good and never sins.

²¹Don't take everything that people say to heart, or you may hear your own servant cursing you.

²²Your conscience knows that you have cursed others many times.

²³I used wisdom to test all of this. I said, "I want to be wise, but it is out of my reach."

²⁴Whatever wisdom may be, it is out of reach. It is deep, very deep. Who can find out what it is?

²⁵I turned my attention to study, to explore, and to seek out wisdom and the reason for things. I learned that wickedness is stupid and foolishness is madness.

²⁶I find that a woman whose thoughts are like traps and snares is more bitter than death itself. Even her hands are like chains. Whoever pleases God will escape

her, but she will catch whoever continues to sin.

²⁷ The spokesman said, "This is what I've found: I added one thing to another in order to find a reason for things.

²⁸ I am still seeking a reason for things, but have not found any. I found one man out of a thousand who had it, but out of all these I didn't find one woman.

²⁹ I have found only this: God made people decent, but they looked for many ways to avoid being decent."

8¹ Who is really wise? Who knows how to explain things? Wisdom makes one's face shine, and it changes one's grim look.

² I advise you to obey the king's commands because of the oath you took in God's presence.

³ Don't be in a hurry to leave the king's service. Don't take part in something evil, because he can do whatever he pleases.

⁴ Since a king's word has such power, no one can ask him what he is doing.

⁵ Whoever obeys his commands will avoid trouble. The mind of a wise person will know the right time and the right way to act.

⁶There is a right time and a right way to act in every situation. Yet, a terrible human tragedy hangs over people.

⁷They don't know what the future will bring. So who can tell them how things will turn out?

⁸No one has the power to prevent the spirit of life from leaving. No one has control over the day of his own death. There is no way to avoid the war against death. Wickedness will not save wicked people from dying.

⁹I have seen all of this, and I have carefully considered all that is done under the sun whenever one person has authority to hurt others.

¹⁰Then I saw wicked people given an honorable burial. They used to go in and out of the holy place. They were praised in the city for doing such things. Even this is pointless.

¹¹When a sentence against a crime isn't carried out quickly, people are encouraged to commit crimes.

¹²A sinner may commit a hundred crimes and yet live a long life. Still, I know with certainty that it will go well

for those who fear God, because they fear him.

¹³ But it will not go well for the wicked. They will not live any longer. Their lives are like shadows, because they don't fear God.

¹⁴ There is something being done on earth that is pointless. Righteous people suffer for what the wicked do, and wicked people get what the righteous deserve. I say that even this is pointless.

¹⁵ So I recommend the enjoyment of life. People have nothing better to do under the sun than to eat, drink, and enjoy themselves. This joy will stay with them while they work hard during their brief lives which God has given them under the sun.

¹⁶ When I carefully considered how to study wisdom and how to look at the work that is done on earth (even going without sleep day and night),

¹⁷ then I saw everything that God has done. No one is able to grasp the work that is done under the sun. However hard a person may search for it, he will not find its meaning. Even though a wise

person claims to know, he is not able to grasp it.

9¹ Now, I have carefully thought about all this, and I explain it in this way: Righteous people and wise people, along with their accomplishments, are in Gods hands. No one knows whether there will be love or hatred.

² Everything turns out the same way for everyone. All people will share the same destiny, whether they are righteous, wicked, or good, clean or unclean, whether they offer sacrifices or dont offer sacrifices. Good people are treated like sinners. People who take oaths are treated like those who are afraid to take oaths.

³ This is the tragedy of everything that happens under the sun: Everyone shares the same destiny. Moreover, the hearts of mortals are full of evil. Madness is in their hearts while they are still alive. After that, they join the dead.

⁴ But all who are among the living have hope, because a living dog is better than a dead lion.

⁵ The living know that they will die, but the dead dont know anything. There is

no more reward for the dead when the memory of them has faded.

⁶Their love, their hate, and their passions have already vanished. They will never again take part in anything that happens under the sun.

⁷Go, enjoy eating your food, and drink your wine cheerfully, because God has already accepted what youve done.

⁸Always wear clean clothes, and never go without lotion on your head.

⁹Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, during all your brief, pointless life. God has given you your pointless life under the sun. This is your lot in life and what you get for the hard work that you do under the sun.

¹⁰Whatever presents itself for you to do, do it with all your might, because there is no work, planning, knowledge, or skill in the grave where youre going.

¹¹I saw something else under the sun. The race isnt won by fast runners, or the battle by heroes. Wise people dont necessarily have food. Intelligent people dont necessarily have riches, and skilled people dont necessarily receive special

treatment. But time and unpredictable events overtake all of them.

¹²No one knows when his time will come. Like fish that are caught in a cruel net or birds caught in a snare, humans are trapped by a disaster when it suddenly strikes them.

¹³I also have seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it made a deep impression on me.

¹⁴There was a small town with a few soldiers in it, and a powerful king came to attack it. He surrounded it and blockaded it.

¹⁵A poor, wise person was found in that town. He saved the town using his wisdom. But no one remembered that poor person.

¹⁶So I said, "Wisdom is better than strength," even though that poor person's wisdom was despised, and no one listened to what he said.

¹⁷One should pay more attention to calm words from wise people than shouting from a ruler of fools.

¹⁸Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner can destroy much that is good.

10¹ Dead flies will make a bottle of perfume stink, and then it is spoiled. A little foolishness outweighs wisdom and honor.

²A wise person's heart leads the right way. The heart of a fool leads the wrong way.

³Even when a fool goes walking, he has no sense and shows everyone else that he is a fool.

⁴If a ruler becomes angry with you, don't resign your position. If you remain calm, you can make up for serious offenses.

⁵There is a tragedy that I've seen under the sun, an error often made by rulers.

⁶Foolish people are often given high positions, and rich people are left to fill lower positions.

⁷I have seen slaves sitting on horses and influential people going on foot like slaves.

⁸Whoever digs a pit may fall into it. Whoever breaks through a stone wall may be bitten by a snake.

⁹Whoever works in a stone quarry may get hurt. Whoever splits wood may be injured.

¹⁰If an ax is blunt and the edge isn't sharpened, then one has to use more strength. But wisdom prepares the way for success.

¹¹If a snake bites before it has been charmed, then there is no advantage in being a snake charmer.

¹²A wise person's words win favors, but a fool's lips are self-destructive.

¹³A fool starts out by talking foolishness and ends up saying crazy things that are dangerous.

¹⁴He never stops talking. No one knows what the future will bring, or what will happen after death. Who can say!

¹⁵Fools wear themselves out with hard work, because they don't even know the way to town.

¹⁶How horrible it will be for any country where the king used to be a servant and where the high officials throw parties in the morning.

¹⁷A country is blessed when the king is from a noble family and when the high officials eat at the right time in order to get strength and not to get drunk.

¹⁸A roof sags because of laziness. A house leaks because of idle hands.

¹⁹A meal is made for laughter, and wine makes life pleasant, but money is the answer for everything.

²⁰Don't curse the king even in your thoughts, and don't curse rich people even in your bedroom. A bird may carry your words, or some winged creature may repeat what you say.

11 ¹Throw your bread on the surface of the water, because you will find it again after many days.

²Divide what you have into seven parts, or even into eight, because you don't know what disaster may happen on earth.

³If the clouds are full of rain, they will let it pour down on the earth. If a tree falls north or south, the tree will remain where it fell.

⁴Whoever watches the wind will never plant. Whoever looks at the clouds will never harvest.

⁵Just as you don't know how the breath of life enters the limbs of a child within its mother's womb, you also don't understand how God, who made everything, works.

⁶Plant your seed in the morning, and don't let your hands rest until evening. You don't know whether this field or that field will be profitable or whether both of them will turn out equally well.

⁷Light is sweet, and it is good for one's eyes to see the sun.

⁸Even though people may live for many years, they should enjoy every one of them. But they should also remember there will be many dark days. Everything that is coming is pointless.

⁹You young people should enjoy yourselves while you're young. You should let your hearts make you happy when you're young. Follow wherever your heart leads you and whatever your eyes see. But realize that God will make you give an account for all these things when he judges everyone.

¹⁰Get rid of what troubles you or wears down your body, because childhood and youth are pointless.

12¹Remember your Creator when you are young, before the days of trouble come and the years catch up with you. They will make you say, "I have found no pleasure in them."

²Remember your Creator before the sun, the light, the moon, and the stars turn dark, and the clouds come back with rain.

³Remember your Creator when those who guard the house tremble, strong men are stooped over, the women at the mill stop grinding because there are so few of them, and those who look out of the windows see a dim light.

⁴Remember your Creator when the doors to the street are closed, the sound of the mill is muffled, you are startled at the sound of a bird, and those who sing songs become quiet.

⁵Remember your Creator when someone is afraid of heights and of dangers along the road, the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and the caper bush has no fruit. Mortals go to their eternal rest, and mourners go out in the streets.

⁶Remember your Creator before the silver cord is snapped, the golden bowl is broken, the pitcher is smashed near the spring, and the water wheel is broken at the cistern.

⁷ Then the dust of mortals goes back to the ground as it was before, and the breath of life goes back to God who gave it.

⁸ "Absolutely pointless!" says the spokesman. "Everything is pointless!"

⁹ Besides being wise, the spokesman also taught the people what he knew. He very carefully thought about it, studied it, and arranged it in many proverbs.

¹⁰ The spokesman tried to find just the right words. He wrote the words of truth very carefully.

¹¹ Words from wise people are like spurs. Their collected sayings are like nails that have been driven in firmly. They come from one shepherd.

¹² Be warned, my children, against anything more than these. People never stop writing books. Too much studying will wear out your body.

¹³ After having heard it all, this is the conclusion: Fear God, and keep his commands, because this applies to everyone.

¹⁴ God will certainly judge everything that is done. This includes every secret thing, whether it is good or bad.

The Song of Songs

1 ¹ The most beautiful song of Solomon.

² [Bride] Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth. Your expressions of love are better than wine,

³ better than the fragrance of cologne. (Cologne should be named after you.) No wonder the young women love you!

⁴ Take me with you. Lets run away. The king has brought me into his private rooms. [The chorus of young women] We will celebrate and rejoice with you. We will praise your expressions of love more than wine. How right it is that the young women love you!

⁵ [Bride] Young women of Jerusalem, I am dark and lovely like Kedars tents, like Solomons curtains.

⁶ Stop staring at me because I am so dark. The sun has tanned me. My brothers were angry with me. They made me the caretaker of the vineyards. I have not even taken care of my own vineyard.

⁷ Please tell me, you whom I love, where do you graze your flock? Where does your flock lie down at noon? Tell me, or I will be considered a prostitute wandering among the flocks of your companions.

⁸ [The chorus of young women] If you do not know, most beautiful of women, follow the tracks of the flocks, and graze your young goats near the shepherds tents.

⁹ [Groom] My true love, I compare you to a mare among Pharaohs stallions.

¹⁰ Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments, your neck with strings of pearls.

¹¹ [The chorus of young women] We will make gold ornaments with silver beads for you.

¹² [Bride] While the king is at his table, my perfume fills the air with its fragrance.

¹³ My beloved is a pouch of myrrh that lies at night between my breasts.

¹⁴ My beloved is a bouquet of henna flowers in the vineyards of En Gedi.

¹⁵ [Groom] Look at you! You are beautiful, my true love! Look at you!

You are so beautiful! Your eyes are like doves!

¹⁶[Bride] Look at you! You are handsome, my beloved, so pleasing to me! The leafscattered ground will be our couch.

¹⁷The cedars will be the walls of our house. The cypress trees will be our rafters.

2¹ I am a rose of Sharon, a lily growing in the valleys.

²[Groom] Like a lily among thorns, so is my true love among the young women.

³[Bride] Like an apple tree among the trees in the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. I want to sit in his shadow. His fruit tastes sweet to me.

⁴He leads me into a banquet room and looks at me with love.

⁵Strengthen me with raisins and refresh me with apples because I am weak from love.

⁶His left hand is under my head. His right hand caresses me.

⁷Young women of Jerusalem, swear to me by the gazelles or by the does in the field that you will not awaken love or arouse love before its proper time.

⁸[Bride] I hear my beloveds voice.
Look! Here he comes, sprinting over the
mountains, racing over the hills.

⁹My beloved is like a gazelle or a young
stag. Look! There he stands behind
our wall, peeking through the window,
looking through the lattice.

¹⁰My beloved said to me, "Get up, my
true love, my beautiful one, and come
with me.

¹¹Look! The winter is past. The rain is
over and gone.

¹²Blossoms appear in the land. The
time of the songbird has arrived. The
cooing of the mourning dove is heard in
our land.

¹³The green figs ripen. The grapevines
bloom and give off a fragrance. Get up,
my true love, my beautiful one, and
come with me.

¹⁴My dove, in the hiding places of the
rocky crevices, in the secret places of
the cliffs, let me see your figure and hear
your voice. Your voice is sweet, and your
figure is lovely."

¹⁵Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes
that ruin vineyards. Our vineyards are
blooming.

¹⁶My beloved is mine, and I am his. He is the one who grazes his flock among the lilies.

¹⁷When the day brings a cooling breeze and the shadows flee, turn around, my beloved. Run like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains that separate us!

3¹ [Bride] Night after night on my bed I looked for the one I love. I looked for him but did not find him.

²I will get up now and roam around the city, in the streets, and in the squares. I will look for the one I love. I looked for him but did not find him.

³The watchmen making their rounds in the city found me. I asked, "Have you seen the one I love?"

⁴I had just left them when I found the one I love. I held on to him and would not let him go until I had brought him into my mothers house, into the bedroom of the one who conceived me.

⁵Young women of Jerusalem, swear to me by the gazelles or by the does in the field, that you will not awaken love or arouse love before its proper time.

⁶[The chorus of young women] Who is this young woman coming up from the

wilderness like clouds of smoke? She is perfumed with myrrh and incense made from the merchants scented powders.

⁷Look! Solomons sedan chair! Sixty soldiers from the army of Israel surround it.

⁸All of them are skilled in using swords, experienced in combat. Each one has his sword at his side and guards against the terrors of the night.

⁹King Solomon had a carriage made for himself from the wood of Lebanon.

¹⁰He had its posts made out of silver, its top out of gold, its seat out of purple fabric. Its insidewith inlaid scenes of love was made by the young women of Jerusalem.

¹¹Young women of Zion, come out and look at King Solomon! Look at his crown, the crown his mother placed on him on his wedding day, his day of joyful delight.

4¹[Groom] Look at you! You are beautiful, my true love. Look at you! You are so beautiful. Your eyes behind your veil are like doves. Your hair is like a flock of goats moving down Mount Gilead.

²Your teeth are like a flock of sheep about to be sheared, sheep that come up from the washing. All of them bear twins, and not one has lost its young.

³Your lips are like scarlet thread. Your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil are like slices of pomegranate.

⁴Your neck is like Davids beautifullydesigned tower. A thousand round shields belonging to soldiers are hung on it.

⁵Your breasts are like two fawns, like twin gazelles grazing among the lilies.

⁶When the day brings a cool breeze and the shadows flee, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of incense.

⁷You are beautiful in every way, my true love. There is no blemish on you.

⁸You will come with me from Lebanon, from Lebanon as my bride. You will travel with me from the peak of Mount Amana, from the mountain peaks in Senir and Hermon, from the lairs of lions, from the mountains of leopards.

⁹My bride, my sister, you have charmed me. You have charmed me with a single

glance from your eyes, with a single strand of your necklace.

¹⁰How beautiful are your expressions of love, my bride, my sister! How much better are your expressions of love than wine and the fragrance of your perfume than any spice.

¹¹Your lips drip honey, my bride. Honey and milk are under your tongue. The fragrance of your clothing is like the fragrance of Lebanon.

¹²My bride, my sister is a garden that is locked, a garden that is locked, a spring that is sealed.

¹³You are paradise that produces pomegranates and the best fruits, henna flowers and nard,

¹⁴nard and saffron, calamus, cinnamon, and all kinds of incense, myrrh, aloes, and all the best spices.

¹⁵You are a spring for gardens, a well of living water flowing from Lebanon.

¹⁶[Bride] Awake, north wind! Come, south wind! Blow on my garden! Let its spices flow from it. Let my beloved come to his garden, and let him eat his own precious fruit.

5¹ [Groom] My bride, my sister, I will come to my garden. I will gather my myrrh with my spice. I will eat my honeycomb with my honey. I will drink my wine with my milk. Eat, my friends! Drink and become intoxicated with expressions of love!

² [Bride] I sleep, but my mind is awake. Listen! My beloved is knocking. [Groom] Open to me, my true love, my sister, my dove, my perfect one. My head is wet with dew, my hair with the dewdrops of night.

³ [Bride] I have taken off my clothes! Why should I put them on again? I have washed my feet! Why should I get them dirty again?

⁴ My beloved put his hand through the keyhole. My heart throbbed for him.

⁵ I got up to open for my beloved. My hands dripped with myrrh, and my fingers were drenched with liquid myrrh, on the handles of the lock.

⁶ I opened for my beloved, but my beloved had turned away. He was gone! I almost died when he left. I looked for him, but I did not find him. I called for him, but he did not answer me.

⁷ The watchmen making their rounds in the city found me. They struck me! They wounded me! Those watchmen on the walls took my robe from me!

⁸ Young women of Jerusalem, swear to me that if you find my beloved you will tell him I am hopelessly lovesick.

⁹ [The chorus of young women] Most beautiful of women, what makes your beloved better than any other beloved? What makes your beloved better than any other beloved that you make us swear this way?

¹⁰ [Bride] My beloved is dazzling yet ruddy. He stands out among 10,000 men.

¹¹ His head is the finest gold. His hair is wavy, black as a raven.

¹² His eyes are set like doves bathing in milk.

¹³ His cheeks are like a garden of spices, a garden that produces scented herbs. His lips are lilies that drip with myrrh.

¹⁴ His hands are disks of gold set with emerald. His chest is a block of ivory covered with sapphires.

¹⁵His legs are columns of marble set on bases of pure gold. His form is like Lebanon, choice as the cedars.

¹⁶His mouth is sweet in every way. Everything about him is desirable! This is my beloved, and this is my friend, young women of Jerusalem.

6¹ [The chorus of young women] Where did your beloved go, most beautiful of women? Where did your beloved turn? We will look for him with you.

²[Bride] My beloved went to his garden, to the beds of spices, to graze his flock in the gardens and gather lilies.

³I am my beloveds, and my beloved is mine. He is the one who grazes his flock among the lilies.

⁴[Groom] You are beautiful, my true love, like Tirzah, lovely like Jerusalem, aweinspiring like those great cities.

⁵Turn your eyes away from me. They enchant me! Your hair is like a flock of goats moving down from Gilead.

⁶Your teeth are like a flock of sheep, sheep that come up from the washing. All of them bear twins, and not one has lost its young.

⁷Your temples behind your veil are like slices of pomegranate.

⁸There are 60 queens, 80 concubines, and countless virgins,

⁹but she is unique, my dove, my perfect one. Her mother thinks she is unique. She is pure to the one who gave birth to her. Her sisters saw her and blessed her. Queens and concubines saw her and praised her.

¹⁰[The chorus of young women] Who is this young woman? She looks like the dawn. She is beautiful like the moon, pure like the sun, aweinspiring like those heavenly bodies.

¹¹[Bride] I went to the walnut grove to look at the blossoms in the valley, to see if the grapevine had budded and if the pomegranates were in bloom.

¹²I did not know that I had become like the chariots of my noble people.

¹³[The chorus of young women] Come back! Come back, young woman from Shulam! Come back! Come back so that we may look at you! [Bride] Why do you look at me, the young woman from Shulam, as you look at the dance of Mahanaim?

7¹ [The chorus of young women]
How beautiful are your feet in their sandals, noble daughter! The curves of your thighs are like ornaments, like the work of an artists hands.

²Your navel is a round bowl. May it always be filled with spiced wine. Your waist is a bundle of wheat enclosed in lilies.

³Your breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle.

⁴Your neck is like an ivory tower. Your eyes are like pools in Heshbon, pools by the gate of Bath Rabbim. Your nose is like a Lebanese tower facing Damascus.

⁵You hold your head as high as Mount Carmel. Your dangling curls are royal beauty. Your flowing locks could hold a king captive.

⁶[Groom] How beautiful and charming you are, my love, with your elegance.

⁷Young woman, your figure is like a palm tree, and your breasts are like its clusters.

⁸I thought, "I will climb the palm tree and take hold of its fruit." May your breasts be like clusters on the vine. May

the fragrance of your breath be like apples.

⁹May your mouth taste like the best wine[Bride]that goes down smoothly to my beloved and glides over the lips of those about to sleep.

¹⁰I am my beloveds, and he longs for me.

¹¹Come, my beloved. Lets go into the field. Lets spend the night among the henna flowers.

¹²Lets go to the vineyards early. Lets see if the vines have budded, if the grape blossoms have opened, if the pomegranates are in bloom. There I will give you my love.

¹³The mandrakes give off a fragrance, and at our door are all kinds of precious fruits. I have saved new and old things for you alone, my beloved.

8¹If only you were my brother, one who nursed at my mothers breasts. If I saw you on the street, I would kiss you, and no one would look down on me.

²I would lead you. I would bring you into my mothers house. (She is the one who was my teacher.) I would give you

some spiced wine to drink, some juice squeezed from my pomegranates.

³His left hand is under my head. His right hand caresses me.

⁴Young women of Jerusalem, swear to me that you will not awaken love or arouse love before its proper time!

⁵[The chorus of young women] Who is this young woman coming from the wilderness with her arm around her beloved? [Bride] Under the apple tree I woke you up. There your mother went into labor with you. There she went into labor and gave birth to you!

⁶Wear me as a signet ring on your heart, as a ring on your hand. Love is as overpowering as death. Devotion is as unyielding as the grave. Loves flames are flames of fire, flames that come from the LORD.

⁷Raging water cannot extinguish love, and rivers will never wash it away. If a man exchanged all his familys wealth for love, people would utterly despise him.

⁸[The brothers] We have a little sister, and she has no breasts. What will we do for our sister on the day she becomes engaged?

⁹If she is a wall, we will build a silver barrier around her. If she is a door, we will barricade her with cedar boards.

¹⁰[Bride] I am a wall, and my breasts are like towers. So he considers me to be one who has found peace.

¹¹Solomon had a vineyard at Baal Hamon. He entrusted that vineyard to caretakers. Each one was to bring 25 pounds of silver in exchange for its fruit.

¹²My own vineyard is in front of me. That 25 pounds is yours, Solomon, and 5 pounds go to those who take care of its fruit.

¹³[Groom] Young woman living in the gardens, while your friends are listening to your voice, let me hear

¹⁴[Bride] Come away quickly, my beloved. Run like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.

I saiah

1 ¹ This is the vision which I saiah, son of Amoz, saw about Judah and Jerusalem at the time of Kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.

² Listen, heaven, and pay attention, earth! The LORD has spoken, "I raised my children and helped them grow, but they have rebelled against me.

³ Oxen know their owners, and donkeys know where their masters feed them. But Israel doesnt know its owner. My people dont understand who feeds them.

⁴ "How horrible it will be for a nation that sins. Its people are loaded down with guilt. They are descendants of evildoers and destructive children. They have abandoned the LORD. They have despised the Holy One of Israel. They have turned their backs on him.

⁵ "Why do you still want to be beaten? Why do you continue to rebel? Your whole head is infected. Your whole heart is failing.

⁶From the bottom of your feet to the top of your head there is no healthy spot left on your body only bruises, sores, and fresh wounds. They havent been cleansed, bandaged, or soothed with oil.

⁷"Your country is devastated. Your cities are burned down. Your fields are destroyed right before your eyes by foreigners. Your fields are devastated and taken over by foreigners.

⁸My people Zion are left like a hut in a vineyard, like a shack in a cucumber field, like a city under attack."

⁹If the LORD of Armies hadnt left us a few survivors, we would have been like Sodom and Gomorrah.

¹⁰Listen to the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Pay attention to the teachings from our God, you people of Gomorrah!

¹¹The LORD asks, "What do your many animal sacrifices mean to me? Ive had enough of your burnt offerings of rams and enough fat from your fattened calves. Im not pleased with the blood of bulls, lambs, or male goats.

¹²When you appear in my presence, who asked you to trample on my courtyards?

¹³Don't bring any more worthless grain offerings. Your incense is disgusting to me, so are your New Moon Festivals, your days of worship, and the assemblies you call. I can't stand your evil assemblies.

¹⁴I hate your New Moon Festivals and your appointed festivals. They've become a burden to me, and I'm tired of putting up with them.

¹⁵So when you stretch out your hands in prayer, I will turn my eyes away from you. Even though you offer many prayers, I will not listen because your hands are covered with blood.

¹⁶"Wash yourselves! Become clean! Get your evil deeds out of my sight. Stop doing evil.

¹⁷Learn to do good. Seek justice. Arrest oppressors. Defend orphans. Plead the case of widows."

¹⁸"Come on now, let's discuss this!" says the LORD. "Though your sins are bright red, they will become as white as snow. Though they are dark red, they will become as white as wool.

¹⁹If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land.

²⁰But if you refuse and rebel, you will be destroyed by swords." The LORD has spoken.

²¹How the faithful town has become a prostitute! She was full of justice, and righteousness lived in her. But now murderers live there!

²²Your silver is not pure. Your wine is watered down.

²³Your rulers are rebels, friends with thieves. They all love bribes and run after gifts. They never defend orphans. They don't notice the widows' pleas.

²⁴That's why the Lord, the LORD of Armies, the Mighty One of Israel, says, "How horrible it will be when I take revenge on my opponents! I will avenge myself against my enemies.

²⁵I will turn my power against you. I will remove your impurities with bleach. I will get rid of all your impurities.

²⁶I will give you judges like you had long ago, advisers like you had in the beginning. After that you will be called the Righteous City, the Faithful Town."

²⁷ Zion will be pardoned by the LORDS justice, and those who return will be pardoned by the LORDS righteousness.

²⁸ Rebels and sinners will be crushed at the same time, and those who abandon the LORD will come to an end.

²⁹ You will be ashamed of the oaks that you wanted to worship and embarrassed by the garden that you have chosen for your gods.

³⁰ You will be like an oak whose leaves wither and like a garden without water.

³¹ Strong people will become tinder for a fire, and their work will be the spark. Both of them will burn together, and there will be no one to put out the fire.

2¹ This is the message which Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw about Judah and Jerusalem.

² In the last days the mountain of the LORDS house will be established as the highest of the mountains and raised above the hills. All the nations will stream to it.

³ Then many people will come and say, "Let's go to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways so that we may live by

them." The teachings will go out from Zion. The word of the LORD will go out from Jerusalem.

⁴Then he will judge disputes between nations and settle arguments between many people. They will hammer their swords into plowblades and their spears into pruning shears. Nations will never fight against each other, and they will never train for war again.

⁵Come, descendants of Jacob, let's live in the light of the LORD.

⁶LORD, you have abandoned your people, the descendants of Jacob, because they are filled with Eastern influences. They are fortunetellers like the Philistines, and they make deals with foreigners.

⁷Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures. Their land is filled with horses, and there is no end to their chariots.

⁸Their land is filled with idols, and they worship what their hands have shaped and what their fingers have molded.

⁹People will be brought down. Everyone will be humbled. Do not forgive them.

¹⁰Go in among the rocks and hide underground because of the LORDS terrifying presence and the honor of his majesty.

¹¹The eyes of arrogant people will be humbled. High and mighty people will be brought down. On that day the LORD alone will be honored.

¹²The LORD of Armies will have his day against all who are arrogant and conceited and all who are proud of themselves (they will be humbled),

¹³against all the towering and mighty cedars of Lebanon and all the oaks of Bashan,

¹⁴against all the high mountains and all the lofty hills,

¹⁵against every high tower and every fortified wall,

¹⁶against all the large ships of Tarshish and all the beautiful boats.

¹⁷Then arrogant people will be brought down, and high and mighty people will be humbled. On that day the LORD alone will be honored.

¹⁸Then idols will disappear completely.

¹⁹People will go into caves in the rocks and into holes in the ground because of

the LORDS terrifying presence and the honor of his majesty when he rises to terrify the earth.

²⁰On that day people will throw to the moles and the bats the silver and gold idols that they made for themselves to worship.

²¹They will go into caves in the rocks and into cracks in the cliffs because of the LORDS terrifying presence and the honor of his majesty when he rises to terrify the earth.

²²Stop trusting people. Their life is in their nostrils. How can they be worth anything?

3¹See now, the Lord, the LORD of Armies, is going to take from Jerusalem and Judah every kind of support and their entire supply of food and water.

²He will take their heroes and soldiers, judges and prophets, fortunetellers and statesmen,

³military leaders and civilian leaders, counselors, skilled workers, and experts in magic.

⁴"I will make boys their leaders. Children will govern them."

⁵ People will oppress each other, and everyone will oppress his neighbor. The young will make fun of the old, and common people will make fun of their superiors.

⁶ A person will grab one of his relatives from his fathers family and say, "You have a coat. Youll be our leader. This pile of ruins will be under your control."

⁷ When that day comes the relative will cry out, "Im not a doctor! I dont have any food or a coat in my home. Dont make me a leader of our family."

⁸ Jerusalem has stumbled, and Judah has fallen, because what they say and what they do is against the LORD. They are defiant in his honored presence.

⁹ The look on their faces will be held against them. They boast about their sins, which are like those of the people of Sodom. They dont even bother to hide them. How horrible it will be for these people, because they have brought disaster on themselves.

¹⁰ Tell the righteous that blessings will come to them. They will taste the fruit of their labor.

¹¹ How horrible it will be for the wicked! Disaster will strike them. What they have done will be done to them.

¹² "Children will oppress my people. Women will rule them. My people, your guides mislead you, and you don't know which way to go."

¹³ The LORD takes his place in the courtroom. He stands to judge his people.

¹⁴ The LORD presents his case to the respected leaders and the officials of his people: "You have burned down the vineyard! Your houses are filled with goods stolen from the poor."

¹⁵ The Almighty LORD of Armies asks, "How can you crush my people and grind the faces of the poor into the ground?"

¹⁶ The LORD adds, "The women of Zion are arrogant. They walk with their noses in the air, making seductive glances, taking short little steps, jingling the ankle bracelets on their feet."

¹⁷ The Lord will cause sores to appear on the heads of the women of Zion, and the LORD will make their foreheads bare.

¹⁸On that day the Lord will take away their fine things: jingling anklets, headbands, crescentshaped necklaces,
¹⁹pendants, bracelets, scarfs,
²⁰hats, ankle bracelets, blouses, perfume boxes, charms,
²¹signet rings, nose rings,
²²fine robes, coats, shawls, purses,
²³mirrors, underwear, headdresses, and veils.

²⁴Instead of the smell of perfume, there will be the smell of decay. They will wear ropes instead of belts. They will have bald heads instead of beautiful hair. They will wear sackcloth instead of expensive clothes. Their beauty will be scarred.

²⁵Women, your warriors will die in combat. Your mighty men will die in battle.

²⁶The gates of Zion will cry and grieve, and Zion will sit on the ground, exhausted.

4¹When that day comes, seven women will grab one man and say, "Well eat our own food and provide our own clothes. Just let us marry you for your name. Take away our disgrace."

²When that day comes, the branch of the LORD will be beautiful and wonderful. The fruit of the land will be the pride and joy of Israels survivors.

³Then whoever is left in Zion and whoever remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem.

⁴The Lord will wash away the filth of Zions people. He will clean bloodstains from Jerusalem with a spirit of judgment and a spirit of burning.

⁵The LORD will create a cloud of smoke during the day and a glowing flame of fire during the night over the whole area of Mount Zion and over the assembly. His glory will cover everything.

⁶It will be a shelter from the heat during the day as well as a refuge and hiding place from storms and rain.

5¹Let me sing a lovesong to my beloved about his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill.

²He dug it up, removed its stones, planted it with the choicest vines, built a watchtower in it, and made a winepress in it. Then he waited for it to produce

good grapes, but it produced only sour, wild grapes.

³Now then, you inhabitants of Jerusalem and Judah, judge between me and my vineyard!

⁴What more could have been done for my vineyard than what I have already done for it? When I waited for it to produce good grapes, why did it produce only sour, wild grapes?

⁵Now then, let me tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will tear away its hedge so that it can be devoured and tear down its wall so that it can be trampled.

⁶I will make it a wasteland. It will never be pruned or hoed. Thorns and weeds will grow in it, and I will command the clouds not to rain on it.

⁷The vineyard of the LORD of Armies is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the garden of his delight. He hoped for justice but saw only slaughter, for righteousness but heard only cries of distress.

⁸How horrible it will be for you who acquire house after house and buy field

after field until theres nothing left and you have to live by yourself in the land.

⁹With my own ears I heard the LORD of Armies say, "Many houses will become empty. Large, beautiful houses will be without people to live in them.

¹⁰A tenacre vineyard will produce only six gallons of wine, and two quarts of seed will produce only four quarts of grain."

¹¹How horrible it will be for those who get up early to look for a drink, who sit up late until they are drunk from wine.

¹²At their feasts there are lyres and harps, tambourines and flutes, and wine. Yet, they dont pay attention to what the LORD is doing or see what his hands have done.

¹³"My people will go into exile because they dont understand what Im doing. Honored men will starve, and common people will be parched with thirst."

¹⁴That is why the graves appetite increases. It opens its mouth very wide so that honored people and common people will go down into it. Those who are noisy and joyous will go down into it.

¹⁵ People will be brought down. Everyone will be humbled. And the eyes of arrogant people will be humbled.

¹⁶ The LORD of Armies will be honored when he judges. The holy God will show himself to be holy when he does what is right.

¹⁷ Then lambs will graze as if they were in their own pasture, and foreigners will eat among the ruins of the rich.

¹⁸ How horrible it will be for those who string people along with lies and empty promises, whose lives are sinful.

¹⁹ They say, "Let God hurry and quickly do his work so that we may see what he has in mind. Let the plan of the Holy One of Israel happen quickly so that we may understand what he is doing."

²⁰ How horrible it will be for those who call evil good and good evil, who turn darkness into light and light into darkness, who turn what is bitter into something sweet and what is sweet into something bitter.

²¹ How horrible it will be for those who think they are wise and consider themselves to be clever.

²²How horrible it will be for those who are heroes at drinking wine, who are champions at mixing drinks,

²³who declare the guilty innocent for a bribe, who take away the rights of righteous people.

²⁴As flames burn up straw and dry grass shrivels in flames, so their roots will rot, and their blossoms will blow away like dust. They have rejected the teachings of the LORD of Armies and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

²⁵That's why the anger of the LORD burns hot against his people, and he is ready to use his power to strike them down. The hills tremble, and dead bodies lie like garbage in the streets. Even after all this, his anger has not disappeared, and he is still ready to use his power.

²⁶The LORD raises up a flag for the nations far away. With a whistle he signals those at the ends of the earth. Look, they are coming very quickly!

²⁷None of them grow tired or stumble. None of them slumber or sleep. The belts on their waists aren't loose or their sandal straps broken.

²⁸Their arrows are sharpened; all their bows are ready to shoot. Their horses hoofs are as hard as flint. Their chariot wheels are as quick as the wind.

²⁹They roar like a lioness. They growl like a young lion. They growl as they snatch their prey and carry it off to where no one can rescue it.

³⁰On that day they will roar over their prey as the sea roars. If they look at the land, they will see only darkness and distress. Even the light will be darkened by thick clouds.

6¹In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a high and lofty throne. The bottom of his robe filled the temple.

²Angels were standing above him. Each had six wings: With two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

³They called to each other and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory."

⁴Their voices shook the foundations of the doorposts, and the temple filled with smoke.

⁵So I said, "Oh, no! I'm doomed. Every word that passes through my lips is sinful. I live among people with sinful lips. I have seen the king, the LORD of Armies!"

⁶Then one of the angels flew to me. In his hand was a burning coal that he had taken from the altar with tongs.

⁷He touched my mouth with it and said, "This has touched your lips. Your guilt has been taken away, and your sin has been forgiven."

⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom will I send? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me!"

⁹And he said, "Go and tell these people, No matter how closely you listen, you'll never understand. No matter how closely you look, you'll never see.

¹⁰Make these people closeminded. Plug their ears. Shut their eyes. Otherwise, they may see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their minds, and return and be healed."

¹¹I asked, "How long, O Lord?" And he replied, "Until the cities lie in ruins with no one living in them, the houses have

no people, and the land is completely desolate.

¹²The LORD will send his people far away, and a large area in the middle of the land will be abandoned.

¹³Even if one out of ten people is left in it, the land will be burned again. When a sacred oak or an oak is cut down, a stump is left. The holy seed will be the lands stump."

7¹When Ahaz, son of Jotham and grandson of Uzziah, was king of Judah, Arams King Rezin and Israels King Pekah, son of Remaliah, went to Jerusalem to attack it, but they couldnt defeat it.

²When word reached Davids family that the Arameans had made an alliance with Ephraim, the hearts of the king and his people were shaken as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.

³Then the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out with your son Shear Jashub to meet Ahaz at the end of the ditch of the Upper Pool on the road to the Laundrymans Field.

⁴Say to him, Be careful, stay calm, and dont be afraid. Dont lose heart

because of the fierce anger of Rezin from Aram and Remaliahs son. These two are smoldering logs.

⁵Aram, Ephraim, and Remaliahs son have planned evil against you, saying,

⁶Lets march against Judah, tear it apart, divide it among ourselves, and set up Tabeels son as its king.

⁷This is what the Almighty LORD says: It wont take place; it wont happen.

⁸The capital of Aram is Damascus, and the leader of Damascus is Rezin. Ephraim will be shattered within 65 years so that it will no longer be a nation.

⁹The capital of Ephraim is Samaria, and the leader of Samaria is Remaliahs son. If you dont remain faithful, you wont remain standing.

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz,

¹¹"Ask the LORD your God for a sign. It can be anything you want."

¹²But Ahaz answered, "I wont ask; I wouldnt think of testing the LORD."

¹³"Listen now, descendants of David," Isaiah said. "Isnt it enough that you try the patience of mortals? Must you also try the patience of my God?"

¹⁴ So the Lord himself will give you this sign: A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel [God Is With Us].

¹⁵ He will eat cheese and honey until he knows how to reject evil and choose good.

¹⁶ Indeed, before the boy knows how to reject evil and choose good, the land of the two kings who terrify you will be deserted.

¹⁷ "The LORD will bring on you, your people, and your ancestors family a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah. He will bring the king of Assyria.

¹⁸ On that day the LORD will whistle for the flies that are at the distant branches of the Nile River in Egypt and for the bees that are in Assyria.

¹⁹ All of them will come and settle in the deep valleys, in the cracks in the cliffs, on all the thornbushes, and at all the water holes.

²⁰ "On that day the Lord will hire the king of Assyria from beyond the Euphrates River to be a razor to shave

the hair on your head, the hair on your legs, and even your beard.

²¹ On that day a person will keep alive a young cow and two sheep.

²² That person will eat cheese, because they will produce so much milk. Everyone who is left in the land will eat cheese and honey.

²³ On that day, in every place where there were 1,000 vines (worth 1,000 pieces of silver), there will be briars and thorns.

²⁴ People will come there with bows and arrows to hunt because the whole land will be filled with briars and thorns.

²⁵ And you will no longer be able to go to all the hills which used to be cultivated because they will be filled with briars and thorns. It will be a place for turning oxen loose and letting sheep run."

8¹ The LORD said to me, "Take a large writing tablet, and write on it with a pen: Maher Shalal Hash Baz [The Looting Will Come Quickly; the Prey Will Be Easy].

² I will have these dependable witnesses testify: the priest Uriah and Zechariah (son of Jeberechiah)."

³I slept with the prophet. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son. The LORD told me, "Name him Maher Shalal Hash Baz.

⁴Before the boy knows how to say Daddy or Mommy, the wealth of Damascus and the loot from Samaria will be carried away to the king of Assyria."

⁵The LORD spoke to me again. He said,

⁶"These people have rejected the gently flowing water of Shiloah and find joy in Rezin and Remaliahs son."

⁷That is why the Lord is going to bring against them the raging and powerful floodwaters of the Euphrates River the king of Assyria with all his power. It will overflow all its channels and go over all its banks.

⁸It will sweep through Judah. It will overflow and pass through; it will be neckhigh. Its outspread wings will extend over your whole country, O Immanuel.

⁹Be broken, you people. Be terrified. Listen, all you distant parts of the earth. Prepare for battle, but be terrified. Prepare for battle, but be terrified.

¹⁰Make plans for battle, but they will never succeed. Give orders, but they

wont be carried out, because God is with us!

¹¹ This is what the LORD said with his powerful hand on me. He warned me not to follow the ways of these people:

¹² "Dont say that everything these people call a conspiracy is a conspiracy. Dont fear what they fear. Dont let it terrify you."

¹³ Remember that the LORD of Armies is holy. He is the one you should fear and the one you should be terrified of.

¹⁴ He will be a place of safety for you. But he will be a rock that makes people trip and a stumbling block for both kingdoms of Israel. He will be a trap and a snare for those who live in Jerusalem.

¹⁵ Many will stumble. They will fall and be broken. They will be trapped and caught.

¹⁶ Tie up the written instructions. Seal the teachings among my disciples.

¹⁷ I will wait for the LORD, who hides his face from the descendants of Jacob. I will hope in him.

¹⁸ I am here with the children that the LORD has given me. We are signs

and symbols in Israel from the LORD of Armies, who lives on Mount Zion.

¹⁹People will say to you, "Ask for help from the mediums and the fortunetellers, who whisper and mutter." Shouldn't people ask their God for help instead? Why should they ask the dead to help the living?

²⁰They should go to the teachings and to the written instructions. If people don't speak these words, it is because it doesn't dawn on them.

²¹They will pass through the land when they are hardpressed and hungry. When they are hungry, they will be furious. Then they will look up, cursing their king and God.

²²They will look at the earth and see only distress and gloom. They will go in anguish and be forced into darkness.

9¹ But there will be no more gloom for the land that is in distress. God humbled the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali in earlier times. But in the future he will bring glory to the road by the sea, to the land across the Jordan River, to Galilee, where foreigners live.

²The people who walk in darkness will see a bright light. The light will shine on those who live in the land of death's shadow.

³You will expand the nation and increase its happiness. It will be happy in your presence like those who celebrate the harvest or rejoice when dividing loot.

⁴You will break the yoke that burdens them, the bar that is across their shoulders, and the stick used by their oppressor, as you did in the battle against Midian.

⁵Every warrior's boot marching to the sound of battle and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel in the fire.

⁶A child will be born for us. A son will be given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His government and peace will have unlimited growth. He will establish David's throne and kingdom. He will uphold it with justice and righteousness now and forever. The LORD of Armies is determined to do this!

⁸The LORD sent a message against Jacob. The message is against Israel.

⁹All the people of Ephraim and the people who live in Samaria will know it. With arrogant and conceited hearts they will say,

¹⁰"Bricks have fallen, but we will rebuild with handcut stones. Fig trees have been cut down, but we will replace them with cedars."

¹¹The LORD will set Rezin's oppressors against Israel and will stir up its enemies

¹²the Arameans from the east and the Philistines from the west. They will devour Israel with open mouths. Even after all this, his anger will not disappear, and he is still ready to use his power.

¹³But the people have not returned to the one who struck them, nor have they sought the LORD of Armies.

¹⁴So in one day the LORD will cut off from Israel both head and tail, both palm branches and cattails.

¹⁵Respected and honored leaders are the head. Prophets who teach lies are the tail.

¹⁶Those who guide these people lead them astray. Those who are guided by them will be destroyed.

¹⁷That is why the Lord isn't happy with their young men, nor will he show compassion for their orphans and widows. Every one of them is a godless evildoer, and every mouth speaks foolishness. Even after all this, his anger will not disappear, and he is still ready to use his power.

¹⁸Surely wickedness burns like fire. It burns up briars and thorns. It sets the underbrush in the forest on fire, and it whirls upward in clouds of smoke.

¹⁹The land is scorched by the fury of the LORD of Armies, and the people are like fuel for the fire. No one shows concern for others:

²⁰On the right, one gobbles up food and is still hungry. On the left, another eats and is never full. Each person eats the flesh from his own arm.

²¹Manasseh is against Ephraim. Ephraim is against Manasseh. Together they attack Judah. Even after all this, his anger will not disappear, and he is still ready to use his power.

10¹ How horrible it will be for those who make unjust laws and who make oppressive regulations.

² They deprive the poor of justice. They take away the rights of the needy among my people. They prey on widows and rob orphans.

³ What will you do on the day you are called to account for these things, when the disaster comes from far away? Where will you run for help? Where will you leave your wealth?

⁴ Nothings left but to crouch among prisoners and to fall with those who are killed. Even after all this, his anger will not disappear, and he is still ready to use his power.

⁵ "How horrible it will be for Assyria! It is the rod of my anger. My fury is the staff in the Assyrians hands.

⁶ I send them against a godless nation. In my fury I order them against the people to take their belongings, loot them, and trample on them like mud in the streets.

⁷ But thats not what they intend to do. Their minds dont work that way. Their

purpose is to destroy and put an end to many nations.

⁸They ask, Arent all our commanders kings?

⁹Isnt Calno like Carchemish? Isnt Hamath like Arpad? Isnt Samaria like Damascus?

¹⁰My power has reached kingdoms which have idols. They had more carved statues than Jerusalem or Samaria.

¹¹I will do to Jerusalem and its idols what Ive done to Samaria and its idols."

¹²When the Lord has finished all his work on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, he will punish the king of Assyria for all his boasting and all his arrogance.

¹³The king will say, "I did this with my own two powerful hands. I did this with my wisdom, because I am so clever. Ive eliminated the boundaries of nations. Ive looted treasuries. Ive brought down people like a mighty man.

¹⁴Ive found the riches of nations as one finds a nest. Ive gathered the whole world as one gathers abandoned eggs. Not one of them flapped a wing, opened its mouth, or peeped."

¹⁵ Can an ax attack the person who cuts with it? Can a saw make itself greater than the person who saws with it? A rod cannot move the person who lifts it. A wooden stick cannot pick up a person.

¹⁶ That is why the Almighty LORD of Armies will send a degenerative disease against brave men. A flame will be turned into a raging fire under his power.

¹⁷ Israel's light will become a flame. Its Holy One will become a fire. He will burn up and devour the weeds and thornbushes in one day.

¹⁸ The majestic forest and the orchard will destroy both body and soul. They will be like a sick person wasting away.

¹⁹ The trees that remain in the forest will be so few that a child could count them.

²⁰ At that time the remaining few Israelites, the survivors of Jacob's descendants will no longer depend on the one who struck them. They will only depend on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.

²¹ A few, the remaining few of Jacob, will return to the mighty God.

²² Although your people Israel may be as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore, only a few will return. Destruction will be complete and fair.

²³ The Almighty LORD of Armies will carry out this destruction throughout the world as he has determined.

²⁴ The Almighty LORD of Armies says: My people who live in Zion, don't be afraid of the Assyrians when they strike with a rod or when they raise their staff against you as the Egyptians did.

²⁵ Very soon I will unleash my fury, and my anger will destroy them.

²⁶ Then the LORD of Armies will raise his whip against them. As he struck down Midian at the Rock of Oreb and raised his staff over the water, so he will lift it as he did in Egypt.

²⁷ At that time their burden will be removed from your shoulders. Their yoke will be removed from your neck. The yoke will be torn away because you have grown fat.

²⁸ They come to Aiath. They pass through Migron. They store their equipment at Michmash.

²⁹They go through the mountain pass and lodge at Geba for the night. The people in Ramah tremble; the people in Sauls Gibeah flee.

³⁰Cry aloud, you people in Gallim! Pay attention, you people in Laishah and miserable Anathoth!

³¹The people in Madmenah flee; those who live in Gebim take shelter.

³²This day they stopped at Nob. They shake their fist at the mountain of my people Zion, at the mountain of Jerusalem.

³³Now look! The Almighty LORD of Armies will trim the branches with terrifying power. The highest trees will be cut down. The tallest ones will be brought down.

³⁴He will cut down the underbrush of the forest with an ax. Lebanon will fall in front of the Mighty One.

11 ¹Then a shoot will come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from its roots will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of advice and power, the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD.

³He will gladly bear the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear.

⁴He will judge the poor justly. He will make fair decisions for the humble people on earth. He will strike the earth with a rod from his mouth. He will kill the wicked with the breath from his lips.

⁵Justice will be the belt around his waist. Faithfulness will be the belt around his hips.

⁶Wolves will live with lambs. Leopards will lie down with goats. Calves, young lions, and yearold lambs will be together, and little children will lead them.

⁷Cows and bears will eat together. Their young will lie down together. Lions will eat straw like oxen.

⁸Infants will play near cobras holes. Toddlers will put their hands into vipers nests.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy anyone anywhere on my holy mountain. The world will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD like water covering the sea.

¹⁰At that time the root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the people to

gather around. The nations will come to him. His resting place will be glorious.

¹¹At that time the Lord will use his power again to recover what remains of his people in Assyria, Upper and Lower Egypt, Sudan, Elam, Babylonia, Hamath, and the islands of the sea.

¹²He will raise a banner for the nations to gather around. He will gather the outcasts of Israel and bring together the scattered people of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

¹³Ephraim's jealousy will vanish, and Judah's opponents will come to an end. Ephraim won't be jealous of Judah, and Judah won't oppose Ephraim.

¹⁴They will swoop down on the slopes of Philistia in the west. Together they will loot the people of the east. They will conquer Edom and Moab. The people of Ammon will be subject to them.

¹⁵The LORD will dry up the gulf of the Egyptian Sea. He will wave his hand over the Euphrates River with his scorching wind and divide it into seven streams so that people can walk over it in their sandals.

¹⁶There will be a highway for the remaining few of his people left in Assyria like there was for Israel when it came out of Egypt.

12¹At that time you will say, "I will praise you, O LORD. Although you had been angry with me, you turned your anger away from me, and you comforted me.

²Look! God is my Savior. I am confident and unafraid, because the LORD is my strength and my song. He is my Savior."

³With joy you will draw water from the springs of salvation.

⁴At that time you will say, "Praise the LORD. Call on his name. Make his deeds known among the nations. Make them remember that his name is highly honored.

⁵Make music to praise the LORD. He has done wonderful things. Let this be known throughout the earth.

⁶Shout loudly, and sing with joy, people of Zion! The Holy One of Israel is great. He is among you."

13¹This is the divine revelation which Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw about Babylon.

²Raise a banner on the bare mountaintop. Call loudly to them. Signal them with your hand to enter the nobles gates.

³Ive commanded my holy ones. Ive called my mighty men to carry out my anger. They find joy in my triumphs.

⁴Listen to the noise on the mountains. It is like the sound of a large army. It is the sound of kingdoms and nations gathering together. The LORD of Armies is assembling his army for battle.

⁵His army is coming from a distant land, from the ends of heaven. The LORD is coming with the weapons of his fury to destroy the whole world.

⁶Cry loudly, for the day of the LORD is near. It will come like destruction from the Almighty.

⁷That is why every hand will hang limp, and everyones courage will fail.

⁸Theyll be terrified. Pain and anguish will seize them. Theyll writhe like a woman giving birth to a child. Theyll look at one another in astonishment. Their faces will be burning red.

⁹The day of the LORD is going to come. It will be a cruel day with fury and fierce

anger. He will make the earth desolate. He will destroy its sinners.

¹⁰The stars in the sky and their constellations won't show their light anymore. The sun will be dark when it rises. The moon won't shine.

¹¹I will punish the world for its evil and the wicked for their wrongdoing. I will put an end to arrogant people and humble the pride of tyrants.

¹²I will make people harder to find than pure gold and human beings more rare than gold from Ophir.

¹³I will make heaven tremble, and the earth will be shaken from its place when the LORD of Armies is angry. At that time he will be very angry.

¹⁴They'll be like hunted gazelle and like sheep with no one to gather them. Everyone will return to his own people and flee to his own land.

¹⁵Whoever is found will be stabbed to death. Whoever is captured will be executed.

¹⁶Their little children will be smashed to death right before their eyes. Their houses will be looted and their wives raped.

¹⁷ I'm going to stir up the Medes against them. They don't care for silver and aren't happy with gold.

¹⁸ But their bows will smash the youth. They'll have no compassion for babies, nor will they look with pity on children.

¹⁹ Babylon, the jewel of the kingdoms, the proud beauty of the Chaldeans, will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God destroyed them.

²⁰ It will never be inhabited again, and no one will live in it for generations. Arabs won't pitch their tents there. Shepherds won't let their flocks rest there.

²¹ Desert animals will lie down there. Their homes will be full of owls. Ostriches will live there, and wild goats will skip about.

²² Hyenas will howl in Babylon's strongholds, and jackals will howl in its luxurious palaces. Its time has almost come. Its days will not be extended.

14¹ The LORD will have compassion for Jacob and again choose Israel. He will resettle them in their own country. Foreigners will join them and unite with the descendants of Jacob.

² People will take them and bring them to their own place. The nation of Israel will possess nations as male and female slaves in the LORDS land. They will take their captors captive and rule their oppressors.

³ When that day comes, the LORD will give you relief from your pain and suffering, from the hard slavery you were forced to do.

⁴ Then you will mock the king of Babylon with this saying, "How the tyrant has come to an end! How his attacks have come to an end!"

⁵ The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of rulers.

⁶ They struck the people with fury, with blows that didnt stop. They ruled nations in anger, persecuting them without restraint.

⁷ The whole earth rests and is peaceful. It breaks out into shouts of joy.

⁸ Even the cypresses rejoice over you. The cedars of Lebanon say, "Since you have fallen, no lumberjack has come to attack us."

⁹ Sheol below wakes up to meet you when you come. It wakes up the ghosts

of the dead, all who were leaders on earth. It raises all who were kings of the nations from their thrones.

¹⁰All of them will greet you, "You also have become weak like us! You have become like one of us!"

¹¹Your pride has been brought down to Sheol along with the music of your harps. Maggots are spread out like a bed under you, and worms cover you.

¹²How you have fallen from heaven, you morning star, son of the dawn! How you have been cut down to the ground, you conqueror of nations!

¹³You thought, "I'll go up to heaven and set up my throne above God's stars. I'll sit on the mountain far away in the north where the gods assemble.

¹⁴I'll go above the top of the clouds. I'll be like the Most High."

¹⁵But you've been brought down to Sheol, to the deepest part of the pit.

¹⁶Those who see you stare at you; they look at you closely and say, "Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook the kingdoms,

¹⁷who made the world like a desert and tore down its cities, who didn't let his prisoners go home?"

¹⁸All the kings of the nations, all of them, have been buried with honor, each in his own tomb.

¹⁹But you are thrown out of your tomb like a rejected branch. You are covered with those who were killed in battle. You go down to the stones of the pit like a trampled corpse.

²⁰You won't be joined by the kings in the tomb, because you have destroyed your land and killed your people. The descendants of the wicked will never be mentioned again.

²¹Prepare a place to slaughter their sons because of their ancestors' guilt. They won't be able to rise, possess the earth, and rebuild cities all over it.

²²"I'll rise up against them," declares the LORD of Armies. "I'll cut off the name of the survivors from Babylon, its offspring and descendants," declares the LORD.

²³"It will become the possession of herons. It will become pools of water. I'll

sweep it with the broom of destruction," declares the LORD of Armies.

²⁴The LORD of Armies has taken an oath: "It will happen exactly as I've intended. It will turn out exactly as I've planned.

²⁵I'll crush Assyria on my land. I'll trample it underfoot on my mountains. Then its yoke will be removed from my people, and its burden will be removed from their shoulders."

²⁶This is the plan determined for the whole earth. This is how he will use his power against all the nations.

²⁷The LORD of Armies has planned it. Who can stop it? He is ready to use his power. Who can turn it back?

²⁸This was the divine revelation in the year King Ahaz died.

²⁹All you Philistines, don't rejoice that the rod of the one who struck you is broken, because a viper will come from that snake's root, and his descendant will be a flying, fiery serpent.

³⁰The poorest of the poor will eat, and the needy will lie down in safety. But I will put your root to death with famine and kill off your survivors.

³¹ Cry loudly in the gate! Cry out in the city! Be frightened, all you Philistines! Smoke comes from the north, and there are no stragglers in its ranks.

³² How should we answer the messengers from the nations? Tell them that the LORD has laid Zions foundation, and his humble people will find refuge in it.

15¹ This is the divine revelation about Moab. In a single night Ar in Moab is laid waste and destroyed! In a single night Kir in Moab is laid waste and destroyed!

² The people of Dibon go to the temple, to the worship sites, to cry. Moab wails over Nebo and Medeba. Every head is shaved bald, and every beard is cut off.

³ In their streets they wear sackcloth. On their roofs and in their city squares everyone wails and cries.

⁴ Heshbon and Elealeh also cry out. Their voices are heard as far away as Jahaz. Moabs armed men cry out. Their courage is gone.

⁵ My heart cries out for Moab. Its people flee as far as Zoar at Eglath Shelishiyah. They go up the mountain road to Luhith.

They cry loudly over the destruction on the way to Horonaim.

⁶The Nimrim Brook has run dry! The grass dries up, the vegetation withers, and nothing green is left.

⁷That is why they carry the wealth that they have earned and stored up over Willow Ravine.

⁸Cries for help echo throughout the land of Moab. Their wailing echoes as far as Eglaim. Their wailing echoes as far as Beer Elim.

⁹The water in Dimon is red with blood, yet I will bring even more on Dimon. A lion will attack the fugitives from Moab and the survivors from Adamah.

16¹ Send lambs to the ruler of the land. Send lambs from Sela through the desert to my people at Mount Zion.

²Moabs daughters are like fluttering birds, like scattered nestlings, at the shallow crossings of the Arnon River.

³Give us advice. Make a decision. At high noon make your shadow as dark as night. Hide the fugitives. Don't betray the refugees.

⁴Let the fugitives from Moab stay with you a while. Be their refuge from the destroyer. Ruthless people will come to an end. The destruction will end. The one who tramples others will be gone.

⁵Then the LORD will set up a trusted king. He will rule faithfully. He is from the tent of David. He judges and searches for justice. He is quick to do what is right.

⁶Weve heard of the arrogance of Moabs people. They are very arrogant. Weve heard of their boasting, arrogance, and conceit, but their boasts arent true.

⁷That is why Moab will wail. Everyone will wail for Moab. Mourn and grieve over the raisin cakes of Kir Hareseth.

⁸The fields of Heshbon and the vineyards of Sibmah wither. Rulers of the nations have cut off their grapes. The grapevines once reached as far as Jazer and strayed out into the desert. Their shoots had spread out over the sea.

⁹I will cry for the grapevines of Sibmah as Jazer cries for them. I will drench you with my tears, Heshbon and Elealeh. The shouts of joy for your ripened fruits and your harvest will be silenced.

¹⁰Joy and delight have vanished from the orchards. No songs are sung. No shouts are raised. No one stomps on grapes in the winepresses, because I have put an end to the shouts of joy.

¹¹That is why my heart mourns for Moab like a harp. My soul mourns for Kir Hareseth.

¹²When the people of Moab appear at the worship site, they will only wear themselves out. They will come into the holy place to pray, but they won't be able to.

¹³This is the message that the LORD spoke about Moab in the past.

¹⁴But now the LORD says, "Moab's honor will be despised within three years. I will count them like workers count the years left of their contracts. In spite of their great number, the survivors will be very few and powerless."

17 ¹This is the divine revelation about Damascus. "Damascus will no longer be a city. It will become a pile of rubble.

²The cities of Aroer will be deserted. These cities will be used for sheep, which

will lie down in them. There will be no one to disturb those sheep.

³Fortified cities will disappear from Ephraim, and the kingdom will disappear from Damascus. The remaining few from Aram will share Israels honor," declares the LORD of Armies.

⁴"When that day comes, the honor of Jacobs people will fade away, and they will become skin and bones.

⁵That time will be like harvesting bundles of grain by the armful. It will be like gathering grain in the Rephaim Valley.

⁶Only a few people will survive. They will be like an olive tree that has been beaten. Only two or three olives are left at the top of the highest branch, four or five olives on the rest of the branches," declares the LORD God of Israel.

⁷When that day comes, they will look to their maker, and their eyes will look to the Holy One of Israel.

⁸They wont look to the altars made by their hands or to the Asherah poles or incense altars which their fingers molded.

⁹When that day comes, the fortified cities which other people abandoned because of the Israelites will be like abandoned woods and undergrowth. So it will become a wasteland.

¹⁰You have forgotten the God of your salvation. You havent remembered the rock, your stronghold. Instead, you have planted the best plants and have set out the imported grapevines.

¹¹On the day you plant, you will make it grow. On the morning you set out the seedling, you will make it sprout. But the harvest will become a rotting pile on a day of grief and incurable pain.

¹²How horrible it will be for many people! They will roar like the roaring sea. The noise that the people make will be like the noise from rushing water.

¹³The people will make noise like raging water. But the LORD will yell at them, and they will run far away. They will be chased away like husks on the mountains being blown by the wind, like whirling dust being blown by a storm.

¹⁴In the evening there will be sudden terror. Before morning they will be gone.

This will be the fate of those who looted us, the destiny of those who robbed us.

18¹ How horrible it will be for the land of whirring wings which lies beyond the rivers of Sudan.

² It sends messengers by sea in boats made of reeds skimming over the surface of the water. Go, swift messengers, to a tall and smoothskinned people, a people who are feared far and near, a strong and aggressive nation, whose land is divided by rivers.

³ Look when someone raises a flag on the mountains. Listen when someone blows a rams horn, all you inhabitants of the world who live on the earth.

⁴ This is what the LORD says to me: I will keep quiet and watch from my dwelling place. My presence will be like scorching heat in the sunshine, like heavy dew in the heat of the harvest.

⁵ Before the harvest, when blossoms are gone and grapes are ripening from blossoms, he will cut off the shoots with pruning shears and chop off the spreading branches.

⁶ They will be left for the birds of prey on the mountains and the wild animals.

The birds of prey will feed on them in the summer, and all the wild animals on earth will feed on them in the winter.

⁷At that time gifts will be brought to the LORD of Armies from a tall and smoothskinned people, a people who are feared far and near, a strong and aggressive nation, whose land is divided by rivers. They will be brought to Mount Zion, the place where the name of the LORD of Armies is.

19¹This is the divine revelation about Egypt. The LORD is riding on a fastmoving cloud and is coming to Egypt. Egypt's idols will tremble in his presence. Egypt's courage will fail.

²"I will turn one Egyptian against another. They will fight brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor, city against city, kingdom against kingdom.

³The Egyptians will lose courage. I will unravel their plans. They will turn to idols, ghosts, mediums, and fortunetellers.

⁴I will hand over the Egyptians to a harsh master. A strong king will rule them," declares the Almighty LORD of Armies.

⁵The water in the Nile River will be dried up, and the river will be dry and empty.

⁶The canals will stink. Egypt's streams will be emptied and dried up. The reeds and cattails will wither.

⁷The rushes by the Nile, by the edge of the Nile, and all the fields planted beside the Nile will dry up, be blown away, and disappear.

⁸Fishermen will cry. All who cast their lines into the Nile will mourn. Those who spread their nets on the water will sigh.

⁹Linenworkers and weavers will be ashamed.

¹⁰Egypt's weavers will be crushed. Those who work for money will be distressed.

¹¹The leaders of Zoan are nothing but fools. The wisest of Pharaoh's counselors gives stupid advice. How can you tell Pharaoh, "I'm a descendant of wise men, a descendant of ancient kings"?

¹²Where are your wise men now? Let them tell you. Let them explain what the LORD of Armies is planning against Egypt.

¹³The leaders of Zoan are acting foolishly. The leaders of Memphis are led astray. The leaders who are the cornerstones of its tribes mislead the Egyptians.

¹⁴The LORD mixes up their minds. So they lead the Egyptians astray like a drunk who staggers in his vomit.

¹⁵No one leaders or followers, important or unimportant can do anything for Egypt.

¹⁶At that time Egyptians will act like women. They will tremble and be terrified because the LORD of Armies will shake his fist at them.

¹⁷The land of Judah will terrify the Egyptians. Whenever they are reminded of Judah, they will be terrified of it because of what the LORD of Armies is planning against it.

¹⁸When that day comes, five cities in Egypt will have people that speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to the LORD of Armies. One of the cities will be called Heliopolis.

¹⁹When that day comes, an altar for the LORD will be in the middle of Egypt,

and a stone marker for the LORD will be near its border.

²⁰These objects will be a sign and a witness that the LORD of Armies is in Egypt. When the people cry to the LORD because of those who oppress them, he will send a savior and defender to rescue them.

²¹So the LORD will make himself known to the Egyptians. The Egyptians will know the LORD when that day comes. They will worship with sacrifices and food offerings. They will make vows to the LORD and carry them out.

²²The LORD will strike Egypt with a plague. When he strikes them, he will also heal them. Then they will come back to the LORD. And he will respond to their prayers and heal them.

²³When that day comes, a highway will run from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will come to Egypt and the Egyptians to Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.

²⁴When that day comes, Israel will be onethird of Gods people, along with Egypt and Assyria. They will be a blessing on the earth.

²⁵The LORD of Armies will bless them, saying, "My people Egypt, the work of my hands Assyria, and my possession Israel are blessed."

20¹In the year when King Sargon of Assyria sent his commander in chief to fight against Ashdod, he captured it.

²At that time the LORD told Isaiah, son of Amoz, "Take off the sackcloth that you are wearing, and take off your sandals!" Isaiah did this and walked around barefoot and naked.

³Then the LORD said, "My servant Isaiah has gone barefoot and naked for three years as a sign and as an omen to Egypt and Sudan.

⁴The king of Assyria will lead away both the young and the old captives from Egypt and exiles from Sudan. They will be barefoot and naked. Their buttocks will be exposed in order to disgrace Egypt.

⁵Then the people will be shattered and ashamed because Sudan was their hope and Egypt was their beauty.

⁶When that day comes, those who live on this coastland will say, Look at what

has happened to our hope. We ran to Egypt for help to be rescued from the king of Assyria. How can we escape?"

21 ¹This is the divine revelation about the desert by the sea. Like a storm sweeping through the Negev, an invader will come from the desert, from a terrifying land.

²I was shown a harsh vision. The traitor betrays. The destroyer destroys. Go to war, Elam! Surround them, Media! I will put an end to all the groaning.

³That is why my body is full of trembling. Pain grips me like the pain of childbirth. I'm disturbed by what I hear. I'm terrified by what I see.

⁴I'm confused. I'm shaking with terror. The twilight hours I longed for make me tremble.

⁵Set the table. Spread the rugs by the table. Eat. Drink. Get up, you leaders! Prepare your shields for battle!

⁶This is what the Lord says to me: Post a watchman. Have him report whatever he sees.

⁷He will see chariots, pairs of horsemen, riders on donkeys, and riders on camels. Let him watch carefully, very carefully.

⁸The watchman called, "Sir, I stand on the watchtower every day. Every night, I stand guard at my post.

⁹Look! Here come chariots and horsemen in pairs." Then he said, "Babylon has fallen! It has fallen! All the idols they worship lie shattered on the ground."

¹⁰You, my people, have been threshed and winnowed. I make known to you what I heard from the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel.

¹¹This is the divine revelation about Dumah. Someone is calling to me from Seir, "Watchman, how much of the night is left? Watchman, how much of the night is left?"

¹²The watchman answers, "Morning is coming, and night will come again. If you need to ask, come back and ask."

¹³This is the divine revelation about Arabia. You caravan of travelers from the people of Dedan will spend the night in the forest of Arabia.

¹⁴Bring water for the thirsty, you inhabitants of the land of Tema. Bring food to the fugitives.

¹⁵They flee from swords, from swords ready to kill, from bows ready to shoot, and from the thick of battle.

¹⁶This is what the Lord says to me: All of Kedars honor will be gone in another year. I will count it like workers count the years left on their contracts.

¹⁷The remaining number of archers, Kedars mighty archers, will be few. The LORD God of Israel has spoken.

22¹This is the divine revelation about the valley of Vision. Whats the matter with you? Why do all of you go up on the roofs?

²You are a city filled with shouting, a town filled with noise and excitement. Your people werent killed with swords. Your dead didnt die in battle.

³All your leaders fled together and were captured without their bows and arrows. All those who were found were taken prisoner before any of them could get far away.

⁴That is why I say, "Turn away from me so that I can cry bitterly. Dont try to comfort me because of the destruction brought on my people."

⁵The Almighty LORD of Armies has chosen a special day. It will be a day of confusion and trampling in the valley of Vision, a day of tearing down walls and crying for help in the mountains.

⁶Elam takes its quiver of arrows, manned chariots, and horsemen. Kir uncovers its shields.

⁷Then your fertile valleys will be filled with chariots, and horsemen will stand ready in front of the gate.

⁸On that day the LORD will remove the defenses of Judah. You will look for weapons in the House of the Forest.

⁹You will see how many places in Davids wall are broken. You will store water in the Lower Pool.

¹⁰You will count the houses in Jerusalem. You will tear down those houses in order to fortify the walls.

¹¹You will build a reservoir between the two walls to hold the water of the Old Pool. You didnt look to Jerusalems maker. You didnt see the one who formed it long ago.

¹²On that day the Almighty LORD of Armies will call for crying and for

mourning, for shaving your heads and for wearing sackcloth.

¹³Instead, you will rejoice, celebrate, slaughter cattle, and butcher sheep. You will eat meat, drink wine, and say, "Let's eat and drink because tomorrow we are going to die."

¹⁴The LORD of Armies revealed this to me: "Certainly, this wrong will not be forgiven even when you die," says the Almighty LORD of Armies.

¹⁵This is what the Almighty LORD of Armies says: Go to Shebna, the man in charge of the palace, and say to him,

¹⁶"What are you doing here? What right do you have to dig a tomb for yourself? What right do you have to cut it out in a prominent place? What right do you have to carve out a resting place for yourself in the rock?

¹⁷Look, mighty man! The LORD will throw you out. He will grab you.

¹⁸He will wrap you up tightly like a turban. He will throw you far away into another land. There you will die. There your splendid chariots will remain. There you will become a disgrace to your master's household.

¹⁹"I will remove you from your office and do away with your position.

²⁰When that day comes, I will call my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiah.

²¹I will dress him in your linen robe and fasten it with your belt. I will give him your authority, and he will be like a father to those who live in Jerusalem and to the nation of Judah.

²²I will place the key of the house of David around his neck. What he opens no one will shut. What he shuts no one will open.

²³I will fasten him firmly in place like a peg, and he will be a source of honor for his fathers household.

²⁴They will hang on him the whole weight of his fathers household, descendants and offspring and all the little utensils, from bowls to jars of every kind."

²⁵The LORD of Armies declares, "On that day the peg which I firmly fastened in place will be removed. It will be cut off and will fall, and everything hanging on it will be destroyed." The LORD has spoken.

23¹ This is the divine revelation about Tyre. Cry loudly, you ships of Tarshish! Your port at Tyre is destroyed. Word has come to the ships from Cyprus.

² Be silent, you inhabitants of the coastland, you merchants from Sidon. Your messengers have crossed the sea.

³ The grain of Shihor is on the Mediterranean. The harvest of the Nile River is brought to Tyre. Tyre became the marketplace for the nations.

⁴ Be ashamed, Sidon, because the stronghold by the sea has spoken, "I've never been in labor or given birth. I've raised no sons. I've brought up no daughters."

⁵ When the news reaches Egypt, the Egyptians will shudder over the news about Tyre.

⁶ Travel to Tarshish! Cry loudly, you inhabitants of the seacoast!

⁷ Is this your bustling city founded in the distant past? Is this the city that sent its people to settle in distant lands?

⁸ Who planned such a thing against Tyre, the city that produced kings? Its

merchants are princes. Its traders are among the honored people of the world.

⁹The LORD of Armies planned this in order to dishonor all arrogant people and to humiliate all the honored people of the world.

¹⁰Travel through your country like the Nile, people of Tarshish. You no longer have a harbor.

¹¹The LORD has stretched his hand over the sea to shake kingdoms. He has commanded that Canaans fortifications be destroyed.

¹²He says, "You will no longer be joyful, my dear abused people Sidon." Get up, and travel to Cyprus. Even there you will find no rest.

¹³Look at the land of the Babylonians. These people will be gone. Assyria gave this land to the desert animals. Assyria set up battle towers, stripped palaces bare, and turned these places into ruins.

¹⁴Cry loudly, you ships of Tarshish, because your fortress will be destroyed.

¹⁵When that day comes, Tyre will be forgotten for 70 years, the lifetime of one king. At the end of the 70 years,

Tyre will be like the prostitute in this song:

¹⁶"Take your lyre. Go around in the city, you forgotten prostitute. Make sweet music. Sing many songs so that you'll be remembered."

¹⁷At the end of 70 years the LORD will come to help Tyre. Then she will go back to earning money as a prostitute. She will become a prostitute for all the world's kingdoms.

¹⁸Her profits and her earnings will be turned over to the LORD for his holy purpose. It won't be stored or hoarded. Her merchandise will belong to those who live in the presence of the LORD so that they will have plenty of food and expensive clothing.

24¹ The LORD is going to turn the earth into a desolate wasteland. He will mar the face of the earth and scatter the people living on it.

²The same will happen to people and priests, male slaves and masters, female slaves and masters, buyers and sellers, lenders and borrowers, debtors and creditors.

³The earth will be completely laid waste and stripped because the LORD has spoken.

⁴The earth dries up and withers. The world wastes away and withers. The great leaders of the earth waste away.

⁵The earth is polluted by those who live on it because they've disobeyed the LORDS teachings, violated his laws, and rejected the everlasting promise.

⁶That is why a curse devours the earth, and its people are punished for their guilt. That is why those who live on the earth are burned up, and only a few people are left.

⁷New wine dries up, and grapevines waste away. All happy people groan.

⁸Joyful tambourine music stops. Noisy celebrations cease. Joyful harp music stops.

⁹People no longer drink wine when they sing. Liquor tastes bad to its drinkers.

¹⁰The ruined city lies desolate. The entrance to every house is barred shut.

¹¹People in the streets call for wine. All joy passes away, and the earths happiness is banished.

¹²The city is left in ruins. Its gate is battered to pieces.

¹³That is the way it will be on earth among the nations. They will be like an olive tree which has been shaken or like what's left after the grape harvest.

¹⁴They raise their voices. They shout for joy. From the sea they sing joyfully about the LORDS majesty.

¹⁵Honor the LORD in the east. Honor the name of the LORD God of Israel along the coastlands.

¹⁶From the ends of the earth we hear songs of praise that honor the Righteous One. But I kept saying, "I'm wasting away! I'm wasting away! How horrible it is for me! Traitors continue to betray, and their treachery grows worse and worse."

¹⁷Disasters, pits, and traps are in store for those who live on earth.

¹⁸Whoever flees from news of a disaster will fall into a pit. Whoever climbs out of that pit will be caught in a trap. The floodgates in the sky will be opened, and the foundations of the earth will shake.

¹⁹The earth will be completely broken. The earth will shake back and forth violently. The earth will stagger.

²⁰The earth will stumble like a drunk and sway like a shack in the wind. Its disobedience weighs heavy on it. It will fall and not get up again.

²¹On that day the LORD will punish heavens armies in heaven and earths kings on earth.

²²Theyll be gathered like prisoners in a jail and locked in prison. After a long time theyll be punished.

²³The moon will be embarrassed. The sun will be ashamed, because the LORD of Armies will rule on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem. He will be glorious in the presence of his respected leaders.

25¹O LORD, you are my God. I will highly honor you; I will praise your name. You have done miraculous things. You have been completely reliable in carrying out your plans from long ago.

²You have turned cities into ruins, fortified cities into piles of rubble, and foreigners palaces into cities that will never be rebuilt.

³That is why strong people will honor you, and cities ruled by the worlds tyrants will fear you.

⁴You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rain, and shade from the heat. (A tyrants breath is like a rainstorm against a wall,

⁵like heat in a dry land.) You calm the uproar of foreigners. The song of tyrants is silenced like heat that is reduced by the shadow of a cloud.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of Armies will prepare for all people a feast with the best foods, a banquet with aged wines, with the best foods and the finest wines.

⁷On this mountain he will remove the veil of grief covering all people and the mask covering all nations.

⁸He will swallow up death forever. The Almighty LORD will wipe away tears from every face, and he will remove the disgrace of his people from the whole earth. The LORD has spoken.

⁹On that day his people will say, "This is our God; we have waited for him, and now he will save us. This is the LORD;

we have waited for him. Let us rejoice and be glad because he will save us."

¹⁰The LORDS power will be on this mountain. Moab will be trampled beneath him like straw that is trampled in a pile of manure.

¹¹The Moabites will stretch out their hands in the manure like swimmers who stretch out their hands to swim. The LORD will humble those arrogant people despite the movements of their hands.

¹²He will bring down Moabs high fortified walls, level them, and throw them into the dust on the ground.

26 ¹On that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city. Its walls and fortifications provide safety.

²Open the gates, and let the righteous nation come in, the nation that remains faithful.

³With perfect peace you will protect those whose minds cannot be changed, because they trust you.

⁴Trust the LORD always, because the LORD, the LORD alone, is an everlasting rock.

⁵He has brought down those who live high in the towering city. He levels it. He levels it to the ground and throws it into the dust.

⁶Feet trample it, the feet of the oppressed, the footsteps of the poor.

⁷The path of the righteous is level. O Upright One, you make the road of the righteous smooth.

⁸Certainly, we wait with hope for you, O LORD, as we follow the path of your guiding principles. We want to remember you and your name.

⁹With my soul I long for you at night. Yes, with my spirit I eagerly look for you. When your guiding principles are on earth, those who live in the world learn to do what is right.

¹⁰Although the wicked are shown pity, they do not learn to do what is right. They do what is wrong in the upright land and do not see the majesty of the LORD.

¹¹O LORD, your power is visible, but they do not see it. They will see how devoted your people are, and they will be put to shame. Your burning anger will destroy your enemies.

¹²O LORD, you will establish peace for us, since you have done everything for us.

¹³O LORD, our God, you are not the only master to rule us, but we acknowledge only you.

¹⁴The wicked are dead. They are no longer alive. The spirits of the dead wont rise. You have punished them, destroyed them, and wiped out all memory of them.

¹⁵You have expanded the nation, O LORD. You have expanded the nation. You are honored. You have extended all the lands boundaries.

¹⁶O LORD, the people have come to you in trouble. They were humbled by oppression, by your discipline upon them.

¹⁷O LORD, when we are with you, we are like pregnant women ready to give birth. They writhe and cry out in their labor pains.

¹⁸We were pregnant; we writhed with labor pains only to give birth to the wind. We werent able to bring salvation to the land, and no new people were born on earth.

¹⁹Your dead will live. Their corpses will rise. Those who lie dead in the dust will wake up and shout for joy, because your dew is a refreshing dew, and the earth will revive the spirits of the dead.

²⁰My people, go to your rooms, and shut the doors behind you. Hide for a little while until his fury has ended.

²¹The LORD is going to come out from his dwelling place to punish those who live on earth for their sins. The earth will uncover the blood shed on it and will no longer cover up its dead bodies.

27 ¹On that day the LORD will use his fierce and powerful sword to punish Leviathan, that slippery snake, Leviathan, that twisting snake. He will kill that monster which lives in the sea.

²On that day sing about a delightful vineyard.

³I, the LORD, watch over it. I water it continually. I watch over it day and night so that no one will harm it.

⁴I am no longer angry. If only thorns and briars would confront me! I would fight them in battle and set all of them on fire.

⁵Or else let them come to me for protection. Let them make peace with me. Yes, let them make peace with me.

⁶In times to come Jacob will take root. Israel will blossom, bud, and fill the whole world with fruit.

⁷Will the LORD hurt Israel as he hurt others who hurt them? Will he kill them as he killed others?

⁸He punished Israel by sending it away. He removed it with a fierce blast from the east winds.

⁹In this way the wrongdoings of the descendants of Jacob are covered up. This is the way they will turn from their sins when they turn all the altar stones into powdered chalk and no poles dedicated to the goddess Asherah or incense altars are left standing.

¹⁰The fortified city is isolated. The homestead is left deserted, abandoned like the desert. Calves will graze there. They will lie down. They will feed on the branches.

¹¹When the branches are dried up, they will be broken off. Women will come and build a fire with them. These people don't understand these things. That is why

their maker won't have compassion on them, and their Creator won't have pity on them.

¹²On that day the LORD will begin his threshing from the flowing stream of the Euphrates River to the brook of Egypt. People of Israel, you will be gathered one by one.

¹³On that day a ram's horn will be blown loudly. Those who are dying in Assyria and those who are banished to Egypt will come and worship the LORD on the holy mountain in Jerusalem.

28¹How horrible it will be for the arrogant drunks of Ephraim. Their glorious beauty is like a withered flower. They are at the entrance to a fertile valley where they lie drunk from wine.

²The Lord has one who is strong and powerful. He is like a hailstorm, a destructive wind. He is like a thunderstorm, an overwhelming flood. He will throw them to the ground forcefully.

³The arrogant drunks of Ephraim will be trampled underfoot.

⁴Their glorious beauty is like a withered flower. They are at the entrance to a

fertile valley. They will be like figs that ripened early. As soon as someone sees them, they will be taken and eaten.

⁵When that day comes, the LORD of Armies will be like a glorious crown for his few remaining people.

⁶He will give a spirit of justice to those who judge. He will give strength to those who defend the city gates in battle.

⁷Priests and prophets stagger from wine and wobble from too much liquor. They stagger from too much liquor and become confused from too much wine. They wobble because of their liquor. They stagger when they see visions. They swerve as they judge.

⁸All the tables are covered with vomit and excrement. There isnt a clean place left.

⁹To whom will they make the message understood? To whom will they explain this message? To children just weaned from milk? To those just taken from their mothers breasts?

¹⁰They speak utter nonsense.

¹¹The LORD will speak to these people. He will mock them by speaking in a foreign language.

¹²He will say to them, "This is a place for comfort. This is a place of rest for those who are tired. This is a place for them to rest." But they weren't willing to listen.

¹³The LORD speaks utter nonsense to them. That is why they will fall backwards. That is why they will be hurt, trapped, and captured.

¹⁴So hear the word of the LORD, you foolish talkers who rule the people in Jerusalem.

¹⁵You say, "We made a treaty with death and an agreement with the grave. When the overwhelming disaster passes by, it won't matter to us, because we have taken refuge in our lies, and falsehood is our hiding place."

¹⁶This is what the Almighty LORD says: I am going to lay a rock in Zion, a rock that has been tested, a precious cornerstone, a solid foundation. Whoever believes in him will not worry.

¹⁷I will make justice a measuring line and righteousness a plumb line. Hail will sweep away your refuge of lies, and floodwaters will wash away your hiding place.

¹⁸Your treaty with death will be wiped away. Your agreement with the grave will not stand. When the overwhelming disaster passes by, you will be trampled by it.

¹⁹Each time it passes by it will take you. It will pass by morning after morning, during the day and during the night. Understanding this message brings only terror.

²⁰The bed is too short to stretch out on. The blanket is too narrow to serve as a cover.

²¹The LORD will rise as he did on Mount Perazim. He will wake up as he did in Gibeon Valley. He will do his work, his unexpected work, and perform his deeds, his mysterious deeds.

²²Now stop laughing, or your chains will be tightened, because I have heard that the Almighty LORD of Armies has finally determined to destroy the whole land.

²³Open your ears, and listen to me! Pay attention, and hear me!

²⁴Does a farmer go on plowing every day so he can plant? Does he continue

to break up the soil and make furrows in the ground?

²⁵When he has smoothed its surface, doesn't he scatter black cumin seed and plant cumin? Doesn't he plant wild wheat in rows? Doesn't he put barley in its own area and winter wheat at its borders?

²⁶God will guide him in judgment, and his God will teach him.

²⁷Black cumin isn't threshed with a sledge, and wagon wheels aren't rolled over cumin. Black cumin is beaten with a rod and cumin with a stick.

²⁸Grain is ground into flour, but the grinding eventually stops. It will be threshed. The wheels of his cart will roll over it, but his horses won't crush it.

²⁹All of this has come from the LORD of Armies. His counsel is wonderful, and his wisdom is great.

29¹How horrible it will be for you Ariel, Ariel, the city where David camped. Let year after year go by. Let your annual festivals go on.

²I will torment Ariel, and the city will be filled with people grieving and mourning. The city will become like Ariel.

³I will set up war camps all around you. I will blockade you with towers. I will put up mounds of dirt around you.

⁴When you have fallen, you will speak as you lie on the ground. Your words will be muffled by the dust. Your voice will come out of the ground like that of a ghost. Your words will be whispered from the dust.

⁵Your many enemies will be like fine dust. Your many foes will be like husks blown by the wind. All of this will happen suddenly, unexpectedly.

⁶The LORD of Armies will punish you with thunder, earthquakes, and loud noises, with windstorms, rainstorms, and fire storms.

⁷The armies from all the nations will go to war against Ariel. They will go to war against it, blockade it, and torment it. All of this will be like a dream, like a vision in the night.

⁸They will be like hungry people who dream that they're eating and wake up to find they're hungry. They will be like thirsty people who dream that they're drinking and wake up to find they're lightheaded and parched with thirst. This

is what will happen to the armies from all the nations that fight against Mount Zion.

⁹If you confuse yourselves, you will be confused. If you blind yourselves, you will be blinded. You are drunk, but not from wine. You stagger, but not from liquor.

¹⁰The LORD has poured out on you a spirit of deep sleep. He will shut your eyes. (Your eyes are the prophets.) He will cover your heads. (Your heads are the seers.)

¹¹To you all these visions will be like words in a book that is closed and sealed. You give this book to someone who can read, saying, "Please read this." He answers, "I can't read it. It's sealed."

¹²Then you give the book to someone who can't read, saying, "Please read this." He answers, "I can't read."

¹³The Lord says, "These people worship me with their mouths and honor me with their lips. But their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is based on rules made by humans.

¹⁴That is why I am going to do something completely amazing for

these people once again. The wisdom of their wise people will disappear. The intelligence of their intelligent people will be hidden."

¹⁵How horrible it will be for those who try to hide their plans from the LORD. Their deeds are done in the dark, and they say, "No one can see us" and "No one can recognize us."

¹⁶You turn things upside down! Is the potter no better than his clay? Can something that has been made say about its maker, "He didnt make me"? Can a piece of pottery say about the potter, "He doesnt understand"?

¹⁷In a very short time Lebanon will be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field will be considered a forest.

¹⁸When that day comes, the deaf will hear the words written in the book. The blind will see out of their gloom and darkness.

¹⁹Humble people again will find joy in the LORD. The poorest of people will find joy in the Holy One of Israel.

²⁰Tyrants will be gone. Mockers will be finished. All who look for ways to do wrong will come to an end:

²¹ those who make people sin with words, those who lay traps for judges, those who, without any reason, deny justice to people who are in the right.

²² This is what the LORD, who saved Abraham, says about the descendants of Jacob: Jacob will no longer be ashamed. Jacobs face will no longer turn pale.

²³ When they see all their children, the children I made with my hands, they will acknowledge my name as holy. They will treat the Holy One of Jacob as holy. They will stand in terror of the God of Israel.

²⁴ Then those who are wayward in spirit will gain understanding, and those who complain will accept instruction.

30¹ The LORD declares, "How horrible it will be for those rebellious children. They carry out plans, but not mine. They make alliances against my will. They pile sin on top of sin.

² They go to Egypt without asking me. They look for shelter under Pharaohs protection and look for refuge in Egypts shadow.

³ But Pharaohs protection will be their shame, and the refuge in Egypts shadow will be their disgrace.

⁴ Although Pharaohs officials are in Zoan and his messengers have reached Hanes,

⁵ the people of Judah will be put to shame because that nation cant help them. That nation cant give aid or help to them. It can only offer shame and disgrace."

⁶ This is the divine revelation about the animals in the Negev. "My people travel through lands where they experience distress and hardship. Lions and lionesses live there. Vipers and poisonous snakes live there. They carry their riches on the backs of young donkeys and their treasures on the humps of camels to a nation that cant help them.

⁷ Egypts help is completely useless. That is why I call it, Rahab who sits still.

⁸ Now, write this on a tablet for them, and inscribe it in a book so that it will be there in the future as a permanent witness.

⁹These people are rebellious and deceitful children, children who refuse to listen to the LORDS teachings.

¹⁰They say to the seers, Dont see the future. They say to those who have visions, Dont have visions that tell us what is right. Tell us what we want to hear. See illusions.

¹¹Get out of our way! Stop blocking our path! Get the Holy One of Israel out of our sight."

¹²This is what the Holy One of Israel says: You have rejected this warning, trusted oppression and deceit, and leaned on them.

¹³That is why your sin will be like a high wall with a bulging crack, ready to fall. All of a sudden it will fall.

¹⁴It will break like pottery. It will be smashed, and nothing will be left of it. No piece will be big enough to carry live coals from a fireplace or to dip water from a reservoir.

¹⁵This is what the Almighty LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: You can be saved by returning to me. You can have rest. You can be strong by being quiet

and by trusting me. But you don't want that.

¹⁶You've said, "No, we'll flee on horses." So you flee. You've added, "We'll ride on fast horses." So those who chase you will also be fast.

¹⁷One thousand people will flee when one person threatens them, and you will flee when five threaten you. Then you will be left alone like a flagpole on top of a mountain, like a signpost on a hill.

¹⁸The LORD is waiting to be kind to you. He rises to have compassion on you. The LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all those who wait for him.

¹⁹You will live in Zion, in Jerusalem. You won't cry anymore. The LORD will certainly have pity on you when you cry for help. As soon as he hears you, he will answer you.

²⁰The Lord may give you troubles and hardships. But your teacher will no longer be hidden from you. You will see your teacher with your own eyes.

²¹You will hear a voice behind you saying, "This is the way. Follow it, whether it turns to the right or to the left."

²²Then you will dishonor your silverplated idols and your goldcovered statues. You will throw them away like clothing ruined by stains. You will say to them, "Get out!"

²³The Lord will give you rain for the seed that you plant in the ground, and the food that the ground provides will be rich and nourishing. When that day comes, your cattle will graze in large pastures.

²⁴The oxen and the donkeys which work the soil will eat a mixture of food that has been winnowed with forks and shovels.

²⁵There will be brooks and streams on every lofty mountain and every high hill. When the day of the great slaughter comes, towers will fall.

²⁶Then the light of the moon will be like the light of the sun. The light of the sun will be seven times as strong, like the light of seven days. When that day comes, the LORD will bandage his peoples injuries and heal the wounds he inflicted.

²⁷The name of the LORD is going to come from far away. His anger is

burning. His burden is heavy. His lips are filled with fury. His tongue is like a devouring flame.

²⁸His breath is like an overflowing stream. It rises neck high, sifting the nations with a sieve of destruction, placing a bit in the mouths of the people to lead them astray.

²⁹You will sing a song like the song you sing on a festival night. Your hearts will be happy like someone going out with a flute on the way to the LORDS mountain, to the rock of Israel.

³⁰The LORD will make his majestic voice heard. He will come down with all his might, with furious anger, with fire storms, windstorms, rainstorms, and hailstones.

³¹At the sound of the LORD, the people of Assyria will be shattered. He will strike them with his rod.

³²To the sound of tambourines and lyres, the LORD will pound on them. He will fight them in battle, swinging his fists.

³³Topheth was prepared long ago. It was made ready for the king. It was made deep and wide and piled high

with plenty of burning logs. The LORDS breath will be like a flood of burning sulfur, setting it on fire.

31 ¹How horrible it will be for those who go to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who depend on many chariots, who depend on very strong war horses. They dont look to the Holy One of Israel. They dont seek the LORD.

²He is wise and can bring about disaster. He doesnt take back his words. He rises against wicked people and against those who help troublemakers.

³The Egyptians are humans, not gods. Their horses are flesh and blood, not spirit. When the LORD uses his powerful hand, the one who gives help will stumble, and the one who receives help will fall. Both will die together.

⁴This is what the LORD said to me: A lion, even a young lion, growls over its prey when a crowd of shepherds is called to fight it. It isnt frightened by their voices or disturbed by the noise they make. So the LORD of Armies will come to fight for Mount Zion and its hill.

⁵The LORD of Armies will defend Jerusalem like a hovering bird. He will

defend it and rescue it. He will pass over it and protect it.

⁶You people of Israel, return to the one whom you have so violently rebelled against.

⁷When that day comes, all of you will reject the silver and gold idols that your sinful hands have made.

⁸Then Assyrians will be killed with swords not made by human hands. Swords not made by human hands will destroy them. They will flee from battle, and their young men will be made to do forced labor.

⁹In terror they will run to their stronghold, and their officers will be frightened at the sight of the battle flag. The LORD declares this. His fire is in Zion and his furnace is in Jerusalem.

32¹A king will rule with fairness, and officials will rule with justice.

²Then each ruler will be like a shelter from the wind and a hiding place from the rain. They will be like streams on parched ground and the shade of a large rock in a weary land.

³Then the vision of those who can see won't be blurred, and the ears of those who can hear will pay attention.

⁴Then those who are reckless will begin to understand, and those who stutter will speak quickly and clearly.

⁵Godless fools will no longer be called nobles, nor will scoundrels be considered gentlemen.

⁶Godless fools speak foolishness, and their minds plan evil in order to do ungodly things. They speak falsely about the LORD. They let people go hungry and withhold water from thirsty people.

⁷The tricks of scoundrels are evil. They devise wicked plans in order to ruin poor people with lies, even when needy people plead for justice.

⁸But honorable people act honorably and stand firm for what is honorable.

⁹Get up, and listen to me, you pampered women. Hear what I say, you overconfident daughters.

¹⁰In a little less than a year you overconfident women will tremble, because the grape harvest will fail and no fruit will be brought in from the fields.

¹¹ Shudder, you pampered women.
Tremble, you overconfident women. Take
off your clothes, walk around naked, and
wear sackcloth around your waists.

¹² Beat your breasts as you mourn for
the fields, for the vines bearing grapes.

¹³ Mourn for my peoples land where
thorns and briars will grow. Mourn for all
the happy homes in a joyful city.

¹⁴ Palaces will be deserted. Noisy cities
will be abandoned. Fortresses and
watchtowers will become permanent
caves. They will be a delight for wild
donkeys and pastures for flocks

¹⁵ until the Spirit is poured on us from
on high. Then the wilderness will be
turned into a fertile field, and the fertile
field will be considered a forest.

¹⁶ Then justice will live in the wilderness,
and righteousness will be at home in the
fertile field.

¹⁷ Then an act of righteousness will
bring about peace, calm, and safety
forever.

¹⁸ My people will live in a peaceful place,
in safe homes and quiet places of rest.

¹⁹The forest will be flattened because of hail, and the city will be completely leveled.

²⁰Blessed are those who plant beside every stream and those who let oxen and donkeys roam freely.

33¹ How horrible it will be for you, you destroyer, although you haven't been destroyed. How horrible it will be for you, you traitor, although you haven't been betrayed. When you've finished destroying, you will be destroyed. When you've finished being a traitor, you will be betrayed.

²O LORD, have pity on us. We wait with hope for you. Be our strength in the morning. Yes, be our savior in times of trouble.

³People flee from the noise of your army. Nations scatter when you attack.

⁴You nations, your loot is gathered as grasshoppers harvest a crop. Like swarming locusts, people rush for your loot.

⁵The LORD is honored because he lives on high. He will fill Zion with justice and righteousness.

⁶He will be the foundation of your future. The riches of salvation are wisdom and knowledge. The fear of the LORD is your treasure.

⁷Heroes cry in the streets. Messengers of peace cry bitterly.

⁸Highways are deserted. Travelers stop traveling. Agreements are broken. Witnesses are rejected. People are no longer respected.

⁹The country grieves and wastes away. Lebanon is ashamed and is decaying. Sharon has become like a wilderness. Bashan and Carmel are shaken.

¹⁰The LORD says, "Now I will arise. Now I will get up. Now I will be lifted up."

¹¹You will be pregnant with hay. You will give birth to straw. Your breath will be a fire which will burn you up.

¹²People will be cremated. They will be set on fire like dry thornbushes.

¹³Hear what I have done, you people who are far away! Acknowledge my might, you people who are near!

¹⁴The sinners in Zion are terrified. Trembling seizes the ungodly. Can any of us live through a fire that destroys? Can

any of us live through a fire that burns forever?

¹⁵The person who does what is right and speaks the truth will live. He rejects getting rich by extortion and refuses to take bribes. He refuses to listen to those who are plotting murders. He doesn't look for evil things to do.

¹⁶This person will live on high. His stronghold will be a fortress made of rock. He will have plenty of food and a dependable supply of water.

¹⁷Your eyes will see how handsome the king is. You will see a land that stretches into the distance.

¹⁸Your mind will be thinking of the terrors in the past. Where are the scribes? Where are the tax collectors? Where are those who counted the towers?

¹⁹You will no longer see those savage people, those people with an unrecognizable language, with a foreign language that you can't understand.

²⁰Look at Zion, the city of our festivals. Your eyes will see Jerusalem as a peaceful place. It is a tent that can't be

moved. Its tent pegs will never be pulled out, and none of its ropes will be broken.

²¹ The LORD will be our mighty defender in a place surrounded by wide rivers and streams. Ships with oars won't travel on them. Stately ships won't sail on them.

²² The LORD is our judge. The LORD is our lawgiver. The LORD is our king. The LORD is our savior.

²³ Your ropes hang loose, your mast isn't secure, and your sail isn't spread out. A large amount of loot will be distributed. Lame people will carry off your loot.

²⁴ No one who lives in Zion will say, "I'm sick." The sins of its inhabitants will be forgiven.

34¹ Come close, you nations, and listen. Pay attention, you people. The earth, everyone in it, the world, and everything on it will listen.

² The LORD is angry with all the nations. He is furious with all their armies. He has claimed them for destruction. He has handed them over to be slaughtered.

³ Their dead bodies will be thrown out. A stench will rise from their corpses. Mountains will be red with their blood.

⁴All the stars in the sky will rot. The heavens will be rolled up like a scroll. The stars will fall like leaves from a grapevine, like green figs from a fig tree.

⁵When my sword is covered with blood in the heavens, it will fall on Edom and on the people I've claimed for destruction.

⁶The LORDS sword is covered with blood. It is covered with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of rams kidneys. The LORD will receive a sacrifice in Bozrah, a huge slaughter in the land of Edom.

⁷Wild oxen will be killed with them, young bulls along with rams. Their land will be drenched with blood. Their dust will be covered with fat.

⁸The LORD will have a day of vengeance, a year of revenge in defense of Zion.

⁹Edoms streams will be turned to tar. Its soil will be turned to burning sulfur. Its land will become blazing tar.

¹⁰They will not be extinguished day or night, and smoke will always go up from them. Edom will lie in ruins for generations. No one will ever travel through it.

¹¹ Pelicans and herons will take possession of the land. Owls and crows will live there. He will stretch the measuring line of chaos and the plumb line of destruction over it.

¹² There are no nobles to rule a kingdom. All of its princes have disappeared.

¹³ Its palaces are covered with thorns. Its fortresses have nettles and thistles. It will become a home for jackals and a place for ostriches.

¹⁴ Hyenas will meet with jackals. Male goats will call to their mates. Screech owls will rest there and find a resting place for themselves.

¹⁵ Owls will make their nests there, lay eggs, and hatch them. They will gather their young in the shadow of their wings. Vultures also will gather there, each one with its mate.

¹⁶ Search the LORDS book, and read it. Not one of these animals will be missing. Not one will lack a mate, because the LORD has commanded it, and his Spirit will gather them together.

¹⁷ He is the one who throws dice for them, and his hand divides up the land

for them with a measuring line. They will possess it permanently and live there for generations.

35¹ The desert and the dry land will be glad, and the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

² Like a lily the land will blossom. It will rejoice and sing with joy. It will have the glory of Lebanon, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. Everyone will see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen limp hands. Steady weak knees.

⁴ Tell those who are terrified, "Be brave; don't be afraid. Your God will come with vengeance, with divine revenge. He will come and rescue you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged.

⁶ Then those who are lame will leap like deer, and those who cannot speak will shout for joy. Water will gush out into the desert, and streams will gush out into the wilderness.

⁷ Then the hot sand will become a pool, and dry ground will have springs. Grass

will become cattails and rushes in the home of jackals.

⁸A highway will be there, a roadway. It will be called the Holy Road. Sinners wont travel on it. It will be for those who walk on it. Godless fools wont wander onto it.

⁹Lions wont be there. Wild animals wont go on it. They wont be found there. But the people reclaimed by the LORD will walk on it.

¹⁰The people ransomed by the LORD will return. They will come to Zion singing with joy. Everlasting happiness will be on their heads as a crown. They will be glad and joyful. They will have no sorrow or grief.

36¹In Hezekiahs fourteenth year as king, King Sennacherib of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them.

²Then the king of Assyria sent his field commander with a large army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. He stood at the channel for the Upper Pool on the road to Laundrymans Field.

³Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace and was the son of Hilkiah,

Shebna the scribe, and Joah, who was the royal historian and the son of Asaph, went out to the field commander.

⁴He said to them, "Tell Hezekiah, This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: What makes you so confident?

⁵You give useless advice about getting ready for war. Whom, then, do you trust for support in your rebellion against me?

⁶Look! When you trust Egypt, youre trusting a broken stick for a staff. If you lean on it, it stabs your hand and goes through it. This is what Pharaoh (the king of Egypt) is like for everyone who trusts him.

⁷Suppose you tell me, "Were trusting the LORD our God." Hes the god whose places of worship and altars Hezekiah got rid of. Hezekiah told Judah and Jerusalem, "Worship at this altar."

⁸"Now, make a deal with my master, the king of Assyria. Ill give you 2,000 horses if you can put riders on them.

⁹How can you defeat my masters lowestraking officers when you trust Egypt for chariots and horses?

¹⁰"Have I come to destroy this country without the LORD on my side? The LORD

said to me, Attack this country, and destroy it."

¹¹ Then Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah said to the field commander, "Speak to us in Aramaic, since we understand it. Don't speak to us in the Judean language as long as there are people on the wall listening."

¹² But the field commander asked, "Did my master send me to tell these things only to you and your master? Didn't he send me to the men sitting on the wall who will have to eat their own excrement and drink their own urine with you?"

¹³ Then the field commander stood and shouted loudly in the Judean language, "Listen to the great king, the king of Assyria.

¹⁴ This is what the king says: Don't let Hezekiah deceive you. He can't rescue you.

¹⁵ Don't let Hezekiah get you to trust the LORD by saying, The LORD will certainly rescue us, and this city will not be put under the control of the king of Assyria.

¹⁶ Don't listen to Hezekiah, because this is what the king of Assyria says: Make peace with me! Come out, and give

yourselves up to me! Everyone will eat from his own grapevine and fig tree and drink from his own cistern.

¹⁷ Then I will come and take you away to a country like your own. Its a country with grain and new wine, a country with bread and vineyards.

¹⁸ Dont let Hezekiah mislead you by saying to you, The LORD will rescue us. Did any of the gods of the nations rescue their countries from the king of Assyria?

¹⁹ Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Did they rescue Samaria from my control?

²⁰ Did the gods of these countries rescue them from my control? Could the LORD then rescue Jerusalem from my control?"

²¹ They were silent and didnt say anything to him because the king commanded them not to answer him.

²² Then Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace and was son of Hilkiah, Shebna the scribe, and Joah, who was the royal historian and the son of Asaph, went to Hezekiah with their clothes torn

in grief. They told him the message from the field commander.

37 ¹When King Hezekiah heard the message, he tore his clothes in grief, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the LORDS temple.

²Then he sent Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace, Shebna the scribe, and the leaders of the priests, clothed in sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah, son of Amoz.

³They said to him, "This is what Hezekiah says: Today is a day filled with misery, punishment, and disgrace. We are like a woman who is about to give birth but doesnt have the strength to do it.

⁴The LORD your God may have heard the words of the field commander. His master, the king of Assyria, sent him to defy the living God. The LORD your God may punish him because of the message that the LORD your God heard. Pray for the few people who are left."

⁵So King Hezekiahs men went to Isaiah.

⁶Isaiah answered them, "Say this to your master, This is what the LORD says: Dont be afraid of the message that you

heard when the Assyrian kings assistants slandered me.

⁷Im going to put a spirit in him so that he will hear a rumor and return to his own country. Ill have him assassinated in his own country."

⁸The field commander returned and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah. He had heard that the king left Lachish.

⁹Now, Sennacherib heard that King Tirhakah of Sudan was coming to fight him. When he heard this, he again sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,

¹⁰"Tell King Hezekiah of Judah, Dont let the god whom you trust deceive you by saying that Jerusalem will not be put under the control of the king of Assyria.

¹¹You heard what the kings of Assyria did to all countries, how they totally destroyed them. Will you be rescued?

¹²Did the gods of the nations which my ancestors destroyed rescue Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar?

¹³Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, and the king of the cities of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah?"

¹⁴Hezekiah took the letter from the messengers, read it, and went to the LORDS temple. He spread it out in front of the LORD

¹⁵and prayed to the LORD,

¹⁶"LORD of Armies, God of Israel, you are enthroned over the angels. You alone are God of the kingdoms of the world. You made heaven and earth.

¹⁷Turn your ear toward me, LORD, and listen. Open your eyes, LORD, and see. Listen to the entire message that Sennacherib sent to defy the living God.

¹⁸It is true, LORD, that the kings of Assyria have leveled every country.

¹⁹They have thrown the gods from these countries into fires because these gods arent real gods. Theyre only wooden and stone statues made by human hands. So the Assyrians have destroyed them.

²⁰Now, LORD our God, rescue us from Assyrias control so that all the kingdoms on earth will know that you alone are the LORD."

²¹Then Isaiah, son of Amoz, sent a message to Hezekiah, "This is what the

LORD God of Israel says: You prayed to me about King Sennacherib of Assyria.

²²This is the message that the LORD speaks to him, My dear people in Zion despise you and laugh at you. My people in Jerusalem shake their heads behind your back.

²³Whom are you defying and slandering? Against whom are you shouting? Who are you looking at so arrogantly? It is the Holy One of Israel!

²⁴Through your servants you defy the Lord and say, "With my many chariots I'll ride up the high mountains, up the slopes of Lebanon. I'll cut down its tallest cedars and its finest cypresses. I'll come to its most distant heights and its most fertile forests.

²⁵I'll dig wells and drink water. I'll dry up all the streams of Egypt with the trampling of my feet."

²⁶"Havent you heard? I did this long ago. I planned it in the distant past. Now I make it happen so that you will turn fortified cities into piles of rubble.

²⁷Those who live in these cities are weak, discouraged, and ashamed. They will be like plants in the field, like fresh,

green grass on the roofs, dried up by the east wind.

²⁸I know when you get up and sit down, when you go out and come in, and how you rage against me.

²⁹Since you rage against me and your boasting has reached my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bridle in your mouth. I will make you go back the way you came.

³⁰"And this will be a sign for you, Hezekiah: You will eat what grows by itself this year, and the next year you will eat what comes up by itself. But in the third year you will plant and harvest, plant vineyards, and eat what is produced.

³¹Those few people from the nation of Judah who escape will again take root and produce crops.

³²Those few people will go out from Jerusalem, and those who escape will go out from Mount Zion. The LORD of Armies is determined to do this.

³³"This is what the LORD says about the king of Assyria: He will never come into this city, shoot an arrow here, hold a

shield in front of it, or put up dirt ramps to attack it.

³⁴He will go back the way he came, and he won't come into this city," declares the LORD of Armies.

³⁵"I will shield this city to rescue it for my sake and for the sake of my servant David."

³⁶The LORDS angel went out and killed 185,000 soldiers in the Assyrian camp. When the Judeans got up early in the morning, they saw all the corpses.

³⁷Then King Sennacherib of Assyria left. He went home to Nineveh and stayed there.

³⁸While he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, Adrammelech and Sharezer, his sons, assassinated him and escaped to the land of Ararat. His son Esarhaddon succeeded him as king.

38¹In those days Hezekiah became sick and was about to die. The prophet Isaiah, son of Amoz, came to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Give final instructions to your household, because you're about to die. You won't get well."

²Hezekiah turned to the wall and prayed to the LORD.

³"Please, LORD, remember how I've lived faithfully and sincerely in your presence. I've done what you consider right." And he cried bitterly.

⁴Then the LORD spoke his word to Isaiah,

⁵"Go and say to Hezekiah, This is what the LORD God of your ancestor David says: I've heard your prayer. I've seen your tears. I'm going to give you 15 more years to live.

⁶I'll rescue you and defend this city from the control of the king of Assyria." (38: 21) Then Isaiah said, "Take a fig cake, and place it over the boil so that the king will get well." (38: 22) Hezekiah asked, "What is the sign that I'll go to the LORDS temple?"

⁷Isaiah said, "This is your sign from the LORD that he will do what he promises.

⁸The sun made a shadow that went down the stairway of Ahazs upper palace. I'm going to make the shadow go back ten steps." So the sun on the stairway went back up the ten steps it had gone down.

⁹King Hezekiah of Judah wrote this after he was sick and became well again:

¹⁰I thought that in the prime of my life I would go down to the gates of Sheol and be robbed of the rest of my life.

¹¹I thought that I wouldn't see the LORD in this world. Even with all the people in the world, I thought I would never see another person.

¹²My life was over. You rolled it up like a shepherd's tent. You rolled up my life like a weaver. You cut me off from the loom. You ended my life in one day.

¹³I cried out until morning as if a lion had crushed all my bones. You ended my life in one day.

¹⁴I chirped like swallows and cranes. I cooed like doves. My eyes were tired from looking up to heaven. I've suffered miserably, O Lord! Please help me!

¹⁵What can I say now that he has spoken to me? He has done this. I will be careful the rest of my life because of my bitter experience.

¹⁶Lord, people live in spite of such things, and I have the will to live in spite of them. You give me health and keep me alive.

¹⁷ Now my bitter experience turns into peace. You have saved me and kept me from the rotting pit. You have thrown all my sins behind you.

¹⁸ Sheol doesn't thank you! Death doesn't praise you! Those who go down to the pit cannot expect you to be faithful.

¹⁹ Those who are living praise you as I do today. Fathers make your faithfulness known to their children.

²⁰ The LORD is going to rescue me, so let us play stringed instruments. We live our lives in the LORDS temple.

²¹ (SEE 38: 6)

²² (SEE 38: 6)

39¹ At that time Baladans son, King Merodach Baladan of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah. He had heard that Hezekiah had been sick and had recovered.

² Hezekiah was so happy with them that he showed the messengers his warehouse: the silver, gold, balsam, fine olive oil, his entire armory, and everything in his treasury. Hezekiah showed them everything in his palace and every corner of his kingdom.

³Then the prophet Isaiah came to King Hezekiah and asked, "What did these men say? And where did they come from?" Hezekiah answered, "They came to me from the distant country of Babylon."

⁴Isaiah asked, "What did they see in your palace?" Hezekiah answered, "They saw everything in my palace, and I showed them everything in my treasury."

⁵Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD of Armies!

⁶The LORD says, The days are going to come when everything in your palace, everything your ancestors have stored up to this day, will be taken away to Babylon. Nothing will be left.

⁷Some of your own descendants will be taken away. They will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon."

⁸Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The LORDS word that you have spoken is good." He added, "Just let there be peace and security as long as I live."

40¹ "Comfort my people! Comfort them!" says your God.

²"Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and announce to it that its time of hard labor is over and its wrongs have been paid for. It has received from the LORD double for all its sins."

³A voice cries out in the desert: "Clear a way for the LORD. Make a straight highway in the wilderness for our God."

⁴Every valley will be raised. Every mountain and hill will be lowered. Steep places will be made level. Rough places will be made smooth.

⁵Then the LORDS glory will be revealed and all people will see it together. The LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice called, "Call out!" I asked, "What should I call out?" "Call out: All people are like grass, and all their beauty is like a flower in the field."

⁷Grass dries up, and flowers wither when the LORDS breath blows on them. Yes, people are like grass.

⁸Grass dries up, and flowers wither, but the word of our God will last forever."

⁹Go up a high mountain, Zion. Tell the good news! Call out with a loud voice, Jerusalem. Tell the good news! Raise

your voice without fear. Tell the cities of Judah: "Here is your God!"

¹⁰The Almighty LORD is coming with power to rule with authority. His reward is with him, and the people he has won arrive ahead of him.

¹¹Like a shepherd he takes care of his flock. He gathers the lambs in his arms. He carries them in his arms. He gently helps the sheep and their lambs.

¹²Who has measured the water of the sea with the palm of his hand or measured the sky with the length of his hand? Who has held the dust of the earth in a bushel basket or weighed the mountains on a scale and the hills on a balance?

¹³Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD or instructed him as his adviser?

¹⁴Whom did he consult? Who gave him understanding? Who taught him the right way? Who taught him knowledge? Who informed him about the way to understanding?

¹⁵The nations are like a drop in a bucket and are considered to be like dust on a scale. The weight of the islands is like fine dust.

¹⁶All the trees in Lebanon are not enough to burn an offering. Its wild animals are not enough for a single burnt offering.

¹⁷All the nations amount to nothing in his presence. He considers them less than nothing and worthless.

¹⁸To whom, then, can you compare God? To what statue can you compare him?

¹⁹Craftsmen make idols. Goldsmiths cover them with gold. Silversmiths make silver chains for them.

²⁰The poorest people choose wood that will not rot and search out skillful craftsmen to set up idols that will not fall over.

²¹Dont you know? Havent you heard? Havent you been told from the beginning? Dont you understand the foundations of the earth?

²²God is enthroned above the earth, and those who live on it are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the sky like a canopy and spreads it out like a tent to live in.

²³He makes rulers unimportant and makes earthly judges worth nothing.

²⁴ They have hardly been planted. They have hardly been sown. They have hardly taken root in the ground. Then he blows on them and they wither, and a windstorm sweeps them away like straw.

²⁵ "To whom, then, can you compare me? Who is my equal?" asks the Holy One.

²⁶ Look at the sky and see. Who created these things? Who brings out the stars one by one? He calls them all by name. Because of the greatness of his might and the strength of his power, not one of them is missing.

²⁷ Jacob, why do you complain? Israel, why do you say, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my rights are ignored by my God"?

²⁸ Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The eternal God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, doesn't grow tired or become weary. His understanding is beyond reach.

²⁹ He gives strength to those who grow tired and increases the strength of those who are weak.

³⁰Even young people grow tired and become weary, and young men will stumble and fall.

³¹Yet, the strength of those who wait with hope in the LORD will be renewed. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and wont become weary. They will walk and wont grow tired.

41 ¹"Be silent and listen to me, you coastlands. Let the people gain new strength. Let them come near and speak. Let us come together for judgment.

²"Who has raised up from the east someone to whom the LORD gives victory with every step he takes? Nations are handed over to him. He defeats kings. With his sword he turns them into dust. With his bow he turns them into straw blown by the wind.

³He chases them, marching by safely on a path his feet have never traveled before.

⁴Who has accomplished this? Who has determined the course of history from the beginning? I, the LORD, was there first, and I will be there to the end. I am the one!"

⁵The coastlands have seen him and are afraid. The ends of the earth tremble. They have come near and gathered together.

⁶People help their neighbors and say to their relatives, "Be brave!"

⁷Craftsmen encourage goldsmiths. Metalsmiths encourage blacksmiths who work at their anvils. They say that their soldering is good. And they fasten things with nails so they wont move.

⁸"But you are my servant Israel, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the descendant of Abraham, my dear friend.

⁹I have taken you from the ends of the earth and called you from its most distant places. I said to you, You are my servant. Ive chosen you; I havent rejected you.

¹⁰Dont be afraid, because I am with you. Dont be intimidated; I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will support you with my victorious right hand.

¹¹"Everyone who is angry with you will be ashamed and disgraced. Those who oppose you will be reduced to nothing and disappear.

¹²You will search for your enemies, but you will not find them. Those who are at war with you will be reduced to nothing and no longer exist.

¹³I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand and say to you, Don't be afraid; I will help you.

¹⁴Don't be afraid, Jacob, you worm. You people of Israel, I will help you," declares the LORD, your Defender, the Holy One of Israel.

¹⁵"I am going to make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp, doubleedged teeth. You will thresh the mountains and crush them to dust. You will turn the hills into straw.

¹⁶You will winnow them. The wind will carry them away. The windstorm will scatter them. But you will find joy in the LORD and praise the Holy One of Israel.

¹⁷"The poor and needy are looking for water, but there is none. Their tongues are parched with thirst. I, the LORD, will answer them. I, the God of Israel, will not abandon them.

¹⁸I will make rivers flow on bare hilltops. I will make springs flow through

valleys. I will turn deserts into lakes. I will turn dry land into springs.

¹⁹I will plant cedar, acacia, myrtle, and wild olive trees in the desert. I will place cedar, fir, and cypress trees together in the wilderness.

²⁰People will see and know. Together they will consider and understand that the LORDS power has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it.

²¹"Present your case," says the LORD. "Bring forward your best arguments," says Jacobs king.

²²"Bring your idols so they can tell us whats going to happen. Explain past events that your idols told you about so that we may consider them and know what their outcome will be. Tell us about future events.

²³Tell us whats going to happen so that we may know that you are gods. Yes, do something, good or evil, to intimidate us and make us afraid.

²⁴You are nothing! You cant do anything! Whoever chooses you is disgusting.

²⁵"I have raised up someone from the north, and he has come. He will call on

my name from the east. He will attack rulers as if they were mud, as if he were treading on clay like a potter.

²⁶Who revealed this from the beginning so that we could know it? Who revealed this from the past so that we could say that he was right? No one revealed it. No one announced it. No one heard your words.

²⁷I was the first to tell Zion, Look, here they are. I gave Jerusalem a messenger with the good news.

²⁸When I look, there is no one. There is no one to advise them. When I ask them a question, will they give an answer?

²⁹All of them are nothing. They can't do anything. Their statues are nothing but air."

42¹Here is my servant, whom I support. Here is my chosen one, with whom I am pleased. I have put my Spirit on him. He will bring justice to the nations.

²He will not cry out or raise his voice. He will not make his voice heard in the streets.

³He will not break off a damaged cattail. He will not even put out a smoking wick. He will faithfully bring about justice.

⁴He will not be discouraged or crushed until he has set up justice on the earth. The coastlands will wait for his teachings.

⁵The LORD God created the heavens and stretched them out. He shaped the earth and all that comes from it. He gave life to the people who are on it and breath to those who walk on it. This is what the LORD God says:

⁶I, the LORD, have called you to do what is right. I will take hold of your hand. I will protect you. I will appoint you as my promise to the people, as my light to the nations.

⁷You will give sight to the blind, bring prisoners out of prisons, and bring those who live in darkness out of dungeons.

⁸I am the LORD; that is my name. I will not give my glory to anyone else or the praise I deserve to idols.

⁹What I said in the past has come true. I will reveal new things before they happen.

¹⁰Sing a new song to the LORD. Sing his praise from the ends of the earth,

you people who sail on the seas and all the creatures that live in them, you coastlands and all who live on them.

¹¹Let those who live in the desert and its cities raise their voices. Let those who live in the settlements of Kedar praise him. Let those who live in Sela sing for joy. Let them shout from the tops of the mountains.

¹²Let them give glory to the LORD and announce his praise on the coastlands.

¹³The LORD marches out like a warrior. He prepares himself for battle like a soldier. He shouts, gives the battle cry, and overpowers his enemies.

¹⁴I have been silent for a long time. I kept quiet and held myself back. But like a woman in childbirth I will cry out. I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will lay waste to mountains and hills. I will dry up all their vegetation. I will turn rivers into islands. I will dry up ponds.

¹⁶I will lead the blind on unfamiliar roads. I will lead them on unfamiliar paths. I will turn darkness into light in front of them. I will make rough places

smooth. These are the things I will do for them, and I will never abandon them.

¹⁷ Then those who trust idols and those who say to statues, "You are our gods" will be turned away and put to shame.

¹⁸ Listen, you deaf people. Look, you blind people, so that you can see.

¹⁹ Who is blind except my servant or deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one who has my trust or blind like the servant of the LORD?

²⁰ You have seen much, but you do not observe anything. Your ears are open, but you hear nothing.

²¹ The LORD is pleased because he does what is right. He praises the greatness of his teachings and makes them glorious.

²² But these people are robbed and looted. They are all trapped in pits and hidden in prisons. They have become prey with no one to rescue them. They have become loot with no one to say, "Give it back."

²³ Who among you will listen to this? Is there anyone who will pay attention and listen in the future?

²⁴ Who gave Jacob away as loot and handed Israel over to robbers? Wasnt

it the LORD, against whom we have sinned? They didnt want to live his way. They didnt obey his teachings.

²⁵ So he poured out his burning anger and the horrors of war on them. It engulfed them in flames, but they did not understand. It burned them, but they did not take it to heart.

43¹ The LORD created Jacob and formed Israel. Now, this is what the LORD says: Do not be afraid, because I have reclaimed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

² When you go through the sea, I am with you. When you go through rivers, they will not sweep you away. When you walk through fire, you will not be burned, and the flames will not harm you.

³ I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. Egypt is the ransom I exchanged for you. Sudan and Seba are the price I paid for you.

⁴ Since you are precious to me, you are honored and I love you. I will exchange others for you. Nations will be the price I pay for your life.

⁵Do not be afraid, because I am with you. I will bring your descendants from the east and gather you from the west.

⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not keep them." Bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the ends of the earth.

⁷Bring everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

⁸Bring the people who are blind but still have eyes, the people who are deaf but still have ears.

⁹All nations have gathered together, and people have assembled. Who among them could have revealed this? Who among them could have foretold this to us? They should bring their witnesses to prove that they were right. Let the people hear them. Then they will say that it is true.

¹⁰"You are my witnesses," declares the LORD. "I have chosen you as my servant so that you can know and believe in me and understand that I am the one who did this. No god was formed before me, and there will be none after me.

¹¹ I alone am the LORD, and there is no savior except me.

¹² I have revealed it to you, I have saved you, and I have announced it to you. There was no foreign god among you. You are my witnesses that I am God," declares the LORD.

¹³ "From the first day I was the one who did this. No one can rescue people from my power. When I do something, who can undo it?"

¹⁴ This is what the LORD, your Defender, the Holy One of Israel, says: For your sake I will send an army to Babylon. I will bring back all the Babylonian refugees in the ships that they take pride in.

¹⁵ I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.

¹⁶ The LORD makes a path through the sea and a road through the strong currents.

¹⁷ He leads chariots and horses, an army and reinforcements. (They lie down together and do not get up again. They are extinguished and snuffed out like a wick.) This is what the LORD says:

¹⁸Forget what happened in the past, and do not dwell on events from long ago.

¹⁹I am going to do something new. It is already happening. Don't you recognize it? I will clear a way in the desert. I will make rivers on dry land.

²⁰Wild animals, jackals, and ostriches will honor me. I will provide water in the desert. I will make rivers on the dry land for my chosen people to drink.

²¹I have formed these people for myself. They will praise me.

²²Jacob, you have not prayed to me. Israel, you have grown tired of me.

²³You did not bring me sheep for your burnt offerings or honor me with your sacrifices. I did not burden you by requiring grain offerings or trouble you by requiring incense offerings.

²⁴You did not buy me any sugar cane with your money or satisfy me with the best part of your sacrifices. Rather, you burdened me with your sins and troubled me with your wrongdoings.

²⁵I alone am the one who is going to wipe away your rebellious actions for my

own sake. I will not remember your sins anymore.

²⁶Remind me of what happened. Let us argue our case together. State your case so that you can prove you are right.

²⁷Your first ancestor sinned, and your priests rebelled against me.

²⁸That is why I will corrupt the leaders of the holy place. I will claim Jacob for destruction. I will set up Israel for ridicule.

44¹ But now listen, my servant Jacob, Israel, whom I have chosen.

²The LORD made you, formed you in the womb, and will help you. This is what the LORD says: Don't be afraid, my servant Jacob, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

³I will pour water on thirsty ground and rain on dry land. I will pour my Spirit on your offspring and my blessing on your descendants.

⁴They will spring up with the grass as poplars spring up by streams.

⁵One person will say, "I belong to the LORD." Another will call on the name of Jacob. Another will write on his hand,

"The LORDS," and he will adopt the name of Israel.

⁶The LORD is Israels king and defender. He is the LORD of Armies. This is what the LORD says: I am the first and the last, and there is no God except me.

⁷If there is anyone like me, let him say so. Let him tell me what happened when I established my people long ago. Then let him predict what will happen to them.

⁸Dont be terrified or afraid. Didnt I make this known to you long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God except me? There is no other rock; I know of none.

⁹All who make idols are nothing. Their precious treasures are worthless. Their own witnesses do not see or know anything, so they will be put to shame.

¹⁰Nothing comes from making gods or casting metal idols.

¹¹Everyone associated with the gods will be put to shame. The craftsmen themselves are only human. Let them all get together and take their stand. They will be frightened and ashamed together.

¹²Blacksmiths shape iron into tools. They work them over the coals and

shape them with hammers, working them with their strong arms. They get hungry, and their strength fails. If they don't drink water, they will faint.

¹³ Carpenters measure blocks of wood with chalk lines. They mark them with pens. They carve them with chisels and mark them with compasses. They carve them into forms of people, beautiful people, so the idols can live in shrines.

¹⁴ They cut down cedars for themselves. Then they choose fir trees or oaks. They let them grow strong among the trees in the forest. Then they plant cedars, and the rain makes them grow.

¹⁵ These trees become fuel for people to burn. So they take some of them and warm themselves with them. They start fires and bake bread. They also make gods from these trees and worship them. They make them into carved statues and bow in front of them.

¹⁶ Half of the wood they burn in the fire. Over this half they roast meat that they can eat until they are full. They also warm themselves and say, "Ah! We are warm. We can see the fire!"

¹⁷ But the rest of the wood they make into gods, carved statues. They bow to them and worship them. They pray to them, saying, "Rescue us, because you are our gods."

¹⁸ They don't know or understand anything. Their eyes are plastered shut, so they can't see. And their minds are closed, so they can't understand.

¹⁹ No one stops to think. No one has enough knowledge or understanding to say, "I burned half of the wood in the fire. I also baked bread over its coals. I roasted meat and ate it. Now I am making the rest of the wood into a disgusting thing and bowing to a block of wood."

²⁰ They eat ashes because they are deceived. Their own misguided minds lead them astray. They can't rescue themselves or ask themselves, "Isn't what I hold in my right hand a false god?"

²¹ Remember these things, Jacob: You are my servant, Israel. I formed you; you are my servant. Israel, I will not forget you.

²²I made your rebellious acts disappear like a thick cloud and your sins like the morning mist. Come back to me, because I have reclaimed you.

²³Sing with joy, you heavens, because the LORD has done this. Rejoice, you deep places of the earth. Break into shouts of joy, you mountains, you forests and every tree in them. The LORD has reclaimed Jacob. He will display his glory in Israel.

²⁴The LORD reclaimed you. He formed you in the womb. This is what the LORD says: I, the LORD, made everything. I stretched out the heavens by myself. I spread out the earth all alone.

²⁵I cause the signs of false prophets to fail and make fools of fortunetellers. I make wise men retreat and turn their knowledge into foolishness.

²⁶He confirms the word of his servant and fulfills the plan of his messengers. He says about Jerusalem, "It will be inhabited." He says about the cities of Judah, "They will be rebuilt." He says about their ruins, "I will restore them."

²⁷He says to the deep water, "Dry up." So I will dry up your rivers.

²⁸He says about Cyrus, "He is my shepherd. He will do everything I want him to do." He says about Jerusalem, "It will be rebuilt." He says about the temple, "Your foundation will be laid."

45¹This is what the LORD says about Cyrus, his anointed one: I have held him by his right hand so he could conquer the nations ahead of him, strip kings of their power, and open doors ahead of him so that the gates would not be shut.

²I will go ahead of you, Cyrus, and smooth out the rough places. I will break down the bronze doors and cut through the iron bars.

³I will give you treasures from dark places and hidden stockpiles. Then you will know that I, the LORD God of Israel, have called you by name.

⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, Israel, my chosen one, I have called you by name. I have given you a title of honor, although you don't know me.

⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other. There is no other God besides me. I will strengthen you, although you don't know me,

⁶so that from the east to the west people will know that there is no God except me. I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷I make light and create darkness. I make blessings and create disasters. I, the LORD, do all these things.

⁸Rain down from above, you heavens, and pour down righteousness, you skies. Let the earth open. Let salvation and righteousness sprout. Let them spring up. I, the LORD, have created them.

⁹How horrible it will be for the one who quarrels with his maker. He is pottery among other earthenware pots. Does the clay ask the one who shapes it, "What are you making?" Does your work say to you, "There are no handles"?

¹⁰How horrible it will be for the one who says to his father, "Why did you conceive me?" or to his mother, "Why did you go through labor pains for me?"

¹¹The LORD is the Holy One and the maker of Israel. This is what the LORD says: Ask me about what is going to happen to my children! Are you going to give me orders concerning my handiwork?

¹²I made the earth and created humans on it. I stretched out the heavens with my own hands. I commanded all the stars to shine.

¹³I prepared Cyrus for my righteous purpose. I will make all his roads straight. He will build my city and let my exiles go free without any payment or any reward, says the LORD of Armies.

¹⁴This is what the LORD says: The products from Egypt, the merchandise from Sudan, and the important Sabaeans will come to you. They will belong to you. They will follow you. They will come to you in chains. They will bow to you and pray to you, "Certainly God is with you alone, and there is no other God."

¹⁵Certainly, you are a God who has hidden himself. You are the God of Israel, the Savior!

¹⁶Those who make idols will be ashamed and disgraced. They will go away completely disgraced.

¹⁷Israel has been saved by the LORD forever. You will never again be ashamed or disgraced.

¹⁸The LORD created the heavens. God formed the earth and made it. He set it

up. He did not create it to be empty but formed it to be inhabited. This is what the LORD says: I am the LORD, and there is no other.

¹⁹I havent spoken privately or in some dark corner of the world. I didnt say to Jacobs descendants, "Search for me in vain!" I, the LORD, speak what is fair and say what is right.

²⁰Come here, you refugees from the nations. Ignorant people carry wooden idols and pray to gods that cannot save anyone.

²¹Speak and present your case. Yes, let them consult one another. Who revealed this in the distant past and predicted it long ago? Wasnt it I, the LORD? There is no other God except me. There is no other righteous God and Savior besides me.

²²Turn to me and be saved, all who live at the ends of the earth, because I am God, and there is no other.

²³I have bound myself with an oath. A word has gone out from my righteous mouth that will not be recalled, "Every knee will bow to me and every tongue will swear allegiance."

²⁴It will be said of me, "Certainly, righteousness and strength are found in the LORD alone." All who are angry with him will come to him and be ashamed.

²⁵All the descendants of Israel will be declared righteous, and they will praise the LORD.

46¹The god Bel bows down; the god Nebo stoops low. Their statues are seated on animals and cattle. The gods that you carry are burdens, a load for weary people.

²These gods stoop low and bow down together. They aren't able to escape with heavy loads. They go away into captivity.

³Listen to me, descendants of Jacob, the few people left of the nation of Israel. I've carried you since your birth. I've taken care of you from the time you were born.

⁴Even when you're old, I'll take care of you. Even when your hair turns gray, I'll support you. I made you and will continue to care for you. I'll support you and save you.

⁵To whom will you compare me and make me equal? To whom will you compare me so that we can be alike?

⁶People pour gold out of their bags and weigh silver on scales. They hire a goldsmith. He makes it into a god. They bow down and worship it.

⁷They lift it on their shoulders and carry it. They set the idol in its place, and it stands there. It doesn't move from its place. If they cry to it for help, it can't answer. It can't rescue them from their distress.

⁸Remember this, and take courage. Recall your rebellious acts.

⁹Remember the first events, because I am God, and there is no other. I am God, and there's no one like me.

¹⁰From the beginning I revealed the end. From long ago I told you things that had not yet happened, saying, "My plan will stand, and I'll do everything I intended to do."

¹¹I will call a bird of prey from the east. I will call someone for my plan from a faraway land. I have spoken, and I will bring it about. I have planned it, and I will do it.

¹²Listen to me, you stubborn people who are far from being righteous.

¹³ I'll bring my righteousness near; it isn't far away. My salvation will not be delayed. I'll provide salvation for Zion and bring my glory to Israel.

47 ¹ Go, sit in the dirt, virgin princess of Babylon! Sit on the ground, not on a throne, princess of the Babylonians! You will no longer be called soft and delicate.

² Take millstones and grind flour. Remove your veil. Take off your skirt. Uncover your legs, and cross the river.

³ People will see you naked. People will see your shame. I will take revenge. I won't spare anyone.

⁴ Our defender is the Holy One of Israel. His name is the LORD of Armies.

⁵ Go into the dark, and sit in silence, princess of the Babylonians! You will no longer be called the queen of kingdoms.

⁶ I was angry with my people. I dishonored those who belong to me. I put them under your control. You showed them no mercy. You placed a heavy burden on old people.

⁷ You said, "I will always be a queen." You didn't carefully consider these things or keep in mind how they would end.

⁸Now then, listen to this, you lover of pleasure. You live securely and say to yourself, "I'm the only one, and there's no one else. I won't live as a widow. I won't suffer the loss of children."

⁹In one day both of these will happen to you instantly: the loss of your children and your husband. All this will happen to you in spite of your evil magic and your many spells.

¹⁰You feel safe in your wickedness and say, "No one can see me." Your wisdom and knowledge have led you astray, so you say to yourself, "I'm the only one, and there's no one else."

¹¹But evil will happen to you. You won't know how to keep it away. Disaster will strike you. You won't be able to stop it. Destruction will overtake you suddenly. You won't expect it.

¹²Keep practicing your spells and your evil magic. You have practiced them ever since you were young. You may succeed. You may cause terror.

¹³You are worn out by your many plans. Let your astrologers and your stargazers, who foretell the future month by month, come to you, rise up, and save you.

¹⁴They are like straw. Fire burns them. They can't rescue themselves from the flames. There are no glowing coals to keep them warm and no fire for them to sit by.

¹⁵This is how it will be for those who have worked with you, for those who have been with you ever since you were young. They will go their own ways, and there will be no one to save you.

48¹Listen to this, descendants of Jacob! You are given the name of Israel. You are descended from Judah. You take oaths by the name of the LORD. You acknowledge the God of Israel, but you are not honest or sincere.

²You call yourselves citizens of the holy city. You depend on the God of Israel. His name is the LORD of Armies.

³From the beginning I revealed to you what would happen. These words came out of my mouth, and I made them known. Suddenly, I acted, and they happened.

⁴I know that you are stubborn. Like iron, you are hardheaded. Like bronze, nothing gets through your thick skull.

⁵That is why I revealed to you what would happen long ago. I told you about them before they happened. I did this so you couldn't say, "My gods have done these things. My carved idols and my metal idols have commanded them to happen."

⁶You've heard these words. Now look at all this. Won't you admit it? From now on I will reveal to you new things, hidden things that you do not know.

⁷They are created now, not in the past. You haven't heard about them before today, so you can't say that you already knew about them.

⁸You have never heard about them. You have never known about them. Your ears have never been open to hear them before. I know that you've acted very treacherously and that you have been called a rebel since you were born.

⁹For my names sake I'll be patient. For my glory's sake I'll hold my anger back from you, rather than destroy you.

¹⁰I have refined you, but not like silver. I have tested you in the furnace of suffering.

¹¹ I am doing this for myself, only for myself. Why should my name be dishonored? I will not give my glory to anyone else.

¹² Listen to me, Jacob, Israel, whom I have called. I am the one. I am the first and the last.

¹³ My hand laid the foundation of the earth. My right hand stretched out the heavens. When I call for them, they both stand.

¹⁴ Gather together, all of you, and listen. What idol has revealed such things? The LORD loves Cyrus. He will carry out the LORDS plan against Babylon. He will use his strength against the Babylonians.

¹⁵ I alone have spoken. I have called him. I will bring him here, and he will succeed.

¹⁶ Come here. Listen to this: From the beginning I have spoken nothing in private. From the time it took place, I was there. Now the Almighty LORD has sent me and his Spirit.

¹⁷ This is what the LORD, your Defender, the Holy One of Israel, says: I am the LORD your God. I teach you what is best for you. I lead you where you should go.

¹⁸If only you had listened to my commands! Your peace would be like a river that never runs dry. Your righteousness would be like waves on the sea.

¹⁹Your descendants would be like sand. Your children would be like its grains. Their names would not be cut off or wiped out in my presence.

²⁰Leave Babylon; flee from the Babylonians! Shout for joy as you tell it and announce it. Shout it out to the ends of the earth. Say that the LORD has reclaimed his servant Jacob.

²¹They werent thirsty when he led them through the deserts. He made water flow from a rock for them. He split a rock, and water gushed out.

²²"There is no peace for the wicked," says the LORD.

49¹Listen to me, you islands. Pay attention, you people far away. Before I was born, the LORD chose me. While I was in my mothers womb, he recorded my name.

²He made my tongue like a sharp sword and hid me in the palm of his hand. He

made me like a sharpened arrow and hid me in his quiver.

³He said to me, "You are my servant Israel. I will display my glory through you."

⁴But I said, "I have worked hard for nothing. I have used my strength, but I didn't accomplish anything. Yet, certainly my case is in the LORDS hands, and my reward is with my God."

⁵The LORD formed me in the womb to be his servant in order to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to him. (The LORD honors me, and my God has become my strength.)

⁶Now, the Lord says, "You are not just my servant who restores the tribes of Jacob and brings back those in Israel whom I have preserved. I have also made you a light for the nations so that you would save people all over the world."

⁷The LORD is the defender of Israel, its Holy One. This is what the LORD says to the despised one, to the one scorned by the nation, to the slave of rulers: Kings will see you and stand. Princes will see

you and bow. The LORD is faithful. The Holy One of Israel has chosen you.

⁸This is what the LORD says: In the time of favor I will answer you. In the day of salvation I will help you. I will protect you. I will appoint you as my promise to the people. You will restore the land. You will make them inherit the desolate inheritance.

⁹You will say to the prisoners, "Come out," and to those who are in darkness, "Show yourselves." They will graze along every path, and they will find pastures on every bare hill.

¹⁰They will never be hungry or thirsty, nor will the sun or the burning, hot wind strike them. The one who has compassion on them will lead them and guide them to springs.

¹¹I will turn all my mountains into roads, and my highways will be restored.

¹²They will come from far away. They will come from the north and from the west, and they will come from the land of Sinim.

¹³Sing with joy, you heavens! Rejoice, you earth! Break into shouts of joy, you mountains! The LORD has comforted his

people and will have compassion on his humble people.

¹⁴But Zion said, "The LORD has abandoned me. My Lord has forgotten me."

¹⁵Can a woman forget her nursing child? Will she have no compassion on the child from her womb? Although mothers may forget, I will not forget you.

¹⁶I have engraved you on the palms of my hands. Your walls are always in my presence.

¹⁷Your children will hurry back. Those who destroyed you and laid waste to you will leave you.

¹⁸Look up, look around, and watch! All of your children are gathering together and returning to you. "I solemnly swear as I live," declares the LORD, "you will wear all of them like jewels and display them on yourself as a bride would."

¹⁹Though you are destroyed and demolished and your land is in ruins, you will be too crowded for your people now. Those who devoured you will be long gone.

²⁰The children taken from you will say to you, "This place is too crowded for me. Make room for me to live here."

²¹Then you will ask yourself, "Who has fathered these children for me? I was childless and unable to have children. I was exiled and rejected. Who raised these children for me? I was left alone. Where have they come from?"

²²This is what the Almighty LORD says: I will lift my hand to signal the nations. I will raise my flag for the people. They will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their shoulders.

²³Then kings will be your foster fathers, and their queens will nurse you. They will bow in front of you with their faces touching the ground. They will lick the dust at your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD. Those who wait with hope for me will not be put to shame.

²⁴Can loot be taken away from mighty men or prisoners be freed from conquerors?

²⁵This is what the LORD says: Prisoners will be freed from mighty men. Loot will be taken away from tyrants. I will

fight your enemies, and I will save your children.

²⁶I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh, and they will become drunk on their own blood as though it were new wine. Then all humanity will know that I am the LORD, who saves you, the Mighty One of Jacob, who reclaims you.

50¹This is what the LORD says: Where are your mothers divorce papers? Did I give her any to get rid of her? To which of my creditors did I sell you? You were sold because of your sins. I got rid of your mother because of your rebellion.

²Why was no one here when I came? Why was no one here to answer when I called? Am I too weak to reclaim you? Don't I have the power to rescue you? I dry up the sea with my command, and I turn rivers into deserts. Their fish stink because there is no water, and people die of thirst.

³I clothe the heavens in darkness and cover them with sackcloth.

⁴The Almighty LORD will teach me what to say, so I will know how to encourage

weary people. Morning after morning he will wake me to listen like a student.

⁵The Almighty LORD will open my ears. I will not rebel, nor will I turn away from him.

⁶I will offer my back to those who whip me and my cheeks to those who pluck hairs out of my beard. I will not turn my face away from those who humiliate me and spit on me.

⁷The Almighty LORD helps me. That is why I will not be ashamed. I have set my face like a flint. I know that I will not be put to shame.

⁸The one who pronounces me innocent is near. Who will bring a case against me? Let us confront each other! Who accuses me? Let him confront me!

⁹The Almighty LORD helps me. Who will find me guilty? They will all wear out like a garment. Moths will eat them.

¹⁰Who among you fears the LORD and obeys his servant? Let those who walk in darkness and have no light trust the name of the LORD and depend upon their God.

¹¹But all of you light fires and arm yourselves with flaming torches. So walk

in your own light and among the torches you have lit. This is what you will receive from me: You will be tormented.

51 ¹Listen to me, you people who pursue what is right and seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham, your ancestor, and to Sarah, from whom you are descended. When I called Abraham, he was childless. I blessed him and gave him many descendants.

³So the LORD will comfort Zion. He will comfort all those who live among its ruins. He will make its desert like Eden. He will make its wilderness like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in it, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

⁴Pay attention to me, my people. Open your ears to hear me, my nation. My teachings will go out from me. My justice will become a light for the people.

⁵My righteousness is near. My salvation is on the way. I will bring justice to people. The coastlands put their hope in me, and they wait eagerly for me.

⁶Look at the sky. Look at the earth below. The sky will vanish like smoke. The earth will wear out like clothing, and those who live there will die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, and my righteousness will never fail.

⁷Listen to me, you people who know righteousness, you people who have my teachings in your hearts. Don't be afraid of being insulted by people. Don't be discouraged by their ridicule.

⁸Moths will eat them like clothing. Worms will devour them like wool. But my righteousness will last forever, and my salvation will last throughout every generation.

⁹Wake up! Wake up! Clothe yourself with strength, O LORD! Wake up as you did in days long past, as in generations long ago. Didn't you cut Rahab into pieces and stab the serpent?

¹⁰Didn't you dry up the sea, the water of the great ocean? You made a road in the depths of the sea so that the people reclaimed by the LORD might pass through it.

¹¹The people ransomed by the LORD will return. They will come to Zion

singing with joy. Everlasting happiness will be on their heads as a crown. They will be glad and joyful. They will have no sorrow or grief.

¹²I alone am the one who comforts you. Why, then, are you afraid of mortals, who must die, of humans, who are like grass?

¹³Why have you forgotten the LORD, your Creator? He stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth. Why should you live in constant fear of the fury of those who oppress you, of those who are ready to destroy you? Where is the fury of those who oppress you?

¹⁴Chained prisoners will be set free. They will not die in prison. They will not go without food.

¹⁵I am the LORD your God who stirs up the sea and makes its waves roar. My name is the LORD of Armies.

¹⁶I put my words in your mouth and sheltered you in the palm of my hand. I stretched out the heavens, laid the foundations of the earth, and said to Zion, "You are my people."

¹⁷Wake up! Wake up! Stand up, Jerusalem! You drank from the cup in the LORDS hand. That cup was filled with his anger. You drank from the bowl, the cup that makes people stagger, and you drained it!

¹⁸From all the children she gave birth to, there was no one to guide her. From all the children she raised, there was no one to take her by the hand.

¹⁹Twice as many disasters have happened to you. Who will feel sorry for you? Violence, destruction, famine, and war have happened to you. Who will comfort you?

²⁰Your children have fainted. They lie sleeping at every street corner. They are like an antelope caught in a net. They experience the anger of the LORD, the fury of your God.

²¹Listen to this, you humble people who are drunk but not from wine.

²²The LORD your God defends his people. This is what your master says: Im taking from your hand the cup that makes people stagger, the bowl, the cup of my fury. You will never drink from it again.

²³I will put it in the hands of those who made you suffer. They said to you, "Lie down so that we can walk over you." So you made your back like the ground and like a street for them to cross.

52¹Wake up! Wake up! Clothe yourself with strength, Zion! Put on your beautiful clothes, holy city of Jerusalem. Godless and evil people will no longer come to you.

²Shake the dust from yourselves. Get up, captive Jerusalem. Free yourself from the chains around your neck, captive people of Zion.

³This is what the LORD says: You were sold, but no price was paid. You will be bought back, but without money.

⁴This is what the Almighty LORD says: In the beginning my people went to Egypt to live there as foreigners. Later the Assyrians oppressed them for no reason.

⁵So what do I find here? asks the LORD. My people are taken away for no reason. Their rulers are screaming, declares the LORD. And my name is cursed all day long.

⁶Now my people will know my name. When that day comes, they will know that I am the one who says, "Here I am!"

⁷How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces the good news, "All is well." He brings the good news, announces salvation, and tells Zion that its God rules as king.

⁸Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices and shout together joyfully. When the LORD brings Zion back, they will see it with their own eyes.

⁹Break out into shouts of joy, ruins of Jerusalem. The LORD will comfort his people. He will reclaim Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD will show his holy power to all the nations. All the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

¹¹Run away! Run away! Get away from there! Do not touch anything unclean. Get away from it! Make yourselves pure, you Levites who carry the utensils for the LORDS temple.

¹²You will not go away in a hurry, nor will you go away quickly. The LORD will go ahead of you. The God of Israel will guard you from behind.

¹³My servant will be successful. He will be respected, praised, and highly honored.

¹⁴Many will be shocked by him. His appearance will be so disfigured that he won't look like any other man. His looks will be so disfigured that he will hardly look like a human.

¹⁵He will cleanse many nations with his blood. Kings will shut their mouths because of him. They will see things that they had never been told. They will understand things that they had never heard.

53¹Who has believed our message?
To whom has the LORDS power been revealed?

²He grew up in his presence like a young tree, like a root out of dry ground. He had no form or majesty that would make us look at him. He had nothing in his appearance that would make us desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by people. He was a man of sorrows, familiar with suffering. He was despised like one from whom people turn their

faces, and we didnt consider him to be worth anything.

⁴He certainly has taken upon himself our suffering and carried our sorrows, but we thought that God had wounded him, beat him, and punished him.

⁵He was wounded for our rebellious acts. He was crushed for our sins. He was punished so that we could have peace, and we received healing from his wounds.

⁶We have all strayed like sheep. Each one of us has turned to go his own way, and the LORD has laid all our sins on him.

⁷He was abused and punished, but he didnt open his mouth. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. He was like a sheep that is silent when its wool is cut off. He didnt open his mouth.

⁸He was arrested, taken away, and judged. Who would have thought that he would be removed from the world? He was killed because of my peoples rebellion.

⁹He was placed in a tomb with the wicked. He was put there with the rich when he died, although he had done

nothing violent and had never spoken a lie.

¹⁰Yet, it was the LORDS will to crush him with suffering. When the LORD has made his life a sacrifice for our wrongdoings, he will see his descendants for many days. The will of the LORD will succeed through him.

¹¹He will see and be satisfied because of his suffering. My righteous servant will acquit many people because of what he has learned through suffering. He will carry their sins as a burden.

¹²So I will give him a share among the mighty, and he will divide the prize with the strong, because he poured out his life in death and he was counted with sinners. He carried the sins of many. He intercedes for those who are rebellious.

54¹Sing with joy, you childless women who never gave birth to children. Break into shouts of joy, you women who never had birth pains. "There will be more children of women who have been deserted than there are children of married women," says the LORD.

²Expand the space of your tent. Stretch out the curtains of your tent, and don't hold back. Lengthen your tent ropes, and drive in the tent pegs.

³You will spread out to the right and left. Your descendants will take over other nations, and they will resettle deserted cities.

⁴Don't be afraid, because you won't be put to shame. Don't be discouraged, because you won't be disgraced. You'll forget the shame you've had since you were young. You won't remember the disgrace of your husband's death anymore.

⁵Your husband is your maker. His name is the LORD of Armies. Your defender is the Holy One of Israel. He is called the God of the whole earth.

⁶"The LORD has called you as if you were a wife who was abandoned and in grief, a wife who married young and was rejected," says your God.

⁷"I abandoned you for one brief moment, but I will bring you back with unlimited compassion.

⁸I hid my face from you for a moment in a burst of anger, but I will have

compassion on you with everlasting kindness," says the LORD your defender.

⁹"To me this is like Noah's floodwaters, when I swore an oath that Noah's floodwaters would never cover the earth again. So now I swear an oath not to be angry with you or punish you.

¹⁰The mountains may move, and the hills may shake, but my kindness will never depart from you. My promise of peace will never change," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

¹¹"You suffering, comfortless, storm-ravaged city! I will rebuild your city with precious stones. I will reset your foundations with sapphires.

¹²I will rebuild your towers with rubies, your gates with sparkling stones, and all your walls with precious stones."

¹³All your children will be taught by the LORD, and your children will have unlimited peace.

¹⁴You will be established in righteousness. You will be far from oppression, so you will not be afraid. You will be far from destruction, so it won't come near you.

¹⁵"If anyone attacks you, it will not be my doing. Whoever attacks you will be defeated by you.

¹⁶I've created blacksmiths to fan the coals into flames and to produce useful weapons. I've also created destroyers to bring destruction.

¹⁷No weapon that has been made to be used against you will succeed. You will have an answer for anyone who accuses you. This is the inheritance of the LORDS servants. Their victory comes from me," declares the LORD.

55¹ "Listen! Whoever is thirsty, come to the water! Whoever has no money can come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk. You don't have to pay; it's free!

²Why do you spend money on what cannot nourish you and your wages on what does not satisfy you? Listen carefully to me: Eat what is good, and enjoy the best foods.

³Open your ears, and come to me! Listen so that you may live! I will make an everlasting promise to you the blessings I promised to David.

⁴I made him a witness to people, a leader and a commander for people.

⁵You will summon a nation that you don't know, and a nation that doesn't know you will run to you because of the LORD your God, because of the Holy One of Israel. He has honored you."

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found. Call on him while he is near.

⁷Let wicked people abandon their ways. Let evil people abandon their thoughts. Let them return to the LORD, and he will show compassion to them. Let them return to our God, because he will freely forgive them.

⁸"My thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways," declares the LORD.

⁹"Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts are higher than your thoughts."

¹⁰"Rain and snow come down from the sky. They do not go back again until they water the earth. They make it sprout and grow so that it produces seed for farmers and food for people to eat.

¹¹ My word, which comes from my mouth, is like the rain and snow. It will not come back to me without results. It will accomplish whatever I want and achieve whatever I send it to do."

¹² You will go out with joy and be led out in peace. The mountains and the hills will break into songs of joy in your presence, and all the trees will clap their hands.

¹³ Cypress trees will grow where thornbushes grew. Myrtle trees will grow where briars grew. This will be a reminder of the LORDS name and an everlasting sign that will never be destroyed.

56 ¹ This is what the LORD says: Preserve justice, and do what is right. My salvation is about to come. My righteousness is about to be revealed.

² Blessed is the one who does these things and the person who holds on to them. Blessed is the one who keeps the day of worship from becoming unholy and his hands from doing anything wrong.

³ Foreigners who have joined the LORD should not say, "The LORD will separate

us from his people." Castrated men should not say, "Were only dead trees!"

⁴This is what the LORD says: I will remember the castrated men who keep my days of worship, choose what pleases me, and faithfully observe the conditions of my promise.

⁵Inside my house and within my walls, I will give them something better than sons and daughters. I will give them a monument and a name. I will give them a permanent name that will not be forgotten.

⁶And I will remember the foreigners who have joined the LORD to worship him, to love the LORDS name, and to be his servants. All of them will keep the day of worship from becoming unholy and will faithfully observe the conditions of my promise.

⁷Then I will bring them to my holy mountain and make them happy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, because my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.

⁸The Almighty LORD, who gathers the scattered people of Israel, declares, "I

will gather still others besides those I have already gathered."

⁹All you animals in the field, all you animals in the forest, come and eat.

¹⁰Israel's watchmen are blind. None of them know anything. All of them are like dogs that are unable to bark. They lie around dreaming; they love to sleep.

¹¹These dogs have huge appetites. They are never full. They are the shepherds, but they don't understand. All of them have turned to go their own ways. Each one seeks his own gain.

¹²Each one cries, "Let me get some wine, and we'll fill ourselves with liquor. And tomorrow will be like today, only better."

57 ¹Righteous people die, and no one cares. Loyal people are taken away, and no one understands. Righteous people are spared when evil comes.

²When peace comes, everyone who has lived honestly will rest on his own bed.

³But you come here, you children of witches, you descendants of adulterers and prostitutes!

⁴ Whom are you making fun of? Whom are you making a face at? Whom are you sticking out your tongue at? Arent you rebellious children, descendants of liars?

⁵ You burn with lust under oak trees and under every large tree. You slaughter children in the valleys and under the cracks in the rocks.

⁶ Your idols are among the smooth stones in the ravine. They are your destiny. You have given them wine offerings and sacrificed grain offerings to them. Do you think I am pleased with all this?

⁷ Youve made your bed on a high and lofty mountain. Youve gone to offer sacrifices there.

⁸ Youve set up your idols beside doors and doorposts. Youve uncovered yourself to the idols. Youve distanced yourself from me. Youve made your bed with them. Youve made a deal with those you have pleasure with in bed. Youve seen them naked.

⁹ Youve journeyed to the king with perfumed oils and put on plenty of perfume. Youve sent your ambassadors far away and sent them down to Sheol.

¹⁰You've tired yourself out with many journeys. You didn't think that it was hopeless. You've found renewed strength, so you didn't faint.

¹¹Whom did you dread and fear so much that you lied to me? You haven't remembered me or cared about me. I've been silent for a long time. Is that why you don't fear me?

¹²I'll tell you about your righteous ways and what you have done, but they won't help you.

¹³When you cry for help, let your collection of idols save you. A wind will carry them all away. A breath will take them away. But whoever trusts me will possess the land and inherit my holy mountain.

¹⁴It will be said: "Build a road! Build a road! Prepare the way! Remove every obstacle in the way of my people!"

¹⁵The High and Lofty One lives forever, and his name is holy. This is what he says: I live in a high and holy place. But I am with those who are crushed and humble. I will renew the spirit of those who are humble and the courage of those who are crushed.

¹⁶I will not accuse you forever. I will not be angry with you forever. Otherwise, the spirits, the lives of those I've made, would grow faint in my presence.

¹⁷I was angry because of their sinful greed, so I punished them, hid from them, and remained angry. But they continued to be sinful.

¹⁸I've seen their sinful ways, but I'll heal them. I'll guide them and give them rest. I'll comfort them and their mourners.

¹⁹I'll create praise on their lips: "Perfect peace to those both far and near." "I'll heal them," says the LORD.

²⁰But the wicked are like the churning sea. It isn't quiet, and its water throws up mud and slime.

²¹"There is no peace for the wicked," says my God.

58¹ Cry aloud! Don't hold back! Raise your voice like a ram's horn. Tell my people about their rebellion and the descendants of Jacob about their sins.

²They look for me every day and want to know my ways. They act as if they were a nation that has done what is right and as if they haven't disregarded God's judgment on them. They ask me for

just decrees. They want God to be near them.

³Why have we fasted if you are not aware of it? Why have we inflicted pain on ourselves if you don't pay attention? Don't you see that on the days you fast, you do what you want to do? You mistreat all your workers.

⁴Don't you see that when you fast, you quarrel and fight and beat your workers? The way you fast today keeps you from being heard in heaven.

⁵Is this the kind of fasting I have chosen? Should people humble themselves for only a day? Is fasting just bowing your head like a cattail and making your bed from sackcloth and ashes? Is this what you call fasting? Is this an acceptable day to the LORD?

⁶This is the kind of fasting I have chosen: Loosen the chains of wickedness, untie the straps of the yoke, let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke.

⁷Share your food with the hungry, take the poor and homeless into your house, and cover them with clothes when you

see them naked. Don't refuse to help your relatives.

⁸Then your light will break through like the dawn, and you will heal quickly. Your righteousness will go ahead of you, and the glory of the LORD will guard you from behind.

⁹Then you will call, and the LORD will answer. You will cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am!" Get rid of that yoke. Don't point your finger and say wicked things.

¹⁰If you give some of your own food to feed those who are hungry and to satisfy the needs of those who are humble, then your light will rise in the dark, and your darkness will become as bright as the noonday sun.

¹¹The LORD will continually guide you and satisfy you even in sunbaked places. He will strengthen your bones. You will become like a watered garden and like a spring whose water does not stop flowing.

¹²Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the foundations of past generations. You will be called

the Rebuilder of Broken Walls and the Restorer of Streets Where People Live.

¹³If you stop trampling on the day of worship and doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the day of worship a delight and the LORDS holy day honorable, if you honor it by not going your own way, by not going out when you want, and by not talking idly,

¹⁴then you will find joy in the LORD. I will make you ride on the heights of the earth. I will feed you with the inheritance of your ancestor Jacob. The LORD has spoken.

59¹ The LORD is not too weak to save or his ear too deaf to hear.

²But your wrongs have separated you from your God, and your sins have made him hide his face so that he doesnt hear you.

³Your hands are stained with blood, and your fingers are stained with sin. You speak lies, and you mutter wicked things.

⁴No one calls for justice, and no one pleads his case truthfully. People trust pointless arguments and speak lies.

They conceive trouble and give birth to evil.

⁵They hatch viper eggs and weave spiderwebs. Those who eat their eggs will die. When an egg is crushed, a poisonous snake is hatched.

⁶Their webs cant be used for clothes, nor can they cover themselves with their works. Their works are evil. Their hands have committed acts of violence.

⁷Their feet run to do evil. They hurry to shed innocent blood. Their plans are evil. Ruin and destruction are on their highways.

⁸They dont know the way of peace. Theres no justice on their highways. Theyve made their paths crooked. Whoever walks on them will never know peace.

⁹That is why justice is far from us, and righteousness doesnt reach us. We hope for light, but we walk in darkness. We hope for brightness, but we walk in gloom.

¹⁰We grope like blind men along a wall. We grope like people without eyes. We stumble at noon as if it were twilight.

We are like dead people among healthy people.

¹¹We all growl like bears. We coo like doves. We hope for justice, but there is none. We hope for salvation, but its far from us.

¹²You are aware of our many rebellious acts. Our sins testify against us. Our rebellious acts are with us. We know our wrongdoings.

¹³We have rebelled and denied the LORD. We have turned away from our God. We have spoken about oppression and revolt. We have conceived and uttered lies in our hearts.

¹⁴Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away. Truth has fallen in the street, and honesty cant come in.

¹⁵Truth is missing. Those who turn away from evil make themselves victims. The LORD sees it, and hes angry because theres no justice.

¹⁶He sees that theres no one to help. Hes astounded that theres no one to intercede. So with his own power he wins a victory. His righteousness supports him.

¹⁷ He puts on righteousness like a coat of armor and a helmet of salvation on his head. He wears clothes of vengeance. He wraps himself with fury as a coat.

¹⁸ He will pay them back according to their deeds. He will pay back his opponents with wrath and punish his enemies. He will pay back the people who live on the coastlands.

¹⁹ The people of the west will fear the name of the LORD. Those in the east will fear his glory. He will come like a rushing stream. The wind of the LORD pushes him.

²⁰ "Then a Savior will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from rebellion," declares the LORD.

²¹ "This is my promise to them," says the LORD. "My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I put in your mouth will not leave you. They will be with your children and your grandchildren permanently," says the LORD.

60¹ Arise! Shine! Your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has dawned.

² Darkness now covers the earth, and thick darkness covers the nations. But

the LORD dawns, and his glory appears over you.

³Nations will come to your light, and kings will come to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴"Look up, look around, and watch. All of your people assemble and come to you. Your sons come from far away. Your daughters are carried in their arms.

⁵Then you will see this and rejoice, and your heart will be thrilled with joy, because the riches of the sea will be brought to you. The wealth of the nations will come to you.

⁶"Many camels will cover your land, young camels from Midian and Ephah. Everyone from Sheba will come. They will bring gold and incense. They will sing the praises of the LORD.

⁷All of the flocks from Kedar will gather and come to you. The rams of Nebaioth will serve you. They will be sacrificed as acceptable offerings on my altar. So I will honor my beautiful temple.

⁸"Who are these people that fly by like clouds, like doves to their nests?

⁹Certainly, the coastlands wait with hope for me. The ships from Tarshish are

the first to bring your children from far away. Their silver and their gold comes with them to honor the name of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, because he has honored you.

¹⁰"Foreigners will rebuild your walls, and their kings will serve you. In my anger I struck you, but in my favor I have compassion on you.

¹¹Your gates will always be open. They will never be closed day or night so that people may bring you the wealth of nations, with their kings led as prisoners.

¹²Nations and kingdoms that do not serve you will be destroyed. The nations will certainly be ruined.

¹³"Lebanon's glory will come to you: Cedar, fir, and cypress trees will come to beautify my holy place, and I will honor the place where my feet rest.

¹⁴The descendants of those who oppress you will bow in front of you. All who despise you will bow at your feet. They will call you the city of the LORD, Zion, the city of the Holy One of Israel.

¹⁵"You have been abandoned and hated; no one has passed through you. But now I will make you a source

of everlasting pride, a joy for all generations.

¹⁶You will drink milk from other nations and nurse at royal breasts. Then you will know that I am the LORD, your Savior, the Mighty One of Jacob, your Defender.

¹⁷I will bring gold instead of bronze. I will bring silver instead of iron, bronze instead of wood, and iron instead of stone. I will appoint peace as your governor and righteousness as your ruler.

¹⁸No longer will you hear about violence in your land or desolation and destruction within your borders. You will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.

¹⁹The sun will no longer be your light during the day, nor will the brightness of the moon give you light, But the LORD will be your everlasting light. Your God will be your glory.

²⁰Your sun will no longer go down, nor will your moon disappear. The LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sadness will be over.

²¹Then all your people will be righteous, and they will possess the land

permanently. They will be the seedling I have planted, the honored work of my hands.

²²The smallest of them will become a family. The weakest of them will become a mighty nation. At the right time I, the LORD, will make it happen quickly."

61 ¹The Spirit of the Almighty LORD is with me because the LORD has anointed me to deliver good news to humble people. He has sent me to heal those who are brokenhearted, to announce that captives will be set free and prisoners will be released.

²He has sent me to announce the year of the LORDS good will and the day of our Gods vengeance, to comfort all those who grieve.

³He has sent me to provide for all those who grieve in Zion, to give them crowns instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of tears of grief, and clothes of praise instead of a spirit of weakness. They will be called Oaks of Righteousness, the Plantings of the LORD, so that he might display his glory.

⁴They will rebuild the ancient ruins. They will restore the places destroyed

long ago. They will renew the ruined cities, the places destroyed generations ago.

⁵Foreigners will come forward and become shepherds for your flocks, and children of foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.

⁶You will be called the priests of the LORD. You will be called the servants of our God. You will consume the wealth of the nations. You will boast in their splendor.

⁷You will receive a double measure of wealth instead of your shame. You will sing about your wealth instead of being disgraced. That is why you will have a double measure of wealth in your land. You will have everlasting joy.

⁸I, the LORD, love justice. I hate robbery and wrongdoing. I will faithfully reward my peoples work. I will make an everlasting promise to them.

⁹Then their offspring will be known among the nations and their descendants among the people. Everyone who sees them will recognize that they are the descendants whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will find joy in the LORD. I will delight in my God. He has dressed me in the clothes of salvation. He has wrapped me in the robe of righteousness like a bridegroom with a priests turban, like a bride with her jewels.

¹¹Like the ground that brings forth its crops and like a garden that makes the seed in it grow, so the Almighty LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up in front of all nations.

62¹For Zions sake I will not remain silent. For Jerusalems sake I will not rest, until its righteousness shines like the dawn and its salvation burns brightly like a torch.

²The nations will see your righteousness. All kings will see your glory. You will be given a new name that the LORD will announce.

³Then you will be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD, a royal crown in the hand of your God.

⁴You will no longer be called Deserted, and your land will no longer be called Destroyed. But you will be named My Delight, and your land will be named

Married. The LORD is delighted with you, and your land will be married.

⁵As a young man marries a woman, so your sons will marry you. As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so your God will rejoice over you.

⁶I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem. They will never be silent day or night. Whoever calls on the LORD, do not give yourselves any rest,

⁷and do not give him any rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it an object of praise throughout the earth.

⁸The LORD has sworn with his right hand and with his mighty arm, "I will never again let your enemies eat your grain, nor will foreigners drink the new wine which you made."

⁹Those who harvest grain will eat it and praise the LORD. Those who gather grapes will drink wine in my holy courtyards.

¹⁰Go through! Go through the gates! Prepare a way for the people! Build up! Build up the highway! Clear away the stones! Raise a flag for the people!

¹¹The LORD has announced to the ends of the earth: "Tell my people Zion, Your

Savior is coming. His reward is with him, and the people he has won arrive ahead of him."

¹²They will be called Holy People, Those Reclaimed by the LORD, and you will be called Sought After, a City Not Deserted.

63¹Who is this coming from Bozrah in Edom with his clothes stained bright red? Who is this dressed in splendor, going forward with great strength? "It is I, the LORD. I am coming to announce my victory. I am powerful enough to save you."

²Why are your clothes red and your garments like those who trample grapes in a winepress?

³"I have trampled alone in the winepress. No one was with me. In my anger I trampled on people. In my wrath I stomped on them. Their blood splattered my clothes so all my clothing has been stained.

⁴I planned the day of vengeance. The year for my reclaiming you has come.

⁵I looked, but there was no help. I was astounded that there was no outside support. So with my own power I won a victory. My anger supported me.

⁶In my anger I trampled on people. In my wrath I made them drunk and poured their blood on the ground."

⁷I will acknowledge the LORDS acts of mercy, and sing the praises of the LORD, because of everything that the LORD has done for us. He has done many good things for the nation of Israel because of his compassion and his unlimited mercy.

⁸He said, "They are my people, children who will not lie to me." So he became their Savior.

⁹In all their troubles he was troubled, and he was the Messenger who saved them. In his love and compassion he reclaimed them. He always held them and carried them in the past.

¹⁰But they rebelled and offended his Holy Spirit. So he turned against them as their enemy; he fought against them.

¹¹Then his people remembered Moses and the distant past. Where is the one who brought them out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is the one who put his Holy Spirit in them?

¹²Where is the one who sent his powerful arm to support the right hand of Moses? Where is the one who divided

the water in front of them to make an everlasting name for himself?

¹³Where is the one who led them through the deep water? Like horses in the wilderness, they didnt stumble.

¹⁴Like animals going down into a valley, they were given rest by the LORDS Spirit. In this way you guided your people to make an honored name for yourself.

¹⁵Look down and see from heaven, from your holy and beautiful dwelling. Where is your determination and might? Where is the longing of your heart and your compassion? Dont hold back.

¹⁶You are our Father. Even though Abraham doesnt know us and Israel doesnt pay attention to us, O LORD, you are our Father. Your name is our Defender From Everlasting.

¹⁷O LORD, why do you let us wander from your ways and become so stubborn that we are unable to fear you? Return for the sake of your servants. They are the tribes that belong to you.

¹⁸Your holy people possessed the land for a little while. Our enemies have trampled on your holy place.

¹⁹We have become like those whom you never ruled, like those who are not called by your name.

64¹If only you would split open the heavens and come down! The mountains would quake at your presence.

²Be like the fire that kindles brushwood and makes water boil. Come down to make your name known to your enemies. The nations will tremble in your presence.

³When you did aweinspiring things that we didnt expect, you came down and the mountains quaked in your presence.

⁴No one has ever heard, no one has paid attention, and no one has seen any god except you. You help those who wait for you.

⁵You greeted the one who gladly does right and remembers your ways. You showed your anger, because weve sinned. Weve continued to sin for a long time. Can we still be saved?

⁶Weve all become unclean, and all our righteous acts are like permanently stained rags. All of us shrivel like leaves, and our sins carry us away like the wind.

⁷ No one calls on your name or tries to hold on to you. You have hidden your face from us. You have let us be ruined by our sins.

⁸ But now, LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are our potter. We are the work of your hands.

⁹ Don't be too angry, LORD. Don't remember our sin forever. Now look, we are all your people.

¹⁰ Your holy cities have become a desert. Zion has become a desert. Jerusalem is a wasteland.

¹¹ Our holy and beautiful temple, where our ancestors praised you, has been burned to the ground. All that we valued has been ruined.

¹² Despite these things, LORD, will you hold back? Will you be silent and make us suffer more than we can bear?

65 ¹ I was ready to answer those who didn't ask. I was found by those who weren't looking for me. I said, "Here I am! Here I am!" to a nation that didn't worship me.

² I stretched out my hands all day long to stubborn people. They chose to go the

wrong direction. They followed their own plans.

³These people constantly and openly provoked me. They offered sacrifices in gardens and burnt incense on brick altars.

⁴They sat among the graves and spent their nights in caves. They ate pork and in their pots made broth from unclean foods.

⁵They said, "Stay away! Dont touch me! Im holier than you are." They have become like smoke in my nose, like a smoldering fire all day long.

⁶"Look! It is written in front of me. I will not be silent, but I will repay. I will repay you in full.

⁷I will repay you for your sins and for the sins of your ancestors," says the LORD. They burnt incense on the mountains and slandered me on the hills, so I will be the first to pay them back in full.

⁸This is what the LORD says: When someone finds juice for new wine in a cluster of grapes, another person will say, "Dont destroy it, because theres a blessing in it." In the same way, I will do

this for my servants: I will not destroy everything.

⁹I will bring with me Jacobs descendant, one who will inherit my mountains from Judah. My chosen ones will inherit them. My servants will live there.

¹⁰The Sharon Plain will be a pasture for flocks. The Achor Valley will be a resting place for cattle and for my people who search for me.

¹¹You have abandoned the LORD and forgotten my holy mountain. You have prepared a table for the god of good fortune and offered cups full of spiced wine to the goddess of destiny.

¹²Now I will destine you for death. All of you will bow to be slaughtered. I called, but you didnt answer. I spoke, but you didnt listen. You did what I consider evil. You chose what I dont like.

¹³This is what the LORD God says: My servants will eat, but you will be hungry. My servants will drink, but you will be thirsty. My servants will be glad, but you will be ashamed.

¹⁴My servants will sing because of the gladness in their hearts. But you will

cry because of your sadness and wail because of your depression.

¹⁵Your name will be used as a curse by my chosen ones. The Almighty LORD will kill you and call his servants by another name.

¹⁶Whoever asks for a blessing in the land will be blessed by the God of Truth. Whoever swears an oath in the land will swear by the God of Truth. Past troubles are forgotten. They are hidden from my eyes.

¹⁷I will create a new heaven and a new earth. Past things will not be remembered. They will not come to mind.

¹⁸Be glad, and rejoice forever in what I'm going to create, because I'm going to create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people to be a joy.

¹⁹I will rejoice about Jerusalem and be glad about my people. Screaming and crying will no longer be heard in the city.

²⁰There will no longer be an infant who lives for only a few days or an old man who doesn't live a long life. Whoever lives to be a hundred years old will be thought of as young. Whoever dies before he is

a hundred years old will be cursed as a sinner.

²¹ They will build houses and live there. They will plant vineyards and eat fruit from them.

²² They will not build homes and have others live there. They will not plant and have others eat from it. My people will live as long as trees, and my chosen ones will enjoy what theyve done.

²³ They will never again work for nothing. They will never again give birth to children who die young, because they will be offspring blessed by the LORD. The LORD will bless their descendants as well.

²⁴ Before they call, I will answer. While theyre still speaking, I will hear.

²⁵ Wolves and lambs will feed together, lions will eat straw like oxen, and dust will be food for snakes. "They will not hurt or destroy anyone anywhere on my holy mountain," says the LORD.

66 ¹ This is what the LORD says:
Heaven is my throne. The earth is my footstool. Where can you build a house or resting place for me?

²I have made all these things. "That is why all these things have come into being," declares the LORD. I will pay attention to those who are humble and sorry for their sins and who tremble at my word.

³Whoever kills a bull is like someone who kills a person. Whoever sacrifices a lamb is like someone who breaks a dogs neck. Whoever offers a grain sacrifice is like someone who offers pigs blood. Whoever burns incense is like someone who worships an idol. People have certainly chosen their own ways, and their souls delight in detestable things.

⁴So I will choose harsh treatment for them and bring on them what they fear. I called, but no one answered. I spoke, but they didnt listen. They did what I consider evil. They chose what I dont like.

⁵Listen to the word of the LORD, all who tremble at his word. Your relatives, who hate you and exclude you for my names sake, say, "Let the LORD show his glory; then we will see your joy." But they will be put to shame.

⁶Listen to the uproar from the city.
Listen to the sound from the temple. It
is the sound of the LORD paying back his
enemies as they deserve.

⁷Before a woman goes into labor, she
gives birth. Before she has labor pains,
she delivers a child.

⁸Who has heard of such a thing? Who
has seen such things? Can a country be
born in one day? Can a nation be born in
a moment? When Zion went into labor,
she also gave birth to her children.

⁹"Do I bring a mother to the moment
of birth and not let her deliver?" asks
the LORD. "Do I cause a mother to
deliver and then make her unable to
have children?" asks your God.

¹⁰All who love Jerusalem, be happy and
rejoice with her. All who mourn for her,
be glad with her.

¹¹You will nurse and be satisfied from
her comforting breasts. You will nurse to
your hearts delight at her full breasts.

¹²This is what the LORD says: I will
offer you peace like a river and the
wealth of the nations like an overflowing
stream. You will nurse and be carried

in Jerusalem's arms and cuddled on her knees.

¹³As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you. You will be comforted in Jerusalem.

¹⁴When you see it, your heart will rejoice and you will flourish like new grass. The power of the LORD will be made known to his servants, but he will condemn his enemies.

¹⁵The LORD will come with fire and with his chariots like a thunderstorm. He will pay them back with his burning anger and punish them with flames of fire.

¹⁶The LORD will judge with fire, and he will judge all people with his sword. Many people will be struck dead by the LORD.

¹⁷People make themselves holy and prepare themselves for their garden rituals. They go into the garden and devour pork, disgusting things, and mice. "They will come to an end at the same time," declares the LORD.

¹⁸Because of their actions and their thoughts, I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They will come and see my glory.

¹⁹I will set up a sign among them and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put and Lud, Meshech, Rosh, Tubal, Javan, and to the distant coastlands who have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will tell about my glory among the nations.

²⁰They will bring all your relatives from every nation like a grain offering to the LORD. "They will come on horses, in chariots, in wagons, on mules and camels to my holy mountain, Jerusalem," declares the LORD. They will come like the people of Israel who bring their grain offerings in clean dishes to the LORDS temple.

²¹"I will make some of them priests and Levites," declares the LORD.

²²"The new heaven and earth that I am about to make will continue in my presence," declares the LORD. "So your descendants and your name will also continue in my presence.

²³From one month to the next and from one week to the next all people will come to worship me," declares the LORD.

²⁴Then they will go out and look at the corpses of those who have rebelled

against me. The worms that eat them will not die. The fire that burns them will not go out. All humanity will be disgusted by them.

Jeremiah

1 ¹ These are the words of Jeremiah, son of Hilkiah. He was one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin.

² The LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah when King Josiah, son of Amon, was in his thirteenth year as king of Judah.

³ The LORD also spoke when Jehoiakim, son of Josiah, was king of Judah and during the 11 years that Zedekiah, another son of Josiah, was king of Judah. The LORD continued to speak to Jeremiah until the people of Jerusalem were taken away into captivity in the fifth month of the year.

⁴ The LORD spoke his word to me,

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart for my holy purpose. I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations."

⁶ I, Jeremiah, said, "Almighty LORD, I do not know how to speak. I am only a boy!"

⁷ But the LORD said to me, "Don't say that you are only a boy. You will go wherever I send you. You will say whatever I command you to say.

⁸ Don't be afraid of people. I am with you, and I will rescue you," declares the LORD.

⁹ Then the LORD stretched out his hand and touched my mouth. The LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ Today I have put you in charge of nations and kingdoms. You will uproot and tear down. You will destroy and overthrow. You will build and plant."

¹¹ Again the LORD spoke his word to me and asked, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" I answered, "I see a branch of an almond tree."

¹² Then the LORD said to me, "Right. I am watching to make sure that my words come true."

¹³ Again the LORD spoke his word to me and asked, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a boiling pot, and its top is tilted away from the north."

¹⁴Then the LORD said to me, "Disaster will be poured out from the north on all those who live in the land.

¹⁵I am going to call every family and kingdom from the north," declares the LORD. "They will come, and they will set up their thrones at the entrance of Jerusalem's gates. They will attack all the walls around the city and all the cities of Judah.

¹⁶I will pass sentence on my people because of all their wickedness. They abandoned me, burned incense to other gods, and worshiped what their hands have made.

¹⁷Brace yourself, Jeremiah! Stand up, and say to them whatever I tell you to say. Don't be terrified in their presence, or I will make you even more terrified in their presence.

¹⁸Today I have made you like a fortified city, an iron pillar, and a bronze wall. You will be able to stand up to the whole land. You will be able to stand up to Judah's kings, its officials, its priests, and all the common people.

¹⁹They will fight you, but they will not defeat you. I am with you, and I will rescue you," declares the LORD.

2¹The LORD spoke his word to me,
²"Go and announce to Jerusalem,
This is what the LORD says: I remember
the unfailing loyalty of your youth,
the love you had for me as a bride. I
remember how you followed me into
the desert, into a land that couldn't be
farmed.

³Israel was set apart for the LORD. It
was the best part of the harvest. All who
devoured it became guilty, and disaster
struck them," declares the LORD.

⁴Listen to the word of the LORD,
descendants of Jacob, all the families in
the nation of Israel.

⁵This is what the LORD says: What did
your ancestors find wrong with me that
they went so far away from me? They
followed worthless idols and became
worthless themselves.

⁶They didn't ask, "Where is the LORD,
who brought us from Egypt? He led us
through the desert, through a wasteland
and its pits, a land of drought and the

shadow of death. No one lives there or travels there."

⁷I brought them into a fertile land to eat its fruit and its produce. They came and made my land unclean. They made my property disgusting.

⁸The priests didn't ask, "Where is the LORD?" Those who deal with my teachings didn't know me. The rulers rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied in the name of Baal and followed statues that couldn't help them.

⁹"That is why I am bringing charges against you," declares the LORD, "and I am bringing charges against your grandchildren.

¹⁰Go over to the coasts of Cyprus, and see. Send someone to Kedar, and observe closely. See if there has ever been anything like this.

¹¹Has any nation ever exchanged gods? (Their gods aren't really gods.) Yet, my people have exchanged their Glory for something that doesn't help them.

¹²Be horrified over this, heaven. Be terribly afraid," declares the LORD.

¹³"My people have done two things wrong. They have abandoned me, the

fountain of lifegiving water. They have also dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cant hold water.

¹⁴"Are the people of Israel slaves? Were they born into slavery? Why, then, have they become someones property?

¹⁵Young lions have roared very loudly at them. Young lions have turned the land into a wasteland. The cities have been burned down, and everyone has left.

¹⁶People from Noph and Tahpanhes have cracked your skulls, Israel.

¹⁷You have brought this on yourself by abandoning the LORD your God when he led you on his way.

¹⁸You wont gain anything by going to Egypt to drink water from the Nile River. You wont gain anything by going to Assyria to drink water from the Euphrates River.

¹⁹Your own wickedness will correct you, and your unfaithful ways will punish you. You should know and see how evil and bitter it is for you if you abandon the LORD your God and do not fear me," declares the Almighty LORD of Armies.

²⁰"Long ago you broke off your yoke, tore off your chains, and said that you wouldn't be a slave. You lay down and acted like a prostitute on every high hill and under every large tree.

²¹I planted you like a choice grapevine from the very best seed. Now you have turned against me and have become a wild vine.

²²Even if you wash with detergent and use a lot of soap, I would still see the stains from your wickedness," declares the Almighty LORD.

²³"How can you say that you haven't dishonored yourselves and haven't followed other gods the Baals? Look how you've behaved in the valley. Acknowledge what you've done. You are like a young camel that swiftly runs here and there.

²⁴You are like a wild donkey that is used to the desert, sniffing the wind while in heat. All who look for you won't get tired. They will find you during your monthly period.

²⁵Don't run until your feet are bare and your throats are dry. But you say that it's

useless. You love foreign gods and follow them.

²⁶"As a thief feels ashamed when hes caught, so the nation of Israel will feel ashamed. Their kings, princes, priests, and prophets will also feel ashamed.

²⁷You call wood your father. You call stone your mother. Youve turned your backs, not your faces, to me. But when youre in trouble, you ask me to come and rescue you.

²⁸Where are the gods that you made for yourselves? Let them come and rescue you when youre in trouble. You have as many gods as you have cities, Judah!

²⁹"Why do you complain about me? All of you have rebelled against me," declares the LORD.

³⁰"I have punished your children without results. They didnt respond to correction. You killed my prophets like a raging lion.

³¹"Consider the word of the LORD, people of this generation. Havent I been a desert, a land of thick darkness, for Israel? Why do my people say that they

are free to wander around and no longer come to me?

³²A young woman can't forget her jewelry or a bride her veils. Yet, my people have forgotten me for countless days.

³³You carefully planned ways to look for love. You taught your ways to wicked women.

³⁴You have the blood from poor and innocent people on your clothes. You didn't kill them for breaking in to your home.

³⁵In spite of all this you say, I'm innocent. God will turn his anger from me, because I haven't sinned.

³⁶You change your mind so easily. You will be put to shame by Egypt as you were put to shame by Assyria.

³⁷You will also leave this place with your hands over your head, because the LORD has rejected those you trust. You will not be helped by them."

3¹A saying: If a man divorces his wife and she leaves him and marries another man, her first husband shouldn't go back to her again. The land would become thoroughly polluted. "You have

acted like a prostitute who has many lovers. And now you want to come back to me!" declares the LORD.

²"Look at the bare hills, and see. You have had sex with men in every place. You sat by the roadside waiting for them like a nomad in the desert. You have polluted the land with your prostitution and wickedness.

³So the rain has been withheld, and there have been no spring showers. Yet, you have the shameless look of a prostitute, and you refuse to blush.

⁴But now you are calling to me. You say, Father! You have been my companion ever since I was young.

⁵He won't hold a grudge forever. He won't always be angry. You have said and done all the evil things that you could."

⁶When Josiah was king, the LORD asked me, "Did you see what unfaithful Israel did? She went up every high mountain and under every large tree, and she acted like a prostitute there.

⁷I thought that after she had done all this that she would come back to me. But she didn't come back, and her treacherous sister Judah saw her.

⁸Judah saw that I sent unfaithful Israel away because of her adultery and that I gave Israel her divorce papers. But treacherous Judah, her sister, wasn't afraid. She also acted like a prostitute.

⁹Because she wasn't concerned about acting like a prostitute, she polluted the land and committed adultery with standing stones and wood pillars.

¹⁰Even after all this, Israel's treacherous sister Judah didn't wholeheartedly come back to me. She was deceitful," declares the LORD.

¹¹Then the LORD said to me, "Unfaithful Israel was less guilty than treacherous Judah.

¹²Go and proclaim these things to the north: "Come back, unfaithful Israel. It is the LORD speaking. I will no longer frown on you because I'm merciful, declares the LORD. I will no longer be angry with you.

¹³Admit that you've done wrong! You have rebelled against the LORD your God. You have given yourself to strangers under every large tree. You have not obeyed me, declares the LORD.

¹⁴"Come back, you rebellious people," declares the LORD. "I'm your husband. I will take you, one from every city and two from every family, and bring you to Zion.

¹⁵I will give you shepherds after my own heart. They will be shepherds who feed you with knowledge and insight.

¹⁶In those days you will be fertile, and your population will increase in the land," declares the LORD. "People will no longer talk about the ark of the LORDS promise. It will no longer come to mind. They won't remember it, miss it, or make another one.

¹⁷At that time they will call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD. All nations will gather in Jerusalem because the name of the LORD will be found there. They will no longer follow their own stubborn, evil ways.

¹⁸In those days the nation of Judah will live with the nation of Israel. They will come together from the land of the north to the land that I gave their ancestors as their own property.

¹⁹"I wanted to treat you like children and give you a pleasant land, the most

beautiful property among the nations. I thought that you would call me Father and wouldn't turn away from me.

²⁰But like a wife who betrays her husband, so you, nation of Israel, betrayed me," declares the LORD.

²¹The sound of crying is heard on the hills. It is the crying and the pleading of the people of Israel. They have become crooked and have forgotten the LORD their God.

²²"Come back, you rebellious people, and I will forgive you for being unfaithful." Here we are! We have come to you because you are the LORD our God.

²³Truly, the noise from the hills, from the mountains, is the noise of false worship. Truly, the LORD our God will rescue us.

²⁴Ever since we were young, the shameful worship of Baal has taken everything our ancestors worked for, their flocks and herds, their sons and daughters.

²⁵We must lie down in our shame and be covered by our disgrace. Ever since we were young, we and our ancestors

have sinned against the LORD our God.
We havent obeyed the LORD our God.

4¹The LORD declares, "If you come back, Israel, if you come back to me, if you take your disgusting idols out of my sight and you dont wander away from me,

²if you take the oath, "As the LORD lives" in an honest, fair, and right way, then the nations will be blessed, and they will be honored by me."

³This is what the LORD says to the people of Judah and to Jerusalem: Plow your unplowed fields, and dont plant among thorns.

⁴Be circumcised by the LORD, and get rid of the foreskins of your hearts, people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. If you dont, my fury will flare up like a fire. It will burn, and no one will be able to put it out, because of the evil you do.

⁵Report this message in Judah. Make it heard in Jerusalem. Say, "Blow the rams horn throughout the land." Shout loudly and say, "Gather together! Lets go into the fortified cities."

⁶Raise the flag to signal people to go to Zion. Take cover! Dont just stand there!

I'm bringing disaster and widespread destruction from the north.

⁷A lion has come out of its lair. A destroyer of nations has set out. He has left his place to destroy your land. Your cities will be ruined, and no one will live in them.

⁸So put on sackcloth, mourn, and cry because the LORDS burning anger hasn't turned away from us.

⁹"When that day comes," declares the LORD, "the king and the leaders will lose their courage. The priests will be stunned. The prophets will be amazed and astonished."

¹⁰I said, "Almighty LORD, you certainly have deceived these people and Jerusalem. You said that everything would go well for them, but a sword is held at their throats."

¹¹At that time it will be said to these people and to Jerusalem: "A hot wind from the heights will blow in the desert on the tracks of my people. It will not be a wind that winnows or cleanses.

¹²It will be a stronger wind than that. It will come from me. Now, I will pass sentence on them."

¹³The enemy comes up like clouds. His chariots are like a raging wind. His horses are faster than eagles. How horrible it will be for us! We will be destroyed!

¹⁴Jerusalem, wash the evil from your heart so that you may be rescued. Don't continue making evil plans.

¹⁵A message is heard from Dan, and a report of disaster comes from the mountains of Ephraim.

¹⁶Warn the nations about these things. Bring them to the attention of Jerusalem. "Hostile troops are coming from a distant country. They are shouting battle cries against the cities of Judah.

¹⁷They surround them like men guarding a field, because Judah has rebelled against me," declares the LORD.

¹⁸"You brought this on yourself. This is your punishment. It is bitter. It breaks your heart."

¹⁹My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain. My heart is beating wildly! My heart is pounding! I can't keep quiet because I hear a ram's horn sounding the alarm for war.

²⁰One disaster follows another. The whole land is ruined. My tents are suddenly destroyed. Their curtains are torn in an instant.

²¹How long must I see the battle flag and hear the sound of rams horns?

²²"My people are fools. They dont know me. They are stupid people. They dont understand. They are experts in doing wrong, and they dont know how to do good."

²³I see the earth. Its formless and empty. I see the sky. Its lights are gone.

²⁴I see the mountains. They are shaking, and the hills are swaying.

²⁵I see that there are no people, and every bird has flown away.

²⁶I see that the fertile land has become a desert, and all its cities are torn down because of the LORD and his burning anger.

²⁷This is what the LORD says: The whole earth will be ruined, although I will not destroy it completely.

²⁸The earth will mourn, and the sky will grow black. I have spoken, and I have planned it. I wont change my plans, and I wont turn back.

²⁹All the people in the city will flee at the sound of riders and archers. They will go off into the thickets and climb among the rocks. The entire city will be abandoned, and no one will live in it.

³⁰You are going to be destroyed! What are you going to do? Why do you dress in red and put on gold jewelry? Why do you wear eye shadow? You are making yourself beautiful for nothing. Your lovers reject you; they want to kill you.

³¹I hear a woman in labor. I hear the woman cry with anguish as she gives birth to her first child. My people Zion are gasping for breath. They are stretching out their hands, saying, "How horrible it is for us! We're defenseless in the presence of murderers!"

5¹Walk around the streets of Jerusalem. Look around, and think about these things. Search the city squares. See if you can find anyone who does what is right and seeks the truth. Then I will forgive Jerusalem.

²People say, "As the LORD lives." Yet, they lie when they take this oath.

³LORD, your eyes look for the truth. You strike these people, but they don't

feel it. You crush them, but they refuse to be corrected. They are more stubborn than rocks. They refuse to turn back.

⁴I thought, "These are poor, foolish people. They don't know the way of the LORD and the justice that God demands.

⁵Let me go to important people and speak to them. They know the way of the LORD and the justice that God demands." But they, too, had broken off their yokes and torn off their chains.

⁶That is why a lion from the forest will attack them. A wolf from the wilderness will destroy them. A leopard will lie in ambush outside their cities. All who leave the cities will be torn to pieces, because they rebel so often and they become more and more unfaithful.

⁷"Why should I forgive you? Your children abandoned me. They took godless oaths. They committed adultery, even though I satisfied their needs. They traveled in crowds to the houses of prostitutes.

⁸They are like wellfed stallions that are wild with desire. They neigh for their neighbors wives.

⁹ "I will punish them for these things," declares the LORD. "I will punish this nation.

¹⁰ "Go among Jerusalem's rows of grapevines and destroy them, but don't destroy all of them. Cut off the branches because they don't belong to the LORD.

¹¹ "The nations of Israel and Judah are unfaithful to me," declares the LORD.

¹² "They lie about the LORD and say, 'He doesn't exist! Nothing bad will happen to us. We won't experience war or famine.

¹³ "The prophets are nothing but windbags. The LORD hasn't spoken through them, so let what they say happen to them."

¹⁴ "This is what the LORD God of Armies says: Because you've talked like this, I'm going to put my words in your mouth like a fire. These people will be like wood. My words will burn them up.

¹⁵ "Nation of Israel, I'm going to bring a nation from far away to attack you," declares the LORD. "It is a nation that has lasted a long time. It is an ancient nation. You don't know the language of this nation. You can't understand what its people say."

¹⁶Their arrow quivers are like open graves. They are all mighty warriors.

¹⁷They will devour your harvest and your food. They will devour your sons and your daughters. They will devour your flocks and your cattle. They will devour your grapevines and your fig trees. With their swords they will destroy the fortified cities you trust.

¹⁸Yet, even in those days, declares the LORD, I wont destroy all of you.

¹⁹They will ask, "Why has the LORD our God done all this to us?" Answer them, "You have abandoned me and served foreign gods in your land. So you will serve foreigners in a land that isnt yours."

²⁰"Tell this to the descendants of Jacob, and make this heard in Judah:

²¹Hear this, you stupid and senseless people! You have eyes, but you cannot see. You have ears, but you cannot hear.

²²Dont you fear me?" asks the LORD. "Dont you tremble in my presence? I made the sand a boundary for the sea, a permanent barrier that it cannot cross. Although the waves toss continuously,

they can't break through. Although they roar, they can't cross it.

²³ But these people are stubborn and rebellious. They have turned aside and wandered away from me.

²⁴ They don't say to themselves, We should fear the LORD our God. He sends rain at the right time, the autumn rain and the spring rain. He makes sure that we have harvest seasons.

²⁵ Your wickedness has turned these things away. Your sins have kept good things away from you.

²⁶ "Wicked people are found among my people. They lie in ambush like bird catchers. They set traps and catch people.

²⁷ Like cages filled with birds, their houses are filled with deceit. That is why they become powerful and rich.

²⁸ They grow big and fat. Their evil deeds have no limits. They have no respect for the rights of others. They have no respect for the rights of orphans. But they still prosper. They don't defend the rights of the poor.

²⁹ "I will punish them for these things," declares the LORD. "I will punish this nation.

³⁰ "Something horrible and disgusting is happening in the land:

³¹ "Prophets prophesy lies. Priests rule under the prophets' directions, and my people love this. But what will you do in the end?"

6¹ "Take cover, people of Benjamin! Run away from Jerusalem! Blow the rams' horn in Tekoa. Raise the flag over Beth Hakkerem, because disaster and widespread destruction are coming from the north.

² "My people Zion are like lovely pastures.

³ With their flocks, shepherds will come to them, pitch their tents all around them, and each of them will tend his own flock.

⁴ The shepherds say, Prepare yourselves for war against Zion. Let's attack at noon! How horrible it will be for us. The day is passing, and the shadows of evening are growing longer.

⁵ Let's attack at night and destroy its palaces."

⁶This is what the LORD of Armies says: Cut down its trees. Build up dirt mounds to attack Jerusalem. This city must be punished. There is nothing but oppression in it.

⁷As a well keeps its water fresh, so Jerusalem keeps its evil fresh. Violence and destruction can be heard in it. I see that it is sick and wounded.

⁸Pay attention to my warning, Jerusalem, or I will turn away from you. I will make your land desolate, a land where no one will live.

⁹This is what the LORD of Armies says: Thoroughly pick through the faithful few of Israel like someone picks through a grapevine. Like someone picking grapes, pass your hand over its branches again.

¹⁰Whom can I speak to? Whom can I give a warning to? Who will listen? Their ears are plugged, and they aren't able to pay attention. When the LORD speaks his word to them, they show contempt for it and object to it.

¹¹I am filled with the anger of the LORD. I am tired of holding it in. "Pour it out on the children in the street and on the gangs of young men. A man and his

wife will be taken away as well as very old people.

¹²Their households, their fields, and their wives will be turned over to others. I will use my power against those who live in the land," declares the LORD.

¹³"All of them, from the least important to the most important, are eager to make money dishonestly. All of them, from prophets to priests, act deceitfully.

¹⁴They treat my peoples wounds as though they were not serious, saying, Everything is alright! Everything is alright! But its not alright.

¹⁵Are they ashamed when they do disgusting things? No, theyre not ashamed. They dont even know how to blush. So they will die with those who die. They will be brought down when I punish them," says the LORD.

¹⁶This is what the LORD says: Stand at the crossroads and look. Ask which paths are the old, reliable paths. Ask which way leads to blessings. Live that way, and find a resting place for yourselves. But you said that you wouldnt live that way.

¹⁷I posted watchmen over you. Pay attention to the sound of the rams horn. But you said that you wouldnt pay attention.

¹⁸Listen, you nations, and learn, you witnesses, what will happen to them.

¹⁹Listen, earth! Im going to bring disaster on these people. It is the result of their own plots, because they wont pay attention to my words. They reject my teachings.

²⁰Incense that comes from Sheba is no good to me. Sugar cane that comes from a distant land is no good to me. I wont accept your burnt offerings. Im not pleased with your sacrifices.

²¹This is what the LORD says: Im going to lay stumbling blocks in front of these people. Parents and children will stumble over them. Neighbors and their friends will die.

²²This is what the LORD says: An army is going to come from the north. A great nation is preparing itself in the distant parts of the earth.

²³Its people take hold of bows and spears. They are cruel and have no compassion. They sound like the roaring

sea. They ride on horses. They march like soldiers ready for battle against my people Zion.

²⁴We have heard the news about them. Our hands hang limp. We are gripped by anguish and pain like a woman giving birth to a child.

²⁵Dont go into the field or walk on the road. The enemy has a sword. Terror is all around.

²⁶Wear sackcloth, and roll around in ashes, my people. Mourn as if you have lost your only child, and cry bitterly. The destroyer will suddenly attack us.

²⁷"Jeremiah, I have put you in charge of testing and refining my people. You will know how to test their ways.

²⁸They are all vicious rebels. They go around slandering. They are all like bronze and iron. They corrupt themselves.

²⁹The bellows of the blast furnace blow fiercely to make the fire melt away the lead. It is useless to go on refining because the impurities cant be removed.

³⁰People will call them useless silver because the LORD has rejected them."

7¹ The LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah. He said,

²"Stand at the gate of the LORDS house, and announce from there this message: Listen to the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who go through these gates to worship the LORD.

³This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Change the way you live and act, and I will let you live in this place.

⁴Do not trust the words of this saying, "This is the LORDS temple, the LORDS temple, the LORDS temple!" Its a lie.

⁵"Suppose you really change the way you live and act and you really treat each other fairly.

⁶Suppose you do not oppress foreigners, orphans, and widows, or kill anyone in this place. And suppose you do not follow other gods that lead you to your own destruction.

⁷Then I will let you live in this place, in the land that I gave permanently to your ancestors long ago.

⁸"You are trusting the words of a saying. Its a lie that cannot help you.

⁹You steal, murder, commit adultery, lie when you take oaths, burn incense as an offering to Baal, and run after other gods that you do not know.

¹⁰Then you stand in my presence in the house that is called by my name. You think that you're safe to do all these disgusting things.

¹¹The house that is called by my name has become a gathering place for thieves. I have seen what you are doing," declares the LORD.

¹²"But go to my place that was at Shiloh, where I first made a dwelling place for my name. See what I did to Shiloh because of the evil done by my people Israel.

¹³You have done the same things the people did at Shiloh," declares the LORD. "Although I spoke to you again and again, you did not listen. When I called you, you did not answer.

¹⁴So what I did to Shiloh I will now do to the house that is called by my name. This is the place I gave to you and to your ancestors, the place where you feel so safe.

¹⁵ I will force you out of my sight as I forced out all your relatives, all of Ephraim's descendants.

¹⁶ "Jeremiah, don't pray for these people. Don't cry or pray for them. Don't plead with me, because I will not listen to you.

¹⁷ Don't you see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

¹⁸ Children gather wood, fathers light fires, and women knead dough to make cakes for the queen of heaven. They pour out wine offerings to other gods in order to make me furious.

¹⁹ They aren't really provoking me," declares the LORD. "But they are harming themselves to their own shame.

²⁰ "This is what the Almighty LORD says: My anger and fury will be poured out on this place, on humans and animals, and on trees and crops. My anger and fury will burn and not be put out.

²¹ "This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat the meat.

²²When I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, I did not tell them anything about burnt offerings and sacrifices.

²³But I did tell them this, Obey me, and I will be your God, and you will be my people. Live the way I told you to live so that things will go well for you.

²⁴But they didnt obey me or pay attention to me. They followed their own plans and their stubborn, evil ways. They went backward and not forward.

²⁵From the time that your ancestors left Egypt until now, I have sent all my servants the prophets to you again and again.

²⁶But you didnt obey me or pay attention to me. You became impossible to deal with, and you were worse than your ancestors.

²⁷"Jeremiah, you will say all these things to them, but they will not obey you. You will call to them, but they will not respond to you.

²⁸You will say to them, This is the nation that did not obey the LORD their God. They did not accept discipline. Truth has disappeared and vanished from their lips.

²⁹"Cut off your hair and throw it away. Sing a song of mourning on the bare hills, because in his anger the LORD has rejected and abandoned the people of this generation.

³⁰The people of Judah have done what I consider evil," declares the LORD." They set up their detestable idols in the house that is called by my name. They have made it unclean.

³¹They have built worship sites at Topheth in the valley of Ben Hinnom in order to burn their sons and daughters as sacrifices. I did not ask for this. It never entered my mind.

³²"That is why the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when that place will no longer be known as Topheth or the valley of Ben Hinnom. Instead, it will be known as Slaughter Valley. They will bury people at Topheth because no other place will be left.

³³The dead bodies of these people will become food for birds and animals, and no one will be there to frighten them away.

³⁴In the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, I will banish the

sounds of joy and happiness and the sounds of brides and grooms, because the land will be a wasteland."

8¹ The LORD declares, "At that time the bones of the kings and the leaders of Judah, the bones of the priests and the prophets, and the bones of the others who lived in Jerusalem will be taken out of their graves.

² They will be spread out and exposed to the sun, the moon, and all the stars in the sky. These are the things that they had loved, served, gone after, sought, and worshiped. Their bones will not be gathered or buried, but they will become manure on the ground.

³ "Then the few who remain from these wicked people will want to die rather than live where I will scatter them," declares the LORD of Armies.

⁴ "Say to them, This is what the LORD says: When someone falls, he gets back up. When someone turns away from me, he returns.

⁵ The people of Jerusalem turned away from me without ever returning. They still cling to deceit. They refuse to return.

⁶I have paid attention and listened, but they weren't honest. They don't turn away from their wickedness and ask, "What have we done?" They go their own ways like horses charging into battle.

⁷Even storks know when it's time to return. Mourning doves, swallows, and cranes know when it's time to migrate. But my people don't know that I, the LORD, am urging them to return.

⁸"How can you say that you are wise and that you have the LORDS teachings? The scribes have used their pens to turn these teachings into lies.

⁹Wise people are put to shame, confused, and trapped. They have rejected the word of the LORD. They don't really have any wisdom.

¹⁰That is why I will give their wives to other men and their fields to new owners. All of them, from the least important to the most important, are eager to make money dishonestly. All of them, from prophets to priests, act deceitfully.

¹¹They treat my dear people's wounds as though they were not serious, saying,

"Everything is alright! Everything is alright!" But its not alright.

¹²Are they ashamed that they do disgusting things? No, theyre not ashamed. They dont even know how to blush. So they will die with those who die. They will be brought down when I punish them," says the LORD.

¹³"I would have gathered their harvest," declares the LORD, "but there are no grapes on the vine. There are no figs on the tree, and the leaves have dried up. What I have given them will be taken away."

¹⁴Why are we just sitting here? Lets get up! Lets go into the fortified cities and die there. The LORD our God has condemned us to die. He has given us poison to drink because we have sinned against the LORD.

¹⁵We hoped for peace, but nothing good has happened. We hoped for a time of healing, but theres only terror.

¹⁶The snorting of horses can be heard from Dan. The neighing of stallions makes the whole land tremble. They are coming to devour the land and everything in it, the city and its people.

¹⁷ "I am going to send snakes among you, vipers that can't be charmed. They will bite you," declares the LORD.

¹⁸ Sorrow has overwhelmed me. I am sick at heart!

¹⁹ The cry from my dear people comes from a distant land: "Isn't the LORD in Zion? Isn't Zion's king still there?" They make me furious with their idols, with their foreign gods.

²⁰ The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we haven't been saved.

²¹ I am crushed because my dear people have been crushed. I mourn; terror grips me.

²² Isn't there medicine in Gilead? Aren't there doctors there? Then why hasn't the health of my dear people been restored?

9¹ "I wish that my head were filled with water and my eyes were a fountain of tears so that I could cry day and night for my dear people who have been killed.

² I wish I had a place to stay in the desert. I would abandon my people and go away from them. They are all adulterers, a mob of traitors.

³They use their tongues like bows that shoot arrows. Lies and dishonesty rule the land. They go from one evil thing to another, and they don't know me," declares the LORD.

⁴"Beware of your neighbors. Don't trust your relatives. Every relative cheats. Every neighbor goes around slandering.

⁵Everyone cheats his neighbor. No one speaks the truth. My people train their tongues to speak lies. They wear themselves out doing wrong.

⁶Oppression follows oppression. Deceit follows deceit. They refuse to acknowledge me," declares the LORD.

⁷This is what the LORD of Armies says: I will now refine them with fire and test them. What else can I do for my dear people?

⁸Their tongues are like deadly arrows. They speak deceitfully. People speak politely to their neighbors, but they think of ways to set traps for them.

⁹I will punish them for these things, declares the LORD. I will punish this nation. I still won't be satisfied.

¹⁰I will cry and weep for the mountains. I will sing a funeral song for the pastures

in the wilderness. They are destroyed so that no one can travel through them. No one can hear the sound of cattle. Birds and cattle have fled. They are gone.

¹¹ I will turn Jerusalem into a pile of rubble, a home for jackals. I will destroy the cities of Judah so that no one can live there.

¹² No one is wise enough to understand this. To whom has the LORD revealed this so that they can explain it? The land dies; it has been ruined like the desert so that no one can travel through it.

¹³ The LORD answered, "They've abandoned my teachings that I placed in front of them. They didn't obey me, and they didn't follow them.

¹⁴ They followed their own stubborn ways and other gods the Baals, as their ancestors taught them."

¹⁵ This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: I am going to feed these people bitterness and give them poison to drink.

¹⁶ I will scatter them among nations that they and their ancestors haven't heard of. I will send armies after them until I've wiped them out.

¹⁷ This is what the LORD of Armies says: Consider this: Call for the women who cry at funerals. Send for those who are the most skilled.

¹⁸ They should come quickly and cry for us. Our eyes will run with tears. Our eyelids will flow with water.

¹⁹ The sound of crying is heard from Zion. "Were ruined! Were very ashamed. We must leave our land because our homes have been torn down."

²⁰ Listen to the word of the LORD, you women, and open your ears to hear his words. Teach your daughters how to cry. Teach your neighbors funeral songs.

²¹ Death has come through our windows and entered our palaces. Death has cut down the children in the streets and the young men in the market places.

²² This is what the LORD says: Dead bodies will fall like manure on the field. They will be like grain that has been cut but not gathered.

²³ This is what the LORD says: Don't let wise people brag about their wisdom. Don't let strong people brag about their strength. Don't let rich people brag about their riches.

²⁴If they want to brag, they should brag that they understand and know me. They should brag that I, the LORD, act out of love, righteousness, and justice on the earth. This kind of bragging pleases me, declares the LORD.

²⁵"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will punish all who are circumcised.

²⁶I will punish Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, and Moab. I will punish all who shave the hair on their foreheads or live in the desert. Even though these nations are circumcised, all Israel has uncircumcised hearts."

10¹ Listen to the message that the LORD has spoken to you, nation of Israel.

²This is what the LORD says: Don't learn the practices of the nations. Don't be frightened by the signs in the sky because the nations are frightened by them.

³The religion of the people is worthless. Woodcutters cut down trees from the forest. The hands of craftsmen prepare them with axes.

⁴Craftsmen decorate them with silver and gold and fasten them together with hammers and nails so that they wont fall over.

⁵These trees are like scarecrows in cucumber gardens. They arent able to speak. They have to be carried, because they cant walk. Dont be afraid of them. They cant harm you. They cant do you any good either.

⁶No one is like you, O LORD. You are great. Your name is powerful.

⁷Everyone fears you, O King of the Nations. This is what you deserve. No one is like you among all the wise people in the nations or in all their kingdoms.

⁸They are complete idiots. They learn nonsense from wooden idols.

⁹Hammered silver is brought from Tarshish and gold from Uphaz. Craftsmen and goldsmiths shape these metals. The clothing for the idols is blue and purple, all made by skilled workers.

¹⁰But the LORD is the only God. He is the living God and eternal king. The earth trembles when he is angry. The nations cant endure his fury.

¹¹ Tell them this: These gods will disappear from the earth and from under heaven because they didn't make heaven and earth.

¹² The LORD made the earth by his power. He set up the world by his skill. He stretched out the world by his understanding.

¹³ He speaks, and the water in the sky produces a storm. He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning flash with the rain. He brings wind out of his storehouses.

¹⁴ Everyone is stupid and ignorant. Metalsmiths are put to shame by their idols. Their statues are false gods. They can't breathe.

¹⁵ They are worthless jokes. When they are punished, they disappear.

¹⁶ Jacob's God isn't like them. He made everything, and Israel is the tribe that belongs to him. His name is the LORD of Armies.

¹⁷ Pick up your bags. You are being blockaded.

¹⁸ This is what the LORD says: I am going to throw out those who live in the

land at this time and cause trouble for them so that they will feel it.

¹⁹Oh, I'm wounded! My wound is serious. Then I thought that this is my punishment, and I will bear it.

²⁰My tent is destroyed, and all my ropes are broken. My children have left me and have disappeared. There's no one to set up my tent again or put up my tent curtains.

²¹The shepherds are foolish. They don't look to the LORD for help. That is why they won't succeed, and all their flocks will be scattered.

²²The report has arrived. A tremendous uproar is coming from the land of the north. Its army will destroy Judah's cities and make them homes for jackals.

²³O LORD, I know that the way humans act is not under their control. Humans do not direct their steps as they walk.

²⁴Correct me, O LORD, but please be fair. Don't correct me when you're angry. Otherwise, you'll reduce me to nothing.

²⁵Pour out your fury on the nations who don't know you and on people who don't worship you. They have devoured the descendants of Jacob. They have

devoured them completely. They have destroyed their homes.

11 ¹This is the message that the LORD spoke to Jeremiah. He said, ²"Listen to the terms of this promise, and tell them to the people of Judah and to those who live in Jerusalem.

³Say to them, This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Cursed is anyone who doesn't listen to the terms of this promise.

⁴I made this promise to your ancestors when I brought them out of Egypt, which was an iron smelter. I said, "Obey me, and do everything that I have told you to do. Then you will be my people, and I will be your God.

⁵I will keep the oath I made to your ancestors and give them a land flowing with milk and honey, the land you still have today."" I answered, "Yes, LORD."

⁶The LORD said to me, "Announce all these things in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem: Listen to the terms of this promise, and keep them.

⁷I solemnly warned your ancestors when I brought them out of Egypt, and

the warning still applies to you today. I solemnly warned them to obey me.

⁸But they didn't obey me or pay attention to me. They followed their own stubborn, evil ways. So I punished them, because they did not keep all the terms of the promise, the terms that I commanded them to keep."

⁹The LORD said to me, "Conspiracy exists among the people of Judah and among those who live in Jerusalem.

¹⁰They've gone back to the evil ways of their ancestors and refused to obey my words. They are following other gods and worshiping them. The nations of Israel and Judah have rejected the promise that I made to their ancestors.

¹¹This is what the LORD says: I'm going to bring a disaster on them that they can't escape. Although they will cry out to me, I won't listen to them.

¹²Then the cities of Judah and those who live in Jerusalem will cry to the gods to whom they've been sacrificing. But these gods will never rescue them when they're in trouble.

¹³Judah, you have as many gods as you have cities. You have set up many

altars in Jerusalem to sacrifice to Baal. You have as many altars as there are streets in Jerusalem.

¹⁴Jeremiah, dont pray for these people. Dont cry or pray for them. I wont listen when they call to me for help in times of trouble.

¹⁵"What right do these people I love have to be in my house when they do so many devious things? Can the meat from their sacrifices turn disaster away from them? They rejoice when they do evil."

¹⁶The LORD called you a large olive tree that has beautiful fruit to look at. He will set fire to you with a mighty storm, and your branches will be broken.

¹⁷The LORD of Armies planted you. He has pronounced disaster on you. This is because of the evil things that Israel and Judah have done. They have made him furious by burning incense as an offering to Baal.

¹⁸The LORD revealed their plot to me so that I would understand. He showed me what they were doing.

¹⁹I was like a trusting lamb brought to the slaughter. I didnt know that they

were plotting against me. They were saying, "Let's destroy the tree with its fruit. Let's cut Jeremiah off from this world of the living so that we won't be reminded of him anymore."

²⁰O LORD of Armies, you judge fairly and test motives and thoughts. I want to see you take revenge on them, because I've brought my case to you.

²¹This is what the LORD says: The people of Anathoth want to kill you. They say, "Don't prophesy in the name of the LORD, or we'll kill you."

²²This is what the LORD of Armies says: I'm going to punish them. The young men will die because of war. Their sons and daughters will die because of famine.

²³I will bring a disaster on the people of Anathoth. It will be a year of punishment. There will be no survivors.

12¹O LORD, even if I would argue my case with you, you would always be right. Yet, I want to talk to you about your justice. Why do wicked people succeed? Why do treacherous people have peace and quiet?

²You plant them, and they take root. They grow, and they produce fruit. They speak well of you with their lips, but their hearts are far from you.

³You know me, O LORD. You see me and test my devotion to you. Drag them away like sheep to be slaughtered. Prepare them for the day of slaughter.

⁴How long will the land mourn? How long will the plants in every field remain dried up? The animals and the birds are dying, because people are wicked. They think that God doesn't know what they are doing.

⁵"If you have raced against others on foot, and they have tired you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in open country, how can you live in the jungle along the Jordan River?

⁶Even your relatives and members of your father's household betray you. They have also formed a mob to find you. Don't trust them when they say good things about you.

⁷"I have abandoned my nation. I have left my own people. I have handed the people I love over to their enemies.

⁸My people have turned on me like a lion in the forest. They roar at me, so I hate them.

⁹My people are like a colorful bird of prey. Other birds of prey surround it. Go, gather all the animals in the field, and bring them to devour it.

¹⁰Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard. They've trampled my property. They've turned my pleasant property into a wasteland.

¹¹They've left it a wasteland. Devastated, it mourns in my presence. The whole land is destroyed, but no one takes this to heart.

¹²Looters swarm all over the bare hills in the desert. The LORDS sword destroys them from one end of the land to the other. No one will be safe.

¹³My people planted wheat, but they harvested thorns. They worked until they became sick, but they gained nothing by it. They were disappointed by their harvests because of the burning anger of the LORD.

¹⁴"This is what I, the LORD, say about all my evil neighbors who take the inheritance that I gave my people Israel:

I am going to uproot those neighbors from their lands. I will also uproot the people of Judah from among them.

¹⁵After I've uprooted them, I will have compassion on them again. I will return them to their inheritance and to their lands.

¹⁶Suppose they learn carefully the ways of my people. Suppose they take an oath in my name, As the LORD lives as they taught my people to take an oath in the name of Baal. Then they will build homes among my people.

¹⁷But suppose they don't listen. Then I will uproot that nation and destroy it," declares the LORD.

13¹This is what the LORD said to me: "Buy a linen belt. Put it around your waist. Don't let it get wet."

²So I bought the belt, as the LORD had told me, and put it around my waist.

³The LORD spoke his word to me again. He said,

⁴"Take the belt that you bought, the one you're wearing. Go to the Euphrates River, and bury it there in a crack in the rocks."

⁵So I went and buried it by the Euphrates, as the LORD had told me.

⁶After many days the LORD said to me, "Go to the Euphrates, and get the belt from where I told you to bury it."

⁷So I went back to the Euphrates and dug it up. I got the belt from where I had buried it. Now the belt was ruined. It was good for nothing.

⁸Then the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

⁹"This is what the LORD says: This is how I will destroy Judahs arrogance and Jerusalems extreme arrogance.

¹⁰These wicked people refuse to listen to me. They go their own stubborn ways and follow other gods in order to serve them and worship them. They are like this goodfornothing belt.

¹¹As a belt clings to a persons waist, so I have made the entire nation of Israel and the entire nation of Judah cling to me," declares the LORD. "I did this so that they would be my people and bring fame, praise, and honor to me. However, they wouldnt listen.

¹²"Give this message to them, This is what the LORD God of Israel says: Every

bottle will be filled with wine. Then they will say to you, We know that every bottle will be filled with wine.

¹³Say to them, This is what the LORD says: Im going to make everyone who lives in this land drunk. The kings who sit on Davids throne, the priests, the prophets, and all those who live in Jerusalem will become drunk.

¹⁴Then I will smash them like bottles against each other. I will smash parents and children together, declares the LORD. I will have no pity, mercy, or compassion when I destroy them."

¹⁵Listen, and pay attention! Dont be arrogant. The LORD has spoken.

¹⁶Honor the LORD your God before it gets dark, before your feet stumble on the mountains in the twilight. You will look for light, but the LORD will turn it into the shadow of death and change it into deep darkness.

¹⁷If you wont listen, I will cry secretly over your arrogance. I will cry bitterly, and my eyes will flow with tears because the LORDS flock will be taken captive.

¹⁸Say to the king and his mother,
"Come down from your thrones, because
your crowns have fallen off your heads."

¹⁹The cities in the Negev will be locked
up, and there will be no one to reopen
them. All the people of Judah will be
taken away into captivity.

²⁰Look up, and see those who are
coming from the north. Where is the
flock that was given to you your beautiful
sheep?

²¹What will you say when God makes
the people you thought were your friends
your new masters? Wont pain grip you
like a woman in labor?

²²If you ask yourself, "Why do these
things happen to me?" its because you
have so many sins. Your clothes have
been torn off and your limbs are bare.

²³Can Ethiopians change the color of
their skin or leopards change their spots?
Can you do good when youre taught to
do wrong?

²⁴"I will scatter you like straw that is
blown away by a desert wind.

²⁵This is your fate, the destiny I have
planned for you," declares the LORD.

"You have forgotten me and trusted false gods.

²⁶I will also tear off your clothes, and your shame will be seen.

²⁷I have seen you commit adultery and squeal with delight. I have seen you act like a shameless prostitute on the hills and in the fields. How horrible it will be for you, Jerusalem! Will you ever be clean?"

14¹The LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah about the drought.

²Judah mourns; its gates fall apart. The people of Judah sit in mourning on the ground. Their cry goes up from Jerusalem.

³Important people send their assistants out for water. They go to the cisterns, but they don't find any water. They come back with their containers empty. They cover their heads, because they are ashamed and disgraced.

⁴The ground is cracked because there has been no rain in the land. The farmers are disappointed. They cover their heads.

⁵Even deer in the fields give birth and abandon their young because there's no grass.

⁶Wild donkeys stand on the bare hills. They sniff the air like jackals. Their eyesight fails because they have no green plants.

⁷Do something, LORD, for the sake of your name, even though our sins testify against us. We have been unfaithful and have sinned against you.

⁸You are Israel's hope, the one who saves it in times of trouble. Why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler who stays only one night?

⁹Why should you be like someone taken by surprise, like a strong man who cannot help? You, O LORD, are among us. We are called by your name. Don't leave us!

¹⁰This is what the LORD says about these people: They love to wander. They don't keep their feet where they belong. So the LORD isn't happy with them. He will remember their crimes and punish their sins.

¹¹The LORD said to me, "Don't pray for the good of these people.

¹²Even if they go without food, I won't listen to their cries for help. Even if they sacrifice burnt offerings and grain offerings, I won't be pleased with them. But I will destroy these people with wars, famines, and plagues."

¹³Then I said, "Almighty LORD, prophets are saying to them, You won't see wars or famines, because I, the LORD, will give you lasting peace in this place."

¹⁴Then the LORD told me, "These are the lies that the prophets are telling in my name: They claim that I sent them, commanded them, and spoke to them. They dreamed up the visions they tell you. Their predictions are worthless. They are the products of their own imagination."

¹⁵"I didn't send these prophets. Yet, they prophesy in my name that there will be no wars or famines in this land. So this is what I, the LORD, say about them: Wars and famines will bring an end to these prophets."

¹⁶The people they prophesy to will be thrown out into the streets of Jerusalem. They will be victims of famines and wars."

No one will bury them, their wives, their sons, or their daughters. I will pour on them the destruction that they deserve.

¹⁷"Say this to them: My eyes flow with tears day and night without stopping because my dear people will suffer massive destruction. It will be a very serious blow."

¹⁸If I go to the field, I see those killed because of war. If I go to the city, I see those sick because of famine. Prophets and priests wander through a land they haven't heard of.

¹⁹Have you completely rejected Judah? Do you despise Zion? Why have you struck us so hard that we cannot heal? We hope for peace, but no good comes from it. We hope for a time of healing, but there's only terror.

²⁰O LORD, we realize our wickedness and the wrongs done by our ancestors. We have sinned against you.

²¹For the sake of your name, don't despise us. Don't dishonor your glorious throne. Remember your promise to us; don't break it.

²²The worthless gods of the nations can't make it rain. By themselves, the

skies cant give showers. But you can,
O LORD our God. We have hope in you
because you do all these things.

15¹ Then the LORD said to me,
"Even if Moses and Samuel were
standing in front of me, I would not feel
sorry for these people. Send them away
from me, and let them go.

² When they ask you where they should
go, say to them, This is what the LORD
says: Those who are destined to die
will die. Those who are destined to die
in wars will die in wars. Those who are
destined to die in famines will die in
famines. Those who are destined to die
in captivity will die in captivity.

³ "I will devise four ways to punish
them," declares the LORD. "I will send
swords to kill, dogs to drag away, and
birds and animals to devour and destroy.

⁴ I will make these people a horrifying
sight to all the kingdoms on the earth.
This will happen because of what Judahs
King Manasseh, son of Hezekiah, did in
Jerusalem.

⁵ No one will take pity on you,
Jerusalem. No one will mourn for you.

No one will bother to ask how you are doing.

⁶"You have left me," declares the LORD. "You have turned your back on me. So I will use my power against you and destroy you. I'm tired of showing compassion to you.

⁷"I will separate them with a winnowing shovel at the city gates. I will make them childless. I will destroy my people because they will not change their ways.

⁸Their widows will be more numerous than the grains of sand on the seashore. At noontime I will send a destroyer against the mothers of young men. I will suddenly bring anguish and terror to them.

⁹A mother who gives birth to seven sons will grow faint and breathe her last. She will die, ashamed and humiliated, while it is still daylight. I will put survivors from these people to death in the presence of their enemies," declares the LORD.

¹⁰I'm so miserable! Why did my mother give birth to me? I am a man who argues and quarrels with the whole earth. I

have never lent or borrowed anything. Yet, everyone curses me.

¹¹ The LORD said, "I will certainly rescue you for a good reason. I will certainly make your enemies plead with you in times of disaster and in times of distress.

¹² (No one can break iron, iron from the north, or bronze.)

¹³ I will give away your wealth and treasures as loot as the price for all the sins that you have committed throughout your territory.

¹⁴ I will make you serve your enemies in a land that you havent heard of, because my anger has started a fire. It will burn you."

¹⁵ O LORD, you understand. Remember me, take care of me, and take revenge on those who persecute me. Be patient, and dont take me away. You should know that Ive been insulted because of you.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I devoured them. Your words are my joy and my hearts delight, because I am called by your name, O LORD God of Armies.

¹⁷ I didnt keep company with those who laugh and have fun. I sat alone because

your hand was on me. You filled me with outrage.

¹⁸Why is my pain unending and my wound incurable, refusing to heal? Will you disappoint me like a stream that dries up in summertime?

¹⁹This is what the LORD says: If you will return, I will take you back. If you will speak what is worthwhile and not what is worthless, you will stand in my presence. The people will return to you, but you will not return to them.

²⁰I will make you like a solid bronze wall in front of these people. They will fight you, but they will not defeat you. I am with you, and I will save you and rescue you, declares the LORD.

²¹I will rescue you from the power of wicked people and free you from the power of tyrants.

16¹The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Don't marry! Don't have any sons or daughters in this place!

³This is what the LORD says about the sons and daughters born in this place and about the mothers and fathers who have children in this land:

⁴They will die horrible deaths. No one will mourn for them or bury them. They will be like manure on the ground. Wars and famines will bring them to an end. Their bodies will be food for birds and animals.

⁵"This is what the LORD says: Don't go into a house where people are grieving. Don't go to mourn or to grieve for them. I'm taking my peace, love, and compassion away from these people," declares the LORD.

⁶"Old and young alike will die in this land. No one will mourn for them or bury them. No one will cut his own body or shave his own head for them.

⁷No one will offer food to comfort those who mourn the dead. No one will give a consoling drink to those who have lost their fathers or mothers.

⁸"Don't even go into a home where there is a banquet. Don't sit with them to eat and drink.

⁹This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: I'm going to put a stop to the sounds of joy and happiness and the sounds of brides and grooms

in this place. This will happen in your lifetime, while you watch.

¹⁰"When you tell the people all these things, they will ask you, Why does the LORD threaten us with all these disasters? What have we done wrong? How have we sinned against the LORD our God?

¹¹Then say to them, Its because your ancestors abandoned me, declares the LORD. They followed other gods, served them, worshiped them, and abandoned me. They didnt obey my teachings.

¹²You have done worse than your ancestors. All of you are following your own stubborn, evil ways that keep you from obeying me.

¹³So I will throw you out of this land into a land that you and your ancestors havent heard of. There you will serve other gods day and night because I will no longer have pity on you.

¹⁴"That is why the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when people will no longer begin an oath with, The LORD brought the people of Israel out of Egypt. As the LORD lives.

¹⁵But they will say, The LORD brought the people of Israel out of the land of the north and all the lands where he had scattered them. As the LORD lives. They will say this because I will bring them back to the land that I gave their ancestors.

¹⁶"I'm going to send for many fishermen," declares the LORD, "and they will catch the people of Israel. After that, I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt for them on every mountain and hill and even in the cracks in the rocks.

¹⁷I see everything that they do. They can't hide anything from me. Their wickedness can't be hidden; I can see it.

¹⁸First, I will have them pay twice as much for their wickedness and their sin, because they have polluted my land. They have filled my property with the lifeless statues of their detestable and disgusting idols."

¹⁹The LORD is my strength and my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble. Nations come to you from the most distant parts of the world and say, "Our

ancestors have inherited lies, worthless and unprofitable gods."

²⁰"People can't make gods for themselves. They aren't really gods.

²¹That is what I will teach them. This time I will make my power and my strength known to them. Then they will know that my name is the LORD."

17 ¹The LORD says, "Judah's sin is written with an iron pen. It is engraved with a diamond point on the tablet of their hearts and on the horns of their altars.

²Even their children remember their altars and their poles dedicated to the goddess Asherah beside large trees on high hills

³and on mountains in the open country. I will turn your wealth and all your treasures into loot. I will do this because of your worship sites and your sin throughout all your territory.

⁴You will lose the inheritance that I gave you. I will make you serve your enemies in a land that you haven't heard of. I will do this because you have stirred up the fire of my anger. It will burn forever.

⁵"This is what the LORD says: Cursed is the person who trusts humans, who makes flesh and blood his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD.

⁶He will be like a bush in the wilderness. He will not see when something good comes. He will live in the dry places in the desert, in a salty land where no one can live.

⁷Blessed is the person who trusts the LORD. The LORD will be his confidence.

⁸He will be like a tree that is planted by water. It will send its roots down to a stream. It will not be afraid in the heat of summer. Its leaves will turn green. It will not be anxious during droughts. It will not stop producing fruit.

⁹"The human mind is the most deceitful of all things. It is incurable. No one can understand how deceitful it is.

¹⁰I, the LORD, search minds and test hearts. I will reward each person for what he has done. I will reward him for the results of his actions.

¹¹A person who gets rich dishonestly is like a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay. During his lifetime, he will

lose his wealth. In the end, he will be a godless fool."

¹²Our holy place is a glorious throne, highly honored from the beginning.

¹³O LORD, the Hope of Israel, all who abandon you will be put to shame. Those who turn away from you will be written in dust, because they abandon the LORD, the fountain of lifegiving water.

¹⁴Heal me, O LORD, and I will be healed. Rescue me, and I will be rescued. You are the one I praise.

¹⁵People keep asking me, "Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come."

¹⁶I have not run away from being your shepherd, and I have not longed for the day of destruction. You know what came out of my mouth.

¹⁷Do not terrorize me. You are my refuge on the day of disaster.

¹⁸Put my persecutors to shame, but do not let me be put to shame. Terrify them, but do not let me be terrified. Bring the day of disaster on them, and destroy them completely.

¹⁹This is what the LORD said to me: Stand at Peoples Gate, where the kings

of Judah go in and out. Then stand at every gate in Jerusalem.

²⁰Tell everyone: "Listen to the word of the LORD, you kings of Judah, all the people of Judah, and all those who live in Jerusalem, and go through these gates.

²¹This is what the LORD says: Watch out! If you value your lives, do not carry anything on the day of worship or bring it through the gates of Jerusalem.

²²Do not bring anything out of your homes on the day of worship. Do not do any work, but observe the day of worship as a holy day, as I told your ancestors.

²³Your ancestors did not obey me or pay attention to me. They were impossible to deal with and would not listen or accept discipline.

²⁴"Now," declares the LORD, "you must listen to me and not bring anything through the gates of this city on the day of worship. You must observe the day of worship as a holy day by not doing any work on it.

²⁵If you do this, then the kings and princes who sit on Davids throne will come through the gates of this city. They

and their princes will ride in chariots and on horses along with the people of Judah and those who live in Jerusalem. This city will always have people living in it.

²⁶"People will come from the cities of Judah, from all around Jerusalem, from the territory of Benjamin, from the foothills, from the mountains, and from the Negev. They will bring burnt offerings, sacrifices, grain offerings, and incense. They will also bring thank offerings to the LORDS temple.

²⁷But you must listen to me and observe the day of worship as a holy day by not carrying anything through the gates of Jerusalem on the day of worship. If you dont do this, I will set its gates on fire. The fire will burn down the palaces in Jerusalem, and you wont be able to put it out."

18¹The LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah. He said,

²"Go to the potters house. There I will give you my message."

³I went to the potters house, and he was working there at his wheel.

⁴Whenever a clay pot he was working on was ruined, he would rework it into a

new clay pot the way he wanted to make it.

⁵The LORD spoke his word to me. The LORD asked,

⁶"Nation of Israel, cant I do with you as this potter does with clay? Nation of Israel, you are like the clay in the potters hands.

⁷"At one time I may threaten to tear up, break down, and destroy a nation or a kingdom.

⁸But suppose the nation that I threatened turns away from doing wrong. Then I will change my plans about the disaster I planned to do to it.

⁹"At another time I may promise to build and plant a nation or a kingdom.

¹⁰But suppose that nation does what I consider evil and doesnt obey me. Then I will change my plans about the good that I promised to do to it.

¹¹"Now say to the people of Judah and to those who live in Jerusalem, This is what the LORD says: Im going to prepare a disaster and make plans against you. Turn from your evil ways, change your lives, and do good.

¹²"But they will answer, Its useless!
Well live the way we want to. Well go our
own stubborn, evil ways.

¹³"This is what the LORD says: Ask
among the nations if anyone has ever
heard anything like this. The people of
Israel have done a very horrible thing.

¹⁴The rocky slopes of Lebanon are
never without snow. The cool mountain
streams never dry up.

¹⁵But my people have forgotten me.
They burn incense as an offering to
worthless idols, and they stumble along
the way, on the ancient path. They go on
side roads and not on major highways.

¹⁶Their land will become desolate
and something to be hissed at forever.
Everyone who will pass by it will be
stunned and shake his head.

¹⁷Like the east wind I will scatter them
in front of the enemy. On the day of their
disaster, I will show them my back, not
my face."

¹⁸Then they said, "Lets plot against
Jeremiah, because the teachings of the
priests, the advice of wise people, and
the word of the prophets wont disappear.

Accuse him! Pay no attention to anything he says."

¹⁹Pay attention to me, O LORD, and listen to what my accusers say.

²⁰Good should not be paid back with evil. They dig a pit to take my life. Remember how I stood in your presence and pleaded for them in order to turn your anger away from them.

²¹Now, hand their children over to famine. Pour out their blood by using your sword. Then their wives will become childless widows. Their husbands will be put to death. Their young men will be struck down in battle.

²²Make them cry out from their homes when you suddenly send troops against them, because they dug a pit to catch me and hid snares for my feet.

²³But you, O LORD, know that they plan to kill me. Don't forgive their crimes. Don't wipe their sins out of your sight. Make them stumble in your presence. Deal with them when you get angry.

19¹This is what the LORD says: Go and buy a clay jar from a potter. Take along some of the leaders of the

people and some of the leaders of the priests.

²Go to the valley of Ben Hinnom at the entrance to Potsherd Gate. Announce there the things I plan to do.

³Say, "Listen to the word of the LORD, you kings of Judah and those who live in Jerusalem. This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: I'm going to bring such a disaster on this place that the ears of everyone who hears about it will ring.

⁴"The people, their ancestors, and the kings of Judah have abandoned me. They have made this place unrecognizable by burning incense as an offering to other gods that they hadn't heard of. They have filled this place with the blood of innocent people.

⁵They have built worship sites to burn their children as sacrifices to Baal. I didn't ask them or command them to do this. It never entered my mind.

⁶"That is why the days are coming, declares the LORD, when this place will no longer be called Topheth or the valley of Ben Hinnom. Instead, it will be called Slaughter Valley.

⁷ I will smash the plans of Judah and Jerusalem in this place. I will cut them down with swords in front of their enemies and with the hands of those who want to kill them. I will give their bodies as food to birds and to animals.

⁸ I will devastate this city. It will become something to hiss at. Everyone who goes by it will be stunned and hiss with contempt at all the disasters that happen to it.

⁹ I will make the people eat the flesh of their sons and daughters. They will eat each others flesh during blockades and hardships that their enemies impose on them when they want to kill them."

¹⁰ The LORD says, "Then smash the jar in front of the men who went with you.

¹¹ Say to them, This is what the LORD of Armies says: I will smash these people and this city as this potters jar was smashed beyond repair. They will bury the dead in Topheth until theres no other place to bury them.

¹² Thats what I will do to this place and to those who live in it, declares the LORD. I will make this city like Topheth.

¹³ The houses in Jerusalem, the houses of the kings of Judah, and all the rooftops of the houses will be unclean like this city Topheth. This is because people burned incense to the entire army of heaven and poured out wine offerings to other gods."

¹⁴ Then Jeremiah left Topheth, where the LORD had sent him to prophesy. He stood in the courtyard of the LORDS temple and said to all the people,

¹⁵ "This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: I'm going to bring on this city and on all its towns the disasters that I threatened. They've become impossible to deal with, and they refuse to obey me."

20¹ Now the priest, Immers son Pashhur, the chief officer of the LORDS temple, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things.

² Pashhur struck the prophet Jeremiah and put him in prison at Upper Benjamin Gate that was in the LORDS temple.

³ The next day when Pashhur took Jeremiah out of prison, Jeremiah said to him, "The LORD doesnt call you Pashhur, but he calls you Terror Everywhere.

⁴This is what the LORD says: I'm going to make you terrify yourself and all your friends. Their enemies swords will kill them, and you will see it with your own eyes. I will hand all of Judah over to the king of Babylon. He will take the people away as captives to Babylon or kill them with swords.

⁵I will hand all the riches of this city over to their enemies. This will include all its produce, all its valuables, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah. Their enemies will loot them, take them away, and bring them to Babylon.

⁶And you, Pashhur, and all those who live in your house will go into captivity. You will go to Babylon, and you will die there. You will be buried there together with all your friends to whom you prophesied these lies."

⁷O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived. You overpowered me and won. I've been made fun of all day long. Everyone mocks me.

⁸Each time I speak, I have to cry out and shout, "Violence and destruction!" The word of the LORD has made me the

object of insults and contempt all day long.

⁹I think to myself, "I can forget the LORD and no longer speak his name." But his word is inside me like a burning fire shut up in my bones. I wear myself out holding it in, but I can't do it any longer.

¹⁰I have heard many people whispering, "Terror is everywhere! Report him! Let's report him!" All my closest friends are waiting to see me stumble. They say, "Maybe he will be tricked. Then we can overpower him and take revenge on him."

¹¹But the LORD is on my side like a terrifying warrior. That is why those who persecute me will stumble. They can't win. They will be very ashamed that they can't succeed. Their eternal shame will not be forgotten.

¹²But the LORD of Armies examines the righteous. He sees their motives and thoughts. I want to see you take revenge on them, because I've brought my case to you.

¹³ Sing to the LORD! Praise the LORD! He has rescued the lives of needy people from the power of wicked people.

¹⁴ Cursed is the day that I was born, the day that my mother gave birth to me. May it not be blessed.

¹⁵ Cursed is the man who made my father very happy with the news that he had just become the father of a baby boy.

¹⁶ May that man be like the cities that the LORD destroyed without pity. May he hear a cry of alarm in the morning and a battle cry at noon.

¹⁷ If only he had killed me while I was in the womb. Then my mother would have been my grave, and she would have always been pregnant.

¹⁸ Why did I come out of the womb? All I've seen is trouble and grief. I will finish my days in shame.

21 ¹ The LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah when King Zedekiah sent Pashhur, son of Malchiah, and the priest Zephaniah, son of Maaseiah, to Jeremiah. They said,

² "Consult the LORD for us, because King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon

is attacking us. Maybe the LORD will perform miracles for us so that Nebuchadnezzar will retreat."

³Jeremiah responded to them, "This is what you should say to Zedekiah,

⁴This is what the LORD God of Israel says: Im going to take your weapons away from you. You are using these weapons to fight the king of Babylon as well as the Babylonians who are now blockading you outside the wall. I will bring the Babylonians inside this city.

⁵I will fight you in anger, fury, and rage with my powerful hand and my mighty arm.

⁶I will defeat those who live in this city, both people and animals. They will die from a terrible plague.

⁷Afterwards, declares the LORD, I will hand over Judahs King Zedekiah, his officials, the people, and everyone else in this city who survives the plague, war, and famine. They will be handed over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and to their enemies who want to kill them. Nebuchadnezzar will kill them with swords. He wont spare them, show them compassion, or care for them.

⁸"Say to these people, This is what the LORD says: I am going to give you the choice of life or death.

⁹Those who live in this city will die in the war, famine, or plague. Those of you who go out and surrender to the Babylonians will live. You will escape with your lives.

¹⁰I've decided to harm this city, not to do good to it, declares the LORD. It will be handed over to the king of Babylon, and he will burn it down.

¹¹"Say to the nation of the king of Judah, Listen to the word of the LORD,

¹²descendants of David. This is what the LORD says: Judge fairly every morning. Rescue those who have been robbed from those who oppress them. Otherwise, my fury will break out and burn like fire. No one will be able to put it out because of the evil things you have done.

¹³"I'm against you, Jerusalem. You are the city that is in the valley and on the rock in the plain," declares the LORD. "But you ask, "Who can attack us? Who can enter our places of refuge?"

¹⁴"I will punish you because of the evil things you have done," declares the LORD. "I will start a fire in your forests, and it will burn up everything around you."

22¹ This is what the LORD says: Go to the palace of the king of Judah, and speak this message there:

²"Listen to the word of the LORD, you officials, you people who come into these gates, and you, king of Judah, the one sitting on Davids throne.

³"This is what the LORD says: Judge fairly, and do what is right. Rescue those who have been robbed from those who oppress them. Dont mistreat foreigners, orphans, or widows, and dont oppress them. Dont kill innocent people in this place.

⁴If you do what I say, then the kings who sit on Davids throne will ride through the gates of this palace in chariots and on horses along with their officials and their people.

⁵But if you dont do what I say, I will take an oath on myself," declares the LORD, "that this palace will become a pile of rubble.

⁶"This is what the LORD says about the palace of the king of Judah: This palace is like Gilead to me, like the top of Lebanon. I will certainly turn it into a desert, into cities that no one lives in.

⁷I will send people to destroy you. They will have their own weapons. They will cut down your finest cedar trees and throw them on a fire.

⁸"People from many nations will pass by this city and ask each other, Why has the LORD done this to this important city?

⁹The answer will be: They rejected the promise of the LORD their God. They worshiped other gods and served them."

¹⁰Dont cry for the dead. Dont shake your heads at them. Cry bitterly for those who are taken away, because they wont come back to see their homeland.

¹¹This is what the LORD says about King Josiahs son Shallum, who succeeded his father as king of Judah and left this place: He will never come back here again.

¹²He will die in the place where he was taken captive, and he will never see this land again.

¹³"How horrible it will be for the person who builds his house dishonestly and his upper rooms through injustice. He makes his neighbors work for nothing and doesn't pay them for their work.

¹⁴He says, I will build a large house for myself with big upper rooms. He cuts out windows in it, panels the rooms with cedar, and paints them red.

¹⁵Do you think you're a better king than others because you use more cedar? Your father ate and drank and did what is fair and right. Everything went well for him.

¹⁶He defended the cause of the poor and needy. Everything went well for him. Isn't this what it means to know me?" asks the LORD.

¹⁷"But your eyes and your mind are set on nothing but dishonest profits. You kill innocent people and violently oppress your people."

¹⁸This is what the LORD says about Jehoiakim, son of Judah's King Josiah: People won't mourn for him and say, "How horrible it is for my brother and sister!" They won't mourn for him and

say, "How horrible it is for my master and his splendor!"

¹⁹He will receive a donkeys burial. He will be dragged off and thrown outside the gates of Jerusalem.

²⁰"Go to Lebanon and cry! Raise your voice in Bashan! Cry out from Abarim, because all your lovers are defeated."

²¹I spoke to you when you were prosperous, but you said that you wouldnt listen. This is how youve been ever since you were young. You dont listen to me.

²²The wind will blow away all your shepherds, and your lovers will go into captivity. Then you will be ashamed and disgraced by all your wickedness.

²³You live in Lebanon and have your nest in the cedars. But you will groan when pain strikes you, pain like a woman giving birth to a child.

²⁴"As I live," declares the LORD, "even though you, Jehoiakin, son of Judahs King Jehoiakim, are the signet ring on my right hand, I will pull you off my hand.

²⁵I will hand you over to those who want to kill you, those you fearKing

Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and the Babylonians.

²⁶I will throw you and your mother into another land. You weren't born there, but you will die there.

²⁷You will want to return to this land, but you won't be allowed to come home."

²⁸This Jehoiakin is like a rejected and broken pot that no one wants. Is that why he and his descendants will be thrown out and cast into another land they've never heard of?

²⁹O land, land, land! Listen to the word of the LORD.

³⁰This is what the LORD says: Write this about Jehoiakin: He will be childless. He won't prosper in his lifetime. None of his descendants will succeed him as king. They won't sit on David's throne and rule Judah again.

23¹ "How horrible it will be for the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep in my care," declares the LORD.

²"This is what I, the LORD God of Israel, said to the shepherds who take care of my people: You have scattered my sheep and chased them away. You

have not taken care of them, so now I will take care of you by punishing you for the evil you have done," declares the LORD.

³"Then I will gather the remaining part of my flock from all the countries where I chased them. I will bring them back to their pasture, and they will be fertile and increase in number.

⁴I will put shepherds over them. Those shepherds will take care of them. My sheep will no longer be afraid or terrified, and not one of them will be missing," declares the LORD.

⁵"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will grow a righteous branch for David. He will be a king who will rule wisely. He will do what is fair and right in the land.

⁶In his lifetime, Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. This is the name that he will be given: The LORD Our Righteousness.

⁷"That is why the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when peoples oaths will no longer be, The LORD brought the people of Israel out of Egypt. As the LORD lives.

⁸Instead, their oaths will be, The LORD brought the descendants of the nation of Israel out of the land of the north and all the lands where he had scattered them. As the LORD lives At that time they will live in their own land.

⁹"Say this about the prophets: I am deeply disturbed. All my bones tremble. I am like a drunk, like a person who has had too much wine, because of the LORD and his holy words.

¹⁰The land is filled with adulterers. The land mourns because of the curse. Pastures in the wilderness have dried up. The people are evil, and they use their strength to do the wrong things.

¹¹The prophets and priests are godless. Even in my temple I've found them doing evil," declares the LORD.

¹²"That is why their own way will become like slippery paths in the dark. They will be chased away, and they will fall down in the dark. I will bring disaster on them. It is time for them to be punished," declares the LORD.

¹³"Say this about the prophets of Samaria: I saw something disgusting.

The prophets of Samaria prophesied by Baal and led my people Israel astray.

¹⁴"Say this about the prophets of Jerusalem: I see something horrible. The prophets of Jerusalem commit adultery and live a lie. They support those who do evil so that no one turns back from his wickedness. They are all like Sodom to me, and those who live in Jerusalem are like Gomorrah."

¹⁵This is what the LORD of Armies says about the prophets: I will give them wormwood to eat and poison to drink. The prophets of Jerusalem have spread godlessness throughout the land.

¹⁶This is what the LORD of Armies says: Don't listen to what the prophets are saying to you. They fill you with false hope. They speak about visions that they dreamed up. These visions are not from the LORD.

¹⁷They keep saying to those who despise me, "The LORD says, Everything will go well for you." They tell all who live by their own stubborn ways, "Nothing bad will happen to you."

¹⁸Who is in the LORDS inner circle and sees and hears his word? Who pays attention and listens to his word?

¹⁹The storm of the LORD will come with his anger. Like a windstorm, it will swirl down on the heads of the wicked.

²⁰The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has done everything he intends to do. In the last days you will understand this clearly.

²¹I didnt send these prophets, yet they ran with their message. I didnt speak to them, yet they prophesied.

²²If they had been in my inner circle, they would have announced my words to my people. They would have turned back from their evil ways and the evil they have done.

²³"I am a God who is near. I am also a God who is far away," declares the LORD.

²⁴"No one can hide so that I cant see him," declares the LORD. "I fill heaven and earth!" declares the LORD.

²⁵"Ive heard the prophets who speak lies in my name. They say, I had a dream! I had a dream!

²⁶How long will these prophets continue to lie and deceive?

²⁷They tell each other the dreams they had, because they want to make my people forget my name, as their ancestors forgot my name because of Baal.

²⁸The prophet who has a dream should tell his dream. However, the person who has my word should honestly speak my word. What does grain have to do with straw?" asks the LORD.

²⁹"Isn't my word like fire or like a hammer that shatters a rock?" asks the LORD.

³⁰"I'm against the prophets who steal my words from each other," declares the LORD.

³¹"I'm against the prophets who speak their own thoughts and say that they speak for me.

³²I'm against those who prophesy dreams they made up," declares the LORD. "They tell the dreams they made up and lead my people astray with their lies and their wild talk. I didn't send them or command them to go. They don't help these people at all," declares the LORD.

³³"When these people, the prophets, or the priests ask you, What revelation has the LORD burdened you with now? say to them, You are the burden! I will abandon you, declares the LORD.

³⁴Suppose the prophets, the priests, or these people say, This is the LORDS revelation! I will punish them and their families.

³⁵They should ask their neighbors and their relatives, What is the LORDS answer? and What did the LORD say?

³⁶They should never again say, This is the LORDS revelation, because each persons word becomes the revelation. They will twist the words of the living God, the LORD of Armies, our God.

³⁷"Jeremiah, say this to the prophets, What was the LORDS answer to you? and What did the LORD say?

³⁸Suppose they say, This is the LORDS revelation! Then say, This is what the LORD says: Because you have said, "This is the LORDS revelation!" even though I commanded you not to repeat this saying,

³⁹I will certainly forget you. I will throw you out of my presence and out of the city that I gave you and your ancestors.

⁴⁰I will bring eternal disgrace and shame on you. It will never be forgotten."

24¹ King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took Jehoiakin (son of King Jehoiakim of Judah), the princes of Judah, the skilled workers, and the builders from Jerusalem into captivity and brought them to Babylon. After this, the LORD showed me two baskets of figs set in front of the LORDS temple.

²One basket had very good figs, like figs that ripen first. The other basket had very bad figs. These figs were so bad that they couldnt be eaten.

³Then the LORD asked me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" I answered, "Figs. Figs that are very good. I also see figs that are very bad, so bad that they cant be eaten."

⁴The LORD spoke his word to me,

⁵"This is what the LORD God of Israel says: The captives of Judah, whom I sent away from here to Babylon, are like these good figs. I will look kindly on them.

⁶I will watch over them for their own good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up and not tear them down. I will plant them and not uproot them.

⁷I will give them the desire to know that I am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God, because they will wholeheartedly come back to me.

⁸"But this is what the LORD says about the bad figs that are so bad that they can't be eaten. The LORD says, Like these bad figs, I will abandon King Zedekiah of Judah, his princes, the remaining few in Jerusalem who stayed behind in this land, and those who are living in Egypt.

⁹I will make them a horrifying sight to all the kingdoms of the earth. They will be a disgrace and an example. They will become something ridiculed and cursed wherever I scatter them.

¹⁰I will send wars, famines, and plagues until they disappear from the land that I gave to them and their ancestors."

25¹The LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah about all the people of Judah when Jehoiakim, son of Josiah,

was in his fourth year as king. (This was the first year that Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon.)

²The prophet Jeremiah spoke to all the people of Judah and to everyone who lived in Jerusalem. He said,

³"For 23 years, from the time that Josiah, son of Amon, was in his thirteenth year as king of Judah until today, the LORD continued to speak his word to me. So I have spoken to you again and again, but you have not listened.

⁴"Even though the LORD has sent all his servants the prophets to you, you haven't listened or paid attention to them.

⁵The prophets said, Turn from your evil ways and the evil you have done, and live in the land that the LORD permanently gave to you and your ancestors.

⁶Dont follow other gods to serve and worship them. Dont make me furious about the idols your hands have shaped. Then I wont harm you.

⁷But you haven't listened to me, declares the LORD. You have made me furious about the idols your hands have

shaped and have brought harm upon yourselves.

⁸"This is what the LORD of Armies says: You did not listen to my words,

⁹so I'm going to send for all the families from the north. I will also send for my servant King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, declares the LORD. I will bring the families from the north to attack this land, its people, and all these surrounding nations. I'm going to destroy them and turn them into something terrible, something ridiculed, and something permanently ruined.

¹⁰I will take from them the sounds of joy and happiness, the sounds of brides and grooms, the sound of mills, and the light of lamps.

¹¹This whole land will be ruined and become a wasteland. These nations will serve the king of Babylon for 70 years.

¹²"When the 70 years are over, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation for their crimes, declares the LORD. I will turn Babylon into a permanent wasteland.

¹³I will bring on that land all the disasters I threatened to do to it,

everything that Jeremiah prophesied against all the nations, everything written in this book.

¹⁴Many nations and great kings will make slaves of the people of Babylon, and I will pay them back for what they have done."

¹⁵This is what the LORD God of Israel said to me: Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my fury, and make all the nations to whom I'm sending you drink from it.

¹⁶When they drink from it, they will stagger and go insane because of the wars that I'm going to send them.

¹⁷So I took the cup from the LORDS hand. I made all the nations to whom the LORD sent me drink from it:

¹⁸Jerusalem and the cities of Judah as well as its kings and officials. When they drank from it, they became wastelands and ruins, something ridiculed and cursed, until today.

¹⁹I also made these people drink from it: Pharaoh king of Egypt, his servants, officials, all his people,

²⁰and all the foreign people living among them; all the kings of the land of

Uz; all the kings of Philistia, those from the cities of Ashkelon, Gaza, and Ekron, and the people left in Ashdod;

²¹ Edom, Moab, and the people of Ammon;

²² all the kings of Tyre and Sidon, and the kings on the seacoast;

²³ Dedan, Tema, Buz, and all who shave the hair on their foreheads;

²⁴ all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of the foreign people living in the desert;

²⁵ all the kings of Zimri, all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of Media;

²⁶ all the kings of the north, near and far, one after another all the kingdoms of the earth. Last of all, the king of Sheshach will drink from the cup.

²⁷ The LORD said, "Say to them, This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Drink, get drunk, vomit, fall down, and don't get up because of the wars that I'm going to send you.

²⁸ But if they refuse to take the cup from your hand and drink from it, say to them, This is what the LORD of Armies says: You must drink from it!

²⁹I am going to bring disaster on the city that is named after me. Do you think you'll go unpunished? You will not go unpunished! I'm declaring war on all those who live on earth, declares the LORD of Armies.

³⁰"That is why you will prophesy all these things to them and say, The LORD roars from above. He thunders from his holy dwelling place. He roars against his land. He shouts like those who stomp grapes. He shouts against all those who live on earth.

³¹The sound is echoing to the ends of the earth because the LORD has brought charges against the nations. He will judge all humans. He will kill the wicked, declares the LORD.

³²"This is what the LORD of Armies says: Disaster is spreading from nation to nation. A great storm is brewing from the distant corners of the earth."

³³On that day those killed by the LORD will stretch from one end of the earth to the other. They will not be mourned, taken away, or buried. They will become like manure on the ground.

³⁴Mourn, you shepherds, and cry.
Roll in the dust, you leaders of the flock. The time has come for you to be slaughtered. The time has come for you to be scattered, and you will break like fine pottery.

³⁵There will be no place for the shepherds to flee, no escape for the leaders of the flock.

³⁶The shepherds are crying and the leaders of the flock are mourning because the LORD is stripping their pasture.

³⁷The peaceful pastures are destroyed by the LORDS burning anger.

³⁸He has left his lair like a lion. Their land has been ruined because of the heat of the oppressor, because of the fury of his anger.

26¹The LORD spoke his word when Judahs King Jehoiakim, son of Josiah, began to rule. He said,

²"This is what the LORD says: Stand in the courtyard of the LORDS temple, and speak to all the people who come from the cities of Judah to worship in the LORDS temple. Tell them everything that

I command you to tell them. Don't leave out a single word.

³Maybe they'll listen, and they'll turn from their evil ways. Then I'll change my plan about the disaster I intend to bring on them because of the evil they have done."

⁴The LORD added, "Also say to them, This is what the LORD says: Suppose you don't listen to me and don't follow my teachings that I set in front of you.

⁵Suppose you don't listen to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I sent to you again and again, even though you didn't listen.

⁶Then I will do to this temple what I did to Shiloh. I will turn this city into something that will be cursed by all the nations on earth."

⁷The priests, the prophets, and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these things in the LORDS temple.

⁸But as soon as Jeremiah finished saying everything that the LORD had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets, and all the people grabbed him and said, "You must die!

⁹Why do you prophesy in the LORDS name that this temple will be like Shiloh and this city will become a pile of rubble with no one living here?" Then all the people crowded around Jeremiah in the LORDS temple.

¹⁰When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they went from the kings palace to the LORDS temple. They sat at the entrance of New Gate to the LORDS temple.

¹¹Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and all the people, "This man is condemned to die because he prophesied against this city as you yourselves have heard."

¹²Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and all the people, "The LORD sent me to prophesy everything that you have heard me say against this temple and against this city.

¹³Now, change your ways and what you are doing, and listen to the LORD your God. Then the LORD will change his plan about the disaster that he intends to bring on you.

¹⁴"My life is in your hands. Do with me whatever you think is good and right.

¹⁵But know for certain that if you put me to death, you, this city, and the people living in it will be guilty of killing an innocent person. The LORD has certainly sent me to speak all these things to you."

¹⁶Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and prophets, "This man should not be condemned to die. He has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God."

¹⁷Then some of the leaders in the land got up and said to the entire crowd,

¹⁸"Micah from Moresheth prophesied at the time of Judah's King Hezekiah and said to all the people of Judah, This is what the LORD of Armies says: Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a pile of rubble, and the temple mountain will become a worship site covered with trees.

¹⁹Did Judah's King Hezekiah and all the people of Judah put Micah to death? No! Hezekiah feared the LORD and sought the LORDS favor. So the LORD changed his plan about the disaster he intended to bring on them. But we are about to bring a bigger disaster on ourselves."

²⁰There was another man prophesying in the name of the LORD. His name was Uriah, son of Shemaiah, from Kiriath Jearim. He prophesied against this city and this land as Jeremiah did.

²¹When King Jehoiakim and all his personal troops and officials heard what Uriah said, the king wanted to put him to death. But Uriah heard about it and fled in fear to Egypt.

²²King Jehoiakim sent soldiers to Egypt: Elnathan (son of Achbor) and other soldiers along with him.

²³They brought Uriah from Egypt and took him to King Jehoiakim. The king executed Uriah and threw his body into the burial ground for the common people.

²⁴Ahikam, son of Shaphan, supported Jeremiah. So Jeremiah was not handed over to the people to be put to death.

27¹When Zedekiah, son of King Josiah of Judah, began to rule, the LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah.

²This is what the LORD said to me: Make leather straps and a wooden yoke, and strap the yoke on your neck.

³Then send messages to the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Sidon, with messengers who have come to King Zedekiah of Judah in Jerusalem.

⁴Give them an order for their masters: "This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Say this to your masters,

⁵I used my great strength and my powerful arm to make the earth along with the people and the animals on it. I give it to anyone I please.

⁶Now I have handed all these countries over to my servant King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I have even made wild animals serve him.

⁷All nations will serve him, his son, and his grandson until Babylon is defeated. Then many nations and great kings will make him their slave.

⁸"Suppose nations or kingdoms won't serve or surrender to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I will punish those nations by wars, famines, and plagues, until I have put an end to them by Nebuchadnezzar's power, declares the LORD.

⁹Don't listen to prophets, mediums, interpreters of dreams, fortunetellers, or sorcerers who tell you that you'll never serve the king of Babylon.

¹⁰They are prophesying lies to you. They will cause you to be taken far from your lands. I'll scatter you, and you will die.

¹¹But suppose a nation surrenders to the king of Babylon and serves him. I will let it stay in its own land. People will farm the land and live on it," declares the LORD.

¹²I spoke the same message to King Zedekiah of Judah, "Surrender to the king of Babylon, serve him and his people, and you will stay alive.

¹³Why should you and your people die in wars, famines, and plagues? The LORD has threatened the nations that don't serve the king of Babylon.

¹⁴Don't listen to the prophets who tell you that you'll never serve the king of Babylon. They are prophesying lies to you.

¹⁵I didn't send them, declares the LORD. They prophesy lies in my name.

So I will scatter you, and you and the prophets will die."

¹⁶I also spoke this message to the priests and all the people. "This is what the LORD said to me: Dont listen to the prophets who tell you that the utensils of the LORDS temple will be brought back from Babylon soon. They are prophesying lies to you.

¹⁷Dont listen to them. Instead, serve the king of Babylon, and live. Why should this city be turned into rubble?

¹⁸If they are prophets and the LORD is speaking to them, they should beg the LORD of Armies not to allow the utensils that are left in the LORDS temple, in the royal palace of Judah, and in Jerusalem to be taken away to Babylon.

¹⁹"Babylons King Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiakin, son of King Jehoiakim of Judah, into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon along with all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem. But he didnt take the pillars, the bronze pool, the stands, and the rest of the utensils that are left in this city.

²⁰(SEE 27: 19)

²¹ This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says about the utensils that are left in the LORDS temple, in the royal palace of Judah, and in Jerusalem:

²² They will be taken to Babylon and stay there until I come for them, declares the LORD. I will take them from there and bring them back to this place."

28¹ In that same year, early in the rule of King Zedekiah of Judah, in the fifth month of his fourth year as king, the prophet Hananiah, son of Azzur, from Gibeon, spoke to me in the LORDS temple. He said to me in front of the priests and all the people,

² "This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.

³ Within two years I will bring back all the utensils of the LORDS temple that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took from this place and carried off to Babylon.

⁴ I will also bring back to this place Jehoiakin, son of King Jehoiakim of Judah, and all the captives of Judah who went to Babylon, declares the LORD.

So I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon."

⁵The prophet Jeremiah replied to the prophet Hananiah in front of the priests and all the people standing in the LORDS temple.

⁶He said, "Amen! May the LORD do this! May the LORD make your prophecy come true and bring back the utensils of the LORDS temple and all the captives from Babylon to this place.

⁷But now listen to this message that I am speaking to you and to all the people:

⁸Long ago, the prophets who preceded you and me prophesied wars, disasters, and plagues against many countries and great kingdoms.

⁹But the prophet who prophesied peace was recognized as a prophet that the LORD sent only if the message of the prophet came true."

¹⁰Then the prophet Hananiah took the yoke off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah and broke it.

¹¹Hananiah said in front of all the people, "This is what the LORD says: In the same way, I will break the yoke of

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon off the neck of all the nations within two years." Then the prophet Jeremiah went on his way.

¹²After the prophet Hananiah broke the yoke off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, the LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah. He said,

¹³"Tell Hananiah, This is what the LORD says: You have broken the wooden yoke, but I will replace it with an iron yoke.

¹⁴This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: I will put an iron yoke on the necks of all these nations so that they will serve King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. They will serve him! I will even make wild animals serve him."

¹⁵Then Jeremiah told the prophet Hananiah, "Now listen, Hananiah, the LORD hasnt sent you. You have made these people believe a lie.

¹⁶This is what the LORD says: Im going to remove you from the face of the earth. You will die this year because you have encouraged rebellion against the LORD."

¹⁷So the prophet Hananiah died in the seventh month of that year.

29¹ The prophet Jeremiah sent a letter from Jerusalem to the rest of the leaders among the captives. He also sent it to the priests, the prophets, and all the people that Nebuchadnezzar took away as captives from Jerusalem to Babylon.

² (This was after King Jehoiakin and his mother, the court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and metal workers left Jerusalem.)

³ He sent the letter with Shaphans son Elasah and Hilkiahs son Gemariah, whom King Zedekiah of Judah had sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. The letter said:

⁴ This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says to all those who were taken captive from Jerusalem to Babylon:

⁵ Build houses, and live in them. Plant gardens, and eat what they produce.

⁶ Get married, and have sons and daughters. Find wives for your sons, and let your daughters get married so that they can have sons and daughters. Grow in number there; don't decrease.

⁷Work for the good of the city where I've taken you as captives, and pray to the LORD for that city. When it prospers, you will also prosper.

⁸This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Don't let the prophets or the mediums who are among you trick you. Don't even listen to your own dreams.

⁹These people are prophesying lies to you in my name. I didn't send them, declares the LORD.

¹⁰This is what the LORD says: When Babylons 70 years are over, I will come to you. I will keep my promise to you and bring you back to this place.

¹¹I know the plans that I have for you, declares the LORD. They are plans for peace and not disaster, plans to give you a future filled with hope.

¹²Then you will call to me. You will come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

¹³When you look for me, you will find me. When you wholeheartedly seek me,

¹⁴I will let you find me, declares the LORD. I will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the

nations and places where I've scattered you, declares the LORD. I will bring you back from the place where you are being held captive.

¹⁵You've said that the LORD has given you prophets in Babylon.

¹⁶But this is what the LORD says about the king who sits on David's throne and about all the people who live in this city, the people who are your relatives and who weren't taken away as captives:

¹⁷The LORD of Armies says: I'm going to send them wars, famines, and plagues. These people are like rotten figs to me, figs that are so bad that they can't be eaten.

¹⁸I will chase them with wars, famines, and plagues. I will make them a horrifying sight to all the kingdoms on the earth. They will become something cursed, ridiculed, and hissed at, and they will be a disgrace among all the nations where I scatter them.

¹⁹They didn't listen to me, declares the LORD. I sent them my servants the prophets again and again, but they refused to listen, declares the LORD.

²⁰ So listen to the word of the LORD, all you captives who were sent away from Jerusalem to Babylon.

²¹ This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says about Kolaiahs son Ahab and about Maaseiahs son Zedekiah, who prophesy lies to you in my name: I'm going to hand them over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I will kill them as you watch.

²² Because of them, all the captives from Judah who are in Babylon will use this curse: May the LORD curse you as he cursed Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon burned to death.

²³ They have done shameful things in Israel. They committed adultery with their neighbors wives and spoke lies in my name. I didn't command them to do this. I know what they have done. I'm a witness, declares the LORD.

²⁴ The LORD says, "Say to Shemaiah from Nehelam,

²⁵ This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: You sent letters in your own name to all the people who are in Jerusalem, to the priest Zephaniah,

son of Maaseiah, and to all the priests. These letters said:

²⁶The LORD made you priest instead of Jehoiada so that there would be officials for the LORDS temple. You should put any lunatic who acts like a prophet in prison and in shackles.

²⁷Now, why havent you arrested Jeremiah from Anathoth? After all, he acts like a prophet among you.

²⁸Thats why Jeremiah sent this message to us in Babylon: You will be captives a long time. Build houses, and live in them. Plant gardens, and eat what they produce."

²⁹The priest Zephaniah read this letter to the prophet Jeremiah.

³⁰Then the LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah. He said,

³¹"Send this message to all the captives: This is what the LORD says about Shemaiah from Nehelam: Shemaiah prophesied to you, but I didnt send him. He has made you believe a lie.

³²The LORD says: I will punish Shemaiah from Nehelam. I will also punish his descendants. No one from his family will be left alive. He will not

see the blessings that I'm going to send my people, declares the LORD, because he has encouraged rebellion against the LORD."

30¹ The LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah. He said,

²"This is what the LORD God of Israel says: Write in a book everything that I tell you.

³The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity. I will bring them back to the land that I gave their ancestors, and they will take possession of it."

⁴This is the message that the LORD spoke about Israel and Judah:

⁵"This is what the LORD says: "We hear cries of fear, cries of panic, not cries of peace.

⁶Ask now, and see: Can a man give birth to a child? Why, then, do I see every strong man holding his stomach in pain like a woman giving birth to a child? Why has every face turned pale?

⁷How terrible that day will be! There will be no other day like it. It will be a

time of calamity for the descendants of Jacob, but they will be rescued from it.

⁸"On that day," declares the LORD of Armies, "I will break the yokes off your necks and tear off your ropes. Foreigners will no longer make you serve them.

⁹You will serve the LORD your God and David your king. I will establish him for you.

¹⁰"Don't be afraid, my servant Jacob," declares the LORD. Don't be terrified, Israel. I'm going to rescue you from a faraway place. I'm going to rescue your descendants from where they are captives. The descendants of Jacob will again have peace and security, and no one will frighten them.

¹¹I am with you, and I will rescue you," declares the LORD. "I will completely destroy all the nations where I scattered you, but I will not completely destroy you. I will correct you with justice. I won't let you go entirely unpunished.

¹²"This is what the LORD says: Your wound is incurable. Your injury is beyond healing.

¹³No one argues that you should be healed. No medicine will heal you.

¹⁴All your lovers have forgotten you, and they don't want you anymore. I've punished you as an enemy would. I've corrected you as a cruel person would. You are very wicked, and you have many sins.

¹⁵Why do you cry about your wound, your injury that can't be cured? I've done this to you. You are very wicked, and you have many sins.

¹⁶That is why everyone who devours you will be devoured, and all your enemies will be taken away as captives. Those who looted you will be looted. Those who stole from you in war will have things stolen from them.

¹⁷"I'll restore your health and heal your wounds," declares the LORD. "People call you an outcast: Zion, no one cares for you.

¹⁸"This is what the LORD says: I'm going to bring the captives back to Jacob's tents and show compassion on their homes. Cities will be built on the ruins, and fortified palaces will be built in their rightful place.

¹⁹The people who live there will sing songs of praise, and the sound of

laughter will be heard from there. I'll make them numerous, and their number won't decrease. I'll bring them honor, and they won't be considered unimportant.

²⁰ Their children will be like they were long ago. Their community will be established in my presence, and I will punish everyone who oppresses them.

²¹ Their leader will be someone from their own people. Their ruler will come from among them. I'll bring him near, and he will come close to me. Who would dare to come near me?" asks the LORD.

²² You will be my people, and I will be your God.

²³ The storm of the LORD will come with his anger. Like a driving wind, it will swirl down on the heads of the wicked.

²⁴ The LORD'S burning anger will not turn back until he has done everything he intends to do. In the last days you will understand this clearly.

31 ¹ "At that time," declares the LORD, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people."

² This is what the LORD says: The people who survived the wars have

found favor in the desert. Israel went to find its rest.

³The LORD appeared to me in a faraway place and said, "I love you with an everlasting love. So I will continue to show you my kindness.

⁴Once again I will build you up, and you will be rebuilt, my dear people Israel. Once again you will take your tambourines, and you will go dancing with happy people.

⁵Once again you will plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria. Those who plant them will enjoy the fruit.

⁶There will be a day when watchmen on the mountains of Ephraim will call out this message: Arise! Let's go to Zion, to the LORD our God."

⁷This is what the LORD says: Sing a happy song about Jacob. Sing joyfully for the leader of the nations. Shout, sing praise, and say, "O LORD, rescue your people, the remaining few from Israel."

⁸"I will bring them from the land of the north. I will gather them from the farthest parts of the earth. Blind people and lame people will return together

with pregnant women and those in labor. A large crowd will return here.

⁹They will cry as they return. They will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams on a level path where they will not stumble. I will be a Father to Israel, and Ephraim will be my firstborn.

¹⁰"You nations, listen to the word of the LORD. Tell it to the distant islands. Say, The one who scattered the people of Israel will gather them and watch over them as a shepherd watches over his flock.

¹¹The LORD will free the descendants of Jacob and reclaim them from those who are stronger than they are.

¹²They will come and shout for joy on top of Mount Zion. They will stream to it to enjoy the LORDS blessings: fresh grain, new wine, and olive oil, lambs and calves. Their lives will be like wellwatered gardens, and they will never suffer again.

¹³Then young women will rejoice and dance along with young men and old men. I will turn their mourning into joy.

I will comfort them. I will give them joy in place of their sorrow.

¹⁴I will satisfy the priests with rich food. My people will be filled with my blessings," declares the LORD.

¹⁵This is what the LORD says: A sound is heard in Ramah, the sound of crying in bitter grief. Rachel is crying for her children. She refuses to be comforted, because they are dead.

¹⁶This is what the LORD says: Stop your crying, and wipe away your tears. You will be rewarded for your work, declares the LORD. You will return from the land of the enemy.

¹⁷Your future is filled with hope, declares the LORD. Your children will return to their own territory.

¹⁸"I have certainly heard Ephraim mourn and say, You disciplined me, and I was disciplined. I was like a young, untrained calf. Turn me, and I will be turned, because you are the LORD my God.

¹⁹After I was turned around, I changed the way I thought and acted. After I was taught a lesson, I hung my head in shame. I was so ashamed and

humiliated, because of all the stupid things I have done ever since I was young.

²⁰Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he a pleasant child? Even though I have often spoken against him, I still think fondly of him. That is why my heart longs for him, and I will certainly have compassion on him," declares the LORD.

²¹Set up landmarks! Put up road signs! Remember the highway, the road on which you traveled. Come back, my dear people Israel, come back to your cities.

²²How long will you wander around, you unfaithful people? The LORD will create something new on earth: A woman will protect a man.

²³This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: When I have brought them back from captivity, they will once again use this saying in Judah and in its cities: "The LORD will bless you, home of righteousness, holy mountain.

²⁴Judah and all its cities will live there together. Farmers and shepherds will also live there.

²⁵ I will give those who are weary all they need. I will refresh everyone who is filled with sorrow."

²⁶ At this, I woke up and looked around. My sleep had been pleasant.

²⁷ "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will plant the nations of Israel and Judah with people and animals.

²⁸ Once I watched over them to uproot them, to tear them down, and to wreck, ruin, and hurt them. Now I will watch over them to build them up and to plant them," declares the LORD.

²⁹ "When those days come, people will no longer say, Fathers have eaten sour grapes, and their childrens teeth are set on edge.

³⁰ But each person will die for his own sin. Whoever eats sour grapes will have his own teeth set on edge.

³¹ "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new promise to Israel and Judah.

³² It will not be like the promise that I made to their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of Egypt. They rejected that promise,

although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.

³³"But this is the promise that I will make to Israel after those days," declares the LORD: "I will put my teachings inside them, and I will write those teachings on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

³⁴No longer will each person teach his neighbors or his relatives by saying, Know the LORD. All of them, from the least important to the most important, will know me," declares the LORD, "because I will forgive their wickedness and I will no longer hold their sins against them."

³⁵The LORD provides the sun to be a light during the day. He orders the moon and stars to be lights during the night. He stirs up the sea so that its waves roar. His name is the LORD of Armies. This is what the LORD says:

³⁶Only if these laws stop working, declares the LORD, will Israel's descendants stop being a nation in my presence.

³⁷This is what the LORD says: Only if the heavens could be measured or

the foundations of the earth could be searched, would I ever reject all of Israels descendants because of everything that they have done, declares the LORD.

³⁸"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the city will be rebuilt for me from the Tower of Hananel to Corner Gate.

³⁹A measuring line will stretch from there straight to the Hill of Gareb, and then it will turn to Goah.

⁴⁰The whole valley, filled with its dead bodies and ashes, and the whole area to the Kidron Valley, as far as the corner of Horse Gate in the east, will be holy to the LORD. It will never be uprooted or torn down again."

32¹The LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah during Zedekiahs tenth year as king of Judah. (This was Nebuchadnezzars eighteenth year as king.)

²At that time the army of the king of Babylon was blockading Jerusalem. The prophet Jeremiah was locked up in the courtyard of the prison. This prison was in the palace of the king of Judah.

³When King Zedekiah of Judah locked up Jeremiah, Zedekiah asked him, "Why are you prophesying? You are saying, This is what the LORD says: I'm going to hand this city over to the king of Babylon, and he will capture it.

⁴King Zedekiah of Judah will not escape from the Babylonians. He will certainly be handed over to the king of Babylon. He will talk to Nebuchadnezzar in person and look him in the eye.

⁵Nebuchadnezzar will take Zedekiah to Babylon, and Zedekiah will stay there until I deal with him, declares the LORD. When you fight the Babylonians, you won't win."

⁶Jeremiah said, "The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

⁷Jeremiah, your cousin Hanamel, son of Shallum, is going to come to you and say, "Buy my field that is in Anathoth, because as the closest relative it is your responsibility to buy it."

⁸"Then, as the LORD had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the courtyard of the prison. He said to me, Please buy my field that is in Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. It is your

responsibility to purchase it, because the rights of the closest relative belong to you. Buy it for yourself. Then I knew that the LORD had spoken to me.

⁹"So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and gave him the money. The field cost seven ounces of silver.

¹⁰I signed the deed, sealed it, had people witness the signing of the deed, and paid out the silver.

¹¹Then I took the sealed copy of the deed, containing the terms and conditions, as well as an unsealed copy.

¹²I gave the copies of the deeds to Baruch, son of Neriah and grandson of Mahseiah. I did this in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and the witnesses who had signed the deed and in the presence of all the Jews who were sitting in the courtyard of the prison.

¹³Then I gave Baruch these orders:

¹⁴This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Take both of these documents, both the sealed and the unsealed copies of the deed. Put them in a clay jar so that they will last a long time.

¹⁵ This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: My people will again buy houses, fields, and vineyards in this land.

¹⁶ "After I had given the copies to Baruch, son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD. I prayed,

¹⁷ Almighty LORD, you made heaven and earth by your great strength and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

¹⁸ You show mercy to thousands of generations. However, you punish children for the wickedness of their parents. You, God, are great and mighty. Your name is the LORD of Armies.

¹⁹ You make wise plans and do mighty things. You see everything the descendants of Adam do. You reward them for the way they live and for what they do.

²⁰ You performed miraculous signs and amazing things in Egypt. To this day you are still doing them in Israel. You made a name for yourself that continues to this day.

²¹ You brought your people from Egypt with miraculous signs and amazing

things, with a mighty hand and a powerful arm, and with great terror.

²²You gave them the land that you swore with an oath to give their ancestors, the land flowing with milk and honey.

²³They entered and took possession of it. However, they refused to obey you or to follow your teachings. They didn't do anything you commanded them to do, so you brought all this disaster on them.

²⁴"See how the dirt ramps have been built up around the city to capture it! Because of wars, famines, and plagues, the city will be handed over to the Babylonians who are attacking it. What you have threatened to do has happened, as you can see.

²⁵Yet you, Almighty LORD, told me to buy a field with money and get witnesses to confirm it, although the city was handed over to the Babylonians."

²⁶The LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah. He said,

²⁷"I am the LORD God of all humanity. Nothing is too hard for me.

²⁸This is what the LORD says: I'm going to hand this city over to the Babylonians

and King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. They will capture it.

²⁹"The Babylonians who are attacking this city will break in, set this city on fire, and burn it down. They will burn down the houses of people who made me furious by going up to the roofs to burn incense to Baal and to pour out wine offerings to other gods.

³⁰Ever since they were young, the people of Israel and Judah have done what I consider evil. The people of Israel have made me furious by what they've done," declares the LORD.

³¹"The people in this city have made me so angry and furious from the day they built it to this day. So now I must remove this city from my presence.

³²"The people of Israel and Judah have made me furious because they are evil. The people, their kings and officials, their priests and prophets, and the Judeans and those who live in Jerusalem

³³have turned their backs, not their faces to me. I taught them again and again, but they refused to listen and learn.

³⁴ They set up their detestable idols in the temple that is called by my name, and they dishonored it.

³⁵ In the valley of Ben Hinnom they built worship sites for Baal to sacrifice their sons and daughters to Molech. I didn't ask them to do this. It never entered my mind. I didn't make Judah sin.

³⁶ "You have said this about the city, Because of wars, famines, and plagues it will be handed over to the king of Babylon. Now this is what the LORD God of Israel says:

³⁷ I am going to gather the people from all the lands where I scattered them in my anger, fury, and terrifying wrath. I will bring them back to this place and make them live here securely.

³⁸ They will be my people, and I will be their God.

³⁹ I will give them the same attitude and the same purpose so that they will fear me as long as they live. This will be for their own good and for the good of their children.

⁴⁰ I will make an eternal promise to them that I will never stop blessing

them. I will make them fear me so that they will never turn away from me.

⁴¹ I will enjoy blessing them. With all my heart and soul I will faithfully plant them in this land.

⁴² "This is what the LORD says: As I brought all these disasters on these people, so I will bring on them all these blessings that I have promised them.

⁴³ You have said that this land is a wasteland, without people or animals living in it. You have also said that it has been handed over to the Babylonians. But people will once again buy fields in this land.

⁴⁴ They will buy fields for money, sign deeds, seal them, and have people witness the signing of the deeds. This will happen in the territory of Benjamin, in the region of Jerusalem, in the cities of Judah, in the cities on the mountains, in the hill country, and in the Negev because I will bring them back from their captivity," declares the LORD.

33¹ While Jeremiah was still being held in the courtyard of the prison, the LORD spoke his word to him a second time. The LORD said,

²"I made the earth, formed it, and set it in place. My name is the LORD. This is what the LORD says:

³Call to me, and I will answer you. I will tell you great and mysterious things that you do not know.

⁴The houses in this city and the palaces of the kings of Judah have been torn down to be used against the dirt ramps and weapons of the Babylonians. This is what the LORD God of Israel says about this:

⁵The people of Israel fought the Babylonians. Now their houses are filled with the bodies of their own people I killed in my anger and my fury. I will hide my face from this city because of its wickedness.

⁶"But I will heal this city and restore it to health. I will heal its people, and I will give them peace and security.

⁷I will restore Judah and Israel and rebuild them as they were before.

⁸I will cleanse them from all the sins that they have committed against me. I will forgive them for all the sins that they have committed against me and for rebelling against me.

⁹Then Jerusalem will be my source of joy, praise, and honor. All the nations on earth will hear about all the blessings that I will give to Jerusalem. They will be afraid and tremble because of all the prosperity that I will provide for it.

¹⁰"This is what the LORD says: You have said that this place is ruined and that no people or animals live in it. Its true! The cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem are deserted. No people or animals live there. But once again you will hear

¹¹the sounds of joy and happiness and the sounds of brides and grooms. You will hear those who bring thank offerings to the LORDS temple say, Give thanks to the LORD of Armies because the LORD is good, because his mercy endures forever. I will restore the fortunes of the land to what they were before," says the LORD.

¹²"This is what the LORD of Armies says: In this deserted place, where no people or animals live, and in all its cities, there will once again be pastures where shepherds can rest their flocks.

¹³In the cities on the mountains, in the foothills, in the Negev, in the territory of Benjamin, in the area around Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, shepherds will once again count their sheep," says the LORD.

¹⁴"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will keep the promise that I made to Israel and Judah.

¹⁵In those days and at that time, I will cause a righteous branch to spring up for David. He will do what is fair and right in the land.

¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live securely. Jerusalem will be called The LORD Our Righteousness.

¹⁷"This is what the LORD says: David will never fail to have a descendant sitting on the throne of Israel.

¹⁸The Levitical priests will never fail to have a descendant in my presence to sacrifice burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to prepare daily sacrifices."

¹⁹The LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah. He said,

²⁰"This is what the LORD says: Suppose you could break my arrangement with day and night so that they wouldnt come at their proper time.

²¹Then my arrangement with my servant David could be broken, and he would not have a descendant to rule on his throne. The arrangement with my servants the Levitical priests could also be broken.

²²I will multiply the descendants of my servant David and the Levites who serve me like the stars of heaven that cannot be counted and the sand on the seashore that cannot be measured."

²³Then the LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah. He said,

²⁴"Havent you noticed what these people have said? They have said that the LORD has rejected the two families he has chosen. They despise my people, and they no longer consider them a nation.

²⁵"This is what the LORD says: Suppose I hadnt made an arrangement with day and night or made laws for heaven and earth.

²⁶Then I would reject the descendants of Jacob and of my servant David. I would not let any of Davids descendants rule the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. However, I will restore their fortunes and love them."

34¹The LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, his entire army, and all the kingdoms and people that he ruled were attacking Jerusalem and all its cities. He said,

²"This is what the LORD God of Israel says: Go to King Zedekiah of Judah, and tell him, The LORD says: I'm going to hand this city over to the king of Babylon, and he will burn it down.

³You will not escape from him. You will certainly be captured and handed over to him. You will see the king of Babylon with your own eyes, and he will talk to you face to face. Then you will go to Babylon.

⁴"Listen to the word of the LORD, King Zedekiah of Judah. This is what the LORD says about you: You will not die in war.

⁵ You will die peacefully. People will burn funeral fires for you as they did for your ancestors, the kings who lived before you. They will say, "Oh, master," as they mourn for you. I have spoken my word, declares the LORD."

⁶ The prophet Jeremiah told all these things to King Zedekiah of Judah in Jerusalem.

⁷ He did this when the army of the king of Babylon was attacking Jerusalem and the cities of Lachish and Azekah. These were the only fortified cities of Judah that were left.

⁸ The LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah after King Zedekiah and all the people in Jerusalem promised to free their slaves.

⁹ Everyone was supposed to free his Hebrew slaves, both male and female. No one was supposed to keep another Jew as a slave.

¹⁰ All the officials and all the people agreed and promised to free their male and female slaves and not to keep them as slaves anymore. So they set them free.

¹¹ But afterwards, they changed their minds and took back the men and

women they had freed and made them their slaves again.

¹²The LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah. He said,

¹³"This is what the LORD God of Israel says: I put a condition on the promise I made to your ancestors when I brought them from Egypt, where they were slaves. I said,

¹⁴Every seven years each of you must free any Hebrews who sold themselves to you. When they have served you for six years, you must set them free. But your ancestors refused to obey me or listen to me.

¹⁵Recently, you changed and did what I consider right. You agreed to free your neighbors, and you made a promise in my presence, in the temple that is called by my name.

¹⁶Now you have changed again and dishonored me. You brought back the male and female slaves that you had set free to live their own lives. You have forced them to be your male and female slaves again.

¹⁷"This is what the LORD says: You didn't obey me. You haven't freed your

relatives and neighbors. Now I am going to free you," declares the LORD. "I will free you to die in wars, plagues, and famines. I will make all the kingdoms of the world horrified at the thought of you.

¹⁸I will hand over the people who have rejected my promise. They have not kept the terms of the promise which they made in my presence when they cut a calf in two and passed between its pieces.

¹⁹I will hand over the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the palace officials, the priests, and all the common people who passed between the pieces of the calf.

²⁰I will hand them over to their enemies who want to kill them, and their corpses will be food for birds and wild animals.

²¹I will hand King Zedekiah of Judah and his officials over to their enemies who want to kill them and to the army of the king of Babylon, the army that has withdrawn from you.

²²I am going to give a command," declares the LORD. "I will bring that army back to this city to attack it, capture it, and burn it down. I will destroy the cities of Judah so that no one will live there."

35¹ The LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah during the reign of Jehoiakim, son of King Josiah of Judah. He said,

² "Go to the family of Rechab and talk to them. Take them into one of the side rooms in the LORDS temple, and offer them a drink of wine."

³ I took Jaazaniah, who was the son of Jeremiah and the grandson of Habazziniah, and I took Jaazaniahs brothers and all his sonsthe whole family of Rechab.

⁴ I brought them into the LORDS temple, into the side room of the sons of Hanan. (He was Igdaliahs son, the man of God.) It was next to the room of the officials and above the side room of Maaseiah, Shallums son, the doorkeeper.

⁵ Then I set cups and pitchers filled with wine in front of the family of Rechab. I said to them, "Drink some wine."

⁶ They answered, "We dont drink wine, because our ancestor Jonadab, Rechabs son, gave us this order: You and your descendants must never drink wine."

⁷ Never build any houses or plant any fields or vineyards. You must never have

any of these things. You must always live in tents so that you may live for a long time in the land where you are staying.

⁸We, along with our wives, sons, and daughters, have obeyed our ancestor Jonadab, Rechabs son, in everything he ordered us to do. We have never drunk wine,

⁹built houses to live in, or owned vineyards, pastures, or grainfields.

¹⁰We live in tents, and we have obeyed everything our ancestor Jonadab ordered us to do.

¹¹But when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon invaded this land, we said, Let's go to Jerusalem to escape the Babylonian and Aramean armies. That's why we are living in Jerusalem."

¹²Then the LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah. He said,

¹³"This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Tell the people of Judah and those who live in Jerusalem, Won't you ever learn your lesson and obey my words? declares the LORD.

¹⁴Jonadab, Rechabs son, ordered his descendants not to drink wine. This order has been carried out. His

descendants have not drunk any wine to this day, because they have obeyed their ancestors order. I have spoken to you again and again, but you have refused to listen to me.

¹⁵I have sent all my servants the prophets to you again and again. They said, "Turn from your evil ways, do what is right, and dont follow other gods in order to serve them. Then you will live in the land that I gave you and your ancestors." However, you refused to listen to me or obey me.

¹⁶The descendants of Jonadab, Rechabs son, have carried out the orders of their ancestor, but you refuse to listen to me.

¹⁷"This is what the LORD God of Armies, the God of Israel, says: I am going to bring on Judah and on all those who live in Jerusalem all the disasters that I threatened. I have spoken to them, but they didnt listen. I called to them, but they didnt answer."

¹⁸Then Jeremiah said to the family of Rechab, "This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: You obeyed the order of your ancestor

Jonadab, followed all his instructions, and did exactly what he told you to do.

¹⁹So this is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: A descendant of Jonadab, Rechabs son, will always serve me."

36¹In the fourth year of the reign of Jehoiakim, son of King Josiah of Judah, the LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah. He said,

²"Take a scroll, and write on it everything that I have dictated to you about Israel, Judah, and all the other nations from the time I spoke to you during the reign of Josiah until today.

³Maybe the nation of Judah will hear about all the disasters that I plan to bring on them, and they will turn from their wicked ways. Then I will forgive their wickedness and their sins."

⁴Then Jeremiah called Baruch, son of Neriah. Jeremiah dictated everything that the LORD had told him, and Baruch wrote it all down on a scroll.

⁵Jeremiah told Baruch, "I'm no longer allowed to go to the LORDS temple.

⁶On a day of fasting, you must read from the scroll the LORDS message that

you wrote as I dictated. You must read it to the people in the LORDS temple. You must also read it to all the people of Judah when they come from their cities.

⁷ Maybe their prayers will come into the LORDS presence, and they will turn from their evil ways. The LORD has threatened these people with his terrifying anger and fury."

⁸ Baruch, son of Neriah, did as the prophet Jeremiah commanded him. In the LORDS temple he read from the scroll everything that the LORD had said.

⁹ In the ninth month of the fifth year of the reign of Jehoiakim, son of King Josiah of Judah, a time for fasting was called. It was a time for all the people in Jerusalem and for everyone who was coming from any city in Judah to Jerusalem to fast in the LORDS presence.

¹⁰ Then Baruch read the scroll containing the words of Jeremiah. Baruch read it to all the people in the LORDS temple in the room of the scribe Gemariah, son of Shaphan, in the upper courtyard at the entrance of New Gate of the LORDS temple.

¹¹ Micaiah, who was the son of Gemariah and the grandson of Shaphan, heard Baruch read from the scroll everything the LORD had said.

¹² Then he went down to the scribes room in the kings palace where all the scribes were sitting. The scribe Elishama, Delaiah (son of Shemaiah), Elnathan (son of Achbor), Gemariah (son of Shaphan), Zedekiah (son of Hananiah), and all the other officials were there.

¹³ Micaiah told them everything he heard Baruch read from the scroll publicly.

¹⁴ Then all the officials sent Jehudi, who was the son of Nethaniah, the grandson of Shelemiah, and the greatgrandson of Cushi, to Baruch. Jehudi said to Baruch, "Bring the scroll that you read publicly, and come with me." Baruch, son of Neriah, took the scroll and went with him to see the officers.

¹⁵ They said to Baruch, "Please sit down, and read it to us." So Baruch read it to them.

¹⁶ When they heard everything, they turned to each other in terror. They

said to Baruch, "We must tell the king everything."

¹⁷Then they asked Baruch, "Please tell us how you wrote all this. Did Jeremiah dictate it to you?"

¹⁸Baruch answered, "He dictated everything to me, and I wrote it on the scroll in ink."

¹⁹The officials said to Baruch, "You and Jeremiah must hide. Dont let anyone know where you are."

²⁰After they put the scroll in the side room of the scribe Elishama, they went to the king in the courtyard and told him everything.

²¹Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll. He took the scroll from the side room of the scribe Elishama. Jehudi read it to the king and all the officials standing by the king.

²²It was the ninth month, and the king was in his winter house sitting in front of the fire in the fireplace.

²³As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a scribes knife and throw them into the fire in the fireplace. He did this until the whole scroll was burned up.

²⁴ The king and all his attendants didn't show any fear or tear their clothes in fear when they heard everything being read.

²⁵ Even when Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he refused to listen to them.

²⁶ The king commanded Jerahmeel (the king's son), Seraiah (son of Azriel), and Shelemiah (son of Abdeel) to arrest the scribe Baruch and the prophet Jeremiah. But the LORD had hidden Baruch and Jeremiah.

²⁷ After the king burned up the scroll that Baruch had written and that Jeremiah had dictated, the LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah. He said,

²⁸ "Take another scroll, and write on it everything that was written on the scroll that King Jehoiakim of Judah burned.

²⁹ Say about King Jehoiakim of Judah, This is what the LORD says: You burned this scroll, and you asked Jeremiah, "Why did you write that the king of Babylon will certainly come to destroy this land and take away people and animals?"

³⁰This is what the LORD says about King Jehoiakim of Judah: He will have no one to sit on Davids throne, and his own corpse will be thrown out and exposed to the heat of day and the cold of night.

³¹I will punish him, his descendants, and his attendants for their wickedness. They refused to listen. So I will bring on them, on those who live in Jerusalem, and on the people of Judah all the disasters that I have threatened."

³²Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to the scribe Baruch, son of Neriah. As Jeremiah dictated, Baruch wrote on it everything that was on the scroll that King Jehoiakim of Judah had burned. They added many similar messages.

37¹ King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon appointed Zedekiah, son of Josiah, to be king of Judah. Zedekiah succeeded Jehoiakin, son of Jehoiakim.

²But Zedekiah, his administrators, and the common people didnt listen to what the LORD had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah.

³King Zedekiah sent Jehucal (son of Shelemiah) and the priest Zephaniah

(son of Maaseiah) to the prophet Jeremiah. They asked him, "Please pray to the LORD our God for us."

⁴Jeremiah was still free to come and go among the people. The people of Jerusalem hadn't put him in prison yet.

⁵Pharaoh's army had come from Egypt, and when the Babylonians who were blockading Jerusalem heard this news, they retreated from Jerusalem.

⁶The LORD spoke his word to the prophet Jeremiah. He said,

⁷"This is what the LORD God of Israel says: Say this to the king of Judah, who sent you to get advice from me: Pharaoh's army has come out to help you. But it will go back to Egypt, its own land.

⁸Then the Babylonians will return. They will attack the city, capture it, and burn it down.

⁹"This is what the LORD says: Don't deceive yourselves by thinking that the Babylonians will leave you. They will not leave you.

¹⁰Even if you would defeat the entire Babylonian army so that they had only a few badly wounded men left in their

tents, they would get up and burn down this city."

¹¹The Babylonian army had retreated from Jerusalem because Pharaoh's army was coming.

¹²So Jeremiah wanted to leave Jerusalem and go to the territory of Benjamin to take possession of his property there among the people.

¹³But when he came to Benjamin Gate, the captain of the guard there, whose name was Irijah, son of Shelemiah and grandson of Hananiah, arrested the prophet Jeremiah. He said, "You're deserting to the Babylonians!"

¹⁴Jeremiah answered, "That's a lie! I'm not deserting to the Babylonians." But Irijah wouldn't listen to him. Irijah arrested Jeremiah and took him to the officials.

¹⁵The officials were so angry with Jeremiah that they beat him and put him in prison in the scribe Jonathan's house, which had been turned into a prison.

¹⁶Jeremiah went into a prison cell, and he stayed there a long time.

¹⁷Then King Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah, and the king asked him

privately in the palace, "Is there any message from the LORD?" Jeremiah answered, "Yes! There is a message from the LORD. You will be handed over to the king of Babylon."

¹⁸Then Jeremiah asked King Zedekiah, "What crime have I committed against you, your administrators, or these people? Why have you put me in prison?"

¹⁹Where are the prophets who told you that the king of Babylon wouldn't attack you and this land?

²⁰But now, Your Majesty, please listen, and accept my plea for mercy. Don't return me to the scribe Jonathans house, or I will die there."

²¹King Zedekiah gave the command to have Jeremiah put in the courtyard of the prison. He gave him a loaf of bread every day from the bakers street until all the bread in the city was gone. So Jeremiah stayed in the courtyard of the prison.

38¹ Shephatiah (son of Mattan), Gedaliah (son of Pashhur), Jucal (son of Shelemiah), and Pashhur (son of Malchiah) heard that Jeremiah was speaking to all the people.

²They heard Jeremiah say, "This is what the LORD says: Those who stay in this city will die in wars, famines, or plagues. But those who surrender to the Babylonians will live. They will escape with their lives.

³"This is what the LORD says: This city will certainly be handed over to the army of the king of Babylon, and it will capture the city."

⁴Then the officials said to the king, "Have this man put to death. He discourages the soldiers who are left in this city and all the people by telling them such things. This man is not trying to help these people; hes trying to hurt them."

⁵King Zedekiah answered, "Hes in your hands. I wont do anything to stop you."

⁶So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern of Malchiah, the kings son. It was in the courtyard of the prison. They used ropes to lower Jeremiah into the cistern. There was no water in the cistern, only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.

⁷But an official in the royal palace, Ebed Melech from Sudan, heard that they had

put Jeremiah in the cistern. The king happened to be sitting at Benjamin Gate.

⁸Ebed Melech left the royal palace and spoke to the king at Benjamin Gate.

⁹"Your Majesty, everything that these men have done to the prophet Jeremiah is wrong. They have thrown him into the cistern, where he'll starve to death, because there's no more bread in the city."

¹⁰Then the king gave Ebed Melech from Sudan this command: "Take 30 men from here, and lift the prophet Jeremiah out of the cistern before he dies."

¹¹So Ebed Melech took the men with him and went to the royal palace, to a room under the treasury. He took rags and torn clothes from there and lowered them with ropes to Jeremiah in the cistern.

¹²Ebed Melech from Sudan said to Jeremiah, "Put these rags and torn clothes under your arms to protect you from the ropes." Jeremiah did.

¹³They used the ropes to pull Jeremiah up and lift him out of the cistern. Then Jeremiah stayed in the courtyard of the prison.

¹⁴ King Zedekiah sent for the prophet Jeremiah and brought him to the third entrance in the LORDS temple. "Im going to ask you a question," the king said to Jeremiah. "Dont hide anything from me."

¹⁵ Jeremiah answered Zedekiah, "If I answer you, youll kill me. If I give you advice, you wont listen to me."

¹⁶ So King Zedekiah secretly swore an oath to Jeremiah, "The LORD gave us life. As the LORD lives, I will not kill you or hand you over to these men who want to kill you."

¹⁷ Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "This is what the LORD God of Armies, the God of Israel, says: If you surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, you will live, and this city will not be burned. You and your household will live.

¹⁸ But if you dont surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, this city will be handed over to the Babylonians. They will burn it down, and you will not escape from them."

¹⁹ King Zedekiah answered Jeremiah, "Im afraid of the Jews who have deserted to the Babylonians. The Babylonians

may hand me over to them, and they will torture me."

²⁰Jeremiah said, "You will not be handed over to them. Obey the LORD by doing what I'm telling you. Then everything will go well for you, and you will live.

²¹But if you refuse to surrender, this is what the LORD has shown me.

²²All the women who are left in the palace of Judah's king will be brought out to the officers of the king of Babylon. These women will say: Your trusted friends have misled you and used you. Your feet are stuck in the mud, and your friends have deserted you.

²³"All your wives and children will be brought to the Babylonians. You will not escape from them. You will be captured by the king of Babylon, and this city will be burned down."

²⁴Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, "Don't let anyone know about this conversation, or you will die.

²⁵The officials may find out that I've been talking with you. They may come to you and say, Tell us what you said to the king and what the king said to you.

Don't hide anything from us, or we'll kill you.

²⁶If they come to you, say to them, I asked the king not to send me back to Jonathans house to die there."

²⁷All the officials came to Jeremiah and questioned him. He told them exactly what the king had told him to say. So they stopped questioning him, because they hadn't heard his conversation with the king.

²⁸Jeremiah stayed in the courtyard of the prison until the day Jerusalem was captured.

39¹In the tenth month of Zedekiahs ninth year as king of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked Jerusalem with his entire army and blockaded it.

²On the ninth day of the fourth month of Zedekiahs eleventh year as king, they broke into the city.

³Then all the officers of the king of Babylon came in and sat in Middle Gate: Nergal (the quartermaster), Samgar Nebo (the chief officer), Nergal (the quartermaster and the chief

fortuneteller), and all the rest of the officers of the king of Babylon.

⁴When King Zedekiah of Judah and all the soldiers saw them, they fled. They left the city at night by way of the kings garden through the gate between the two walls, and they took the road to the plain of Jericho.

⁵The Babylonian army pursued them and caught up with Zedekiah in the plain of Jericho. They arrested him and brought him to Babylons King Nebuchadnezzar at Riblah in the territory of Hamath. The king of Babylon passed sentence on him.

⁶The king of Babylon slaughtered Zedekiahs sons as Zedekiah watched at Riblah. He also slaughtered all the leaders of Judah.

⁷Then he blinded Zedekiah, put him in bronze shackles, and took him to Babylon.

⁸The Babylonians burned down the royal palace and the peoples homes, and they tore down the walls of Jerusalem.

⁹Nebuzaradan, Babylons captain of the guard, captured the few people left in

the city, those who surrendered to him, and the rest of the people.

¹⁰But Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, left some poor people who had nothing in the land of Judah. At that time he gave them vineyards and farms.

¹¹King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon gave Nebuzaradan an order concerning Jeremiah. He said,

¹²"Take him, and look after him. Don't harm him in any way, but do for him whatever he asks."

¹³Nebuzaradan (the captain of the guard), Nebushazban (the chief official), Nergal (the quartermaster and the chief fortuneteller), and all the other leaders of the king of Babylon sent for Jeremiah.

¹⁴They took Jeremiah out of the courtyard of the prison and handed him over to Gedaliah, son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan, to take him home. So he lived among the people.

¹⁵While Jeremiah was still confined in the courtyard of the prison, the LORD spoke his word to him. The LORD said,

¹⁶"Say to Ebed Melech from Sudan, This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: I'm going to carry out

my threat against this city by bringing disaster on it instead of prosperity. At that time these things will happen as you watch.

¹⁷But at that time I will rescue you, declares the LORD. You will not be handed over to those you fear.

¹⁸I will certainly rescue you. You will not die in war. You will escape with your life because you trusted me, declares the LORD."

40¹The LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah after Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, let him go at Ramah. Nebuzaradan found Jeremiah in chains along with the captives of Jerusalem and Judah who were being taken to Babylon.

²The captain of the guard took Jeremiah aside and said to him, "The LORD your God threatened to bring this disaster on this place.

³He has carried out his threat. The LORD did as he promised because you Israelites have sinned against him and refused to obey him. That is why this has happened to you.

⁴Today I'm removing the chains from your hands. If you would like to come with me to Babylon, come, and I'll look after you. But if you don't want to come with me to Babylon, don't come. The whole land is yours. Go wherever you want.

⁵"If you wish to remain, then go back to Gedaliah, son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon appointed to govern the cities of Judah. Live among the people with him, or go anywhere you want." The captain of the guard gave Jeremiah some food and a present and let him go.

⁶Jeremiah went to Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, at Mizpah and lived with him among the people who were left in the land.

⁷All the army commanders and their men who were in the field heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, to govern the country and some of the country's poorest men, women, and children who had not been taken away to Babylon.

⁸These are the commanders who went with their men to Gedaliah at Mizpah:

Ishmael (son of Nethaniah), Johanan and Jonathan (sons of Kareah), Seraiah (son of Tanhumeth), the sons of Ephai from Netophah, and Jezaniah, who was the son of a man from Maacah.

⁹Gedaliah, son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan, swore an oath to them and their men. He said, "Don't be afraid to serve the Babylonians. Live in this country, serve the king of Babylon, and you will prosper.

¹⁰I'm going to live in Mizpah and represent you when the Babylonians come to us. Gather grapes, summer fruit, and olive oil, and put them in storage jars. Live in the cities you have taken over."

¹¹Now, all the Jews who were in Moab, Ammon, Edom, and in all the other countries heard that the king of Babylon had left a few survivors in Judah and had appointed Gedaliah, son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan, to govern them.

¹²So all the Jews returned from all the places where they had been scattered. They came to Judah and to Gedaliah at Mizpah. They gathered a large harvest of grapes and summer fruit.

¹³Kareahs son Johanan and all the army commanders who were still in the country came to Gedaliah at Mizpah.

¹⁴They asked him, "Do you know that King Baalis of the Ammonites has sent Ishmael, Nethaniahs son, to kill you?" However, Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, didnt believe them.

¹⁵Then Johanan, Kareahs son, secretly asked Gedaliah at Mizpah, "Let me kill Ishmael, Nethaniahs son. No one will know about it. Why should he kill you? All the Jews who have gathered around you would scatter. What is left of Judah would disappear."

¹⁶Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, told Johanan, Kareahs son, "Dont do that! What you are saying about Ishmael is a lie."

41 ¹In the seventh month Ishmael (son of Nethaniah and grandson of Elishama, a descendant of the royal family and of the kings officers) went with ten men to Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, at Mizpah. As they ate together at Mizpah,

²Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, and the ten men who were with him got up, drew

their swords, and killed Gedaliah, son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan. So they assassinated the man whom the king of Babylon had appointed to govern the land.

³ Ishmael also killed all the Jews who were with Gedaliah at Mizpah as well as the Babylonian soldiers that he found there.

⁴ The day after the murder of Gedaliah, before anyone knew about it,

⁵ 80 men arrived from Shechem, Shiloh, and Samaria. Their beards were shaved off, their clothes were torn, and cuts were on their bodies. They brought grain offerings and incense to the LORDS temple.

⁶ Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, left Mizpah to meet them, crying as he went. When he met them, he said to them, "Come to Gedaliah, son of Ahikam."

⁷ When they came into the city, Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, and his men slaughtered them and threw them into a cistern.

⁸ However, ten men from the group had said to Ishmael, "Don't kill us! We have wheat, barley, olive oil, and honey

hidden in the country." So he left them alone and didn't kill them along with the others.

⁹Now, the cistern where Ishmael threw all the bodies of the men he had killed was the same one that King Asa made as a part of his defense against King Baasha of Israel. Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, filled it with the bodies.

¹⁰Then Ishmael took captive the rest of the people who were at Mizpah. He captured the king's daughters and all the other people who had been left at Mizpah. They were the people whom Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, had put under the control of Gedaliah, son of Ahikam. Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, took them captive and left for Ammon.

¹¹When Kareah's son Johanan and all the army commanders who were with him heard about all the crimes Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, had done,

¹²they took all their men and went to fight Ishmael. They caught up with him at the large pool in Gibeon.

¹³When all the people who were with Ishmael saw Kareah's son Johanan and

all the army commanders who were with him, they were glad.

¹⁴Then all the people Ishmael had taken captive at Mizpah turned and ran to Kareahs son Johanan.

¹⁵Ishmael and eight of his men escaped from Johanan and fled to Ammon.

¹⁶Then Kareahs son Johanan and all the army commanders who were with him brought back the rest of the people of Mizpah whom he had rescued from Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, after Ishmael had killed Gedaliah, son of Ahikam. Johanan brought back men, women, children, soldiers, and commanders from Gibeon.

¹⁷When they left Gibeon, they stayed near Bethlehem at Geruth Kimham on their way to Egypt.

¹⁸They were afraid of the Babylonians because Ishmael had killed Gedaliah whom the king of Babylon had appointed to govern the land.

42¹Then all the army commanders along with Kareahs son Johanan and Hoshaihs son Jezaniah and all the people, from the least important to the

most important, came to the prophet Jeremiah.

²They said to him, "Please listen to our request, and pray to the LORD your God for all of us who are left here. As you can see, there are only a few of us left.

³Let the LORD your God tell us where we should go and what we should do."

⁴The prophet Jeremiah answered them, "I have listened to your request. I will pray to the LORD your God as you have requested, and I will tell you everything the LORD says. I won't keep anything from you."

⁵They said to Jeremiah, "May the LORD be a true and faithful witness against us if we don't do exactly what the LORD your God tells us to do.

⁶We will obey the LORD our God to whom we are sending you, whether it's good or bad. Yes, we will obey the LORD our God so that everything will go well for us."

⁷After ten days the LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah.

⁸So Jeremiah called Kareah's son Johanan, all the army commanders who were with him, and all the people

from the least important to the most important.

⁹Jeremiah said to them, "You sent me to plead your case humbly to the LORD. This is what the LORD God of Israel says:

¹⁰Suppose you stay in this land. Then I will build you up and not tear you down. I will plant you and not uproot you. I will change my plans about the disaster I've brought on you.

¹¹Don't be afraid of the king of Babylon, whom you now fear. Don't be afraid of him, declares the LORD. I'm with you. I will save you and rescue you from his power.

¹²I will have compassion on you. I will make him have compassion on you and return you to your land.

¹³"But suppose you say, We won't stay in this land, and you disobey the LORD your God.

¹⁴Then you say, We'll go to Egypt, where we won't have to see war, hear the sound of a ram's horn, or be hungry. We'll stay there.

¹⁵"Now, listen to the word of the LORD, you people who are left in Judah. This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of

Israel, says: Suppose you're determined to go to Egypt, and you go and live there.

¹⁶Then the wars you fear will catch up with you in Egypt. The famines you dread will follow you to Egypt, and you will die there.

¹⁷So all the people who decide to go and live in Egypt will die in wars, famines, and plagues. No one will survive or escape the disasters I will bring on them.

¹⁸"This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: As my anger and my fury were poured out on those who live in Jerusalem, so my fury will be poured out on you if you go to Egypt. You will become a curse word. You will become something ridiculed, cursed, and disgraced. You won't see this place again.

¹⁹"The LORD has told you people who are left in Judah not to go to Egypt. You need to know that I am warning you today.

²⁰You only deceived yourselves when you sent me to the LORD your God and said, Pray to the LORD our God for us,

and tell us everything that the LORD our God says, and we will do it.

²¹ I have told you today, but you won't obey anything the LORD your God sent me to tell you.

²² But now, you need to know that you will die in wars, famines, or plagues in the place where you want to go and live."

43 ¹ So Jeremiah finished telling all the people the message from the LORD their God. He told them everything the LORD their God sent him to tell them.

² Azariah (son of Hoshaiah), Johanan (son of Kareah), and all the arrogant people said to Jeremiah, "You're lying! The LORD our God didn't send you to tell us that we must not go to live in Egypt.

³ But Baruch, son of Neriah, has turned you against us in order to hand us over to the Babylonians. Then they will kill us or take us as captives to Babylon."

⁴ So Johanan (son of Kareah), all the army commanders, and all the people didn't obey the LORD. They didn't stay in Judah.

⁵Johanan (son of Kareah) and all the army commanders took all the people who were left in Judah to Egypt. These were all the people who had come back to Judah from the places where they had been scattered.

⁶They took men, women, children, and the kings daughters. They took every person whom Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, had left with Gedaliah, son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan, including the prophet Jeremiah and Baruch, son of Neriah.

⁷They didnt listen to the LORD, so they went to Egypt. They went as far as Tahpanhes.

⁸Then the LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah in Tahpanhes. He said,

⁹"Take some large stones, and bury them under the brick pavement at the entrance to the Pharaohs palace in Tahpanhes. Do this while the people of Judah watch you.

¹⁰Say to them, This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Im going to send for my servant King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I will set his throne over these stones that I buried,

and I will spread his royal canopy above them.

¹¹He will defeat Egypt. He will bring death to those who are supposed to die. He will capture those who are supposed to be captured. He will kill in battle those who are supposed to be killed in battle.

¹²He will set fire to the temples of Egypt's gods. He will burn down the temples and take their gods captive. Nebuchadnezzar will put on Egypt as his coat as a shepherd puts on his coat. He will leave Egypt peacefully.

¹³At Beth Shemesh he will break the monuments in Egypt and burn down the temples of Egypt's gods."

44¹The LORD spoke his word to Jeremiah about all the Jews living in Egypt at Migdol, Tahpanhes, Noph, and Pathros.

²This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: You have seen all the disasters I brought on Jerusalem and on all the cities of Judah. Today they are deserted ruins.

³It is because their people did evil, and they made me angry. They went to

burn incense and serve other gods that neither you nor your ancestors heard of.

⁴I have sent my servants the prophets to you again and again to tell you not to do these detestable things that I hate.

⁵But you wouldn't listen or pay attention. You wouldn't turn from your wicked ways and wouldn't stop burning incense as an offering to other gods.

⁶That is why my fury and anger were poured out and continued to burn in the cities of Judah and on the streets of Jerusalem. So they became the desolate ruin that they are today.

⁷Now, this is what the LORD God of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Why do you bring this terrible disaster on yourselves? Why do you keep destroying men, women, children, and babies from Judah until none are left?

⁸Why do you make me angry by burning incense to other gods in Egypt, where you have come to live. You will destroy yourselves and be cursed and ridiculed by all the nations on earth.

⁹Have you forgotten the wicked things done by your ancestors, by the kings of Judah and their wives, and by you and

your wives in Judah and on the streets of Jerusalem?

¹⁰You have not humbled yourselves even to this day. You haven't feared me or lived your lives by my teachings or by my decrees that I gave your ancestors.

¹¹This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: I'm going to bring disaster on you and destroy all of Judah.

¹²I will take away from Judah those who are left, those who were determined to go to live in Egypt. They will die in Egypt. All of them, from the least important to the most important, will die in wars or be brought to an end by famines. They will become something cursed, ridiculed, and disgraced.

¹³I will punish those living in Egypt as I punished Jerusalem with wars, famines, and plagues.

¹⁴None of the people of Judah who went to live in Egypt will survive or return to Judah, where they long to return and live. Only a few refugees will return there.

¹⁵Then all the men who knew that their wives were burning incense to other gods, all the women who were standing

there, and all the people who lived at Pathros in Egypt answered Jeremiah. They said,

¹⁶"We wont listen to the message that you have spoken to us in the LORDS name.

¹⁷We will do everything we said we would do. We will burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out wine offerings to her as our ancestors, our kings, and our officials did in the cities of Judah and on the streets of Jerusalem. We had plenty to eat then, and we lived comfortably and saw no disaster.

¹⁸But since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out wine offerings to her, we have had nothing but wars and famines."

¹⁹The women added, "When we burned incense to the queen of heaven, poured out wine offerings to her, and made cakes for her with her image on them, do you think our husbands didnt approve?"

²⁰Then Jeremiah said to all the people, both men and women, to everyone who answered him,

²¹"Doesnt the LORD remember that you burned incense in the cities of Judah

and on the streets of Jerusalem along with your ancestors, your kings and your officials, and the people in the land?

²²The LORD could no longer bear the wicked and detestable things you did. That is why your land has become something ruined, destroyed, and cursed. No one lives in that land today.

²³You burned incense as offerings to other gods, sinned against the LORD, and wouldn't obey him. You didn't live by his teachings, decrees, or written instructions. That is why you have met with this disaster as it is today."

²⁴Then Jeremiah said to all the people, including the women, "Listen to the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who are in Egypt.

²⁵This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: You and your wives made promises, and you have kept them. You said, We will certainly do what we vow. We will burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out wine offerings to her. "So go ahead. Keep your vows, and do what you vow.

²⁶But listen to the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who live in Egypt.

I swear by my great name, says the LORD, that no one from Judah who lives anywhere in Egypt will ever again call on my name and take the oath, "As the Almighty LORD lives"

²⁷I am going to watch over them. I am going to watch over them to bring disasters, not blessings. In Egypt the people from Judah will die in wars and famines until everyone is gone.

²⁸Those who escape the wars will return to Judah from Egypt. Then all the people of Judah who went to live in Egypt will know whose words have come true, mine or theirs.

²⁹I will give you this sign, declares the LORD. I will punish you in this place so that you will know that my threats of disaster will happen to you.

³⁰This is what the LORD says: I'm going to hand Pharaoh Hophra, king of Egypt, over to his enemies and to those who want to kill him, just as I handed over King Zedekiah of Judah to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and to those who wanted to kill him."

45¹This is the message that the prophet Jeremiah spoke to

Baruch, son of Neriah. Baruch wrote these things on a scroll as Jeremiah dictated them during the fourth year that Jehoiakim, son of Josiah, was king of Judah. Jeremiah said,

²"This is what the LORD God of Israel says to you, Baruch:

³You said, Im so miserable! The LORD has added grief to my pain. Im worn out from groaning. I cant find any rest.

⁴"Say this to Baruch, This is what the LORD says: I will tear down what I have built. I will uproot what I have planted throughout the earth.

⁵Are you looking for great things for yourself? Dont look for them, because Im going to bring disaster on all people, declares the LORD. But wherever you go I will let you escape with your life."

46¹ The LORD spoke this message to the prophet Jeremiah about the nations.

²This is the message about Egypt, about the army of Pharaoh Neco, king of Egypt. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated his army at Carchemish along the Euphrates River during the fourth

year that Jehoiakim, son of Josiah, was king of Judah.

³"Get your large and small shields ready; advance into battle.

⁴Harness your horses. Mount up, you horsemen. Take your positions, and put on your helmets. Polish your spears. Put on your armor.

⁵"What do I see in them? They are terrified. They are retreating. Their warriors are defeated. They flee without looking back. Terror is all around them," declares the LORD.

⁶"The infantry can't flee. The warriors can't escape. They stumble and fall in the north by the Euphrates River.

⁷Who is this, rising like the Nile River, like streams that flow swiftly?

⁸Egypt is like the rising Nile River, like a river quickly overflowing its banks. Egypt says, I will rise; I will cover the earth. I will destroy cities and the people in them.

⁹Go into battle, you horsemen. Drive wildly, you chariot drivers. March into battle, you warriors, you warriors from Sudan and Put who carry shields, you

warriors from Lydia who use bows and arrows.

¹⁰That day belongs to the Almighty LORD of Armies. It is a day of vengeance when he will take revenge on his enemies. His sword will devour until it has had enough, and it will drink their blood until its full. The Almighty LORD of Armies will offer them as sacrifices in the north by the Euphrates River.

¹¹Go to Gilead, and get medicine, dear people of Egypt. You have used many medicines without results; you cant be cured.

¹²The nations have heard of your shame; your cry fills the earth. One warrior will stumble over another, and both will fall together."

¹³The LORD spoke this message to the prophet Jeremiah about the coming of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, who will defeat Egypt.

¹⁴"Tell this in Egypt; announce this in Migdol. Make it known in Memphis and in Tahpanhes. Say, Take your positions, and get ready. Swords will kill those around you.

¹⁵Why should your soldiers be cut down? They cant stand because the LORD will push them down.

¹⁶They have repeatedly stumbled, and now they have fallen. They say to each other, Get up! Lets go back to our people, to the land where we were born, and escape our enemys sword.

¹⁷There they will cry, Pharaoh, king of Egypt, is a big windbag. He has missed his chance.

¹⁸"As I live," declares the king, whose name is the LORD of Armies, "someone who is like Mount Tabor among the mountains will come. Someone who is like Mount Carmel by the sea will come.

¹⁹Pack your bags, inhabitants of Egypt, because you will be taken away as captives. Memphis will become a dreary wasteland, a pile of rubble where no one lives.

²⁰"Egypt is like a beautiful cow, but a horsefly from the north will attack it.

²¹Egypt's hired soldiers are like fattened calves. They will turn and run away together. They wont stand their ground. The day of destruction is coming. At that time they will be punished.

²² Egypt will hiss like a snake as it slithers away. Its enemies will come with full force. They will attack it with axes like those who chop wood.

²³ They will cut down the forest," declares the LORD, "since Egypt can't be found. They are more numerous than locusts; they can't be counted.

²⁴ The people of Egypt will be put to shame. They will be handed over to the people from the north."

²⁵ The LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says, "I'm going to punish Amon, who is the god of Thebes. I will also punish Pharaoh, Egypt, its gods, its kings, and whoever trusts Pharaoh.

²⁶ I'll hand them over to those who want to kill them, to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and his officers. Afterward, they will live in peace as they did long ago," declares the LORD.

²⁷ "Don't be afraid, my servant Jacob. Don't be terrified, Israel. I'm going to rescue you and your descendants from a faraway land, from the land where you are captives. Then Jacob's descendants will again have undisturbed peace, and no one will make them afraid.

²⁸Don't be afraid, my servant Jacob," declares the LORD. "I am with you. I will completely destroy all the nations where I scattered you, but I will not completely destroy you. I will correct you with justice. I won't let you go entirely unpunished."

47¹The LORD spoke this message to the prophet Jeremiah about the Philistines before Pharaoh defeated Gaza.

²This is what the LORD says: Water is rising in the north. It will become an overflowing river. It will overflow the land and everything in it, the cities and those who live in them. People will cry out and everyone who lives in the land will cry loudly.

³They will hear the sound of galloping war horses, the rattling of enemy chariots, and the rumbling of their wheels. Fathers who lack courage abandon their children.

⁴The time has come to destroy all the Philistines, to cut off from Tyre and Sidon any Philistine who might have escaped to get help. The LORD will destroy the

Philistines and anyone who is left from the island of Crete.

⁵Gaza will shave its head in mourning. Ashkelon will be destroyed. How long will you cut yourselves, you people left on the plains?

⁶You cry out, "Sword of the LORD, how long will you keep on fighting? Go back into your scabbard. Stay there and rest!"

⁷How can the sword of the LORD rest? The LORD has ordered it to attack Ashkelon and the coast. He has put it there.

48¹ This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says about Moab: How horrible it will be for Nebo; it will be destroyed. Kiriathaim will be put to shame; it will be captured. Its stronghold will be put to shame and torn down.

²People will no longer praise Moab. The people in Heshbon will plan Moab's destruction. "Let's destroy that nation!" You will be silenced, city of Madmen. Death will come after you.

³People will cry out from Horonaim, "Looting and great destruction!"

⁴Moab will be broken. Its little ones will cry out.

⁵People go up the pass of Luhith, crying bitterly as they go. On the road down to Horonaim they have heard the distressful cry of destruction.

⁶"Run away! Run for your lives! Run like a wild donkey in the desert."

⁷Since you trust the things you do and your treasures, you will be captured. Chemosh will go into captivity with all its priests and officials.

⁸The destroyer will come to every city, and no city will escape. The valley will be destroyed, and the plain will be laid waste as the LORD has threatened.

⁹Put salt on Moab. It will be destroyed. Its cities will become deserted ruins.

¹⁰Cursed are those who neglect doing the LORDS work. Cursed are those who keep their swords from killing.

¹¹"Moab has lived securely ever since it was young. Its people are like wine left to settle in a jar. They arent poured from one jar to another. They havent gone into captivity. That is why its flavor has remained the same, and its aroma hasnt changed.

¹²That is why the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will send people to pour Moab out of its jars and to smash its pitchers.

¹³Then Moab will be ashamed of Chemosh as the nation of Israel was ashamed when it trusted Bethel.

¹⁴"How can you say, We are soldiers and warriors?

¹⁵The enemy will attack Moab and destroy its cities. Its finest young men will be slaughtered," declares the king, whose name is the LORD of Armies.

¹⁶"Moab's destruction is coming near; disaster is coming quickly.

¹⁷Mourn over it, all of its neighbors and everyone who knows its fame. Say, Look at the strong staff, the beautiful rod, that is broken!

¹⁸"People of Dibon, come down from your place of honor and sit on the dry ground. The destroyers of Moab will attack you. They will destroy your fortresses.

¹⁹Stand by the road in Aroer, and watch. Ask those who are fleeing and those who are escaping what is happening.

²⁰ They will answer, Moab is disgraced; it is defeated. Shout loudly, and cry. Tell the news in Arnon that Moab is destroyed.

²¹ "Judgment has come to all the cities on the plain: to Holon, Jahzah, Mephaath,

²² Dibon, Nebo, Beth Diblathaim,

²³ Kiriathaim, Beth Gamul, Beth Meon,

²⁴ Kerioth, Bozrah, and on all the cities of Moab, far and near.

²⁵ "Moabs horn is cut off, and its arm is broken," declares the LORD.

²⁶ "Get the people of Moab drunk; they have spoken against the LORD. They will wallow in their own vomit, and people will laugh at them.

²⁷ People of Moab, didnt you laugh at the people of Israel? Were they caught among thieves? Whenever you talk about them you shake your heads in contempt.

²⁸ People of Moab, abandon your cities. Live among the cliffs. Be like doves that make their nests at the entrance of a cave.

²⁹ "We have heard about the arrogance of Moabs people. They are very arrogant.

They are very arrogant, conceited, and boastful.

³⁰I know how arrogant they are," declares the LORD, "but it isn't right. They brag and don't do what they say.

³¹That is why I will weep for Moab and cry for all of Moab. I will moan for the people of Kir Hareseth.

³²I will cry for you as Jazer cries. I will cry for you, grapevines of Sibmah. Your branches once spread as far as the sea, and they reached as far as the sea of Jazer. The destroyer will destroy your ripened fruits and your grapes.

³³Joy and gladness have disappeared from the orchards and fields of Moab. I will stop the wine flowing from the winepresses. No one will stomp on grapes with shouts of joy. There will be shouts, but not shouts of joy.

³⁴"The cry will be heard from Heshbon to Elealeh and Jahaz. It will be heard from Zoar to Horonaim and Eglath Shelishiyah. Even the streams of Nimrim will dry up.

³⁵I will stop those in Moab who come to worship sites, those who bring offerings to their gods," declares the LORD.

³⁶"That is why I moan for Moab like a flute. I sound like a flute for the people of Kir Hareseth. The wealth they gained has disappeared.

³⁷"Every head is shaved, and every beard is cut off. There are gashes on every hand and sackcloth on every waist.

³⁸People in Moab will mourn on every rooftop and in every street. There will be mourning everywhere, because I will break Moab like a jar that no one wants," declares the LORD.

³⁹"They will cry, Look how Moab is defeated! Moab turns away in shame! Moab has become something ridiculed and something held in contempt by everyone around it.

⁴⁰"This is what the LORD says: The enemy will swoop down like eagles and spread their wings over Moab.

⁴¹The cities will be taken, and the fortified places will be captured. On that day Moab's soldiers will be like women in childbirth.

⁴²Moab will be destroyed as a nation, because it spoke against the LORD.

⁴³Disasters, pits, and traps are in store for those who live in Moab," declares the LORD.

⁴⁴"Whoever flees from a disaster will fall into a pit. Whoever climbs out of the pit will be caught in a trap. I will bring a year of punishment to Moab," declares the LORD.

⁴⁵"Those who flee will stand exhausted in the shadow of Heshbon. A fire will come out of Heshbon and a flame from Sihon. It will burn the foreheads of the people of Moab and the skulls of those noisy people.

⁴⁶How horrible it will be for you, Moab. You people of Chemosh will die. Your sons will be taken away into exile, and your daughters will be taken away into captivity.

⁴⁷But I will restore Moab in the last days," declares the LORD. The judgment against Moab ends here.

49¹This is what the LORD says about the people of Ammon: Doesnt Israel have any children? Doesnt it have any heirs? Why, then, has the god Milcom taken over the inheritance

of Gads descendants? Why do Milcoms people live in Gads cities?

²That is why the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will sound the battle cry against Rabbah, where the people of Ammon live. It will become a pile of rubble. Its villages will be burned down. Then Israel will take possession of its inheritance, says the LORD.

³Cry loudly, Heshbon, because Ai is destroyed. Cry, people of Rabbah, put on your sackcloth, and mourn. Run back and forth between the walls. Milcom will be taken away into captivity with its priests and officials.

⁴Why do you brag about your valleys, your fertile valleys, you unfaithful people? You trust your treasures. You think, "Who would attack me?"

⁵I am going to bring terror on you from all around, declares the Almighty LORD of Armies. Everyone will be scattered. No one will gather the refugees.

⁶But afterward, I will return the captives of Ammon, declares the LORD.

⁷This is what the LORD of Armies says about Edom: Is there no longer any wisdom in Teman? Has wisdom

disappeared from your people? Has their wisdom vanished?

⁸Turn and run. Hide in deep caves, inhabitants of Dedan. When I punish them, I will bring disaster on the descendants of Esau.

⁹If people come to pick your grapes, wont they leave a few grapes behind? If thieves come during the night, wont they steal only until theyve had enough?

¹⁰Yet, I will strip the descendants of Esau. I will find their hiding places. They wont be able to hide. Their children and relatives will be destroyed. None of their neighbors will say,

¹¹"Abandon your orphans, and I will keep them alive. Your widows can trust me."

¹²This is what the LORD says: If those who dont deserve to drink from the cup still drink from it, why should you go unpunished? You wont go unpunished. You must drink from it.

¹³I take an oath on myself, declares the LORD, that Bozrah will become a pile of rubble. It will become something horrifying, ridiculed, ruined, and cursed. All its cities will lie in ruins permanently.

¹⁴I heard a message from the LORD. A messenger was sent among the nations to say, "Assemble, and attack Edom. Get ready for battle."

¹⁵"Edom, I will make you the smallest of nations and despised among humanity.

¹⁶You have frightened other people. Your arrogance has deceived you. You live on rocky cliffs and occupy the highest places in the hills. Even though you build your nest as high as an eagle, I will bring you down from there," declares the LORD.

¹⁷"Then Edom will become something horrible. Everyone who passes by it will be horrified and hiss at all its wounds.

¹⁸Edom will be like Sodom, Gomorrah, and their neighboring cities when they were destroyed. No one will live there. No human will stay there," says the LORD.

¹⁹"I will suddenly chase them from their places like a lion coming out of the jungle along the Jordan River into pastureland. I will appoint over Edom whomever I choose. Who is like me? Who can challenge me? Is there any leader who can stand up to me?"

²⁰ Listen to the plans that the LORD is making against Edom and the things he intends to do to those who live in Teman. He will surely drag away the little ones of the flock. He will surely destroy the pasture because of the people who live in Teman.

²¹ The earth will quake at the sound of their downfall. The sound of their crying will be heard at the Red Sea.

²² The enemy will swoop down like eagles and spread their wings over Bozrah. On that day Edom's soldiers will be like women in childbirth.

²³ This is a message about Damascus. "Hamath and Arpad are worried because they heard the bad news. They melt in fear. They are troubled like a sea that can't be calmed.

²⁴ The people of Damascus are weak. They turn to flee, but panic grips them. Anguish and pain grip them like a woman in labor.

²⁵ Why isn't that famous, happy city abandoned?

²⁶ That is why its young men will die in the streets, and its soldiers will be

silenced that day," declares the LORD of Armies.

²⁷ "I will set fire to the walls of Damascus and burn down Benhadads palaces."

²⁸ This is about the tribe of Kedar and the kingdoms of Hazor that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated. This is what the LORD says: Get ready, attack Kedar, and loot the people from the east.

²⁹ Their tents and their flocks will be taken. Their tent curtains, utensils, and camels will be carried away. People will shout to them, "Terror is all around!"

³⁰ Run far away! Find a place to hide, inhabitants of Hazor, declares the LORD. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon has made plans against you and intends to attack you.

³¹ Get ready! Attack the nation living peacefully and securely, declares the LORD. It is a nation with no gates or bars. Its people live alone.

³² Their camels will be taken as prizes. Their large herds will be taken as loot. I will scatter to the winds those who shave the hair on their foreheads. I will

bring disaster on them from every side, declares the LORD.

³³ Hazer will be a place where only jackals live. It will become a permanent wasteland. No one will live there. No human will stay there.

³⁴ Early in the rule of King Zedekiah of Judah, the LORD spoke his word to the prophet Jeremiah about Elam.

³⁵ This is what the LORD of Armies says: I'm going to break the bows of Elam's archers, the most important weapon of their strength.

³⁶ I'll bring the four winds from the four corners of heaven against Elam and scatter its people in every direction. There won't be a nation where Elam's refugees won't go.

³⁷ I'll defeat the people of Elam in the presence of their enemies, in the presence of those who want to kill them. I'll bring disaster with my burning anger, declares the LORD. I'll send armies after them until I put an end to them.

³⁸ I'll set my throne in Elam and destroy its king and officials, declares the LORD.

³⁹ But afterward, I'll return the captives of Elam, declares the LORD.

50¹ This is the message that the LORD spoke about Babylon and the land of the Babylonians through the prophet Jeremiah.

² "Announce this among the nations, and spread the news. Raise a flag, and announce it. Don't hide anything. Say, Babylon will be captured. Bel will be put to shame. Marduk will be filled with terror. Babylons statues will be put to shame. Its idols will be filled with terror.

³ A nation from the north will attack Babylon and destroy its land so that no one will live in it. People and animals will run away.

⁴ "In those days and at that time," declares the LORD, "the people of Israel and Judah will cry as they go together to seek the LORD their God.

⁵ They will ask which road goes to Zion and turn in that direction. They will go there to make a permanent agreement with the LORD. It will not be forgotten.

⁶ My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray. They wander around on the mountains. They go from mountains to hills. They have forgotten their resting place.

⁷ Everyone who finds them eats them. Their enemies say, Were not guilty. They have sinned against the LORD, their true pasture. They have sinned against the LORD, the hope of their ancestors.

⁸ "Run away from Babylon. Leave the land of the Babylonians. Be like the male goats that lead the flock.

⁹ I am going to stir up an alliance of strong nations from the north and bring it against Babylon. Those nations will take up positions against Babylon. Babylon will be captured from the north. Its enemys arrows will be like skilled soldiers who dont come back emptyhanded.

¹⁰ The Babylonians will become the prize. All who loot them will get everything they want," declares the LORD.

¹¹ "You are happy and excited. You have looted the people who belong to me. You dance around like calves on the grass and neigh like stallions.

¹² But your mother will be greatly ashamed. The woman who gave birth to you will be disgraced. Babylon, you will

be the least important nation. You will become a parched desert.

¹³No one will live in Babylon because of the LORDS anger. It will be completely abandoned. Everyone who passes by Babylon will be horrified and hiss at all its wounds.

¹⁴"Take up your positions around Babylon, all you archers with bows. Shoot at it; dont save any arrows, because the people of Babylon have sinned against the LORD.

¹⁵Shout a war cry against them on every side. Theyll surrender. Their towers will fall and their walls will be torn down. Since this is the LORDS vengeance, take revenge against them. Do to them what they did to others.

¹⁶Dont allow anyone in Babylon to plant or harvest. Everyone will turn to his own people and flee to his own homeland because of the enemies swords.

¹⁷"The people of Israel are like scattered sheep that lions have chased. The first to devour them was the king of Assyria. The last to gnaw at their bones was King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

¹⁸"This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: I am going to punish the king of Babylon and his land as I punished the king of Assyria.

¹⁹I will bring the people of Israel back to their pastures. They will eat on Mount Carmel and Mount Bashan. They will eat until they are full on the mountains of Ephraim and Gilead.

²⁰In those days and at that time," declares the LORD, "people will look for Israel's crimes, but they will find none. They will look for Judah's sins, but none will be found. I will forgive the faithful few whom I have spared.

²¹"Attack the land of Merathaim and the people who live in Pekod. Claim them for me by killing them with a sword," declares the LORD. "Do everything I commanded you.

²²The noise of battle and great destruction fills the land.

²³The hammer of the whole earth is broken and shattered. See how desolate Babylon is of all the nations!

²⁴I will set traps for you, Babylon. You will be caught, but you won't know it. You

will be found and captured because you have opposed the LORD.

²⁵The LORD will open his armory and bring out the weapons of his fury, because the Almighty LORD of Armies has a job to do in the land of the Babylonians.

²⁶Attack them from a distance, open their storehouses, pile up their corpses like piles of grain, claim them for me by destroying them, and don't leave anyone behind.

²⁷Kill all their young bulls. Let them go to be slaughtered. How horrible it will be for them when their time has come, the time for them to be punished.

²⁸Listen! Fugitives and refugees from Babylon are coming to Zion to tell about the vengeance of the LORD our God, the vengeance for his temple.

²⁹"Call together the archers, the soldiers with bows, against Babylon. Set up blockades around it. Don't let anyone escape. Pay the people of Babylon back for what they have done. Do to them what they did to others. They have disobeyed the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.

³⁰That is why their young men will die in the streets, and all their soldiers will be silenced that day," declares the LORD.

³¹"I'm against you, you arrogant city," declares the Almighty LORD of Armies. "Your day has come, the time when I will punish you.

³²Those arrogant people will stumble and fall, and there will be no one to help them get up. I will light a fire in their cities that will burn up everything around them."

³³This is what the LORD of Armies says: All the people of Israel and Judah are oppressed. All their enemies have captured them. They refuse to let them go.

³⁴Their defender is strong. His name is the LORD of Armies. He will certainly take up their cause in order to bring rest to the land of Israel and unrest to the people who live in Babylon.

³⁵"A sword will kill the Babylonians and everyone who lives in Babylon," declares the LORD. "A sword will kill their officials and their wise men.

³⁶ A sword will kill the false prophets. They will become fools. A sword will kill their soldiers and defeat them.

³⁷ A sword will kill their horses, their chariots, and all the foreigners within their ranks. They will become women. A sword will destroy their treasures, and they will be looted.

³⁸ A drought will diminish their water supply, and it will dry up. Babylon is a land of idols, statues that will go crazy with fear.

³⁹ That is why desert animals will live with hyenas. Desert owls will also live there. It will no longer be inhabited or lived in for generations.

⁴⁰ Babylon will be like Sodom, Gomorrah, and their neighboring cities when I, God, destroyed them. No one will live there. No human will stay there," declares the LORD.

⁴¹ "People are going to come from the north. A great nation and many kings will rise from the ends of the earth.

⁴² They will take hold of bows and spears. They will be cruel and have no compassion. They will sound like the sea when it roars. They will ride horses. They

are ready for war, ready to attack you, people of Babylon.

⁴³The king of Babylon has heard reports about them, and he loses courage. Anguish will grip him as pain grips a woman in labor.

⁴⁴I will suddenly chase them from their places like a lion coming out of the jungle along the Jordan River into pastureland. I will appoint over Babylon whomever I choose. Who is like me? Who can challenge me? Is there any leader who can stand up to me?

⁴⁵Listen to the plans that the LORD is making against Babylon and the things he intends to do to the land of the Babylonians. He will surely drag away the little ones of the flock. He will surely destroy the pasture because of the Babylonians.

⁴⁶The earth will quake at the news that Babylon has been captured. Its cry will be heard among the nations."

51 ¹This is what the LORD says:
I will stir up a destructive wind against Babylon and against the people who live in Leb Kamai.

²I will send people to winnow Babylon, to winnow it and strip its land bare. They will attack it from every direction on the day of trouble.

³Have the archers bend their bows. Have them put on their armor. Dont spare Babylons young men. Completely destroy its whole army.

⁴Babylons soldiers will fall down badly wounded in their streets. They will lie dead in their own land.

⁵Israel and Judah havent been abandoned by their God, the LORD of Armies, although their land is guilty of abandoning the Holy One of Israel.

⁶Run away from Babylon! Run for your lives! You shouldnt die because of Babylons crimes. This is the time for the vengeance of the LORD. He will pay the people of Babylon back for what they have done.

⁷Babylon was a golden cup in the LORDS hand. It made the whole world drunk. The nations drank its wine. That is why the nations have gone insane.

⁸Babylon will suddenly fall and be shattered. Cry for it. Bring medicine for its pain. Maybe it can be healed.

⁹We wanted to heal Babylon, but it couldn't be healed. Let's abandon it and go to our own land. God has judged Babylon. Its judgment is complete.

¹⁰The LORD has brought about our victory. Let's announce in Zion what the LORD our God has done.

¹¹Sharpen the arrows; fill the quivers. The LORD will stir up the spirit of the kings of the Medes because his plan is to destroy Babylon. The LORD will avenge his temple.

¹²Raise your battle flag in front of the walls of Babylon. Strengthen the guards. Station watchmen. Prepare ambushes. The LORD will carry out his plans against the people who live in Babylon.

¹³Babylon, you live beside many rivers and are rich with treasures, but your end has come. The thread of your life has been cut off.

¹⁴The LORD of Armies has taken an oath on himself: "I will certainly fill you with many enemy armies. They will swarm like locusts. People will shout their victory over you."

¹⁵The LORD made the earth by his power. He set up the world by his

wisdom. He stretched out heaven by his understanding.

¹⁶When he thunders, the water in the sky roars. He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth. He sends lightning with the rain. He brings wind out of his storehouses.

¹⁷Everyone is stupid and ignorant. Metalsmiths are put to shame by their idols. Their statues are false gods.

¹⁸They cant breathe. They are worthless jokes. When they are punished, they will disappear.

¹⁹Jacobs God isnt like them. He made everything, and Israel is the tribe that belongs to him. His name is the LORD of Armies.

²⁰"You are my war club and my weapon for battle. I will use you to crush nations. I will use you to destroy kingdoms.

²¹I will use you to crush horses and their riders. I will use you to crush chariots and their drivers.

²²I will use you to crush men and women. I will use you to crush the old and the young. I will use you to crush young men and women.

²³ I will use you to crush shepherds and their flocks. I will use you to crush farmers and their oxen. I will use you to crush governors and officials.

²⁴ "In your presence I will pay back Babylon and all the people who live in Babylon for all the evil things that they did in Zion," declares the LORD.

²⁵ "I am against you, Babylon, you destructive mountain. You have destroyed the whole earth," declares the LORD. "I will use my power against you, roll you off the cliffs, and make you a scorched mountain.

²⁶ People won't find any stones in you to use as a cornerstone. They won't find any stones in you to use for a foundation. You will become permanent ruins," declares the LORD.

²⁷ Raise your battle flag throughout the world. Blow the ram's horn among the nations. Prepare nations to attack Babylon. Tell the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz to attack it. Appoint a commander to lead the attack. Bring up horses like a swarm of locusts.

²⁸ Prepare nations to attack Babylon. Prepare the king of the Medes, their

governors, all their deputies, and all the countries that they rule.

²⁹The earth trembles and writhes in pain. The LORD carries out his plans against Babylon to make Babylon a wasteland so that no one will live there.

³⁰The warriors of Babylon have stopped fighting. They stay in their fortified cities. Their strength has failed. They have become women. Their buildings are set on fire. The bars across their gates are broken.

³¹Runners run to meet runners. Messengers follow messengers. They inform the king of Babylon that his entire city is captured.

³²The river crossings have been taken. The enemy has burned its marshes, and its soldiers are terrified.

³³This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: The people of Babylon are like a threshing floor at the time it is trampled. Their harvest time will come soon.

³⁴King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon has devoured us. He has thrown us into confusion. He has turned us into empty jars. He has swallowed us like a monster.

He has filled his belly with our delicacies.
Then he spit us out.

³⁵The people who live in Zion say,
"May the violence done to us be done
to Babylon." Jerusalem says, "May the
people of Babylon be held responsible
for our deaths."

³⁶This is what the LORD says: I am
going to take up your cause and get
revenge for you. I will dry up Babylons
sea and make its springs dry.

³⁷Babylon will become piles of rubble. It
will become a dwelling place for jackals,
something horrible, and an object of
contempt, where no one lives.

³⁸Its people are like roaring lions and
growling lion cubs.

³⁹When they are excited, I will prepare
a feast for them and make them drunk
so that they will shout and laugh. They
will fall into a deep sleep and never wake
up again, declares the LORD.

⁴⁰I will take them to be slaughtered
like lambs, rams, and male goats.

⁴¹"Sheshach has been captured.
Babylon, the city that the whole world
praised, has been taken captive.

⁴²What a horrifying sight Babylon will be to the nations! The sea will rise over Babylon, and its roaring waves will cover it.

⁴³Its cities will be ruined. It will become a desert, a land where no one lives and where no human travels.

⁴⁴I will punish Bel in Babylon. I will make Bel spit out everything that it has swallowed. Nations will no longer stream to Babylon, and its walls will fall.

⁴⁵"Leave it, my people! Run for your lives! Run from the burning anger of the LORD.

⁴⁶Dont lose courage or be afraid when rumors are heard in the land. One rumor comes one year; another rumor comes the next year. Rumors of violence are in the land. Rumors that one ruler will fight against another are in the land.

⁴⁷That is why the days are coming when I will punish Babylons idols. The whole country will be put to shame, and all its soldiers will lie dead.

⁴⁸Then heaven and earth and everything in them will rejoice over Babylon, because destroyers from the north will attack it," declares the LORD.

⁴⁹ Because the people of Babylon have killed many Israelites and because they have killed many people throughout the earth, Babylon must fall.

⁵⁰ You people who escaped from the sword, leave! Don't just stand there. Remember the LORD in a distant land, and think about Jerusalem.

⁵¹ We have been put to shame, and we have been disgraced. Shame covers our faces, because foreigners have gone into the holy places of the LORDS temple.

⁵² "That is why the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will punish their idols, and those who are wounded will moan everywhere in the land.

⁵³ The people of Babylon might go up to heaven. They might fortify their strongholds. But destroyers will still come from me against them," declares the LORD.

⁵⁴ Cries of agony are heard from Babylon. Sounds of terrible destruction are heard from the land of the Babylonians.

⁵⁵ The LORD will destroy Babylon. He will silence the loud noise coming from it. Waves of enemies will come roaring in

like raging water. The noise will be heard everywhere.

⁵⁶A destroyer will attack Babylon, its soldiers will be captured, and their bows and arrows will be broken. "I, the LORD, am a God who punishes evil. I will certainly punish them.

⁵⁷I will make their officials and wise men drunk, along with their governors, officers, and soldiers. They will fall into a deep sleep and never wake up," declares the king, whose name is the LORD of Armies.

⁵⁸This is what the LORD of Armies says: The thick walls of Babylon will be leveled, and its high gates will be set on fire. People exhaust themselves for nothing. The nations wear themselves out only to have a fire.

⁵⁹This is the message that the prophet Jeremiah gave to Seraiah, son of Neriah and grandson of Mahseiah, when Seraiah went to Babylon with King Zedekiah of Judah in the fourth year of Zedekiah's rule. (Seraiah was the quartermaster.)

⁶⁰Jeremiah wrote on a scroll all the disasters that would happen to Babylon.

He wrote all these things that have been written about Babylon.

⁶¹Jeremiah said to Seraiah, "When you come to Babylon, see that you read all this.

⁶²Then say, LORD, you have threatened to destroy this place so that no person or animal will live here, and it will become a permanent ruin.

⁶³When you finish reading this scroll, tie a stone to it and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates River.

⁶⁴Say, Babylon will sink like this scroll. It will never rise again because of the disasters that I will bring on it." The words of Jeremiah end here.

52¹Zedekiah was 21 years old when he began to rule, and he ruled for 11 years in Jerusalem. His mothers name was Hamutal, daughter of Jeremiah from Libnah.

²Zedekiah did what the LORD considered evil, as Jehoiakim had done.

³The LORD became angry with Jerusalem and Judah and threw the people out of his sight. Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

⁴On the tenth day of the tenth month of the ninth year of Zedekiahs reign, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked Jerusalem with his entire army. They set up camp and built dirt ramps around the city walls.

⁵The blockade of the city lasted until Zedekiahs eleventh year as king.

⁶On the ninth day of the fourth month, the famine in the city became so severe that the common people had no food.

⁷The enemy broke through the city walls, and all Judahs soldiers fled. They left the city at night through the gate between the two walls beside the kings garden. While the Babylonians were attacking the city from all sides, they took the road to the plain of Jericho.

⁸The Babylonian army pursued King Zedekiah and caught up with him in the plain of Jericho. His entire army had deserted him.

⁹The Babylonians captured the king and brought him to the king of Babylon at Riblah in Hamath, where the king of Babylon passed sentence on him.

¹⁰The king of Babylon slaughtered Zedekiahs sons as Zedekiah watched. He

also slaughtered all the officials of Judah at Riblah.

¹¹ Then he blinded Zedekiah and put him in bronze shackles. The king of Babylon took him to Babylon and put him in a prison, where he stayed until he died.

¹² On the tenth day of the fifth month of Nebuchadnezzar's nineteenth year as king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan, who was the captain of the guard and an officer of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.

¹³ He burned down the LORDS temple, the royal palace, and all the houses in Jerusalem. Every important building was burned down.

¹⁴ The entire Babylonian army that was with the captain of the guard tore down the walls around Jerusalem.

¹⁵ Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, captured the few people left in the city, those who surrendered to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the population.

¹⁶ But Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, left some of the poorest people in the land to work in the vineyards and on the farms.

¹⁷ The Babylonians broke apart the bronze pillars of the LORDS temple, the stands, and the bronze pool in the LORDS temple. They shipped all the bronze to Babylon.

¹⁸ They took the pots, shovels, snuffers, bowls, dishes, and all the bronze utensils used in the temple service.

¹⁹ The captain of the guard also took pans, incense burners, bowls, pots, lamp stands, dishes, and the bowls used for wine offerings. The captain of the guard took all of the trays and bowls that were made of gold or silver.

²⁰ The bronze from the 2 pillars, the pool, and the 12 bronze bulls under the stands that King Solomon had made for the LORDS temple couldnt be weighed.

²¹ One pillar was 27 feet high and 18 feet in circumference. It was three inches thick and hollow.

²² The capital that was on it was 7 feet high with a filigree and pomegranates around it. They were all made of bronze. The second pillar was the same. It also had pomegranates.

²³ There were 96 pomegranates on the sides. The total number of pomegranates on the surrounding filigree was 100.

²⁴ The captain of the guard took the chief priest Seraiah, the second priest Zephaniah, and the 3 doorkeepers.

²⁵ From the city he also took an army commander, 7 men who had access to the king whom he found in the city, the scribe who was in charge of the militia, and 60 common people whom he found in the city.

²⁶ Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah.

²⁷ The king of Babylon executed them at Riblah in the territory of Hamath. So the people of Judah were captives as they left their land.

²⁸ These are the people Nebuchadnezzar took captive: In his seventh year as king, he took 3,023 Jews.

²⁹ In his eighteenth year, Nebuchadnezzar took 832 people from Jerusalem.

³⁰ In Nebuchadnezzars twentythird year as king, Nebuzaradan, the captain of the

guard, took away 745 Jews. In all, 4,600 people were taken away.

³¹ On the twentyfifth day of the twelfth month of the thirtyseventh year of the imprisonment of King Jehoiakin of Judah, King Evil Merodach of Babylon, in the first year of his reign, freed King Jehoiakin of Judah and released him from prison.

³² He treated him well and gave him a special position higher than the other kings who were with him in Babylon.

³³ Jehoiakin no longer wore prison clothes, and he ate his meals in the kings presence as long as he lived.

³⁴ The king of Babylon gave him a daily food allowance as long as he lived.

Lamentations

1 ¹ "Look how deserted Jerusalem is! Once the city was crowded with people. Once it was important among the nations. Now it is a widow. Once it was a princess among the provinces. Now it does forced labor.

² Jerusalem cries bitterly at night with tears running down its cheeks. Out of all those who love the city, no one offers it comfort. All of Jerusalem's friends have betrayed it and become its enemies.

³ "Judah has been exiled after much suffering and harsh treatment. Its people live among the nations; they find no rest. Those who chased them caught up with them in places where there was no way out.

⁴ "The roads to Zion are deserted. No one comes to the annual festivals. No one passes through any of its gates. Its priests are groaning. Its young women are made to suffer. Zion is bitter.

⁵ Its opponents are now in control. Its enemies have no worries. The LORD

made Zion suffer for its many rebellious acts. Its children go ahead of their opponents into captivity.

⁶All splendor has abandoned the people of Zion. Its influential people were like deer that couldnt find any pasture. They ran without any strength ahead of the hunters.

⁷"Now, during its suffering and oppression, Jerusalem remembers all the treasures it had from ancient times, when its people fell into the power of their enemies with no one to help them. Their opponents looked on, and they laughed at Jerusalems downfall.

⁸Jerusalem has sinned so much that it has become a filthy thing. Everyone who used to honor it now despises it. Theyve seen it naked. Jerusalem groans and turns away.

⁹Jerusalems own filth covers its clothes. It gave no thought to its future. Its downfall was shocking. No one offers it comfort. O LORD, look at my suffering, because my enemies have triumphed.

¹⁰The enemies laid their hands on all of the citys treasures. Jerusalem has seen the nations enter the holy place. O

Lord, they are the same people you have forbidden to enter your congregation.

¹¹ All the people are groaning as they beg for bread. They trade their treasures for food to keep themselves alive. O LORD, look and see how despised I am!"

¹² "Doesnt this affect all of you who pass by? Look and see if theres any pain like the pain that the LORD has caused me, like the pain that he has made me suffer on the day of his fierce anger.

¹³ He sent fire from above. He made it go deep into my bones. He spread a net for my feet. He made me turn back. He has left me devastated. He has made me sick all day long.

¹⁴ My rebellious acts are a heavy burden for me. They were tied together by Gods own hands. They were tied around my neck. He has weakened me with them. The Lord has handed me over to people I cannot oppose.

¹⁵ The Lord has treated all the warriors inside my walls with contempt. He called an army to defeat my young men. The LORD trampled the people of Judah in a winepress.

¹⁶ I'm crying because of all these things. My eyes my eyes flow with tears. No one can give me the comfort I need to keep me alive. Everyone is too far away from me. My children are devastated because my enemies have won."

¹⁷ Zion holds out its hands. No one offers it comfort. The LORD has given this order about Jacob: His own neighbors will become his opponents. Jerusalem has become a filthy thing among them.

¹⁸ "The LORD is right in what he did, because I rebelled against his word. Please listen, all you people, and look at my pain. My young women and young men have gone into captivity.

¹⁹ I called for those who love me, but they betrayed me. My priests and leaders breathed their last breath in the city, looking for food to keep themselves alive.

²⁰ "O LORD, see the distress I'm in! My stomach is churning. My heart is pounding because I've been very bitter. In the streets swords kill my children. Inside the houses it's like death.

²¹ "All my enemies have heard that I am groaning. No one offers me comfort.

All my enemies have heard about my disaster. They are happy that you did it. You have allowed the day to come, the one that you had announced. Let my enemies be like me now.

²²Recall all of their wickedness. Then deal with them as you have dealt with me because of all my rebellious acts. I groan so much and feel so sick at heart."

2¹"Look how the Lord has covered the people of Zion with the cloud of his anger! He has thrown down Israels beauty from heaven to earth. He didnt even remember his footstool on the day of his anger.

²The Lord swallowed up all of Jacobs pastures without any pity. He tore down the fortified cities of Judah in his fury. He brought the kingdom of Judah and its leaders down to the ground in dishonor.

³In his burning anger he cut off all of Israels strength. He withdrew his right hand when they faced their enemy. He burned like a raging fire in the land of Jacob, destroying everything around him.

⁴Like an enemy he bent his bow. Like an opponent his right hand held the

arrow steady. He killed all the beautiful people. He poured out his fury like fire on the tent of Zions people.

⁵The Lord became an enemy. He swallowed up Israel. He swallowed up all of its palaces. He destroyed its strongholds. He made the people of Judah mourn and moan.

⁶He stripped his own booth as if it were a garden and destroyed his own festivals. The LORD wiped out the memory of festivals and days of worship in Zion. He expelled kings and priests because of his fierce anger.

⁷The Lord rejected his altar and disowned his holy place. He handed the walls of Zions palaces over to its enemies. The enemies made noise in the LORDS temple as though it were a festival day.

⁸The LORD planned to destroy the wall of Zions people. He marked it off with a line. He didnt take his hand away until he had swallowed it up. He made the towers and walls mourn. They are completely dejected.

⁹"Zions gates have sunk into the ground. The LORD destroyed and

shattered the bars across its gates. Its king and influential people are scattered among the nations. There is no longer any instruction from Moses Teachings. Its prophets can find no visions from the LORD.

¹⁰The respected leaders of Zions people sit silently on the ground. They throw dirt on their heads and put on sackcloth. The young women of Jerusalem bow their heads to the ground.

¹¹My eyes are worn out with tears. My stomach is churning. My heart is poured out on the ground because of the destruction of my people. Little children and infants faint in the city streets.

¹²Theyre asking their mothers for some bread and wine as they faint like wounded people in the city streets. Their lives dwindle away in their mothers arms.

¹³"What example can I give you? What parallel can I show you, people of Jerusalem? What comparison can I make that will comfort you, beloved people of Zion? Your wounds are as deep as the sea. Who can heal you?

¹⁴Your prophets saw misleading visions about you. They painted a good picture of you. They didnt expose your guilt in order to make things better again. They gave you false prophecies that misled you.

¹⁵Everyone who walks along the road shakes a fist at you. They hiss and shake their heads at Jerusalems people: Is this the city they used to call absolutely beautiful, the joy of the whole world?

¹⁶All your enemies gawk at you. They hiss and grit their teeth. They say, Weve swallowed it up. Yes, this is the day weve been waiting for. At last we have seen it!

¹⁷The LORD has accomplished what he had planned to do. He carried out the threat he announced long ago. He tore you down without any pity, Jerusalem. He made your enemies gloat over you. He raised the weapons of your opponents.

¹⁸The hearts of Jerusalems people cried out to the LORD, the wall of Zions people. Let your tears run down like a river day and night. Dont let them stop. Dont let your eyes rest.

¹⁹Get up! Cry out at night, every hour on the hour. Pour your heart out like water in the presence of the LORD. Lift up your hands to him in prayer for the life of your little children who faint from hunger at every street corner."

²⁰"O LORD, look and consider: Have you ever treated anyone like this? Should women eat their own children, the children they have nursed? Should priests and prophets be killed in the Lords holy place?

²¹Young and old lie on the ground in the streets. My young women and men are cut down by swords. You killed them on the day of your anger. You slaughtered them without any pity.

²²You have invited those who terrorize me on every side, as though they were invited to a festival. No one escaped or survived on the day of the LORDS anger. My enemy has murdered the children I nursed and raised."

3¹"I am the man who has experienced suffering under the rod of Gods fury.

²God has driven me away and made me walk in darkness instead of light.

³He beat me again and again all day long.

⁴He has made my flesh and my skin waste away. He has broken my bones.

⁵He has attacked me and surrounded me with bitterness and hardship.

⁶He has made me live in darkness, like those who died a long time ago.

⁷He has blocked me so that I can't get out. He has put heavy chains on me.

⁸Even when I cry and call for help, he shuts out my prayer.

⁹He has blocked my way with cut stones and made my paths crooked.

¹⁰He is like a bear waiting to ambush me, like a lion in hiding.

¹¹He has forced me off the road I was taking, torn me to pieces, and left me with nothing.

¹²He has drawn his bow and made me the target for his arrows.

¹³He has shot the arrows from his quiver into my heart.

¹⁴I have become a laughingstock to all my people. All day long they make fun of me with their songs.

¹⁵He has filled me with bitterness. He has made me drink wormwood.

¹⁶He has ground my teeth with gravel.
He has trampled me into the dust.

¹⁷"My soul has been kept from enjoying
peace. I have forgotten what happiness
is.

¹⁸I said, I've lost my strength to live
and my hope in the LORD.

¹⁹Remember my suffering and my
aimless wandering, the wormwood and
poison.

²⁰My soul continues to remember these
things and is so discouraged.

²¹"The reason I can still find hope is
that I keep this one thing in mind:

²²the LORDS mercy. We were not
completely wiped out. His compassion is
never limited.

²³It is new every morning. His
faithfulness is great.

²⁴My soul can say, The LORD is my lot
in life. That is why I find hope in him.

²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait
for him, to anyone who seeks help from
him.

²⁶"It is good to continue to hope and
wait silently for the LORD to save us.

²⁷It is good for people to endure
burdens when they're young.

²⁸They should sit alone and remain silent because the LORD has laid these burdens on them.

²⁹They should put their mouths in the dust. Maybe a reason to hope exists.

³⁰They should turn their cheeks to the one who strikes them and take their fill of insults.

³¹"The Lord will not reject such people forever.

³²Even if he makes us suffer, he will have compassion in keeping with the richness of his mercy.

³³He does not willingly bring suffering or grief to anyone,

³⁴crush any prisoner on earth underfoot,

³⁵deny people their rights in the presence of the Most High God,

³⁶or deprive people of justice in court. The Lord isn't happy to see these things.

³⁷Who was it who spoke and it came into being? It was the Lord who gave the order.

³⁸Both good and bad come from the mouth of the Most High God.

³⁹"Why should any living mortal (any person) complain about being punished for sin?

⁴⁰Let us look closely at our ways and examine them and then return to the LORD.

⁴¹Let us raise our hearts and hands to God in heaven.

⁴²"We have been disobedient and rebellious. You haven't forgiven us.

⁴³You covered yourself with anger and pursued us. You killed without pity.

⁴⁴You covered yourself with a cloud so that no prayer could get through it.

⁴⁵You made us the scum and trash of the nations.

⁴⁶All our enemies gawk at us.

⁴⁷Panic and pitfalls have found us, so have devastation and destruction.

⁴⁸"Streams of tears run down from my eyes over the ruin of my dear people.

⁴⁹My eyes will keep flowing without stopping for a moment

⁵⁰until the LORD looks down from heaven and sees.

⁵¹What I see with my eyes disturbs me deeply because of all the young women in my city.

⁵² "Those who were my enemies for no reason hunted me like a bird.

⁵³ They threw me alive into a pit and threw rocks at me.

⁵⁴ Water flowed over my head. I thought I was finished.

⁵⁵ "I call your name from the deepest pit, O LORD.

⁵⁶ Listen to my cry for help. Don't close your ears when I cry out for relief.

⁵⁷ Be close at hand when I call to you. You told me not to be afraid.

⁵⁸ Plead my case for me, O LORD. Reclaim my life.

⁵⁹ Look at the wrong that has been done to me, O LORD. Give me a fair verdict.

⁶⁰ Look at all their malice, all their plots against me.

⁶¹ Listen to their insults, all their plots against me.

⁶² The words and thoughts of those who attack me are directed against me all day long.

⁶³ Look at them! Whether they are sitting or standing, they make fun of me in their songs.

⁶⁴ Pay them back, O LORD, for what they deserve, for what their own hands have done.

⁶⁵ Make them stubborn. Let your curse be on them.

⁶⁶ Pursue them in anger, and wipe them out from under the LORDS heaven."

4¹ "Look how the gold has become tarnished! The fine gold has changed! The sacred stones are scattered at every street corner.

² "Zions precious children, who are worth their weight in fine gold, are now treated like clay pots, like those made by a potters hands.

³ Even jackals offer their breasts to nurse their young, but the women of my people are as cruel as wild ostriches.

⁴ The tongues of nursing infants stick to the roofs of their mouths because of their thirst. Little children beg for bread, but no one will break off a piece for them.

⁵ Those who used to eat delicacies are now destitute in the streets. Those who used to wear expensive clothes now pick through piles of garbage.

⁶The punishment for my peoples wickedness has been more severe than the punishment for the sins of Sodom. Sodom was destroyed instantly, without one human hand touching it.

⁷Zions princes were purer than snow, whiter than milk. Their bodies were more pink than coral. Their hair was like sapphires.

⁸Their faces are now blacker than soot. No one recognizes them on the streets. Their skin has shriveled on their bones. It has become as dry as bark.

⁹Those who were killed with swords are better off than those who are dying from starvation. Those who were stabbed bled to death. The others are dying because there is nothing in the fields to eat.

¹⁰The hands of loving mothers cooked their own children. The children were used for food by my people when they were being destroyed by a blockade.

¹¹The LORDS fury has accomplished his purpose. He unleashed his burning anger. He started a fire in Zion that even burned its foundations.

¹²Neither the kings of the earth nor anyone living on earth could believe

that enemies or invaders would ever get through the gates of Jerusalem.

¹³They got through because of the sins of Jerusalem's prophets and the crimes of its priests, who spilled the blood of righteous people within it.

¹⁴My people staggered blindly through the streets. They were so contaminated with bloodstains that no one would touch their clothes.

¹⁵Get away! You're unclean, people yelled at them. Get away! Get away! Don't touch anyone. When they fled and wandered around, the people of the nations said, They can't stay here any longer.

¹⁶The LORD himself has scattered them. He will no longer look favorably on them. They no longer respected the priests, nor did they honor their older leaders."

¹⁷"We are still straining our eyes, trying in vain to find help. We waited and waited for a nation that didn't save us.

¹⁸The enemy kept tracking us down, so we couldn't even go out into the streets. Our end was near. Our time was up. Our end had come.

¹⁹Those who were hunting us were faster than eagles in the sky. They chased us in the mountains and ambushed us in the wilderness.

²⁰The person the LORD anointed as king, who is the breath of our life, was caught in their pits. We had thought that we would live in our king's shadow among the nations."

²¹"Rejoice and be glad, people of Edom, inhabitants of the country of Uz. The cup of the LORD'S fury will be passed to you next. You'll get drunk and take off all your clothes.

²²People of Zion, the punishment for your wickedness will end. The LORD will not let you remain in exile. People of Edom, he will punish you for your wickedness. He will expose your sins."

5¹"Remember, O LORD, what has happened to us. Take a look at our disgrace!

²"The land we inherited has been turned over to strangers. Our homes have been turned over to foreigners.

³We are orphans without a father. Our mothers are like widows.

⁴We have to pay to drink our own water. We have to pay to chop our own wood.

⁵Our enemies are breathing down our necks. We are worn out and not permitted to rest.

⁶We had to beg Egypt and Assyria for food.

⁷Our ancestors sinned. Now they are gone, but we have to take the punishment for their wickedness.

⁸Slaves rule us. There is no one to rescue us from them.

⁹To get our food, we have to risk our lives in the heat of the desert.

¹⁰Our skin is as hot as an oven from the burning heat of starvation.

¹¹Women in Zion are raped, so are the girls in the cities of Judah.

¹²Our leaders are hung by their hands. Our older leaders are shown no respect.

¹³Our young men work at the mill, and our boys stagger under loads of wood.

¹⁴Our older leaders have stopped meeting at the city gate, and our young men no longer play their music.

¹⁵There is no joy left in our hearts. Our dancing has turned into mourning.

¹⁶The crown has fallen from our head. Because we have sinned, it has been disastrous for us.

¹⁷This is why we feel sick. This is why our eyes see less and less.

¹⁸Foxes roam around on Mount Zion, which lies in ruins.

¹⁹"But you, O LORD, sit enthroned forever, and your reign continues throughout every generation.

²⁰Why have you completely forgotten us? Why have you abandoned us for such a long time?

²¹O LORD, bring us back to you, and we'll come back. Give us back the life we had long ago,

²²unless you have completely rejected us and are very angry with us."

Ezekiel

1 ¹ On the fifth day of the fourth month in the thirtieth year, while I was living among the exiles by the Chebar River, the sky opened, and I saw visions from God.

² On the fifth day of the month, during the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiakin,

³ the LORD spoke his word to the priest Ezekiel, son of Buzi, in Babylon by the Chebar River. The power of the LORD came over Ezekiel.

⁴ As I looked, I saw a storm coming from the north. There was an immense cloud with flashing lightning surrounded by a bright light. The middle of the lightning looked like glowing metal.

⁵ In the center of the cloud I saw what looked like four living creatures. They were shaped like humans,

⁶ but each of them had four faces and four wings.

⁷ Their legs were straight, their feet were like those of calves, and they glittered like polished bronze.

⁸ They had human hands under their wings on each of their four sides. All four of them had faces and wings.

⁹ Their wings touched each other. The creatures went straight ahead, and they did not turn as they moved.

¹⁰ Their faces looked like this: From the front, each creature had the face of a human. From the right, each one had the face of a lion. From the left, each one had the face of a bull. And from the back, each one had the face of an eagle.

¹¹ That is what their faces looked like. Their wings were spread out, pointing upward. Each creature had two wings with which they touched each other. The other two wings covered their bodies.

¹² Each of the creatures went straight ahead. They went wherever their spirit wanted to go, and they didn't turn as they moved.

¹³ The living creatures looked like burning coals and torches. Fire moved back and forth between the living

creatures. The fire was bright, and lightning came out of the fire.

¹⁴The living creatures ran back and forth like lightning.

¹⁵As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the ground beside each of them.

¹⁶This is how the wheels looked and how they were made: They looked like beryl. All four wheels looked the same. They looked like a wheel within a wheel.

¹⁷Whenever they moved, they moved in any of the four directions without turning as they moved.

¹⁸The rims of the wheels were large and frightening. They were covered with eyes.

¹⁹When the living creatures moved, the wheels moved with them. When the living creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose.

²⁰Wherever their spirit wanted to go, the creatures went. The wheels rose with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

²¹So whenever the creatures moved, the wheels moved. Whenever the creatures stood still, the wheels stood

still. And whenever the creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

²²Something like a dome was spread over the heads of the living creatures. It looked like dazzling crystal.

²³Under the dome, each creature had two wings that were stretched out straight, touching one another. Each creature had two wings that covered its body.

²⁴When the creatures moved, I heard the sound of their wings. The sound was like the noise of rushing water, like the thunder of the Almighty, like the commotion in an army camp. When the creatures stood still, they lowered their wings.

²⁵A voice came from above the dome over their heads as they stood still with their wings lowered.

²⁶Above the dome over their heads was something that looked like a throne made of sapphire. On the throne was a figure that looked like a human.

²⁷Then I saw what he looked like from the waist up. He looked like glowing

bronze with fire all around it. From the waist down, he looked like fire. A bright light surrounded him.

²⁸The brightness all around him looked like a rainbow in the clouds. It was like the LORDS glory. When I saw it, I immediately bowed down, and I heard someone speaking.

2¹He said to me, "Son of man, stand up, and I will speak to you."

²As he spoke to me, the Spirit entered me, stood me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

³He said to me, "Son of man, I am sending you to the people of Israel. They are people from a nation that has rebelled against me. They and their ancestors have rebelled against me to this day.

⁴I am sending you to these defiant and stubborn children. Tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says.

⁵Whether these rebellious people listen or not, they will realize that a prophet has been among them.

⁶Son of man, dont be afraid of them or the things they say. Dont be afraid, even though thorns and thistles are around

you and you live among scorpions. Don't let the things they say frighten you. Don't be terrified in their presence, even though they are rebellious people.

⁷Speak my words to them whether they listen or not, because they are rebellious.

⁸But you, son of man, listen to what I say. Don't be rebellious like those rebellious people. Open your mouth, and eat what I am giving to you."

⁹As I looked, I saw a hand stretched out toward me. In it was a scroll.

¹⁰He spread the scroll in front of me. There was writing on the front and back. There were funeral songs, songs of mourning, and horrible things written on it.

3¹The LORD said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find. Eat this scroll. Then speak to the people of Israel."

²So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.

³He said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I'm giving you, and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

⁴He said to me, "Son of man, go to the people of Israel, and speak my words to them.

⁵I am not sending you to people whose language is hard to understand or difficult to speak. I am sending you to Israel.

⁶I am not sending you to nations whose language is hard to understand, difficult to speak, or whose words you cannot understand. If I send you to those nations, they will certainly listen to you.

⁷But the people of Israel will refuse to listen to you because they refuse to listen to me. All the people of Israel are very stubborn and hardheaded.

⁸Yet, I will make you as stubborn and as hardheaded as they are.

⁹I will make you as hard as a diamond, harder than stone. Don't be afraid of them. Don't be terrified in their presence, even though they are rebellious people."

¹⁰He also said to me, "Son of man, take to heart everything I have spoken to you, and listen closely.

¹¹Go to the exiles, to your people. Whether they listen or not, tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says."

¹²Then the Spirit lifted me, and behind me I heard a loud thundering voice say, "Blessed is the LORDS glory, which left this place."

¹³I also heard the noise of the wings of the living creatures touching one another and the noise of the wheels beside them as well as a loud rumbling.

¹⁴Then the Spirit lifted me and took me away. I went away feeling bitter and angry. The strong power of the LORD came over me.

¹⁵I went to Tel Abib, to the exiles who lived by the Chebar River. I sat there among them for seven days. I was stunned.

¹⁶After seven days the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

¹⁷"Son of man, I have made you a watchman over the people of Israel. Listen to what I say, and warn them for me.

¹⁸Suppose I tell you that wicked people will surely die, but you dont warn them or speak out so that they can change their wicked ways in order to save their lives. Then these wicked people will die

because of their sin, but I will hold you responsible for their deaths.

¹⁹But suppose you warn the wicked people, and they don't turn from their wicked ways. Then they will die because of their sin, but you will save yourself.

²⁰If righteous people turn from living the right way and do wrong, I will make them stumble, and they will die. If you don't warn them, they will die because of their sin, and the right things they did will not be remembered. I will hold you responsible for their deaths.

²¹But if you warn righteous people not to sin, and they don't sin, they will certainly live because they listened to the warning. You will save yourself."

²²The power of the LORD came over me. He said, "Get up, and go to the plain. I will speak to you there."

²³I got up and went to the plain. The LORDS glory was standing there like the glory I saw by the Chebar River, and I immediately bowed down.

²⁴Then the Spirit entered me and stood me on my feet. He talked to me. He said, "Go into your home, and shut yourself inside."

²⁵ People will tie you up with ropes, son of man, so that you can't go outside.

²⁶ I will make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth so that you can't talk or criticize them, even though they are rebellious people.

²⁷ But when I speak to you, I will open your mouth. You will tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says. Some will listen, and some will refuse to listen. They are rebellious people."

4¹ The LORD said, "Son of man, take clay, put it in front of you, and draw a map of Jerusalem on it.

² Set up a blockade against it, build attack walls around it, put up dirt ramps around it, have troops ready to attack it, and place battering rams all around it.

³ Then take an iron pan, and set it up as a wall between you and the city. Turn your face toward the city as if you were going to attack it, and then attack it. This is a sign for the people of Israel.

⁴ "Then lie on your left side and take the punishment of the nation of Israel yourself. You will bear its punishment as many days as you lie on that side.

⁵I have assigned to you one day for each year its punishment will last. So for 390 days, you will bear the punishment for the sins of the nation of Israel.

⁶When you finish this, you will lie down again, this time on your right side. You will bear the punishment for the sins of the nation of Judah for 40 days, one day for each year I have assigned to you.

⁷Turn your face toward the blockaded Jerusalem. Shake your fist and prophesy against it.

⁸I will tie you up with ropes so that you will not be able to turn from one side to the other until you have finished attacking Jerusalem.

⁹"Then take wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet, and winter wheat. Put them in a container, and use them to make bread for yourself. Eat it during the 390 days that you are lying on your side.

¹⁰The food that you eat should be weighed. Eat eight ounces of food every day at set times.

¹¹Measure out twothirds of a quart of water, and drink it at set times.

¹² Eat the bread as you would eat barley loaves. Bake the bread in front of people, using human excrement for fuel."

¹³ Then the LORD said, "In the same way, the people of Israel will eat unclean bread among the nations where I scatter them."

¹⁴ I answered, "Almighty LORD, I have never dishonored myself. From the time I was young until now, I have never eaten an animal that died by itself or was killed by other wild animals. No unclean meat has ever entered my mouth."

¹⁵ He said to me, "I will let you use cow manure in place of human excrement. Bake your bread over it."

¹⁶ He also said to me, "Son of man, I am going to cut off the bread supply in Jerusalem. People will anxiously eat rationed bread and fearfully drink rationed water.

¹⁷ They will be shocked at the sight of each other because of the lack of food and water. They will waste away because of their sin."

5¹ The LORD said, "Son of man, take a sharp blade, and use it as a barbers razor to shave your head and beard.

Take scales to weigh your hair and divide it into three even parts.

²When the blockade is over, burn onethird of your hair in a fire in the middle of the city. Take another third, and cut it up with a blade around the city. Then scatter the remaining third to the wind, and I will draw a sword and go after it.

³Take a few strands of hair, and wrap them in the hem of your clothes.

⁴Later, take some of them, and throw them in a fire and burn them up. From there a fire will spread throughout the whole nation of Israel.

⁵"This is what the Almighty LORD says: This is Jerusalem! I have placed it in the center of the nations with countries all around it.

⁶The people of Jerusalem have rebelled against my rules and my laws more than the surrounding nations. They have rejected my rules, and they dont live by my laws.

⁷"So this is what the Almighty LORD says: People of Jerusalem, you have caused more trouble than the nations around you. You havent lived by my laws

or obeyed my rules. You haven't even lived up to the standards of the nations around you.

⁸"So this is what the Almighty LORD says: I, too, am against you, and I will punish you in front of the nations.

⁹Because of all the detestable things that you do, I will do things to you that I have never done before and will never do again.

¹⁰That is why parents will eat their children, and children will eat their parents. I will punish you and scatter whoever is left to the wind.

¹¹"As I live, declares the Almighty LORD, because you have dishonored my holy worship place with all your disgusting and detestable things, I will have you killed. I will not have compassion for you or feel sorry for you.

¹²Onethird of you will die in plagues and be devoured in famines. Another third will die in battles against those around you. I will scatter the remaining third to the wind, and I will pursue them with a sword.

¹³"I will unleash my anger. I will use my fury against you, and I will get revenge.

When my fury is unleashed against you, you will know that I, the LORD, spoke to you while I was angry.

¹⁴I will turn you into a wasteland and an object of ridicule among the nations around you and in the presence of everyone who passes by you.

¹⁵The nations that are around you will ridicule you and laugh at you. When I punish you because of my anger, fury, and fierce revenge, you will become something ridiculed and something horrible. I, the LORD, have spoken.

¹⁶When I shoot my destructive arrows of famine at you, I will shoot to kill you. I will bring more and more famines into your land, and I will cut off your food supply.

¹⁷I will send famines and wild animals against you, and they will rob you of your children. I will send plagues, violence, and wars to kill you. I, the LORD, have spoken."

6¹ The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, look toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them.

³Say this, You mountains of Israel, listen to the word of the Almighty LORD! This is what the Almighty LORD says to the mountains and hills and to the ravines and valleys: I am going to attack you with a sword and destroy your worship sites.

⁴Your altars will be destroyed, and your incense burners will be smashed. I will kill people in front of your idols.

⁵I will lay the dead bodies of the people of Israel in front of your idols, and I will scatter their bones around your altars.

⁶Wherever people live, the cities will be ruined, and the worship sites will be wrecked. Your altars will be ruined and demolished. Your idols will be smashed and completely destroyed. Your incense burners will be cut down, and everything you have done will be wiped out.

⁷People will be killed, and they will fall among you. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

⁸"But I will let some people live. Some people will escape the battle among the nations and be scattered throughout the countries.

⁹Then those who escape will remember me among the nations where they are taken captive. I was hurt by their adulterous hearts, which turned away from me, and by their eyes, which lusted after idols. They will hate themselves for the evil and disgusting things that they have done.

¹⁰Then you will know that I am the LORD and that the disaster I promised was not an empty threat.

¹¹"This is what the Almighty LORD says: Clap your hands, stomp your feet, and say, "Oh no!" because the people of Israel have done evil and disgusting things. So they will die in wars, famines, and plagues.

¹²Plagues will kill those who are far away. Those who are near will die in wars, and anyone who is left and has escaped will die in famines. This is how I will unleash my anger.

¹³Then you will know that I am the LORD. "Those who are killed will lie beside the idols around their altars. They will lie on every high hill, on all the mountaintops, and under every large tree and every leafy oak. These are the

places where they made offerings to their disgusting idols.

¹⁴I will use my power against them and destroy the land, from the desert to Diblah. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

7¹ The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, this is what the Almighty LORD says to the people in the land of Israel: The end is coming! The end is coming to the four corners of the earth.

³Now the end is coming for you. I will send my anger against you. I will judge you for the way you have lived, and I will punish you for all the detestable things that you have done.

⁴I will not have compassion for you or feel sorry for you. I will pay you back for the way you have lived and for the detestable things you have done. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

⁵"This is what the Almighty LORD says: One disaster after another is coming.

⁶The end is coming. The end is coming. It is stirring itself up against you. It is coming!

⁷ Destruction is coming to you, inhabitants of the land. The time is coming. The day is near. There will be confusion. There will be no joy in the mountains.

⁸ Soon I will pour out my fury on you and unleash my anger on you. I will judge you for the way you have lived, and I will punish you for all the detestable things that you have done.

⁹ I will not have compassion or feel sorry. I will pay you back for the way you have lived and for the detestable things that you are still doing. Then you will know that I am the LORD and that I am the one attacking you.

¹⁰ "The day is near! It is coming! Destruction is coming! Wrongdoing has blossomed. Arrogance has flourished.

¹¹ Violence has grown into a weapon for punishing wickedness. None of the people will be left. None of that crowd, none of their wealth, and nothing of value will be left.

¹² The time is coming. The day is near. Buyers will not rejoice, and sellers will not mourn, because my fury will be against the whole crowd.

¹³ Sellers will not live long enough to buy back what they have sold. The visions against that crowd will not change. Because of their sins, none of the people will live.

¹⁴ They have blown a rams horn, and everything is ready. But no one will go into battle, because my fury is against their whole crowd.

¹⁵ "Outside are swords, and inside are plagues and famines. Whoever is in a field will die in battle. Whoever is in the city will be devoured by famines and plagues.

¹⁶ Those who survive will escape to the mountains. They will moan like doves in the valleys. They will moan because of their sins.

¹⁷ Every hand will hang limp, and every knee will be as weak as water.

¹⁸ They will put on sackcloth, and horror will cover them. All their faces will be covered with shame, and every head will be shaved.

¹⁹ They will throw their silver and gold into the streets like garbage. Their silver and gold wont be able to rescue them on the day of the LORDS anger. It will

no longer satisfy their hunger or fill their stomachs. Their silver and gold caused them to fall into sin.

²⁰They were proud of their beautiful jewels and used them to make disgusting and detestable statues of false gods. That is why I will make their jewels disgusting.

²¹I will hand their jewels over to foreigners as loot and to the most evil people on earth as prizes. These foreigners will dishonor the people of Israel.

²²I will turn my face away from the people of Israel, and foreigners will dishonor my treasured place. Robbers will go in and dishonor it.

²³"Get the chains ready! The land is filled with murder, and the city is filled with violence.

²⁴So I will send the most evil nation, and it will take possession of peoples houses. I will stop those who are strong from feeling proud, and their holy places will be dishonored.

²⁵Anguish is coming. People will look for peace, but there will be none.

²⁶One disaster will happen after another. One rumor will follow another. People will ask for a vision from a prophet. The teachings of priests and the advice of leaders will disappear.

²⁷Kings will mourn, and princes will give up hope. The common people will lose their courage. I will give them what they deserve and judge them as they have judged others. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

8¹On the fifth day of the sixth month in the sixth year, I was sitting in my home. Judah's leaders were sitting in front of me. The power of the Almighty LORD came over me.

²As I looked, I saw something that looked like a human. From the waist down its body looked like fire, and from the waist up its body looked like glowing metal.

³It stretched out what looked like a hand and grabbed me by the hair on my head. In these visions from God, the Spirit carried me between heaven and earth. He took me to Jerusalem, to the entrance to the north gate of the inner courtyard of the temple. That was where

an idol that stirs up Gods anger was located.

⁴There I saw the glory of Israels God as I did in the vision that I saw in the valley.

⁵God said to me, "Son of man, look toward the north." So I looked toward the north, and there in the entrance to the north gate beside the altar, I saw the idol that stirs up Gods anger.

⁶He asked me, "Son of man, do you see what the people of Israel are doing? The people of Israel are doing very disgusting things here, things that will force me to go far away from my holy place. But you will see even more disgusting things."

⁷Then he took me to the entrance of the courtyard. As I looked, I saw a hole in the wall.

⁸He said to me, "Son of man, dig through the wall." So I dug through the wall, and I saw a door.

⁹He said to me, "Go in, and see the wicked, disgusting things that the people of Israel are doing here."

¹⁰So I went in and looked. I saw that the walls were covered with drawings of every kind of crawling creature, every

kind of disgusting animal, and all the idols in the nation of Israel.

¹¹ In front of these drawings stood 70 of Israel's leaders. Jaazaniah, son of Shaphan, was standing with the leaders. Each of them was holding an incense burner in his hand, and a cloud of incense went up.

¹² God asked me, "Son of man, do you see what the leaders of the nation of Israel are doing in secret? Each of them is in the room where his god is, and each one of them is thinking, The LORD doesn't see me. The LORD has abandoned this land."

¹³ Then he said to me, "You will see even more disgusting things that they are doing."

¹⁴ He brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the LORDS temple. Women were sitting there and crying for the god Tammuz.

¹⁵ He asked me, "Son of man, do you see this? You will see even more disgusting things than these."

¹⁶ Then he brought me into the inner courtyard of the LORDS temple. There at the entrance to the LORDS temple,

between the entrance and the altar, were about 25 men who had their backs turned to the LORDS temple. They were facing east and worshipping the rising sun.

¹⁷He asked me, "Son of man, do you see this? Isnt it bad enough that the people of Judah have done these disgusting things that you have seen here? Yet, they also fill the land with violence and continue to provoke me even more. Look how they insult me in the worst possible way.

¹⁸So I will take action because Im angry, and I wont have compassion for them or feel sorry for them. Even if they shout in my ears, I wont listen to them."

9¹Then I heard the LORD call out with a loud voice. He said, "Come here, those who are going to punish this city. Each of you should bring your weapon with you."

²So six men came from the upper north gate. Each one brought a deadly weapon with him. Among them was a person dressed in linen who was carrying paper and pen. The men came in and stood by the bronze altar.

³Then the glory of the God of Israel went up from the angels, where it had been, to the temple's entrance. The LORD called to the person dressed in linen who was carrying paper and pen.

⁴The LORD said to that person, "Go throughout the city of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of those who sigh and groan about all the disgusting things that are being done in the city."

⁵Then he said to the others as I was listening, "Follow him throughout the city and kill. Don't have any compassion, and don't feel sorry.

⁶Kill old men, young men, old women, young women, and children. But don't come near anyone who has a mark on him. Start with my holy place." So they started with the old men in front of the temple.

⁷He said to them, "Dishonor the temple! Fill its courtyards with dead people, and then leave." So they went out and killed the people in the city.

⁸As they were killing people, I was left alone. So I immediately bowed down. I cried, "Almighty LORD, will you destroy

everyone who is left in Israel while you pour out your anger on Jerusalem?"

⁹He answered me, "The wickedness of the nations of Israel and Judah is terrible. The land is filled with murder, and the city is filled with wrongdoing. They think that the LORD has abandoned the land and that he doesn't see.

¹⁰But I will not have compassion or feel sorry. I will do to them what they have done to others."

¹¹Then the person dressed in linen who was carrying paper and pen reported, "I did everything you commanded."

10¹As I looked at the dome over the heads of the angels, I saw something that looked like a throne made of sapphire.

²The LORD said to the person dressed in linen, "Go between the wheels under the angels, and fill your hands with burning coals. Then scatter them over the city." So he went between the wheels as I watched.

³The angels were standing on the south side of the temple as the person went. A cloud filled the inner courtyard.

⁴The LORDS glory rose from the angels to the entrance of the temple, the cloud filled the temple, and the brightness of the LORDS glory filled the courtyard.

⁵The sound of the angels wings was heard as far as the outer courtyard. It was like the sound of the Almighty God when he speaks.

⁶After the LORD had commanded the person dressed in linen to take burning coals from between the wheels beside the angels, the person went in and stood beside one of the wheels.

⁷One of the angels reached into the fire that was between the angels and took out some coals. This angel put them in the hands of the person dressed in linen. The person took them and left.

⁸The angels appeared to have what looked like human hands under their wings.

⁹As I looked, I saw four wheels beside the angels, one wheel beside each of the angels. The wheels looked like beryl.

¹⁰All four wheels looked the same. Each was like a wheel within a wheel.

¹¹Whenever the angels moved, they moved in any of the four directions

without turning as they moved. They always moved in the direction they faced without turning as they moved.

¹²Their entire bodies, their backs, hands, wings, and wheels were covered with eyes. Each of the angels had a wheel.

¹³I heard that the wheels were called the whirling wheels.

¹⁴Each of the angels had four faces. The first was the face of an angel, the second was the face of a human, the third was the face of a lion, and the fourth was the face of an eagle.

¹⁵The angels rose. These were the living creatures that I saw at the Chebar River.

¹⁶When the angels moved, the wheels moved beside them. When the angels lifted their wings to rise from the ground, the wheels didn't leave their side.

¹⁷When the angels stood still, the wheels stood still. When the angels rose, the wheels rose with them. The spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

¹⁸Then the glory of the LORD left the temple's entrance and stood over the angels.

¹⁹The angels lifted their wings and rose from the ground. I was watching them as they left with the wheels beside them. The angels stood at the door to the east gate of the LORDS temple, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them.

²⁰These are the living creatures that I saw under the God of Israel at the Chebar River. I realized that they were angels.

²¹Each had four faces and four wings, and under their wings were what looked like human hands.

²²Their faces looked exactly like the faces that I saw by the Chebar River. Each one went straight ahead.

11¹ Then the Spirit lifted me and took me to the east gate of the LORDS temple. (Its the gate that faces east.) Twentyfive men were at the entrance of the gate. I saw among them Azzurs son Jaazaniah and Benaiahs son Pelatiah. They were leaders of the people.

²Then the LORD said to me, "Son of man, these are the men who plan evil and give bad advice in this city.

³They say, Its almost time to rebuild homes. This city is a cooking pot, and were the meat.

⁴So prophesy against them. Prophesy, son of man."

⁵The LORDS Spirit came to me and told me to say, "This is what the LORD says: You are saying these things, nation of Israel. But I know whats going through your mind.

⁶You have killed many people in this city and have filled its streets with corpses.

⁷"So this is what the Almighty LORD says: The corpses that you put in the middle of the city are the meat, and the city is the cooking pot. I will force you out of the city.

⁸You are afraid of swords, so I will bring swords to attack you, declares the Almighty LORD.

⁹I will force you out of the city. I will hand you over to foreigners, and I will punish you.

¹⁰You will die in battle. I will judge you at Israels borders. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

¹¹ The city will not be your cooking pot, and you will not be the meat in it. I will judge you at Israel's borders.

¹² Then you will know that I am the LORD. You haven't lived by my laws, and you haven't obeyed my rules. You have followed the standards set by the nations around you."

¹³ While I was prophesying, Benaiah's son Pelatiah died. I immediately bowed down and cried out, "Almighty LORD, will you completely destroy all the remaining people in Israel?"

¹⁴ Then the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

¹⁵ "Son of man, the people who live in Jerusalem are talking about your own relatives and about the entire nation of Israel. The people who live in Jerusalem say, They are far away from the LORD. This land has been given to us as our own property.

¹⁶ "So tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says: Although I sent them far away among the nations and scattered them among the countries, I have been their sanctuary for a little

while among the countries where they've gone.

¹⁷"So tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says: I will bring them together from the nations and gather them from the countries where I've scattered them. I will give them the land of Israel.

¹⁸They will come and remove all the disgusting and detestable things that are there.

¹⁹I will give them a single purpose and put a new spirit in them. I will remove their stubborn hearts and give them obedient hearts.

²⁰Then they will live by my laws and obey my rules. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

²¹But as for those whose minds are set on following detestable and disgusting idols, I will pay them back for what they have done, declares the Almighty LORD."

²²Then the angels raised their wings, with the wheels beside them. The glory of the God of Israel was above them.

²³The LORDS glory left the middle of the city and stopped above the mountain east of the city.

²⁴In this vision from Gods Spirit, the Spirit lifted me and brought me to the exiles in Babylonia. Then the vision I saw left me.

²⁵I told the exiles everything the LORD had shown me.

12¹ The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, you are living among rebellious people. They have eyes, but they cant see. They have ears, but they cant hear because they are rebellious people.

³"Son of man, pack your bags as if you were going into exile. Let the people see you leave in the daylight. March like a captive from your place to another place as they watch. Maybe they will understand, even though they are rebellious people.

⁴Let them see you in the daylight. Bring out your bags as if you were going into exile. In the evening let them see you leave like a captive going into exile.

⁵Dig a hole through the wall of your house, and leave through it.

⁶Let them see you put your bags on your shoulders and carry them out in the

dark. Cover your face so that you won't see the land. I've made you a sign to warn the nation of Israel."

⁷ I did what I was ordered to do. During the day I brought out bags as if I were going into exile. In the evening I dug a hole through the wall. I brought out my bags in the dark. I let the people see me as I carried my bags on my shoulders.

⁸ The next morning the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

⁹ "Son of man, didn't the rebellious nation of Israel ask you what you were doing?"

¹⁰ "Tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says: This is the divine revelation about the prince from Jerusalem and about all the people of Israel who live there.

¹¹ "Tell them, I am your warning sign. What I have done will happen to you. You will go into exile and into captivity.

¹² The prince who is among you will put his bags on his shoulders in the dark and leave. People will dig holes in the wall to go through. The prince will cover his face so that he cannot see the land.

¹³I will spread my net over him, and he will be caught in my net. I will bring him to Babylon, the land of the Babylonians, but he will not see it. And that's where he'll die.

¹⁴I will scatter in every direction all those who are around him his staff and all his troops. I will pursue them with my sword.

¹⁵Then they will know that I am the LORD, because I will scatter them among the nations and force them into other countries.

¹⁶However, I will spare a few of them from wars, famines, and plagues. Wherever they go among the nations, they will realize that everything they did was disgusting. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

¹⁷The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

¹⁸"Son of man, shake as you eat your food. Tremble and be worried as you drink your water.

¹⁹"Tell the people of this land, This is what the Almighty LORD says about the people who live in Jerusalem and in the land of Israel: They will be worried as

they eat their food and terrified as they drink their water. Their country will be stripped of everything because everyone who lives there is violent.

²⁰The cities where people live will be destroyed, and the country will become a wasteland. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

²¹The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²²"Son of man, what is this proverb you have in Israel: Days go by, and every vision comes to nothing?

²³"Tell the people, This is what the Almighty LORD says: I will put a stop to the use of this proverb. You will no longer quote it in Israel. Instead, tell them, The time is near when every vision will come true.

²⁴There will no longer be any false visions or flattering fortunetelling to the people.

²⁵I, the LORD, will speak. Everything that I say will happen without any more delay. I will say something, and it will happen during your lifetime, you rebellious people, declares the Almighty LORD."

²⁶The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²⁷"Son of man, the people of Israel are saying, The vision that Ezekiel sees wont happen for a long time. What he prophecies will happen in the distant future.

²⁸"Tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says: Everything that I say will no longer be delayed. Whatever I say will happen, declares the Almighty LORD."

13¹The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel. Tell those who make up their prophecies, Listen to the word of the LORD.

³"This is what the Almighty LORD says: How horrible it will be for the foolish prophets. They follow their own ideas, and they have seen nothing.

⁴Israel, your prophets are like foxes among the ruins of a city.

⁵They havent repaired the gaps in the wall or rebuilt the wall for the nation of Israel. So Israel will not be protected in battle on the day of the LORD.

⁶These foolish prophets see false visions, and their predictions don't come true. They say, "The LORD said this." But the LORD hasn't sent them. Then they hope that their message will come true.

⁷Prophets of Israel, haven't you seen false visions and predicted things that don't come true? Don't you say, "The LORD said this," even though I haven't said anything?

⁸"This is what the Almighty LORD says: Your predictions are false, and your visions are lies. That is why I'm against you, declares the Almighty LORD.

⁹I will use my power against the prophets who see false visions and predict things that don't come true. They will not help my people make decisions or be recorded in the records of the nation of Israel. They won't even enter Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

¹⁰"They have deceived my people by saying that everything is alright, but it's not alright. When someone builds a flimsy wall, the prophets cover it up with paint.

¹¹ Tell those who cover up the wall with paint that their wall will fall down. Rain will pour down, hailstones will fall on it, and stormy winds will break it to pieces.

¹² When the wall falls down, people will ask them, "Where's the paint that you used to cover the wall?"

¹³ "This is what the Almighty LORD says: In my fury I'll cause a storm to break out. In my anger rain will pour down, and hailstones will destroy the wall.

¹⁴ I will tear down the wall that the prophets covered up with paint. I will level it and expose its foundation. When the wall falls, they will be destroyed by it. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

¹⁵ I will unleash my fury on the wall and on those who covered it up with paint. "Then I will say to you, "The wall is gone, and so are those who painted it.

¹⁶ The prophets of Israel who prophesied to Jerusalem are gone. Those who said that everything was alright, when it wasn't alright, are gone, declares the Almighty LORD."

¹⁷"Son of man, look at the women among your people who make up prophecies, and prophesy against them.

¹⁸"Tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says: How horrible it will be for women who sew magic charms for peoples wrists and make magic veils of every size for peoples heads. You want to trap people. You want to control the lives of my people for your own profit.

¹⁹You dishonor me in front of my people for a few handfuls of barley and a few pieces of bread. You kill people who shouldnt die, and you spare the lives of people who shouldnt live. You lie to my people who are willing to listen.

²⁰"This is what the Almighty LORD says: Im against the magic charms that you use to trap people like birds. I will tear them from your arms and free the people that you have trapped.

²¹I will tear off your magic veils and rescue my people from your power so that they will no longer be under your control. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

²²You have discouraged righteous people with your lies, even though

I hadn't brought them any grief. You encouraged wicked people not to turn from their wicked ways to save their lives.

²³That is why you will no longer see false visions or make predictions. I will rescue my people from your power. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

14¹ Some of Israel's leaders came to me and sat down in front of me.

²Then the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

³"Son of man, these people are devoted to their idols, and they are allowing themselves to fall into sin. Should they be allowed to ask me for help?

⁴"So speak to them. Tell them, This is what the LORD says: Suppose an Israelite is devoted to idols and allows himself to fall into sin. Suppose he goes to a prophet to ask for my help. I, the LORD, will give that Israelite an answer, the answer that his many idols deserve.

⁵I will do this to recapture the hearts of the nation of Israel. They have deserted me because of their disgusting idols.

⁶"So tell the nation of Israel, This is what the Almighty LORD says: Change

the way you think and act! Turn away from your idols, and don't return to any of your disgusting things.

⁷ Suppose an Israelite or a foreigner who lives in Israel deserts me by devoting himself to idols and by allowing himself to fall into sin. If he goes to a prophet to ask for my help, I, the LORD, will give him an answer.

⁸ I will reject him, and I will make an example of him. I will exclude him from my people. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

⁹ "If a prophet is tricked into giving a prophecy, it is I, the LORD, who tricked the prophet. I will use my power against you and destroy you from among my people Israel.

¹⁰ Both of you will suffer for your sins. The prophet will be as guilty as you are when you ask for his help.

¹¹ Then the people of Israel will no longer wander away from me. They will no longer dishonor me with all their sins. Then they will be my people, and I will be their God, declares the Almighty LORD."

¹²The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

¹³"Son of man, suppose a country sins against me by being unfaithful to me. I will use my power against it, cut off its food supply, send a famine to it, and destroy its people and animals.

¹⁴Even if these three men Noah, Daniel, and Job were in that country, they would, by their righteousness, rescue only themselves," declares the Almighty LORD.

¹⁵"Suppose I send wild animals through that country and they make it childless and turn it into such a wasteland that no one travels through it because of the animals.

¹⁶As I live, declares the Almighty LORD, not even Noah, Daniel, and Job could rescue their own sons or daughters. They could rescue only themselves. And the country would become a wasteland.

¹⁷"Suppose I bring a war against that country by saying, I will let a war go throughout this country. Suppose I destroy the people and the animals in it.

¹⁸As I live, declares the Almighty LORD, not even Noah, Daniel, and Job could

rescue their sons or daughters. They could rescue only themselves.

¹⁹"Suppose I send a plague into that country or pour out my fury on it by killing people and destroying animals.

²⁰As I live, declares the Almighty LORD, not even Noah, Daniel, and Job could, by their righteousness, rescue their sons or daughters. They could rescue only themselves.

²¹"This is what the Almighty LORD says: I will surely send four terrible punishments against Jerusalem. I will send wars, famines, wild animals, and plagues. They will destroy people and animals.

²²But some people will survive. Some of your sons and daughters will be brought out. When they come out to you, you will see how they live. Then you will be comforted after the disasters that I will bring on Jerusalem, after every disaster that I will bring against it.

²³You will be comforted when you see how they live. Then you will know that everything I have done was done for a reason," declares the Almighty LORD.

15¹ The LORD spoke his word to me.
He said,

² "Son of man, what good is the wood from a vine? Is it better than the wood from a tree in the forest?

³ Do people use it to make something? Do they make a peg from it to hang things on?

⁴ No! It is only thrown into the fire as fuel. The fire burns up both its ends and chars its middle. Then can it be used to make anything?

⁵ When the vine was in perfect condition, it couldn't be made into anything. How can it be used to make anything after the fire has burned and charred it?

⁶ "So this is what the Almighty LORD says: As a vine is taken from among the trees in the forest to be used to feed the fire, so I will take the people who live in Jerusalem to punish them.

⁷ I will turn against the people of Jerusalem. Even though they have escaped one fire, another fire will burn them. Then they will know that I am the LORD, because I will turn against them.

⁸I will turn the country into a wasteland because they have been unfaithful," declares the Almighty LORD.

16¹ The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, make known to the people of Jerusalem the disgusting things they have done.

³Tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says to the people of Jerusalem: Your birthplace and your ancestors were in the land of the Canaanites. Your father was an Amorite, and your mother was a Hittite.

⁴When you were born, your umbilical cord wasn't cut. You weren't washed with water to make you clean. You weren't rubbed with salt or wrapped in cloth.

⁵No one who saw you felt sorry enough for you to do any of these things. But you were thrown into an open field. You were rejected when you were born.

⁶"Then I went by you and saw you kicking around in your own blood. I said to you, "Live."

⁷I made you grow like a plant in the field. You grew up, matured, and became a young woman. Your breasts developed,

and your hair grew. Yet, you were naked and bare.

⁸"I went by you again and looked at you. You were old enough to make love to. So I spread my robe over you, and covered your naked body. I promised to love you, and I exchanged marriage vows with you. You became mine, declares the Almighty LORD.

⁹"Then I bathed you with water, and I washed off your blood. I poured olive oil over you.

¹⁰I put an embroidered dress on you and fine leather sandals on your feet. I dressed you in fine linen and covered you with silk.

¹¹I gave you jewelry. I put bracelets on your wrists and a necklace around your neck.

¹²I put a ring in your nose, earrings on your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head.

¹³So you wore gold and silver jewelry. You were dressed in fine linen, silk, and embroidered clothes. Your food was flour, honey, and olive oil. You were very beautiful, and eventually you became a queen.

¹⁴You became famous in every nation because of your beauty. Your beauty was perfect because I gave you my glory, declares the Almighty LORD.

¹⁵"But you trusted your beauty, and you used your fame to become a prostitute. You had sex with everyone who walked by.

¹⁶You took some of your clothes and made your worship sites colorful. This is where you acted like a prostitute. Such things shouldn't happen. They shouldn't occur.

¹⁷You took your beautiful gold and silver jewelry that I had given you and made male idols for yourself. Then you committed adultery with them.

¹⁸You took off your embroidered clothes and covered the idols with them. You offered my olive oil and incense in their presence.

¹⁹You also offered them sweet and fragrant sacrifices. You gave flour, olive oil, and honeyall the food that I gave you to eat. This is what happened, declares the Almighty LORD.

²⁰"You took your sons and daughters, who belonged to me, and you sacrificed

them as food to idols. Wasnt your prostitution enough?

²¹ You slaughtered my children and presented them as burnt offerings to idols.

²² With all the disgusting things that you did and all your acts of prostitution, you didnt remember the time when you were young. You didnt remember when you were naked and bare, kicking around in your own blood.

²³ "How horrible! How horrible it will be for you! declares the Almighty LORD. After all your wickedness,

²⁴ you built yourself platforms and illegal worship sites in every city square.

²⁵ You also built worship sites at the head of every street. You used your beauty to seduce people there. You offered your body to everyone who passed by. You increased your acts of prostitution.

²⁶ You had sex with your lustful neighbors, the Egyptians. You used your prostitution to make me angry.

²⁷ "So I used my power against you. I took away some of your land, and I handed you over to your greedy

enemies, the Philistines, who were ashamed of what you had done.

²⁸"You had sex with the Assyrians because you werent satisfied. You still werent satisfied.

²⁹So you increased your acts of prostitution to include the land of the merchants, the Babylonians. Even after that, you werent satisfied.

³⁰"You have no will power! declares the Almighty LORD. You do everything a shameless prostitute does.

³¹You build your platforms at the head of every street and place your illegal worship sites in every square. Yet, you arent like other prostitutes, because you dont want to be paid.

³²You are an adulterous wife who prefers strangers to her husband.

³³All prostitutes get paid. But you give gifts to all your lovers and bribe them to come to you from all directions to have sex with you.

³⁴You are a different kind of prostitute. No one goes after you for favors. You are the opposite. You pay them, and you dont accept payment.

³⁵"Listen to the word of the LORD, you prostitute.

³⁶This is what the Almighty LORD says: You exposed yourself and uncovered your naked body when you gave yourself to your lovers and to all your disgusting idols. You also killed your children and sacrificed their blood to these idols.

³⁷That is why I will gather all your lovers with whom you found pleasure. I will have all those who love you and hate you gather around. I will uncover your body for them, and they will see you naked.

³⁸I will punish you the same way that those who are guilty of prostitution and murder are punished. I will give you the death penalty in my fury and burning anger.

³⁹I will hand you over to your lovers. They will destroy your platforms and tear down your illegal worship sites. They will tear off your clothes, take away your beautiful jewelry, and leave you naked and bare.

⁴⁰They will also bring a mob against you. They will stone you and cut you into pieces with their swords.

⁴¹ They will burn your houses and punish you in the presence of many women. I will put an end to your prostitution, and you will no longer pay others.

⁴² Then I will rest from my fury against you, and I will stop being angry. I will be at peace. I will no longer be angry.

⁴³ "You didnt remember the time when you were young, and you made me very angry with all these things. So I will pay you back for what you have done, declares the Almighty LORD. Didnt you make wicked plans in addition to all your disgusting practices?

⁴⁴ "Everyone who uses proverbs will speak the following saying against you: Like mother, like daughter.

⁴⁵ You are your mothers daughter. She rejected her husband and her children. You are exactly like your sisters. They rejected their husbands and their children. Your mother was a Hittite, and your father was an Amorite.

⁴⁶ "Your older sister was Samaria. She and her daughters lived north of you. Your younger sister is Sodom. She lives south of you with her daughters.

⁴⁷ You didn't follow their ways. You didn't do the same disgusting things that they did. It only took you a little time to be more corrupt than they ever were.

⁴⁸ As I live, declares the Almighty LORD, your sister Sodom and her daughters never did what you and your daughters have done.

⁴⁹ This is what your sister Sodom has done wrong. She and her daughters were proud that they had plenty of food and had peace and security. They didn't help the poor and the needy.

⁵⁰ They were arrogant and did disgusting things in front of me. So I did away with them when I saw this.

⁵¹ "Samaria didn't commit half the sins you did. You have done many more disgusting things than they ever did. Because of all the disgusting things that you have done, you make your sisters look innocent.

⁵² You will have to suffer disgrace because you accused your sisters. Yet, your sins are more disgusting than theirs. They look like they are innocent compared to you. Be ashamed of yourself and suffer disgrace, because

you have made your sisters look like they are innocent.

⁵³"I will restore the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters, and Samaria and her daughters. I will also restore your fortune along with theirs.

⁵⁴You will have to suffer disgrace and be ashamed of everything you have done, including comforting them.

⁵⁵When Sodom and her daughters and Samaria and her daughters return to what they once were, you and your daughters will return to what you once were.

⁵⁶You didnt mention your sister Sodom when you were arrogant.

⁵⁷You didnt mention her before your wickedness was revealed. Now the daughters of Aram and their neighbors despise you. The daughters of the Philistines also despise you. Those around you hate you.

⁵⁸You must suffer because of all the crude and disgusting things you have done, declares the LORD.

⁵⁹"This is what the Almighty LORD says: I will give you what you deserve.

You despised your marriage vows and rejected my promise.

⁶⁰I will remember the promise that I made with you when you were young, and I will make it a promise that will last forever.

⁶¹Then you will remember what you have done. You will be ashamed when I return your older and younger sisters to you. I will give them to you as daughters, but not because of my promise with you.

⁶²Then I will make my promise with you, and you will know that I am the LORD.

⁶³You will remember and be ashamed. You will never again open your mouth because of your disgrace when I forgive you for everything you did, declares the Almighty LORD."

17 ¹The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, tell this riddle. Give this illustration to the nation of Israel.

³Say, This is what the Almighty LORD says: A large eagle came to Lebanon. It had large wings with long, colorful feathers. It took hold of the top of a cedar tree.

⁴It broke off the highest twig and carried it to a country of merchants. It planted the twig in a city of merchants.

⁵"Then it took a seedling from that country and planted the seedling in fertile soil. The eagle planted the seedling like a willow where there was plenty of water.

⁶The plant sprouted and grew into a low vine that spread over the ground. Its branches turned upward toward the eagle, but its roots grew downward. So it became a vine, producing branches and growing shoots.

⁷"There was another large eagle with large wings and many feathers. Now, the vine stretched its roots toward this eagle and sent its branches toward the eagle so that the eagle could water it. The vine turned away from the garden where it was planted.

⁸It was planted in good soil beside plenty of water so that it could grow branches, bear fruit, and become a wonderful vine.

⁹"Tell the nation of Israel, This is what the Almighty LORD says: Will this vine live and grow? Wont the first eagle

uproot it and tear off its fruit? Then it will wither. All the leaves on its branches will wither. It won't take much strength or many people to pull the vine up by its roots.

¹⁰It might be planted again, but will it live and grow? It will wither completely when the east wind blows on it. It will certainly wither in the garden where it is growing."

¹¹The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

¹²"Ask these rebellious people, Don't you know what this means? Tell them, The king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and captured its king and its leaders. He brought them home with him to Babylon.

¹³Then he took someone from the royal family, made a treaty with him, and made him promise to be loyal. He took away the leading citizens from Judah

¹⁴so that it would remain a humiliated country and be unable to regain its power. The country could only survive by keeping the treaty.

¹⁵But the king of Judah rebelled against the king of Babylon by sending his messengers to Egypt to get horses and

many soldiers. Will the king of Judah succeed? Will anyone who does such things escape? He can't break a treaty and go unpunished.

¹⁶"As I live, declares the Almighty LORD, the king of Judah will die in Babylonia. He will die in the country of the king who appointed him king of Judah. The king of Judah broke his promise and his treaty with the king of Babylon.

¹⁷Even with a large army and many people, Pharaoh will not be able to help him in battle when the Babylonians put up dirt ramps and set up blockades to kill many people.

¹⁸The king of Judah broke the promise and the treaty that he pledged to keep. He did all these things, and he can't go unpunished.

¹⁹"So this is what the Almighty LORD says: As I live, I will certainly punish you for rejecting my promise and hating my treaty.

²⁰I will spread my net over you to catch you in my trap. I will take you to Babylon and judge you there for rebelling against me.

²¹ The best of your troops will die in battle. Anyone who remains will be scattered in every direction that the wind blows. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken.

²² "This is what the Almighty LORD says: I, too, will take hold of the top of a cedar tree. I will break off the highest twig and plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

²³ I will plant it on a high mountain in Israel. It will grow branches and produce fruit. It will become a magnificent cedar tree. Every kind of bird will nest in it and find a home in the shelter of its branches.

²⁴ Then all the trees in the field will know that I am the LORD. I cut down tall trees, and I make small trees grow tall. I dry up green trees, and I make dry trees grow. I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will do it."

18¹ The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

² "What do you mean when you use this proverb about the land of Israel: Fathers have eaten sour grapes, and their childrens teeth are set on edge?

³As I live, declares the Almighty LORD, you will no longer use this proverb in Israel.

⁴The life of every person belongs to me. Fathers and their children belong to me. The person who sins will die.

⁵"Suppose a righteous person does what is fair and right.

⁶He doesn't eat at the illegal mountain worship sites or look for help from the idols of the nation of Israel. He doesn't dishonor his neighbor's wife or have sexual intercourse with a woman while she is having her period.

⁷He doesn't oppress anyone. He returns what a borrower gives him as security for a loan. He doesn't rob anyone. He gives food to people who are hungry, and he gives clothes to those who are naked.

⁸He doesn't lend money for interest or make an excessive profit. He refuses to do evil things, and he judges everyone fairly.

⁹He lives by my rules and obeys my laws faithfully. This person is righteous. He will certainly live," declares the Almighty LORD.

¹⁰"But suppose this person has a son who robs and murders. The son does all the things

¹¹ that his father never did. He eats at the illegal mountain worship sites. He dishonors his neighbors wife.

¹²He oppresses the poor and needy. He robs. He doesnt return the security for a loan. He looks to idols for help. He does disgusting things.

¹³He lends money for interest and makes excessive profits. Will this person live? He will not live. He has done all these disgusting things. So he must die, and he will be responsible for his own death.

¹⁴"But suppose this person has a son. The son sees all the sins that his father does. He is afraid, so he doesnt do such things.

¹⁵He doesnt eat at the illegal mountain worship sites or look for help from the idols of the nation of Israel. He doesnt dishonor his neighbors wife.

¹⁶He doesnt oppress anyone. He doesnt keep the security for a loan. He doesnt rob anyone. He gives food to people who

are hungry, and he gives clothes to those who are naked.

¹⁷ He refuses to hurt the poor. He doesn't charge interest or make excessive profits. He obeys my rules and lives by my laws. He won't die for his father's sins. He will certainly live.

¹⁸ But his father has oppressed others, robbed his relative, and done what is wrong among his people. So the father will die because of his sin.

¹⁹ "But you ask, Why isn't the son punished for his father's sin? It is because the son has done what is fair and right. He obeyed my rules and followed them. He will certainly live.

²⁰ The person who sins will die. A son will not be punished for his father's sins, and a father will not be punished for his son's sins. The righteousness of the righteous person will be his own, and the wickedness of the wicked person will be his own.

²¹ "But suppose a wicked person turns away from all the sins that he has done. He obeys all my laws and does what is fair and right. He will certainly live. He will not die.

²²All the rebellious things that he did will not be remembered. He will live because of the right things that he did.

²³"I don't want wicked people to die," declares the Almighty LORD. "I want them to turn from their evil ways and live.

²⁴"But suppose a righteous person turns away from doing right and he does evil things. He does all the disgusting things that the wicked person did. Will he live? All the right things that he has done will not be remembered because of his unfaithfulness and because of his sin. He will die because of them.

²⁵"But you say, The LORD's way is unfair. Listen, nation of Israel, isn't my way fair? Isn't it your ways that are unfair?

²⁶When a righteous person turns away from doing right and does evil things, he will die. He will die because of the evil things he has done.

²⁷When a wicked person turns away from the wicked things that he has done and does what is fair and right, he will live.

²⁸He realized what he was doing and turned away from all the rebellious

things that he had done. He will certainly live. He will not die.

²⁹"But the nation of Israel says, The Lords way is unfair. Isnt my way fair, nation of Israel? Isnt it your ways that are unfair?

³⁰"That is why I will judge each of you by what you have done, people of Israel," declares the Almighty LORD. "Change the way you think and act. Turn away from all the rebellious things that you have done so that you will not fall into sin.

³¹Stop all the rebellious things that you are doing. Get yourselves new hearts and new spirits. Why do you want to die, nation of Israel?

³²I dont want anyone to die," declares the Almighty LORD. "Change the way you think and act!"

19¹ Sing a funeral song for the princes of Israel.

²Say: Your mother was like a lioness. She lay down among the lions. She fed many cubs.

³One of the cubs she raised became a young lion. He learned to tear apart the animals he hunted. He ate people.

⁴The nations heard about him, caught him in their pit, and brought him with hooks to Egypt.

⁵The lioness waited until she saw that there was no more hope. Then she took another one of her cubs and raised him into a young lion.

⁶He became a young lion, and he prowled among the lions. He learned to tear apart the animals he hunted. He ate people.

⁷He destroyed fortresses and turned cities into wastelands. The land and everyone living in it were terrified by the sound of his roar.

⁸The nations from every region came together against him. They spread their net over him and caught him in their pit.

⁹With hooks they put him in a cage and brought him to the king of Babylon. They put him in prison so that his roar wouldnt be heard anymore on the mountains of Israel.

¹⁰Your mother was like a grapevine that was planted near water. It had a lot of fruit and many branches because there was plenty of water.

¹¹ Its branches were strong. They were used to make scepters for kings. It grew to be tall with many branches around it, and everyone saw it because of its many branches.

¹² But in anger it was uprooted and thrown to the ground. The east wind dried up its fruit. Its strong branches broke off. They withered and were burned.

¹³ Now it is planted in the desert, in a dry and waterless land.

¹⁴ Fire has spread from the vines main branch. Fire has destroyed its fruit. It no longer has any strong branches that could be used as a kings scepter. This is a funeral song. It is to be used as a funeral song.

20¹ On the tenth day of the fifth month in the seventh year, some of the leaders of Israel came to ask for the LORDS help. They sat in front of me.

² Then the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

³ "Son of man, speak to the leaders of Israel. Tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says: Are you coming to ask me for help? As I live, declares the

Almighty LORD, you will not be allowed to ask me for help.

⁴"Will you judge them? Will you judge them, son of man? Tell them about the disgusting things their ancestors did.

⁵Tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says: When I chose Israel, I raised my hand and swore an oath to the descendants of Jacobs family. I made myself known to them in Egypt. I made a promise to them and said, "I am the LORD your God."

⁶At that time I promised to bring them out of Egypt to a land that I had chosen for them. This land is the most beautiful land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

⁷I said to them, "Get rid of the detestable idols that you look to for help. Dont dishonor yourselves with the disgusting idols of Egypt. I am the LORD your God."

⁸"But they rebelled against me and refused to listen to me. Not one of them got rid of the detestable idols that they looked to for help. They didnt abandon the disgusting idols of Egypt. So I was going to pour out my fury on them and unleash my anger on them in Egypt.

⁹But I acted so that my name would not be dishonored among the nations where they were living. While other nations were watching, I made myself known to them by bringing the Israelites out of Egypt.

¹⁰"So I brought the Israelites out of Egypt and led them into the desert.

¹¹I gave them my laws and made my rules known to them. If people obey them they will live.

¹²I also gave them certain days to worship me as a sign between us so that they would know that I, the LORD, made them holy.

¹³"But the people of Israel rebelled against me in the desert. They didnt live by my laws, and they rejected my rules. If people obey them, they will live. They dishonored the days to worship me. So I was going to pour out my fury on them in the desert and completely wipe them out.

¹⁴But I acted so that my name would not be dishonored among the nations who had watched me bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

¹⁵I also swore an oath to them in the desert. I swore that I would not bring them into the land that I had promised to give them. This land is the most beautiful land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

¹⁶They rejected my rules, and they didn't live by my laws. They dishonored the days to worship me, because their hearts chased disgusting idols.

¹⁷But I had compassion on them. I didn't destroy them or completely wipe them out in the desert.

¹⁸I said to their children in the desert, "Don't live by the laws of your ancestors. Don't obey their rules or dishonor yourselves with their disgusting idols.

¹⁹I am the LORD your God. Live by my laws. Obey my rules and follow them.

²⁰Set apart certain holy days to worship me. This will be a sign between me and you so that you will know that I am the LORD your God."

²¹"But they rebelled against me. They didn't live by my laws, and they didn't obey my rules and follow them. If people obey them, they will live. They dishonored the days to worship me. So I

was going to pour out my fury on them and unleash my anger on them in the desert.

²²But I didn't use my power so that my name would not be dishonored among the nations who had watched me bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

²³I raised my hand and swore an oath to them in the desert. I promised to scatter them among the nations and force them into other countries.

²⁴They didn't follow my rules, and they rejected my laws. They dishonored the days to worship me, and they looked to their ancestors disgusting idols for help.

²⁵I also allowed them to follow laws that were no good and rules by which they could not live.

²⁶I let them dishonor themselves when they sacrificed all their firstborn sons as gifts to their false gods. I terrified them so that they would know that I am the LORD.

²⁷"Speak to the nation of Israel, son of man. Tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says: Your ancestors insulted me again because they were unfaithful to me.

²⁸I brought them to the land that I promised to give them. When they saw any high hill or any leafy tree, they made sacrifices and brought offerings there to make me angry. There they offered their sacrifices and poured out their wine offerings.

²⁹Then I asked them, "What is this worship site you're going to?" (So it is still called worship site today.)

³⁰"Tell the nation of Israel, This is what the Almighty LORD says: Will you dishonor yourselves the way your ancestors did? Will you chase their detestable idols like a prostitute?

³¹You offer your children as sacrifices by burning them alive. You dishonor yourselves with all your disgusting idols to this day. Should you be allowed to ask me for help, nation of Israel? "As I live, declares the Almighty LORD, you won't be allowed to ask me for help.

³²What you have in mind will never happen. You think that you want to be like other nations, like the different people in other countries. You want to serve wood and stone.

³³"As I live, declares the Almighty LORD, I will rule you with a mighty hand and a powerful arm, and I will pour out my fury.

³⁴I will bring you out from the nations and gather you from the countries where I have scattered you with my mighty hand and powerful arm. I will pour out my fury.

³⁵I will bring you into the desert of the nations. There I will put you on trial face to face.

³⁶I will put you on trial as I put your ancestors on trial in the desert of Egypt, declares the Almighty LORD.

³⁷Then I will make you suffer punishment and make you keep the terms of the promise.

³⁸I will get rid of rebels and those who do wrong against me. I will bring you out of the land where you are living. You will never enter Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

³⁹"Nation of Israel, this is what the Almighty LORD says: Serve your disgusting idols. But afterwards, you will listen to me. You will no longer dishonor

my holy name with your gifts and your disgusting idols.

⁴⁰"The entire nation of Israel, everyone in the land, will worship me on my holy mountain, the high mountain of Israel, declares the Almighty LORD. There I will accept you. There I will look for your offerings, your best gifts, and all your holy gifts.

⁴¹When I bring you out from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered, I will accept you as if you were a pleasing sacrifice. Through you I will reveal myself as holy to the nations that are watching.

⁴²Then you will know that I am the LORD, because I will bring you to the land of Israel, the land that I promised to give your ancestors.

⁴³There you will remember the way you lived and everything you did to dishonor yourselves. You will be disgusted by every wrong thing that you did.

⁴⁴Then you will know that I am the LORD, because I will deal with you for the sake of my name. I will not deal with you based on the evil and corrupt things

that you have done, nation of Israel, declares the Almighty LORD."

⁴⁵The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

⁴⁶"Son of man, turn to the south, preach against the south, and prophesy against the forest in the Negev.

⁴⁷Tell the forest in the Negev, Listen to the word of the LORD. This is what the Almighty LORD says: I am about to set fire to you to destroy all your green trees and all your dry trees. The blazing fire will not be put out. It will burn the whole land from the south to the north.

⁴⁸Then everyone will know that I, the LORD, started the fire. It will never be put out."

⁴⁹Then I said, "Oh no! Almighty LORD, no! The people already say that I'm only telling stories."

21 ¹The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, turn to Jerusalem, preach against the holy places. Prophecy against the land of Israel.

³Tell the land of Israel, This is what the LORD says: I am against you. I will take my sword out of its scabbard and kill the

righteous people and the wicked people among you.

⁴Im going to kill the righteous people and the wicked people among you. That is why my sword will come out of its scabbard to be used against everyone from the south to the north.

⁵Then everyone will know that I, the LORD, have taken my sword from its scabbard, and I will not put it back again.

⁶"So, son of man, groan with a breaking heart and with bitter crying while the people watch you.

⁷When they ask you why you are groaning, say, News has come that will discourage everyone. Peoples hands will hang limp, their hearts will lose courage, and their knees will become as weak as water. Its coming! It will surely take place! declares the Almighty LORD."

⁸The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

⁹"Son of man, prophesy. Tell them, This is what the Lord says: A sword, a sword is sharpened and polished,

¹⁰Its sharpened to kill and polished to flash like lightning. How can we rejoice?

My son has refused to be disciplined or punished.

¹¹ The sword has been handed over to be polished, to be placed in the hand. The sword is being sharpened and polished to be placed in the hands of killers.

¹² "Cry and mourn, son of man, because the sword will be used against my people and against all the princes of Israel. I will throw the princes and my people on the sword. So beat your breast, and grieve.

¹³ Testing will surely come. What if you refuse to be disciplined again? Wont you be tested? declares the Almighty LORD.

¹⁴ So prophesy, son of man. Clap your hands! Let the sword strike again and again. Its the sword for killing. Its the sword for killing many people. Its the sword that surrounds them.

¹⁵ I have appointed my sword to slaughter people at all their gates so that their hearts will sink and many will die. Yes! Its ready to flash like lightning. Its polished to kill.

¹⁶ Sword, cut to the right. Cut to the left or wherever your blade is turned.

¹⁷ I will also clap my hands and rest from my fury. I, the LORD, have spoken."

¹⁸ The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

¹⁹ "Son of man, mark two roads that the king of Babylon and his sword can take. Both of these roads should start from the same country. Make a sign, and put it where the roads start to fork toward the cities.

²⁰ Mark the road that the king and his sword can take to the Ammonite city of Rabbah, and mark the road that leads to Judah and the fortified city of Jerusalem.

²¹ The king of Babylon will stop where the roads branch off, where there is a fork in the road. Then he will look for omens. He will shake some arrows, ask his household gods for help, and examine animal livers.

²² The omens will indicate that he should go to the right, to Jerusalem. So he will set up his battering rams there, give the order to kill, raise a battle cry, aim the battering rams against the city gates, put up ramps, and set up blockades.

²³The people won't believe this because they have made treaties with other nations. But the king of Babylon will remind them of their sins, and they will be captured.

²⁴"This is what the Almighty LORD says: You make people remember how sinful you are because you openly do wrong. You show your sins in everything you do. So you will be taken captive.

²⁵"You dishonest and wicked prince of Israel, the time for your final punishment has come.

²⁶This is what the Almighty LORD says: Take off your turban, and get rid of your crown. Things are going to change. Those who are unimportant will become important, and those who are important will become unimportant.

²⁷Ruins! Ruins! I will turn this place into ruins! It will not be restored until its rightful owner comes. Then I will give it to him.

²⁸"Son of man, prophesy. Tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says about the Ammonites and their insults: A sword, a sword is drawn ready to kill.

Its polished to destroy and flash like lightning.

²⁹ People see false visions about you and prophesy lies about you. The sword will be placed on the necks of dishonest, wicked people, for whom the time of final punishment has come.

³⁰ "Return your sword to its scabbard. In the place where you were created, in the land where you were born, there I will judge you.

³¹ I will pour out my fury on you and breathe on you with my fiery anger. I will hand you over to cruel people who are skilled in destruction.

³² You will be fuel for the fire. You will die in the land. You will no longer be remembered. I, the LORD, have spoken."

22¹ The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

² "Will you judge, son of man? Will you judge the city of murderers? Then tell it about all the disgusting things that it has done.

³ Tell it, This is what the Almighty LORD says: Jerusalem, you are the city that murders people who live in you. Your

time has come. You dishonor yourself with disgusting idols.

⁴You are guilty because of the people you have killed. You are dishonored because of the disgusting idols you have made. You have brought an end to your days, and you have come to the end of your years. That is why I will make you a disgrace to the nations and a joke in every land.

⁵Those near and those far away will mock you. Your name will be dishonored, and you will be filled with confusion.

⁶"See how all the princes of Israel who live in you have used their power to murder people.

⁷People in you hate their fathers and mothers. They oppress foreigners in you. They oppress orphans and widows in you.

⁸You have despised my holy things and dishonored the day to worship me.

⁹Some of your people slander. They want to kill people. People who live in you eat food sacrificed to idols at the worship sites on the hills, and they sin sexually.

¹⁰Men have sex with their fathers wives. They have sex with women when the women are having their periods and are unclean.

¹¹Men do disgusting things with their neighbors wives. Some men sexually dishonor their daughtersinlaw. Other men who live in you have sex with their sisters, their fathers daughters.

¹²Other people take bribes to murder people. You collect interest and make excessive profits. You make profits by mistreating your neighbors. You have forgotten me, declares the Almighty LORD.

¹³"I will use my power against you because of the excessive profits you have made and the murders you have committed.

¹⁴Will you still be brave? Will you remain strong when I deal with you? I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will do it.

¹⁵I will scatter you among the nations and force you into other countries. I will put an end to your uncleanness.

¹⁶You will be dishonored in the sight of the nations. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

¹⁷ Then the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

¹⁸ "Son of man, the people of Israel have become worthless to me. All of them are like copper, tin, iron, and lead in a smelting furnace. They are like the impurities left from silver.

¹⁹ This is what the Almighty LORD says: All of you have become worthless. That is why I'm going to gather you in Jerusalem.

²⁰ People gather silver, copper, iron, lead, and tin together in a smelting furnace to melt them with a fiery blast. In the same way, in my anger and fury I will gather you and put you in the city. I will melt you there.

²¹ Yes, I will gather you, breathe on you with my fiery anger, and melt you in the city.

²² You will be melted in the city like silver that is melted in a furnace. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have poured out my fury on you."

²³ The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²⁴ "Son of man, tell the city, You are an unclean land that has not had rain during

the day of my anger. You have not been made clean.

²⁵Your princes are like roaring lions who tear their prey into pieces. They eat people and take their treasures and precious belongings. They turn many women into widows.

²⁶Your priests violate my teachings and dishonor my holy things. They don't distinguish between what is holy and what is unholy. They don't teach the difference between what is clean and what is unclean. They ignore the days to worship me. So I am dishonored among the people.

²⁷Your leaders are like wolves that tear their prey into pieces. They murder and destroy people to make excessive profits.

²⁸Your prophets cover up these things by seeing false visions and by prophesying lies. They say, "This is what the Almighty LORD says." Yet, the LORD hasn't spoken.

²⁹The common people oppress and rob others. They do wrong to humble people and to poor people. They oppress foreigners for no reason.

³⁰"I looked for someone among you who could build walls or stand in front of me by the gaps in the walls to defend the land and keep it from being destroyed. But I couldn't find anyone.

³¹So I will pour out my anger on you, and with my fiery anger I will consume you. This is because of all the things you have done," declares the Almighty LORD.

23¹ The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, there were once two women, daughters of the same mother.

³They became prostitutes in Egypt when they were young. There men fondled and caressed their breasts.

⁴"The older girl was named Oholah, and the younger girl was named Oholibah. I married them, and they gave birth to sons and daughters. Oholah represents Samaria, and Oholibah represents Jerusalem.

⁵Oholah acted like a prostitute, although she was my wife. She lusted after her Assyrian lovers who lived nearby.

⁶They were governors and commanders clothed in purple. They were all

handsome young men who rode on horses.

⁷She became a prostitute for all the important men in Assyria. She dishonored herself with the idols of all those with whom she fell in love.

⁸She continued the prostitution that she started in Egypt. When she was young, men went to bed with her, caressed her breasts, and treated her like a prostitute.

⁹"That is why I handed her over to her lovers, to the Assyrians whom she lusted after.

¹⁰They stripped her naked, took away her sons and daughters, and killed her with a sword. Women gossiped about how she was punished.

¹¹"Even though her younger sister Oholibah saw this, Oholibah lusted after men more than her sister did. Oholibah's prostitution became worse than her sister's prostitution.

¹²She lusted after the Assyrians who were nearby. They were governors and commanders in full dress. They were mounted horsemen, all of them desirable young men.

¹³I saw that she was dishonoring herself. Both sisters acted the same way.

¹⁴Yet, she carried her prostitution even further. She saw pictures of men carved on walls. They were figures of Babylonian men, painted in bright red.

¹⁵The men had belts around their waists and flowing turbans on their heads. All of them looked like Babylonian officers who were born in Babylon.

¹⁶She fell in love with them at first sight and sent messengers to them in Babylonia.

¹⁷So these men came from Babylon, went to bed with her, and dishonored her with their lust. After they had dishonored her, she turned away from them in disgust.

¹⁸"She carried out her prostitution openly, and she lay around naked. I turned away from her in disgust as I had turned away from her sister.

¹⁹She remembered how she had been a prostitute in Egypt when she was young. So she took part in even more prostitution.

²⁰She lusted after her lovers, whose genitals were like those of donkeys and whose semen was like that of horses.

²¹So she longed to do the sinful things she did when she was young in Egypt, when young men caressed and fondled her breasts.

²²"Oholibah, this is what the Almighty LORD says: I'm going to stir up your lovers against you. They are the lovers you turned away from in disgust. I will bring them against you from every side.

²³I will bring men from Babylon and from all Babylonia, men from Pekod, Shoa, and Koa, as well as all the Assyrians. They are desirable young men, governors and commanders, military officers and important men. All of them ride on horses.

²⁴They will attack you from the north, with chariots and wagons and with a large number of troops. They will attack you from all around with small and large shields and with helmets. I have handed you over to them for punishment. They will punish you with their own kind of punishment.

²⁵I will direct my burning anger against you so that they will deal with you in anger. They will cut off your nose and ears and kill everyone who remains. They will take your sons and your daughters and burn down whatever is left.

²⁶They will rip off your clothes and take away your beautiful jewels.

²⁷I will put a stop to your sinning and to your prostitution, which you began in Egypt. You won't desire these things anymore or remember Egypt anymore.

²⁸"This is what the Almighty LORD says: I'm going to hand you over to those you hate and to those you turned away from in disgust.

²⁹They will treat you hatefully and take away everything that you have worked for. They will leave you naked and bare. The shame of your prostitution will be revealed.

³⁰Your sinning and your prostitution have done this to you, because you lusted after the nations and dishonored yourself with their idols.

³¹ Youve acted the same way as your sister. That is why I will put her cup in your hand.

³² This is what the Almighty LORD says: You will drink from your sisters cup, a cup that is deep and wide. You will be scorned and mocked, because this cup holds so much.

³³ The cup of your sister Samaria will be filled with drunkenness and sorrow.

³⁴ You will drink from it and drain it. You will break it into pieces and tear your breasts off your body. I have spoken, declares the Almighty LORD.

³⁵ "This is what the Almighty LORD says: You have forgotten me and turned your back on me. So you will be punished for your sinning and prostitution."

³⁶ The LORD said to me, "Son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah and tell them about their disgusting practices?

³⁷ They have committed adultery. Their hands are covered with blood. They commit adultery with their idols. They have sacrificed the children they gave birth to for me as burnt offerings to idols.

³⁸They have also done this to me: They have polluted my holy places when they do these things and dishonored the days to worship me.

³⁹When they sacrificed their children to their idols, they came into my holy place and dishonored it. That is what theyve done in my temple.

⁴⁰"They even sent messengers to invite men to come from far away. When the men arrived, they washed themselves for the men, painted their eyes, and put on their jewels.

⁴¹They sat on their fine couches with tables in front of them. They put my incense and my olive oil on their tables.

⁴²"I heard the noise from a carefree crowd. A large number of people came from the desert, and they put bracelets on the womens wrists and beautiful crowns on their heads.

⁴³Then I said, She is worn out from her acts of adultery. Yet, men continued to have sex with her.

⁴⁴Men slept with her. They slept with those sinful women, Oholah and Oholibah just as they slept with a prostitute.

⁴⁵ Righteous people will punish these women for adultery and for murder, because these women have committed adultery and their hands are covered with blood.

⁴⁶ "This is what the Almighty LORD says: Bring together a mob against the people of Samaria and Jerusalem. Hand them over to terror and looting.

⁴⁷ Then the mob will stone them and kill them with swords. The mob will kill their sons and daughters and burn their homes.

⁴⁸ So I will put a stop to the sinning in the land, and all the women will be warned not to sin as they do.

⁴⁹ They will be punished for their sins, and they will pay for their sin of idolatry. Then they will know that I am the Almighty LORD."

24¹ On the tenth day of the tenth month in the ninth year, the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

² "Son of man, write down today's date. The king of Babylon has surrounded Jerusalem this very day.

³ Tell these rebellious people a story. Tell them, This is what the Almighty

LORD says: Put the pot on the fire; put it on. Pour water in it.

⁴Cut the meat into pieces, all the best pieces, the thigh and shoulder. Fill the pot with the meatiest bones

⁵selected from the best sheep. Pile wood under the pot. Bring the mixture in the pot to a boil. Cook the bones that are in it well.

⁶"This is what the Almighty LORD says: How horrible it will be for that city of murderers, for that tarnished pot. Its tarnish will not come off. Empty the meat out of it piece by piece without choosing any particular piece.

⁷Blood is still in that city. The blood was poured on a bare rock. It wasn't poured on the ground where dust would cover it.

⁸In order to stir up my fury so that I would pay that city back, I put the blood of its victims on a bare rock. Now that blood can't be covered.

⁹"This is what the Almighty LORD says: How horrible it will be for that city of murderers. I, too, will pile the wood high.

¹⁰Pile it high, and light the fire. Cook the meat thoroughly, stir the mixture, and let the bones burn.

¹¹Then set the empty pot on the coals so that it gets hot and its copper glows. Its impurities will melt away, and its tarnish will burn off.

¹²"I have worn myself out trying to clean this pot. Even the fire cant take away its thick tarnish.

¹³I tried to clean you of your filthy lust, but you wouldnt clean yourself from your filth. You will never be clean until I unleash my fury on you.

¹⁴I, the LORD, have spoken. It will happen, and I will do it. I will not ignore you, pity you, or change my plans. I will punish you because of the way you lived and because of everything you have done," declares the Almighty LORD.

¹⁵Then the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

¹⁶"Son of man, with one blow Im going to take away from you the person you love the most. But you must not mourn, cry, or let tears run down your face.

¹⁷Groan silently. Dont grieve for the person who dies. Tie on your turban, and

put on your sandals. Dont cover your face or eat the food that mourners eat."

¹⁸So I spoke to the people in the morning, and in the evening my wife died. The next morning I did as I was ordered.

¹⁹The people asked me, "Tell us, what do these things that you are doing mean to us?"

²⁰I told them, "The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²¹Tell the nation of Israel, "This is what the Almighty LORD says: Im going to dishonor my holy place. You brag that my holy place gives you strength. Its the thing you love the most. Its your hearts desire. So the sons and daughters that you left behind will die in battle.

²²Then you must do as I did. Dont cover your faces or eat the food that mourners eat.

²³Leave your turbans on your heads and your sandals on your feet. Dont grieve or cry! You will waste away because of your guilt and groan to one another.

²⁴ Ezekiel is a sign to you. You will do everything he has done. Then you will know that I am the Almighty LORD."

²⁵ "Son of man, on that day I will take their stronghold away from them. It makes them happy and proud. It is their hearts desire and the thing they love the most. I will also take away their sons and daughters.

²⁶ On that day a refugee will come to you to tell you the news.

²⁷ On that very day your mouth will be opened, and you will talk to the refugee. You will speak and not be silent anymore. You will be a sign to them. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

25 ¹ The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

² "Son of man, turn to the Ammonites and prophesy against them.

³ Tell the Ammonites, Listen to the word of the Almighty LORD. This is what the Almighty LORD says: You were glad when my holy place was dishonored, when the land of Israel was ruined, and when the nation of Judah went into exile.

⁴ That is why I'm going to hand you over to the people in the east. They will

possess your land. They will set up their camps and pitch their tents among you. They will eat your crops and drink your milk.

⁵I will turn Rabbah into a pasture for camels, and I will turn Ammon into a resting place for sheep. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

⁶"This is what the Almighty LORD says: You clapped your hands and stomped your feet. You rejoiced and felt contempt for the land of Israel.

⁷That is why I will use my power against you and hand you over to the nations as loot. I will wipe you out from among the nations, make you disappear, and destroy you. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

⁸"This is what the Almighty LORD says: Moab and Seir said, "The nation of Judah is like all the other nations."

⁹That is why I'm going to open up the cities that protect Moab's borders. They are the beautiful cities of Beth Jeshimoth, Baal Meon, and Kiriathaim.

¹⁰I will hand the Moabites and the Ammonites over to the people in the

east. So the Ammonites will no longer be remembered among the nations.

¹¹ I will punish Moab. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

¹² "This is what the Almighty LORD says: Edom took revenge on the nation of Judah and became guilty because of it.

¹³ So this is what the Almighty LORD says: I will use my power against Edom. I will wipe out people and animals. I will turn the land into ruins from Teman to Dedan. People will die in battle.

¹⁴ I will use my people Israel to take revenge on Edom. My people will deal with Edom based on my anger and my fury. Then the Edomites will know my revenge, declares the Almighty LORD.

¹⁵ "This is what the Almighty LORD says: The Philistines have taken revenge with spiteful hearts. They have tried to destroy their longtime enemies.

¹⁶ So this is what the Almighty LORD says: I'm going to use my power against the Philistines, cut off the Cherethites, and destroy the people that are left on the coast.

¹⁷I will take fierce revenge on them and punish them with fury. I will take revenge on them. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

26¹ On the first day of the month in the eleventh year, the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, Tyre said this about Jerusalem: The city that was the gateway for the nations is destroyed, and its doors are swung open to me. I'll get rich now that its ruined.

³So this is what the Almighty LORD says: I am against you, Tyre. I will bring many nations against you as the waves on the sea rise.

⁴They will destroy the walls of Tyre and tear down its towers. Then I will sweep up the dust and turn Tyre into a bare rock.

⁵It will become a place by the sea where people spread their fishing nets. I have spoken, declares the Almighty LORD. It will become a prize for the nations.

⁶The people in the villages and on the mainland will die in battle. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

⁷ "This is what the Almighty LORD says: From the north I'm going to bring King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon against you, Tyre. He is the greatest king. He will bring horses, chariots, war horses, many people, and many troops.

⁸ He will destroy the villages on your mainland. He will set up blockades, put up dirt ramps, and raise his shields against you.

⁹ He will direct his battering rams against your walls, and he will cut down your towers with his axes.

¹⁰ He will have so many horses that their dust will cover you. The noise from the war horses, wagon wheels, and chariots will shake your walls when he enters your gates. He will enter as people enter a conquered city.

¹¹ With his horses hoofs he will trample all your streets. He will kill your people in battle, and your strong pillars will fall to the ground.

¹² His troops will loot your riches and take your goods as prizes. They will destroy your walls and tear down your delightful homes. They will throw your stones, wood, and soil into the water.

¹³"I will put a stop to your noisy songs, and the music from your harps will no longer be heard.

¹⁴I will turn you into bare rock. You will become a place to spread fishing nets. You will never be rebuilt. I, the LORD, have spoken, declares the Almighty LORD.

¹⁵"This is what the Almighty LORD says to Tyre: The people who live on the coast will shake with fear when they hear about your defeat. They will groan when your people are wounded and slaughtered.

¹⁶Then the princes from the coast will come down from their thrones. They will remove their robes and take off their embroidered clothes. Dressed in terror, they will sit on the ground. They will tremble constantly and be shocked at you.

¹⁷Then they will sing this funeral song for you: Tyre, you famous city, you have been destroyed. You have been shattered by the sea. You and your people ruled the sea. All your people terrified those who lived by the coast.

¹⁸Your defeat will make the people who live by the coast tremble. Your end will terrify the islands in the sea.

¹⁹"This is what the Almighty LORD says: I will turn your city into ruins like cities that have no one living in them. I will bring the deep ocean over you, and the Mediterranean Sea will cover you.

²⁰I will bring you down with those who descend to the grave to join the people of long ago. I will make you live below the earth among the ancient ruins with those who go down to the grave. You will never return or take your place in the land of the living.

²¹I will turn you into a terror, and you will no longer exist. People will look for you, but they will never see you again," declares the Almighty LORD.

27¹ The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, sing a funeral song about Tyre.

³Tyre is the city at the entrance to the sea. It is the merchant to the nations. Say to Tyre, This is what the Almighty LORD says: Tyre, you used to brag about your perfect beauty.

⁴Your home is the sea. "Your builders made your beauty perfect.

⁵Your builders made all your boards from pine trees on Mount Hermon. They took cedar trees from Lebanon to make a mast for you.

⁶They made your oars from oaks in Bashan. They made your deck from pine trees on the shores of Cyprus. It had ivory set in it.

⁷Your sails were made out of fine embroidered linen from Egypt. They were like your flags. Your awnings were violet and purple. They came from the coasts of Elishah.

⁸"People from Sidon and Arvad used to row you. Your own skilled people were your sailors.

⁹Master shipbuilders from Gebal went inside you to caulk your seams. All the ships on the sea and their sailors docked alongside you to trade with you.

¹⁰People from Persia, Lud, and Put were soldiers in your army. They hung their shields and helmets inside you. Their victories made you look good.

¹¹"People from Arvad and Helech were guards all around your walls. People

from Gammad guarded your towers.
They hung their shields all around your walls, making your beauty perfect.

¹²"People from Tarshish traded with you because you were so very rich. They exchanged silver, iron, tin, and lead for your merchandise.

¹³People from Greece, Tubal, and Meshech traded with you. They exchanged slaves and bronze items for your goods.

¹⁴People from Beth Togarmah exchanged horses, war horses, and mules for your merchandise.

¹⁵People from Dedan traded goods with you. You traded with many people on the coasts, and they brought you ivory and ebony as payment.

¹⁶"People from Syria traded with you because you had so many products. They exchanged emeralds, purple cloth, richly woven cloth, linen, coral, and rubies for your merchandise.

¹⁷Judah and Israel traded with you. They exchanged wheat from Minnith, baked goods, honey, olive oil, and balsam for your goods.

¹⁸ People from Damascus traded with you because you had so many products. They exchanged wine from Helbon and wool from Sahar.

¹⁹ "Danites and Greeks from Uzal traded for your merchandise. They exchanged wrought iron, cassia, and sugar cane for your goods.

²⁰ Dedan traded saddle blankets with you.

²¹ Arabia and all the officials of Kedar traded with you. They traded lambs, rams, and male goats.

²² The merchants from Sheba and Raamah traded with you. They traded the finest spices, precious stones, and gold for your merchandise.

²³ Haran, Canneh, Eden, the merchants from Sheba, Assyria, and Kilmad traded with you.

²⁴ In your marketplace they traded for beautiful clothes, purple robes, embroidered cloth, and many multicolored rugs with woven and twisted cords.

²⁵ "Ships from Tarshish carried your goods. You were like a ship filled with heavy cargo in the sea.

²⁶Your rowers took you out to the high seas, and an east wind wrecked you in the sea.

²⁷Your wealth, your merchandise, and the goods you sell, your mariners and your sailors, your caulkers and your merchants, your soldiers and everyone else on board sank into the sea when your ship was wrecked.

²⁸"When your sailors cried out, people on the shore trembled.

²⁹All the rowers, the sailors, and all the mariners came down from their ships and stood on the shore.

³⁰They cried loudly and bitterly over you. They put dust on their heads and covered themselves with ashes.

³¹They shaved their heads because of you and put on sackcloth. They cried over you with bitterness and with bitter mourning.

³²They sang a funeral song for you with loud crying: "Who is like Tyre, the city destroyed in the sea?"

³³Your merchandise was sent overseas. You filled many people with your great wealth and your goods. You made the kings of the earth rich.

³⁴ Now you are wrecked in the sea, at the bottom of the sea. Your goods and your whole crew sank with you.

³⁵ All those who live on the coasts are horrified because of you. Their kings are terribly afraid. Their faces show their fear.

³⁶ The merchants among the nations laugh at you. You have come to a terrible end, and you will never exist again."

28¹ The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

² "Son of man, tell the ruler of Tyre, This is what the Almighty LORD says: In your arrogance you say, "I'm a god. I sit on Gods throne in the sea." But youre only human and not a god, although you think you are a god.

³ You think that you are wiser than Daniel and that no secret can be hidden from you.

⁴ Because you are wise and understanding, youve made yourself rich. You saved gold and silver in your treasuries.

⁵ Because of your great skill in trading, youve made yourself very wealthy. You

have become arrogant because of your wealth.

⁶"This is what the Almighty LORD says: You think you are wise like God.

⁷That is why I am going to bring foreigners against you, the most ruthless foreigners among the nations. They will draw their swords against your fine wisdom and dishonor your greatness.

⁸They will throw you into a pit, and you will die a violent death in the sea.

⁹You will no longer say that you are a god when you face those who kill you. You will be a human, not a god, in the hands of those who kill you.

¹⁰You will die at the hands of foreigners like a godless person. I have spoken," declares the LORD.

¹¹The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

¹²"Son of man, sing a funeral song for the ruler of Tyre. Tell him, This is what the Almighty LORD says: You were the perfect example, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

¹³You were in Eden, Gods garden. You were covered with every kind of precious stone: red quartz, topaz, crystal, beryl,

onyx, gray quartz, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald. Your settings and your sockets were made of gold when you were created.

¹⁴I appointed an angel to guard you. You were on Gods holy mountain. You walked among fiery stones.

¹⁵Your behavior was perfect from the time you were created, until evil was found in you.

¹⁶You traded far and wide. You learned to be violent, and you sinned. So I threw you down from Gods mountain in disgrace. The guardian angel forced you out from the fiery stones.

¹⁷You became too proud because of your beauty. You wasted your wisdom because of your greatness. So I threw you to the ground and left you in front of the kings so that they could see you.

¹⁸You dishonored your own holy places because of your many sins and dishonest trade. So I set fire to you to burn you up. I turned you into ashes on the ground in the presence of all who saw you.

¹⁹All the nations who knew you are horrified because of you. You have come

to a terrible end, and you will never exist again."

²⁰The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²¹"Son of man, turn to Sidon and prophesy against it.

²²Tell it, This is what the Almighty LORD says: I'm against you, Sidon. I will show my greatness through you. Then people will know that I am the LORD, because I will punish you and show you how holy I am.

²³I will send a plague against you and make blood flow in your streets. Your people will fall dead. People with swords will attack you from every side. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

²⁴The nation of Israel will no longer be hurt by prickly thorns or sharp briars from everyone around them. Then they will know that I am the Almighty LORD.

²⁵"This is what the Almighty LORD says: When I gather the people of Israel from the nations where they were scattered, I will show that I am holy as the nations watch. The people of Israel will live in their own land, the land I gave to my servant Jacob.

²⁶They will live there in safety. They will build homes and plant vineyards. They will live in safety when I punish all the surrounding people who treat them with scorn. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God."

29¹ On the twelfth day of the tenth month in the tenth year, the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, turn to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and prophesy against him and against all Egypt.

³Tell him, This is what the Almighty LORD says: I'm against you, Pharaoh, king of Egypt. You are like a monster crocodile lying in the Nile River. You say, "The Nile River is mine. I made it for myself."

⁴"I will put hooks in your jaws and make the fish in the Nile River stick to your scales. I will pull you out of your river with all the fish in the Nile sticking to your scales.

⁵I will leave you in the desert, you and all the fish from the Nile. You will fall in an open field. No one will pick you up or bury you. I will feed you to wild animals and birds.

⁶Then all those living in Egypt will know that I am the LORD. Egypt, you have become like a broken walking stick to the nation of Israel.

⁷When Israel grabbed you, you splintered and tore up their shoulders. When they leaned on you, you broke, and they wrenched their backs.

⁸"This is what the Almighty LORD says: I am going to attack you with a sword. I will kill people and animals.

⁹Egypt will become a wasteland and a pile of rubble. Then you will know that I am the LORD. You said, "The Nile River is mine. I made it."

¹⁰That is why I'm against you and the Nile River. I will turn Egypt into a pile of rubble. It will become a wasteland, from Migdol to Syene, all the way to the border of Sudan.

¹¹No human or animal will walk through it, and no one will live there for 40 years.

¹²I will make Egypt the most desolate country in the world. For 40 years Egypt's cities will lie in ruins. They will be ruined more than any other city. I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and force them into other countries.

¹³"This is what the Almighty LORD says: After 40 years I will gather the Egyptians from the nations where they have been scattered.

¹⁴I will bring back the Egyptian captives and return them to Pathros, the land they came from. There they will be a weak kingdom.

¹⁵They will be the weakest kingdom, and they will never rule the nations again. I will make them so weak that they will never rule the nations again.

¹⁶The nation of Israel will never trust Egypt again. The people of Israel will remember how wrong they were whenever they turned to Egypt for help. Then they will know that I am the Almighty LORD."

¹⁷On the first day of the first month in the twentyseventh year, the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

¹⁸"Son of man, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon made his army fight hard against Tyre. Every soldier's head was worn bald, and every soldier's shoulder was rubbed raw. Yet, he and his army got no reward for their hardfought battle against Tyre.

¹⁹This is what the Almighty LORD says: Im going to give Egypt to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. He will carry off its wealth, take its prized possessions, and loot it. That will be the pay for his army.

²⁰I have given him Egypt as pay for what he has done. Nebuchadnezzar and his army worked for me, declares the Almighty LORD.

²¹"On that day I will make the people of Israel strong again, and I will give you, Ezekiel, something to say among them. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

30¹The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, prophesy. Say, This is what the Almighty LORD says: Cry for that day!

³The day is near. The day of the LORD is near. It will be a gloomy day, a time of trouble for the nations.

⁴There will be war in Egypt and anguish in Ethiopia. Many Egyptians will fall dead. People will take away Egypts wealth, and its foundations will be torn down.

⁵Sudan, Put, Lud, all the Arabs, the Libyans, and people from the promised land will die in battle.

⁶"This is what the LORD says: All Egypts allies will die. Egypts strength will disappear. People will die in war from Migdol to Syene, declares the Almighty LORD.

⁷"Egypt will become the most desolate country in the world, and Egypts cities will lie in ruins. They will be ruined more than other cities.

⁸Then they will know that I am the LORD, because I will set fire to Egypt and all her defenders will be killed.

⁹On that day I will send messengers in ships to terrify those who live in safety in Sudan. The people of Sudan will be in anguish when Egypt is in trouble. That day is coming!

¹⁰"This is what the Almighty LORD says: I will use King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to bring an end to Egypt.

¹¹He and his troops, the most ruthless troops among the nations, will be brought to destroy the land. They will draw their swords to attack Egypt and fill the land with dead bodies.

¹²I will dry up the Nile River and sell the land to wicked people. I will have foreigners destroy the land and everything in it. I, the LORD, have spoken.

¹³"This is what the Almighty LORD says: I will destroy the statues and put an end to the idols in Memphis. A prince will never rise again in Egypt. I will spread fear throughout Egypt.

¹⁴I will destroy Pathros, set fire to Zoan, and bring punishment on Thebes.

¹⁵I will pour out my fury on Sin, Egypt's fortress, and I will kill many people in Thebes.

¹⁶I will set fire to Egypt. Sin will be in much pain. Thebes will be broken into pieces, and Memphis will be in trouble every day.

¹⁷The young men from Heliopolis and Bubastis will die in battle, and people from these cities will go into exile.

¹⁸At Tahpanhes the day will turn dark when I break Egypt's power. Egypt's strong army will be defeated. Clouds will cover Egypt, and people from its villages will go into exile.

¹⁹Then they will know that I am the LORD, because I will bring punishment on Egypt."

²⁰On the seventh day of the first month in the eleventh year, the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²¹"Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. His arm isn't bandaged, so it can't heal and be strong enough to hold a sword.

²²"This is what the Almighty LORD says: I'm against Pharaoh, king of Egypt. I will break both his arms, the healthy one and the broken one. I will make the sword fall from his hand.

²³I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and force them into other countries.

²⁴I will make the arms of the king of Babylon strong. I will put my sword in his hand, but I will break Pharaoh's arms. Pharaoh will groan like a person who is dying.

²⁵I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, but Pharaoh's arms will fall. Then they will know that I am the LORD, because I will put my sword in the hand

of the king of Babylon. He will strike Egypt with it.

²⁶I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and force them into other countries. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

31 ¹On the first day of the third month in the eleventh year, the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, say to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and his many people, Was there ever anyone as great as you?

³What about Assyria? It was a cedar in Lebanon with fine branches that shaded the forest. It was very tall. Its top was among the clouds.

⁴Water made the tree grow, and underground springs made it tall. Rivers flowed around the place where the tree was planted. Streams ran beside all the other trees around it.

⁵That is why it grew taller than all the other trees in the field. Its branches became large and long because of so much water.

⁶All the birds made their nests in its branches. All the wild animals gave birth

to their young under it. All the powerful nations lived in its shade.

⁷So the tree was big and beautiful with its long branches. Its roots reached down to many sources of water.

⁸The cedar trees in Gods garden couldnt compare to it. The pine trees couldnt equal its branches. The plane trees couldnt measure up to its branches. All the trees in Gods garden couldnt match its beauty.

⁹I was the one who made it beautiful with its many branches. This tree was the envy of all the trees in Eden, in Gods garden.

¹⁰"This is what the Almighty LORD says: The tree grew very tall, and its top reached the clouds. It became arrogant because it was so tall.

¹¹So I handed it over to a mighty ruler among the nations, and he surely dealt with it. I forced it out because of its wickedness.

¹²Foreigners from the most ruthless nation cut it down and threw it away. Its branches fell on the mountains and in every valley. Its broken branches fell in every ravine in the land. All the nations

in the world came out from under its shade and left.

¹³All the birds perched on the fallen tree, and all the wild animals lived in its branches.

¹⁴Then all the other trees growing by the water were kept from becoming arrogant because of their height, and their tops were no longer allowed to reach the clouds. So no tree, even if it is wellwatered, will ever stand that tall. Every tree is going to die and go below the earth to join those who have died and gone down to the pit.

¹⁵"This is what the Almighty LORD says: When the tree went down to the grave, I made people mourn. I covered the underground springs and held back the rivers. The many water sources stopped flowing. I made Lebanon mourn for the tree, and all the trees in the field fainted as they grieved over it.

¹⁶I made the nations tremble in fear at the sound of the trees crash. I brought the tree down to the grave to join those who had gone down to the pit. Then all the trees in Eden, the choicest and best trees of Lebanon, and all the trees that

were wellwatered were comforted below the earth.

¹⁷They had gone down with the tree in the grave to join others killed in battle. All who lived in its shadow were scattered among the nations.

¹⁸"This tree is you, Pharaoh, and all your many people. No tree in Eden has ever been as honorable and as great as you. But you will be brought down below the earth with the trees of Eden. You will lie among the godless people who were killed in battle, declares the Almighty LORD."

32¹ On the first day of the twelfth month in the twelfth year, the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, sing a funeral song for Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Tell him, You think you are like a lion among the nations. Instead, you are like a crocodile in the water. You splash around in the water. You stir up the water with your feet. You make the streams muddy.

³"This is what the Almighty LORD says: When many nations gather together, I will spread my net over you, and they will haul you up in a net.

⁴ I will throw you on the ground and toss you into an open field. I will make birds perch on you, and wild animals from all over the earth will feed on you.

⁵ I will scatter your flesh on the hills and fill the valleys with your rotting corpse.

⁶ I will drench the earth with your flowing blood all the way to the mountains. Ravines will be filled with your dead body.

⁷ "When I put out your light, I will cover the sky and darken the stars. I will cover the sun with clouds, and the moon won't shine anymore.

⁸ I will darken all the lights shining in the sky above you. I will bring darkness over your land, declares the Almighty LORD.

⁹ "I will make many people troubled when I spread the news of your destruction among the nations to countries that you haven't heard of.

¹⁰ Many people will be shocked by what I will do to you. Their kings will shudder when I swing my sword in their faces. When you die, all of them will tremble in fear for their own lives.

¹¹ "This is what the Almighty LORD says: The sword of the king of Babylon will attack you.

¹² I will cut down your people with the swords of warriors. All of them will be the most ruthless warriors among the nations. They will shatter the pride of Egypt and destroy its many people.

¹³ I will also destroy all the animals beside its many water sources. The feet of humans and the hoofs of animals won't stir up the water anymore.

¹⁴ Then I will make its water clear and make its streams flow like oil, declares the Almighty LORD.

¹⁵ I will turn Egypt into a wasteland. I will take everything in the land, and I will kill all the people who live there. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

¹⁶ "This is a funeral song. The people from the nations will sing this song. They will sing it as they mourn for Egypt and its many people," declares the Almighty LORD.

¹⁷ On the fifteenth day of the month in the twelfth year, the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

¹⁸"Son of man, cry for the many people of Egypt. Bring them down along with the other mighty nations. Send them down below the earth to be with those who have gone down to the pit.

¹⁹"Tell them, Are you more beautiful than anyone else? Go down and join the godless people.

²⁰"The Egyptians will lie among those who were killed in battle. A sword has been drawn. Drag Egypt and all its people away.

²¹The mightiest warriors will say to Pharaoh from the grave, You and your defenders have come down, and you now lie with the godless people who were killed in battle.

²²"Assyria is there with its whole army, and the graves of its soldiers are all around it. All of its soldiers are dead. They have been killed in battle.

²³Their graves are in the deepest parts of the pit. Assyrias army lies around its grave. All of its soldiers are dead. They have been killed in battle. They once terrified people in the land of the living.

²⁴"Elam is there with all its soldiers, and the graves of its soldiers are all

around it. All of its soldiers are dead. They have been killed in battle. They went down below the earth as godless people. They once terrified people in the land of the living. Now they suffer disgrace with those who have gone down to the pit.

²⁵ A bed has been made for Elam among the dead. The graves of its soldiers are all around it. The soldiers were godless people. They were killed in battle because they terrified others in the land of the living. Now they suffer disgrace with those who have gone down to the pit. They lie among the dead.

²⁶ "Meshech and Tubal are there with all their soldiers, and the graves of their soldiers are all around them. Their soldiers were all godless people. They were killed in battle because they terrified others in the land of the living.

²⁷ They don't lie with the godless warriors who died and went down to the grave with their weapons of war. Their swords were placed under their heads. Their shields were placed on their bones because they terrified others in the land of the living.

²⁸"You Egyptians will be crushed with the godless people, and you will lie with those who were killed in battle.

²⁹"Edom is there with its kings and its princes. They used to be powerful, but now they lie with those who were killed in battle. They lie there with the godless people and with those who have gone down to the pit.

³⁰"All the rulers from the north and all the people from Sidon are there. They, too, went down with the dead. They are disgraced because they terrified people with their power. They were godless people. Now they lie with those who were killed in battle. They suffer disgrace with those who went down to the pit.

³¹"Pharaoh and his army will see these things and be comforted over all the soldiers who have been killed in battle, declares the Almighty LORD.

³²I terrified people in the land of the living. Pharaoh and all his soldiers will be laid among the godless people who were killed in battle," declares the Almighty LORD.

33¹ The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, speak to your people. Tell them, Suppose I bring war on this country, and the people of this country choose one of their men and make him their watchman.

³If he sees the enemy coming to attack the country, he will blow his horn to warn the people.

⁴If the people hear the horn and ignore the warning and the enemy comes and takes them, they will be responsible for their own deaths.

⁵They heard the sound of the horn but ignored its warning. So they are responsible for their own deaths. If they had taken the warning, they would have saved themselves.

⁶"But if the watchman sees the enemy coming and doesn't blow his horn to warn the people and the enemy comes and kills someone, that watchman must die because of his sin. I will hold him responsible for their deaths.

⁷"Son of man, I have appointed you as a watchman for the people of Israel. Listen to what I say, and warn them for me.

⁸ Suppose I say to a wicked person, You wicked person, you will certainly die, and you say nothing to warn him to change his ways. That wicked person will die because of his sin, and I will hold you responsible for his death.

⁹ But if you warn a wicked person to turn from his ways and he doesn't turn from them, then he will die because of his sin. However, you will save yourself.

¹⁰ "Son of man, say to the people of Israel, You have said this, "Our wickedness and our sins weigh us down, and we are rotting away because of them. How can we live?"

¹¹ "Tell them, As I live, declares the Almighty LORD, I don't want wicked people to die. Rather, I want them to turn from their ways and live. Change the way you think and act! Turn from your wicked ways! Do you want to die, people of Israel?

¹² "Son of man, say to your people, The right things that a righteous person has done will not save him when he rebels. The wicked things that a wicked person has done will not make him stumble when he turns from his wickedness. The

righteous person will not live when he sins.

¹³I may promise the righteous person that he will certainly live. But if he trusts in the right things that he has done and he does evil, none of the right things that he has done will be remembered. He will die because of the evil things he has done.

¹⁴I may warn the wicked person that he will certainly die. But suppose he turns from his sin and does what is fair and right.

¹⁵He returns the security for a loan, pays back everything he stole, lives by the rules of life, and does nothing evil. Then he will certainly live. He will not die.

¹⁶None of the sins that he has done will be remembered. He has done what is fair and right. He will certainly live.

¹⁷"But your people say, The Lords way is unfair. Yet, their ways are unfair.

¹⁸If the righteous person turns from the right things that he has done and does evil, he will die because of it.

¹⁹If the wicked person turns from his wickedness and does what is fair and right, he will live because of it.

²⁰Yet, the people of Israel say, The Lords way is unfair. I will judge each of you by your own ways, people of Israel."

²¹On the fifth day of the tenth month in the twelfth year of our captivity, a refugee from Jerusalem came to me. He said, "The city has been captured."

²²The evening before the refugee arrived, the power of the LORD came over me. On the morning the refugee arrived, the LORD made me speak. So I spoke, and I was no longer quiet.

²³The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²⁴"Son of man, those who live in the ruined cities in Israel are saying, Abraham was only one person, and he was given the land. But we are many. Certainly the land has been given to us.

²⁵So tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says: You eat meat with blood in it. You look to your idols for help. You murder people. Should the land be given to you?

²⁶You rely on your swords. You do disgusting things. You dishonor your neighbors wife. Should the land be given to you?

²⁷"Tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says: As I live, whoever is in the ruined cities will be killed in battle. Whoever is in the open field will become food for wild animals. Whoever is in fortified places and caves will die from plagues.

²⁸I will turn the land into a barren wasteland. People will no longer brag about its power. The mountains of Israel will become so ruined that no one will travel through them.

²⁹Then people will know that I am the LORD, when I make the land a barren wasteland because of all the disgusting things that they have done.

³⁰"Son of man, your people are talking about you by the walls and in the doorways of their homes. They are saying to each other, Lets go and hear the word that has come from the LORD.

³¹Then they come to you, as if they are still my people, and they sit down in front of you. They listen to what you say,

but they don't do it. They say that they love me, but in their hearts they chase dishonest profits.

³²To them you are nothing more than a singer with a beautiful voice who sings love songs or a musician who plays an instrument. They listen to your words, but they don't do them.

³³When all your words come true and they certainly will come true these people will know that a prophet has been among them."

34¹ The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy to these shepherds. Tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says: How horrible it will be for the shepherds of Israel who have been taking care of only themselves. Shouldn't shepherds take care of the sheep?

³You eat the best parts of the sheep, dress in the wool, and butcher the finest sheep. Yet, you don't take care of the sheep.

⁴You have not strengthened those that were weak, healed those that were sick,

or bandaged those that were injured. You have not brought back those that strayed away or looked for those that were lost. You have ruled them harshly and violently.

⁵ So they were scattered because there was no shepherd. When they were scattered, they became food for every wild animal.

⁶ My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered throughout the whole earth. No one searched or looked for them.

⁷ "So, you shepherds, listen to the word of the LORD.

⁸ As I live, declares the Almighty LORD, because there is no shepherd, my sheep have become prey. My sheep have become food for every wild animal. My shepherds haven't searched for my sheep. They have taken care of only themselves, not my sheep.

⁹ So, you shepherds, listen to the word of the LORD.

¹⁰ This is what the Almighty LORD says: I am against the shepherds. I will demand that they hand over my sheep.

I won't let them take care of my sheep anymore, and they will no longer take care of only themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, and my sheep will no longer be their food.

¹¹ "This is what the Almighty LORD says: I will search for my sheep myself, and I will look after them.

¹² As a shepherd looks after his flock when he is with his scattered sheep, so I will look after my sheep. I will rescue them on a cloudy and gloomy day from every place where they have been scattered.

¹³ I will bring them out from the nations, gather them from the countries, and bring them to their own land. I will take care of them on the mountains of Israel, by the streams, and in all the inhabited places of the land.

¹⁴ I will feed them in good pasture, and they will graze on the mountains of Israel. They will rest on the good land where they graze, and they will feed on the best pastures in the mountains of Israel.

¹⁵I will take care of my sheep and lead them to rest, declares the Almighty LORD.

¹⁶I will look for those that are lost, bring back those that have strayed away, bandage those that are injured, and strengthen those that are sick. I will destroy those that are fat and strong. I will take care of my sheep fairly.

¹⁷"As for you, my sheep, this is what the Almighty LORD says: I will judge disputes between one sheep and another, between rams and male goats.

¹⁸Isn't it enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you trample the rest of the pasture with your feet? You drink clean water. Must you muddy the rest of the water with your feet?

¹⁹Must my sheep eat what your feet have trampled and drink what your feet have muddied?

²⁰"So this is what the Almighty LORD says to them: I will judge disputes between the fat sheep and the skinny sheep.

²¹You fat sheep push the skinny sheep with your sides and shoulders, and you

knock down all the sick sheep with your horns. You have scattered them all over.

²² So I will rescue my sheep, and they will no longer be prey. I will judge between one sheep and another.

²³ Then I will place one shepherd over them, my servant David, and he will take care of them. He will take care of them and be their shepherd.

²⁴ I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David will be their prince. I, the LORD, have spoken.

²⁵ "I will promise them peace. I will remove the wild animals from the land so that my sheep can live safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods.

²⁶ I will bless them and the places around my hill. I will send rain at the right time. These showers will be a blessing to them.

²⁷ Then the trees in the field will produce fruit, the land will yield crops, and my sheep will live safely in their land. Then they will know that I am the LORD, because I will break off the bars on their yokes and rescue them from the people who made them slaves.

²⁸They will no longer be prey to the nations, and the wild animals will no longer eat them. They will live safely, and no one will frighten them.

²⁹I will give them a place that is known for its good crops. They will no longer experience hunger in the land, and they will no longer suffer the insults of other nations.

³⁰Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them and that they, the people of Israel, are my people, declares the Almighty LORD.

³¹You, my sheep, are the sheep in my pasture. You are mortal, and I am your God, declares the Almighty LORD."

35¹The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

²"Son of man, turn to Mount Seir, and prophesy against it.

³Tell it, This is what the Almighty LORD says: I'm against you, Mount Seir. I will use my power against you, and you will become a wasteland.

⁴I will turn your cities into ruins, and you will become a wasteland. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

⁵"You have always been an enemy of Israel. You deserted the people of Israel in battle when they were in trouble during their final punishment.

⁶That is why, as I live, declares the Almighty LORD, I will let you be murdered. Murderers will pursue you. Since you don't hate murdering people, murder will pursue you.

⁷I will turn Mount Seir into a barren wasteland, and I will destroy everyone who comes or goes from there.

⁸I will fill your mountains with those who have been killed. Those killed in battle will fall on your hills and in your valleys and ravines.

⁹I will turn you into a permanent wasteland. Your cities will not be lived in. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

¹⁰"You said, "These two nations, Israel and Judah, along with their land, belong to us. We will take possession of them." But the LORD was there.

¹¹That is why, as I live, declares the Almighty LORD, I will do to you what you did to them. When you were angry and jealous, you acted hatefully toward them.

¹²Then you will know that I, the LORD, heard all the insults that you spoke about the mountains of Israel. You said, "They have been deserted and handed over to us to use up."

¹³You bragged and continually talked against me. I heard you.

¹⁴"This is what the Almighty LORD says: The whole earth will be glad when I turn you into a wasteland.

¹⁵You were happy when the land of Israel became a wasteland. I will do the same thing to you. You will become a wasteland, Mount Seir, and so will all of Edom. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

36 ¹The LORD said, "Son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel. Tell them, Mountains of Israel, listen to the word of the LORD.

²This is what the Almighty LORD says: Your enemies said this about you, "Aha! The ancient worship sites now belong to us."

³"So prophesy. Say, This is what the Almighty LORD says: Your enemies turned you into ruins and crushed you from every side. You became the

possession of the rest of the nations, and people began to talk and gossip about you.

⁴"Mountains of Israel, listen to the word of the Almighty LORD. This is what the Almighty LORD says to the mountains and hills, to the ravines and valleys, and to the empty ruins and abandoned cities that have become prey and are mocked by the rest of the surrounding nations:

⁵In my fiery anger I have spoken against the rest of the nations and against all of Edom. The Edomites have taken possession of my land with wholehearted joy and with complete scorn. They forced out the people and took their land.

⁶"So prophesy about Israel. Tell the mountains and hills and the ravines and valleys, This is what the Almighty LORD says: I am speaking in my anger and fury because you have been insulted by the nations.

⁷So this is what the Almighty LORD says: I raise my hand and swear that the nations which surround you will be insulted.

⁸"But you, mountains of Israel, will grow branches and bear fruit for my people Israel. My people will come home soon.

⁹I am for you. I will turn to you, and you will be plowed and planted.

¹⁰I will increase the number of people who live on you. All the people of Israel, all of them, will live on you. The cities will be inhabited, and the ruins will be rebuilt.

¹¹I will increase the number of people and animals that live on you. They will grow and become many. I will let people live on you as in the past, and I will make you better off than ever before. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

¹²I will bring people, my people Israel, to you. They will take possession of you, and you will be their inheritance. You will no longer take their children away from them.

¹³"This is what the Almighty LORD says: People say that you devour your people and take the children away from your nation.

¹⁴ So you will no longer devour your people or take the children away from your nation, declares the Almighty LORD.

¹⁵ I will no longer let you hear the insults from the nations. You will no longer suffer the disgrace of the people. You will never again take the children away from your own nation, declares the Almighty LORD."

¹⁶ The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

¹⁷ "Son of man, when the people of Israel lived in their land, they dishonored it by the way they lived and by everything they did. Their ways were as unclean as a womans menstrual period.

¹⁸ So I poured out my fury on them because they poured out blood on the land and they dishonored the land with their idols.

¹⁹ I forced them into other nations, and they became scattered among the nations. I judged them based on the way that they lived and based on everything that they had done.

²⁰ But wherever they went among the nations, they dishonored my holy name. People said about them, These are the

LORDS people, yet they had to leave his land.

²¹ I became concerned about my holy name because my people dishonored it among the nations wherever they went.

²² "So tell the people of Israel, This is what the Almighty LORD says: I am about to do something, people of Israel. I will not do this for your sake but for the sake of my holy name, which you have dishonored among the nations wherever you have gone.

²³ I will reveal the holiness of my great name, which has been dishonored by the nations, the name that you have dishonored among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, because I will reveal my holiness among you as they watch, declares the Almighty LORD.

²⁴ "I will take you from the nations and gather you from every country. I will bring you back to your own land.

²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you and make you clean instead of unclean. Then I will cleanse you from all your idols.

²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. I will remove your

stubborn hearts and give you obedient hearts.

²⁷ I will put my Spirit in you. I will enable you to live by my laws, and you will obey my rules.

²⁸ Then you will live in the land that I gave your ancestors. You will be my people, and I will be your God.

²⁹ I will rescue you from all your uncleanness. I will make the grain grow so that you will never again have famines.

³⁰ I will make fruit grow on the trees and crops grow in the fields so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famines.

³¹ Then you will remember your evil ways and the bad things that you did, and you will hate yourselves for all these wicked and disgusting things.

³² I want you to know that I'm not doing this for your sake, declares the Almighty LORD. Be ashamed and disgraced because of your ways, people of Israel.

³³ "This is what the Almighty LORD says: On the day that I cleanse you from all your wickedness, I will cause your

cities to be lived in again, and your ruins will be rebuilt.

³⁴The wasteland will be plowed. It will no longer remain empty for everyone passing by to see.

³⁵People will say, "This wasteland has become like the garden of Eden. The cities were destroyed. They were empty and ruined, but now they are fortified and have people living in them."

³⁶The surrounding nations that are left will know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted crops in the land that was empty. I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will do it.

³⁷"This is what the Almighty LORD says: I will also let the people of Israel ask me to make them as numerous as sheep.

³⁸They will be like the sheep for sacrifices, like the sheep in Jerusalem during the appointed festivals. Their ruined cities will be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

37¹ The power of the LORD came over me. The LORD brought me out by his Spirit and put me down in the

middle of a valley. The valley was filled with bones.

²He led me all around them. I saw that there were very many bones at the bottom of the valley, and they were very dry.

³Then he asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I answered, "Only you know, Almighty LORD."

⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones. Tell them, Dry bones, listen to the word of the LORD.

⁵This is what the Almighty LORD says to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you will live.

⁶I will put ligaments on you, place muscles on you, and cover you with skin. I will put breath in you, and you will live. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. While I was prophesying, suddenly there was a rattling noise, and the bones came together, one bone attaching itself to another.

⁸As I looked, I saw that ligaments were on them, muscles were on them, and skin covered them. Yet, there was no breath in them.

⁹Then the LORD said to me, "Prophecy to the breath! Prophecy, son of man. Tell the breath, This is what the Almighty LORD says: Come from the four winds, Breath, and breathe on these people who were killed so that they will live."

¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath entered them. Then they came to life and stood on their feet. There were enough of them to form a very large army.

¹¹The LORD also said to me, "Son of man, all the people of Israel are like these bones. The people say, Our bones are dry, and our hope has vanished. We are completely destroyed.

¹²So prophecy. Tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says: My people, I will open your graves and take you out of them. I will bring you to Israel.

¹³Then, my people, you will know that I am the LORD, because I will open your graves and bring you out of your graves.

¹⁴I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live. I will place you in your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD."

¹⁵ The LORD spoke his word to me again. He said,

¹⁶ "Son of man, take a stick and write on it: For Judah and for the Israelites who are associated with it. Then take another stick and write on it, The stick of Ephraim, for Joseph and for all the people of Israel associated with it.

¹⁷ Then join both sticks together so that they will be one in your hand. Your people will say to you,

¹⁸ Tell us what you mean by this.

¹⁹ Then say to them, This is what the Almighty LORD says: I will take Josephs stick, which is in Ephraims hand, and the tribes of Israel associated with it, and I will put them with Judahs stick. I will make them into one stick. They will be one in my hand.

²⁰ When you hold the sticks in your hand, let the people see them.

²¹ "Then tell them, This is what the Almighty LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where theyve gone. I will gather them from everywhere and bring them to their own land.

²²I will form them into one nation in the land on the mountains of Israel. One king will rule all of them. They will no longer be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms.

²³They will no longer dishonor themselves with their idols, with their detestable things, or with their rebellious acts. I will forgive them for all the times they turned away from me and sinned. I will cleanse them so that they will be my people, and I will be their God.

²⁴"My servant David will be their king, and all of them will have one shepherd. They will live by my rules, and they will obey my laws.

²⁵They will live in the land that I gave my servant Jacob, the land where their ancestors lived. They, their children, and their grandchildren will live in it permanently. My servant David will always be their prince.

²⁶I will promise them peace. This promise will last forever. I will establish them, make them increase in number, and put my holy place among them permanently.

²⁷ My dwelling place will be with them. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

²⁸ Then the nations will know that I, the LORD, have set Israel apart as holy, because my holy place will be among them permanently."

38¹ The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

² "Son of man, turn to Gog from the land of Magog. He is the chief prince of the nations of Meshech and Tubal. Prophecy against him.

³ Tell him, This is what the Almighty LORD says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

⁴ I will turn you around and put hooks in your jaws. I will lead you out with all your military forces, with horses and riders. Your soldiers will be fully armed. They will carry large and small shields and be able to use swords.

⁵ Persia, Sudan, and Put will be with you. They, too, will have shields and helmets.

⁶ Gomer will come with all its troops and with the nation of Togarmah from

the far north. There will be many armies with you.

⁷"Be prepared! Be prepared, you and all the soldiers assembled around you. You will be their leader.

⁸After a long time you will be called to service. In the years to come, you will attack a land that has been rebuilt after a war. Its people have been gathered from many nations and brought to the mountains of Israel, mountains that have been ruined for a long time. These people were brought there from the nations, and all of them live there safely.

⁹You will attack like a storm and cover the land like a cloud. Your troops and the many armies will be with you.

¹⁰"This is what the Almighty LORD says: At that time ideas will enter your head, and you will make wicked plans.

¹¹You will say, "I'll attack a land with unwallled villages. I will attack peaceful people who live safely. All of them live without walls, locks, or gates.

¹²I will come to rob them and loot them. I will use my power against the ruins that people are living in again. I will use it against the people who were

gathered from the nations. These people have cattle and property, and they live in the world."

¹³"Sheba, Dedan, the merchants from Tarshish, and all their villages will ask you, "Did you come to rob these people of their possessions? Did you assemble all these soldiers to carry away large amounts of silver and gold and to take cattle and property?"

¹⁴"So prophesy, son of man. Tell Gog, This is what the Almighty LORD says: At that time my people Israel will live safely, and you will know it.

¹⁵You will come from your place in the far north and many armies will be with you. All of you will ride on horses. You will be a large crowd and a mighty army.

¹⁶You will attack my people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. In the days to come, I will let you attack my land so that nations will know me. I will use you for my holy purpose as they watch.

¹⁷"This is what the Almighty LORD says: You are the one I spoke about long ago through my servants the prophets of Israel. They prophesied in those days that I would bring you to attack them.

¹⁸On the day that Gog attacks the land of Israel, I will be filled with burning anger, declares the Almighty LORD.

¹⁹In my fiery anger I tell you this. On that day there will be a large earthquake in the land of Israel.

²⁰Fish, birds, wild animals, everything that crawls on the ground, and every person on earth will tremble in my presence. The mountains will be torn down, the cliffs will crumble, and every wall will fall to the ground.

²¹I will declare war against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Almighty LORD. Each person will use his sword against his relative.

²²I will punish Gog with plagues and death. I will send rainstorms, large hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur on his troops and on the many armies with him.

²³I will show my greatness and my holiness. I will reveal myself to many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

39¹The LORD said, "Son of man, prophesy against Gog. Tell it, This is what the Almighty LORD says: I am

against you, Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

²I will turn you around and lead you. I will bring you from the far north and have you attack the mountains of Israel.

³Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand and make you drop the arrows in your right hand.

⁴You will die on the mountains of Israel with your troops and the armies that are with you. I will let you become food for every bird of prey and for every wild animal.

⁵You will die in the open field because I said so, declares the Almighty LORD.

⁶I will send fire on Magog and on those who live safely on the coasts. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

⁷I will make my holy name known among my people Israel, and I will never let them dishonor my holy name again. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

⁸"Its coming! It will happen! declares the Almighty LORD. This is the day I have spoken about.

⁹Those living in the cities of Israel will go out. They will set fire to weapons

and burn them. They will burn small and large shields, bows and arrows, and war clubs and spears. They will burn them for seven years.

¹⁰They will not need to get wood from the field or cut down trees in the woods. They will make fires with the weapons. They will loot those who looted them, and they will grab things back from those who grabbed their things, declares the Almighty LORD.

¹¹"When that day comes, I will give Gog a burial place in Israel. It will be in Travelers Valley, east of the Dead Sea. It will block those who travel through the valley. Gog and his whole army will be buried there. So it will be called the valley of Gogs troops.

¹²The people of Israel will be burying them there for seven months to make the land clean.

¹³All the common people will be burying them. The people of Israel will be honored on the day of my victory, declares the Almighty LORD.

¹⁴"People will be chosen to go through the land and make it clean. With the help of others they will bury the dead soldiers

that are still on the ground. At the end of seven months they will begin their search.

¹⁵Whenever they go through the land and see a human bone, they will set up a marker beside it until the grave diggers have buried that bone in the valley of Gogs troops.

¹⁶(A city named Hamonah will also be there.) In this way they will cleanse the land.

¹⁷"Son of man, this is what the Almighty LORD says: Tell every kind of bird and every wild animal, Assemble, and come together from all around for the sacrifice that I'm preparing for you. It will be a huge feast on the mountains of Israel. You can eat meat and drink blood there.

¹⁸You can eat the meat of warriors and drink the blood of the princes of the earth. All of them will be killed like rams, lambs, goats, bulls and all the best animals of Bashan.

¹⁹You can eat the best meat until you are full and drink blood until you are drunk at the sacrifice that I am preparing for you.

²⁰At my table you will be filled with horses and riders, warriors, and soldiers of every kind, declares the Almighty LORD.

²¹"I will show my greatness among the nations. All the nations will see how I will turn my power against them to punish them.

²²From that day on, the people of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God.

²³Then the nations will know that the people of Israel went into captivity because they did wrong and rebelled against me. So I hid my face from them and handed them over to their enemies. They were killed in battle.

²⁴I paid them back for their uncleanness and their sins, and I hid my face from them.

²⁵"So this is what the Almighty LORD says: Now I will bring back Jacobs captives and have compassion for the whole nation of Israel. I will stand up for my holy name.

²⁶When they live safely in a land where no one will frighten them, they will forget their shame and all the unfaithful things they have done against me.

²⁷ I will bring them back from the other nations and gather them from the countries of their enemies. Many nations will see that I am holy.

²⁸ Then my people will know that I am the LORD their God. I sent them into captivity among the nations, and I brought them back again to their land. I left none of them behind.

²⁹ I will no longer hide my face from them, because I will pour out my Spirit on the nation of Israel, declares the Almighty LORD."

40¹ It was the tenth day of the month in the beginning of the twentyfifth year of our captivity and fourteen years after Jerusalem was captured. At that time the LORDS power came over me, and he brought me to Jerusalem.

² In visions, God brought me to Israel and set me down on a very high mountain. On the south side of the mountain were some buildings that looked like those in a city.

³ He brought me closer. I saw a man who looked like he was covered with bronze. The man was holding a linen

tape measure and a measuring stick, and he stood in a gateway.

⁴He said to me, "Son of man, look with your eyes, and listen with your ears. Pay close attention to everything I'm going to show you. You were brought here to be shown these things. Tell the nation of Israel everything that you see."

⁵I saw a wall that surrounded the temple. The man had a measuring stick that was 10 feet long. He measured the wall. It was 10 feet thick and 10 feet high.

⁶Then the man went to the gateway that faced east. He went up its steps and measured the entrance to the gateway. It was 10 feet wide.

⁷There were also guardrooms. Each guardroom was 10 feet long and 10 feet wide. The space between the guardrooms was 9 feet thick. And the entrance to the gateway by the entrance hall of the temple was 10 feet wide.

⁸He also measured the entrance hall of the gateway.

⁹It extended 14 feet from the temple. Its recessed walls were 3 feet thick. The gateway's entrance hall faced the temple.

¹⁰Now, there were three guardrooms on each side of the eastern gateway. All three rooms on each side were the same size, and the recessed walls on each side were the same size.

¹¹Then the man measured the width of the entrance to the gateway. It was 17 feet wide, and the gateway was 23 feet long.

¹²There was a barrier about 21 inches in front of each guardroom. The guardrooms were 10 feet square.

¹³He measured the gateway from the top of one guardroom to the top of the opposite guardroom. It was 44 feet wide from one door to the opposite door.

¹⁴He also measured the entrance hall. It was 35 feet wide. In front of the entrance hall to the gateway was a courtyard on all sides.

¹⁵The total length of the gateway from the front of the outer part to the front of the inner part of the entrance hall was 87 feet.

¹⁶The guardrooms and recessed walls inside the gateway had small windows all around. The entrance hall also had windows all around on the inside.

Pictures of palm trees were carved on the recessed walls.

¹⁷ Then the man brought me into the outer courtyard. I saw rooms there and pavement all around the courtyard. There were 30 rooms along the edge of the pavement.

¹⁸ The pavement in the lower courtyard ran alongside the gateways. It was as wide as it was long.

¹⁹ The man measured the distance from the inside of the lower gateway to the outside of the inner courtyard. It was 175 feet from east to north.

²⁰ Then the man measured the length and width of the gateway, leading to the outer courtyard. This was the gateway that faced north.

²¹ Its three guardrooms, its recessed walls, and its entrance hall were the same size as those in the east gateway. The gateway was 87 feet long and 44 feet wide.

²² Its windows, recessed walls, and palm tree pictures were the same size as those in the east gateway. Seven steps went up to it and led to its entrance hall.

²³The inner courtyard had a gateway opposite the north gate just like the east gateway. The man measured the distance from one gate to the other gate. It was 175 feet.

²⁴Then the man led me to the south side, and I saw a gateway that faced south. He measured its recessed walls and its entrance hall. They were the same size as those of the other gateways.

²⁵The gateway and its entrance hall had windows on all sides like the windows in the other gateways. It was 87 feet long and 44 feet wide.

²⁶Seven steps went up to it and led to its entrance hall. Pictures of palm trees were carved on the recessed walls, one picture on each side.

²⁷The inner courtyard had a gateway facing south. The man measured the distance from the gateway on the south side to its opposite gateway. It was 175 feet.

²⁸Then the man brought me to the inner courtyard through the south gateway. He measured the south gateway. It was the same size as the others.

²⁹Its guardrooms, recessed walls, and entrance hall were the same size as the other gateways. The guardrooms and the entrance hall had windows all around. The gateway was 87 feet long and 44 feet wide.

³⁰There were entrance halls all around the inner courtyard. They were all 44 feet long and 9 feet wide.

³¹The entrance halls faced the outer courtyard. Pictures of palm trees were carved on the recessed walls, and eight steps led up to each gateway.

³²Then the man brought me to the east side of the inner courtyard. He measured the gateway. It was the same size as the others.

³³Its guardrooms, recessed walls, and entrance halls were the same size as those of the other gateways. Its guardrooms and entrance hall had windows all around. The gateway was 87 feet long and 44 feet wide.

³⁴Its entrance hall faced the outer courtyard. Pictures of palm trees were carved on the recessed walls, and eight steps led up to the gateway.

³⁵ Then the man brought me to the north gateway. He measured it. It was the same size as the others.

³⁶ Its guardrooms, recessed walls, and entrance hall had windows all around. The gateway was 87 feet long and 44 feet wide.

³⁷ Its recessed walls faced the outer courtyard. Pictures of palm trees were carved on the recessed walls, and eight steps led up to the gateway.

³⁸ There was a room with a door that opened toward the entrance hall of the gateway. This is the room where the priests washed the animals for the burnt offerings.

³⁹ In the entrance hall of the gateway there were two tables on each side of the room. On these tables the animals were slaughtered for burnt offerings, offerings for sin, and guilt offerings.

⁴⁰ On each side of the entrance to the north gateway there were two tables, and on the other side of the entrance hall of the gateway there were two tables.

⁴¹ So there were four tables on each side of the gateway, eight tables in all, on which they slaughtered animals.

⁴² There were four tables made of cut stone for burnt offerings. They were 3 feet long, 3 feet wide, and 21 inches high. On these tables the priests laid the utensils that were used to slaughter animals for burnt offerings and sacrifices.

⁴³ Doublepronged hooks, three inches long, were attached to the wall all around the room, and the tables were for the meat of the animals.

⁴⁴ Outside the gateways to the inner courtyard were the rooms for the singers in the inner courtyards. One room was at the side of the north gateway. It faced south. The other room was at the side of the south gateway. It faced north.

⁴⁵ The man said to me, "This room that faces south is for the priests who serve in the temple.

⁴⁶ The room that faces north is for the priests who serve at the altar. These priests are Zadoks descendants. They are the only Levites who are able to come near the LORD and serve him."

⁴⁷ The man measured the courtyard. It was a perfect square 175 feet long and 175 feet wide. And the altar was in front of the temple.

⁴⁸Then the man brought me to the entrance hall of the temple and measured its recessed walls. They were 9 feet on each side. The gateway was 24 feet wide, and the walls on each side were 5 feet wide.

⁴⁹The entrance hall was 35 feet long and 21 feet wide. Steps led up to it. Pillars stood by the recessed walls, one on each side of the entrance hall.

41 ¹Then the man brought me into the holy place in the temple and measured the recessed walls. They were 10 feet wide on each side.

²The entrance was 17 feet wide, and on each side of the entrance the walls were 9 feet wide. Then he measured the length of the holy place. It was 70 feet long and 35 feet wide.

³Then the man went inside and measured the passageway. It was 3 feet thick. The entrance was 10 feet high and 12 feet wide.

⁴Then he measured the room at the end of the holy place. It was 35 feet long and 35 feet wide. The man said to me, "This is the most holy place."

⁵Next, the man measured the temple wall. It was 10 feet wide. The width of each side room around the temple was 7 feet.

⁶The rooms were arranged on three different stories. There were 30 rooms on each story. These rooms had supports all the way around the temple wall, but these supports were not fastened to the temple wall.

⁷The side rooms grew wider all the way around as they went up, story after story. The surrounding structure went from story to story all around the temple. The structure grew wider as it went higher. A stairway went from the first story through the second story to the third story.

⁸I also saw a raised base all around the temple. This base was the foundation for the side rooms. It measured the full length of the measuring rod, 10 feet.

⁹The outer wall of the side rooms was 9 feet thick. There was an open area between the side rooms connected to the temple

¹⁰and the priests rooms. It was 35 feet wide and went all around the temple.

¹¹ The doors in the side rooms were entrances into the open area. There was one door to the north and another to the south. The base of the open area was 9 feet wide all the way around.

¹² At the far end of the open area, on the west side of the temple, was a building 122 feet wide. The wall of the building was 9 feet thick all the way around, and it was 157 feet long.

¹³ Then the man measured the temple. It was 175 feet long. This included the open area with the building and its walls. All together it was 175 feet long.

¹⁴ The eastern side of the temple, including the open area, was also 175 feet wide.

¹⁵ He also measured the length of the building facing the courtyard on the west side along with its corridors on both sides. It was 175 feet long. The holy place and the most holy place were paneled.

¹⁶ The doorposts, the small windows, and the corridors of all three stories were paneled. The walls, from the floor up to the windows, were paneled.

¹⁷In the space above the door to the most holy place and on the walls all around it,

¹⁸there were pictures of angels and palm trees. Palm trees were positioned between each of the angels, and each angel had two faces:

¹⁹the face of a man, which was turned toward a palm tree on one side, and the face of a lion, which was turned toward a palm tree on the other side. These pictures were carved all around the temple.

²⁰Pictures of angels and palm trees were carved on the walls from the floor to the space above the door.

²¹The doorframes in the holy place were square. In front of the most holy place was something similar.

²²There was a wooden altar, 5 feet high and 3 feet wide. Its corners, its base, and its sides were made of wood. Then the man told me, "This is the table that is in the presence of the LORD."

²³The holy place and the most holy place had two doors.

²⁴Each of the doors were double doors that swung open.

²⁵ Pictures of angels and palm trees were carved on the doors of the holy place as on the walls. There was a wooden roof hanging over the outer entrance hall.

²⁶ There were small windows and palm trees on both sides of the entrance hall, on the side rooms of the temple, and on the roofs.

42 ¹ Then the man led me out toward the north to the outer courtyard. He brought me to the side rooms opposite both the open area and the northern building.

² The building that faced north was 175 feet long and 87 feet wide.

³ Opposite the inner courtyard was an area that was 35 feet wide, and opposite the pavement of the outer courtyard were corridors facing corridors on all three stories.

⁴ In front of the side rooms was a walkway, 17 feet wide and 175 feet long. The doors of these side rooms faced north.

⁵ The side rooms on the third story were narrower than those on the first or second stories of the building because

the corridors took space away from them.

⁶The rooms were in three stories. They didn't have pillars like the pillars in the courtyards. That is why the rooms on the third story were set farther back than those on the first and second stories.

⁷There was a wall which ran parallel to the side rooms and the outer courtyard. It ran alongside the side rooms for 87 feet.

⁸The row of rooms in the outer courtyard was 87 feet long. The rooms that faced the temple were 175 feet long.

⁹These lower side rooms had an entrance on the east side. A person was able to enter the outer courtyard through them.

¹⁰There were side rooms parallel to the wall of the courtyard on the south side. They faced the open area and the building.

¹¹There was a walkway in front of them like the one that was in front of the side rooms on the north side. These side rooms were as long and as wide as

the northern rooms. They had the same exits, dimensions, and doors.

¹²The doors to the south rooms were the same as the doors to the north rooms. There was a doorway at the other end of the walkway that was parallel to the corresponding wall that ran eastward. People entered through that doorway.

¹³Then the man said to me, "The northern and southern side rooms that face the open area are holy rooms. These rooms are where the priests who come near the LORD eat the holiest offerings. Because these rooms are holy, the priests keep the holiest offerings there: the grain offerings, the offerings for sin, and the guilt offerings.

¹⁴Once the priests enter the holy place, they must not go out of the holy place into the outer courtyard until they leave behind the clothes that they wore as they served. These clothes are holy. The priests must put on other clothes. Then they can go into the area that is for the people."

¹⁵When the man had finished measuring the inner part of the temple

area, he led me out through the east gate. Then he measured all the way around the outer area.

¹⁶He measured the east side with a measuring stick. It was 875 feet long according to the measuring stick.

¹⁷He measured the north side. It was 875 feet long according to the measuring stick.

¹⁸He measured the south side. It was 875 feet long according to the measuring stick.

¹⁹He came around to the west side and measured it. It was 875 feet long according to the measuring stick.

²⁰So he measured all four sides. There was a wall all around it. The wall was 875 feet long and 875 feet wide. It separated what was holy from what was unholy.

43¹Then the man took me to the east gate.

²I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice was like the sound of rushing water, and the earth was shining because of his glory.

³This vision was like the one I saw when he came to destroy Jerusalem and

like the one I saw by the Chebar River. I immediately bowed down.

⁴The LORDS glory came into the temple through the east gate.

⁵The Spirit lifted me and brought me into the inner courtyard. I saw the LORDS glory fill the temple.

⁶I heard someone speaking to me from inside the temple while the man was standing beside me.

⁷The voice said to me, "Son of man, this is the place where my throne is and the place where my feet rest. This is where I will live among the Israelites forever. Then the people of Israel and their kings will no longer dishonor my holy name by acting like prostitutes, nor will they dishonor it with the dead bodies of their kings.

⁸They put their doorway by my doorway and their doorposts by my doorposts. Only a wall separated me from them. They dishonored my holy name because of the disgusting things that they have done. So I destroyed them in my anger.

⁹Now they must stop acting like prostitutes and take the dead bodies of

their kings far away from me. Then I will live among them forever.

¹⁰"Son of man, describe this temple to the people of Israel. Then they will be ashamed because of their sins. Let them study the plans.

¹¹Suppose they are ashamed of everything that they have done. Then show them the design of the temple, its arrangements, its exits and entrancesits entire design. Tell them about all its rules and regulations. Then write these things down for them so that they can remember its design and follow all its rules.

¹²"This is a regulation of the temple: The whole area all the way around the top of the mountain is most holy. Yes, this is a regulation of the temple."

¹³These are the measurements of the altar, using royal measurements. (The royal measuring stick was 21 inches long.) The base of the altar was 21 inches high and 21 inches wide. All around the edge of the altar was a rim measuring 9 inches wide. This was the height of the altar:

¹⁴From the base on the ground to the lower ledge it was 3 feet high, and from the lower ledge to the upper ledge it was 7 feet high and 21 inches wide.

¹⁵The place where the sacrifices were burned was 7 feet high. There were four horns above it.

¹⁶It was square, 21 feet wide and 21 feet long.

¹⁷The upper ledge was also square. It was 24 feet long and 24 feet wide. It had a rim all the way around that was 10 inches wide. Its base was 21 inches. The steps to the altar faced east.

¹⁸Then the man said to me, "Son of man, this is what the Almighty LORD says: These are the rules for sacrificing burnt offerings and for sprinkling blood on the altar after the altar is built.

¹⁹Give a young bull to the priests as an offering for sin. These priests are Zadoks descendants, men from the tribe of Levi, who can come near me and serve me.

²⁰Take some of the bulls blood, and put it on the altars four horns, on the four corners of the ledge, and on the rim all the way around the altar. When you do

this, you will remove sin from the altar and make peace with the LORD.

²¹ Then take a young bull as an offering for sin, and burn it in the place appointed near the temple, outside the holy place.

²² "On the second day bring a male goat that has no defects as an offering for sin. Remove sin from the altar as you did with the young bull.

²³ When you finish removing sin, offer a young bull and a ram that have no defects.

²⁴ Offer them to the LORD. The priests must throw salt on them and offer them as burnt offerings to the LORD.

²⁵ Every day for seven days you must sacrifice a goat, a young bull, and a ram from the flock as an offering for sin. They must be animals that have no defects.

²⁶ For seven days the priests should make peace with the LORD at the altar, purify it, and consecrate it.

²⁷ When those days are over, on the eighth day, the priests must sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings on the altar. Then I will accept them, declares the Almighty LORD."

44¹ Then the man took me back to the outer east gate of the holy place, and the gate was shut.

² The LORD said to me, "This gate will stay shut and will not be opened. No one may enter through it because the LORD God of Israel entered through it. It must be kept shut.

³ Only the prince may sit there and eat food in the presence of the LORD. He will enter through the entrance hall of the gateway and leave the same way."

⁴ The man brought me through the north gate in front of the temple. When I looked, I saw the LORDS glory fill the LORDS temple. I immediately bowed down.

⁵ The LORD said to me, "Son of man, pay close attention. Look, and listen to everything I'm going to tell you. Listen to all the rules and regulations for the LORDS temple. Pay close attention to everyone who enters the temple and leaves from the holy place.

⁶ Tell the rebellious people of Israel, This is what the Almighty LORD says: I've had enough of all the disgusting things that you have done, people of Israel.

⁷ You brought godless foreigners into my holy place. You dishonored my temple when you offered fat and blood to me. You rejected my promise so that you could do all your disgusting things.

⁸ You didn't take care of my holy things. You put foreigners in charge of my temple.

⁹ So this is what the Almighty LORD says: Any godless foreigner who lives among the Israelites may not enter my holy place.

¹⁰ "Some Levites went far away from me when Israel wandered off to follow their idols. They must be punished for their sins.

¹¹ They could have served in my holy place. They could have guarded the gates of the temple. They could have served in the temple by slaughtering the animals for the burnt offerings and the sacrifices for the people. They could have stood in front of the people and served them.

¹² But they served the people by standing in front of their idols and by making Israel fall into sin. So I raised my hand and swore that they would

be punished for their sins, declares the LORD.

¹³They must not come near me and serve me as priests. They must not come near any of my holy things or my most holy things. They must suffer disgrace because of the disgusting things that they have done.

¹⁴I will assign them all of the less important work in the temple.

¹⁵"But the priests who are Levites and descendants of Zadok took care of my holy place when the Israelites wandered away from me. They may come near me and serve me, and they may stand in my presence. They may bring fat and blood to me, declares the Almighty LORD.

¹⁶They may enter my holy place, come near my table to serve me, and take care of everything I gave them.

¹⁷When they enter the gateways to the inner courtyard, they must wear linen clothes. They must have no wool on them while they serve in the gateways to the inner courtyard and in the temple.

¹⁸They must wear linen turbans on their heads and linen undergarments.

They must not wear anything that makes them sweat.

¹⁹When they go out among the people in the outer courtyard, they must take off the clothes that they wore as they served. They must leave their clothes in the side rooms of the holy place and put on other clothes so that they do not transfer the holiness from their clothes to the people.

²⁰"They must not shave their heads or let their hair grow long. They must keep the hair on their heads trimmed.

²¹None of the priests may drink wine when they enter the inner courtyard.

²²They must not marry widows or women who have been divorced. They may marry only virgins from the nation of Israel or widows of priests.

²³They must teach my people the difference between what is holy and what is unholy. They must show the people how to tell the difference between what is clean and what is unclean.

²⁴In all disputes the priests must act as judges and make decisions based on my laws. They must obey my rules and

my regulations at all my festivals. They must observe holy days to worship me.

²⁵"A priest must not make himself unclean by going near a dead body. But a priest may become unclean if the dead person is his father, mother, son, daughter, brother, or unmarried sister.

²⁶After a priest is made clean, he must wait seven days.

²⁷When he enters the inner courtyard of the holy place to serve in the holy place, he must bring his offering for sin, declares the Almighty LORD.

²⁸"The priests will have no inheritance. I am their inheritance. Don't give them any possessions in Israel. The priests belong to me.

²⁹They will eat grain offerings, offerings for sin, and guilt offerings. Everything in Israel that is devoted to the LORD will belong to them.

³⁰The priests should have the best of all the first ripened fruits. The best of every gift from all your contributions must go to the priests. The best of your dough must go to the priests. This will cause a blessing to rest on your home.

³¹ The priests must never eat any bird or animal that has died naturally or was killed by other wild animals.

45 ¹ "Divide the land by drawing lots for the property you will inherit. Set aside an area 43,750 feet long and 35,000 feet wide for the LORD. The entire area will be holy.

² An area of 875 feet square will be for the holy place with an open area 87 feet wide.

³ Measure off an area 43,750 feet long and 17,500 feet wide. The holy place, that is, the most holy place, will be in this area.

⁴ This holy part of the land will belong to the priests who serve in the holy place, the priests who come near to serve the LORD. They will use this place for their homes, and it will be the location for the holy place.

⁵ An area 43,750 feet long and 17,500 feet wide will belong to the Levites who serve in the temple. It will be given to them so that they have cities to live in.

⁶ "You must designate an area 8,750 feet wide and 43,750 feet long as the city's property. It will be located

alongside the holy area. It will belong to all the people of Israel.

⁷"The prince will have all the land on both sides of the holy area and on both sides of the property belonging to the city. From the western boundary of the holy area, his land will extend to the Mediterranean Sea. From the eastern boundary of the holy area, his land will extend to the eastern border of the country. His territory will be as large as the territory of one of the tribes.

⁸This land will belong to the prince in Israel. Then my princes will no longer oppress my people. They will give land to each tribe of the nation of Israel.

⁹"This is what the Almighty LORD says: I've had enough of you, you princes of Israel. Stop your violence and looting, and do what is fair and right. Stop evicting my people, declares the Almighty LORD.

¹⁰You must have honest scales and honest dry and liquid measures.

¹¹The dry and liquid measures must always be the same: The ephah and the bath should hold the same as onetenth

of a homer. The homer must be the standard measure.

¹²One shekel must weigh 20 gerahs. One mina must weigh 60 shekels.

¹³"This is the contribution you must give to the LORD: seventeen percent of your wheat and seventeen percent of your barley.

¹⁴You must give one percent of your olive oil using the standard measure.

¹⁵You must take one sheep out of every 200 from the wellwatered pastures of Israel. You must sacrifice them with grain offerings, burnt offerings, and fellowship offerings to make peace with the LORD, declares the Almighty LORD.

¹⁶All the common people must give this contribution to the prince in Israel.

¹⁷Then the prince is responsible to provide burnt offerings, grain offerings, and wine offerings at the annual festivals, the New Moon Festivals, the weekly days of worship, and all the other appointed festivals of the nation of Israel. He must prepare offerings for sin, grain offerings, burnt offerings, and fellowship offerings to make peace with the LORD for the nation of Israel.

¹⁸"This is what the Almighty LORD says: On the first day of the first month, take a young bull that has no defects and remove sin from the holy place.

¹⁹The priest must take some blood from the offering for sin and put it on the doorposts of the temple, on the four corners of the ledge of the altar, and on the doorposts of the gateways of the inner courtyard.

²⁰You must do the same on the seventh day of the month for everyone who unintentionally does something wrong and is unaware of it. So you must make peace with the LORD for the temple.

²¹"On the fourteenth day of the first month, you will celebrate the Passover, a festival lasting seven days when unleavened bread is eaten.

²²At that time the prince must prepare for himself and for all the common people a young bull as an offering for sin.

²³Every day during the seven days of the festival, he must prepare burnt offerings for the LORD: seven young bulls that have no defects, seven rams

that have no defects, and one male goat as an offering for sin.

²⁴He must also give as a grain offering a halfbushel for each young bull and a halfbushel for each ram. He must also give one gallon of olive oil for every halfbushel of grain.

²⁵On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, at the Festival of Booths, he must do the same as on those seven days. He must prepare the same offerings for sin, burnt offerings, grain offerings, and olive oil.

46¹ "This is what the Almighty LORD says: The east gate of the inner courtyard must be closed during the six working days, but it must be opened on the weekly day of worship. It must also be opened on the New Moon Festival.

²The prince must enter from the outside through the entrance hall of the gateway. He must stand by the doorposts of the gateway. Then the priests must prepare the prince's burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. He must worship at the entrance of the gateway and then leave. The gate must not be closed until evening.

³The common people must worship at the door of the gateway in the presence of the LORD on the weekly days of worship and on New Moon Festivals.

⁴The prince must offer to the LORD six lambs that have no defects and one ram that has no defects as a burnt offering on the day of worship.

⁵The grain offering that is to be brought with the ram must be a halfbushel, and the grain offering that is to be brought with the lambs must be whatever the prince can bring. One gallon of olive oil must be brought with each halfbushel of grain.

⁶On the first day of the month, the burnt offering must be one young bull, six lambs, and one ram all animals that have no defects.

⁷With each young bull and each ram the offering must include a halfbushel of grain, and with each lamb the offering must be whatever the prince wants to bring. One gallon of olive oil must be offered with each halfbushel of grain.

⁸When the prince enters, he must enter through the entrance hall of the gateway. He must enter and leave the same way.

⁹"The people will enter the LORDS presence at the time of the appointed festivals. Those entering through the north gate to worship must leave through the south gate. Those entering through the south gate must leave through the north gate. They must not leave through the same gate they entered. They must leave through the opposite gate.

¹⁰The prince must be among them. When they enter, he must enter. When they leave, he must leave.

¹¹"On festival days and at appointed festivals, a grain offering of a halfbushel must be brought with each young bull, and a halfbushel must be brought with each ram. But with the lambs, the prince may bring whatever he wants to bring. One gallon of olive oil must be brought with each halfbushel of grain.

¹²When the prince prepares a freewill burnt offering, either a burnt offering or a fellowship offering to the LORD, the east gate must be opened for him. He must sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings as he does on the day of worship. When he leaves, the gate must be shut after him.

¹³"Prepare a yearold lamb that has no defects every day as a burnt offering to the LORD. Do this every morning.

¹⁴Also, prepare a grain offering with it every morning: threeandathird quarts of grain and oneandathird quarts of olive oil to moisten the flour. It will be a grain offering dedicated to the LORD. These rules are to be followed always.

¹⁵Prepare the lamb, the grain offering, and the olive oil every morning as a daily burnt offering.

¹⁶"This is what the Almighty LORD says: Suppose the prince offers one of his sons a gift from his property. The gift will belong to his descendants because it is their inheritance.

¹⁷But suppose the prince offers a gift from his property to one of his servants. The gift will belong to the servant only until the year of freedom. Then the gift will go back to the prince. Only his sons can inherit his property.

¹⁸The prince must not take any of the peoples property. He must not force them to give up their property. He must give his own property as an inheritance

to his sons so that none of my people will be separated from their property."

¹⁹The man brought me through a passage beside the gateway to the side rooms that faced north. These rooms were reserved for the priests. He showed me a place on the west side of the rooms.

²⁰He said to me, "This is the place where the priests must boil the meat for the guilt offering and the offering for sin. This is the place where they must bake grain offerings so that they don't have to bring the offerings into the outer courtyard. This way they won't transfer holiness to the people."

²¹Then the man led me to the outer courtyard and took me past the four corners of the courtyard. I saw that in each corner of the courtyard there was a smaller courtyard.

²²The smaller courtyards that were in each of the four corners of the courtyard were 60 feet long and 45 feet wide. All four of the smaller courtyards in the corners of the courtyard were the same size.

²³ Around each of the four courtyards were stone walls, and these walls were equipped with fireplaces.

²⁴ Then the man said to me, "These are the kitchens where the temple servants must boil the peoples sacrifices."

47 ¹ Then the man took me back to the door of the temple. I saw water flowing from under the entrance of the temple toward the east. (The temple faced east.) The water was flowing under the south side of the temple, south of the altar.

² Then he led me through the north gate and around to the outer east gate. The water was flowing down the south side of the gate.

³ With a measuring line in his hand, the man went eastward. He measured off 1,500 feet and led me through the water. The water came up to my ankles.

⁴ Then he measured off another 1,500 feet and led me through the water. The water came up to my knees. He measured off another 1,500 feet and led me through the water. The water came up to my waist.

⁵Then he measured another 1,500 feet. But the water had risen so much that it became a river which I couldnt cross. The river was too deep to cross except by swimming.

⁶Then he asked me, "Son of man, do you see this?"

⁷Then the man led me back along the bank of the river. As I went back, I saw many trees on both sides of the river.

⁸Then the man said to me, "This water flows through the land to the east, down into the Jordan Valley, and into the Dead Sea. When the water flows into the Dead Sea, it will replace the salt water there with fresh water.

⁹Wherever the river flows, there will be many fish and animals. The river will make the water in the Dead Sea fresh. Wherever the river flows, it will bring life.

¹⁰From En Gedi to En Eglaim people will be standing on the shore of the sea with their fishing nets spread out. As many kinds of fish will be there as there are in the Mediterranean Sea.

¹¹ But the water in the swamps and marshes wont become fresh. It will remain salty.

¹² All kinds of fruit trees will grow on both sides of the river. Their leaves wont wither, and they wont fail to produce fruit. Each month they will produce fresh fruit because this water flows from the holy place. The fruit will be good food, and the leaves will be used for healing."

¹³ This is what the Almighty LORD says: These are the borders of the land that is to be divided among the 12 tribes of Israel. Joseph gets two parts.

¹⁴ Divide the land equally. I raised my hand and swore that I would give the land to your ancestors. So this land will be your inheritance.

¹⁵ This is the northern border for the land: On the north side the border will run from the Mediterranean Sea all the way to Hethlon and Hamath Pass. It will run through the city of Zedad and through

¹⁶ Berothah and Sibraim, which are between the borders of Damascus and Hamath. It will run to Hazer Hatticon, which is on the border of Hauran.

¹⁷ So the border will run from the Mediterranean Sea to Hazar Enon on the border of Damascus. The border of Hamath will lie to the north. This is the north side.

¹⁸ On the east side the border will run between Hauran and Damascus. The Jordan River will serve as the border between Gilead and the land of Israel. The border will continue from the Dead Sea down to Tamar. This is the east side.

¹⁹ On the south side the border will run from Tamar to the oasis at Meribah in Kadesh along the ravine to the Mediterranean Sea. This is the southern border.

²⁰ On the west side the Mediterranean Sea is the border up to a point opposite Hamath Pass. This is the west side.

²¹ Divide this land among yourselves for each of the tribes of Israel.

²² Divide it by drawing lots. This land will be for you. It will also be for the foreign residents who live among you and have given birth to children while they lived with you. Think of them as Israelites. They will draw lots with you

for their inheritance among the tribes of Israel.

²³ Foreign residents will receive their share of the inheritance with the people of the tribe among whom they are living, declares the Almighty LORD.

48¹ These are the names of the tribes. Beginning at the northern border, Dan will have one part of the land. It will extend from the road to Hethlon to Hamath Pass and Hazar Enon, on the northern border of Damascus near Hamath, from the eastern border to the western border.

² Asher will have one part of the land and border Dan on the south. It will extend from the eastern border to the western border.

³ Naphtali will have one part of the land and border Asher on the south. It will extend from the eastern border to the western border.

⁴ Manasseh will have one part of the land and border Naphtali on the south. It will extend from the eastern border to the western border.

⁵ Ephraim will have one part of the land and border Manasseh on the south. It

will extend from the eastern border to the western border.

⁶Reuben will have one part of the land and border Ephraim on the south. It will extend from the eastern border to the western border.

⁷Judah will have one part of the land and border Reuben on the south. It will extend from the eastern border to the western border.

⁸The land that you set aside as a special gift for the LORD will border Judah on the south. It will be 43,750 feet wide, and it will be as long as one of the sections of the tribes. It will extend from the eastern border to the western border, and the holy place will be in the middle of it.

⁹This special land that you set aside for the LORD will be 43,750 feet long and 17,500 feet wide.

¹⁰This holy area will belong to the priests. On the north side it will be 43,750 feet long. On the west side it will be 17,500 feet wide. On the east side it will be 17,500 feet wide. On the south side it will be 43,750 feet long. The

LORDS holy place will be in the middle of it.

¹¹ This land that has been set apart will belong to the priests who are descendants of Zadok. They took care of my holy place. They didn't wander away with the Israelites as the Levites did.

¹² So they will have a special portion from the land. It will be the holiest part of land, next to the land belonging to the Levites.

¹³ Alongside the land belonging to the priests will be the land belonging to the Levites. It will be 43,750 feet long and 17,500 feet wide.

¹⁴ They must not sell any of it or trade any of it. They must not let others have the best part of the land, because the land is the LORDS and it is holy.

¹⁵ A strip of land, 8,750 feet wide by 43,750 feet long, will be left for cities, homes, and pastures. The city will be in the middle of it.

¹⁶ These will be the measurements for the city: On the north side it will be 7,875 feet long. On the south side it will be 7,875 feet long. On the east side it

will be 7,875 feet wide. And on the west side it will be 7,875 feet wide.

¹⁷ The city's pastureland will be 4,375 feet on the north, 4,375 feet on the south, 4,375 feet on the east, and 4,375 feet on the west.

¹⁸ The rest of the land borders the holy area and runs lengthwise. This land will be 17,500 feet on its east side and 17,500 feet on its west side. It will be used to provide food for the city workers.

¹⁹ City workers from all the tribes in Israel will farm it.

²⁰ The whole area will be 43,750 feet square. You must give this land as a special gift to the LORD along with the city property.

²¹ Whatever is left on the east side and west side of the holy area and the city property will belong to the prince. This land will extend eastward from the holy area to the eastern border, and it will extend westward to the western border. Both of these areas are as long as one of the sections of the tribes. These areas belong to the prince, and the holy area with the holy place of the temple will be between them.

²² So the Levites property and the citys property will be between the princes part of the land. What is between Judahs and Benjamins boundaries will belong to the prince.

²³ This is what the rest of the tribes will receive: Benjamin will have one part of the land. It will extend from the eastern border to the western border.

²⁴ Simeon will have one part of the land and border Benjamin on the south. It will extend from the eastern border to the western border.

²⁵ Issachar will have one part of the land and border Simeon on the south. It will extend from the eastern border to the western border.

²⁶ Zebulun will have one part of the land and border Issachar on the south. It will extend from the eastern border to the western border.

²⁷ Gad will have one part of the land and border Zebulun on the south. It will extend from the eastern border to the western border.

²⁸ The southern border of Gad will run south from Tamar to the oasis at Meribah

in Kadesh, and it will run along the Brook of Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea.

²⁹This is the land you will divide as your inheritance among the tribes of Israel, and these are their areas, declares the Almighty LORD.

³⁰These will be the exits for the city: The north side will be 7,875 feet long.

³¹The gates of the city will be named after the tribes of Israel. The three gates on the north side will be Reuben Gate, Judah Gate, and Levi Gate.

³²The east side will be 7,875 feet long. The three gates on the east side will be Joseph Gate, Benjamin Gate, and Dan Gate.

³³The south side will be 7,875 feet long. The three gates on the south side will be Simeon Gate, Issachar Gate, and Zebulun Gate.

³⁴The west side will be 7,875 feet long. The three gates on the west side will be Gad Gate, Asher Gate, and Naphtali Gate.

³⁵The city will measure about 31,500 feet all the way around. From then on the city's name will be: The LORD Is There.

Daniel

1 ¹In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and attacked it.

²The Lord handed King Jehoiakim of Judah and some utensils from Gods temple over to Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar took the utensils to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put them in the temple treasury.

³The king told Ashpenaz, the chief of staff, to bring some of the Israelites, the royal family, and the nobility.

⁴They were to be young men who were healthy, good looking, knowledgeable in all subjects, well informed, intelligent, and able to serve in the kings palace. They were to be taught the language and literature of the Babylonians.

⁵The king arranged for them to get a daily allowance of the kings rich food and wine. They were to be trained for three

years. After that, they were to serve the king.

⁶Among these young men were some Judeans: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

⁷The chief of staff gave them Babylonian names: To Daniel he gave the name Belteshazzar. To Hananiah he gave the name Shadrach. To Mishael he gave the name Meshach. And to Azariah he gave the name Abednego.

⁸Daniel made up his mind not to harm himself by eating the king's rich food and drinking the king's wine. So he asked the chief of staff for permission not to harm himself in this way.

⁹God made the chief of staff kind and compassionate toward Daniel.

¹⁰The chief of staff told Daniel, "I'm afraid of my master, the king. The king determined what you should eat and drink. If he sees that you look worse than the other young men your age, he would have my head cut off."

¹¹The chief of staff put a supervisor in charge of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Daniel said to the supervisor,

¹²"Please test us for ten days. Give us only vegetables to eat and water to drink.

¹³Then compare us to the young men who are eating the kings rich food. Decide how to treat us on the basis of how we look."

¹⁴The supervisor listened to them about this matter and tested them for ten days.

¹⁵After ten days they looked healthier and stronger than the young men who had been eating the kings rich food.

¹⁶So the supervisor took away the kings rich food and wine and gave them vegetables.

¹⁷God gave these four men knowledge, wisdom, and the ability to understand all kinds of literature. Daniel could also understand all kinds of visions and dreams.

¹⁸At the end of the threeyear training period, the chief of staff brought all the young men to Nebuchadnezzar.

¹⁹The king talked to them and found no one like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah among all of them. So these four men served the king.

²⁰Whenever the king asked them about things that required wisdom and insight, he found that they knew ten times more than all the magicians and psychics in his whole kingdom.

²¹Daniel served the royal palace until the first year of King Cyrus of Persia.

2¹During the second year of Nebuchadnezzars reign, he had some dreams. He was troubled, but he stayed asleep.

²The king sent for the magicians, psychics, sorcerers, and astrologers so that they could tell him what he had dreamed. So they came to the king.

³The king said to them, "I had a dream, and I'm troubled by it. I want to know what the dream was."

⁴The astrologers spoke to the king in Aramaic, "Your Majesty, may you live forever! Tell us the dream, and we'll interpret it for you."

⁵The king answered the astrologers, "I meant what I said! If you don't tell me the dream and its meaning, you will be torn limb from limb, and your houses will be turned into piles of rubble."

⁶But if you tell me the dream and its meaning, I will give you gifts, awards, and high honors. Now tell me the dream and its meaning."

⁷Once more they said, "Your Majesty, tell us the dream, and we'll tell you its meaning."

⁸The king replied, "I'm sure you're trying to buy some time because you know that I meant what I said."

⁹If you don't tell me the dream, you'll all receive the same punishment. You have agreed among yourselves to make up a phony explanation to give me, hoping that things will change. So tell me the dream. Then I'll know that you can explain its meaning to me."

¹⁰The astrologers answered the king, "No one on earth can tell the king what he asks. No other king, no matter how great and powerful, has ever asked such a thing of any magician, psychic, or astrologer."

¹¹What you ask is difficult, Your Majesty. No one can tell what you dreamed except the gods, and they don't live with humans."

¹²This made the king so angry and furious that he gave an order to destroy all the wise advisers in Babylon.

¹³So a decree was issued that the wise advisers were to be killed, and some men were sent to find Daniel and his friends and kill them.

¹⁴While Arioch, the captain of the royal guard, was leaving to kill the wise advisers in Babylon, Daniel spoke to him using shrewd judgment.

¹⁵He asked Arioch, the royal official, "Why is the king's decree so harsh?" So Arioch explained everything to Daniel.

¹⁶Daniel went and asked the king to give him some time so that he could explain the dream's meaning.

¹⁷Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah about this matter.

¹⁸He told them to ask the God of heaven to be merciful and to explain this secret to them so that they would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise advisers in Babylon.

¹⁹The secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision during the night. So Daniel praised the God of heaven.

²⁰He said, "Praise Gods name from everlasting to everlasting because he is wise and powerful.

²¹He changes times and periods of history. He removes kings and establishes them. He gives wisdom to those who are wise and knowledge to those who have insight.

²²He reveals deeply hidden things. He knows what is in the dark, and light lives with him.

²³God of my ancestors, I thank and praise you. You gave me wisdom and power. You told me the answer to our question. You told us what the king wants to know."

²⁴Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy Babylons wise advisers. Daniel told him, "Dont destroy Babylons wise advisers. Take me to the king, and Ill explain the dreams meaning to him."

²⁵Arioch immediately took Daniel to the king. He told the king, "Ive found one of the captives from Judah who can explain the dreams meaning to you, Your Majesty."

²⁶ The king asked Daniel (who had been renamed Belteshazzar), "Can you tell me the dream I had and its meaning?"

²⁷ Daniel answered the king, "No wise adviser, psychic, magician, or fortuneteller can tell the king this secret.

²⁸ But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets. He will tell King Nebuchadnezzar what is going to happen in the days to come. This is your dream, the vision you had while you were asleep:

²⁹ Your Majesty, while you were lying in bed, thoughts about what would happen in the future came to you. The one who reveals secrets told you what is going to happen.

³⁰ This secret wasn't revealed to me because I'm wiser than anyone else. It was revealed so that you could be told the meaning and so that you would know your innermost thoughts.

³¹ "Your Majesty, you had a vision. You saw a large statue. This statue was very bright. It stood in front of you, and it looked terrifying.

³² The head of this statue was made of fine gold. Its chest and arms were made

of silver. Its stomach and hips were made of bronze.

³³ Its legs were made of iron. Its feet were made partly of iron and partly of clay.

³⁴ While you were watching, a stone was cut out, but not by humans. It struck the statues iron and clay feet and smashed them.

³⁵ Then all at once, the iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold were smashed. They became like husks on a threshing floor in summer. The wind carried them away, and not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the statue became a large mountain which filled the whole world.

³⁶ This is the dream. Now we'll tell you its meaning.

³⁷ "Your Majesty, you are the greatest king. The God of heaven has given you a kingdom. He has given you power, strength, and honor.

³⁸ He has given you control over people, wild animals, and birds, wherever they live. He has made you ruler of them all. You are the head of gold.

³⁹ Another kingdom, inferior to yours, will rise to power after you. Then there will be a third kingdom, a kingdom of bronze, that will rule the whole world.

⁴⁰ There will also be a fourth kingdom. It will be as strong as iron. (Iron smashes and shatters everything.) As iron crushes things, this fourth kingdom will smash and crush all the other kingdoms.

⁴¹ You also saw the feet and toes. They were partly potters clay and partly iron. This means that there will be a divided kingdom which has some of the firmness of iron. As you saw, iron was mixed with clay.

⁴² The toes were partly iron and partly clay. Part of the kingdom will be strong, and part will be brittle.

⁴³ As you saw, iron was mixed with clay. So the two parts of the kingdom will mix by intermarrying, but they will not hold together any more than iron can mix with clay.

⁴⁴ "At the time of those kings, the God of heaven will establish a kingdom that will never be destroyed. No other people will be permitted to rule it. It will smash

all the other kingdoms and put an end to them. But it will be established forever.

⁴⁵This is the stone that you saw cut out from a mountain, but not by humans. It smashed the iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. The great God has told you what will happen in the future, Your Majesty. The dream is true, and you can trust that this is its meaning."

⁴⁶King Nebuchadnezzar immediately bowed down on the ground in front of Daniel. He ordered that gifts and offerings be given to Daniel.

⁴⁷The king said to Daniel, "Your God is truly the greatest of gods, the Lord over kings. He can reveal secrets because you were able to reveal this secret."

⁴⁸Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many wonderful gifts. Nebuchadnezzar made Daniel governor of the whole province of Babylon and head of all Babylons wise advisers.

⁴⁹With the kings permission, Daniel appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to govern the province of Babylon. But Daniel stayed at the kings court.

3¹ King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue 90 feet high and 9 feet wide. He set it up in a recessed area in the wall in the province of Babylon.

² King Nebuchadnezzar sent messengers to assemble the satraps, governors, mayors, military advisers, treasurers, judges, officers, and all the other provincial officials to dedicate the statue he had set up.

³ Then the satraps, governors, mayors, military advisers, treasurers, judges, officers, and all the other provincial officials assembled to dedicate the statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. They stood in front of the statue.

⁴ The herald called out loudly, "People of every province, nation, and language!

⁵ When you hear the sound of rams horns, flutes, lyres, harps, and threestringed harps playing at the same time with all other kinds of instruments, bow down and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.

⁶ Whoever doesn't bow down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

⁷As soon as they heard the sound of rams horns, flutes, lyres, harps, and threestringed harps with all other kinds of instruments, all the people from every province, nation, and language bowed down and worshiped the gold statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸After that happened, some astrologers came forward and brought charges against the Jews.

⁹They addressed King Nebuchadnezzar, "Your Majesty, may you live forever!

¹⁰Your Majesty, you gave an order that everyone who hears the sound of rams horns, flutes, lyres, harps, and threestringed harps playing at the same time with all other kinds of instruments should bow down and worship the gold statue.

¹¹Your order said that whoever doesn't bow down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace.

¹²There are certain Jews whom you appointed to govern the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men didn't obey your order, Your Majesty. They don't honor

your gods or worship the statue that you set up."

¹³Then, in a fit of rage and anger, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Immediately, they were brought to the king.

¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar asked them, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, is it true that you don't honor my gods or worship the gold statue that I set up?"

¹⁵When you hear the sound of the rams horns, flutes, lyres, harps, and threestringed harps playing at the same time with all other kinds of instruments, will you bow down and worship the gold statue I made? If you don't worship it, you will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace. What god can save you from my power then?"

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, "We don't need to answer your last question.

¹⁷If our God, whom we honor, can save us from a blazing furnace and from your power, he will, Your Majesty.

¹⁸But if he doesn't, you should know, Your Majesty, we'll never honor your gods

or worship the gold statue that you set up."

¹⁹ Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with anger toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face turned red. He ordered that the furnace should be heated seven times hotter than normal.

²⁰ He told some soldiers from his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego so that they could be thrown into the blazing furnace.

²¹ Then the three men were thrown into the blazing furnace. They were wearing their clothes, hats, and other clothing.

²² The king's order was so urgent and the furnace was so extremely hot that the men who carried Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were killed by the flames from the fire.

²³ So these three men—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—fell into the blazing furnace. They were still tied up.

²⁴ Then Nebuchadnezzar was startled. He sprang to his feet. He asked his advisers, "Didn't we throw three men into the fire?" "That's true, Your Majesty," they answered.

²⁵The king replied, "But look, I see four men. They're untied, walking in the middle of the fire, and unharmed. The fourth one looks like a son of the gods."

²⁶Then Nebuchadnezzar went to the door of the blazing furnace and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednegoservants of the Most High Godcome out here." Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire.

²⁷The kings satraps, governors, mayors, and advisers gathered around the three men. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies. The hair on their heads wasnt singed, their clothes werent burned, and they didnt smell of smoke.

²⁸Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He sent his angel and saved his servants, who trusted him. They disobeyed the king and risked their lives so that they would not have to honor or worship any god except their own God.

²⁹So I order that people from every province, nation, or language who say anything slanderous about the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will

be torn limb from limb. Their houses will be turned into piles of rubble. No other god can rescue like this."

³⁰Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to higher positions in the province of Babylon.

4¹From King Nebuchadnezzar. To the people of every province, nation, and language in the world. I wish you peace and prosperity.

²I am pleased to write to you about the miraculous signs and amazing things the Most High God did for me.

³His miraculous signs are impressive. He uses his power to do amazing things. His kingdom is an eternal kingdom. His power lasts from one generation to the next.

⁴I, Nebuchadnezzar, was living comfortably at home. I was prosperous while living in my palace.

⁵I had a dream that terrified me. The visions I had while I was asleep frightened me.

⁶So I ordered all the wise advisers in Babylon to be brought to me to tell me the dreams meaning.

⁷The magicians, psychics, astrologers, and fortunetellers came to me. I told them the dream, but they couldnt tell me its meaning.

⁸Finally, Daniel came to me. (He had been renamed Belteshazzar after my god Bel.) The spirit of the holy gods is in him. I told him the dream:

⁹"Belteshazzar, head of the magicians, I know the spirit of the holy gods is in you. No secret is too hard for you to uncover. Tell me the meaning of the visions I had in my dream.

¹⁰These are the visions I had while I was asleep: I was looking, and I saw an oak tree in the middle of the earth. It was very tall.

¹¹The tree grew, and it became strong enough and tall enough to reach the sky. It could be seen everywhere on earth.

¹²It had beautiful leaves and plenty of fruit, enough to feed everyone. Wild animals found shade under it. Birds came to live in its branches. It fed every living creature.

¹³"I was seeing these visions as I was asleep. I saw a guardian, a holy being, come down from heaven.

¹⁴He shouted loudly, Cut down the oak tree! Cut off its branches! Strip off its leaves! Scatter its fruit! Make the animals under it run away, and make the birds fly from its branches.

¹⁵But leave the stump and its roots in the ground. Secure it with an iron and bronze chain in the grass in the field. Let it get wet with the dew from the sky. And let it get its share of the plants on the ground with the animals.

¹⁶Let its human mind be changed, and give it the mind of an animal. Let it remain like this for seven time periods.

¹⁷The guardians have announced this decision. The holy ones have announced this so that every living creature will know that the Most High has power over human kingdoms. He gives them to whomever he wishes. He can place the lowest of people in charge of them."

¹⁸I said, "This is the dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now you, Belteshazzar, tell me its meaning because the wise advisers in my kingdom cant tell it to me. However, you can, because the spirit of the holy gods is in you."

¹⁹Then Daniel (who had been renamed Belteshazzar) was momentarily stunned. What he was thinking frightened him. I told him, "Belteshazzar, don't let the dream and its meaning frighten you." Belteshazzar answered, "Sir, I wish that the dream were about those who hate you and its meaning were about your enemies.

²⁰You saw an oak tree grow and become strong enough and tall enough to reach the sky. It could be seen everywhere on earth.

²¹It had beautiful leaves and plenty of fruit, enough to feed everyone. Wild animals lived under it, and birds made their homes in its branches.

²²You are that tree, Your Majesty. You grew and became strong and mighty until you reached the sky. Your power reaches the most distant part of the world.

²³You saw a guardian, a holy being, come down from heaven. He said, Cut down the oak tree! Destroy it! But leave the stump and its roots in the ground. Secure it with an iron and bronze chain in the grass in the field. Let it get wet

with the dew from the sky. Let it get its share of the plants on the ground with the wild animals for seven time periods.

²⁴"This is the meaning, Your Majesty. The Most High has decided to apply it to you, Your Majesty.

²⁵You will be forced away from people and live with the wild animals. You will eat grass like cattle. The dew from the sky will make you wet. And seven time periods will pass until you realize that the Most High has power over human kingdoms and that he gives them to whomever he wishes.

²⁶Since I said that the stump and the trees roots were to be left, your kingdom will be restored to you as soon as you realize that heaven rules.

²⁷"That is why, Your Majesty, my best advice is that you stop sinning, and do what is right. Stop committing the same errors, and have pity on the poor. Maybe you can prolong your prosperity."

²⁸All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar.

²⁹Twelve months later, he was walking around the royal palace in Babylon.

³⁰The king thought, "Look how great Babylon is! I built the royal palace by my own impressive power and for my glorious honor."

³¹Before the words came out of his mouth, a voice said from heaven, "King Nebuchadnezzar, listen to this: The kingdom has been taken from you."

³²You will be forced away from people and live with the wild animals. You will eat grass like cattle. And seven time periods will pass until you realize that the Most High has power over human kingdoms and that he gives them to whomever he wishes."

³³Just then the prediction about Nebuchadnezzar came true. He was forced away from people and ate grass like cattle. Dew from the sky made his body wet until his hair grew as long as eagles feathers and his nails grew as long as birds claws.

³⁴At the end of the seven time periods, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven, and my mind came back to me. I thanked the Most High, and I praised and honored the one who lives forever, because his power lasts forever and his

kingdom lasts from one generation to the next.

³⁵ Everyone who lives on earth is nothing compared to him. He does whatever he wishes with the army of heaven and with those who live on earth. There is no one who can oppose him or ask him, "What are you doing?"

³⁶ Just then my mind came back to me. My royal honor and glory were also given back to me. My advisers and nobles wanted to meet with me again. I was given back my kingdom and made extraordinarily great.

³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, will praise, honor, and give glory to the King of Heaven. Everything he does is true, his ways are right, and he can humiliate those who act arrogantly.

5¹ King Belshazzar threw a large banquet for 1,000 nobles and drank wine with them.

² As they were tasting the wine, Belshazzar ordered that the gold and silver utensils which his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem be brought to him.

He wanted to drink from them with his nobles, his wives, and his concubines.

³So the servants brought the gold utensils that had been taken from Gods temple in Jerusalem. The king, his nobles, wives, and concubines drank from them.

⁴They drank the wine and praised their gods made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, or stone.

⁵Suddenly, the fingers of a persons hand appeared and wrote on the plaster wall opposite the lamp stand of the royal palace. The king watched as the hand wrote.

⁶Then the king turned pale, and his thoughts frightened him. His hip joints became loose, and his knees knocked against each other.

⁷The king screamed for the psychics, astrologers, and fortunetellers to be brought to him. He told these wise advisers of Babylon, "Whoever reads this writing and tells me its meaning will be dressed in purple, wear a gold chain on his neck, and become the thirdhighest ruler in the kingdom."

⁸All the kings wise advisers came, but they couldnt read the writing or tell the king its meaning.

⁹King Belshazzar was terrified, and his face turned pale. His nobles didnt know what to do.

¹⁰The discussion between the king and his nobles brought the queen herself into the banquet hall. The queen said, "Your Majesty, may you live forever! Dont let your thoughts frighten you, and dont turn pale.

¹¹Theres a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your grandfather, he was found to have insight, good judgment, and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods. Your grandfather, King Nebuchadnezzar, made him head of the magicians, psychics, astrologers, and fortunetellers.

¹²This Daniel (who had been renamed Belteshazzar) was found to have knowledge, judgment, and an extraordinary spirit. He has the ability to interpret dreams, solve riddles, and untangle problems. Now, call Daniel, and he will tell you what it means."

¹³ So Daniel was taken to the king. The king asked him, "Are you Daniel, one of the captives that my grandfather brought from Judah?"

¹⁴ I've heard that you have the spirit of the gods and that you have insight, good judgment, and extraordinary wisdom.

¹⁵ The wise advisers and the psychics were brought to me to read this writing and tell me its meaning. But they couldn't tell me its meaning.

¹⁶ I have heard that you can interpret such things and untangle problems. If you can read the writing and tell me its meaning, you will be dressed in purple, wear a gold chain on your neck, and become the third-highest ruler in the kingdom."

¹⁷ Daniel told the king, "Keep your gifts. Give your gifts and awards to someone else. I'll still read the writing for you and tell you its meaning.

¹⁸ "Your Majesty, the Most High God gave your grandfather Nebuchadnezzar a kingdom, might, honor, and glory.

¹⁹ People from every province, nation, and language trembled and were terrified by him, because God gave him

power. Nebuchadnezzar killed whomever he wanted to kill, and he kept alive whomever he wanted to keep alive. He promoted whomever he wanted to promote, and he demoted whomever he wanted to demote.

²⁰ But when he became so arrogant and conceited that he became overconfident, he was removed from the royal throne. His honor was taken away from him.

²¹ He was chased away from people, and his mind was changed into an animals mind. He lived with wild donkeys, ate grass like cattle, and his body became wet with dew from the sky. This happened until he realized that the Most High God has power over human kingdoms. God puts whomever he wishes in charge of them.

²² "Belshazzar, you are one of Nebuchadnezzars successors. You didnt remain humble, even though you knew all this.

²³ But you made yourself greater than the Lord of heaven. You had the utensils from his temple brought to you. You, your nobles, wives, and concubines drank wine from them. You praised your

gods made of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood, or stone. These gods can't see, hear, or know anything. You didn't honor God, who has power over your life and everything you do.

²⁴ So he sent the hand to write this inscription.

²⁵ This is what has been written: Numbered, Numbered, Weighed, and Divided.

²⁶ This is its meaning: Numbered God has numbered the days of your kingdom and will bring it to an end.

²⁷ Weighed you have been weighed on a scale and found to be too light.

²⁸ Divided your kingdom will be divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

²⁹ Then Belshazzar ordered that Daniel be dressed in purple and wear a gold chain on his neck. He made Daniel the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

³⁰ That night King Belshazzar of Babylon was killed.

³¹ Darius the Mede took over the kingdom. He was 62 years old.

6¹ Darius decided it would be good to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom.

²Over these satraps were three officials. Daniel was one of these officials. The satraps were to report to these three officials so that the king wouldnt be cheated.

³This man, Daniel, distinguished himself among the other officials and satraps because there was an extraordinary spirit in him. The king thought about putting him in charge of the whole kingdom.

⁴So the other officials and satraps tried to find something to accuse Daniel of in his duties for the kingdom. But they couldnt find anything wrong because he was trustworthy. No error or fault could be found.

⁵These men said, "We wont find anything to accuse this man, Daniel, unless we find it in his religious practices."

⁶So these officials and satraps went to the king as a group. They said to him, "May King Darius live forever!

⁷All the officials, governors, satraps, advisers, and mayors agree that the king should make a statute and enforce a decree. The decree should state that

for the next 30 days whoever asks for anything from any god or person except you, Your Majesty, will be thrown into a lions den.

⁸Your Majesty, issue this decree, and sign it. According to the law of the Medes and Persians no one could change it or repeal it."

⁹So Darius signed the written decree.

¹⁰When Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went to his house. An upper room in his house had windows that opened in the direction of Jerusalem. Three times each day he got down on his knees and prayed to his God. He had always praised God this way.

¹¹One of those times the men came in as a group and found Daniel praying and pleading to his God.

¹²Then they went and spoke to the king about his decree. They asked, "Didn't you sign a decree which stated that for 30 days whoever asks for anything from any god or person except you, Your Majesty, will be thrown into a lions den?" The king answered, "That's true. According to

the law of the Medes and Persians the decree cant be repealed."

¹³They replied, "Your Majesty, Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, refuses to obey your order or the decree that you signed. He prays three times each day."

¹⁴The king was very displeased when he heard this. He tried every way he could think of to save Daniel. Until sundown he did everything he could to rescue him.

¹⁵Then Daniels accusers gathered in front of the king. They said to him, "Remember, Your Majesty, the Medes and Persians have a law that no decree or statute the king makes can be changed."

¹⁶So the king gave the order, and Daniel was brought to him and thrown into the lions den. The king told Daniel, "May your God, whom you always worship, save you!"

¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the opening of the den. The king put his seal on the stone, using his ring and the rings of his nobles, so that Daniels situation could not be changed.

¹⁸Then the king went to his palace and spent the night without food or company. He couldnt get to sleep.

¹⁹At dawn, as soon as it was light, the king got up and quickly went to the lions den.

²⁰As he came near the den where Daniel was, the king called to Daniel with anguish in his voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Was God, whom you always worship, able to save you from the lions?"

²¹Daniel said to the king, "Your Majesty, may you live forever!

²²My God sent his angel and shut the lions mouths so that they couldnt hurt me. He did this because he considered me innocent. Your Majesty, I havent committed any crime."

²³The king was overjoyed and had Daniel taken out of the den. When Daniel was taken out of the den, people saw that he was completely unharmed because he trusted his God.

²⁴The king ordered those men who had brought charges against Daniel to be brought to him. They, their wives, and their children were thrown into the lions

den. Before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions attacked them and crushed all their bones.

²⁵Then King Darius wrote to the people of every province, nation, and language all over the world: I wish you peace and prosperity.

²⁶I decree that in every part of my kingdom people should tremble with terror in front of Daniels God, the living God who continues forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed. His power lasts to the end of time.

²⁷He saves, rescues, and does miraculous signs and amazing things in heaven and on earth. He saved Daniel from the lions.

²⁸This man, Daniel, prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

7¹In Belshazzars first year as king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream. He saw a vision while he was asleep. He wrote down the main parts of the dream.

²In my visions at night I, Daniel, saw the four winds of heaven stirring up the Mediterranean Sea.

³Four large animals, each one different from the others, came out of the sea.

⁴The first animal was like a lion, but it had wings like an eagle. I watched until its wings were plucked off and it was lifted off the ground. It was made to stand on two feet like a human and was given a human mind.

⁵I saw a second animal. It looked like a bear. It was raised on one side and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, "Get up, and eat as much meat as you want."

⁶After this, I saw another animal. It looked like a leopard. On its back it had four wings, like the wings of a bird. The animal also had four heads. It was given power to rule.

⁷After this, I saw a fourth animal in my vision during the night. It was terrifying, dreadful, extraordinarily strong, and had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed its victims and trampled whatever was left. It acted differently from all the other animals that I had seen before. It had ten horns.

⁸While I was thinking about the horns, another horn, a little horn, came up

among them. It uprooted three of the other horns. This horn had eyes like human eyes and a mouth that spoke impressive things.

⁹I watched until thrones were set up and the Ancient One, who has lived for endless years, sat down. His clothes were as white as snow and the hair on his head was like pure wool. His throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰A river of fire flowed. It came from him. Thousands and thousands served him. Ten thousand times ten thousand were stationed in front of him. The court convened, and the books were opened.

¹¹I continued to watch because of the impressive words that the horn was speaking. I watched until the animal was killed. Its body was destroyed and put into a raging fire.

¹²The power of the rest of the animals was taken away, but they were allowed to live for a period of time.

¹³In my visions during the night, I saw among the clouds in heaven someone like the Son of Man. He came to the

Ancient One, who has lived for endless years, and was presented to him.

¹⁴He was given power, honor, and a kingdom. People from every province, nation, and language were to serve him. His power is an eternal power that will not be taken away. His kingdom will never be destroyed.

¹⁵I, Daniel, was deeply troubled, and my visions frightened me.

¹⁶I went to someone who was standing there and asked him to tell me the truth about all this. So he told me what all this meant.

¹⁷He said, "These four large animals are four kingdoms that will rise to power on the earth.

¹⁸But the holy people of the Most High will take possession of the kingdom and keep it forever and ever."

¹⁹Then I wanted to know the truth about the fourth animal, which was so different from all the others. It was very terrifying and had iron teeth and bronze claws. It devoured and crushed its victims, and trampled whatever was left.

²⁰I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that had come up and made three of the horns fall out. That horn had eyes and a mouth that spoke impressive things. It appeared to be bigger than the others.

²¹I saw that horn making war against the holy people and defeating them.

²²It did this until the Ancient One, who has lived for endless years, came and judged in favor of the holy people of the Most High. The time came when the holy people took possession of the kingdom.

²³He said, "The fourth animal will be the fourth of these kingdoms on earth. It will be different from all other kingdoms. It will devour, trample, and crush the whole world.

²⁴The ten horns are ten kings that will rise to power from that kingdom. Another king will rise to power after them. He will be different from the kings who came before him, and he will humble three kings.

²⁵He will speak against the Most High God, oppress the holy people of the Most High, and plan to change the appointed

times and laws. The holy people will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half of a time.

²⁶But judgment will be handed down, his power will be taken away, and he will be completely and permanently destroyed.

²⁷The kingdom, along with the power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven, will be given to the holy people of the Most High. Their kingdom is eternal. All other powers will serve and obey them."

²⁸Here is the end of the matter. I, Daniel, was terrified by my thoughts, and I turned pale. I kept this to myself.

8¹In Belshazzars third year as king, I, Daniel, saw a vision. This vision came after the one I saw earlier.

²In my vision I saw myself in the fortress of Susa in the province of Elam. In my vision I saw myself at Ulai Gate.

³I looked up and saw a single ram standing beside the gate. The ram had two long horns, one longer than the other, though the longer one had grown up later.

⁴I saw the ram charging west, north, and south. No other animal could stand in front of it, and no one could escape from its power. It did anything it pleased and continued to grow.

⁵As I was watching closely, I saw a male goat coming from the west. It crossed the whole earth without touching it. This goat had a prominent horn between its eyes.

⁶The goat was coming toward the twohorned ram that I had seen standing beside the gate. It furiously ran at the ram.

⁷I saw it come closer to the ram. The goat was extremely angry with the ram, so it attacked the ram. It broke both of the rams horns. The ram didnt have the strength to stand up against the goat. So the ram was thrown down on the ground and trampled. No one could rescue the ram from the goats power.

⁸The male goat became very important. But when the goat became powerful, his large horn broke off. In its place grew four horns. They corresponded to the four winds of heaven.

⁹Out of one of the horns came a small horn. It gained power over the south, the east, and the beautiful land.

¹⁰It continued to gain power until it reached the army of heaven. It threw some of the army of heaven, the stars, down on the ground and trampled them.

¹¹Then it attacked the commander of the army so that it took the daily burnt offering from him and wrecked his holy place.

¹²In its rebelliousness it was given an army to put a stop to the daily burnt offering. It threw truth on the ground. The horn was successful in everything it did.

¹³Then I heard a holy one speaking. Another holy one said to the one who was speaking, "How long will the things in this visionthe daily burnt offering, the destructive rebellion, the surrender of the holy place, and the trampling of the armytake place?"

¹⁴He told me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the holy place will be made acceptable to God."

¹⁵Now as I, Daniel, watched the vision and tried to understand it, I saw

someone who looked like a man standing in front of me.

¹⁶I heard a man in Ulai Gate call loudly, "Gabriel, explain the vision to this man."

¹⁷Gabriel came up beside me, and when he came, I was terrified and immediately knelt down. He said to me, "Son of man, understand that the vision is about the end times."

¹⁸As he spoke to me, I fainted facedown on the ground, but he touched me and made me stand up.

¹⁹He said, "I will tell you what will happen in the last days, the time of Gods anger, because the end time has been determined.

²⁰"The twohorned ram that you saw represents the kingdoms of Media and Persia.

²¹The hairy male goat is the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn between its eyes is its first king.

²²The horn broke off, and four horns replaced it. Four kingdoms will come out of that nation, but they wont be as strong as the first king was.

²³"In the last days of those kingdoms, when rebellions are finished, a

sternlooking king who understands mysterious things will rise to power.

²⁴He will become very strong, but not by his own strength. He will cause astounding destruction and will be successful in everything he does. He will destroy those who are powerful along with some holy people.

²⁵He will cleverly use his power to deceive others successfully. He will consider himself to be great and destroy many people when they don't expect it. He will oppose the Commander of Commanders, but he will be defeated, though not by any human power.

²⁶The vision about the 2,300 evenings and mornings that was explained to you is true. Seal the vision, because it is about things that will happen in the distant future."

²⁷I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up and worked for the king. The vision horrified me because I couldn't understand it.

9¹Xerxes son Darius, who was a Mede by birth, was made ruler of the kingdom of Babylon.

²In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, learned from the Scriptures the number of years that Jerusalem would remain in ruins. The LORD had told the prophet Jeremiah that Jerusalem would remain in ruins for 70 years.

³So I turned to the Lord God and looked to him for help. I prayed, pleaded, and fasted in sackcloth and ashes.

⁴I prayed to the LORD my God. I confessed and said, "Lord, you are great and deserve respect as the only God. You keep your promise and show mercy to those who love you and obey your commandments.

⁵We have sinned, done wrong, acted wickedly, rebelled, and turned away from your commandments and laws.

⁶We havent listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, leaders, ancestors, and all the common people.

⁷You, Lord, are righteous. But we the men of Judah, the citizens of Jerusalem, and all the Israelites whom you scattered in countries near and far are still ashamed because we have been unfaithful to you.

⁸We, our kings, leaders, and ancestors are ashamed because we have sinned against you, LORD.

⁹"But you, Lord our God, are compassionate and forgiving, although we have rebelled against you.

¹⁰We never listened to you or lived by the teachings you gave us through your servants the prophets.

¹¹All Israel has ignored your teachings and refused to listen to you. So you brought on us the curses you swore in an oath, the curses written in the Teachings of your servant Moses. We sinned against you.

¹²So you did what you said you would do to us and our rulers by bringing a great disaster on us. Nowhere in the world has anything ever happened like what has happened to Jerusalem.

¹³This entire disaster happened to us, exactly as it was written in Moses Teachings. LORD our God, we never tried to gain your favor by turning from our wrongs and dedicating ourselves to your truth.

¹⁴So you were prepared to bring this disaster on us. LORD our God, you are

righteous in everything you do. But we never listened to you.

¹⁵"Lord our God, you brought your people out of Egypt with your strong hand and made yourself famous even today. We have sinned and done evil things.

¹⁶Lord, since you are very righteous, turn your anger and fury away from your city, Jerusalem, your holy mountain. Jerusalem and your people are insulted by everyone around us because of our sins and the wicked things our ancestors did.

¹⁷"Our God, listen to my prayer and request. For your own sake, Lord, look favorably on your holy place, which is lying in ruins.

¹⁸Open your ears and listen, my God. Open your eyes and look at our ruins and at the city called by your name. We are not requesting this from you because we are righteous, but because you are very compassionate.

¹⁹Listen to us, Lord. Forgive us, Lord. Pay attention, and act. Don't delay! Do this for your sake, my God, because your

city and your people are called by your name."

²⁰I continued to pray, confessing my sins and the sins of my people Israel. I humbly placed my request about my Gods holy mountain in front of the LORD my God.

²¹While I was praying, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the first vision, came to me about the time of the evening sacrifice. He was exhausted.

²²He informed me, "Daniel, this time I have come to give you insight.

²³As soon as you began to make your request, a reply was sent. I have come to give you the reply because you are highly respected. So study the message, and understand the vision.

²⁴"Seventy sets of seven time periods have been assigned for your people and your holy city. These time periods will serve to bring an end to rebellion, to stop sin, to forgive wrongs, to usher in everlasting righteousness, to put a seal on a prophets vision, and to anoint the Most Holy One.

²⁵Learn, then, and understand that from the time the command is given to

restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the anointed prince comes, seven sets of seven time periods and sixtytwo sets of seven time periods will pass. Jerusalem will be restored and rebuilt with a city square and a moat during the troubles of those times.

²⁶ But after the sixtytwo sets of seven time periods, the Anointed One will be cut off and have nothing. The city and the holy place will be destroyed with the prince who is to come. His end will come with a flood until the end of the destructive war that has been determined.

²⁷ He will confirm his promise with many for one set of seven time periods. In the middle of the seven time periods, he will stop the sacrifices and food offerings. This will happen along with disgusting things that cause destruction until those time periods come to an end. It has been determined that this will happen to those who destroy the city."

10¹ In Cyrus third year as king of Persia, a message was revealed to Daniel (who had been renamed Belteshazzar). The message was true. It

was about a great war. Daniel understood the message because he was given insight during the vision.

²During those days I, Daniel, mourned for three whole weeks.

³I didnt eat any goodtasting food. No meat or wine entered my mouth. I didnt wash myself until the entire three weeks were over.

⁴On the twentyfourth day of the first month, I was by the great Tigris River.

⁵When I looked up, I saw a man dressed in linen, and he had a belt made of gold from Uphaz around his waist.

⁶His body was like beryl. His face looked like lightning. His eyes were like flaming torches. His arms and legs looked like polished bronze. When he spoke, his voice sounded like the roar of a crowd.

⁷I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision. The men with me didnt see the vision. Yet, they started to tremble violently, and they quickly hid themselves.

⁸So I was left alone to see this grand vision. I had no strength left in me.

My face turned deathly pale, and I was helpless.

⁹I heard the man speak, and as I listened to his words, I fainted facedown on the ground.

¹⁰Then a hand touched me and made my hands and knees shake.

¹¹The man said to me, "Daniel, you are highly respected. Pay attention to my words. Stand up, because I've been sent to you." When he said this to me, I stood up, trembling.

¹²He told me, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. God has heard everything that you said ever since the first day you decided to humble yourself in front of your God so that you could learn to understand things. I have come in response to your prayer.

¹³The commander of the Persian kingdom opposed me for 21 days. But then Michael, one of the chief commanders, came to help me because I was left alone with the kings of Persia.

¹⁴I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the last days, because the vision is about times still to come."

¹⁵When he said this to me, I bowed down with my face touching the ground and was silent.

¹⁶Then someone who looked like a human touched my lips. I opened my mouth and began to talk. I said to the person standing in front of me, "Sir, because of this vision, pain has overwhelmed me, and I'm helpless.

¹⁷How can I talk to you, sir? I have no strength left, and the wind has been knocked out of me."

¹⁸Again, the person who looked like a human touched me, and I became stronger.

¹⁹He said, "Don't be afraid. You are highly respected. Everything is alright! Be strong! Be strong!" As he talked to me, I became stronger. I said, "Sir, tell me what you came to say. You have strengthened me."

²⁰He asked, "Do you know why I have come to you? Now I will return to fight the commander of Persia. When I go, the commander of Greece will come.

²¹However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the true writings. No one will support me when I fight these

commanders except your commander, Michael.

11 ¹ During Darius the Medes first year as king, I strengthened and defended Michael."

² The person who looked like a human continued, "What I am about to tell you is the truth. Three more kings will rule Persia. Then there will be a fourth, who will become much richer than all the others. As he becomes strong through his wealth, he will turn everyone against the kingdom of Greece.

³ "Then a warrior king will come. He will rule a vast empire and do as he pleases.

⁴ But as soon as he is established, his kingdom will be broken into pieces and divided in the directions of the four winds of heaven. The empire will not be given to his descendants. It will no longer be like his empire, since it will be uprooted and given to others.

⁵ "The southern king will be strong, but one of his officers will become stronger than he is and rule a vast empire.

⁶ After a few years the southern and northern kings will make an alliance. The southern king's daughter will go to the

northern king to make peace. She won't hold on to her power, and the alliance won't last. She, those who came with her, and the one who fathered and protected her will be given away.

⁷"At that time a shoot will grow from her roots to replace her father. He will attack the northern army, enter the stronghold of the northern king, fight against them, and be victorious.

⁸He will take the metal statues of their gods and their precious utensils of silver and gold back to Egypt. He will rule for more years than the northern king.

⁹He will invade the southern kingdom and return to his own country.

¹⁰"Then his sons will prepare for war. They will assemble a large number of forces so that they can overwhelm the enemy and pass through its land. They will return and wage war all the way to the stronghold.

¹¹The southern king will be outraged. He will go to fight the northern king, who will raise a large army that will fall into the southern king's hands.

¹²When that army is captured, the southern king will become conceited.

Although he will dominate tens of thousands of people, he will not always be strong.

¹³"The northern king will return and raise an army larger than the first one. After a few years he will invade with a large army and a lot of equipment.

¹⁴In those times many people will rebel against the southern king, and violent men from your own people will rebel in keeping with this vision, but they will be defeated.

¹⁵Then the northern king will come, build dirt attack ramps, and capture a fortified city. The southern forces will not be able to withstand him. Even their best troops will not be strong enough.

¹⁶The invader will do as he pleases, and no one will be able to withstand his attack. He will rise to power in the beautiful land and it will be completely under his control.

¹⁷"Then the northern king will decide to invade with the power of his entire kingdom, and some decent men will invade with him. He will give the southern king his daughter as a wife in

order to destroy the southern kingdom. But this will not succeed or help him.

¹⁸Then he will turn his attention to the coastlands and capture many of them. But a commander will silence the insults that the northern king makes and even insult him.

¹⁹He will turn back toward the fortresses in his own country, but he will stumble, fall, and disappear.

²⁰"Another king will take his place. He will have a cruel official go out in royal splendor. But in a few days the king will be destroyed, although not in anger or war.

²¹"A contemptible person will take his place. He will not be given royal splendor. He will invade when people are feeling secure, and he will seize the kingdom using false promises.

²²He will overwhelm large forces and defeat them, including the prince of the promise.

²³After an alliance has been made with him, he will act deceitfully and rise to power with only a few people.

²⁴When people feel secure, he will invade the richest parts of the provinces

and do something that none of his predecessors ever did. He will distribute loot and wealth to his followers. He will invent new ways of attacking fortifications. But this will last only for a little while.

²⁵"With a large army he will summon his power and courage against the southern king, who will prepare for war with a large, strong army. But the southern king won't be able to withstand him because of the schemes devised against him.

²⁶People who eat the king's rich food will ruin him. His army will be overwhelmed, and many will die in battle.

²⁷The two kings will both plan to do evil. They will sit at the same table and tell lies. But they will not succeed, because the end must wait until the appointed time.

²⁸The northern king will return to his country with a lot of wealth. He will be determined to fight against the holy promise. He will take action and return to his own country.

²⁹"At the appointed time he will again invade the south, but this time will be different from the first.

³⁰Ships will come from the west to attack him, and he will be discouraged and turn back. Angry at the holy promise, he will return, take action, and favor those who abandon the holy promise.

³¹His forces will dishonor the holy place (the fortress), take away the daily burnt offering, and set up the disgusting thing that causes destruction.

³²With flattery he will corrupt those who abandon the promise. But the people who know their God will be strong and take action.

³³"People who are wise will help many to understand. But for some time they will be defeated by swords and flames. They will be captured and looted.

³⁴As they are being defeated, they will get a little help, but many who are not sincere will join them.

³⁵Some of the wise people will be defeated in order to refine, purify, and make them white until the end times. But the appointed time is still to come.

³⁶"The king will do as he pleases. He will highly honor himself above every god. He will say amazing things against the God of gods. He will succeed until Gods anger is over, because what has been decided must be done.

³⁷He will have no interest in the gods of his ancestors or desire for women. He will have no interest in any god, because he will make himself greater than anyone else.

³⁸Instead, he will honor the god of fortresses. With gold, silver, precious stones, and other expensive things he will honor a god his ancestors never heard of.

³⁹With the help of a foreign god, he will deal with strong fortresses. He will give high honors to those who acknowledge him, make them rulers over many people, and distribute land for a price.

⁴⁰"In the end times the southern king will attack him. The northern king will rush at him like a storm with chariots, horses, and many ships. He will invade countries, overwhelm them, and pass through their land.

⁴¹ He will invade the beautiful land, and tens of thousands will be defeated. But Edom, Moab, and the leaders of the Ammonites will escape from his power.

⁴² He will use his power against many countries. Even Egypt will not escape.

⁴³ He will control gold and silver treasures and all Egypt's treasures. Libya and Sudan will surrender to him.

⁴⁴ But news from the east and the north will frighten him. He will leave very angry to destroy and exterminate many.

⁴⁵ He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at a beautiful holy mountain. When he comes to his end, there will be no one to help him."

12¹ The person who looked like a human continued, "At that time Michael, the great commander, will stand up on behalf of the descendants of your people. It will be a time of trouble unlike any that has existed from the time there have been nations until that time. But at that time your people, everyone written in the book, will be rescued.

² Many sleeping in the ground will wake up. Some will wake up to live forever,

but others will wake up to be ashamed and disgraced forever.

³Those who are wise will shine like the brightness on the horizon. Those who lead many people to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever.

⁴"But you, Daniel, keep these words secret, and seal the book until the end times. Many will travel everywhere, and knowledge will grow."

⁵When I, Daniel, looked up, I saw two men standing there. One man stood on one side of the river, and the other one stood on the other side.

⁶One of them asked the man dressed in linen clothes who was above the river, "How long will it be until these miracles are over?"

⁷I heard the man dressed in linen clothes who was above the river. He raised his right hand and left hand to heaven and swore an oath by the one who lives forever. He said, "It will be for a time, times, and half of a time. When the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, then all these things will be finished."

⁸I heard him, but I did not understand. So I asked him, "Sir, how will these things end?"

⁹He replied, "Go, Daniel. These words are to be kept secret and sealed until the end times.

¹⁰Many will be purified, made white, and refined. But wicked people will do wicked things, and none of them will understand. Only wise people will understand.

¹¹From the time the daily burnt offering is taken away and the disgusting thing that causes destruction is set up, there will be 1,290 days.

¹²Blessed are those who wait until they reach 1,335 days.

¹³But go on until the end. You will rest, and you will rise for your inheritance at the end of time."

Hosea

1 ¹ The LORD spoke his word to Hosea, son of Beerī, when Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah were kings of Judah and when Jeroboam, son of Joash, was king of Israel.

² When the LORD first spoke to Hosea, the LORD told him, "Marry a prostitute, and have children with that prostitute. The people in this land have acted like prostitutes and abandoned the LORD."

³ So Hosea married Gomer, daughter of Diblaim. She became pregnant and had a son.

⁴ The LORD told Hosea, "Name him Jezreel. In a little while I will punish Jehu's family for the people they slaughtered at Jezreel. Then I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel.

⁵ On that day I will break Israel's bows and arrows in the valley of Jezreel."

⁶ Gomer became pregnant again and had a daughter. The LORD told Hosea, "Name her Lo Ruhamah [Unloved]. I will

no longer love the nation of Israel. I will no longer forgive them.

⁷Yet, I will love the descendants of Judah. I will rescue them because I am the LORD their God. I won't use bows, swords, wars, horses, or horsemen to rescue them."

⁸After Gomer had weaned Lo Ruhamah, she became pregnant again and had a son.

⁹The LORD said, "Name him Lo Ammi [Not My People]. You are no longer my people, and I am no longer your God.,

¹⁰"Yet, the Israelites will become as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore. No one will be able to measure them or count them. Wherever they were told, You are not my people, they will be told, You are the children of the living God.

¹¹The people of Judah and Israel will be gathered together. They will appoint one leader for themselves, and they will grow in the land. The day of Jezreel will be a great day.

2¹"So call your brothers Ammi [My People], and call your sisters Ruhamah [Loved].

²"Plead with your mother; plead with her. She no longer acts like my wife. She no longer treats me like her husband. Tell her to stop acting like a prostitute. Tell her to remove the lovers from between her breasts.

³If she refuses, I will strip her. I will leave her as naked as the day she was born. I will turn her into a dry and barren land, and she will die of thirst.

⁴I wont love her children, because they are children of a prostitute.

⁵Their mother acted like a prostitute. The woman who became pregnant with them did shameful things. She said, Ill chase after my lovers. They will give me food and water, wool and linen, olive oil and wine.

⁶"That is why I will block her way with thornbushes and build a wall so that she cant get through.

⁷She will run after her lovers, but she wont catch them. She will search for them, but she wont find them. Then she will say, Ill go back to my first husband. Things were better for me than they are now.

⁸"She doesn't believe that I gave her grain, new wine, and olive oil. I gave her plenty of silver and gold, but she used it to make statues of Baal.

⁹That is why I will take back my grain when it has ripened and my new wine when it's in season. I will take away the wool and the linen that I gave her to cover her naked body.

¹⁰I will show her naked body to her lovers, and no one will rescue her from my power.

¹¹I will put an end to all her celebrations: her annual festivals, her New Moon Festivals, her weekly worship days, all her appointed festivals.

¹²I will destroy her grapevines and fig trees. She said that they were gifts from her lovers. I will turn her vineyards into a forest, and wild animals will devour them.

¹³I will punish her for all the times she burned incense as an offering to other gods, the Baals. She put on her rings and jewelry, and she chased after her lovers. She forgot me," declares the LORD.

¹⁴"That is why I'm going to win her back. I will lead her into the desert. I will speak tenderly to her.

¹⁵I will give her vineyards there. I will make the valley of Achor [Disaster] a door of hope. Then she will respond as she did when she was young, as she did when she came out of Egypt.

¹⁶"On that day she will call me her husband," declares the LORD. "She will no longer call me her master.

¹⁷I won't allow her to say the names of other gods called Baal. She will never again call out their names.

¹⁸"On that day I will make an arrangement with the wild animals, the birds, and the animals that crawl on the ground. I will destroy all the bows, swords, and weapons of war, so people can live safely.

¹⁹"Israel, I will make you my wife forever. I will be honest and faithful to you. I will show you my love and compassion.

²⁰I will be true to you, my wife. Then you will know the LORD.

²¹"On that day I will answer your prayers," declares the LORD. "I will

speak to the sky, it will speak to the earth,

²²and the earth will produce grain, new wine, and olive oil. You will produce many crops, Jezreel.

²³I will plant my people in the land. Those who are not loved I will call my loved ones. Those who are not my people I will call my people. Then they will say, You are our God!"

3¹Then the LORD told me, "Love your wife again, even though she is loved by others and has committed adultery. Love her as I, the LORD, love the Israelites, even though they have turned to other gods and love to eat raisin cakes."

²So I bought her for 23 ounces of silver and 10 bushels of barley.

³Then I told her, "You must wait for me a long time. Don't be a prostitute or offer yourself to any man. I will wait for you."

⁴In the same way, the Israelites will wait a long time without kings or officials, without sacrifices or sacred stones, and without ephods or family idols.

⁵After that, the Israelites will turn and look to the LORD their God and David

their king. They will come trembling to the LORD for his blessings in the last days.

4¹ Listen to the word of the LORD, you Israelites. The LORD has brought these charges against those who live in the land: "There is no faith, no love, and no knowledge of God in the land.

² There is cursing, lying, murdering, stealing, and adultery. People break my laws, and there is one murder after another.

³ That is why the land is drying up, and everyone who lives in it is passing away. Wild animals, birds, and fish are dying.

⁴ "No one should accuse other people or bring charges against them. My case is against you priests.

⁵ During the day you stumble, and during the night the prophets stumble with you. So I will destroy your mother, the nation of Israel.

⁶ I will destroy my people because they are ignorant. You have refused to learn, so I will refuse to let you be my priests. You have forgotten the teachings of your God, so I will forget your children.

⁷ The more priests there are, the more they sin against me. So I will turn their glory into shame.

⁸ They feed on the sins of my people, and they want them to do wicked things.

⁹ So the priests will be punished like the people. I will punish them for their wicked ways and pay them back for what they have done.

¹⁰ "They will eat, but they'll never be full. They will have sex with prostitutes, but they'll never have children. They have abandoned the LORD.

¹¹ Prostitutes, old wine, and new wine have robbed them of their senses.

¹² My people ask their wooden idols for help. A piece of wood tells them what to do. A spirit of prostitution leads them astray. They commit adultery by giving themselves to other gods.

¹³ They offer sacrifices on mountaintops, and they burn incense on the hills under oaks, poplars, and other trees. They think that these trees provide good shade. "That is why your daughters become prostitutes, and your daughters-in-law commit adultery.

¹⁴ Yet, I will not punish your daughters when they become prostitutes or your daughters-in-law when they commit adultery. The men go to prostitutes and offer sacrifices with temple prostitutes. These foolish people will be trampled.

¹⁵ "Israel, you act like a prostitute. Don't let Judah become guilty too. Don't go to Gilgal. Don't go to Beth Aven. Don't take the oath, As the LORD lives.

¹⁶ "The people of Israel are as stubborn as a bull. How can the LORD feed them like lambs in an open pasture?

¹⁷ The people of Ephraim have chosen to worship idols. Leave them alone!

¹⁸ When they're done drinking their wine, they continue to have sex with the prostitutes. Their rulers dearly love to act shamefully.

¹⁹ The wind will carry them away in its wings, and their sacrifices will bring them shame.

5¹ "Listen to this, you priests! Pay attention, nation of Israel! Open your ears, royal family! This is my decision about you. You set traps at Mizpah and spread out nets on Mount Tabor.

²You are deeply involved in sin. So I will punish all of you.

³I know Ephraim, and Israel isn't a stranger to me. Now, Ephraim, you are acting like a prostitute, and Israel is unclean.

⁴"The wicked things that the people have done keep them from returning to their God. They have a spirit of prostitution, and they don't know the LORD.

⁵The people of Israel's arrogance testifies against them. Israel and Ephraim stumble because of their sins, and Judah stumbles with them.

⁶They go with their sheep and their cattle to search for the LORD, but they can't find him. He has left them.

⁷They have been unfaithful to the LORD, because their children do not belong to him. Now their New Moon Festivals will devour them and their fields.

⁸"Blow the rams horn in Gibeah. Blow the trumpet in Ramah. Sound the alarm at Beth Aven, you descendants of Benjamin.

⁹Ephraim will become a wasteland when the time for punishment comes. I will make the truth known among the tribes of Israel.

¹⁰The leaders of Judah are like those who move boundary markers. I will pour my fury on them like water.

¹¹Ephraim is oppressedcrushed by punishment, because its people are determined to chase idols.

¹²I will destroy Ephraim as a moth destroys clothing. I will destroy the nation of Judah as rot destroys wood.

¹³"When Ephraim saw that he was sick and when Judah saw his own wounds, Ephraim went to Assyria to ask the great king for help. But the king couldnt cure them or heal their wounds.

¹⁴I will be like a lion to Ephraim and like a young lion to the nation of Judah. I will carry them off, and no one will rescue them.

¹⁵I will go back to my place until they admit that they are guilty. Then they will search for me. In their distress they will eagerly look for me."

6¹Lets return to the LORD. Even though he has torn us to pieces,

he will heal us. Even though he has wounded us, he will bandage our wounds.

²After two days he will revive us. On the third day he will raise us so that we may live in his presence.

³Lets learn about the LORD. Lets get to know the LORD. He will come to us as sure as the morning comes. He will come to us like the autumn rains and the spring rains that water the ground.

⁴"What should I do with you, Ephraim? What should I do with you, Judah? Your love is like fog in the morning. It disappears as quickly as the morning dew.

⁵That is why I cut you down by sending the prophets. I killed you with the words from my mouth. My judgments shined on you like light.

⁶I want your loyalty, not your sacrifices. I want you to know me, not to give me burnt offerings.

⁷"Like Adam, you rejected the promise. You were unfaithful to me.

⁸Gilead is a city filled with troublemakers. It is stained with bloody footprints.

⁹The priests are like gangs of robbers who lie in ambush for a person. They murder on the road to Shechem.

Certainly, they have committed a crime.

¹⁰"I have seen horrible things in the nation of Israel. Ephraim is acting like a prostitute, and Israel is unclean.

¹¹"Yet, Judah, I have set a harvest time for you when I bring my people back from captivity.

7¹"Whenever I want to heal Israel, all I can see is Ephraim's sin and Samaria's wickedness. People cheat each other. They break into houses and steal. They rob people in the streets.

²They don't realize that I remember all the evil things they've done. Now their sins surround them. Their sins are in my presence.

³"They make kings happy with the wicked things they do. They make officials happy with the lies they tell.

⁴They all commit adultery. They are like a heated oven, an oven so hot that a baker doesn't have to fan its flames when he makes bread.

⁵On the day of the kings celebration, the officials become drunk from wine, and the king joins mockers.

⁶They become hot like an oven while they lie in ambush. All night long their anger smolders, but in the morning it burns like a raging fire.

⁷They are all as hot as an oven. They consume their judges like a fire. All their kings die in battle, and none of them calls to me.

⁸"Ephraim mixes with other nations. Ephraim, you are like a halfbaked loaf of bread.

⁹Foreigners are using up your strength, but you dont realize it. You have become a grayhaired, old man, but you dont realize it.

¹⁰Israel, your arrogance testifies against you, but even after all this, you dont turn to the LORD your God or look to him for help.

¹¹Ephraim, you are like a silly, senseless dove. You call for Egypt and run to Assyria for help.

¹²When you go, I will spread my net over you. I will snatch you out of the air

like a bird. I will punish you for all the evil things you have done.

¹³"How horrible it will be for these people. They have run away from me. They must be destroyed because they've rebelled against me. I want to reclaim them, but they tell lies about me.

¹⁴They don't pray to me sincerely, even though they cry in their beds and make cuts on their bodies while praying for grain and new wine. They have turned against me.

¹⁵I trained them and made them strong. Yet, they plan evil against me.

¹⁶They don't return to the Most High. They are like a defective bow. Their officials will die in battle because they curse. The people in Egypt will ridicule them for this.

8¹"Sound the alarm on the ram's horn. The enemy swoops down on the LORDS temple like an eagle. The people of Israel have rejected my promise and rebelled against my teachings.

²They cry out to me, We acknowledge you as our God.

³However, they have rejected what is good. The enemy will persecute them.

⁴"They chose their own kings, kings I didn't approve. They chose their own princes, princes I didn't know. They chose to make idols with their own silver and gold. Because of this, they will be destroyed.

⁵Get rid of your calfshaped idol, Samaria. My anger burns against these people. How long will they remain unclean?

⁶Samaria's calfshaped idol was made in Israel. Skilled workers made it. It is not a god. It will be smashed to pieces.

⁷"The people of Israel plant the wind, but they harvest a storm. A field of grain that doesn't ripen will never produce any grain. Even if it did produce grain, foreigners would eat it all.

⁸Israel will be swallowed up. It has already mixed in with the other nations. It has become worthless.

⁹"The people of Israel went to Assyria. They were like wild donkeys wandering off alone. The people of Ephraim sold themselves to their lovers.

¹⁰Even though they sold themselves among the nations, I will gather them

now. They will suffer for a while under the burdens of kings and princes.

¹¹"The more altars that the people of Ephraim build to make offerings to pay for their sins, the more places they have for sinning.

¹²I have written many things for them in my teachings, but they consider these things strange and foreign.

¹³They offer sacrifices to me and eat the meat of sacrifices, but I, the LORD, do not accept these sacrifices. Now I will remember their wickedness and punish them because of their sins. They will go back to Egypt.

¹⁴The people of Israel have built palaces, and they have forgotten their maker. The people of Judah have built many fortified cities. I will send a fire on their cities and burn down their palaces."

9¹ Israel, don't rejoice. Don't celebrate as other nations do. You have been unfaithful to your God. You have sold sex on every threshing floor.

²There won't be enough grain to feed people. There won't be enough wine to go around.

³The people of Ephraim wont stay in the LORDS land. They will return to Egypt, and they will eat unclean food in Assyria.

⁴They wont pour wine offerings to the LORD, and their sacrifices wont please him. Their sacrifices will be like the food that mourners eat. All who eat this food will be unclean. Their food will only satisfy their hunger. It will not be brought as an offering to the LORDS temple.

⁵What will they do on the day of an appointed festival or on the LORDS festival days?

⁶Even if they escape without being destroyed, Egypt will capture them and Memphis will bury them. Weeds will grow over their silver treasures. Thorns will grow over their tents.

⁷The time for them to be punished will come. The time for them to pay for their sins will come. When this happens, Israel will know it. They think that prophets are fools and that spiritual people are crazy. They have sinned a lot, and they are very hostile.

⁸Prophets are Gods watchmen over Ephraim. Yet, traps are set on every prophets path, and people are hostile in the temple of their God.

⁹People have deeply corrupted themselves as they once did at Gibeah. God will remember their wickedness and punish them because of their sins.

¹⁰The LORD said, "When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the desert. When I saw your ancestors, it was like seeing the first figs of the harvest. But they went to Baal Peor and worshiped shameful idols. They became as disgusting as the things they worshiped.

¹¹"Ephraims glory will fly away like a bird. There will be no more pregnancies, births, or babies.

¹²Even if they bring up children, I will take those children away before they grow up. Yes, how horrible it will be for them when I leave them.

¹³I have seen Ephraim, like Tyre, planted in a pleasant place. But the people of Ephraim will bring out their children to be killed."

¹⁴LORD, give them what they deserve. Make the women miscarry, or else make them unable to nurse their babies.

¹⁵"All Ephraim's wickedness began in Gilgal; I hated the people there. I will force them out of my temple because of their wickedness, and I won't love them anymore. All their officials are rebellious.

¹⁶"The people of Ephraim are like sick plants. Their roots are dried up. They have no fruit. Even if they were to have children, I would kill their dear children."

¹⁷My God will reject them because they refused to listen to him. They will wander among the nations.

10¹The people of Israel are like vines that used to produce fruit. The more fruit they produced, the more altars they built. The more their land produced, the more stone markers they set up to honor other gods.

²They are hypocrites. Now they must take their punishment. God will tear down their altars and destroy their stone markers.

³So they'll say, "We have no king because we didn't fear the LORD. Even if

we had a king, he couldnt do anything for us."

⁴They say many things. They lie when they take oaths, and they make promises they dont intend to keep. Thats why lawsuits spring up like poisonous weeds in the furrows of a field.

⁵Those who live in Samaria fear the calfshaped idol at Beth Aven. The people will mourn over it. The priests will cry loudly because its glory will be taken away into captivity.

⁶The thing itself will be carried to Assyria as a present to the great king. Ephraim will be disgraced. Israel will be ashamed because of its plans.

⁷The king of Samaria will be carried away like a piece of wood on water.

⁸The illegal worship sites of Aven will be destroyed. Israel sins there. Thorns and weeds will grow over those altars. People will say to the mountains, "Cover us!" and to the hills, "Fall on us!"

⁹Israel, you have sinned ever since the incident at Gibeah. You never change. War will overtake the wicked people in Gibeah.

¹⁰"I will punish them when I'm ready. Armies will gather to attack them. They will be punished for their many sins.

¹¹"Ephraim is like a trained calf that loves to thresh grain. I will put a yoke on its beautiful neck. I will harness Ephraim. Judah must plow. Jacob must break up the ground.

¹²"Break new ground. Plant righteousness, and harvest the fruit that your loyalty will produce for me." It's time to seek the LORD! When he comes, he will rain righteousness on you.

¹³You have planted wickedness and harvested evil. You have eaten the fruit that your lies produced. You have trusted your own power and your many warriors.

¹⁴So your army will hear the noise of battle. All your fortresses will be destroyed like the time Shalman destroyed Beth Arbel in battle. Mothers and their children were smashed to death.

¹⁵This is what will happen to you, Bethel, because you have done many wicked things. At daybreak, the king of Israel will be completely destroyed.

11 ¹ "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and I called my son out of Egypt.

² The more I called them, the farther they went away. They sacrificed to other gods the Baals, and they burned incense to idols.

³ I was the one who taught the people of Ephraim to walk. I took them by the hand. But they didn't realize that I had healed them.

⁴ I led them with cords of human kindness, with ropes of love. I removed the yokes from their necks. I bent down and fed them.

⁵ "They will not return to Egypt. Instead, Assyria will rule them because they have refused to return to me.

⁶ War will sweep through their cities, demolish their city gates, and put an end to their plans.

⁷ My people are determined to turn away from me. Even if they call to the Most High, he will not pardon them.

⁸ "How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I

treat you like Zeboim? I have changed my mind. I am deeply moved.

⁹I will not act on my burning anger. I will not destroy Ephraim again. I am God, not a human. I am the Holy One among you, and I will not come to you in anger.

¹⁰"My people will follow me when I roar like a lion. When I roar, my children will come trembling from the west.

¹¹They will come trembling like birds from Egypt and like doves from Assyria. I will settle them in their own homes," declares the LORD.

¹²"Ephraim surrounds me with lies. The nation of Israel surrounds me with deceit." Judah rebels against God, against the Holy One who is faithful.

12¹The people of Ephraim try to catch the wind and try to chase the east wind all day. They are very violent and destructive. They make treaties with Assyria and take olive oil to Egypt.

²The LORD brings charges against Judah and punishes Jacob because of the way their people act. He will pay them back for what they have done.

³ Their ancestor Jacob held on to his brothers heel while the two of them were in their mothers womb. When Jacob became a man, he struggled with God.

⁴ He struggled with the Messenger and won. Jacob cried and pleaded with him. Jacob found him at Bethel, and he talked with him there.

⁵ The LORD is the God of Armies. The LORD is the name by which he is remembered.

⁶ Return to your God. Be loyal and fair, and always wait with hope for your God.

⁷ The LORD says, "The merchants use dishonest scales. They love to cheat people.

⁸ The people of Ephraim say, We're rich. We've made a fortune. With all this wealth, no one will find us guilty of any sin.

⁹ I am the LORD your God. I brought you out of Egypt. I will make you live in tents again as you did during your appointed festivals.

¹⁰ I spoke to the prophets and gave them many visions. I taught lessons through the prophets."

¹¹ The people of Gilead are evil. They are worthless. They sacrifice bulls in Gilgal. But their altars will become like piles of rubble beside a plowed field.

¹² Jacob fled to the country of Syria. Israel worked to get a wife; he took care of sheep to pay for her.

¹³ The LORD used a prophet to bring the people of Israel out of Egypt. He used a prophet to take care of them.

¹⁴ The people of Ephraim made the LORD bitter. He will hold them guilty of murder. The Lord will pay them back for their insults.

13¹ When the tribe of Ephraim spoke, people trembled. The people of Ephraim were important in Israel. Then they became guilty of worshiping Baal, so they must die.

² They keep on sinning more and more. They make idols from silver for themselves. These idols are skillfully made. All of them are the work of craftsmen. People say this about the Israelites: "They offer human sacrifices and kiss calfshaped idols."

³ That is why they will be like fog in the morning and like morning dew that

disappears quickly. They will be like straw blown away from threshing floors. They will be like smoke rising from chimneys.

⁴"I am the LORD your God. I brought you out of Egypt. You have known no god besides me. There is no savior except me.

⁵I took care of you in the desert, in a dry land.

⁶When I fed you, you were full. When you were full, you became arrogant. That is why you forgot me.

⁷So I will be like a lion. Like a leopard I will wait by the road to ambush you.

⁸Like a bear that has lost her cubs, I will attack you. I will rip you open. Like a lion I will devour you. Like a wild animal I will tear you apart.

⁹You are destroying yourself, Israel. You are against me, your helper.

¹⁰"Where, now, is your king, the one who is supposed to save you? Where in all your cities are your judges? You said, Give us kings and officials!

¹¹I gave you a king when I was angry, and I took him away when I was furious.

¹²"Ephraim's wickedness is on record. The record of the people's sins is safely stored away.

¹³They have the opportunity to live again, but they are not smart enough to take it. They are like a baby who is about to be born but won't come out of its mother's womb.

¹⁴"I want to free them from the power of the grave. I want to reclaim them from death. Death, I want to be a plague to you. Grave, I want to destroy you. I won't even think of changing my plans."

¹⁵The people of Ephraim have become important among their relatives. However, the LORD'S scorching wind will come from the east. It will blow out of the desert. Then their springs will run dry, and their wells will dry up. The wind will destroy every precious thing in their storehouses.

¹⁶The people of Samaria are guilty as charged because they rebelled against their God. They will be killed in war, their children will be smashed to death, and their pregnant women will be ripped open.

14¹ Israel, return to the LORD your God. You have stumbled because of your sins.

² Return to the LORD, and say these things to him: "Forgive all our sins, and kindly receive us. Then we will praise you with our lips.

³ Assyria cannot save us. We won't ride on horses anymore. We will never again say that the things our hands have made are our gods. You love orphans."

⁴ The LORD says, "I will cure them of their unfaithfulness. I will love them freely. I will no longer be angry with them.

⁵ I will be like dew to the people of Israel. They will blossom like flowers. They will be firmly rooted like cedars from Lebanon.

⁶ They will be like growing branches. They will be beautiful like olive trees. They will be fragrant like cedars from Lebanon.

⁷ They will live again in God's shadow. They will grow like grain. They will blossom like grapevines. They will be as famous as the wines from Lebanon.

⁸"The people of Ephraim will have nothing more to do with idols. I will answer them and take care of them. I am like a growing pine tree. Their fruit comes from me."

⁹Wise people will understand these things. A person with insight will recognize them. The LORDS ways are right. Righteous people live by them. Rebellious people stumble over them.

Joel

1 ¹ This is what the LORD said to Joel, son of Pethuel.

² Listen to this, you leaders! Open your ears, all inhabitants of this land! Nothing like this has ever happened in your lifetime or in your ancestors lifetime.

³ Tell your children about it. Have your children tell their children. Have your grandchildren tell their children.

⁴ What young locusts leave, mature locusts will eat. What mature locusts leave, adult locusts will eat. What adult locusts leave, grasshoppers will eat.

⁵ Wake up and cry, you drunks! Cry loudly, you wine drinkers! New wine has been taken away from you.

⁶ A strong nation attacked my land. It has too many soldiers to count. They have teeth like lions. They have fangs like grown lions.

⁷ They destroyed my grapevines. They ruined my fig trees. They stripped off what they could eat, threw the rest away, and left the branches bare.

⁸Cry loudly like a young woman who is dressed in sackcloth, mourning for the man she was going to marry.

⁹Grain offerings and wine offerings are no longer brought to the LORDS temple. The priests, the LORDS servants, mourn.

¹⁰Israels fields are ruined, and the ground is dried up. The grain has been destroyed. The new wine has dried up. The olive oil has run out.

¹¹Be sad, you farmers! Cry loudly, you grape growers! Mourn for the wheat and the barley. The harvest is destroyed in the field.

¹²The grapevines are dried up. The fig trees are withered. The pomegranate, palm, and apricot trees, as well as all the trees in the orchards, have died. Yes, the joy of these people has died too.

¹³Put on your sackcloth and mourn, you priests. Cry loudly, you servants of the altar. Spend the night in sackcloth, you servants of my God. Grain offerings and wine offerings are withheld from your Gods temple.

¹⁴Schedule a time to fast! Call for an assembly! Gather the leaders and everyone who lives in the land. Bring

them to the temple of the LORD your God, and cry to the LORD for help.

¹⁵This will be a terrible day! The day of the LORD is near, and it will come like destruction from the Almighty.

¹⁶Food disappears right before our eyes. Happiness and rejoicing disappear from our Gods temple.

¹⁷Seeds shrivel up in their shells. Storehouses are destroyed. Barns are ruined. The grain has dried up.

¹⁸The animals groan. Herds of cattle wander around confused. Theres no pasture for them. Even flocks of sheep are suffering.

¹⁹O LORD, I cry to you for help! Fire has burned up the open pastures. Flames have burned up all the trees in the orchards.

²⁰Even wild animals long for you. Streams run dry. Fire has burned up the open pastures.

2¹ Blow the rams horn in Zion. Sound the alarm on my holy mountain. Everyone who lives in the land should tremble, because the day of the LORD is coming. Certainly, it is near.

²It is a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and overcast skies. A large and mighty army will spread over the mountains like the dawn. Nothing like this has ever happened. Nothing like this will ever happen again.

³In front of this army a fire burns. Behind it flames are blazing. In front of it the land is like the garden of Eden. Behind it the land is like a barren desert. Nothing escapes it!

⁴The soldiers look like horses. They run like war horses.

⁵As they leap on mountaintops, they sound like rattling chariots, like crackling fire burning up straw, and like a mighty army prepared for battle.

⁶People are terrified in their presence. Every face turns pale.

⁷They run like warriors. They climb walls like soldiers. They march straight ahead. They do not leave their places.

⁸They do not crowd one another. They keep in their own lines. Even when they break through the defenses, they do not break their ranks.

⁹They rush into the city. They run along the wall. They climb into houses. They enter through windows like thieves.

¹⁰The earth quakes in their presence, and the sky shakes. The sun and the moon turn dark, and the stars no longer shine.

¹¹The LORD shouts out orders to his army. His forces are very large. The troops that carry out his commands are mighty. The day of the LORD is extremely terrifying. Who can endure it?

¹²"But even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart with fasting, crying, and mourning."

¹³Tear your hearts, not your clothes. Return to the LORD your God. He is merciful and compassionate, patient, and always ready to forgive and to change his plans about disaster.

¹⁴Who knows? He may reconsider and change his plan and leave a blessing for you. Then you could give grain offerings and wine offerings to the LORD your God.

¹⁵Blow the rams horn in Zion. Schedule a time to fast. Call for an assembly.

¹⁶Gather the people. Prepare them for a holy meeting. Assemble the leaders. Gather the children, even the nursing infants. Grooms leave their rooms. Brides leave their chambers.

¹⁷The priests who serve the LORD cry between the altar and the entrance to the temple. They say, "Spare your people, O LORD. Don't let the people who belong to you become a disgrace. Don't let the nations ridicule them. Why should people ask, Where is their God?"

¹⁸Then the LORD became concerned about his land, and he had pity on his people.

¹⁹The LORD said to his people, "I am going to send grain, new wine, and olive oil to you. You will be satisfied with them. I will no longer make you a disgrace among the nations.

²⁰"I will keep the northern army far from you, and I will force it into a dry and barren land. The soldiers in front will be forced into the eastern sea. The soldiers in back will be forced into the western sea. A foul odor will rise from the dead bodies. They will stink." He has done great things!

²¹ Land, do not be afraid. Be glad and rejoice. The LORD has done great things!

²² Wild animals, do not be afraid. The pastures in the wilderness have turned green. The trees have produced their fruit. There are plenty of figs and grapes.

²³ People of Zion, be glad and find joy in the LORD your God. The LORD has given you the Teacher of Righteousness. He has sent the autumn rain and the spring rain as before.

²⁴ The threshing floors will be filled with grain. The vats will overflow with new wine and olive oil.

²⁵ "Then I will repay you for the years that the mature locusts, the adult locusts, the grasshoppers, and the young locusts ate your crops. (They are the large army that I sent against you.)

²⁶ You will have plenty to eat, and you will be full. You will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has performed miracles for you. My people will never be ashamed again.

²⁷ You will know that I am in Israel. I am the LORD your God, and there is no other. My people will never be ashamed again.

²⁸"After this, I will pour my Spirit on everyone. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams. Your young men will see visions.

²⁹In those days I will pour my Spirit on servants, on both men and women.

³⁰I will work miracles in the sky and on the earth: blood, fire, and clouds of smoke.

³¹The sun will become dark, and the moon will become as red as blood before the terrifying day of the LORD comes."

³²Then whoever calls on the name of the LORD will be saved. Those who escape will be on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem. Among the survivors will be those whom the LORD calls, as the LORD has promised.

3¹"In those days and at that time, I will bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem.

²I will gather all the nations. I will bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. I will judge them there. They scattered the Israelites, the people who belong to me, among the nations. They divided my land.

³They threw dice for my people. They traded boys for prostitutes. They sold girls so that they could buy wine to drink.

⁴"Now what do you have against me, Tyre and Sidon and all the regions of Philistia? Are you paying me back for something I have done? If you are paying me back, I will quickly pay you back for what you have done.

⁵You took my silver and my gold. You brought my finest treasures to your temples.

⁶You sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks. That way you could send them far away from their land.

⁷I am going to make them leave the place where you sold them. I will pay you back for what you have done.

⁸I will sell your sons and daughters to the people of Judah. They will sell them to the people of Sheba, a nation that is far away." The LORD has spoken.

⁹Announce this among the nations: Prepare yourselves for war. Wake up the warriors. Have all the warriors come near and attack.

¹⁰ Hammer your plowblades into swords and your pruning shears into spears. Weaklings should say that they are warriors.

¹¹ Hurry from every direction, and gather there, all you nations. O LORD, bring your soldiers.

¹² Wake up, you nations. Come to the valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.

¹³ Cut them down like grain. The harvest is ripe. Stomp on them as you would stomp on grapes. The winepress is full. The vats overflow. The nations are very wicked.

¹⁴ There are many, many people in the valley of decision. The day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

¹⁵ The sun and the moon will turn dark. The stars will no longer shine.

¹⁶ The LORD will roar from Zion, and his voice will thunder from Jerusalem. The sky and the earth will shake. The LORD will be a refuge for his people. He will be a stronghold for the people of Israel.

¹⁷ "You will know that I am the LORD your God. I live on my holy mountain,

Zion. Jerusalem will be holy. Foreigners will never invade it again.

¹⁸On that day new wine will cover the mountains. Milk will flow on the hills. Water will flow in all the brooks of Judah. A spring will flow from the LORDS temple. It will water the valley of Shittim.

¹⁹Egypt will become a wasteland. Edom will become a barren desert. This is because the nations were cruel to Judah. They murdered innocent people in their land.

²⁰People will always live in Judah. People will live in Jerusalem from now on.

²¹I will punish those who murder." The LORD lives in Zion!

Amos

1 ¹ These are the words of Amos, one of the sheep farmers from Tekoa. He saw a vision about Israel during the reigns of Judah's King Uzziah and Israel's King Jeroboam, son of Joash. This happened two years before the earthquake.

² He said: The LORD roars from Zion, and his voice thunders from Jerusalem. The pastures of the shepherds are turning brown, and the top of Mount Carmel is dried up.

³ This is what the LORD says: Because Damascus has committed three crimes, and now a fourth crime, I will not change my plans. The Arameans have crushed the people of Gilead with ironspiked threshing sledges.

⁴ I will send a fire on the house of Hazael and burn down the palaces of Ben Hadad.

⁵ I will break the bars on the gates of Damascus. I will cut off those living in Aven Valley and the one who holds the

scepter in Beth Eden. The people of Aram will go into captivity at Kir. The LORD has said this.

⁶This is what the LORD says: Because Gaza has committed three crimes, and now a fourth crime, I will not change my plans. The Philistines have taken all the people captive in order to hand them over to the Edomites.

⁷I will send a fire on the walls of Gaza and burn down its palaces.

⁸I will cut off those living in Ashdod and the one who holds the scepter in Ashkelon. I will turn my power against Ekron. The rest of the Philistines will die. The Almighty LORD has said this.

⁹This is what the LORD says: Because Tyre has committed three crimes, and now a fourth crime, I will not change my plans. The Tyrians have handed all the people over to the Edomites. The Tyrians didn't remember their treaty with their relatives.

¹⁰I will send a fire on the walls of Tyre and burn down its palaces.

¹¹This is what the LORD says: Because Edom has committed three crimes, and now a fourth crime, I will not change

my plans. The Edomites pursued their relatives with swords. They refused to show any compassion to them. Their anger was unstoppable. They refused to control their fury.

¹²I will send a fire on Teman and burn down the palaces of Bozrah.

¹³This is what the LORD says: Because Ammon has committed three crimes, and now a fourth crime, I will not change my plans. The Ammonites enlarged their territory by ripping open pregnant women in Gilead.

¹⁴I will set fire to the walls of Rabbah and burn down its palaces while troops are shouting on the day of battle and winds are howling on the day of the storm.

¹⁵Their king will go into captivity along with his officials. The LORD has said this.

2¹This is what the LORD says: Because Moab has committed three crimes, and now a fourth crime, I will not change my plans. The Moabites have cremated Edom's king.

²I will send a fire on Moab and burn down the palaces of Kerioth. Moab will die during the noise of battle while

troops are shouting and rams horns are blowing.

³I will take their judges away from them. I will kill all their officials at the same time. The LORD has said this.

⁴This is what the LORD says: Because Judah has committed three crimes, and now a fourth crime, I will not change my plans. The people of Judah have rejected the LORDS Teachings and havent kept his laws. They have been led astray by false teachings, the same ones their ancestors followed.

⁵I will send a fire on Judah and burn down the palaces of Jerusalem.

⁶This is what the LORD says: Because Israel has committed three crimes, and now a fourth crime, I will not change my plans. The people of Israel sell the righteous for money and the needy for a pair of sandals.

⁷They stomp the heads of the poor into the dust. They push the humble out of the way. Father and son sleep with the same woman. They dishonor my holy name.

⁸Beside every altar, they spread themselves out on clothes taken as

security. In the temples of their gods, they drink the wine that they bought with fines.

⁹I destroyed the Amorites in front of them, although the Amorites were as tall as cedars and as strong as oaks. I destroyed their fruit above the ground and their roots below it.

¹⁰I brought you out of Egypt. I led you through the desert for 40 years so that you could take possession of the land of the Amorites.

¹¹I also sent you prophets from among your children and Nazirites from among your youths. Isn't that so, people of Israel? The LORD has declared this.

¹²You made the Nazirites drink wine. You commanded the prophets to stop prophesying.

¹³I am going to crush you as an overloaded wagon crushes a person.

¹⁴Runners will not be able to escape. Strong men will find that their strength is useless. Soldiers will not be able to save themselves.

¹⁵Archers will not stand their ground. Fast runners will not be able to escape.

Horsemen will not be able to save themselves.

¹⁶ Brave soldiers will run away naked that day. The LORD has declared this.

3¹ Listen to this message which I, the LORD, have spoken against you Israelites, against your whole family that I brought out of Egypt.

² Out of all the families on earth, I have known no one else but you. That is why I am going to punish you for all your sins.

³ Do two people ever walk together without meeting first?

⁴ Does a lion roar in the forest if it has no prey? Does a young lion growl in its den unless it has caught something?

⁵ Does a bird land in a trap on the ground if there's no bait in it? Does a trap spring up from the ground unless it has caught something?

⁶ If a ram's horn sounds an alarm in a city, won't the people be alarmed? If there is a disaster in a city, hasn't the LORD done it?

⁷ Certainly, the Almighty LORD doesn't do anything unless he first reveals his secret to his servants the prophets.

⁸The lion has roared. Who isn't afraid? The Almighty LORD has spoken. Who can keep from prophesying?

⁹Announce in the palaces of Ashdod and in the palaces of Egypt, "Gather together on the mountains of Samaria. See the widespread confusion and oppression in Samaria."

¹⁰Those who collect profits in their palaces through violent and destructive acts don't know how to do what is right, declares the LORD.

¹¹This is what the Almighty LORD says: An enemy will surround your land, strip you of your defenses, and loot your palaces.

¹²This is what the LORD says: As a shepherd rescues two legs or a piece of an ear out of a lion's mouth, so the Israelites living in Samaria will be rescued, having only a corner of a bed or a piece of a couch.

¹³Listen, and testify against the descendants of Jacob, declares the Almighty LORD, the God of Armies.

¹⁴On the day I punish Israel for its disobedience, I will also destroy the

altars at Bethel. The horns of the altar will be cut off and will fall to the ground.

¹⁵I will tear down winter houses as well as summer houses. Houses decorated with ivory will be destroyed. Mansions will be demolished, declares the LORD.

4¹ Listen to this message, you cows of Bashan who live on Mount Samaria. You women oppress the poor and abuse the needy. You say to your husbands, "Get some wine! Let's drink!"

²The Almighty LORD has taken an oath on his holiness: Surely, the time is going to come when you will be taken away on hooks, and the rest of you on fishhooks.

³Each of you will leave the city through breaks in the wall, one woman ahead of another. You will be thrown into a garbage dump. The LORD declares this.

⁴Go to Bethel and sin. Go to Gilgal and sin even more. Bring your sacrifices every morning. Bring a tenth of your income every three days.

⁵Burn bread as a thank offering. Brag and boast about your freewill offerings. This is what you people of Israel love to do. The Almighty LORD declares this.

⁶I left you with nothing to eat in any of your cities. I left you with no food in your entire land. And you still didn't return to me, declares the LORD.

⁷I stopped the rain from falling three months before the harvest. I sent rain on one city and not on another. One field had rain. Another field had none and dried up.

⁸So people from two or three cities staggered as they walked to another city in order to get a drink of water. But they couldn't get enough. And you still didn't return to me, declares the LORD.

⁹I struck your crops with blight and mildew. Locusts repeatedly devoured your gardens, vineyards, fig trees, and olive trees. And you still didn't return to me, declares the LORD.

¹⁰I sent plagues on you as I did to Egypt. With swords I killed your best young men along with your captured horses. I made the stench from your camps fill your noses. And you still didn't return to me, declares the LORD.

¹¹I destroyed some of you as I destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. You were like a burning log snatched from

a fire. And you still didnt return to me, declares the LORD.

¹²This is what I will do to you, Israel. Prepare to meet your God. This is what I will do to you, Israel!

¹³God forms the mountains and creates the wind. He reveals his thoughts to humans. He makes dawn and dusk appear. He walks on the high places of the earth. His name is the LORD God of Armies.

5¹Listen to this message, this funeral song that I sing about you, nation of Israel:

²The people of Israel have fallen, never to rise again. They lie abandoned in their own land. There is no one to help them.

³This is what the Almighty LORD says: The city that sends 1,000 troops off to war will have only 100 left. The one that sends 100 troops off to war will have only 10 left for the nation of Israel.

⁴This is what the LORD says to the nation of Israel: Search for me and live!

⁵But dont search for me at Bethel. Dont go to Gilgal. Dont travel to Beersheba. Gilgal will certainly go into exile. Bethel will come to nothing.

⁶Search for the LORD and live! If you don't, he will spread like a fire through the house of Joseph and burn it down. Bethel will have no one to put it out.

⁷You, Israel, turn justice into poison and throw righteousness on the ground.

⁸God made the constellations Pleiades and Orion. He turns deep darkness into dawn. He turns day into night. He calls for water from the sea to pour it over the face of the earth. His name is the LORD.

⁹He destroys strongholds and ruins fortresses.

¹⁰Israel, you hate anyone who speaks out against injustice. You are disgusted by anyone who speaks the truth.

¹¹You trample on the poor and take their wheat from them for taxes. That is why you build houses from handcut stones, but you will not live in them. You plant beautiful vineyards, but you will not drink their wine.

¹²I know that your crimes are numerous and your sins are many. You oppress the righteous by taking bribes. You deny the needy access to the courts.

¹³That is why a wise person remains silent at such times, because those times are so evil.

¹⁴Search for good instead of evil so that you may live. Then the LORD God of Armies will be with you, as you have said.

¹⁵Hate evil and love good. Then you will be able to have justice in your courts. Maybe the LORD God of Armies will have pity on the faithful few of Joseph.

¹⁶This is what the LORD, the Almighty God of Armies, says: There will be loud crying in every city square, and people will say in every street, "Oh, no!" They will call on farmers to mourn and on professional mourners to cry loudly.

¹⁷There will be loud crying in every vineyard, because I will pass through your land with death. The LORD has said this.

¹⁸How horrible it will be for those who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for that day? The day of the LORD is one of darkness and not light.

¹⁹It is like a person who flees from a lion only to be attacked by a bear. It is like a person who goes home and puts

his hand on the wall only to be bitten by a snake.

²⁰The day of the LORD brings darkness and not light. It is pitch black, with no light.

²¹I hate your festivals; I despise them. I'm not pleased with your religious assemblies.

²²Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I won't accept them. I won't even look at the fellowship offerings of your choicest animals.

²³Spare me the sound of your songs. I won't listen to the music of your harps.

²⁴But let justice flow like a river and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

²⁵Did you bring me sacrifices and grain offerings in the desert for 40 years, nation of Israel?

²⁶You carried along the statues of the god Sikkuth as your king and the star Kiyun, the gods you made for yourselves.

²⁷I will send you into exile beyond Damascus, says the LORD, whose name is the God of Armies.

6¹ How horrible it will be for those who are at ease in Zion, for those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria, and for the heads of the leading nations, to whom the nation of Israel comes.

² Go to Calneh and look. Go from there to the great city of Hamath. Then go to Gath, the city of the Philistines. Are you better than these kingdoms? Is their territory larger than yours?

³ How horrible it will be for those who think that a day of disaster is far away. They bring the reign of violence closer.

⁴ How horrible it will be for those who sleep on ivory beds. They sprawl out on their couches and eat lambs from their flocks and calves from their stalls.

⁵ How horrible it will be for those who make up songs as they strum a harp. Like David, they write all kinds of songs for themselves.

⁶ How horrible it will be for those who drink wine by the jugful. They rub the finest oils all over themselves and are not sorry for the ruin of the descendants of Joseph.

⁷ That is why they will now be the first to go into exile. The celebrating of those

sprawled around the banquet table will stop.

⁸The Almighty LORD has sworn an oath on himself. The LORD God of Armies declares: I am disgusted with Jacobs pride, and I hate his palaces. So I will hand over the city and everything in it.

⁹If ten people are left in one house, they will die.

¹⁰If a relative or a mortician comes to take the dead bodies out of the house and asks someone who is inside the house, "Is there anyone else with you?" that person will answer, "No." "Hush," he will add. "We shouldnt mention the name of the LORD!"

¹¹The LORD is going to give the command to level big houses and flatten little houses.

¹²Do horses run on rocks? Does a farmer plow the sea with oxen? Yet, you have turned justice into something deadly and what is righteous into poison.

¹³How horrible it will be for those who rejoice over Lo Debar and who say, "We were strong enough to capture Karnaim by ourselves."

¹⁴I am going to lead a nation to attack you, nation of Israel, declares the LORD God of the Armies of the Nations. They will oppress you from the border of Hamath to the valley of Arabah.

7¹This is what the Almighty LORD showed me: He was preparing swarms of locusts when the second crop was being harvested. It was the harvest that followed the harvest for the king.

²When the locusts had finished eating every plant in the land, I said, "Almighty LORD, please forgive us! How can the descendants of Jacob survive? There are so few of them."

³The LORD changed his plans about this. "This wont happen," the LORD said.

⁴This is what the Almighty LORD showed me: The Almighty LORD was calling for judgment by fire. The fire dried up the ocean and burned up the land.

⁵Then I said, "Almighty LORD, please stop! How can the descendants of Jacob survive? There are so few of them."

⁶The LORD changed his plans about this. "This wont happen either," the Almighty LORD said.

⁷ This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall built with the use of a plumb line, and he had a plumb line in his hand.

⁸ He asked me, "What do you see, Amos?" I answered, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "I'm going to hold a plumb line in the middle of my people Israel. I will no longer overlook what they have done.

⁹ The worship sites of Isaac will be destroyed, and the holy places of Israel will be in ruins. I will attack Jeroboam's heirs with my sword."

¹⁰ Then Amaziah, the priest at Bethel, sent a message to King Jeroboam of Israel. It read, "Amos is plotting against you among the people of Israel. The country isn't able to endure everything he is saying.

¹¹ Amos says that Jeroboam will be killed with a sword and that Israel cannot avoid being taken from its land into exile."

¹² Then Amaziah said to Amos, "You seer, run away to Judah! Eat there, and prophesy there!

¹³But dont ever prophesy again in Bethel, because this is the kings holy place and the kings palace."

¹⁴Amos responded, "Im not a prophet, and Im not a disciple of the prophets. I am a rancher and a grower of figs.

¹⁵But the LORD took me away from herding the flock and said to me, Prophecy to my people Israel.

¹⁶"Now listen to the word of the LORD: You said, Stop prophesying against Israel, and stop preaching against the descendants of Isaac.

¹⁷"However, this is what the LORD says: Your wife will become a prostitute in the city, and your sons and daughters will be killed with swords. Your land will be surveyed and divided up, and you will die in an unclean land. Israel cannot avoid being taken from its land into exile."

8¹This is what the Almighty LORD showed me: a basket of ripe summer fruit.

²He asked, "What do you see, Amos?" "A basket of ripe summer fruit," I answered. Then the LORD said to me,

"My people Israel are now ripe. I will no longer overlook what they have done.

³On that day the songs of the temple will become loud cries," declares the Almighty LORD. "There will be dead bodies scattered everywhere. Hush!"

⁴Listen to this, those who trample on the needy and ruin those who are oppressed in the world.

⁵You say to yourselves, "When will the New Moon Festival be over so that we can sell more grain? When will the day of worship be over so that we can sell more wheat? We can shrink the size of the bushel baskets, increase the cost, and cheat with dishonest scales.

⁶We can buy the poor with money and the needy for a pair of sandals. We can sell the husks mixed in with the wheat."

⁷The LORD has sworn an oath by Jacobs pride: "I will never forget anything that they have done."

⁸The land will tremble because of this. Everyone who lives in it will mourn. The entire land will rise like the Nile, be tossed about, and then sink like Egypt's river.

⁹On that day, declares the Almighty LORD, I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.

¹⁰I will turn your festivals into funerals and all your songs into funeral songs. I will put sackcloth around everyones waist and shave everyones head. I will make that day seem like a funeral for an only child, and its end will be bitter.

¹¹The days are going to come, declares the Almighty LORD, when I will send a famine throughout the land. It wont be an ordinary famine or drought. Instead, there will be a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.

¹²People will wander from sea to sea and roam from the north to the east, searching for the word of the LORD. But they wont find it.

¹³On that day beautiful young women and strong young men will faint because of their thirst.

¹⁴How horrible it will be for those who swear by Ashimah, the idol of Samaria, and say, "I solemnly swear, Dan, as your god lives" "I solemnly swear as long as

there is a road to Beersheba" Those who say this will fall and never get up again.

9¹ I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and he said: Strike the tops of the pillars so that the foundations shake. Cut off everyones head. I will kill with a sword all who are left. None of them will be able to get away. None of them will be able to escape.

² Even if they dig their way into Sheol, my hand will take them from there. Even if they go up to heaven, I will bring them down from there.

³ Even if they hide on top of Mount Carmel, I will look for them and take them from there. Even if they hide from me at the bottom of the sea, I will command a sea snake to bite them.

⁴ Even if they go into exile ahead of their enemies, I will command a sword to kill them. I will keep my eyes on them so that I can bring disaster on them and not help them.

⁵ The Almighty LORD of Armies touches the earth. It quakes, and all who live on it mourn. All of it rises like the Nile and sinks like Egypts river.

⁶The one who builds stairs up to heaven and sets their foundation on the earth, the one who calls for the water in the sea and pours it over the face of the earth His name is the LORD.

⁷You people of Israel are like the people from Sudan, says the LORD. Didn't I bring Israel from Egypt? Didn't I bring the Philistines from Crete and the Arameans from Kir?

⁸I, the Almighty LORD, have my eyes on this sinful kingdom. I will wipe it off the face of the earth. But I won't totally destroy the descendants of Jacob, declares the LORD.

⁹I'm going to give the order. I will sift the nation of Israel out of all the nations as if I were using a sieve. Not one pebble will fall to the ground.

¹⁰All the sinners among my people are thinking, "Destruction will not catch up to us or run into us." In spite of this, they will be killed with swords.

¹¹On that day I will set up David's fallen tent. I will repair the holes in it. I will restore its ruined places. I will rebuild them as they were a long time ago.

¹²They will capture the few survivors of Edom and all the other nations that were under my authority, declares the LORD, who will do these things.

¹³The days are going to come, declares the LORD, when the one who plows will catch up to the one who harvests, and the one who stomps on grapes will catch up to the one who plants. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills.

¹⁴I will restore my people Israel. They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink the wine from them. They will plant gardens and eat their fruit.

¹⁵I will plant the people of Israel in their land, and they won't be uprooted again from the land that I gave them, says the LORD your God.

Obadiah

1 ¹ This is the vision of Obadiah. This is what the Almighty LORD says about Edom: We have heard a message from the LORD. A messenger was sent among the nations to say, "Get ready! Let's go to war against Edom."

² "Edom, I will make you the smallest of nations. Others will despise you.

³ Your arrogance has deceived you. You live on rocky cliffs. You make your home up high. You say to yourself, No one can bring me down to earth.

⁴ Even though you fly high like an eagle and build your nest among the stars, I will bring you down from there," declares the LORD.

⁵ "If thieves or looters come to you during the night, won't they steal only until they've had enough? You will be ruined! If people come to pick your grapes, won't they leave a few grapes behind?

⁶But you, Esau, will lose everything. Even your hidden treasures will be looted.

⁷All your allies will force you to leave your land. The people who are at peace with you will deceive you. Those who eat food with you will set traps for you, and you won't even know about it.

⁸"On that day I will destroy the wise people in Edom and take wisdom away from Esau's mountain," declares the LORD.

⁹"Teman, your warriors will be terrified. Everyone on Esau's mountain will be slaughtered.

¹⁰"Because of the violence you did to Jacob, your relative, you will be covered with shame. You will be destroyed forever.

¹¹While you stood there doing nothing, strangers carried off Jacob's wealth. Foreigners entered his gates and threw dice for Jerusalem. You acted like one of them.

¹²Don't gloat over your relatives' misfortune or be happy when the people of Judah are destroyed. Don't brag so much when they're in distress.

¹³Don't march through the gates of my people when disaster strikes or gloat over their misery when disaster strikes. Don't take their wealth when disaster strikes.

¹⁴Don't stand at the crossroads to kill their refugees. Don't hand over their survivors when they're in distress.

¹⁵"The day of the LORD is near for all nations. Edom, you will be treated as you have treated others. You will get back what you have given.

¹⁶As you, Israel, drank on my holy mountain, so all nations will drink in turn. They will drink and guzzle down everything in it. They will be like those who have never existed.

¹⁷"But refugees will live on Mount Zion. It will be holy. The descendants of Jacob will get back their possessions.

¹⁸The descendants of Jacob will be like a fire. The descendants of Joseph will be like a flame. But the descendants of Esau will be like straw. They will be burned and destroyed. There will be no one left among the descendants of Esau." The LORD has spoken.

¹⁹"People from the Negev will take possession of Esau's mountain. People from the foothills will take possession of Philistia. They will take possession of the lands of Ephraim and Samaria, and the descendants of Benjamin will take possession of Gilead.

²⁰Exiles from Israel will take possession of Canaan. They will possess land as far as Zarephath. Exiles from Jerusalem who are in Sepharad will take possession of the cities in the Negev.

²¹Those who are victorious will come from Mount Zion to rule Esau's mountain. The kingdom will belong to the LORD."

Jonah

1 ¹ The LORD spoke his word to Jonah, son of Amittai. He said,

² "Leave at once for the important city, Nineveh. Announce to the people that I can no longer overlook the wicked things they have done."

³ Jonah immediately tried to run away from the LORD by going to Tarshish. He went to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. He paid for the trip and went on board. He wanted to go to Tarshish to get away from the LORD.

⁴ The LORD sent a violent wind over the sea. The storm was so powerful that the ship was in danger of breaking up.

⁵ The sailors were afraid, and they cried to their gods for help. They began to throw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship's load. Now, Jonah had gone below deck and was lying there sound asleep.

⁶ The captain of the ship went to him and asked, "How can you sleep? Get up, and pray to your God. Maybe he will notice us, and we won't die."

⁷ Then the sailors said to each other, "Let's throw dice to find out who is responsible for bringing this disaster on us." So they threw dice, and the dice indicated that Jonah was responsible.

⁸ They asked him, "Tell us, why has this disaster happened to us? What do you do for a living? Where do you come from? What country are you from? What nationality are you?"

⁹ Jonah answered them, "I'm a Hebrew. I worship the LORD, the God of heaven. He is the God who made the sea and the land."

¹⁰ Then the men were terrified. They knew that he was running away from the LORD, because he had told them. They asked Jonah, "Why have you done this?"

¹¹ The storm was getting worse. So they asked Jonah, "What should we do with you to calm the sea?"

¹² He told them, "Throw me overboard. Then the sea will become calm. I know that I'm responsible for this violent storm."

¹³ Instead, the men tried to row harder to get the ship back to shore, but they

couldnt do it. The storm was getting worse.

¹⁴ So they cried to the LORD for help: "Please, LORD, dont let us die for taking this mans life. Dont hold us responsible for the death of an innocent man, because you, LORD, do whatever you want."

¹⁵ Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the sea became calm.

¹⁶ The men were terrified of the LORD. They offered sacrifices and made vows to the LORD.

¹⁷ The LORD sent a big fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.

2¹ From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God.

² Jonah prayed: "I called to the LORD in my distress, and he answered me. From the depths of my watery grave I cried for help, and you heard my cry.

³ You threw me into the deep, into the depths of the sea, and water surrounded me. All the whitecaps on your waves have swept over me.

⁴"Then I thought, I have been banished from your sight. Will I ever see your holy temple again?

⁵"Water surrounded me, threatening my life. The deep sea covered me completely. Seaweed was wrapped around my head.

⁶I sank to the foot of the mountains. I sank to the bottom, where bars held me forever. But you brought me back from the pit, O LORD, my God.

⁷"As my life was slipping away, I remembered the LORD. My prayer came to you in your holy temple.

⁸Those who hold on to worthless idols abandon their loyalty to you.

⁹But I will sacrifice to you with songs of thanksgiving. I will keep my vow. Victory belongs to the LORD!"

¹⁰Then the LORD spoke to the fish, and it spit Jonah out onto the shore.

3¹ Then the LORD spoke his word to Jonah a second time. He said,

²"Leave at once for the important city, Nineveh. Announce to the people the message I have given you."

³Jonah immediately went to Nineveh as the LORD told him. Nineveh was a

very large city. It took three days to walk through it.

⁴Jonah entered the city and walked for about a day. Then he said, "In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed."

⁵The people of Nineveh believed God. They decided to fast, and everyone, from the most important to the least important, dressed in sackcloth.

⁶When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his robe, put on sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

⁷Then he made this announcement and sent it throughout the city: "This is an order from the king and his nobles: No one is to eat or drink anything. This includes all people, animals, cattle, and sheep.

⁸Every person and animal must put on sackcloth. Cry loudly to God for help. Turn from your wicked ways and your acts of violence.

⁹Who knows? God may reconsider his plans and turn from his burning anger so that we won't die."

¹⁰God saw what they did. He saw that they turned from their wicked ways. So

God reconsidered his threat to destroy them, and he didn't do it.

4¹ Jonah was very upset about this, and he became angry.

² So he prayed to the LORD, "LORD, isn't this what I said would happen when I was still in my own country? That's why I tried to run to Tarshish in the first place. I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, patient, and always ready to forgive and to reconsider your threats of destruction.

³ So now, LORD, take my life. I'd rather be dead than alive."

⁴ The LORD asked, "What right do you have to be angry?"

⁵ Jonah left the city and sat down east of it. He made himself a shelter there. He sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city.

⁶ The LORD God made a plant grow up beside Jonah to give him shade and make him more comfortable. Jonah was very happy with the plant.

⁷ At dawn the next day, God sent a worm to attack the plant so that it withered.

⁸When the sun rose, God made a hot east wind blow. The sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he was about to faint. He wanted to die. So he said, "I'd rather be dead than alive."

⁹Then God asked Jonah, "What right do you have to be angry over this plant?" Jonah answered, "I have every right to be angry so angry that I want to die."

¹⁰The LORD replied, "This plant grew up overnight and died overnight. You didn't plant it or make it grow. Yet, you feel sorry for this plant."

¹¹Shouldn't I feel sorry for this important city, Nineveh? It has more than 120,000 people in it as well as many animals. These people couldn't tell their right hand from their left."

Micah

1 ¹ The LORD spoke his word to Micah, who was from Moresheth, when Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah were kings of Judah. This is the vision that Micah saw about Samaria and Jerusalem.

² Listen, all you people! Pay attention, earth and all who are on it. The Almighty LORD will be a witness against you. The Lord will be a witness from his holy temple.

³ The LORD is going to come from his place. He is going to come down and step on the worship places of the earth.

⁴ Mountains will melt under him like wax near a fire. Valleys will split apart like water pouring down a steep hill.

⁵ All this is because of Jacobs crime and Israels sin. What is Jacobs crime? Isnt it Samaria? What is Judahs worship place? Isnt it Jerusalem?

⁶ So I will turn Samaria into a pile of rubble, a place for planting vineyards. I will roll its stones down into a valley and expose its foundations.

⁷ All its idols will be smashed to pieces. All its wages for being a prostitute will be burned. All its statues will be turned into a pile of rubble. Samaria collected its wages for being a prostitute. That money will again pay for prostitutes.

⁸ I will mourn and cry because of this. I will walk around barefoot and naked. I will cry like a jackal and mourn like an ostrich.

⁹ Samarias wounds are incurable. The news about Samaria will come to Judah. It will reach the gates of my people in Jerusalem.

¹⁰ Don't report it in Gath. Don't cry there. Roll in the dust of Beth Leaphrah.

¹¹ Pass by, naked and ashamed, inhabitants of Shaphir. Don't come out, inhabitants of Zaanan. Beth Ezel is in mourning. It will take its support away from you.

¹² Wait anxiously for good, inhabitants of Maroth. From the LORD disaster will come on the gates of Jerusalem.

¹³ Harness the horses to the chariots, inhabitants of Lachish. You were the first to lead the people of Zion into sin. The rebellious acts of Israel are found in you.

¹⁴That is why you will give farewell gifts to Moresheth Gath. The town of Achzib will betray the kings of Israel.

¹⁵I will again bring a conqueror against the inhabitants of Mareshah. The glory of Israel will come to Adullam.

¹⁶Shave your head in mourning for the children you love. Make yourselves as bald as vultures because your children will be taken from you into exile.

2¹How horrible it will be for those who invent trouble and work out plans for disaster while in bed. When the morning dawns, they carry out their plans because they are able to.

²They desire other peoples fields, so they seize them. They desire peoples houses, so they take them. They cheat a man and his family, a man and his inheritance.

³So this is what the LORD says: I'm planning a disaster to punish your family. You won't be able to rescue yourselves. You will no longer be able to walk proudly. This will be a time of disaster.

⁴When that day comes, people will make fun of you. They will sing this sad song about you: "We are completely

ruined. The LORD gives our peoples possessions to others. He takes them from us. He divides our fields among our captors."

⁵That is why none of you in the LORDS assembly will draw lots to divide your property.

⁶Your prophets say, "Dont prophesy! Dont prophesy such things! Disgrace will never overtake us."

⁷Should the descendants of Jacob be asked: Has the Spirit of the LORD become impatient with you? Has he done these things? Are his words good for those who live honestly?

⁸Recently, my people have turned into enemies. You take coats from those who pass by without a care as they return from war.

⁹You force the women among my people out of their pleasant homes and take my glory away from their children forever.

¹⁰Get up, and go away! This is not a place to rest! It will be destroyed, completely destroyed, because it offends me.

¹¹ Liars and frauds may go around and say, "We will preach to you about wine and liquor." They would be just the type of preacher you want.

¹² I will surely gather all of you, Jacob. I will surely bring together the few people left in Israel. I will gather them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture. They will make a lot of noise because there will be so many people.

¹³ The LORD will open the way and lead them. They will break out, go through the gate, and leave. Their king will travel in front of them. The LORD will lead the people.

3¹ Then I said: Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of the nation of Israel. You should know justice.

² You hate good and love evil. You strip the skin off my people and the flesh off their bones.

³ You eat my peoples flesh. You strip off their skin. You break their bones to pieces. You chop them up like meat for a pot, like stew meat for a kettle.

⁴ Then you will cry to the LORD, but he will not answer you. He will hide his face

from you at that time because you have done evil things.

⁵This is what the LORD says about the prophets who mislead my people: When they have something to eat, they say, "All is well!" But they declare a holy war against those who don't feed them.

⁶That is why you will have nights without visions. You will have darkness without revelations. The sun will set on the prophets, and the day will turn dark for them.

⁷Seers will be put to shame. Those who practice witchcraft will be disgraced. All of them will cover their faces, because God won't answer them.

⁸But I am filled with the power of the LORD'S Spirit, with justice, and with strength. So I will tell the descendants of Jacob about their crimes and the nation of Israel about its sins.

⁹Listen to this, you leaders of the descendants of Jacob, you rulers of the nation of Israel. You despise justice and pervert everything that is right.

¹⁰You build Zion on bloodshed and Jerusalem on wickedness.

¹¹ Your leaders exchange justice for bribes. Your priests teach for a price. Your prophets tell the future for money. But they rely on the LORD when they say, "After all, the LORD is with us. Nothing bad will happen to us."

¹² Because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a pile of rubble, and the temple mountain will become a worship site covered with trees.

4¹ In the last days the mountain of the LORDS house will be established as the highest of the mountains and raised above the hills. People will stream to it.

² Then many nations will come and say, "Let's go to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways so that we may live by them." The teachings will go out from Zion. The word of the LORD will go out from Jerusalem.

³ Then he will judge disputes between many people and settle arguments between many nations far and wide. They will hammer their swords into plowblades and their spears into pruning shears. Nations will never fight against

each other, and they will never train for war again.

⁴They will sit under their grapevines and their fig trees, and no one will make them afraid. The LORD of Armies has spoken.

⁵All the nations live by the names of their gods, but we will live by the name of the LORD our God forever.

⁶"When that day comes," declares the LORD, "I will gather those who are lame. I will bring together those who are scattered and those whom I have injured.

⁷I will change those who are lame into a faithful people. I will change those who are forced away into a strong nation." The LORD will rule them on Mount Zion now and forever.

⁸You, Jerusalem, watchtower of the flock, stronghold of the people of Zion, your former government will come back to you. The kingdom will return to the people of Jerusalem.

⁹Now why are you crying so loudly? Don't you have a king? Has your counselor died? Pain grips you like a woman in labor.

¹⁰Daughter of Zion, writhe in pain and groan like a woman in labor. Now you will leave the city, live in the open fields, and go to Babylon. There you will be rescued. There the LORD will reclaim you from your enemies.

¹¹But now many nations gather against you. They say, "Let's dishonor Zion and gloat over it."

¹²They don't know the thoughts of the LORD or understand his plan. He will bring them together like cut grain on the threshing floor.

¹³Get up and thresh, people of Zion. I will make your horns as hard as iron and your hoofs as hard as bronze. You will smash many nations into small pieces. You will claim their loot for the LORD, their wealth for the Lord of the whole earth.

5¹Now, gather your troops, you city of troops. We are under attack. Enemies will strike the judge of Israel on the cheek with a stick.

²You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, are too small to be included among Judah's cities. Yet, from you Israel's future ruler

will come for me. His origins go back to the distant past, to days long ago.

³That is why the LORD will abandon Israel until the time a mother has a child. Then the rest of the LORDS people will return to the people of Israel.

⁴The child will become the shepherd of his flock. He will lead them with the strength of the LORD, with the majestic name of the LORD his God. They will live in safety because his greatness will reach the ends of the earth.

⁵This man will be their peace. When the Assyrians invade our land and trample our palaces, we will attack them with seven shepherds and eight leaders.

⁶They will rule Assyria with their swords and the country of Nimrod with drawn swords. They will rescue us from the Assyrians when they come into our land and walk within our territory.

⁷Then the few people left from Jacob will be among many people like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass. They do not put their hope in humans or wait for mortals.

⁸The few people left from Jacob will be among the nations, among many people.

They will be like a lion among animals in the forest, like a young lion among flocks of sheep. When a lion hunts, it tramples its victims and tears them to pieces, and there is no one to rescue them.

⁹You will use your power against your opponents, and all your enemies will be destroyed.

¹⁰"When that day comes," declares the LORD, "I will destroy your horses and demolish your chariots.

¹¹I will destroy the cities in your land and tear down all your fortresses.

¹²I will destroy your sorcerers, and you will have no more fortunetellers.

¹³I will destroy your idols and your sacred monuments. You will no longer worship what your hands have made.

¹⁴I will pull out your poles dedicated to the goddess Asherah. I will wipe out your cities.

¹⁵I will take revenge with great anger on the nations that do not obey me."

6¹ Now listen to what the LORD is saying, "Stand up! Plead your case in front of the mountains, and let the hills listen to your request.

²Listen to the LORDS lawsuit,
you mountains. Listen, you strong
foundations of the earth. The LORD has
filed a lawsuit against his people. He is
arguing his case against Israel.

³"My people, what have I done to you?
How have I tried your patience? Answer
me!

⁴I brought you out of Egypt and freed
you from slavery. I sent Moses, Aaron,
and Miriam to lead you.

⁵My people, remember what King Balak
of Moab planned to do to you and how
Balaam, son of Beor, responded to him.
Remember your journey from Shittim to
Gilgal so that you may know the victories
of the LORD."

⁶What should I bring when I come into
the LORDS presence, when I bow in front
of the God of heaven? Should I bring him
yearold calves as burnt offerings?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with
thousands of rams or with endless
streams of olive oil? Should I give
him my firstborn child because of my
rebellious acts? Should I give him my
young child for my sin?

⁸You mortals, the LORD has told you what is good. This is what the LORD requires from you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to live humbly with your God.

⁹The voice of the LORD calls out to the city. (The fear of your name is wisdom.) "Listen, you tribe assembled in the city.

¹⁰I have cursed all the wicked people who use their money for evil and use inaccurate weights and measures.

¹¹I cannot tolerate dishonest scales and bags filled with inaccurate weights.

¹²The rich people in the city are violent. Those who live in the city speak lies, and their tongues speak deceitfully.

¹³I have begun to strike you with heavy blows and to ruin you because of your sins.

¹⁴You will eat, but you wont be full. So you will always be hungry. You will put things away, but you wont save them. Anything you save I will destroy.

¹⁵You will plant, but you wont harvest. You will crush olives, but you wont rub the oil on your skin. You will make new wine, but you wont drink it.

¹⁶You have kept Omris laws and all the practices of the descendants of Ahab, and you have followed their advice. That is why I will ruin you. Your people will be ridiculed. You will bear the disgrace of my people."

7 ¹Poor me! I am like those gathering summer fruit, like those picking grapes. But there arent any grapes to eat or any ripened figs that I crave.

²Faithful people are gone from the earth, and no one is decent. All people lie in ambush to commit murder. They trap each other with nets.

³Their hands are skilled in doing evil. Officials ask for gifts. Judges accept bribes. Powerful people dictate what they want. So they scheme together.

⁴The best of them is like a briar. The most decent person is sharper than thornbushes. The day you thought you would be punished has come. Now is the time you will be confused.

⁵Dont trust your neighbors. Dont have confidence in your friends. Keep your mouth shut even when a woman is lying in your arms.

⁶A son treats his father with contempt.
A daughter rebels against her mother.
A daughter-in-law rebels against her
mother-in-law. Peoples enemies are the
members of their own families.

⁷I will look to the LORD. I will wait for
God to save me. I will wait for my God
to listen to me.

⁸Don't laugh at me, my enemies.
Although I've fallen, I will get up.
Although I sit in the dark, the LORD is
my light.

⁹I have sinned against the LORD. So
I will endure his fury until he takes up
my cause and wins my case. He will
bring me into the light, and I will see his
victory.

¹⁰Then my enemies will see this, and
they will be covered with shame, because
they asked me, "Where is the LORD your
God?" Now I look at them. They are
trampled like mud in the streets.

¹¹The day for rebuilding your walls and
extending your borders is coming.

¹²When that day comes, your people
will come to you from Assyria and
the cities of Egypt, from Egypt to the

Euphrates River, from sea to sea, and from mountain to mountain.

¹³The earth will become a wasteland for those who live on it because of what the people living there have done.

¹⁴With your shepherds staff, take care of your people, the sheep that belong to you. They live alone in the woods, in fertile pastures. Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead like before.

¹⁵Let us see miracles like the time you came out of Egypt.

¹⁶Nations will see this and be ashamed in spite of all their strength. They will put their hands over their mouths. Their ears will become deaf.

¹⁷They will lick dust like snakes, like animals that crawl on the ground. They will come out of their hiding places trembling. They will turn away from your presence in fear, O LORD our God. They will be afraid of you.

¹⁸Who is a God like you? You forgive sin and overlook the rebellion of your faithful people. You will not be angry forever, because you would rather show mercy.

¹⁹You will again have compassion on us. You will overcome our wrongdoing. You will throw all our sins into the deep sea.

²⁰You will be faithful to Jacob. You will have mercy on Abraham as you swore by an oath to our ancestors long ago.

Nahum

1 ¹ This is a revelation from the LORD about Nineveh. This book contains the vision of Nahum from Elkosh.

² God does not tolerate rivals. The LORD takes revenge. The LORD takes revenge and is full of anger. The LORD takes revenge against his enemies and holds a grudge against his foes.

³ The LORD is patient and has great strength. The LORD will never let the guilty go unpunished. Raging winds and storms mark his path, and clouds are the dust from his feet.

⁴ He yells at the sea and makes it dry. He dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither. The flowers of Lebanon wither.

⁵ The mountains quake because of him. The hills melt. The earth draws back in his presence. The world and all who live in it draw back as well.

⁶ Who can stand in the presence of his rage? Who can oppose his burning

anger? He pours out his rage like fire and smashes the rocky cliffs.

⁷The LORD is good. He is a fortress in the day of trouble. He knows those who seek shelter in him.

⁸He will put an end to Nineveh with a devastating flood. He will pursue his enemies with darkness.

⁹What do you think about the LORD? He is the one who will bring Nineveh to an end. This trouble will never happen again.

¹⁰The people of Nineveh will be like tangled thorns and like people drunk on their own drink. They will be completely burned up like very dry straw.

¹¹From you, Nineveh, a person who plans evil against the LORD sets out. His advice is wicked.

¹²This is what the LORD says: Though the people of Nineveh are physically fit and many in number, they will be cut down and die. Though I have humbled you, Judah, I will not humble you again.

¹³But now I will break Nineveh's yoke off of you and tear its chains from you.

¹⁴The LORD has given this command about you, Nineveh: You will no longer

have descendants to carry on your name. I will remove the wooden and metal idols from the temple of your gods. I will prepare your grave because you are worthless.

¹⁵There on the mountains are the feet of a messenger who announces the good news: "All is well!" Celebrate your festivals, Judah! Keep your vows! This wickedness will never pass your way again. It will be completely removed.

2¹The one who will scatter you is coming to attack you. Guard your fortress! Keep a lookout on the road! Prepare for battle! Be very courageous!

²The LORD will restore Jacobs glory like Israels glory, although enemies have looted it and have destroyed its vines.

³The shields of his warriors are painted red. His soldiers have red uniforms. The metal on his chariots flashes fiery red, so do the spears when they are waved on the day he prepares for battle.

⁴Chariots are racing madly through the streets, rushing this way and that in the city squares. They look like torches, like lightning, as they dart about.

⁵He remembers his best fighting men. They stumble over themselves as they march. They hurry to Nineveh's wall. The shield has been set up for the battering ram.

⁶The gates of the rivers are opened, and the palace melts away.

⁷The LORD has determined: "It will be stripped. It will be carried away. Its young women will be mourning like doves as they beat their breasts."

⁸Nineveh was like a pool of water from its first day on. But now its people are fleeing. "Stop! Stop!" But no one turns around.

⁹Steal the silver! Steal the gold! There is no end to what is stored here everything a person could ever want.

¹⁰Nineveh is destroyed, deserted, demolished. Hearts are melting. Knees are knocking. Every stomach becomes upset. Every face turns pale.

¹¹Where is the lion's den, that feeding place for young lions? Where are the lion, the lioness, and the lion cub who moved about with no one to terrify them?

¹²The lion tore its prey to pieces to feed its cubs. It strangled the prey for its mates. It used to fill its caves with torn carcasses and its dens with torn flesh.

¹³"I am against you, Nineveh," declares the LORD of Armies. "I will send your chariots up in smoke, and a sword will kill your young lions. I will remove your prey from the earth, and no one will ever hear the voice of your messengers again."

3¹How horrible it will be for that city of bloody violence! It is completely full of lies and stolen goods never without victims.

²The sound of the whip! The sound of rattling wheels! Horses gallop! Chariots bounce along!

³Horses charge! Swords flash! Spears glitter! Many are killed! Dead bodies pile up! There is no end to the corpses! People trip over corpses

⁴because of Nineveh's constant prostitution, this very charming mistress of evil magic. She used to sell nations her prostitution and people her evil magic."

⁵"I am against you, Nineveh," declares the LORD of Armies. "I will lift up your dress over your face. I will show nations your naked body and kingdoms your disgrace.

⁶I will throw filth on you. I will make you look like a fool. I will make you a sight to be seen.

⁷Everyone who sees you will run from you, saying, Nineveh has been violently destroyed! Who will feel sorry for her? Where can I find anyone to comfort you?"

⁸Are you better than Noamon, which sits by the streams of the Nile with water surrounding her? The sea was her defense. The water was her wall.

⁹Sudan and Egypt were her endless strength. Put and the Lybians were her help.

¹⁰Even she went into captivity and was exiled. Even her little children were smashed to death at every street corner. Soldiers tossed dice for her important men, and all her best men were bound in chains.

¹¹Even you, Nineveh, will stagger like a drunk. You will disappear. Even you will

look for a fortress to escape from the enemy.

¹²All your defenses will be like fig trees with the earliest figs. When shaken, the figs fall into the mouth of the eater.

¹³Look at your soldiers; they're women! The gates of your country are wide open to your enemies. Fire has destroyed the bars of your gates.

¹⁴Store water for the siege! Strengthen your defenses! Step into the claypits and trample the clay! Grab the brick mold!

¹⁵Fire will consume you there. A sword will cut you down. It will consume you like locusts. Multiply like locusts! Multiply like hungry locusts!

¹⁶You have produced more businessmen than there are stars in the sky. They are like locusts that attack and then fly away.

¹⁷Your officers are like locusts, and your scribes are like swarms of locusts that settle on the fences when it is cold. The sun rises, and they scatter in every direction. No one knows where they've gone.

¹⁸Your shepherds, king of Assyria, have fallen into a deep sleep. Your best

fighting men are at rest. Your people are scattered on the mountains, and there is no one to gather them.

¹⁹There is no relief for your collapse. Your wound is fatal. All who hear the news about you will clap their hands. Who hasn't suffered from your endless evil?

Habakkuk

1 ¹ The divine revelation that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

² How long, O LORD, am I to cry for help, but you will not listen? I cry out to you, "Theres violence!" yet you will not come to the rescue.

³ Why do you make me see wrongdoing? And why do you watch wickedness? Destruction and violence are in front of me. Quarrels and disputes arise.

⁴ That is why your teaching is numbed, and justice is never carried out. Wicked people surround righteous people so that when justice is carried out, its perverted.

⁵ Look among the nations and watch. Be amazed and astonished. I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe even if it were reported to you.

⁶ I am going to send the Babylonians, that fierce and reckless nation. They will march throughout the earth to take possession of lands that dont belong to them.

⁷They will be terrifying and fearsome. They will carry out their own kind of justice and honor.

⁸Their horses will be faster than leopards and quicker than wolves in the evening. Their riders will gallop along proudly. Their riders will come from far away. They will fly like an eagle that swoops down for its prey.

⁹They will all come for violence. Every face will be directed forward. They will gather prisoners like sand.

¹⁰They will make fun of kings and treat rulers as a joke. They will laugh at every fortified city and build a dirt ramp to capture it.

¹¹They will move quickly and pass through like the wind. So they will be guilty, because their own strength is their god.

¹²Didn't you exist before time began, O LORD, my God, my Holy One? We will not die! O LORD, you have appointed the Babylonians to bring judgment. O Rock, you have destined them to correct us.

¹³Your eyes are too pure to look at evil. You can't watch wickedness. Why do you keep watching treacherous people?

Why are you silent when wicked people swallow those who are more righteous than they are?

¹⁴You make all people like the fish in the sea, like schools of sea life that have no ruler.

¹⁵The Babylonians pull them all up with fishhooks, drag them away in nets, and gather them in dragnets. So they rejoice and are happy.

¹⁶That is why they sacrifice to their nets and burn incense to their dragnets. They are rich and well fed because of them.

¹⁷Will they keep on emptying their nets and always kill nations without mercy?

2¹I will stand at my guard post. I will station myself on the wall. I will watch to see what he will say to me and what answer I will get to my complaint.

²Then the LORD answered me, "Write the vision. Make it clear on tablets so that anyone can read it quickly.

³The vision will still happen at the appointed time. It hurries toward its goal. It won't be a lie. If it's delayed, wait for it. It will certainly happen. It won't be late.

⁴"Look at the proud person. He is not right in himself. But the righteous person will live because of his faithfulness.

⁵Also because wine is treacherous he is arrogant and never rests. He has a large appetite like the grave. He is like death never satisfied. He gathers all the nations to himself. He collects all the people to himself.

⁶Wont all of them ridicule him, directing clever sayings and riddles at him, like: "How horrible it will be for the one who makes himself rich with what is not his own and makes himself wealthy on loans. How long will this go on?

⁷Wont your creditors suddenly rise up and those who are going to shake you wake up? Then you will become their prize.

⁸You have looted many nations. All the rest of the people will loot you because of the slaughter and violence done to lands, cities, and all their inhabitants.

⁹"How horrible it will be for the one who uses violence to get things for his own household in order to set his nest up high and save himself from disaster.

¹⁰You have planned disgrace for your household by cutting off many people and forfeiting your own life.

¹¹A stone in the wall will cry out. A beam in the roof will answer it.

¹²"How horrible it will be for the one who builds a city by slaughter and founds a town by crime.

¹³Isn't it from the LORD of Armies that people grow tired only to feed the flames and nations exhaust themselves for nothing?

¹⁴But the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORDS glory like the water covers the sea.

¹⁵"How horrible it will be for the one who makes his neighbor drink from the bowl of Gods rage, making him drunk in order to stare at his nakedness.

¹⁶You are filled with disgrace rather than glory. Drink! Yes you! And expose yourself as godless. The cup in the LORDS right hand will come around to you, and disgrace will cover your glory.

¹⁷The violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, and the destruction done to the animals will terrify you because of the slaughter and violence

done to lands, cities, and all their inhabitants.

¹⁸"What benefit is there in a carved idol when its maker has carved it? What benefit is there in a molded statue, a teacher of lies, when its maker has molded it? The one who formed it trusts himself to make worthless idols that cannot speak.

¹⁹How horrible it will be for the one who says to a piece of wood, "Wake up!" and to a stone that cannot talk, "Get up!" Can that thing teach anyone? Just look at it! Its covered with gold and silver, but theres absolutely no life in it."

²⁰The LORD is in his holy temple. All the earth should be silent in his presence.

3¹ A prayer of the prophet Habakkuk; according to shigionoth.

²LORD, I have heard the report about you. LORD, I fear your work. In the course of the years, renew it. In the course of the years, reveal it. In all this chaos, remember to be merciful.

³God comes from Teman. The Holy One comes from Mount Paran. Selah His splendor covers the heavens. His praise fills the earth.

⁴ His brightness is like the sunlight.
Rays of light stream from his hand. That
is where his power is hidden.

⁵ Diseases go ahead of him. Plagues
follow after him.

⁶ He stands and shakes the earth. He
casts a glance and startles the nations.
The oldest mountains break apart. The
ancient hills sink. The ancient paths
belong to him.

⁷ I see trouble in the tents of Cushan. I
see trembling in the tents of Midian.

⁸ The LORD is not angry with the rivers,
is he? If you are angry with the rivers,
if you are furious with the sea, why do
you ride your horses, your chariots of
salvation?

⁹ You get your bow ready for action, for
the arrows you promised. Selah You split
the land with rivers.

¹⁰ The mountains look at you. They
writhe in pain. Floodwaters pass by. The
deep ocean roars. Its waves rise up high.

¹¹ The sun and the moon stand still.
They scatter at the light of your arrows,
at the bright lightning of your spear.

¹² You march through the earth with
fury. You trample the nations in anger.

¹³You go out to save your people, to save your anointed. You crush the leader of the wicked household, stripping him bare from head to toe. Selah

¹⁴You pierce the leader of his gang with his own arrows. His soldiers come like a violent storm to scatter me. They are arrogant like those who secretly eat up the poor.

¹⁵You march with your horses into the sea, into the mighty raging waters.

¹⁶I have heard, so theres trembling within me. At the report my lips quivered. A rotten feeling has entered me. I tremble where I stand. I wait for the day of trouble to come to the people who will attack us.

¹⁷Even if the fig tree does not bloom and the vines have no grapes, even if the olive tree fails to produce and the fields yield no food, even if the sheep pen is empty and the stalls have no cattle

¹⁸even then, I will be happy with the LORD. I will truly find joy in God, who saves me.

¹⁹The LORD Almighty is my strength. He makes my feet like those of a deer. He makes me walk on the mountains.

For the choir director; on stringed instruments.

Zephaniah

1 ¹ This is the word that the LORD spoke to Zephaniah, who was the son of Cushi, the grandson of Gedaliah, and the greatgrandson of Amariah, son of Hezekiah. The LORD spoke his word in the days of Judah's King Josiah, son of Amon.

² "I will gather everything on the face of the earth and put an end to it," declares the LORD.

³ "I will put an end to humans and animals. I will put an end to the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and the sins that make people fall, together with the sinners. I will remove all people from the face of the earth," declares the LORD.

⁴ "I will use my power against Judah and against those who live in Jerusalem. I will remove the faithful few of Baal from this place and the names of the pagan priests along with my priests.

⁵ I will remove those who worship all the stars in the sky on their rooftops and those who worship by swearing loyalty

to the LORD while also swearing loyalty to the god Milcom.

⁶I will remove those who have turned away from following the LORD and those who no longer seek the LORD or ask him for help."

⁷Be silent in the presence of the Almighty LORD, because the day of the LORD is near. The LORD has prepared a sacrifice. He has invited his special guests.

⁸"On the day of the LORDS sacrifice I will punish the officials, the kings sons, and all who dress in foreign clothing.

⁹On that day I will punish all who jump over the doorway and all who fill their masters house with violence and deception.

¹⁰On that day a loud cry will come from Fish Gate, a howling from the Second Part of the city, and a loud crashing sound from the hills," declares the LORD.

¹¹"Howl, inhabitants of the Mortar, because all the merchants will be destroyed and all who handle money will be killed.

¹²"At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are

satisfied with their hardened lifestyle, who think that the LORD won't do anything good or bad.

¹³ Their wealth will be looted. Their homes will be demolished. They will build houses, but they won't live in them. They will plant vineyards, but they won't drink their wine."

¹⁴ The frightening day of the LORD is near. It is near and coming very quickly. Listen! Warriors will cry out bitterly on the day of the LORD.

¹⁵ That day will be a day of overflowing fury, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and overcast skies,

¹⁶ a day of rams' horns and battle cries against the fortified cities and against the high corner towers.

¹⁷ "I will bring such distress on humans that they will walk like they are blind, because they have sinned against the LORD." Their blood will be poured out like dust and their intestines like manure.

¹⁸ Their silver and their gold will not be able to rescue them on the day of the LORD'S overflowing fury. The whole earth

will be consumed by his fiery anger, because he will put an end, a frightening end, to those who live on earth.

2¹ Gather yourselves together! Yes, gather together, you shameless nation,

² before the decree is carried out and the day passes like windblown husks, before the LORDS burning anger comes to you, before the day of the LORDS anger comes to you.

³ Search for the LORD, all you humble people in the land who carry out his justice. Search for what is right. Search for humility. Maybe you will find shelter on the day of the LORDS anger.

⁴ Gaza will be deserted, and Ashkelon will be destroyed. Ashdod will be driven out at noon, and Ekron will be torn out by the roots.

⁵ How horrible it will be for those who live on the seacoast, for the nation from Crete. The word of the LORD is against you, Canaan, the land of the Philistines: "I will destroy you so that no one will be living there."

⁶The seacoast will become pastureland with meadows for shepherds and fencedoff places for sheep.

⁷The coast will belong to the faithful few from the nation of Judah. There they will graze their sheep. In the evening they will lie down in the houses of Ashkelon. The LORD their God will take care of them and will restore their fortunes.

⁸"I have heard the insults from Moab and the mockery from Ammon. They insulted my people and bragged about their territory.

⁹Therefore, I solemnly swear, as I live," declares the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, "Moab will become like Sodom, and Ammon will become like Gomorrah: a place of weeds, salt pits, and ruins forever. The faithful few of my people will loot them, and those who are left in my nation will take possession of them."

¹⁰This is what they will get for their sinful pride, because they insulted the people who belong to the LORD of Armies and made themselves greater than them.

¹¹The LORD will terrify them, because he will make all the gods of the earth

waste away. So every person from every coast and nation will bow to him.

¹²"Even you, the people from Sudan, you will also die by my sword."

¹³The LORD will use his power against the north and destroy Assyria. He will turn Nineveh into a deserted ruin, a dried up wasteland like the desert.

¹⁴Flocks will lie down in it along with animals of every kind. Even pelicans and herons will nest on top of its columns. Listen! A bird will sing in a window. The doorway will be in ruins, because the LORD will expose the cedar beams.

¹⁵Is this the arrogant city? Is this the city that used to live securely, the city that used to think to itself, "I'm the only one, and no one else exists but me"? What a wasteland it is now, a resting place for wild animals! All who pass by it will hiss and make an obscene gesture.

3¹How horrible it will be for that rebellious and corrupt place, the city of violence.

²It obeys no one. It does not accept correction. It does not trust the LORD. It does not draw close to its God.

³Its officials are like roaring lions. Its judges are like wolves in the evening. They leave nothing to gnaw on for the morning.

⁴Its prophets are reckless and unfaithful. Its priests contaminate what is holy. They violate the teachings.

⁵The righteous LORD is in that city. He does no wrong. He brings his judgment to light every morning. He does not fail. But those who are perverted are shameless.

⁶"I will cut off the nations. Their towers will be destroyed. I will demolish their streets. No one will walk through them. Their cities will be completely destroyed. Not a single person will be left. No one will be living there.

⁷I said to my people, You will fear me. You will accept correction! Then their homeland would not be wiped out even though I have punished them. Still, they continued to be corrupt in everything they did."

⁸The LORD declares, "Just wait! One day I will stand up as a witness. I have decided to gather nations, to bring kingdoms together, and to pour my rage,

my burning anger, on them. The whole land will be consumed by my fiery fury.

⁹"Then I will give all people pure lips to worship the LORD and to serve him with one purpose.

¹⁰From beyond the rivers of Sudan my worshipers, my scattered people, will bring my offering.

¹¹On that day you will no longer be ashamed of all your rebellious acts against me. Then I will remove your arrogance and never again will you act proud on my holy mountain.

¹²So with you I will leave a faithful few, a humble and poor people. They will seek refuge in the name of the LORD.

¹³The faithful few in Israel will not do wrong, tell lies, or use their tongues to deceive others. They will graze their sheep and lie down, and there will be no one to terrify them."

¹⁴Sing happily, people of Zion! Shout loudly, Israel! Celebrate and rejoice with all your heart, people of Jerusalem.

¹⁵The LORD has reversed the judgments against you. He has forced out your enemies. The king of Israel, the

LORD, is with you. You will never fear disaster again.

¹⁶On that day Jerusalem will be told, "Do not be afraid, Zion! Do not lose courage!"

¹⁷The LORD your God is with you. He is a hero who saves you. He happily rejoices over you, renews you with his love, and celebrates over you with shouts of joy.

¹⁸"I will gather those among you who are troubled because of the festivals. They bear a burden of disgrace.

¹⁹At that time I will deal with all who have overpowered you. I will rescue those who are lame. I will gather those who have been scattered. I will make them praised and famous in all the world, though they had been ashamed.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home. Yes, at that time I will gather you together. I will make you famous and praised among all the people of the earth when I restore your fortunes right before your eyes," says the LORD.

Haggai

1 ¹ On the first day of the sixth month in Darius second year as king, the LORD spoke his word through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel (who was the son of Shealtiel and was governor of Judah) and to the chief priest Joshua (who was the son of Jehozadak). He said,

² "This is what the LORD of Armies says: These people say its not the right time to rebuild the house of the LORD."

³ Then the LORD spoke his word through the prophet Haggai. He said,

⁴ "Is it time for you to live in your paneled houses while this house lies in ruins?

⁵ Now, this is what the LORD of Armies says: Carefully consider your ways!

⁶ You planted a lot, but you harvested little. You eat, but youre never full. You drink, but youre still thirsty. You wear clothing, but you never have enough to keep you warm. You spend money as fast as you earn it.

⁷ This is what the LORD of Armies says: Carefully consider your ways!

⁸ "Go to the mountains, get lumber, and build the house. I will be pleased with it, and I will be honored," declares the LORD.

⁹ "You expected a lot, but you received a little. When you bring something home, I blow it away. Why?" declares the LORD of Armies. "Its because my house lies in ruins while each of you is busy working on your own house.

¹⁰ It is because of you that the sky has withheld its dew and the earth has withheld its produce.

¹¹ I called for a drought on the land, the hills, and on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil, and whatever the ground produces, on humans and animals, and on all your hard work."

¹² Then Zerubbabel (who was the son of Shealtiel), the chief priest Joshua (who was the son of Jehozadak), and the faithful few who returned from Babylon obeyed the LORD their God. They also obeyed the words of the prophet Haggai because the LORD their God had sent

him and because the people feared the LORD.

¹³Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD who had received the LORDS message, said to the people, "I am with you, declares the LORD."

¹⁴The LORD inspired them to rebuild his house. So Zerubbabel (who was the son of Shealtiel and was governor of Judah), the chief priest Joshua (who was the son of Jehozadak), and the faithful few who returned from Babylon began working on the house of the LORD of Armies, their God.

¹⁵They began on the twentyfourth day of the sixth month in Darius second year as king.

2¹On the twentyfirst day of the seventh month, the LORD spoke his word through the prophet Haggai. He said,

²"Now, speak to Zerubbabel (who is the son of Shealtiel and is governor of Judah), the chief priest Joshua (who is the son of Jehozadak), and the faithful few who returned from Babylon.

³Ask them, Is there anyone among the faithful few who saw this house in its

former glory? How does it look to you now? Doesn't it seem like nothing to you?

⁴"But now, Zerubbabel, be strong," declares the LORD. "Chief Priest Joshua (son of Jehozadak), be strong. Everyone in the land, be strong," declares the LORD. "Work, because I am with you," declares the LORD of Armies.

⁵"This is the promise I made to you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains with you. Don't be afraid.

⁶"This is what the LORD of Armies says: Once again, in a little while, I am going to shake the sky and the earth, the sea and the dry land.

⁷I will shake all the nations, and the one whom all the nations desire will come. Then I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of Armies.

⁸The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of Armies.

⁹This new house will be more glorious than the former, declares the LORD of Armies. And in this place I will give them peace, declares the LORD of Armies."

¹⁰On the twentyfourth day of the ninth month in Darius second year as king,

the LORD spoke his word to the prophet Haggai. He said,

¹¹"This is what the LORD of Armies says: Ask the priests for a decision.

¹²Suppose a person carries meat set aside for a holy purpose and he folds it up in his clothes. If his clothes touch bread, boiled food, wine, oil, or any kind of food, does that make the food holy?" The priests answered, "No."

¹³Haggai asked, "Suppose a person becomes unclean by touching a corpse. If he touches any of these things, does that make them unclean?" The priests answered, "That makes them unclean."

¹⁴Then Haggai answered, "In the same way, I have decided that these people are unclean, and so is this nation, declares the LORD. So is everything they do. Whatever offering they bring is unclean.

¹⁵"And from now on, carefully consider this. Consider how things were before one stone was laid on another in the temple of the LORD.

¹⁶When anyone came to a pile of grain to get 20 measures, there would be only 10. And when anyone came to a wine vat

to draw out 50 measures, there would be only 20 in it.

¹⁷ I infested all your work with blight and mildew and struck it with hail. But you didn't come back to me, declares the LORD.

¹⁸ Carefully consider from now on, from the twentyfourth day of the ninth month, from the day when the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. Carefully consider:

¹⁹ Is there any seed left in the barn? The vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree still haven't produced. But from now on I will bless you."

²⁰ The LORD spoke his word to Haggai a second time on the twentyfourth day of the month. He said,

²¹ "Say to Zerubbabel (governor of Judah), I am going to shake the heavens and the earth.

²² I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms and destroy the power of nations. I will overthrow chariots and their riders, and the horses will fall along with their riders. They will kill one another with swords.

²³On that day, declares the LORD of Armies, I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel (son of Shealtiel), declares the LORD. I will make you like a signet ring, because I have chosen you, declares the LORD of Armies."

Zechariah

1 ¹In the eighth month of Darius second year as king, the LORD spoke his word to the prophet Zechariah, who was the son of Berechiah and the grandson of Iddo. He said,

²"The LORD was very angry with your ancestors.

³Tell the people, This is what the LORD of Armies says: Return to me, declares the LORD of Armies, and I will return to you, says the LORD of Armies.

⁴Dont be like your ancestors, who heard the earlier prophets preach to them, This is what the LORD of Armies says: Turn from your evil ways and your evil deeds. But they didnt listen or pay attention to me, declares the LORD.

⁵Your ancestorswhere are they now? And the prophetsare they still alive?

⁶Didnt my warnings and my laws, which Ive commanded my servants the prophets to preach, finally catch up with your ancestors? Then your ancestors turned away from their sins and said,

The LORD of Armies has done to us what he had planned to do. He has dealt with us as our ways and deeds deserve."

⁷On the twentyfourth day of the eleventh month (the month of Shebat) in Darius second year as king, the LORD spoke his word to the prophet Zechariah, who was the son of Berechiah and the grandson of Iddo.

⁸During that night I saw a man riding on a red horse. He was standing among the myrtle trees in a ravine. Behind him were red, chestnut, and white horses.

⁹"What do these horses mean, sir?" I asked. The angel who was speaking with me answered, "I will show you what they mean."

¹⁰The man standing among the myrtle trees explained, "They're the horses the LORD has sent to patrol the earth."

¹¹Then they reported to the Messenger of the LORD standing among the myrtle trees, "We have patrolled the earth. The whole world is at rest and in peace."

¹²Then the Messenger of the LORD said, "LORD of Armies, how much longer until you show compassion to Jerusalem

and the cities of Judah? Youve been angry with them for 70 years."

¹³The LORD responded to the angel who was speaking with me, using kind and comforting words.

¹⁴The angel who was speaking with me said, "Announce: This is what the LORD of Armies says: Im very jealous about Jerusalem and Zion,

¹⁵and Im very angry with the nations who think they are at ease. I was only a little angry, but they made things worse.

¹⁶This is what the LORD of Armies says: I have returned to Jerusalem with compassion. My house will be rebuilt in it, declares the LORD of Armies. A measuring line will be used to rebuild Jerusalem.

¹⁷"Announce again: This is what the LORD of Armies says: My cities will overflow with prosperity once more. The LORD will again comfort Zion and will again choose Jerusalem."

¹⁸I looked up and saw four animal horns.

¹⁹So I asked the angel who was speaking with me, "What do these horns mean?" He said to me, "These are the

horns of the nations that scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem."

²⁰Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen.

²¹I asked, "What are they going to do?" He answered, "Those horns scattered Judah so widely that no one could lift up his head. But the craftsmen have come to terrify them, to throw down the horns of the nations. The nations raised their horns to scatter the land of Judah."

2¹I looked up and saw a man with a measuring line in his hand.

²I asked him, "Where are you going?" He answered, "I am going to measure Jerusalem to see how wide and how long it is."

³Then the angel who was speaking with me left. Another angel came out to meet him

⁴and said to him, "Run, and say to that young man, Jerusalem will be inhabited like an unwallled village because it will have so many people and animals in it.

⁵I will be a wall of fire around it, declares the LORD. I will be the glory within it.

⁶"Hurry, hurry! Flee from the land of the north, declares the LORD. I've scattered you to the four winds of heaven.

⁷Hurry, Zion! Escape, you inhabitants of Babylon!

⁸This is what the LORD of Armies says: Afterwards, the Glory sent me to the nations who looted you. Whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye.

⁹I'm going to shake my fist at the nations, and their own slaves will loot them. Then you will know that the LORD of Armies has sent me.

¹⁰Sing for joy and rejoice, people of Zion. I'm going to come and live among you, declares the LORD.

¹¹On that day many nations will join the LORD and become my people. I will live among you. Then you will know that the LORD of Armies has sent me to you.

¹²The LORD will claim Judah as his own in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem.

¹³"Everyone be silent in the presence of the LORD. He is waking up and setting out from his holy dwelling place."

3¹ Then he showed me Joshua, the chief priest, standing in front of the Messenger of the LORD. Satan the Accuser was standing at Joshuas right side to accuse him.

² The LORD said to Satan, "I, the LORD, silence you, Satan! I, the LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, silence you! Isnt this man like a burning log snatched from a fire?"

³ Joshua was wearing filthy clothes and was standing in front of the Messenger.

⁴ The Messenger said to those who were standing in front of him, "Remove Joshuas filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken your sin away from you, and I will dress you in fine clothing."

⁵ So I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." They put a clean turban on his head and dressed him while the Messenger of the LORD was standing there.

⁶ The Messenger of the LORD advised Joshua,

⁷ "This is what the LORD of Armies says: If you live according to my ways and follow my requirements, you will

govern my temple and watch over my courtyards. Then I will give you free access to walk among those standing here.

⁸"Listen, Chief Priest Joshua and your friends sitting with you. These men are a sign of things to come: I'm going to bring my servant, the Branch.

⁹"Look at the stone I have set in front of Joshua. That one stone has seven eyes. I am engraving an inscription on it," declares the LORD of Armies. "I will remove this land's sin in a single day.

¹⁰On that day," declares the LORD of Armies, "each of you will invite your neighbor to sit under your vine and fig tree."

4¹The angel who was speaking with me returned and woke me up as one might wake up someone who is sleeping.

²He asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a solid gold lamp stand with a bowl on top and seven lamps on it. There are seven spouts for each lamp that is on top of it.

³There are also two olive trees beside it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left."

⁴I asked the angel who was speaking with me, "What do these things mean, sir?"

⁵Then the angel asked me, "Don't you know what they mean?" "No, sir," I answered.

⁶Then he replied, "This is the word the LORD spoke to Zerubbabel: You won't succeed by might or by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of Armies.

⁷What a high mountain you are! In front of Zerubbabel you will become a plain. He will bring out the topmost stone with shouts of Blessings, blessings on it!"

⁸Then the LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

⁹"Zerubbabel's hands have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will finish it. Then you will know that the LORD of Armies has sent me to you.

¹⁰Who despised the day when little things began to happen? They will be delighted when they see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand. (These seven eyes of the LORD roam over all the earth.)"

¹¹ I asked the angel, "What do these two olive trees at the right and the left of the lamp stand mean?"

¹² Again I asked him, "What is the meaning of the two branches from the olive trees next to the two golden pipes that are pouring out gold?"

¹³ He asked me, "Don't you know what these things mean?" "No, sir," I answered.

¹⁴ So he said, "These are the two anointed ones who are standing beside the Lord of the whole earth."

5¹ I looked up again and saw a flying scroll.

² The angel asked me, "What do you see?" "I see a flying scroll," I answered. "It's 30 feet long and 15 feet wide."

³ Then he said to me, "This is a curse that will go out all over the earth. The one side of the scroll says that every thief will be forced away. The other side of the scroll says that everyone who takes an oath will be forced away.

⁴ I will send out a curse, declares the LORD of Armies, and it will enter the houses of thieves and the houses of those who take oaths in my name. It

will stay in their houses and destroy the timber and stone."

⁵The angel who was speaking with me came forward. He said, "Look up, and see what's coming."

⁶"What is it?" I asked. "A basket is coming," he said. Then he added, "This is what the peoples' sins look like all over the earth."

⁷A lead cover on the basket was raised, and a woman was sitting in the basket.

⁸The angel said, "This is wickedness," and he pushed her back into the basket and forced the lead cover down on top of it.

⁹I looked up and saw two women coming forward with wind in their wings. They had wings like those of a stork. They carried the basket into the sky.

¹⁰I asked the angel who was speaking with me, "Where are they taking the basket?"

¹¹He answered me, "They are going to build a house for it in Shinar [Babylonia]. When the house is ready, they will set the basket there on a stand."

6¹I looked up again and saw four chariots going out from between the

two mountains. They were mountains of bronze.

²The first chariot had red horses. The second had black horses.

³The third had white horses. And the fourth had strong, spotted horses.

⁴I asked the angel who was speaking with me, "What do these horses mean, sir?"

⁵The angel answered, "They are the four spirits of heaven. They are going out after standing in the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

⁶The chariot with the black horses is going toward the north, and the white horses are following them. The spotted ones are going toward the south."

⁷When these strong horses went out, they were eager to patrol the earth. He said, "Go, patrol the earth!" And they patrolled the earth.

⁸Then he called out to me, "Look! Those who went to the north have made my Spirit rest in the north."

⁹The LORD spoke his word to me. He said,

¹⁰"Take an offering from the exiles Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have

arrived from Babylon. This same day go to the house of Josiah, son of Zephaniah.

¹¹ Take the silver and gold, make a crown, and put it on the head of Chief Priest Joshua, son of Jehozadak.

¹² Then say to him, This is what the LORD of Armies says: Here is the man whose name is Branch. He will branch out from where he is, and he will rebuild the LORDS temple.

¹³ He will rebuild the LORDS temple and receive royal honor. He will sit and rule from his throne. He will be a priest on his throne. There will be a peaceful understanding between them.

¹⁴ The crown will be a reminder to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen (son of Zephaniah) in the LORDS temple.

¹⁵ Those who are far away will come and rebuild the LORDS temple. Then you will know the LORD of Armies has sent me to you. This will happen if you obey the LORD your God completely."

7¹ On the fourth day of the ninth month (the month of Chislev) in Darius fourth year as king, the LORD spoke his word to Zechariah.

²Now, the people from Bethel sent Sharezer and Regem Melech with their men to ask the LORD for a blessing.

³They asked the priests from the house of the LORD of Armies as well as the prophets, "Should we mourn and fast in the fifth month as we have done for so many years?"

⁴Then the LORD of Armies spoke his word to me. He said,

⁵"Tell all the people of the land and the priests, When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months these past 70 years, did you really do it for me?

⁶When you ate and drank, didnt you do it to benefit yourselves?

⁷Arent these the same words that the LORD announced through the earlier prophets, when Jerusalem and its surrounding cities were inhabited and undisturbed and the Negev and the foothills were still inhabited?"

⁸Then the LORD spoke his word to Zechariah. He said,

⁹"This is what the LORD of Armies says: Administer real justice, and be compassionate and kind to each other.

¹⁰Don't oppress widows, orphans, foreigners, and poor people. And don't even think of doing evil to each other.

¹¹"But people refused to pay attention. They shrugged their shoulders at me and shut their ears so that they couldn't hear.

¹²They made their hearts as hard as flint so that they couldn't hear the LORD'S teachings, the words that the LORD of Armies had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the LORD of Armies became very angry.

¹³"When I called, they wouldn't listen. So now when they call, I won't listen, says the LORD of Armies.

¹⁴I used a windstorm to scatter them among all the nations, nations they hadn't even heard of. They left behind a land so ruined that no one is able to travel through it. They have turned a pleasant land into a wasteland."

8¹The LORD of Armies spoke his word.
²This is what the LORD of Armies says: I am very jealous about Zion. I am fiercely possessive of it.

³This is what the LORD says: I will return to Zion and live in Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth.

The mountain of the LORD of Armies will be called the holy mountain.

⁴This is what the LORD of Armies says: Old men and old women will again sit in the streets of Jerusalem. Each will have a cane in hand because of old age.

⁵The city will be filled with boys and girls playing in the streets.

⁶This is what the LORD of Armies says: It may seem impossible to the few remaining people in those days, but will it seem impossible to me? declares the LORD of Armies.

⁷This is what the LORD of Armies says: I am going to save my people from the land where the sun rises and from the land where the sun sets.

⁸I will bring them back, and they will live in Jerusalem. They will be my people, and I will be their God, who is faithful and just.

⁹This is what the LORD of Armies says: Be strong so that the temple might be rebuilt, you people who are presently listening to the words from the mouths of the prophets who spoke when the foundation for the house of the LORD of Armies was laid.

¹⁰Before that time there was no money to hire any person or animal. No one who traveled was safe from the enemy. I turned every person against his neighbor.

¹¹But now I won't deal with the few remaining people as I did in earlier times, declares the LORD of Armies.

¹²Seeds will thrive in peacetime. Vines will produce their grapes. The land will yield its crops. The sky will produce its dew. I will give the few remaining people all these things as an inheritance.

¹³Just as you, people of Judah and people of Israel, have been a curse among the nations, so I will now save you, and you will become a blessing. Don't be afraid. Let your hands work hard.

¹⁴This is what the LORD of Armies says: When your ancestors made me angry, I made plans to destroy you, declares the LORD of Armies, and I didn't change my plans.

¹⁵So now I have again made plans, but this time to do good to Jerusalem and the people of Judah. Don't be afraid.

¹⁶You must do these things: Speak the truth to each other. Give correct and fair verdicts for peace in your courts.

¹⁷Dont even think of doing evil to each other. Dont enjoy false testimony. I hate all these things, declares the LORD.

¹⁸The LORD of Armies spoke his word to me again.

¹⁹This is what the LORD of Armies says: The fast in the fourth month, the fast in the fifth month, the fast in the seventh month, and the fast in the tenth month will become joyful and glad occasions as well as happy festivals for the nation of Judah. So love truth and peace.

²⁰This is what the LORD of Armies says: People and citizens from many cities are going to come.

²¹The citizens of one city will come to another city, saying, "Lets make a habit of going to ask the LORD for a blessing and to seek the LORD of Armies. Im also going."

²²Many people and powerful nations will come to seek the LORD of Armies in Jerusalem and to ask the LORD for a blessing.

²³ This is what the LORD of Armies says: In those days ten people from every language found among the nations will take hold of the clothes of a Jew. They will say, "Let us go with you because we have heard that God is with you."

¹ This is the divine revelation. The word of the LORD is against the land of Hadrach and will rest on Damascus

² and also Hamath, which borders on it, and Tyre and Sidon, though they are very wise. (The eyes of humanity and of all the tribes of Israel are on the LORD.)

³ Tyre built itself a fortress. It piled up silver like dust and gold like mud in the streets.

⁴ The Lord will take away its possessions. He will throw its wealth into the sea and burn the city down.

⁵ Ashkelon will see this and be afraid. Gaza will also be in great pain, also Ekron, because its hope will fade. Gaza will lose its king. Ashkelon will no longer be lived in.

⁶ A mixed race will live in Ashdod, and I will cut off the Philistines arrogance.

⁷ I will remove the blood from their mouths and the disgusting things from

between their teeth. Then only a few of them will be left for our God like a tribe in Judah, and Ekron will be like a Jebusite.

⁸I will camp in front of my house as a guard against those who come and go. No oppressors will pass through them, because I have seen it with my own eyes.

⁹Rejoice with all your heart, people of Zion! Shout in triumph, people of Jerusalem! Look! Your King is coming to you: He is righteous and victorious. He is humble and rides on a donkey, on a colt, a young pack animal.

¹⁰He will make sure there are no chariots in Ephraim or war horses in Jerusalem. There will be no battle bows. He will announce peace to the nations. He will rule from sea to sea and from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹I will set your captives free from the waterless pit because of the blood that sealed my promise to you.

¹²Return to your fortress, you captives who have hope. Today I tell you that I will return to you double blessings.

¹³I will bend Judah as my bow and draw my bow with Ephraim as its arrow. I will stir up your people, Zion, against your people, Greece, and I will use you like a warriors sword.

¹⁴The LORD will appear over them, and his arrow will go out like lightning. The Almighty LORD will blow the rams horn and will march in the storms from the south.

¹⁵The LORD of Armies will defend them. They will destroy and trample the stones used in slings. They will drink and shout as if they were drunk. They will be filled like a sacrificial bowl used for sprinkling the corners of the altar.

¹⁶On that day the LORD their God will rescue them as the flock of his people. They will certainly sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown.

¹⁷They will be beautiful and lovely. Young men will prosper on grain, and young women will prosper on new wine.

10¹Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime. The LORD makes thunderstorms. He gives everyone rain showers for the plants in the field.

²The idols speak lies. The fortunetellers see false visions. They speak about false dreams. They give useless comfort. That is why people wander around like sheep. They are troubled because there is no shepherd.

³"My burning anger is directed against the shepherds. I will punish the male goats. The LORD of Armies takes care of his flock, the people of Judah. He makes them like his splendid war horse."

⁴From them will come a cornerstone, from them a tent peg, from them a battle bow, from them every leader.

⁵Together they will be like warriors who trample the enemy in the mud on the streets. They will fight because the LORD is with them. They will put to shame those who ride on horses.

⁶"I will strengthen the people of Judah. I will rescue Josephs people. I will bring them back, because I have compassion for them. It will be as though I had never rejected them, because I am the LORD their God, and I will answer them.

⁷The people of Ephraim will be like mighty warriors. Their hearts will be glad as if they had some wine to drink. Their

sons will see it and be glad. Their hearts will find joy in the LORD.

⁸I will signal them with a whistle and gather them because I have reclaimed them. They will be as numerous as they have ever been.

⁹Although I have scattered them among the nations, they will remember me even in faraway places. They will live with their children and then return.

¹⁰I will bring them back from Egypt. I will gather them from Assyria. I will bring them to Gilead and to Lebanon, and there won't be enough room for them."

¹¹The LORD will pass through a sea of distress, strike the waves in the sea, and dry up all the deep places of the Nile River. The pride of Assyria will be humiliated, and the scepter of Egypt will depart.

¹²"I will strengthen them in the LORD. They will live in his name," declares the LORD.

11 ¹Open your doors, Lebanon, so that fire will be able to burn down your cedars.

²Cry, cypress trees, because the cedars have fallen and the stately trees have been destroyed. Cry, oak trees of Bashan, because your dense forest has fallen down.

³Listen! The shepherds are crying, because their rich pastures are destroyed. Listen! The young lions are roaring, because the lush banks of the Jordan are destroyed.

⁴This is what the LORD my God says: Take care of the sheep that are about to be slaughtered.

⁵Those who buy them will kill them and go unpunished. Those who sell them will say, "Praise the LORD! I've become rich!" Even their own shepherds will have no pity on them.

⁶The LORD declares, "I will no longer have pity on those who live in the land. I am going to hand the people over to their neighbors and their king, who will crush the land. And I won't rescue any of them from their power."

⁷So I became the shepherd of the sheep that were to be slaughtered and also of the oppressed sheep. I took two shepherd staffs and named one Favor

and the other Unity. And I took care of the sheep.

⁸I got rid of three shepherds in one month. I became impatient with the sheep, and they also became disgusted with me.

⁹So I said, "I won't be your shepherd. Let those that are dying die. Let those that are missing stay missing. And let those that are left devour each other."

¹⁰Then I took my staff called Favor and broke it in pieces, to break the promise that I had made to all the nations.

¹¹So it was broken on that day, and the oppressed among the sheep who were watching me realized that it was the word of the LORD.

¹²Then I said to them, "If it's alright with you, pay me my wages. But if it's not, don't." And they paid me my wages—30 pieces of silver.

¹³The LORD told me, "Give it to the potter." So I took the 30 pieces of silver. Such a magnificent price was set by them! I gave the pieces of silver to the potter at the house of the LORD.

¹⁴ Then I broke my second staff, called Unity, in pieces, to break off the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to me, "Use the equipment of a foolish shepherd again.

¹⁶ I'm about to place a shepherd in the land. He will not take care of those that are dying. He will not search for the young. He will not heal those that have broken their legs or support those that can still stand. But he will eat the meat of the fat animals and tear off their hoofs.

¹⁷ "How horrible it will be for the foolish shepherd who abandoned the sheep. A sword will strike his arm and his right eye. His arm will be completely withered. His right eye will be completely blind."

12¹ This is the prophetic revelation, the word of the LORD about Israel. The LORD who spread out the heavens, laid the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit in a person says,

² "I'm going to make Jerusalem like a cup of wine that makes all the surrounding people stagger. They will attack Judah along with Jerusalem.

³On that day I will make Jerusalem a stone too heavy for all the nations to lift. All who try to lift it will be severely injured. All the nations in the world will gather to fight against Jerusalem."

⁴The LORD declares, "On that day I will strike every horse with panic and every rider with madness. I will watch over the people of Judah, but I will strike all the horses of the nations blind.

⁵Then the leaders of Judah will think to themselves, The people who live in Jerusalem are strong because of the LORD of Armies, their God.

⁶"On that day I will make the leaders of Judah like a fire on a pile of wood and like a burning torch among freshly cut straw. They will burn up all the surrounding nations to the right and to the left. But the people of Jerusalem will remain safe in Jerusalem.

⁷"The LORD will save Judahs tents first so that the honor of Davids family and the honor of those who live in Jerusalem will not be greater than the honor of Judah.

⁸On that day the LORD will defend those who live in Jerusalem so that even

those who stumble will be like David, and Davids family will be like God, like the Messenger of the LORD ahead of them.

⁹"On that day I will seek to destroy all the nations who attack Jerusalem.

¹⁰"I will pour out the Spirit of blessing and mercy on Davids family and on those who live in Jerusalem. They will look at me, whom they have stabbed. Then they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only son, and they will cry bitterly for him as one cries for a firstborn son.

¹¹On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as intense as the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

¹²The land will mourn, each family by itself: the family of David by itself, and the wives by themselves; the family of Nathan by itself, and the wives by themselves;

¹³the family of Levi by itself, and the wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and the wives by themselves.

¹⁴All the families that are left will mourn, each by itself, and the wives by themselves."

13¹ The LORD declares, "On that day a fountain will be opened for Davids family and for those who live in Jerusalem to wash away their sin and stain.

² "On that day," declares the LORD of Armies, "I will wipe away the names of the idols from the land. They will no longer be remembered. I will also remove the false prophets and the unclean spirit from the land.

³ "If a man still prophesies, his father and his mother, who gave birth to him, will say, You dont deserve to live because you speak lies in the name of the LORD. Then his father and his mother, who gave birth to him, will stab him when he prophesies.

⁴ "On that day every prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies. He wont deceive people by dressing like a prophet in a coat made of hair.

⁵ He will say, I am not a prophet. Im a farmer. Ive owned this land since I was a child.

⁶"When someone asks him, What are these scars on your chest? he will answer, I was hurt at my friends house.

⁷"Arise, sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is my friend," declares the LORD of Armies. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered. Then I will turn my hand against the little ones."

⁸The LORD declares, "Throughout the land twothirds will be cut off and die. Yet, onethird will be left in it.

⁹I will bring this third of the people through the fire. I will refine them as silver is refined. I will test them as gold is tested. They will call on me, and I will answer them. I will say, They are my people. They will reply, The LORD is our God."

14¹ A day is going to come for the LORD when the loot you have taken will be divided among you.

²I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem for battle. The city will be captured, the houses looted, and the women raped. Half of the people in the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people wont be taken from the city.

³Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as he does when he fights a battle.

⁴On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, just east of Jerusalem. The Mount of Olives will be split in two, forming a very large valley from east to west. Half of the mountain will move toward the north, and the other half will move toward the south.

⁵Then you will flee to the valley of my mountains, because this valley between the mountains will go as far as Azel. You will flee as you did from the earthquake at the time of King Uzziah of Judah. The LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones will be with him.

⁶On that day there will be neither heat nor freezing cold.

⁷There will be one day known to the LORD with no difference between day and night. It will be light even in the evening.

⁸On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it to the Dead Sea and the other half to the Mediterranean Sea. It will continue in summer and in winter.

⁹The LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be the only Lord and his name the only name.

¹⁰The whole earth will become like the plains from Geba to Rimmon, south of Jerusalem. Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site, from Benjamin Gate to the place of First Gate, Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the kings winepresses.

¹¹People will live there, and it will never be threatened with destruction. Jerusalem will live securely.

¹²This will be the plague the LORD will use to strike all the people from the nations that have gone to war against Jerusalem. Their flesh will rot while they are standing on their feet. Their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.

¹³On that day a largescale panic from the LORD will spread among them. One person will grab the hand of another, and one will attack the other.

¹⁴Judah will also fight in Jerusalem. The wealth of all the surrounding nations will be collected, a very large amount of gold, silver, and clothes.

¹⁵A similar plague will also affect horses, mules, camels, donkeys, and all other animals in those camps.

¹⁶Everyone who is left from all the nations that attacked Jerusalem will come every year to worship the king, the LORD of Armies, and to celebrate the Festival of Booths.

¹⁷If any of the families on the earth wont go to Jerusalem to worship the king, the LORD of Armies, then rain wont fall on them.

¹⁸If the people of Egypt wont go or enter Jerusalem, then rain wont fall on them. The plague the LORD uses to strike the nations will affect those who wont come to celebrate the Festival of Booths.

¹⁹This will be the punishment for Egypts sin and for the sin of all the nations that wont go to celebrate the Festival of Booths.

²⁰On that day "Holy to the LORD" will be written on the bells of the horses. And the cooking pots in the house of the LORD will be like the bowls in front of the altar.

²¹ Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be holy to the LORD of Armies. All who come to sacrifice will take some of them and cook in them. On that day there will no longer be any Canaanite in the house of the LORD of Armies.

Malachi

1 ¹ This is a divine revelation. The LORD spoke his word to Israel through Malachi.

² "I loved you," says the LORD. "But you ask, How did you love us? "Wasnt Esau Jacobs brother?" declares the LORD. "I loved Jacob,

³ but Esau I hated. I turned his mountains into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the jackals in the desert.

⁴ "The descendants of Esau may say, We have been beaten down, but we will rebuild the ruins. "Yet, this is what the LORD of Armies says: They may rebuild, but I will tear it down. They will be called the Wicked Land and the people with whom the LORD is always angry.

⁵ You will see these things with your own eyes and say, Even outside the borders of Israel the LORD is great.

⁶ "This is what the LORD of Armies says: A son honors his father, and a servant honors his master. So if I am a father, where is my honor? If I am a master,

where is my respect? You priests despise my name. "But you ask, How have we despised your name?

⁷ "You offer contaminated food on my altar. "But you ask, Then how have we contaminated you? "When you say that the LORDS table may be despised.

⁸ When you bring a blind animal to sacrifice, isnt that wrong? When you bring a lame or a sick animal, isnt that wrong? Try offering it to your governor. Would he accept it from you? Would he welcome you?" asks the LORD of Armies.

⁹ "Now try asking God to be kind to you. This is what you are doing! Will he welcome you?" asks the LORD of Armies.

¹⁰ "I wish one of you would shut the doors to my house so that you could not light fires on my altar for no reason. Im not pleased with you," says the LORD of Armies, "and I wont accept your offerings.

¹¹ "From the nations where the sun rises to the nations where the sun sets, my name will be great. Incense and pure offerings will be offered everywhere in my name, because my name will

be great among the nations," says the LORD of Armies.

¹²"But you dishonor it when you say that the Lords table may be contaminated and that its food may be despised.

¹³"You say, Oh what a nuisance it is, and you sniff at it in disgust," says the LORD of Armies. "You bring stolen, lame, and sick animals. When you bring such offerings, should I accept them from you?" asks the LORD.

¹⁴"Cheaters are under a curse. They have male animals in their flocks that they vow to give as a sacrifice. But they sacrifice secondrate ones to the Lord instead. I am a great king," says the LORD of Armies. "Among the nations my name is respected.

2¹"And now, you priests, this warning is for you.

²If you wont listen and if you wont consider giving honor to my name," says the LORD of Armies, "then Ill send a curse on you, and Ill curse the blessings you give. Yes, Ive already cursed them because you dont carefully consider this.

³"I'm going to punish your descendants. I'm going to spread excrement on your faces, the excrement from your festival sacrifices. You will be discarded with it.

⁴Then you will know that I sent you this warning so that my promise to Levi will continue," says the LORD of Armies.

⁵"I promised Levi life and peace. I gave them to him so that he would respect me. He respected me and stood in awe of my name.

⁶The teaching that came from his mouth was true. Nothing unjust was found on his lips. He lived with me in peace and honesty and turned many people away from sin.

⁷"A priest's lips should preserve knowledge. Then, because he is the messenger for the LORD of Armies, people will seek instruction from his mouth.

⁸"But you have turned from the correct path and caused many to stumble over my teachings. You have corrupted the promise made to Levi," says the LORD of Armies.

⁹"So I have made you disgusting, and I have humiliated you in front of all the

people, because you have not followed my ways. You have been unfair when applying my teachings."

¹⁰ Dont all of us have the same father? Hasnt the same God created us? Why are we unfaithful to each other? And why do we dishonor the promise given to our ancestors?

¹¹ Judah has been unfaithful! A disgusting thing has been done in Israel and Jerusalem. Judah has dishonored the holy place that the LORD loves and has married a woman who worships a foreign god.

¹² May the LORD exclude anyone who does this, whoever he may be. May he exclude them from Jacobs tents and from bringing offerings to the LORD of Armies.

¹³ Here is another thing you do: You cover the LORDS altar with tears. You moan and groan because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them from you.

¹⁴ But you ask, "Why arent our offerings accepted?" It is because the LORD is a witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been

unfaithful. Yet, she is your companion, the wife of your marriage vows.

¹⁵ Didnt God make you one? Your flesh and spirit belong to him. And what does the same God look for but godly descendants? So be careful not to be unfaithful to the wife of your youth.

¹⁶ "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel. "I hate the person who covers himself with violence," says the LORD of Armies. "Be careful not to be unfaithful."

¹⁷ You have tried the patience of the LORD with your words. But you ask, "How have we tried his patience?" When you say, "Everyone who does evil is considered good by the LORD. He is pleased with them," or "Where is the God of justice?"

3¹ "Im going to send my messenger, and he will clear the way ahead of me. Then the Lord you are looking for will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the promise will come. He is the one you want," says the LORD of Armies.

² But who will be able to endure the day he comes? Who will be able to survive on

the day he appears? He is like a purifying fire and like a cleansing soap.

³He will act like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify Levis sons and refine them like gold and silver. Then they will bring acceptable offerings to the LORD.

⁴The offerings from Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the past, as in years long ago.

⁵"I will come to judge you. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers, lying witnesses, and those who cheat workers out of their wages and oppress widows and orphans. I will also testify against those who deprive foreigners of their rights. None of them fear me," says the LORD of Armies.

⁶"I, the LORD, never change. That is why you descendants of Jacob havent been destroyed yet.

⁷Since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my laws and have not followed them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of Armies. "But you ask, How can we return?

⁸"Can a person cheat God? Yet, you are cheating me! "But you ask, How are we cheating you? "When you dont bring a tenth of your income and other contributions.

⁹So a curse is on you because the whole nation is cheating me!

¹⁰"Bring onetenth of your income into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this way," says the LORD of Armies. "See if I wont open the windows of heaven for you and flood you with blessings.

¹¹Then, for your sake, I will stop insects from eating your crops. They will not destroy the produce of your land. The vines in your fields will not lose their unripened grapes," says the LORD of Armies.

¹²"All nations will call you blessed because you will be a delightful land," says the LORD of Armies.

¹³"You have used harsh words against me," says the LORD. "You ask, How have we spoken against you?

¹⁴"You have said, Its pointless to serve God. What do we gain if we meet his

standards or if we walk around feeling sorry for what we've done?

¹⁵ So now we call arrogant people blessed. Not only are evildoers encouraged, they even test God and get away with it."

¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD paid attention and listened. A book was written in his presence to be a reminder to those who feared the LORD and respected his name.

¹⁷ "They will be mine," says the LORD of Armies. "On that day I will make them my special possession. I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.

¹⁸ Then you will again see the difference between righteous people and wicked people, between the one who serves God and the one who doesn't serve him.

4¹ "Certainly the day is coming! It will burn like a furnace. All arrogant people and all evildoers will be like straw. The day that is coming will burn them up completely," says the LORD of Armies. "It won't leave a single root or branch.

²"The Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings for you people who fear my name. You will go out and leap like calves let out of a stall.

³You will trample on wicked people, because on the day I act they will be ashes under the soles of your feet," says the LORD of Armies.

⁴"Remember the teachings of my servant Moses, the rules and regulations that I gave to him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵"I'm going to send you the prophet Elijah before that very terrifying day of the LORD comes.

⁶He will change parents attitudes toward their children and childrens attitudes toward their parents. If not, I will come and reclaim my land by destroying you."

Matthew

1 ¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

² Abraham became the father of Isaac, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of Judah and his brothers,

³ and Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez became the father of Hezron, and Hezron became the father of Aram,

⁴ and Aram became the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon became the father of Salmon,

⁵ and Salmon became the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz became the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed became the father of Jesse,

⁶ and Jesse became the father of David the king. And David became the father of Solomon by the [wife] of Uriah,

⁷ and Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam became the

father of Abijah, and Abijah became the father of Asa,

⁸and Asa became the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat became the father of Joram, and Joram became the father of Uzziah,

⁹and Uzziah became the father of Jotham, and Jotham became the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz became the father of Hezekiah,

¹⁰and Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh became the father of Amon, and Amon became the father of Josiah,

¹¹and Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹²And after the deportation to Babylon, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel became the father of Zerubbabel,

¹³and Zerubbabel became the father of Abiud, and Abiud became the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim became the father of Azor,

¹⁴and Azor became the father of Zadok, and Zadok became the father of Achim, and Achim became the father of Eliud,

¹⁵and Eliud became the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar became the father of Matthan, and Matthan became the father of Jacob,

¹⁶and Jacob became the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary by whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

¹⁷Therefore all the generations from Abraham to David [are] fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon [are] fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ [are] fourteen generations.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ occurred in this way. His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, [but] before they came together, she was found _to be pregnant_ by the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹So Joseph her husband, being righteous and not wanting to disgrace her, intended to divorce her secretly.

²⁰But [as] he was considering these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary [as] your wife, for what has

been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹ And she will give birth to a son, and you will call his name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

²² Now all this happened in order that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled, saying,

²³ Behold, the virgin _will become pregnant_ and will give birth to a son, and they will call his name Emmanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

²⁴ And Joseph, [when he] woke up from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and he took his wife

²⁵ and _did not have sexual relations with_ her until she gave birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

2¹ Now [after] Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,

² saying, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star at its rising and have come to worship him."

³And [when] King Herod heard [it], he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him,

⁴and [after] calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired from them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet,

⁶And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you will go out a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men [and] determined precisely from them the time [when] the star appeared.

⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem [and] said, "Go, inquire carefully concerning the child, and when you have found [him], report to me so that I also may come [and] worship him.

⁹[After] they listened to the king, they went out, and behold, the star which they had seen at its rising led them until it came [and] stood above [the place] where the child was.

¹⁰Now [when they] saw the star, they rejoiced [with] very great joy.

¹¹And [when they] came into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down [and] worshiped him. And opening their treasure boxes, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their [own] country by another route.

¹³Now [after] they had gone away, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph, saying, "Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to seek the child to destroy him.

¹⁴So he got up [and] took the child and his mother during the night and went away to Egypt.

¹⁵And he was there until the death of Herod, in order that what was said by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled, saying, "Out of Egypt I called my son.

¹⁶Then Herod, [when he] saw that he had been deceived by the wise

men, became very angry, and he sent [soldiers] [and] executed all the children in Bethlehem and in all the region [around] it from [the age of] two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined precisely from the wise men.

¹⁷ Then what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled, saying,

¹⁸ A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping [for] her children, and she did not want to be comforted, because _they exist no longer_ ."

¹⁹ Now [after] Herod had died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

²⁰ saying, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the life of the child are dead.

²¹ So he got up [and] took the child and his mother and _entered_ the land of Israel.

²² But [when he] heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there,

and being warned in a dream, he took refuge in the regions of Galilee.

²³And he came [and] lived in a town called Nazareth, in order that what was said by the prophets would be fulfilled: "He will be called a Nazarene.

3¹ Now in those days John the Baptist came preaching in the Judean wilderness

²and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near!

³For this is the one who was spoken about by the prophet Isaiah, saying, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

⁴Now John himself had his clothing made from camels hair and a belt made of leather around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan were going out to him,

⁶and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River [as they] confessed their sins.

⁷But [when he] saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his

baptism, he said to them, "Offspring of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

⁸Therefore produce fruit worthy of repentance!

⁹And do not think to say to yourselves, We have Abraham [as] father. For I say to you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones!

¹⁰Already now the ax is positioned at the root of the trees; therefore every tree not producing good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who comes after me is more powerful than I [am], whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹²His winnowing shovel [is] in his hand, and he will clean out his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the storehouse, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John in order to be baptized by him.

¹⁴ But John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ But Jesus answered [and] said to him, "Permit [it] now, for in this way it is right for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted him.

¹⁶ Now [after he] was baptized, Jesus immediately went up from the water, and behold, the heavens opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him.

¹⁷ And behold, [there was] a voice from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

4¹ Then Jesus was led up into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil,

² and [after he] had fasted forty days and forty nights, then he was hungry.

³ And the tempter approached [and] said to him, "If you are the Son of God, order that these stones become bread.

⁴ But he answered [and] said, "It is written, Man will not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes out of the mouth of God."

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the highest point of the temple

⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down! For it is written, He will command his angels concerning you, and On [their] hands they will lift you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."

⁷Jesus said to him, "On the other hand it is written, You are not to put the Lord your God to the test."

⁸Again the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory,

⁹and he said to him, "I will give to you all these things, if you will fall down [and] worship me.

¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Go away, Satan, for it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and serve only him."

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and began ministering to him.

¹²Now [when he] heard that John _had been arrested_, he withdrew into Galilee.

¹³ And leaving Nazareth, he went [and] lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali,

¹⁴ in order that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah would be fulfilled, who said,

¹⁵ Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, _toward the sea_, on the other side of the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles

¹⁶ the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, and the ones who sit in the land and shadow of death, a light has dawned on them."

¹⁷ From that time [on], Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near.

¹⁸ Now [as he] was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew, throwing a casting net into the sea (for they were fishermen).

¹⁹ And he said to them, "_Follow me_" and I will make you fishers of people.

²⁰ And immediately they left their nets [and] followed him.

²¹ And going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the [son] of Zebedee and his brother John, in the

boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.

²²And immediately they left the boat and their father [and] followed him.

²³And he went around through all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.

²⁴And a report about him went out _throughout_ Syria, and they brought to him all those _who were sick_ with various diseases and afflicted by torments and demon-possessed and epileptics and paralytics, and he healed them.

²⁵And large crowds followed him from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from the other side of the Jordan.

5¹ Now [when he] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain and [after he] sat down, his disciples approached him.

²And opening his mouth he began to teach them, saying,

³Blessed [are] the poor in spirit, because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed [are] the ones who mourn, because they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed [are] the meek, because they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed [are] the ones who hunger and thirst [for] righteousness, because they will be satisfied.

⁷Blessed [are] the merciful, because they will be shown mercy.

⁸Blessed [are] the pure in heart, because they will see God.

⁹Blessed [are] the peacemakers, because they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰Blessed [are] those who are persecuted because of righteousness, because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute [you] and say all kinds of evil things against you, lying on account of me.

¹²Rejoice and be glad, because your reward [is] great in heaven, for in the [same] way they persecuted the prophets before you.

¹³"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, by what will it be made salty? It is good for nothing any longer except to be thrown outside [and] trampled under foot by people.

¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city located on top of a hill cannot be hidden,
¹⁵nor do they light a lamp and place it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it shines on all those in the house.

¹⁶In the [same] way let your light shine before people, so that they can see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets. I have not come to destroy [them] but to fulfill [them].

¹⁸For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one tiny letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all takes place.

¹⁹Therefore whoever abolishes one of the least of these commandments and teaches people to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever keeps [them] and teaches [them], this person will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

²⁰For I say to you that unless your righteousness greatly surpasses [that] of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter into the kingdom of heaven.

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to the _people of old_, Do not commit murder, and whoever commits murder will be subject to judgment.

²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry at his brother will be subject to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, Stupid fool! will be subject to the council, and whoever says, Obstinate fool! will be subject to fiery hell.

²³ Therefore if you present your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,

²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and first go be reconciled to your brother, and then come [and] present your gift.

²⁵ _Settle the case quickly with your accuser_ while you are with him on the way, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

²⁶ Truly I say to you, you will never come out of there until you have paid back the last penny!

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, Do not commit adultery.

²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman to lust for her has

already committed adultery with her in his heart.

²⁹ And if your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw [it] from you! For it is better for you that one of your members be destroyed than your whole body be thrown into hell.

³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw [it] from you! For it is better for you that one of your limbs be destroyed than your whole body go into hell.

³¹ "And it was said, Whoever divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.

³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for a matter of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³ "Again you have heard that it was said to the _people of old_, Do not swear falsely, but fulfill your oaths to the Lord.

³⁴ But I say to you, do not swear at all, either by heaven, because it is the throne of God,

³⁵ or by the earth, because it is the footstool of his feet, or by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great king.

³⁶ And do not swear by your head, because you are not able to make one hair white or black.

³⁷ But let your statement be Yes, yes; no, no, and anything beyond these is from the evil one.

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

³⁹ But I say to you, do not resist the evildoer, but whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

⁴⁰ And the one who wants to go to court with you and take your tunic, _let him have_ your outer garment also.

⁴¹ And whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.

⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and Hate your enemy.

⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

⁴⁵ in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven, because he

causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust.

⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not the tax collectors also do the same?

⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing that is remarkable? Do not the Gentiles also do the same?

⁴⁸Therefore you be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

6¹ "And take care not to practice your righteousness before people to be seen by them; _otherwise_ you have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²Therefore whenever you practice charitable giving, do not sound a trumpet in front of you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, in order that they may be praised by people. Truly I say to you, they have received their reward in full!

³But you, [when you] practice charitable giving, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

⁴in order that your charitable giving may be in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, because they love to stand [and] pray in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, in order that they may be seen by people. Truly I say to you, they have received their reward in full!

⁶But whenever you pray, enter into your inner room and shut your door [and] pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷But [when you] pray, do not babble repetitiously like the pagans, for they think that because of their many words they will be heard.

⁸Therefore do not be like them, for your Father knows _what you need_ before you ask him.

⁹Therefore you pray in this way: "Our Father who is in heaven, may your name be treated as holy.

¹⁰May your kingdom come, may your will be done on earth as [it is] in heaven.

¹¹Give us today our daily bread,

¹²and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

¹⁴For if you forgive people their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

¹⁵But if you do not forgive people, neither will your Father forgive your sins.

¹⁶"Whenever you fast, do not be sullen like the hypocrites, for they make their faces unrecognizable in order that they may be seen fasting by people. Truly I say to you, they have received their reward in full!

¹⁷But [when] you are fasting, _put olive oil on your head_ and wash your face

¹⁸so that you will not be seen by people as fasting, but to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and consuming [insect] destroy and where thieves break in and steal,

²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor

consuming [insect] destroy and where thieves do not break in or steal.

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² The eye is the lamp of the body. Therefore if your eye is sincere, your whole body will be full of light.

²³ But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be dark. Therefore if the light in you is darkness, how great [is] the darkness!

²⁴ No one is able to serve two masters. For either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You are not able to serve God and money.

²⁵ "For this [reason] I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, and not for your body, what you will wear. Is your life not more than food and your body [more than] clothing?

²⁶ Consider the birds of the sky, that they do not sow or reap or gather [produce] into barns, and your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth more than they [are]?

²⁷ And who among you, [by] being anxious, is able to add one hour to his life span?

²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe the lilies of the field, how they grow: they do not toil or spin,

²⁹ but I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory was dressed like one of these.

³⁰ But if God dresses the grass of the field in this way, [although it] is [here] today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not [do so] much more [for] you, you of little faith?

³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What will we eat? or What will we drink? or What will we wear?,

³² for the pagans seek after all these [things]. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these [things].

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these [things] will be added to you.

³⁴ Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow, because tomorrow will be anxious for itself. _Each day has enough trouble of its own._

7¹ "Do not judge, so that you will not be judged.

²For by what judgment you judge, you will be judged, and by what measure you measure out, it will be measured out to you.

³And why do you see the speck [that is] in your brothers eye, but do not notice the beam of wood in your [own] eye?

⁴Or how will you say to your brother, Allow [me] to remove the speck from your eye, and behold, the beam of wood [is] in your [own] eye?

⁵Hypocrite! First remove the beam of wood from your [own] eye and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brothers eye!

⁶Do not give what is holy to dogs, or throw your pearls in front of pigs, lest they trample them with their feet, and turn around [and] tear you to pieces.

⁷"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened for you.

⁸For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

⁹Or what man is [there] among you, [if] his son will ask him [for] bread, will give him a stone?

¹⁰Or also [if] he will ask for a fish, will give him a snake?

¹¹Therefore if you, [although you] are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him?

¹²Therefore [in] all [things], whatever you want that people should do to you, thus also you do to them. For this is the law and the prophets.

¹³"Enter through the narrow gate, because broad [is] the gate and spacious [is] the road that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.

¹⁴How narrow [is] the gate and constricted the road that leads to life, and there are few who find it!

¹⁵"Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheeps clothing, but inside are ravenous wolves.

¹⁶You will recognize them by their fruits: they do not gather grapes from

thorn bushes or figs from thistles, [do they]?

¹⁷In the [same] way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit.

¹⁸A good tree is not able to produce bad fruit, nor a bad tree to produce good fruit.

¹⁹Every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

²⁰As a result, you will recognize them by their fruits.

²¹"Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

²²On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many miracles in your name?

²³And then _I will say to them plainly_, I never knew you. Depart from me, you who practice lawlessness!

²⁴"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like

a wise man who built his house on the rock.

²⁵And the rain came down and the rivers came and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it did not collapse, because its foundation was laid on the rock.

²⁶And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

²⁷And the rain came down and the rivers came and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it collapsed, and its fall was great.

²⁸And it happened when Jesus finished these words the crowds were amazed at his teaching,

²⁹because he was teaching them like one who had authority, and not like their scribes.

8¹And [when] he came down from the mountain, large crowds followed him.

²And behold, a leper approached [and] worshiped him, saying, "Lord, if you are willing, you are able to make me clean.

³And extending his hand he touched him, saying, "I am willing, be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

⁴And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony to them.

⁵Now [when] he entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him, appealing to him

⁶and saying, "Lord, my slave is lying paralyzed in my house, terribly tormented!

⁷And he said to him, "I will come [and] heal him.

⁸And the centurion answered [and] said, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should come in under my roof. But only say the word and my slave will be healed.

⁹For I also am a man under authority who has soldiers under me, and I say to this one, Go! and he goes, and to another one, Come! and he comes, and to my slave, Do this! and he does [it] .

¹⁰Now [when] Jesus heard [this], he was astonished, and said to those who were following [him], "Truly I say to you,

I have found such great faith with no one in Israel.

¹¹ But I say to you that many will come from east and west and _be seated at the banquet_ with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

¹² But the sons of the kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!

¹³ And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go, as you have believed it will be done for you." And his slave was healed at that hour.

¹⁴ And [when] Jesus came into Peters house, he saw his mother-in-law lying down and suffering with a fever.

¹⁵ And he touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him.

¹⁶ Now [when it] was evening, they brought to him many who were demon-possessed, and he expelled the spirits with a word. And he healed all _those who were sick_,

¹⁷ in order that what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah would be fulfilled, who said, "He himself took away

our sicknesses, and carried away our diseases."

¹⁸Now [when] Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to depart to the other side.

¹⁹And a scribe approached [and] said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go!

²⁰And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky [have] nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.

²¹And another of his disciples said to him, "Lord, allow me first to go and bury my father.

²²But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead!

²³And [as] he got into the boat, his disciples followed him.

²⁴And behold, a great storm arose on the sea, so that the boat was being inundated by the waves, but he himself was asleep.

²⁵And they came [and] woke him, saying, "Lord, save [us]! We are perishing!

²⁶And he said to them, "Why are you fearful, [you] of little faith?" Then he got up [and] rebuked the winds and the sea and there was a great calm.

²⁷And the men were astonished, saying, "What sort of [man] is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"

²⁸And [when] he came to the other side, to the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from among the tombs met him, very violent, so that no one was able to pass by along that road.

²⁹And behold, they cried out, saying, "_What do you have to do with us_, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?"

³⁰Now a long way from them a large herd of pigs was feeding.

³¹So the demons implored him, saying, "If you are going to expel us, send us into the herd of pigs.

³²And he said to them, "Go!" So they departed [and] went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed headlong down the steep slope into the sea and drowned in the water.

³³ Now the herdsmen fled and went into the town [and] reported everything, including the things concerning the demon-possessed men.

³⁴ And behold, the whole town came out to meet Jesus, and [when they] saw him, they implored [him] that he would depart from their region.

9¹ And getting into a boat, he crossed over and came to his own town.

² And behold, they brought to him a paralytic lying on a stretcher, and [when] Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Have courage, child, your sins are forgiven.

³ And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming!

⁴ And perceiving their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?

⁵ For which is easier to say, Your sins are forgiven, or to say, Get up and walk?

⁶ But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your stretcher and go to your home.

⁷ And he got up [and] went to his home.

⁸But [when] the crowds saw [this], they were afraid and glorified God who had given such authority to men.

⁹And [as] Jesus was going away from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth and said to him, "Follow me!" And he stood up [and] followed him.

¹⁰And it happened [as] he _was dining_ in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners were coming [and] _dining_ with Jesus and his disciples.

¹¹And [when they] saw [it], the Pharisees began to say to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹²And [when he] heard [it], he said, "Those who are healthy do not have need of a physician, but those _who are sick_.

¹³But go [and] learn what it means, "I want mercy and not sacrifice." For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

¹⁴Then the disciples of John approached him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?"

¹⁵And Jesus said to them, "_The bridegrooms attendants_ are not able to mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them. But days are coming when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.

¹⁶But no one puts a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for its patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear becomes worse.

¹⁷Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins. _Otherwise_ the wineskins burst and the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are destroyed. But they put new wine into new wineskins and both are preserved.

¹⁸[As] he was saying these [things] to them, behold, one of the rulers came [and] knelt down before him, saying, "My daughter has just now died, but come, place your hand on her and she will live!

¹⁹And Jesus and his disciples got up [and] followed him.

²⁰And behold, a woman who had been suffering with a hemorrhage twelve years approached from behind [and] touched the edge of his cloak,

²¹ for she said to herself, "If only I touch his cloak I will be healed.

²² But Jesus, turning around and seeing her, said, "Have courage, daughter! Your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that hour.

²³ And [when] Jesus came into the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the disorderly crowd,

²⁴ he said, "Go away, because the girl is not dead, but is sleeping." And they ridiculed him.

²⁵ But when the crowd had been sent out, he entered [and] took her hand, and the girl got up.

²⁶ And this report went out into that whole region.

²⁷ And [as] Jesus was going away from there, two blind men followed him, crying out and saying, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!

²⁸ And [when he] came into the house, the blind men approached him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord.

²⁹Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be done for you.

³⁰And their eyes were opened, and Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See [that] no one finds out.

³¹But they went out [and] spread the report about him in that whole region.

³²Now [as] they were going away, behold, they brought to him a demon-possessed man [who was] unable to speak.

³³And [after] the demon had been expelled, the one who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were astonished, saying, "_This has never been seen before_ in Israel!

³⁴But the Pharisees were saying, "By the ruler of demons he expels the demons!

³⁵And Jesus was going around all the towns and the villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and every sickness.

³⁶And [when he] saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they

were weary and dejected, like sheep that did not have a shepherd.

³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest [is] plentiful, but the workers [are] few.

³⁸ Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest that he send out workers into his harvest.

10¹ And summoning his twelve disciples, he gave them authority over unclean spirits, so that they could expel [them] and could heal every disease and every sickness.

² Now these are the names of the twelve apostles: first Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James the [son] of Zebedee, and John his brother,

³ Philip, and Bartholomew, Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector, James the [son] of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus,

⁴ Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot the one who also betrayed him.

⁵ Jesus sent out these twelve, instructing them saying, "Do not go on the road to the Gentiles, and do not enter into a city of the Samaritans,

⁶ but go instead to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

⁷And [as you] are going, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven has come near!

⁸Heal those who are sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, expel demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

⁹Do not procure gold or silver or copper for your belts.

¹⁰Do not [take] a travelers bag for the road, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for the worker [is] deserving of his provisions.

¹¹And into whatever town or village you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay [there] until you depart.

¹²And [when you] enter into the house, greet it.

¹³And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

¹⁴And whoever does not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet [as you] are going out of that house or [that] town.

¹⁵Truly I say to you, it will be more bearable for the region of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town!

¹⁶"Behold, I am sending you out like sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

¹⁷But beware of people, because they will hand you over to councils, and they will flog you in their synagogues.

¹⁸And you will be brought before both governors and kings because of me, for a witness to them and to the Gentiles.

¹⁹But whenever they hand you over, do not be anxious how [to speak] or what you should say, for what you should say will be given to you at that hour.

²⁰For you are not the ones who are speaking, but the Spirit of your Father [who is] speaking through you.

²¹And brother will hand over brother to death, and a father [his] children, and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death,

²²and you will be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one who endures to the end this one will be saved.

²³And whenever they persecute you in this town, flee to another, for truly I say to you, you will never finish [going

through] the towns of Israel until the Son of Man comes.

²⁴A disciple is not superior to his teacher, nor a slave superior to his master.

²⁵[It is] enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household?

²⁶"Therefore do not be afraid of them, because nothing is hidden that will not be revealed, and nothing secret that will not become known.

²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear in your ear, proclaim on the housetops.

²⁸And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul, but instead be afraid of the one who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And one of them will not fall to the ground _without the knowledge and consent_ of your Father.

³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all numbered!

³¹ Therefore do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

³² Therefore everyone who acknowledges me before people, I also will acknowledge him before my Father [who is] in heaven.

³³ But whoever denies me before people, I also will deny him before my Father [who is] in heaven.

³⁴ "Do not think that I have come to bring peace on the earth! I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to turn a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

³⁶ And the enemies of a man [will be] the members of his household.

³⁷ The one who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and the one who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

³⁸ And whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

³⁹ The one who finds his life will lose it, and the one who loses his life because of me will find it.

⁴⁰ "The one who receives you receives me, and the one who receives me receives the one who sent me.

⁴¹ The one who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophets reward, and the one who receives a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive a righteous persons reward.

⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water to drink in the name of a disciple, truly I say to you, he will never lose his reward.

11 ¹ And it happened that when Jesus had finished giving orders to his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and to preach in their towns.

² Now [when] John heard in prison the deeds of Christ, he sent [word] by his disciples

³ [and] said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

⁴ And Jesus answered [and] said to them, "Go [and] tell John what you hear and see:

⁵ the blind receive sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised, and the poor have good news announced to [them].

⁶ And whoever is not offended by me is blessed.

⁷ Now [as] these were going away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

⁸ But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in the houses of kings.

⁹ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and even more than a prophet!

¹⁰ It is this man about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.

¹¹ Truly I say to you, among [those] born of women there has not arisen

[one] greater than John the Baptist. But the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

¹²But from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven is treated violently, and the violent claim it.

¹³For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John,

¹⁴and if you are willing to accept [it], he is Elijah, the one who is going to come.

¹⁵The one who has ears, let him hear!

¹⁶But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces who call out to one another,

¹⁷saying, We played the flute for you and you did not dance; we sang a lament and you did not mourn.

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He has a demon!

¹⁹The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold, a man [who is] a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners! But wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

²⁰Then he began to reproach the towns in which the majority of his miracles had been done, because they did not repent:

²¹Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

²²Nevertheless I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and for Sidon on the day of judgment than for you!

²³And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades! For if the miracles done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until today.

²⁴Nevertheless I tell you that it will be more bearable for the region of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you!

²⁵At that time Jesus answered [and] said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these [things] from the wise and intelligent, and have revealed them to young children.

²⁶Yes, Father, for [to do] so _was your gracious will_.

²⁷ All [things] have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and _anyone to whom_ the Son wants to reveal [him].

²⁸ Come to me, all [of you] who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ Take my yoke on you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

³⁰ For my yoke [is] easy to carry and my burden is light.

12¹ At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath. And his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck off heads of grain and eat [them].

² But [when] the Pharisees saw [it], they said to him, "Behold, your disciples are doing what it is not permitted to do on the Sabbath!

³ So he said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those with him,

⁴ how he entered into the house of God and ate the bread of the presentation, which it was not permitted for him or for

those with him to eat, but only for the priests?

⁵Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple violate the sanctity of the Sabbath and are guiltless?

⁶But I tell you that [something] greater than the temple is here!

⁷And if you had known what _it means_, I want mercy and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the guiltless.

⁸For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.

⁹And going on from there he came into their synagogue.

¹⁰And behold, [there was] a man who had a withered hand, and they asked him, saying, "Is it permitted to heal on the Sabbath?" in order that they could accuse him.

¹¹But he said to them, "What man will there be among you who will have one sheep and if this one fell into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift [it] out?

¹²Then to what degree [is] a man worth more than a sheep? So then, it is permitted to do good on the Sabbath.

¹³Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand," and he stretched [it] out, and it was restored [as] healthy as the other [one].

¹⁴But the Pharisees went out _and plotted_ against him in order that they could destroy him.

¹⁵Now Jesus, [when he] learned of [it], withdrew from there, and many crowds followed him, and he healed them all.

¹⁶And he warned them that they should not _reveal his identity_,

¹⁷in order that what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah would be fulfilled, who said,

¹⁸Behold my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved in whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

¹⁹He will not quarrel or cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets.

²⁰A crushed reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not extinguish, until he brings justice to victory.

²¹ And in his name the Gentiles will hope.

²² Then a demon-possessed man [who was] blind and mute was brought to him. And he healed him so that the [man who was] mute could speak and see.

²³ And all the crowds were amazed and began saying, "Perhaps this one is the Son of David!

²⁴ But the Pharisees, [when they] heard [it], said, "This man does not expel demons except by Beelzebul the ruler of demons!

²⁵ But knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.

²⁶ And if Satan expels Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

²⁷ And if I expel demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons expel [them]? For this [reason] they will be your judges!

²⁸ But if I expel demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you!

²⁹ Or how can someone enter into the house of a strong [man] and steal his property, unless he first ties up the strong [man]? And then he can thoroughly plunder his house.

³⁰ The one who is not with me is against me, and the one who does not gather with me scatters.

³¹ For this [reason] I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven!

³² And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him either in this age or in the coming one!

³³ "Either make the tree good and its fruit [is] good, or make the tree bad and its fruit [is] bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.

³⁴ Offspring of vipers! How are you able to say good things [when you] are evil? For from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

³⁵ The good person from his good treasury brings out good [things], and

the evil person from his evil treasury brings out evil [things].

³⁶ But I tell you that every worthless word that they speak, people will give an account for it on the day of judgment!

³⁷ For by your words you will be vindicated, and by your words you will be condemned.

³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you!

³⁹ But he answered [and] said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation desires a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah!

⁴⁰ For just as Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.

⁴¹ The people of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and behold, [something] greater than Jonah [is] here!

⁴² The queen of the south will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, [something] greater than Solomon [is] here!

⁴³ "Now whenever an unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it travels through waterless places searching for rest, and does not find [it].

⁴⁴ Then it says, I will return to my house from which I came out. And [when it] arrives it finds [the house] unoccupied and swept and put in order.

⁴⁵ Then it goes and brings along with itself seven other spirits more evil than itself, and [they] go in [and] live there. And the last [state] of that person becomes worse than the first. So it will be for this evil generation also!

⁴⁶ [While] he was still speaking to the crowds, behold, his mother and brothers were standing there outside, desiring to speak to him.

⁴⁷ And someone told him, "Behold, your mother and your brothers are standing there outside desiring to speak to you.

⁴⁸But he answered [and] said to the one who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?"

⁴⁹And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Behold my mother and my brothers!"

⁵⁰For whoever does the will of my Father [who is] in heaven, he is my brother and sister and mother.

13¹ On that day Jesus went out of the house [and] was sitting by the sea.

²And large crowds gathered close around him, so that he got into a boat to sit down, and all the crowd was standing on the shore.

³And he spoke many [things] to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow,

⁴and while he was sowing, _some seed_ fell on the side of the path, and the birds came [and] devoured it.

⁵And other [seed] fell on the rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up at once because it did not have [any] depth of soil.

⁶But [when] the sun rose it was scorched, and because it did not have [enough] root, it withered.

⁷And other [seed] fell among the thorn plants, and the thorn plants came up and choked it.

⁸But other [seed] fell on the good soil and produced grain, this one a hundred [times as much] and this one sixty and this one thirty.

⁹The one who has ears, let him hear!

¹⁰And the disciples came up [and] said to him, " _Why_ do you speak to them in parables?

¹¹And he answered [and] said to them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to those [people] it has not been granted.

¹²For whoever has, to him [more] will be given, and he will have an abundance. But whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

¹³For this [reason] I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand,

¹⁴and with reference to them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says, "You will listen carefully and will never understand, and you will look closely and will never perceive.

¹⁵For the heart of this people has become dull, and with their ears they hear with difficulty, and they have shut their eyes, so that they would not see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them."

¹⁶But your eyes [are] blessed because they see, and your ears because they hear.

¹⁷For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous [people] longed to see what you see, and did not see [it], and to hear what you hear, and did not hear [it]!

¹⁸"You, therefore, listen to the parable of the sower:

¹⁹[When] anyone hears the word about the kingdom and does not understand [it], the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is what was sown on the side of the path.

²⁰ And what was sown on the rocky ground this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy.

²¹ But he does not have a root in himself, but _lasts only a little while_, and [when] affliction or persecution happens because of the word, immediately he falls away.

²² And what was sown into the thorn plants this is the one who hears the word, and the anxiety of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word and it becomes unproductive.

²³ But what was sown on the good soil this is the one who hears the word and understands [it], who indeed bears fruit and produces, this one a hundred [times as much], and this one sixty, and this one thirty.

²⁴ He put before them another parable, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.

²⁵ But while his people were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed dandel in the midst of the wheat and went away.

²⁶ So when the _wheat_ sprouted and yielded grain, then the darnel appeared also.

²⁷ So the slaves of the master of the house came [and] said to him, Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have darnel?

²⁸ And he said to them, An enemy has done this! So the slaves said to him, Then do you want us to go [and] gather them?

²⁹ But he said, "No, lest [when you] gather the darnel you uproot the wheat together with it.

³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the season of the harvest I will tell the reapers, "First gather the darnel and tie it into bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my storehouse."

³¹ He put before them another parable, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man took [and] sowed in his field.

³² _It_ is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it is grown it is larger than the garden herbs and becomes a tree, so

that the birds of the sky come and nest in its branches.

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took [and] put into three measures of wheat flour until the whole [batch] was leavened.

³⁴Jesus spoke all these [things] to the crowds in parables, and he was saying nothing to them without a parable,

³⁵in order that what was spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled, who said, "I will open my mouth in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world."

³⁶Then he left the crowds [and] came into the house, and his disciples came to him saying, "Explain the parable of the darnel in the field to us.

³⁷So he answered [and] said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man,

³⁸and the field is the world. And the good seedthese are the sons of the kingdom, but the darnel are the sons of the evil one.

³⁹ And the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

⁴⁰ Thus just as the darnel is gathered and burned up with fire, so it will be at the end of the age.

⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all the causes of sin and those who do lawless deeds,

⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!

⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. The one who has ears, let him hear!

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, that a man found [and] concealed, and in his joy he goes and sells everything that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls.

⁴⁶ And [when he] found one very valuable pearl, he went [and] sold everything that he possessed and purchased it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was thrown into the sea and gathered [fish] of every kind,

⁴⁸ which when it was filled they pulled to shore and sat down [and] collected the good [fish] into containers, but the bad they threw out.

⁴⁹ Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the evil from among the righteous

⁵⁰ and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!

⁵¹ Have you understood all these [things]?" They said to him, "Yes.

⁵² And he said to them, "For this [reason] every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of the house who brings out of his storeroom new [things] and old [things].

⁵³ And it happened that when Jesus had finished these parables he went away from there.

⁵⁴ And he came to his hometown [and] began to teach them in their synagogue, so that they were amazed and said,

"From where did this man [get] this wisdom and these miracles?

⁵⁵Is not this one the son of the carpenter? Is not his mother called Mary and his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?

⁵⁶And are not all his sisters with us? From where then did this man [get] all these [things]?

⁵⁷And they were offended by him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his [own] hometown and in his [own] household.

⁵⁸And he did not perform many miracles in that place because of their unbelief.

14¹ At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus

²and he said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist! He has been raised from the dead, and for this [reason] miraculous powers are at work in him.

³For Herod, [after] arresting John, bound him and put [him] in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip,

⁴because John had been saying to him, "It is not permitted for you to have her.

⁵And [although he] wanted to kill him, he feared the crowd, because they looked upon him as a prophet.

⁶But [when] Herods birthday celebration took place, the daughter of Herodias danced in the midst [of them] and pleased Herod.

⁷Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked.

⁸And coached by her mother, she said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter!

⁹And [although] the king was distressed, because of his oaths and his _dinner guests_ he commanded [the request] to be granted.

¹⁰And he sent [orders] [and] had John beheaded in the prison,

¹¹and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought [it] to her mother.

¹²And his disciples came [and] took away the corpse and buried it, and went [and] told Jesus.

¹³Now [when] Jesus heard [it], he withdrew from there in a boat to an isolated place by himself. And [when]

the crowds heard [it], they followed him by land from the towns.

¹⁴And [as he] got out, he saw the large crowd and had compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵Now [when it] was evening, the disciples came to him saying, "The place is desolate and the hour _is late_. Release the crowds so that they can go away into the villages [and] purchase food for themselves.

¹⁶But Jesus said to them, "They do not _need_ to go away. You give them [something] to eat.

¹⁷And they said to him, "We do not have [anything] here except five loaves and two fish.

¹⁸So he said, "Bring them here to me.

¹⁹And he commanded the crowds to recline for a meal on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish [and] looking up to heaven, he gave thanks. And [after] breaking [them], he gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples [gave them] to the crowds.

²⁰And they all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.

²¹ Now those who ate were about five thousand men, in addition to women and children.

²² And immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he sent away the crowds.

²³ And [after he] sent away the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. So [when] evening came, he was there alone.

²⁴ But the boat was already many stadia distant from the land, being beaten by the waves, because the wind was against [it].

²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea.

²⁶ But the disciples, [when they] saw him walking on the sea, were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear.

²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Have courage, I am [he]! Do not be afraid!

²⁸ And Peter answered him [and] said, "Lord, if _it is you_, command me to come to you on the water!

²⁹ So he said, "Come!" And getting out of the boat, Peter walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

³⁰ But [when he] saw the strong wind, he was afraid. And beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!

³¹ And immediately Jesus extended his hand [and] caught him and said to him, "[You] of little faith! Why did you doubt?

³² And [when] they got into the boat, the wind abated.

³³ So those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God!

³⁴ And [after they] had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

³⁵ And [when] the men of that place recognized him, they sent [word] into that whole surrounding region, and they brought to him all those _who were sick_.

³⁶ And they were imploring him that they might only touch the edge of his cloak, and all those who touched [it] were cured.

15¹ Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem, saying,

² Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not

wash their hands when they eat _a meal_."

³So he answered [and] said to them, "Why do you also break the commandment of God because of your tradition?

⁴For God said, Honor your father and your mother, and The one who speaks evil of father or mother _must certainly die_ .

⁵But you say, Whoever says to his father or his mother, "Whatever _benefit you would have received_ from me [is] a gift [to God],

⁶need not honor his father, and you make void the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

⁷Hypocrites! Isaiah correctly prophesied about you saying,

⁸This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far, far away from me,

⁹and they worship me in vain, teaching [as] doctrines the commandments of men."

¹⁰And summoning the crowd, he said to them, "Hear and understand:

¹¹ It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth this defiles a person.

¹² Then the disciples came [and] said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended [when they] heard this saying?

¹³ And he answered [and] said, "Every plant that my heavenly Father did not plant will be uprooted.

¹⁴ Let them! They are blind guides of the blind. And if the blind guide the blind, both will fall into a pit.

¹⁵ But Peter answered [and] said to him, "Explain this parable to us.

¹⁶ But he said, "Are you also still without understanding?

¹⁷ Do you not understand that everything that enters into the mouth goes into the stomach and is evacuated into the latrine?

¹⁸ But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these defile the person.

¹⁹ For from the heart come evil plans, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, abusive speech.

²⁰These are the things that defile a person. But eating with unwashed hands does not defile a person!

²¹And departing from there, Jesus went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that district came [and] cried out, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter [is] severely possessed by a demon!

²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came up [and] asked him, saying, "Send her away, because she is crying out after us!

²⁴But he answered [and] said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

²⁵But she came [and] knelt down before him, saying, "Lord, help me!

²⁶And he answered [and] said, "It is not right to take the childrens bread and throw [it] to the dogs!

²⁷So she said, "Yes, Lord, for even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters table.

²⁸Then Jesus answered [and] said to her, "O woman, your faith [is] great! Let

it be done for you as you want." And her daughter was healed from that hour.

²⁹And departing from there, Jesus went along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up on the mountain [and] was sitting there.

³⁰And large crowds came to him, having with them [the] lame, blind, crippled, mute, and many others, and they put them down at his feet, and he healed them.

³¹So then the crowd was astonished [when they] saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, and the lame walking, and the blind seeing, and they praised the God of Israel.

³²And Jesus summoned his disciples [and] said, "I have compassion on the crowd, because they have remained with me three days already and do not have anything to eat, and I do not want to send them away hungry lest they give out on the way.

³³And the disciples said to him, "Where in [this] desolate place _can we get_ so much bread that such a great crowd could be satisfied?

³⁴ And Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" So they said, "Seven, and a few little fish.

³⁵ And commanding the crowd to recline for a meal on the ground,

³⁶ he took the seven loaves and the fish and [after he] had given thanks, he broke [them] and began giving [them] to the disciples, and the disciples [gave them] to the crowds.

³⁷ And they all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, seven baskets full.

³⁸ Now those who ate were four thousand men, in addition to women and children.

³⁹ And [after he] sent away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

16¹ And [when] the Pharisees and Sadducees came to test [him], they asked him to show them a sign from heaven.

² So he answered [and] said to them, "[When] evening comes you say, [It will be] fair weather because the sky is red,

³ and early in the morning, Today [it will be] stormy weather, because the sky is

red [and] darkening. You know how to evaluate correctly the appearance of the sky, but you are not able [to evaluate] the signs of the times.

⁴An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, and a sign will not be given to it except the sign of Jonah!" And he left them [and] went away.

⁵And [when] the disciples arrived at the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

⁶And Jesus said to them, "Watch out for and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees!

⁷So they were discussing [this] among themselves, saying, "[It is] because we did not take bread.

⁸But knowing [this], Jesus said, "Why are you discussing among yourselves that you do not have bread, [you] of little faith?

⁹Do you not yet understand or do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you took up?

¹⁰Or the seven loaves for the four thousand and how many baskets you took up?

¹¹ How do you not understand that I did not speak to you about bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees!

¹² Then they understood that he did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

¹³ Now [when] Jesus came to the region of Caesarea _Philippi_, he began asking his disciples, saying, "Who do people say [that] the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ And they said, _Some_ [say] John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.

¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say [that] I am?"

¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered [and] said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!"

¹⁷ And Jesus answered [and] said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal [this] to you, but my Father [who is] in heaven.

¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my

church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it!

¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you release on earth will be released in heaven.

²⁰Then he commanded the disciples that they should tell no one that he was the Christ.

²¹From that time [on] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many [things] from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised on the third day.

²²And Peter took him aside [and] began to rebuke him, saying, _God forbid_, Lord! This will never happen to you!

²³But he turned around [and] said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a cause for stumbling to me, because you are not intent on the things of God, but the things of people!

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

²⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life on account of me will find it.

²⁶For what will a person be benefited if he gains the whole world but forfeits his life? Or what will a person give in exchange for his life?

²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and at that time he will reward each one according to _what he has done_.

²⁸Truly I say to you, that there are some of those standing here who will never experience death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.

17¹ And after six days Jesus took along Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves.

²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothing became bright as the light.

³And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with him.

⁴So Peter answered [and] said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good [that] we are here! If you want, I will make here three

shelters, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.

⁵[While] he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him!

⁶And [when] the disciples heard [this], they fell down on their faces and were extremely frightened.

⁷And Jesus came and touched them [and] said, "Get up and do not be afraid.

⁸And [when they] lifted up their eyes they saw no one except him Jesus alone.

⁹And [as] they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them saying, "Tell no one the vision until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.

¹⁰And the disciples asked him, saying, "Then why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?

¹¹And he answered [and] said, "Elijah indeed is coming, and will restore all [things].

¹²But I say to you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did with him whatever they

wanted. In the [same] way also the Son of Man is going to suffer [at] their hands.

¹³Then the disciples understood that he had spoken to them about John the Baptist.

¹⁴And [when they] came to the crowd, a man approached him, kneeling down before him

¹⁵and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, because he has seizures and suffers severely, for often he falls into the fire and often into the water.

¹⁶And I brought him to your disciples, and they were not able to heal him.

¹⁷And Jesus answered [and] said, "O unbelieving and perverse generation! _How long_ will I be with you? _How long_ must I put up with you? Bring him here to me!

¹⁸And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him and the boy was healed from that hour.

¹⁹Then the disciples approached Jesus privately [and] said, _Why_ were we not able to expel it?

²⁰And he said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith like a mustard seed,

you will say to this mountain, Move from here [to] there, and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

²¹ EMPTY

²² Now [as] they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men,

²³ and they will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised." And they were extremely distressed.

²⁴ Now [when] they arrived in Capernaum, the ones who collected the double drachma [tax] came up to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the double drachma [tax]?"

²⁵ He said, "Yes." And [when he] came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect tolls or taxes from their own sons, or from foreigners?"

²⁶ And [when he] said, "From foreigners," Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free.

²⁷ But so that we do not give offense to them, go out to the sea, cast [a line with] a hook, and take the first fish

that comes up. And [when you] open its mouth, you will find a four-drachma coin. Take that [and] give [it] to them for me and you.

18¹ At that time the disciples came up to Jesus, saying, "Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

² And calling a child [to himself], he had him stand in their midst

³ and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you turn around and become like young children, you will never enter into the kingdom of heaven!

⁴ Therefore whoever humbles himself like this child, this person is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven,

⁵ and whoever welcomes one child such as this in my name welcomes me.

⁶ But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him that _a large millstone_ be hung around his neck and he be drowned in the depths of the sea.

⁷ Woe to the world because of causes for stumbling, for [it is] a necessity [that] causes for stumbling come; nevertheless, woe to the person through whom the cause for stumbling comes.

⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw [it] from you! It is better for you to enter into life crippled or lame than, having two hands or two feet, to be thrown into the eternal fire!

⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw [it] from you! It is better for you to enter into life one-eyed than, having two eyes, to be thrown into fiery hell!

¹⁰"See to it that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven constantly see the face of my Father [who is] in heaven.

¹¹EMPTY

¹²What do you think? If _a certain man has_ a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go [and] look for the one that wandered away?

¹³And if he happens to find it, truly I say to you that he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that did not wander away.

¹⁴In the [same] way it is not the will _of_ your Father [who is] in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

¹⁵"Now if your brother sins against you, go correct him between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

¹⁶But if he does not listen, take with you in addition one or two [others], so that by _the testimony_ of two or three witnesses every matter may be established.

¹⁷And if he refuses to listen to them, tell [it] to the church. But if he refuses to listen to the church also, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

¹⁸Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you release on earth will be released in heaven.

¹⁹Again, truly I say to you that if two of you agree on earth about any matter that they ask, it will be done for them from my Father [who is] in heaven.

²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in the midst of them.

²¹Then Peter came up [and] said to him, "Lord, how many times will my brother sin against me and I will forgive him? Up to seven times?

²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven!

²³ For this [reason] the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who wanted to settle accounts with his slaves.

²⁴ And [when] he began to settle [them], someone was brought to him who owed ten thousand talents.

²⁵ And [because] he did not have [enough] to repay [it], the master ordered him to be sold, and his wife and his children and everything that he had, and to be repaid.

²⁶ Then the slave threw himself to the ground [and] began to do obeisance to him, saying, Be patient with me, and I will pay back everything to you!

²⁷ So the master of that slave, [because he] had compassion, released him and forgave him the loan.

²⁸ But that slave went out [and] found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and taking hold of him, he began to choke [him], saying, Pay back everything that you owe!

²⁹ Then his fellow slave threw himself to the ground [and] began to implore him, saying, Be patient with me and I will repay you!

³⁰ But he did not want to, but rather he went [and] threw him into prison until he would repay what was owed.

³¹ So [when] his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were extremely distressed, and went [and] reported to their master everything that had happened.

³² Then his master summoned him [and] said to him, Wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you implored me!

³³ Should you not also have shown mercy to your fellow slave as I also showed mercy to you?

³⁴ And [because he] was angry, his master handed him over to the merciless jailers until he would repay everything that was owed.

³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from your hearts!

19¹ And it happened that when Jesus had finished these statements, he

went away from Galilee and came into the region of Judea on the other side of the Jordan.

²And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

³And Pharisees came up to him [in order to] test him, and asked if it was permitted for a man to divorce his wife for any cause.

⁴And he answered [and] said, "Have you not read that the one who created [them] from the beginning made them male and female

⁵and said, On account of this a man will leave his father and his mother and will be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?

⁶So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, man must not separate.

⁷They said to him, "Why then did Moses command [us] to give a documenta certificate of divorce and to divorce her?

⁸He said to them, "Moses, with reference to your hardness of heart, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not like this.

⁹Now I say to you that whoever divorces his wife, except on the basis of sexual immorality, and marries another commits adultery.

¹⁰His disciples said to him, "If this is the case of a man with his wife, it would be better not to marry!

¹¹But he said to them, "Not everyone can accept this saying but [those] to whom it has been given.

¹²For there are eunuchs who were born as such from [their] mothers womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by people, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves [eunuchs] for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who is able to accept [this], let him accept [it]."

¹³Then children were brought to him so that he could lay his hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them.

¹⁴But Jesus said, "Allow the children, and do not forbid them to come to me, _for to such belongs_ the kingdom of heaven.

¹⁵And he laid his hands on them [and] traveled on from there.

¹⁶And behold, someone came up to him [and] said, "Teacher, what good [thing] must I do so that I will have eternal life?"

¹⁷And he said to him, "Why are you asking me about [what is] good? There is one [who is] good. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments!"

¹⁸He said to him, "Which [ones]?" And Jesus said, "Do not commit murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony,

¹⁹honor your father and your mother, and love your neighbor as yourself.

²⁰The young man said to him, "All these I have observed. What do I still lack?"

²¹Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give [the proceeds] to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven and come, follow me.

²²But [when] the young man heard the statement, he went away sorrowful, because he was one who had many possessions.

²³And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I say to you that with difficulty a rich person will enter into the kingdom of heaven!"

²⁴ And again I say to you, it is easier [for] a camel to go through the eye of a needle than [for] a rich person to enter into the kingdom of God.

²⁵ So [when] the disciples heard [this], they were extremely amazed, saying, "Then who can be saved?"

²⁶ But Jesus looked at [them] [and] said to them, "With human beings this is impossible, but with God all [things] [are] possible.

²⁷ Then Peter answered [and] said to him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed you. What then will there be for us?"

²⁸ And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you that in the renewal [of the world], when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me you also will sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields on account of my name will receive a hundred times as much, and will inherit eternal life.

³⁰ But many [who are] first will be last, and the last first.

20¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man the master of the house who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard.

² And [after] coming to an agreement with the workers for a denarius per day, he sent them into his vineyard.

³ And going out about the third hour, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace.

⁴ And to those [people] he said, You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.

⁵ So they went. And going out again about the sixth and ninth hour he did the same [thing].

⁶ And about the eleventh [hour] he went out [and] found others standing [there] and said to them, Why are you standing here the whole day unemployed?

⁷ They said to him, Because no one hired us. He said to them, You go also into the vineyard.

⁸ And [when] evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning from the last up to the first.

⁹And [when] the ones [hired] about the eleventh hour came, they received a denarius apiece.

¹⁰And [when] the first came, they thought that they would receive more, and they also received a denarius apiece.

¹¹And [when they] received [it], they began to complain against the master of the house,

¹²saying, These last [people] worked one hour and you made them equal to us who have endured the burden of the day and the burning heat!

¹³But he answered one of them [and] said, Friend, I am not doing you wrong. Did you not come to an agreement with me for a denarius?

¹⁴Take [what is] yours and go! But I want to give to this last [person] [the same] as [I gave] to you also.

¹⁵Or is it not permitted for me to do whatever I want with [what is] mine? Or is your eye evil because I am generous?

¹⁶Thus the last will be first and the first last.

¹⁷And [as] Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples

by themselves and said to them on the way,

¹⁸Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death,

¹⁹and will hand him over to the Gentiles to mock [him] and flog [him] and crucify [him], and on the third day he will be raised.

²⁰Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, [and] kneeling down [she] asked something of him.

²¹And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine may sit one at your right hand and one at your left in your kingdom.

²²But Jesus answered [and] said, "You do not know what you are asking! Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able.

²³He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left this is not mine to grant,

but [is] for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.

²⁴And [when] the ten heard [this], they were indignant concerning the two brothers.

²⁵But Jesus called them to himself [and] said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions exercise authority over them.

²⁶It will not be like this among you! But whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

²⁷and whoever wants to be most prominent among you must be your slave

²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life [as] a ransom for many.

²⁹And [as] they were going out of Jericho, a large crowd followed him.

³⁰And behold, [there were] two blind men sitting beside the road. [When they] heard that Jesus was passing by, they called out, saying, "Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!

³¹And the crowd rebuked them so that they would be quiet. But they called out

all the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!

³²And Jesus stopped, called them, and said, "What do you want me to do for you?

³³They said to him, "Lord, that our eyes be opened!

³⁴And having compassion, Jesus touched their eyes, and immediately they received [their] sight and followed him.

21 ¹And when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples,

²saying to them, "Go into the village before you, and right away you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her. Untie [them] [and] bring [them] to me.

³And if anyone says anything to you, you will say, The Lord _needs them_, and he will send them at once.

⁴Now this took place so that what was spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled, saying,

⁵Say to the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and

mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a pack animal."

⁶So the disciples went and did just as Jesus directed them,

⁷[and] brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

⁸And a very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading [them] on the road.

⁹And the crowds who went ahead of him and the ones who followed were shouting, saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed [is] the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest [heaven]!"

¹⁰And [when] he entered into Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?"

¹¹And the crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee!"

¹²And Jesus entered the temple [courts] and drove out all those who were selling and buying in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money

changers and the chairs of those who were selling doves.

¹³And he said to them, "It is written, My house will be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a cave of robbers!

¹⁴And the blind and the lame came up to him in the temple [courts] and he healed them.

¹⁵But [when] the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful [things] that he did, and the children shouting in the temple [courts] and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant.

¹⁶And they said to him, "Do you hear what these [children] are saying?" So Jesus said to them, "Yes, have you never read, Out of the mouths of children and nursing babies you have prepared for yourself praise?"

¹⁷And leaving them, he went outside of the city to Bethany and spent the night there.

¹⁸Now early in the morning, [as he] was returning to the city, he was hungry.

¹⁹And seeing a single fig tree by the road, he went to it and found nothing on it except leaves only. And he said to it, "May there be no more fruit from you

forever, and the fig tree withered at once.

²⁰And [when they] saw [it], the disciples were astonished, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?"

²¹And Jesus answered [and] said to them, "Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will do not only [what was done to] the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea," it will happen!

²²And whatever you ask in prayer, [if you] believe, you will receive.

²³And [after] he arrived at the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him [while he] was teaching, saying, "By what authority are you doing these [things]? And who gave you this authority?"

²⁴And Jesus answered [and] said to them, "I also will ask you one question. If you tell [the answer] to me, I also will tell you by what authority I am doing these [things]."

²⁵From where was the baptism of John from heaven or from men?" And they began to discuss [this] among

themselves, saying, "If we say From heaven, he will say to us, Why then did you not believe him?

²⁶ But if we say, From men, we are afraid of the crowd, because they all look upon John as a prophet.

²⁷ And they answered [and] said to Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these [things].

²⁸ "Now what do you think? A man had two sons. And [he] approached the first [and] said, Son, go work in the vineyard today.

²⁹ And he answered [and] said, I do not want to! But later [he] changed his mind [and] went.

³⁰ And [he] approached the other [and] said the same [thing]. So he answered [and] said, I [will], sir, and he did not go.

³¹ Which of the two did the will of [his] father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going ahead of you into the kingdom of God!

³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the

prostitutes did believe him. And [when] you saw [it], you did not even change your minds later [so as] to believe in him.

³³"Listen to another parable: There was a man a master of a house who planted a vineyard, and put a fence [around] it, and dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower, and leased it to tenant farmers, and went on a journey.

³⁴And when the season of fruit drew near, he sent his slaves to the tenant farmers to collect his fruit.

³⁵And the tenant farmers seized his slaves, [one of] whom they beat, and [one of] whom they killed, and [one of] whom they stoned.

³⁶Again, he sent other slaves, more than the first [ones], and they did the same [thing] to them.

³⁷So finally he sent his son to them, saying, They will respect my son.

³⁸But [when] the tenant farmers saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance!

³⁹ And they seized him [and] threw [him] out of the vineyard and killed [him].

⁴⁰ Now when the master of the vineyard arrives, what will he do to those tenant farmers?

⁴¹ They said to him, "He will destroy those evil [men] completely and lease the vineyard to other tenant farmers who will give him the fruits in their season.

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, this has become _the cornerstone_. This came about from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes?

⁴³ For this [reason], I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and will be given to a people who produce its fruits.

⁴⁴ And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and [the one] on whom it falls it will crush him!

⁴⁵ And [when] the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they knew that he was speaking about them,

⁴⁶ and [although they] wanted to arrest him, they were afraid of the crowds,

because they looked upon him as a prophet.

22¹ And continuing, Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying,

² The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who gave a wedding celebration for his son.

³ And he sent his slaves to summon those who had been invited to the wedding celebration, and they did not want to come.

⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, Tell those who have been invited, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fattened [cattle] have been slaughtered, and everything [is] ready. Come to the wedding celebration!"

⁵ But they paid no attention [and] went away; this one to his own field, that one to his business.

⁶ And the others, seizing his slaves, mistreated [them] and killed [them].

⁷ And the king was angry and sent his troops [and] destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸ Then he said to his slaves, The wedding celebration is ready, but those who had been invited were not worthy.

⁹Therefore, go out to the [places where] the roads exit the city and invite to the wedding celebration as many [people] as you find.

¹⁰And those slaves went out into the roads [and] gathered everyone whom they found, both evil and good, and the wedding celebration was filled _with dinner guests_.

¹¹But [when] the king came in to see the _dinner guests_, he saw a man there not dressed [in] wedding clothes.

¹²And he said to him, Friend, how did you come in here, not having wedding clothes? But _he could say nothing_.

¹³Then the king said to the servants, Tie him up _hand and foot_ [and] throw him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!

¹⁴For many are called but few [are] chosen.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went _and consulted_ so that they could entrap him with a statement.

¹⁶And they sent their disciples to him with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are truthful and teach the

way of God in truth, and _you do not care what anyone thinks_, _because you do not regard the opinion of people_.

¹⁷Therefore tell us what you think. Is it permitted to pay taxes to Caesar or not?

¹⁸But [because he] knew their maliciousness, Jesus said, "Hypocrites! Why are you testing me?"

¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax!" So they brought him a denarius.

²⁰And he said to them, "Whose image and inscription [is] this?"

²¹They said to him, "Caesars." Then he said to them, "Therefore give to Caesar the things of Caesar, and to God the things of God!"

²²And [when they] heard [this], they were astonished, and they left him [and] went away.

²³On that day Sadducees who say there is no resurrection came up to him and asked him,

²⁴saying, "Teacher, Moses said if someone dies without having children, his brother is to marry his wife and _father_ descendants for his brother.

²⁵Now there were seven brothers with us. And the first died [after] getting

married, and [because he] did not have descendants, he left his wife to his brother.

²⁶ So also the second and the third, up to the seventh.

²⁷ And last of all the woman died.

²⁸ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her [as wife]."

²⁹ But Jesus answered [and] said to them, "You are mistaken, [because] you do not know the scriptures or the power of God!

³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

³¹ Now concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, who said,

³² "I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob"? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living!

³³ And [when] the crowds heard [this], they were amazed at his teaching.

³⁴ Now [when] the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they assembled at the same [place].

³⁵ And one of them, a legal expert, put a question to [him] to test him:

³⁶ Teacher, which commandment [is] greatest in the law?

³⁷ And he said to him, " You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment.

³⁹ And the second [is] like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

⁴¹ Now [while] the Pharisees were assembled, Jesus asked them,

⁴² saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "Davids.

⁴³ He said to them, "How then does David, by the Spirit, call him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet" ?

⁴⁵ If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?

⁴⁶And no one was able to answer him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day [on] to ask him any more [questions].

23¹ Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples,

²saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on the seat of Moses.

³Therefore do and observe everything that they tell you, but do not do as _they do_, for they tell [others to do something] and do not do [it themselves].

⁴And they tie up burdens [that are] heavy and hard to bear, and put [them] on peoples shoulders, but [they] themselves are not willing with their finger to move them.

⁵And they do all their deeds in order to be seen by people, for they make their phylacteries broad and make their tassels long.

⁶And they love the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues

⁷and the greetings in the marketplaces and to be called Rabbi by people.

⁸But you are not to be called Rabbi, because one is your teacher, and you are all brothers,

⁹And do not call [anyone] your father on earth, for one is your heavenly Father.

¹⁰And do not be called teachers, because one is your teacher, the Christ.

¹¹And the greatest among you will be your servant.

¹²And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

¹³But woe to you, scribes and Phariseeshypocrites!because you shut the kingdom of heaven before people! For you do not enter, nor permit those wanting to go in to enter.

¹⁴EMPTY

¹⁵Woe to you, scribes and Phariseeshypocrites!because you travel around the sea and the dry [land] to make one convert, and when he becomes [one], you make him twice as much a son of hell [as] you [are]!

¹⁶Woe to you, blind guides, who say, Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing! But whoever swears by the gold of the temple is bound [by his oath].

¹⁷ Fools and blind [people]! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that makes the gold holy?

¹⁸ And, Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing! But whoever swears by the gift [that is] on it is bound [by his oath].

¹⁹ Blind [people]! For which [is] greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift holy?

²⁰ Therefore the one who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything [that is] on it.

²¹ And the one who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells [in] it.

²² And the one who swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by the one who sits on it.

²³ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees hypocrites! because you pay a tenth of mint and dill and cumin, and neglect the more important [matters] of the law justice and mercy and faithfulness! But it was necessary to do these [things] _while not neglecting those_.

²⁴ Blind guides who filter out a gnat and swallow a camel!

²⁵Woe to you, scribes and Phariseeshypocrites!because you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence!

²⁶Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside of it may become clean also.

²⁷Woe to you, scribes and Phariseeshypocrites!because you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and of everything unclean!

²⁸In the [same] way, on the outside you also appear righteous to people, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

²⁹Woe to you, scribes and Phariseeshypocrites!because you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous,

³⁰and you say, If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in the blood of the prophets!

³¹ Thus you testify against yourselves that you are descendants of those who murdered the prophets!

³² And you fill up the measure of your fathers!

³³ Serpents! Offspring of vipers! How will you escape from the condemnation to hell?

³⁴ For this [reason], behold, I am sending to you prophets and wise men and scribes. [Some] of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will flog in your synagogues and will pursue from town to town,

³⁵ so that upon you will come all the righteous blood shed on the earth from the blood of righteous Abel up to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

³⁶ Truly I say to you, all these [things] will come upon this generation!

³⁷ "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How many times I wanted to gather your children together _the way_ a hen gathers her young together under [her] wings, and you were not willing!

³⁸Behold, your house has been left to you desolate!

³⁹For I tell you, you will never see me from now [on] until you say, Blessed [is] the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

24¹ And [as] Jesus went out of the temple [courts] he was going along, and his disciples came up to point out to him the buildings of the temple.

² But he answered [and] said to them, "Do you not see all these [things]? Truly I say to you, not [one] stone will be left here on [another] stone that will not be thrown down!

³ And [as] he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came up to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these [things] happen, and what [will be] the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?

⁴ And Jesus answered [and] said to them, "Watch out that no one deceives you!

⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, I am the Christ, and they will deceive many.

⁶And you are going to hear about wars and rumors of wars. See to it that you are not alarmed, for this must happen, but the end is not yet.

⁷For nation will rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in [various] places.

⁸But all these [things] [are] the beginning of birth pains.

⁹"Then they will hand you over to persecution and will kill you, and you will be hated by all the nations because of my name.

¹⁰And then many will be led into sin and will betray one another and will hate one another,

¹¹and many false prophets will appear and will deceive many,

¹²and because lawlessness will increase, the love of many will grow cold.

¹³But the one who endures to the end this person will be saved.

¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

¹⁵"So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken about by the prophet Daniel standing in the holy place" (let the one who reads understand),

¹⁶then those in Judea must flee to the mountains!

¹⁷The one who is on his housetop must not come down to take things out of his house,

¹⁸and the one who is in the field must not turn back to pick up his cloak.

¹⁹And woe to those _who are pregnant_ and to those who are nursing [their babies] in those days!

²⁰But pray that your flight may not happen in winter or on a Sabbath.

²¹For at that time there will be great tribulation, such as has not happened from the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will happen.

²²And unless those days had been shortened, _no human being would be saved_. But for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened.

²³At that time if anyone should say to you, Behold, here [is] the Christ, or Here [he is], do not believe [him]!

²⁴ For false messiahs and false prophets will appear, and will produce great signs and wonders in order to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

²⁵ Behold, I have told you ahead of time!

²⁶ Therefore if they say to you, Behold, he is in the wilderness, do not go out, [or] Behold, he is in the inner rooms, do not believe [it]!

²⁷ For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so the coming of the Son of Man will be.

²⁸ Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

²⁹ "And immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken.

³⁰ And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man arriving on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather

his elect together from the four winds, from [one] end of heaven to the [other] end of it.

³²"Now learn the parable from the fig tree: Whenever its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer [is] near.

³³So also you, when you see all these [things], know that he is near, at the door.

³⁴Truly I say to you that this generation will never pass away until all these [things] take place!

³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁶"But concerning that day and hour no one knows not even the angels of heaven nor the Son except the Father alone.

³⁷For just as the days of Noah [were], so the coming of the Son of Man will be.

³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered into the ark.

³⁹And they did not know [anything] until the deluge came and swept [them] all away. So also the coming of the Son of Man will be.

⁴⁰Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one left.

⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.

⁴²Therefore be on the alert, because you do not know what day your Lord is coming!

⁴³But understand this: that if the master of the house had known what watch of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

⁴⁴For this [reason] you also must be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not think [he will come].

⁴⁵"Who then is the faithful and wise slave whom the master has put in charge of his household slaves to give them their food at the right time?

⁴⁶Blessed [is] that slave whom his master will find so doing [when he] comes back.

⁴⁷Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

⁴⁸But if that evil slave should say _to himself_, My master is staying away for a long time,

⁴⁹ and he begins to beat his fellow slaves and eats and drinks with drunkards,

⁵⁰ the master of that slave will come on a day that he does not expect and at an hour that he does not know,

⁵¹ and will cut him in two and assign his place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!

25 ¹ "Then the kingdom of heaven may be compared to ten virgins who took their lamps [and] went out to meet the bridegroom.

² Now five of them were foolish and five [were] wise.

³ For [when] the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take olive oil with them.

⁴ But the wise ones took olive oil in flasks with their lamps.

⁵ And [when] the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ But in the middle of the night there was a shout, Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!

⁷ Then all those virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.

⁸And the foolish ones said to the wise ones, Give us [some] of your olive oil, because our lamps are going out!

⁹But the wise ones answered saying, "Certainly there will never be enough for us and for you! Go instead to those who sell [olive oil] and buy [some] for yourselves.

¹⁰But [while] they had gone away to buy [it] the bridegroom arrived, and those who were ready went inside with him to the wedding celebration, and the door was shut.

¹¹And later the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, lord, open [the door] for us!

¹²But he answered [and] said, Truly I say to you, I do not know you!

¹³Therefore be on the alert, because you do not know the day or the hour!

¹⁴For [it is] like a man going on a journey. He summoned his own slaves and handed over his property to them.

¹⁵And to one he gave five talents, and to another two, and to another one, to each one according to his own ability, and he went on a journey immediately.

¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went out [and] traded with them and gained five more.

¹⁷In the same way the one [who had] the two gained two more.

¹⁸But the one who had received the one went away [and] dug up the ground and hid his masters money.

¹⁹Now after a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰And the one who had received the five talents came up [and] brought five more talents, saying, Master, you handed over to me five talents. See, I have gained five more talents!

²¹His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave! You were faithful over a few [things]; I will put you [in charge] over many [things]. Enter into the joy of your master!

²²And the one [who had] the two talents also came up [and] said, Master, you handed over to me two talents. See, I have gained two talents more!

²³His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave! You were faithful over a few [things]; I will put you [in

charge] over many [things]. Enter into the joy of your master!

²⁴And the one who had received the one talent came up also [and] said, Master, [because I] knew you, that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering from where you did not scatter [seed].

²⁵And [because I] was afraid, I went away [and] hid your talent in the ground. See, you have [what is] yours!

²⁶But his master answered [and] said to him, Evil and lazy slave! You knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather from where I did not scatter [seed].

²⁷Then you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and [when I] returned I would have gotten back [what was] mine with interest!

²⁸Therefore take the talent from him and give [it] to the one who has the ten talents.

²⁹For to everyone who has, [more] will be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

³⁰ And throw the worthless slave into the outer darkness in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!

³¹ Now when the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

³² And all the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate them from one another like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

³³ And he will place the sheep on his right and the goats on the left.

³⁴ Then the king will say to those on his right, Come, [you] who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world!

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me [something] to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me [something] to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me as a guest,

³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you cared for me, I was in prison and you came to me.

³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed [you], or thirsty and give [you something] to drink?

³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome [you] as a guest, or naked and clothe [you]?

³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and come to you?

⁴⁰ And the king will answer [and] say to them, Truly I say to you, in as much as you did [it] to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did [it] to me.

⁴¹ Then he will also say to those on [his] left, Depart from me, [you] accursed ones, into the eternal fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels!

⁴² For I was hungry and you did not give me [anything] to eat, I was thirsty and you did not give me [anything] to drink,

⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me as a guest, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not care for me.

⁴⁴ Then they will also answer, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and not serve you?

⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, saying, Truly I say to you, in as much as you did not do [it] to one of the least of these, you did not do [it] to me.

⁴⁶And these will depart into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

26¹ And it happened that when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples,

²You know that after two days the Passover takes place, and the Son of Man will be handed over in order to be crucified.

³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, who was named Caiaphas,

⁴and plotted in order that they could arrest Jesus by stealth and kill [him].

⁵But they were saying, "Not during the feast, so that there will not be an uproar among the people.

⁶Now [while] Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper,

⁷a woman came up to him holding an alabaster flask of very expensive perfumed oil, and poured [it] out on his head [while he] was reclining at table.

⁸And [when] the disciples saw [it] they were indignant, saying, "_Why_ this waste?

⁹For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor!

¹⁰But Jesus, knowing [this], said to them, "Why do you cause trouble for the woman? For she has done a good deed for me.

¹¹For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.

¹²For [when] this woman poured this ointment on my body, she did [it] in order to prepare me for burial.

¹³Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told in memory of her.

¹⁴Then one of the twelve, the one named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests

¹⁵[and] said, "What are you willing to give me if I in turn deliver him to you?" So they set out for him thirty silver coins.

¹⁶And from that time on, he began seeking a favorable opportunity in order that he could betray him.

¹⁷Now on the first [day] of the feast of Unleavened Bread the disciples came up to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?"

¹⁸And he said, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, The Teacher says, "My time is near. I am celebrating the Passover with you with my disciples."

¹⁹And the disciples did as Jesus directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

²⁰And [when it] was evening, he was reclining at table with the twelve.

²¹And [while] they were eating he said, "Truly I say to you, that one of you will betray me.

²²And greatly distressed, each one began to say to him, "_Surely I am not he, am I_, Lord?"

²³And he answered [and] said, "The one who dips his hand in the bowl with methis one will betray me.

²⁴The Son of Man is going just as it is written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for him if that man had not been born.

²⁵And Judas, the one who was betraying him, answered [and] said, "_Surely I am not he, am I_, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said [it]."

²⁶Now [while] they were eating Jesus took bread and, [after] giving thanks, he

broke [it], and giving [it] to the disciples, he said, "Take, eat, this is my body.

²⁷ And [after] taking the cup and giving thanks he gave [it] to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you,

²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

²⁹ But I tell you, from now [on] I will never drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in the kingdom of my Father.

³⁰ And [after they] had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me during this night, for it is written, I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.

³² But after I am raised, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.

³³ But Peter answered [and] said to him, "If they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away!

³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that during this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times!

³⁵ Peter said to him, "Even if it is necessary for me to die with you, I will never deny you!" And all the disciples said the same [thing].

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go over there [and] pray.

³⁷ And taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be distressed and troubled.

³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake with me.

³⁹ And going forward a little he fell down on his face, praying and saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not as I will, but as you [will]."

⁴⁰ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "So, were you not able to stay awake with me one hour?

⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you will not enter into temptation. The spirit [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak!

⁴² Again for the second time he went away [and] prayed, saying, "My Father,

if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will must be done.

⁴³ And he came again [and] found them sleeping, _for they could not keep their eyes open_.

⁴⁴ And leaving them again, he went away [and] prayed for the third [time], saying the same thing again.

⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

⁴⁶ Get up, let us go! Behold, the one who is betraying me is approaching!

⁴⁷ And [while] he was still speaking, behold, Judasone of the twelvearrived, and with him a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

⁴⁸ Now the one who was betraying him had given them a sign, saying, "[The one] whom I kisshe is [the one]. Arrest him!

⁴⁹ And he came up to Jesus immediately [and] said, "Greetings, Rabbi," and kissed him.

⁵⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Friend, [do that] for which you have come." Then they came up [and] laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

⁵¹ And behold, one of those with Jesus extended his hand [and] drew his sword, and striking the slave of the high priest, cut off his ear.

⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place! For all who take up the sword will die by the sword.

⁵³ Or do you think that I cannot call upon my Father, and he would put at my disposal at once more than twelve legions of angels?

⁵⁴ How then would the scriptures be fulfilled that it must happen in this way?

⁵⁵ At that time Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs, as against a robber, to arrest me? Every day in the temple [courts] I sat teaching, and you did not arrest me!

⁵⁶ But all this has happened in order that the scriptures of the prophets would be fulfilled." Then the disciples all abandoned him [and] fled.

⁵⁷ Now those who had arrested Jesus led [him] away to Caiaphas the high

priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered.

⁵⁸ But Peter was following him from a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest. And he went inside [and] was sitting with the officers to see the outcome.

⁵⁹ Now the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus in order that they could put him to death.

⁶⁰ And they did not find [it], [although] many false witnesses came forward. And finally two came forward

⁶¹ [and] said, "This man said, I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild [it] within three days.

⁶² And the high priest stood up [and] said to him, "Do you reply nothing? What are these [people] testifying against you?

⁶³ But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath by the living God, that you tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!

⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "You have said [it]. But I tell you, from now [on] you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand

of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his robes, saying, "He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have just now heard the blasphemy!

⁶⁶What do you think?" And they answered [and] said, "_He deserves death_!"

⁶⁷Then they spat in his face and struck him with their fists, and they slapped [him],

⁶⁸saying, "Prophecy for us, [you] Christ! Who is it who hit you?

⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a female slave came up to him [and] said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

⁷⁰But he denied [it] in the presence of [them] all, saying, "I do not know what you mean!

⁷¹And [when he] went out to the gateway, another [female slave] saw him and said to those [who were] there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.

⁷²And again he denied [it] with an oath, "I do not know the man!

⁷³And after a little [while] those who were standing there came up [and] said to Peter, "You really are [one] of them also, because even your accent _reveals who you are_."

⁷⁴Then he began to curse and to swear with an oath, "I do not know the man!" And immediately a rooster crowed.

⁷⁵And Peter remembered the statement Jesus had said, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times," and he went outside [and] wept bitterly.

27 ¹Now [when it] was early morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus in order to put him to death.

²And [after] tying him up, they led [him] away and handed [him] over to Pilate the governor.

³Then [when] Judas, the one who had betrayed him, saw that he had been condemned, he regretted [what he had done] [and] returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and elders,

⁴saying, "I have sinned [by] betraying innocent blood!" But they said, "What [is that] to us? You see to [it]!"

⁵ And throwing the silver coins into the temple he departed. And he went away [and] hanged himself.

⁶ But the chief priests took the silver coins [and] said, "It is not permitted to put them into the temple treasury, because it is _blood money_."

⁷ And [after] taking counsel, they purchased _with_ them the Potters Field, for a burial place for strangers.

⁸ (For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood until today.)

⁹ Then what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled, who said, "And they took the thirty silver coins, the price of the one who had been priced, [on] whom a price had been set by the sons of Israel,

¹⁰ and they gave them for the potters field, just as the Lord directed me."

¹¹ So Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, saying, "Are you the king of the Jews?" And Jesus said, "You say [so]."

¹² And _when he was being accused_ by the chief priests and elders he answered nothing.

¹³ Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many [things] they are testifying against you?"

¹⁴ And he did not reply to him, not even with reference to one statement, so that the governor was very astonished.

¹⁵ Now at each feast, the governor was accustomed to release one prisoner to the crowd the one whom they wanted.

¹⁶ And at that time they had a notorious prisoner named Jesus Barabbas.

¹⁷ So [after] they had assembled, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?"

¹⁸ (For he knew that they had handed him over because of envy.

¹⁹ And [while] he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent [a message] to him, saying, "_Have nothing to do with that righteous man_, for I have suffered much as a result of a dream today because of him.")

²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds that they should ask for Barabbas and put Jesus to death.

²¹ So the governor answered [and] said to them, "Which of the two do you want

me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas!

²² Pilate said to them, "What then should I do [with] Jesus, the one who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!

²³ And he said, "Why? What wrong has he done?" But they began to shout even louder, saying, "Let him be crucified!

²⁴ So Pilate, [when he] saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but instead an uproar was developing, took water [and] washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this man. You see to [it]!"

²⁵ And all the people answered [and] said, "His blood [be] on us and on our children!

²⁶ Then he released Barabbas for them, but [after] he had Jesus flogged, he handed [him] over so that he could be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governors residence [and] gathered the whole cohort to him.

²⁸ And they stripped him [and] put a scarlet military cloak around him,

²⁹and weaving a crown of thorns, they put [it] on his head, and [put] a reed in his right hand. And kneeling down before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!

³⁰And they spat on him [and] took the reed and repeatedly struck [him] on his head.

³¹And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the military cloak and put his [own] clothes on him, and led him away in order to crucify [him].

³²And [as they] were going out, they found a man of Cyrene _named_ Simon. They forced this man to carry his cross.

³³And [when they] came to a place called Golgotha (which _means Place of a Skull_),

³⁴they gave him wine mixed with gall to drink, and [when he] tasted [it] he did not want to drink [it].

³⁵And [when they] had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves [by] casting lots.

³⁶And they sat down [and] were watching over him there.

³⁷ And they put above his head the charge against him _in writing_: "This is Jesus, the king of the Jews.

³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on [his] right and one on [his] left.

³⁹ And those who passed by reviled him, shaking their heads

⁴⁰ and saying, "The one who would destroy the temple and rebuild [it] in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!

⁴¹ In the same way also the chief priests, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking [him], saying,

⁴² He saved others; he is not able to save himself! He is the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him!

⁴³ He trusts in God; let him deliver him now if he wants to, because he said, I am the Son of God!

⁴⁴ And in the same [way] even the robbers who were crucified with him were reviling him.

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour, darkness came over all the land until the ninth hour.

⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")

⁴⁷ And some of those who were standing there, [when they] heard [it], said, "This man is summoning Elijah!"

⁴⁸ And immediately one of them ran and took a sponge and filled [it] with sour wine and put [it] on a reed [and] gave [it] to him to drink.

⁴⁹ But the others said, "Leave [him] alone! let us see if Elijah is coming to save him.

⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice [and] gave up his spirit.

⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth shook and the rocks were split.

⁵² And the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised,

⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

⁵⁴ Now the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus, [when they] saw the earthquake and the things that

took place, were extremely frightened, saying, "Truly this man was Gods Son!

⁵⁵ And there were many women there, observing from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, serving him,

⁵⁶ among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷ Now [when it] was evening, a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph came, who also was a disciple of Jesus himself.

⁵⁸ This man approached Pilate [and] asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered [it] to be given [to him].

⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body [and] wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

⁶⁰ and placed it in his [own] new tomb that he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a large stone to the entrance of the tomb [and] went away.

⁶¹ Now Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶² Now [on] the next day, which is after the day of preparation, the chief priests

and the Pharisees assembled before Pilate,

⁶³saying, "Sir, we remember that [while] that deceiver was still alive he said, After three days I will rise.

⁶⁴Therefore give orders that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples come [and] steal him and tell the people, He has been raised from the dead, and the last deception will be worse than the first.

⁶⁵Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make [it] as secure as you know how.

⁶⁶So they went with the guard of soldiers [and] made the tomb secure [by] sealing the stone.

28¹ Now after the Sabbath, at the dawning on the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to view the tomb.

² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came up [and] rolled away the stone and sat down on it.

³ Now his appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow.

⁴ And the guards trembled from the fear of him and became like dead men.

⁵ But the angel answered [and] said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, just as he said. Come, see the place where he was lying.

⁷ And go quickly, tell his disciples, He has been raised from the dead, and behold, he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there. Behold, I have told you.

⁸ And they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, [and] ran to tell his disciples.

⁹ And behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Greetings!" And they came up [and] took hold of his feet and worshiped him.

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid! Go tell my brothers that they should go to Galilee, and there they will see me.

¹¹ And [while] they were going, behold, some of the guard of soldiers went into the city [and] reported to the chief priests everything that had happened.

¹²And [after they] had assembled with the elders and had taken counsel, they gave a rather large sum of money to the soldiers,

¹³telling [them], "Say His disciples came during the night [and] stole him [while] we were sleeping.

¹⁴And if this [matter] is heard before the governor, we will satisfy him and _keep you out of trouble_."

¹⁵So they took the money [and] did as they were told, and spread abroad this report among the Jews until this very day.

¹⁶So the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated for them.

¹⁷And [when they] saw him, they worshiped [him], but some doubted.

¹⁸And Jesus approached [and] spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹Therefore, go [and] make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

²⁰teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you, and behold, I

am with you all the days until the end of
the age.

Mark

1 ¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² Just as it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "Behold, I am sending my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way,

³ the voice of one shouting in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths!"

⁴ John was there baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵ And all the Judean region and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem went out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

⁶ And John was dressed in camels hair and a belt made of leather around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷ And he was preaching, saying, "One [who is] more powerful than I is coming after me, of whom I am not worthy to bend down [and] untie the strap of his sandals.

⁸I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

⁹And it happened that in those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John.

¹⁰And immediately [as he] was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens being split apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.

¹²And immediately the Spirit drove him out into the wilderness.

¹³And he was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

¹⁴Now after John _had been taken into custody_, Jesus went into Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God

¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the gospel!

¹⁶And [as he] was passing by along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, Simons brother, casting [a net] into the sea (for they were fishermen).

¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "_Follow_ me and I will make you become fishers of people.

¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets [and] followed him.

¹⁹ And going on a little [farther], he saw James the [son] of Zebedee and his brother John, and they [were] in the boat mending the nets.

²⁰ And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men [and] went away after him.

²¹ And they went into Capernaum and immediately on the Sabbath he went into the synagogue [and] began to teach.

²² And they were amazed at his teaching, because he was teaching them like one who had authority, and not like the scribes.

²³ And so then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit, and he cried out,

²⁴ saying, "_Leave us alone_, Jesus the Nazarene! Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are the Holy One of God!

²⁵ And Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!

²⁶And [after] convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, the unclean spirit came out of him.

²⁷And they were all amazed, so that [they began] to discuss with one another, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits and they obey him.

²⁸And the report about him then went out everywhere in the whole surrounding region of Galilee.

²⁹And so then he departed from the synagogue [and] came into the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John.

³⁰Now Simons mother-in-law was lying down, suffering with a fever, and at once they told him about her.

³¹And he came [and] raised her up [by] taking hold of her hand, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²Now [when it] was evening, when the sun had set, they began bringing to him all those _who were sick_ and those who were demon-possessed.

³³And the whole town was gathered together at the door.

³⁴And he healed many _who were sick_ with various diseases and expelled

many demons. And he did not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵ And getting up early in the morning [while it was] very dark, he departed and went to a deserted place, and there he was praying.

³⁶ And Simon and those [who were] with him searched diligently for him.

³⁷ And they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you!

³⁸ And he said to them, "Let us go elsewhere, into the neighboring rural towns, so that I can preach there also, because I have come out for this [very] reason.

³⁹ And he went into all Galilee preaching in their synagogues and expelling demons.

⁴⁰ And a leper came to him, entreating him and kneeling down and saying to him, "If you are willing, you are able to make me clean.

⁴¹ And having compassion, he stretched out his hand [and] touched [him] , and said to him, "I am willing; be made clean.

⁴²And immediately the leprosy went away from him and he was made clean.

⁴³And warning him sternly, he sent him away at once.

⁴⁴And he said to him, "See to it that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and bring for your cleansing [the things] which Moses commanded, for a testimony to them.

⁴⁵But he went out [and] began to proclaim [it] freely and to spread abroad the account, so that he was no longer able to enter publicly into a town. But he was staying outside in deserted places, and they were coming to him from all directions.

2¹And [when he] entered again into Capernaum after [some] days, it became known that he was at home.

²And many had gathered, so that [there was] no longer room, not even at the door, and he was speaking the word to them.

³And they came bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four [of them].

⁴And [when] they were not able to bring [him] to him because of the crowd, they removed the roof where

he was. And [after] digging through, they lowered the stretcher on which the paralytic was lying.

⁵And [when] Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven.

⁶Now some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,

⁷Why does this man speak like this? He is blaspheming! Who is able to forgive sins except God alone?

⁸And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they were reasoning like this within themselves, said to them, "Why are you considering these [things] in your hearts?

⁹Which is easier to say to the paralytic, Your sins are forgiven, or to say Get up and pick up your stretcher and walk?

¹⁰But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,"he said to the paralytic

¹¹I say to you, get up, pick up your stretcher, and go to your home.

¹²And he got up and immediately picked up his stretcher [and] went out in front of [them] all, so that they were all

amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen [anything] like this!

¹³And he went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he began to teach them.

¹⁴And [as he] was passing by, he saw Levi the [son] of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me!" And he stood up [and] followed him.

¹⁵And it happened that he _was dining_ in his house, and many tax collectors and sinners _were dining with_ Jesus and his disciples, for there were many and they were following him.

¹⁶And the scribes of the Pharisees, [when they] saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, began to say to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?

¹⁷And [when] Jesus heard [it] , he said to them, "Those who are healthy do not have need of a physician, but those _who are sick_. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

¹⁸And Johns disciples and the Pharisees were fasting, and they came and said to him, " _Why_ do the disciples of John

and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?

¹⁹And Jesus said to them, "The _bridegrooms attendants_ are not able to fast while the bridegroom is with them, [are they]? As long a time [as] they have the bridegroom with them, they are not able to fast.

²⁰But days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.

²¹No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. _Otherwise_ the patch pulls away from it the new from the old and the tear becomes worse.

²²And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. _Otherwise_ the wine will burst the wineskins and the wine is destroyed and the wineskins [too]. But new wine [is put] into new wineskins.

²³And it happened that he was going through the grain fields on the Sabbath, and his disciples began to make [their] way [while] plucking off the heads of grain.

²⁴And the Pharisees began to say to him, "Behold, why are they doing what is not permitted on the Sabbath?"

²⁵ And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he had need and he and those [who were] with him were hungry

²⁶ how he entered into the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest and ate the bread of the presentation, which it is not permitted to eat (except the priests) and also gave [it] to those who were with him?

²⁷ And he said to them, "The Sabbath was established for people, and not people for the Sabbath.

²⁸ So then, the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.

3¹ And he entered into the synagogue again, and a man who had a withered hand was there.

² And they were watching him closely [to see] if he would heal him on the Sabbath, in order that they could accuse him.

³ And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come into the middle.

⁴ And he said to them, "Is it permitted on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent.

⁵And looking around at them with anger, grieved at the hardness of their hearts, he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched [it] out, and his hand was restored.

⁶And the Pharisees went out immediately with the Herodians _and began to conspire_ against him with regard to how they could destroy him.

⁷And Jesus went away with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd from Galilee followed [him]. And from Judea

⁸and from Jerusalem and from Idumea and the other side of the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon a great crowd came to him [because they] heard all that he was doing.

⁹And he told his disciples that a small boat should stand ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not press upon him.

¹⁰For he had healed many, so that all those who _were suffering from diseases_ pressed about him in order that they could touch him.

¹¹And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw him, were falling down before

him and crying out, saying, "You are the Son of God!

¹²And he warned them strictly that they should not make him known.

¹³And he went up on the mountain and summoned [those] whom he wanted, and they came to him.

¹⁴And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, so that they would be with him and so that he could send them out to preach

¹⁵and to have authority to expel demons.

¹⁶And he appointed the twelve. And to Simon he gave the name Peter,

¹⁷and James the [son] of Zebedee and John the brother of James (and he gave to them the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder"),

¹⁸and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the [son] of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot,

¹⁹and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

²⁰ And he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they were not even able to eat a meal.

²¹ And [when] _his family_ heard [this], they went out to restrain him, for they were saying, "He has lost his mind!

²² And the scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul!" and "By the ruler of the demons he expels the demons!

²³ And he called them to himself [and] was speaking to them in parables, "How can Satan expel Satan?

²⁴ And if a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom is not able to stand.

²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he is not able to stand, but is at an end!

²⁷ But no one is able to enter into the house of a strong [man] [and] plunder his property unless he first ties up the strong [man], and then he can thoroughly plunder his house.

²⁸ Truly I say to you that all the sins and the blasphemies will be forgiven the sons of men, however much they blaspheme.

²⁹ But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit does not have forgiveness _forever_, but is guilty of [an] eternal sin"

³⁰ because they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit.

³¹ And his mother and his brothers arrived, and standing outside, they sent [word] to him to summon him.

³² And a crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Behold, your mother and your brothers and your sisters [are] outside looking for you.

³³ And he answered them [and] said, "Who are my mother and my brothers?

³⁴ And looking around at those who were sitting around him in a circle, he said, "Behold, my mother and my brothers!

³⁵ For whoever does the will of God, this person is my brother and sister and mother.

4¹ And again he began to teach beside the sea, and a very large crowd was gathered to him, so that he got into a

boat [and] sat on the sea, and the whole crowd was at the sea on the land.

²And he began to teach them many [things] in parables, and was saying to them in his teaching,

³Listen! Behold, the sower went out to sow.

⁴And it happened that while [he] was sowing, _some seed_ fell on the side of the path, and the birds came and devoured it.

⁵And other [seed] fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up at once, because it did not have [any] depth of soil.

⁶And when the sun rose it was scorched, and because it did not have [enough] root, it withered.

⁷And other [seed] fell among the thorn plants, and the thorn plants came up and choked it, and it did not produce grain.

⁸And other [seed] fell on the good soil, and produced grain, coming up and increasing, and it bore [a crop] one thirty and one sixty and one a hundred [times as much].

⁹And he said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear!

¹⁰And when he was alone, those around him together with the twelve began asking him about the parables.

¹¹And he said to them, "To you has been granted the secret of the kingdom of God, but to those who are outside everything is in parables,

¹²so that _they may look closely_ and not perceive, and _they may listen carefully_ and not understand, lest they turn and it be forgiven them."

¹³And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? And how will you understand all the parables?

¹⁴The sower sows the word.

¹⁵And these are the ones beside the path where the word is sown, and whenever they hear [it], immediately Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

¹⁶And these are the ones sown on the rocky ground, who whenever they hear the word immediately receive it with joy.

¹⁷And they have no root in themselves, but are temporary. Then [when] affliction or persecution comes because of the word, immediately they fall away.

¹⁸And others are the ones sown among the thorn plants these are the ones who hear the word,

¹⁹and the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other [things] come in [and] choke the word and it becomes unproductive.

²⁰And those are the ones sown on the good soil, who hear the word and receive [it] and bear fruit one thirty and one sixty and one a hundred [times as much]."

²¹And he said to them, "Surely a lamp is not brought so that it may be put under a bushel basket or under a bed, [is it]? [Is it] not so that it may be put on a lampstand?

²²For nothing is secret except so that it may be revealed, nor has become hidden except so that it will come to light.

²³If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!

²⁴And he said to them, "Take care what you hear! With the measure by which you measure out, it will be measured out to you, and will be added to you.

²⁵For whoever has, [more] will be given to him, and whoever does not have,

even what he has will be taken away from him.

²⁶And he said, "The kingdom of God is like this: like a man scatters seed on the ground.

²⁷And he sleeps and gets up, night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows—he does not know how—.

²⁸By itself the soil produces a crop: first the grass, then the head of grain, then the full grain in the head.

²⁹But when the crop permits, he sends [in] the sickle right away, because the harvest has come.

³⁰And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or by what parable can we present it?

³¹[It is] like a mustard seed that when sown on the ground, [although it] is the smallest of all the seeds that [are] on the ground,

³²but when it is sown it grows up and becomes the largest of all the garden herbs, and sends out large branches so that the birds of the sky are able to nest in its shade.

³³ And with many parables such as these he was speaking the word to them, as they were able to hear [it].

³⁴ And he did not speak to them without a parable, but in private he explained everything to his own disciples.

³⁵ And on that day, [when it] was evening, he said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side.

³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took him along, as he was, in the boat. And other boats were with him.

³⁷ And a great storm of wind developed, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already being filled [with water].

³⁸ And he was in the stern sleeping on the cushion, and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, is it not a concern to you that we are perishing?

³⁹ And he woke up [and] rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Be quiet! Be silent!" And the wind abated and there was a great calm.

⁴⁰ And he said to them, "Why are you fearful? Do you not yet have faith?

⁴¹ And _they were terribly frightened_ and began to say to one another, "Who

then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

5¹ And they came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes.

² And [as] he was getting out of the boat, immediately from the tombs a man with an unclean spirit went to meet him,

³ who _lived_ among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him any longer, not even with a chain,

⁴ because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him, and the shackles had been shattered. And no one was strong [enough] to subdue him.

⁵ And during every night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was crying out and cutting himself with stones.

⁶ And [when he] saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and knelt down before him.

⁷ And crying out with a loud voice he said, "_What have I to do with you_ , Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore you by God, do not torment me!

⁸(For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!")

⁹And he was asking him "_What is your name_" And he said to him, "My name [is] Legion, because we are many.

¹⁰And he was imploring him many [times] that he would not send them out of the region.

¹¹Now a large herd of pigs was there at the hill feeding,

¹²and they implored him, saying, "Send us to the pigs so that we may enter into them.

¹³And he permitted them. And the unclean spirits came out [and] entered into the pigs, and the herdabout two thousandrushed headlong down the steep slope into the sea and were drowned in the sea.

¹⁴And their herdsman fled and reported [it] in the town and in the countryside, and they came to see what it was that had happened.

¹⁵And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man sitting [there] clothed and in his right mindthe one who had had the legionand they were afraid.

¹⁶And those who had seen [it] described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man, and about the pigs.

¹⁷And they began to urge him to depart from their region.

¹⁸And [as] he was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed began to implore him that he could go with him.

¹⁹And he did not permit him, but said to him, "Go to your home to your [people] and tell them all that the Lord has done for you, and [that] he has had mercy on you.

²⁰And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him, and they were all astonished.

²¹And [after] Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered to him, and he was beside the sea.

²²And one of the rulers of the synagogue came Jairus by name and [when he] saw him, he fell down at his feet.

²³ And he was imploring him many [times], saying, "My little daughter _is at the point of death_! Come, lay your hands on her, so that she will get well and will live.

²⁴ And he went with him, and a large crowd was following him and pressing around him.

²⁵ And [there was] a woman who was _suffering from hemorrhages_ twelve years.

²⁶ And she had endured many [things] under many physicians, and had spent _all that she had_ and had received no [help] at all, but instead _became worse_.

²⁷ [When she] heard about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind [him] [and] touched his cloak,

²⁸ for she was saying, "If I touch just his clothing, I will be healed!

²⁹ And immediately her _hemorrhage stopped_ and she realized in her body that she was healed of her suffering.

³⁰ And immediately Jesus, perceiving in himself [that] power had gone out from himself, turned around in the crowd [and] said, "Who touched my clothing?"

³¹ And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing upon you, and you say Who touched me?"

³² And he was looking around to see the one who had done this.

³³ So the woman, frightened and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before him and told him the whole truth.

³⁴ But he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be well from your suffering."

³⁵ [While] he was still speaking, they came from the synagogue rulers [house] saying, "Your daughter has died. Why trouble the Teacher further?"

³⁶ But Jesus, ignoring _what was said_, told the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid only believe!"

³⁷ And he did not allow anyone to follow along with him except Peter and James and John, the brother of James.

³⁸ And they came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue and saw a commotion, and [people] weeping and wailing loudly.

³⁹ And [when he] entered, he said to them, "Why are you agitated and

weeping? The child is not dead, but is sleeping.

⁴⁰And they began laughing at him. But he sent [them] all out [and] took along the father and mother of the child, and those [who were] with him, and went in to where the child was.

⁴¹And taking hold of the child's hand, he said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"),

⁴²and immediately the girl stood up and began walking around (for she was twelve years old). And _immediately they were utterly and completely astonished_.

⁴³And he commanded them strictly that no one should learn of this, and said to give her [something] to eat.

6¹And he went out from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.

²And [when] the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard [him] were amazed, saying, "Where did this man [get] these [things]? And what [is] this wisdom that has been granted to this man, and

the miracles such as these performed through his hands?

³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they were offended by him.

⁴And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown, and among his relatives, and in his [own] household.

⁵And he was not able to do any miracle in that place except to lay his hands on a few sick [people] [and] heal [them].

⁶And he was astonished because of their unbelief. @ And he was going around among the villages teaching.

⁷And he summoned the twelve and began to send them out two [by] two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.

⁸And he commanded them that they take along nothing for the journey except only a staffno bread, no travelers bag, no money in their belts

⁹but to put on sandals and not to wear two tunics.

¹⁰And he said to them, "Whenever you enter into a house, stay there until you depart from there.

¹¹And whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, [as you] go out from there, shake off the dust that is on your feet for a testimony against them.

¹²And they went out [and] proclaimed that [people] should repent.

¹³And they were expelling many demons and anointing many sick [people] with olive oil and healing [them].

¹⁴And King Herod heard [it], because his name had become known. And they were saying, "John, the one who baptizes, has been raised from the dead, and because of this these miraculous powers are at work in him.

¹⁵But others were saying, "He is Elijah," and others were saying, "[He is] a prophet like one of the prophets.

¹⁶But [when] Herod heard [it], he said, "John whom I beheaded this one has been raised!

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent [and] arrested John and bound him in prison

because of Herodias, the wife of Philip his brother, because he had married her.

¹⁸For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not permitted for you to have your brothers wife.

¹⁹So Herodias held a grudge against him and was wanting to kill him, and was not able [to do so].

²⁰For Herod was afraid of John, [because he] knew him [to be] a righteous and holy man and protected him. And [when he] listened to him, he was greatly perplexed, and [yet] he listened to him gladly.

²¹And a suitable day came when Herod, on his birthday, gave a banquet for his courtiers and military tribunes and the most prominent [men] of Galilee.

²²And [when] his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and _his dinner guests_. The king said to the girl, "Ask me [for] whatever you want, and I will give [it] to you.

²³And he swore to her at length, "Anything whatever you ask me for I will give you, up to half my kingdom!

²⁴ And she went out [and] said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" And she said, "The head of John the baptizer.

²⁵ And she came in immediately with haste to the king [and] asked, saying, "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist on a platter immediately.

²⁶ And [although he] was deeply grieved, the king, because of his oaths and _dinner guests_, did not want to refuse her.

²⁷ And immediately the king sent an executioner [and] ordered [him] to bring his head. And he went [and] beheaded him in the prison.

²⁸ And he brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother.

²⁹ And [when] his disciples heard [this], they came and took away his corpse and placed it in a tomb.

³⁰ And the apostles regathered to Jesus and reported to him everything that they had done and that they had taught.

³¹ And he said to them, "You yourselves come privately to an isolated place and rest for a short time." For those [who

were] coming and going were many, and they did not even have time to eat.

³²And they went away in the boat to an isolated place by themselves.

³³And many [people] saw them leaving and recognized [them], and ran there together by land from all the towns, and arrived ahead of them.

³⁴And getting out [of the boat] he saw the large crowd and had compassion on them, because they were like sheep _without_ a shepherd, and he began to teach them many [things].

³⁵And the hour had already become late [when] his disciples came up to him, saying, "The place is desolate and the hour [is] already late.

³⁶Send them away so that they can go into the surrounding farms and villages [and] purchase something to eat for themselves.

³⁷But he answered [and] said to them, "You give them [something] to eat." And they said to him, "Should we go [and] purchase bread for two hundred denarii and give [it] to them to eat?

³⁸And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go look!" And

[when they] found out, they said, "Five, and two fish.

³⁹And he ordered them all to recline in groups on the green grass.

⁴⁰And they reclined in groups, by hundreds and by fifties.

⁴¹And taking the five loaves and the two fish [and] looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves and gave [them] to his disciples so that they could set [them] before them. And he distributed the two fish to [them] all.

⁴²And they all ate and were satisfied.

⁴³And they picked up the broken pieces, twelve baskets full, and of the fish.

⁴⁴And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

⁴⁵And immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he himself dismissed the crowd.

⁴⁶And [after he] had said farewell to them, he went away to the mountain to pray.

⁴⁷And [when] evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea and he [was] alone on the land.

⁴⁸And he saw them being beaten in their rowing because the wind was against them. Around the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea, and he was wanting to pass by them.

⁴⁹But [when] they saw him walking on the sea, they thought that it was a ghost, and they cried out.

⁵⁰For they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke with them and said to them, "Have courage, I am [he]! Do not be afraid!

⁵¹And he went up with them into the boat, and the wind abated. And _they were extraordinarily_ astounded within themselves,

⁵²because they did not understand concerning the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

⁵³And [after they] had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and anchored [there].

⁵⁴And [as] they were getting out of the boat, [people] recognized him immediately.

⁵⁵They ran about [through] that whole region and began to carry around those

who were sick on stretchers, wherever they heard that he was.

⁵⁶And wherever he would go, into villages or into towns or to farms, they would put those who were sick in the marketplaces and would implore him that if they could touch even the edge of his cloak. And all those who touched it were healed.

7¹ And the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered to him.

²And they saw that some of his disciples were eating their bread with uncleanthat is, unwashedhands.

³(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands _ritually_, [thus] holding fast to the traditions of the elders.

⁴And [when they come] from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other [traditions] which they have received [and] hold fast to[for example,] the washing of cups and pitchers and bronze kettles and dining couches.)

⁵And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not

live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with unclean hands?

⁶So he said to them, "Isaiah prophesied correctly about you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far, far away from me.

⁷And they worship me in vain, teaching [as] doctrines the commandments of men.

⁸Abandoning the commandment of God, you hold fast to the tradition of men.

⁹And he said to them, "You splendidly ignore the commandment of God so that you can maintain your tradition.

¹⁰For Moses said, Honor your father and your mother, and, The one who speaks evil of father or mother _must certainly die_ .

¹¹But you say, If a man says to his father or to his mother, "Whatever _benefit you would have received_ from me [is] corban" (that is, a gift [to God]),

¹²you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother,

¹³ [thus] making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down, and you do many similar [things] such as this.

¹⁴ And summoning the crowd again, he said to them, "Listen to me, all [of you], and understand:

¹⁵ There is nothing outside of a person that is able to defile him [by] going into him. But the things that go out of a person are the things that defile a person."

¹⁶ EMPTY

¹⁷ And when he entered into the house away from the crowd, his disciples asked him about the parable.

¹⁸ And he said to them, "So are you also without understanding? Do you not understand that everything [that is] outside that goes into a person [is] not able to defile him?

¹⁹ For it does not enter into his heart but into his stomach, and goes out into the latrine" [thus] declaring all foods clean.

²⁰ And he said, "What comes out of a person, that defiles a person.

²¹ For from within, from the heart of people, come evil plans, sexual immoralities, thefts, murders,

²² adulteries, [acts of] greed, malicious [deeds], deceit, licentiousness, _envy_, abusive speech, pride, foolishness.

²³ All these evil [things] come from within and defile a person.

²⁴ And from there he set out [and] went to the region of Tyre. And [when he] entered into a house, he wanted no one to know, and [yet] he was not able to escape notice.

²⁵ But immediately a woman whose young daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit, [when she] heard about him, came [and] fell down at his feet,

²⁶ Now the woman was a Greek a Syrophoenician by nationality and she was asking him that he would expel the demon from her daughter.

²⁷ And he said to her, "Let the children be satisfied first, for it is not right to take the childrens bread and throw [it] to the dogs!

²⁸ But she answered and said to him, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the childrens crumbs.

²⁹And he said to her, "Because of this statement, go! The demon has gone out of your daughter.

³⁰And [when she] went to her home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

³¹And again he went away from the region of Tyre [and] came through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of the Decapolis.

³²And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had difficulty speaking, and they were imploring him that he would place his hand on him.

³³And he took him away from the crowd by himself [and] put his fingers into his ears, and [after] spitting, he touched his tongue.

³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha!" (that is, "Be opened!").

³⁵And immediately his ears were opened and _his difficulty in speaking was removed_ and he began to speak normally.

³⁶And he ordered them that they should say nothing, but as much as he

ordered them [not to], they proclaimed [it] even more instead.

³⁷ And they were amazed beyond all measure, saying, "He has done all [things] well! He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!

8¹ In those days there was again a large crowd, and they did not have anything they could eat. Summoning the disciples, he said to them,

² I have compassion on the crowd, because they have remained with me three days already and do not have anything to eat.

³ And if I send them away hungry to their homes they will give out on the way, and some of them have come from far away.

⁴ And his disciples answered him, "Where is anyone able to feed these [people] with bread here in the desert?

⁵ And he asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" So they said, "Seven.

⁶ And he commanded the crowd to recline for a meal on the ground, and taking the seven loaves, [after he] had given thanks he broke [them] and began giving [them] to his disciples so that

they could set [them] before [them].
And they set [them] before the crowd.

⁷And they had a few small fish, and [after] giving thanks for them, he said to set these [before them] also.

⁸And they ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the broken pieces that were left, seven baskets [full].

⁹Now there were about four thousand. And he sent them away.

¹⁰And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples [and] went to the district of Dalmanutha.

¹¹And the Pharisees came and began to argue with him, demanding from him a sign from heaven [in order to] test him.

¹²And sighing deeply in his spirit, he said, "Why does this generation demand a sign? Truly I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation!

¹³And he left them, got into [the boat] again, [and] went to the other side.

¹⁴And they had forgotten to take bread, and except [for] one loaf, they did not have [any] with them in the boat.

¹⁵And he ordered them, saying, "Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod!

¹⁶And they began to discuss with one another that they had no bread.

¹⁷And knowing [this], he said to them, "Why are you discussing that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Have your hearts been hardened?

¹⁸[Although you] have eyes, do you not see? And [although you] have ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?

¹⁹When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand how many baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?" They said to him, "Twelve.

²⁰When [I broke] the seven [loaves] for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?" And they said to him, "Seven.

²¹And he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?

²²And they came to Bethsaida. And they brought to him a blind man and implored him that he would touch him.

²³And he took hold of the blind mans hand [and] led him outside the village, and [after] spitting in his eyes, he placed

his hands on him [and] asked him, "Do you see anything?"

²⁴ And looking up he said, "I see people, for I see [them] like trees walking around.

²⁵ Then he placed his hands on his eyes again, and he opened his eyes and was cured, and could see everything clearly.

²⁶ And he sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even go into the village.

²⁷ And Jesus and his disciples went out to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, saying to them, "Who do people say [that] I am?"

²⁸ And they told him, saying, "John the Baptist, and others Elijah, and others that [you are] one of the prophets.

²⁹ And he asked them, "But who do you say [that] I am?" Peter answered [and] said to him, "You are the Christ!"

³⁰ And he warned them that they should tell no one about him.

³¹ And he began to teach them that it was necessary [for] the Son of Man to suffer many [things] and to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and

the scribes, and to be killed, and after three days to rise.

³²And he was speaking openly [about] the subject, and Peter took him aside [and] began to rebuke him.

³³But turning around and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan, because you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but the things of people!

³⁴And summoning the crowd together with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

³⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life on account of me and of the gospel will save it.

³⁶For what does it benefit a person to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?

³⁷For what can a person give in exchange for his life?

³⁸For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

9¹ And he said to them, "Truly I say to you, that there are some of those standing here who will never experience death until they see the kingdom of God having come with power.

² And after six days, Jesus took along Peter and James and John, and led them to a high mountain by themselves alone. And he was transfigured before them,

³ and his clothing became radiantextremely white, like no cloth refiner on earth can _make so white_.

⁴ And Elijah appeared to them together with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

⁵ And Peter answered [and] said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good [that] we are here! And let us make three shelters, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.

⁶ (For he did not know what he should answer, because they were terrified.)

⁷ And a cloud came, overshadowing them, and a voice came from the cloud, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!

⁸And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus alone.

⁹And [as] they were coming down from the mountain, he ordered them that they should tell no one [the things] that they had seen, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

¹⁰And they kept the matter to themselves, discussing what this rising from the dead _meant_.

¹¹And they asked him, saying, "_Why do_ the scribes say that Elijah must come first?

¹²And he said to them, "Elijah indeed does come first [and] restores all [things]. And how is it written concerning the Son of Man that he should suffer many [things] and be treated with contempt?

¹³But I tell you that indeed Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they wanted, just as it is written about him.

¹⁴And [when they] came to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and scribes arguing with them.

¹⁵And immediately the whole crowd, [when they] saw him, were amazed, and ran up to [him] [and] greeted him.

¹⁶And he asked them, "What are you arguing [about] with them?

¹⁷And one [individual] from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought to you my son who has _a spirit that makes him mute_.

¹⁸And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down and he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes paralyzed. And I told your disciples that they should expel it, and they were not able [to do so].

¹⁹And he answered them [and] said, "O unbelieving generation! _How long_ will I be with you? _How long_ must I put up with you? Bring him to me!

²⁰And they brought him to him. And [when he] saw him, the spirit immediately convulsed him, and falling on the ground, he began to roll around, foaming at the mouth.

²¹And he asked his father how long it was since this had been happening to him. And he said, "From childhood.

²² And often it has thrown him both into fire and into water, in order that it could destroy him. But if you are able [to do] anything, have compassion on us [and] help us!

²³ But Jesus said to him, "If you are able! All [things] [are] possible for the one who believes!

²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out [and] said, "I believe! Help my unbelief!

²⁵ Now [when] Jesus saw that a crowd was running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and enter into him no more!

²⁶ And it came out, screaming and convulsing [him] greatly, and he became as if [he were] dead, so that most [of them] said, "He has died!

²⁷ But Jesus took hold of his hand [and] raised him up, and he stood up.

²⁸ And [after] he had entered into the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why were we not able to expel it?

²⁹ And he said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing except by prayer."

³⁰And from there they went out [and] passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know,

³¹for he was teaching his disciples and was telling them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And [when he] is killed, after three days he will rise.

³²But they did not understand the statement, and they were afraid to ask him.

³³And they came to Capernaum. And [after he] was in the house, he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?

³⁴But they were silent, because they had argued with one another on the way [about] who [was] greatest.

³⁵And he sat down [and] called the twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he will be last of all and servant of all.

³⁶And he took a young child [and] had him stand _among them_. And taking him in his arms, he said to them,

³⁷Whoever welcomes one of the young children such as these in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes

me does not welcome me, but the one who sent me.

³⁸ John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone expelling demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he was not following us.

³⁹ But Jesus said, "Do not prevent him, because there is no one who does a miracle in my name and will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.

⁴⁰ For whoever is not against us is for us.

⁴¹ For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in [my] name because you are Christs, truly I say to you that he will never lose his reward.

⁴² "And whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it is better for him if instead _a large millstone_ is placed around his neck and he is thrown into the sea.

⁴³ And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better [for] you to enter into life crippled than, having two hands, to go into hell into the unquenchable fire!

⁴⁴ EMPTY

⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better [for] you to enter

into life lame than, having two feet, to be thrown into hell!

⁴⁶EMPTY

⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out! It is better [for] you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than, having two eyes, to be thrown into hell,

⁴⁸where their worm does not die and the fire is not extinguished.

⁴⁹For everyone will be salted with fire.

⁵⁰Salt [is] good, but if the salt becomes deprived of its salt content, by what can you make it salty? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with one another.

10¹And from there he set out [and] came to the region of Judea and the other side of the Jordan, and again crowds came together to him. And again, as he was accustomed [to do], he began to teach them.

²And Pharisees came up [and] asked him if it was permitted for a man to divorce [his] wife, [in order to] test him.

³And he answered [and] said to them, "What did Moses command you?

⁴ So they said, "Moses permitted [a man] to write a certificate of divorce and to send [her] away.

⁵ But Jesus said to them, "He wrote this commandment for you because of your hardness of heart.

⁶ But from the beginning of creation he made them male and female.

⁷ Because of this a man will leave his father and mother and will be joined to his wife,

⁸ and the two will become one flesh, so that they are no longer two but one flesh.

⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, man must not separate.

¹⁰ And in the house again the disciples began to ask him about this.

¹¹ And he said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her.

¹² And if she divorces her husband [and] marries another, she commits adultery.

¹³ And they were bringing young children to him so that he could touch them, but the disciples rebuked them.

¹⁴ But [when] Jesus saw [it], he was indignant, and said to them, "Let the

young children come to me. Do not forbid them, _for to such belongs_ the kingdom of God.

¹⁵ Truly I say to you, whoever does not welcome the kingdom of God like a young child will never enter into it.

¹⁶ And [after] taking [them] into his arms, he blessed them, placing his hands on them.

¹⁷ And [as] he was setting out on [his] way, one [individual] ran up and knelt down before him [and] asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do so that I will inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸ So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one [is] good except God alone.

¹⁹ You know the commandments: Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother."

²⁰ And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have observed from my youth.

²¹ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one [thing]: Go, sell all that you have, and give [the

proceeds] to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven and come, follow me.

²² But he looked gloomy at the statement [and] went away sorrowful, _because he had_ many possessions.

²³ And Jesus looked around [and] said to his disciples, "How _difficult it is for_ those who possess wealth to enter into the kingdom of God!

²⁴ And the disciples were astounded at his words. But Jesus answered [and] said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter into the kingdom of God!

²⁵ It is easier [for] a camel to go through the eye of a needle than [for] a rich person to enter into the kingdom of God.

²⁶ And they were very astounded, saying to one another, "And who can be saved?

²⁷ Jesus looked at them [and] said, "With human beings [it is] impossible, but not with God. For all [things] [are] possible with God.

²⁸ Peter began to say to him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed you.

²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields on account of me and on account of the gospel

³⁰ _who will not_ receive a hundred times as much now in this time houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and fields, together with persecutions and in the age to come, eternal life.

³¹ But many [who are] first will be last, and the last first.

³² Now they were on the road going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going on ahead of them. And they were astounded, but those who were following [him] were afraid. And taking aside the twelve again, he began to tell them the things that were about to happen to him:

³³ Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles.

³⁴ And they will mock him and spit on him and flog him and kill [him], and after three days he will rise.

³⁵ And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him [and] said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask you.

³⁶ And he said to them, "What do you want me _to do_ for you?

³⁷ So they said to him, "Grant to us that we may sit one at your right hand and one at [your] left in your glory.

³⁸ But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking! Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?

³⁹ And they said to him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup that I drink, and you will be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with,

⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at [my] left is not mine to grant, but [is] for those for whom it has been prepared.

⁴¹ And [when they] heard [this], the ten began to be indignant about James and John.

⁴² And Jesus called them to himself [and] said to them, "You know that those who are considered to rule over

the Gentiles lord it over them, and their [people] in high positions exercise authority over them.

⁴³ But it is not like this among you! But whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be most prominent among you must be the slave of all.

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life [as] a ransom for many.

⁴⁶ And they came to Jericho. And [as] he was setting out from Jericho along with his disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar, Bartimaeus the son of Timaeus, was sitting beside the road.

⁴⁷ And [when he] heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!

⁴⁸ And many [people] warned him that he should be quiet. But he was crying out _even more loudly_, "Son of David, have mercy on me!

⁴⁹ And Jesus stopped [and] said, "Call him." And they called the blind man

[and] said to him, "Have courage! Get up! He is calling you.

⁵⁰ And he threw off his cloak, jumped up, [and] came to Jesus.

⁵¹ And Jesus answered him [and] said, "What do you want _me to do_ for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabboni, that I may regain [my] sight.

⁵² And Jesus said to him, "Go, your faith has healed you." And immediately he regained [his] sight and began to follow him on the road.

11 ¹ And when they came near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples

² and said to them, "Go into the village before you, and right away [as you] enter into it you will find a colt tied, on which no one [has] ever sat. Untie it and bring [it].

³ And if anyone says to you, Why are you doing this? say, The Lord has need of it, and will send it here again at once.

⁴ And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it.

⁵ And some of those who were standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?

⁶ So they told them, just as Jesus had said, and they allowed them [to take it].

⁷ And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, and he sat on it.

⁸ And many [people] spread their cloaks on the road, and others [spread] leafy branches [they] had cut from the fields.

⁹ And those who went ahead and those who were following were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed [is] the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰ Blessed [is] the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest [heaven]!"

¹¹ And he went into Jerusalem to the temple, and [after] looking around at everything, [because] the hour was already evening, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

¹² And on the next day [as] they were departing from Bethany, he was hungry.

¹³ And [when he] saw from a distance a fig tree that had leaves, he went [to see] if perhaps he would find anything on it.

And [when he] came up to it he found nothing except leaves, because it was not the season for figs.

¹⁴And he responded [and] said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you any more _forever_!" And his disciples heard [it].

¹⁵And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered into the temple [courts] [and] began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple [courts], and overturned the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those who were selling doves.

¹⁶And he did not permit anyone to carry objects through the temple [courts].

¹⁷And he began to teach and was saying to them, "Is it not written, My house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations, but you have made it a cave of robbers!

¹⁸And the chief priests and the scribes heard [it], and began considering how they could destroy him. For they were afraid of him because the whole crowd was astounded by his teaching.

¹⁹And when evening came they went out of the city.

²⁰And [as they] passed by early in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots.

²¹And Peter remembered [and] said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered!

²²And Jesus answered [and] said to them, "Have faith in God!

²³Truly I say to you that whoever says to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea! and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will happen, it will be [done] for him.

²⁴For this [reason] I say to you, whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received [it], and it will be [done] for you.

²⁵And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive [him], so that your Father who [is] in heaven will also forgive you your sins."

²⁶EMPTY

²⁷And they came again to Jerusalem. And [as] he was walking in the temple [courts], the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came up to him

²⁸and said to him, "By what authority are you doing these [things], or who gave you this authority that you do these [things]?"

²⁹So Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question. Answer me and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these [things]."

³⁰The baptism of John was [it] from heaven or from men? Answer me!

³¹And they began to discuss [this] with one another, saying, "If we say From heaven, he will say, Why then did you not believe him?"

³²But if we say, From men" they were afraid of the crowd, because they all looked upon John as truly a prophet.

³³And they replied to Jesus saying, "We do not know." And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these [things]."

12¹And he began to speak to them in parables: "A man planted a vineyard, and put a fence [around it], and dug a trough for the winepress, and built a watchtower, and leased it to tenant farmers, and went on a journey.

²And he sent a slave to the tenant farmers at the proper time, so that he could collect [some] of the fruit of the vineyard from the tenant farmers.

³And they seized him [and] beat [him] and sent [him] away empty-handed.

⁴And again he sent to them another slave, and that one they struck on the head and dishonored.

⁵And he sent another, and that one they killed. And [he sent] many others, [some] of whom they beat and [some] of whom they killed.

⁶He had one more, a beloved son. Last [of all] he sent him to them, saying, They will respect my son.

⁷But those tenant farmers said to one another, This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and the inheritance will be ours!

⁸And they seized [and] killed him and threw him out of the vineyard.

⁹What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenant farmers and give the vineyard to others.

¹⁰Have you not read this scripture: The stone which the builders rejected, this has become _the cornerstone_.

¹¹ This came about from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

¹² And they were seeking to arrest him, and they were afraid of the crowd, because they knew that he had told the parable with reference to them. And they left him [and] went away.

¹³ And they sent some of the Pharisees and the Herodians to him so that they could catch him unawares in a statement.

¹⁴ And [when they] came, they said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are truthful and _you do not care what anyone thinks_, _because you do not regard the opinion of people_ but teach the way of God in truth. Is it permitted to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay or should we not pay?"

¹⁵ But [because he] knew their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why are you testing me? Bring me a denarius so that I can look at [it]!"

¹⁶ So they brought [one]. And he said to them, "Whose image and inscription [is] this?" And they said to him, "Caesars."

¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar the things of Caesar, and to God

the things of God!" And they were utterly amazed at him.

¹⁸And Sadducees who say there is no resurrection came up to him and began to ask him, saying,

¹⁹Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if someones brother dies and he leaves behind a wife and does not leave a child, that his brother should take the wife and _father_ descendants for his brother.

²⁰There were seven brothers, and the first took a wife. And [when he] died, he did not leave descendants.

²¹And the second took her, and he died without leaving descendants. And the third likewise.

²²And the seven did not leave descendants. Last of all the woman also died.

²³In the resurrection, when they rise, _whose_ wife will she be? For the seven had her [as] wife.

²⁴Jesus said to them, "Are you not deceived because of this, [because you] do not know the scriptures or the power of God?

²⁵For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

²⁶Now concerning the dead, that they are raised, have you not read in the book of Moses _in the passage about the bush_ how God spoke to him, saying, I [am] the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob?

²⁷He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are very much mistaken!

²⁸And one of the scribes came up [and] heard them debating. [When he] saw that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?

²⁹Jesus answered, "The most important is, Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

³⁰And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength.

³¹The second [is] this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

³²And the scribe said to him, "That is true, Teacher. You have said _correctly_

that he is one and there is no other except him.

³³And to love him from your whole heart and from your whole understanding and from your whole strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

³⁴And Jesus, [when he] saw that he had answered thoughtfully, said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And no one dared to put a question to him any longer.

³⁵And continuing, Jesus said [while] teaching in the temple [courts], "How can the scribes say that the Christ is Davids son?

³⁶David himself said by the Holy Spirit, The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet."

³⁷David himself calls him Lord, and how is he his son?" And the large crowd was listening to him gladly.

³⁸And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like walking around in long robes and greetings in the marketplaces

³⁹and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets,

⁴⁰who devour the houses of widows and pray lengthy [prayers] for the sake of appearance. These will receive more severe condemnation!

⁴¹And he sat down opposite the contribution box [and] was observing how the crowd was putting coins into the contribution box. And many rich people were putting in many [coins].

⁴²And one poor widow came [and] put in two small copper coins (that is, a penny).

⁴³And summoning his disciples, he said to them, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow put in more than all those who put [offerings] into the contribution box.

⁴⁴For they all _contributed_ out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in everything she had, her whole means of subsistence.

13¹And [as] he was going out of the temple [courts], one of his disciples said to him, "Teacher, look! What great stones and what wonderful buildings!

²And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not [one] stone will be left here on [another] stone that will not be thrown down!

³And [as] he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately,

⁴Tell us, when will these [things] happen, and what [will be] the sign when all these [things] are about to be accomplished?

⁵So Jesus began to say to them, "Watch out that no one deceives you!

⁶Many will come in my name, saying, I am [he], and they will deceive many.

⁷And when you hear about wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must happen, but the end [is] not yet.

⁸For nation will rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in [various] places. There will be famines. These [things] [are] the beginning of birth pains.

⁹"But you, watch out for yourselves! They will hand you over to councils and you will be beaten in the synagogues and will have to stand before governors

and kings because of me, for a witness to them.

¹⁰And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all the nations.

¹¹And when they arrest you [and] hand you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you should say, but whatever is given to you at that hour, say this. For you are not the ones who are speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

¹²And brother will hand over brother to death, and a father [his] child, and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.

¹³And you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end this one will be saved.

¹⁴"But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where it should not be" (let the one who reads understand), "then those in Judea must flee to the mountains!

¹⁵The one who is on his housetop must not come down or go inside to take anything out of his house,

¹⁶and the one who is in the field must not turn back to pick up his cloak.

¹⁷ And woe to those _who are pregnant_ and to those who are nursing [their babies] in those days!

¹⁸ But pray that it will not happen in winter.

¹⁹ For [in] those days there will be tribulation of such a kind as has not happened from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will happen.

²⁰ And if the Lord had not shortened the days, _no human being would be saved_. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he has shortened the days.

²¹ And at that time if anyone should say to you, "Behold, here [is] the Christ, Behold, there [he is], do not believe [him]!

²² For false messiahs and false prophets will appear, and will produce signs and wonders in order to mislead, if possible, the elect.

²³ But you, watch out! I have told you everything ahead of time!

²⁴ "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man arriving in the clouds with great power and glory.

²⁷And then he will send out the angels, and will gather his elect together from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of heaven.

²⁸"Now learn the parable from the fig tree: Whenever its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

²⁹So also you, when you see these [things] happening, know that he is near, at the door.

³⁰Truly I say to you that this generation will never pass away until all these [things] take place!

³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³²"But concerning that day or hour no one knowsnot even the angels in heaven nor the Sonexcept the Father.

³³Watch out! Be alert, because you do not know when the time is!

³⁴It is like a man away on a journey, who left his house and gave his slaves authority to each one his work and to the doorkeeper he gave orders that he should be on the alert.

³⁵Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning

³⁶lest he arrive suddenly [and] find you sleeping.

³⁷And what I say to you, I say to everyone: Be on the alert!

14¹Now after two days it was the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread, and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how, [after] arresting him by stealth, they could kill [him].

²For they said, "Not at the feast, lest there be an uproar by the people.

³And [while] he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, [as] he was reclining for a meal, a woman came holding an alabaster flask of very costly perfumed oil of genuine nard. [After]

breaking the alabaster flask, she poured [it] out on his head.

⁴But some were expressing indignation to one another: "Why has there been this waste of perfumed oil?

⁵For this perfumed oil could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor!" And they began to scold her.

⁶But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you cause trouble for her? She has done a good deed to me.

⁷For the poor you always have with you, and you can do good for them whenever you want, but you do not always have me.

⁸She has done what she could; _she has anointed my body beforehand_ for burial.

⁹And truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.

¹⁰And Judas Iscariot, who [was] one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them.

¹¹And [when] they heard [this], they were delighted, and promised to give

him money. And he began seeking how he could betray him conveniently.

¹²And on the first day of the feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go [and] prepare, so that you can eat the Passover?"

¹³And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him,

¹⁴and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"

¹⁵And he will show you a large upstairs room furnished [and] ready, and prepare for us there.

¹⁶And the disciples went out and came into the city and found [everything] just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷And [when it] was evening, he arrived with the twelve.

¹⁸And [while] they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly I say

to you, that one of you who is eating with me will betray me.

¹⁹They began to be distressed and to say to him one by one, "Surely not I?"

²⁰But he said to them, "[It is] one of the twelve the one who is dipping [bread] into the bowl with me.

²¹For the Son of Man is going just as it is written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! [It would be] better for him if that man had not been born.

²²And [while] they were eating, he took bread [and], [after] giving thanks, he broke [it] and gave [it] to them and said, "Take [it], this is my body.

²³And [after] taking the cup [and] giving thanks, he gave [it] to them, and they all drank from it.

²⁴And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many.

²⁵Truly I say to you that I will never drink of the fruit of the vine any longer until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

²⁶And [after they] had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

²⁷ And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, because it is written, I will strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.

²⁸ But after I am raised, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.

²⁹ But Peter said to him, "Even if they all fall away, certainly I will not!

³⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that today this night before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times!

³¹ But he kept saying emphatically, "If it is necessary for me to die with you, I will never deny you!" And they all were saying the same [thing] also.

³² And they came to a place _named_ Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray.

³³ And he took along Peter and James and John with him, and he began to be distressed and troubled.

³⁴ And he said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake.

³⁵ And going forward a little he fell to the ground and began to pray that, if it

were possible, the hour would pass from him.

³⁶And he said, "Abba, Father, all [things] [are] possible for you! Take away this cup from me! Yet not what I will, but what you [will]."

³⁷And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Were you not able to stay awake one hour?

³⁸Stay awake and pray that you will not enter into temptation. The spirit [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak!

³⁹And again he went away [and] prayed, saying the same thing.

⁴⁰And again he came [and] found them sleeping, _for they could not keep their eyes open_, and they did not know what to reply to him.

⁴¹And he came the third [time] and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! The hour has come. Behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

⁴²Get up, let us go! Behold, the one who is betraying me is approaching!

⁴³And immediately, [while] he was still speaking, Judas one of the twelve arrived,

and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

⁴⁴ Now the one who was betraying him had given them a sign, saying, "[The one] whom I kiss he is [the one]. Arrest him and lead [him] away under guard!

⁴⁵ And [when he] arrived, he came up to him immediately [and] said, "Rabbi," and kissed him.

⁴⁶ So they laid hands on him and arrested him.

⁴⁷ But a certain one of the bystanders, drawing [his] sword, struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear.

⁴⁸ And Jesus answered [and] said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs, as against a robber, to arrest me?

⁴⁹ Every day I was with you in the temple [courts] teaching, and you did not arrest me! But [this has happened] in order that the scriptures would be fulfilled.

⁵⁰ And they all abandoned him [and] fled.

⁵¹ And a certain young man was following him, clothed [only] in a linen

cloth on [his] naked body. And they attempted to seize him,

⁵²but he left behind the linen cloth [and] fled naked.

⁵³And they led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together.

⁵⁴And Peter followed him from a distance, right inside, into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the officers and warming himself by the fire.

⁵⁵Now the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, and they did not find [it].

⁵⁶For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony was not consistent.

⁵⁷And some stood up [and] began to give false testimony against him, saying,

⁵⁸We heard him saying, I will destroy this temple made by hands, and within three days I will build another not made by hands.

⁵⁹And their testimony was not even consistent about this.

⁶⁰And the high priest stood up in the midst [of them] [and] asked Jesus, saying, "Do you not reply anything? What are these [people] testifying against you?

⁶¹But he was silent and did not reply anything. Again the high priest asked him and said to him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?

⁶²And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.

⁶³And the high priest tore his clothes [and] said, "What further need do we have of witnesses?

⁶⁴You have heard the blasphemy! What _do you think_?" And they all condemned him _as deserving death_.

⁶⁵And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him with their fists, and to say to him "Prophecy!" And the officers received him with slaps in the face.

⁶⁶And [while] Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the female slaves of the high priest came up

⁶⁷ And [when] she saw Peter warming himself, she looked intently at him [and] said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.

⁶⁸ But he denied [it], saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean!" And he went out into the gateway, and a rooster crowed.

⁶⁹ And the female slave, [when she] saw him, began to say again to the bystanders, "This man is one of them!

⁷⁰ But he denied [it] again. And after a little [while], again the bystanders began to say to Peter, "You really are [one] of them, because you also are a Galilean!

⁷¹ And he began to curse and to swear with an oath, "I do not know this man whom you are talking about!

⁷² And immediately a rooster crowed for the second time. And Peter remembered the statement, how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times," and throwing himself down, he began to weep.

15¹ And as soon as morning [came], [after] formulating a plan, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes and the whole Sanhedrin, tied up Jesus,

led [him] away, and handed [him] over to Pilate.

²And Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" And he answered him [and] said, "You say [so]."

³And the chief priests began to accuse him [of] many [things].

⁴So Pilate asked him again, saying, "Do you not answer anything? See how many [charges] they are bringing against you!"

⁵But Jesus did not answer anything further, so that Pilate was astonished.

⁶Now at each feast he customarily released for them one prisoner whom they requested.

⁷And the one named Barabbas was imprisoned with the rebels who had committed murder in the rebellion.

⁸And the crowd came up [and] began to ask him to do as he customarily did for them.

⁹So Pilate answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?"

¹⁰(For he realized that the chief priests had handed him over because of envy.)

¹¹ But the chief priests incited the crowd so that he would release for them Barabbas instead.

¹² So Pilate answered [and] said to them again, "Then what do you want me to do with [the one] whom you call the king of the Jews?"

¹³ And they shouted again, "Crucify him!"

¹⁴ And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted even louder, "Crucify him!"

¹⁵ So Pilate, [because he] wanted _to satisfy_ the crowd, released for them Barabbas. And [after] he had Jesus flogged, he handed [him] over so that he could be crucified.

¹⁶ So the soldiers led him away into the palace (that is, the governors residence) and called together the whole cohort.

¹⁷ And they put a purple cloak on him, and [after] weaving a crown of thorns they placed [it] on him.

¹⁸ And they began to greet him, "Hail, king of the Jews!"

¹⁹ And they repeatedly struck him on the head with a reed, and were spitting

on him, and _they knelt down_ [and] did obeisance to him.

²⁰And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his [own] clothes on him, and they led him out so that they could crucify him.

²¹And they forced a certain man who was passing by, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), who was coming from the country, to carry his cross.

²²And they brought him to the place Golgotha (which is translated "Place of a Skull").

²³And they attempted to give him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.

²⁴And they crucified him and divided his clothes among themselves [by] casting lots for them [to see] who should take what.

²⁵Now it was the third hour when they crucified him.

²⁶And the inscription of the charge against him was written, "The king of the Jews.

²⁷And with him they crucified two robbers, one on [his] right and one on [his] left.

²⁸ EMPTY

²⁹ And those who passed by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! The one who would destroy the temple and rebuild [it] in three days,

³⁰ save yourself [by] coming down from the cross!

³¹ In the same way also the chief priests, along with the scribes, were mocking [him] to one another, saying, "He saved others; he is not able to save himself!

³² Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down now from the cross, so that we may see and believe! Even those who were crucified with him were reviling him.

³³ And [when] the sixth hour came, darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.

³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which is translated, "My God, my God, _why_ have you forsaken me?")

³⁵ And some of the bystanders, [when they] heard [it], said, "Behold, he is summoning Elijah!

³⁶ And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put [it] on a reed, [and] gave [it] to him to drink, saying, "Leave [him] alone! Let us see if Elijah is coming to take him down.

³⁷ But Jesus uttered a loud cry [and] expired.

³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

³⁹ And [when] the centurion who was standing opposite him saw that he expired like this, he said, "Truly this man was Gods Son!

⁴⁰ And there were also women observing from a distance, among whom [were] Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and Joses, and Salome,

⁴¹ who used to follow him and serve him when he was in Galilee, and many other [women] who went up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴² And [when it] was already evening, since it was the day of preparation (that is, the day before the Sabbath),

⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the council who was also himself looking forward to the kingdom

of God, came acting courageously [and] went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

⁴⁴ And Pilate was surprised that he was already dead, and summoning the centurion, asked him whether he had died already.

⁴⁵ And [when he] learned of [it] from the centurion, he granted the corpse to Joseph.

⁴⁶ And [after] purchasing a linen cloth [and] taking him down, he wrapped [him] in the linen cloth and placed him in a tomb that had been cut from the rock. And he rolled a stone over the entrance of the tomb.

⁴⁷ Now Mary Magdalene and Mary the [mother] of Joses saw where he was placed.

16¹ And [when] the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the [mother] of James, and Salome purchased fragrant spices so that they could go [and] anoint him.

² And very early in the morning on the first [day] of the week they came to the tomb [after] the sun had risen.

³And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"

⁴And [when they] looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away (for it was very large).

⁵And [as they] were going into the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene who was crucified. He has been raised, he is not here! See the place where they laid him!"

⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you.

⁸And they went out [and] fled from the tomb, because trembling and amazement had seized them. And they said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. @ [[So they promptly reported all the [things] they had been commanded to those around Peter. And after these [things], Jesus himself also sent out through them from the east even as far as the west the holy and

imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation. Amen.]]

⁹@ [[Now early on the first [day] of the week, [after he] rose, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had expelled seven demons.

¹⁰She went out [and] announced [it] to those who were with him [while they] were mourning and weeping.

¹¹And those, [when they] heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, refused to believe [it].

¹²And after these [things], he appeared in a different form to two of them [as they] were walking, [while they] were going out into the countryside.

¹³And these went [and] reported [it] to the others, and they did not believe them.

¹⁴And later, [while] they were reclining at table, he appeared to the eleven. And he reprimanded their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen him [after he] had been raised.

¹⁵And he said to them, "Go into all the world [and] preach the gospel to all creation.

¹⁶The one who believes and is baptized will be saved, but the one who refuses to believe will be condemned.

¹⁷And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will expel demons, they will speak in new tongues,

¹⁸and they will pick up snakes with their hands. And if they drink any deadly [poison] it will never hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and _they will get_ well.

¹⁹Then the Lord Jesus, after [he] had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

²⁰And they went out [and] proclaimed everywhere, [while] the Lord was working together with [them] and confirming the message through the accompanying signs.]]

Luke

1 ¹ Since many have attempted to compile an account concerning the events that have been fulfilled among us,

² just as those who were eyewitnesses and servants of the word from the beginning passed on to us,

³ it seemed best to me also [because I] have followed all [things] carefully from the beginning to write [them] down in orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus,

⁴ so that you may know the certainty concerning the things about which you were taught.

⁵ It happened that in the days of Herod, king of Judea, [there was] a certain priest, Zechariah by name, of the division of Abijah. And _he had a wife_ from the daughters of Aaron, and her name [was] Elizabeth.

⁶ And they were both righteous in the sight of God, living blamelessly in all the

commandments and regulations of the Lord.

⁷And _they did not have_ a child, because Elizabeth was barren. And they were both advanced _in years_.

⁸And it happened that [while] he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division,

⁹according to the custom of the priesthood he was chosen by lot to enter into the temple of the Lord to burn incense.

¹⁰And the whole crowd of the people were praying outside at the hour of the incense offering.

¹¹And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

¹²And Zechariah was terrified [when he] saw [the angel], and fear fell upon him.

¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will call his name John.

¹⁴And _you will experience joy and exultation_, and many will rejoice at his birth.

¹⁵For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he must never drink wine or beer, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit [while he is] still in his mothers womb.

¹⁶And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God.

¹⁷And he will go on before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to prepare for the Lord a people made ready.

¹⁸And Zechariah said to the angel, "By what will I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced _in years_!"

¹⁹And the angel answered [and] said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news.

²⁰And behold, you will be silent and not able to speak until the day these [things] take place, _because_ you did

not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.

²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and began to wonder [when] he was delayed in the temple.

²² And [when he] came out he was not able to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them, and remained unable to speak.

²³ And it happened that when the days of his service came to an end, he went away to his home.

²⁴ Now after these days, his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she kept herself in seclusion [for] five months, saying,

²⁵ Thus the Lord has done for me in the days in which he has concerned himself with [me], to take away my disgrace among people.

²⁶ Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee _named_ Nazareth,

²⁷ to a virgin legally promised in marriage to a man _named_ Joseph of the house of David. And the name of the virgin [was] Mary.

²⁸And he came to her [and] said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord [is] with you.

²⁹But she was greatly perplexed at the statement, and was pondering what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

³¹And behold, you will conceive in the womb and will give birth to a son, and you will call his name Jesus.

³²This one will be great, and he will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.

³³And he will reign over the house of Jacob _forever_, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man?

³⁵And the angel answered [and] said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore also the one to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabethshe also has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren.

³⁷For _nothing will be impossible with God_."

³⁸So Mary said, "Behold, the Lords female slave! May it happen to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

³⁹Now in those days Mary set out [and] traveled with haste into the hill country, to a town of Judah,

⁴⁰and entered into the house of Zechariah, and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹And it happened that when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby in her womb leaped and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴²And she cried out with a loud shout and said, "Blessed [are] you among women, and blessed [is] the fruit of your womb!

⁴³And why [is] this [granted] to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy!

⁴⁵And blessed [is] she who believed that [there] will be a fulfillment to what was spoken to her from the Lord!

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul exalts the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit has rejoiced greatly in God my Savior,

⁴⁸because he has looked upon the humble state of his female slave, for behold, from now on all generations will consider me blessed,

⁴⁹because the Mighty [One] has done great [things] for me, and holy [is] his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy [is] for generation after generation to those who fear him.

⁵¹He has done a mighty deed with his arm; he has dispersed the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from [their] thrones, and has exalted the lowly.

⁵³He has filled those who are hungry with good [things], and those who are rich he has sent away empty-handed.

⁵⁴He has helped Israel his servant,
remembering [his] mercy,

⁵⁵just as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his descendants
forever."

⁵⁶And Mary stayed with her about three
months, and returned to her home.

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth that
she should give birth, and she gave birth
to a son.

⁵⁸And her neighbors and relatives
heard that _the Lord had shown his
great mercy to her_, and they rejoiced
with her.

⁵⁹And it happened that on the eighth
day they came to circumcise the child,
and they were wanting to name him
after his father Zechariah.

⁶⁰And his mother answered [and] said,
"No, but he will be named John.

⁶¹And they said to her, "There is no one
of your relatives who is called by this
name.

⁶²So they made signs to his father
[asking] what he wanted him to be
named,

⁶³and he asked for a writing tablet [and] wrote, saying, "John is his name." And they were all astonished.

⁶⁴And his mouth and his tongue were opened immediately, and he began to speak, praising God.

⁶⁵And fear came on all those who lived near them, and in all the hill country of Judea all these events were discussed.

⁶⁶And all those who heard kept [these things] in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be? For indeed the hand of the Lord was with him!

⁶⁷And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸Blessed [be] the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited to help and _has redeemed_ his people,

⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰just as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from earliest times

⁷¹salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all those who hate us,

⁷²to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³ the oath that he swore to Abraham
our father, to grant us

⁷⁴ [that] we, being rescued from the
hand of [our] enemies, could serve him
without fear

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before
him all our days.

⁷⁶ And so you, child, will be called the
prophet of the Most High, for you will go
on before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his
people by the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸ because of the merciful compassion
of our God by which the dawn will visit
to help us from on high,

⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in
darkness and in the shadow of death, to
direct our feet into the way of peace.

⁸⁰ And the child kept growing and
becoming strong in spirit, and was in
the wilderness until the day of his public
appearance to Israel.

2¹ Now it happened that in those
days a decree went out from Caesar
Augustus to register all the empire.

² (This first registration took place
[when] Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

³And everyone went to be registered, each one to his own town.

⁴So Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David,

⁵to be registered together with Mary, who was legally promised in marriage to him [and] was pregnant.

⁶And it happened that while they were there, _the time came_ for her to give birth.

⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son, and wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And there were shepherds in the same region, living out of doors and keeping watch, guarding over their flock by night.

⁹And an angel of the Lord stood near them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and _they were terribly frightened_.

¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring good news to you of great joy which will be for all the people:

¹¹ that today a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.

¹² And this will be the sign for you: you will find the baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people _with whom he is pleased_!"

¹⁵ And it happened that when the angels had departed from them into heaven, the shepherds began to say to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has revealed to us!"

¹⁶ And they went hurrying and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger.

¹⁷ And [when they] saw [it], they made known the statement that had been told to them about this child.

¹⁸ And all who heard [it] were astonished concerning what had been said to them by the shepherds.

¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these words, pondering [them] in her heart.

²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

²¹And when eight days were completed _so that he could be circumcised_, he was named Jesus, his name [that] [he] was called by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²²And when the days of their purification were completed according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present [him] to the Lord

²³(just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb will be called holy to the Lord")

²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what was stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem _whose name was_ Simeon, and this man [was] righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit [that he would] not see death before he would see the Lords Christ.

²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus so that they could do for him according to what was customary under the law,

²⁸he took him in [his] arms and praised God and said,

²⁹Now dismiss your slave in peace, Lord, according to your word.

³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all the peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory to your people Israel.

³³And his father and mother were astonished at what was said about him.

³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed

³⁵and a sword will pierce your own soul also, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed!

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher (she was advanced _in years_, having lived with [her] husband seven years _after her marriage_,

³⁷and herself [as] a widow up to eighty-four years) who did not depart from the temple with fastings and prayers, serving night and day.

³⁸And at [that] same hour she approached [and] began to give thanks to God, and to speak about him to all those who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had completed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

⁴⁰And the child was growing and becoming strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹And his parents went every year to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover.

⁴²And when he was twelve years [old], they went up according to the custom of the feast.

⁴³And [after] the days were completed, while they were returning, the boy Jesus

stayed behind in Jerusalem. And his parents did not know [it],

⁴⁴but believing him to be in the group of travelers, they went a days journey. And they began searching for him among [their] relatives and [their] acquaintances,

⁴⁵and [when they] did not find [him], they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

⁴⁶And it happened that after three days they found him in the temple [courts], sitting in the midst of the teachers and listening to them and asking them [questions].

⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his insight and [his] answers.

⁴⁸And [when they] saw him, they were astounded and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you done this to us? Look, your father and I have been searching for you anxiously!

⁴⁹And he said to them, "_Why_ were you searching for me? Did you not know that it was necessary [for] me to be in the [house] of my Father?

⁵⁰And they did not understand the statement that he spoke to them.

⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was submitting to them. And his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus was advancing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and [with] people.

3¹ Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, [when] Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene,

² in the time of the high priest Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

³ And he went into all the surrounding region of the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!

⁵ Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be leveled, and the

crooked will become straight, and the rough road [will become] smooth,

⁶and all flesh will see the salvation of God."

⁷Therefore he was saying to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "Offspring of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

⁸Therefore produce fruit worthy of repentance! And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham [as] father. For I say to you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones!

⁹And even now the ax is positioned at the root of the trees; therefore every tree not producing good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹⁰And the crowds were asking him, saying, "What then should we do?

¹¹And he answered [and] said to them, "The one who has two tunics must share with the one who does not have [one], and the one who has food must do likewise.

¹²And tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?

¹³And he said to them, "Collect no more than _what you are ordered to_."

¹⁴And those who served in the army were also asking him, saying, "What should we also do?" And he said to them, "Extort from no one, and do not blackmail [anyone], and be content with your pay.

¹⁵And [while] the people were waiting expectantly and all were pondering in their hearts concerning John, whether perhaps he might be the Christ,

¹⁶John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than I [am] is coming, of whom I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹⁷His winnowing shovel [is] in his hand, to clean out his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his storehouse, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

¹⁸So with many other exhortations also he proclaimed good news to the people.

¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him concerning Herodias,

his brothers wife, and concerning all the evil deeds that Herod had done,

²⁰ added this also to them all: he also locked up John in prison.

²¹ Now it happened that when all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized, and [while he] was praying, heaven was opened,

²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.

²³ And Jesus, [when he] began [his ministry], was himself about thirty years [old], being the son (as it was believed) of Joseph the [son] of Eli,

²⁴ the [son] of Matthat, the [son] of Levi, the [son] of Melchi, the [son] of Jannai, the [son] of Joseph,

²⁵ the [son] of Mattathias, the [son] of Amos, the [son] of Nahum, the [son] of Esli, the [son] of Naggai,

²⁶ the [son] of Maath, the [son] of Mattathias, the [son] of Semein, the [son] of Josech, the [son] of Joda,

²⁷ the [son] of Joanan, the [son] of Rhesa, the [son] of Zerubbabel, the [son] of Shealtiel, the [son] of Neri,

²⁸ the [son] of Melchi, the [son] of Addi, the [son] of Cosam, the [son] of Elmadam, the [son] of Er,

²⁹ the [son] of Joshua, the [son] of Eliezer, the [son] of Jorim, the [son] of Matthat, the [son] of Levi,

³⁰ the [son] of Simeon, the [son] of Judah, the [son] of Joseph, the [son] of Jonam, the [son] of Eliakim,

³¹ the [son] of Melea, the [son] of Menna, the [son] of Mattatha, the [son] of Nathan, the [son] of David,

³² the [son] of Jesse, the [son] of Obed, the [son] of Boaz, the [son] of Sala, the [son] of Nahshon,

³³ the [son] of Amminadab, the [son] of Admin, the [son] of Arni, the [son] of Hezron, the [son] of Perez, the [son] of Judah,

³⁴ the [son] of Jacob, the [son] of Isaac, the [son] of Abraham, the [son] of Terah, the [son] of Nahor,

³⁵ the [son] of Serug, the [son] of Reu, the [son] of Peleg, the [son] of Eber, the [son] of Shelah,

³⁶ the [son] of Cainan, the [son] of Arphaxad, the [son] of Shem, the [son] of Noah, the [son] of Lamech,

³⁷ the [son] of Methuselah, the [son] of Enoch, the [son] of Jared, the [son] of Mahalaleel, the [son] of Cainan,

³⁸ the [son] of Enosh, the [son] of Seth, the [son] of Adam, the [son] of God.

4¹ And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness

² forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days, and [when] they were completed, he was hungry.

³ So the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, order this stone that it become bread!

⁴ And Jesus replied to him, "It is written, Man will not live on bread alone."

⁵ And he led him up [and] showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

⁶ And the devil said to him, "I will give you all this domain and their glory, because it has been handed over to me, and I can give it to whomever I want.

⁷ So if you will worship before me, all [this] will be yours.

⁸And Jesus answered [and] said to him, "It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."

⁹And he brought him to Jerusalem, and had him stand on the highest point of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,

¹⁰for it is written, He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,

¹¹and on [their] hands they will lift you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."

¹²And Jesus answered [and] said to him, "It is said, You are not to put to the test the Lord your God."

¹³And [when] the devil had completed every temptation, he departed from him until a favorable time.

¹⁴And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him went out throughout all the surrounding region.

¹⁵And he began to teach in their synagogues, [and] was praised by all.

¹⁶And he came to Nazareth, where _he had been brought up_, and according to _his custom_ he entered into the

synagogue on the day of the Sabbath and stood up to read.

¹⁷And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him, and unrolling the scroll he found the place where it was written,

¹⁸The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me, because of which he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send out in freedom those who are oppressed,

¹⁹to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord."

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll [and] gave [it] back to the attendant [and] sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were looking intently at him.

²¹And he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.

²²And they were all speaking well of him, and were astonished at the gracious words that were coming out of his mouth. And they were saying, "Is this man not the son of Joseph?"

²³And he said to them, "Doubtless you will tell me this parable: Physician, heal

yourself! Whatever we have heard that took place in Capernaum, do here in your hometown also!

²⁴And he said, "Truly I say to you that no prophet is acceptable in his [own] hometown.

²⁵But in truth I say to you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut for three years and six months while a great famine took place over all the land.

²⁶And Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath [in the region] of Sidon, to a woman [who was] a widow.

²⁷And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was made clean except Naaman the Syrian.

²⁸And all [those] in the synagogue were filled with anger [when they] heard these [things].

²⁹And they stood up [and] forced him out of the town and brought him up to the edge of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff.

³⁰But he passed through their midst [and] went on his way.

³¹ And he came down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbath.

³² And they were astounded at his teaching, because he spoke with authority.

³³ And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice,

³⁴ Ha! Leave us alone, Jesus the Nazarene! Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are the Holy One of God!

³⁵ And Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And [after] throwing him down in their midst, the demon came out of him without hurting him at all.

³⁶ And amazement came upon [them] all, and they began to talk with one another, saying, "What word [is] this? For he commands the unclean spirits with authority and power, and they come out!"

³⁷ And news about him went out into every place of the surrounding region.

³⁸ And [after he] set out from the synagogue, he went into Simons house.

And Simons mother-in-law was afflicted with a high fever, and they asked him on behalf of her.

³⁹And he stood over her [and] rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she got up [and] began to serve them.

⁴⁰Now [as] the sun was setting, all who had those who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and placing [his] hands on every one of them, he healed them.

⁴¹And demons also were coming out of many, crying out and saying, "You are the Son of God!" And he rebuked [them] [and] did not permit them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

⁴²And [when it] was day, he departed [and] went to an isolated place. And the crowds were seeking him, and came to him and were trying to prevent him from departing from them.

⁴³But he said to them, "It is necessary [for] me to proclaim the good news [of] the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because I was sent for this [purpose].

⁴⁴And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

5¹Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around him and hearing the word of God, he was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, ²and he saw two boats there beside the lake, but the fishermen had gotten out of them [and] were washing their nets.

³And he got into one of the boats, which was Simons, [and] asked him to put out from the land a little. And he sat down [and] began to teach the crowds from the boat.

⁴And when he stopped speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.

⁵And Simon answered [and] said, "Master, [although we] worked hard through the whole night, we caught nothing. But at your word I will let down the nets.

⁶And [when they] did this, they caught a very large number of fish, and their nets began to tear.

⁷And they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come [and] help them,

and they came and filled both the boats so that they began to sink.

⁸And [when he] saw [it], Simon Peter fell down at Jesus knees, saying, "Depart from me, Lord, because I am _a sinful man_!"

⁹For amazement had seized him and all those [who were] with him at the catch of fish that they had caught,

¹⁰and so also [were] James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were business partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid! From now on you will be catching people!

¹¹And [after they] brought [their] boats to the land, they left everything [and] followed him.

¹²And it happened that while he was in one of the towns, _there was_ a man _covered with leprosy_. And [when he] saw Jesus, he fell down on [his] face [and] begged him, saying, "Lord, if you are willing, you are able to make me clean.

¹³And extending [his] hand he touched him, saying, "I am willing; be clean." And immediately the leprosy went away from him.

¹⁴And he ordered him, "Tell no one, but go [and] show yourself to the priest and bring [the offering] for your cleansing just as Moses commanded, for a testimony to them.

¹⁵But the report about him spread even more, and large crowds were gathering to hear [him] and to be healed of their illnesses.

¹⁶But he himself was withdrawing in the wilderness and praying.

¹⁷And it happened that on one of the days as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting [there] who _had come_ from every village of Galilee and Judea and [from] Jerusalem, and the power of the Lord was [there] in order [for] him to heal.

¹⁸And behold, men [came] carrying on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and place him before him.

¹⁹And [when they] did not find a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof [and] let him down through the roof tiles with the stretcher into the midst [of them], in front of Jesus.

²⁰And [when he] saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you.

²¹And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who is able to forgive sins except God alone?

²²But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, answered [and] said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts?

²³Which is easier to say, Your sins are forgiven you, or to say, Get up and walk?

²⁴But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," he said to the one who was paralyzed, "I say to you, Get up and pick up your stretcher [and] go to your home.

²⁵And immediately he stood up before them, picked up what he had been lying on, [and] went away to his home, glorifying God.

²⁶And amazement seized [them] all, and they began to glorify God. And they were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen wonderful things today!

²⁷And after these [things], he went out and saw a tax collector _named_ Levi

sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me!

²⁸And leaving everything behind, he got up [and] began to follow him.

²⁹And Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house, and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others who were reclining for the meal with them.

³⁰And the Pharisees and their scribes began to complain to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?

³¹And Jesus answered [and] said to them, "Those who are healthy do not have need of a physician, but those _who are sick_.

³²I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.

³³And they said to him, "The disciples of John fast often and make prayerslikewise also the [disciples] of the Phariseesbut yours are eating and drinking!

³⁴So Jesus said to them, "You are not able to make the _bridegrooms attendants_ fast as long as the bridegroom is with them, [are you]?

³⁵ But days will come, and when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days.

³⁶ And he also told a parable to them: "No one tears a patch from a new garment [and] puts [it] on an old garment. Otherwise, he will have torn the new also, and the old will not match the patch [that is] from the new.

³⁷ And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the wineskins, and it will be spilled and the wineskins will be destroyed.

³⁸ But new wine must be put into new wineskins.

³⁹ And no one [after] drinking old [wine] wants new, because he says, The old is [just] fine!

6¹ Now it happened that on a Sabbath he went through the grain fields, and his disciples were picking and eating the heads of grain, rubbing [them] in [their] hands.

² But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not permitted on the Sabbath?"

³ And Jesus answered [and] said to them, "Have you not read this, what

David did when he and those [who were] with him were hungry

⁴how he entered into the house of God and took the bread of the presentation, which it is not permitted to eat (except the priests alone), [and] ate [it] and gave [it] to those with him?

⁵And he said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.

⁶Now it happened that on another Sabbath he entered into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there, and his right hand was withered.

⁷So the scribes and the Pharisees were watching him closely [to see] if he would heal on the Sabbath, in order that they could find [a reason] to accuse him.

⁸But he knew their thoughts and said to the man who had the withered hand, "Get up and stand in the middle," and he got up [and] stood there.

⁹And Jesus said to them, "I ask you whether it is permitted on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save a life or to destroy [it]?"

¹⁰And [after] looking around at them all, he said to him, "Stretch out your

hand," and he did, and his hand was restored.

¹¹ But they were filled with fury, and began discussing with one another what they might do to Jesus.

¹² Now it happened that in these days he went away to the mountain to pray, and was spending the whole night in prayer to God.

¹³ And when day came, he summoned his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he also named apostles:

¹⁴ Simon (whom he also named Peter) and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew,

¹⁵ and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the [son] of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot,

¹⁶ and Judas [the son] of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

¹⁷ And he came down with them [and] stood on a level place, and a large crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all of Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast district of Tyre and Sidon,

¹⁸ who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who

were troubled by unclean spirits were cured.

¹⁹And the whole crowd was seeking to touch him, because power was going out from him and healing [them] all.

²⁰And he lifted up his eyes to his disciples [and] said, "Blessed [are] the poor, because yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹Blessed [are] those who are hungry now, because you will be satisfied. Blessed [are] those who weep now, Because you will laugh.

²²Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you and revile [you] and spurn your name as evil on account of the Son of Man.

²³Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward [is] great in heaven. For their fathers used to do the same [things] to the prophets.

²⁴"But woe to you who are rich, because you have received your comfort.

²⁵Woe to you who are satisfied now, because you will be hungry. Woe, you who laugh now, because you will mourn and weep.

²⁶Woe whenever all people speak well of you, for their fathers used to do the same [things] to the false prophets.

²⁷"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

²⁹To the one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from the one who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic also.

³⁰Give to everyone who asks you, and from the one who takes away your things, do not ask for [them back].

³¹And just as you want people _to do_ to you, do _the same_ to them.

³²And if you love those who love you, what kind of credit is [that] to you? For even sinners love those who love them!

³³For even if you do good to those who do good to you, what kind of credit is [that] to you? Even the sinners do the same!

³⁴And if you lend [to those] from whom you expect to receive [back], what kind of credit is [that] to you? Even sinners

lend to sinners, so that they may get back an equal [amount]!

³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend expecting back nothing, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful!

³⁷ "And do not judge, and you will never be judged. And do not condemn, and you will never be condemned. Pardon, and you will be pardoned.

³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you, a good measure pressed down, shaken, overflowing they will pour out into your lap. For with the measure by which you measure out, it will be measured out to you in return.

³⁹ And he also told them a parable: "Surely a blind person cannot lead the blind, [can he]? Will they not both fall into a pit?

⁴⁰ A disciple is not superior to [his] teacher, but everyone, [when he] is fully trained, will be like his teacher.

⁴¹ And why do you see the speck [that is] in your brothers eye, but do not

notice the beam of wood [that is] in your own eye?

⁴²How are you able to say to your brother, "Brother, allow [me] to remove the speck [that is] in your eye," [while] you yourself do not see the beam of wood in your [own] eye? Hypocrite! First remove the beam of wood from your [own] eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck [that is] in your brothers eye!

⁴³"For there is no good tree that produces bad fruit, nor on the other hand a bad tree that produces good fruit,

⁴⁴for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn plants, nor are grapes harvested from thorn bushes.

⁴⁵The good person out of the good treasury of [his] heart brings forth good, and the evil person out of [his] evil [treasury] brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

⁴⁶And why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do what I tell [you]?

⁴⁷ "Everyone who comes to me and listens to my words and does them I will show you what he is like:

⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug and went down deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And [when] a flood came, the river burst against that house and was not able to shake it, because it had been built well.

⁴⁹ But the one who hears [my words] and does not do [them] is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation, which the river burst against, and immediately it collapsed and the collapse of that house was great!

7 ¹ After he had finished all his statements in the hearing of the people, he entered into Capernaum.

² Now a certain centurion's slave, who was esteemed by him, _was sick_ [and] was about to die.

³ So [when he] heard about Jesus, he sent Jewish elders to him, asking him that he would come [and] cure his slave.

⁴ And [when they] came to Jesus, they began imploring him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy [that] you grant this for him,

⁵because he loves our nation and he himself built the synagogue for us.

⁶So Jesus went with them. Now by this time he was not far away from the house, [and] the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy that you should come in under my roof.

⁷For this reason neither did I consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word and my slave must be healed.

⁸For I also am a man placed under authority, who has soldiers under me, and I say to this one, Go! and he goes, and to another one, Come! and he comes, and to my slave, Do this! and he does [it]."

⁹And [when] Jesus heard these [things], he marveled at him, and turning around to the crowd that was following him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith!

¹⁰And [when they] returned to the house, those who had been sent found the slave healthy.

¹¹And it happened that on the next [day] he went to a town called Nain, and

his disciples and a large crowd went with him.

¹²And as he approached the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, his mother's only son, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her.

¹³And [when] the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep!

¹⁴And he came up [and] touched the bier, and those who were carrying [it] stopped. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!

¹⁵And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and he gave him to his mother.

¹⁶And fear seized [them] all, and they began to glorify God, saying, "A great prophet has appeared among us!" and "God has visited to help his people!

¹⁷And this report about him went out in the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

¹⁸And his disciples reported to John about all these [things]. And summoning a certain two of his disciples, John

¹⁹sent [them] to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

²⁰And [when] the men came to him, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you, saying, Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

²¹In that hour he healed many [people] of diseases and suffering and evil spirits, and he granted sight to many blind [people].

²²And he answered [and] said to them, "Go [and] tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear; the dead are raised, the poor have good news announced to [them],

²³And whoever is not offended by me is blessed.

²⁴And [when] the messengers of John had departed, he began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?"

²⁵But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are in splendid clothing and luxury are in the royal palaces.

²⁶ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and even more than a prophet!

²⁷ It is this man about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.

²⁸ I tell you, there is no one greater among [those] born of women than John, but the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

²⁹ (And all the people, [when they] heard [this] even the tax collectors affirmed the righteousness of God, [because they] had been baptized [with] the baptism of John,

³⁰ but the Pharisees and the legal experts rejected the purpose of God for themselves, [because they] had not been baptized by him.)

³¹ To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like?

³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to one another, who say, We played the flute for you and you did not dance; we sang a lament and you did not weep.

³³For John the Baptist has come not eating bread or drinking wine, and you say, He has a demon!

³⁴The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, Behold, a man [who is] a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!

³⁵And wisdom is vindicated by all her children.

³⁶Now one of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he entered into the house of the Pharisee [and] reclined at the table.

³⁷And behold, a woman in the town who was a sinner, [when she] learned that he was dining in the Pharisees house, brought an alabaster flask of perfumed oil,

³⁸and standing behind [him] at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with [her] tears and was wiping [them] with the hair of her head and was kissing his feet and anointing [them] with the perfumed oil.

³⁹Now [when] the Pharisee who invited him saw [this], he spoke to himself, saying, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind

of woman [this is] who is touching him, that she is a sinner.

⁴⁰And Jesus answered [and] said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he said, "Teacher, say [it]."

⁴¹There were two debtors [who owed] a certain creditor. One owed five hundred denarii and the other fifty.

⁴²[When] they were not able to repay [him], he forgave [the debts] of both. Now which of them will love him more?

⁴³Simon answered [and] said, "I suppose that [it is the one] to whom he forgave more." And he said to him, "You have judged correctly.

⁴⁴And turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered into your house. You did not give me water for [my] feet, but she wet my feet with [her] tears and wiped [them] with her hair.

⁴⁵You did not give me a kiss, but from the time I entered, she has not stopped kissing my feet.

⁴⁶You did not anoint my head with olive oil, but she anointed my feet with perfumed oil.

⁴⁷ _For this reason_ I tell you, her sins[which were] many have been forgiven, for she loved much. But [the one] to whom little is forgiven loves little.

⁴⁸ And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven.

⁴⁹ And those who were reclining at the table with [him] began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?

⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.

8¹ And it happened that _afterward_ also he was going about from [one] town and village [to another] preaching and proclaiming the good news concerning the kingdom of God, and the twelve [were] with him,

² and some women who had been healed of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (who was called Magdalene), from whom seven demons had gone out,

³ and Joanna the wife of Chuza (Herod's household manager), and Susanna, and many others who were helping to support them from their possessions.

⁴And [while] a large crowd was gathering and [they] were going to him from town [after town], he spoke by means of a parable:

⁵The sower went out to sow his seed, and while he was sowing, _some seed_ fell on the side of the path and was trampled under foot, and the birds of the sky devoured it.

⁶And other [seed] fell on the rock, and [when it] came up, it withered, because it did not have moisture.

⁷And other [seed] fell in the midst of the thorn plants, and the thorn plants grew up with [it] [and] choked it.

⁸And other [seed] fell on the good soil, and [when it] came up, it produced a hundred times as much grain." [As he] said these [things], he called out, "The one who has ears to hear, let him hear!

⁹And his disciples asked him what this parable meant.

¹⁰And he said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest [they are] in parables, so that Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.

¹¹ Now the parable means this: the seed is the word of God,

¹² and those beside the path are the ones who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they may not believe [and] be saved.

¹³ And those on the rock [are those] who receive the word with joy when they hear [it], and these do not have [enough] root, who believe for a time and in a time of testing fall away.

¹⁴ And the [seed] that fell into the thorn plants these are the ones who hear and [as they] go along are choked by the worries and riches and pleasures of life, and they do not bear fruit to maturity.

¹⁵ But the [seed] on the good soil these are the ones who, [after] hearing the word, hold fast to [it] with a noble and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.

¹⁶ "And no one, [after] lighting a lamp, covers it with a jar or puts [it] under a bed, but puts [it] on a lampstand, so that those who come in can see the light.

¹⁷For nothing is secret that will not become evident, and nothing hidden that will never be known and come to light.

¹⁸Therefore consider how you listen, for whoever has, to him [more] will be given, and whoever does not have, even what he thinks [that he] has will be taken away from him.

¹⁹Now his mother and brothers came to him, and they were not able to meet with him because of the crowd.

²⁰And it was reported to him, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside wanting to see you.

²¹But he answered [and] said to them, "These are my mother and my brothersthe ones who hear the word of God and do [it].

²²Now it happened that on one of the days both he and his disciples got into a boat, and he said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they set sail,

²³and [as] they were sailing, he fell asleep. And a storm of wind came down on the lake, and they were being swamped and were in danger.

²⁴ And they came [and] woke him up, saying, "Master, master! We are perishing!" So he got up [and] rebuked the wind and the billowing waves of water and they ceased, and it became calm.

²⁵ And he said to them, "Where [is] your faith?" But they were afraid [and] were astonished, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water and they obey him?"

²⁶ And they sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.

²⁷ And [as] he got out on the land, a certain man from the town met [him] who had demons and for a considerable time had not worn clothes and did not live in a house, but among the tombs.

²⁸ And [when he] saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "_What do I have to do with you_, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me!

²⁹ For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For it had seized him many times, and he was bound with chains and shackles [and] was guarded, and breaking the bonds he

would be driven by the demon into the deserted places.)

³⁰ So Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered into him.

³¹ And they began imploring him that he would not order them to depart into the abyss.

³² Now there was a large herd of pigs feeding there on the hill, and they implored him that he would permit them to enter into those [pigs]. And he permitted them.

³³ So the demons came out of the man [and] entered into the pigs, and the herd rushed headlong down the steep slope into the lake and were drowned.

³⁴ And [when] the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and reported [it] in the town and in the countryside.

³⁵ So they went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone out sitting [there] clothed and in his right mind, at the feet of Jesus, and they were afraid.

³⁶ And those who had seen [it] reported to them how the man who had been demon-possessed had been healed.

³⁷ And all the people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, because they had been seized with great fear. So he got into the boat [and] returned.

³⁸ And the man from who the demons had gone out was begging him to stay with him, but he sent him away, saying,

³⁹ Return to your home and tell all that God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole town all that Jesus had done for him.

⁴⁰ Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, because they were all waiting for him.

⁴¹ And behold, a man _who was named_ Jairus came, and this man was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at the feet of Jesus [and] began imploring him to come to his house,

⁴² because _he had_ an only daughter, about twelve years [old], and she was dying. Now as he was going, the crowds were pressing against him.

⁴³ And a woman who was _suffering from hemorrhages_ for twelve years (who, [although she] had spent all [her] assets on physicians, was not able to be healed by anyone)

⁴⁴ came up behind [him] [and] touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately _her hemorrhaging_ stopped.

⁴⁵ And Jesus said, "Who [is] the one who touched me?" And [when they] all denied [it], Peter said, "Master, the crowds are pressing you hard and crowding [you]!"

⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, because I know power has gone out from me.

⁴⁷ And [when] the woman saw that she did not escape notice, she came trembling and falling down before him. In the presence of all the people, she told for what reason she had touched him, and that she was healed immediately.

⁴⁸ And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace.

⁴⁹ [While] he was still speaking, someone came from the synagogue rulers [house], saying, "Your daughter is dead! Trouble the Teacher no longer!

⁵⁰ But Jesus, [when he] heard [this], replied to him, "Do not be afraid! Only believe, and she will be healed.

⁵¹ Now [when he] came to the house, he did not allow anyone to enter with him except Peter and John and James and the father and mother of the child.

⁵² And they were all weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep! For she is not dead, but is sleeping.

⁵³ And they began laughing at him, [because they] knew that she was dead.

⁵⁴ But he took her hand [and] called, saying, "Child, get up.

⁵⁵ And her spirit returned, and she got up immediately, and he ordered [something] to be given to her to eat.

⁵⁶ And her parents were astonished, but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

9¹ And summoning the twelve, he gave them power and authority over all the demons and to cure diseases,

² and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

³ And he said to them, "Take along nothing for the journeyneither a staff,

nor a travelers bag, nor bread, nor money, nor to have two tunics apiece.

⁴And into whatever house you enter, stay there and depart from there.

⁵And [as for] all those who do not welcome you[when you] depart from that town, shake off the dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

⁶So they departed [and] went throughout the villages, proclaiming the good news and healing everywhere.

⁷Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was greatly perplexed, because it was said by some that John has been raised from the dead,

⁸and by some that Elijah had appeared, and others that some prophet of ancient times had risen.

⁹And Herod said, "John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?" And he was wanting to see him.

¹⁰And [when they] returned, the apostles described to him all that they had done. And he took them along [and] withdrew privately to a town called Bethsaida.

¹¹ But [when] the crowds found out, they followed him, and welcoming them, he began to speak to them about the kingdom of God, and he cured those who had need of healing.

¹² Now the day began to be far spent, and the twelve came up [and] said to him, "Send away the crowd so that they can go into the surrounding villages and farms to obtain lodging and find provisions, because we are here in a desolate place.

¹³ But he said to them, "You give them [something] to eat!" And they said, "_We have no_ more than five loaves and two fish, unless perhaps we go [and] purchase food for all these people.

¹⁴ (For there were about five thousand men.) So he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.

¹⁵ And they did so, and had [them] all sit down.

¹⁶ And taking the five loaves and the two fish, [and] looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them and began giving [them] to the disciples to set before the crowd.

¹⁷ And [they] all ate and were satisfied, and what was left over was picked up by them twelve baskets of broken pieces.

¹⁸ And it happened that while he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, saying, "Who do the crowds say [that] I am?"

¹⁹ And they answered [and] said, "John the Baptist, but others, Elijah, and others, that one of the ancient prophets has risen.

²⁰ And he said to them, "But who do you say [that] I am?" And Peter answered [and] said, "The Christ of God.

²¹ But he warned [and] commanded them to tell this to no one,

²² saying, "It is necessary [for] the Son of Man to suffer many [things] and to be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and to be killed, and to be raised on the third day.

²³ And he said to [them] all, "If anyone wants to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross every day and follow me.

²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life on account of me, this person will save it.

²⁵For what is a person benefited [if he] gains the whole world but loses or forfeits himself?

²⁶For whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of this person when he comes in his glory and the [glory] of the Father and of the holy angels.

²⁷But I tell you truly, there are some of those standing here who will never experience death until they see the kingdom of God.

²⁸Now it happened that about eight days after these words, he took along Peter and John and James [and] went up on the mountain to pray.

²⁹And as he was praying, the appearance of his face became different, and his clothing [became] white, gleaming like lightning.

³⁰And behold, two men were talking with him, who were Moses and Elijah,

³¹who appeared in glory [and] were speaking [about] his departure which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem.

³²Now Peter and those with him were _very sleepy_, but [when they] became

fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men who were standing with him.

³³And it happened that as they were going away from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good [for] us to be here. And let us make three shelters, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah," not knowing what he was saying.

³⁴And [while] he was saying these [things], a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered into the cloud.

³⁵And a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, [my] Chosen One. Listen to him!

³⁶And after the voice had occurred, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

³⁷Now it happened that on the next day, [when] they had come down from the mountain, a large crowd met him.

³⁸And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, saying, "Teacher, I beg you to look with concern on my son, because he is my only [son]!"

³⁹ And behold, a spirit seizes him and suddenly he screams, and it convulses him with foam and rarely withdraws from him, battering him severely.

⁴⁰ And I begged your disciples that they would expel it, and they were not able [to do so].

⁴¹ So Jesus answered [and] said, "O unbelieving and perverted generation! _How long_ will I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here!

⁴² And [while] he was still approaching, the demon threw him down and convulsed [him]. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.

⁴³ And they were all astounded at the impressiveness of God. @ But [while they]' note *Here "[while]" is supplied as a component of the temporal genitive absolute participle ("marveling")' were all marveling at all [the things] that he was doing, he said to his disciples,

⁴⁴ _You take these words to heart_, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men.

⁴⁵ But they did not understand this statement, and it was concealed from

them so that they could not understand it. And they were afraid to ask him about this statement.

⁴⁶And an argument developed among them as to who of them might be greatest.

⁴⁷But Jesus, [because he] knew the thoughts of their hearts, took hold of a child and had him stand beside him

⁴⁸and said to them, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For the one who is least among you all this one is great.

⁴⁹And John answered [and] said, "Master, we saw someone expelling demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him, because he does not follow in company with us.

⁵⁰But Jesus said to him, "Do not prevent [him], because whoever is not against you is for you.

⁵¹Now it happened that when the days were approaching _for him to be taken up_, he set [his] face to go to Jerusalem.

⁵²And he sent messengers before _him_, and they went [and] entered into

a village of the Samaritans in order to prepare for him.

⁵³And they did not welcome him because _he was determined to go_ to Jerusalem.

⁵⁴Now [when] the disciples James and John saw [it], they said, "Lord, do you want us to call fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"

⁵⁵But he turned around [and] rebuked them,

⁵⁶and they proceeded to another village.

⁵⁷And [as] they were traveling on the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go!"

⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky [have] nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay [his] head."

⁵⁹And he said to another, "Follow me!" But he said, "Lord, first allow me to go [and] bury my father."

⁶⁰But he said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead! But you go [and] proclaim the kingdom of God."

⁶¹ And another [person] also said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first allow me to say farewell to those in my house.

⁶² But Jesus said to him, "No one who puts [his] hand on the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God!

10¹ And after these [things], the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out two by two before _him_ into every town and place where he was about to go.

² And he said to them, "The harvest [is] plentiful, but the workers [are] few. Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest that he send out workers into his harvest.

³ Go! Behold, I am sending you out like lambs in the midst of wolves!

⁴ Do not carry a money bag or a travelers bag or sandals, and greet no one along the road.

⁵ And into whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace [be] to this household!

⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on him. But if not, it will return to you.

⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking _whatever they provide_,

for the worker [is] worthy of his pay. Do not move from house to house.

⁸And into whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat _whatever is_ set before you,

⁹and heal the sick in it, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you.

¹⁰But into whatever town you enter and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets [and] say,

¹¹Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you! Nevertheless know this: that the kingdom of God has come near!"

¹²I tell you that it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town!

¹³Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes!

¹⁴But it will be more bearable for Tyre and for Sidon in the judgment than for you!

¹⁵And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No! You will be brought down to Hades!

¹⁶The one who listens to you listens to me, and the one who rejects you rejects me. But the one who rejects me rejects the one who sent me.

¹⁷And the seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!

¹⁸So he said to them, "I saw Satan falling like lightning from heaven.

¹⁹Behold, I have given you the authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will ever harm you.

²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are inscribed in heaven.

²¹At [that] same time he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these [things] from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to young children. Yes, Father, for this was pleasing before you.

²²All [things] have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father and who the Father is except the Son, and [anyone] to whom the Son wants to reveal [him]."

²³And turning to the disciples, he said privately, "Blessed [are] the eyes that see [the things] which you see!

²⁴For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see [the things] which you see, and did not see [them], and to hear [the things] which you hear, and did not hear [them]."

²⁵And behold, a certain legal expert stood up to test him, saying, "Teacher, what must I do so that I will inherit eternal life?

²⁶And he said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read [it]?"

²⁷And he answered [and] said, "You shall love the Lord your God from all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

²⁸And he said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.

²⁹ But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ Jesus replied [and] said, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who both stripped him and beat [him]. [After] inflicting blows on [him], they went away, leaving [him] half dead.

³¹ Now by coincidence a certain priest was going down on that road, and [when he] saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

³² And in the same way also a Levite who happened by the place, [when he] came up to [him] and saw [him], passed by on the opposite side.

³³ But a certain Samaritan who was traveling came up to him and, [when he] saw [him], had compassion.

³⁴ And he came up [and] bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine, and he put him on his own animal [and] brought him to an inn and took care of him.

³⁵ And on the next day, he took out [and] gave two denarii to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him, and

whatever you spend in addition, I will repay to you when I return.

³⁶ Which of these three do you suppose became a neighbor of the man who fell among the robbers?

³⁷ So he said, "The one who showed mercy to him." And Jesus said to him, "You go and do likewise.

³⁸ Now as they traveled along, he entered into a certain village. And a certain woman _named_ Martha welcomed him.

³⁹ And _she had_ a sister named Mary, who also sat at the feet of the Lord [and] was listening to his teaching.

⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much preparation, so she approached [and] said, "Lord, is it not a concern to you that my sister has left me alone to make preparations? Then tell her that she should help me!

⁴¹ But the Lord answered [and] said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many [things]!

⁴² But one [thing] is necessary, for Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.

11 ¹ And it happened that while he was in a certain place praying, when he stopped a certain one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples.

² And he said to them, "When you pray, say, "Father, may your name be treated as holy. May your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation.

⁵ And he said to them, "Who of you will have a friend, and will go to him at midnight and say to him, Friend, lend me three loaves,

⁶ because a friend of mine has come to me on a journey, and I do not have anything to set before him.

⁷ And that one will answer from inside [and] say, Do not cause me trouble! The door has already been shut and my children are with me in bed! I am not able to get up to give you [anything].

⁸ I tell you, even if he does not give him [anything] [after he] gets up because

[he] is his friend, at any rate because of his impudence he will get up [and] give him whatever he needs.

⁹And I tell you, ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened for you.

¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

¹¹But what father from among you, [if his] son will ask for a fish, instead of a fish will give him a snake?

¹²Or also, [if] he will ask for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

¹³Therefore if you, [although you] are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father from heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?

¹⁴And he was expelling a demon, and it was mute. Now it happened that [when] the demon came out, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were astonished.

¹⁵But some of them said, "By Beelzebul the ruler of demons he expels demons!

¹⁶And others, [in order to] test [him], were demanding from him a sign from heaven.

¹⁷But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and _a divided household_ falls.

¹⁸So if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say [that] I expel demons by Beelzebul.

¹⁹But if I expel demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons expel [them]? For this [reason] they will be your judges!

²⁰But if I expel demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you!

²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his possessions are _safe_.

²²But when a stronger man attacks him [and] conquers him, he takes away his full armor in which he trusted and distributes his plunder.

²³The one who is not with me is against me, and the one who does not gather with me scatters.

²⁴ "Whenever an unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it travels through waterless places searching for rest, and does not find [it]. Then it says, I will return to my house from which I came out.

²⁵ And [when it] arrives it finds [the house] swept and put in order.

²⁶ Then it goes and brings along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and [they] go in [and] live there. And the last [state] of that person becomes worse than the first!

²⁷ Now it happened that as he said these [things], a certain woman from the crowd raised [her] voice [and] said to him, "Blessed [is] the womb that bore you, and [the] breasts [at] which you nursed!

²⁸ But he said, "On the contrary, blessed [are] those who hear the word of God and follow [it]!"

²⁹ And [as] the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation! It demands a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah!

³⁰For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation.

³¹The queen of the south will rise up at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, [something] greater than Solomon [is] here!

³²The people of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and behold, [something] greater than Jonah [is] here!

³³"No one [after] lighting a lamp puts [it] in a cellar or under a bushel basket, but on a lampstand, so that those who come in can see the light.

³⁴Your eye is the lamp of the body. When your eye is sincere, your whole body is full of light also. But when it is evil, your body [is] dark also.

³⁵Therefore pay careful attention [that] the light in you is not darkness!

³⁶If therefore your whole body [is] full of light, not having any part dark, it will

be completely full of light, as when the lamp with [its] light gives light to you.

³⁷ And as he was speaking, a Pharisee asked him _to have a meal_ with him, and he went in [and] reclined at table.

³⁸ And the Pharisee, [when he] saw [it], was astonished that he did not first wash before the meal.

³⁹ But the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but your inside is full of greediness and wickedness.

⁴⁰ Fools! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?

⁴¹ But give [as] charitable giving the things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you.

⁴² But woe to you, Pharisees, because you pay a tenth of mint and rue and every garden herb, and neglect justice and love for God! But it was necessary to do these [things] without neglecting those things also.

⁴³ Woe to you, Pharisees, because you love the best seat in the synagogues and the greetings in the marketplaces!

⁴⁴Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, and the people who walk over [them] do not know [it]!

⁴⁵And one of the legal experts answered [and] said to him, "Teacher, [when you] say these [things], you insult us also!

⁴⁶So he said, "Woe to you also, legal experts, because you load people [with] burdens hard to bear, and [you] yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers!

⁴⁷Woe to you, because you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them!

⁴⁸As a result you are witnesses, and you approve of the deeds of your fathers, because they killed them and you build [their tombs]!

⁴⁹For this [reason] also the wisdom of God said, I will send to them prophets and apostles, and [some] of them they will kill and persecute,

⁵⁰so that the blood of all the prophets that has been shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation,

⁵¹from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the

altar and the temple building. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation!

⁵²Woe to you, legal experts, because you have taken away the key to knowledge! You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering!

⁵³And [when] he departed from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be terribly hostile, and to question him closely about many [things],

⁵⁴plotting to catch him with reference to something _he might say_.

12¹ During _this time_ [when] a crowd of many thousands had gathered together, so that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, "Beware for yourselves of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

²But nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, and secret that will not be made known.

³Therefore everything that you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what _you have whispered_ in the inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.

⁴"And I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after these [things] do not have anything more to do.

⁵But I will show you whom you should fear: fear the one who has authority, after the killing, to throw [you] into hell! Yes, I tell you, fear this one!

⁶Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten in the sight of God.

⁷But even the hairs of your head are all numbered! Do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

⁸"And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before people, the Son of Man also will acknowledge him before the angels of God,

⁹but the one who denies me before people will be denied before the angels of God.

¹⁰And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him, but to the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven.

¹¹But when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the

authorities, do not be anxious how or what you should speak in your own defense or what you should say,

¹²for the Holy Spirit will teach you in [that] same hour what it is necessary to say.

¹³Now someone from the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me!

¹⁴But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or an arbitrator over you?

¹⁵And he said to them, "Watch out and guard yourselves from all greediness, because not [even] when someone has an abundance _does_ his life [consist] of his possessions.

¹⁶And he told a parable to them, saying, "The land of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest.

¹⁷And he reasoned to himself, saying, What should I do? For I do not have anywhere I can gather in my crops.

¹⁸And he said, I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and I will gather in there all my grain and possessions.

¹⁹And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many possessions stored

up for many years. Relax, eat, drink, celebrate!"

²⁰ But God said to him, Fool! This night your life is demanded from you, and [the things] which you have prepared whose will they be?

²¹ So [is] the one who stores up treasure for himself, and who is not rich toward God!

²² And he said to his disciples, "For this [reason] I tell you, do not be anxious for [your] life, what you will eat, or for [your] body, what you will wear.

²³ For life is more than food, and the body [more than] clothing.

²⁴ Consider the ravens, that they neither sow nor reap; to them there is neither storeroom nor barn, and God feeds them. How much more are you worth than the birds?

²⁵ And which of you [by] being anxious is able to add an hour to his life span?

²⁶ If then you are not even able [to do] a very little thing, why are you anxious about the rest?

²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they do not toil or spin, but I say to you,

not even Solomon in all his glory was dressed like one of these.

²⁸ But if God clothes the grass in the field in this way, [although it] is [here] today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more [will he do so for] you, you of little faith?

²⁹ And you, do not consider what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not be anxious.

³⁰ For all the nations of the world seek after these [things], and your Father knows that you need these [things].

³¹ But seek his kingdom and these [things] will be added to you.

³² Do not be afraid, little flock, because your Father is well pleased to give you the kingdom.

³³ Sell your possessions and give charitable gifts. Make for yourselves money bags that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven where thief does not approach or moth destroy.

³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ " _You must be prepared for action_ and [your] lamps burning.

³⁶And you, [be] like people who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that [when he] comes back and knocks, they can open [the door] for him immediately.

³⁷Blessed [are] those slaves whom the master will find on the alert [when he] returns! Truly I say to you that he will dress himself for service and have them recline at the table and will come by [and] serve them.

³⁸Even if he should come back in the second or in the third watch of the night and find [them] like this, blessed are they!

³⁹But understand this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into.

⁴⁰You also must be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not think [he will come]."

⁴¹And Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us, or also for everyone?"

⁴²And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful wise manager whom the master will put in charge over his servants to

give [them] [their] food allowance at the right time?

⁴³ Blessed [is] that slave whom his master will find so doing [when he] comes back.

⁴⁴ Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

⁴⁵ But if that slave should say _to himself_, My master is taking a long time to return, and he begins to beat the male slaves and the female slaves and to eat and drink and get drunk,

⁴⁶ the master of that slave will come on a day that he does not expect and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in two and assign his place with the unbelievers.

⁴⁷ And that slave who knew the will of his master and did not prepare or do according to his will _will be given a severe beating_.

⁴⁸ But the one who did not know and did [things] deserving blows _will be given a light beating_. And from everyone to whom much has been given, much will be demanded, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will ask him [for] even more.

⁴⁹"I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish that it had been kindled already!

⁵⁰But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how I am distressed until it is accomplished!

⁵¹Do you think that I have come to grant peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!

⁵²For from now on there will be five in one household, divided three against two and two against three.

⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.

⁵⁴And he also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud coming up in the west, you say at once, A rainstorm is coming, and so it happens.

⁵⁵And when [you see] the south wind blowing, you say, There will be burning heat, and it happens.

⁵⁶Hypocrites! You know how to evaluate the appearance of the earth and the sky,

but how [is it] you do not know how to evaluate this present time?

⁵⁷And why do you not also judge for yourselves [what is] right?

⁵⁸For as you are going with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to come to a settlement with him on the way, so that he will not drag you to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the bailiff, and the bailiff will throw you into prison.

⁵⁹I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid back even the last cent!"

13¹ Now at the same time some had come to tell him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.

²And he answered [and] said to them, "Do you think that these Galileans were sinners worse than all the Galileans, because they suffered these [things]?"

³No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as well!

⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them do you think that they were sinners worse than all the people who live in Jerusalem?

⁵No, I tell you, but unless you repent, you will all perish as well!

⁶And he told this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find [any].

⁷So he said to the gardener, Behold, _for three years_ I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree and did not find [any]. Therefore cut it down! Why should it even exhaust the soil?

⁸But he answered [and] said to him, Sir, leave it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put manure on [it].

⁹And if indeed it produces fruit in the coming [year], [so much the better], but if not, you can cut it down.

¹⁰Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.

¹¹And behold, a woman [was there] who had a spirit _that had disabled her_ [for] eighteen years, and she was bent over and not able to straighten herself up completely.

¹²And [when he] saw her, Jesus summoned [her] and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your disability!

¹³And he placed [his] hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and glorified God.

¹⁴But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, answered [and] said to the crowd, "There are six days on which it is necessary to work. Therefore come [and] be healed on them, and not on the day of the Sabbath!

¹⁵But the Lord answered and said to him, "Hypocrites! Does not each one of you untie his ox or [his] donkey from the feeding trough on the Sabbath and lead [it] away to water [it]?

¹⁶And this woman, who is a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound _eighteen_ long years is it not necessary that she be released from this bond on the day of the Sabbath?

¹⁷And [when] he said these [things], all those who opposed him were humiliated, and the whole crowd was rejoicing at all the splendid things that were being done by him.

¹⁸Therefore he said, "What is the kingdom of God like, and to what shall I compare it?

¹⁹It is like a mustard seed that a man took [and] sowed in his own garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the sky nested in its branches.

²⁰And again he said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God?

²¹It is like yeast that a woman took [and] put into three measures of wheat flour until the whole [batch] was leavened.

²²And he was going throughout towns and villages, teaching and making [his] journey toward Jerusalem.

²³And someone said to him, "Lord, _are there only_ a few who are saved?" And he said to them,

²⁴Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able to,

²⁵when once the master of the house has gotten up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock [on] the door, saying, Lord, open [the door] for us! And he will answer [and] say to you, I do not know where you are from!

²⁶Then you will begin to say, We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets!

²⁷And he will reply, saying to you, I do not know where you are from! Go away from me, all [you] _evildoers_!

²⁸In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves thrown outside!

²⁹And they will come from east and west, and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God.

³⁰And behold, [some] are last who will be first, and [some] are first who will be last.

³¹At [that] same hour some Pharisees came up [and] said to him, "Go out and depart from here, because Herod wants to kill you!

³²And he said to them, "Go [and] tell that fox, Behold, I am expelling demons and performing healings today and tomorrow, and on the third [day] I will complete [my work].

³³ Nevertheless, it is necessary [for] me to be on the way today and tomorrow and on the next [day], because it is not possible [for] a prophet to perish outside Jerusalem.

³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How many times I wanted to gather your children together _the way_ a hen [gathers] her own brood under [her] wings, and you were not willing!

³⁵ Behold, your house has been left to you! And I tell you, you will never see me until [the time] will come when you say, Blessed [is] the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

14¹ And it happened that when he came to the house of a certain one of the leaders of the Pharisees on a Sabbath to eat _a meal_, they were watching him closely.

² And behold, a certain man was in front of him, suffering from edema.

³ And Jesus answered [and] said to the legal experts and Pharisees, saying, "Is it permitted to heal on the Sabbath, or not?"

⁴But they remained silent. And he took hold of [him] [and] healed him, and sent [him] away.

⁵And he said to them, "Who among you, [if your] son or [your] ox falls into a well on the day of the Sabbath, will not immediately pull him out?"

⁶And they were not able to make a reply to these [things].

⁷Now he told a parable to those who had been invited [when he] noticed how they were choosing for themselves the places of honor, saying to them,

⁸When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not recline at the table in the place of honor, lest [someone] more distinguished than you has been invited by him,

⁹and the one who invited you _both_ will come [and] say to you, Give the place to this person, and then with shame you will begin to take the last place.

¹⁰But when you are invited, go [and] recline at the table in the last place, so that when the one who invited you comes, he will say to you, Friend, move up higher. Then it will be an honor to

you in the presence of all those who are reclining at the table with you.

¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

¹²And he also said to the one who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or wealthy neighbors, lest they also invite you [in return], and repayment come to you.

¹³But whenever you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,

¹⁴and you will be blessed, because they are not able to repay you. For it will be paid back to you at the resurrection of the righteous.

¹⁵Now [when] one of those reclining at the table with [him] heard these [things], he said to him, "Blessed [is] _everyone who_ will eat bread in the kingdom of God!

¹⁶But he said to him, "A certain man was giving a large banquet and invited many.

¹⁷ And he sent his slave at the hour of the banquet to say to those who have been invited, Come, because now it is ready!

¹⁸ And they all alike began to excuse themselves. The first said to him, I have purchased a field, and I must go out to look at it. I ask you, consider me excused.

¹⁹ And another said, I have purchased five yoke of oxen, and I am going to examine them. I ask you, consider me excused.

²⁰ And another said, I have married a wife, and for this [reason] I am not able to come.

²¹ And the slave came [and] reported these [things] to his master. Then the master of the house became angry [and] said to his slave, Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame!

²² And the slave said, Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.

²³ And the master said to the slave, Go out into the highways and hedges and

press [them] to come in, so that my house will be filled!

²⁴For I say to you that none of those persons who were invited will taste my banquet!

²⁵Now large crowds were going along with him, and he turned around [and] said to them,

²⁶If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and furthermore, even his own life, _he cannot be_ my disciple.

²⁷Whoever does not carry his own cross and _follow_ me _cannot be_ my disciple.

²⁸For which of you, wanting to build a tower, does not first sit down [and] calculate the cost [to see] if he has [enough] _to complete it_?

²⁹_Otherwise_ [after] he has laid the foundation and is not able to finish [it], all who see [it] will begin to ridicule him,

³⁰saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish!

³¹Or what king, going out to engage another king in battle, does not sit down first [and] deliberate whether he is

able with ten thousand to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand.

³² But if not, [while] [the other] is still far away, he sends an ambassador [and] asks _for terms of_ peace.

³³ In the [same] way, therefore, every [one] of you who does not renounce all his own possessions _cannot be_ my disciple.

³⁴ Now salt [is] good, but if salt becomes tasteless, with what will it be made salty?

³⁵ It is usable neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; they throw it out. The one who has ears to hear, let him hear!

15¹ Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were drawing near to hear him.

² And both the Pharisees and the scribes were complaining, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them!"

³ So he told them this parable, saying,

⁴ What man of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the grassland and go after the one that was lost until he finds it?

⁵And [when he] has found [it], he places [it] on his shoulders, rejoicing.

⁶And [when he] returns to [his] home, he calls together [his] friends and neighbors, saying to them, Rejoice with me, because I have found my sheep that was lost!

⁷I tell you that in the [same] way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.

⁸Or what woman who has ten drachmas, if she loses one drachma, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds [it]?

⁹And [when she] has found [it], she calls together [her] friends and neighbors, saying, Rejoice with me, because I have found the drachma that I had lost!

¹⁰In the [same] way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

¹¹And he said, "A certain man had two sons.

¹²And the younger of them said to [his] father, Father, give me the share of the property that is coming to [me]. So he divided [his] assets between them.

¹³And after not many days, the younger son gathered everything [and] went on a journey to a distant country, and there he squandered his wealth [by] living wastefully.

¹⁴And [after] he had spent everything, there was a severe famine throughout that country, and he began to be in need.

¹⁵And he went [and] hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to tend pigs.

¹⁶And he was longing to stuff himself with the carob pods that the pigs were eating, and no one was giving [anything] to him.

¹⁷But [when he] came to himself, he said, How many of my fathers hired workers have an abundance _of food_, and I am dying here from hunger!

¹⁸I will set out [and] go to my father and will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and _in your sight_!

¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son! Make me like one of your hired workers.

²⁰And he set out [and] came to his own father. But [while] he was still a long way away, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran _and embraced him_ and kissed him.

²¹And [his] son said to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and _in your sight_! I am no longer worthy to be called your son!

²²But [his] father said to his slaves, Quickly bring out the best robe and put [it] on him, and put a ring on his finger and sandals on [his] feet!

²³And bring the fattened calkill [it] and let us eat [and] celebrate,

²⁴because this son of mine was dead, and is alive again! He was lost and is found! And they began to celebrate.

²⁵Now his older son was in the field, and when he came [and] approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

²⁶And he summoned one of the slaves [and] asked what these [things] meant.

²⁷And he said to him, Your brother has come, and your father has killed the

fattened calf because he has gotten him back healthy.

²⁸ But he became angry and did not want to go in. So his father came out [and] began to implore him.

²⁹ But he answered [and] said to his father, Behold, so many years I have served you, and have never disobeyed your command! And you never gave me a young goat so that I could celebrate with my friends!

³⁰ But when this son of yours returned who has consumed your assets with prostitutes you killed the fattened calf for him!

³¹ But he said to him, Child, you are always with me, and _everything I have belongs to you_.

³² But it was necessary to celebrate and to rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead, and is alive, and was lost, and is found!

16¹ And he also said to the disciples, "A certain man was rich, who had a manager. And charges were brought to him that this person was squandering his possessions.

²And he summoned him [and] said to him, What is this I hear about you? Give the account of your management, because you can no longer manage.

³And the manager said to himself, What should I do, because my master is taking away the management from me? I am not strong enough to dig; I am ashamed to beg.

⁴I know what I should do, so that when I am removed from the management they will welcome me into their homes!

⁵And he summoned each one of his own masters debtors [and] said to the first, How much do you owe my master?

⁶And he said, A hundred measures of olive oil. So he said to him, Take your promissory note and sit down quickly [and] write fifty.

⁷Then he said to another, And how much do you owe? And he said, A hundred measures of wheat. He said to him, Take your promissory note and write eighty.

⁸And the master praised the dishonest manager, because he had acted shrewdly. For the sons of this age are

shrewder than the sons of light with regard to their own generation.

⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it runs out they will welcome you into the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰The one who [is] faithful in very little is also faithful in much, and the one who [is] dishonest in very little is also dishonest in much.

¹¹If then you have not been faithful with unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true [riches]?

¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you your own?

¹³No domestic slave is able to serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and will despise the other. You are not able to serve God and money.

¹⁴Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these [things], and they ridiculed him.

¹⁵And he said to them, "You are the ones who justify themselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts! For

[what is] [considered] exalted among men [is] an abomination in the sight of God.

¹⁶The law and the prophets [were] until John; from that time [on] the kingdom of God has been proclaimed, and everyone is urgently pressed into it.

¹⁷But it is easier [for] heaven and earth to pass away than [for] one stroke of a letter of the law to become invalid.

¹⁸"Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and the one who marries a woman divorced from [her] husband commits adultery.

¹⁹"Now a certain man was rich, and dressed [in] purple cloth and fine linen, feasting sumptuously every day.

²⁰And a certain poor man _named_ Lazarus, covered with sores, lay at his gate,

²¹and was longing to be filled with what fell from the table of the rich man. But even the dogs came [and] licked his sores.

²²Now it happened that the poor man died, and he was carried away by the angels to _Abrahams side_. And the rich man also died and was buried.

²³ And in Hades he lifted up his eyes [as he] was in torment [and] saw Abraham from a distance, and Lazarus _at his side_.

²⁴ And he called out [and] said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he could dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am suffering pain in this flame!

²⁵ But Abraham said, Child, remember that you received your good [things] during your life, and Lazarus likewise bad [things]. But now he is comforted here, but you are suffering pain.

²⁶ And in [addition to] all these [things], a great chasm has been established between us and you, so that those who want to cross over from here to you are not able [to do so], nor can they cross over from there to us.

²⁷ So he said, Then I ask you, father, that you send him to my fathers house,

²⁸ for I have five brothers, so that he could warn them, in order that they also should not come to this place of torment!

²⁹ But Abraham said, They have Moses and the prophets; they must listen to them.

³⁰And he said, No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent!

³¹But he said to him, If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone rises from the dead.

17 ¹And he said to his disciples, "It is impossible for causes for stumbling not to come, but woe [to him] through whom they come!

²It would be better for him if _a millstone_ is placed around his neck and he is thrown into the sea than that he causes one of these little ones to sin.

³Be concerned about yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.

⁴And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times he returns to you saying, I repent, you must forgive him.

⁵And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!

⁶So the Lord said, "If you have faith like a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, Be uprooted and planted in the sea, and it would obey you.

⁷ And which of you who has a slave plowing or shepherding [sheep] who comes in from the field will say to him, Come here at once [and] recline at the table?

⁸ Will he not rather say to him, Prepare something that I may eat, and dress yourself to serve me while I eat and drink, and after these [things] you will eat and drink.

⁹ He will not _be grateful_ to the slave because he did what was ordered, [will he]?

¹⁰ Thus you also, when you have done all the _things you were ordered to do_, say, We are unworthy slaves; we have done what we were obligated to do.

¹¹ And it happened that while traveling toward Jerusalem, he was passing through _the region between_ Samaria and Galilee.

¹² And [as] he was entering into a certain village, ten men met him lepers, who stood at a distance.

¹³ And they raised [their] voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

¹⁴ And [when he] saw [them] he said to them, "Go [and] show yourselves to the

priests." And it happened that as they were going, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ But one of them, [when he] saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice.

¹⁶ And he fell on [his] face at his feet, giving thanks to him. And he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ So Jesus answered [and] said, "Were not ten cleansed? And where [are] the nine?

¹⁸ Was no one found to turn back [and] give praise to God except this foreigner?

¹⁹ And he said to him, "Get up [and] go your way. Your faith has saved you.

²⁰ Now [when he] was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with _things that can be observed_,

²¹ nor will they say, Behold, here [it is]! or There! For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.

²² And he said to the disciples, "Days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see [it].

²³ And they will say to you, Behold, there! or Behold, here! Do not go out or run after [them]!

²⁴ For just as the lightning shines forth, flashing from [one place] under heaven to [another place] under heaven, so the Son of Man will be in his day.

²⁵ But first it is necessary [for] him to suffer many [things], and to be rejected by this generation.

²⁶ And just as it was in the days of Noah, so also it will be in the days of the Son of Man

²⁷ they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed [them] all.

²⁸ Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building.

²⁹ But on the day that Lot went out from Sodom, it rained fire and sulphur from heaven and destroyed [them] all.

³⁰ It will be _just the same_ on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.

³¹ On that day, whoever is on the housetop and his goods [are] in the house must not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who [is] in the field must not turn back

³² Remember Lot's wife!

³³ Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses [it] will keep it.

³⁴ I tell you that in that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left.

³⁵ There will be two [women] grinding at the same [place]; one will be taken and the other will be left."

³⁶ EMPTY

³⁷ And they answered [and] said to him, "Where, Lord?" So he said to them, "Where the dead body [is], there also the vultures will be gathered.

18¹ And he told them a parable to [show that] they must always pray and not be discouraged,

² saying, "There was a certain judge in a certain town who did not fear God and did not respect people.

³And there was a widow in that town, and she kept coming to him, saying, Grant me justice against my adversary!

⁴And he was not willing for a time, but after these [things] he said to himself, Even if I do not fear God or respect people,

⁵yet because this widow is causing trouble for me, I will grant her justice, so that she does not wear me down in the end [by her] coming back!

⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unrighteous judge is saying!

⁷And will not God surely _see to it that justice is done_ to his chosen ones who cry out to him day and night, and will he delay toward them?

⁸I tell you that _he will see to it that justice is done_ for them soon! Nevertheless, [when] the Son of Man comes, then will he find faith on earth?

⁹And he also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and looked down on _everyone else_:

¹⁰Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

¹¹ The Pharisee stood [and] prayed these [things] with reference to himself: God, I give thanks to you that I am not like other peopleswindlers, unrighteous [people], adulterers, or even like this tax collector!

¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all that I get.

¹³ But the tax collector, standing far away, did not want even to raise his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner!

¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than that one! For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

¹⁵ Now they were bringing even [their] babies to him so that he could touch them. But [when] the disciples saw [it], they rebuked them.

¹⁶ But Jesus called them to himself, saying, "Allow the children to come to me, and do not forbid them, _for to such belongs_ the kingdom of God.

¹⁷ Truly I say to you, whoever does not welcome the kingdom of God like a young child will never enter into it.

¹⁸And a certain ruler asked him, saying, "Good Teacher, [by] doing what will I inherit eternal life?

¹⁹And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one [is] good except God alone.

²⁰You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother."

²¹And he said, "All these I have observed from [my] youth.

²²And [when he] heard [this], Jesus said to him, "_You still lack one thing_: Sell all that you have, and distribute [the proceeds] to the poorand you will have treasure in heavenand come, follow me.

²³But [when he] heard these [things] he became very sad, because he was extremely wealthy.

²⁴And [when] Jesus saw him becoming very sad, he said, "How _difficult it is for_ those who possess wealth to enter into the kingdom of God!

²⁵For it is easier [for] a camel to go through the eye of a needle than [for] a rich person to enter into the kingdom of God.

²⁶ So those who heard [this] said, "And who can be saved?

²⁷ But he said, "[What is] impossible with men is possible with God.

²⁸ And Peter said, "Behold, we have left _all that is ours_ [and] followed you.

²⁹ And he said to them, "Truly I say to you that there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children on account of the kingdom of God,

³⁰ who will not receive many times more in this time and in the age to come, eternal life.

³¹ And taking aside the twelve, he said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all the things that are written by the prophets with reference to the Son of Man will be accomplished.

³² For he will be handed over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and mistreated and spit on,

³³ and [after] flogging [him] they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.

³⁴ And they understood none of these [things], and this saying was concealed from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said.

³⁵ Now it happened that as he drew near to Jericho, a certain blind man was sitting on the side of the road begging.

³⁶ And [when he] heard a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant.

³⁷ And they told him, "Jesus the Nazarene is passing by.

³⁸ And he called out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!

³⁹ And those who were in front rebuked him, that he should be silent, but he cried out _even more loudly_, "Son of David, have mercy on me!

⁴⁰ So Jesus stopped [and] ordered him to be brought to him. And [when] he approached, he asked him,

⁴¹ What do you want me to do for you?" And he said, "Lord, that I may regain [my] sight.

⁴² And Jesus said to him, "Regain [your] sight! Your faith has saved you.

⁴³ And immediately he regained [his] sight and began to follow him, glorifying God. And all the people, [when they] saw [it], gave praise to God.

19¹ And he entered [and] traveled through Jericho.

²And _there was_ a man _named_
Zacchaeus, and he was a chief tax
collector, and he [was] rich.

³And he was seeking to see Jesus who
he was and he was not able to as a result
of the crowd, because he was short in
stature.

⁴And he ran on ahead [and] climbed
up into a sycamore tree so that he could
see him, because he was going to go
through [that way].

⁵And when he came to the place,
Jesus looked up [and] said to him,
"Zacchaeus, come down quickly, because
it is necessary [for] me to stay at your
house today!

⁶And he came down quickly and
welcomed him joyfully.

⁷And [when they] saw [it], they all
began to complain, saying, "He has gone
in to find lodging with a man who is a
sinner!

⁸And Zacchaeus stopped [and] said
to the Lord, "Behold, half of my
possessions, Lord, I am giving to the
poor, and if I have extorted anything
from anyone, I am paying [it] back four
times [as much]!"

⁹And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham.

¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save those who are lost.

¹¹Now [while] they were listening to these [things], he went on [and] told a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and they thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately.

¹²Therefore he said, "A certain nobleman traveled to a distant country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return.

¹³And summoning ten of his own slaves, he gave them ten minas and said to them, Do business _until I come back_.

¹⁴But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, We do not want this man to be king over us!

¹⁵And it happened that when he returned [after] receiving the kingdom, he ordered these slaves to whom he had given the money to be summoned to him, so that he could know what they had gained by trading.

¹⁶ So the first arrived, saying, Sir, your mina has made ten minas more!

¹⁷ And he said to him, Well done, good slave! Because you have been faithful in a very small thing, _have authority_ over ten cities.

¹⁸ And the second came, saying, Sir, your mina has made five minas.

¹⁹ So he said to this one also, And you be over five cities.

²⁰ And another came, saying, Sir, behold your mina, which I had put away for safekeeping in a piece of cloth.

²¹ For I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man; you withdraw what you did not deposit, and you reap what you did not sow!

²² He said to him, _By your own words_ I will judge you, wicked slave! You knew that I am a severe man, withdrawing what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow.

²³ And why did you not give my money to the bank, and I, [when I] returned, would have collected it with interest?

²⁴ And to the bystanders he said, Take away from him the mina and give [it] to the one who has the ten minas!

²⁵ And they said to him, Sir, he has ten minas.

²⁶ I tell you that to everyone who has, [more] will be given. But from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

²⁷ But these enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them bring [them] here and slaughter them [in] my presence!

²⁸ And [after he] had said these [things], he traveled on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ And it happened that when he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, to the hill called [the Mount] of Olives, he sent two of the disciples,

³⁰ saying, Go into the village in front of [you], in which [as you] enter you will find a colt tied, on which _no person has ever_ sat, and untie it [and] bring [it].

³¹ And if anyone asks you, Why are you untying [it]? you will say this: The Lord has need of it.

³² So those who were sent went [and] found [it] just as he had told them.

³³ And [as] they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, Why are you untying the colt?

³⁴ So they said, The Lord has need of it.

³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they put Jesus [on it].

³⁶ And [as] he was going along, they were spreading out their cloaks on the road.

³⁷ Now [as] he was drawing near by this time to the descent from the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began rejoicing to praise God with a loud voice for all the miracles that they had seen,

³⁸ saying, "Blessed [is] the king, the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

³⁹ And some of the Pharisees from the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!

⁴⁰ And he answered [and] said, "I tell you, if these keep silent, the stones will cry out!

⁴¹ And when he approached [and] saw the city, he wept over it,

⁴²saying, "If you had known on this day even you the things [that make] for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

⁴³For days will come upon you and your enemies will put up an embankment against you, and will surround you and press you hard from all directions.

⁴⁴And they will raze you to the ground, [you] and your children within you, and will not leave a stone upon a stone within you, _because_ you did not recognize the time of your visitation.

⁴⁵And he entered into the temple [courts] [and] began to drive out those who were selling,

⁴⁶saying to them, "It is written, And my house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it a cave of robbers!

⁴⁷And he was teaching every day in the temple [courts], and the chief priests and the scribes and the most prominent men of the people were seeking to destroy him.

⁴⁸And they did not find anything they could do, because all the people were paying close attention to [what] they were hearing from him.

20¹ And it happened that on one of the days [while] he was teaching the people in the temple [courts] and proclaiming the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes approached together with the elders

² and said, saying to him, "Tell us, by what authority you are doing these [things], or who is the one who gave you this authority?

³ And he answered [and] said to them, "I also will ask you a question, and you tell me:

⁴ The baptism of John was [it] from heaven or from men?

⁵ And they discussed [this] with one another, saying, "If we say From heaven, he will say, Why did you not believe him?

⁶ But if we say, From men, all the people will stone us to death, because they are convinced [that] John was a prophet.

⁷ And they replied [that they] did not know where [it was] from.

⁸ And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these [things].

⁹ And he began to tell the people this parable: "A certain man planted

a vineyard, and leased it to tenant farmers, and went on a journey for a long time.

¹⁰And at the proper time he sent a slave to the tenant farmers, so that they would give him [some] of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenant farmers sent him away empty-handed [after] beating [him].

¹¹And he proceeded to send another slave, but they beat and dishonored that one also, [and] sent [him] away empty-handed.

¹²And he proceeded to send a third, but they wounded [and] threw out this one also.

¹³So the owner of the vineyard said, What should I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.

¹⁴But [when] the tenant farmers saw him, they began to reason with one another, saying, This is the heir. Let us kill him so that the inheritance will become ours!

¹⁵And they threw him out of the vineyard [and] killed [him]. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them?

¹⁶He will come and destroy those tenant farmers and give the vineyard to others." And [when they] heard [this], they said, "[May this] never happen!

¹⁷But he looked intently at them [and] said, "What then is this that is written: The stone which the builders rejected, this has become _the cornerstone_.

¹⁸Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and [the one] on whom it fallsit will crush him!

¹⁹And the scribes and the chief priests sought to lay [their] hands on him at [that] same hour, and they were afraid of the people, for they knew that he had told this parable with reference to them.

²⁰And they watched [him] closely [and] sent spies who pretended they were upright, in order that they could catch him in a statement, so that they could hand him over to the authority and the jurisdiction of the governor.

²¹And they asked him, saying, "Teacher, we know that you speak and teach rightly, and do not _show partiality_, but teach the way of God in truth.

²²Is it permitted [for] us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?

²³ But seeing through their craftiness, he said to them,

²⁴ Show me a denarius! Whose image and inscription does it have?" And they said, "Caesars.

²⁵ So he said to them, "Well then, give to Caesar the things of Caesar, and to God the things of God!

²⁶ And they were not able to catch him in a statement in the sight of the people, and astonished at his answer, they became silent.

²⁷ Now some of the Sadducees who deny _that there is a resurrection_ came up [and] asked him,

²⁸ saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us if someones brother dies having a wife, and this man is childless, that his brother should take the wife and _father_ descendants for his brother.

²⁹ Now there were seven brothers, and the first took a wife [and] died childless,

³⁰ and the second,

³¹ and the third took her, and likewise also the seven did not leave children and died.

³² Finally the woman also died.

³³ Therefore in the resurrection, the woman whose wife will she be? For the seven had her [as] wife.

³⁴ And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage,

³⁵ but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and [to] the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage,

³⁶ for they are not even able to die any longer, because they are like the angels and are sons of God, [because they] are sons of the resurrection.

³⁷ But that the dead are raised, even Moses revealed in [the passage about] the bush, when he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and [the] God of Isaac and [the] God of Jacob.

³⁸ Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him!

³⁹ And some of the scribes answered [and] said, "Teacher, you have spoken well.

⁴⁰ For they no longer dared to ask him anything.

⁴¹ But he said to them, "In what sense do they say [that] the Christ is Davids son?

⁴² For David himself says in the book of Psalms, The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand,

⁴³ until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

⁴⁴ David therefore calls him Lord, and how is he his son?

⁴⁵ And [while] all the people were listening, he said to his disciples,

⁴⁶ Beware of the scribes, who like walking around in long robes and who love greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets,

⁴⁷ who devour the houses of widows and pray lengthy [prayers] for the sake of appearance. These will receive more severe condemnation!

21 ¹ And he looked up [and] saw the rich putting their gifts into the contribution box,

² and he saw a certain poor widow putting in there two small copper coins.

³And he said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow put in more than all [of them].

⁴For these all put [gifts] into the offering out of their abundance, but this [woman] out of her poverty put in all the means of subsistence that she had.

⁵And [while] some were speaking about the temple, that it was adorned with precious stones and votive offerings, he said,

⁶[As for] these [things] that you seedays will come in which not [one] stone will be left on [another] stone that will not be thrown down!

⁷And they asked him, saying, "Teacher, when therefore will these [things] happen, and what [will be] the sign when these [things] are about to take place?

⁸And he said, Watch out that you are not deceived! For many will come in my name, saying, I am [he], and The time is near! Do not go after them!

⁹And when you hear about wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these [things] must happen first, but the end [will] not [be] at once.

¹⁰Then he said to them, "nation will rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom.

¹¹There will be great earthquakes and famines and plagues in [various] places. There will be terrible sights and great signs from heaven.

¹²"But before all these [things], they will lay their hands on you and will persecute [you], handing [you] over to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and governors because of my name.

¹³This will turn out to you for a [time of] witness.

¹⁴_Therefore make up your minds_ not to prepare in advance to speak in your own defense,

¹⁵for I will give you a mouth and wisdom that all your opponents will not be able to resist or contradict.

¹⁶And you will be handed over even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put to death [some] of you.

¹⁷And you will be hated by all because of my name.

¹⁸Even a hair of your head will never perish!

¹⁹By your patient endurance you will gain your lives.

²⁰"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near.

²¹Then those in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those _inside it_ must depart, and those in the fields must not enter into it,

²²because these are days of vengeance, [so that] all the things that are written can be fulfilled.

²³Woe to those _who are pregnant_ and to those who are nursing [their babies] in those days! For there will be great distress on the earth and wrath against this people,

²⁴and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

²⁵"And there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity from the noise of the sea and [its] surging,

²⁶people fainting from fear and expectation of what is coming on the inhabited earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man arriving in a cloud with power and great glory.

²⁸But [when] these [things] begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near!

²⁹And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees.

³⁰When they put out [foliage], now you see for yourselves [and] know that by this time the summer is near.

³¹So also you, when you see these [things] happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.

³²Truly I say to you that this generation will never pass away until all [things] take place!

³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴"But take care for yourselves, lest your hearts are weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the

worries of daily life, and that day come upon you suddenly

³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who reside on the face of the whole earth.

³⁶But be alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these [things] [that] are going to happen, and to stand before the Son of Man.

³⁷So [throughout] the days he was teaching in the temple [courts], and [throughout] the nights he was going out [and] spending the night on the hill that is called [the Mount] of Olives.

³⁸And all the people were getting up very early in the morning [to come] to him in the temple [courts] to listen to him.

22¹ Now the feast of Unleavened Bread (which is called Passover) was drawing near.

²And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how they could destroy him, because they were afraid of the people.

³And Satan entered into Judas, the one called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve.

⁴And he went away [and] discussed with the chief priests and officers of the temple guard how he could betray him to them.

⁵And they were delighted, and came to an agreement with him to give [him] money.

⁶And he agreed, and began looking for a favorable opportunity to betray him to them apart from the crowd.

⁷And the day of the feast of Unleavened Bread came, on which it was necessary [for] the Passover lamb to be sacrificed.

⁸And he sent Peter and John, saying, "Go [and] prepare the Passover for us, so that we may eat [it]."

⁹So they said to him, "Where do you want us to prepare [it]?"

¹⁰And he said to them, "Behold, [when] you have entered into the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house which he enters.

¹¹And you will say to the master of the house, The Teacher says to you, "Where

is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"

¹²And he will show you a large furnished upstairs room. Make preparations there.

¹³So they went [and] found [everything] just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴And when the hour came, he reclined at the table, and the apostles with him.

¹⁵And he said to them, "_I have earnestly desired_ to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

¹⁶For I tell you that I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

¹⁷And he took in hand a cup, [and] [after] giving thanks he said, "Take this and share [it] among yourselves.

¹⁸For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the product of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

¹⁹And he took bread, [and] [after] giving thanks, he broke [it] and gave [it] to them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

²⁰And in the same way the cup after [they] had eaten, saying, "This cup [is]

the new covenant in my blood which is poured out for you.

²¹ But behold, the hand of the one who is betraying me [is] with me on the table!

²² For the Son of Man is going according to what has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!

²³ And they began to debate with one another who then of them it could be who was going to do this.

²⁴ And a dispute also occurred among them as to which of them was recognized as being greatest.

²⁵ So he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are called benefactors.

²⁶ But you [are] not [to be] like this! But the one who is greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves.

²⁷ For who [is] greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? [Is it] not the one who reclines at the table? But I am in your midst as the one who serves.

²⁸And you are the ones who have remained with me in my trials,

²⁹and I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred on me,

³⁰that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

³¹"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded to sift you like wheat,

³²but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail. And you, [when] once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

³³But he said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death!

³⁴And he said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times [that you] know me!

³⁵And he said to them, "When I sent you out without a money bag and a travelers bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, [did you]?" And they said, "Nothing.

³⁶And he said to them, "But now the one who has a money bag must take [it], and likewise a travelers bag. And

the one who does not have a sword must sell his cloak and buy [one].

³⁷ For I tell you that this that is written must be fulfilled in me: And he was counted with the criminals. For indeed, [what is written] about me _is being fulfilled_."

³⁸ So they said, "Lord, behold, here [are] two swords!" And he said to them, "It is adequate.

³⁹ And he went away [and] proceeded, according to [his] custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples also followed him.

⁴⁰ And [when] he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not enter into temptation.

⁴¹ And he withdrew from them about a stones throw and _knelt down_ [and] began to pray,

⁴² saying, "Father, if you are willing, take away this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will but yours be done.

⁴³ [[And an angel from heaven appeared to him, strengthening him.

⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he began praying more fervently and his sweat

became like drops of blood falling down to the ground.]]

⁴⁵ And [when he] got up from the prayer [and] came to the disciples, he found them sleeping from sorrow,

⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up [and] pray that you will not enter into temptation!

⁴⁷ [While] he was still speaking, behold, [there came] a crowd, and the one named Judas, one of the twelve, leading them. And he approached Jesus to kiss him.

⁴⁸ But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?

⁴⁹ And [when] those around him saw what was about to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?

⁵⁰ And a certain one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus answered [and] said, "_Stop! No more of this!_" And he touched [his] ear [and] healed him.

⁵² And Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders who had come out against him, "Have

you come out with swords and clubs, as against a robber?

⁵³Every day [when] I was with you in the temple [courts], you did not stretch out [your] hands against me! But this is your hour and the domain of darkness!

⁵⁴And they arrested him [and] led [him] away and brought [him] into the house of the high priest. But Peter was following at a distance.

⁵⁵And [when they] had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them.

⁵⁶And a certain female slave, seeing him sitting in the light and looking intently at him, said, "This man also was with him!

⁵⁷But he denied [it], saying, "Woman, I do not know him!

⁵⁸And after a short time another person saw him [and] said, "You also are [one] of them!" But Peter said, "Man, I am not!

⁵⁹And [after] about one hour had passed, someone else was insisting, saying, "In truth this man also was with him, because he is also a Galilean!

⁶⁰But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!"

And immediately, [while] he was still speaking, a rooster crowed.

⁶¹ And the Lord turned around [and] looked intently at Peter. And Peter remembered the Lord's statement, how he said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.

⁶² And he went outside [and] wept bitterly.

⁶³ And the men who were guarding him began to mock him [while] they beat [him],

⁶⁴ and [after] blindfolding him they repeatedly asked [him], saying, "Prophecy! Who is the one who struck you?

⁶⁵ And they were saying many other [things] against him, reviling [him].

⁶⁶ And when day came, the council of elders of the people gathered, both chief priests and scribes, and they led him away to their Sanhedrin,

⁶⁷ saying, "If you are the Christ, tell us!" But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will never believe,

⁶⁸ and if I ask [you], you will never answer!

⁶⁹ But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.

⁷⁰ So they all said, "Are you then the Son of God?" And he said to them, "You say that I am.

⁷¹ And they said, "Why do we have need [of] further testimony? For [we] ourselves have heard [it] from his mouth!

23¹ And the whole assembly of them rose up [and] brought him before Pilate.

² And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man misleading our nation and forbidding [us] to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying [he] himself is Christ, a king!

³ And Pilate asked him, saying, "Are you the king of the Jews?" And he answered him [and] said, "You say [so].

⁴ So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man.

⁵ But they insisted, saying, "He incites the people, teaching throughout the whole of Judea and beginning from Galilee as far as here.

⁶Now [when] Pilate heard [this], he asked if the man was a Galilean.

⁷And [when he] found out that he was from the jurisdiction of Herod, he sent him over to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem in those days.

⁸And [when] Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see some miracle performed by him.

⁹So he questioned him _at considerable length_, but he answered nothing to him.

¹⁰And the chief priests and the scribes were standing there vehemently accusing him.

¹¹And Herod with his soldiers also treated him with contempt, and [after] mocking [him] [and] dressing [him] [in] glistening clothing, he sent him back to Pilate.

¹²And both Herod and Pilate became friends with one another on [that] same day, _for they had previously been enemies of one another_.

¹³So Pilate called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people

¹⁴ [and] said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people, and behold, [when I] examined [him] before you, I found nothing in this man as basis for the accusation which _you are making_ against him.

¹⁵ But neither [did] Herod, because he sent him back to us. And behold, nothing deserving death _has been done_ by him.

¹⁶ Therefore I will punish him [and] release [him]."

¹⁷ EMPTY

¹⁸ But they all cried out in unison, saying, "Take this man away, and release for us Barabbas!

¹⁹ (who had been thrown in prison because of a certain insurrection that had taken place in the city, and [for] murder).

²⁰ And Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again,

²¹ but they kept crying out, saying, "Crucify! Crucify him!

²² So he said to them a third [time], "Why? What wrong has this man done? I found no basis for an accusation

deserving death in him. Therefore I will punish him [and] release [him]."

²³ But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries [that] he be crucified. And their cries prevailed.

²⁴ And Pilate decided [that] their demand should be granted.

²⁵ And he released the one who had been thrown into prison because of insurrection and murder, whom they were asking for, but Jesus he handed over to their will.

²⁶ And as they led him away, they seized Simon, a certain [man] of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, [and] placed the cross on him, to carry [it] behind Jesus.

²⁷ And a great crowd of the people were following him, and of women who were mourning and lamenting him.

²⁸ But turning to them, Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children!

²⁹ For behold, days are coming in which they will say, Blessed [are] the barren, and the wombs that did not give birth, and [the] breasts that did not nurse!

³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us! and to the hills, Cover us!

³¹For if they do these [things] _when the wood is green_, what will happen _when it is dry_?"

³²And two other criminals were also led away to be executed with him.

³³And when they came to the place that is called "The Skull," there they crucified him, and the criminals, the one on [his] right and the other on [his] left.

³⁴[[But Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothes.

³⁵And the people stood there watching, but the rulers also ridiculed [him], saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if this [man] is the Christ of God, the Chosen One!

³⁶And the soldiers also mocked him, coming up [and] offering him sour wine

³⁷and saying, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!

³⁸And there was also an inscription over him, "This [is] the king of the Jews.

³⁹ And one of the criminals who were hanged there reviled him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

⁴⁰ But the other answered [and] rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, because you are undergoing the same condemnation?"

⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving _what we deserve_ [for] what we have done. But this man has done nothing wrong!

⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom!"

⁴³ And he said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

⁴⁴ And by this time it was about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour

⁴⁵ [because] [the light] of the sun failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn apart [down] the middle.

⁴⁶ And Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit!" And [after he] said this, he expired.

⁴⁷ Now [when] the centurion saw what had happened, he began to praise

God, saying, "Certainly this man was righteous!

⁴⁸And all the crowds that had come together for this spectacle, [when they] saw the things that had happened, returned [home] beating [their] breasts.

⁴⁹And all his acquaintances, and the women who had followed him from Galilee who saw these [things], stood at a distance.

⁵⁰And behold, a man _named_ Joseph, who was a member of the council and a good and righteous man

⁵¹(this man was not consenting to their plan and deed), from Arimathea, _a Judean town_, who was looking forward to the kingdom of God.

⁵²This man approached Pilate [and] asked for the body of Jesus.

⁵³And he took [it] down [and] wrapped it in a linen cloth and placed him in a tomb cut into the rock where no one had ever been placed.

⁵⁴And it was the day of preparation, and the Sabbath was drawing near.

⁵⁵And the women who had been accompanying him from Galilee followed

[and] saw the tomb and how his body was placed.

⁵⁶And they returned [and] prepared fragrant spices and perfumes, and on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

24¹ Now on the first [day] of the week, at very early dawn, they came back to the tomb bringing the fragrant spices which they had prepared.

²And they found the stone had been rolled away from the tomb,

³but [when they] went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

⁴And it happened that while they were perplexed about this, behold, two men in gleaming clothing stood near them.

⁵And [as] they were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, they said to them, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?

⁶He is not here, but has been raised! Remember how he spoke to you [while he] was still in Galilee,

⁷saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of men [who are] sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise?

⁸And they remembered his words,
⁹and [when they] returned from the tomb, they reported all these [things] to the eleven and to all the rest.

¹⁰Now Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the [mother] of James and the others with them were telling these [things] to the apostles.

¹¹And these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they refused to believe them.

¹²But Peter got up [and] ran to the tomb, and bending over to look, he saw only the [strips of] linen cloth, and he went away to his home wondering what had happened.

¹³And behold, on [that] same day, two of them were traveling to a village _named_ Emmaus [that was] sixty stadia distant from Jerusalem,

¹⁴and they were conversing with one another about all these [things] that had happened.

¹⁵And it happened that while they were conversing, and discussing, Jesus himself also approached [and] began to go along with them,

¹⁶but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

¹⁷And he said to them, "What [are] these matters that you are discussing with one another [as you] are walking along?" And they stood still, looking sad.

¹⁸And one [of them], _named_ Cleopas, answered [and] said to him, "[Are] you the only one living near Jerusalem and not knowing the things that have happened in it in these days?

¹⁹And he said to them, "What [things]?" So they said to him, "The things concerning Jesus the Nazarene, a man who was a prophet, powerful in deed and word before God and all the people,

²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers handed him over to a sentence of death, and crucified him.

²¹But we were hoping that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. But in addition to all these [things], this [is] the third day _since_ these [things] took place.

²²But also some women from among us astonished us, who were at the tomb early in the morning,

²³and [when they] did not find his body, they came back saying [they] had seen even a vision of angels, who said [that] he was alive!

²⁴And some of those with us went out to the tomb and found [it] like this, just as the women had also said, but him they did not see.

²⁵And he said to them, "O foolish and slow in heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

²⁶Was it not necessary [that] the Christ suffer these [things] and enter into his glory?

²⁷And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things concerning himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸And they drew near to the village where they were going, and he acted as though he was going farther.

²⁹And they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is [getting] toward evening, and by this time the day is far spent." And he went in to stay with them.

³⁰And it happened that when he reclined at the table with them, he took

the bread [and] gave thanks, and [after] breaking [it], he gave [it] to them.

³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he became invisible to them.

³² And they said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was speaking with us on the road, while he was explaining the scriptures to us?

³³ And they got up [that] same hour [and] returned to Jerusalem and found the eleven and those with them assembled,

³⁴ saying, "The Lord has really been raised, and has appeared to Simon!

³⁵ And they began describing _what happened_ on the road, and how he was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

³⁶ And [while] they were saying these [things], he himself stood there among them and said to them, "Peace to you!

³⁷ But they were startled and became terrified, [and] thought [they] had seen a ghost.

³⁸ And he said to them, "Why are you frightened? And for what [reason] do doubts arise in your hearts?

³⁹Look at my hands and my feet, that I am I myself! Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as _you see that I have_."

⁴⁰And [when he] had said this, he showed them [his] hands and [his] feet.

⁴¹And [while] they were still disbelieving because of joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Do you have anything _to eat_ here?"

⁴²So they gave him a piece of broiled fish,

⁴³and he took [it] [and] ate [it] in front of them.

⁴⁴And he said to them, "These [are] my words that I spoke to you [while I] was still with you, that everything that is written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,

⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written [that] the Christ would suffer and would rise from the dead on the third day,

⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in his

name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

⁴⁸You [are] witnesses of these [things].

⁴⁹And behold, I am sending what was promised by my Father upon you, but you stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.

⁵⁰And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands, he blessed them.

⁵¹And it happened that while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven.

⁵²And they worshiped him [and] returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

⁵³And they were _continually_ in the temple [courts] praising God.

John

1 ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²This one was in the beginning with God.

³All [things] came into being through him, and apart from him not one [thing] came into being that has come into being.

⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of humanity.

⁵And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶A man came, sent from God, _whose name was_ John.

⁷This one came for a witness, in order that he could testify about the light, so that all would believe through him.

⁸That one was not the light, but [came] in order that he could testify about the light.

⁹The true light, who gives light to every person, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, and the world did not recognize him.

¹¹He came to his own [things], and his own [people] did not receive him.

¹²But as many as received him to those who believe in his name he gave to them authority to become children of God,

¹³who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a husband, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and took up residence among us, and we saw his glory, glory as of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵John testified about him and cried out, saying, "This one was [he about] whom I said, The one who comes after me is ahead of me, because he existed before me.

¹⁶For from his fullness we have all received, and grace after grace.

¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came about through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸No one has seen God at any time; the one and only, God, the one who is

in the bosom of the Father that one has made [him] known.

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem so that they could ask him, "Who are you?"

²⁰And he confessed and he did not deny, and confessed "I am not the Christ!"

²¹And they asked him, "Then who [are] you? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not!" "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No!"

²²Then they said to him, "Who are you, so that we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?"

²³He said, "I [am] the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord," just as Isaiah the prophet said.

²⁴(And they had been sent from the Pharisees.)

²⁵And they asked him and said to him, "Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶ John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water. In your midst stands [one] whom you do not know

²⁷ the one who comes after me, of whom I am not worthy _to untie_ the strap of his sandal!

²⁸ These [things] took place in Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

²⁹ On the next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

³⁰ This one is [the one] about whom I said, After me is coming a man who is ahead of me, because he existed before me.

³¹ And I did not know him, but in order that he could be revealed to Israel, because of this I came baptizing with water.

³² And John testified, saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and remaining upon him.

³³ And I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water, that one said to me, [The one] upon whom you see the Spirit descending and

remaining upon him this one is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

³⁴ And I have seen and testify that this one is the Son of God.

³⁵ On the next day again John was standing [there], and two of his disciples,

³⁶ and looking at Jesus [as he] was walking by, he said, "Look! The Lamb of God!

³⁷ And the two disciples heard him speaking, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸ And Jesus, turning around and seeing them following [him], said to them, "What do you seek?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means [when] translated "Teacher"), "where are you staying?

³⁹ He said to them, "Come and you will see!" So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day (it was about the tenth hour).

⁴⁰ Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed him.

⁴¹ This one first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah!" (which is translated "Christ").

⁴² He brought him to Jesus. Looking at him, Jesus said, "You are Simon the son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which is interpreted "Peter").

⁴³ On the next day he wanted to depart for Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me!

⁴⁴ (Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter.)

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found [the one] whom Moses wrote [about] in the law, and the prophets wrote [about] Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth!

⁴⁶ And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see!

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said about him, "Look! _A true Israelite_ in whom is no deceit!

⁴⁸ Nathanael said to him, "From where do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, [when you] were under the fig tree, I saw you.

⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the king of Israel!

⁵⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater [things] than these!

⁵¹ And he said to him, "Truly, truly I say to all of you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

2¹ And on the third day, there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

² And both Jesus and his disciples were invited to the wedding.

³ And [when the] wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine!

⁴ And Jesus said to her, "What _does your concern have to do with me_, woman? My hour has not yet come.

⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Whatever he says to you, do [it]!"

⁶ Now six stone water jars were set there, in accordance with the ceremonial cleansing of the Jews, each holding two or three measures.

⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the water jars with water." And they filled them to the brim.

⁸And he said to them, "Now draw [some] out and take [it] to the head steward. So they took [it].

⁹Now when the head steward tasted the water which had become wine and did not know where it was from but the servants who had drawn the water knew the head steward summoned the bridegroom

¹⁰and said to him, "_Everyone_ serves the good wine first, and whenever they are drunk, the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!

¹¹This beginning of signs Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee, and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

¹²After this he went down to Capernaum, and his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there _a few_ days.

¹³And the Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁴And he found in the temple [courts] those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated.

¹⁵And he made a whip of cords [and] drove [them] all out of the temple [courts], both the sheep and the oxen, and he poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

¹⁶And to the ones selling the doves he said, "Take these [things] away from here! Do not make my Fathers house _a marketplace_!"

¹⁷His disciples remembered that it is written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸So the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign do you show to us, because you are doing these [things]?"

¹⁹Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up!"

²⁰Then the Jews said, "This temple has been under construction forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?"

²¹But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

²²So when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the

scripture and the saying that Jesus had spoken.

²³ Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in his name [because they] saw his signs which he was doing.

²⁴ But Jesus himself did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all [people],

²⁵ and because he did not _need_ anyone _to testify_ about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

3¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees _whose name was_ Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

² This man came to him at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that [you are] a teacher who has come from God, for no one is able to perform these signs that you are performing unless God were with him.

³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly I say to you, unless someone is born from above, he is not able to see the kingdom of God.

⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born [when he] is an old man? He is not able to enter into his mothers

womb for the second time and be born, [can he]?"

⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly I say to you, unless someone is born of water and spirit, he is not able to enter into the kingdom of God.

⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, It is necessary for you to be born from above.

⁸The wind blows wherever it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.

⁹Nicodemus answered and said to him, "How can these [things] be?"

¹⁰Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and you do not understand these [things]?"

¹¹Truly, truly I say to you, we speak what we know, and we testify [about] what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony!

¹²If I tell you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

¹³And no one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven the Son of Man.

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, thus it is necessary [that] the Son of Man be lifted up,

¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life."

¹⁶For in this way God loved the world, so that he gave his one and only Son, in order that everyone who believes in him will not perish, but will have eternal life.

¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world in order that he should judge the world, but in order that the world should be saved through him.

¹⁸The one who believes in him is not judged, but the one who does not believe has already been judged, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.

¹⁹And this is the judgment: that the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil.

²⁰For everyone who practices evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds be exposed.

²¹ But the one who practices the truth comes to the light, in order that his deeds may be revealed, that they are done in God.

²² After these [things] Jesus and his disciples came into Judean territory, and there he spent time with them and was baptizing.

²³ Now John was also baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and they were coming and were being baptized.

²⁴ (For John had not yet been thrown into prison.)

²⁵ So a dispute occurred on the part of John's disciples with a Jew concerning purification.

²⁶ And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you on the other side of the Jordan, about whom you testified look, this one is baptizing, and all are coming to him!

²⁷ John answered and said, "A man can receive not one [thing] unless it is granted to him from heaven!

²⁸ You yourselves testify about me that I said, I am not the Christ, but I am sent before that one.

²⁹The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. But the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices _greatly_ because of the bridegrooms voice. So this joy of mine is complete.

³⁰It is necessary for that one to increase, but [for] me to decrease.

³¹The one who comes from above is over all. The one who is from the earth is from the earth and speaks from the earth; the one who comes from heaven is over all.

³²What he has seen and heard, this he testifies, and no one accepts his testimony.

³³The one who accepts his testimony has attested that God is true.

³⁴For [the one] whom God sent speaks the words of God, for he does not give the Spirit by measure.

³⁵The Father loves the Son and has given all [things] into his hand.

³⁶The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who disobeys the Son will not see lifebut the wrath of God remains on him.

4¹ Now when Jesus knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John

² (although Jesus himself was not baptizing, but his disciples),

³ he left Judea and departed again for Galilee.

⁴ And it was necessary [for] him to go through Samaria.

⁵ Now he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the piece of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

⁶ And Jacobs well was there, so Jesus, [because he] had become tired from the journey, simply sat down at the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷ A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me [water] to drink.

⁸ (For his disciples had gone away into the town so that they could buy food.)

⁹ So the Samaritan woman said to him, "How do you, being a Jew, ask from me [water] to drink, [since I] am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, "If you had known the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give me [water] to drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.

¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket and the well is deep! From where then do you get this living water?

¹² You are not greater than our father Jacob, [are you], who gave us the well and drank from it himself, and his sons and his livestock?

¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again.

¹⁴ But whoever drinks of this water which I will give to him will never be thirsty for eternity, but the water which I will give to him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or come here to draw [water]!"

¹⁶ He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here.

¹⁷ The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband." Jesus

said to her, "You have said rightly, I do not have a husband,

¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and [the one] whom you have now is not your husband; this you have said truthfully!

¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet.

²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you [people] say that in Jerusalem is the place where it is necessary to worship.

²¹Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, that an hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

²²You worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, because salvation is from the Jews.

²³But an hour is coming and now is [here] when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for indeed the Father seeks such [people] [to be] his worshipers.

²⁴God [is] spirit, and the ones who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (the one called Christ); "whenever that one comes, he will proclaim all [things] to us.

²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I, the one speaking to you, am [he].

²⁷ And at this [point] his disciples came, and they were astonished that he was speaking with a woman. However, no one said, "What do you seek?" or "Why are you speaking with her?"

²⁸ So the woman left her water jar and went away into the town and said to the people,

²⁹ Come, see a man who told me everything I have ever done! Perhaps this one is the Christ?

³⁰ They went out from the town and were coming to him.

³¹ In the meanwhile the disciples were asking him, saying, "Rabbi, eat [something]!"

³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about.

³³ So the disciples began to say to one another, "No one brought him [anything] to eat, [did they]?"

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is that I do the will of the one who sent me and complete his work.

³⁵ Do you not say, There are yet four months and the harvest comes? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, that they are white for harvest already.

³⁶ The one who reaps receives wages and gathers fruit for eternal life, in order that the one who sows and the one who reaps can rejoice together.

³⁷ For in this [instance] the saying is true, It is one who sows and another who reaps.

³⁸ I sent you to reap what you did not work for; others have worked, and you have entered into their work.

³⁹ Now from that town many of the Samaritans believed in him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything that I have done.

⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they began asking him to stay with them. And he stayed there two days.

⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word,

⁴² And they were saying to the woman, "No longer because of _what you said_ do we believe, for we ourselves have heard, and we know that this one is truly the Savior of the world!

⁴³ And after the two days he departed from there into Galilee.

⁴⁴ For Jesus himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own homeland.

⁴⁵ So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, [because they] had seen all [the things] he had done in Jerusalem at the feast (for they themselves had also come to the feast).

⁴⁶ Now he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And [there] was at Capernaum a certain royal official whose son was sick.

⁴⁷ This man, [when he] heard that Jesus had come from Judea into Galilee, went to him and asked that he come down and heal his son, for he was about to die.

⁴⁸ So Jesus said to him, "Unless you [people] see signs and wonders, you will never believe!

⁴⁹ The royal official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!

⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go, your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he departed.

⁵¹ Now [as] he was going down, his slaves met him, saying that his child was alive.

⁵² So he inquired from them the hour at which he had gotten better. Then they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.

⁵³ So the father knew that [it was] at that same hour at which Jesus said to him, "Your son will live," and he himself believed, and his whole household.

⁵⁴ Now this [is] again a second sign Jesus performed [when he] came from Judea into Galilee.

5¹ After these [things] [there] was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool called in Aramaic Bethzatha, which has five porticoes.

³ In these were lying a large number of those who were sick, blind, lame, paralyzed.

⁴ EMPTY

⁵And a certain man was there who had [been] thirty-eight years in his sickness.

⁶Jesus, [when he] saw this one lying [there] and knew that he had [been sick] a long time already, said to him, "Do you want to become well?"

⁷The one who was sick answered him, "Sir, I do not have anyone that, whenever the water is stirred up, could put me into the pool. But _while_ I am coming, another goes down before me.

⁸Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk!"

⁹And immediately the man became well and picked up his mat and began to walk. (Now it was the Sabbath on that day.)

¹⁰So the Jews were saying to the one who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not permitted for you to pick up your mat!"

¹¹But he answered them, "The one who made me wellthat one said to me, Pick up your mat and walk!"

¹²They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, Pick up [your mat] and walk?"

¹³ But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn [while] a crowd was in the place.

¹⁴ After these [things] Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "Look, you have become well! Sin no longer, lest something worse happen to you.

¹⁵ The man went and reported to the Jews that Jesus was the one who made him well.

¹⁶ And on account of this the Jews began to persecute Jesus, because he was doing these [things] on the Sabbath.

¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working.

¹⁸ So on account of this the Jews were seeking even more to kill him, because he not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God his own Father, [thus] making himself equal with God.

¹⁹ So Jesus answered and said to them, "Truly, truly I say to you, the Son can do nothing from himself except what he sees the Father doing. For whatever that one does, these [things] also the Son does likewise.

²⁰For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything that he himself is doing. And greater works than these he will show him, so that you will be astonished.

²¹For just as the Father raises the dead and makes [them] alive, thus also the Son makes alive whomever he wishes.

²²For the Father does not judge anyone, but he has given all judgment to the Son,

²³in order that all [people] will honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. The one who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

²⁴Truly, truly I say to you that the one who hears my word and who believes the one who sent me has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

²⁵Truly, truly I say to you, that an hour is coming and now is [here] when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and the ones who hear will live.

²⁶For just as the Father has life in himself, thus also he has granted to the Son to have life in himself.

²⁷ And he has granted him authority to carry out judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

²⁸ Do not be astonished [at] this, because an hour is coming in which all those in the tombs will hear his voice

²⁹ and they will come out those who have done good [things] to a resurrection of life, but those who have practiced evil [things] to a resurrection of judgment.

³⁰ I am able to do nothing from myself. Just as I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my [own] will, but the will of the one who sent me.

³¹ "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true.

³² There is another who testifies about me, and I know that the testimony which he testifies about me is true.

³³ You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth.

³⁴ (And I do not receive testimony from people, but I say these [things] in order that you may be saved.)

³⁵ That one was the lamp [which was] burning and shining, and you wanted to rejoice for an hour in his light.

³⁶ But I have a testimony greater than Johns, for the works which the Father has given to me that I should complete them the very works which I am doing[these] testify about me, that the Father has sent me.

³⁷ And the Father who sent me, that one has testified about me. You have neither heard his voice at any time nor seen his form.

³⁸ And you do not have his word residing in yourselves, because the one whom that one sent, in this one you do not believe.

³⁹ You search the scriptures because you think that you have eternal life in them, and it is these that testify about me.

⁴⁰ And you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life.

⁴¹ I do not accept glory from people,

⁴² but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves.

⁴³ I have come in my Fathers name, and you do not accept me. If another should come in his own name, you would accept that one!

⁴⁴How are you able to believe, [if you] accept glory from one another, and do not seek the glory [which is] from the only God?

⁴⁵Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father! The one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have put your hope!

⁴⁶For if you had believed Moses, you would believe me, for that one wrote about me.

⁴⁷But if you do not believe that ones writings, how will you believe my words?

6¹After these [things] Jesus went away to the other side of the sea of Galilee (that is, Tiberias).

²And a large crowd was following him because they were observing the signs that he was doing on those who were sick.

³So Jesus went up on the mountain and sat down there with his disciples.

⁴(Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near.)

⁵_Then Jesus, when he looked up_ and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread so that these [people] can eat?

⁶ (Now he said this to test him, because he knew what he was going to do.)

⁷ Philip replied to him, "Two hundred denarii [worth of] bread would not be enough for them, in order that each one could receive a little.

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew the brother of Simon Peter, said to him,

⁹ Here is a boy who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many [people]?

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Make the people recline." (Now [there] was a lot of grass in the place.) So the men reclined, approximately five thousand [in] number.

¹¹ Then Jesus took the bread, and [after he] had given thanks, he distributed [it] to those who were reclining likewise also of the fish, as much as they wanted.

¹² And when they were satisfied, he said to his disciples, "Gather the remaining fragments so that nothing is lost.

¹³ So they gathered [them], and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ Now [when] the people saw the sign that he performed, they began to say, "This one is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world!

¹⁵ Then Jesus, [because he] knew that they were about to come and seize him in order to make [him] king, withdrew again up the mountain [by] himself alone.

¹⁶ Now when evening came, his disciples went down to the sea.

¹⁷ And getting into a boat, they began to go to the other side of the sea, to Capernaum. And it had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

¹⁸ And the sea began to be stirred up [because] a strong wind was blowing.

¹⁹ Then [when they] had rowed about twenty-five or thirty stadia, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were afraid.

²⁰ But he said to them, "[It] is I! Do not be afraid!

²¹ So they were wanting to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat came to the land to which they were going.

²² On the next day, the crowd that was on the other side of the sea saw that other boats were not there (except one), and that Jesus had not entered with his disciples into the boat, but his disciples had departed alone.

²³ Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread [after] the Lord had given thanks.

²⁴ So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus.

²⁵ And [when they] found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

²⁶ Jesus replied to them and said, "Truly, truly I say to you, you seek me not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were satisfied!"

²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but the food that remains to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For God the Father has set his seal on this one.

²⁸ So they said to him, "What shall we do that we can accomplish the works of God?"

²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God: that you believe in [the one] whom that one sent.

³⁰ So they said to him, "Then what sign will you perform, so that we can see [it] and believe you? What will you do?

³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

³² Then Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly I say to you, Moses did not give you bread from heaven, but my Father is giving you the true bread from heaven!

³³ For the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

³⁴ So they said to him, "Sir, always give us this bread!

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. The one who comes to me will never be hungry, and the one who believes in me will never be thirsty again.

³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and do not believe.

³⁷ Everyone whom the Father gives to me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never throw out,

³⁸because I have come down from heaven not that I should do my will, but the will of the one who sent me.

³⁹Now this is the will of the one who sent me: that everyone whom he has given me, I would not lose [any] of them, but raise them up on the last day.

⁴⁰For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks at the Son and believes in him would have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

⁴¹Now the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven,

⁴²and they were saying, "Is this one not Jesus the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, I have come down from heaven?

⁴³Jesus answered and said to them, "Do not grumble _among yourselves_!

⁴⁴No one is able to come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day.

⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who hears from the Father and learns comes to me.

⁴⁶ (Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God this one has seen the Father.)

⁴⁷ Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes has eternal life.

⁴⁸ I am the bread of life.

⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and they died.

⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that someone may eat from it and not die.

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats from this bread, he will live _forever_. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.

⁵² So the Jews began to quarrel _among themselves_, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

⁵³ Then Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves!"

⁵⁴ The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

⁵⁵ For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.

⁵⁶ The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood resides in me and I in him.

⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, [so] also the one who eats me that one will live because of me.

⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. The one who eats this bread will live _forever_."

⁵⁹ He said these [things] [while] teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

⁶⁰ Thus many of his disciples, [when they] heard [it], said, "This saying is hard! Who can understand it?"

⁶¹ But Jesus, [because he] knew within himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Does this cause you to be offended?"

⁶² Then [what] if you see the Son of Man ascending where he was before?

⁶³ The Spirit is the one who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not

believe, and who it was who would betray him.)

⁶⁵ And he said, "Because of this I said to you that no one can come to me unless it has been granted to him by the Father.

⁶⁶ For this [reason] many of his disciples _drew back_ and were not walking with him any longer.

⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, [do you]?"

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life.

⁶⁹ And we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.

⁷⁰ Jesus replied to them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is the devil?

⁷¹ (Now he was speaking about Judas [son] of Simon Iscariot, because this one of the twelve was going to betray him.)

7¹ And after these [things] Jesus was going about in Galilee. For he did not want to go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him.

² Now the feast of the Jews the [feast of] Tabernacles was near.

³ So his brothers said to him, "Depart from here and go to Judea, so that your disciples also can see your works that you are doing.

⁴ For no one does anything in secret and [yet] he himself desires to be _publicly recognized_. If you are doing these [things], reveal yourself to the world!

⁵ (For not even his brothers believed in him.)

⁶ So Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.

⁷ The world cannot hate you, but it hates me, because I am testifying about it, that its deeds are evil.

⁸ You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, because my time is not yet completed.

⁹ And [when he] had said these [things], he remained in Galilee.

¹⁰ But when his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not openly, but (as it were) in secret.

¹¹ So the Jews were looking for him at the feast, and were saying, "Where is he?"

¹² And there was a lot of grumbling concerning him among the crowds; some were saying, "He is a good [man]," but others were saying, "No, but he deceives the crowd."

¹³ However, no one was speaking openly about him for fear of the Jews.

¹⁴ _Now when the feast was already half over_, Jesus went to the temple [courts] and began to teach.

¹⁵ Then the Jews were astonished, saying, "How does this man _possess knowledge_, [because he] has not been taught?"

¹⁶ So Jesus answered them and said, "My teaching is not mine, but [is] from the one who sent me."

¹⁷ If anyone wants to do his will, he will know about my teaching, whether it is from God or I am speaking from myself.

¹⁸ The one who speaks from himself seeks his own glory. But the one who seeks the glory of the one who sent him this one is true, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

¹⁹Has not Moses given you the law, and none of you carries out the law? Why do you seek to kill me?

²⁰The crowd replied, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?"

²¹Jesus answered and said to them, "I performed one work, and you are all astonished.

²²Because of this Moses has given you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath.

²³If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses would not be broken, are you angry with me because I made a whole man well on the Sabbath?

²⁴Do not judge according to outward appearance, but judge according to righteous judgment!

²⁵Then some of the inhabitants of Jerusalem began to say, "Is this not [the one] whom they are seeking to kill?"

²⁶And behold, he is speaking openly and they are saying nothing to him! Can it be that the rulers truly know that this man is the Christ?

²⁷ Yet we know where this man is from, but the Christ, whenever he comes no one knows where he is from!

²⁸ Then Jesus cried out in the temple [courts], teaching and saying, "You both know me and you know where I am from! And I have not come from myself, but the one who sent me is true, whom you do not know.

²⁹ I know him, because I am from him and he sent me.

³⁰ So they were seeking to seize him, and no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.

³¹ But from the crowd many believed in him and were saying, "Whenever the Christ comes, he will not perform more signs than this man has done, [will he]?"

³² The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these [things] about him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers in order _to take him into custody_.

³³ Then Jesus said, "Yet a little time I am with you, and I am going to the one who sent me.

³⁴ You will seek me and will not find me, and where I am, you cannot come.

³⁵ So the Jews said to one another, "Where [is] this one going to go, that we will not find him? He is not going to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks, [is he]?"

³⁶ What is this saying that he said, You will seek me and will not find me, and where I am, you cannot come?

³⁷ Now on the last day of the feast the great [day] Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me, and let him drink,

³⁸ the one who believes in me. Just as the scripture said, Out of his belly will flow rivers of living water."

³⁹ Now he said this concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were about to receive. For the Spirit was not yet [given], because Jesus had not yet been glorified.)

⁴⁰ Then, [when they] heard these words, [some] from the crowd began to say, "This man is truly the Prophet!

⁴¹ Others were saying, "This man is the Christ!" But others were saying, "No, for the Christ does not come from Galilee, [does he]?"

⁴²Has not the scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?

⁴³So there was a division in the crowd because of him.

⁴⁴And some of them were wanting to seize him, but no one laid hands on him.

⁴⁵So the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees. And they said to them, " _Why_ did you not bring him?

⁴⁶The officers replied, "Never has a man spoken like this!

⁴⁷Then the Pharisees replied to them, "You have not also been deceived, [have you]?

⁴⁸_None_ of the rulers or of the Pharisees have believed in him, [have they]?

⁴⁹But this crowd who does not know the law is accursed!

⁵⁰Nicodemus, the one who came to him previously who was one of them said to them,

⁵¹Our law does not condemn a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, [does it]?"

⁵² They answered and said to him, "You are not also from Galilee, [are you]? Investigate and see that a prophet does not arise from Galilee!

⁵³ [[And each one went to his [own] house.

8¹ But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

² Now early in the morning he came again to the temple [courts]. And all the people were coming to him, and he sat down [and] began to teach them.

³ Now the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery. And standing her in [their] midst,

⁴ they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery!

⁵ Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?

⁶ (Now they were saying this to test him, so that they would have [an occasion] to bring charges against him.) But Jesus, bending down, began to write with [his] finger on the ground.

⁷ And when they persisted in asking him, he straightened up and said to

them, "The [one] of you without sin, let him throw the first stone at her!

⁸And bending down again, he wrote on the ground.

⁹Now [when they] heard [it], they began to depart, one by one, beginning with the older ones, and he was left alone and the woman who was in [their] midst.

¹⁰So straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Does no one condemn you?

¹¹And she said, "No one, Lord." So Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on, sin no more."]]

¹²Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world! The one who follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

¹³So the Pharisees said to him, "You testify concerning yourself! Your testimony is not true.

¹⁴Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I testify concerning myself, my testimony is true, because I know where I have come from and where I am going. But you do not know where I have come from or where I am going.

¹⁵ You judge according to externals; I do not judge anyone.

¹⁶ But even if I judge, my judgment is true, because I am not alone, but I and the Father who sent me.

¹⁷ And even in your law it is written that the testimony of two men is true.

¹⁸ I am the one who testifies concerning myself, and the Father who sent me testifies concerning me.

¹⁹ So they were saying to him, "Where is your father?" Jesus replied, "You know neither me nor my Father! If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.

²⁰ He spoke these words by the treasury [while] teaching in the temple [courts], and no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.

²¹ So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me and will die in your sin. Where I am going you cannot come!

²² Then the Jews began to say, "Perhaps he will kill himself, because he is saying, Where I am going you cannot come.

²³ And he said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are from this world; I am not from this world.

²⁴ Thus I said to you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I am [he], you will die in your sins.

²⁵ So they began to say to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "_What_ I have been saying to you [from] the beginning.

²⁶ I have many [things] to say and to judge concerning you, but the one who sent me is true, and [the things] which I heard from him, these [things] I say to the world.

²⁷ (They did not know that he was speaking to them about the Father.)

²⁸ Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will recognize that I am [he], and I do nothing from myself, but just as the Father taught me, I say these [things].

²⁹ And the one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do the things that are pleasing to him.

³⁰ [While] he was saying these [things], many believed in him.

³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who had believed him, "If you continue in my word you are truly my disciples,

³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

³³ They replied to him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have not been enslaved to anyone at any time. How do you say, You will become free?

³⁴ Jesus replied to them, "Truly, truly I say to you, that everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.

³⁵ And the slave does not remain in the household _forever_; the son remains _forever_.

³⁶ So if the son sets you free, you will be truly free.

³⁷ I know that you are descendants of Abraham. But you are seeking to kill me, because my word makes no progress among you.

³⁸ I speak [the things] that I have seen with the Father; so also you do [the things] that you have heard from the Father.

³⁹ They answered and said to him, "Abraham is our father!" Jesus said to

them, "If you are children of Abraham, do the deeds of Abraham!

⁴⁰ But now you are seeking to kill me, a man who spoke to you the truth which I heard from God. This Abraham did not do.

⁴¹ You are doing the deeds of your father!" Then they said to him, "We were not born from sexual immorality! We have one father, God!

⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your father, you would love me, for I have come forth from God and have come. For I have not come from myself, but that one sent me.

⁴³ _Why_ do you not understand my way of speaking? Because you are not able to listen to my message.

⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father! That one was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand firm in the truth, because truth is not in him. Whenever he speaks the lie, he speaks from his own [nature], because he is a liar and the father _of lies_.

⁴⁵ But because I am telling the truth, you do not believe me.

⁴⁶Who among you convicts me concerning sin? If I am telling the truth, why do you not believe me?

⁴⁷The one who is from God listens to the words of God. Because of this you do not listen because you are not of God.

⁴⁸The Jews answered and said to him, "Do we not correctly say that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?"

⁴⁹Jesus replied, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me!

⁵⁰But I do not seek my [own] glory. There is one who seeks and judges!

⁵¹Truly, truly I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never experience death forever."

⁵²Then the Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham and the prophets died, and you say, If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death forever."

⁵³You are not greater than our father Abraham who died, [are you]? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself [to be]?

⁵⁴Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. The one who glorifies

me is my Father, [about] whom you say, He is our God.

⁵⁵ And you have not known him, but I know him. And if I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you! But I know him and I keep his word.

⁵⁶ Abraham your father rejoiced that he would see my day, and he saw [it] and was glad.

⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "_You are_ not yet fifty years [old], and have you seen Abraham?

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was, I am!

⁵⁹ Then they picked up stones in order to throw [them] at him. But Jesus was hidden and went out of the temple [courts].

9¹ And [as he] went away, he saw a man blind from birth.

² And his disciples asked him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?

³ Jesus replied, "Neither this man sinned nor his parents, but [it happened] so that the works of God could be revealed in him.

⁴It is necessary [for] us to do the deeds of the one who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work!

⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

⁶[When he] had said these [things], he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes.

⁷And he said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated "sent"). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸Then the neighbors and those who saw him previously (because he was a beggar) began to say, "Is this man not the one who used to sit and beg?"

⁹Others were saying, "It is this man"; others were saying, "No, but he is like him." That one was saying, "I am [he]!"

¹⁰So they began to say to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

¹¹He replied, "The man who is called Jesus made clay and smeared [it] on my eyes and said to me, Go to Siloam and wash! So I went, and I washed, [and] I received sight.

¹²And they said to him, "Where is that man?" He said, "I do not know.

¹³They brought him the one formerly blind to the Pharisees.

¹⁴(Now the day on which Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes was the Sabbath.)

¹⁵So the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.

¹⁶So some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because he does not observe the Sabbath!" But others were saying, "How can a man [who is] a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them.

¹⁷So they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about him, because he opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet.

¹⁸So the Jews did not believe concerning him that he had been blind and received sight, until they summoned the parents of the one who received sight.

¹⁹And they asked them, saying, "Is this man your son, whom you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?

²⁰So his parents answered and said, "We know that this man is our son, and that he was born blind.

²¹But how he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. Ask him! _He is a mature adult_; he will speak for himself!

²²(His parents said these [things] because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already decided that if anyone should confess him [to be] Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue.

²³Because of this his parents said, "_He is a mature adult_; ask him.")

²⁴So they summoned the man who had been blind for the second time and said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner!

²⁵Then that man replied, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One [thing] I knowthat [although I] was blind, now I see!

²⁶So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?

²⁷ He replied to them, "I told you already and you did not listen! Why do you want to hear [it] again? You do not want to become his disciples also, [do you]?"

²⁸ And they reviled him and said, "You are his disciple! But we are disciples of Moses!

²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but we do not know where this man is from.

³⁰ The man answered and said to them, "For the remarkable thing is this, that you do not know where he is from, and he opened my eyes!

³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if someone is devout and does his will, he listens to this one.

³² From _time immemorial_ it has not been heard that someone opened the eyes of one born blind.

³³ If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything!

³⁴ They answered and said to him, "You were born completely in sin, and are you attempting to teach us?" And they threw him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and finding him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

³⁶ He answered and said, "And who is [he], sir, that I may believe in him?"

³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have both seen him, and he is the one who is speaking with you.

³⁸ [[And he said, "I believe, Lord!" and he worshiped him.

³⁹ And Jesus said,]] "For judgment I have come into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind!

⁴⁰ [Some] of the Pharisees who were with him heard these [things] and said to him, "We are not also blind, [are we]?"

⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now you say, We see, your sin remains.

10¹ "Truly, truly I say to you, the one who does not enter through the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up at some other place that one is a thief and a robber.

² But the one who enters through the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

³For this one the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

⁴Whenever he sends out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

⁵And they will never follow a stranger, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.

⁶Jesus told them this parable, but they did not understand what it was that he was saying to them.

⁷Then Jesus said again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

⁸All those who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep do not listen to them.

⁹I am the door. If anyone enters through me, he will be saved, and will come in and will go out and will find pasture.

¹⁰The thief _comes only_ so that he can steal and kill and destroy; I have come so that they may have life, and have [it] abundantly.

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf approaching and abandons the sheep and runs away and the wolf seizes them and scatters [them]

¹³ because he is a hired hand and _he is not concerned_ about the sheep.

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd, and I know my [own], and my [own] know me,

¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

¹⁶ And I have other sheep which are not from this fold. I must bring these also, and they will hear my voice, and they will become one flock one shepherd.

¹⁷ Because of this the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take possession of it again.

¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down _voluntarily_. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take possession of it again. This commandment I received from my Father.

¹⁹ Again there was a division among the Jews because of these words.

²⁰ And many of them were saying, "He has a demon and is out of his mind! Why do you listen to him?"

²¹ Others were saying, "These are not the words of one who is possessed by a demon! A demon is not able to open the eyes of the blind, [is it]?"

²² Then the feast of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter,

²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple in the Portico of Solomon.

²⁴ So the Jews surrounded him and began to say to him, "_How long will you keep us in suspense_? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly!"

²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you and you do not believe! The deeds that I do in the name of my Father, these testify about me.

²⁶ But you do not believe, because you are not of my sheep!

²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they will never perish _forever_, and no one will seize them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, who has given [them] to me, is greater than all, and no one can seize [them] from the Father's hand.

³⁰ The Father and I are one.

³¹ The Jews picked up stones again so that they could stone him.

³² Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good deeds from the Father. For which one of them are you going to stone me?

³³ The Jews answered him, "We are not going to stone you concerning a good deed, but concerning blasphemy, and because you, [although you] are a man, make yourself [to be] God!

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, I said, "You are gods" ?

³⁵ If he called them gods to whom the word of God came and the scripture cannot be broken

³⁶ do you say about [he] whom the Father set apart and sent into the world, You are blaspheming, because I said, I am the Son of God?

³⁷ If I do not do the deeds of my Father, do not believe me.

³⁸But if I am doing [them], even if you do not believe me, believe the deeds, so that you may know and understand that the Father [is] in me and I [am] in the Father.

³⁹So they were seeking again to seize him, and he departed out of their hand.

⁴⁰And he went away again on the other side of the Jordan, to the place where John was baptizing at an earlier time, and he stayed there.

⁴¹And many came to him and began to say, "John performed no sign, but everything John said about this man was true!

⁴²And many believed in him there.

11 ¹Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

²(Now it was Mary who anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

³So the sisters sent [word] to him, saying, "Lord, behold, [the one] whom you love is sick.

⁴And [when he] heard [it], Jesus said, "This sickness is not to death, but for

the glory of God, in order that the Son of God may be glorified through it.

⁵(Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.)

⁶So when he heard that he was sick, then he remained in the place _where_ he was two days.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again.

⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were seeking just now to stone you, and are you going there again?

⁹Jesus replied, Are [there] not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks around in the daylight, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.

¹⁰But if anyone walks around in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.

¹¹He said these [things], and after this he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going so that I can awaken him.

¹²So the disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will get well.

¹³(Now Jesus had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was speaking about _real sleep_.)

¹⁴ So Jesus then said to them plainly,
"Lazarus has died,

¹⁵ and I am glad _for your sake_ that I
was not there, so that you may believe.
But let us go to him.

¹⁶ Then Thomas (the one who is called
Didymus) said to his fellow disciples,
"Let us go also, so that we may die with
him.

¹⁷ So [when he] arrived, Jesus found
he had already [been] four days in the
tomb.

¹⁸ (Now Bethany was near Jerusalem,
about fifteen stadia.

¹⁹ So many of the Jews came to Martha
and Mary in order to console them
concerning their brother.)

²⁰ Now Martha, when she heard that
Jesus was coming, went to meet him,
but Mary was sitting in the house.

²¹ So Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you
had been here, my brother would not
have died.

²² But even now I know that whatever
you ask God, God will grant you.

²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will
rise again.

²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live,

²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die _forever_. Do you believe this?

²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I have believed that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who comes into the world.

²⁸ And [when she] had said this, she went and called her sister Mary privately, saying, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you.

²⁹ So that one, when she heard [it], got up quickly and went to him.

³⁰ (Now Jesus has not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha went to meet him.)

³¹ So the Jews who were with her in the house and were consoling her, [when they] saw Mary that she stood up quickly and went out followed her, [because they] thought that she was going to the tomb in order to weep there.

³²Then Mary, when she came where Jesus was [and] saw him, fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

³³Then Jesus, when he saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her weeping, was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled within himself.

³⁴And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see.

³⁵Jesus wept.

³⁶So the Jews were saying, "See how he loved him!

³⁷But some of them said, "Was not this man who opened the eyes of the blind able to do [something] so that this man also would not have died?

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved within himself again, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying on it.

³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the one who had died, said to him, "Lord, he is stinking already, because it has been four days.

⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes above and said, "Father, I give thanks to you that you hear me.

⁴² And I know that you always hear me, but for the sake of the crowd standing around I said [it], so that they may believe that you sent me.

⁴³ And [when he] had said these [things], he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!

⁴⁴ The one who had died came out, his feet and his hands bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped with a facecloth. Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go.

⁴⁵ Then many of the Jews who had come with Mary and saw [the things] which he did believed in him.

⁴⁶ But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them [the things] which Jesus had done.

⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees called together the Sanhedrin and said, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs!

⁴⁸ If we allow him [to go on] in this way, everyone will believe in him, and the

Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.

⁴⁹ But a certain one of them, Caiaphas (who was high priest in that year), said to them, "You do not know anything at all!

⁵⁰ Nor do you consider that it is profitable for you that one man should die for the people, and the whole nation not perish.

⁵¹ (Now he did not say this from himself, but being high priest in that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation,

⁵² and not for the nation only, but also that the children of God who are scattered would be gathered into one.)

⁵³ So from that day they resolved that they should kill him.

⁵⁴ So Jesus was no longer walking openly among the Jews, but went away from there to the region near the wilderness, to a city called Ephraim, and there he stayed with the disciples.

⁵⁵ Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up to Jerusalem from the [surrounding] country before

the Passover, so that they could purify themselves.

⁵⁶ So they were looking for Jesus, and were speaking with one another [while] standing in the temple [courts], "What do you think? That he will not come to the feast?"

⁵⁷ (Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, they should report [it], in order that they could arrest him.)

12¹ Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

² So they made him a dinner there, and Martha was serving, but Lazarus was one of the ones reclining at table with him.

³ Then Mary took a pound of ointment of very valuable genuine nard [and] anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment.

⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was going to betray him) said,

⁵ _Why_ was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?

⁶ (Now he said this not because _he was concerned_ about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having the money box, he used to steal what was put into [it].)

⁷ So Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my preparation for burial.

⁸ For you have the poor with you always, but you do not always have me.

⁹ Now the large crowd of Jews found out that he was there, and they came, not only because of Jesus, but so that they could see Lazarus also, whom he raised from the dead.

¹⁰ So the chief priests decided that they would kill Lazarus also,

¹¹ because on account of him many of the Jews were going and believing in Jesus.

¹² On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, [when they] heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

¹³ took the branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, and began crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed [is] the one who comes in the name of the Lord, even the king of Israel!

¹⁴ So Jesus found a young donkey [and] sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵ Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion! Behold, your king is coming, seated on the foal of a donkey!"

¹⁶ (His disciples did not understand these [things] at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these [things] had been written about him and they did these [things] to him.)

¹⁷ So the crowd who was with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead were continuing to testify.

¹⁸ Because of this also the crowd went to meet him, for they had heard [that] he had performed this sign.

¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing! Behold, the world has gone after him.

²⁰ Now some Greeks were among those who had gone up in order to worship at the feast.

²¹ So these approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and began asking him saying, "Sir, we want to see Jesus.

²² Philip went and told Andrew. Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

²³ And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man will be glorified.

²⁴ Truly, truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth [and] dies, it remains [by] itself alone. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

²⁵ The one who loves his life loses it, and the one who hates his life in this world preserves it for eternal life.

²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me, and where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, deliver me from this hour? But for this [reason] I have come to this hour!

²⁸ Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have both glorified [it], and I will glorify [it] again.

²⁹ Now the crowd that stood [there] and heard [it] said _it had thundered_. Others were saying, "An angel has spoken to him!

³⁰ Jesus answered and said, "This voice has not happened for my sake, but [for] your sake.

³¹ Now is the judgment of this world! Now the ruler of this world will be thrown out!

³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all [people] to myself.

³³ (Now he said this to indicate by what sort of death he was going to die.)

³⁴ Then the crowd replied to him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains _forever_! And how do you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?

³⁵ So Jesus said to them, "Yet a little time the light is with you! Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness does not overtake you! And the one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.

³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, in order that you may become sons of light." Jesus said these [things], and [then] he went away [and] was hidden from them.

³⁷But as many signs [as] he had performed before them, they did not believe in him,

³⁸in order that the word of the prophet Isaiah would be fulfilled, who said, "Lord, who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

³⁹For this [reason] they were not able to believe, because again Isaiah said,

⁴⁰He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they see with [their] eyes and understand with [their] hearts and turn, and I heal them."

⁴¹Isaiah said these [things] because he saw his glory, and he spoke about him.

⁴²Yet despite that, even many of the rulers believed in him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess [it], so that they would not be expelled from the synagogue.

⁴³For they loved the praise of men more than praise from God.

⁴⁴ But Jesus cried out and said, "The one who believes in me does not believe in me, but in the one who sent me,

⁴⁵ and the one who sees me sees the one who sent me.

⁴⁶ I have come [as] a light into the world, in order that everyone who believes in me will not remain in the darkness.

⁴⁷ And if anyone hears my words and does not observe [them], I will not judge him. For I have not come to judge the world, but to save the world.

⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not accept my words has one who judges him; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

⁴⁹ For I have not spoken from myself, but the Father himself who sent me _has commanded me_ what I should say and what I should speak.

⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is eternal life. So [the things] that I say, just as the Father said to me, thus I say.

13¹ Now before the feast of Passover, Jesus, knowing that his hour had come that he would depart from this world to the Father, [and] having loved

[his] own in the world, loved them to the end.

²And [as] a dinner was taking place, [when] the devil had already put into the heart of Judas [son] of Simon Iscariot that he should betray him,

³[because he] knew that the Father had given him all [things] into [his] hands, and that he had come forth from God and was going away to God,

⁴he got up from the dinner and took off [his] outer clothing, and taking a towel, tied [it] around himself.

⁵Then he poured water into the washbasin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, and to wipe [them] dry with the towel _which he had tied around himself_.

⁶Then he came to Simon Peter. He said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?

⁷Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will understand after these [things].

⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet _forever_!" Jesus replied to him,

"Unless I wash you, you do not have a share with me.

⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also [my] hands and [my] head!

¹⁰Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed _only needs_ to wash [his] feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not all [of you].

¹¹(For he knew the one who would betray him; because of this he said, "Not all [of you] are clean.")

¹²So when he had washed their feet and taken his outer clothing and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you?

¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you speak correctly, for I am.

¹⁴If then I [your] Lord and Teacher wash your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

¹⁵For I have given you an example, that just as I have done for you, you also do.

¹⁶Truly, truly I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

¹⁷ If you understand these [things], you are blessed if you do them.

¹⁸ I am not speaking about all of you. I know whom I have chosen, but in order that the scripture would be fulfilled, The one who eats my bread has lifted up his heel against me.

¹⁹ From now [on] I am telling you before [it] happens, in order that when [it] happens you may believe that I am [he].

²⁰ Truly, truly I say to you, the one who receives anyone I send receives me, and the one who receives me receives the one who sent me.

²¹ [When he] had said these [things], Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified and said, "Truly, truly I say to you that one of you will betray me.

²² The disciples began looking at one another, uncertain about whom he was speaking.

²³ One of his disciples the one whom Jesus loved was reclining _close beside_ Jesus.

²⁴ So Simon Peter gestured for this one to inquire who it was about whom he was speaking.

²⁵ Then he leaned back accordingly against Jesus chest [and] said to him, "Lord, who is it?

²⁶ Jesus replied, "It is he to whom I dip the piece of bread and give [it] to him." Then [after] dipping the piece of bread, he took [it] and gave [it] to Judas [son] of Simon Iscariot.

²⁷ And after the piece of bread, then Satan entered into him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you are doing, do quickly!

²⁸ (Now no one of those reclining at table knew for what [reason] he said this to him.

²⁹ For some were thinking because Judas had the money box, Jesus was telling him, "Purchase _what we need_ for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor.)

³⁰ So [after he] had taken the piece of bread, he went out immediately. And it was night.

³¹ Then, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him.

³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and will glorify him immediately.

³³Children, yet a little [time] I am with you. You will seek me and just as I said to the Jews, "Where I am going you cannot come," now I say also to you.

³⁴A new commandment I give to you: that you love one another just as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.

³⁶Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied to him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow later.

³⁷Peter said to him, "Lord, why am I not able to follow you now? I will lay down my life for you!

³⁸Jesus replied, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly I say to you, the rooster will not crow until you have denied me three times!

14¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places; but if not, I would have

told you, because I am going away to prepare a place for you.

³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, so that where I am, you may be also.

⁴And you know the way where I am going.

⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How are we able to know the way?"

⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

⁷If you have known me, you will know my Father also. And from now on you know him and have seen him.

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.

⁹Jesus said to him, "Am I with you so long a time and you have not known me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father! How can you say, Show us the Father?"

¹⁰Do you not believe that I [am] in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak

from myself, but the Father residing in me does his works.

¹¹ Believe me that I [am] in the Father and the Father [is] in me; but if not, believe because of the works themselves.

¹² Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in me, the works that I am doing he will do also, and he will do greater [works] than these because I am going to the Father.

¹³ And _whatever_ you ask in my name, I will do this, in order that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do [it].

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, in order that he may be with you _forever_

¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world is not able to receive, because it does not see him or know [him]. You know him, because he resides with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ I will not leave you [as] orphans; I am coming to you.

¹⁹Yet a little [time] and the world will see me no longer, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.

²⁰On that day you will know that I [am] in my Father, and you [are] in me, and I [am] in you.

²¹The one who has my commandments and keeps them that one is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and will reveal myself to him.

²²Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, and why is it that you are going to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?"

²³Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and _will take up residence with him_.

²⁴The one who does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine, but the Fathers who sent me.

²⁵These [things] I have spoken to you [while] residing with you.

²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my

namethat one will teach you all [things], and will remind you of everything that I said to you.

²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to younot as the world gives, I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let [them] be afraid.

²⁸You have heard that I said to you, I am going away, and I am coming to you. If you loved me, you would have rejoiced that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I [am].

²⁹And now I have told you before [it] happens, so that when it happens, you may believe.

³⁰I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has _no power_ _over_ me.

³¹But so that the world may know that I love the Father, and just as the Father has commanded me, thus I am doing. Get up, let us go from here!

15¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

²Every branch that does not bear fruit in me, he removes it, and every [branch] that bears fruit, he prunes it in order that it may bear more fruit.

³You are already clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

⁴Remain in me, and I in you. Just as the branch is not able to bear fruit from itself unless it remains in the vine, so neither [can] you, unless you remain in me.

⁵I am the vine; you [are] the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him this one bears much fruit, for apart from me you are not able to do anything.

⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown out as a branch, and dries up, and they gather them and throw [them] into the fire, and they are burned.

⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you.

⁸My Father is glorified by this: that you bear much fruit, and prove to be my disciples.

⁹Just as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you. Remain in my love.

¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Fathers commandments and remain in his love.

¹¹ I have spoken these [things] to you in order that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be made complete.

¹² This is my commandment: that you love one another just as I have loved you.

¹³ No one has greater love than this: that someone lay down his life for his friends.

¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you.

¹⁵ No longer do I call you slaves, because the slave does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything that I have heard from my Father I have revealed to you.

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and your fruit should remain, in order that whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you.

¹⁷ These [things] I command you: that you love one another.

¹⁸ If the world hates you, you know that it has hated me before [it hated] you.

¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. But because you are

not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, for this [reason] the world hates you.

²⁰Remember the word that I said to you: A slave is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will keep yours also.

²¹But they will do all these [things] to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me.

²²If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin. But now they do not have a valid excuse for their sin.

²³The one who hates me hates my Father also.

²⁴If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have both seen and hated both me and my Father.

²⁵But [this happened] so that the word that is written in their law would be fulfilled, They hated me without a reason.

²⁶When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Fatherthe

Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father that one will testify about me.

²⁷ And you also will testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

16¹ "I have said these [things] to you so that you will not fall away.

² _They will expel you from the synagogue_, but an hour is coming that everyone who kills you will think they are offering service to God.

³ And they will do these [things] because they do not know the Father or me.

⁴ But I have said these [things] to you so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you about them. @
"And I have not said these [things] to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

⁵ But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and none of you is asking me, Where are you going?

⁶ But because I have said these [things] to you, sorrow has filled your hearts.

⁷ But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

⁸And [when he] comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and concerning righteousness and concerning judgment:

⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me,

¹⁰and concerning righteousness, because I am going away to the Father and you will see me no more,

¹¹and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹²I still have many [things] to say to you, but you are not able to bear [them] now.

¹³But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak from himself, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will proclaim to you the things to come.

¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take from what [is] mine and will proclaim [it] to you.

¹⁵Everything that the Father has is mine. For this [reason] I said that he takes from what [is] mine and will proclaim [it] to you.

¹⁶"A little [while] and you will see me no more, and again a little [while] and you will see me.

¹⁷So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he is saying to us, A little [while] and you will not see me, and again a little [while] and you will see me, and Because I am going away to the Father?

¹⁸So they kept on saying, "What is this that he is saying, A little [while]? We do not understand what he is speaking about!

¹⁹Jesus knew that they were wanting to ask him, and he said to them, "Are you deliberating with one another about thisthat I said, A little [while], and you will not see me, and again a little [while] and you will see me?

²⁰Truly, truly I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will change to joy.

²¹A woman, when she gives birth, experiences pain because her hour has come. But when [her] child is born, she no longer remembers the affliction, on

account of the joy that a human being has been born into the world.

²² So you also are experiencing sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy from you.

²³ And on that day you will ask me nothing. Truly, truly I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.

²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

²⁵ "I have said these [things] to you in figurative sayings. An hour is coming when I will speak to you in figurative sayings no longer, but I will tell you plainly about the Father.

²⁶ On that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf.

²⁷ For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

²⁸ I have gone out from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father.

²⁹ His disciples said, "Behold, now you are speaking _plainly_ and are telling [us] no figurative saying!

³⁰ Now we know that you know everything and do not _need for_ anyone to ask you [questions]. By this we believe that you have come from God.

³¹ Jesus replied to them, "Now do you believe?

³² Behold, an hour is coming and has come that you will be scattered each one to his own [home], and you will leave me alone. And I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

³³ I have said these [things] to you so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have affliction, but have courage! I have conquered the world.

17 ¹ Jesus said these [things], and lifting up his eyes to heaven he said, "Father, the hour has come! Glorify your Son, in order that your Son may glorify you

² just as you have given him authority over all flesh, in order that he would give eternal life to them everyone whom you have given him.

³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

⁴ I have glorified you on earth [by] completing the work that you have given me _to do_.

⁵ And now, Father, you glorify me _at your side_ with the glory that I had _at your side_ before the world existed.

⁶ "I have revealed your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours, and you have given them to me, and they have kept your word.

⁷ Now they understand that all [the things] that you have given me are from you,

⁸ because the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they received [them] and know truly that I have come from you, and they have believed that you have sent me.

⁹ I am asking on behalf of them. I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you have given me, because they are yours,

¹⁰and all my [things] are yours, and your [things] [are] mine, and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹And I am no longer in the world, and they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given to me, so that they may be one, just as we [are].

¹²When I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given to me, and guarded [them], and none of them has perished except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³And now I am coming to you, and I am saying these [things] in the world so that they may have my joy completed in themselves.

¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world just as I am not of the world.

¹⁵I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the evil one.

¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth your word is truth.

¹⁸ Just as you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

¹⁹ And for them I sanctify myself, so that [they] themselves also may be sanctified in the truth.

²⁰ "And I do not ask on behalf of these only, but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word,

²¹ that they all may be one, just as you, Father, [are] in me and I [am] in you, that they also may be in us, in order that the world may believe that you sent me.

²² And the glory that you have given to me, I have given to them, in order that they may be one, just as we [are] one

²³ I in them, and you in me, in order that they may be completed in one, so that the world may know that you sent me, and you have loved them just as you have loved me.

²⁴ Father, [those] whom you have given to me I want that those also may be with me where I am, in order that they may see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵ Righteous Father, although the world does not know you, yet I have known you, and these [men] have come to know that you sent me.

²⁶ And I made known to them your name, and will make [it] known, in order that the love [with] which you loved me may be in them, and I [may be] in them.

18¹ [When] Jesus had said these [things], he went out with his disciples to the other side of the ravine of the Kidron, where [there] was a garden into which he and his disciples entered.

² (Now Judas, the one who betrayed him, also knew about the place, because Jesus often gathered there with his disciples.)

³ So Judas, taking the cohort and officers from the chief priests and from the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

⁴ Then Jesus, [because he] knew all the things that were coming upon him, went out and said to them, "Who are you looking for?"

⁵ They replied to him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am [he]."

(Now Judas, the one who betrayed him, was also standing with them.)

⁶So when he said to them, "I am [he]," _they drew back_ and fell to the ground.

⁷Then he asked them again, "Who are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene.

⁸Jesus replied, "I said to you that I am [he]! So if you are looking for me, let these [men] go,

⁹in order that the word that he had spoken would be fulfilled: "Those whom you have given to me I have not lost anyone of them."

¹⁰Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. (Now the name of the slave was Malchus.)

¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into [its] sheath! The cup that the Father has given me shall I not drink it?

¹²Then the cohort and the military tribune and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and tied him up,

¹³and brought [him] to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year.

¹⁴ (Now it was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it was better [that] one man die for the people.)

¹⁵ So Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. (Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest.)

¹⁶ But Peter was standing by the door outside. So the other disciple [who was] known to the high priest went out and spoke to the doorkeeper and brought Peter in.

¹⁷ Then the female slave [who was] the doorkeeper said to Peter, "You are not also [one] of the disciples of this man, [are you]?" He said, "I am not!

¹⁸ (Now the slaves and the officers were standing there, having made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were warming themselves. And Peter was also standing there with them and warming himself.)

¹⁹ So the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching.

²⁰ Jesus replied to him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I always taught

in the synagogue and in the temple [courts] where all the Jews assemble, and I have said nothing in secret.

²¹ Why are you asking me? Ask those who heard what I have said to them! Behold, these [people] know what I said.

²² Now [when] he had said these [things], one of the officers who was standing by gave a slap in the face to Jesus, saying, "Do you reply to the high priest in this way?"

²³ Jesus replied to him, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify about what [is] wrong! But if [I have spoken] correctly, why do you strike me?"

²⁴ Then Annas sent him, tied up, to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing there and warming himself. So they said to him, "You are not also [one] of his disciples, [are you]?" He denied [it] and said, "I am not!"

²⁶ One of the slaves of the high priest, who was related to the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?"

²⁷ So Peter denied [it] again, and immediately a rooster crowed.

²⁸Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the governors residence. Now it was early, and they did not enter into the governors residence so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover.

²⁹So Pilate came outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"

³⁰They answered and said to him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have handed him over to you!"

³¹So Pilate said to them, "You take him and judge him according to your law!" The Jews said to him, "It is not permitted for us to kill anyone,

³²in order that the word of Jesus would be fulfilled that he had spoken, indicating by what sort of death he was going to die.

³³Then Pilate entered again into the governors residence and summoned Jesus and said to him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

³⁴Jesus replied, "Do you say this from yourself, or have others said [this] to you about me?"

³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, [am I]? Your people and the chief priests handed you over to me! What have you done?"

³⁶ Jesus replied, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here."

³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, "So then you are a king!" Jesus replied, "You say that I am a king. For this [reason] I was born, and for this reason I have come into the world: in order that I can testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice."

³⁸ Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" And [when he] had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, "I find no basis for an accusation against him."

³⁹ But it is your custom that I release for you one [prisoner] at the Passover. So do you want [me] to release for you the king of the Jews?

⁴⁰Then they shouted again, saying, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" (Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.)

19¹ So then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.

²And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and placed [it] on his head, and put a purple robe on him,

³and were coming up to him and saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" and were giving him slaps in the face.

⁴And Pilate came outside again and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing him outside to you, so that you will know that I find no basis for an accusation against him.

⁵Then Jesus came outside wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, and he said to them, "Behold the man!

⁶So when they saw him, the chief priests and the officers shouted, saying, "Crucify! Crucify!" Pilate said to them, "You take him and crucify [him]! For I do not find a basis for an accusation against him.

⁷The Jews replied to him, "We have a law, and according to the law he ought

to die, because he made himself out to be the Son of God!

⁸So when Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid,

⁹and he entered into the governors residence again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus did not give him an answer.

¹⁰So Pilate said to him, "Will you not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you, and I have authority to crucify you?"

¹¹Jesus replied to him, "You would not have any authority over me unless it was given to you from above. For this [reason] the one who handed me over to you has greater sin.

¹²From this [point on] Pilate was seeking to release him, but the Jews shouted, saying, "If you release this man, you are not a friend of Caesar! Everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar!"

¹³So Pilate, [when he] heard these words, brought Jesus outside and sat down on the judgment seat, in the place called The Stone Pavement (but Gabbatha in Aramaic).

¹⁴ (Now it was the day of preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour.) And he said to the Jews, "Behold your king!

¹⁵ Then those shouted, "Away [with him]! Away [with him]! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests replied, "We do not have a king except Caesar!

¹⁶ So then he handed him over to them in order that he could be crucified. @ So they took Jesus,

¹⁷ and carrying for himself the cross, he went out to the [place] called The Place of a Skull (which is called Golgotha in Aramaic),

¹⁸ where they crucified him, and with him two others, _one on each side_, and Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹ And Pilate also wrote a notice and placed [it] on the cross, and it was written: "Jesus the Nazarene, the king of the Jews.

²⁰ So many of the Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. And it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, [and] in Greek.

²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write The king of the Jews, but, He said, I am king of the Jews.

²² Pilate replied, "What I have written, I have written.

²³ Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his clothing and made four shares for each soldier a share and the tunic. (Now the tunic was seamless, woven from the top _in a single piece_.)

²⁴ So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it apart, but cast lots for it, [to see] whose it will be," so that the scripture would be fulfilled that says, "They divided my garments among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." Thus the soldiers did these [things].

²⁵ Now his mother and the sister of his mother, Mary the [wife] of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross of Jesus.

²⁶ So Jesus, seeing [his] mother and the disciple whom he loved standing there, said to [his] mother, "Woman, behold your son!

²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own [home].

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that now at last everything was completed, in order that the scripture would be fulfilled, said, "I am thirsty.

²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there, so [they] put a sponge full of the sour wine on a [branch of] hyssop [and] brought [it] to his mouth.

³⁰ Then when he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, "It is completed," and bowing [his] head, he gave up [his] spirit.

³¹ Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was an important day), asked Pilate that their legs could be broken and they could be taken away.

³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him.

³³ But [when they] came to Jesus, after they saw he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and blood and water came out immediately.

³⁵ And the one who has seen [it] has testified, and his testimony is true, and that person knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.

³⁶ For these [things] happened in order that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not a bone of his will be broken."

³⁷ And again another scripture says, "They will look on [the one] whom they have pierced."

³⁸ And after these [things], Joseph [who was] from Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus (but a secret one for fear of the Jews), asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus. And Pilate allowed [it], so he came and took away his body.

³⁹ And Nicodemus the one who had come to him formerly at night also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes [weighing] about a hundred pounds.

⁴⁰ So they took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in [strips of] linen cloth with the fragrant spices, as is the Jews custom to prepare for burial.

⁴¹ Now [there] was a garden at the place where he was crucified, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one was yet buried.

⁴² So there, on account of the day of preparation of the Jews, because the tomb was close by, they buried Jesus.

20¹ Now on the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, [while it] was still dark, and saw the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

² So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord from the tomb and we do not know where they have put him!

³ Then Peter and the other disciple went out and were going to the tomb.

⁴ And the two were running together, and the other disciple ran ahead, faster than Peter, and came to the tomb first.

⁵ And bending over to look, he saw the [strips of] linen cloth lying there, though he did not go in.

⁶Then Simon Peter also came following him, and he went into the tomb and saw the [strips of] linen cloth lying there,

⁷and the facecloth that was on his head not lying with the [strips of] linen cloth, but folded up separately in one place.

⁸So then the other disciple who had come to the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed.

⁹(For they did not yet know the scripture that it was necessary for him to rise from the dead.)

¹⁰Then the disciples went away again to their [own homes].

¹¹But Mary stood outside at the tomb, weeping. Then, while she was weeping, she bent over to look into the tomb,

¹²and she saw two angels in white, seated one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been lying.

¹³And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have put him!

¹⁴[When she] had said these [things], she turned _around_ and saw Jesus

standing there, and she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" She thought that it was the gardener, [and] said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will take him.

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned around [and] said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, and my God and your God.

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came [and] announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and he had said these [things] to her.

¹⁹ Now [when it] was evening on that day the first [day] of the week and the doors had been shut where the disciples were because of fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace to you.

²⁰ And [when he] had said this, he showed [his] hands and [his] side to

them. Then the disciples rejoiced [when they] saw the Lord.

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.

²² And [when he] had said this, he breathed on [them] and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them. If you retain [the sins] of any, they are retained.

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, who was called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

²⁵ So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe!

²⁶ And after eight days his disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. [Although] the doors had been shut, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said, "Peace to you.

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Place your finger here and see my hands, and place

your hand and put [it] into my side. And do not be unbelieving, but believing!

²⁸Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!

²⁹Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, have you believed? Blessed [are] those who have not seen and have believed.

³⁰Now Jesus also performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples which are not recorded in this book,

³¹but these [things] are recorded in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that [by] believing you may have life in his name.

21 ¹After these [things] Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. Now he revealed [himself] in this way:

²Simon Peter and Thomas (who was called Didymus) and Nathanael from Cana in Galilee and the [sons] of Zebedee and two others of his disciples were together.

³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing!" They said to him, "We also are coming with you." They went out and

got into the boat, and during that night they caught nothing.

⁴Now [when it] was already early morning, Jesus stood on the beach. However, the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

⁵So Jesus said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish to eat, [do you]? They answered him, "No.

⁶And he said to them, "Throw the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find [some]." So they threw [it], and were no longer able to haul it in from the large number of the fish.

⁷Then that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" So Simon Peter, [when he] heard that it was the Lord, tied around himself his outer garment (for he was naked) and threw himself into the sea.

⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net of fish, because they were not far from the land, but about two hundred cubits away.

⁹So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire laid [there], and a fish lying on [it], and bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just now caught.

¹¹ So Simon Peter got into [the boat] and hauled the net to the land, full of large fish one hundred fifty-three and [although there] were so many, the net was not torn.

¹² Jesus said to them, "Come, eat breakfast!" But none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" [because they] knew that it was the Lord.

¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave [it] to them, and the fish likewise.

¹⁴ This [was] now [the] third [time] Jesus was revealed to the disciples [after he] had been raised from the dead.

¹⁵ Now when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon [son] of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs!

¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, "Simon [son] of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Shepherd my sheep!

¹⁷ He said to him a third [time], "Simon [son] of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed because he said to him a third [time], "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything! You know that I love you!" Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep!

¹⁸ Truly, truly I say to you, when you were young, you tied [your clothes] around yourself and walked wherever you wanted. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will tie you up and carry [you] where you do not want [to go].

¹⁹ (Now he said this to indicate by what kind of death he would glorify God.) And [after he] had said this, he said to him, "Follow me!

²⁰ Peter turned [and] saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following [them] (who also leaned back on his chest at the dinner and said, "Lord, who is the one betraying you?")

²¹ So [when he] saw this one, Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, but what about this one?"

²² Jesus said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what [is that] to you? You follow me!

²³ So this saying went out to the brothers that that disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but "If I want him to remain until I come, what [is that] to you?

²⁴ This is the disciple who is testifying about these [things], and who has written down these [things]. And we know that his testimony is true.

²⁵ Now there are also many other [things] that Jesus did, which if they were written down one after the other I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written.

Acts

1 ¹I produced the former account, O Theophilus, about all _that_ Jesus began to do and to teach,

²until the day he was taken up, [after he] had given orders through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen,

³to whom he also presented himself alive after he suffered, with many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking the things about the kingdom of God.

⁴And [while he] was with [them], he commanded them, "Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what was promised by the Father, which you heard about from me.

⁵For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit _not many days from now_."

⁶So [when] they had come together, they began asking him, saying, "Lord, [is it] at this time you are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ But he said to them, "It is not for you to know [the] times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority.

⁸ But you will receive power [when] the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the farthest part of the earth.

⁹ And [after he] had said these [things], [while] they were watching, he was taken up, and a cloud received him from their sight.

¹⁰ And as they were staring into the sky [while] he was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood by them

¹¹ who also said, "Men _of Galilee_, why do you stand there gazing into the sky? This Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven like this will come back in the same way you saw him departing into heaven!

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain that is called Olive Grove which is near Jerusalem, _a Sabbath days journey away_.

¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upstairs room where they were staying Peter and John and

James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James [son] of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas [son] of James.

¹⁴All these were busily engaged with one mind in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers.

¹⁵And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers (and it was a crowd of persons of about one hundred twenty at the same [place]) [and] said,

¹⁶Men [and] brothers, it was necessary [that] the scripture be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit proclaimed beforehand through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus,

¹⁷because he was counted among us and received a share in this ministry.

¹⁸(Now this man acquired a field for the wages of [his] wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines spilled out.

¹⁹And it became known to all who live in Jerusalem, so that that field was called in their own language "Akeldama," that is, "Field of Blood.")

²⁰For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his residence become deserted, and let there be no one to live in it, and, Let another person take his position.

²¹Therefore it is necessary for [one] of the men who have accompanied us during all the time [in] which the Lord Jesus went in and went out among us,

²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day [on] which he was taken up from us one of these [men] must become a witness of his resurrection together with us.

²³And they proposed two [men], Joseph called Barsabbas (who was called Justus) and Matthias.

²⁴And they prayed [and] said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show clearly which one of these two you have chosen

²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to depart to his own place.

²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added [to serve] with the eleven apostles.

2¹ And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in the same [place].

² And suddenly a sound like a violent rushing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

³ And divided tongues like fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them [ability] to speak out.

⁵ Now there were Jews residing in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven.

⁶ And [when] this sound occurred, the crowd gathered and was in confusion, because each one was hearing them speaking in his own language.

⁷ And they were astounded and astonished, saying, "Behold, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

⁸ And how do we hear, each one [of us], in _our own native language_?

⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and those residing [in] Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya toward Cyrene, and the Romans who were in town,

¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabswe hear them speaking in our [own] languages the great deeds of God!

¹²And all were amazed and greatly perplexed, saying _to one another_,
"_What can this mean?_"

¹³But others jeered [and] said, "They are full of sweet new wine!

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them, "Judean men, and all those who live [in] Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and pay attention to my words!

¹⁵For these [men] are not drunk, as you assume, because it is the third hour of the day.

¹⁶But this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷And it will be in the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸And even on my male slaves and on my female slaves I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

¹⁹And I will cause wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

²⁰The sun will be changed to darkness and the moon to blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.

²¹And it will be [that] everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

²²Israelite men, listen to these words! Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, just as [you] yourselves know

²³this man, delivered up by the determined plan and foreknowledge of God, you executed [by] nailing to [a cross] through the hand of lawless men.

²⁴God raised _him_ up, having brought to an end the pains of death, because it was not possible [for] him to be held by it.

²⁵For David says with reference to him, I saw the Lord before me _continually_, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken.

²⁶For this [reason] my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced greatly, furthermore also my flesh will live in hope,

²⁷because you will not abandon my soul in Hades, nor will you permit your Holy One to experience decay.

²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with gladness with your presence.

²⁹Men [and] brothers, it is possible to speak with confidence to you about the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us until this day.

³⁰Therefore, [because he] was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat _one of his descendants_ on his throne,

³¹[by] having foreseen [this], he spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he abandoned in Hades nor did his flesh experience decay.

³² This Jesus God raised up, of which we all are witnesses.

³³ Therefore, having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, he has poured out this that you both see and hear.

³⁴ For David did not ascend into heaven, but he himself says, The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand,

³⁵ until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know beyond a doubt, that God has made him both Lord and Christ this Jesus whom you crucified!

³⁷ Now [when they] heard [this], they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "What should we do, men [and] brothers?"

³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all those [who are]

far away, as many as the Lord our God calls to himself.

⁴⁰And with many other words he solemnly urged and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this crooked generation!

⁴¹So those who accepted his message were baptized, and on that day about three thousand souls were added.

⁴²And they were devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayers.

⁴³And fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were being performed by the apostles.

⁴⁴And all who believed were in the same [place], and had everything in common.

⁴⁵And they began selling [their] possessions and property, and distributing these [things] to all, to the degree that anyone had need.

⁴⁶And every day, devoting themselves [to meeting] with one purpose in the temple [courts] and breaking bread from house [to house], they were eating

[their] food with joy and simplicity of heart,

⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding every day to the total [of] those who were being saved.

3¹ Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth [hour].

²And a certain man was being carried who was lame _from birth_. _He_ was placed every day at the gate of the temple called "Beautiful," [so that he] could ask for charitable gifts from those who were going into the temple [courts].

³[When he] saw Peter and John about to go into the temple [courts], he began asking to receive alms.

⁴And Peter looked intently at him, together with John, [and] said, "Look at us!

⁵So he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.

⁶But Peter said, "Silver and gold _I_ do not possess_, but what I have, this I give to you in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!

⁷And taking hold of him by the right hand, he raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.

⁸And leaping up, he stood and began walking around and entered into the temple [courts] with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

⁹And all the people saw him walking and praising God,

¹⁰And they recognized him, that [he] himself was the one who used to sit [asking] for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with awe and astonishment at what had happened to him.

¹¹And [while] he was holding fast to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomons, utterly astonished.

¹²And [when he] saw [it], Peter replied to the people, "Men [and] Israelites, why are you astonished at this? Or why are you staring at us, as [if] by our own power or godliness we have made him walk?

¹³The God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant

Jesus, whom you handed over and denied in the presence of Pilate, [after] he had decided to release [him].

¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and demanded [that] a mana murderer be granted to you.

¹⁵And you killed the originator of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses!

¹⁶And on the basis of faith in his name, his name has made this man strong, whom you see and know, and the faith [that is] through him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also.

¹⁸But [the things] which God foretold through the mouth of all the prophets, [that] his Christ would suffer, he has fulfilled in this way.

¹⁹Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be blotted out,

²⁰so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and he may send the Christ appointed for you Jesus,

²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of the restoration of all [things], about which God spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from earliest times.

²² Moses said, The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You will listen to him in everything that he says to you.

²³ And it will be [that] every soul who if he does not listen to that prophet will be destroyed utterly from the people.

²⁴ And indeed, all the prophets from Samuel and all those who followed [him] have spoken [about] and proclaimed these days.

²⁵ You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God ordained with your fathers, saying to Abraham, And in your offspring all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

²⁶ God, [after he] had raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning each [of you] back from your wickedness!

4¹ And [while] they were speaking to the people, the priests and the

captain of the temple and the Sadducees approached them,

²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

³And they laid hands on them and put [them] in custody until the next day, because it was already evening.

⁴But many of those who listened to the message believed, and the number of the men was approximately five thousand.

⁵And it happened that on the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes came together in Jerusalem,

⁶and Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all those who were from the high priests family.

⁷And they made them stand in [their] midst [and] began to ask, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders,

⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed [done to] a

sick man by what [means] this man was healed

¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead by him this man stands before you healthy!

¹¹This one is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, that has become _the cornerstone_.

¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven that is given among people by which we must be saved.

¹³Now [when they] saw the boldness of Peter and John, and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were astonished, and recognized them, that they had been with Jesus.

¹⁴And [because they] saw the man who had been healed standing there with them, they had nothing to say in return.

¹⁵But [after they] had ordered them to go outside the Sanhedrin, they began to confer with one another,

¹⁶saying, "What should we do with these men? For that a remarkable

sign has taken place through them [is] evident to all those who live [in] Jerusalem, and we are not able to deny [it]!

¹⁷ But in order that it may not spread much [further] among the people, let us warn them to speak no more in this name _to anyone at all_."

¹⁸ And they called them [back] [and] commanded [them] not to speak or to teach at all in the name of Jesus.

¹⁹ But Peter and John answered [and] said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than God, you decide!

²⁰ For we are not able to refrain from speaking about [the things] that we have seen and heard.

²¹ So [after] threatening [them] further, they released them, finding no way to punish them on account of the people, because they were all praising God for what had happened.

²² For the man on whom this sign of healing had been performed was more [than] forty years [old].

²³ And [when they] were released, they went to their own [people] and reported

all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

²⁴And [when they] heard [it], they lifted [their] voices with one mind to God and said, "Master, you [are] the one who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all the things in them,

²⁵the one who said by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of our father David, your servant, Why do the nations rage, and the peoples conspire in vain?

²⁶The kings of the earth stood opposed, and the rulers assembled together at the same [place], against the Lord and against his Christ.

²⁷For in truth both Herod and Pontius Pilate, together with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, assembled together in this city against your holy servant Jesus whom you anointed,

²⁸to do all that your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

²⁹And now, Lord, concern yourself with their threats and grant your slaves to speak your message with all boldness,

³⁰[as] you extend your hand to heal and signs and wonders are performed

through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

³¹ And [when] they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

³² Now the group of those who believed were one heart and soul, and no one said anything of what belonged to him was his own, but all [things] were theirs in common.

³³ And with great power the apostles were giving testimony [to] the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on them all.

³⁴ For there was not even anyone needy among them, because all those who were owners of plots of land or houses were selling [them] [and] bringing the proceeds of the things that were sold

³⁵ and placing [them] at the feet of the apostles. And it was being distributed to each as anyone had need.

³⁶ So Joseph, who was called Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated "son of encouragement"), a Levite of Cyprus by nationality,

³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him [and] brought the money and placed [it] at the feet of the apostles.

5¹ Now a certain man _named_ Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,

² and he kept back for himself [some] of the proceeds, and [his] wife was aware of [it]. And he brought a certain part [and] placed [it] at the feet of the apostles.

³ But Peter said, "Ananias, for what [reason] has Satan filled your heart, [that] you lied to the Holy Spirit and kept back for yourself [some] of the proceeds of the piece of land?

⁴ [When it] remained to you, did it not remain [yours]? And [when it] was sold, was it at your disposal? How [is it] that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to people, but to God!

⁵ And [when] Ananias heard these words, he fell down [and] died. And great fear came on all those who heard about [it].

⁶So the young men stood up, wrapped him up, and carried [him] out [and] buried [him].

⁷And it happened that [there was] an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

⁸And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you [both] were paid this much [for] the piece of land." And she said, "Yes, this much.

⁹So Peter [said] to her, "How [is it] that it was agreed by you [two] to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who buried your husband [are] at the door, and they will carry you out!

¹⁰And immediately she fell down at his feet and died. So [when] the young men came in, they found her dead, and carried [her] out [and] buried [her] with her husband.

¹¹And great fear came on the whole church and on all who heard about these [things].

¹²Now many signs and wonders were being performed among the people through the hands of the apostles. And

they were all together in Solomons Portico.

¹³And none of the rest dared to join them, but the people spoke highly of them.

¹⁴And even more believers in the Lord were being added, large numbers of both men and women,

¹⁵so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and put [them] on cots and mats so that [when] Peter came by, at least [his] shadow would fall on some of them.

¹⁶And the people of the towns around Jerusalem also came together, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, who were all being healed.

¹⁷Now the high priest rose up and all those [who were] with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), [and] they were filled with jealousy.

¹⁸And they laid hands on the apostles and put them in the public prison.

¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison and led them [out] [and] said,

²⁰Go and stand in the temple [courts] [and] proclaim to the people all the words of this life.

²¹And [when they] heard [this], they entered at daybreak into the temple [courts] and began teaching. Now [when] the high priest and those with him arrived, they summoned the Sanhedrineven the whole council of elders of the sons of Israeland sent to the prison to have them brought.

²²But the officers who came did not find them in the prison, and they returned [and] reported,

²³saying, "We found the prison locked with all security and the guards standing at the doors, but [when we] opened [them], we found no one inside!

²⁴Now when both the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed concerning them, [as to] what this might be.

²⁵But someone came [and] reported to them, "Behold, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple [courts] and teaching the people!

²⁶Then the captain went with the officers [and] brought them, not with force (for they were afraid of the people, lest they be stoned [by them]).

²⁷And [when they] had brought them, they made [them] stand in the Sanhedrin, and the high priest put a question to them,

²⁸saying, "Did we not _strictly command_ you not to teach in this name? And behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching! And you are intending to bring upon us the blood of this man!

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered [and] said, "It is necessary to obey God rather than men!

³⁰The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed [by] hanging [him] on a tree.

³¹This one God has exalted to his right hand [as] Leader and Savior to grant repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

³²And we are witnesses of these things, and [so is] the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.

³³ Now [when] they heard [this], they were infuriated, and were wanting to execute them.

³⁴ But a certain man stood up in the Sanhedrin, a Pharisee _named_ Gamaliel, a teacher of the law respected by all the people, [and] gave orders to put the men outside for a short time.

³⁵ And he said to them, "Men [and] Israelites, take care for yourselves what you are about to do to these men!

³⁶ For before these days, Theudas rose up saying he was somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined _him_. _He_ was executed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing.

³⁷ After this man, Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and _caused people to follow him in revolt_. And that one perished, and all who followed him were scattered.

³⁸ And now I tell you, keep away from these men, and leave them alone, because if this plan or this matter is from people, it will be overthrown.

³⁹ But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them, lest you even

be found fighting against God." So they were persuaded by him.

⁴⁰And they summoned the apostles, beat [them], commanded [them] not to speak in the name of Jesus, and released [them].

⁴¹So they went out from the presence of the Sanhedrin rejoicing, because they had been considered worthy to be dishonored for the sake of the name.

⁴²Every day, both in the temple [courts] and from house [to house], they did not stop teaching and proclaiming the good news [that] the Christ [was] Jesus.

6¹Now in these days, [as] the disciples were increasing [in number], a complaint arose by the _Greek-speaking Jews_ against the _Hebraic Jews_ because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution [of food].

²So the twelve summoned the community of disciples [and] said, "It is not desirable [that] we neglect the word of God to serve tables.

³So, brothers, select from among you seven men _of good reputation_, full of

the Spirit and wisdom, whom we will put in charge of this need.

⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

⁵ And the statement pleased the whole group, and they chose Stephen (a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit), and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus (a convert from Antioch),

⁶ whom they stood before the apostles. And they prayed [and] placed [their] hands on them.

⁷ And the word of God kept spreading, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem was increasing greatly, and a large number of priests began obeying the faith.

⁸ Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people.

⁹ But some of those from the Synagogue of the Freedmen (_as it was called_), both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up [and] disputed with Stephen.

¹⁰And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.

¹¹Then they secretly instigated men who said, "We have heard him speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God!

¹²And they incited the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came up [and] seized him and brought [him] to the Sanhedrin.

¹³And they put forward false witnesses who said, "This man does not stop speaking words against this holy place and the law!

¹⁴For we have heard him saying that this Nazarene Jesus will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed down to us.

¹⁵And [as they] looked intently at him, all those who were sitting in the Sanhedrin saw his face [was] like the face of an angel.

7¹And the high priest said, "Is it so concerning these [things]?"

²So he said, "Menbrothers and fatherslisten: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham [while he] was

in Mesopotamia, before he settled in Haran,

³and said to him, Go out from your land and from your relatives and come to the land that I will show you.

⁴Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans [and] settled in Haran. And from there, after his father died, he caused him to move to this land in which you now live.

⁵And he did not give him an inheritance in it not even a footstep and he promised to give [it] to him for his possession, and to his descendants after him, _although he did not have_ a child.

⁶But God spoke like this: His descendants will be foreigners in a foreign land, and they will enslave them and mistreat [them] four hundred years,

⁷and the nation _that_ they will serve as slaves, I will judge, God said, and after these [things] they will come out and will worship me in this place.

⁸And he gave him the covenant of circumcision, and so he became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day, and Isaac [did so with]

Jacob, and Jacob [did so with] the twelve patriarchs.

⁹And the patriarchs, [because they] were jealous of Joseph, sold [him] into Egypt. And God was with him,

¹⁰and rescued him from all his afflictions and granted him favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And he appointed him ruler over Egypt and over all his household.

¹¹And a famine came over all Egypt and Canaan and great affliction, and our fathers could not find food.

¹²So [when] Jacob heard [there] was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first.

¹³And on the second [visit] Joseph was made known to his brothers, and the family of Joseph became known to Pharaoh.

¹⁴So Joseph sent [and] summoned his father Jacob and all [his] relatives, seventy-five persons in [all].

¹⁵And Jacob went down to Egypt and died, he and our fathers.

¹⁶And they were brought back to Shechem and buried in the tomb that

Abraham had bought for a sum of silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.

¹⁷ But as the time of the promise that God had made to Abraham was drawing near, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt

¹⁸ until another king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph.

¹⁹ This man deceitfully took advantage of our people [and] mistreated our ancestors, _causing them to abandon their infants_ so that they would not be kept alive.

²⁰ At this time Moses was born, and he was beautiful to God. _He_ was brought up [for] three months in [his] fathers house,

²¹ and [when] he was abandoned, the daughter of Pharaoh took him [up] and brought him [up] _as her own son_.

²² And Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was powerful in his words and deeds.

²³ But when _he was forty years old_, it entered in his heart to visit his brothers, the sons of Israel.

²⁴ And [when he] saw one of them being unjustly harmed, he defended

[him] and _avenged_ the one who had been oppressed [by] striking down the Egyptian.

²⁵ And he thought his brothers would understand that God was granting deliverance to them by his hand, but they did not understand.

²⁶ And on the following day, he made an appearance to them [while they] were fighting and was attempting to reconcile them in peace, saying, Men [and] brothers, why are you doing wrong to one another?

²⁷ But the one who was doing wrong to [his] neighbor pushed him aside, saying, Who appointed you a ruler and a judge over us?

²⁸ You do not want to do away with me _the same way_ you did away with the Egyptian yesterday, [do you]?

²⁹ And at this statement, Moses fled and became a foreigner in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

³⁰ And [when] forty years had been completed, an angel appeared to him in the desert of Mount Sinai in the flame of a burning bush.

³¹ And [when] Moses saw [it], he was astonished at the sight, and [when] he approached to look at [it], the voice of the Lord came:

³² I [am] the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob! So Moses began trembling [and] did not dare to look at [it].

³³ And the Lord said to him, Untie the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.

³⁴ _I have certainly seen_ the mistreatment of my people [who are] in Egypt and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send you to Egypt.

³⁵ This Moses whom they had repudiated, saying, Who appointed you a ruler and a judge? this man God sent [as] both ruler and redeemer with _the help_ of the angel who appeared to him in the bush.

³⁶ This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in the land of Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the wilderness [for] forty years.

³⁷ This is the Moses who said to the sons of Israel, God will raise up for you

a prophet like me from among your brothers.

³⁸This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and who [with] our fathers received living oracles to give to us,

³⁹to whom our fathers were not willing to become obedient, but rejected [him] and turned [back] in their hearts to Egypt,

⁴⁰saying to Aaron, Make us gods who will go on before us! For this Moses, who led us out from the land of Egypt we do not know what has happened to him!

⁴¹And they manufactured a calf in those days, and offered up a sacrifice to the idol, and began rejoicing in the works of their hands.

⁴²But God turned away and gave them over to worship the host of heaven, just as it is written in the book of the prophets: You did not bring offerings and sacrifices to me [for] forty years in the wilderness, [did you], house of Israel?

⁴³And you took along the tabernacle of Moloch and the star of your god Rephan, the images that you made, to worship

them, and I will deport you beyond Babylon!

⁴⁴The tabernacle of the testimony _belonged_ to our fathers in the wilderness, just as the one who spoke to Moses directed [him] to make it according to the design that he had seen,

⁴⁵and which, [after] receiving [it] in turn, our fathers brought in with Joshua _when they dispossessed the_ nations that God drove out from the presence of our fathers, until the days of David,

⁴⁶who found favor in the sight of God and asked to find a habitation for the house of Jacob.

⁴⁷But Solomon built a house for him.

⁴⁸But the Most High does not live in [houses] made by human hands, just as the prophet says,

⁴⁹Heaven [is] my throne and earth [is] the footstool for my feet. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what [is the] place of my rest?

⁵⁰Did not my hand make all these [things]?

⁵¹[You] stiff-necked [people] and uncircumcised in hearts and in [your]

ears! You constantly resist the Holy Spirit! As your fathers [did], [so] also [do] you!

⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand about the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become,

⁵³ [you] who received the law by directions of angels and have not observed [it]!

⁵⁴ Now [when they] heard these [things], they were infuriated in their hearts and gnashed [their] teeth at him.

⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently into heaven [and] saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!

⁵⁷ But crying out with a loud voice, they stopped their ears and rushed at him with one purpose.

⁵⁸ And [after they] had driven [him] out of the city, they began to stone [him],

and the witnesses laid aside their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹And they kept on stoning Stephen [as he] was calling out and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!

⁶⁰And falling to [his] knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" And [after he] said this, he fell asleep.

8¹ And Saul was agreeing with his murder. Now there happened on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

²And devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him.

³But Saul was attempting to destroy the church. Entering _house after house_, he dragged off both men and women [and] delivered [them] to prison.

⁴Now those who had been scattered went about proclaiming the good news [of] the word.

⁵And Philip came down to the city of Samaria [and] began proclaiming the Christ to them.

⁶And the crowds with one mind were paying attention to what was being said by Philip, [as] they heard [him] and saw the signs that he was performing.

⁷For many of those who had unclean spirits, they were coming out [of them], crying out with a loud voice, and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.

⁸And there was great joy in that city.

⁹Now a certain man named Simon had been in the city practicing magic and astonishing the people of Samaria, saying he was someone great.

¹⁰They were all paying attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great.

¹¹And they were paying attention to him because for a long time he had astonished them with [his] magic.

¹²But when they believed Philip [as he] was proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were being baptized.

¹³And Simon himself also believed, and [after he] was baptized he was keeping

close company with_ Philip. And [when he] saw the signs and great miracles that were taking place, he was astonished.

¹⁴ Now [when] the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,

¹⁵ who went down [and] prayed for them so that they would receive the Holy Spirit.

¹⁶ (For he had not yet fallen on any of them, _but they had only been baptized_ in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

¹⁷ Then they placed [their] hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸ Now Simon, [when he] saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles hands, offered them money,

¹⁹ saying, "Give to me also this power, so that whomever I place [my] hands on may receive the Holy Spirit!

²⁰ But Peter said to him, "May your silver _be destroyed along with you_, because you thought _you could acquire_ the gift of God by means of money!

²¹ _You have no_ part or share in this matter, because your heart is not right before God.

²² Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and ask the Lord if perhaps the intent of your heart may be forgiven you!

²³ For I see you are in _a state of bitter envy_ and _bound by unrighteousness_."

²⁴ But Simon answered [and] said, "You pray to the Lord for me so that nothing of what you have said will come upon me.

²⁵ So [when] they had solemnly testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they turned back toward Jerusalem, and were proclaiming the good news [to] many villages of the Samaritans.

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Get up and go toward the south on the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert [road].)

²⁷ And he got up [and] went, and behold, [there was] a man, an Ethiopian eunuch (a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was over all her treasury) who had come to worship in Jerusalem

²⁸and was returning and sitting in his chariot, and reading aloud the prophet Isaiah.

²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Approach and join this chariot.

³⁰So Philip ran up to [it] [and] heard him reading aloud Isaiah the prophet and said, "So then, do you understand what you are reading?

³¹And he said, "So how could I, unless someone will guide me?" And he invited Philip to come up [and] sit with him.

³²Now the passage of scripture that he was reading aloud was this: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and like a lamb before its shearer [is] silent, so he did not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was taken from him. Who can describe his _descendants_? For his life was taken away from the earth."

³⁴And the eunuch answered [and] said to Philip, "I ask you, about whom does the prophet say this about himself or about someone else?

³⁵So Philip opened his mouth and beginning from this scripture, proclaimed the good news to him [about] Jesus.

³⁶And as they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

³⁷EMPTY

³⁸And he ordered the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water Philip and the eunuch and he baptized him.

³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him any longer, for he went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and [as he] passed through, he proclaimed the good news [to] all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

9¹ But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest

²[and] asked for letters from him to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, both men and women, he could bring [them] tied up to Jerusalem.

³Now as [he] proceeded, it happened that [when] he approached Damascus,

suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

⁴And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

⁵So he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he [said], "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting!"

⁶But get up and enter into the city, and it will be told to you _what you must do_."

⁷(Now the men who were traveling together with him stood speechless, [because they] heard the voice but saw no one.)

⁸So Saul got up from the ground, but [although] his eyes were open he could see nothing. And leading him by the hand, they brought [him] into Damascus.

⁹And he was _unable to see_ [for] three days, and he did not eat or drink.

¹⁰Now there was a certain disciple in Damascus _named_ Ananias, and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias!" And he said, "Behold, [here] I [am], Lord!"

¹¹ And the Lord [said] to him, "Get up, go to the street called Straight and in the house of Judas look for _a man named Saul from Tarsus_. For behold, he is praying,

¹² and he has seen in a vision a man _named_ Ananias coming in and placing [his] hands on him so that he may regain [his] sight.

¹³ But Ananias replied, "Lord, I have heard from many [people] about this man, how much harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem,

¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to tie up all who call upon your name!

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, because this man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel.

¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.

¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered into the house, and placing [his] hands on him, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you came, has sent me so that

you may regain [your] sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸And immediately [something] like scales fell from his eyes and he regained [his] sight and got up [and] was baptized,

¹⁹and [after] taking food, he regained his strength. And he was with the disciples in Damascus several days.

²⁰And immediately he began proclaiming Jesus in the synagogues: "This one is the Son of God!

²¹And all who heard [him] were amazed, and were saying, "Is this not the one who was wreaking havoc in Jerusalem [on] those who call upon this name, and had come here for this [reason], that he could bring them tied up to the chief priests?

²²But Saul was increasing in strength even more, and was confounding the Jews who lived in Damascus [by] proving that this one is the Christ.

²³And when many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted to do away with him.

²⁴But their plot became known to Saul, and they were also watching the gates

both day and night so that they could do away with him.

²⁵ But his disciples took [him] at night [and] let him down through the wall [by] lowering [him] in a basket.

²⁶ And [when he] arrived in Jerusalem, he was attempting to associate with the disciples, and they were all afraid of him, [because they] did not believe that he was a disciple.

²⁷ But Barnabas took him [and] brought [him] to the apostles and related to them how he had seen the Lord on the road and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.

²⁸ And he was going in and going out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

²⁹ And he was speaking and debating with the _Greek-speaking Jews_, but they were trying to do away with him.

³⁰ And [when] the brothers found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

³¹ Then the church throughout all of Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace, being strengthened. And

living in the fear of the Lord and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it was increasing [in numbers].

³²Now it happened that [as] Peter was traveling through all [the places], [he] also came down to the saints who lived [in] Lydda.

³³And he found there a certain man _named_ Aeneas who was paralyzed, who had been lying on a mat for eight years.

³⁴And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you! Get up and make your bed yourself!" And immediately he got up.

³⁵And all those who lived [in] Lydda and Sharon saw him, who [all] indeed turned to the Lord.

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a certain female disciple _named_ Tabitha (which translated means "Dorcas"). She was full of good deeds and charitable giving which she was constantly doing.

³⁷Now it happened that in those days [after] becoming sick, she died. And [after] washing [her], they placed her in an upstairs room.

³⁸ And [because] Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, [when they] heard that Peter was in _Lydda_, sent two men to him, urging, "Do not delay to come to us!

³⁹ So Peter got up [and] accompanied them. [When he] arrived, they brought [him] up to the upstairs room, and all the widows came to him, weeping and showing [him] tunics and [other] clothing that Dorcas used to make [while she] was with them.

⁴⁰ But Peter sent [them] all outside, and, falling to [his] knees, he prayed. And turning toward the body, he said, "Tabitha, get up!" And she opened her eyes, and [when she] saw Peter, she sat up.

⁴¹ And he gave her [his] hand [and] raised her up. And he called the saints and the widows [and] presented her alive.

⁴² And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

⁴³ And it happened that [he] stayed many days in Joppa with a certain Simon, a tanner.

10¹ Now [there was] a certain man in Caesarea _named_ Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Cohort,

² devout and fearing God together with all his household, doing many charitable deeds for the people and praying to God _continually_.

³ About the ninth hour of the day, he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming to him and saying to him, "Cornelius.

⁴ And he stared at him and became terrified [and] said, "What is [it], Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your charitable deeds have gone up for a memorial offering before God.

⁵ And now, send men to Joppa and summon a certain Simon, who is also called Peter.

⁶ This man is staying as a guest with a certain Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea.

⁷ And when the angel who spoke to him departed, he summoned two of the household slaves and a devout soldier from those who attended him,

⁸and [after he] had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

⁹And the next day, [as] they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray [at] about the sixth hour.

¹⁰And he became hungry and wanted to eat. But [while] they were preparing [the food], a trance came over him.

¹¹And he saw heaven opened and an object something like a large sheet coming down, being let down to the earth by its four corners,

¹²in which were all the four-footed animals and reptiles of the earth and birds of the sky.

¹³And a voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, slaughter and eat!

¹⁴But Peter said, "Certainly not, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common and unclean!

¹⁵And the voice [came] again to him for the second time: "[The things] which God has made clean, you must not consider unclean!

¹⁶And this happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into heaven.

¹⁷Now while Peter was greatly perplexed within himself [as to] what the vision that he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having found the house of Simon by asking around, stood at the gate.

¹⁸And they called out [and] asked if Simon who was also called Peter was staying there as a guest.

¹⁹And [while] Peter was reflecting about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you.

²⁰But get up, go down, and go with them not hesitating at all, because I have sent them.

²¹So Peter went down to the men [and] said, "Behold, I am [he] whom you are looking for! What [is] the reason for which you have come?

²²And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man and well spoken of by the whole nation of the Jews was directed by a holy

angel to summon you to his house and to hear words from you.

²³ So he invited them in [and] entertained them as guests, and on the next day he got up [and] went away with them. And some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him.

²⁴ And on the next day he entered into Caesarea. @ Now Cornelius was waiting for them, [and] had called together his relatives and close friends.

²⁵ So it happened that when Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell at [his] feet, [and] worshiped [him].

²⁶ But Peter helped him up, saying, "Get up! I myself am also a man!

²⁷ And [as he] conversed with him, he went in and found many [people] gathered.

²⁸ And he said to them, "You know that it is forbidden for a Jewish man to associate with or to approach a foreigner. And to me God has shown [that] I should call no man common or unclean.

²⁹ Therefore and without raising any objection I came [when I] was sent for. So I ask for what reason you sent for me.

³⁰And Cornelius said, "_Four days ago at this hour_, [the] ninth, I was praying in my house. And behold, a man in shining clothing stood before me

³¹and said, Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your charitable deeds have been remembered before God.

³²Therefore send to Joppa and summon Simon who is also called Peter. This man is staying as a guest in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.

³³Therefore I sent for you at once, and you _were kind enough to come_. So now we all are present before God to hear all the things that have been commanded to you by the Lord.

³⁴So Peter opened [his] mouth [and] said, "In truth I understand that God is not one who shows partiality,

³⁵but in every nation the one who fears him and who does what is right is acceptable to him.

³⁶[As for] the message that he sent to the sons of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christthis one is Lord of all

³⁷you know the thing that happened throughout all Judea, beginning from

Galilee, after the baptism that John proclaimed:

³⁸ Jesus of Nazareth how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with him.

³⁹ And we [are] witnesses of all [the things] that he did both in the land of the Judeans and in Jerusalem, whom they also executed [by] hanging [him] on a tree.

⁴⁰ God raised this one up on the third day and granted [that] he should become visible,

⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who had been chosen beforehand by God [as] witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

⁴² And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify solemnly that this one is the one appointed by God [as] judge of the living and of the dead.

⁴³ To this one all the prophets testify, [that] through his name everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins.

⁴⁴ [While] Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who were listening to the message.

⁴⁵ And those believers from the circumcision who had accompanied Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles,

⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter said,

⁴⁷ Surely no one can withhold the water for these [people] to be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit as we also did!

⁴⁸ So he ordered [that] they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay for several days.

11 ¹ Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had accepted the word of God.

² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision took issue with him,

³ saying, "You went to men _who were uncircumcised_ and ate with them!

⁴ But Peter began [and] explained [it] to them in an orderly sequence, saying,

⁵ I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a visionan object something like a large sheet coming down, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came to me.

⁶ [As I] looked intently into it, I was considering [it], and I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild animals and the reptiles and the birds of the sky.

⁷ And I also heard a voice saying to me, Get up, Peter, slaughter and eat!

⁸ But I said, Certainly not, Lord! For nothing common or unclean has ever entered into my mouth!

⁹ But the voice replied from heaven for the second time, [The things] which God has made clean, you must not consider unclean!

¹⁰ And this happened three times, and everything was pulled up into heaven again.

¹¹ And behold, at once three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea approached the house in which we were [staying].

¹²And the Spirit told me to accompany them, not hesitating [at all]. So these six brothers also went with me, and we entered into the mans house.

¹³And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, Send to Joppa and summon Simon, who is also called Peter,

¹⁴who will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.

¹⁵And [as] I was beginning to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, just as also on us at the beginning.

¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

¹⁷Therefore if God gave them the same gift as also to us [when we] believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I [to be] able to hinder God?

¹⁸And [when they] heard these [things], they became silent and praised God, saying, "Then God has granted the repentance [leading] to life to the Gentiles also!

¹⁹Now those who had been scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, proclaiming the message to no one except Jews alone.

²⁰But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, [when they] came to Antioch, began to speak to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the good news about the Lord Jesus.

²¹And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

²²—And the report came to the attention_ of the church that was in Jerusalem about them, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch,

²³who, [when he] arrived and saw the grace of God, rejoiced and encouraged [them] all to remain true to the Lord with _devoted hearts_,

²⁴because he was a good man and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large number were added to the Lord.

²⁵So he departed for Tarsus to look for Saul.

²⁶And [when he] found [him], he brought [him] to Antioch. And it happened to them also [that they] met together [for] a whole year with the church and taught a large number [of people]. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

²⁷Now in those days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

²⁸And one of them _named_ Agabus stood up [and] indicated by the Spirit [that] a great famine was about to come over the whole inhabited earth (which took place in the time of Claudius).

²⁹So from the disciples, _according to their ability to give_, each one of them determined to send [financial aid] for support to the brothers who lived in Judea,

³⁰which they also did, sending [the aid] to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

12¹Now at that time, Herod the king laid hands on some of those from the church to harm [them].

²So he executed James the brother of John with a sword.

³And [when he] saw that it was pleasing to the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (_Now this was during the feast_ of Unleavened Bread.)

⁴[After he] had arrested _him_, he also put [him] in prison, handing [him] over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him _out_ for public trial_ after the Passover.

⁵Thus Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer was fervently being made to God by the church for him.

⁶Now when Herod was about to bring him [out], on that [very] night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards before the door were watching the prison.

⁷And behold, an angel of the Lord stood near [him], and a light shone in the prison cell. And striking Peters side, he woke him up, saying, "Get up _quickly_!" And his chains fell off of [his] hands.

⁸And the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals!" And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me!

⁹And he went out [and] was following [him]. And he did not know that what

was being done by the angel was real, but was thinking [he] was seeing a vision.

¹⁰And [after they] had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened for them by itself, and they went out [and] went forward [along] one narrow street, and at once the angel departed from him.

¹¹And [when] Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know truly that the Lord has sent out his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and all _that the Jewish people expected_!"

¹²And [when he] realized [this], he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John (who is also called Mark), where many [people] were gathered together and were praying.

¹³And [when] he knocked at the door of the gateway, a female slave _named_ Rhoda came up to answer.

¹⁴And recognizing Peters voice, because of [her] joy she did not open the gate, but ran in [and] announced [that] Peter was standing at the gate.

¹⁵ But they said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she kept insisting it was so. And they kept saying, "It is his angel!

¹⁶ But Peter was continuing to knock, and [when they] opened [the door] they saw him and were astonished.

¹⁷ But motioning to them with [his] hand to be silent, he related to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Report these [things] to James and to the brothers," and he departed [and] went to another place.

¹⁸ Now [when] day came, there was not a little commotion among the soldiers [as to] what then had become of Peter.

¹⁹ And [when] Herod had searched for him and did not find [him], he questioned the guards [and] ordered [that they] be led away to execution. And he came down from Judea to Caesarea [and] stayed [there].

²⁰ Now he was very angry with the Tyrians and Sidonians. So they came to him with one purpose, and [after] persuading Blastus, _the kings chamberlain_, they asked for peace,

because their country was supported with food from the kings country.

²¹ So on an appointed day Herod, [after] putting on royal clothing and sitting down on the judgment seat, began to deliver a public address to them.

²² But the people began to call out loudly, "The voice of a god and not of a man!

²³ And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down _because_ he did not give the glory to God. And he was eaten by worms [and] died.

²⁴ But the word of God kept on increasing and multiplying.

²⁵ So Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem [when they] had completed [their] service, having taken along with [them] John (who is also called Mark).

13¹ Now there were prophets and teachers in Antioch in the church that was there: Barnabas, and Simeon (who was called Niger), and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen (a close friend of Herod the tetrarch), and Saul.

² And [while] they were serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart now for me Barnabas and

Saul for the work to which I have called them.

³Then, [after they] had fasted and prayed and placed [their] hands on them, they sent [them] away.

⁴Therefore, sent out by the Holy Spirit, they came down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed away to Cyprus.

⁵And [when they] came to Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they also had John [as] assistant.

⁶And [when they] had crossed over the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a certain man, a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name [was] Bar-Jesus,

⁷who was with the proconsul Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul [and] wished to hear the word of God.

⁸But Elymas the magician (for his name is translated in this way) opposed them, attempting to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

⁹But Saul (also called Paul), filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

¹⁰[and] said, "O [you who are] full of all deceit and of all unscrupulousness,

[you] son of the devil, [you] enemy of all righteousness! Will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord!

¹¹ And now behold, the hand of the Lord [is] against you, and you will be blind, not seeing the sun _for a while_. And immediately mist and darkness fell over him, and he was going around looking for [people] to lead [him] by the hand.

¹² Then [when] the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, [because he] was astounded at the teaching about the Lord.

¹³ Now _Paul and his companions_ put out to sea from Paphos [and] came to Perga in Pamphylia, but John departed from them [and] returned to Jerusalem.

¹⁴ And they went on from Perga [and] arrived at Pisidian Antioch. And they entered into the synagogue on the day of the Sabbath [and] sat down.

¹⁵ So after the reading from the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent [word] to them, saying, "Men [and] brothers, if there is any message of exhortation by you for the people, say [it]."

¹⁶So Paul stood up, and motioning with [his] hand, he said, "Israelite men, and those who fear God, listen!

¹⁷The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and exalted the people during [their] stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.

¹⁸And for a period of time [of] about forty years, he put up with them in the wilderness.

¹⁹And [after] destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave their land [to his people] as an inheritance.

²⁰[This took] about four hundred and fifty years. And after these [things], he gave [them] judges until Samuel the prophet.

²¹And then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, [for] forty years.

²²And [after] removing him, he raised up David for their king, about whom he also said, testifying, I have found David the [son] of Jesse [to be] a man in accordance with my heart, who will carry out all my will.

²³ From the descendants of this man, according to [his] promise, God brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus.

²⁴ Before _his coming_ John had publicly proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

²⁵ But while John was completing [his] mission, he said, What do you suppose me to be? I am not [he]! But behold, one is coming after me of whom I am not worthy to untie the sandals of [his] feet!

²⁶ Men [and] brothers, sons of the family of Abraham and those among you who fear God to us the message of this salvation has been sent!

²⁷ For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, [because they] did not recognize this one, and the voices of the prophets that are read on every Sabbath, fulfilled [them] [by] condemning [him].

²⁸ And [although they] found no charge [worthy] of death, they asked Pilate [that] he be executed.

²⁹ And when they had carried out all the things that were written about him, they took [him] down from the tree [and] placed [him] in a tomb.

³⁰ But God raised him from the dead,

³¹ who appeared for many days to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem who are now his witnesses to the people.

³² And we proclaim the good news to you: that the promise that was made to the fathers,

³³ this [promise] God has fulfilled to us their children [by] raising Jesus, as it is also written in the second psalm, You are my Son; today I have fathered you.

³⁴ But that he has raised him from the dead, no more going to return to decay, he has spoken in this way: I will give you the reliable divine decrees of David.

³⁵ Therefore he also says in another [psalm], You will not permit your Holy One to experience decay.

³⁶ For David, [after] serving the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and _was buried with_ his fathers, and experienced decay.

³⁷ But he whom God raised up did not experience decay.

³⁸ Therefore let it be known to you, men [and] brothers, that through this one forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and from all [the things] from which you

were not able to be justified by the law of Moses,

³⁹by this one everyone who believes is justified!

⁴⁰Watch out, therefore, lest what is stated by the prophets come upon [you]:

⁴¹Look, you scoffers, and be astonished and perish! For I am doing a work in your days, a work that you would never believe [even] if someone were to tell [it] to you."

⁴²And [as] they were going out, they began urging [that] these things be spoken about to them on the next Sabbath.

⁴³And [after] the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and the devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who were speaking to them [and] were persuading them to continue in the grace of God.

⁴⁴And on the coming Sabbath, nearly the whole city came together to hear the word of the Lord.

⁴⁵But [when] the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and began contradicting what was being said by Paul [by] reviling [him].

⁴⁶ Both Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly [and] said, "It was necessary [that] the word of God be spoken first to you, since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life! Behold, we are turning to the Gentiles!

⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us: I have appointed you _to be_ a light for the Gentiles, _that you would bring_ salvation to the end of the earth.

⁴⁸ And [when] the Gentiles heard [this], they began to rejoice and to glorify the word of the Lord. And all those who were designated for eternal life believed.

⁴⁹ So the word of the Lord was carried through the whole region.

⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of high social standing and the most prominent men of the city, and stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and threw them out of their district.

⁵¹ So [after] shaking off the dust from [their] feet against them, they went to Iconium.

⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

14¹ Now it happened that in Iconium they entered together into the synagogue of the Jews and spoke in such a way that a large number of both Jews and Greeks believed.

² But the Jews who were disobedient stirred up and poisoned the minds of the Gentiles against the brothers.

³ So they stayed [there] for a considerable time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who testified to the message of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be performed through their hands.

⁴ But the population of the city was divided, and some were with the Jews and some with the apostles.

⁵ So when an inclination took place [on the part] of both the Gentiles and the Jews, together with their rulers, to mistreat [them] and to stone them,

⁶ they became aware of [it] [and] fled to the Lycaonian cities Lystra and Derbe and the surrounding region.

⁷ And there they were continuing to proclaim the good news.

⁸ And in Lystra a certain man was sitting powerless in his feet, lame from birth, who had never walked.

⁹This man listened [while] Paul was speaking. _Paul_, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be healed,

¹⁰said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet!" And he leaped up and began walking.

¹¹And [when] the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices in the Lycaonian language, saying, "The gods have become like men [and] have come down to us!

¹²And they began calling Barnabas Zeus and Paul Hermes, because he was the _principal speaker_.

¹³And the priest of the [temple] of Zeus that was just outside the city brought bulls and garlands to the gates [and] was wanting to offer sacrifice, along with the crowds.

¹⁴But [when] the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard about [it], they tore their clothing [and] rushed out into the crowd, shouting

¹⁵and saying, "Men, why are you doing these [things]? We also are men with the same nature as you, proclaiming the good news [that] you should turn from

these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all the things [that are] in them

¹⁶who in generations that are past permitted all the nations to go their [own] ways.

¹⁷And yet he did not leave himself without witness [by] doing good, giving you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying [you] with food and your hearts with gladness.

¹⁸And [although] they said these [things], [only] with difficulty did they dissuade the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

¹⁹But Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium, and [when they] had won over the crowds and stoned Paul, they dragged [him] outside the city, thinking he was dead.

²⁰But [after] the disciples surrounded him, he got up [and] went into the city. And on the next day he departed with Barnabas for Derbe.

²¹And [after they] had proclaimed the good news in that city and made many

disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,

²²strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging [them] to continue in the faith and [saying], "Through many persecutions it is necessary [for] us to enter into the kingdom of God.

²³And [when they] had appointed elders for them in every church, [after] praying with fasting, they entrusted them to the Lord, in whom they had believed.

²⁴And they passed through Pisidia [and] came to Pamphylia.

²⁵And [after] they proclaimed the message in Perga, they went down to Attalia,

²⁶and from there they sailed away to Antioch where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had completed.

²⁷And [when they] arrived and called the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles.

²⁸And they stayed no little time with the disciples.

15¹And some men came down from Judea [and] began teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom [prescribed] by Moses, you cannot be saved.

²And [after] there was no little strife and debate by Paul and Barnabas against them, they appointed Paul and Barnabas and some others from among them to go up to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem concerning this issue.

³So they were sent on their way by the church, [and] passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, telling in detail the conversion of the Gentiles and bringing great joy to all the brothers.

⁴And [when they] arrived in Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and reported all that God had done with them.

⁵But some of those who had believed from the party of the Pharisees stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to command [them] to observe the law of Moses!

⁶Both the apostles and the elders assembled to deliberate concerning this matter.

⁷And [after] there was much debate, Peter stood up [and] said to them, "Men [and] brothers, you know that in the early days God chose among you through my mouth [that] the Gentiles should hear the message of the gospel and believe.

⁸And God, who knows the heart, testified to them [by] giving [them] the Holy Spirit, just as he also [did] to us.

⁹And he made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.

¹⁰So now why are you putting God to the test [by] placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?

¹¹But we believe [we] will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus in _the same_ way those also [are].

¹²And the whole group became silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul describing all the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

¹³And after they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, "Men [and] brothers, listen to me!

¹⁴Simeon has described how God first concerned himself to take from among the Gentiles a people for his name.

¹⁵And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:

¹⁶After these [things] I will return and build up again the tent of David that has fallen, and the [parts] of it that had been torn down I will build up again and will restore it,

¹⁷so that the rest of humanity may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles _who are called by my name_, says the Lord, who makes these [things]

¹⁸known from of old.

¹⁹Therefore I conclude we should not cause difficulty for those from among the Gentiles who turn to God,

²⁰but we should write a letter to them to abstain from the pollution of idols and from sexual immorality and from what has been strangled and from blood.

²¹For Moses has those who proclaim him in every city from ancient

generations, [because he] is read aloud in the synagogues on every Sabbath.

²²Then it seemed best to the apostles and the elders, together with the whole church, to send men chosen from among them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas Judas who was called Barsabbas and Silas, men [who were] leaders among the brothers

²³writing [this letter] _to be delivered by them_: The apostles and the elders, brothers. To the brothers [who are] from among the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia. Greetings!

²⁴Because we have heard that some have gone out from among us to whom we gave no orders[and] have thrown you into confusion by words upsetting your _minds_,

²⁵it seemed best to us, _having reached a unanimous decision_, [and] having chosen men, to send [them] to you together with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul,

²⁶men who have risked their lives on behalf of the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁷ Therefore we have sent Judas and Silas, and they will report the same [things] by word of mouth.

²⁸ For it seemed best to the Holy Spirit and to us to place on you no greater burden except these necessary things:

²⁹ [that you] abstain from food sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. [If you] keep yourselves from _these things_ you will do well. Farewell.

³⁰ So [when] they were sent off, they came down to Antioch, and [after] calling together the community, they delivered the letter.

³¹ And [when they] read [it] aloud, they rejoiced at the encouragement.

³² Both Judas and Silas, who were also prophets themselves, encouraged and strengthened the brothers by a long message.

³³ And [after] spending [some] time, they were sent away in peace from the brothers to those who had sent them.

³⁴ EMPTY

³⁵ But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch teaching and proclaiming the word of the Lord with many others also.

³⁶ And after some days, Paul said to Barnabas, "Come then, [let us] return [and] visit the brothers in every town in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, [to see] how they are [doing].

³⁷ Now Barnabas wanted to take John who was called Mark along also,

³⁸ but Paul held the opinion they should not take this one along, who departed from them in Pamphylia and did not accompany them in the work.

³⁹ And a sharp disagreement took place, so that they separated from one another. And Barnabas took along Mark [and] sailed away to Cyprus,

⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas [and] departed, [after] being commended to the grace of the Lord by the brothers.

⁴¹ And he traveled through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

16¹ And he came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there _named_ Timothy, the son of a believing Jewish woman but of a Greek father,

²who was well spoken of by the brothers in Lystra and Iconium.

³Paul wanted this one to go with him, and he took [him] [and] circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for [they] all knew that his father was Greek.

⁴And as they went through the towns, they passed on to them to observe the rules that had been decided by the apostles and elders [who were] in Jerusalem.

⁵So the churches were being strengthened in the faith and were growing in number every day.

⁶And they traveled through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been prevented by the Holy Spirit from speaking the message in Asia.

⁷And [when they] came to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them.

⁸So going through Mysia, they went down to Troas.

⁹And a vision appeared to Paul during the night: a certain Macedonian man was standing there and imploring him

and saying, "Come over to Macedonia [and] help us!

¹⁰And when he had seen the vision, we wanted at once to go away to Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹So putting out to sea from Troas, we sailed a straight course to Samothrace, and on the following [day] to Neapolis,

¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city [of that] district of Macedonia, a [Roman] colony. And we were staying in this city for some days.

¹³And on the day of the Sabbath, we went outside the [city] gate beside the river, where we thought there was a place of prayer, and we sat down [and] spoke to the women assembled [there].

¹⁴And a certain woman _named_ Lydia from the city of Thyatira, a merchant dealing in purple cloth who showed reverence for God, was listening. The Lord opened _her_ heart to pay attention to what was being said by Paul.

¹⁵And after she was baptized, and her household, she urged [us], saying, "If you consider me to be a believer in the

Lord, come to my house [and] stay." And she prevailed upon us.

¹⁶And it happened that [as] we were going to the place of prayer, a certain female slave who had a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing a large profit to her owners [by] fortune-telling.

¹⁷She followed Paul and us [and] was crying out, saying, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation!

¹⁸And she was doing this for many days. But Paul, becoming greatly annoyed and turning around, said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out _immediately_.

¹⁹But [when] her owners saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas [and] dragged [them] into the marketplace before the rulers.

²⁰And [when they] had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, "These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews,

²¹ and are proclaiming customs that are not permitted for us to accept or to practice, [because we] are Romans!

²² And the crowd joined in attacking them, and the chief magistrates tore off their clothing [and] gave orders to beat [them] with rods.

²³ And [after they] had inflicted many blows on them, they threw [them] into prison, giving orders to the jailer to guard them securely.

²⁴ Having received such an order, _he_ put them in the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ Now about midnight, Paul and Silas were praying [and] singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

²⁶ And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened and all the bonds were unfastened.

²⁷ And [after] the jailer was awake and saw the doors of the prison open, he drew [his] sword [and] was about to kill himself, [because he] thought the prisoners had escaped.

²⁸ But Paul called out with a loud voice, saying, "Do no harm to yourself, for we are all here!

²⁹ And demanding lights, he rushed in and, _beginning to tremble_, fell down at the feet of Paul and Silas.

³⁰ And he brought them outside [and] said, "Sirs, what must I do so that I can be saved?

³¹ And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household!

³² And they spoke the message of the Lord to him, together with all those in his house.

³³ And he took them at that [very] hour of the night [and] washed [their] wounds, and he himself was baptized at once, and all those of his [household].

³⁴ And he brought them up into [his] house [and] set a meal before [them], and rejoiced greatly that he had believed in God with his whole household.

³⁵ And [when it] was day, the chief magistrates sent the police officers, saying, "Release those men.

³⁶ And the jailer reported these words to Paul: "The chief magistrates have sent

[an order] that you should be released.
So come out now [and] go in peace!

³⁷ But Paul said to them, "They beat us in public without due processmen who are Roman citizens[and] threw [us] into prison, and now they are wanting to release us secretly? Certainly not! Rather let them come themselves [and] bring us out!

³⁸ So the police officers reported these words to the chief magistrates, and they were afraid [when they] heard that they were Roman citizens.

³⁹ And they came [and] apologized to them, and [after they] brought [them] out they asked [them] to depart from the city.

⁴⁰ And [when they] came out of the prison, they went to Lydia and [when they] saw [them], they encouraged the brothers and departed.

17 ¹ Now [after they] traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.

² _And as was his custom_, Paul went in to them and on three Sabbath [days] he discussed with them from the scriptures,

³ explaining and demonstrating that it was necessary [for] the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and [saying], "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."

⁴ And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, and [also] a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few of the prominent women.

⁵ But the Jews were filled with jealousy and, taking along some worthless men from the rabble in the marketplace and forming a mob, threw the city into an uproar. And attacking Jason's house, they were looking for them to bring [them] out to the popular assembly.

⁶ And [when they] did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brothers before the city officials, shouting, "These [people] who have stirred up trouble [throughout] the world have come here also,

⁷ whom Jason has entertained as guests! And these [people] [are] all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king, Jesus!

⁸And they threw the crowd into confusion, and the city officials who heard these [things].

⁹And [after] taking money as security from Jason and the rest, they released them.

¹⁰Now the brothers sent away both Paul and Silas at once, during the night, to Berea. _They_ went into the synagogue of the Jews [when they] arrived.

¹¹Now these were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica. _They_ accepted the message with all eagerness, examining the scriptures every day [to see] if these [things] were so.

¹²Therefore many of them believed, and not a few of the prominent Greek women and men.

¹³But when the Jews from Thessalonica found out that the message of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Berea also, they came there too, inciting and stirring up the crowds.

¹⁴So then the brothers sent Paul away at once to go to the sea, and both Silas and Timothy remained there.

¹⁵And those who conducted Paul brought [him] as far as Athens, and

[after] receiving an order for Silas and Timothy that they should come to him as soon as possible, they went away.

¹⁶Now while Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was provoked within him [when he] observed the city was full of idols.

¹⁷So he was discussing in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing [Gentiles], and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.

¹⁸And even some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him, and some were saying, "What does this babbler want to say?" But [others said], "He appears to be a proclaimer of foreign deities," because he was proclaiming the good news [about] Jesus and the resurrection.

¹⁹And they took hold of him [and] brought [him] to the Areopagus, saying, "May we learn what [is] this new teaching being proclaimed by you?"

²⁰For you are bringing some astonishing things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what _these things mean_."

²¹ (Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who stayed there used to spend [their] time in nothing else than telling something or listening to something new.)

²² So Paul stood there in the middle of the Areopagus [and] said, "Men of Athens, I see you [are] very religious _in every respect_.

²³ For [as I] was passing through and observing carefully your objects of worship, I even found an altar on which was inscribed, To an unknown God. Therefore what you worship without knowing [it], this I proclaim to you

²⁴ the God who made the world and all the things in it. This one, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by human hands,

²⁵ nor is he served by human hands [as if he] needed anything, [because] he himself gives to everyone life and breath and everything.

²⁶ And he made from one [man] every nation of humanity to live on all the face of the earth, determining [their] fixed times and the fixed boundaries of their habitation,

²⁷ to search for God, if perhaps indeed they might feel around for him and find [him]. And indeed he is not far away from each one of us,

²⁸ for in him we live and move and exist, as even some of _your own_ poets have said: For we also are _his_ offspring.

²⁹ Therefore, [because we] are offspring of God, we ought not to think the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and thought.

³⁰ Therefore [although] God has overlooked the times of ignorance, he now commands all people everywhere to repent,

³¹ because he has set a day on which he is going to judge the world in righteousness by the man who he has appointed, having provided proof to everyone [by] raising him from the dead.

³² Now [when they] heard about the resurrection of the dead, [some] scoffed, but [others] said, "We will hear you about this again also.

³³ So Paul went out from the midst of them.

³⁴ But some people joined him [and] believed, among whom also [were] Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman _named_ Damaris and others with them.

18¹ After these [things] he departed from Athens [and] went to Corinth.

² And he found a certain Jew _named_ Aquila, _a native_ of Pontus who had arrived recently from Italy _along with_ Priscilla his wife, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to depart from Rome, [and] he went to them.

³ And because [he] was practicing the same trade, he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.

⁴ And he argued in the synagogue every Sabbath, attempting to persuade both Jews and Greeks.

⁵ Now when both Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began to be occupied with the message, solemnly testifying to the Jews [that] the Christ was Jesus.

⁶ And [when] they resisted and reviled [him], he shook out [his] clothes [and] said to them, "Your blood [be] on your

[own] heads! I [am] guiltless! From now on I will go to the Gentiles!

⁷And leaving there, he entered into the house of someone _named_ Titius Justus, a worshiper of God whose house was next door to the synagogue.

⁸And Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord together with his whole household. And many of the Corinthians, [when they] heard about [it], believed and were baptized.

⁹And the Lord said to Paul by a vision in the night, "Do not be afraid, but speak and do not keep silent,

¹⁰because I am with you and no one will attack you to harm you, because many people are mine in this city.

¹¹So he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

¹²Now [when] Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rose up with one purpose against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat,

¹³saying, "This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law!

¹⁴But [when] Paul was about to open [his] mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If

it was some crime or wicked villainy, O Jews, _I would have been justified in accepting_ your complaint.

¹⁵But if it is questions concerning a word and names and _your own law_, see to [it] yourselves! I do not wish to be a judge of these [things].

¹⁶And he drove them away from the judgment seat.

¹⁷So they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, [and] began beating [him] in front of the judgment seat. And none of these [things] was a concern to Gallio.

¹⁸So Paul, [after] remaining many days longer, said farewell to the brothers [and] sailed away to Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. He shaved [his] head at Cenchrea, because he had [taken] a vow.

¹⁹So they arrived at Ephesus, and those he left behind there, but he himself entered into the synagogue [and] discussed with the Jews.

²⁰And [when] they asked [him] to stay for a longer time, he did not give his consent,

²¹ but saying farewell and telling [them], "I will return to you again [if] God wills," he set sail from Ephesus.

²² And [when he] arrived at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, [and] went down to Antioch.

²³ And [after] spending some time [there], he departed, traveling through one [place] after another [in] the Galatian region and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

²⁴ Now a certain Jew _named_ Apollos, _a native_ Alexandrian, arrived in Ephesus an eloquent man who was well-versed in the scriptures.

²⁵ This man had been instructed [in] the way of the Lord, and being enthusiastic in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the [things] about Jesus, [although he] knew only the baptism of John.

²⁶ And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but [when] Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the way of God to him more accurately.

²⁷ And [when] he wanted to cross over to Achaia, the brothers encouraged

[him] [and] wrote to the disciples to welcome him. [When he] arrived, _he_ assisted greatly those who had believed through grace.

²⁸For he was vigorously refuting the Jews in public, demonstrating through the scriptures [that] the Christ was Jesus.

19¹And it happened that [while] Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the inland regions [and] came down to Ephesus and found some disciples.

²And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit [when you] believed?" And they [said] to him, "But we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!

³And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into the baptism of John.

⁴And Paul said, "John baptized [with] a baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the one who was to come after him that is, in Jesus.

⁵And [when they] heard [this], they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

⁶And [when] Paul placed [his] hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and they began to speak in tongues and to prophesy.

⁷(Now the total [number] [of] men was about twelve.)

⁸So he entered into the synagogue [and] was speaking boldly for three months, discussing and attempting to convince [them] [of] the things concerning the kingdom of God.

⁹But when some became hardened and were disobedient, reviling the Way before the congregation, he departed from them [and] took away the disciples, leading discussions every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

¹⁰And this took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

¹¹And God was performing _extraordinary_ miracles by the hands of Paul,

¹²so that even handkerchiefs or work aprons _that had touched his skin_ were carried away to those who were sick, and [their] diseases left them and the evil spirits came out [of them].

¹³ But some itinerant Jewish exorcists also attempted to pronounce the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches!

¹⁴ (Now seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.)

¹⁵ But the evil spirit answered [and] said to them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I am acquainted with, but who are you?

¹⁶ And the man _who had the evil spirit_ leaped on them, subdued all of them, [and] prevailed against them, so that they ran away from that house naked and wounded.

¹⁷ And this became known to all who lived in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, and fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was exalted.

¹⁸ And many of those who had believed came, confessing and disclosing their practices,

¹⁹ and many of those who practiced magic brought together [their] books [and] burned [them] up in the sight of everyone. And they counted up their value and found [it was] _fifty thousand silver coins_.

²⁰In this way the word of the Lord was growing in power and was prevailing.

²¹Now when these [things] were completed, Paul resolved in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia, saying, "After I have been there, it is necessary [for] me to see Rome also.

²²So [after] sending two of those who were assisting him, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, he himself stayed [some] time in Asia.

²³Now there happened at that time no little disturbance concerning the Way.

²⁴For someone _named_ Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver replicas of the temple of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen.

²⁵_These_ he gathered together, and the workers occupied with such things, [and] said, "Men, you know that from this business _we get our prosperity_,

²⁶and you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this man Paul has persuaded [and] turned away a large crowd [by] saying that the [gods] made by hands are not gods.

²⁷ So not only is there a danger this line of business of ours [will] come into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Artemis [will] be regarded as nothing and [she] is about to be brought down even from her grandeur, [she] whom the whole [of] Asia and the [entire] world worship!

²⁸ And [when they] heard [this] and became full of rage, they began to shout, saying, "Great [is] Artemis of the Ephesians!

²⁹ And the city was filled with the tumult, and with one purpose they rushed into the theater, seizing Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians [who were] traveling companions of Paul.

³⁰ But [when] Paul wanted to enter into the popular assembly, the disciples would not let him.

³¹ And even some of the Asiarchs who were his friends sent [word] to him [and] were urging [him] not to risk himself [by going] into the theater.

³² So some were shouting [one thing] [and] some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and the majority did not know _why_ they had assembled.

³³ And [some] of the crowd advised Alexander, [when] the Jews put him forward. But Alexander, motioning [with his] hand, was wanting to defend himself to the popular assembly.

³⁴ But [when they] recognized that he was a Jew, they were shouting with one voice from all [of them] for about two hours, "Great [is] Artemis of the Ephesians!

³⁵ And [when] the city secretary had quieted the crowd, he said, "Ephesian men, for who is there among men who does not know the Ephesian city is honorary temple keeper of the great Artemis and of [her] image fallen from heaven?

³⁶ Therefore [because] these [things] are undeniable, it is necessary [that] you be quiet and do nothing rash!

³⁷ For you have brought these men [here] [who are] neither temple robbers nor blasphemers of our goddess.

³⁸ If then Demetrius and the craftsmen [who are] with him have a complaint against anyone, the court days are observed and there are proconsuls let them bring charges against one another!

³⁹ But if you desire anything further, it will be settled in the lawful assembly.

⁴⁰ For indeed we are in danger of being accused of rioting concerning today, [since there] is no cause in relation to which we will be able to give an account concerning this disorderly gathering!

⁴¹ (19-40b) And [when he] had said these [things], he dismissed the assembly.

20¹ Now after the turmoil had ceased, Paul summoned the disciples, and [after] encouraging [them], he said farewell [and] departed to travel to Macedonia.

² And [after he] had gone through those regions and encouraged them _at length_, he came to Greece

³ and stayed three months. [Because] a plot was made against him by the Jews [as he] was about to set sail for Syria, he came to a decision to return through Macedonia.

⁴ And Sopater [son] of Pyrrhus from Berea, and Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, and Gaius from Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus

and Trophimus from Asia, were accompanying him.

⁵And these had gone on ahead [and] were waiting for us in Troas.

⁶And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread and came to them at Troas within five days, where we stayed seven days.

⁷And on the first [day] of the week, [when] we had assembled to break bread, Paul began conversing with them, [because he] was going to leave on the next day, and he extended [his] message until midnight.

⁸Now there were quite a few lamps in the upstairs room where we were gathered.

⁹And a certain young man _named_ Eutychus who was sitting in the window was sinking into a deep sleep [while] Paul was conversing at length. Being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was picked up dead.

¹⁰But Paul went down [and] threw himself on him, and putting his arms around [him], said, "Do not be distressed, for his life is in him.

¹¹ So he went up and broke bread, and [when he] had eaten and talked for a long [time], until dawn, then he departed.

¹² And they led the youth away alive, and _were greatly_ comforted.

¹³ But we went on ahead to the ship [and] put out to sea for Assos, intending to take Paul on board there. For having made arrangements in this way, he himself was intending to travel by land.

¹⁴ And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board [and] went to Mitylene.

¹⁵ And we sailed from there on the next [day], [and] arrived opposite Chios. And on the next [day] we approached Samos, and on the following [day] we came to Miletus.

¹⁶ For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not be [having] to spend time in Asia. For he was hurrying if it could be possible for him to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

¹⁷ And from Miletus he sent [word] to Ephesus [and] summoned the elders of the church.

¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them, "You know from the first day on which I set foot in Asia how I was the whole time with you

¹⁹serving the Lord with all humility and with tears, and with the trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews

²⁰how I did not shrink from proclaiming to you anything that would be profitable, and [from] teaching you in public and from house [to house],

²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks with respect to repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus.

²²And now behold, bound by the Spirit I am traveling to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me _there_,

²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in town [after town], saying that bonds and persecutions await me.

²⁴But I consider [my] life [as] worth _nothing_ to myself, in order to finish my mission and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify [to] the gospel of the grace of God.

²⁵ And now behold, I know that all [of] you, among whom I went about proclaiming the kingdom, will see my face no more.

²⁶ Therefore I testify to you on this very day that I am guiltless of the blood of all [of you],

²⁷ for I did not shrink from proclaiming to you the whole purpose of God.

²⁸ Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock among which the Holy Spirit has appointed you [as] overseers, to shepherd the church of God which he obtained through the blood of his own [Son].

²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

³⁰ And from among you yourselves men will arise, speaking _perversions of the truth_ in order to draw away the disciples after them.

³¹ Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day [for] three years I did not stop warning each one [of you] with tears.

³² And now I entrust you to God and to the message of his grace, which is

able to build [you] up and to give [you] the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

³³I have desired no ones silver or gold or clothing!

³⁴You yourselves know that these hands served [to meet] my needs and [the needs of] those who were with me.

³⁵I have shown you [with respect to] all [things] that [by] working hard in this way it is necessary to help those who are in need, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus that he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

³⁶And [when he] had said these [things], he fell to his knees [and] prayed with them all.

³⁷And there was considerable weeping by all, and _hugging_ Paul, they kissed him,

³⁸especially distressed at the statement that he had said, that they were going to see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

21¹ And it happened that after we tore ourselves away from them, we put out to sea, [and] running a straight course we came to Cos and on

the next [day] to Rhodes, and from there to Patara.

²And finding a ship that was crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard [and] put out to sea.

³And [after we] sighted Cyprus and left it behind _on the port side_, we sailed to Syria and arrived at Tyre, because the ship was to unload [its] cargo there.

⁴And we stayed there seven days [after we] found the disciples, who kept telling Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem.

⁵And it happened that when our days were over, we departed [and] went on our way, [while] all [of them] accompanied us, together with [their] wives and children, as far as outside the city. And [after] falling to our knees on the beach [and] praying,

⁶we said farewell to one another and embarked in the ship, and they returned to their own [homes].

⁷And [when] we had completed the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais. And [after we] greeted the brothers, we stayed one day with them.

⁸And on the next day we departed [and] came to Caesarea, and entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, who was [one] of the seven, [and] stayed with him.

⁹(Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.)

¹⁰And [while we] were staying [there] many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

¹¹And he came to us and took Pauls belt. Tying up his own feet and hands, he said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: In this way the Jews in Jerusalem will tie up the man whose belt this is, and will deliver [him] into the hands of the Gentiles.

¹²And when we heard these [things], both we and the local residents urged him not to go up to Jerusalem.

¹³Then Paul replied, "What are you doing weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be tied up, but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus!

¹⁴And [because] he would not be persuaded, we remained silent, saying, "The will of the Lord be done.

¹⁵ So after these days we got ready [and] went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁶ And [some] of the disciples from Caesarea also traveled together with us, bringing [us] to a certain Mnason of Cyprus, a disciple of long standing, with whom we were to be entertained as guests.

¹⁷ And [when] we came to Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us gladly.

¹⁸ And on the next [day] Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.

¹⁹ And [after] greeting them, he began to relate _one after the other_ [the things] which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

²⁰ And [when] they heard [this], they began to glorify God. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many ten thousands there are among the Jews who have believed, and they are all zealous adherents of the law.

²¹ And they have been informed about you that you are teaching all the Jews [who are] among the Gentiles [the] abandonment of Moses, telling them not

to circumcise [their] children or to live according to [our] customs.

²²What then _is to be done_? Doubtless they will all hear that you have come!

²³Therefore do this that we tell you: _we have_ four men who have [taken] a vow on themselves.

²⁴Take these [men] [and] purify yourself along with them and _pay their expenses_ so that they can shave [their] heads, and everyone will know that [the things] which they had been informed about you are nothing, but you yourself also agree with observing the law.

²⁵But concerning the Gentiles who have believed, we have written a letter [after] deciding they should avoid food sacrificed to idols and blood and [what has been] strangled and sexual immorality.

²⁶Then Paul took along the men on the next day, [and] [after he] had purified himself together with them, he entered into the temple [courts], announcing the completion of the days of purification until _the time_ the offering would be presented on behalf of each one of them.

²⁷ But when the seven days were about to be completed, the Jews from Asia who had seen him in the temple [courts] stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him,

²⁸ shouting, "Israelite men, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place! And furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple, and has defiled this holy place!

²⁹ (For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with him, whom they thought that Paul had brought into the temple.)

³⁰ And the whole city was stirred up, and the people came running together, and they seized Paul [and] dragged him outside of the temple [courts], and immediately the doors were shut.

³¹ And [as they] were seeking to kill him, a report came up to the military tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion.

³² _He_ immediately took along soldiers and centurions [and] ran down to them. And [when] they saw the military tribune

and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

³³Then the military tribune came up [and] arrested him and ordered [him] to be bound with two chains, and inquired who he was and what it was that he had done.

³⁴But some in the crowd were shouting one thing [and] others [another], and [because] he was not able to find out the truth on account of the commotion, he gave orders to bring him into the barracks.

³⁵And when he came to the steps, it happened that he had to be carried by the soldiers on account of the violence of the crowd,

³⁶for the crowd of people was following [them], shouting, "Away with him!"

³⁷And [as he] was about to be brought into the barracks, Paul said to the military tribune, "Is it permitted for me to say something to you?" And he said, "Do you know Greek?"

³⁸Then you are not the Egyptian who before these days raised a revolt and led out into the wilderness the four thousand men of the Assassins?"

³⁹ But Paul said, "I am a Jewish man from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no unimportant city. Now I ask you, allow me to speak to the people.

⁴⁰ So [when] he permitted [him], Paul, standing there on the steps, motioned with [his] hand to the people. And [when there] was a great silence, he addressed [them] in the Aramaic language, saying,

22 ¹ Men brothers and fathers listen to my defense to you now!

² And [when they] heard that he was addressing them in the Aramaic language, _they became even more silent_. And he said,

³ I am a Jewish man born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, educated according to the exactness of the law received from our fathers, being zealous for God, just as all [of] you are today.

⁴ _I_ persecuted this Way to the death, tying up and delivering to prison both men and women,

⁵ as indeed the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me, from whom also I received letters to the brothers in Damascus, [and] was

traveling [there] to lead away those who were there also tied up to Jerusalem so that they could be punished.

⁶"And it happened that [as] I was traveling and approaching Damascus around noon, suddenly a very bright light from heaven flashed around me,

⁷and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?

⁸And I answered, Who are you, Lord? And he said to me, I am Jesus the Nazarene whom you are persecuting.

⁹(Now those who were with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me.)

¹⁰So I said, What should I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, Get up [and] proceed to Damascus, and there it will be told to you about all [the things] that have been appointed for you to do.

¹¹And as I could not see as a result of the brightness of that light, I arrived in Damascus led by the hand of those who were with me.

¹²And a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who live [there],

¹³came to me and stood by [me] [and] said to me, Brother Saul, regain [your] sight! And [at that] same time I looked up at him [and saw him].

¹⁴And he said, The God of our fathers has appointed you to know his will, and to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth,

¹⁵because you will be a witness for him to all people of what you have seen and heard.

¹⁶And now why are you delaying? Get up, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name!

¹⁷And it happened that [when] I returned to Jerusalem and I was praying in the temple courts, I was in a trance,

¹⁸and saw him saying to me, Hurry and depart _quickly_ from Jerusalem, because they will not accept your testimony about me.

¹⁹And I said, Lord, they themselves know that from synagogue [to synagogue] I was imprisoning and beating those who believed in you.

²⁰And when the blood of your witness Stephen was being shed, I myself also was standing near and was approving,

and was guarding the cloaks of those who were killing him.

²¹ And he said to me, Go, because I will send you far away to the Gentiles!

²² Now they were listening to him until this word, and they raised their voices, saying, "Away with such a man from the earth! For it is not fitting [for] him to live!

²³ And [while] they were screaming and throwing off [their] cloaks and throwing dust into the air,

²⁴ the military tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying he was to be examined with a lash so that he could find out for what reason they were crying out against him in this way.

²⁵ But when they had stretched him out for the lash, Paul said to the centurion standing there, "Is it permitted for you to flog a man [who is] a Roman citizen and uncondemned?

²⁶ And [when] the centurion heard [this], he went to the military tribune [and] reported [it], saying, "What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen!

²⁷ So the military tribune came [and] said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" And he said, "Yes.

²⁸ And the military tribune replied, "I acquired this citizenship for a large sum of money." And Paul said, "But I indeed was born [a citizen].

²⁹ Then immediately those who were about to examine him kept away from him, and the military tribune also was afraid [when he] realized that he was a Roman citizen and that _he had tied him up_.

³⁰ But on the next day, [because he] wanted to know the true [reason] why he was being accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin to assemble, and he brought down Paul [and] had [him] stand before them.

23¹ And looking intently at the Sanhedrin, Paul said, "Men [and] brothers, I have lived my life in all good conscience before God to this day.

² So the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near him to strike his mouth.

³Then Paul said to him, "God is going to strike you, [you] whitewashed wall! And are you sitting [there] judging me according to the law, and acting contrary to the law do you order me to be struck?"

⁴And those who stood nearby said, "Are you reviling the high priest of God?"

⁵And Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was high priest. For it is written, You must not speak evil [of] a ruler of your people."

⁶Now [when] Paul realized that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he shouted out in the Sanhedrin, "Men [and] brothers! I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees! I am being judged concerning the hope and the resurrection of the dead!"

⁷And [when] he said this, a dispute developed between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided.

⁸(For the Sadducees say there is no resurrection or angel or spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge [them] all.)

⁹And there was loud shouting, and some of the scribes from the party of the Pharisees stood up [and] contended

sharply, saying, "We find nothing wrong with this man! But [what] if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?

¹⁰And [when] the dispute became severe, the military tribune, fearing lest Paul be torn apart by them, ordered the detachment to go down, take him away from their midst, and bring [him] into the barracks.

¹¹And the next night the Lord stood by him [and] said, "Have courage, for as you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.

¹²And [when it] was day, the Jews made a conspiracy [and] bound themselves under a curse, saying [they would] neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul.

¹³Now there were more [than] forty who had made this conspiracy,

¹⁴who went to the chief priests and the elders [and] said, "We have bound ourselves under a curse to partake of nothing until we have killed Paul.

¹⁵Therefore, now you along with the Sanhedrin explain to the military tribune that he should bring him down to you, as

[if you] were going to determine more accurately the things concerning him. And we are ready to do away with him before he comes near.

¹⁶But [when] the son of Pauls sister heard about the ambush, he came and entered into the barracks [and] reported [it] to Paul.

¹⁷So Paul called one of the centurions [and] said, "Bring this young man to the military tribune, because he has something to report to him.

¹⁸So he took him [and] brought [him] to the military tribune and said, "The prisoner Paul called me [and] asked [me] to bring this young man to you [because he] has something to tell you.

¹⁹And the military tribune, taking hold of his hand and withdrawing privately, asked, "What is it that you have to report to me?

²⁰And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you that you bring Paul down to the Sanhedrin tomorrow, as [if they] were going to inquire somewhat more accurately concerning him.

²¹You therefore do not be persuaded by them, because more [than] forty

men of _their number_ are lying in wait [for] him, who have bound themselves under a curse neither to eat nor to drink until they have done away with him. And now they are ready, waiting for _you to agree_."

²² So the military tribune sent the young man away, directing [him], "Tell no one that you have revealed these [things] to me.

²³ And he summoned two of the centurions [and] said, "Make ready from the third hour of the night two hundred soldiers and seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen, in order that they may proceed as far as Caesarea.

²⁴ And provide mounts so that they can put Paul on them [and] bring [him] safely to Felix the governor.

²⁵ _He wrote_ a letter that had this form:

²⁶ Claudius Lysias. To his excellency Governor Felix. Greetings!

²⁷ This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them [when I] came upon [them] with the detachment [and] rescued [him], [because I] learned that he was a Roman citizen.

²⁸And [because I] wanted to know the charge for which they were accusing him, I brought [him] down to their Sanhedrin.

²⁹I found _he_ was accused concerning controversial questions of their law, but having no charge deserving death or imprisonment.

³⁰And [when it] was made known to me there would be a plot against the man, I sent [him] to you immediately, also ordering [his] accusers to state _the charges_ against him before you.

³¹Therefore the soldiers, in accordance with _their orders_, took Paul [and] brought [him] to Antipatris during the night.

³²And on the next day they let the horsemen go on with him, [and] they returned to the barracks.

³³_The horsemen_, [when they] came to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, also presented Paul to him.

³⁴So [after] reading [the letter] and asking what province he was from, and learning that [he was] from Cilicia,

³⁵he said, "I will give you a hearing whenever your accusers arrive also,"

giving orders [for] him to be guarded in the praetorium of Herod.

24¹ And after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and an attorney, a certain Tertullus, all of whom brought charges against Paul to the governor.

² And [when] he had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse [him], saying, "We have experienced much peace through you, and reforms are taking place in this nation through your foresight.

³ Both in every [way] and everywhere we acknowledge [this], most excellent Felix, with all gratitude.

⁴ But so that I may not impose on you for longer, I implore you to hear us briefly with your [customary] graciousness.

⁵ For we have found this man [to be] a public menace and one who causes riots among all the Jews throughout the Roman Empire and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes,

⁶ who even attempted to desecrate the temple, and we arrested _him _.

⁷ EMPTY

⁸[When] you yourself examine [him] you will be able to find out from _him_ about all these [things] of which we are accusing him.

⁹And the Jews also joined in the attack, asserting these [things] were so.

¹⁰And [when] the governor gestured for him to speak, Paul replied, "[Because I] know you have been a judge over this nation for many years, I defend myself cheerfully [with respect to] the things concerning myself.

¹¹You can ascertain that _it has not been more than_ twelve days _since_ I went up to Jerusalem to worship.

¹²And neither did they find me arguing with anyone or making a crowd develop in the temple [courts] nor in the synagogues nor throughout the city.

¹³Nor can they prove [the things] to you concerning which they are now accusing me.

¹⁴But I do confess this to you, that according to the Way (which they call a sect), so I worship the God of our fathers, believing all things [that are] in accordance with the law and that are written in the prophets,

¹⁵ having a hope in God which these [men] also themselves await: [that] there is going to be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous.

¹⁶ _For this reason_ also [I] myself _always_ do my best to have a clear conscience toward God and people.

¹⁷ So after many years, I came to practice charitable giving and offerings to my people,

¹⁸ in which they found me purified in the temple [courts], not with a crowd or with a disturbance.

¹⁹ But [there are] some Jews from Asia who ought to be present before you and bring charges against [me], if they have anything against me,

²⁰ or these [men] themselves should say what crime they found [when] I stood before the Sanhedrin,

²¹ other than concerning this one declaration that I shouted [while] standing there before them: I am being judged before you today concerning the resurrection of the dead!

²² But Felix, [because he] understood the [facts] concerning the Way more accurately, put them off, saying, "When

Lysias the military tribune comes down,
I will decide _your case_."

²³ [He] ordered the centurion [for] him to be guarded and to have some freedom, and in no way to prevent any of his own [people] [from] serving him.

²⁴ And after some days, [when] Felix arrived with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and listened to him concerning faith in Christ Jesus.

²⁵ And [while] he was discussing about righteousness and self control and the judgment that is to come, Felix became afraid [and] replied, "Go away for the present, and [when I] have an opportunity, I will summon you.

²⁶ At the same time he was also hoping that money would be given to him by Paul. For this reason also he sent for him as often as possible [and] talked with him.

²⁷ And [when] two years had passed, Felix received as successor Porcius Festus. And [because he] wanted to do a favor for the Jews, Felix left Paul behind _as a prisoner_.

25 ¹ Now [when] Festus set foot in the province, after three days he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea.

² And the chief priests and the most prominent men of the Jews brought charges against Paul to him, and were urging him,

³ asking for a favor against him, that he summon him to Jerusalem, [because they] were preparing an ambush to do away with him along the way.

⁴ Then Festus replied [that] Paul was being kept at Caesarea, and [he] himself was about to go [there] in a short time.

⁵ So he said, "Let those among you [who are] prominent go down with [me], [and] if there is any wrong in the man, let them bring charges against him.

⁶ And [after he] had stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea. On the next day he sat down on the judgment seat [and] gave orders [for] Paul to be brought.

⁷ And [when] he arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges that they were not able to prove,

⁸[while] Paul said in his defense, "Neither against the law of the Jews nor against the temple nor against Caesar have I sinned with reference to anything!"

⁹But Festus, [because he] wanted to do a favor for the Jews, answered [and] said to Paul, "Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem to be tried before me there concerning these [things]?"

¹⁰But Paul said, "I am standing before the judgment seat of Caesar, where it is necessary [for] me to be judged. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you also know very well.

¹¹If then I am doing wrong and have done anything deserving death, I am not trying to avoid dying. But if there is nothing [true] of [the things] which these [people] are accusing me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar!

¹²Then Festus, [after] discussing [this] with [his] council, replied, "You have appealed to Caesar to Caesar you will go!"

¹³Now [after] some days had passed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to welcome Festus.

¹⁴And while they were staying there many days, Festus laid out the [case] against Paul to the king, saying, "There is a certain man left behind by Felix [as] a prisoner,

¹⁵concerning whom [when] I was in Jerusalem the chief priests and the elders of the Jews presented evidence, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him.

¹⁶To _them_ I replied that it was not the custom of the Romans to give up any man before the one who had been accused met [his] accusers face to [face] and received an opportunity for a defense concerning the accusation.

¹⁷Therefore, [when] they had assembled here, [I] made no delay; on the next [day] I sat down on the judgment seat [and] gave orders [for] the man to be brought.

¹⁸[When they] stood up, [his] accusers began bringing no charge concerning _him_ of the evil deeds that I was suspecting,

¹⁹but they had some issues with him concerning their own religion, and

concerning a certain Jesus, who was dead, whom Paul claimed to be alive.

²⁰And [because] I was at a loss with regard to the investigation concerning these [things], I asked if he was willing to go to Jerusalem and to be judged there concerning these [things].

²¹But [when] Paul appealed [that] he be kept under guard for the decision of His Majesty the Emperor, I gave orders [for] him to be kept under guard until I could send him to Caesar.

²²So Agrippa [said] to Festus, "I want to hear the man myself also." "Tomorrow," he said, "you will hear him."

²³So on the next day, Agrippa and Bernice came with great pageantry and entered into the audience hall, along with military tribunes and the most prominent men of the city. And [when] Festus gave the order, Paul was brought in.

²⁴And Festus said, "King Agrippa and all who are present with us, you see this man about whom the whole population of the Jews appealed to me, both in Jerusalem and here, shouting [that] he must not live any longer.

²⁵ But I understood [that] he had done nothing deserving death himself, and [when] this man appealed to His Majesty the Emperor, I decided to send [him].

²⁶ I do not have anything definite to write to [my] lord about _him_. Therefore I have brought him before you [all] and especially before you, King Agrippaso that [after] this preliminary hearing has taken place, I may have something to write.

²⁷ For it seems unreasonable to me to send a prisoner and not to indicate the charges against him.

26¹ So Agrippa said to Paul, "It is permitted for you to speak for yourself." Then Paul extended [his] hand [and] began to defend himself:

² Concerning all [the things] of which I am accused by the Jews, King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate [that] before you I am about to defend myself today,

³ [because] you are especially acquainted with both all the customs and controversial questions with respect to the Jews. Therefore I beg [you] to listen to me with patience.

⁴ Now all the Jews know my manner of life from [my] youth, that had taken place from the beginning among my [own] people and in Jerusalem,

⁵ having known me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that in accordance with the strictest party of our religion I lived [as] a Pharisee.

⁶ And now I stand here on trial on the basis of hope in the promise made by God to our fathers,

⁷ to which our twelve tribes hope to attain as [they] earnestly serve [him] night and day. Concerning this hope I am being accused by the Jews, O king!

⁸ Why is it thought incredible by you [people] that God raises the dead?

⁹ Indeed, I myself thought it was necessary to do many [things] opposed to the name of Jesus the Nazarene,

¹⁰ which I also did in Jerusalem, and not only did I lock up many of the saints in prison, having received authority from the chief priests, but also [when] they were being executed, I cast [my] vote against [them].

¹¹ And throughout all the synagogues I punished them often [and] tried to force

[them] to blaspheme, and [because I] was enraged at them beyond measure, I was pursuing [them] even as far as to foreign cities.

¹²In _this activity_ I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and full power of the chief priests.

¹³In the middle of the day along the road, O king, I saw a light from heaven, more than the brightness of the sun, shining around me and those who were traveling with me.

¹⁴And [when] we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Aramaic language, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? [It is] hard for you to kick against the goads!

¹⁵So I said, Who are you, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.

¹⁶But get up and stand on your feet, because for this [reason] I have appeared to you, to appoint you a servant and witness both [to the things] in which you saw me and [to the things] in which I will appear to you,

¹⁷rescuing you from the people and from the Gentiles to whom I am sending you,

¹⁸to open their eyes [so that they] may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, [so that] they may receive forgiveness of sins and a share among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

¹⁹Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

²⁰but to those in Damascus first, and in Jerusalem and all the region of Judea and to the Gentiles, I proclaimed [that they should] repent and turn to God, doing deeds worthy of repentance.

²¹On account of these [things] the Jews seized me [while I] was in the temple [courts] [and] were attempting to kill [me].

²²Therefore I have experienced help from God until this day, [and] I stand here testifying to both small and great, saying nothing except what both the prophets and Moses have said were going to happen,

²³that the Christ was to suffer [and] that [as] the first of the resurrection

from the dead, he was going to proclaim light both to the people and to the Gentiles.

²⁴ And [as] he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "You are out of your mind, Paul! [Your] great learning _is driving_ you _insane_!"

²⁵ But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but am speaking words of truth and rationality.

²⁶ For the king knows about these [things], to whom also I am speaking freely, for I am not convinced [that] any of these [things] in any way has escaped his notice, because this _was_ not _done_ in a corner.

²⁷ Do you believe the prophets, King Agrippa? I know that you believe.

²⁸ But Agrippa [said] to Paul, "In a short time are you persuading me to become a Christian?"

²⁹ And Paul [replied], "I pray to God, whether in a short time or in a long time, not only you but also all those who are listening to me today may become such [people] as I also am, except for these bonds!

³⁰Both the king and the governor got up, and Bernice and those who were sitting with them.

³¹And [as they] were going out, they were talking to one another, saying, "This man is not doing anything deserving death or imprisonment.

³²And Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been released if he had not appealed to Caesar.

27¹And when it was decided [that] we would sail away to Italy, they handed over Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion _named_ Julius of the Augustan Cohort.

²And we went aboard a ship from Adramyttium that was about to sail to the places along the [coast] of Asia [and] put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us.

³And on the next [day], we put in at Sidon. And Julius, treating Paul kindly, allowed [him] to go to [his] friends _to be cared for_.

⁴And from there we put out to sea [and] sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were against [us].

⁵And [after we] had sailed across the open sea along Cilicia and Pamphylia, we put in at Myra in Lycia.

⁶And there the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy [and] put us _on board_ it.

⁷And sailing slowly, in many days and with difficulty we came to Cnidus. [Because] the wind did not permit us to go further, we sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone.

⁸And sailing along its coast with difficulty, we came to a certain place called Fair Havens, near which was the town of Lasea.

⁹And [because] considerable time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul strongly recommended,

¹⁰saying to them, "Men, I perceive that the voyage is going _to end_ with disaster and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives!

¹¹But the centurion was convinced even more by the shipmaster and the shipowner than by what was said by Paul.

¹²And [because] the harbor was unsuitable for spending the winter in, the majority decided on a plan to put out to sea from there, if somehow they could arrive at Phoenix, a harbor of Crete facing toward the southwest and toward the northwest, to spend the winter [there].

¹³And [when] a southwest wind began to blow gently, [because they] thought [they] could accomplish their purpose, they weighed anchor [and] sailed close along Crete.

¹⁴But not long afterward a wind like a hurricane, called the northeaster, rushed down from it.

¹⁵And [when] the ship was caught and [was] not able to head into the wind, we gave way [and] were driven [along].

¹⁶And running under the lee of a certain small island called Cauda, we were able with difficulty to get the ships boat under control.

¹⁷[After] hoisting _it up_, they made use of supports to undergird the ship. And [because they] were afraid lest they run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered

the sea anchor [and] thus were driven [along].

¹⁸And [because] we were violently battered by the storm, on the next [day] _they began_ jettisoning [the cargo],

¹⁹and on the third [day] they threw overboard the gear of the ship with their own hands.

²⁰But [when] neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and [with] not a little bad weather confronting [us], finally all hope was abandoned [that] we would be saved.

²¹And [because] many were experiencing lack of appetite, at that time Paul stood up in their midst [and] said, "Men, [you] ought to have followed my [advice] not to put out to sea from Crete, and [thus] avoided this damage and loss!

²²And now I urge you to cheer up, for there will be no loss of life from among you, but only of the ship.

²³For this night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve came to me,

²⁴saying, Do not be afraid, Paul! It is necessary [for] you to stand before

Caesar, and behold, God has graciously granted you all who are sailing with you.

²⁵Therefore keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will be like this according to _the_ way it was told to me.

²⁶But it is necessary [that] we run aground on some island.

²⁷And when the fourteenth night had come, [as] we were being driven in the Adriatic Sea about the middle of the night, the sailors suspected _they were approaching some land_.

²⁸And taking soundings, they found twenty fathoms. So going on a little [further] and taking soundings again, they found fifteen fathoms.

²⁹And [because they] were afraid lest somewhere we run aground against rough places, they threw down four anchors from the stern [and] prayed for day to come.

³⁰And [when] the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship and were lowering the ship's boat into the sea, pretending as if they were going to lay out anchors from the bow,

³¹ Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these [men] remain with the ship, you cannot be saved!

³² Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it fall away.

³³ And until the day was about to come, Paul was urging [them] all to take [some] food, saying, "Today [is the] fourteenth day you have waited [anxiously], [and] you have continued without eating, having taken nothing.

³⁴ Therefore I urge you to take [some] food, for this is necessary for your preservation. For not a hair from your head will be lost.

³⁵ And [after he] said these [things] and took bread, he gave thanks to God in front of [them] all, and [after] breaking [it], he began to eat.

³⁶ So they all were encouraged and partook of food themselves.

³⁷ (Now we were [in] all two hundred seventy six persons on the ship.)

³⁸ And [when they] had eaten their fill of food, they lightened the ship [by] throwing the wheat into the sea.

³⁹ Now when day came, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a

certain bay having a beach, onto which they decided to run the ship ashore if they could.

⁴⁰And slipping the anchors, they left [them] in the sea, at the same time loosening the ropes of the steering oars. And hoisting the foresail to the [wind] that was blowing, they held course for the beach.

⁴¹But falling into a place of crosscurrents, they ran the ship aground. And the bow stuck fast [and] stayed immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the force of the waves.

⁴²Now the plan of the soldiers was that they would kill the prisoners lest any escape [by] swimming away,

⁴³but the centurion, [because he] wanted to save Paul, prevented them _from doing what they intended_, and gave orders [that] those who were able to swim should jump in first to get to the land,

⁴⁴and [then] the rest, [some] of whom [floated] on planks and [some] of whom on anything [that was] from the ship.

And in this way all were brought safely to the land.

28¹ And [after we] were brought safely through, then we found out that the island was called Malta.

² And the local inhabitants showed _extraordinary_ kindness to us, for they lit a fire [and] welcomed us all, because of the rain that had begun and because of the cold.

³ And [when] Paul had gathered a large number of sticks and was placing [them] on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat [and] fastened itself on his hand.

⁴ And when the local people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they began saying to one another, "Doubtless this man is a murderer whom, [although he] was rescued from the sea, Justice has not permitted to live!

⁵ He, in turn, shook off the creature into the fire [and] suffered no harm.

⁶ But they were expecting [that] he was going to swell up or suddenly to fall down dead. So [after] they had waited for a long [time] and saw nothing unusual

happen to him, they changed their minds [and] began saying [that] he was a god.

⁷Now in the [regions] around that place were fields belonging to the chief official of the island, _named_ Publius, who welcomed us [and] entertained [us] hospitably [for] three days.

⁸And it happened that the father of Publius was lying down, afflicted with fever and dysentery. Paul went to _him_ and [after] praying, he placed [his] hands on him [and] healed him.

⁹And [after] this had taken place, the rest of those on the island who had diseases were coming and being healed also.

¹⁰They also honored us with many honors, and [when we] were putting out to sea, they gave [us] the [things] _we needed_.

¹¹Now after three months we put out to sea in a ship that had wintered at the island, an Alexandrian [one] _with the twin gods Castor and Pollux as its insignia_.

¹²And putting in at Syracuse, we stayed [there] three days.

¹³From there we got underway [and] arrived at Rhegium, and after one day a south wind came up [and] on the second day we came to Puteoli,

¹⁴where we found brothers, [and] were implored to stay with them seven days. And in this way we came to Rome.

¹⁵And from there the brothers, [when they] heard the [news] about us, came to meet us as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns. [When he] saw them, Paul gave thanks to God [and] took courage.

¹⁶And when we entered into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself with the soldier who was guarding him.

¹⁷Now it happened that after three days, he called together those who were the most prominent of the Jews. And [when] they had assembled, he said to them, "Men [and] brothers, [although] I had done nothing against [our] people or the customs of our fathers, from Jerusalem I was delivered [as] a prisoner into the hands of the Romans,

¹⁸who, [when they] had examined me, were wanting to release [me], because

there was no basis for an accusation [worthy] of death with me.

¹⁹But [because] the Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar (not as [if I] had any [charge] to bring against my [own] people).

²⁰Therefore for this reason I have requested to see you and to speak with [you], for because of the hope of Israel I am wearing this chain!

²¹And they said to him, "We have received no letters about you from Judea, nor has any of the brothers come [and] reported or spoken anything evil about you.

²²But we would like to hear from you what you think, for concerning this sect it is known to us that it is spoken against everywhere.

²³And [when they] had set a day with him, many more came to him at his lodging place, to whom he was explaining from early in the morning until evening, testifying about the kingdom of God and attempting to convince them about Jesus from both the law of Moses and the prophets.

²⁴ And [some] were convinced [by] what was said, but [others] refused to believe.

²⁵ So being in disagreement with one another, they began to leave [after] Paul made one statement: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through the prophet Isaiah to your fathers,

²⁶ saying, Go to this people and say, "_You will keep on hearing_ and will never understand, and _you will keep on seeing_ and will never perceive.

²⁷ For the heart of this people has become dull, and with [their] ears they hear with difficulty, and they have shut their eyes, lest they see with [their] eyes, and hear with [their] ears, and understand with [their] heart, and turn, and I would heal them."

²⁸ Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles. They also will listen!"

²⁹ EMPTY

³⁰ So he stayed two whole years in his own rented house, and welcomed all who came to him,

³¹ proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the [things] concerning

the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness,
without hindrance.

Romans

1 ¹ Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called [to be] an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

² which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy scriptures,

³ concerning his Son, who was born _a descendant_ of David according to the flesh,

⁴ who was declared Son of God in power according to _the Holy Spirit_ by the resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ our Lord,

⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship for the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles on behalf of his name,

⁶ among whom you also are [the] called of Jesus Christ.

⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God, called [to be] saints. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁸ First, I give thanks to my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your

faith is being proclaimed in the whole world.

⁹For God, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, is my witness, how constantly I make mention of you,

¹⁰always asking in my prayers if somehow now at last I may succeed to come to you in the will of God.

¹¹For I desire to see you, in order that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, in order to strengthen you,

¹²that is, to be encouraged together with you through _our mutual faith_ , both yours and mine.

¹³Now I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, that often I intended to come to you, and was prevented until now, in order that I might have some fruit among you also, just as also among the rest of the Gentiles.

¹⁴I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

¹⁵Thus _I am eager_ to proclaim the gospel also to you who [are] in Rome.

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to

everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

¹⁷For the righteousness of God is revealed in it from faith to faith, just as it is written, "But the one who is righteous by faith will live."

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all impiety and unrighteousness of people, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

¹⁹because what can be known about God is evident among them, for God made [it] clear to them.

²⁰For from the creation of the world, his invisible [attributes], both his eternal power and deity, are discerned clearly, being understood in the things created, so that they are without excuse.

²¹For [although they] knew God, they did not honor [him] as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasoning, and their senseless hearts were darkened.

²²Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God with the likeness of an

image of mortal human beings and birds and quadrupeds and reptiles.

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the desires of their hearts to immorality, [that] their bodies would be dishonored among themselves,

²⁵who exchanged the truth of God with a lie, and worshiped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed for eternity. Amen.

²⁶Because of this, God gave them over to degrading passions, for their females exchanged the natural relations for those contrary to nature,

²⁷and likewise also the males, abandoning the natural relations with the female, were inflamed in their desire toward one another, males with males committing the shameless deed, and receiving in themselves the penalty that was necessary for their error.

²⁸And just as they did not see fit _to recognize God_ , God gave them over to a debased mind, to do the things [that are] not proper,

²⁹being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greediness, malice, full of

envy, murder, strife, deceit, malevolence.
[They are] gossipers,

³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent,
arrogant, boasters, contrivers of evil,
disobedient to parents,

³¹ senseless, faithless, unfeeling,
unmerciful,

³² who, [although they] know the
requirements of God, that those who do
such things are worthy of death, not only
do they do the same [things], but also
they approve of those who do [them].

2¹ Therefore you are without excuse,
O man, every one [of you] who
passes judgment. For in that which
you pass judgment on someone else,
you condemn yourself, for you who are
passing judgment are doing the same
[things].

² Now we know that the judgment of
God is according to truth against those
who do such things.

³ But do you think this, O man who
passes judgment on those who do such
things, and who does the same [things],
that you will escape the judgment of
God?

⁴ Or do you despise the wealth of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

⁵ But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart, you are storing up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and of the revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

⁶ who will reward each one according to his works:

⁷ to those who, by perseverance in good work, seek glory and honor and immortality, eternal life,

⁸ but to those [who act] from selfish ambition and who disobey the truth, but who obey unrighteousness, wrath and anger.

⁹ [There will be] affliction and distress for every _human being_ who does evil, of the Jew first and of the Greek,

¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and to the Greek.

¹¹ For [there] is no partiality with God.

¹² For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as

many as have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.

¹³For it is not the hearers of the law [who are] righteous in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be declared righteous.

¹⁴For whenever the Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature the things of the law, these, [although they] do not have the law, are a law to themselves,

¹⁵who show the work of the law written on their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts [one] after another accusing or even defending them

¹⁶on the day when God judges the secret things of people, according to my gospel, through Christ Jesus.

¹⁷But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God

¹⁸and know his will and approve the things that are superior, [because you] are instructed by the law,

¹⁹and are confident [that] you yourself are a guide of the blind, a light of those in darkness,

²⁰an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth in the law.

²¹Therefore, the one who teaches someone else, do you not teach yourself? The one who preaches not to steal, do you steal?

²²The one who says not to commit adultery, do you commit adultery? The one who abhors idols, do you rob temples?

²³Who boast in the law, by the transgression of the law you dishonor God!

²⁴For just as it is written, "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

²⁵For circumcision is of value if you do the law, but if you should be a transgressor of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

²⁶Therefore, if the uncircumcised person follows the requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be credited for circumcision?

²⁷And the uncircumcised person by nature who carries out the law will judge you who, [though provided] with _the

precise written code_ and circumcision [are] a transgressor of the law.

²⁸For the Jew is not _one outwardly_ , nor [is] circumcision _outwardly_ , in the flesh.

²⁹But the Jew _is one inwardly_ , and circumcision [is] of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter, whose praise [is] not from people but from God.

3¹Therefore, what [is] the advantage of the Jew, or what [is] the use of circumcision?

²Much in every way. For first, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.

³_What is the result_ if some refused to believe? Their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, [will it]?

⁴May it never be! But let God be true but every human being a liar, just as it is written, "In order that you may be justified in your words, and may prevail when you are judged."

⁵But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? God, who inflicts wrath, [is] not unjust, [is he]? (I am speaking according to a human perspective.)

⁶May it never be! For otherwise, how will God judge the world?

⁷But if by my lying, the truth of God abounded to his glory, why am I also still condemned as a sinner?

⁸And [why] not (as we are slandered, and as some affirm that we say), "Let us do evil, in order that good may come [of it]? Their condemnation is just!

⁹What then? Do we have an advantage? Not at all. For we have already charged both Jews and Greeks are all under sin,

¹⁰just as it is written, "[There] is no one righteous, not even one;

¹¹[there] is no one who understands; [there] is no one who seeks God.

¹²All have turned aside together; they have become worthless; [There] is no one who practices kindness; [there] is not even one.

¹³Their throat [is] an opened grave; they deceive with their tongues; the venom of asps [is] under their lips,

¹⁴whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.

¹⁵Their feet [are] swift to shed blood;

¹⁶destruction and distress [are] in their paths,

¹⁷ and they have not known the way of peace.

¹⁸ The fear of God is not before their eyes."

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those under the law, in order that every mouth may be closed and the whole world may become accountable to God.

²⁰ For by the works of the law _no person will be declared righteous_ before him, for through the law [comes] knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been revealed, being testified about by the law and the prophets

²² that is, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. For [there] is no distinction,

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

²⁴ being justified as a gift by his grace, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus,

²⁵ whom God made publicly available as the mercy seat through faith in his blood, for a demonstration of his righteousness,

because of the passing over of previously committed sins,

²⁶in the forbearance of God, for the demonstration of his righteousness in the present time, so that he should be just and the one who justifies the [person] by faith in Jesus.

²⁷Therefore, where [is] boasting? It has been excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.

²⁸For we consider a person to be justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

²⁹Or [is God] the God of the Jews only? [Is he] not also [the God] of the Gentiles? Yes, also of the Gentiles,

³⁰since God [is] one, who will justify _those who are circumcised_ by faith and _those who are uncircumcised_ through faith.

³¹Therefore, do we nullify the law through faith? May it never be! But we uphold the law.

4¹What then shall we say [that] Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh, has found?

²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

³For what does the scripture say?
"And Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness."

⁴Now to the one who works, his pay is not credited according to grace, but according to his due.

⁵But to the one who does not work, but who believes in the one who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited for righteousness,

⁶just as David also speaks about the blessing of the person to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

⁷Blessed [are they] whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins are covered over.

⁸Blessed [is] the person against whom the Lord will never count sin."

⁹Therefore, [is] this blessing for _those who are circumcised_ , or also for _those who are uncircumcised_ ? For we say, "Faith was credited to Abraham for righteousness."

¹⁰How then was it credited? [While he] was _circumcised_ or _uncircumcised_

? Not _while circumcised_ but _while uncircumcised_ !

¹¹ And he received the sign of circumcision [as] a seal of the righteousness by faith which [he had] _while uncircumcised_ , so that he could be the father of all who believe _although they are uncircumcised_ , so that righteousness could be credited to them also,

¹² and the father _of those who are circumcised_ to those who are not only from the circumcision, but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith of our father Abraham _which he had while uncircumcised_ .

¹³ For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants, [that] he would be heir of the world, [was] not through the law, but through the righteousness by faith.

¹⁴ For if those of the law [are] heirs, faith is rendered void and the promise is nullified.

¹⁵ For the law produces wrath, but where [there] is no law, neither [is there] transgression.

¹⁶ Because of this, [it is] by faith, in order that [it may be] according to grace,

so that the promise may be secure to all the descendants, not only to those of the law, but also to those of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all

¹⁷ (just as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") before God, in whom he believed, the one who makes the dead alive and who calls the things that are not as [though] they are,

¹⁸ who against hope believed in hope, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was said, "so will your descendants be."

¹⁹ And not being weak in faith, he considered his own body already as good as dead, [because he] was approximately a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

²⁰ And he did not waver in unbelief at the promise of God, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God

²¹ and being fully convinced that what he had promised, he was also able to do.

²² Therefore, indeed, it was credited to him for righteousness.

²³ But it was not written for the sake of him alone that it was credited to him,

²⁴ but also for the sake of us to whom it is going to be credited, to those who believe in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,

²⁵ who was handed over on account of our trespasses, and was raised up in the interest of our justification.

5¹ Therefore, [because we] have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

² through whom also we have [obtained] access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

³ And not only [this], but we also boast in our afflictions, [because we] know that affliction produces patient endurance,

⁴ and patient endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope,

⁵ and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

⁶ For [while] we were still helpless, yet at the proper time Christ died for the ungodly.

⁷For only rarely will someone die on behalf of a righteous person (for on behalf of a good person possibly someone might even dare to die),

⁸but God demonstrates his own love for us, [in] that [while] we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Therefore, by much more, [because we] have been declared righteous now by his blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.

¹⁰For if, [while we] were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, by much more, having been reconciled, we will be saved by his life.

¹¹And not only [this], but also [we are] boasting in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

¹²Because of this, just as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin, so also death spread to all people because all sinned.

¹³For until the law, sin was in the world, but sin is not charged to ones account [when there] is no law.

¹⁴ But death reigned from Adam until Moses even over those who did not sin in the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who is to come.

¹⁵ _But the gift is not like the trespass_, for if by the trespass of the one, the many died, by much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, multiply to the many.

¹⁶ And the gift [is] not as through the one who sinned, for on the one hand, judgment from the one [sin] [led] to condemnation, but the gift, from many trespasses, [led] to justification.

¹⁷ For if by the trespass of the one [man], death reigned through the one [man], much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Consequently therefore, as through one trespass [came] condemnation to all people, so also through one righteous deed [came] justification of life to all people.

¹⁹For just as through the disobedience of the one man, the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous.

²⁰Now the law came in as a side issue, in order that the trespass could increase, but where sin increased, grace was present in greater abundance,

²¹so that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

6¹What therefore shall we say? Shall we continue in sin, in order that grace may increase?

²May it never be! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

³Or do you not know that as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

⁴Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we may live _a new way of life_ .

⁵For if we have become identified with [him] in the likeness of his death,

certainly also we will be [identified with him in the likeness] of [his] resurrection,

⁶knowing this, that our old man was crucified together with [him], in order that the body of sin may be done away with, [that] we may no longer be enslaved to sin.

⁷For the one who has died has been freed from sin.

⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him,

⁹knowing that Christ, [because he] has been raised from the dead, is going to die no more, death no longer being master over him.

¹⁰For that [death] he died, he died to sin once and never again, but that [life] he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹So also you, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that [you] obey its desires,

¹³and do not present your members to sin [as] instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and your

members to God [as] instruments of righteousness.

¹⁴For sin will not be master over you, because you are not under law, but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!

¹⁶Do you not know that to whomever you present yourselves [as] slaves for obedience, you are slaves to whomever you obey, whether sin, [leading] to death, or obedience, [leading] to righteousness?

¹⁷But thanks [be] to God that you were slaves of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart the pattern of teaching to which you were entrusted,

¹⁸and having been set free from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness.

¹⁹(I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh.) For just as you presented your members [as] slaves to immorality and lawlessness, [leading] to lawlessness, so now present your members [as] slaves to righteousness, [leading] to sanctification.

²⁰For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with respect to righteousness.

²¹Therefore what sort of fruit did you have then, about which you are now ashamed? For the end of those [things] [is] death.

²²But now, having been set free from sin and having been enslaved to God, you have your fruit [leading] to sanctification, and its end [is] eternal life.

²³For the compensation due sin [is] death, but the gift of God [is] eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

7¹Or do you not know, brothers (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law is master of a person for as long a time [as] he lives?

²For the married woman is bound by law to [her] husband while he lives, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of the husband.

³Therefore as a result, if she belongs to another man [while] her husband is living, she will be called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress [if she] belongs to another man.

⁴So then, my brothers, you also were brought to death with respect to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to the one who was raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.

⁵For when we were in the flesh, sinful desires were working through the law in our members, to bear fruit for death.

⁶But now we have been released from the law, [because we] have died [to that] by which we were bound, so that we may serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter [of the law].

⁷What then shall we say? [Is] the law sin? May it never be! But I would not have known sin except through the law, for I would not have known covetousness if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

⁸But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all [kinds of] covetousness. For apart from the law, sin [is] dead.

⁹And I was alive once, apart from the law, but [when] the commandment came, sin sprang to life

¹⁰and I died, and this commandment which [was] to [lead to] life was found with respect to me to [lead to] death.

¹¹For sin, seizing the opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed [me].

¹²So then, the law [is] holy, and the commandment [is] holy and righteous and good.

¹³Therefore, [did that which is] good become death to me? May it never be! Rather [it was] sin, in order that it might be recognized [as] sin, producing death through [what is] good for me, in order that sin might become sinful to an extraordinary degree through the commandment.

¹⁴For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am fleshly, _sold into slavery to sin_.

¹⁵For what I am doing I do not understand, because what I want [to do], this I do not practice, but what I hate, this I do.

¹⁶But if what I do not want [to do], this I do, I agree with the law that [it is] good.

¹⁷ But now I am no longer the one doing it, but sin that lives in me.

¹⁸ For I know that good does not live in me, that is, in my flesh. For the willing is present in me, but the doing [of] the good [is] not.

¹⁹ For the good that I want [to do], I do not do, but the evil that I do not want [to do], this I do.

²⁰ But if what I do not want [to do], this I am doing, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin that lives in me.

²¹ Consequently, I find the principle with me, the one who wants to do good, that evil is present with me.

²² For I joyfully agree with the law of God in my inner person,

²³ but I observe another law in my members, at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that exists in my members.

²⁴ Wretched man [that] I [am]! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

²⁵ But thanks [be] to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself with my mind am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh [I am enslaved] to the law of sin.

8¹ Consequently, [there is] now no condemnation for those [who are] in Christ Jesus.

² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

³ For what [was] impossible for the law, in that it was weak through the flesh, God [did]. [By] sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and concerning sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

⁴ in order that the requirement of the law would be fulfilled in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

⁵ For those who are [living] according to the flesh are intent on the things of the flesh, but those [who are living] according to the Spirit [are intent on] the things of the Spirit.

⁶ For the mindset of the flesh [is] death, but the mindset of the Spirit [is] life and peace,

⁷ because the mindset of the flesh [is] enmity toward God, for [it is] not subjected to the law of God, for [it is] not able [to do so],

⁸and those who are in the flesh are not able to please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, this person _does not belong to him_ .

¹⁰But if Christ [is] in you, the body [is] dead because of sin, but the Spirit [is] life because of righteousness.

¹¹And if the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will also make alive your mortal bodies through his Spirit who lives in you.

¹²So then, brothers, we are obligated not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

¹³For if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴For all those who are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

¹⁵For you have not received a spirit of slavery [leading] to fear again, but you have received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba! Father!

¹⁶The Spirit himself confirms to our spirit that we are children of God,

¹⁷and if children, also heirsheirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer together [with him] so that we may also be glorified together [with him].

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy [to be compared] with the glory that is about to be revealed to us.

¹⁹For the eagerly expecting creation awaits eagerly the revelation of the sons of God.

²⁰For the creation has been subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of the one who subjected [it], in hope

²¹that the creation itself also will be set free from its servility to decay, into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²²For we know that the whole creation groans together and suffers agony together until now.

²³Not only [this], but we ourselves also, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves [while we] await eagerly [our] adoption, the redemption of our body.

²⁴For in hope we were saved, but hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what he sees?

²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we await [it] eagerly with patient endurance.

²⁶And likewise also, the Spirit helps [us] in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as one ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes [for us] [with] unexpressed groanings.

²⁷And the one who searches our hearts knows what the mindset of the Spirit [is], because he intercedes on behalf of the saints according to [the will of] God.

²⁸And we know that all [things] work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to [his] purpose,

²⁹because [those] whom he foreknew, he also predestined [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, so that he should be the firstborn among many brothers.

³⁰And [those] whom he predestined, these [he] also called, and [those] whom he called, these [he] also justified, and [those] whom he justified, these [he] also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say about these [things]? If God [is] for us, who [can be] against us?

³² Indeed, [he] who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also, together with him, freely give us all [things]?

³³ Who will bring charges against Gods elect? God [is] the one who justifies.

³⁴ Who [is] the one who condemns? Christ Jesus [is] the one who died, and more than that, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? [Will] affliction or distress or persecution or hunger or lack of sufficient clothing or danger or the sword?

³⁶ Just as it is written, "On account of you we are being put to death the whole day [long]; we are considered as sheep for slaughter."

³⁷ [No], but in all these [things] we prevail completely through the one who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,

nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers,

³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other
created thing, will be able to separate
us from the love of God that is in Christ
Jesus our Lord.

9¹ I am telling the truth in Christ[I
am] not lying; my conscience bears
witness to me in the Holy Spirit

² that my grief is great and [there is]
constant distress in my heart.

³ For I could wish myself to be accursed
from Christ for the sake of my brothers,
my fellow countrymen according to the
flesh,

⁴ who are Israelites, [to] whom [belong]
the adoption, and the glory, and the
covenants, and the giving of the law, and
the [temple] service, and the promises,

⁵ [to] whom [belong] the patriarchs,
and from whom [is] the Christ according
to human descent, who is God over all,
blessed _forever_ ! Amen.

⁶ But [it is] not as if the word of God
had failed. For not all those [who are
descended] from Israel [are truly] Israel,

⁷ nor [are they] all children because
they are descendants of Abraham, but

"In Isaac will your descendants be named."

⁸That is, [it is] not the children _by human descent_ [who are] children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as descendants.

⁹For the statement of the promise [is] this: "At this time I will return and _Sarah will have_ a son."

¹⁰And not only [this], but also [when] Rebecca conceived children by one [man], Isaac our father

¹¹for [although they] had not yet been born, or done anything good or evil, in order that the purpose of God according to election might remain,

¹²not by works but by the one who callsit was said to her, "The older will serve the younger,"

¹³just as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

¹⁴What then shall we say? [There is] no injustice with God, [is there]? May it never be!

¹⁵For to Moses he says, "I will have mercy on whomever I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I have compassion."

¹⁶Consequently therefore, _it does not depend on the_ one who wills or on the one who runs, but on God who shows mercy.

¹⁷For the scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very [reason] I have raised you up, so that I may demonstrate my power in you, and so that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

¹⁸Consequently therefore, he has mercy on whomever he wishes, and he hardens whomever he wishes.

¹⁹Therefore you will say to me, "Why then does he still find fault? For who has resisted his will?"

²⁰On the contrary, O man, who are you who answers back to God? Will what is molded say to the one who molded [it], "Why did you make me like this"?

²¹Or does the potter not have authority over the clay, to make from the same lump a vessel that [is] for _honorable use_ and [one] that [is] for _ordinary use_ ?

²²And [what] if God, wanting to demonstrate his wrath and to make known his power, endured with much

patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?

²³ And [he did so] in order that he could make known the riches of his glory upon vessels of mercy that he prepared beforehand for glory,

²⁴ us whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

²⁵ As he also says in Hosea, "I will call those [who were] not my people, My people, and those [who were] not loved, Loved.

²⁶ And it will be in the place where it was said to them, You [are] not my people, there they will be called sons of the living God."

²⁷ And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "[Even] if the number of the sons of Israel is like the sand of the sea, the remnant will be saved,

²⁸ _for the Lord will execute his sentence thoroughly and decisively_ upon the earth."

²⁹ And just as Isaiah foretold, "If the Lord of hosts had not left us descendants, we would have become like Sodom and would have resembled Gomorrah."

³⁰What then shall we say?
That the Gentiles, who did not
pursue righteousness, attained
righteousness even the righteousness
[that is] by faith.

³¹But Israel, pursuing the law of
righteousness, did not attain to the law.

³²Why that? Because [they did] not
[pursue it] by faith, but as [if] by works.
They stumbled over the _stone that
causes people to stumble_ ,

³³just as it is written, "Behold, I am
laying in Zion _a stone that causes
people to stumble_ , and _a rock that
causes them to fall_ , and the one who
believes in him will not be put to shame."

10¹Brothers, the desire of my heart
and my prayer to God on behalf
of them [is] for [their] salvation.

²For I testify about them that they
have a zeal for God, but not according to
knowledge.

³For ignoring the righteousness of
God, and seeking to establish their own
righteousness, they did not subject
themselves to the righteousness of God.

⁴For Christ [is the] end of the law for
righteousness to everyone who believes.

⁵For Moses writes about the righteousness [that is] from the law: "The person who does these [things] will live by them."

⁶But the righteousness from faith speaks like this: "Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down),

⁷or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

⁸But what does it say? "The word is near to you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim),

⁹that if you confess with your mouth "Jesus [is] Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹⁰For with the heart one believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses, resulting in salvation.

¹¹For the scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."

¹²For [there] is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same [Lord] [is]

Lord of all, who is rich to all who call upon him.

¹³For "everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

¹⁴How then will they call upon [him] in whom they have not believed? And how will they believe [in him] about whom they have not heard? And how will they hear about [him] without one who preaches [to them]?

¹⁵And how will they preach, unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How timely [are] the feet of those who bring good news of good things."

¹⁶But not all have obeyed the good news, for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?"

¹⁷Consequently, faith [comes] by hearing, and hearing through the word about Christ.

¹⁸But I say, they have not heard, have they? On the contrary, "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the inhabited world."

¹⁹But I say, Israel did not know, did they? First, Moses says, "I will provoke you [to jealousy] by [those who are]

not a nation; by a senseless nation I will provoke you [to anger]."

²⁰And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I was found by those who did not seek me; I became known to those who did not ask for me."

²¹But about Israel he says, "The whole day [long] I held out my hands to a disobedient and resistant people."

11 ¹Therefore I say, God has not rejected his people, has he? May it never be! For I also am an Israelite, from the descendants of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

²God has not rejected his people, whom he foreknew! Or do you not know, in [the passage about] Elijah, what the scripture sayshow he appeals to God against Israel?

³Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have torn down your altars, and I alone am left, and they are seeking my life!"

⁴But what does the divine response say to him? "I have left for myself seven thousand people who have not bent the knee to Baal."

⁵So in this way also at the present time, there is a remnant _selected by grace_ .

⁶But if by grace, [it is] no longer by works, for otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

⁷What then? What Israel was searching for, this it did not obtain. But the elect obtained [it], and the rest were hardened,

⁸just as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear, until this very day."

⁹And David says, "Let their table become a snare and a trap, and a cause for stumbling and a retribution to them;

¹⁰let their eyes be darkened so that they do not see, and cause their backs to bend _continually_ ."

¹¹I say then, they did not stumble so that they fell, [did they]? May it never be! But by their trespass, salvation [has come] to the Gentiles, in order to provoke them [to jealousy].

¹²And if their trespass [means] riches for the world and their loss [means]

riches for the Gentiles, how much more [will] their fullness [mean]?

¹³Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Therefore, inasmuch as I am apostle to the Gentiles, I promote my ministry,

¹⁴if somehow I may provoke my people to jealousy and save some of them.

¹⁵For if their rejection [means] the reconciliation of the world, what [will] their acceptance [mean] except life from the dead?

¹⁶Now if the first fruits [are] holy, [so] also [is] the [whole] batch of dough, and if the root [is] holy, [so] also [are] the branches.

¹⁷Now if some of the branches were broken off, and you, [although you] were a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them and became a sharer of the root of the olive trees richness,

¹⁸do not boast against the branches. But if you boast against [them], you do not support the root, but the root [supports] you.

¹⁹Then you will say, "Branches were broken off in order that I could be grafted in.

²⁰Well said! They were broken off because of unbelief, but you stand firm because of faith. Do not think arrogant [thoughts], but be afraid.

²¹For if God did not spare the _natural_ branches, perhaps he will not spare you either.

²²See, then, the kindness and severity of God: severity upon those who have fallen, but upon you the kindness of God if you continue in his kindness, for otherwise you also will be cut off.

²³And those also, if they do not persist in unbelief, will be grafted in, because God is able to graft them in again.

²⁴For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are _natural branches_ be grafted into their own olive tree?

²⁵For I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of this mystery, so that you will not be wise in your own sight, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles has come in,

²⁶and so all Israel will be saved, just as it is written, "The deliverer will come out of Zion; he will turn away ungodliness from Jacob.

²⁷And this [is] the covenant from me with them when I take away their sins."

²⁸With respect to the gospel, [they are] enemies for your sake, but with respect to election, [they are] dearly loved for the sake of the fathers.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God [are] irrevocable.

³⁰For just as you formerly were disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy because of the disobedience of these,

³¹so also these have now been disobedient for your mercy, in order that they also may now be shown mercy.

³²For God confined them all in disobedience, in order that he could have mercy on them all.

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable [are] his judgments and [how] incomprehensible [are] his ways!

³⁴For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?

³⁵Or who has given in advance to him, and it will be paid back to him?"

³⁶For from him and through him and to him [are] all [things]. To him [be] glory for eternity! Amen.

12¹Therefore I exhort you, brothers, through the mercies of God, to present your bodies [as] a living sacrifice, holy [and] pleasing to God, [which is] your reasonable service.

²And do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may approve what [is] the good and well-pleasing and perfect will of God.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone who is among you not to think more highly of yourself than what one ought to think, but to think sensibly, as God has apportioned a measure of faith to each one.

⁴For just as in one body we have many members, but all the members do not have the same function,

⁵in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another,

⁶but having different gifts according to the grace given to us: if [it is] prophecy, according to the proportion of [his] faith;

⁷if [it is] service, by service; if [it is] one who teaches, by teaching;

⁸if [it is] one who exhorts, by exhortation; one who gives, with sincerity; one who leads, with diligence; one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

⁹Love must be without hypocrisy. Abhor what [is] evil; be attached to what [is] good,

¹⁰being devoted to one another in brotherly love, esteeming one another [more highly] in honor,

¹¹not lagging in diligence, being enthusiastic in spirit, serving the Lord,

¹²rejoicing in hope, enduring in affliction, being devoted to prayer,

¹³contributing to the needs of the saints, pursuing hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse [them].

¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

¹⁶Think the same [thing] toward one another; _do not think arrogantly_ , but

associate with the lowly. Do not be wise _in your own sight_ .

¹⁷ Pay back no one evil for evil. Take thought for [what is] good in the sight of all people.

¹⁸ If [it is] possible on your [part], be at peace with all people.

¹⁹ Do not take revenge yourselves, dear friends, but give place to [Gods] wrath, for it is written, "Vengeance [is] mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

²⁰ But "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him [something] to drink; for [by] doing this, you will heap up coals of fire upon his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

13¹ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities, for [there] is no authority except by God, and those that exist are put in place by God.

² So then, the one who resists authority resists the ordinance [which is] from God, and those who resist will receive condemnation on themselves.

³ For rulers are not a [cause of] terror for a good deed, but for bad [conduct].

So do you want not to be afraid of authority? Do what [is] good, and you will have praise from it,

⁴for it is Gods servant to you for what [is] good. But if you do what [is] bad, be afraid, because it does not bear the sword to no purpose. For it is Gods servant, the one who avenges for punishment on the one who does [what is] bad.

⁵Therefore [it is] necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience.

⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for [the authorities] are servants of God, busily engaged in this very [thing].

⁷Pay to everyone [what is] owed: [pay] taxes to whom taxes [are due]; [pay] customs duties to whom customs duties [are due]; [pay] respect to whom respect [is due]; [pay] honor to whom honor [is due].

⁸Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another, for the one who loves someone else has fulfilled the law.

⁹For the [commandments], "You shall not commit adultery, you shall not commit murder, you shall not steal, you

shall not covet," and if [there is] any other commandment, are summed up in this statement: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

¹⁰Love does not commit evil against a neighbor. Therefore love [is the] fulfillment of the law.

¹¹And [do] this [because you] know the time, that [it is] already the hour for you to wake up from sleep. For our salvation [is] nearer now than when we believed.

¹²The night is far gone, and the day has drawn near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the weapons of light.

¹³Let us live decently, as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy.

¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and do not make provision for the desires of the flesh.

14¹ Now receive the one who is weak in faith, [but] not for quarrels about opinions.

²One believes [he may] eat all [things], but the one who is weak eats [only] vegetables.

³The one who eats must not despise the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat must not judge the one who eats, because God has accepted him.

⁴Who are you, who passes judgment on the domestic slave belonging to someone else? To his own master he stands or falls, and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵For one person prefers [one] day over [another] day, and another person regards every day [alike]. Each one must be fully convinced in his own mind.

⁶The one who is intent on the day is intent on [it] for the Lord, and the one who eats eats for the Lord, because he is thankful to God, and the one who does not eat does not eat for the Lord, and he is thankful to God.

⁷For none of us lives for himself and none dies for himself.

⁸For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore whether we live [or] whether we die, we are the Lords.

⁹For Christ died and became alive again for this [reason], in order that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰But why do you judge your brother? Or also, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will praise God."

¹²So then, each one of us will give an account concerning himself to God.

¹³Therefore, let us no longer pass judgment on one another, but rather decide this: not to place a cause for stumbling or a temptation before a brother.

¹⁴I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing [is] unclean of itself, except to the one who considers something to be unclean; to that person [it is] unclean.

¹⁵For if because of food, your brother is grieved, you are no longer living according to love. Do not destroy by your food that person for whom Christ died.

¹⁶Therefore do not let your good be slandered.

¹⁷For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸For the one who serves Christ in this [way] [is] well-pleasing to God and approved by people.

¹⁹So then, let us pursue _what promotes peace_ and _what edifies one another_ .

²⁰Do not destroy the work of God on account of food. All [things] [are] clean, but [it is] wrong for the person _who eats and stumbles in the process_ .

²¹[It is] good not to eat meat or to drink wine or [to do anything] by which your brother stumbles.

²²The faith that you have, have with respect to yourself before God. Blessed [is] the one who does not pass judgment on himself by what he approves.

²³But the one who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not [do so] from faith, and everything that [is] not from faith is sin.

15¹ But we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

²Let each one of us please his neighbor for his good, for the purpose of edification.

³For even Christ did not please himself, but just as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."

⁴For whatever was written beforehand was written for our instruction, in order that through patient endurance and through the encouragement of the scriptures we may have hope.

⁵Now may the God of patient endurance and of encouragement grant you _to be in agreement_ with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,

⁶so that with one mind you may glorify with one mouth the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Therefore accept one another, just as Christ also has accepted you, to the glory of God.

⁸For I say, Christ has become a servant of the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God, in order to confirm the promises to the fathers,

⁹and that the Gentiles may glorify God for [his] mercy, just as it is written, "Because of this, I will praise you among

the Gentiles, and I will sing praise to your name."

¹⁰And again it says, "Rejoice, Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all the Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him."

¹²And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even the one who rises to rule over the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles will put their hope."

¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁴Now I myself also am convinced about you, my brothers, that [you] yourselves also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to instruct one another.

¹⁵But I have written to you more boldly on [some] points, so as to remind you [again] because of the grace that has been given to me by God,

¹⁶with the result that I am a servant of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, serving the gospel of God as a priest, in order that

the offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

¹⁷Therefore I have a reason for boasting in Christ Jesus regarding the things concerning God.

¹⁸For I will not dare to speak about anything except [that] which Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed,

¹⁹by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and [traveling] around as far as Illyricum I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

²⁰And so, having as my ambition to proclaim the gospel where Christ has not been named, in order that I will not build on the foundation belonging to someone else,

²¹but just as it is written, "[Those] to whom [it was] not announced concerning him will see, and [those] who have not heard will understand."

²²For this reason also I was hindered many [times] from coming to you,

²³and now, no longer having a place in these regions, but having a desire for many years to come to you

²⁴whenever I travel to Spain. For I hope [while I] am passing through to see you and to be sent on my way by you, whenever I have first enjoyed your [company] for a while.

²⁵But now I am traveling to Jerusalem, serving the saints.

²⁶For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

²⁷For they were pleased [to do so], and they are obligated to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual [things], they ought also to serve them in material [things].

²⁸Therefore, [after I] have accomplished this and sealed this fruit [for delivery] to them, I will depart by way of you for Spain,

²⁹and I know that [when I] come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

³⁰Now I exhort you, brothers, through our Lord Jesus Christ and through the

love of the Spirit, to contend along with me in your prayers on my behalf to God,
³¹ that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and my ministry in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,

³² so that, coming to you with joy by the will of God, I may rest with you.

³³ Now [may] the God of peace [be] with all of you. Amen.

16¹ Now I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is also a servant of the church in Cenchrea,

² in order that you may welcome her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever task she may have need from you, for she herself also has been a helper of many, even me myself.

³ Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,

⁴ who risked their own necks for my life, for which not only I am thankful, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;

⁵ also [greet] the church in their house. Greet Epenetus my dear [friend], who is _the first convert_ of Asia for Christ.

⁶Greet Mary, who _has worked hard_ for you.

⁷Greet Andronicus and Junia, my compatriots and my fellow prisoners, who are well known to the apostles, who were also in Christ before me.

⁸Greet Ampliatus, my dear [friend] in the Lord.

⁹Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my dear [friend] Stachys.

¹⁰Greet Apelles, who [is] approved in Christ. Greet those of the [household] of Aristobulus.

¹¹Greet Herodion my compatriot. Greet those of the [household] of Narcissus who are in the Lord.

¹²Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, the laborers in the Lord. Greet Persis, the dear [friend] who _has worked hard_ in the Lord.

¹³Greet Rufus, the chosen one in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

¹⁴Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers with them.

¹⁵Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints [who are] with them.

¹⁶Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

¹⁷Now I exhort you, brothers, to look out for those who cause dissensions and temptations contrary to the teaching which you learned, and stay away from them.

¹⁸For such people do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own stomach, and by smooth speech and flattery they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

¹⁹For [the report of] your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, and I want you to be wise toward what [is] good, but innocent toward what [is] evil.

²⁰And in a short time the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus [be] with you.

²¹Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you, and Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my compatriots.

²²I, Tertius, the one who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord.

²³Gaius, my host and [the host] of the whole church, greets you. Erastus the city treasurer greets you, and Quartus the brother.

²⁴ EMPTY

²⁵ Now to the one who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that had been kept secret for eternal ages,

²⁶ but now has been revealed, and through the prophetic scriptures has been made known according to the command of the eternal God, resulting in obedience of faith to all the Gentiles,

²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom [be] the glory for eternity. Amen.

1 Corinthians

- 1** ¹ Paul, called [to be] an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,
- ² to the church of God that is in Corinth, sanctified in Christ Jesus, called [to be] saints, together with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, their [Lord] and ours.
- ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁴ I give thanks to my God always concerning you, because of the grace of God which was given to you in Christ Jesus,
- ⁵ that in everything you were made rich in him, in all speech and all knowledge,
- ⁶ just as the testimony about Christ has been confirmed in you,
- ⁷ so that you do not lack in any spiritual gift [as you] eagerly await the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- ⁸ who will also confirm you until the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹God [is] faithful, by whom you were called to fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

¹⁰Now I exhort you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all say the same [thing] and there not be divisions among you, and that you be made complete in the same mind and with the same purpose.

¹¹For it has been made clear to me concerning you, my brothers, by _Chloes people_ , that there are quarrels among you.

¹²But I say this, that each of you is saying, "I am with Paul," and "I [am] with Apollos," and "I [am] with Cephas," and "I [am] with Christ.

¹³Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

¹⁴I give thanks to God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

¹⁵lest anyone should say that you were baptized in my name.

¹⁶(Now I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Beyond that I do not know if I baptized anyone else.)

¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to proclaim the gospel, not with _clever speech_ , lest the cross of Christ be emptied.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the intelligence of the intelligent I will confound."

²⁰ Where [is] the wise person? Where [is] the scribe? Where [is] the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not know God, God was pleased through the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe.

²² For indeed, Jews ask for sign miracles and Greeks seek wisdom,

²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a cause for stumbling, but to the Gentiles foolishness,

²⁴ but to those [who are] called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ [is] the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than human [wisdom], and the weakness of God [is] stronger than human [strength].

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers, that not many [were] wise according to human standards, not many [were] powerful, not many [were] well born.

²⁷But the foolish [things] of the world God chose in order that he might put to shame the wise, and the weak [things] of the world God chose in order that he might put to shame the strong,

²⁸and the insignificant of the world, and the despised, God chose, the things that are not, in order that he might abolish the things that are,

²⁹so that all flesh may not boast before God.

³⁰But from him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

³¹so that, just as it is written, "The one who boasts, let him boast in the Lord."

2¹And I, [when I] came to you, brothers, did not come with

superiority of speech or of wisdom,
proclaiming to you the mystery of God.

²For I decided not to know anything
among you except Jesus Christ and him
crucified.

³And I came to you in weakness and in
fear and with much trembling,

⁴and my speech and my preaching
[were] not with persuasive words of
wisdom, but with a demonstration of the
Spirit and power,

⁵in order that your faith would not be
in the wisdom of men, but in the power
of God.

⁶Now we do speak wisdom among the
mature, but wisdom not of this age or of
the rulers of this age, who are perishing,

⁷but we speak the hidden wisdom of
God in a mystery, which God predestined
before the ages for our glory,

⁸which none of the rulers of this age
knew. For if they had known [it], they
would not have crucified the Lord of
glory.

⁹But just as it is written, "[Things]
which eye has not seen and ear has not
heard, and have not entered into the

heart of man, [are the things] which God has prepared for those who love him."

¹⁰But to us God has revealed [them] through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches all [things], even the depths of God.

¹¹For who among men knows the things of a man, except the spirit of the man that [is] in him? Thus also no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who [is] from God, in order that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

¹³[things] which we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in [words] taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual [things] to spiritual [people].

¹⁴But the natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he is not able to understand [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

¹⁵Now the spiritual [person] discerns all [things], but he himself is judged by no one.

¹⁶For who has known the mind of the Lord; who has advised him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

3¹And I, brothers, was not able to speak to you as to spiritual [people], but as to fleshly [people], as to infants in Christ.

²I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, for you were not yet able [to eat it]. But now you are still not able,

³for you are still fleshly. For where [there is] jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and do you not live like [unregenerate] people?

⁴For whenever anyone says, "I am with Paul," and another, "I [am] with Apollos," are you not [merely] human?

⁵Therefore, what is Apollos and what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, and to each as the Lord gave.

⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing [it] to grow.

⁷So then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who is causing [it] to grow.

⁸Now the one who plants and the one who waters are one, but each one will

receive his own reward according to his own labor.

⁹For we are Gods fellow workers; you are Gods field, Gods building.

¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon [it]. But each one must direct his attention to how he is building upon [it].

¹¹For no one is able to lay another foundation than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¹²Now if anyone builds upon the foundation [with] gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, straw,

¹³the work of each one will become evident. For the day will reveal [it], because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the work of each one, of what sort it is.

¹⁴If anyones work that he has built upon [it] remains, he will receive a reward.

¹⁵If anyones work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, but so as through fire.

¹⁶Do you not know that you are Gods temple and the Spirit of God dwells in you?

¹⁷If anyone destroys Gods temple, God will destroy this one. For Gods temple is holy, which you are.

¹⁸Let no one deceive himself. If anyone thinks [himself] to be wise among you in this age, let him become a fool, in order that he may become wise.

¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, for it is written, "The one who catches the wise in their craftiness,"

²⁰and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

²¹So then, let no one boast in people. For all [things] are yours,

²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come, all [things] [are] yours,

²³and you [are] Christs, and Christ [is] Gods.

4¹Thus let a person consider us as servants of Christ and stewards of Gods mysteries.

²In this case, moreover, it is sought in stewards that one be found faithful.

³But to me it is a very little matter that I be judged by you or by a human court, but I do not [even] judge myself.

⁴For I am conscious of nothing against myself, but not by this am I vindicated. But the one who judges me is the Lord.

⁵Therefore do not judge anything before the time, until the Lord should come, who will both enlighten the hidden things of darkness and will reveal the counsels of hearts, and then praise will come to each one from God.

⁶Now I have applied these things, brothers, to myself and Apollos for your sake, in order that in us you may learn not [to go] beyond what is written, lest someone be inflated with pride on behalf of one [person] against the other.

⁷For who concedes you [superiority]? And what do you have that you did not receive? But if indeed you received [it], why do you boast as [if you] did not receive [it]?

⁸Already you are satiated! Already you are rich! Apart from us you reign as kings! And would that indeed you

reigned as kings, in order that we also might reign as kings with you!

⁹For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as condemned to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world and to angels and to people.

¹⁰We [are] fools for the sake of Christ, but you [are] prudent in Christ! We [are] weak, but you [are] strong! You [are] honored, but we [are] dishonored!

¹¹Until the present hour we are both hungry and thirsty and poorly clothed and roughly treated and homeless,

¹²and we toil, working with our own hands. [When we are] reviled, we bless; [when we are] persecuted, we endure;

¹³[when we are] slandered, we encourage. We have become like the refuse of the world, the offscouring of all [things], until now.

¹⁴I am not writing these [things] to shame you, but admonishing [you] as my dear children.

¹⁵For if you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, yet [you do] not [have] many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I fathered you through the gospel.

¹⁶Therefore I exhort you, become imitators of me.

¹⁷Because of this, I have sent to you Timothy, who is my dear and faithful child in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ Jesus, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

¹⁸But some have become arrogant, as [if] I were not coming to you.

¹⁹But I am coming to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will know not the talk of the ones who have become arrogant, but the power.

²⁰For the kingdom of God [is] not with talk, but with power.

²¹What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?

5¹It is reported everywhere [that there] is sexual immorality among you, and sexual immorality of such a kind which [does] not [even exist] among the Gentiles, so that someone has the wife of [his] father.

²And you are inflated with pride, and should you not rather have mourned, so that the one who has done this deed would be removed from your midst?

³For [although I] am absent in body but present in spirit, I have already passed judgment on the one who has done this in this way, as [if I] were present.

⁴In the name of our Lord Jesus, [when] you are assembled, and my spirit, together with the power of our Lord Jesus,

⁵[I have decided] to hand over such a person to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, in order that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

⁶Your boasting [is] not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole batch of dough?

⁷Clean out the old leaven in order that you may be a new batch of dough, just as you are unleavened. For Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

⁸So then, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old leaven or with the leaven of wickedness and sinfulness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

⁹I wrote to you in the letter not to associate with sexually immoral people.

¹⁰By no means [did I mean] the sexually immoral people of this world or the greedy people and swindlers or

idolaters, since then you would have to depart out of the world.

¹¹ But now I have written to you not to associate with any so-called brother, if he is a sexually immoral person or a greedy person or an idolater or an abusive person or a drunkard or a swindler with such a person not even to eat.

¹² For what [is it] to me to judge those outside? Should you not judge those inside?

¹³ But those outside God will judge. Remove the evil person _from among yourselves_ .

6¹ Does anyone among you, [if he] has a matter against someone else, dare to go to court before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

² Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if by you the world is judged, are you unworthy of the most insignificant courts?

³ Do you not know that we will judge angels, not to mention ordinary matters?

⁴ Therefore, if you have courts with regard to ordinary matters, do you seat these despised [people] in the church?

⁵I say [this] to your shame. So is there not anyone wise among you who will be able to render a decision between his brothers?

⁶But brother goes to court with brother, and this before unbelievers!

⁷Therefore it is already completely a loss for you that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?

⁸But you wrong and defraud, and [do] this [to] brothers!

⁹Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! Neither sexually immoral people, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor passive homosexual partners, nor dominant homosexual partners,

¹⁰nor thieves, nor greedy persons, not drunkards, not abusive persons, not swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

¹¹And some of you were these [things], but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

¹²All [things] are permitted for me, but not all [things] are profitable. All [things] are permitted for me, but I will not be controlled by anything.

¹³Food [is] for the stomach, and the stomach for food, but God will abolish _both of them_. Now the body [is] not for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

¹⁴And God both raised up the Lord and will raise us up by his power.

¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Therefore, shall I take away the members of Christ [and] make [them] members of a prostitute? May it never be!

¹⁶Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body [with her]? For it says, "The two will become one flesh."

¹⁷But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit [with him].

¹⁸Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a person commits is outside his body, but the one who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit [who is] in

you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

²⁰For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God with your body.

7 ¹Now concerning [the things] about which you wrote: "[It is] good for a man not to touch a woman.

²But because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife and let each woman have her own husband.

³The husband must fulfill his obligation to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

⁴The wife does not have authority over her own body, but her husband [does]. And likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but his wife [does].

⁵Do not defraud one another, except perhaps by agreement, for a time, in order that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and [then] you should be _together_ again, lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self control.

⁶But I say this as a concession, not as a command.

⁷ I wish all people could be like myself, but each one has his own gift from God, one in this way and another in that way.

⁸ Now I say to the unmarried and to the widows: [It is] good for them if they remain as I [am].

⁹ But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn [with sexual desire].

¹⁰ To the married I command not I, but the Lord a wife must not separate from [her] husband.

¹¹ But if indeed she does separate, she must remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce [his] wife.

¹² Now to the rest I say not the Lord if any brother has an unbelieving wife and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her.

¹³ And if any wife has an unbelieving husband and he consents to live with her, she must not divorce her husband.

¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the brother, since otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.

¹⁵ But if the unbeliever leaves, let him leave. The brother or the sister is not bound in such [cases]. But God has called you in peace.

¹⁶ For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

¹⁷ But to each one as the Lord has apportioned. As God has called each one, thus let him live and thus I order in all the churches.

¹⁸ Was anyone called [after] being circumcised? He must not undo his circumcision. Was anyone called in uncircumcision? He must not become circumcised.

¹⁹ Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.

²⁰ Each one in the calling in which he was called in this he should remain.

²¹ Were you called [while] a slave? Do not let it be a concern to you. But if indeed you are able to become free, rather make use of [it].

²² For the one who is called in the Lord [while] a slave is the Lord's freedperson.

Likewise the one who is called [while] free is a slave of Christ.

²³You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

²⁴Each one in [the situation] in which he was called, brothers in this he should remain with God.

²⁵Now concerning virgins I do not have a command from the Lord, but I am giving an opinion as one shown mercy by the Lord to be trustworthy.

²⁶Therefore, I consider this to be good because of the impending distress, that [it is] good for a man to be thus.

²⁷Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek release. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife.

²⁸But if you marry, you have not sinned, and if the virgin marries, she has not sinned. But such people will have affliction in the flesh, and I would spare you.

²⁹But I say this, brothers: the time is shortened, that from now on even those who have wives should be as [if they] do not have [wives],

³⁰and those who weep as [if they] do not weep, and those who rejoice as [if

they] do not rejoice, and those who buy as [if they] do not possess,

³¹ and those who make use of the world as [if they] do not make full use of [it]. For the present form of this world is passing away.

³² But I want you to be free from care. The unmarried person cares for the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord.

³³ But the one who is married cares for the things of the world, how he may please his wife,

³⁴ and he is divided. And the unmarried woman or the virgin cares for the things of the Lord, in order that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But the married woman cares for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

³⁵ Now I am saying this for your own benefit, not that I may put a restriction on you, but to promote appropriate and devoted service to the Lord without distraction.

³⁶ But if anyone thinks he is behaving dishonorably concerning his virgin, if she is past her prime and it ought to be thus,

let him do what he wishes. He does not sin. Let them marry.

³⁷ But he who stands firm in his heart, not having necessity, but has authority concerning his own will, and has decided this in his own heart, to keep his own virgin, he will do well.

³⁸ So then, the one who marries his own virgin does well, and the one who does not marry [her] will do better.

³⁹ A wife is bound for as long a time [as] her husband lives. But if her husband dies , she is free to marry whomever she wishes, only in the Lord.

⁴⁰ But she is happier if she remains thus, according to my opinion and I think I have the Spirit of God.

8¹ Now concerning food sacrificed to idols, we know that "we all have knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

² If anyone thinks he knows anything, he has not yet known as it is necessary to know.

³ But if anyone loves God, this one is known by him.

⁴ Therefore, concerning the eating of food sacrificed to idols, we know that "an

idol [is] nothing in the world" and that "[there is] no God except one."

⁵For even if after all [there] are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth, just as [there] are many gods and many lords,

⁶yet to us [there is] one God, the Father, from whom [are] all [things], and we [are] for him, and [there is] one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom [are] all [things], and we [are] through him.

⁷But this knowledge [is] not in everyone. But some, being accustomed until now to the idol, eat [this food] as food sacrificed to idols, and their conscience, [because it] is weak, is defiled.

⁸But food does not bring us close to God. Neither if we do not eat do we lack, nor if we do eat do we have more.

⁹But watch out lest somehow this right of yours becomes a cause for stumbling to the weak.

¹⁰For if someone should see you who has knowledge reclining for a meal in an idols temple, will not his conscience, [because it] is weak, be strengthened

so that [he] eats the food sacrificed to idols?

¹¹ For the one who is weak the brother for whom Christ died is destroyed by your knowledge.

¹² Now [if you] sin in this way against the brothers and wound their conscience, which is weak, you sin against Christ.

¹³ Therefore, if food causes my brother to sin, I will never eat meat _forever_ , in order that I may not cause my brother to sin.

9¹ Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?

² If to others I am not an apostle, yet indeed I am to you, for you are my seal of apostleship in the Lord.

³ My defense to those who examine me is this:

⁴ Do we not have the right to eat and drink?

⁵ Do we not have the right to take along a sister [as] wife, like the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

⁶ Or do only I and Barnabas not have the right _to refrain from working_ ?

⁷ Who ever serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who shepherds a flock and does not drink from the milk of the flock?

⁸ I am not saying these [things] according to a human perspective. Or does the law not also say these [things]?

⁹ For in the law of Moses it is written, "You must not muzzle an ox [while it] is threshing." It is not about oxen God is concerned, is it?

¹⁰ Or doubtless does he speak _for our sake_ ? For it is written _for our sake_ , because the one who plows ought to plow in hope and the one who threshes [ought to do so] in hope of a share.

¹¹ If we have sown spiritual [things] among you, [is it too] great [a thing] if we reap material [things] from you?

¹² If others share this right over you, do we not [do so] even more? Yet we have not made use of this right, but we endure all [things], in order that we may not cause any hindrance to the gospel of Christ.

¹³ Do you not know that those performing the holy services eat the

things from the temple, [and] those attending to the altar have a share with the altar?

¹⁴In the [same] way also the Lord ordered those who proclaim the gospel to live from the gospel.

¹⁵But I have not made use of any of these [rights]. And I am not writing these [things] in order that it may be thus with me. For [it would be] better to me rather to die than [for] anyone to deprive me of my reason for boasting.

¹⁶For if I proclaim the gospel, it is not to me a reason for boasting, for necessity is imposed on me. For woe is to me if I do not proclaim the gospel.

¹⁷For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward, but if [I do so] unwillingly, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.

¹⁸What then is my reward? That [when I] proclaim the gospel, I may offer the gospel free of charge, in order not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

¹⁹For [although I] am free from all [people], I have enslaved myself to all, in order that I may gain more.

²⁰I have become like a Jew to the Jews, in order that I may gain the Jews. To

those under the law [I became] as under the law ([although I] myself am not under the law) in order that I may gain those under the law.

²¹ To those outside the law [I became] as outside the law ([although I] am not outside the law of God, but subject to the law of Christ) in order that I may gain those outside the law.

²² To the weak I became weak, in order that I may gain the weak. I have become all [things] to all [people], in order that by all means I may save some.

²³ I do all [this] for the sake of the gospel, in order that I may become a participant with it.

²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in the stadium all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

²⁵ And everyone who competes exercises self-control in all [things]. Thus those [do so] in order that they may receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable [one].

²⁶ Therefore I run in this way, not as [running] aimlessly; I box in this way, not as beating the air.

²⁷ But I discipline my body and subjugate [it], lest somehow [after] preaching to others, [I] myself should become disqualified.

10¹ For I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all went through the sea,

² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

³ and all ate the same spiritual food,

⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed [them], and the rock was Christ.

⁵ But God was not pleased with the majority of them, for they were struck down in the desert.

⁶ Now these [things] happened [as] examples for us, so that we should not be desirers of evil [things], just as those also desired [them],

⁷ and not become idolaters, as some of them [did], just as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play,"

⁸ nor commit sexual immorality, as some of them committed sexual

immorality, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day,

⁹nor put Christ to the test, as some of them tested [him], and were destroyed by snakes,

¹⁰nor grumble, just as some of them grumbled, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

¹¹Now these [things] happened to those [people] as an example, but are written for our instruction, on whom the ends of the ages have come.

¹²Therefore, the one who thinks that he stands must watch out lest he fall.

¹³Temptation has not come upon you except [what is] common to humanity. But God [is] faithful, who will not permit you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but will also make a way out together with the temptation, [so that you] may be able to endure [it].

¹⁴Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

¹⁵I am speaking as to sensible [people]; you judge what I am saying.

¹⁶The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of

Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

¹⁷ Because [there is] one bread, [we] who [are] many are one body, for [we] all share from the one bread.

¹⁸ Consider Israel according to the flesh: are not the ones who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar?

¹⁹ Therefore, what am I saying? That food sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything?

²⁰ [No], but that [the things] which they sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to become sharers with demons.

²¹ You are not able to drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You are not able to share the table of the Lord and the table of demons.

²² Or are we attempting to provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than he [is, are we]?

²³ All [things] are permitted, but not all [things] are profitable. All [things] are permitted, but not all [things] build up.

²⁴ Let no one seek _his own good_ but the [good] of the other.

²⁵ Eat everything that is sold in the meat market, _asking no questions_ for the sake of the conscience,

²⁶ for "the earth [is] the Lords, and its fullness."

²⁷ If any of the unbelievers invites you, and you want to go, eat everything that is set before you, _asking no questions_ for the sake of the conscience.

²⁸ But if someone says to you, "This is offered to idols," do not eat [it], for the sake of that one who informed [you] and the conscience.

²⁹ Now I am not speaking about your own conscience, but the [conscience] of the other [person]. For why [is] my freedom judged by anothers conscience?

³⁰ If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks?

³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or you drink or whatever you do, do all [things] for the glory of God.

³² _Give no offense_ both to Jews and to Greeks and to the church of God,

³³ just as I also please all [people] in all [things], not seeking my own benefit,

but the [benefit] of the many, in order that they may be saved.

11 ¹ Become imitators of me, just as I also [am] of Christ.

² Now I praise you that you remember me [in] all [things], and just as I handed over to you the traditions, you hold fast to [them].

³ But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and the man [is the] head of the woman, and [the] head of Christ [is] God.

⁴ Every man who prays or prophesies [while] having [something] on [his] head dishonors his head,

⁵ but every woman who prays or prophesies with uncovered head dishonors her head, for she is one and the same with the one whose [head] is shaved.

⁶ For if a woman does not cover herself, let her [hair] be shorn off. But if [it is] shameful for a woman to [have her head] shorn or shaved, let her cover her [head].

⁷ For indeed a man ought not to cover his head, [because he] is the image and

glory of God, but the woman is the glory of the man.

⁸For man is not from woman, but woman from man.

⁹For indeed man was not created for the sake of the woman, but woman for the sake of the man.

¹⁰Because of this, the woman ought to have [a symbol of] authority on her head, on account of the angels.

¹¹Nevertheless, neither [is] woman [anything] apart from man, nor [is] man [anything] apart from woman in the Lord.

¹²For just as the woman [is] from the man, thus also the man [is] through the woman. But all [things] [are] from God.

¹³You judge _for yourselves_ : is it fitting for a woman to pray to God [with her head] uncovered?

¹⁴And does not nature itself teach you that a man, if he wears long hair, it is a dishonor to him?

¹⁵But a woman, if she wears long hair, it is her glory, because her hair is given to her for a covering.

¹⁶But if anyone is disposed to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.

¹⁷But in giving this instruction I do not praise [you], because you come together not for the better but for the worse.

¹⁸For in the first place, [when you] come together as a church, I hear there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.

¹⁹For indeed it is necessary that there be factions among you, in order that those who are approved may become evident among you.

²⁰Therefore, [when] you come together in the same [place], it is not to eat the Lords supper.

²¹For [when you] eat [it], each one of you goes ahead to take his own supper, and one is hungry and another is drunk.

²²For do you not have houses for eating and drinking? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who do not have [anything]? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise [you]!

²³For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you, that the Lord

Jesus, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread,

²⁴ and [after he] had given thanks, he broke [it] and said, "This is my body which [is] for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

²⁵ Likewise also the cup, after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink [it], in remembrance of me.

²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lords death until he comes.

²⁷ So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

²⁸ But let a person examine himself, and in this way let him eat from the bread and let him drink from the cup.

²⁹ For the one who eats and drinks, [if he] does not recognize the body, eats and drinks judgment against himself.

³⁰ Because of this, many [are] weak and sick among you, and quite a few _have died_ .

³¹ But if we were evaluating ourselves, we would not be judged.

³² But [if we] are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined, in order that we will not be condemned with the world.

³³ So then, my brothers, [when you] come together in order to eat [the Lords supper], wait for one another.

³⁴ If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And I will give directions about the remaining [matters] whenever I come.

12¹ Now concerning spiritual [gifts], brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

² You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the speechless idols, however you were led.

³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus [is] accursed," and no one is able to say "Jesus [is] Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit,

⁵ and there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord,

⁶and there are varieties of activities, but the same God, who works all [things] in all [people].

⁷But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for what is beneficial [to all].

⁸For to one is given a word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another a word of knowledge by the same Spirit,

⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

¹⁰and to another _miraculous powers_ , and to another prophecy, and to another distinguishing of spirits, to another kinds of tongues, and to another interpretation of tongues.

¹¹But in all these [things] one and the same Spirit is at work, distributing to each one individually just as he wishes.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of the body, [although they] are many, are one body, thus also Christ.

¹³For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free [persons], and all were made to drink one Spirit.

¹⁴For the body is not one member, but many.

¹⁵If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not [a part] of the body," not because of this is it not [a part] of the body.

¹⁶And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not [a part] of the body, not because of this is it not [a part] of the body.

¹⁷If the whole body [were] an eye, where [would] the hearing [be]? If the whole [were] hearing, where [would] the sense of smell [be]?

¹⁸But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body just as he wanted.

¹⁹And if they all were one member, where [would] the body [be]?

²⁰But now [there are] many members, but one body.

²¹Now the eye is not able to say to the hand, "I do not have need of you," or again, the head to the feet, "I do not have need of you.

²²But by much more the members of the body which are thought to be weaker are necessary,

²³ and [the parts] of the body which we think to be less honorable, these we clothe with more abundant honor, and our unpresentable [parts] come to have more abundant presentability,

²⁴ but our presentable [parts] do not have need [of this]. Yet God composed the body by giving more abundant honor to the part which lacked [it],

²⁵ in order that there not be a division in the body, but the members would have the same concern for one another.

²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer together; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with [it].

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members _of it individually_ ,

²⁸ and whom God has appointed in the church: first, apostles, second, prophets, third, teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, administrations, kinds of tongues.

²⁹ Not all [are] apostles, [are they]? Not all [are] prophets, [are they]? Not all [are] teachers, [are they]? Not all [are workers of] miracles, [are they]?

³⁰Not all have gifts of healing, [do they]? Not all speak with tongues, [do they]? Not all interpret, [do they]?

³¹But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

13¹If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a ringing brass gong or a clashing cymbal.

²And if I have [the gift of] prophecy and I know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that [I can] remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

³And if I parcel out all my possessions, and if I hand over my body in order that I may boast, but do not have love, it benefits [me] nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind, love is not jealous, [it] does not boast, [it] does not become conceited,

⁵[it] does not behave dishonorably, [it] _is not selfish_, [it] does not become angry, [it] does not keep a record of wrongs,

⁶[it] does not rejoice at unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth,

⁷bears all [things], believes all [things], hopes all [things], endures all [things].

⁸Love never ends. But if [there are] prophecies, they will pass away. If [there are] tongues, they will cease. If [there is] knowledge, it will pass away.

⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part,

¹⁰but whenever the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I set aside the things of a child.

¹²For now we see through a mirror _indirectly_, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know completely, just as I have also been completely known.

¹³And now these three [things] remain: faith, hope, [and] love. But the greatest of these [is] love.

14¹Pursue love, and strive for spiritual [gifts], but especially that you may prophesy.

²For the one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God,

because no one understands, but by the Spirit he speaks mysteries.

³But the one who prophesies speaks to people edification and encouragement and consolation.

⁴The one who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.

⁵Now I want you all to speak with tongues, but even more that you may prophesy. The one who prophesies [is] greater than the one who speaks with tongues, unless he interprets, in order that the church may receive edification.

⁶But now, brothers, if I come to you speaking with tongues, how do I benefit you, unless I speak to you either with a revelation or with knowledge or with a prophecy or with a teaching?

⁷Likewise, the inanimate things which produce a sound, whether flute or lyre, if they do not produce a distinction in the tones, how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the lyre?

⁸For indeed, if the trumpet produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare for battle?

⁹And so you through the tongue, unless you produce a clear message, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.

¹⁰There are probably so many kinds of languages in the world, and none without meaning.

¹¹Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a barbarian to the one who is speaking, and the one who is speaking [will be] a barbarian in my [judgment].

¹²In this way also you, since you are zealous of spiritual [gifts], seek for the edification of the church, in order that you may abound.

¹³Therefore the one who speaks in a tongue must pray that he may interpret.

¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unproductive.

¹⁵_Therefore what should I do_ ? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind. I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will also sing praise with my mind.

¹⁶For otherwise, if you praise in [your] spirit, how will the one who fills the place of the outsider say the "amen" at your

thanksgiving, because he does not know what you are saying?

¹⁷For indeed you are giving thanks well, but the other person is not edified.

¹⁸I give thanks to God [that] I speak with tongues more than all of you,

¹⁹but in the church I prefer to speak five words with my mind, in order that I may instruct other [people], than ten thousand words in a tongue.

²⁰Brothers, do not become children in [your] understanding, but with respect to wickedness be as a child, and in [your] understanding be mature.

²¹In the law it is written: "By those who speak a foreign language and by the lips of others I will speak to this people, and not even in this way will they obey me," says the Lord.

²²So then, tongues are for a sign not to those who believe, but to unbelievers, but prophecy [is] not for unbelievers, but for those who believe.

²³Therefore, if the whole church comes together at the same [time] and all speak with tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?

²⁴ But if all prophesy, and some unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is judged by all,

²⁵ the secret things of his heart become evident, and so, falling on [his] face, he will worship God, proclaiming, "God is truly among you!

²⁶ _Therefore what should you do_ , brothers? Whenever you come together, each one of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. All [things] must be [done] for edification.

²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, [it must be] on one occasion two or at most three, and _one after the other_ , and one must interpret.

²⁸ But if there is no interpreter, he must be silent in the church, but let him speak to himself and to God.

²⁹ Let two or three prophets speak, and the others evaluate.

³⁰ And if [something] is revealed to another who is seated, the first must be silent.

³¹ For you are all able to prophesy _in turn_ , in order that all may learn and all may be encouraged,

³² and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets.

³³ For God is not [a God of] disorder but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,

³⁴ the women must be silent in the churches, for it is not permitted for them to speak, but they must be in submission, just as the law also says.

³⁵ But if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home, for it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.

³⁶ Or has the word of God gone out from you, or has it come to you only?

³⁷ If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, he should recognize that [the things] which I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.

³⁸ But if anyone ignores [this], he is ignored.

³⁹ So then, my brothers, desire to prophesy, and do not prevent speaking with tongues.

⁴⁰ But let all [things] be [done] decently and according to proper procedure.

15¹ Now I make known to you, brothers, the gospel which I

proclaimed to you, which you have also received, in which you also stand,

²by which you are also being saved, if you hold fast to the message I proclaimed to you, unless you believed to no purpose.

³For I passed on to you _as of first importance_ what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,

⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised up on the third day according to the scriptures,

⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve,

⁶then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, the majority of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep.

⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,

⁸and last of all, as it were to one born at the wrong time, he appeared also to me.

⁹For I am the least of the apostles, not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been in vain, but I labored even more than all of them, and not I, but the grace of God with me.

¹¹Therefore whether I or those, in this way we preached, and in this way you believed.

¹²Now if Christ is preached as raised up from the dead, how do some among you say that [there] is no resurrection of the dead?

¹³But if [there] is no resurrection of the dead, Christ has not been raised [either].

¹⁴But if Christ has not been raised, then both our preaching [is] in vain, and your faith [is] in vain.

¹⁵And also we are found [to be] false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if after all, then, the dead are not raised.

¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised [either].

¹⁷But if Christ has not been raised, your faith [is] empty; you are still in your sins.

¹⁸And as a further result, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

¹⁹If _we have put our hope_ in Christ in this life only, we are of all people most pitiable.

²⁰But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

²¹For since through a man [came] death, also through a man [came] the resurrection of the dead.

²²For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

²³But each in his own group: Christ the first fruits, then those [who are] Christs at his coming,

²⁴then the end, when he hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when he has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

²⁵For it is necessary for him to reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

²⁶The last enemy to be abolished [is] death.

²⁷For "he subjected all [things] under his feet." But when it says "all [things]"

are subjected, [it is] clear that the one who subjected all [things] to him [is] not included.

²⁸ But whenever all [things] are subjected to him, then the Son himself also will be subjected to the one who subjected all [things] to him, in order that God may be all in all.

²⁹ Otherwise, why do they do [it], those who are being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why indeed are they being baptized on behalf of them?

³⁰ And why are we in danger every hour?

³¹ I die every dayyes indeed, by my boasting in you, brothers, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord!

³² If according to a human perspective I fought wild beasts at Ephesus, what benefit [is it] to me? If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.

³³ Do not be deceived! "Bad company corrupts good morals."

³⁴ Sober up correctly and _stop sinning_, for some have no knowledge of God! say [this] to your shame.

³⁵ But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what sort of body do they come?

³⁶ Foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.

³⁷ And what you sow [is] not the body which it will become, but you sow the bare seed, whether perhaps of wheat or of some of the rest.

³⁸ But God gives to it a body just as he wishes, and to each one of the seeds its own body.

³⁹ Not all flesh [is] the same, but [there is] one flesh of human beings, and another flesh of animals, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish,

⁴⁰ and heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. But the glory of the heavenly [bodies] [is] of one kind, and the [glory] of the earthly [bodies] [is] of another kind.

⁴¹ [There is] one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars, for star differs from star in glory.

⁴² Thus also [is] the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruptibility.

⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If [there] is a natural body, [there] is also a spiritual [body].

⁴⁵ Thus also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam [became] a life-giving spirit.

⁴⁶ But the spiritual [is] not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.

⁴⁷ The first man [is] from the earth, made of earth; the second man [is] from heaven.

⁴⁸ As the one [who is] made of earth, so also [are] those [who are] made of earth, and as the heavenly, so also [are] those [who are] heavenly.

⁴⁹ And just as we have borne the image of the [one who is] made of earth, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

⁵⁰ But I say this, brothers, that flesh and blood is not able to inherit the kingdom of God, nor can corruption inherit incorruptibility.

⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: we will not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,

⁵²in a moment, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

⁵³For it is necessary [for] this perishable [body] to put on incorruptibility, and this mortal [body] to put on immortality.

⁵⁴But whenever this perishable [body] puts on incorruptibility and this mortal [body] puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will take place: "Death is swallowed up in victory.

⁵⁵Where, O death, [is] your victory? Where, O death, [is] your sting?

⁵⁶Now the sting of death [is] sin, and the power of sin [is] the law.

⁵⁷But thanks [be] to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

⁵⁸So then, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, [because you] know that your labor is not [in] vain in the Lord.

16¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints: just as I gave directions about [it] to the churches of Galatia, so you do also.

²On the first [day] of the week, each one of you _put aside_ [something], saving up _to whatever extent he has prospered_ , in order that whenever I come, at that time collections do not take place.

³And whenever I arrive, whomever you approve by letters, I will send these to take your gift to Jerusalem.

⁴And if it is worthwhile for me to go also, they will travel with me.

⁵But I will come to you whenever I go through Macedonia (for I am going through Macedonia),

⁶and perhaps I will stay with you, or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my way wherever I may go.

⁷For I do not want to see you now in passing, for I hope to remain some time with you, if the Lord allows [it].

⁸But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost,

⁹for a great and effective door has opened for me, and [there are] many opponents.

¹⁰But if Timothy comes, see that he is with you without cause to fear, for he is

carrying out the Lords work, as I also [am].

¹¹ Therefore do not let anyone disdain him, but send him [on his way] in peace in order that he may come to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.

¹² Now concerning Apollos our brother, I urged him many [times] that he should come to you with the brothers, and he was not at all willing that he should come now, but he will come whenever he has [an] opportunity.

¹³ Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act courageously, be strong.

¹⁴ All your [actions] must be done in love.

¹⁵ Now I urge you, brothers you know about the household of Stephanas, that they are the first fruits of Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the ministry for the saints

¹⁶ that you also be subject to such people, and to all those who work together and labor.

¹⁷ Now I rejoice over the arrival of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because these make up for your absence,

¹⁸for they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore recognize such people.

¹⁹The churches of [the province of] Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you in the Lord many [times], together with the church in their house.

²⁰All the brothers greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹The greeting [is] by my handPauls.

²²If anyone does not love the Lord, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!

²³The grace of the Lord Jesus [be] with you.

²⁴My love [be] with all of you in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians

1 ¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God that is in Corinth, together with all the saints who are in all Achaia.

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed [is] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those [who are] in all affliction with the comfort with which [we] ourselves are comforted by God.

⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, thus through Christ our comfort overflows also.

⁶ But if we are afflicted, [it is] for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, [it is] for your comfort that is at work in the patient endurance of the same sufferings that we also suffer.

⁷And our hope for you [is] firm, [because we] know that as you are sharers in the sufferings, so also [you will be sharers] in the comfort.

⁸For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning our affliction that happened in the [province of] Asia, that we were burdened to an extraordinary degree, beyond [our] strength, so that we were in despair even of living.

⁹But [we] ourselves had the sentence of death in ourselves, so that we would not be putting confidence in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead,

¹⁰who delivered us from so great [a risk] of death, and will deliver [us], in whom we have put our hope that he will also deliver [us] again,

¹¹[while] you also join in helping _on our behalf_ by prayer, so that thanks may be given _on our behalf_ by many persons for this gracious gift [given] to us through [the help] of many.

¹²For our reason for boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you, in sincerity and purity of motive from God and not in

merely human wisdom, but by the grace of God.

¹³For we are not writing [anything] else to you except what you can read or also understand. But I hope that you will understand _completely_ ,

¹⁴just as you have also understood us in part, that we are your reason for boasting, just as you [are] also ours in the day of our Lord Jesus.

¹⁵And with this confidence, I was wanting to come to you previously, in order that you may have a second proof of my goodwill,

¹⁶and through you to go to Macedonia, and to come to you again from Macedonia, and to be sent on my way by you to Judea.

¹⁷Therefore, [when I] was wanting [to do] this, perhaps then was I making use of vacillation? Or was I deciding what I was deciding according to the flesh, in order that with me my "yes" may be "yes" and my "no" [may be] "no" [at the same time]?

¹⁸But God [is] faithful, so that our word to you is not "yes" and "no."

¹⁹For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, the one who was proclaimed among you by us, by me and Silvanus and Timothy, did not become "yes" and "no," but has become "yes" in him.

²⁰For as many as [are the] promises of God, in him [they are] "yes"; therefore also through him [is] the "amen" to the glory of God through us.

²¹Now the one who establishes us together with you in Christ and who anoints us [is] God,

²²[who] also sealed us and gave the down payment of the Spirit in our hearts.

²³But I call upon God [as] witness against my life, that [in order to] spare you, I did not come again to Corinth.

²⁴Not that we lord it over your faith, but we are fellow workers for your joy, because by faith you stand firm.

2¹For I have decided this for myself, not to come to you again in sorrow.

²For if I [cause] you sorrow, then who will make me glad except the one who is caused to be sad by me?

³And I wrote this very [thing] in order that [when I] came, I would not experience sorrow from those who ought

to have made me glad, [because I] have confidence about you all, that my joy _belongs to all of you_ .

⁴For out of great distress and anguish of heart I wrote to you through many tears, not so that you may be caused to be sad, but so that you may know the love that I have especially for you.

⁵But if anyone has caused sorrow, he has not caused me sorrow, but _to some degree_ _in order not to say too much_ [to] all [of] you.

⁶This punishment by the majority [is] sufficient for such a person.

⁷So then, you should rather forgive and comfort him, lest somehow this person should be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

⁸Therefore I urge you to confirm [your] love for him.

⁹Because for this [reason] also I wrote, in order that I could know your proven character, whether you are obedient in everything.

¹⁰Now to whomever you forgive anything, I also [do]; for indeed, whatever I have forgiven, if I have

forgiven anything, [it is] _for your sake_
in the presence of Christ,

¹¹ in order that we may not be exploited
by Satan (for we are not ignorant of his
schemes).

¹² Now [when I] arrived in Troas for the
gospel of Christ and a door was opened
for me by the Lord,

¹³ I did not experience rest in my spirit,
[because] I did not find Titus my brother,
but saying farewell to them, I departed
for Macedonia.

¹⁴ But thanks [be] to God, who always
leads us in triumphal procession in
Christ, and who reveals the fragrance
of the knowledge of him through us in
every place.

¹⁵ For we are the aroma of Christ to
God among those who are being saved
and among those who are perishing,

¹⁶ to those on the one hand an odor
from death to death, [and] to those on
the other hand a fragrance from life
to life. And who [is] qualified for these
[things]?

¹⁷ For we are not like the majority who
peddle the word of God, but as from

pure motives but as from God we speak before God in Christ.

3¹ Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or [do we], like some, need letters of recommendation to you or from you?

² You are our letter, inscribed on our hearts, known and read by all people,

³ revealing that you are a letter of Christ, delivered by us, inscribed not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on stone tablets but on tablets of human hearts.

⁴ Now we possess such confidence through Christ toward God.

⁵ Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as from ourselves, but our adequacy [is] from God,

⁶ who also makes us adequate [as] servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit, for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

⁷ But if the ministry of death in letters carved on stone came with glory, so that the sons of Israel were not able to look intently into the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, which was transitory,

⁸how will the ministry of the Spirit not be even more with glory?

⁹For if [there was] glory in the ministry of condemnation, by much more will the ministry of righteousness overflow with glory.

¹⁰For indeed what had been glorified has not been glorified in this case, on account of the glory that surpasses [it].

¹¹For if what was transitory [came] with glory, by much more what remains [is] with glory.

¹²Therefore, [because we] have such a hope, we use much boldness,

¹³and not as Moses used to place a veil over his face, in order that the sons of Israel would not stare at the end of what was transitory.

¹⁴But their minds were hardened. For until this very day, the same veil remains upon the reading of the old covenant, not being uncovered, because it is done away with in Christ.

¹⁵But until today, whenever Moses is read aloud, a veil lies upon their heart,

¹⁶but whenever one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord [is, there is] freedom.

¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, reflecting the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory into glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

4¹ Because of this, [since we] have this ministry, just as we have been shown mercy, we do not lose heart,

² but we have renounced shameful hidden things, not behaving with craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but with the open proclamation of the truth commending ourselves to every persons conscience before God.

³ But if indeed our gospel is veiled, it is veiled among those who are perishing,

⁴ among whom the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, so that they would not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves, but Jesus Christ [as] Lord, and ourselves [as] your slaves for the sake of Jesus.

⁶For God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," [is the one] who has shined in our hearts for the enlightenment of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in earthenware jars, in order that the extraordinary degree of the power may be from God and not from us.

⁸We are afflicted in every [way], but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing;

⁹persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed;

¹⁰always carrying around the death of Jesus in our body, in order that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

¹¹For we who are alive [are] continually being handed over to death because of Jesus, in order that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal flesh.

¹²So then, death is at work in us, but life in you.

¹³But [because we] have the same spirit of faith in accordance with [what is] written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

¹⁴[because we] know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us

together with Jesus and present [us] together with you.

¹⁵For all [these things] _are for your sake_ , in order that the grace that is increasing through the many may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart, but even if our outer person is being destroyed, yet our inner [person] is being renewed day after day.

¹⁷For our momentary light affliction is producing in us an eternal weight of glory _beyond all measure and proportion_ ,

¹⁸[because] we are not looking at what is seen, but what is not seen. For what is seen [is] temporary, but what is not seen [is] eternal.

5¹For we know that if our earthly house, the tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made by hands, eternal in the heavens.

²For indeed, in this [house] we groan, [because we] desire to put on our dwelling from heaven,

³if indeed, even [after we] have taken [it] off, we will not be found naked.

⁴For indeed we who are in this tent groan, being burdened _for this reason, that_ we do not want to be unclothed, but to be clothed, in order that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

⁵Now the one who has prepared us for this very [thing] [is] God, who has given us the down payment, the Spirit.

⁶Therefore, [although we are] always confident and know that [while we] are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord

⁷for we live by faith, not by sight

⁸so we are confident and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

⁹Therefore indeed we have as our ambition, whether at home [in the body] or absent [from the body], to be acceptable to him.

¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, in order that each one may receive back the [things] through the body according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

¹¹Therefore, [because we] know the fear of the Lord, we are attempting to persuade people, but we are revealed to

God, and I hope to be revealed in your consciences.

¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to boast about us, in order that you may have [an answer] for those who boast in appearance and not in heart.

¹³For if we are out of our senses, [it is] for God; if we are of sound mind, [it is] for you.

¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, [because we] have concluded this: that one died for all; as a result all died.

¹⁵And he died for all, in order that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised.

¹⁶So then, from now on we know no one _from a human point of view_ , if indeed we have known Christ _from a human point of view_ , but now we know [him this way] no longer.

¹⁷Therefore if anyone [is] in Christ, [he is] a new creation; the old [things] have passed away; behold, new [things] have come.

¹⁸And all these [things] [are] from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

¹⁹namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

²⁰Therefore we are ambassadors on behalf of Christ, as [if] God were imploring [you] through us. We beg [you] on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

²¹He made the one who did not know sin [to be] sin on our behalf, in order that we could become the righteousness of God in him.

6¹ Now [because we] are fellow workers, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

²For he says, "At the acceptable time I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now [is] the acceptable time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation!

³[We are] giving no one an occasion for taking offense in anything, in order that

our ministry will not have fault found [with it],

⁴but commending ourselves as servants of God in every [way], in much endurance, in afflictions, in distresses, in difficulties,

⁵in beatings, in prisons, in disturbances, in troubles, in sleepless nights, in going hungry,

⁶in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in love without hypocrisy,

⁷in the word of truth, in the power of God, with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and left hand,

⁸through glory and dishonor, through slander and good repute, [regarded] as deceivers and [yet] truthful,

⁹as unknown and [yet] known completely, as dying, and behold, we go on living, as disciplined, and [yet] not put to death,

¹⁰as grieving, but always rejoicing, as poor, but making many rich, as having nothing, and possessing everything.

¹¹_We have spoken freely and openly_ to you, Corinthians; our heart is open wide.

¹²You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your affections.

¹³Now the same [way] [in] exchange (I am speaking as to children), you open wide [your hearts] also.

¹⁴Do not become unevenly yoked with unbelievers, for what participation [is there between] righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship [does] light [have] with darkness?

¹⁵And what agreement [does] Christ [have] with Beliar? Or what share [does] a believer [have] with an unbeliever?

¹⁶And what agreement [does the] temple of God [have] with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, just as God said, "I will live in them and will walk about [among them], and I will be their God and they will be my people."

¹⁷Therefore "come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord, "and do not touch what is unclean, and I will welcome you,

¹⁸and I will be a father to you, and you will be sons and daughters to me," says the all-powerful Lord.

7¹Therefore [since we] have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse

ourselves from all defilement of body and spirit, accomplishing holiness in the fear of God.

² _Make room for us in your hearts_ . We have wronged no one, we have ruined no one, we have defrauded no one.

³ I do not say [this] _to condemn you_ , because I have already said that you are in our hearts, so that we die together and we live together.

⁴ Great [is] my confidence toward you; great [is] my boasting on your behalf; I am filled with encouragement; I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.

⁵ For even [when] we arrived in Macedonia, our body had no rest, but we were afflicted in every [way] quarrels outside, fears within.

⁶ But God, who comforts the humble, comforted us by the coming of Titus,

⁷ and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort [with] which he was comforted among you, [because he] reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more.

⁸For if indeed I grieved you by my letter, I do not regret [it] (even if I did regret [it]), for I see that that letter grieved you, even though for _a short time_ .

⁹Now I do not rejoice that you were grieved, but that you were grieved to repentance. For you were grieved according to [the will of] God, so that you suffered loss in no way through us.

¹⁰For grief according to [the will of] God brings about a repentance [leading] to salvation, not to be regretted, but worldly grief brings about death.

¹¹For behold how much diligence this very [thing], being grieved according to [the will of] God, has brought about in you: what defense [of yourselves], what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! In everything you have demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in this matter.

¹²Consequently, even if I wrote to you, it was not because of the one who did wrong or because of the one who had been wronged, but in order that your diligence _on our behalf_ might be revealed to you before God.

¹³Because of this we have been encouraged, and in addition to our encouragement, we rejoiced much more over the joy of Titus, because his spirit had been refreshed by all of you.

¹⁴For if I have boasted anything to him about you, I have not been put to shame, but as I have spoken everything to you in truth, thus also our boasting to Titus _has proven to be true_ .

¹⁵And his affection for you is all the more [when he] remembers the obedience of all of you as you welcomed him with fear and trembling.

¹⁶I rejoice, because in everything I am completely confident in you.

8¹Now we make known to you, brothers, the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia,

²that with a great ordeal of affliction, the abundance of their joy and the extreme depth of their poverty have overflowed to the wealth of their generosity.

³I testify that [they gave] according to [their] ability, and beyond [their] ability, by their own choice,

⁴requesting of us with much exhortation the favor and the fellowship of the ministry to the saints,

⁵and not just as we had hoped, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and [then] to us, by the will of God.

⁶So we urged Titus that, just as he had previously begun [it], thus he would also complete for you this [act of] grace.

⁷But just as you excel in everything in faith and in speaking and in knowledge and with all diligence and in the love from us [that is] in you so may you excel in this grace also.

⁸I am not saying [this] as a command, but proving the genuineness of your love by means of the diligence of others.

⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that [although he] was rich, for your sake he became poor, in order that you, by his poverty, may become rich.

¹⁰And I am giving an opinion in this [matter], because this is profitable for you who not only began previously, a year ago, to do [something], but also to want [to do it].

¹¹ So now also complete the doing [of it], in order that just as [you have] the eagerness to want [to do it], thus also [you may] complete [it] from [what you] have.

¹² For if the eagerness is present _according to what one has_ , [it is] acceptable not _according to what one does not have_ .

¹³ For [this is] not that for others [there may be] relief, [and] for you difficult circumstances, but [as a matter] of equality.

¹⁴ At the present time your abundance [will be] for their need, in order that their abundance may also be for your need, so that there may be equality,

¹⁵ just as it is written, "The [one] who [gathered] much did not have too much, and the [one] who [gathered] little did not have too little."

¹⁶ But thanks [be] to God, who has put in the heart of Titus the same devotion _on your behalf_ ,

¹⁷ because he not only welcomed our request, but being very earnest, by his own choice he went out to you.

¹⁸And we have sent at the same time with him the brother whose praise in the gospel [has become known] throughout all the churches.

¹⁹And not only [this], but he was also chosen by the churches [as] our traveling companion together with this gift that is being administered by us to the glory of the Lord himself and [to show] our readiness [to help].

²⁰[We are] trying to avoid this, lest anyone should find fault with us in this abundant gift that is being administered by us.

²¹For we are taking into consideration what is honorable not only before the Lord, but also before people.

²²And we are sending with them our brother whom we have tested many times in many [things] that he is diligent, but now much more diligent [because of his] great confidence in you.

²³If [there is a question] concerning Titus, [he is] my partner and fellow worker for you. If [there is a question concerning] our brothers, [they are] messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.

²⁴Therefore show to them the proof of your love and our boasting about you _openly before_ the churches.

9¹For it is unnecessary for me to write to you concerning the ministry to the saints,

²because I know your readiness [to help], [concerning] which I keep on boasting to the Macedonians about you, that Achaia has been ready [to help] since last year, and your zeal has stirred up the majority [of them].

³But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you would not prove to be empty in this case, so that you may be prepared just as I was saying,

⁴lest somehow if Macedonians should come with me and find you unprepared, we_not to speak of you_ would be humiliated in connection with this project.

⁵Therefore I considered [it] necessary to urge the brothers that they should go on ahead to you and make arrangements in advance for your generous gift that was promised previously, so this would

be prepared as a generous gift and not as grudgingly granted.

⁶Now [the point is] this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

⁷Each one [should give] as he has decided in his heart, not _reluctantly_ or from compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

⁸And God is able to cause all grace to abound to you, so that in everything at all times, [because you] have enough of everything, you may overflow in every good work.

⁹Just as it is written, "He scattered widely, he gave to the poor; his righteousness remains _forever_."

¹⁰Now the one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your seed, and will cause the harvest of your righteousness to grow,

¹¹being made rich in every [way] for all generosity, which is producing through us thanksgiving to God,

¹²because the service of this ministry is not only supplying the needs of the

saints, but also is overflowing through many [expressions of] thanksgiving to God.

¹³Through the proven character of this service [they will] glorify God because of the submission of your confession to the gospel of Christ and the generosity of [your] participation toward them and toward everyone,

¹⁴and [they are] longing for you in their prayers for you, because of the surpassing grace of God to you.

¹⁵Thanks [be] to God for his indescribable gift!

10¹Now I, Paul, appeal to you myself by the humility and gentleness of Christ, who _when I am present in person_ [am] humble among you, but [when I] am absent am bold toward you

²now I ask [when I] am present [that I will] not [need] to be bold with the confidence [with] which I propose to show boldness toward some who consider us as behaving according to the flesh.

³For [although we] are living in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh,

⁴for the weapons of our warfare [are] not merely human, but powerful to God for the tearing down of fortresses, tearing down arguments

⁵and all pride that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

⁶And _we are ready_ to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is completed.

⁷You are looking at things according to appearance. If anyone is convinced he himself is Christ's, he should consider this concerning himself again: that just as Christ himself [is], so also [are] we.

⁸For even if I boast somewhat more about our authority that the Lord gave [us] _for building you up and not for tearing you down_ , I will not be put to shame,

⁹so that I do not want to appear as if I were terrifying you by my letters,

¹⁰because it is said, "His letters [are] severe and powerful, but his bodily presence [is] weak and his speech is of no account.

¹¹ Let such a person consider this: that what we are in word by letters [when we] are absent, [we will] also [be] in _actions_ [when we] are present.

¹² For we do not dare to classify or to compare ourselves with some who commend themselves, but [they] themselves, [when they] measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, do not understand.

¹³ But we will not boast _beyond limits_, but according to the measure of the assignment that God has assigned to us as a measure to reach even as far as you.

¹⁴ For we are not overextending ourselves, as [if we] had not reached you, because we have reached even as far as you with the gospel of Christ,

¹⁵ not boasting _beyond limits_ in the labors of others, but having hope [that as] your faith is growing to be enlarged greatly by you according to our assignment,

¹⁶ so that we may proclaim the gospel in the regions that lie beyond you, [and]

not boast in the things accomplished in the [area] assigned to someone else.

¹⁷ But "the one who boasts, let him boast in the Lord."

¹⁸ For it is not the one commending himself who is approved, but [the one] whom the Lord commends.

11 ¹ I wish that you would put up with me _in something a little foolish_ but indeed you are putting up with me.

² For I am jealous [for] you with a godly jealousy, because I promised you [in marriage] to one husband, to present [you] [as] a pure virgin to Christ.

³ But I am afraid lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds may be led astray from the sincerity and the purity of [devotion] to Christ.

⁴ For if the one who comes proclaims another Jesus whom we have not proclaimed, or you receive a different spirit which you did not receive, or a different gospel which you did not accept, you put up with [it] well [enough]!

⁵ For I consider myself in no way to be inferior to the preeminent apostles.

⁶But even if [I am] unskilled in speech, yet [I am] not in knowledge; certainly in everything [we] have made this clear to you in every [way].

⁷Or did I commit a sin [by] humbling myself in order that you may be exalted, because I proclaimed the gospel of God to you without payment?

⁸I robbed other churches [by] accepting support [from them] for the ministry to you.

⁹And [when I] was present with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will keep [myself from being a burden].

¹⁰[As the] truth of Christ is in me, this boasting _of mine_ will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia.

¹¹_Why_ ? Because I do not love you? God knows [I do]!

¹²But what I am doing, I will also do, in order that I may remove the opportunity of those who want an opportunity, that they may be found just as also we [are] in what they are boasting about.

¹³For such people [are] false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

¹⁴And no wonder, for Satan himself disguises himself as an angel of light.

¹⁵Therefore [it is] not a great thing if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

¹⁶Again I say, do not let anyone think I am foolish. But indeed, if [you do], accept me even as foolish, in order that I also may boast a little.

¹⁷What I am saying in this project of boasting, I am not saying as the Lord [would say], but as in foolishness.

¹⁸Since many are boasting according to human standards, I also will boast.

¹⁹For [because you] are wise, you put up with foolish people gladly!

²⁰For you put up with [it] if someone enslaves you, if someone devours [you], if someone takes advantage of [you], if someone is presumptuous [toward you], if someone strikes you in the face.

²¹I say [this] to [my] shame, namely, that we have been weak. But in whatever

anyone dares to [boast] I am speaking in foolishness I also dare to [boast].

²²Are they Hebrews? I [am] also! Are they Israelites? I [am] also! Are they descendants of Abraham? I [am] also!

²³Are they servants of Christ? I am speaking as though I were beside myself I [am] more so, with far greater labors, with far more imprisonments, with beatings to a much greater degree, in [danger of] death many times.

²⁴Five times I received at the hands of the Jews forty [lashes] less one.

²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked. A day and a night I have spent in the deep water.

²⁶[I have been] on journeys many times, in dangers from rivers, in dangers from robbers, in dangers from [my own] people, in dangers from the Gentiles, in dangers in the city, in dangers in the wilderness, in dangers at sea, in dangers because of false brothers,

²⁷with toil and hardship, often in sleepless nights, with hunger and thirst, often going hungry, in cold and poorly clothed.

²⁸ Apart from these external things, [there is] the pressure on me every day of the anxiety about all the churches.

²⁹ Who is weak, and [I am] not weak? Who is caused to sin, and I do not burn [with indignation]?

³⁰ If it is necessary to boast, I will boast [about] _the things related to my weakness_ .

³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is blessed _forever_ , knows that I am not lying.

³² In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to take me into custody,

³³ and I was lowered through a window through the wall in a rope-basket, and I escaped his hands.

12¹ It is necessary to boast; [it is] not profitable, but I will proceed to visions and revelations of the Lord.

² I know a man in Christ fourteen years ago whether in the body I do not know, or outside the body I do not know, God knowssuch a man was caught up to the third heaven,

³and I know this man whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows

⁴that he was caught up to paradise and heard words not to be spoken, which [it is] not permitted for a person to speak.

⁵On behalf of such a person I will boast, but on behalf of myself I will not boast, except in my weaknesses.

⁶For if I want to boast, I will not be foolish, because I will be telling the truth, but I am refraining, so that no one can credit to me more than what he sees [in] me or hears anything from me,

⁷even because of the extraordinary degree of the revelations. Therefore, so that I would not exalt myself, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan, in order that it would torment me so that I would not exalt myself.

⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would depart from me.

⁹And he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, because the power is perfected in weakness." Therefore rather I will boast most gladly in my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may reside in me.

¹⁰Therefore I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in calamities, in persecutions and difficulties for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

¹¹I have become a fool! You compelled me, for I ought to have been commended by you, for [I am] in no way inferior to the preeminent apostles, even if I am nothing.

¹²Indeed, the signs of an apostle have been done among you with all patient endurance, both signs and wonders and deeds of power.

¹³_For in what respect are you made worse off_ more than the rest of the churches, except that I myself was not a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!

¹⁴Behold, this third [time] I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden [to you]. For I am not seeking your possessions, but you. For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.

¹⁵But I will spend and be expended most gladly for your lives. If I love you much more, am I to be loved less?

¹⁶But let [it] be. I have not been a burden to you, but [because I] was crafty, I took you by cunning.

¹⁷I have not taken advantage of you _through anyone whom I sent to you_ , [have I]?

¹⁸I urged Titus [to go], and I sent the brother [with him]. Titus did not take advantage of you, [did he]? Did we not conduct ourselves in the same spirit? Did we not walk in the same footsteps?

¹⁹Have you been thinking all this time that we are defending ourselves to you? We are speaking in Christ before God, and all [these things], dear friends, [are] for your edification.

²⁰For I am afraid lest somehow [when I] arrive, I will not find you as I want, and I may be found by you as you do not want. [I am afraid] lest somehow [there will be] strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, pride, disorder.

²¹[I am afraid] lest [when I] come again my God will humiliate me _in your presence_ , and I will grieve over many of those who sinned previously and have not repented because of their impurity

and sexual immorality and licentiousness that they have practiced.

13¹ This [is] the third [time] I am coming to you. _By the testimony_ of two or three witnesses every word will be established.

² I have already said when [I] was present the second time, and [although I] am absent now [I] also say in advance to those who sinned previously and to all the rest, that if I come again I will not spare [anyone],

³ since you are demanding proof that Christ, who [is] not weak toward you, but is powerful among you, is speaking in me.

⁴ For indeed, he was crucified because of weakness, but he lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we will live together with him because of the power of God toward you.

⁵ Test yourselves [to see] if you are in the faith. Examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize regarding yourselves that Jesus Christ [is] in you, unless you are unqualified?

⁶ And I hope that you will recognize that we are not unqualified!

⁷ Now we pray to God that you not do wrong in any way, not that we are seen as approved, but that you do what is good, even [though] we are [seen] as though unqualified.

⁸ For we are not able [to do] anything against the truth, but rather [only] for the truth.

⁹ For we rejoice whenever we are weak, but you are strong, and we pray for this: your maturity.

¹⁰ Because of this, I am writing these [things] [although I] am absent, in order that [when I] am present I may not have to act severely according to the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.

¹¹ Finally, brothers, rejoice, be restored, be encouraged, _be in agreement_ , be at peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss.

¹³ (13-12b) All the saints greet you.

¹⁴ (13-13) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit [be] with all of you.

Galatians

1 ¹ Paul, an apostle not from men nor by men but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised him from the dead,

² and all the brothers with me, to the churches of Galatia.

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

⁴ who gave himself for our sins in order to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

⁵ to whom [be] the glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁶ I am astonished that you are turning away so quickly from the one who called you by the grace of Christ to a different gospel,

⁷ not that [there] is a different [gospel], except there are some who are disturbing you and wanting to distort the gospel of Christ.

⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim a gospel to you

contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let him be accursed!

⁹As we said before, and now I say again, if anyone is proclaiming a gospel [to] you contrary to what you have received, let him be accursed!

¹⁰For am I now making an appeal to people or [to] God? Or am I seeking to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a slave of Christ.

¹¹For I make known to you, brothers, the gospel that has been proclaimed by me, that it is not _of human origin_ .

¹²For neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught [it], but [I received it] through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹³For you have heard about my former way of life in Judaism, that to an extraordinary degree I was persecuting the church of God, and trying to destroy it,

¹⁴and was progressing in Judaism beyond many contemporaries in my nation, [because] I was a far more zealous adherent of the traditions handed down by my forefathers.

¹⁵ But when God, who set me apart from my mothers womb and called [me] by his grace, was pleased

¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me, in order that I would proclaim the gospel [about] him among the Gentiles, immediately I did not consult with flesh and blood,

¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those [who were] apostles before me, but I went away to Arabia and I returned again to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and I stayed with him fifteen days,

¹⁹ but I did not see [any] others of the apostles except James, the brother of the Lord.

²⁰ (Now [the things] which I am writing to you, behold, [I assure you] before God that I am not lying.)

²¹ Then I came to the regions of Syria and of Cilicia,

²² but I was unknown _in person_ to the churches of Judea [that are] in Christ,

²³ and they were only hearing, "The one formerly persecuting us is now

proclaiming the faith that formerly he was attempting to destroy,

²⁴and they were glorifying God because of me.

2¹ Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking along Titus also.

² Now I went up [there] because of a revelation and laid out to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles, but in private to the influential people, lest somehow I was running, or had run, in vain.

³ But not even Titus [who was] with me, [although] he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.

⁴ Now [this was] because of the false brothers secretly brought in, who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, in order that they might enslave us,

⁵ to whom not even for an hour did we yield in subjection, in order that the truth of the gospel might remain continually with you.

⁶ But from those _who were influential_ (whatever they were, [it makes] no difference to me, _God does not show

partiality_) for those who were influential added nothing to me.

⁷ But these, [when they] saw that I had been entrusted [with] the gospel to the uncircumcision, just as Peter to the circumcision

⁸ (for the one who was at work through Peter for [his] apostleship to the circumcision was at work also through me for the Gentiles),

⁹ and [when] James and Cephas and John those thought to be pillars acknowledged the grace given to me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right [hand] of fellowship, in order that we [should go] to the Gentiles and they to the circumcision.

¹⁰ [They asked] only that we should remember the poor, the very thing I was also eager to do.

¹¹ But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed [him] to his face, because he was condemned.

¹² For before certain people came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles, but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, [because he]

was afraid of those [who were] of the circumcision,

¹³and the rest of the Jews also joined in [this] hypocrisy with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with them in [their] hypocrisy.

¹⁴But when I saw that they were not being straightforward with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of [them] all, "If you, [although you] are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you try to compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?

¹⁵We [are] Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles,

¹⁶but knowing that a person is not justified by the works of the law, if not by faith in Jesus Christ, and we have believed in Christ Jesus so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law _no human being will be justified_ .

¹⁷But if [while] seeking to be justified by Christ, [we] ourselves also have been found [to be] sinners, then [is] Christ an agent of sin? May it never be!

¹⁸For if I build up again these [things] which I destroyed, I show myself [to be] a transgressor.

¹⁹For through the law I died to the law, in order that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ,

²⁰and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me, and that [life] I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

²¹I do not declare invalid the grace of God, for if righteousness [is] through the law, then Christ died to no purpose.

3¹O foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed [as] having been crucified?

²I want only to learn this from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

³Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now trying to be made complete by the flesh?

⁴Have you suffered so many [things] for nothing if indeed also [it was] for nothing?

⁵Therefore does the one who gives you the Spirit and who works miracles

among you [do so] by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

⁶Just as Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness,

⁷then understand that the ones _who have faith_, these are sons of Abraham.

⁸And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, proclaimed the good news in advance to Abraham: "In you all the nations will be blessed."

⁹So then, the ones [who have] faith are blessed together with Abraham who believed.

¹⁰For as many as are of the works of the law are under a curse, for it is written, "Cursed [is] everyone who does not abide by all [the things] that are written in the book of the law to do them."

¹¹Now [it is] clear that no one is justified in the sight of God by the law, because "the one who is righteous will live by faith."

¹²But the law is not from faith, but "the one who does these [things] will live by them."

¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law [by] becoming a curse for us, because it is written, "Cursed [is] everyone who hangs on a tree,"

¹⁴ in order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

¹⁵ Brothers, I am speaking according to a human perspective. Nevertheless, [when] the covenant of a man has been ratified, no one declares [it] invalid or adds additional provisions [to it].

¹⁶ Now to Abraham and to his descendant the promises were spoken. It does not say, "and to descendants," as concerning many, but as concerning one, "and to your descendant," who is Christ.

¹⁷ Now I am saying this: the law, that came after four hundred and thirty years, does not revoke a covenant previously ratified by God, in order to nullify the promise.

¹⁸ For if the inheritance [is] from the law, [it is] no longer from the promise, but God graciously gave [it] to Abraham through the promise.

¹⁹Why then the law? It was added on account of transgressions, until the descendant should come to whom it had been promised, having been ordered through angels by the hand of a mediator.

²⁰Now the mediator is not for one, but God is one.

²¹Therefore [is] the law opposed to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given that was able to give life, certainly righteousness would have been from the law.

²²But the scripture imprisoned all under sin, in order that the promise could be given by faith in Jesus Christ to those who believe.

²³But before faith came, we were detained under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith was revealed.

²⁴So then, the law became our guardian until Christ, in order that we could be justified by faith.

²⁵But [after] faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

²⁶For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,

²⁷ for as many [of you] as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

²⁹ And if you [are] Christs, then you are descendants of Abraham, heirs according to the promise.

4¹ Now I say, for as long a time [as] the heir is a child, [he is] no different from a slave, [although he] is master of everything,

² but he is under guardians and managers until the time set by [his] father.

³ So also we, when we were children, we were enslaved under the elemental spirits of the world.

⁴ But when the fullness of time came, God sent out his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

⁵ in order that he might redeem those under the law, in order that we might receive the adoption.

⁶ And because you are sons, God sent out the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba! (Father!),

⁷so that you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, also an heir through God.

⁸But at that time [when you] did not know God, you were enslaved to the things which by nature are not gods.

⁹But now, [because you] have come to know God, or rather have come to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and miserable elemental spirits? Do you want to be enslaved to them all over again?

¹⁰You carefully observe days and months and seasons and years.

¹¹I am afraid [for] you, lest perhaps I have labored for you in vain!

¹²I ask you, brothers, become like me, because I also [have become] like you. You have done me no [wrong]!

¹³But you know that because of an illness of the flesh I proclaimed the gospel to you the first time.

¹⁴And you did not despise or disdain [what was] a trial for you in my flesh, but you welcomed me like an angel of God, like Christ Jesus.

¹⁵So where [is] your blessing? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would

have torn out your eyes [and] given [them] to me!

¹⁶So then, have I become your enemy [by] being truthful to you?

¹⁷They zealously seek you, not commendably, but they want to exclude you, in order that you may seek them [zealously].

¹⁸But [it is] good to be sought zealously in good at all times, and not only when I am present with you.

¹⁹My children, for whom I am having birth pains again, until Christ is formed in you!

²⁰But I could wish to be present with you now, and to change my tone because I am perplexed about you.

²¹Tell me, [you] who are wanting to be under the law, do you not understand the law?

²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the female slave and one by the free woman.

²³But the one by the female slave was born according to human descent, and the one by the free woman through the promise,

²⁴ which [things] are spoken allegorically, for these [women] are two covenants, one from Mount Sinai, bearing [children] for slavery, who is Hagar.

²⁵ Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is a slave with her children.

²⁶ But the Jerusalem above is free, which is our mother.

²⁷ For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren woman, who does not give birth to [children]; burst out and shout, [you] who do not have birth pains, because many [are] the children of the desolate [woman], even more than [those of] the one who has a husband."

²⁸ But you, brothers, are children of the promise, just as Isaac.

²⁹ But just as at that time the [child] born according to human descent persecuted the [child born] according to the Spirit, so also now.

³⁰ But what does the scripture say? "Drive out the female slave and her son, for the son of the female slave will never inherit with the son" of the free woman.

³¹ Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the female slave but of the free woman.

5¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

² Look! I, Paul, tell you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing!

³ And again I testify to every man who becomes circumcised, that he is under obligation to keep the whole law.

⁴ You are estranged from Christ, [you] who are attempting to be justified by the law; you have fallen from grace.

⁵ For through the Spirit by faith we eagerly await the hope of righteousness.

⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but faith working through love.

⁷ You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?

⁸ This persuasion [is] not from the one who calls you!

⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole batch of dough.

¹⁰ I have confidence in you in the Lord that you will think nothing different, but

the one who is confusing you _will pay the penalty_ , whoever he may be.

¹¹ Now, brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the stumbling block of the cross has been abolished.

¹² I wish that the ones who are disturbing you would also _castrate themselves_ !

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not let your freedom [become] an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out [that] you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ But I say, live by the Spirit, and you will never carry out the desire of the flesh.

¹⁷ For the flesh desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh, for these are in opposition to one another, so that whatever you want, you may not do these [things].

¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are sexual immorality, impurity, licentiousness,

²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, factions,

²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, [things] which I am telling you [in advance], just as I said before, that the ones who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

²³ gentleness, self control. Against such things [there] is no law.

²⁴ Now those _who belong to Christ Jesus_ have crucified the flesh together with its feelings and its desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, we must also follow the Spirit.

²⁶ We must not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

6¹ Brothers, even if a person is caught in some trespass, you [who are] spiritual restore such a person in a spirit of humility, looking out for yourself, lest you also be tempted.

² Carry the burdens of one another, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

³ For if anyone thinks he is something [although he] is nothing, he is deceiving himself.

⁴ But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have a reason for boasting in himself alone, and not in someone else.

⁵ For each one will carry his own burden.

⁶ Now the one who is taught the word must share in all good [things] with the one who teaches.

⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not to be mocked, for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap,

⁸ because the one who sows to his own flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit.

⁹ And let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap, [if we] do not give up.

¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all [people], and especially to those who belong to the household of faith.

¹¹ See with what large letters I am writing to you with my [own] hand.

¹² As many as are wanting to make a good showing in the flesh, these are attempting to compel you to be circumcised, only so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.

¹³ For not even those who are circumcised observe the law themselves, but they want you to be circumcised in order that they may boast in your flesh.

¹⁴ But [as] for me, may it never be [that I] boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

¹⁵ For neither is circumcision anything nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

¹⁶ And all those who follow this rule, peace and mercy [be] on them and on the Israel of God.

¹⁷ Finally, let no one cause me trouble, for I carry on my body the marks of Jesus.

¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
[be] with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

Ephesians

1 ¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed [is] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly [places] in Christ,

⁴ just as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, [that] we should be holy and blameless before him in love,

⁵ having predestined us to adoption through Jesus Christ to himself according to the good pleasure of his will,

⁶ to the praise of the glory of his grace that he bestowed on us in the beloved,

⁷ in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace,

⁸ that he caused to abound to us in all wisdom and insight,

⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he purposed in him,

¹⁰for the administration of the fullness of times, to bring together all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in him

¹¹in whom also we were chosen, having been predestined according to the purpose of the One who works all [things] according to the counsel of his will,

¹²[that] we who hoped beforehand in Christ should be for the praise of his glory,

¹³in whom also you, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also when you believed you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

¹⁴who is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵Because of this I also, hearing of _your faith_ in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

¹⁶do not cease giving thanks for you, making mention in my prayers,

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, _the glorious Father_ , may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him

¹⁸ (the eyes of your hearts having been enlightened), so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what [are] the riches of the glory of his inheritance among the saints,

¹⁹ and what [is] the surpassing greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty strength

²⁰ which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating [him] at his right hand in the heavenly [places],

²¹ above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name named, not only in this age but also in the coming one,

²² and he subjected all [things] under his feet and gave him [as] head over all [things] to the church,

²³ which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all [things] in every [way].

2¹ And you, _although you were dead_ in your trespasses and sins,

²in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience,

³among whom also we all formerly lived in the desires of our flesh, doing the will of the flesh and of the mind, and we were children of wrath by nature, as also the rest of [them] were.

⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love [with] which he loved us,

⁵and we being dead in trespasses, he made [us] alive together with Christ (by grace you are saved),

⁶and raised [us] together and seated [us] together in the heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus,

⁷in order that he might show in the coming ages the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness upon us in Christ Jesus.

⁸For by grace you are saved through faith, and this [is] not from yourselves, [it is] the gift of God;

⁹[it is] not from works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰For we are his creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, so that we may walk in them.

¹¹Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in [the] flesh, the so-called uncircumcision by the so-called circumcision in [the] flesh, made by hands,

¹²that you were at that time apart from Christ, alienated from the citizenship of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, not having hope, and without God in the world.

¹³But now in Christ Jesus you, the ones who once were far away, have become near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of the partition, the enmity, in his flesh,

¹⁵invalidating the law of commandments in ordinances, in order that he might create the two in himself into one new man, [thus] making peace,

¹⁶and might reconcile both in one body to God through the cross, killing the enmity in himself.

¹⁷And coming, he proclaimed the good news of peace to you who were far away and peace to the ones who were near,

¹⁸because through him [we] both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

¹⁹Consequently, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens of the saints and members of the household of God,

²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

²¹in whom the whole building, joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

²²in whom you also are built up together into a dwelling place of God in [the] Spirit.

3¹On account of this I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles

²if indeed you have heard [about] the stewardship of Gods grace given to me for you,

³ that according to revelation the mystery was made known to me, just as I wrote beforehand in brief,

⁴ so that you may be able when you read to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ

⁵ (which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit):

⁶ [that] the Gentiles are fellow heirs, and fellow members of the body, and fellow sharers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

⁷ of which I became a servant, according to the gift of Gods grace given to me, according to the working of his power.

⁸ To me, the least of all the saints, was given this grace: to proclaim the good news of the fathomless riches of Christ to the Gentiles,

⁹ and to enlighten everyone [as to] what [is] the administration of the mystery hidden from the ages by God, who created all [things],

¹⁰ in order that the many-sided wisdom of God might be made known now to the

rulers and the authorities in the heavenly [places] through the church,

¹¹ according to the purpose of the ages which he carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

¹² in whom we have boldness and access in confidence through faith in him.

¹³ Therefore I ask [you] not to be discouraged at my afflictions on behalf of you, which are your glory.

¹⁴ On account of this, I bend my knees before the Father,

¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

¹⁶ that he may grant you according to the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner person,

¹⁷ [that] Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith (you having been firmly rooted and established in love),

¹⁸ in order that you may be strong enough to grasp together with all the saints what [is] the breadth, and length, and height, and depth,

¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, in order that you

may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to the one who is able to do beyond all measure more than all that we ask or think, according to the power that is at work in us,

²¹to him [be] the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

4¹Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to live in a manner worthy of the calling with which you were called:

²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, putting up with one another in love,

³being eager to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace;

⁴one body and one Spirit (just as also you were called with one hope of your calling),

⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

⁶one God and Father of all, who [is] over all, and through all, and in all.

⁷Now to each one of us was given this grace, according to the measure of Christs gift.

⁸Therefore it says, "Ascending on high he led captivity captive; he gave gifts to men."

⁹Now "he ascended," what is [it], except that he also descended to the lower regions of the earth?

¹⁰The one who descended himself is also the one who ascended above all the heavens, in order that he might fill all [things].

¹¹And he himself gave some [as] apostles and some [as] prophets and some [as] evangelists and some [as] pastors and teachers

¹²for the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

¹³until we all reach the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to a measure of the maturity of the fullness of Christ,

¹⁴so that we may no longer be infants, tossed about by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching, by the trickery of people, by craftiness with reference to the scheming of deceit.

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow into him [with reference to] all [things], who is the head, Christ,

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined together and held together by every supporting ligament, according to the working by measure of each single part, the growth of the body makes for the building up of itself in love.

¹⁷ This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, [that] you no longer walk as the Gentiles walk: in the futility of their mind,

¹⁸ being darkened in understanding, alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance [that] is in them, because of the hardness of their heart,

¹⁹ who, becoming callous, gave themselves over to licentiousness, for the pursuit of all uncleanness in greediness.

²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way,

²¹ if indeed you have heard [about] him, and you were taught by him (just as truth is in Jesus),

²² [that] you take off, according to your former way of life, the old man, who is

being destroyed according to deceitful desires,

²³ be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

²⁴ and put on the new man (in accordance with God), who is created in righteousness and holiness from the truth.

²⁵ Therefore, putting aside the lie, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, because we are members of one another.

²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun set on your anger,

²⁷ nor give place to the devil.

²⁸ The one who steals must steal no longer, but instead must labor, working with his own hands [what is] good, so that he may have [something] to share with the one who has need.

²⁹ _No rotten word must proceed_ from your mouth, but only something good for the building up of the need, in order that it may give grace to those who hear,

³⁰ and do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

³¹ All bitterness, and rage, and wrath, and clamor, and abusive speech, must

be removed from you, together with all wickedness.

³² But become kind toward one another, compassionate, forgiving one another, just as also God in Christ has forgiven you.

5¹ Therefore become imitators of God, as beloved children,

² and live in love, just as also Christ loved us, and gave himself for us an offering and sacrifice to God for a fragrant smell.

³ But sexual immorality, and all uncleanness, or greediness, must not even be named among you (as is fitting for saints),

⁴ and obscenity, and foolish talk, or coarse jesting (which [are] not proper), but rather thanksgiving.

⁵ For this you know _for certain_ , that every sexually immoral [person], or unclean [person], or greedy [person] (who is an idolater), does not have an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these [things] the

wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience.

⁷Therefore do not be sharers with them,

⁸for you were formerly darkness, but now [you are] light in the Lord. Live like children of light

⁹(for the fruit of the light [is] in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

¹⁰trying to learn what is well-pleasing to the Lord.

¹¹And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but rather even expose [them].

¹²For it is shameful even to speak [about] the things being [done] by them in secret,

¹³but all [things] exposed by the light are made visible,

¹⁴for everything made visible is light. Therefore it says, Wake up, sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

¹⁵Therefore, consider carefully how you live, not as unwise but as wise,

¹⁶making the most of the time because the days are evil.

¹⁷ Because of this do not become foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord [is].

¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine (in which is dissipation), but be filled by the Spirit,

¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and singing praise in your heart to the Lord,

²⁰ giving thanks always for all [things] in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to the God and Father,

²¹ being subject to one another _out of reverence for_ Christ

²² wives to their own husbands as to the Lord,

²³ because [the] husband is [the] head of the wife, as also Christ [is the] head of the church (he himself [being the] Savior of the body).

²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, thus also wives [should be subject] to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for her;

²⁶in order that he might sanctify her by cleansing [her] with the washing of water by the word;

²⁷in order that he might present to himself the church glorious, not having a spot or wrinkle or any such [thing], but that she may be holy and blameless.

²⁸Thus also husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. The one who loves his own wife loves himself.

²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as also Christ [does] the church,

³⁰because we are members of his body.

³¹For this [reason] a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

³²(This mystery is great, but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.)

³³Only you also, each one [of you], must thus love his own wife as himself, and the wife _must respect_ her husband.

6¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

²Honor your father and mother"
(which is the first commandment with a promise),

³in order that it may be well with you,
and you may _live a long time_ on the
earth."

⁴And fathers, do not make your children
angry, but bring them up in the discipline
and instruction of the Lord.

⁵Slaves, obey your earthly masters
with fear and trembling, in the sincerity
of your heart, as to Christ,

⁶not _while being watched_ , as people
pleasers, but as slaves of Christ doing
the will of God from the heart,

⁷serving with goodwill as to the Lord
and not to people,

⁸knowing that each one of you, if he
should do anything good, this he will
receive back from the Lord, whether
slave or free.

⁹And masters, do the same [things] to
them, giving up threats, knowing that
both their Lord and yours is in heaven,
and there is no partiality with him.

¹⁰Finally, become strong in the Lord
and in the might of his strength.

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,

¹² because our struggle is not against blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual [forces] of wickedness in the heavenly [places].

¹³ Because of this, take up the full armor of God, in order that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, girding your waist with truth, and putting on the breastplate of righteousness,

¹⁵ and binding [shoes] under your feet with the preparation of the good news of peace,

¹⁶ in everything taking up the shield of faith, with which you are able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one,

¹⁷ and receive the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

¹⁸ with all prayer and supplication praying at all times in the Spirit, and to this [end] being alert with all

perseverance and supplication for all the saints,

¹⁹and for me, that a word may be given to me at the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

²⁰for the sake of which I am an ambassador in chains, that _in them_ I may speak freely, as it is necessary for me to speak.

²¹Now, so that you also may know _my circumstances_ , what I am doing, Tychicus, my dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will make known to you all [things],

²²whom I have sent to you for this very [reason], that you may know _our circumstances_ , and he may encourage your hearts.

²³Peace to the brothers and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴Grace [be] with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in incorruptibility.

Philippians

1 ¹ Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons.

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ I give thanks to my God upon my every remembrance of you,

⁴ always in my every prayer for all of you, making the prayer with joy,

⁵ because of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now,

⁶ convinced of this same [thing], that the one who began a good work in you will finish [it] until the day of Christ Jesus,

⁷ just as it is right for me to think this about all of you, because I have you in my heart, [since] both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel all of you are sharers of grace with me.

⁸For God [is] my witness, that I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this I pray: that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

¹⁰so that you may approve what is superior, in order that you may be sincere and blameless in the day of Christ,

¹¹having been filled [with the] fruit of righteousness which [comes] through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

¹²Now I want you to know, brothers, that _my circumstances_ have happened instead for the progress of the gospel,

¹³so that my imprisonment in Christ has become known in the whole praetorium and to all the rest,

¹⁴and most of the brothers, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, dare [even] more to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵Some even because of envy and strife preach Christ, but some also because of good will.

¹⁶The latter [do so] from love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

¹⁷The former proclaim Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, thinking to raise up affliction in my imprisonment.

¹⁸_What is the result?_ Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice. But also I will rejoice,

¹⁹for I know that this will turn out to me for deliverance through your prayer and the support of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

²⁰according to my eager expectation and hope, that I will be put to shame in nothing, but with all boldness, even now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether through life or through death.

²¹For to me to live [is] Christ and to die [is] gain.

²²But if [it is] to live in the flesh, this [is] fruitful work for me, and which I will prefer [I do] not know.

²³But I am hard pressed _between the two options_ , having the desire to

depart and to be with Christ, _for this is very much better_ .

²⁴ But to stay on in the flesh [is] more necessary for your sake.

²⁵ And because I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,

²⁶ so that [what] you can be proud of may increase in Christ Jesus because of me through my return again to you.

²⁷ Only lead your lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent I hear _your circumstances_ , that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one soul contending side by side for the faith of the gospel,

²⁸ and not letting yourselves be intimidated in anything by your opponents, which is a sign of destruction to them, but of your salvation, and this from God,

²⁹ because to you has been graciously granted on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer on behalf of him,

³⁰having the same struggle which you saw in me and now hear about in me.

2¹Therefore, if [there is] any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

²complete my joy, so that _you are in agreement_ , having the same love, united in spirit, _having one purpose_ .

³[Do] nothing according to selfish ambition or according to empty conceit, but in humility considering one another better than yourselves,

⁴each one of you not looking out for _his own interests_ , but also each of you [looking out for] _the interests_ of others.

⁵Think this in yourselves which [was] also in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God something to be grasped,

⁷but emptied himself [by] taking the form of a slave, [by] becoming in the likeness of people. And being found in appearance like a man,

⁸he humbled himself [by] becoming obedient to the point of death, that is, death on a cross.

⁹Therefore also God exalted him and graciously granted him the name above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [those] in heaven and of [those] on earth and of [those] under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

¹³For the one at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure, is God.

¹⁴Do all [things] without grumbling and disputing,

¹⁵in order that you may become blameless and innocent, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as stars in the world,

¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, for a source of pride to me in the day of Christ, that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

¹⁷But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and rejoice with all of you.

¹⁸And [in] the same [way] also you rejoice and rejoice with me.

¹⁹But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I also may be encouraged [when I] know _your circumstances_ .

²⁰For I have no one like-minded who [will] sincerely be concerned about _your circumstances_ .

²¹For they all seek _their own interests_ , not those of Jesus Christ.

²²But you know his proven character, that like a child with a father he served with me for the gospel.

²³Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see _my circumstances_ .

²⁴And I am convinced in the Lord that I myself will arrive shortly also.

²⁵But I considered [it] necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother

and fellow worker and fellow soldier, but your messenger and servant of my need,
²⁶because he was longing for all of you and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.

²⁷For indeed he was sick, coming near to death, but God had mercy on him and not [on] him only, but also [on] me, so that I would not have grief upon grief.

²⁸Therefore I am sending him with special urgency, in order that [when] you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less anxious.

²⁹Therefore welcome him in the Lord with all joy, and consider such [people] highly honored,

³⁰because on account of the work of Christ he came near to the point of death, risking his life in order that _he might make up for your inability to serve me_.

3¹Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same [things] to you [is] not troublesome to me, but [is] a safeguard for you.

²Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the mutilation.

³For we are the circumcision, the ones who worship by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and do not [put] confidence in the flesh,

⁴although I [could] have confidence even in the flesh. @ If anyone else thinks to put confidence in the flesh, I [can do so] more:

⁵_circumcised on the eighth day_
, from the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew [born] from Hebrews, according to the law a Pharisee,

⁶according to zeal persecuting the church, according to the righteousness in the law being blameless.

⁷But whatever [things] were gain to me, these [things] I have considered loss because of Christ.

⁸_More than that_ , [I] even consider all [things] to be loss because of the surpassing greatness of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for the sake of whom I have suffered the loss of all [things], and consider [them] dung, in order that I may gain Christ

⁹and may be found in him, not having my righteousness [which is] from the

law, but [which is] through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God on the basis of faith,

¹⁰so that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death,

¹¹if somehow I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already received [this], or [have] already been made perfect, but I press on if indeed I may lay hold of [that] for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself to have laid hold of [it]. But [I do] one [thing], forgetting the things behind and straining toward the things ahead,

¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵Therefore as many as [are] perfect, _let us hold this opinion_ , and if you think anything differently, God will reveal this also to you.

¹⁶Only to what we have attained, to the same hold on.

¹⁷ Become fellow imitators of me, brothers, and observe those who walk in this way, just as you have us [as] an example.

¹⁸ For many live, of whom I spoke about to you many times, but now speak about even weeping, [as] the enemies of the cross of Christ,

¹⁹ whose end [is] destruction, whose God [is] the stomach, and [whose] glory [is] in their shame, the ones who think on earthly things.

²⁰ For our commonwealth exists in heaven, from which also we eagerly await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

²¹ who will transform our humble body [to be] conformed to his glorious body, in accordance with the power that enables him even to subject all [things] to himself.

4¹ So then, my beloved and greatly desired brothers, my joy and crown, thus stand firm in the Lord, dear friends.

² I appeal to Euodia and I appeal to Syntyche _to be in agreement_ in the Lord.

³ Yes, I ask also you, true yokefellow, help them, who struggled along with me

in the gospel with both Clement and the rest of my fellow workers whose names [are] in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

⁵Let your gentleness be made known to all people. The Lord [is] near.

⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever [things] are true, whatever [things are] honorable, whatever [things are] right, whatever [things are] pure, whatever [things are] pleasing, whatever [things are] commendable, if [there is] any excellence of character and if anything praiseworthy, think about these [things].

⁹And [the things] which you have learned and received and heard about and seen in me, practice these [things], and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last _you have renewed

your concern for me_ , for whom also you were thinking, but you had no opportunity [to express it].

¹¹Not that I speak from need, for I have learned to be content in whatever [circumstances] I am.

¹²I know [how] both _to make do with little_ and I know [how] _to have an abundance_. In everything and in all [things] I have learned the secret both to be filled and to be hungry, both _to have an abundance_ and to go without.

¹³I am able [to do] all [things] by the one who strengthens me.

¹⁴Nevertheless you have done well by sharing with me in my affliction.

¹⁵Now you also know, Philippians, that at the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone,

¹⁶because even in Thessalonica _on more than one occasion_ you sent for my need.

¹⁷Not that I seek the gift, but I seek for the profit that increases to your account.

¹⁸But I have received everything [in full] and have an abundance; _I am

well supplied_ [because] I received from Epaphroditus _what you had sent_ , a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

¹⁹And my God will fulfill your every need according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

²⁰Now to our God and Father [be] the glory _forever and ever_ . Amen.

²¹Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers with me greet you.

²²All the saints greet you, and especially those of Caesars household.

²³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ [be] with your spirit.

Colossians

1 ¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² to the saints and faithful brothers in Christ in Colossae. Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³ We give thanks always to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ [when we] pray for you,

⁴ [since we] heard about your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the saints,

⁵ because of the hope reserved for you in heaven, which you have heard about beforehand in the word of truth, the gospel,

⁶ that has come to you, just as also in all the world it is bearing fruit and increasing, just as also among you from the day you heard about and understood the grace of God in truth,

⁷ just as you learned [it] from Epaphras, our dear fellow slave who is a faithful minister of Christ [on] your behalf,

⁸[who] also made clear to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹Because of this also we, from the day we heard about [it], did not cease praying for you, and asking that you may be filled [with] the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual insight,

¹⁰so that you may live in a manner worthy of the Lord, _to please [him] in all respects_ , bearing fruit in every good deed and increasing in the knowledge of God,

¹¹enabled with all power, according to his glorious might, for all steadfastness and patience with joy,

¹²giving thanks to the Father who has qualified you for a share of the inheritance of the saints in light,

¹³who has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred [us] to the kingdom of the Son _he loves_ ,

¹⁴in whom we have the redemption, the forgiveness of sins,

¹⁵who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation,

¹⁶because all [things] in the heavens and on the earth were created by him, things visible and things invisible,

whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers, all [things] were created through him and for him,

¹⁷and he himself is before all [things], and in him all [things] are held together,

¹⁸and he himself is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he himself may become first in everything,

¹⁹because he was well pleased [for] all the fullness to dwell in him,

²⁰and through him to reconcile all [things] to himself, [by] making peace through the blood of his cross, through him, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

²¹And _although you were formerly alienated_ and enemies in attitude, because of your evil deeds,

²²but now he has reconciled [you] by _his physical body_ through death, to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

²³if indeed you remain in the faith, established and steadfast and not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which was proclaimed in all

creation under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings on behalf of you, and I fill up in my flesh what is lacking of the afflictions of Christ, on behalf of his body which is the church,

²⁵ of which I became a minister, according to Gods stewardship which was given to me for you, to complete the word of God,

²⁶ the mystery [which] has been hidden from the ages and from the generations, but has now been revealed to his saints,

²⁷ to whom God wanted to make known what [is] the glorious wealth of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

²⁸ whom we proclaim, [by] admonishing every person and teaching every person with all wisdom, in order that we may present every person mature in Christ,

²⁹ for which [purpose] also I labor, striving according to his working which is at work powerfully in me.

2¹ For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on behalf of you, and those in Laodicea, and all those who have not seen my face _in person_ ,

²so that their hearts may be encouraged, united in love and into all the wealth of the full assurance of insight into the knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,

³in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.

⁴I say this in order that no one will deceive you with persuasive speech,

⁵for even if I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing and seeing your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

⁶Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, live in him,

⁷firmly rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding with thankfulness.

⁸Beware lest _anyone take you captive_ through philosophy and empty deceit, according to _human tradition_ , according to the elemental spirits of the world and not according to Christ,

⁹because in him all the fullness of deity dwells bodily,

¹⁰and you are filled in him, who is the head over every ruler and authority,

¹¹ in whom also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made by hands, by the removal of the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which also you were raised together with [him] through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³ And _although you were dead_ in the trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

¹⁴ having destroyed the certificate of indebtedness in ordinances against us, which was hostile to us, and removed it out of the way [by] nailing it to the cross.

¹⁵ [When he] had disarmed the rulers and the authorities, he made a display of [them] in public, triumphing over them by it.

¹⁶ Therefore do not let anyone judge you with reference to eating and drinking or participation in a feast or a new moon or a sabbath,

¹⁷ which are a shadow of what is to come, but the reality [is] Christ.

¹⁸ Let no one condemn you, taking pleasure in humility and the worship of angels, going into detail [about] [the things] which he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,

¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by the ligaments and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

²⁰ If you have died with Christ to the elemental spirits of the world, why do you submit [to them] as [if] living in the world?

²¹ Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch,

²² which [things] are all [meant] for destruction by consuming according to human commandments and teachings,

²³ which [things] _although they have_, to be sure, an appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and humility and unsparing treatment of the body, _do not have any value_ against the indulgence of the flesh.

3¹ Therefore, if you have been raised together with Christ, seek the things

above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

²Set your mind on the things above, not [on] the things on earth.

³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

⁴When Christ, [who is] your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Therefore put to death _what is earthly in you_ : sexual immorality, uncleanness, lustful passion, evil desire, and greediness, which is idolatry,

⁶because of which the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

⁷in which also you once lived, when you used to live in them.

⁸But now you also lay aside all [these] things: anger, rage, wickedness, slander, abusive language from your mouth.

⁹Do not lie to one another, [because you] have taken off the old man together with his deeds,

¹⁰and have put on the new [man] that is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of the one who created him,

¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, [or] free, but Christ [is] all, and in all.

¹² Therefore, as [the] chosen of God, holy and [dearly] loved, put on affection, compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience,

¹³ putting up with one another and forgiving one another. If anyone should have a complaint against anyone, just as also the Lord forgave you, thus also you [do the same].

¹⁴ And to all these [things] [add] love, which is [the] bond of perfection.

¹⁵ And the peace of Christ must rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body, and be thankful.

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another with all wisdom, with psalms, hymns, [and] spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God,

¹⁷ and everything _whatever_ you do in word or in deed, giving thanks [for] all [things] in the name of the Lord Jesus to God the Father through him.

¹⁸Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

¹⁹Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

²⁰Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing in the Lord.

²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, so that they will not become discouraged.

²²Slaves, obey your _human_ masters in everything, not _while being watched_ , as people pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

²³Whatever you do, accomplish [it] from the soul, as to the Lord, and not to people,

²⁴[because you] know that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. Serve the Lord Christ.

²⁵For the one who does wrong will receive back whatever wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

4¹Masters, grant your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you also have a master in heaven.

²Be devoted to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving,

³praying at the same time for us also, that God may open for us a door of the message, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which also _I am a prisoner_ ,

⁴so that I may reveal it, as it is necessary for me to speak.

⁵Live with wisdom toward those outside, making the most of the time.

⁶Let your speech always [be] with grace, seasoned with salt, so that [you] may know how it is necessary for you to answer each one.

⁷Tychicus, my dear brother and faithful servant and fellow slave in the Lord, will make known to you all _my circumstances_ ,

⁸whom I have sent to you for this very [reason], in order that you may know _our circumstances_ and he may encourage your hearts,

⁹together with Onesimus, my faithful and dear brother, who is [one] of you. They will make known to you all _the circumstances_ here.

¹⁰Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, greets you, and Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received

instructions if he should come to you, welcome him),

¹¹ and Jesus who is called Justus. These [are] the only ones who are fellow workers for the kingdom of God from the circumcision, who have been a comfort to me.

¹² Epaphras, who is [one] of you, greets you, a slave of Christ Jesus always struggling on behalf of you in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

¹³ For I testify to him that _he is working hard_ on behalf of you and those in Laodicea and those in Hierapolis.

¹⁴ Luke the physician, our dear friend, greets you, [as does] Demas.

¹⁵ Greet the brothers in Laodicea, and Nympha and the church in her house.

¹⁶ And whenever this letter is read among you, _see to it_ that it is read also among the Laodicean church, and that you also read the [letter] from Laodicea.

¹⁷ And tell Archippus, "Direct your attention to the ministry that you received in the Lord, in order that you may complete it."

¹⁸The greeting [is] by my hand, Pauls.
Remember my _imprisonment_ . Grace
[be] with you.

1 Thessalonians

1 ¹ Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,
to the church of the Thessalonians
in God the Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ. Grace to you and peace.

² We give thanks to God always
concerning all of you, making mention
constantly in our prayers,

³ [because we] remember your work of
faith and labor of love and steadfastness
of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the
presence of our God and Father,

⁴ knowing, brothers [dearly] loved by
God, _that he has chosen you_ ,

⁵ because our gospel did not come to
you with word only, but also with power
and with the Holy Spirit and with much
certainty, just as you know what sort of
[people] we became among you for your
sake.

⁶ And you became imitators of us and
of the Lord, receiving the word in much
affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

⁷so that you became an example to all those who believe in Macedonia and in Achaia,

⁸for from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but in every place your faith toward God has gone out, so that we have no need to say anything.

⁹For [they] themselves report about us, what sort of welcome we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve [the] living and true God,

¹⁰and to await his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, the one who delivers us from the coming wrath.

2¹For [you] yourselves know, brothers, our reception with you, that it was not in vain,

²but [after we] had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, just as you know, we had the courage in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.

³For our exhortation [is] not from error or from impurity or with deceit,

⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel,

thus we speak, not as pleasing people but God, who examines our hearts.

⁵ _For never_ did we come with a word of flattery, just as you know, nor with a pretext of greediness (God [is] witness),

⁶ nor seeking glory from people, neither from you nor from others.

⁷ _Although we could have insisted on our own importance_ as apostles of Christ, yet we became infants in your midst, like a nursing mother cherishes her own children.

⁸ Longing for you in this way, we determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own souls, because you had become dear to us.

⁹ For you remember, brothers, our labor and hardship: working by night and day in order not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

¹⁰ You [are] witnesses, and [so is] God, how devoutly and righteously and blamelessly we became to you who believe,

¹¹ just as you know how [we treated] each one of you, like a father his own children,

¹²exhorting and consoling you and insisting that you live in a manner worthy of God, who calls you to his own kingdom and glory.

¹³And because of this we also give thanks to God constantly, that [when you] received Gods word _that you heard_ from us, you accepted [it] not [as the] word of men, but as [it] truly is, [the] word of God, which also is at work in you who believe.

¹⁴For you became imitators, brothers, of the churches of God [which] are in Judea in Christ Jesus, because you also suffered the same [things] at the hands of your own people, just as [they] themselves [did] also at the hands of the Jews,

¹⁵who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and who persecuted us, and [who are] not pleasing to God and [are] opposed to all people,

¹⁶hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles in order that they may be saved, so that [they] always fill up their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the end.

¹⁷ But [when] we were made orphans by separation from you, brothers, for _a short time_ (in face, not in heart), [we were] even more eager with great desire to see your face,

¹⁸ because we wanted to come to you, Paul, _on more than one occasion_ and Satan hindered us.

¹⁹ For who [is] our hope or joy or crown of boasting? [Is it] not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at his coming?

²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.

3¹ Therefore [when we] could bear [it] no longer, we determined to be left behind in Athens alone,

² and we sent Timothy, our brother and fellow worker for God in the gospel of Christ, in order to strengthen and to encourage you about your faith,

³ [so that] no one would be shaken by these afflictions. For [you] yourselves know that we are appointed for this,

⁴ for indeed when we were with you we told you beforehand that we were about to be afflicted, just as indeed it happened, and you know.

⁵Because of this, I also, [when I] could endure [it] no longer, sent in order to know your faith, lest somehow the tempter tempted you and our labor should be in vain.

⁶But now, [because] Timothy has come to us from you and has brought good news to us of your faith and love, and that _you always think kindly of us_ , desiring to see us just as also we [desire to see] you,

⁷because of this, brothers, we have been comforted because of you in all our distress and affliction through your faith,

⁸because now we live, if you stand firm in the Lord.

⁹For what thanks can we repay to God concerning you, because of all the joy [with] which we rejoice because of you before our God,

¹⁰night and day praying beyond all measure that [we] may see your face and complete what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹Now [may] our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you,

¹²and [may] the Lord [cause] you to increase and to abound in love for one another and for all, just as also we [do] for you,

¹³so that your hearts may be established blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Amen.

4¹ Finally therefore, brothers, we ask you and appeal to [you] in the Lord Jesus that, just as you have received from us how it is necessary for you to live and to please God, just as indeed you are living, that you progress even more.

²For you know what commands we gave to you through the Lord Jesus.

³For this is the will of God, your sanctification: [that] you abstain from sexual immorality;

⁴[that] each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

⁵not in lustful passion, just as also the Gentiles who do not know God;

⁶not to transgress and to exploit his brother in the matter, because the Lord [is] the one who avenges concerning all

these [things], just as also we told you beforehand and testified solemnly.

⁷For God did not call us to impurity, but in holiness.

⁸Therefore the one who rejects [this] [is] not rejecting man, but God, [who] also gives his Holy Spirit to you.

⁹But concerning brotherly love, I do not have need to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another,

¹⁰for indeed you are practicing it toward all the brothers in all of Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to progress even more,

¹¹and to aspire to live a quiet life, and to attend to _your own business_, and to work with your own hands, just as we commanded you,

¹²so that you may live decently toward those outside, and may have need of nothing.

¹³Now we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning those who have fallen asleep, so that you will not grieve as also the rest, who have no hope.

¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose [again], thus also God will bring those who have fallen asleep through Jesus together with him.

¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who remain until the Lords coming, will not possibly precede those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷Then we who are alive, who remain, will be snatched away at the same time together with them in the clouds for a meeting with the Lord in the air, and thus we will be together with the Lord always.

¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.

5¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need [of anything] to be written to you,

²for [you] yourselves well know that the day of the Lord is coming in the [same] way as a thief in the night.

³Whenever they say "Peace and security," then sudden destruction will overtake them like the birth pains of _a pregnant woman_ , and they will not possibly escape.

⁴But you, brothers, are not in the darkness, so that the day should catch you like a thief,

⁵for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

⁶So then, we must not sleep like the rest, but must be on the alert and be self-controlled.

⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.

⁸But [because] we are of the day, we must be sober, [by] putting on the breastplate of faith and love and [as] a helmet the hope of salvation,

⁹because God did not appoint us for wrath, but for the obtaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live at the same time with him.

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up each other , just as indeed you are doing.

¹² Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and rule over you in the Lord and admonish you,

¹³ and to esteem them beyond all measure in love, because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, admonish the disorderly, console the discouraged, help the sick, be patient toward all [people].

¹⁵ See to it that no one pays back evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue good, both toward one another and toward all [people].

¹⁶ Rejoice always,

¹⁷ pray constantly,

¹⁸ give thanks in everything; for this [is] the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.

²⁰ Do not despise prophecies,

²¹ but examine all [things]; hold fast to [what is] good.

²² Abstain from every form of evil.

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may

your spirit and soul and body be kept complete, blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ The one who calls you [is] faithful, who also will do [this].

²⁵ Brothers, pray for us also.

²⁶ Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.

²⁷ I adjure you by the Lord, have this letter read aloud to all the brothers.

²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you.

2 Thessalonians

1 ¹ Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,
to the church of the Thessalonians
in God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.

² Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ We ought to give thanks to God always
concerning you, brothers, just as it is
fitting, because your faith is flourishing
and the love of each one of you all
toward one another is increasing

⁴ so that we ourselves boast in you
in the churches of God about your
patient endurance and faith in all your
persecutions and the afflictions that you
are enduring,

⁵ a proof of the righteous judgment of
God, so that you may be considered
worthy of the kingdom of God, on behalf
of which also you are suffering,

⁶ since [it is] righteous in the sight of
God to pay back those who are afflicting
you with affliction,

⁷ and to you who are being afflicted, rest with us at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with his powerful angels,

⁸ with flaming fire giving punishment to those who do not know God and who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus,

⁹ who will pay the penalty [of] eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his strength,

¹⁰ whenever he should come to be glorified on that day by his saints and to be marveled at by all who believe, because our testimony was believed among you,

¹¹ for which [purpose] we also pray always for you, that you may be considered worthy of the calling of our God, and he might fulfill every desire for goodness and work of faith with power,

¹² in order that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2¹ Now we ask you, brothers, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to him,

² that you not be easily shaken from your composure, nor be troubled either by a spirit or by a message or by a letter _alleged to be from us_ , to the effect that the day of the Lord has arrived.

³ Do not let anyone deceive you in any way, for [that day will not come] unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

⁴ who opposes and who exalts himself over every so-called god or object of worship, so that he sits down in the temple of God, proclaiming that he himself is God.

⁵ Do you not remember that [while] we were still with you, we were saying these [things] to you?

⁶ And you know that which restrains [him] now, so that he will be revealed in his own time.

⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is at work already; only the one who now restrains [will do so] until he is out of the way,

⁸ and then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will slay

with the breath of his mouth, and wipe out by the appearance of his coming,

⁹whose coming is in accordance with the working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders,

¹⁰and with every unrighteous deception against those who are perishing, in place of which they did not accept the love of the truth, so that they would be saved.

¹¹And because of this, God sends them _a powerful delusion_ so that they will believe the lie,

¹²in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth, but delighted in unrighteousness.

¹³But we ought to give thanks to God always concerning you, brothers [dearly] loved by the Lord, because God has chosen you [as] first fruits for salvation by the sanctification of the Spirit and faith in the truth,

¹⁴for which [purpose] also he called you through our gospel for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵So then, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions which you were taught, whether by [spoken] word or by letter from us.

¹⁶Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given [us] eternal encouragement and good hope by grace, ¹⁷encourage your hearts and strengthen [you] in every good work and word.

3¹ Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may progress and be honored, just as also [it was] with you,

²and that we may be delivered from evil and wicked people, _for not all have the faith_ .

³But the Lord is faithful, who will strengthen you and guard [you] from the evil one.

⁴And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are both doing and you will do [the things] that we are commanding.

⁵Now may the Lord direct your hearts toward the love of God and toward the patient endurance of Christ.

⁶But we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, [that] you keep away from every brother who

lives irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us.

⁷For you yourselves know how it is necessary to imitate us, that we did not behave irresponsibly among you,

⁸nor did we eat bread from anyone without paying, but with toil and labor, [we were] working night and day in order not to be a burden to any of you,

⁹not that we do not have the right, but so that we may give ourselves [as] an example to you, so that [you] may imitate us.

¹⁰For even when we were with you, we used to command this to you: that if anyone does not want to work, neither should he eat.

¹¹For we hear [that] some among you are living irresponsibly, working [at] nothing, but being busybodies.

¹²Now we command and we exhort such people in the Lord Jesus Christ that, working with quietness, they eat their own bread.

¹³But [as for] you, brothers, do not be discouraged [while] doing what is right.

¹⁴But if anyone does not obey our message through this letter, take note

not to associate with him, in order that he may be put to shame.

¹⁵And do not consider [him] as an enemy, but admonish [him] as a brother.

¹⁶Now may the Lord of peace himself grant you peace through everything in every way. [May] the Lord [be] with all of you.

¹⁷The greeting [is] by my hand, Pauls, which is _a sign of genuineness_ in every letter: _this is how I write_ .

¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with all of you.

1 Timothy

1 ¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, ² to Timothy, [my] true child in the faith. Grace, mercy, [and] peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ Just as I urged you [when I] traveled to Macedonia, remain in Ephesus, so that you may instruct certain people not to teach other doctrine,

⁴ and not to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which cause useless speculations rather than Gods plan [that is] by faith.

⁵ But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a faith without hypocrisy,

⁶ from which some have deviated, [and] have turned away into fruitless discussion,

⁷ wanting to be teachers of the law, [although they] do not understand either [the things] which they are saying or

[the things] concerning which they are speaking confidently.

⁸But we know that the law [is] good, if anyone makes use of it lawfully,

⁹knowing this, that the law [is] not given for a righteous [person] but for the lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and totally worldly, for the one who kills his father and the one who kills his mother, for murderers,

¹⁰sexually immoral people, homosexuals, kidnappers, liars, perjurers, and _whatever_ else is opposed to sound teaching,

¹¹according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God that I was entrusted with.

¹²_I give thanks_ to the one who strengthens me, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he considered me faithful, placing [me] into ministry,

¹³[although I] was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, but I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief,

¹⁴and the grace of our Lord abounded with the faith and love [that are] in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵The saying [is] trustworthy and worthy of all acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

¹⁶But because of this I was shown mercy, in order that in me foremost, Christ Jesus might demonstrate his total patience, for an example for those who are going to believe in him for eternal life.

¹⁷Now to the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, to the only God, [be] honor and glory _forever and ever_ . Amen.

¹⁸I am setting before you this instruction, Timothy [my] child, in accordance with the prophecies spoken long ago about you, in order that by them you may fight the good fight,

¹⁹having faith and a good conscience, which some, [because they] have rejected [these], have suffered shipwreck concerning their faith,

²⁰among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to

Satan, in order that they may be taught not to blaspheme.

2¹ Therefore, I urge first of all [that] petitions, prayers, requests, [and] thanksgiving be made on behalf of all people,

² on behalf of kings and all those who are in authority, in order that we may live a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

³ This [is] good and acceptable before God our Savior,

⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

⁵ For [there is] one God and one mediator between God and human beings, the man Christ Jesus,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all, the testimony at the proper time,

⁷ for which I was appointed a herald and an apostle I am speaking the truth, [I am] not lying a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸ Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger and dispute.

⁹ Likewise also the women should adorn themselves in appropriate clothing,

with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold jewelry or pearls or expensive clothing,

¹⁰but with good deeds which are fitting for women who profess godliness.

¹¹A woman must learn in quietness with all submission.

¹²But I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but _to remain quiet_ .

¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve,

¹⁴and Adam was not deceived, but the woman, [because she] was deceived, came into transgression.

¹⁵But she will be saved through the bearing of children, if she continues in faith and love and holiness with self-control.

3¹The saying [is] trustworthy: if anyone aspires to supervision, he desires a good work.

²Therefore the overseer must be irreproachable, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, skillful in teaching,

³not addicted to wine, not a violent person, but gentle, peaceable, not loving money,

⁴ managing his own household well,
having children in submission with all
dignity

⁵ (but if someone does not know how to
manage his own household, how will he
take care of the church of God?),

⁶ not newly converted, lest he
become conceited [and] fall into the
condemnation of the devil.

⁷ But [he] must also have a good
testimony from those outside, in order
that he may not fall into disgrace and
the trap of the devil.

⁸ Deacons likewise [must be] dignified,
not insincere, not devoted to much wine,
not fond of dishonest gain,

⁹ holding the mystery of the faith with a
clear conscience,

¹⁰ and these also must be tested first;
then let them serve [if they] are above
reproach.

¹¹ The wives likewise [must be]
dignified, not slanderous, temperate,
faithful in all [things].

¹² Deacons must be husbands of one
wife, managing [their] children and their
own households well.

¹³For those who have served well acquire a good standing for themselves, and great boldness in the faith [that is] in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴I am writing these [things] to you, hoping to come to you in a short time.

¹⁵But if I am delayed, [I am writing] in order that you may know how one must conduct oneself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and mainstay of the truth.

¹⁶And most certainly, great is the mystery of godliness: Who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was proclaimed among the Gentiles , was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

4¹ Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the last times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,

²by the hypocrisy of liars, who are seared in their own conscience,

³who forbid marrying [and insist on] abstaining from foods that God created for sharing in with thankfulness by those who believe and who know the truth,

⁴because everything created by God [is] good and nothing [is to be] rejected [if it is] received with thankfulness,

⁵for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

⁶[By] teaching these [things] to the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, trained in the words of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed faithfully.

⁷But reject those _worthless myths told by elderly women_, and train yourself for godliness.

⁸For the training of the body is _somewhat_ profitable, but godliness is profitable for everything, [because it] holds promise for the present life and for the [life] to come.

⁹The statement [is] trustworthy and deserving of complete acceptance.

¹⁰For to this [end] we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in [the] living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of believers.

¹¹Command these [things] and teach [them].

¹²Let no one look down on your youth, but be an example for the believers in

word, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

¹³Until I come, pay attention to the [public] reading, to exhortation, to teaching.

¹⁴Do not neglect the gift [that is] in you, that was granted to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders.

¹⁵Practice these [things]. Be [diligent] in these [things], in order that your progress may be evident to everyone.

¹⁶Fix [your] attention on yourself and on your teaching. Continue in them, for [by] doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

5¹Do not rebuke an older man, but appeal to [him] as a father, younger men as brothers,

²older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.

³Honor widows [who are] truly widows.

⁴But if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must learn to show profound respect for their own household first, and to pay back recompense to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.

⁵ But the widow [who is one] truly, and is left alone, has put her hope in God and continues in her petitions and prayers night and day.

⁶ But the one who lives for sensual pleasure is dead [even though she] lives.

⁷ And command these [things], in order that they may be irreproachable.

⁸ But if someone does not provide for his own [relatives], and especially the members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

⁹ Let a widow be put on the list [if she] is not less than sixty years [old], the wife of one husband,

¹⁰ being well-attested by good works, if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality, if she has washed the feet of the saints, if she has helped those who are oppressed, if she has devoted herself to every good work.

¹¹ But refuse younger widows, for whenever their physical desires lead them away from Christ, they want to marry,

¹²[thus] incurring condemnation because they have broken their former pledge.

¹³And at the same time also, going around from house to house, they learn [to be] idle, and not only idle, but also gossipy and busybodies, saying the things [that are] not necessary.

¹⁴Therefore I want younger [widows] to marry, to bear children, to manage a household, to give the adversary no opportunity for reproach.

¹⁵For already some have turned away [and followed] after Satan.

¹⁶If any believing woman has widows, she must help them, and the church must not be burdened, in order that it may help those [who are] truly widows.

¹⁷The elders who lead well must be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor by speaking and teaching.

¹⁸For the scripture says, "You must not muzzle an ox [while it] is threshing," and "The worker [is] worthy of his wages."

¹⁹Do not accept an accusation against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

²⁰Reprove those who sin in the presence of all, in order that the rest also may experience fear.

²¹I testify solemnly before God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels that you observe these [things] without prejudice, doing nothing according to partiality.

²²Lay hands on no one hastily, and do not participate in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

²³(No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach and your frequent illnesses.)

²⁴The sins of some people are evident, preceding [them] to judgment, but for some also they follow after [them].

²⁵Likewise also good works [are] evident, and those considered otherwise are not able to be hidden.

6¹ All those who are under the yoke as slaves must regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, lest the name of God and the teaching be slandered.

²And those who have believing masters must not look down on [them] because they are brothers, but rather they must

serve, because those who benefit by their service are believers and dearly loved. @ Teach and encourage these [things].

³If anyone teaches other doctrine and does not devote himself to the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching [that is] in accordance with godliness,

⁴he is conceited, understanding nothing, but having a morbid interest concerning controversies and disputes about words, from which come envy, strife, slanders, evil suspicions,

⁵constant wrangling by people of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who consider godliness to be a means of gain.

⁶But godliness with contentment is a great means of gain.

⁷For we have brought nothing into the world, so that neither can we bring anything out.

⁸But [if we] have food and clothing, with these [things] we will be content.

⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and a trap and many foolish

and harmful desires, which plunge those people into ruin and destruction.

¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all evil, by which some, [because they] desire [it], have gone astray from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹But you, O man of God, flee from these [things], and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patient endurance, gentleness.

¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

¹³I command you, in the sight of God who gives life to all [things] and Christ Jesus who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate,

¹⁴[that] you observe the commandment without fault, irreproachable until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹⁵which he will make known in his own time, the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of those who reign as kings and Lord of those who rule as lords,

¹⁶the [one who] alone possesses immortality, who lives [in] unapproachable light, whom no human being has seen nor is able to see, to whom [be] honor and eternal power. Amen.

¹⁷Command those [who are] rich in this present age not to be proud and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of riches, but in God, who provides us all [things] richly for enjoyment,

¹⁸to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, sharing freely,

¹⁹storing up for themselves a good foundation for the future, in order that they may take hold of [what is] truly life.

²⁰O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted [to you]. Turn away from pointless empty talk and contradictions of [what is] falsely called knowledge,

²¹which some, [by] professing [it], have deviated concerning the faith. Grace [be] with you [all].

2 Timothy

1 ¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, according to the promise of life which [is] in Christ Jesus,

² to Timothy, [my] dear child. Grace, mercy, [and] peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ _I am thankful_ to God, whom I have served with a clear conscience _as my ancestors did_ , when _I remember you constantly_ in my prayers night and day,

⁴ longing to see you [as I] remember your tears, so that I may be filled with joy,

⁵ _remembering the_ sincere faith in you, which lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am convinced that [is] in you also,

⁶ for which reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is in you through the laying on of my hands.

⁷For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and love and self-discipline.

⁸Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor me his prisoner, but suffer along with [me] for the gospel, according to the power of God,

⁹who saved us and called [us] with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace that was given to us in Christ Jesus _before time began_ ,

¹⁰but has now been disclosed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who has abolished death and brought to light life and immortality through the gospel,

¹¹for which I was appointed a proclaimer and an apostle and a teacher,

¹²for which reason also I suffer these [things]. But [I am] not ashamed, because I know in whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard [what] I have entrusted until that day.

¹³ Hold fast to the pattern of sound words which you heard from me, in the faith and love [that are] in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴ Guard the good deposit through the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

¹⁵ You know this, that all those in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.

¹⁶ May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he refreshed me many times, and was not ashamed of my imprisonment,

¹⁷ but [when he] was in Rome, he diligently sought me and found [me].

¹⁸ May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord in that day! And how much he served [me] in Ephesus you know very well.

2¹ You, therefore, my child, be strong in the grace [that is] in Christ Jesus,

² and [the things] which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these [things] to faithful people who will be competent to teach others also.

³ Suffer together with [me] as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

⁴No one who serves as a soldier is entangled in the activities of [everyday] life, so that he may please the one who enlisted [him].

⁵And also if anyone competes he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

⁶The farmer who works hard must [be] the first to receive a share of the crops.

⁷Consider what I am saying, for the Lord will grant you understanding in all [these things].

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David according to my gospel,

⁹in connection with which I suffer misfortune to the point of _imprisonment_ as a criminal, but the word of God is not bound.

¹⁰Because of this, I endure all [things] for the sake of the chosen, in order that they also may obtain salvation [which is] in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

¹¹The saying [is] trustworthy: For if we died with [him], we will also live with [him];

¹²if we endure, we will also reign with [him]; if we deny [him], he also will deny us;

¹³if we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, _because he cannot deny himself_ .

¹⁴Remind [people] of these [things], solemnly urging [them] before God not to dispute about words. [This is] in no way beneficial [and leads to] the ruin of the hearers.

¹⁵Make every effort to present yourself approved to God, a worker having no need to be ashamed, guiding the word of truth along a straight path.

¹⁶But avoid pointless chatter, for it will progress to greater ungodliness,

¹⁷and their message _will spread_ like gangrene, among whom are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

¹⁸who have deviated concerning the truth [by] saying the resurrection has already taken place, and they are upsetting the faith of some.

¹⁹However, the solid foundation of God stands firm, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and "Everyone

who names the name of the Lord must abstain from unrighteousness.

²⁰Now in a great house [there] are not only gold and silver vessels, but also wooden and earthenware [ones], some of which [are] for honorable use, and some of which [are] for ordinary use.

²¹Therefore, if someone cleanses himself from these [things], he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

²²But flee from youthful desires, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, [and] peace, in company with those who call upon the Lord from a pure heart.

²³But avoid foolish and uninformed controversies, [because you] know that they produce quarrels.

²⁴And the slave of the Lord must not quarrel, but be kind toward everyone, skillful in teaching, tolerant,

²⁵correcting those who are opposed with gentleness, [seeing] whether perhaps God may grant them repentance to a knowledge of the truth,

²⁶and they will come to their senses again [and escape] from the trap of the

devil, being held captive by him to [do] his will.

3¹ But know this, that in the last days difficult times will come,

² for people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

³ hardhearted, irreconcilable, slanderous, without self-control, savage, with no interest for what is good,

⁴ traitors, reckless, conceited, loving pleasure rather than loving God,

⁵ maintaining a form of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid these [people].

⁶ For from these are those who slip into houses and captivate foolish women loaded down with sins, led by various kinds of desires,

⁷ always learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

⁸ And _just as_ Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these oppose the truth, people corrupted in mind, disqualified concerning the faith.

⁹ But they will not progress to a greater extent, for their folly will be quite evident

to everyone, as also the [folly] of those [two] was.

¹⁰But you have faithfully followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,

¹¹persecutions, [and] sufferings that happened to me in Antioch, in Iconium, [and] in Lystra, what sort of persecutions I endured, and the Lord delivered me from all [of them].

¹²And indeed, all those who want to live in a godly manner in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

¹³But evil people and imposters will progress to the worse, deceiving and being deceived.

¹⁴But you continue in [the things] which you have learned and are convinced [of], [because you] know from whom you learned [them],

¹⁵and that from childhood you have known the holy writings that are able [to make] you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

¹⁶All scripture [is] inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness,

¹⁷in order that the person of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

4¹I solemnly charge [you] before God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom,

²preach the word, be ready in season [and] out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all patience and instruction.

³For there will be a time when they will not put up with sound teaching, but in accordance with their own desires, they will accumulate for themselves teachers, _because they have an insatiable curiosity_ ,

⁴and they will turn away from the hearing of the truth, but will turn to myths.

⁵But you, be self-controlled in all [things], bear hardship patiently, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

⁶For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is imminent.

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have completed the race, I have kept the faith.

⁸ Finally, the crown of righteousness is reserved for me, that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

⁹ Make haste to come to me quickly.

¹⁰ For Demas deserted me, [because he] loved the present age, and went to Thessalonica. Crescens [went] to Galatia; Titus [went] to Dalmatia.

¹¹ Luke alone is with me. Take along Mark [and] bring [him] with you, because he is useful to me for ministry.

¹² But I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

¹³ [When you] come, bring the cloak that I left behind in Troas with Carpus, and the scrolls, especially the parchments.

¹⁴ Alexander the metalworker did me much harm; may the Lord pay back to him according to his deeds,

¹⁵ against whom you also be on guard, because he vehemently opposed our words.

¹⁶At my first defense, no one came to my [aid], but [they] all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.

¹⁷But the Lord helped me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fulfilled and all the Gentiles might hear, and he rescued [me] from the lions mouth.

¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will save [me] for his heavenly kingdom, to whom [be] the glory _forever and ever_ . Amen.

¹⁹Greet Prisca and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus.

²⁰Erastus remained in Corinth, but Trophimus I left behind in Miletus [because he] was sick.

²¹Make haste to come before winter. Eubulus and Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers greet you.

²²The Lord [be] with your spirit. Grace [be] with you.

Titus

1 ¹ Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of the chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth that [is] according to godliness,

² in the hope of eternal life which God, who does not lie, promised before eternal ages,

³ but at the proper time has disclosed his message in the proclamation [with] which I was entrusted according to the command of God our Savior,

⁴ to Titus, [my] true child according to a common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

⁵ On account of this, I left you behind in Crete, in order that what remains may be set in order and you may appoint elders in every town, as I ordered you.

⁶ If anyone is blameless, [the] husband of one wife, having faithful children, not _accused of dissipation_ or rebellious.

⁷ For it is necessary [for] the overseer to be blameless as Gods steward, not

self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not violent, not greedy for dishonest gain,

⁸but hospitable, loving what is good, prudent, just, devout, self-controlled,

⁹holding fast to the faithful message according to the teaching, in order that he may be able both to exhort with sound instruction and to reprove those who speak against [it].

¹⁰For there are many rebellious [people], idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

¹¹whom it is necessary to silence, whoever are ruining whole families [by] teaching [things] which must not be [taught] for the sake of dishonest gain.

¹²A certain one of them, [one of] their own prophets, has said, "Cretans [are] always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.

¹³This testimony is true, for which reason reprove them severely, in order that they may be sound in the faith,

¹⁴not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of people who turn away from the truth.

¹⁵To the pure all [things] [are] pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving

nothing [is] pure, but both their mind and conscience are defiled.

¹⁶They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny [him], [because they] are detestable and disobedient, and unfit for every good deed.

2¹ But you, speak [the things] which are fitting for sound instruction.

²Older men are to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, [and] in endurance.

³Older women likewise [are to be] reverent in [their] behavior, not slanderous, not enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,

⁴in order that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands [and to] love their children,

⁵[to be] self-controlled, pure, busy at home, good, being subject to their own husbands, in order that the word of God may not be slandered.

⁶Likewise, exhort the young men to be self-controlled,

⁷concerning everything showing yourself [to be] an example of good deeds, in your teaching [demonstrating] soundness, dignity,

⁸[a] sound message beyond reproach, in order that _an opponent_ may be put to shame, [because he] has nothing bad to say concerning us.

⁹Slaves must be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not to talk back,

¹⁰not stealing, but demonstrating all good faith, in order that they may do credit to the teaching of God our Savior in everything.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people,

¹²training us in order that, denying impiety and worldly desires, we may live self-controlled and righteously and godly in the present age,

¹³looking forward to the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

¹⁴who gave himself for us, in order that he might redeem us from all lawlessness and purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good deeds.

¹⁵Speak these [things] and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

3¹ Remind them to be subject to the rulers [and] to the authorities, to obey, to be prepared for every good work,

² to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all courtesy to all people.

³ For we also were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, enslaved to various desires and pleasures, spending our lives in wickedness and envy, despicable, hating one another.

⁴ But when the kindness and love for mankind of God our Savior appeared,

⁵ he saved us, not by deeds of righteousness that we have done, but because of his mercy, through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

⁶ whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

⁸ The saying [is] trustworthy, and I want you to insist concerning these [things], so that those who have believed in God may be careful to engage in good deeds.

These things are good and beneficial for people.

⁹But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and contentions and quarrels about the law, for they are useless and fruitless.

¹⁰Reject a divisive person after a first and second admonition,

¹¹knowing that such a person is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

¹²When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make haste to come to me in Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

¹³Diligently send on their way Zenas the lawyer and Apollos, so that _they may lack nothing_ .

¹⁴But also our [people] must learn to engage in good deeds for necessary needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

¹⁵All those with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace [be] with all of you.

Philemon

1 ¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon, our dear friend and fellow worker,

² and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house.

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God, always making mention of you in my prayers,

⁵ [because I] hear about your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints.

⁶ [I pray] that the fellowship of your faith may become effective in the knowledge [of] every good [thing] that [is] in us for Christ.

⁷ For I have great joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

⁸ Therefore, [although I] have great confidence in Christ to order you [to do what] is proper,

⁹instead I appeal to [you] because of love, [since I] am such a one as Paul, now an old man and also a prisoner of Christ Jesus.

¹⁰I am appealing to you concerning my child whom I became the father of during my imprisonment, Onesimus.

¹¹Once he [was] useless to you, but now [he is] useful both to you and to me,

¹²whom I have sent back to you himself, that is, my heart,

¹³whom I wanted to keep with me, in order that he might serve me on behalf of you during my imprisonment for the gospel.

¹⁴But apart from your consent, I wanted to do nothing, in order that your good [deed] might be not as according to necessity, but according to [your own] free will.

¹⁵For perhaps because of this, he was separated [from you] for a time, in order that you might have him back forever,

¹⁶no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷If therefore you consider me a partner, receive him as [you would] me.

¹⁸But if in anything he has caused you loss or owes [you anything], _charge this to my account_ .

¹⁹I, Paul, write [this] with my [own] hand: I will pay it back, lest I mention to you that _you owe me even your very self besides_ .

²⁰Yes, brother, I ought to have some benefit of you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you [because I] know that you will do even beyond what I say.

²²At the same time also, prepare a guest room for me, for I hope that through your prayers I will be restored to you.

²³Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,

²⁴[and so do] Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, [and] Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ [be] with your spirit.

Hebrews

1 ¹ [Although] God spoke long ago in many parts and in many ways to the fathers by the prophets,

² in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all [things], through whom also he made the world,

³ who is the radiance of his glory and the representation of his essence, sustaining all [things] by the word of his power. [When he] had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

⁴ having become by so much better than the angels, by as much as he has inherited a more excellent name than theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did he ever say, "You are my son, today I have fathered you," and again, "I will be _his father_ , and he will be _my son_ "?

⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "And let all [the] angels of God worship him."

⁷And concerning the angels he says, "The one who makes his angels winds, and his servants a flame of fire,"

⁸but concerning the Son, "Your throne, O God, [is] _forever and ever_ , and the scepter of righteous [is the] scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; because of this God, your God, has anointed you with the olive oil of joy more than your companions.

¹⁰And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the works of your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you continue, and they will all become old like a garment,

¹²and like a robe you will roll them up, and like a garment they will be changed; but you are the same, and your years will not run out."

¹³But to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit down at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

¹⁴Are they not all spirits engaged in special service, sent on assignment

for the sake of those who are going to inherit salvation?

2¹ Because of this, [it is] all the more necessary [that] we pay attention to the [things] we have heard, lest we drift away.

² For if the word spoken through angels was binding and every transgression and act of disobedience received a just penalty,

³ how will we escape [if we] neglect so great a salvation which had [its] beginning [when it] was spoken through the Lord [and] was confirmed to us by those who heard,

⁴ [while] God was testifying at the same time by signs and wonders and various miracles and distributions of the Holy Spirit according to his will.

⁵ For he did not subject to angels the world to come, about which we are speaking.

⁶ But someone testified somewhere, saying, "What is man, that you remember him, or the son of man, that you care for him?"

⁷ You made him for a short [time] lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor;

⁸ you subjected all [things] under his feet. For in subjecting all [things] to him, he left nothing [that was] not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all [things] subjected to him,

⁹ but we see Jesus, for a short [time] made lower than the angels, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God he might taste death on behalf of everyone.

¹⁰ For it was fitting for him for whom [are] all [things] and through whom [are] all [things] in bringing many sons to glory to perfect the originator of their salvation through sufferings.

¹¹ For both the one who sanctifies and the ones who are sanctified [are] all from one, for which reason he is not ashamed to call them brothers,

¹² saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers; in the midst of the assembly I will sing in praise of you."

¹³And again, "I will trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me."

¹⁴Therefore, since the children share in blood and flesh, he also in like manner shared in these [same things], in order that through death he could destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

¹⁵and could set free these who through fear of death were subject to slavery throughout all their lives.

¹⁶For surely he is not concerned with angels, but he is concerned with the descendants of Abraham.

¹⁷Therefore he was obligated to be made like his brothers in all [respects], in order that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in the things relating to God, in order to make atonement for the sins of the people.

¹⁸For in that which he himself suffered [when he] was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

3¹Therefore, holy brothers, sharers in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,

²who was faithful to the one who appointed him, as Moses also [was] in all his household.

³For this one is considered worthy of greater glory than Moses, inasmuch as the one who builds it has greater honor than the house.

⁴For every house is built by someone, but the one who built all [things] [is] God.

⁵And Moses [was] faithful in all his house as a servant, for a testimony to the things that would be spoken,

⁶but Christ [was faithful] as a son over his house, whose house we are, if indeed we hold fast to our confidence and the hope we can be proud of.

⁷Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice,

⁸do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of testing in the wilderness,

⁹where your fathers tested [me] by trial and saw my works

¹⁰[for] forty years. Therefore I was angry with this generation, and I said, They always go astray in their heart, and they do not know my ways.

¹¹ As I swore in my anger, _They will never enter_ into my rest."

¹² Watch out, brothers, lest there be in some of you an evil, unbelieving heart, [with the result that you] fall away from the living God.

¹³ But encourage one another _day by day_ , as long as it is called "today," so that _none of you become hardened_ by the deception of sin.

¹⁴ For we have become partners of Christ, if indeed we hold fast the beginning of [our] commitment steadfast until the end,

¹⁵ _while it is said_ , "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

¹⁶ For who, [when they] heard [it], were disobedient? Surely [it was] not all who went out from Egypt through Moses?

¹⁷ And with whom was he angry [for] forty years? [Was it] not with those who sinned, whose dead bodies fell in the wilderness?

¹⁸ And to whom did he swear [they would] not enter into his rest, except those who were disobedient?

¹⁹And [so] we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

4¹Therefore let us fear, [while there] remains a promise of entering into his rest, that none of you appear to fall short of [it].

²_For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us_ , just as those also [did], but the message _they heard_ did not benefit them, [because they] were not united with those who heard [it] in faith.

³For we who have believed enter into that rest, just as he has said, "As I swore in my anger, _They will never enter_ into my rest." And yet these works have been accomplished from the foundation of the world.

⁴For he has spoken somewhere about the seventh [day] in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works,"

⁵and in this [passage] again, _They will never enter_ into my rest."

⁶Since therefore it remains [for] some to enter into it, and the ones to whom the good news was proclaimed previously did not enter because of disobedience,

⁷ again he ordains a certain day, today, speaking by David after so long a time, just as had been said before, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

⁸ For if Joshua had caused them to rest, he would not have spoken about another day after these [things].

⁹ Consequently a sabbath rest remains for the people of God.

¹⁰ For the one who has entered into his rest has also himself rested from his works, just as God [did] from his own [works].

¹¹ Therefore, let us make every effort to enter into that rest, in order that no one may fall in the same pattern of disobedience.

¹² For the word of God [is] living and active and sharper than any double-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, both joints and marrow, and able to judge the reflections and thoughts of the heart.

¹³ And no creature is hidden in the sight of him, but all [things are] naked and laid bare to the eyes of him to whom _we must give our account_ .

¹⁴Therefore, [because we] have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is not able to sympathize with our weaknesses, but who has been tempted in all [things] in the same way, without sin.

¹⁶Therefore let us approach with confidence to the throne of grace, in order that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

5¹For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of people in the things relating to God, in order that he can offer both gifts and sacrifices on behalf of sins,

²being able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and led astray, since he himself also is surrounded by weakness,

³and because of it he is obligated to offer [sacrifices] for sins _for himself also, as well as for the people_ .

⁴And someone does not take for himself the honor, but is called by God, just as Aaron also [was].

⁵ Thus also Christ did not glorify himself to become high priest, but the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have fathered you,"

⁶ just as also in another [place] he says, "You [are] a priest _forever_ according to the order of Melchizedek,"

⁷ who in the days of his flesh offered up both prayers and supplications, with loud crying and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard as a result of his reverence.

⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered,

⁹ and being perfected, he became the source of eternal salvation to all those who obey him,

¹⁰ being designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

¹¹ Concerning this _we have much to say and it is difficult to explain_ , since you have become sluggish in hearing.

¹² For indeed, [although you] ought to be teachers _by this time_ , you have need of someone to teach you again the beginning elements of the oracles of God, and _you have need of_ milk and not solid food.

¹³For everyone who partakes of milk [is] unacquainted with the message of righteousness, because he is an infant.

¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have trained their faculties for the distinguishing of both good and evil.

6¹Therefore, leaving behind the elementary message about Christ, let us move on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and faith in God,

²teaching about baptisms and laying on of hands, and resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

³And this we will do, if God permits.

⁴For [it is] impossible [concerning] those who have once been enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and become sharers of the Holy Spirit,

⁵and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the coming age,

⁶and having fallen away, to renew [them] again to repentance, [because they] have crucified again for themselves the Son of God and held him up to contempt.

⁷For ground that drinks the rain that comes often upon it, and brings forth vegetation usable to those [people] _for whose sake_ [it is] also cultivated, shares a blessing from God.

⁸But [if it] produces thorns and thistles, [it is] worthless and near to a curse, whose end [is] for burning.

⁹But even if we are speaking in this way, dear friends, we are convinced of better [things] concerning you, and belonging to salvation.

¹⁰For God [is] not unjust, [so as] to forget your work and the love which you demonstrated for his name [by] having served the saints, and continuing to serve [them].

¹¹And we desire each one of you to demonstrate the same diligence for the full assurance of [your] hope until the end,

¹²in order that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who inherit the promises through faith and patience.

¹³For [when] God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater to swear by, he swore by himself,

¹⁴saying, "Surely _I will greatly bless_ you, and _I will greatly multiply_ you.

¹⁵And so, [by] persevering, he obtained the promise.

¹⁶For people swear by what is greater [than themselves], and the oath for confirmation [is the] end of all dispute for them.

¹⁷In the same way God, [because he] wanted to show even more to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of his resolve, guaranteed [it] with an oath,

¹⁸in order that through two unchangeable things, in which [it is] impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge may have powerful encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before [us],

¹⁹which we have like an anchor of the soul, both firm and steadfast, and entering into the inside of the curtain,

²⁰where Jesus, the forerunner for us, entered, [because he] became a high priest _forever_ according to the order of Melchizedek.

7¹ For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met

Abraham [as he] was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

²to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth of everything in the first place, [his name] is translated "king of righteousness," and then also "king of Salem," that is, "king of peace";

³without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he remains a priest for all time.

⁴But see how great this man [was], to whom even Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth from the spoils!

⁵And indeed those of the sons of Levi who receive the priesthood have a commandment to collect a tenth from the people according to the law, that is, from their brothers, although _they are descended from Abraham_ .

⁶But the one who did not trace [his] descent from them collected tithes from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises.

⁷Now without any dispute the inferior is blessed by the more prominent.

⁸And in this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case it is testified that he lives.

⁹And, _so to speak_ , even Levi, the one who receives tithes, has paid tithes through Abraham.

¹⁰For he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

¹¹Thus if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood, for on the basis of it the people received the law, what further need [is there] for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek and not said to be according to the order of Aaron?

¹²For [when] the priesthood changes, of necessity there is a change of the law also.

¹³For the one about whom these [things] are spoken belongs to another tribe from which no one has officiated at the altar.

¹⁴For [it is] evident that our Lord is a descendant of Judah, a tribe [with reference] to which Moses said nothing concerning priests.

¹⁵And it is still more clear, if another priest according to the likeness of Melchizedek arises,

¹⁶who has become [a priest] not according to a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life.

¹⁷For it is testified, "You [are] a priest _forever_ according to the order of Melchizedek."

¹⁸For on the one hand a preceding commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness

¹⁹(for the law [made] nothing perfect), but on the other hand [there is] the introduction of a better hope through which we draw near to God.

²⁰And by as much as [this was] not without an oath (for these on the one hand _have become priests_ without an oath,

²¹but he with an oath by the one who said to him, "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, You [are] a priest _forever_ "),

²²by so much more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

²³ And indeed many _have become_ priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing [in office],

²⁴ but he, because he continues _forever_ , holds the priesthood permanently.

²⁵ Therefore also he is able to save completely those who draw near to God through him, [because he] always lives in order to intercede on their behalf.

²⁶ For a high priest such as this indeed is fitting for us, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and having become exalted [above] the heavens,

²⁷ who does not _need every day_ like the former high priests to offer up sacrifices for his own sins [and] then for the [sins] of the people, because he did this once for all [when he] offered up himself.

²⁸ For the law appoints men [as] high priests who have weakness, but the statement of the oath, after the law, [appoints] a Son, who is made perfect _forever_ .

8¹ Now [this is] the main point in what has been said: we have a high priest such as this, who sat down at the right

hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

²a minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord set up, not man.

³For every high priest is appointed in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices; therefore [it was] necessary [for] this one also to have something that he offers.

⁴Now if he were on earth, he would not even be a priest, [because there] are those who offer the gifts according to the law,

⁵who serve a sketch and shadow of the heavenly [things], just as Moses was warned [when he] was about to complete the tabernacle, for he says, "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern which was shown to you on the mountain."

⁶But now he has attained a more excellent ministry, by as much as he is also mediator of a better covenant which has been enacted upon better promises.

⁷For if that first [covenant] had been faultless, occasion would not have been sought for a second.

⁸For in finding fault with them he says, "Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, when I will complete a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

⁹not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day I took hold of them by my hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, because they did not continue in my covenant and I disregarded them, says the Lord.

¹⁰For this [is] the covenant that I will decree with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I am putting my laws in their minds and I will write them on their hearts, and I will be _their_ God and they will be _my_ people.

¹¹And they will not teach each one his fellow citizen and each one his brother, saying, Know the Lord, because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

¹²For I will be merciful toward their wrongdoings, and I will not remember their sins [any] longer.

¹³In calling [it] new, he has declared the former [to be old]. Now what is

becoming obsolete and growing old [is] near to disappearing.

9¹ Now even the first [covenant] had regulations for worship and the earthly sanctuary.

² For a tent was prepared, the first [one], in which [were] the lampstand and the table and the presentation of the loaves, which is called the holy place.

³ And after the second curtain [was] a tent called the holy of holies,

⁴ containing the golden incense altar and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which [were] a golden jar containing the manna and the rod of Aaron that budded and the tablets of the covenant.

⁵ And above it [were] the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat, about which it is not now [possible] to speak in detail.

⁶ Now these things having been prepared in this way, the priests enter into the first tent _continually_ [as they] accomplish their service,

⁷ but only the high priest [enters] into the second [tent] once a year, not without blood, which he offers on behalf

of himself and the [sins] of the people committed in ignorance.

⁸The Holy Spirit [was] making this clear, [that] the way [into] the holy place [was] not yet revealed, [while] the first tent was still in existence,

⁹which [was] a symbol for the present time, in which both the gifts and sacrifices which were offered were not able to perfect the worshiper with respect to the conscience,

¹⁰concerning [instead] only food and drink and different washings, regulations of outward things imposed until the time of setting [things] right.

¹¹But Christ has arrived [as] a high priest of the good [things] to come. Through the greater and more perfect tent not made by hands, that is, not of this creation,

¹²and not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, he entered once for all into the [most] holy place, obtaining eternal redemption.

¹³For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow sprinkled on those who are defiled sanctify [them] for the ritual purity of the flesh,

¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to serve [the] living God?

¹⁵ And because of this, he is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that, [because] a death has taken place for the redemption of transgressions [committed] during the first covenant, those who are the called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

¹⁶ For where [there is] a will, [it is] a necessity [for] the death of the one who made the will to be established.

¹⁷ For a will [is] in force concerning those who are dead, since [it is] never in force when the one who made the will is alive.

¹⁸ Therefore not even the first [covenant] was ratified without blood.

¹⁹ For [when] every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the law, [he] took the blood of calves and goats with water and scarlet wool and hyssop [and] sprinkled both the scroll itself and all the people,

²⁰saying, "This [is] the blood of the covenant that God has commanded for you."

²¹And likewise he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the utensils of service with the blood.

²²Indeed, nearly everything is purified with blood according to the law, and apart from the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

²³Therefore [it was] necessary [for] the sketches of the [things] in heaven to be purified with these [sacrifices], but the heavenly [things] themselves [to be purified] with better sacrifices than these.

²⁴For Christ did not enter into a sanctuary made by hands, a [mere] copy of the true [one], but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf,

²⁵and not in order that he can offer himself many times, as the high priest enters into the sanctuary _year by year_ with blood not his own,

²⁶since it would have been necessary for him to suffer many times from the foundation of the world, but now he has

appeared once at the end of the ages for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of himself.

²⁷ And _just as_ it is destined for people to die once, and after this, judgment,

²⁸ thus also Christ, having been offered once in order to bear the sins of many, will appear for the second time without reference to sin to those who eagerly await him for salvation.

10¹ For the law, possessing a shadow of the good [things] that are about to come, not the form of things itself, [is] never able _year by year_ by means of the same sacrifices which they offer without interruption to make perfect those who draw near.

² For otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the ones who worship, having been purified once and for all, would no longer have any consciousness of sins?

³ But in them [there is] a reminder of sins _year by year_ .

⁴ For [it is] impossible [for] the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

⁵ Therefore, [when he] came into the world, he said, "Sacrifice and offering

you did not want, but a body you prepared for me;

⁶you did not delight in whole burnt offerings and [offerings] for sins.

⁷Then I said, Behold, I have come in the roll of the book it is written about me to do your will, O God.

⁸[When he] says above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and [offerings] for sin you did not want, nor did you delight in," which are offered according to the law,

⁹then he has said, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He takes away the first in order to establish the second,

¹⁰by which will we are made holy through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

¹¹And every priest stands every day serving and offering the same sacrifices many times, which are never able to take away sins.

¹²But this one, [after he] had offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God,

¹³from now on waiting until his enemies are made a footstool for his feet.

¹⁴For by one offering he has perfected for all time those who are made holy.

¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

¹⁶This [is] the covenant that I will decree for them after those days, says the Lord: I am putting my laws on their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."

¹⁷[He] also [says], "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will never remember again."

¹⁸Now where [there is] forgiveness of these, [there is] no longer an offering for sin.

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, [since we] have confidence for the entrance into the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus,

²⁰[by the] new and living way which he inaugurated for us through the curtain, that is, his flesh,

²¹and [since we have] a great priest over the house of God,

²²let us approach with a true heart in the full assurance of faith, our hearts sprinkled [clean] from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

²³ Let us hold fast to the confession of [our] hope without wavering, for the one who promised [is] faithful.

²⁴ And let us think about _how to stir one another up to love_ and good works,

²⁵ not abandoning _our meeting together_ , as [is] the habit of some, but encouraging [each other], and by so much more as you see the day drawing near.

²⁶ For [if] we keep on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment and a fury of fire that is about to consume the adversaries.

²⁸ Anyone who rejected the law of Moses dies without mercy on [the testimony of] two or three witnesses.

²⁹ How much worse punishment do you think the person will be considered worthy of who treats with disdain the Son of God and who considers ordinary the blood of the covenant by which he was made holy and who insults the Spirit of grace?

³⁰For we know the one who said, "Vengeance [is] mine, I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people."

³¹[It is] a terrifying [thing] to fall into the hands of the living God.

³²But remember the former days in which, [after you] were enlightened, you endured a great struggle with sufferings,

³³sometimes being publicly exposed both to insults and to afflictions, and sometimes becoming sharers with those who were treated in this way.

³⁴For you both sympathized with the prisoners and put up with the seizure of your belongings with joy [because you] knew that you yourselves had a better and permanent possession.

³⁵Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has great reward.

³⁶For you have need of endurance, in order that [after you] have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

³⁷For yet "a very, very little [while], [and] the one who is coming will come and will not delay.

³⁸But my righteous one will live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul is not well pleased with him."

³⁹But we are not among those who shrink back to destruction, but among those who have faith to the preservation of [our] souls.

11 ¹Now faith is the realization of what is hoped for, the proof of things not seen.

²For by this the people of old were approved.

³By faith we understand the worlds were created by the word of God, in order that what is seen did not come into existence from what is visible.

⁴By faith Abel offered to God a greater sacrifice than Cain, by which he was approved that he was righteous, [because] God approved [him] for his gifts, and through it he still speaks, [although he] is dead.

⁵By faith Enoch was taken up, so that he did not experience death, and he was not found, because God took him up. For before his removal, he had been approved _as having been pleasing_ to God.

⁶Now without faith [it is] impossible to please [him], for the one who approaches God must believe that he exists and is a rewarder of those who seek him.

⁷By faith Noah, having been warned about things not yet seen, out of reverence constructed an ark for the deliverance of his family, by which he pronounced sentence on the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

⁸By faith Abraham, [when he] was called, obeyed to go out to a place that he was going to receive for an inheritance, and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

⁹By faith he lived in the land of promise as a stranger, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the fellow heirs of the same promise.

¹⁰For he was expecting the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder [is] God.

¹¹By faith, even [though] Sarah herself [was] barren, he received _the ability to procreate_ even _past the normal age_

, because he regarded the one who had promised [to be] faithful.

¹²And therefore these were fathered from one man, and [he] being as good as dead, as the stars of heaven in number and like the innumerable sand by the shore of the sea.

¹³These all died in faith without receiving the promises, but seeing them from a distance and welcoming [them], and admitting that they were strangers and temporary residents on the earth.

¹⁴For those who say such [things] make clear that they are seeking a homeland.

¹⁵And if they had been remembering that [land] from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.

¹⁶But now they aspire to a better [land], that is, a heavenly [one]. Therefore God is not ashamed of them, to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

¹⁷By faith Abraham, [when he] was tested, offered Isaac, and the one who received the promises was ready to offer his one and only [son],

¹⁸with reference to whom it was said, "In Isaac your descendants will be named,"

¹⁹having reasoned that God [was] able even to raise [him] from the dead, from which he received him back also as a symbol.

²⁰By faith also Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things that were going to happen.

²¹By faith Jacob, [as he] was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph and worshiped, [leaning] on the top of his staff.

²²By faith Joseph, [as he] was dying, mentioned about the exodus of the sons of Israel and gave instructions about his bones.

²³By faith Moses, [when he] was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw the child [was] handsome, and they were not afraid of the edict of the king.

²⁴By faith Moses, [when he] was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaohs daughter,

²⁵choosing instead to be mistreated with the people of God [rather] than to

experience the transitory enjoyment of sin,

²⁶ considering _reproach endured for the sake of Christ_ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the anger of the king, for he persevered as [if he] saw the invisible one.

²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, in order that the one who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them.

²⁹ By faith they crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land; the Egyptians, _when they made the attempt_ , were drowned.

³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down [after they] had been marched around for seven days.

³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, [because she] welcomed the spies in peace.

³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, and Samuel and the prophets,

³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, accomplished justice, obtained what was promised, shut the mouths of lions,

³⁴extinguished the effectiveness of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong from weakness, became mighty in battle, put to flight enemy battle lines.

³⁵Women received back their dead by resurrection. But others were tortured, not accepting release, in order that they might gain a better resurrection.

³⁶And others _experienced mocking and flogging_ , and in addition bonds and imprisonment.

³⁷They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they died by murder with a sword, they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, impoverished, afflicted, mistreated,

³⁸of whom the world was not worthy, wandering about on deserts and mountains and in caves and in holes in the ground.

³⁹And all these, [although they] were approved through their faith, did not receive what was promised,

⁴⁰[because] God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect without us.

12¹Therefore, [since] we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, putting aside every weight and _the sin that so easily ensnares us_, let us run with patient endurance the race that has been set before us,

²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the originator and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³For consider the one who endured such hostility against himself by sinners, so that you will not grow weary in your souls [and] give up.

⁴You have not yet resisted to the point of [shedding your] blood [as you] struggle against sin.

⁵And have you completely forgotten the exhortation which instructs you as sons? "My son, do not make light of the Lords discipline, or give up [when you] are corrected by him.

⁶For the Lord disciplines the one whom he loves, and punishes every son whom he accepts."

⁷Endure [it] for discipline. God is dealing with you as sons. For what son [is there] whom a father does not discipline?

⁸But if you are without discipline, in which all [legitimate sons] have become participants, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

⁹Furthermore, we have had _our earthly fathers_ who disciplined [us], and we respected [them]. Will we not much rather subject ourselves to the Father of spirits and live?

¹⁰For they disciplined [us] for a few days according to what seemed [appropriate] to them, but he [does so] for our benefit, in order that [we] can have a share in his holiness.

¹¹Now all discipline seems for the moment not to be joyful but painful, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness for those who are trained by it.

¹²Therefore strengthen your slackened hands and your weakened knees,

¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame will not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

¹⁴Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.

¹⁵Take care [that] no one falls short of the grace of God; [that] no one growing up [like] a root of bitterness causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

¹⁶[that] no one [be] a sexually immoral or totally worldly [person] like Esau, who for one meal traded his own birthright.

¹⁷For you know that also afterwards, [when he] wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, because he did not find an occasion for repentance, although he sought it with tears.

¹⁸For you have not come to something that can be touched, and to a burning fire, and to darkness, and to gloom, and to a whirlwind,

¹⁹and to the noise of a trumpet, and to the sound of words which those who heard begged [that] not [another] word be spoken to them.

²⁰For they could not endure what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned."

²¹And the spectacle was so terrifying [that] Moses said, "I am terrified and trembling."

²²But you have come to Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God, to the heavenly Jerusalem, and to tens of thousands of angels, to the festal gathering

²³and assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous [people] made perfect,

²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and _to the sprinkled blood_ that speaks better than Abels [does].

²⁵Watch out that you do not refuse the one who is speaking! For if those did not escape [when they] refused the one who warned [them] on earth, much less [will] we [escape], [if we] reject the [one who warns] from heaven,

²⁶whose voice shook the earth at that time, but now he has promised, saying, "Yet once [more] I will shake not only the earth but also heaven."

²⁷ Now the [phrase] "yet once [more]" indicates the removal of what is shaken, namely, things that have been created, in order that the things that are not shaken may remain.

²⁸ Therefore, [since we] are receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us be thankful, through which let us serve God acceptably, with awe and reverence.

²⁹ For indeed our God [is] a consuming fire.

13 ¹ Brotherly love must continue.

² Do not neglect hospitality, because through this some have received angels as guests without knowing [it].

³ Remember the prisoners, as [though you were] fellow-prisoners; [remember] the mistreated, as [though] [you] yourselves also are being [mistreated] in the body.

⁴ Marriage [must be] held in honor by all, and the marriage bed [be] undefiled, because God will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers.

⁵ Your lifestyle [must be] free from the love of money, being content with what you have. For he himself has said, "I

will never desert you, and I will never abandon you."

⁶So then, we can say with confidence, "The Lord [is] my helper, and I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you; _considering the outcome of their way of life_ , imitate their faith.

⁸Jesus Christ [is] the same yesterday and today and _forever_ .

⁹Do not be carried away by various and strange teachings, for [it is] good [for] the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods by which those who participate have not benefited.

¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve in the tabernacle do not have the right to eat.

¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sins are burned up outside the camp.

¹²Therefore Jesus also suffered outside the gate, in order that he might sanctify the people by his own blood.

¹³So we must go out to him outside the camp, bearing his reproach.

¹⁴For here we do not have a permanent city, but we seek the [city] that is to come.

¹⁵Therefore through him let us offer up a sacrifice of praise _continually_ to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.

¹⁶And do not neglect doing good and generosity, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.

¹⁷Obey your leaders and submit [to them], for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not [with] groaning, for this [would be] unprofitable for you.

¹⁸Pray for us, for we are convinced that we have a good conscience, [and] want to conduct ourselves commendably in every [way].

¹⁹And I especially urge [you] to do this, so that I may be restored to you more quickly.

²⁰Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,

²¹ equip you with every good [thing] to do his will, carrying out in us [what is] pleasing before him through Jesus Christ, to whom [be] the glory _forever and ever_ . Amen.

²² Now I urge you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for indeed I have written to you _briefly_ .

²³ Know [that] our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I will see you, if he comes quickly [enough].

²⁴ Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.

²⁵ Grace [be] with all of you.

James

1 ¹ James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the dispersion. Greetings!

² Consider [it] all joy, my brothers, whenever you encounter various trials,

³ [because you] know that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

⁴ And let endurance have [its] perfect effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵ Now if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask for [it] from God, who gives to all without reservation and not reproaching, and it will be given to him.

⁶ But let him ask for [it] in faith, without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed about.

⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

⁸ [he is] a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

⁹ Now let the brother of humble circumstances boast in his high position,

¹⁰but the rich person in his humiliation, because he will pass away like a flower of the grass.

¹¹For the sun rises with its burning heat and dries up the grass, and its flower falls off, and the beauty of its appearance is lost. So also the rich person in his pursuits will wither away.

¹²Blessed [is] the person who endures testing, because [when he] is approved he will receive the crown of life that he has promised to those who love him.

¹³No one who is being tempted should say, "I am being tempted by God," for God _cannot be tempted_ by evil, and he himself tempts no one.

¹⁴But each one is tempted [when he] is dragged away and enticed by his own desires.

¹⁵Then desire, [after it] has conceived, gives birth to sin, and sin, [when it] is brought to completion, gives birth to death.

¹⁶Do not be deceived, my dear brothers.

¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the

Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of change.

¹⁸[By his] will he gave birth to us through the message of truth, so that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹Understand [this], my dear brothers: every person must be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger,

²⁰for human anger does not accomplish the righteousness of God.

²¹Therefore, putting aside all moral uncleanness and wicked excess, welcome with humility the implanted message which is able to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the message and not only hearers, deceiving yourselves,

²³because if anyone is a hearer of the message and not a doer, this one is like someone staring at _his own face_ in a mirror,

²⁴for he looks at himself and goes away and immediately forgets what sort of [person] he was.

²⁵But the one who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues [to do it], not being a forgetful hearer but a doer

who acts, this one will be blessed _in what he does_ .

²⁶If anyone thinks he is religious, [although he] does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this persons religion [is] worthless.

²⁷Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep oneself unstained by the world.

2¹ My brothers, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with partiality.

²For if someone enters into your assembly in fine clothing with a gold ring on his finger, and a poor person in filthy clothing also enters,

³and you look favorably on the one wearing the fine clothing and you say, "Be seated here in a good place," and to the poor person you say, "You stand there or be seated by my footstool,

⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵Listen, my dear brothers! Did not God choose the poor of the world [to be] rich

in faith, and heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?

⁶But you have dishonored the poor! Are not the rich exploiting you and they themselves dragging you into the courts?

⁷Do they themselves not blaspheme the good name _of the one to whom you belong_ ?

⁸However, if you carry out the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin, [and thus] are convicted by the law as transgressors.

¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but stumbles in one [point only] has become guilty of all [of it].

¹¹For the one who said "Do not commit adultery" also said "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

¹²Thus speak and thus act as those who are going to be judged by the law of liberty.

¹³For judgment [is] merciless to the one who has not practiced mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴What [is] the benefit, my brothers, if someone says [that he] has faith but does not have works? That faith [is] not able to save him, [is it]?

¹⁵If a brother or a sister is poorly clothed and lacking food for the day,

¹⁶and one of you should say to them, "Go in peace, keep warm and _eat well_ ," but does not give them what is necessary for the body, what [is] the benefit?

¹⁷Thus also faith, if it does not have works, is dead by itself.

¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

¹⁹You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe, and shudder!

²⁰But do you want to know, O foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works [when he] offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

²² You see that faith was working together with his works, and by the works the faith was perfected.

²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness," and he was called Gods friend.

²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

²⁵ And likewise was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works [when she] welcomed the messengers and sent [them] out by a different route?

²⁶ For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

3¹ Not many should become teachers, my brothers, [because you] know that we will receive a greater judgment.

² For we all stumble [in] many [ways]. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he [is] a perfect individual, able to hold in check his whole body also.

³And if we put bits in the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we also guide their whole bodies.

⁴Behold also ships: [although they] are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot wishes.

⁵So also the tongue is a small member [of the body] and boasts great [things]. Behold how small a fire sets ablaze how great a forest!

⁶And the tongue [is] a fire! The world of unrighteousness, the tongue, is set among our members, defiling the whole body and setting on fire _the course of human existence_, being set on fire by hell.

⁷For every species of animals and birds, of reptiles and sea creatures, is being tamed and has been tamed by the human species,

⁸but no human being is able to tame the tongue. [It is] a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these [things] ought not to be so!

¹¹A spring does not pour forth from the same opening fresh and bitter [water, does it]?

¹²A fig tree is not able, my brothers, to produce olives, or a grapevine figs. Neither can a saltwater spring produce fresh water.

¹³Who [is] wise and understanding among you? Let him show by his good behavior his works, with the humility of wisdom.

¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and tell lies against the truth.

¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but [is] earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

¹⁶For where [there is] jealousy and selfish ambition, there [is] disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle, obedient, full of mercy and good fruits, nonjudgmental, without hypocrisy,

¹⁸And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace among those who make peace.

4¹From where [are] conflicts and from where [are] quarrels among you? [Is it] not from this, from your pleasures that wage war among your members?

²You desire and do not have; you murder and are filled with envy, and are not able to obtain; you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

³You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, in order that you may spend [it] on your pleasures.

⁴Adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes [himself] an enemy of God.

⁵Or do you think that in vain the scripture says, "The spirit which he caused to dwell in us desires jealousy"?

⁶But he gives greater grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

⁷Therefore subject yourselves to God. But resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse [your] hands, [you] sinners, and purify [your] hearts, [you] double-minded!

⁹Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloominess.

¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

¹¹Do not speak evil of one another, brothers. The one who speaks evil of a brother or judges his brother speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge [of the law].

¹²There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

¹³Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there, and carry on business and make a profit,

¹⁴you who do not know _what will happen tomorrow_ , _what your life will be like_ . For you are a smoky vapor that appears for a short time and then disappears.

¹⁵ Instead you should say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.

¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

¹⁷ Therefore, to the one who knows to do good and does not do [it], to him it is sin.

5¹ Come now, you rich people, weep [and] cry aloud over the miseries that are coming upon you!

² Your wealth has rotted, and your clothing has become moth-eaten.

³ Your gold and silver have become corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you, and it will consume your flesh like fire. You have stored up treasure in the last days.

⁴ Behold, the wages that were held back by you from the workers who reap your fields cry out, and the cries of the reapers have come to the ears of the Lord of hosts.

⁵ You have lived self-indulgently on the earth and have lived luxuriously. You have fattened your hearts in the day of slaughter.

⁶You have condemned, you have murdered the righteous [person]; he does not resist you.

⁷Therefore be patient, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the soil, being patient concerning it until it receives the early and late rains.

⁸You also be patient. Strengthen your hearts, because the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹Brothers, do not complain against one another, in order that you may not be judged. Behold, the judge stands before the doors!

¹⁰Brothers, take [as an] example of perseverance and endurance the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

¹¹Behold, we consider blessed those who have endured. You have heard about the patient endurance of Job, and you saw the outcome from the Lord, that the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

¹²Now above all, my brothers, do not swear either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your yes be yes

and your no, no, in order that you may not fall under judgment.

¹³Is anyone among you suffering misfortune? He should pray. Is anyone cheerful? He should sing praise.

¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the elders of the church and they should pray over him, anointing him with olive oil in the name of the Lord.

¹⁵And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins _he will be forgiven_ .

¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous person accomplishes much.

¹⁷Elijah was a human being with the same nature as us, and _he prayed fervently_ for [it] not to rain, and it did not rain on the land [for] three years and six months.

¹⁸And he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the earth produced its fruit.

¹⁹My brothers, if anyone among you should wander away from the truth and someone turns him back,

²⁰he should know that the one who turns a sinner back from the error of his way will save that persons soul from death, and will cover over a great number of sins.

1 Peter

1 ¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,
to the chosen who are residing
temporarily in the dispersion in Pontus,
Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,
² according to the foreknowledge of God
the Father, by the sanctification of the
Spirit, for obedience and [for] sprinkling
with the blood of Jesus Christ. May grace
and peace be multiplied to you.

³ Blessed [be] the God and Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ, who according
to his great mercy has caused us to be
born again to a living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the
dead,

⁴ into an inheritance imperishable and
undefiled and unfading, reserved in
heaven for you

⁵ who are being protected by the power
of God through faith for a salvation ready
to be revealed in the last time,

⁶ in which you rejoice greatly, [although]
now for a short time, if it is necessary,
you are distressed by various trials,

⁷so that the genuineness of your faith, more valuable than gold that is passing away, but is tested by fire, may be found to [result in] praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

⁸whom, [although you] have not seen, you love; in whom now you believe, [although you] do not see [him], and you rejoice greatly with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

⁹obtaining the goal of your faith, the salvation of [your] souls.

¹⁰Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace meant for you sought and made careful inquiry,

¹¹investigating for what [person] or which time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating [when he] testified beforehand to the sufferings with reference to Christ and the glories after these [things],

¹²to whom it was revealed that they were serving not themselves but you with reference to the same [things] which now have been announced to you through those who proclaimed the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent

from heaven, _things into which_ angels desire to look.

¹³Therefore, _when you have prepared your minds for action_ [by] being self-controlled, put your hope completely in the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former desires [you used to conform to] in your ignorance,

¹⁵but as the one who called you [is] holy, [you] yourselves be holy in all [your] conduct,

¹⁶for it is written, "You will be holy, because I am holy."

¹⁷And if you call on [him] [as] Father who judges impartially according to each ones work, conduct yourselves with fear during the time of your temporary residence,

¹⁸[because you] know that you were redeemed from your futile way of life inherited from your ancestors not with perishable things like silver or gold,

¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like [that of] an unblemished and spotless lamb

²⁰who was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has been revealed in these last times for you

²¹who through him [are] believing in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²²Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for sincere brotherly love, love one another fervently from a pure heart,

²³[because you] have been born again, not from perishable seed but imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

²⁴For "all flesh [is] like grass, and all its glory like the flower of the grass. The grass withers and the flower falls off,

²⁵but the word of the Lord endures _forever_ ." And this is the word that has been proclaimed to you.

2¹Therefore, ridding yourselves of all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

²like newborn infants long for the unadulterated spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up to salvation,

³if you have tasted that the Lord [is] kind,

⁴to whom you are drawing near, a living stone rejected by men but chosen [and] precious in the sight of God.

⁵And [you] yourselves, as living stones, are being built up [as] a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶For it stands in scripture, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a chosen [and] precious cornerstone, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame."

⁷Therefore the honor [is] for you who believe, but for those who refuse to believe, "The stone that the builders rejected, this one has become _the cornerstone_ ,

⁸and "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense," who stumble [because they] disobey the word to which also they were consigned.

⁹But you [are] a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for [Gods] possession, so that you may proclaim the virtues of the one who

called you out of darkness into his marvelous light,

¹⁰who once [were] not a people, but now [are] the people of God, the ones [who were] not shown mercy, but now are shown mercy.

¹¹Dear friends, I urge [you] as foreigners and temporary residents to abstain from fleshly desires which wage war against your soul,

¹²maintaining your good conduct among the Gentiles, so that in [the things] in which they slander you as evildoers, by seeing your good deeds they may glorify God on the day of visitation.

¹³Subject yourselves to every human authority for the sake of the Lord, whether to a king as having supreme authority,

¹⁴or to governors as those sent out by him for the punishment of those who do evil and the praise of those who do good.

¹⁵For the will of God is as follows: [by] doing good to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

¹⁶[Live] as free [persons], and not using your freedom as a covering for evil, but as slaves of God.

¹⁷Honor all [people], love the community of believers, fear God, honor the king.

¹⁸Domestic slaves, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to those [who are] good and gentle, but also to those [who are] unjust.

¹⁹For this [finds] favor, if because of consciousness of God someone endures sorrows [while] suffering unjustly.

²⁰For what credit [is it] if, [when you] sin and are beaten [for it], you endure? But if you endure [when you] do good and suffer [for it], this [finds] favor with God.

²¹For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his footsteps,

²²who did not commit sin, nor was deceit found in his mouth,

²³who [when he] was reviled, did not revile in return; [when] suffering, he did not threaten, but entrusted [himself] to the one who judges justly,

²⁴who himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that [we] may die to sins [and] live to righteousness, by whose wounds you were healed.

²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but you have turned back now to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

3¹In the same way, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some are disobedient to the word, they may be won over without a word by the conduct of their wives,

²[when they] see your respectful, pure conduct.

³Let your adornment not be the external [kind], braiding hair and putting on gold jewelry or putting on [fine] clothing,

⁴but the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable [quality] of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is highly valuable in the sight of God.

⁵For in the [same] way formerly the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves [by] being subject to their own husbands,

⁶like Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose children you have

become [when you] do good and are not frightened with respect to any terror.

⁷Husbands, in the same way live with [your wives] _knowledgeably_ , as with the weaker female vessel, showing [them] honor as fellow heirs also of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

⁸And finally, all [of you be] harmonious, sympathetic, showing mutual affection, compassionate, humble,

⁹not repaying evil for evil or insult for insult, but on the other hand blessing [others], because for this [reason] you were called, so that you could inherit a blessing.

¹⁰For "The one who wants to love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and [his] lips must not speak deceit.

¹¹And he must turn away from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it.

¹²For the eyes of the Lord [are] on the righteous, and his ears [are open to] their prayer. But the face of the Lord [is] against those who do evil.

¹³And who [is] the one who will harm you if you are a zealous adherent for what is good?

¹⁴But even if you might suffer for the sake of righteousness, [you are] blessed. And do not be afraid of their intimidation or be disturbed,

¹⁵but set Christ apart [as] Lord in your hearts, always ready to [make] a defense to anyone who asks you [for] an accounting concerning the hope [that is] in you.

¹⁶But [do so] with courtesy and respect, having a good conscience, so that in [the things] in which you are slandered, the ones who malign your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

¹⁷For [it is] better to suffer for doing good, _if God wills it_ , than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, in order that he could bring you to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,

¹⁹in which also he went [and] proclaimed to the spirits in prison,

²⁰who were formerly disobedient, when the patience of God waited in the days of Noah, [while] an ark was being constructed, in which a fewthat is, eight soulswere rescued through water.

²¹And also, corresponding to [this], baptism now saves you, not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

²²who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels and authorities and powers having been subjected to him.

4¹Therefore, [because] Christ suffered in the flesh, you also equip yourselves with the same way of thinking, because the one who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

²in order to live the remaining time in the flesh no longer for human desires, but for the will of God.

³For the time that has passed [was] sufficient _to do what the Gentiles desire to do_ , having lived in licentiousness, [evil] desires, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties, and wanton idolatries,

⁴with respect to which they are surprised [when] you do not run with [them] into the same flood of dissipation, [and so they] revile [you].

⁵They will give an account to the one who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

⁶Because for this reason also the gospel was preached to those who are dead, so that they were judged _by human standards_ in the flesh, but they may live in the spirit _by Gods standards_ .

⁷Now the end of all [things] draws near. Therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for [your] prayers.

⁸Above all, keep your love for one another constant, because love covers a large number of sins.

⁹[Be] hospitable to one another without complaining.

¹⁰Just as each one has received a gift, [use] it for serving one another, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

¹¹If anyone speaks, [let it be] as the oracles of God; if anyone serves, [let it be] as by the strength that God provides, so that in all [things] God will be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is the

glory and the power _forever and ever_
. Amen.

¹²Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, [when it] takes place to test you, as [if] [something] strange were happening to you.

¹³But to the degree that you share in the sufferings of Christ, rejoice, so that also at the revelation of his glory you may rejoice [and] be glad.

¹⁴If you are reviled on account of the name of Christ, [you are] blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

¹⁵By all means do not let anyone of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.

¹⁶But if [someone suffers] as a Christian, he must not be ashamed, but must glorify God with this name.

¹⁷For [it is] the time for the judgment to begin out from the household of God. But if [it begins] out from us first, what will be the outcome for those who are disobedient to the gospel of God?

¹⁸And if the righteous are saved with difficulty, _what will become of the ungodly and the sinner_ ?

¹⁹So then also those who suffer according to the will of God must entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing good.

5¹Therefore [I, your] fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, [and] also a sharer of the glory that is going to be revealed, exhort the elders among you:

²shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not by compulsion but willingly, in accordance with God, and not greedily but eagerly,

³and not as lording it over _those under your care_ , but being examples for the flock.

⁴And [when] the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

⁵In the same way, younger men, be subject to the elders, and all [of you] clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the [right] time,

⁷casting all your cares on him, because _he cares_ for you.

⁸Be sober; be on the alert. Your adversary the devil walks around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

⁹_Resist him_ , steadfast in your faith, [because you] know the same [kinds] of sufferings are being accomplished by your community of believers in the world.

¹⁰And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, [after you] have suffered for a short time, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, [and] establish [you].

¹¹To him [be] the power _forever_ . Amen.

¹²Through Silvanus, the faithful brother (as I consider [him]), I have written to you _briefly_ to encourage [you] and to attest that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.

¹³She [who is] in Babylon, chosen the same as [you], greets you, and [so does] my son Mark.

¹⁴Greet one another with a loving kiss. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

2 Peter

1 ¹ Simeon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a faith equal in value to ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

² May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

³ because his divine power has bestowed on us all [things] [that are] necessary for life and godliness, through the knowledge of the one who called us by his own glory and excellence of character,

⁴ through which things he has bestowed on us his precious and very great promises, so that through these you may become sharers of the divine nature [after] escaping from the corruption [that is] in the world because of evil desire,

⁵ and [for] this same [reason], and [by] applying all diligence, supply with your

faith excellence of character, and with excellence of character, knowledge,

⁶and with knowledge, self-control, and with self-control, patient endurance, and with patient endurance, godliness,

⁷and with godliness, brotherly love, and with brotherly love, love.

⁸For [if] these [things] are yours and are increasing, this does not make [you] useless or unproductive in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹For [the one] for whom these [things] [are] not present is blind, being nearsighted, _having forgotten the cleansing_ of his former sins.

¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be zealous even more to make your calling and election secure, because [if you] do these [things], you will never ever stumble.

¹¹For in this way entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly supplied for you.

¹²Therefore I intend to remind you continually concerning these [things], although [you] know [them] and are established in the truth that you have.

¹³ But I consider [it] right, for as long as I am in this habitation, to stir you up by a reminder,

¹⁴ [because I] know that the removal of my habitation is imminent, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.

¹⁵ And I will also make every effort [that] you are able at any time, after my departure, _to recall these things to mind_ .

¹⁶ For we did not make known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ [by] following ingeniously concocted myths, but [by] being eyewitnesses of that ones majesty.

¹⁷ For [he] received honor and glory from God the Father [when] a voice such as this was brought to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

¹⁸ And [we] ourselves heard this voice brought from heaven [when we] were with him on the holy mountain,

¹⁹ and we possess [as] more reliable the prophetic word, to which you do well [if you] pay attention to [it] as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day

dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

²⁰recognizing this above all, that every prophecy of scripture does not come about from ones own interpretation,

²¹for no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2¹ But there were also false prophets among the people, as there will be false teachers among you also, who will bring in _destructive heresies_ , even denying the Master who bought them, [thus] bringing on themselves swift destruction.

²And many will follow their licentious ways, because of whom the way of truth will be reviled.

³And in greediness they will exploit you with false words, whose condemnation [from] long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

⁴For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but held [them] captive in Tartarus with chains of darkness [and] handed [them] over to be kept for judgment,

⁵and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a proclaimer of righteousness, _and seven others_ [when he] brought a flood on the world of the ungodly,

⁶and condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction, reducing them to ashes, having appointed [them] [as] an example for those who are going to be ungodly,

⁷and rescued righteous Lot, worn down by the way of life of lawless persons in licentiousness

⁸(for that righteous man, [as he] lived among them day after day, was tormenting [his] righteous soul by the lawless deeds [he was] seeing and hearing),

⁹[then] the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to reserve the unrighteous to be punished at the day of judgment,

¹⁰and especially those who go after the flesh in defiling lust and who despise authority. Bold [and] arrogant, they do not tremble in awe [as they] blaspheme majestic beings,

¹¹ whereas angels, who are greater in strength and power, do not bring against them a demeaning judgment from the Lord.

¹² But these persons, like irrational animals born [only with] natural [instincts] for capture and killing, blaspheming _about things_ they do not understand, in their destruction will also be destroyed,

¹³ being harmed [as the] wages of unrighteousness. Considering reveling in the daytime a pleasure, [they are] stains and blemishes, carousing in their deceitful pleasures [when they] feast together with you,

¹⁴ having eyes full of [desire for] an adulteress and unceasing from sin, enticing unstable persons, [and] having hearts trained for greediness. Accursed children!

¹⁵ [By] leaving the straight path, they have gone astray, [because they] followed the way of Balaam the [son of] Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness,

¹⁶ but received a rebuke for his own lawlessness: a speechless donkey,

speaking with a human voice, restrained
the prophets madness .

¹⁷These [people] are waterless springs
and mists driven by a hurricane, for
whom the gloom of darkness has been
reserved.

¹⁸_For by speaking high-sounding but
empty words_ , they entice with desires
of the flesh [and] with licentiousness
those who are scarcely escaping from
those who live in error,

¹⁹promising them freedom [although
they] themselves are slaves of depravity.
For to whatever someone succumbs, by
this he is enslaved.

²⁰For if, [after they] have escaped from
the defilements of the world through the
knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus
Christ, and they are again entangled in
these [things] [and] succumb to [them],
the last [state] has become worse for
them than the first.

²¹For it would have been better for
them not to have known the way of
righteousness than having known [it], to
turn back from the holy commandment
that had been delivered to them.

²²The [statement] of the true proverb has happened to them, "A dog returns to its own vomit," and "A sow, [after] washing herself, [returns] to wallowing in the mud."

3¹ Dear friends, this [is] already the second letter I am writing to you, in [both of] which I am attempting to stir up your sincere mind by a reminder,

²to remember the words proclaimed beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles,

³above all knowing this, that in the last days scoffers will come with scoffing, following according to their own desires

⁴and saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? For _ever since_ the fathers fell asleep, all [things] have continued just as they have been from the beginning of creation.

⁵For [when] they maintain this, it escapes [their] notice that the heavens existed long ago and the earth held together out of water and through water by the word of God,

⁶by means of which things the world that existed at that time was destroyed [by] being inundated with water.

⁷But by the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly people.

⁸Now, dear friends, do not let this one thing escape your [notice], that one day with the Lord [is] like a thousand years, and a thousand years [is] like one day.

⁹The Lord is not delaying the promise, as some consider slowness, but is being patient toward you, [because he] does not want any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will disappear with a rushing noise, and the celestial bodies will be destroyed [by] being burned up, and the earth and the deeds [done] on it will be disclosed.

¹¹[Because] all these things are being destroyed in this way, what sort of [people] must you be in holy behavior and godliness,

¹²[while] waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because

of which the heavens will be destroyed [by] being burned up and the celestial bodies will melt [as they] are consumed by heat!

¹³ But according to his promise, we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness resides.

¹⁴ Therefore, dear friends, [because you] are waiting for these [things], make every effort to be found at peace, spotless and unblemished in him.

¹⁵ And regard the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as also our dear brother Paul wrote to you, according to the wisdom that was given to him,

¹⁶ as [he does] also in all [his] letters, speaking in them about these [things], in which there are some [things] hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable distort to their own destruction, as [they] also [do] the rest of the scriptures.

¹⁷ Therefore, dear friends, [because you] know [this] beforehand, guard yourselves so that you do not lose your own safe position [because you] have been led away by the error of lawless persons.

¹⁸But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him [be] the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

1 John

1 ¹What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and our hands have touched, concerning the word of life

²and the life was revealed, and we have seen and testify and announce to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was revealed to us

³what we have seen and heard, we announce to you also, in order that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship [is] with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

⁴And these [things] we write, in order that our joy may be complete.

⁵And this is the message which we have heard from him and announce to you, that God is light and there [is] no darkness in him at all.

⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

⁷ But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁸ If we say that we do not have sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, so that he will forgive us [our] sins and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2¹ My little children, I am writing these [things] to you in order that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous [one],

² and he is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world.

³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

⁴ The one who says "I have come to know him," and does not keep his

commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in this person.

⁵But whoever keeps his word, truly in this person the love of God has been perfected. By this we know that we are in him.

⁶The one who says [that he] resides in him ought also to walk in this way: just as that one walked.

⁷Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the message which you have heard.

⁸Again, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light already is shining.

⁹The one who says [he] is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness until now.

¹⁰The one who loves his brother resides in the light, and [there] is no cause for stumbling in him.

¹¹But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness, and walks in the darkness, and does not know where

he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

¹²I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you on account of his name.

¹³I am writing to you, fathers, because you have known the [One who is] from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have conquered the evil one.

¹⁴I have written to you, children, because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have known the [One who is] from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God resides in you, and you have conquered the evil one.

¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him,

¹⁶because everything [that is] in the worldthe desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the arrogance of material possessionsis not from the Father, but is from the world.

¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and its desire, but the one who does the will of God remains _forever_ .

¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour, and just as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen, by which we know that it is the last hour.

¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us. But [they went out] , in order that it might be shown that all of them are not of us.

²⁰ And you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

²¹ I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because every lie is not of the truth.

²² Who is the liar except the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This person is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

²³ Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father [either]; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

²⁴ [As for] you, what you have heard from the beginning must remain in you. If what you have heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.

²⁵ And this is the promise which he himself promised us: eternal life.

²⁶ These [things] I have written to you concerning the ones who are trying to deceive you.

²⁷ And [as for] you, the anointing which you received from him remains in you, and you do not have need that anyone teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all [things], and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you reside in him.

²⁸ And now, little children, remain in him, so that whenever he is revealed we may have confidence and not be put to shame before him at his coming.

²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness has been fathered by him.

3¹ See what sort of love the Father has given to us: that we should be called children of God, and we are! Because

of this the world does not know us: because it did not know him.

²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that whenever he is revealed we will be like him, because we will see him just as he is.

³And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as that one is pure.

⁴Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

⁵And you know that that one was revealed in order that he might take away sins, and in him [there] is no sin.

⁶Everyone who resides in him does not sin. Everyone who sins has neither seen him nor known him.

⁷Little children, let no one deceive you: the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as that one is righteous.

⁸The one who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. For this [reason] the Son of God was revealed: in order to destroy the works of the devil.

⁹Everyone who is fathered by God does not practice sin, because his seed resides in him, and [he is] not able to sin, because he has been fathered by God.

¹⁰By this the children of God and the children of the devil are evident: everyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, namely, the one who does not love his brother.

¹¹For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning: that we should love one another,

¹²not as Cain, who was of the evil one and violently murdered his brother. And _for what reason_ did he violently murder him? Because his deeds were evil and the [deeds] of his brother [were] righteous.

¹³And do not marvel, brothers, if the world hates you.

¹⁴We know that we have passed over from death to life because we love the brothers. The one who does not love remains in death.

¹⁵Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that every

murderer does not have eternal life residing in him.

¹⁶We have come to know love by this: that _he_ laid down his life on behalf of us, and we ought to lay down our lives on behalf of the brothers.

¹⁷But whoever has the worlds material possessions and observes his brother _in need_ and shuts his heart against him, how does the love of God reside in him?

¹⁸Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

¹⁹And by this we know that we are of the truth and will convince our heart before him,

²⁰that if our heart condemns us, that God is greater than our heart and knows all [things].

²¹Dear friends, if our heart does not condemn [us], we have confidence before God,

²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do [what is] pleasing _in his sight_ .

²³And this is his commandment: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus

Christ and love one another, just as _he commanded us_ .

²⁴And the one who keeps his commandments resides in him, and he in him. And by this we know that he resides in us: by the Spirit whom he has given to us.

4¹ Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits [to determine] if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God, and this is the [spirit] of the antichrist, [of] which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

⁴You are from God, little children, and have conquered them, because the one [who is] in you is greater than the one [who is] in the world.

⁵They are from the world; _therefore_ they speak from the world and the world listens to them.

⁶We are from God. The one who knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deceit.

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been fathered by God and knows God.

⁸The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹By this the love of God is revealed in us: that God sent his one and only Son into the world in order that we may live through him.

¹⁰In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son [to be the] propitiation for our sins.

¹¹Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also ought to love one another.

¹²No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God resides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we reside in him and he in us: that he has given us of his Spirit.

¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son [to be the] Savior of the world.

¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God resides in him and he in God.

¹⁶And we have come to know and have believed the love that God has in us. God is love, and the one who resides in love resides in God, and God resides in him.

¹⁷By this love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment, because just as that one is, [so] also are we in this world.

¹⁸[There] is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear includes punishment, and the one who is afraid has not been perfected in love.

¹⁹We love, because he first loved us.

²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar, for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen is not able to love God whom he has not seen.

²¹And this [is] the commandment we have from him: that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

5¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been fathered by God, and everyone who loves _the father_ also loves the [child] fathered by him.

²By this we know that we love the children of God: whenever we love God and keep his commandments.

³For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome,

⁴because everyone who is fathered by God conquers the world. @ And this is the victory which has conquered the world: our faith.

⁵Now who is the one who conquers the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood Jesus Christ, not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

⁷For [there] are three that testify,

⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood, and the three are _in agreement_ .

⁹If we receive the testimony of people, the testimony of God is greater, because

this is the testimony of God that he has testified concerning his Son.

¹⁰(The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. The one who does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has testified concerning his Son.)

¹¹And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

¹²The one who has the Son has the life; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

¹³These [things] I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.

¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have before him: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

¹⁵And if we know that he hears us [in] whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked from him.

¹⁶If anyone should see his brother sinning a sin not [leading] to death, he should ask, and he will grant life to him,

to those who sin not [leading] to death. ([There] is a sin [leading] to death; I do not say that he should ask about that.

¹⁷All unrighteousness is sin, and [there] is a sin not [leading] to death.)

¹⁸We know that everyone who is fathered by God does not sin, but the one fathered by God, he protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

¹⁹We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in [the power of] the evil one.

²⁰And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, in order that we may know the one who is true, and we are in the one who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This one is the true God and eternal life.

²¹Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

2 John

1 ¹ The elder, to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth and not I alone, but also all those who know the truth

² because of the truth that resides in us and will be with us _forever_ .

³ Grace, mercy, peace will be with us from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Son of the Father in truth and love.

⁴ _I was very glad_ because I found [some] of your children walking in [the] truth, just as _the Father commanded us_ .

⁵ And now I ask you, lady (not as [if I were] writing a new commandment to you, but [one] that we have had from the beginning), that we should love one another.

⁶ And this is love: that we walk according to his commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

⁷For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess Jesus Christ coming in [the] flesh. This person is the deceiver and the antichrist!

⁸Watch yourselves that you do not lose what we have worked for, but receive a full reward.

⁹Everyone who goes too far and does not remain in the teaching of Christ does not have God. The one who remains in the teaching this person has both the Father and the Son.

¹⁰If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into [your] house and do not speak a greeting to him,

¹¹because the one who speaks a greeting to him shares in his evil deeds.

¹²[Although] I have many [things] to write to you, I do not want [to do so] by means of paper and ink, but I hope to be with you and to speak _face to face_, so that our joy may be complete.

¹³The children of your elect sister greet you.

3 John

1 ¹ The elder, to Gaius the beloved,
whom I love in [the] truth.

² Dear friend, I pray you may prosper
concerning everything and be healthy,
just as your soul prospers.

³ For I rejoiced exceedingly [when the]
brothers came and testified [to] your
truth, just as you are walking in [the]
truth.

⁴ I have no greater joy than this: that
I hear my children are walking in the
truth.

⁵ Dear friend, you act faithfully [in]
whatever you do for the brothers, _even
though they are strangers_ .

⁶ They have testified [to] your love
before the church; you will do well to
send them on their way in a manner
worthy of God.

⁷ For they have gone out on behalf of
the name, accepting nothing from the
pagans.

⁸Therefore we ought to support such [people], so that we become fellow workers with [the] truth.

⁹I wrote something to the church, but Diotrefes, who wants to be first [among] them, does not acknowledge us.

¹⁰Therefore, if I come, I will call attention to _the deeds he is doing_ , disparaging us with evil words. And not being content with these, he does not receive the brothers himself, and he hinders those wanting [to do so] and throws [them] out of the church.

¹¹Dear friend, do not imitate [what is] evil, but [what is] good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

¹²Demetrius has been testified to by all, even by the truth itself. And we also testify [to him], and you know that our testimony is true.

¹³I have many things to write to you, but I do not want to write to you by means of ink and pen.

¹⁴But I hope to see you right away, and to speak _face to face_ .(1-15) Peace

[be] to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

Jude

1 ¹ From Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James. To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father, and who are kept safe for Jesus Christ.

² May mercy, peace, and love fill your lives!

³ Dear friends, I had intended to write to you about the salvation we share. But something has come up. It demands that I write to you and encourage you to continue your fight for the Christian faith that was entrusted to Gods holy people once for all time.

⁴ Some people have slipped in among you unnoticed. Not long ago they were condemned in writing for the following reason: They are people to whom God means nothing. They use Gods kindness as an excuse for sexual freedom and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

⁵ I want to remind you about what you already know: The Lord once saved

his people from Egypt. But on another occasion he destroyed those who didn't believe.

⁶He held angels for judgment on the great day. They were held in darkness, bound by eternal chains. These are the angels who didn't keep their position of authority but abandoned their assigned place.

⁷What happened to Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities near them is an example for us of the punishment of eternal fire. The people of these cities suffered the same fate that God's people and the angels did, because they committed sexual sins and engaged in homosexual activities.

⁸Yet, in a similar way, the people who slipped in among you are dreamers. They contaminate their bodies with sin, reject the Lord's authority, and insult his glory.

⁹When the archangel Michael argued with the devil, they were arguing over the body of Moses. But Michael didn't dare to hand down a judgment against the devil. Instead, Michael said, "May the Lord reprimand you!"

¹⁰Whatever these people don't understand, they insult. Like animals, which are creatures of instinct, they use whatever they know to destroy themselves.

¹¹How horrible it will be for them! They have followed the path of Cain. They have rushed into Balaam's error to make a profit. They have rebelled like Korah and destroyed themselves.

¹²These people are a disgrace at the special meals you share with other believers. They eat with you and don't feel ashamed. They are shepherds who care only for themselves. They are dry clouds blown around by the winds. They are withered, uprooted trees without any fruit. As a result, they have died twice.

¹³Their shame is like the foam on the wild waves of the sea. They are wandering stars for whom gloomy darkness is kept forever.

¹⁴Furthermore, Enoch, from the seventh generation after Adam, prophesied about them. He said, "The Lord has come with countless thousands of his holy angels.

¹⁵He has come to judge all these people. He has come to convict all these ungodly sinners for all the ungodly things they have done and all the harsh things they have said about him."

¹⁶These people complain, find fault, follow their own desires, say arrogant things, and flatter people in order to take advantage of them.

¹⁷Dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ told you to expect:

¹⁸"In the last times people who ridicule God will appear. They will follow their own ungodly desires."

¹⁹These are the people who cause divisions. They are concerned about physical things, not spiritual things.

²⁰Dear friends, use your most holy faith to grow. Pray with the Holy Spirits help.

²¹Remain in Gods love as you look for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to give you eternal life.

²²Show mercy to those who have doubts.

²³Save others by snatching them from the fire of hell. Show mercy to others,

even though you are afraid that you might be stained by their sinful lives.

²⁴ God can guard you so that you don't fall and so that you can be full of joy as you stand in his glorious presence without fault.

²⁵ Before time began, now, and for eternity glory, majesty, power, and authority belong to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Revelation

1 ¹ The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his slaves [the things] which must take place in a short time, and communicated [it] [by] sending [it] through his angel to his slave John,

² who testified about the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, all that he saw.

³ Blessed [is] the one who reads aloud and [blessed are] those who hear the words of the prophecy and observe the things written in it, because the time [is] near!

⁴ John, to the seven churches in Asia: grace to you and peace from the one who is and the one who was and the one who is coming, and from the seven spirits who [are] before his throne,

⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To the one who loves us and released us from our sins by his blood

⁶and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father to him [be] the glory and the power _forever and ever_. Amen.

⁷Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even every one who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over him. Yes, amen.

⁸I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, the one who is and the one who was and the one who is coming, the All-Powerful.

⁹I, John, your brother and co-sharer in the affliction and kingdom and steadfastness in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony about Jesus.

¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lords day, and I heard behind me a great sound like a trumpet

¹¹saying, "What you see, write in a book and send [it] to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.

¹²And I turned to see the voice which was speaking with me, and [when I] turned, I saw seven gold lampstands,

¹³and in the midst of the lampstands [one] like a son of man, dressed in [a robe] reaching to the feet and girded around his chest [with] a golden belt,

¹⁴and his head and hair [were] white like wool, white as snow, and his eyes [were] like a fiery flame,

¹⁵and his feet [were] like fine bronze when it has been fired in a furnace, and his voice [was] like the sound of many waters,

¹⁶and [he] had in his right hand seven stars, and a sharp double-edged sword coming out of his mouth, and his face [was] like the sun shining in its strength.

¹⁷And when I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead person, and he placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid! I am the first and the last,

¹⁸and the one who lives, and I was dead, and behold, I am living _forever and ever_, and I hold the keys of death and of Hades.

¹⁹Therefore, write [the things] which you saw, and [the things] which are,

and [the things] which are about to take place after these [things].

²⁰[As for] the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand and the seven gold lampstands the seven stars are [the] angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are [the] seven churches.

2¹"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: "This is what the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand says, the one who walks in the midst of the seven gold lampstands:

²I know your works, and your labor and patient endurance, and that you are not able to tolerate evil, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you found them [to be] false.

³And you have patient endurance, and have endured [many things] because of my name, and have not become weary.

⁴But I have [this] against you: that you have left your first love.

⁵Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do _the works you did at first_. But if you do not, I am coming to you, and I will

remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

⁶But you do have this: that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, [things] which I also hate.

⁷The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will grant to him to eat from the tree of life which is in the paradise of God.

⁸"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: "This is what the first and the last says, who was dead and came to life:

⁹I know your affliction and poverty (but you are rich), and the slander of those _who call themselves Jews_ and are not, but [are] a synagogue of Satan.

¹⁰Do not be afraid of [the things] which you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw [some] of you into prison so that you may be tested, and you will experience affliction ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

¹¹The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The

one who conquers will never be harmed by the second death.

¹²"And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: "This is what the one who has the sharp double-edged sword says:

¹³I know where you live, where the throne of Satan [is]. And you hold fast to my name and did not deny your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan lives.

¹⁴But I have a few [things] against you: that you have there those who hold fast to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat food sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality.

¹⁵So likewise you also have those who hold fast to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

¹⁶Therefore repent! But if you do not, I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war with them with the sword from my mouth.

¹⁷The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will give to him

[some] of the hidden manna, and I will give to him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written, that no one knows except the one who receives [it].

¹⁸"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: "This is what the Son of God says, the one who has his eyes like a fiery flame and his feet like fine bronze:

¹⁹I know your works, and your love, and faith, and service, and patient endurance and your last works [are] greater than the first.

²⁰But I have against you that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, the one who calls herself a prophetess, and teaches and deceives my slaves to commit sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.

²¹And I have given her time in order to repent, and she did not want to repent from her sexual immorality.

²²Behold, I am throwing her into a sickbed and those who committed adultery with her into great affliction, unless they repent from her deeds.

²³And I will kill her children with deadly disease, and all the churches will know

that I am the one who searches minds and hearts, and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

²⁴ But I say to you, to the rest [who are] in Thyatira, all those who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep [things] of Satan, as they say, I do not put upon you any other burden.

²⁵ Nevertheless, hold fast to what you have until I come.

²⁶ And the one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, I will give him authority over the nations,

²⁷ and "he will shepherd them with an iron rod; he will break [them] in pieces like jars made of clay,"

²⁸ as I also have received from my Father, and I will give him the morning star.

²⁹ The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

3¹ "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: "This is what the one who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars says: I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, and you are dead.

²Be on the alert and strengthen the remaining [things] that are about to die, for I have not found your works completed before my God.

³Therefore remember how you have received and heard, and observe [it], and repent. If therefore you are not on the alert, I will come like a thief, and you will never know [at] what hour I will come against you.

⁴But you have a few _people_ in Sardis who have not defiled their clothing, and they will walk with me in white, because they are worthy.

⁵The one who conquers in this way will be dressed in white clothing, and I will never erase his name from the book of life, and I will declare his name before my Father and before his angels.

⁶The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

⁷"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: "This is what the holy one, the true one, the one who has the key of David, the one who opens and no one can shut, and who shuts and no one can open, says:

⁸I know your works (behold, I have put before you an opened door that no one is able to shut) that you have a little strength, and have kept my word, and did not deny my name.

⁹Behold, I am causing [those] of the synagogue of Satan, the ones who call themselves Jews and are not, but are lying behold, I will make them _come_ and kneel down before your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

¹⁰Because you have kept the word of my patient endurance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing that is about to come upon the whole inhabited world, to put to the test those who live on the earth.

¹¹I am coming quickly! Hold fast to what you have, so that no one may take away your crown.

¹²The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will never go outside again, and I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God, and my new name.

¹³The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

¹⁴"And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: "This is what the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the originator of Gods creation, says:

¹⁵I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot!

¹⁶Thus, because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I am about to vomit you out of my mouth!

¹⁷Because you are saying, "I am rich, and have become rich, and I have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and pitiable and poor and blind and naked,

¹⁸I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire, in order that you may become rich, and white clothing, in order that you may be clothed and the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed, and eye salve to smear on your eyes, in order that you may see.

¹⁹As many as I love, I reprove and discipline. Be zealous, therefore, and repent!

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock! If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, indeed I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me.

²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant to him to sit down with me on my throne, as I also have conquered and have sat down with my Father on his throne.

²² The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

4¹ After these [things] I looked, and behold, an open door in heaven, and the former voice that I had heard like a trumpet speaking with me was saying, "Come up here and I will show you [the things] which must take place after these [things]."

² Immediately I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one was seated on the throne.

³ And the one seated [was] similar in appearance to jasper and carnelian stone, and a rainbow [was] around the throne similar in appearance to emerald.

⁴ And around the throne [were] twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones [were] twenty-four elders

dressed in white clothing, and on their heads [were] gold crowns.

⁵And from the throne came out lightnings and sounds and thunders, and seven torches of fire [were] burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God.

⁶And before the throne [was something] like a sea of glass, like crystal, and in the midst of the throne and around the throne [were] four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

⁷And the first living creature [was] similar to a lion, and the second living creature [was] similar to an ox, and the third living creature had a face like a mans, and the fourth living creature [was] similar to an eagle flying.

⁸And the four living creatures, _each one_ of them, had six wings apiece, full of eyes around and inside, and they do not have rest day and night, saying, "Holy, holy, holy [is] the Lord God All-Powerful, the one who was and the one who is and the one who is coming!

⁹And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the

one who is seated on the throne, the one who lives _forever and ever_ ,

¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives _forever and ever_ , and put down their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, because you have created all [things], and because of your will they existed and were created.

5¹ And I saw in the right hand of the one who is seated on the throne a scroll, written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.

² And I saw a powerful angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who [is] worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?"

³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it.

⁴ And I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

⁵ And one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! Behold, the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has conquered,

so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.

⁶And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as though slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

⁷And he came and took [the scroll] from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

⁸And when he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one of whom had a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

⁹And they were singing a new song, saying, "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and bought [people] for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation,

¹⁰and made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

¹¹ And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and of the living creatures and of the elders, and their number was ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands times thousands,

¹² saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!

¹³ And I heard every creature that [is] in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and in the sea and everything in them saying, "To the one who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb [be] praise and honor and glory and power _forever and ever_ .

¹⁴ And the four living creatures were saying, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

6¹ And I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying like the sound of thunder, "Come!

² And I looked, and behold, a white horse, and the one seated on it had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and

he went out conquering and in order that he might conquer.

³And when he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come!

⁴And another horse came out, fiery red, and it was granted to the one seated on it to take peace from the earth, and that they would slaughter one another, and a large sword was given to him.

⁵And when he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a black horse, and the one seated on it had a balance scale in his hand.

⁶And I heard [something] like a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not damage the olive oil and the wine!

⁷And when he opened the fourth seal, I heard a voice from the fourth living creature saying, "Come!

⁸And I looked, and behold, a pale green horse, and the one seated on it _was named_ Death, and Hades followed after him. And authority was granted to them

over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword and by famine and by pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

⁹And when he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the word of God and because of the testimony which they had,

¹⁰and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "_How long_ , holy and true Lord, will you not judge and avenge our blood from those who live on the earth?

¹¹And to each one of them a white robe was given, and it was said to them that they should rest yet a short time, until [the number of] their fellow slaves and their brothers who were about to be killed as they [had been] were completed also.

¹²And I watched when he opened the sixth seal, and a great earthquake took place, and the sun became black like sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood,

¹³and the stars of heaven fell to the earth like a fig tree throws down its unripe figs [when] shaken by a great wind.

¹⁴And the sky was split apart like a scroll that is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved from their place.

¹⁵And the kings of the earth, and the most important people, and the military leaders, and the rich, and the powerful, and every slave and free person hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,

¹⁶And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,

¹⁷because the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?

7¹After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind could blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

²And I saw another angel ascending _from the east_, holding the seal of the living God, and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels _who were given permission_ to damage the earth and the sea,

³saying, "Do not damage the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the slaves of our God on their foreheads.

⁴And I heard the number of the ones who were sealed, one hundred forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

⁵from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand sealed, from the tribe of Reuben, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad, twelve thousand,

⁶from the tribe of Asher, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh, twelve thousand,

⁷from the tribe of Simeon, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar, twelve thousand,

⁸from the tribe of Zebulun, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

⁹After these [things] I looked, and behold, a great crowd that no one was able to number, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb,

dressed [in] white robes and [with] palm branches in their hands.

¹⁰And they were crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

¹²saying, "Amen! Praise and glory, and wisdom and thanksgiving, and honor and power and strength [be] to our God _forever and ever_ . Amen!

¹³And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are dressed [in] the white robes who are [they], and from where have they come?

¹⁴And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵Because of this, they are before the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple, and the one who

is seated on the throne _will shelter_ them.

¹⁶They will not be hungry [any] longer or be thirsty [any] longer, nor will the sun ever beat down on them, nor any heat,

¹⁷because the Lamb [who is] in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and will lead them to springs of living waters, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

8¹ And when he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven [for] about half an hour.

²And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

³And another angel who had a golden censer came and stood at the altar, and a large amount of incense was given to him, in order that he could offer the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar that [is] before the throne.

⁴And the smoke of the incense went up before God with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel.

⁵And the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire from the altar and

threw [it] to the earth, and there were thunders and sounds and lightnings and an earthquake.

⁶And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves in order to blow them.

⁷And the first blew the trumpet, and there was hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was thrown to the earth, and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

⁸And the second angel blew the trumpet, and [something] like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood,

⁹and a third of the creatures in the sea the ones which had lived died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

¹⁰And the third angel blew the trumpet, and a great star burning like a torch fell from heaven, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.

¹¹And the name of the star was called Wormwood, and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many people

died from the waters because they were made bitter.

¹²And the fourth angel blew the trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened, and the day did not shine [with respect to] a third of it, and the night likewise.

¹³And I looked, and I heard one eagle flying _directly overhead_ , saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who live on the earth, from the remaining sounds of the trumpets of the three angels who are about to blow the trumpet!

9¹And the fifth angel blew the trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to the earth, and the key of the shaft of the abyss was given to him.

²And he opened the shaft of the abyss, and smoke went up from the shaft like smoke from a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the shaft.

³And out of the smoke locusts came to the earth, and power was given to

them like the scorpions of the earth have power.

⁴And it was told to them that they should not damage the grass of the earth or any green [plant] or any tree, except those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

⁵And it was granted to them that they should not kill them, but that they would be tormented five months, and their torment [is] like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a person.

⁶And in those days people will seek death and will never find it, and they will long to die, and death will flee from them.

⁷And the appearance of the locusts [was] like horses prepared for battle, and on their heads [were something] like crowns similar in appearance to gold, and their faces [were] like mens faces,

⁸and they had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like [the teeth] of lions,

⁹and they had breastplates like iron breastplates, and the sound of their wings [was] like the sound of many

horse-drawn chariots running into battle.

¹⁰And they have tails similar in appearance to scorpions, and stings, and their power to injure people [for] five months [is] in their tails.

¹¹They have [as] king over them the angel of the abyss, _whose name_ in Hebrew [is] Abaddon, and in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

¹²The first woe has passed. Behold, two woes are still coming after these [things].

¹³And the sixth angel blew the trumpet, and I heard one voice from the four horns of the golden altar [that is] before God

¹⁴saying to the sixth angel, the one who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who have been bound at the great river Euphrates!

¹⁵And the four angels who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year were released, in order that they should kill a third of humanity.

¹⁶And the number of the troops of the cavalry [was] _two hundred million_ ; I heard the number of them.

¹⁷ And in this way I saw the horses in the vision, and those seated on them, who had fiery [red] and hyacinth-colored and sulphurous [yellow] breastplates, and the heads of the horses [were] like the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire and smoke and sulphur.

¹⁸ By these three plagues a third of humanity was killed by the fire and the smoke and the sulphur that came out of their mouths.

¹⁹ For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails [are] similar in appearance to snakes, having heads, and with them they cause injury.

²⁰ And the rest of humanity who were not killed by these plagues did not repent of the works of their hands, _in order not to worship_ the demons and the gold and silver and bronze and stone and wooden idols, which are able neither to see nor to hear nor to walk,

²¹ and they did not repent of their murders or of their magic spells or of their sexual immorality or of their thefts.

10¹ And I saw another powerful angel descending from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, and a rainbow over his head, and his face [was] like the sun, and his feet [were] like pillars of fire,

² and holding in his hand a little scroll that was opened. And he put his right foot on the sea and his left on the land.

³ And he cried out with a loud voice like a lion roars, and when he cried out, the seven thunders sounded their own voices.

⁴ And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write, and I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up [the things] which the seven thunders spoke, and do not write them!

⁵ And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven

⁶ and swore by the one who lives _forever and ever_, who created heaven and the [things] in it, and the earth and the [things] in it, and the sea and the [things] in it, "There will be no more delay!

⁷ But in the days of the sound of the seventh angel, whenever he is about to

blow the trumpet, then the mystery of God is completed, as he announced to his own slaves the prophets.

⁸And the voice that I had heard from heaven [was] speaking with me again and saying, "Go, take the opened scroll in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.

⁹And I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll, and he said to me, "Take and eat it up, and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.

¹⁰And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it up, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth, and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.

¹¹And they said to me, "It is necessary for you to prophesy again about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.

11 ¹And a measuring rod similar in appearance to a staff was given to me, saying, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship in it.

²And leave out the courtyard outside of the temple, and do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles, and they will trample the holy city [for] forty two months.

³And I will grant [authority] to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy [for one] thousand two hundred sixty days, dressed in sackcloth.

⁴These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

⁵And if anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouth and consumes their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, in this way he must be killed.

⁶These have the authority to shut the sky, so that _it does not rain_ during the days of their prophecy. And they have authority over the waters, to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with every plague as often as they wish.

⁷And when they have completed their testimony, the beast that comes up from the abyss will make war with them and will conquer them and will kill them.

⁸And their dead bodies [will lie] in the street of the great city which is called symbolically Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

⁹And [those] from peoples and tribes and languages and nations will see their dead bodies three and a half days, and they will not allow their dead bodies to be placed in a tomb.

¹⁰And those who live on the earth will rejoice over them, and will celebrate and will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who live on the earth.

¹¹And after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered into them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.

¹²And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here," and they went up into heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.

¹³And at that hour a great earthquake took place, and a tenth of the city collapsed, and seven thousand _people_ were killed by the earthquake, and the rest became terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

¹⁴The second woe has passed. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly!

¹⁵And the seventh angel blew the trumpet, and there was a loud voice in heaven saying, "The kingdom of the world has become [the kingdom] of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign _forever and ever_ .

¹⁶And the twenty-four elders [who are] seated on their thrones before God fell down on their faces and worshiped God,

¹⁷saying, "We give thanks to you, Lord God All-Powerful, the one who is and the one who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

¹⁸And the nations were angry, and your wrath has come, and the time for the dead to be judged, and to give their reward to your slaves the prophets and to the saints and to the ones who fear your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.

¹⁹And the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant appeared in his temple, and there were lightnings and sounds and thunders and an earthquake and large hail.

12¹ And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun and [with] the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars,

² and _who was pregnant_ and was crying out [because she] was having birth pains, and was in torment to give birth.

³ And another sign appeared in heaven, and behold, a great fiery red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads [were] seven royal headbands.

⁴ And his tail swept away a third of the stars from heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, in order that whenever she gave birth to her child he could devour [it].

⁵ And she gave birth to a son, a male [child], who is going to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod, and her child was snatched away to God and to his throne.

⁶ And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she had a place prepared there by God, so that they

could feed her there [for one] thousand two hundred sixty days.

⁷ And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels _fought against_ the dragon, and the dragon and his angels _fought back_ .

⁸ And they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them [any] longer in heaven.

⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, because the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, the one who accuses them before our God day and night.

¹¹ And they conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives until death.

¹² Because of this, rejoice, you heavens, and those who live in them! Woe [to] the

earth and [to] the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great anger, [because he] knows that he has little time!

¹³And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male [child].

¹⁴And the two wings of a great eagle were given to the woman, in order that she could fly into the wilderness, to her place where she is fed there [for] a time, and times, and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

¹⁵And from his mouth the serpent spouted water like a river after the woman, in order that he could make her swept away by a river.

¹⁶And the earth came to the aid of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river that the dragon had spouted out of his mouth.

¹⁷And the dragon was angry at the woman, and went away to _fight against_ the rest of her children, those who keep the commandments of God and who hold to the testimony about Jesus.

13¹ (12-18) And he stood on the sand of the sea. (13-1) And I saw coming up out of the sea a beast that had ten horns and seven heads, and on its horns ten royal headbands, and on its heads a blasphemous name.

²And the beast that I saw was similar to a leopard, and its feet [were] like a bears, and its mouth [was] like the mouth of a lion, and the dragon gave it his power and his throne and great authority.

³And one of its heads [appeared] as though slaughtered to death, and its _fatal wound_ had been healed. And the whole earth was astonished [and followed] after the beast.

⁴And they worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who [is] like the beast, and who is able to make war with him?"

⁵And a mouth was given to him speaking great [things] and blasphemies, and authority to act was given to him [for] forty-two months.

⁶And he opened his mouth for blasphemies toward God, to blaspheme

his name and his dwelling, those who live in heaven.

⁷ And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given to him over every tribe and people and language and nation.

⁸ And all those who live on the earth will worship him, _everyone whose name is not written_ from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slaughtered.

⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear!

¹⁰ If anyone [is going] into captivity, into captivity he goes. If anyone [is] to be killed by the sword, by the sword he [is] to be killed. Here is the patient endurance and the faith of the saints.

¹¹ And I saw another beast coming up from the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb, and he was speaking like a dragon.

¹² And he exercises all the authority of the first beast on behalf of him, and he causes the earth and those who live in it to worship the first beast _whose fatal wound had been healed_ .

¹³And he performs great signs, so that he even causes fire from heaven to come down to the earth before people.

¹⁴And he deceives those who live on the earth because of the signs that it has been granted to him to perform on behalf of the beast, telling those who live on the earth to make an image to the beast who has the wound of the sword and [yet] lived.

¹⁵And it was given to him to put breath into the image of the beast, in order that the image of the beast both spoke and caused that all those, unless they worshiped the image of the beast, should be killed.

¹⁶And he causes all [people], the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the slave, that they give them a mark on their right hand or on their forehead,

¹⁷and that no one was able to buy or to sell except the one who had the mark the name of the beast or the number of his name.

¹⁸Here is wisdom: the one who has understanding, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is mans

number, and his number [is] six hundred sixty-six.

14¹ And I looked, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him one hundred forty-four thousand who had his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads.

² And I heard a sound from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the sound that I heard [was] like harpists playing on their harps.

³ And they were singing [something] like a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders, and no one was able to learn the song except the one hundred forty-four thousand who had been bought from the earth.

⁴ These are those who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. These [are] the ones who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were bought from humanity [as] first fruits to God and to the Lamb,

⁵ and in their mouth a lie was not found; they are blameless.

⁶And I saw another angel flying
directly overhead , having an eternal
gospel to proclaim to those who reside
on the earth, and to every nation and
tribe and language and people,

⁷saying with a loud voice, "Fear God
and give him glory, because the hour of
his judgment has come, and worship the
one who made the heaven and the earth
and the sea and the springs of water!

⁸And another second angel followed,
saying, "Fallen, fallen [is] Babylon the
great, who caused all the nations to
drink from the wine of the passion of her
sexual immorality.

⁹And another third angel followed
them, saying with a loud voice, "If
anyone worships the beast and his image
and receives a mark on his forehead or
on his hand,

¹⁰he himself also will drink of the wine
of the anger of God that has been mixed
full strength in the cup of his wrath, and
will be tortured with fire and sulphur in
the presence of the holy angels and in
the presence of the Lamb.

¹¹And the smoke of their torture went
up _forever and ever_ , and those who

worshiped the beast and his image did not have rest day and night, _along with anyone who received_ the mark of his name.

¹²Here is the patient endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith in Jesus.

¹³And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write: Blessed [are] the dead who die in the Lord from now on!" "Yes," says the Spirit, "in order that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow after them."

¹⁴And I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud was seated [one] like a son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

¹⁵And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to the one seated on the cloud, "Send out your sickle and reap, because the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe!"

¹⁶And the one seated on the cloud swung his sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

¹⁷ And another angel came out of the temple [that is] in heaven; he also had a sharp sickle.

¹⁸ And another angel who had authority over the fire went out from the altar, and he called out with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Send out your sharp sickle and harvest the clusters of grapes from the vine of the earth, because its grapes are at their prime!

¹⁹ And the angel swung his sickle into the earth and harvested the vine of the earth, and threw [the grapes] into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

²⁰ And the winepress was stomped outside the city, and blood went out from the winepress up to the bridles of the horses, about one thousand six hundred stadia.

15¹ And I saw another great and marvelous sign in heaven: seven angels having seven plagues [that are] the last [ones], because with them the wrath of God is completed.

² And I saw [something] like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had conquered the beast and his image and

the number of his name were standing by the glassy sea, holding harps from God.

³And they were singing the song of Moses, the slave of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous [are] your works, Lord God All-Powerful; righteous and true [are] your ways, King of the nations!

⁴Who would never fear, Lord, and glorify your name? For only you [are] holy, because all the nations will come and worship before you, because your righteous deeds have been revealed.

⁵And after these [things] I looked, and the temple, the tent of the testimony in heaven, was opened,

⁶and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out from the temple, dressed [in] clean, bright linen garments, and girded with golden belts around their chests.

⁷And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives _forever and ever_ ,

⁸and the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his

power, and no one was able to enter into the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

16¹ And I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.

² And the first went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and there was an evil and painful sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.

³ And the second poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood, like [that] of a dead person, and every living thing [that was] in the sea died.

⁴ And the third poured out his bowl on the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.

⁵ And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "You are righteous, the one who is and the one who was, the Holy One, because you have judged these [things],

⁶ because they have poured out the blood of the saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink; they are deserving!

⁷And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, Lord God All-Powerful, true and righteous [are] your judgments.

⁸And the fourth poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was granted to it to burn up people with fire.

⁹And people were burned up [by the] great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has the authority over these plagues, and they did not repent to give him glory.

¹⁰And the fifth poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened, and they began chewing their tongues because of the pain.

¹¹And they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pain and because of their sores, and they did not repent of their deeds.

¹²And the sixth poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, in order that the way would be prepared for the kings from _the east_ .

¹³And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the

beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet three unclean spirits like frogs.

¹⁴For they are the spirits of demons performing signs that go out to the kings of the whole inhabited world, to gather them for the battle of the great day of God the All-Powerful.

¹⁵(Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed [is] the one who is on the alert and who keeps his clothing, so that he does not walk around naked and they see his shamefulness!)

¹⁶And he gathered them to the place called in Hebrew Armageddon.

¹⁷And the seventh poured out his bowl on the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!

¹⁸And there were lightnings and sounds and thunders, and there was a great earthquake, as has not happened from the [time] humanity has been on the earth so great in this way [was] the earthquake.

¹⁹And the great city was [split] into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And Babylon the great was

remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of his furious wrath.

²⁰And every island fled, and mountains were not found.

²¹And large hailstones, weighing about a hundred pounds, came down from the sky upon people, and the people blasphemed God because of the plague of hail, because the plague of it was very great.

17¹And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters,
²with whom the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality, and those who live on the earth became drunk with the wine of her sexual immorality.

³And he carried me away into the wilderness in the Spirit, and I saw a woman seated on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

⁴And the woman was dressed in purple and scarlet and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, holding a golden cup in her hand full of detestable

things and the unclean things of her sexual immorality.

⁵And on her forehead a name [was] written, a mystery: "Babylon the great, the mother of prostitutes and of the detestable things of the earth.

⁶And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the witnesses to Jesus. And _I was greatly astonished when I saw her_ .

⁷And the angel said to me, "Why are you astonished? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that has the seven heads and the ten horns that carries her.

⁸The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is going to come up from the abyss, and he is going to destruction. And those who live on the earth, whose names are not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will be astonished [when they] see the beast that was, and is not, and will be present.

⁹Here [is] the mind that has wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains _on which the woman sits_ and they are seven kings.

¹⁰Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and whenever he comes it is necessary [for] him to remain a short time.

¹¹And the beast that was, and is not, is also himself an eighth, and is of the seven, and he is going to destruction.

¹²And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom, but they will receive authority as kings [for] one hour with the beast.

¹³These have one opinion, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

¹⁴These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him [are] called and chosen and faithful.

¹⁵And he said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and crowds and nations and languages.

¹⁶And the ten horns that you saw and the beast, these will hate the prostitute and will make her desolate and naked, and they will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.

¹⁷For God put into their hearts to carry out his purpose and to make _a unanimous decision_ and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

¹⁸And the woman that you saw is the great city that has sovereignty over the kings of the earth.

18¹After these [things] I saw another angel descending from heaven, who had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor.

²And he cried out with a powerful voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen [is] Babylon the great, and it has become a dwelling place of demons and a haunt of every unclean spirit and a haunt of every unclean bird and a haunt of every unclean and detested animal.

³For all the nations have drunk from the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich from the power of her sensuality.

⁴And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out from her, my

people, so that you will not participate in her sins, and so that you will not receive her plagues,

⁵because her sins have reached up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

⁶Pay back to her as she herself also paid out, and _pay back double_ according to her deeds; in the cup that she mixed, mix double for her.

⁷As much as she glorified herself and lived in luxury, give to her so much torment and mourning, because in her heart she said, I sit as a queen, and am not a widow, and I will never see mourning!

⁸Because of this her plagues will come in one day death and mourning and famine and she will be burned up with fire, because the Lord God who passes judgment on her [is] powerful!

⁹And the kings of the earth will weep and mourn over her, those who committed sexual immorality and lived sensually with her, when they see the smoke of her burning,

¹⁰standing _far off_ because of the fear of her torment, saying, "Woe, woe, the

great city, Babylon the powerful city, because in one hour your judgment has come!

¹¹ And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargo any more

¹² cargo of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple cloth and silk and scarlet cloth and all kinds of scented wood and all kinds of ivory goods and all kinds of goods of precious wood and bronze and iron and marble

¹³ and cinnamon and amomum and incense and ointment and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine wheat flour and wheat and domesticated animals and sheep and horses and carriages and _slaves_ and human lives.

¹⁴ And _the fruit your soul desires_ has departed from you, and all the luxury and the splendor has perished from you, and they will never find them any more.

¹⁵ The merchants of these [things], who became rich from them, will stand _far off_ , weeping and mourning because of the fear of her torment,

¹⁶saying, "Woe, woe, the great city, dressed in fine linen and purple cloth and scarlet cloth, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls,

¹⁷because in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!" And every shipmaster and _every seafarer_ and sailors and all those who labor on the sea stood _far off_

¹⁸and began to cry out [when they] saw the smoke of her burning, saying, "Who [is] like the great city?

¹⁹And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, "Woe, woe, the great city, in which all those who had ships on the sea became rich from her prosperity, because in one hour she has been laid waste!

²⁰Rejoice over her, heaven and the saints and the apostles and the prophets, because God has pronounced your judgment on her!

²¹And one powerful angel picked up a stone like a great millstone and threw [it] into the sea, saying, "In this way Babylon the great city will be thrown

down with violence, and will never be found again!

²²And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute players and trumpeters will never be heard in you again! And every craftsman of every trade will never be found in you again! And the sound of a mill will never be heard in you again!

²³And the light of a lamp will never shine in you again! And the sound of a bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again! For your merchants were the most important people of the earth, because with your sorcery they deceived all the nations.

²⁴And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints and all those who had been slaughtered on the earth.

19¹After these [things] I heard [something] like the loud sound of a great crowd in heaven saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

²because his judgments [are] true and righteous, because he has passed judgment on the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her sexual

immorality, and has avenged the blood of his slaves _shed by_ her hand!

³And a second time they said, "Hallelujah!" And her smoke goes up _forever and ever_ .

⁴And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who is seated on the throne, saying, "Amen! Hallelujah!

⁵And a voice came out from the throne, saying, "Praise our God all his slaves, and those who fear him, the small and the great!

⁶And I heard [something] like the sound of a great crowd and [something] like the sound of many waters and [something] like the sound of powerful thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the All-Powerful reigns!

⁷Let us rejoice and be glad and give him the glory, because the wedding celebration of the Lamb has come, and his bride has prepared herself.

⁸And it has been granted to her that she be dressed in bright, clean fine linen (for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints).

⁹And he said to me, "Write: Blessed [are] those who are invited to the banquet of the wedding celebration of the Lamb!" And he said to me, "These are the true words of God.

¹⁰And I fell down before his feet to worship him, and he said to me, "_Do not do that!_ I am a fellow slave of you and of your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

¹¹And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and the one seated on it was called "Faithful" and "True," and with justice he judges and makes war.

¹²Now his eyes [were] like a flame of fire, and on his head [were] many royal headbands having a name written that no one except he himself knows.

¹³And [he was] dressed in an outer garment dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God.

¹⁴And the armies [that are] in heaven, dressed in clean, white fine linen, were following him on white horses.

¹⁵And out of his mouth came a sharp sword, so that with it he could strike the nations. And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, and he stomps the winepress of the wine of the furious wrath of God, the All-Powerful.

¹⁶And he has a name written on his outer garment and on his thigh: "King of kings and Lord of lords.

¹⁷And I saw one angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly _directly overhead_ , "Come! Assemble for the great banquet of God,

¹⁸in order that you may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of military tribunes, and the flesh of the powerful, and the flesh of horses and those seated on them, and the flesh of all [people], both free and slave, and small and great!

¹⁹And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war with the one who is seated on the horse and with his army.

²⁰And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs before him, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the

beast and those who had worshiped his image. The two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur.

²¹ And the rest were killed by the sword of the one who is seated on the horse the [sword] that comes out of his mouth and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

20¹ And I saw an angel descending from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

² And he seized the dragon the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan and bound him [for] a thousand years,

³ and threw him into the abyss, and shut [it] and sealed [it] above him, in order that he could not deceive the nations again until the thousand years are completed. After these [things] it is necessary [for] him to be released [for] a short time.

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat down on them, and authority to judge was granted to them. And [I saw] the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or his

image, and did not receive the mark on their forehead and on their hand, and they came to life and reigned with Christ [for] a thousand years.

⁵(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed.) This [is] the first resurrection.

⁶Blessed and holy [is] the one who has a part in the first resurrection. Over this person the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him [for] the thousand years.

⁷And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison

⁸and he will go out to deceive the nations [that are] at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to assemble them for battle, _whose number_ [is] like the sand of the sea.

⁹And they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the fortified camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and consumed them.

¹⁰And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet also [are], and they will be tormented day and night _forever and ever_ .

¹¹And I saw a great white throne and the one who was seated on it, _from whose presence_ earth and heaven fled, and a place was not found for them.

¹²And I saw the deadthe great and the smallstanding before the throne, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the [book] of life, and the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to their deeds.

¹³And the sea gave up the dead [who were] in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead [who were] in them, and each one was judged according to their deeds.

¹⁴And Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second deaththe lake of fire.

¹⁵And if anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

21 ¹ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea did not exist [any] longer.

² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God [is] with humanity, and he will take up residence with them, and they will be his people and God himself will be with them [as] their God.

⁴ And he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will not exist [any] longer, and mourning or wailing or pain will not exist [any] longer, because the former [things] have passed away.

⁵ And the one seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all [things] new!" And he said, "Write, because these words are faithful and true.

⁶ And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the one who is thirsty I will give [water] from the spring of the water of life freely.

⁷The one who conquers will inherit these [things], and I will be _his God_ and he will be _my son_ .

⁸But [as] for the cowards and unbelievers and detestable persons and murderers and sexually immoral people and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their share [is] in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death.

⁹And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.

¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and lofty mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

¹¹ that has the glory of God. Its radiance [is] like a precious stone, [something] like a jasper stone, shining like crystal.

¹²It has a great and high wall that has twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written on [the gates] which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel

¹³on the east, three gates, and on the north, three gates, and on the south, three gates, and on the west, three gates.

¹⁴And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them [are] twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

¹⁵And the one who spoke with me was holding a golden measuring rod in order that he could measure the city and its gates and its wall.

¹⁶And the city is laid out as a square, and its length is the same as [its] width. And he measured the city with the measuring rod at twelve thousand stadia; the length and the width and the height of it are equal.

¹⁷And he measured its wall, one hundred forty-four cubits _according to human measure_, which is the angels.

¹⁸And the material of its wall [is] jasper, and the city [is] pure gold, similar in appearance to pure glass.

¹⁹The foundations of the wall of the city are adorned with every kind of precious stone: the first foundation jasper, the

second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,

²⁰ the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

²¹ And the twelve gates [are] twelve pearls, each one of the gates was from a single pearl. And the street of the city [is] pure gold, like transparent glass.

²² And I did not see a temple in it, for the Lord God All-Powerful is its temple, and the Lamb.

²³ And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon, that they shine on it, for the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp [is] the Lamb.

²⁴ And the nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

²⁵ And its gates will never be shut by day (for there will be no night there),

²⁶ and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.

²⁷ And every unclean person and the one who practices detestable things and falsehood will never enter into it, except

those who are written in the book of life of the Lamb.

22¹ And he showed me the river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming out from the throne of God and of the Lamb

² in the middle of its street, and _on both sides of the river_ [is] the tree of life, producing twelve fruitsyielding its fruit according to every monthand the leaves of the tree [are] for the healing of the nations.

³ And there will not be any curse [any] longer, and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his slaves will serve him,

⁴ and they will see his face, and his name [will be] on their foreheads.

⁵ And night will not exist [any] longer, and they will not have need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give light to them. And they will reign _forever and ever_ .

⁶ And he said to me, "These words [are] faithful and true, and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent

his angel to show his slaves [the things] which must take place in a short time.

⁷And behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed [is] the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.

⁸And I, John, [am] the one who heard and who saw these [things]. And when I heard and saw [them], I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed these [things] to me.

⁹And he said to me, "_Do not do that!_ I am your fellow slave, and of your brothers the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!

¹⁰And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near!

¹¹The one who does evil, let him do evil still, and the defiled, let him be defiled still, and the righteous, let him practice righteousness still, and the holy, let him be holy still.

¹²Behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward [is] with me, to repay each one according to [what] his deeds are!

¹³I [am] the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

¹⁴Blessed [are] the ones who wash their robes, so that their authority will be over the tree of life and they may enter into the city through the gates.

¹⁵Outside [are] the dogs and the sorcerers and the sexually immoral people and the murderers and the idolaters and everyone who loves and who practices falsehood.

¹⁶I, Jesus, sent my angel to testify to you about these [things] for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.

¹⁷And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And the one who hears, let him say, "Come!" And the one who is thirsty, let him come. The one who wants, let him take the water of life freely.

¹⁸I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues written in this book.

¹⁹And if anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God will

take away his share of the tree of life and from the holy city that are written in this book.

²⁰The one who testifies about these [things] says, "Yes, I am coming quickly!" Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus [be] with all.

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